

# Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

November 2017

## Shut In of the Month

Betty Bland  
1114 Glenn Street  
Newberry, SC 29108

## 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 \$ 134,524.25  
Budget Needs \$ 133,293.30

## Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken this month:

1. The September diaconate minutes and the September financial report were reviewed and received as information.
2. The September 27 session minutes were approved.
3. Reports and prayers were offered for the shepherding needs of the congregation.
4. A local Gideon will share about their ministry and collect a love offering at the end of the service on November 12.
5. Sessional Committees:  
*Finance:* the 2018 budget was approved.
6. The session acting as the Nominating Committee approved Andre Jennings as an elder candidate.
7. Aaron Eising was approved for pulpit supply on December 10.
8. The next stated session meeting will be on November 29, 8:00 pm.

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



## 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 [lisa-senn1309@gmail.com](mailto:lisa-senn1309@gmail.com) or 276-3253. It is indeed a privilege to lift up others in prayer to our great God.

**Our Church will participate in the Main Street Lights Community Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, November 17, in Downtown Newberry, 5:00 pm. We will pass out cookies and bottles of water. We are preparing for 1500: 250 dozen cookies and 1500 bottles of water. Please drop off the cookies and water in the Grier Building by Thursday Nov 16. Do not bag the cookies. We also we need several extra coolers to store the bottles of water.**

**If you have any questions please call Kathy Davenport @ 944-0706.**



## Food Pantry Donations Needed

### **Manna House — Dried Beans, Soup or Canned Fruit**

**The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule.**

**Our need for food has greatly increased and will continue to do so during the next few months. Let's fill our box this month!!!**

**Our volunteers will serve Manna House on November 27 - December 1. If you have an hour, please consider becoming a volunteer. Contact Julia if interested.**

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



It's time to order Poinsettias. The cost will be \$10.50. An insert will be in the vestibules beginning Sunday, November 5. The last day to order will be Sunday, November 19. Place your order in the offering plate or give it to Shirley Mohler. Make checks payable to Women's Ministries.



**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, November 14** at 10 am in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. The study will be on the Ten Commandments. Carolyn Fulmer, Carol McRacken, and Dottie Price will be hostess 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

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

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](mailto:19golfaly@gmail.com) 803-940-1596 OR  
Kristy Jennings [andrenkristy@hotmail.com](mailto:andrenkristy@hotmail.com) 803-271-5298

**ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!**



### *Women's Ministries Christmas Social*

Sunday, December 17

5:00 PM

Home of Vernetha Renwick

2108 Cherry Laurel Drive

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

### ***The Post that Turned the Church Right-side Up***

October 31 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It was on this day in 1517, that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg. Little did Luther, or any other church official, comprehend the world-wide, historic impact that his action would have. We are who we are as Associate Reformed Presbyterians (along with thousands of other protestant denominations) in God's providence due to Luther's initiative.

Much has changed since that time in the way the church looks and functions, but the core of what Luther proposed and sought to defend from Scripture has endured. In fact, the seed of much of Reformed theology was germinating in Luther's heart and mind as he articulated his 95 Theses. So as protestants celebrating our 500<sup>th</sup> year of liberation from the domination of the established Roman Church, let us recall the instrument that God used to allow the light of His Word to penetrate the walls of darkness and ignorance.

Luther did not set out on starting a reformation of the church. His main goal was to engage in a scholarly debate, but God took Luther's five loaves and two fish and multiplied them to strengthen His people to return to the Holy Scriptures. Afterwards, God used Luther's conviction and commitment to the Bible as a catalyst to awaken the hearts of other believers to stand on the Word of God as the final authority for all of life. As we celebrate God's grace and power in sustaining His Church since the days of Adam and Eve, may we, like Luther, give ourselves to Christ and His Word as the charter for our lives.

By His grace,  
Pastor Seth

#### *Disputation of Doctor Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. (*\*Originally listed individually*)

<sup>1</sup>. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Matthew 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. <sup>2</sup>. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy. <sup>3</sup>. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh. <sup>4</sup>. The penalty of sin remains as long as the hatred of self (that is, true inner repentance), namely till our entrance into the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>. The pope neither desires nor is able to remit any penalties except those imposed by his own authority or that of the canons. <sup>6</sup>. The pope cannot remit any guilt, except by declaring and showing that it has been remitted by God; or, to be sure, by remitting guilt in cases reserved to his judgment. If his right to grant remission in these cases were disregarded, the guilt would certainly remain unforgiven.

<sup>7</sup>. God remits guilt to no one unless at the same time he humbles him in all things and makes him submissive to the vicar, the priest. <sup>8</sup>. The penitential canons are imposed only on the living, and, according to the canons themselves, nothing should be imposed on the dying. <sup>9</sup>. Therefore the Holy Spirit through the pope is kind to us insofar as the pope in his decrees always makes exception of the article of death and of necessity.

<sup>10</sup>. Those priests act ignorantly and wickedly who, in the case of the dying, reserve canonical penalties for purgatory. <sup>11</sup>. Those tares of changing the canonical penalty to the penalty of purgatory were evidently sown while the bishops slept (Matthew 13:25). <sup>12</sup>. In former times canonical penalties were imposed, not after, but before absolution, as tests of true contrition. <sup>13</sup>. The dying are freed by death from all penalties, are already dead as far as the canon laws are concerned, and have a right to be released from them. <sup>14</sup>. Imperfect piety or love on the part of the dying person necessarily brings with it great fear; and the smaller the love, the greater the fear. <sup>15</sup>. This fear or horror is sufficient in itself, to say nothing of other things, to constitute the penalty of purgatory, since it is very near to the horror of despair.

<sup>16</sup>. Hell, purgatory, and heaven seem to differ the same as despair, fear, and assurance of salvation. <sup>17</sup>. It seems as though for the souls in purgatory fear should necessarily decrease and love increase. <sup>18</sup>. Furthermore, it does not seem proved, either by reason or by Scripture, that souls in purgatory are outside the state of merit, that is, unable to grow in love. <sup>19</sup>. Nor does it seem proved that souls in purgatory, at least not all of them, are certain and assured of their own salvation, even if we ourselves may be entirely certain of it. <sup>20</sup>. Therefore the pope, when he uses the words "plenary remission of all penalties," does not actually mean "all penalties," but only those imposed by himself.

<sup>21</sup>. Thus those indulgence preachers are in error who say that a man is absolved from every penalty and saved by papal indulgences. <sup>22</sup>. As a matter of fact, the pope remits to souls in purgatory no penalty which, according to canon law, they should have paid in this life.

<sup>23</sup>. If remission of all penalties whatsoever could be granted to anyone at all, certainly it would be granted only to the most perfect, that is, to very few. <sup>24</sup>. For this reason most people are necessarily deceived by that indiscriminate and high-sounding promise of release from penalty. <sup>25</sup>. That power which the pope has in general over purgatory corresponds to the power which any bishop or curate has in a particular way in his own diocese and parish. <sup>26</sup>. The pope does very well when he grants remission to souls in purgatory, not by the power of the keys, which he does not have, but by way of intercession for them.

<sup>27</sup>. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory. <sup>28</sup>. It is certain that when money clinks in the money chest, greed and avarice can be increased; but when the church intercedes, the result is in the hands of God alone. <sup>29</sup>. Who knows whether all souls in purgatory wish to be redeemed, since we have exceptions in St. Severinus and St. Paschal, as related in a legend. <sup>30</sup>. No one is sure of the integrity of his own contrition, much less of having received plenary remission.

<sup>31</sup>. The man who actually buys indulgences is as rare as he who is really penitent; indeed, he is exceedingly rare. <sup>32</sup>. Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers. <sup>33</sup>. Men must especially be on guard against those who say that the pope's pardons are that inestimable gift of God by which man is reconciled to him. <sup>34</sup>. For the graces of indulgences are concerned only with the penalties of sacramental satisfaction established by man. <sup>35</sup>. They who teach that contrition is not necessary on the part of those who intend to buy souls out of purgatory or to buy confessional privileges preach unchristian doctrine.

<sup>36</sup>. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters. <sup>37</sup>. Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters. <sup>38</sup>. Nevertheless, papal remission and blessing are by no means to be disregarded, for they are, as I have said (Thesis 6), the proclamation of the divine remission. <sup>39</sup>. It is very difficult, even for the most learned theologians, at one and the same time to commend to the people the bounty of indulgences and the need of true contrition. <sup>40</sup>. A Christian who is truly contrite seeks and loves to pay penalties for his sins; the bounty of indulgences, however, relaxes penalties and causes men to hate them -- at least it furnishes occasion for hating them.

<sup>41</sup>. Papal indulgences must be preached with caution, lest people erroneously think that they are preferable to other good works of love. <sup>42</sup>. Christians are to be taught that the pope does not intend that the buying of indulgences should in any way be compared with works of mercy. <sup>43</sup>. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better deed than he who buys indulgences. <sup>44</sup>. Because love grows by works of love, man thereby becomes better. Man does not, however, become better by means of indulgences but is merely freed from penalties. <sup>45</sup>. Christians are to be taught that he who sees a needy man and passes him by, yet gives his money for indulgences, does not buy papal indulgences but God's wrath. <sup>46</sup>. Christians are to be taught that, unless they have more than they need, they must reserve enough for their family needs and by no means squander it on indulgences. <sup>47</sup>. Christians are to be taught that they buying of indulgences is a matter of free choice, not commanded. <sup>48</sup>. Christians are to be taught that the pope, in granting indulgences, needs and thus desires their devout prayer more than their money. <sup>49</sup>. Christians are to be taught that papal indulgences are useful only if they do not put their trust in them, but very harmful if they lose their fear of God because of them. <sup>50</sup>. Christians are to be taught that if the pope knew the exactions of the indulgence preachers, he would rather that the basilica of St. Peter were burned to ashes than built up with the skin, flesh, and bones of his sheep. <sup>51</sup>. Christians are to be taught that the pope would and should wish to give of his own money, even though he had to sell the basilica of St. Peter, to many of those from whom certain hawkers of indulgences cajole money.

<sup>52</sup>. It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the indulgence commissary, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security. <sup>53</sup>. They are the enemies of Christ and the pope who forbid altogether the preaching of the Word of God in some churches in order that indulgences may be preached in others. <sup>54</sup>. Injury is done to the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or larger amount of time is devoted to indulgences than to the Word. <sup>55</sup>. It is certainly the pope's sentiment that if indulgences, which are a very insignificant thing, are celebrated with one bell, one procession, and one ceremony, then the gospel, which is the very greatest thing, should be preached with a hundred bells, a hundred processions, a hundred ceremonies. <sup>56</sup>. The true treasures of the

**Continues on last page**

# ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street  
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web  
[NewberryARP.org](http://NewberryARP.org)

## Flowers for November

5 - Communion  
12 - Doris Singley  
19 - Morning Circle  
26 - Pat Harmon

## Nursery for November

5 - Merri Avery & Junah Winters  
12 - Joanna Bedenbaugh  
19 - Kristy Jennings  
26 - Allison Yi & Michael Jennings

## Ushers for November

1 - George Farris, Jean Williamson, Keith Avery, Benjamin Jennings  
12 - Lee Ringer, Cecil McRacken, Aaron Eising, Joseph Yi  
19 - Gene Wicker, Mike Birochak, David Jennings  
26 - Doug Wicker, Lee Winters, Andrew Jennings, Caleb Jennings

church, out of which the pope distributes indulgences, are not sufficiently discussed or known among the people of Christ.

<sup>57</sup>. That indulgences are not temporal treasures is certainly clear, for many indulgence sellers do not distribute them freely but only gather them. <sup>58</sup>. Nor are they the merits of Christ and the saints, for, even without the pope, the latter always work grace for the inner man, and the cross, death, and hell for the outer man. <sup>59</sup>. St. Lawrence said that the poor of the church were the treasures of the church, but he spoke according to the usage of the word in his own time. <sup>60</sup>. Without want of consideration we say that the keys of the church, given by the merits of Christ, are that treasure. <sup>61</sup>. For it is clear that the pope's power is of itself sufficient for the remission of penalties and cases reserved by himself.

<sup>62</sup>. The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God. <sup>63</sup>. But this treasure is naturally most odious, for it makes the first to be last (Matthew 20:16). <sup>64</sup>. On the other hand, the treasure of indulgences is naturally most acceptable, for it makes the last to be first. <sup>65</sup>. Therefore the treasures of the gospel are nets with which one formerly fished for men of wealth. <sup>66</sup>. The treasures of indulgences are nets with which one now fishes for the wealth of men. <sup>67</sup>. The indulgences which the demagogues acclaim as the greatest graces are actually understood to be such only insofar as they promote gain. <sup>68</sup>. They are nevertheless in truth the most insignificant graces when compared with the grace of God and the piety of the cross.

<sup>69</sup>. Bishops and curates are bound to admit the commissaries of papal indulgences with all reverence. <sup>70</sup>. But they are much more bound to strain their eyes and ears lest these men preach their own dreams instead of what the pope has commissioned. <sup>71</sup>. Let him who speaks against the truth concerning papal indulgences be anathema and accursed. <sup>72</sup>. But let him who guards against the lust and license of the indulgence preachers be blessed. <sup>73</sup>. Just as the pope justly thunders against those who by any means whatever contrive harm to the sale of indulgences. <sup>74</sup>. Much more does he intend to thunder against those who use indulgences as a pretext to contrive harm to holy love and truth. <sup>75</sup>. To consider papal indulgences so great that they could absolve a man even if he had done the impossible and had violated the mother of God is madness. <sup>76</sup>. We say on the contrary that papal indulgences cannot remove the very least of venial sins as far as guilt is concerned. <sup>77</sup>. To say that even St. Peter if he were now pope, could not grant greater graces is blasphemy against St. Peter and the pope. <sup>78</sup>. We say on the contrary that even the present pope, or any pope whatsoever, has greater graces at his disposal, that is, the gospel, spiritual powers, gifts of healing, etc., as it is written, 1 Corinthians 12:28. <sup>79</sup>. To say that the cross emblazoned with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy.

<sup>80</sup>. The bishops, curates, and theologians who permit such talk to be spread among the people will have to answer for this. <sup>81</sup>. This unbridled preaching of indulgences makes it difficult even for learned men to rescue the reverence which is due the pope from slander or from the shrewd questions of the laity. <sup>82</sup>. Such as: "Why does not the pope empty purgatory for the sake of holy love and the dire need of the souls that are there if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a church? The former reason would be most just; the latter is most trivial. <sup>83</sup>. Again, "Why are funeral and anniversary masses for the dead continued and why does he not return or permit the withdrawal of the endowments founded for them, since it is wrong to pray for the redeemed?" <sup>84</sup>. Again, "What is this new piety of God and the pope that for a consideration of money they permit a man who is impious and their enemy to buy out of purgatory the pious soul of a friend of God and do not rather, because of the need of that pious and beloved soul, free it for pure love's sake?" <sup>85</sup>. Again, "Why are the penitential canons, long since abrogated and dead in actual fact and through disuse, now satisfied by the granting of indulgences as though they were still alive and in force?" <sup>86</sup>. Again, "Why does not the pope, whose wealth is today greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build this one basilica of St. Peter with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?" <sup>87</sup>. Again, "What does the pope remit or grant to those who by perfect contrition already have a right to full remission and blessings?" <sup>88</sup>. Again, "What greater blessing could come to the church than if the pope were to bestow these remissions and blessings on every believer a hundred times a day, as he now does but once?" <sup>89</sup>. "Since the pope seeks the salvation of souls rather than money by his indulgences, why does he suspend the indulgences and pardons previously granted when they have equal efficacy?"

<sup>90</sup>. To repress these very sharp arguments of the laity by force alone, and not to resolve them by giving reasons, is to expose the church and the pope to the ridicule of their enemies and to make Christians unhappy. <sup>91</sup>. If, therefore, indulgences were preached according to the spirit and intention of the pope, all these doubts would be readily resolved. Indeed, they would not exist. <sup>92</sup>. Away, then, with all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, "Peace, peace," and there is no peace! (Jeremiah 6:14) <sup>93</sup>. Blessed be all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, "Cross, cross," and there is no cross! <sup>94</sup>. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell. <sup>95</sup>. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22).