

The PRESSbyterian

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November 2018



After Abraham Lincoln became president, office seekers besieged him trying to get appointments to various jobs throughout the country. Once, confined to bed with typhoid fever, exasperated, Lincoln declared to his secretary, "Bring in the office seekers; I now have something I can give to everybody."

It seems there are so many needs in the world. Wouldn't it be great to have something to give to everybody? And not merely our germs, but giving generous physical, tangible expressions of who we are that reflect portions of our time, our ability and our financial resources dedicated to God's Kingdom.

Giving is an act of worship. Giving is a faith statement. *Giving reflects an attitude of gratefulness and thankfulness.* Giving is our response to the gift we have received – The life found in Jesus Christ our Lord. We should always remember the words to the church in Ephesus, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and **this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God**—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. "

From Genesis onward, God is very clear about His desire to be first in our lives and to give Him the first from our labors. We should give God our first and best, not what's left. As I mentioned, our giving is a statement of faith, an act of worship. Sharing, giving and generosity, redirect our attention to where it should be, off of ourselves and onto God and neighbor.

Here at First Presbyterian Orangeburg, our gifts of time, talent and treasure come together and provide for the needs of people here and far away. Our gifts come together and provide for Christian Education and Small Group opportunities. Our gifts come together and help our Deacons provide for the care and nurture of many within our family of faith. Our gifts come together and help with improvements around our campus, and they help provide for our future, as your Session looks towards the years ahead. Our gifts provide for missionaries in distant lands and locally. The giving of our time, our diverse spiritual gifts and our collective resources prompts those around us to lift their eyes, see the glory of God and demonstrates our desire to be faithful stewards of all we have been given.

You will probably hear this repeated many times: I believe the first step in giving is to take no step, but rather bend your knees, kneel before the Lord your God and pray, "Lord Jesus, You have given me life and the resources of time, ability and money. How would You have me respond in the coming year to Your goodness, grace and mercy?"

When faith drives our giving, it is like the example of the loaves and fish. The little boy gave what he had, and God multiplied it, so all were filled. When we respond to God's gift - *Jesus* - simply bringing the first and best of our resources, God's miracle occurs and there ends up being something for everybody.

Until the Whole World Hears,
Pastor Darren

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 11, 2018



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL 2018



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and our church is once again participating in the Community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Please see the sign up sheets in The Centre, church office, and McLees Gallery and fill your name in for areas you can help.

There are many ways you can help. We need

- turkeys to cook (5),
- kitchen help on Tuesday and Wednesday,
- carvers on Wednesday,
- homemade desserts for the meal,
- volunteers to help with the event on Thanksgiving Day, and
- prayers.

Contact Susan Smoak (536-0556) or Chalmers Mikell (536-1255) with any questions. Thank you for your part in making Thanksgiving special for the Orangeburg Community.

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Another exciting opportunity for our members to be the hands and feet of Christ



After a shortened worship service on November 11 we will meet in the Centre for instructions and supplies for mission opportunities. This is a time limited opportunity designed for this day only and there are activities for everyone no matter what age.

Family as well as small group mission activities are available. Teams will build a wheel chair ramp, pick up trash, and offer a prayer with a free car wash. Families, individuals or groups will pick up a shoe box and instructions, will go get items for the box and bring it back to the Centre. The same process will be followed for the Christmas stockings for Salvation Army. Susan Smoak is team leader for the water and cookies team and will provide information about the process. Call her ahead of time. Plan to take advantage of this time of service and fellowship by signing up on the forms in the Centre or calling the team leader.

Wheel chair ramp: Preston Walter

Litter control: Darren Bess

Christmas shoe boxes: Carol Bess

Salvation Army Christmas stockings: Amy Delaney

Water and Cookies to law enforcement, social agencies and nursing homes: Susan Smoak

Car wash: Sarah Coggins

Drive by prayer in conjunction with the car wash: Kaye Borgstedt

Darren Bess

Jim Harvey

Kaye Borgstedt

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!



If you wish to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary during the Advent Season, your order must be received by **Monday, November 5th**. Envelopes are in the pew racks, or information may be sent to the church office.

Orders cannot be accepted by telephone. Poinsettias are \$15.00 each. (Please make checks payable to the church.)

NOTE OF THANKS

Much appreciation to all for the cards, messages and "hugs" that I have received since the passing of my mother, Ella Daniel. She was a faithful servant to the Lord and she lived it everyday for 97 years. I know Heaven is a sweeter place because she is there.

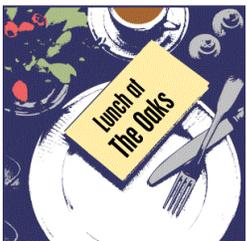
Sincerely,
Janet Branan

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, November 6. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.



This year The Ladies of Circle One celebrate 15 years of their community outreach coat ministry. It is a ministry which First Pres members and community friends have diligently supported by collecting and donating coats and jackets to *Our Father's Closet*. Through the willing help of the Bruner family at Bruner's Dry Cleaners this community outreach has distributed over 3300 coats through 22 community schools, agencies, and charities in the last 14 years.

Each coat is cleaned and bagged separately and includes a reminder bookmark and blessing for the person who receives the coat. In collecting, cleaning and delivering coats, our ministry hopes that fewer people will experience the physical chill of winter. Moreover, through the kindness of all who make this ministry possible, *Our Father's Closet* sends a warm message of Jesus' love.

Please place your donated coats in our **NEW COAT ROOM** on the 2nd level of the Fellowship Hall or in the red tub located in the side hall just outside the bathrooms of the Centre. Circle #1 Ladies and *Bruner's Dry Cleaners* will take it from there.

This year, we STILL NEED CHILDREN'S COATS AND JACKETS sizes 5 through 12.

The main distribution of coats is just before Thanksgiving; however, coat donations are accepted year round. We appreciate the prayers and support of our church family for *Our Father's Closet*. We thank God for His blessings and continued guidance on this community outreach but especially for those receiving coats through this ministry.

(One side of included bookmark)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

JOHN 15:12

MAY GOD'S GRACE BE UPON THIS COAT...

Embracing, comforting, and warming while reminding you of the secure love of Jesus Christ.

HABITAT FAITH BUILD

The Session would like to thank all our church members for going above and beyond our annual contribution to Edisto Habitat for Humanity to raise \$5,000 for their "Faith Build" initiative. What a blessing to have 10 local churches come together to help Shannon Ridling and her 9 year-old daughter, Peyton, build their home. On Sunday, October 7, the Times & Democrat had a front page article showing the Ridling family and their new home.



Jamie Wood, a member of our church for 25 years, is the Executive Director of Edisto Habitat for Humanity. She spoke to our GTF group on September 19th to thank us for our support and to share the history of Habitat in Orangeburg. She informed us that the title of this initiative has been changed from Apostle Build to Faith Build. Habitat asks local churches to support the building of a house every 4 or 5 years.

The generosity of our church members in time, talent and financial support is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering to build a house or help at the Homestead Store you can contact Melissa Camp, Volunteer Coordinator (803) 378-8277. You can find information and pictures on the Edisto Habitat for Humanity web page:

<https://www.edistohabitatforhumanity.org/> or [Facebook](#).

SAVE THE DATE

Advent Breakfast – December 2, 2018

PRAYING FOR MIDTERM ELECTIONS

We have guides to use to pray for midterm elections available in the sanctuary on Tuesdays from 11:45-1:30 and in the prayer room. Why should we pray for midterm elections? From "Inviting God into the Process" by David Butts:

1. The Bible commands us to pray for those in leadership, including those who want to be in leadership.
2. Godly leaders can help slow the erosion of religious liberties in our country.
3. Selection of leaders who understand and lead according to God's righteous standards can bring blessing to our nation. (Prov. 14:34) and
4. Scripture says, "for a lack of guidance a nation falls." (Prov. 11:14)

The determination of who leads our nation will also determine who advises that leader and how we are guided.

NOVEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle 1:	Tuesday, Nov. 13	11:30 a.m.
	Centre	
Circles 2 & 4:	Tuesday, Nov. 13	10:30 a.m.
	Conference Room	
Circle 3:	Monday, Nov. 12	6:00 p.m.

THORNWELL OFFERING

Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, South Carolina, has cared for abused, abandoned, and neglected children since 1875. Our annual offering for this ministry will be received on **Sunday, November 18**. Through the generosity of countless individuals and churches, *Thornwell* has been and continues to be a place of hope and healing for thousands of children.

THANKSGIVING BOXES

We will provide Thanksgiving Boxes again this year to help those less fortunate in our community have a happy Thanksgiving.



We are once again asking you to donate the items to fill a box or more than one box. Through your generosity, last year we were able to fill and distribute 117 boxes. Please find below the list of items for each box. Each box costs roughly \$50 to fill, depending on where you shop. The Evangelism Committee includes a gift certificate of \$15 in each box. They are designated to be used for a ham or turkey.

In the past, we have been able to do our final assimilation on Saturday before the distribution on Sunday. However, this year the Centre will be in use on that Saturday for a community event. We will have to complete our assimilation on Friday. We begin assembling boxes as soon as donations are made but we can't complete it until the last day. It is imperative that you complete your donations prior to Friday, November 16th. Distribution will occur on Sunday, November 18th. **Therefore, we are asking that all donations be made by GTF on Wednesday, November 14th,** to allow us time to complete our assimilation. It is a time consuming process and there is no time after Friday to complete it. Thank you for your cooperation and your generosity.

As in the past, we are asking for volunteers to help with distribution. We will begin distribution immediately after worship on Sunday, November 18th.

Also, as in the past, if you are unable to purchase the items for the boxes, the committee will do the shopping for you. Make checks payable to the church with a designation to the Thanksgiving Box Ministry. **Remember to have your donation in by Wednesday, November 14th.**

There will be copies of the list of items to purchase in the McLees Gallery and in the Centre. There will also be a form in the Centre that you can use for tax purposes to show your donation.

Thank you once again for your support.

Evangelism Committee
Thanksgiving Box Ministry
Elise and Gerald Myers—Co Chairs
682-3721

- Meat – 1 can (beef stew, Vienna, etc.)
- Seafood – 2 cans (tuna, salmon, etc.)
- Vegetables – 2 cans (large)
- Pork & beans – 1 large can
- Dried beans – 1 package
- Soup – 1 large can
- Fruit – 2 cans
- Cranberry sauce – 1 can
- Cooking oil – liter or quart
- Dessert – Jell-O, pudding, brownie mix, cake mix
- Evaporated milk – 1 large can
- Cereal – 1 large box
- Grits – 2 lbs. (quick)
- Peanut butter – 1 jar (plastic)
- Jelly – 1 jar (plastic)
- Dessert cookies (Oreo, Choc Chip, etc.)
- Crackers – 1 box (saltines, Ritz, cheese)
- Spaghetti sauce – 1 jar (plastic or can)
- Dry macaroni noodles – 1 medium box
- Spaghetti noodles – 1 medium box
- Box meal (hamburger helper, etc.)
- Rice – 2 lbs. bag
- Stuffing – 1 box
- Sugar – 4 or 5 lbs.
- Flour – 5 lbs.
- Salt – 1 box
- Corn meal
- Jiffy cornbread mix – 2 boxes
- Optional: a stuffed animal



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—LIVING FAITHFULLY

There are many aspects involved in Christians living faithfully. Two are:

- an “attitude/theology of gratitude”

Marvin Williams, a writer for “Our Daily Bread,” says that the apostle Paul wanted the Christians of his day to develop a theology of gratitude. Paul wrote about thanksgiving 23 times and always directed his thanksgiving toward God and not toward people. He always thanked God for people’s spiritual growth, faith and love. His belief was that, we as Christians should be thankful for everything. We should recognize that God is sovereign and works out everything for the good of the believer. We need to be intentionally aware of God’s gifts to us and His gifts surrounding us. We should respond with such gratitude that we naturally look for ways to say, “Thank you God.” As we approach Thanksgiving, this would be a good time to develop the habit of looking for ways to thank God. How many times a day can you find reasons to thank God? Try it and see! If we develop an attitude or theology of gratitude, what a difference it will make in our lives and the lives of those around us. So, let’s all make a Thanksgiving resolution to look for ways to thank God many times each day. Gratitude is a natural response to God’s grace.



- a determination “to be ready for every good work” (Titus 3:1)

What kind of person does God choose to further His kingdom? Have you ever thought about some of the characteristics of some of the most noted people in the Bible? For example:

Jacob was a cheater
David contracted for a murder
Noah got drunk
Paul was a murderer
Gideon was insecure
Martha was a worrier
Sarah was impatient
Moses stuttered
Abraham was old

David had an affair
Peter had a temper
Jonah ran from God
Rahab was a prostitute
Miriam was a gossip
Thomas was a doubter
Elijah was depressed
Zaccheus was short
Lazarus was dead

Yet, Bible readers recognize their names as people God used for His purposes. Obviously, God qualifies those He calls. The folks mentioned were able to hear God calling and to follow His will as He qualified them. Were they qualified before He called them? They listened, humbled themselves to His will and He qualified them.

Put your name here-----and add “is a” -----. Now think about what God is calling you to do. Do you think you can do it? Do you believe God will qualify you for the life he has planned for you? The folks in the Bible did and followed God. From scripture, we know God empowers us to do what he calls us to do. Are you humble enough to open your hands and say to God, “Here I am. Use me.”? Remember, every day is a good day to serve God.

Challenge: My challenge for you this month is to be intentionally aware of God’s love, grace, and His gifts surrounding you. Respond with gratitude.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for making us a part of your family and surrounding us with your love, grace and protection. Thank you for giving us the responsibility and privilege of serving you and empowering us to do Your will. Help us be a shining light for You both individually and as a church. Amen.

Prayerfully serving together.
Kaye
Christian Education Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS-NOVEMBER

PRESCHOOL: Leslie Lovelace

KINDERGARTEN

November 4 Kaye Borgstedt
November 11 Kim Reed
November 18 Marcia Wood
November 25 Tracy and Robbie Myers

ELEMENTARY

November 4 Jane Holladay
November 11 Geni and David Gillespie
November 18 Susan and Jimmy Smoak
November 25

YOUTH

Month of November: Katherine and Craig Smith

PRESCHOOL NURSERY SCHEDULE

November 4 Walter
November 11 Lanier
November 18 Volunteer Opportunity
November 25 Nexsen

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

November 4 Dangerfield
November 11 Riley
November 18 Ridley
November 25 Coggins

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01	James Shepherd	11/16	Annie Blair Davis
11/02	Emma Cuttino		Chloe Bess
11/04	Kim Wolfe		Caleb Bess
11/05	Shirley Salley	11/17	Aaron Bruner
	Dean Flansburg	11/18	Faye Bull
11/07	Janet Brailsford		Carol Felder
11/08	Vivian Hutto		Andy Trimmier
	Lisa Boltin	11/19	Virgil Simpson
	Joni Thackston		Wayne Lorick
	Tripp Wingard	11/20	Ramsey Albergotti
	Erin Axson	11/21	Emily Shirer
11/09	Nancy Runager	11/22	Billy Kelley
	Mary Margaret Dempsey	11/23	Howard Shirer
			Al Thomas Hughes
11/12	Carol Bess	11/25	Phyllis Wilson
11/13	Keith Byers		Kurt von Besser
	Jeffrey Axson	11/28	Lewis Lanier
	Maggie Hughes		John Colston
11/14	Emmaline		Strickland
	Dangerfield	11/29	George Ware
			Evan Campbell
			Abby Thackston
		11/30	Catherine Cuttino

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It is the mission of the Card Ministry Team to make sure that every member of our church family who is on the Congregational Care Update knows that they are in our thoughts and are being lifted up to the Lord in prayer.

We need some volunteers to assist us in this ministry. It would involve sending out cards weekly, and is a simple way to give back to our church without ever having to leave the comfort of your home!

We are all called to represent Christ and to act in His behalf, and in His character and spirit under all circumstances and toward all men. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:17

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to assist us in this effort, please contact Erin Axson (860-0807; eaxson@orangeburgprep.com) or Delle Bolen (536-1944; dellebolen@hotmail.com).

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



NOVEMBER 2018

MEMORIALS

Given in Memory of

Mrs. Kathy Johnson	Mrs. Sherry Johnson
Mrs. Marjorie Nickel	Mr. Frank Tourville, Jr.
Mrs. Ella Daniel	Mrs. Pat Simpson

Given By

Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Barnwell	Ms. Katherine Zeigler
Neal and Janet Branan	Kathy and Herb Bradley
Sojourner, Caughman and Thomas	



GROWING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

Our GTF supper begins each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Make reservations by **noon on Monday** of each week for the meal so that adequate arrangements can be made. Children's choir rehearsal begins at 6:00 p.m. and runs concurrently with a program for adults. Check the Sunday bulletin each week for the dinner menu and program description.