

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut In of the Month

Edna Ringer
NHC
2993 Sunset Blvd.
W. Columbia, SC
29169

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

December 2017

Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken this month:

1. The October financial report was reviewed and received as information.
2. The October 26 stated and October 29 called session minutes were approved.
3. Reports and prayers were offered for the shepherding needs of the congregation.
4. Sessional Committees:
Missions: several individuals will be ministered through the Angel Tree.
Fellowship: No meal is scheduled for Dec. 31. The next event will be the Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 4.
5. The Child Evangelism Fellowship Good News Club was approved as a potential outreach ministry.
6. Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer on Dec. 27 will be cancelled.
7. The Pastor annual review was conducted.
8. The next stated session meeting will be on December 20, 8:00 pm.



The congregational Christmas Fellowship is Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite holiday finger food and join your church family in decorating the family Christmas tree. The gathering will include several vocal and instrumental offerings. Formerly donated family ornaments will be on display in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 3. If you would like to update your ornament or donate one in the name of your family, please bring one on December 6.

Prayer List

David Bunn - military;
Betty Bland, Nelle Cromer,
Pat Harmon, Mark
McGuffee, Edna Ringer.

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 - 2017

Budget Receipts	\$ 148,566.28
Budget Needs	\$ 149,161.55

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



Our theme Scripture for 2017 is Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

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, January 2, 2018** at 10 am in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. As we begin a new year, Marcie Cole will be leading the Bible study on Genesis 12-25. The theme verse for 2018 will be Genesis 17:7, "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." (NIV). Carolyn Fulmer and Julia Rikard will be hostesses for the meeting. The Circle is always open for new members; contact Carolyn Fulmer for further information.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Prayer and Fellowship Thursday evenings
7-9 pm

Home of Catherine Faulkenberry

Currently studying the book ***Knowing God*** by J. I. Packer.

An email is sent out every Thursday morning to give up to date details.

If interested in receiving the email please contact either

Shannon Winter at 19golfaly@gmail.com or 803-940-1596 OR

Kristy Jennings andrenkristy@hotmail.com or 803-271-5298

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!

For those wishing to place flowers in the Sanctuary for 2018, the signup sheet is in the Main Street vestibule.





Food Pantry Donations Needed

Manna House Macaroni and Cheese and Dried Beans

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.

We just finished serving Manna House for our third time this year. In the New Year, we will have an opportunity to serve again. Volunteers are needed. It only takes one hour per day, and we serve three times in a year. Will you volunteer? See Julia for more information.

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



BACKPACK PROGRAM

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

Volunteers are needed to pack our bags for January-May. It takes about 15 minutes to pack the bags. Please consider volunteering for a month? If so, the signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Backpack room located next to the nursery.

Any donations (food or monetary) 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 goes through our church treasury.

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

Luke's Songs of Advent

The season of Advent renews within the heart of believers the wonder and amazement of God's redeeming love. The depth of God's love for His people is only matched by the mystery of the incarnation of our Lord. Only God could have designed and orchestrated the coming of the Messiah that included the conception of the virgin Mary, a humble, outdoor birth, and an angelic announcement to lowly shepherds. A far cry from how earthly kings make their entrance into this world. Nevertheless, Luke captures for us in his gospel, the other-worldly joy and *shalom* that Christ's birth meant to all those who anticipated God's promise of a Savior. As we celebrate this Advent season, our sermon series will be focused on the four songs in Luke's Gospel. They will each give us a unique glimpse into how Christ's incarnation fulfilled God's redeeming purposes. Let me prepare your hearts and minds to our study and meditation of these songs by giving you a brief introduction to each of them.

The first song is from Mary, the mother of Jesus (*Luke 1:46-55*, known as the *Magnificat*). As she considers the miracle of being the God-bearer, she cannot help but sense the deep personal nature of God and His redeeming grace. She knows first-hand how undeserving she is of God's favor and yet that very realization moves her with even greater passion to worship the Lord. But Mary's personal reflections about God's compassion and mercy are not limited to just herself. God's redeeming grace is not directed at Mary alone but to all those who yield to Christ by faith. Christ's ministry will have universal and absolute implications turning the world right-side up. It is the culmination of the Abrahamic Covenant that Jesus fulfills bring blessing to all the nations.

Zechariah's song (known as the *Benedictus*) which we will cover in two parts (*Luke 1:68-75* and *1:76-80*) is actually a prophecy spoken after the birth of John the Baptist when Zechariah's tongue was loosed. What would a man advanced in years (whose wife also happened to be barren) have to say after being mute for nine months when a miraculous son is born to him? What else but a song of praise! But his praise of God was not limited to the miraculous gift that he and Elizabeth had received, rather it was on the greater gift of God's redemption, salvation, mercy, and covenant that would be fulfilled through the coming Davidic ruler, Jesus Christ. Furthermore, he with a prophetic tongue blesses his son for the unique role he is to serve in preparing the way for Christ's ministry.

The third song that we will study is Simeon's found in *Luke 2:29-32*, also known as the *Nunc Dimittis*. Simeon is described as a righteous and devout man, who was

waiting for the consolation of Israel. His wait came to an end when he laid his eyes on the baby Jesus. As soon as he did, he embraced Jesus and offered a prophetic praise to God. In Jesus, the anticipated Servant of God, Simeon saw the hope of deliverance for God's people. His song affirms the faithfulness of God in keeping His word as the sovereign Lord. This glorious salvation will extend beyond Israel to the nations. God's love in Christ is too great to be limited to just one people, the Jews. Therefore, the salvation that Jesus will accomplish will be for Jews and Gentiles alike.

Finally, on Christmas Eve we will meditate on the angels' song (*Luke 2:14*, the *Gloria in Excelsis*). Our own celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth comes to a fitting climax as we reflect on who God is and what he has done and how His peace is extended to those upon whom God's grace rests. This song reveals and revels in the *shalom* that God promises to bring to the entire world through the coming of his Son. As we experience a right relationship with God through Christ, all our other relationships fall in line according to the "good" creation that intended from the beginning.

Songs have a power and an ability to touch and engage our affections beyond mere prose. God has gifted us with song so that we might praise Him with our whole being. What a privilege we have to sing, worship, and meditate on the Lord's grace during this Advent season with His songs. May we attune our hearts and minds with these songs of Advent so that we might behold more clearly the wonder and joy of Christmas!

By His grace,
Pastor Seth

Advent Preaching Schedule

Luke's Songs of Christmas

Dec. 3 - Mary's Song: "God Is My Redeemer" *Luke 1:39-56*

Dec. 10 - Zechariah's Jesus Song: "The Horn of Salvation" *Luke 1:67-75*

Dec. 17 - Zechariah's John Song: "The Rising Sunshine" *Luke 1:76-80*

Dec. 24 - Simeon's Song: "Light to the Gentiles" *Luke 2:25-33*

Christmas Eve - The Angels' Song: "Peace on Earth" *Luke 2:1-20*



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 breezeway outside the office.

This year we will be sponsoring several individuals and a family. We have an elderly gentleman (90) who is a resident in one of our nursing facilities, an 8 year old boy who has recently moved to SC out of an abusive home, a grandmother and her 11 year old grandson, and an older lady. 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 it under the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 17. The tags include food items, clothing, and an item from the wish list of the two children (one is for a bike). This year a group will be taking the gifts to the recipients 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.



Prayer Chain

If you have an urgent prayer request, please call or e-mail Lisa Senn, and she will send it out via e-mail. If you would like to be included on the e-mail list, please let her know. She can be reached at lisasenn1309@gmail.com or 276-3253. It is indeed a privilege to lift up others in prayer to our great God.



The Church Mail Boxes will be available beginning Sunday, December 3. The boxes are in the Fellowship Hall. There is a box for each family in the Church. This tradition was started a number of years ago with the purpose being to allow those who wish to send greeting cards to others in the Church family without the additional cost of postage. Please check your mail boxes between the 3rd and the 29th of December.



*Women's Ministries Christmas Social
Sunday, December 17
5 PM*

*Home of Vernetha Renwick
2108 Cherry Laurel Drive*

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

All ladies of the church are invited.

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flowers for December

3 - Communion
10 - Morning Circle
17, 24, 31 - Poinsettias

Nursery for December

3 - Meri Avery & Wren Winters
10 - Joanna Bedenbaugh
17 - Frances Brown & Rachel Faulkenberry
24 - Shannon & Trust Winters
31 - Catherine Faulkenberry & Noah Yi

Ushers for December

3 - Mark Faulkenberry, Don Ringer, Keith Avery, Noah Yi
10 - George Farris, Jean Williamson, Benjamin Jennings
17 - Lee Ringer, Cecil McRacken, Aaron Eising, Joseph Yi
24 - Gene Wicker, Mike Birochack, Andre Jennings, David Jennings
31 - Doug Wicker, Lee Winters, Keith Avery, Noah Yi