



McCarter Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith, gathered and empowered by the Spirit of God. We declare that our mission is to proclaim and exhibit, by word and deed, the grace, mercy and love of God as revealed and made known by our Lord Jesus Christ.



Thanksgiving moves into Advent and we give thanks...

McCarter Presbyterian supports a variety of ministries throughout the year that bring Christ's peace to our community. Many of these agencies have written thanks to us for our support. Some of these letters are hanging on our mission bulletin board. Rather than print them in their entirety, I summarized some of their letters:

United Ministries – “Thank you for your donations of food. With your support United Ministries provides both compassionate care for those in crisis now as well as opportunities for financial stability in the future. In the last year, United Ministries helped 293 employed or underemployed people locate jobs, prepared 898 students for the GED, assisted 59 people with completing technical job training and earning certifications, provided 205 people with soft skills job training, supplied 2562 families with food, provided heat assistance to 496 families with elderly people or infants in the home, provided rent or utility assistance to 1127 families, provided 4827 showers to homeless people, and could not have completed this work without 154 volunteers giving 7894 hours.”

Thornwell Children's Home – “The ministry of Thornwell is thriving thanks to people like you! Your thoughts, prayers, gifts and kind words keep us energized to help more and more children and families in need.

McCarter Messenger November/December 2016



As a result, Thornwell's programs for children and families grew by 80% last year! Last year YOU helped... Provide 155 children in need with safe and loving homes, give 295 children and families community-based family support, educate 124 children in Thornwell's 4 year old kindergarten, heal 155 children through counseling and therapy, support 123 children in their learning through Thornwell's Learning Center. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, lives are being changed every day because of your generosity!... We thank you and give thanks to God for you!”

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Carolinas – “Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Carolinas is grateful for your pop tab donations. From the donated pop tabs we make beautiful, colored bracelets and sell them for \$8.00 each, which is what it costs for a family to stay one night.” And RMHCC “...deeply appreciates your kind donations of dinner... After a long, and sometimes emotional day, our families look forward to coming ‘home’ to a hot meal.” (We are now donating to RMHCC's Wish List rather than dinners in an effort to accommodate to McCarter's resources. We will continue to donate pop tabs.)

Operation Christmas Child – “Thank you for working with us to share God's love with millions of boys and girls around the world through Operation Christmas Child. May God bless you.”

PCUSA Joy Offering (from 2015) – “Thank you for contributing ½ of your Christmas Joy Offering to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions! Your gift, received from Foothills Presbytery, combined with the gifts of other caring Presbyterians, enables us to continue supporting PC(USA) pastors, missionaries and other church workers during their times of need.”

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – “In these busy days of holy days and holidays, of family and church budget planning, I write simply to thank you, for making Presbyterian Disaster Assistance a priority in the midst of many opportunities to give and serve.... Your

generosity brings relief and supports recovery among the vulnerable – persons like the holy Child and his mother, who, together with Joseph wandered in search of shelter, fled persecution in their home country and became refugees in Egypt. When you do it unto the least of these, as Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 25, you give gifts to Christ and make the coming of his reign a reality.” McCarter gave toward disaster relief toward Hurricane Matthew 2016 (Haiti).

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

(Mother’s Day Offering) – “Thanks to the support of generous churches and individuals, we will continue to shelter and care for (seniors who exhaust their financial resources and are unable to pay to continue to live at Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina).” PCSC is expected to spend over \$1.9 million dollars in charitable care for these folks. “Please convey our gratitude to your congregation and session. Combined with the generosity of others, you Mother’s Day Offering will provide well-being and security for many seniors in need. Thank you so much for partnering with us and other South Carolina Presbyterian churches in this important ministry.”

Furman Campus Ministry, Keep It Simple, Salvation Army (Adopt-a-Family), and many individuals have also written notes of thanks that have been on our mission board throughout the year. Please keep all these ministries in your prayers, they are our hands and feet in the world.

In Christ,

Rachel

Upcoming Calendar of Events

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a congregational meeting for December 18, following the worship service for the purpose of hear the Session’s budget report.

- Nov. 27 – First Sunday in Advent
(Lectionary Year A begins.)
- Dec. 4 Second Sunday in Advent/
Bring Angel Tree Adopt-A-Family Gifts
- Dec. 11 Third Sunday in Advent,
- Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent
Congregational Meeting
- Dec. 24 (Saturday night) Christmas eve
service.
- Dec. 25 Christmas Sunday
- Jan. 1 New Year’s Day/ Sunday

Veteran’s Day

Thanks to our Veterans! November 11 came and went and because we are in transition with the newsletter, we did not have a chance to thank all who have served our country in its time of need. Robert Frost’s poem, The Gift Outright, is a poem often used on Veteran’s Day expressing the service they have given.

The Gift Outright by Robert Frost

The land was ours before we were the land’s.
She was our land more than a hundred years
Before we were her people. She was ours
In Massachusetts, in Virginia,
But we were England’s, still colonials,
Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,
Possessed by what we now no more possessed.
Something we were withholding made us weak
Until we found out that it was ourselves
We were withholding from our land of living,
And forthwith found salvation in surrender.
Such as we were we gave ourselves outright
(The deed of gift was many deeds of war)
To the land vaguely realizing westward,
But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,
Such as she was, such as she would become.

Robert Frost, “The Gift Outright” from *The Poetry of Robert Frost*, edited by Edward Connery Lathem. Copyright 1923, © 1969 by Henry Holt and Company, Inc., renewed 1951, by Robert Frost. Reprinted with the permission of Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

Source: *The Poetry of Robert Frost* (Henry Holt & Co., 1969)

Web source: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/53013>, November 11, 2016



The Sacrifice of Praise

Tempie shared this article by Rev. Richard C. Halverson, D.D.

Try spending a week praising God every day as often as you remember. Let your prayers be nothing but praise and thanksgiving to God for one week! Praise Him for past blessings, the good things He has done,

things long since forgotten, but for which you were thrillingly grateful at the time.

Praise Him for health and strength, which you've taken for granted, as though you keep your heart pumping seventy-five times a minute, as though you operate the bellows that suck clean oxygen in, drive wastes out. Praise God for the remarkable body He gave you!

Praise God for His keeping power day in, day out, year after year.

Praise Him for the sunshine, the rain, the clouds, the cool breezes, the heat, the brooks and streams and rivers and lakes and oceans. Praise Him for the mountains, the valleys, the grass and trees and flowers, the birds and animals and fish. Praise Him for the fabulous beauty He has lavished upon the world for you: the bountiful resources He put here for you to enjoy and develop.

Praise God for your family, your neighbors and friends. Praise Him for your job, for your superiors, your colleagues, your subordinates. Praise Him for work to do, for responsibility, for duty.

Praise Him for clean sheets between which to sleep, for three square meals a day. Praise Him for plenty and for want; for supply and for need; for prosperity and poverty. Praise Him for the unexpected; the planned; the delights; the disappointments.

Praise God for danger and difficulty; for testing, trials and tragedy; for hazards and hurdles; for obstacles that season and temper you; for competition that exercises your faith and builds muscle in your character, and keeps you from getting soft and lazy and complacent. Praise Him for the trouble that knocks whine and self-pity out of you, that puts a cutting edge on your life, makes you sharp, alert, sensitive, and on your toes.

Most of all praise God for Himself! For His love; His mercy; His grace; His goodness; His justice; His integrity; His perfection! Praise God because He is!

Offer God the "sacrifice of praise." That is, praise Him when you don't feel like it; when circumstances are dead against you. Praise Him because you know that however you feel, whatever the circumstances, God is God, eternally perfect, unchanging, unimpeachable.



UNITED MINISTRIES: Witness and Service Committee invites the congregation to collect for
November – canned soup / canned meat / canned fish and for

December – rice / canned veggies / canned fruit

And, any food is appreciated. There are baskets in the Memorial Room and a box in the vestibule for our collection. If you are able to donate, please do. If there is someone who would like to take the month's collection to United Ministries please let Rachel know. Thank you!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY ANGEL TREE – Pick a tag from the tree and buy a gift. Bring the gifts back to church on December 4. All gifts will go to serve a grandmother and her granddaughter. Thank you to the Salvation Army for helping us find this family in need.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We collected 8 boxes and delivered them November 20. Thank you, McCarter, for your generosity!

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE: After discussion with Ronald McDonald House, the session made the decision to change our donations to Ronald McDonald House from a monthly meal to items from their monthly wish list. We will collect them in the Mission Room on the second Sunday of the month just like we did with the meals and take them to Ronald McDonald House. The wish list will be on the Mission table for you to look at or you can look at Ronald McDonald website (<http://rmhc-carolinas.org/lend-a-hand/wish-list/>) You are welcome to donate what you would like. If you would like to help deliver on the second Sunday of November, please contact Rachel (her cell number is 864-275-2495. Leave a message!)

Session Minutes

Stated Session Meeting October Minutes

Moderator Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and after verifying a quorum, offered a prayer. Danny McClure, Jack Perry and Dan Rigby were the Elders in attendance.

Devotional: Danny read Romans 11:33-36 and told of the two heroes on Flight 93 on 9/11/2001.

Clerk's Report: Dan reviewed the minutes from the Stated Session Meeting on September 18, 2016 and they were accepted without objection.

Old Business: Contractor Jeremy Hix will have his painters here October 16, 2016 to do the requested ceiling repairs, mildew treating and painting in the sanctuary, hallway and men's restroom. Darrell had made a tentative date for Officer Rob Lewis with the Greenville City Police Department to address the group on personal safety and procedures after a Sunday service on November 13.

New Business: The motion was made, with regrets, by Dan and seconded by Danny that the Session accept the resignation of Darrell Privatte from the Session. Also, sadly we will also lose Jan Privatte as Newsletter editor and Church Historian. Their good thoughts and efforts will be missed.

Additionally we received a thorough presentation by Matthew Paulson, sales representative for Church Mutual Insurance Co. of the coverage and costs of their policy for our consideration for 2017 coverage. He left with the promise to quickly get back to us with the costs associated with several changes we requested.

Buildings and Grounds: Jack reported that he had met our Fire extinguisher provider and our five (5) extinguishers were all OK and pressurized. Jack had also met with Jeremy Hix and given him a check for \$1650.00, one half the cost of the scheduled paint job. Additionally Jack reported that our roofing contractor Roberson Roofing will start work the week of 10/24/2016.

Worship: Danny reported that Rev. Justin Cazel will preach next Sunday 10/23/2016. Danny also advised us that Rev. Elliott Smith, President of Thornwell Home for Children will preach on Sunday November 6, 2016.

Budget and Finance: Dan reported that overall we are right on track for our 2016 budget through 10/15/2016 and it was reviewed and accepted without questions or objection. Also Dan advised that we are well below hoped for pledge level for 2017 at the moment but that we were going to send out a follow up letter and pledges are still coming in.

Education, Family & Fellowship: The Session discussed evaluating the frequency of the Newsletter given the loss of our Editor. We also discussed whether to go forward with the proposed November program with Officer Rob Lewis. We decided to finalize our decision by way of a Called Session Meeting before November 13, 2016.

Witness & Service: There was general discussion that we immediately begin to utilize the Ronald McDonald House web site to ascertain gifts from their Wish List for individual church members to consider giving through the end of 2016 with the intention that thereafter, our donations to this organization would be strictly on an individual level. Due to their requirements for meals, it has become too expensive for our church to try to continue supplying them.

Next scheduled meeting: November 20, 2106

Moderator Matthews closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Rigby, Clerk of Session

Session Minutes for November 6 and other called meetings will be approved at the next scheduled session meeting and then published.



Thank you to Danny McClure for organizing the poinsettia and wreath orders. And, thank you to all who stayed and decorated the church Nov. 20!

Entering the Church Triumphant October 20, 2016

Remembering Eddie Sue Ware

We walked into church on a recent Sunday and saw a long stemmed white rose laying on the Bible at the communion table. We come to find out that this rose was in memory of a beautiful, classy lady, named Eddie Sue, who had joined the choir of angels that week.

We learned that Eddie Sue was a lady who lived the Golden Rule. She was constantly on the lookout to restore someone. At her home, the door was always open to you anytime, any day.

She came into church freely dressed in beautiful matching outfits with lots of sparkling jewelry with nails always a matching color.

One Christmas Eve Service she came down the aisle in a white fox fur coat carrying her white little dog named Bentley, named after the very expensive car. Helen Karl gave Eddie Sue the article below because it reminded her of Eddie Sue. John McGhghy made a calligraphy poster of it to hang in Betty Landreth's (Eddie Sue's sister) and Eddie Sue Ware's dining room. It exemplifies their home for many that knew Eddie Sue:

Honored Guests

Some feel honored when they are put at the table where the best linen and china are laid. But the ones who are really honored are those who are set at a table where the dishes don't match and the eating utensils are recruited from the kitchen. They are the true and trusted who do not need to be complimented or impressed and who would never think of criticizing. And, therefore, the most Honored

Eddie Sue always had an extremely funny story to tell the Sunday School Class. She had a merry heart and "Funny" was her middle name. We all loved her and missed her while she was ill a long time. The preacher Darrell said at the funeral service she was up in heaven setting the banquet table for all of us to set around with our Lord when we arrive! -- Anonymous



11/06 Montie Burger
11/28 Maureen McGregor



12-1 Donna McClure
12-6 Jim Greene
12-9 John Pew
12-27 Jean Lindsey



People and Matters for Prayer (In addition to our prayers, it is also good to remember these people with calls, cards and visits.)

For the healing of our nation after this contentious election process,
Jan and Darrell Privatte,
Peggy Shoemaker (Darrell Privatte's mother),
Jean Lindsey,
Christine Ferguson,
Myrtice Foster (Kathy Brown's mother),
Beth Kelly (Craig's sister),
Andrew McAllister
Harry Newton,
D.B McCauley (Charlotte Rigby's father),
Andrew McAllister
Charlie Houston (celebrate for he is cancer free!),
Dixon Caldwell,
John and Judy Pew,
Montie Burger,
Donna McClure
Martha Taylor (friend of Mandy Turner),
Gina Fooshang (niece of Tempie),
Bettie Landreth as she grieves the loss of her sister,
Eddie Sue Ware.
Rene and Jade Chambers,
Gail Franks,
Pam Thompson,
David Turner and his daughter Amanda Owens age 7,
Tiffany Greer and
Lori Bishop, (friends of Donna & Danny McClure)
For everyone who got the stomach virus this past month.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:
Lord make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me so love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is Doubt, faith.
Where there is Despair, hope.
Where there is Darkness, light.
Where there is Sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

