



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.



Rev. Dr. Rachel Mathews

There is no doubt one of the highlights of my ministry was the bilingual service that was held in our social hall on January 15, 2017. The idea for this gathering began when McCarter asked if our Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Co-Workers, Mark Adams and Miriam Escobar, could come speak to McCarter Presbyterian. We supported them in 2016 with our mission funds. We wanted to have a relationship with them.

I shared with Mark that we had begun conversations with our neighbors behind us, Iglesia Wesleyana El Camino, and that McCarter had decided to fix the fence behind us and put in a gate so our neighbors could benefit from our playground. El Camino was going to help us prepare the ground for the work. Mark suggested that our two congregations have a bilingual service when they came to visit us. The pastors from El Camino, Frankie Rodriguez and Deisy Rodriguez, got together with me over the next several weeks and planned what we hoped was a unifying and hopeful celebration of Christ's mission in this neighborhood and the world. There was significant participation in leadership from both congregations, lots of music, and coffee and refreshments afterward. Mark and Miriam and their three children introduced us to Café Justo, a fair trade coffee that is grown and produced at Frontera de Cristo. From the responses we have received from both congregations, we do not want this to be the last time we gather together!

McCarter Messenger

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017



Some of you have asked to know more about Mark and Miriam. We handed out prayer cards at church but for those of you who do not have internet access or the cards here is some information about them from their website:

Rev. Mark Adams, Coordinator of Frontera de Cristo, is, a native of Clover, South Carolina and a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, was ordained in 1998 and has served as U.S. Coordinator of Frontera de Cristo since that same year. He is married to Miriam Maldonado Escobar, also a Presbyterian Church (USA) co-worker since 2011, and has three children. He sees his 1994 border mission experience in Piedras Negras, Mexico as foundational to his present ministry.

Miriam Maldonado Escobar, Community Garden Facilitator, is from the Mexican state of Chiapas and left home at age 18 to work at the border in U.S.- owned factories to help support her family. She and Mark Adams met when Mark came to Agua Prieta to serve at Frontera de Cristo. After working for several years alongside her husband, Miriam was invited in 2011 to serve as a Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-worker. She works with Douglaprieta Trabaja to help rehabilitation centers and families of the church, community and schools to grow their own food. She and Mark have three children.

Mark and Miriam and the whole family serve Christ together at the U.S.-Mexico border bridging cultural, economic, political, and linguistic differences, supporting the ministry of Frontera de Cristo in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed on both sides of the border. They and their partners seek to put flesh on the gospel through participation in new church development, permaculture, health ministries, and community and economic development. Recognizing the potentially divisive issues surrounding the border and immigration, Mark and Miriam help churches in the United States and Mexico respond positively and faithfully to these challenges. Please pray for this ministry that is transforming lives. Learn more about Presbyterian World Mission at pcusa.org/worldmission

Upcoming Calendar of Events

February 5, Communion Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering

February 12, Cover Dish Lunch

February 16, - All Day Lifeline Screening
- 4-5pm Session Meeting

March 1, Ash Wednesday, First Day of Lent



Presbyterian Women had their installation of officers on January 24, 2017 during worship. The new officers are:

Moderator – Tempie Perry
Secretary and Historian – Mandy Turner
Treasurer – Tempie Perry
Missions – Charlotte Rigby
Sunshine Chair – Kerry Caldwell

A special thank you to the 2016 officers for a wonderful year and a terrific bazaar:

Tempie Perry, Moderator and Treasurer
Carolyn Greene, Vice Moderator
Mandy Turner, Secretary and Historian

A special thank you to Bettie Landreth, Eddie Sue Ware's sister who has given a wheelchair to McCarter in memory of Eddie Sue. This is seated beside the ramp onto the hallway should anyone need to use it.



Our new elder for Witness and Mission is Kerry Caldwell. Here are some mission opportunities coming up:

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Offering will be collected on February 5. Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food weeks leading up to the Big Game. Teaming up with local partners, these groups give 100% of donations to local charities, changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring. McCarter's Souper Bowl of Caring Offering goes to Triune Mercy Center food ministry. We hope to be organizing a group to go help participate hands on in their soup kitchen this year.

UNITED MINISTRIES: There is a box to collect food donations in the Memorial Room. If you are able to donate, please do. United Ministries serves over 1500 food bags a month. These are the items that go in a food bag: Boxed Cereal, Canned Green Beans, Canned Corn, Canned Vegetables, Canned Treat/Spam, Canned Fish, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Pasta, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Bags of Rice, Bags of Dried Beans, Packages of Dry Milk, Boxed Package of 10, Packages of Ramen Noodles, Peanut Butter, Boxes of Saltines. Any contribution is welcome. If there is someone who would like to take the month's collection to United Ministries please let Kerry Caldwell know. Thank you!

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL HEART MONTH

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build-up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event 2/16/2017 at McCarter Presbyterian Church. Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call to pre-register or for more information: [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or email www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle



Danny McClure is our elder in charge of Education and Family Fellowship. The newsletter and social events fall under this area. Would you like to host a social event? Let Danny know. Meanwhile note the following opportunities in this area of McCarter's ministry:

KELLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: A Bible study using the Uniform Lesson series invites you to join them Sunday mornings at 9:15am.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: We are studying the Gospel of Matthew during our Thursday 10:30am Bible Study. All are welcome any time.

BOOK EXCHANGE: There is a book exchange in the hallway. Bring a book and borrow a book, read it and return it. We are recycling and sharing! What a fun idea!



Our new elder in charge of worship is Marian Elliott. She and a crew have been seen of late cleaning the kitchen, sanctuary and polishing the communion ware. Thank you Marian and those who have helped her!

Communion Sunday will be February 5, 2017.

We are gathering a musician list to provide periodic special music in worship as well as possible Sunday afternoon performances.



Entering the Church Triumphant

Since our last newsletter, two of our church members have entered the Church Triumphant, John Pew on December 9, 2016 and Donna McClure on December 31, 2016.

In memory of John, we print this poem, "Footprints"
 One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints and other times there were one set of footprints. This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could only see one set of footprints. So, I said unto the Lord, "You promised me that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But, I noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there were only one set of footprints in the sand. Why? when I needed you the most were you not with me?" The Lord replied, "The times when you see only one set of footprints in the sand is when I carried you."

In memory of Donna, we print this poem,
 Do not stand at my grave and weep.
 I am not there. I do not sleep.
 I am a thousand winds that blow.
 I am the diamond glints on snow.
 I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
 I am the gentle autumn rain.
 When you awaken in the morning's hush,
 I am the swift uplifting rush
 Of quiet birds in circled flight.
 I am the soft stars that shine at night.
 Do not stand at my grave and cry;
 I am not there. I did not die.
 By Mary Elizabeth Frye (1932)

We have received prayers and memorials in 2016 for Rachel Burt, Eddie Sue Ware and John Pew, in 2017 for Donna McClure.

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

We pray for Danny McClure, Amber and Steven Tolar, Judy Pew and her family, Agnes Houston, Montie Burger, Christine Ferguson, Myrtice Foster (Kathy Brown's mother), Beth Kelly, Harry Newton, D.B McCauley (Charlotte Rigby's father), Andrew McAllister, Martha Taylor (friend of Mandy Turner), Gina Fooshang (niece of Tempie), Rene Chambers, Jade Chambers, Gail Franks, Pam Thompson, Jan Privatte's grandson Nolan who had heart valve surgery. Please pray for our neighbors: Iglesia Wesleyana El Camino and Nu Vision Outreach. Special prayers for all who have experienced violence and trauma in their lives. Please pray for our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar, their family, and the people at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Session Summaries

Summary of November 20, 2016 Session meeting:

The session approved a letter of transfer from Jan and Darrell Privatte to Landrum Presbyterian Church.

The session discussed changes to the budget and the congregational meeting that was going to happen following church. Dan Rigby announced he would not be serving on session for another term. The presentation of the Della Padgett Foundation request was postponed to December 18, 2016.

Summary of December 4, 2016 Session meeting:

The session received thank you notes from Thornwell Children's home. And, it received a thank you note from Iglesia Wesleyana for our sharing our facilities with them November 27, 2016 when their church was not able to open due to floor refinishing they had done. Both organizations expressed a desire to use our facilities in the future according to our building use policies.

The session changed insurance companies to Church Mutual from Guide One. Presbyterian Women selected a

new slate of officers and the session approved them. The session approved a third signer on the Della Padgett Foundation account, Jack Perry. The session approved Rachel's terms of call for 2017.

Dan Rigby had some final words as clerk to share with the session: Dan thanked all the Session Members for all of their support and enthusiasm of our time together for the last three years. He said that we had prepared our church facilities attractively to hopefully draw in new people and that now we had to execute the plan. He described examples of how we might go about setting up a positive conversation with friends & neighbors by telling of our own enjoyment of being part of McCarter or one of our functions. When this sparks interest, invite them to come with you for a visit. He also discussed the current Elders knowledge of the church and the power that gave and how important it is to employ that power in a facilitating way to bring about transparency and cooperation and support from within our church. Dan's service was much appreciated by the session.

Summary of December 8, 2017 Session meeting: The session designated some unnamed stocks as a Music Fund. The budget was adjusted accordingly.

Session Meeting on January 12, 2017:

The new session had their first meeting this year to discuss new goals on January 12. The installation of officers was not until January 24, 2017 due to the cancellation of church on January 8 from the snow and our previously scheduled Sunday with our mission co-workers on January 15. The Session will approve these minutes at its February 16 meeting. Meanwhile much of the calendar information from that meeting is included in this newsletter.

The new session elders are as follows:

Marian Elliott, Class of 2017, worship
Jack Perry, class of 2017, building and grounds
Kerry Caldwell, Class of 2018, witness and mission
Jim Greene, Class of 2018, clerk and co-chair finance
Carter Berry, Class of 2019, co-chair finance
Danny McClure, Class of 2019, education & family
fellowship

Special Thank You:

A special thank you to all the elders who served during 2016: Dan Rigby, Clerk of Session, Danny McClure, Jack Perry, Carter Berry and Darrell Private. A special thank you to our treasurer, Andrew McAllister. A special thank you to our staff: Danny McClure, janitor, and Kathy Brown, organist. And, a special thank you to our Della Padgett Committee: Carolyn Greene and Carter

Berry. Finally, we thank the 2016 nominating committee, Dan Rigby, Carolyn Greene, Mandy Turner and Danny McClure, for their work this past year.

