

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut In of the Month

Mrs. Nell Cromer
4577 Maybinton
Road
Whitmire, SC 29178

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

February 2018

Update from the Session

1. Andre Jennings was elected as the Vice-Moderator and Doug Wicker as the Clerk of the Session.
2. The November and December Diaconate minutes and the December financial report were reviewed and received as information.
3. The December 20, 2017 stated Session minutes were approved.
4. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were discussed.
5. Sessional Committees:
Missions: Monthly support for missions and outreach from 2017 will continue in 2018.
6. The annual Presbytery and Synod reports were approved.
7. Elder Shepherding Groups were reviewed and assigned for 2018.
8. The next stated Session meeting is February 21, 8:00 pm.



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have an urgent prayer request, please email or call **Marc Faulkenberry**, and he will distribute it via email. If you would like to be **added** to the distribution list, please email Marc. It is a privilege to lift up others in prayer to our great God.
prayers4newberry@gmail.com
351-0800 (cell)

Prayer List

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

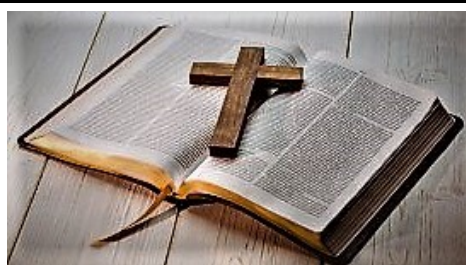
Ministry Schedule

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

Wednesday
6:30 pm
Bible Study/Prayer
6:00 pm
Youth Group

FINANCIAL DATA - 2018

Budget Receipts	\$ 9,959.97
Budget Needs	\$ 9,346.00



New Teaching Series

Wednesday Night Bible Study: Starting January 31 - *Learning Evangelism From Jesus*

Sermon: Starting February 25 - *The Epistles of John*

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

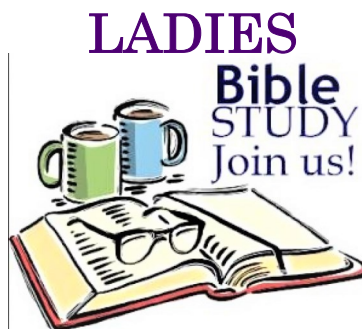


Our theme Scripture for 2018 is Genesis 17:7 - "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." (NIV)

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, February 6, 2018 at 10 am in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. The Bible study will be from Genesis, the life of Abraham. Vernetha Renwick and Marcia Cole will be hostesses for the meeting. The Circle is always open for new members; contact Carolyn Fulmer for further information.



Fellowship, Study, and Prayer

Tuesday 7-9 pm

Home of Catherine Faulkenberry/Marci Cole

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

If you are interested in attending the study, please contact either

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

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

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!



Manna House Food Pantry

Soup, Macaroni & Cheese, and Canned Fruit

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.

Our church will be volunteering the week of **April 16-20**. If you are interested in volunteering at Manna House, please see Julia for 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 March-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.

MISSIONS FOCUS



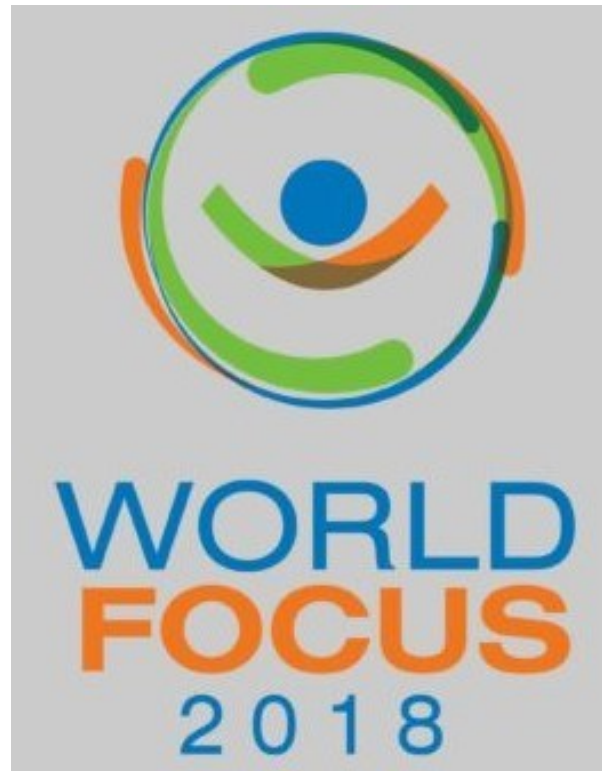
Joshua and Vonja Thomas joined World Witness in 2008. After 8 years of church planting in Turkey, the Lord has redirected them to work with the Muslims Diaspora in Germany. Joshua's work involves evangelism, preaching, teaching, one-on-one discipleship. Vonja works as a full-time wife and mom and is also engaged in outreach to women and in hospitality. The Thomases have five children: Isaiah, Krystyna, Ella, Isaac, Samuel.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That the Lord continue to build His church in Germany with greater numbers of Germans and new and old believers from other nations. Praying that the beauty of mixing nationals and newcomers would be such a vibrant, stirring, clear work of the Lord that it becomes an ebenezer for the greater church.
- That the Lord would bring them from 70% needed for Germany to 100% before the end of spring and that He would also provide the one time gifts for their move and set up costs. Their desire is to move this summer and get settled by the start of school in the fall.

You can give a one-time or recurring donation for the Thomases at <https://secure.etransfer.com/EFT/BlockCode/donation1.cfm?d2org=WorldWitness&d2tool=donate>.

If you would like to be added to their regular prayer updates via email, please sign up at <http://facebook.us3.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=3dcc10fe8f086233714e1fde3&id=49879dbd20>.



World Focus 2014 was the largest nationwide ARP event on record, with over 600 ARP pastors and families attending. Now, on **June 7-8, 2018**, at the Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC, you will have a chance to once again see and be a part of all the Lord is doing among ARP's here, and around the world, at our two-day, denominational conference – World Focus 2018.

Besides being encouraged by our keynote speaker and special music, ARP agencies will fill the Youth Activity Building with booths where you can learn about Erskine, Outreach North America, World Witness, Christian Ed, Camp Joy and many more. Also, World Witness is inviting home **all its missionaries** to be a part of this event, to meet with you and share God's global work among Muslims, Europeans, and many more.

So, whether you are interested in becoming a student at Erskine, being involved in global missions, church planting in the US, or anything else, please join us for World Focus 2018, June 7-8 (**following Synod**) as we look at the present and future kingdom work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Overcoming Our Spiritual Fear

What is your greatest fear? For Americans, their number one fear is public speaking, glossophobia (74%, Statistic Brain Research Institute, September 4, 2016). If that is not the case for you, I suspect it is pretty high on your list or once was before you overcame it. The thought of embarrassing ourselves before a group of people shakes us to our very core! For some of us, the possibility of experiencing overwhelming shame and humiliation causes our bodies to undergo dramatic and visible changes.

I believe this is one of the natural reasons (along with spiritual forces) why so many Christians are reluctant and even unwilling to share their faith with others. We can all recall more than one occasion in our lives when we walked away from an opportunity to witness or testify about the truth of Christ because we feared how others would react to us. Even in the Bible-belt, it has become more and more unpopular and politically incorrect to speak truthfully about Jesus Christ. So instead of facing public humiliation or scorn, we politely remain quiet!

In reality, this social phobia is not a modern phenomenon or limited to individual with a certain disposition. I can honestly say that even as a pastor, I have felt and succumbed to this pressure in my life. If this is true of you, we stand in good company! I am obviously referring to the apostle Peter who publicly denied the Lord three times. Nevertheless, following the Lord's resurrection, He personally forgave and commissioned Peter to serve Him (**John 21:15-19**). On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit filled Peter, and all the other believers gathered in the upper room (**Acts 2:4ff**), he with newfound boldness and power preached an inspiring sermon that led to the conversion of 3000 souls! What an amazing turn around in such a short period of time.

Through the faithful witness of one of God's servants, the Church grew in size 25 times! In just one day, through Peter's public evangelism, the communion of the saints was visibly larger than it was at any point in Jesus' public ministry. The promise that Jesus gave to His disciples (**John 14:12**) that whoever believes in Him will do greater works than He did was being fulfilled by the Holy Spirit. This same Holy Spirit indwells believers today and is able to use us to add souls to the Kingdom.

Evangelism, the faithful proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is the Lord's primary and ordinary means of grace for enlarging the invisible church, the visible church, and the Newberry ARP Church. As thankful as we are for covenant children making a profession of faith as they mature in the church, there are so many more souls in our community who need to hear and respond in faith to the good news of Jesus Christ. Moreover, the longevity and vitality of our church are directly linked to this necessary expression of our faith. If we are not diligent and persistent in leading new converts to Christ and into our membership, it will only be a matter of time before the lampstand on the corner of Main and Calhoun is extinguished.

But this is where the fear we mentioned above comes into conflict with the responsibility of evangelism. As much as we agree with the need to evangelize, most of us are held captive by our fears when confronted with the task. Though not an excuse by any means, it appears that within Presbyterian churches the spiritual gift of evangelism is a rare commodity. We must, therefore, lean all the more on the superabundant grace of the Holy Spirit to equip and empower us in this service. It must not be the

work of a few, but the faithful and winsome call of us all.

So where do we go from here? There have been many books written about evangelism and many programs developed to train Christians in evangelism. You may have read some of these books or have undergone such training or both. Despite having done one or both, you find yourself still lacking in your evangelistic efforts and zeal. The truth is that no book or program can be a substitute for prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Apart from the Holy Spirit changing our hearts so that our love for lost sinners is greater than our fears of being rejected or humiliated, we will always yield to our stronger affections. Unless we prayer earnestly and consistently for the Holy Spirit to take our meager abilities and efforts and use them to awaken dead hearts to the glory of Christ, all our labor is in vain.

So on the one hand, we face an insurmountable task; one that makes us feel helpless and ill-equipped. But on the other hand, we can pursue the lost with patience and confidence knowing that the Holy Spirit is mighty to save. As it is the case with so much of the Christian life, it is not about what we can do or what we have but about trusting the Lord and His grace to fulfill His purposes in and through us.

Therefore, I invite you as we begin (starting January 31) a new Bible study on Wednesday nights to join me and your fellow members as we learn and pray for God to make us more effective and faithful evangelists. To aid us in this effort, I will be basing my teaching on the book *Learning Evangelism from Jesus* by Jerram Barrs. Church historian and theologian David Wells writes concerning this book, "This is not a book about evangelistic technique but about doing evangelism biblically. There is a difference! Beginning with some of the everyday scenes in the gospels and then examining some of the parables, Jerram Barrs shows us that Jesus had no wooden formula which he followed, but rather was about engaging people in the depths of their being. As a result, this is an unusually wise guide to doing evangelism. The great truths of the gospel shine forth undiminished while at the same time the recesses of the human heart are explored with real insight."

I am looking forward to seeing how the Lord might change you and me to be soul winners for Him. It will not be easy or inviting, but Gospel transformation is glorious and always rewarding. The fruit that can be born from these times of study and prayer are eternal. So please make the effort to gather with us on Wednesday nights. If in God's providence, you are not able, you can listen to the lessons on our church website: <http://www.newberryarp.org/wednesday-bible-study>. Let us all pray that the Lord would be please to do a great work in us to share our faith more boldly and lovingly!

By His grace,
Pastor Seth

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Nursery for February

4 - Shannon Winters & Gracie Faulkenberry

11 - Merri Avery & Rachel Faulkenberry

18 - Joanna Bedenbaugh

25 - Leslie Koon & Reagan Bannister

Ushers for February

4 - Doug Wicker, Lee Winters, Keith Avery, Benjamin Jennings

11 - Mark Faulkenberry, Don Ringer, Aaron Eising, Noah Yi

18 - George Farris, Jean Williamson, Lee Ringer, David Jennings,

25 - Cecil McRacken, Andre Jennings, Benjamin Jennings, Joseph Yi