



November 2011



Network News

Monthly Newsletter of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Jacksonville, North Carolina

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalm 100:4

Count your blessings, name them one by one/count your blessings, see what God has done!

Count Your Blessings (hymn)

I was trying to prepare for Commitment Sunday on the 13th of the month, and for me, stewardship is always about giving thanks. All that I have comes from God, and as I look over the tapestry that is my life, I can see a lot of places where God has blessed me even when I wasn't willing to give him the credit! I look at the pictures on my wall at home and all I can do is give thanks to God for all that I have had in my life.

I think of my parents, who were high school sweethearts that married young. They lived and worked for several years in rural Kansas until World War II brought them to the west coast. Dad was drafted into the Navy and spent his years overseas in the Marianas Islands, and the real blessing was that he came home. He didn't have any great war stories other than the occasional humorous sea story (remember what I told you about those?). The blessing, of course, was that he and my mother were able to have a family and to run a business or two, which of course means that my sisters and I came along. Believe me, I'm thankful!

I was also blessed to marry my high school sweetheart, and my Navy enlistment gave us a living and it gave me my educational opportunities. The blessing of having Leslie with me all these years is more than words can express! The Navy years gave me a self-discipline that I didn't have before, and that has allowed me to become the person I am now. Even with my missteps and mistakes, God has blessed me, though I may have thought otherwise at the time! Our two sons are people who have grown to be good men of whom we are proud.

My ministry years have taken us around the country and beyond. My first church gave me the grace to figure out

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



November 1	..... All Saints' Day Circle 4 at 10:00
November 4	..... Friday Night Life
November 5	..... Officer Training at Cape Carteret
November 6	..... Holy Communion Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 7	..... Men of the Church
November 11	..... Veterans' Day Friday Night Life
November 13	..... Military Recognition Sunday Commitment Sunday Circle 1, 5:00
November 15	..... Circle 3 at 1:00 Circle 2 at 2:00
November 20	..... Christ the King Sunday Service of Baptism Congregational Meeting
November 22	..... Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team
November 23-27	..... Church Office Closed
November 24	..... Thanksgiving Day
November 27	..... First Sunday of Advent
November 29	..... Session Meeting

what it means to be a minister. You would think that seminary would do that, but there are just some things you have to learn by doing, and that's where grace comes in: you make mistakes while you're learning. Thank God for loving and forgiving people! My second church taught me as well, and in those years I discovered how God is at work in what I would call the mission field. (The people there call it "home.") Since I've been here in Jacksonville I've learned some more. In recent months I've been in awe of a loving and grace-filled congregation who may not talk about their faith much, but they sure live it out! Just look around you and you will find people who care for other people in some truly Christ-like ways.

So as I ponder my pledge to the church, and as I think about what I want to say about the things of good stewardship from the pulpit, gratitude to God is at the top of my list. I stop and count my blessings more and more these days. Oh, I know that it's not all about me, but it still fills me with awe and amazement that in the ways that I have been blessed, many others have been blessed as well. God has this amazing plan in which he blesses each of us in order to bless all of us. Leslie and I were blessed to find

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NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

- from Barbara Krause, Director

Things are going well at school. On Thursday, October 20 we went to Mike's Farm for our hayride. It was wonderful that we had 65 people (teachers, parents, children) to go to share the fun. Each child was able to pick his own pumpkin, which was very exciting for them.

With Halloween there was much more fun! On Monday, the day of Halloween they performed their program for their parents and celebrated the holiday. The children were wearing their costumes, so it was quite a special festivity.

And now Thanksgiving is right around the corner. As always, thank you for the support you show our school. Till next month. . .

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship pledge letters and pledge sheets were mailed in October. Please prayerfully consider the financial support you will provide to First Presbyterian Church for the upcoming year. Pledge Sunday will be November 13 at which time pledge sheets will be collected. Rev. Kerr will give stewardship themed sermons before Pledge Sunday.

Thank you for the support you have shown to First Presbyterian Church over the years. We are blessed to have a loving and caring Church family.

- The Stewardship Team

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER



2	.....	Brad Kuegel
5	.....	Terri Edmondson
6	.....	Wanda Elliott
7	.....	Olive Downing
8	.....	Eric Cardenas, Roger Moore
10	.....	Tim Dupstadt
13	.....	Billie Whitwell
16	.....	Angela Sandlin
17	.....	Barrie Brough
19	.....	Barbara Krause
20	.....	Hugh Sandlin

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our women are already planning our annual Christmas dinner, to which we are again inviting all the members of our church family. It will be held on the evening of December 12 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a delicious menu and very enjoyable entertainment, and as always we will share the joys of the season in fellowship with each other. Make plans now not to miss it! Tickets are available now.



for September 2011

General Fund	.....	\$16,883.56
Building Fund	.....	1,975.00
Samaritan Fund	.....	510.00
Youth	.....	1,269.00
TOTAL	.....	\$20,637.56



"I'd prefer turkey nuggets."

Network News of The First Presbyterian Church

400 Bayshore Blvd., Jacksonville, NC 28540

910-455-2434 www.jacksonvillepresbyterian.com

Coastal Carolina Presbytery website www.presbycc.org

Presbyterian Church (USA) website www.pcusa.org

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church—its purpose is to inform members and friends of the meetings and programs of the church, to provide newsworthy articles, and to strengthen communications in our church family. Contributions are welcome—direct them to the editor.

Ministers	.....	The People of the Church
Pastor	.....	Dr. John R. Kerr
Choir Director	.....	Jeff Story
Organist	.....	Sheila Miller
Pre-School Director	.....	Barbara Krause
Church Secretary	.....	Gloria Parker
Newsletter editor	.....	Blanche Nichols 455-1265 or nchobo@ec.rr.com
Deadline for December/January Network News	.....	Tuesday, November 22



FOR YOUR INFORMATION: SESSION NOTES

- Sue Lowery, Clerk of Session

STATED SESSION MEETING – October 25, 2011

Members present: Opal Amos, Pete Andrews, Anna Hamilton, Linda Hawes, Bob Krause, Sue Lowery, Downs Milner, Blanche Nichols, John Phillips, Bobby Sheegog, Jim Wayne, and Harry Woodard. Also present was Dr. John Kerr. Charles Arnold was excused.

Dr. Kerr read a passage from John 9 and reminded us that the presence of Jesus can change our lives; he then opened the meeting with prayer.

Members met the Enchautegui (en-chow-TAY-gee) family (Juan, Caitlyn, Lindy [8], Aiden [will be 7 in November], Sofia [5], and Tegan [3]) who have chosen Jacksonville as their home. Juan will reaffirm his faith and Caitlyn, Lindy, Aiden, Sofia, and Tegan will be baptized into our church family in November.

Discussion items included: work on the 2009 audit is in progress; revision of Neighborhood Networks; review of Congregational Care Ministry Team activity from May to October (127 cards, 82 visits, 2 meals, 22 phone calls, 35 sermon tapes, and 17 prayer requests); Fall Festival planning; Evangelism/Ministry Team's emphasis on reaching new members; scheduling of Misconduct Policy and Per-

sonnel Ministry Team meetings (for personnel evaluations); need to ensure lights are turned off after worship services; various maintenance items (removing hedges, painting railings, sealing narthex column cracks) as well as need for volunteers for additional painting; resumption of Prayer Shawl Ministry (five shawls given recently); recognition that Billie Shires has begun crocheting/knitting classes for Wounded Warriors; synopsis of October 15 Presbytery meeting (*report found on page ____*); authorization to request Certificates of Transfer for Gary and Marilyn Danford from Greenville Presbyterian Church.

Action items included: enthusiastic approval for baptisms of Enchautegui family members; approval for Dr. Kerr to use study leave to join work group organized by Presbytery of Coastal Carolina to travel to Comalcalco, Tabasco, Mexico in January, to help build a medical clinic and strengthen the partnership with El Presbiterio del Golfo de Mexico; selection of Bobby Sheegog as Moderator of Evangelism/Missions Ministry Team; approval for Congregational Care Ministry Team to sponsor Veterans Day/Military Sunday on November 20; call for Congregational Meeting on November 20 to present officers for election to the Class of 2014.



LEARNING ABOUT WHAT WE BELIEVE FALL FESTIVAL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

-- Jim Wayne

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2011 Fall Festival the best ever! We had more booths, more activities, more adults and more kids than ever before. Everyone had a great time. "Fireman" Timmy Edwards won the children's costume contest, and Bobby Soxer Barbara Krause won in the adult division.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIFE TO CONTINUE UNTIL NOVEMBER 21

Our program continues to thrive. We will meet weekly until November 21, then skip Thanksgiving week. We

will resume with a series of Advent-themed activities on December 2 through December 16, when we will break for Christmas and New Years.

NIGHT CLASS FOR *THE STORY*

Leslie Kerr is teaching an evening class using *The Story*, a retelling of the Bible in narrative form. The class meets each Thursday, 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the Music Room. You can buy *The Story* from Barnes and Noble or over the Internet from Amazon.

"Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

- Albert Schweitzer

"There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart."

- Celia Thaxter

"When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep?"

- George Canning



COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY

October 15, 2011



The 94th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina was held at St. Pauls Presbyterian Church in St. Pauls on October 15, 2011. At the morning report, there were 70 active ministers, 15 retired ministers, 114 Elders, 19 CREs, and 141 visitors present. Rev. Dr. John Kerr, Pastor, and Sue Lowery, Elder/Commissioner, represented First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, at the meeting.

Candidate Nicholas Nielsen used text from Romans 6:3-7 and 15-18 as the basis for the morning sermon. He reminded us that we are baptized into service and that each of us is a servant of the servants of God.

Dr. David Walker reported that several churches in the Presbytery sustained damages as a result of Hurricane Irene. Long-term recovery efforts continue in Bladen and Lee Counties as a result of tornado damage. Raeford Presbyterian Church submitted a petition to the Presbytery, stating the church will continue to look for fidelity and chastity in its leaders. The Presbytery has received a grant from the Morgan Foundation which will provide funding for two years' salary for the youth worker.

Sue Hudson of St. Pauls Church reminded those attending that St. Pauls was organized in 1799 and has founded other churches in the area, including one for Hispanics. The minister of the Hispanic church, along with her entire congregation, was present to welcome us to the area with song. Hispanic Christians sang and walked through the church, shaking hands and greeting those present.

Candidates Nicholas Nielsen (Calypso Presbyterian Church) and Chris Denny (Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church) were admitted to the floor for examination for ordination as Teaching Elders (Ministers of the Word & Sacrament). Both were approved and commissions were established for their ordinations. After several questions regarding his theology, Candidate James McLeod, Jr. was

received as a member-at-large and temporary supply at First Lumberton Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Charles Elliott was approved as Interim General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, effective January 1 2012.

The following were honorably retired: Rev. Suzanne Simpson, Rev. Keith Miller, and Rev. Dr. David A. Walker

A delegation from el Presbiterio del Golfo de Mexico gave an update (through Kathy Beach-Verhey, translator) on progress of the medical clinic. The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina has been in partnership with this Presbiterio for several years and has sent group of volunteers to assist with the building.

The 2011/2012 Presbytery Youth Council was introduced and installed.

Members were encouraged to attend workshops at "Equipping the Saints" in February.

Various elections were held — Commissioners to the 220th General Assembly: Rev. Phil Gladden, Rev. Hannah Vaughan, Rev. Rogers Randall, Rev. Mills Peebles, Dr. James McLeod, Elder Priscilla Brower, Elder Carl Orndoff, and Youth Advisory Delegate Natalie Gladden; Presbytery committees, including: Rev. John Kerr, Strategic Planning and Organizational Development, and Sue Lowery, Committee on Ministry.

James (Jay) Bender was installed and Hannah Vaughan was elected and installed as Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively, for 2012 for Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

This brief synopsis in no way encompasses the entire day's activity. I urge each of you to attend at least one Presbytery meeting. Thanks, again, for this opportunity.

Sue Lowery, Commissioner

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (from page 1)

one another, but we have been able to be more of a blessing to others together than we would be separately. It's that loaves-and-fishes thing that God does: for some reason, God loves to multiply things for the good of his children.

How have you been blessed this year? Even in tough times, God blesses us and we can in turn be a blessing to others.

As you consider your giving to the cause of the Lord this year, think about all of his blessings in your life. You'll discover that your blessings have gone beyond the borders of your life into others, and when you know that, you're twice blessed!

In his love, John

At Home

Lei Ashley John Miller
 Carol Bodenhamer Donna McIntyre
 Tom Elliott Pat Nelson
 James Hunter Lib Taylor

In a Hospital, Nursing Home or Rehab Center

Claude Duppstadt—Hampstead
 Evelyn Gillenwater—Liberty Commons
 Dot Keel—Liberty Commons
 Peggy Mosser—Liberty Commons
 Lillianna Shull—University of Michigan Hospital
 Mary Southerland—Wilmington
 Billie Whitwell—Tarboro
 Betty Wiggins—Premiere

Deployed:

Charles Arnold
 LCpl Darrell DeKleuver
 Leo Hunnicutt
 Christopher O'Toole, Tim's brother

Friends of the Church:

Mia Holland
 Ken Lowe
 Sarah O'Berry

Extended Family

Lei Ashley's daughters, Debra & Sandra
 Carol Hayes Bodenhamer
 Hope Damerville, Michele Wurtzel's mom
 Thelma Hall's daughters, Sylvia Zarrias &
 Nita Rivenbark
 Dot Keel's daughter, Lee Keel
 Connie Kitchen's mom, Frances Powell
 Joseph Lane, Helen Lane's son
 Donna Lowery, Sue's sister-in-law
 Glendora Quinn's daughter, Julie Heitkemper
 Midge Reed's grandson, Teddy Shuman,
 and his parents, Thom and Bonnie
 Les Thornton—Angela Thornton's father
 Dr. David Walker

Warmest and most loving sympathy to Dan Roemerman upon the death of his beloved **Judy**. Dan and Judy have been members of our church family for many years. She and her many acts of service and love will be tremendously missed.



**Presbyterian
 Counseling
 Center**

CENTERPOINT

- Catherine Butler

For the last few months, we have been exploring effective communication when a loved one has failed to meet a need, using the following example: You and your spouse have plans to go to a movie at 7pm. Your spouse arrives home at 6:59 and when you get to the theatre not only has the movie started but it has also sold out! The first step is to state the facts, then to express your feelings and then to state your needs (or unmet needs). You could say something as simple as, "When you got home at 6:59, I felt both disappointed and angry. I was needing some companionship and fun. I also have a need to feel respected."

The last step is to let your partner know how to meet your need. It helps to be as specific as possible but it's important to realize there is always more than one way to get a need met. Instead of saying, "Don't you ever do that to me again," it will be more effective to state what you want. "I would really like it if you would get home 15 minutes before the start time of any movie we are planning to see." This is a clear solution that your partner can understand and agree to OR not agree to.

To recap: 1) state only the facts of the situation and your feelings. 2) state what your need is (was), 3) be clear in stating how your need can be met. This way of communication can be used in most any situation, not just with couples. Give it a try!

To contact the Presbyterian Counseling Center call: 910-452-7370 or visit us at presbyteriancounselingcenter.org.

SHOUT OUT TO ALL SE REGION PRESBYTERIANS!

Southport PW and the Mission Committee will co-host a workshop on the topic of Human Trafficking at our church on November 19th. Martha Gee, member of the PCUSA General Assembly Mission Council is coming to raise our awareness; share an overall view of global and local issues; tell what PCUSA is doing and what we can do to help. Martha is the link with ECPAT USA, the group providing the TASSA tags that we (Southport) have been selling at our church in recent months. Human trafficking is a modern-day slave trade; tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world and estimated to be the fastest growing. The statistics are staggering, with the United States being the largest trade area. We can be a voice for the voiceless! Human trafficking occurs because we choose to ignore it.

WHAT: HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP

WHEN: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2011

WHERE: SOUTHPORT PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH

TIME: 10AM -2PM; INCLUDING LUNCH

PLEASE RSVP TO JAXIE JULIAN BY NOV. 7TH
 IF POSSIBLE

* Assistants in Worship for Sundays in November



Date	Liturgist	Usher Team Leader	Treasurer Assistant	Acolyte
November 6	Jim Wayne	Harry Woodard	John Phillips	Ella Sheegog
November 13	Blanche Nichols	Harry Lord	Anna Hamilton	Maddi Smith
November 20	Jim Wayne	Pete Andrews	Downs Milner	Abigail & Aubrey McKinney
November 27	Sue Lowery	Bob Krause	Opal Amos	Jalayah Thornton

* If your name appears above and you are unable to serve, please secure a replacement.



SANCTUARY
FLOWERS

Date	Provided by	to the Glory of God
November 6	Open	
November 13	Sue Lowery	and in memory of her mother
November 20	Donna Kuegel	in honor of her family's November birthdays
November 27	Open	



after church. Hope to see you there. We invite all our military to wear their uniforms.

- Linda Hawes

The Congregational Care Ministry Team invites you to mark your calendars for Veteran's Day/Military Recognition on Sunday, November 13, 2011. There will be a recognition during our church/service to be followed by a cake social time in the Fellowship Hall

Onslow Christmas Cheer Applications



Taken Tuesdays and Thursdays and all the week before Thanksgiving
Special late evening hours on November 15 & 17
at Christmas Cheer Headquarters
1210 Hargett Street
(former Piggly Wiggly Bldg--same as 2010)

Bring statement of income, positive identification and be prepared to give a statement about need. It is helpful to bring your power or telephone bill with you.
Last Day: Friday, November 18
Information: 347-4646

First Presbyterian Church
400 Bayshore Boulevard
Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

