

# Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

## Shut In of the Month

Edna Ringer  
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W. Columbia, SC  
29169

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January 2017

## Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session at the December 21 stated meeting:

- The September and October Deacon's minutes, and the October financial report were reviewed and received as information.
- The November 9 stated session minutes were approved.
- Reports and prayers were offered for the shepherding needs of the congregation.
- The assimilation of the choir into the congregation will be moved to after the Lord's Prayer.
- Sessional Committees:  
**Missions:** The remaining balance of the 2016 Missions budget line will be given to World Witness for Where Needed Most.
- The installation of newly elected officers will be conducted in the worship service on January 15, 2017.
- The elders will be studying over the next several months the frequency of celebrating the Lord's Supper.
- The next stated session meeting will be January 25, 2017 at 8:00 pm.

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

Doug Wicker, Clerk of the Session



## Using the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* as Our Affirmation of Faith

As you may recall from the Session's actions in November, we approved the use of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (WSC) for the Affirmation of Faith in our corporate worship services. This action was not based on any defi-

ciencies or concerns that we had with the Apostles' Creed which has been used with great benefit in our and many other Presbyterian churches throughout history, but to encourage and renew our sense of understanding and devotion to our, in particular the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's, doctrinal standards. In fact, the ARP Church's *Directory of Public Worship* (one of the ARP's six constitutional documents comprising the Standards) gives support for the use of WSC. In Chapter V. The Ordering of Public Worship, B. The Ordinary Parts, 7. Confession of Faith, a., we read: "**A confession of faith is an act of worship in which the people of God reaffirm their faith in the Lord as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. This may be done by using select portions of the Holy Scriptures, or by creeds which faithfully express the teaching of the Scriptures. For example, the doctrinal standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church express our unity with one another. The historic creeds of the Church, such as *The Apostles' Creed* or *The Nicene Creed*, express our identification with the 'one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic church.'**" Here we find not only the warrant for using *The Apostles' Creed* or *The Nicene Creed* but also the WSC since it a part of "the doctrinal standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church." It is our intention to work through the questions and answers responsively and chronologically in manageable portions. We are confident that the use of the WSC will be a benefit for both the old (especially for those who grew up in this church memorizing them) and young (who are being established in the faith) in our services. We will begin this practice on the first Sunday in January.

## Prayer Request

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

## Worship Schedule

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

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

**Fifth Sunday**  
**Fellowship Meal**  
January 29  
After the Worship  
Service

## FINANCIAL DATA - 2016

Budget Receipts	\$ 176,083.01
Budget Needs	\$ 156,251.76



## Manna House— Small 2 lb bags of Grits, Flour or Corn Meal

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.

As Manna House begins the 28<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Newberry Community a special thank you to all who have continued to support this ministry.

Our church provides volunteers three times a year and as always more volunteers are needed. Would you consider giving one hour of your time ( 1-2 pm) in 2017 to help service Manna House? If interested please contact Julia.

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



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

*Nursery Workers are needed on Sundays during the Worship Service, 10:45am until 12:15 pm. In 2017 we will be staffing our nursery with volunteers only and more are needed. Would you be willing to be one of the volunteers?*



*If interested please contact Shannon Winters at 803-940-1596 or [mtn.winters@yahoo.com](mailto:mtn.winters@yahoo.com).*

# THANK YOU!

Thank you from the Ladies of the Church to Allison Yi for hosting the annual Women's Ministries Christmas Social. A wonderful time of fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance.

## Angel Tree

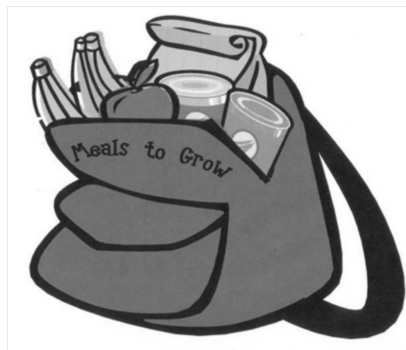
Thank you to all who participated in the Angel Tree project this year. It was a great success. All of the Angel tags were filled. The family who received the gifts of clothing and food were very appreciative to our congregation.

## TOUR OF HOMES

The Tour of Homes was a successful outreach to our community. We hosted between 80-100 people during the afternoon and evening. Our Church was beautifully decorated inside and out. It took a lot of work from a lot of people so a special thank you to all who helped before and during the event.

## Christmas Bonus

On behalf of my whole family, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the generous Christmas Bonus that was given to me at the Annual Business Meeting! It is my pleasure and joy to serve this congregation. Your expressions of love and support for me and my family have continued to grow in the year and a half that we have been in Newberry. Thank you for all your genuine kindness to us! ~ *Pastor Seth*



## Backpack needs for January---Juice any flavor

Thanks to all who have packed the backpacks for the last three months and to those who have supported the program monetarily or with food donations. It is a worthwhile outreach and one that is greatly appreciated by the children who receive the backpacks each Friday.

# Calendar

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## Enhancing Congregational Singing

Over the next several months, I will address the matter of corporate worship. It is my prayer and desire that through these articles the Lord will increasingly enable us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. As your minister and the moderator of your session, I humbly recognize the gravity that we have in overseeing our corporate worship. Our *Form of Government* (the ecclesiastical article of the ARP Standards) affirms this when it states that the “purpose of a congregation is to glorify God by conducting public corporate worship” (3.2) and lists as one of the session’s responsibilities: “Exercise, in accordance with the *Directory of Public Worship*, authority over the time and place of the preaching and teaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments, and over all other religious services.” (6.8 L.) This calling of the session requires your cooperation, prayers, and patience as we seek to submit our decisions to the Lord’s will.

I would like to help you understand why we recently decided for the choir to assimilate into the congregation after the anthem. In so doing, I will draw from our *Directory of Public Worship* (DPW, one of the six articles of our Standards) which governs our worship beliefs and practices. Your session is bound and helped by this document in maintaining biblical faithfulness and denominational integrity as an ARP congregation. We are thankful for the wisdom that the Lord has provided the ARP through this document in ordering our worship.

To start, I want to remind you that the Bible does not provide an explicit order of service in the New Testament for Christian worship. We can and should draw from the pattern prescribed for Tabernacle/Temple worship in the Old Testament, but New Covenant worship has been transformed and released from many of the OT obligations through the redeeming work of Christ. Thus, as the session plans and organizes the service, we do have some freedom within Scriptural bounds. The DPW is instructive in this regard. In II. 3., it states, “Certain **matters** or circumstances concerning worship **have not been fixed by a definite rule in the Holy Scriptures, such as the order of worship** which is to be followed, the appointed time or place for the gathering of God’s people, or the music to be used in singing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. In such matters or circumstances, the church must be **guided by the light of nature and Christian prudence**, according to the **general rules** of the **Word**, which are always to be observed (**bold added**).” Therefore, “it is **not to be expected** that worship which is **true to Scripture** and **acceptable to God** will be **exactly the same in every place or time** (II. 4.). This implies that the session has the authority to implement changes to enhance worship based on changing circumstances as long as they conform to biblical principles. Consequently, as history reveals, various elements of worship have changed within a particular congregation and amongst ARP churches.

Within the biblical parameters, the session seeks to order the service in a way that promotes and encourages congregational *participation*. We desire that our worship honors the Lord by faithfully engaging our mind, body, and heart. One particular element of worship where this is especially prominent is congregational singing. Furthermore, music, whether vo-

cal or instrumental, not only draws the worshiper into a deeper encounter with God but singing is commanded by Him (one of the most repeated commands in the Bible). Even if most people appreciate music, we also recognize that not everyone can and will sing with the same ease and proficiency. Nevertheless, one's lack of ability to sing skillfully does not relinquish him from whole-hearted participation. The *DPW* (V.B.5.a.) is instructive in this regard: "Though some are particularly equipped for singing, for playing musical instruments, and for training and leading in the musical offerings to God, yet it is the **privilege and duty of all to join in the praises and to sing to the Lord.**"

As noted above, there are those within our congregation who are *particularly equipped for singing*, and how thankful we are to the Lord for these gifts! Therefore, *DPW* (V.B.5.b.) affirms that "it is fitting that the musical offerings of individuals **or groups** within the congregation be included within the public worship of God." Nonetheless, as our choir has recently grown, an unintended consequence has developed. While on the one hand, the choir has been enhanced with additional voices, on the other hand, the congregation has been weakened of its skilled voices.

As a result, the session was faced with a new set of circumstances in our worship. As much as we were being blessed with the anthem, simultaneously the congregation was being deprived of a majority of its most skilled singers for the congregational hymns. It was a situation that required a *better* circumstance. The session therefore proposed having the choir join the congregation after the anthem. This provided an order of service where the anthem was offered but still included the choir members in two of the congregational hymns. We realized that this was not a *perfect* solution, but it was one that made the best of our current situation and fit within the parameters of our *DPW*.

As we have observed thus far, the congregational singing has become stronger and more vibrant having the skilled voices alongside the others in the pew. This tuning not only offers the service of the choir members' voices for the anthem but it also assists and enhances the singing of those in the congregation who are not as gifted. Ultimately, our aim was to maximize the talents the Lord has gifted our congregation so that our corporate worship would glorify Him the most. At this point, we believe that is being accomplished.

I trust and pray that this brief explanation will provide some understanding into what your session wrestled through in making this adjustment to our worship. We know that change, especially in the order of service, can be disruptive and requires some time to transition, but with the Lord's help can be accomplished. So please continue to pray for your session as we monitor this situation. In the meantime, we seek your loving cooperation and heart-felt participation as we strive together to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

By His grace,  
Pastor Seth

\*You are encouraged to download a copy and study the *Directory of Public Worship* (<http://arpchurch.org/documents/directory-of-public-worship/>)



**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 3** at 10 am in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We will begin a study of Galatians. Light refreshments will be served by Dr. Mary Baker and Julia Rikard. 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

Ladies are currently finishing a study of 1 Corinthians.

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 [mtn.winters@yahoo.com](mailto:mtn.winters@yahoo.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



## 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.

## Flowers for January

- 1 - Communion
- 8 - TBA
- 15 - Sharon Ringer
- 22 - Julia Rikard
- 29 - TBA