

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut In of the Month

Pat Harmon
2316 Brookside Drive
Newberry, SC 29108

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

March 2017

Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session at the February 15 stated meeting:

- The January Diaconate minutes and the January financial report were reviewed and received as information.
- The January 25th stated session minutes were approved.
- Reports and prayers were offered for the shepherding needs of the congregation.
- Scott Koon was received into membership via reaffirmation of faith.
- Pastor Yi reviewed Scripture that gives insight into the significance of the Lord's Supper and the frequency to observe this sacrament.
- Sessional Committees:
- **Missions:** The Grant family was approved to receive \$1,000 in support this year. LIFEBRIDGE was approved to receive a monthly support of \$100 this year.
- **Christian Ed:** The bookstall will be placed in the hallway outside the church office. The books will be free with donations to cover the cost.
- Elder George Farris was appointed as the representative for the March Second Presbytery meeting and Lee Ringer as the alternate.
- The next stated session meeting will be March 15 at 8:00 pm.

Prayer Request

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

FINANCIAL DATA - 2017

Budget Receipts	\$ 30,975.95
Budget Needs	\$ 25,389.20



A copy of the 2017 Flower Calendar is available in the Main Street vestibule.

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. It is indeed a privilege to lift up others in prayer to our great God.



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

Doug Wicker, Clerk of the Session



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Friday, March 3, 2017
12:00-1:00 PM

The Sanctuary will be open for those wishing to enter for prayer. A sheet of prayer concerns for our Community, State, Nation, and World will be available.



March is Birthday time for us at our local nursing facilities, JF Hawkins and White Oak. We will be hosting a birthday party at each with all the trimmings...birthday cake, ice cream, drinks, and entertainment for those residents who are able to attend. For each resident celebrating March as their birthday a special gift bag has been prepared with body lotion, body wash, and tissues.

White Oak will be on Monday, March 6 at 3:00 pm and JF Hawkins on Tuesday, March 7 at 2:30 pm. There are 23 residents who will be celebrating a birthday during March.

Thanks to everyone who donated an item for the birthday bag.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Manna House— Peanut Butter and Jelly

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.

At the Souper Bowl of Caring, we received nearly 70 lbs of food and monetary donation of \$179. A special thanks to all who participated in this special giving.

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

BACKPACK NEEDS FOR MARCH—INDIVIDUAL FRUIT CUPS

We have volunteers to pack for the remainder of the school year which will end in May. Since the program has been successful, we are thinking of sponsoring 10 children for the 2017-2018 school year. Thank you for the food and monetary donations that have been and continue to be needed for this worthwhile program. The children who receive the backpacks are very appreciative.





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, February 28** at 10 am in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Galatians will be the Bible Study. Members are reminded to bring a 10 pack carton of juice for the Backpack program. After the meeting the group will pack backpacks and gift bags for birthday parties. Lunch will be takeout. 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

The group is currently studying the book *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer.

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 803-940-1596 OR

Kristy Jennings 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

Flowers for March

5 - Communion

12 - Frances Brown

19 - Catherine Faulkenberry

26 - Lisa Senn

Nursery for March

5 - Merri Avery & Joseph Yi

12 - Joanna Bedenbaugh

19 - Frances Brown & Michael Jennings

26 - Lisa Senn & Junah Winters

Ushers for March

5 - George Farris, Jean Williamson, Aaron Eising, Benjamin Jennings

12 - Lee Ringer, Cecil McCracken, Robbie Kopp, Joseph Yi

19 - Gene Wicker, Mike Birochak, Andre Jennings, David Jennings

26 - Doug Wicker, Lee Winters, Keith Avery, Caleb Yi

Improving on Our Baptism

As we continue to reflect on the various elements of our corporate worship service, I would like for us to consider the sacrament of baptism. Even though baptism is not a regular part of our service (what a blessing it would be if it was so!), it is one that demands our upmost attention and participation. In particular, as we look forward to having a baptism in a coming Sunday, it is all the more pertinent that we give our hearts and minds to this means of grace.

To help us grasp the meaning and benefit of this sacrament, I will lean on our Westminster Standards (*Confession of Faith, Larger Catechism, Shorter Catechism*) as a guide. WLC 162 and 163 tell us what a sacrament is and why sacraments are important to us, namely, they are outward signs and seals of the *sacramental union* (WCF 27.2) between baptism and the promise of God. Among the benefits that we can receive from them are the strengthening and increase of our faith and of all other spiritual graces. In particular, baptism is a sensible sign and seal of God's covenant of grace—which is to be used repeatedly and steadily throughout one's life. Our baptism is intended to be for us "an effectual means of salvation," (WLC 161) in which Christ repeatedly communicates to us the benefits of his redeeming work.

Before we move on any further, a common misconception about infant baptism needs to be resolved. In no way do we believe that the administration of baptism upon a child (or any person) enacts salvation. Baptism does not produce regeneration. Here the WCF issues a safeguard against such misunderstanding (27.5): "Although it be a great sin to contemn or neglect this ordinance, yet grace and salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it, as that no person can be regenerated or saved without it, or that *all that are baptized are undoubtedly regenerated*." As is the case with every individual, faith is the necessary means by which a person is saved. Baptism, then, cannot save us; only faith can. But baptism can assure us that faith in Christ is enough.

Then how is baptism a sign and seal of ingrafting into Christ (LC 177)? It signifies and seals that all who believe are ingrafted into Christ because it *confirms the promise of God* that he will and does ingraft into Christ all those who believe. Baptism is thus a sign and seal given to us of the truthfulness of the promise of God. It is not an endorsement upon something that has already occurred in the one who is baptized. God has graced his people with the sacrament not because his word is weak, but our faith is weak and needs continually to be strengthened and confirmed.

So how are we to participate in the baptism of another person for our ongoing spiritual benefit? Here again the LC gives us some helpful insights into how to benefit from this means of grace. LC Q. 167 ask, "How is our baptism to be improved by us?" At first you might be asking the question, "How is this helpful to this discussion?" But once we understand what is meant by "improved," then the answer given by the divines will benefit us greatly. The word "improve" is derived from Old French, where it came from two words meaning "into + profit." So what is meant by this question is how do we make diligent use of baptism, to put it to good use and to gain benefit from it. And of course, this question is directed not to the one being baptized but the worshippers.

The divines' answer clearly reflects to whom this question is addressed:

"The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavouring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body."

Space does not permit us for a detail analysis of all that is outlined in this answer. I will leave it to you for your own meditation and preparation. But as we prepare for an infant baptism in our service, I would exhort you to recall your own baptism and consider in the light of this catechism all the benefits that are yours in Christ. Instead of your attention and gaze being on the child being baptized, by faith turn your eyes to Christ, the one who has signified and sealed such gracious promises to us in baptism. There is so much more to be captured in that moment than the reaction of the participants. By faith we can encounter the grace and promises of God held out to us in Christ. May we all take advantage of the upcoming baptism seeing it as an act of God reaching out to us!

By His grace,

Pastor Seth