

# Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

## **Shut In of the Month**

Ruby Summer  
2237 Harrington  
Street  
Newberry, SC 29108

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

December 2016

Issue 12  
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## **Update from the Session**

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session at the November 9 stated meeting:

The October financial report was reviewed and received as information.

The October 12 stated and October 16 called meeting minutes were approved.

Reports and prayers were offered for the shepherding needs of the congregation.

The Session certified the following officer nominees: Lee Ringer for elder and Jean Williamson for deacon.

Aaron Eising was approved as the pulpit supply for November 27.

Sessional Committees:

**Missions:** The Angel Tree outreach was approved.

The proposed 2017 budget was approved.

The Pastor's annual review was conducted.

The use of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Nicene Creed as our Affirmation of Faith in the worship service was approved.

The 2016 Annual Business Meeting was scheduled for December 4 following the worship service.

The next stated session meeting will be December 21 at 8:00 pm.



## **Congregational Christmas Fellowship**

Our annual Christmas Fellowship is scheduled for December 14, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to bring an appetizer to share. There will be a musical program featuring some of our members and Alice's piano students. Plan to celebrate Christ's birth with your Church Family!



## **Prayer Chain**

If you have a special prayer request please call or e-mail Lisa Senn and she will send it out via e-mail to all members. Lisa can be reached at 276-3253 or e-mail [lisasenn1309@gmail.com](mailto:lisasenn1309@gmail.com). It is indeed a privilege to lift up others in prayer to our great God.

## **Prayer Request**

David Bunn - military; Betty Bland, Nelle Cromer, Pat Harmon, Mark McGuffee, Edna Ringer, Brady Ruff, Rob Senn, Ruby Summer, AJ Young

## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday  
9:45 am -  
Sunday School  
10:55 am -  
Morning Worship

Wednesday  
6:30 pm -  
Bible Study/Prayer  
6:30 pm -  
Youth Group

## **FINANCIAL DATA - 2016**

Budget Receipts	\$ 157,158.51
Budget Needs	\$ 143,996.72

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact an Elder.

Doug Wicker, Clerk of the Session

### **Flowers for December**

4 - Communion Flowers

11, 18, 25 - Poinsettias

### **Nursery for December**

4 - Allison & Noah Yi

11 - Frances Brown & Joseph Yi

18 - Joanna Bedenbaugh & Elizabeth Yi

25 - Shannon Winters

### **Ushers for December**

4 – Don Ringer, Gene Wicker, Noah Yi

11 - Mike Birochak, Andre Jennings, Noah Yi

18 - Keith Avery, Marc Faulkenberry, Noah Yi

25 - Lee Winters, George Farris, Noah Yi

For those wishing to place flowers in the Sanctuary for 2017, the signup sheet is in the Main Street vestibule.



**Food Pantry  
Donations Needed**

### **Manna House—Peanut Butter and Jelly**

Thank you to everyone who helped fill our box for Thanksgiving. All items were greatly appreciated.

Our volunteers will serve Manna House November 28-December 2. If you have an hour please consider becoming a volunteer.

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.

“...the Lord Jesus Himself said, ‘there is more happiness in giving than in receiving.’” Acts 20:35

### *Keeping Christ Central in Christmas*

It may come as a surprise to some of you, but many of our ARP ancestors would not have celebrated Christmas a hundred or so years ago as most Americans do today with decorations, exchanging presents, special services, etc. In fact, that was the norm for most Presbyterians before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, since the time of the Protestant Reformation, Reformed and Presbyterian Christians did not recognize most holidays in the Church calendar, including Christmas and Easter. It largely stemmed from their protest of the Roman Catholic Church and its practices and traditions. In particular, Christmas was an additional offense because of its theological (the Catholics viewed it as a Christ “mass”) and historical (the date is linked to a pagan sun god worship) roots. In contrast, our Presbyterian forefathers sought to accentuate the weekly Lord’s Day as the apex of worship and celebration for God’s people. They veered away from man-made traditions and observances regarding the worship of God seeking to maintain purity in doctrine and practice.

This may sound a bit extreme to us now, since most of us have grown up during an era when most churches have recognized and actively participated in celebrating Christmas, but to the credit of our predecessors, they in general had a higher and more sacred view of the Church and her calling in the world. However, over the past century the negative connotations of religious holidays have been diminished, and they have become assimilated into the life and ministry of most evangelical churches, including Presbyterians. In fact, the Christmas season has provided an opportunity for churches to reach out to their community with the message of the incarnation and God’s love for sinners.

That being said, with all the commercialism that floods the celebration of Christmas, we would benefit greatly by pursuing the mindset that our forefathers had regarding worship, namely keeping Christ at the center of all our activity! As we all make preparations for this festive season, we need to remind ourselves constantly, *why* we do *what* we do. As we try to avoid falling into the pitfalls surrounding this holiday, the glory of Christ needs to remain central. He receives no more glory in the number of presents we exchange or the gatherings we attend or even the “good cheers” we share with others. In the end, Christ is most glorified in our lives and in the life of the Church when He is lifted up so that all men might be drawn unto Him (**John 12:32**). The *reasons* and the *ways* we celebrate Christmas should be holy, set apart from non-Christians, even if the world capitalizes on its marketability. It may not be obvious at a glance, but we should and must celebrate the incarnation of Christ with a holy zeal regardless of what our present circumstances may be. In other words, we should celebrate because the Holy Spirit has poured the love of Christ into our hearts. It is a joy that the world knows nothing of and cannot imitate.

The incarnation of Christ is an occasion that ought to provoke our celebration! It is also a time in the life of the Church when ministry can be fruitful. At the same time, it can also be a season that overwhelms and gets many Christians distracted. It is a difficult balance that we must carefully maintain. The key to it again is Christ! If what we are doing does not exalt our Lord, then we need to reexamine it and ask the question, how does this glorify Christ? There are many traditions that can be a barrier to Christ if we lose our focus. So let us approach our Christmas celebrations with the aim of keeping Christ central and a biblical balance on all our activities.

By His grace,  
Pastor Seth



## ANGEL TREE

Christmas! What a wonderful time of the year and a special time for giving. Again this year we will have an Angel Tree. The tree is located in the Fellowship Hall.

This year we will be sponsoring a Mother and her five children (ages 2, 8, 10, & twins 12). If you would like to help with this project, simply remove an angel from the tree, shop for the gift designated, wrap your present, put your angel tag on the present, and leave under the tree by noon on **Friday, December 16**. The tags are for food items, clothing, and an item from the wish list of the children. This year a group will be taking the gifts to the family and sharing the love of Christ with them.

If you would like to participate and are unable to shop please contact Julia and arrangements will be made to purchase the gift.



*Women's Ministries Christmas Social*

*Sunday, December 11*

*5 PM*

*Home of Allison Yi*

*1206 Calhoun Street*

*Please bring your favorite finger food and come enjoy fellowship with old and new friends.*

*All ladies of the church are invited.*



## BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

Five children, who might otherwise not have sufficient food on the weekend, are being fed by the generous food and monetary donations from our congregation.

We have volunteers to pack our bags through March. It takes about 15 minutes to pack the bags; won't you consider volunteering for April and May? If so, the signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Backpack room located next to the nursery.

Any donations can be made to help fund the program at any time. You may put your check or money into your church envelope and mark it "Backpack Ministry" and place it in the offering plate. All money will go through our church treasury.

Please continue to pray for the children in our community who are in need.



The Church Mail Boxes will be available beginning Sunday, December 3. The boxes are in the Fellowship Hall and there is one for each family in the Church. This tradition was started a number of years ago for the purpose of allowing those who wish to share greetings with others in the Church family without the additional cost of postage. Please check your mail boxes between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of December.







## ***TOUR OF HOMES***

On Saturday, December 10 our church will participate in the 2016 Newberry Tour of Homes. We have a lovely historic church and it is an honor to have been asked to open it for the tour. The scheduled tour will be from 4 pm until 8 pm.

We are still in need of volunteers to help on the day of or before. If you volunteer for the day of the tour, you will not be expected to be available for the entire time. Signup sheets will be in the Main Street vestibule.

Our Church will already be decorated for the Christmas season with the Chrismon Tree (our old worn tree has been replaced with a new one), Advent Wreath, the windows, and the outside. This year we will also do a Poinsettia tree and are still in need of some Poinsettias.

There are some things that can be done prior to the day such as helping to clean, put out signs, pick up trash in and around the church, and a number of other small tasks that need to be accomplished.

A brochure about our Church and its history is being prepared for the tour. Music will be provided throughout the tour by members of our congregation. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall at the end of the tour. Cookies are still needed.

Please consider helping in some way with the event. Contact Julia for more information.





**Our theme Scripture for 2016 is Joshua 1:9 *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”***

ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages and equips the community of ARP women to minister together for God's glory and purpose.

Our desire is that all women in the ARP Church will: Know Jesus Intimately, Love Jesus Faithfully and Serve Jesus Fruitfully.

The Morning Circle will meet on **Tuesday, November 29** at 10 am in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. After the meeting the group will stay to decorate the Carson Room for Christmas. Light refreshments will be served. The Circle is always open for new members; contact Mary Baker for further information.

### **LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

Prayer and Fellowship Thursday evenings

7-9 pm

Home of Catherine Faulkenberry

The Ladies are currently studying the **Minor Prophets**.

Very informal study time using only the Bible and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to delve deeper into our understanding of God's Word.

Do as little or as much reading or study of the passages as you feel led.

An e-mail will be sent out every Thursday morning to give you up to date details. If interested in receiving the e-mail please contact either

Shannon Winter at [19golfaly@gmail.com](mailto:19golfaly@gmail.com) 803-940-1596 OR

Kristy Jennings [andrenkristy@hotmail.com](mailto:andrenkristy@hotmail.com) 803-271-5298

**ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!**



# ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street  
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web

[NewberryARP.org](http://NewberryARP.org)



With a long life I will satisfy him and  
let him see my salvation.  
Psalm 91:16

It is not every day that someone turns a century old. On Tuesday, December 6, Mrs. Ruth Christensen (mother of Shirley Mohler) will have the honor of celebrating 100 years of life. For many years Mrs. Ruthie worshipped with us during her time in Newberry. Mrs. Ruthie is now a resident of White Oak Manor and on occasion attends one of our fellowship meals.

Mrs. Christensen, may your special day be filled with sunshine, smiles, laughter and love. Congratulations!!!

If you would like to send Mrs. Ruthie a birthday cards the address is White Oak Manor, 2555 Kinard Street, Newberry 29108.