

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut In of the Month

Nell Cromer
771 Windsong Trail
Little Mountain, SC
29075

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

June 2017

Prayer Request

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

Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session at the May 17 stated meeting:

- The April financial report was reviewed and received as information.
- The April 19 stated session minutes were approved.
- Reports and prayers were offered for the shepherding needs of the congregation.
- Michael Jennings was received as a communicant member via profession of faith.
- A \$250 memorial gift in memory of Rev. Jim Corbitt will be given to ONA.
- The content coverage on the manse through our current church insurance was increased to \$45,000 (annual premium of \$376).
- The next stated session meeting will be June 21 at 8:00 pm.



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 lisasenn1309@gmail.com. It is indeed a privilege to lift up others in prayer to our great God.

FINANCIAL DATA - 2017

Budget Receipts	\$ 69,960.15
Budget Needs	\$ 66,646.65

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

Doug Wicker, Clerk of the Session

Commemorating the 2017
Fort Jackson Centennial

All Branches of Military
will be Recognized during
the Performance

AMERICA

A Pilgrim's Prayer
A Patriot's Dream

Created by: Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, and Camp Kirkland

Presented by

The Newberry Community Choir

Under the Direction of

Mary Ann D. Hayes

Saturday, June 24, 2017, 7:00 PM
Sunday, June 25, 2017, 3:00 PM

Newberry Elementary School Auditorium
(formerly Newberry High School, 1829 Nance Street, Newberry, SC)

No admission charged



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Manna House— Peanut Butter and Jelly

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.

School will soon be out for the summer and during the time the children are not in school we have more families that are in need of food. When you shop please think about putting an extra can of food in your buggy for Manna House.

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



"As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him." Psalm 103:13

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers.

Frequency of the Lord's Supper

For the past two months, we have been considering the present and future graces of the Lord's Supper. As we have seen, the benefits that the Lord provides to his people through this sacrament go far beyond a mere memorial (remembering his death upon the cross). In his lovingkindness, the Lord makes his presence known to us at the Table via the Holy Spirit and encourages us to look forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb when our salvation is consummated at his return. Knowing and applying these truths regarding the Lord's Supper can and will have tremendous benefits to our corporate worship and personal holiness.

A common question that has been debated by Christians for centuries regarding the Lord's Supper is the issue of frequency, that is, how often should it be administered? The main reason why this question has garnered so much debate is that the Bible does not give an explicit answer. Therefore, reformed Presbyterian theologians have made their conclusions based on a summary of scriptural teaching.

After many years of study and ministry in the church, my basic position on this question is that the greater the frequency, the better. I have come to this belief based on the teaching of Scripture and the Standards of the ARP Church. As I briefly present this understanding, I trust you will see its many benefits in your Christian life as well.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* provides a summary of what we in the ARP Church believe that the Bible principally teaches. It is a helpful document in instructing and guiding us with this question of frequency. In chapter XXI (Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath-day), section V, we read these words: "The reading of the Scriptures with godly fear; the sound preaching, and conscionable hearing of the word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence; singing of psalms with grace in the heart; as also the due **administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments** instituted by Christ; are all parts of the **ordinary religious worship of God**; besides religious oaths and vows, solemn fastings, and thanksgivings upon **special occasions**." Here the divines make a distinction between parts of the ordinary religious worship (reading of Scripture, preaching, hearing of the word, singing, sacraments) and that which belongs to special occasions (oaths and vows, fasting, thanksgivings). In other words, they considered the sacraments, unlike the special parts, to be a regular element of worship. It should be observed with such regularity like the other ordinary parts. How unusual would a worship service be if the preaching of the word or singing took place just a hand-full of times a year?

The reason why the divines believed that the Lord's Supper should be an ordinary part of the service is because of the spiritual benefits that are communicated to believers when received by faith. As they affirm (ch. XXIX, Of the Lord's Supper, section I), Christ instituted it "for the **perpetual remembrance** of the sacrifice of himself in his death, the **sealing all benefits** thereof unto true believers, their **spiritual nourishment** and **growth** in him, their **further engagement in and to all duties** which they owe unto him, and to be a **bond and pledge** of their communion with him, and with each other, as members of his mystical body." As I have noted in bold, there are several purposes for which this means of grace has ongoing and continuous effects. All of them are vital to our spiritual maturity. Consequently, unlike the sacrament of baptism, the "Lord's Supper is to be administered **often**, ... to represent and exhibit Christ as spiritual nourishment to the soul, and to confirm our **continuance** and **growth** in him." (*Westminster Larger Catechism* Q. 168) There is a correlation between frequency and blessing through this

sacrament.

The *Directory of Public Worship* (approved in 2007 by the General Synod) is another document in our Standards that assists us in assessing the frequency of the Lord's Supper. To start, it provides a helpful definition of the ordinary parts of worship as "those which are regular (i.e., "according to rule") or normative for the public worship of God. Together they are the standard means by which God is to be worshipped, though not every part will occur in every service of worship (e.g., baptism)." (ch. V, The Ordering of Public Worship, A.2.) Like the WCF, the DPW acknowledges that there are parts of corporate worship that should be viewed as customary, the one exception being baptism which requires a recipient. In section B it lists the ordinary parts of worship as: call to worship, prayer, reading the Holy Scriptures, preaching and hearing the Word, psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, tithes and offerings, confessions of faith, and sacraments. Furthermore, in section C it lists the **occasional** parts and **special** services. Again, its statement about the administration of the Lord's Supper (V.B.8.c.(7)) suggests more, not less: "The session of each congregation shall determine how **frequently** the sacrament is provided. It should be provided **regularly enough** that it is seen both as **belonging to the ordinary parts** of the worship of God by His people and as **beneficial for their spiritual nourishment**." In other words, the Lord's Supper should be administered so often that it is viewed to be as commonplace as all the other parts. The common misconception that the Lord's Supper is more special or more valuable than the other parts of worship due to its infrequency is the very notion that is to be avoided.

Finally, the best biblical reason for more frequent communion is the spiritual benefit it can provide. The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace that confirms or makes more sure the promises of God in the gospel. God has provided this tangible expression of his Word to strengthen our weakness of faith. No matter how long we have been a believer, our faith is always in need of strengthening. One of God's primary response to this need is the Lord's Supper, just as the first covenant ceremony bolstered Abraham's doubts (**Gen 15**). Related to this passage, we read in **Hebrews 6:17** that "when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath." "Oath" and "covenant" are synonyms in the OT (see **Gen. 26:3** and **Psa. 105:9**). So the reason God made this covenant with Abraham was not because his promise was weak, but because Abraham's faith was weak (he could not imagine how the Lord would fulfill his Word). But in God's mercy, he condescended to Abraham's weakness and made a covenant with him so that he might confirm, or make more sure, his promise with an oath. So the primary purpose of the covenant signs, the Lord's Supper and baptism, is to confirm the promises of God, to convince us to believe his Word. In the Lord's Supper, we receive the very presence of Christ as we participate in the body and blood of our Lord. The bread and the wine point us to the eternal life which has been given to us by faith. Therefore, if the purpose of the Lord's Supper is to confirm the promises of God in the gospel, how often do we stand in need of this grace "to hold fast to the hope set before us" (**Heb 6:18**)? If your faith is anything like mine, it needs to be strengthened on a regular basis...more often than not!

By His grace,
Pastor Seth



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, June 6** at 10 am. The circle will be traveling to Tanglewood for our meeting and lunch. A picnic lunch will be provided. The Circle is always open for new members; contact Carolyn Fulmer for further information.

A large, elegant, handwritten-style "Thank You" in black ink. The text is written in a cursive script. There are faint, diagonal yellow watermarks across the image that read "Discountmag.com Clip Art".

Below is a thank you note from the Gahagan family. Nancy Gahagan was a member of the Newberry ARP Church for many years and after the death of her husband, Reverend Charles, she moved to Georgia to be closer to family. Her funeral service was held in our sanctuary and the women provided lunch for the family.

Dear Newberry ARP Church members,

We were so blessed by the hospitality, concern, and kindness that the women of the ARP Church showered on our family on Saturday. We all felt the love and sympathy that helped lighten our sadness. The incredible luncheon just overwhelmed us! Everything was so good, you just outdid yourselves in every way. We'll never forget the kindness and very much appreciate the effort that is required to make it all possible. We love you! Know that Newberry ARP was a special church for both parents. My mother missed being with you these last 14 years.

All God's Blessing,
Drew Gahagan and family

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web

NewberryARP.org

Flowers for June

4 - Communion

11 - Mary Sease Hanna

18 - Mary Baker

25 - Lillian Price

Nursery for June

4 - Merri Avery & Gracie Faulkenberry

11 - Joanna Bedenbaugh

18 - Frances Brown & Noah Yi

25 - Lisa Senn & Joseph Yi

Ushers for June

4 - Doug Wicker, Lee Winters, Robbie Kopp, Caleb Jennings

11 - Mark Faulkenberry, Don Ringer, Andre Jennings, Noah Yi

18 - George Farris, Jean Williamson, Keith Avery, Benjamin Jennings

25 - Lee Ringer, Cecil McRacken, Aaron Eising, Joseph Yi