



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.



The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews

Greetings!

Today I witnessed creation at work. Watching creation is a wonderful Lenten activity. Lent, the 40 days before Easter, means "Spring." It is a season characterized by introspection, discipline and repentance. But, today, I had an awareness that part of repentance, which means "to change," is to participate in creation, that which makes something new. Today a frame was built for our raised community garden. Soon soil and seeds will come together to grow plants that will be cared for by both our congregation and the Iglesia Wesleyana El Camino church, our neighbors on the other side of the fence. The bed is in the playground area where it will get God's warm sun and view from many angles. I am hoping for a rain barrel and good rich soil. May your Lenten journey be as warm and bountiful.

Also, I want to add a special thank you to Betty Kunz for helping us get this newsletter out before Easter, another creative act!!

McCarter Messenger

March/ April 2017

Looking ahead into March and April are the following calendar events:

Every Thursday at 10:30AM Bible Study

Every Sunday at 9:15AM Sunday School

Every Sunday at 10:30AM Worship

March 16, 4-5pm Session

March 28 6:30-8 Addiction Answers from Pavillon Community Day

April 2 at 10:30AM-Communion Service

April 9 at 10:30AM Palm Sunday

April 13 at 6PM-Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 16 at 10:30AM-Easter Service

McCarter Stated Session Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2017

Present: Jim Greene, Kerry Caldwell, Carter Berry, Danny McClure, Marian Elliott, Rachel Matthews, Moderator

Agenda given to each member.

Rachel called meeting to order at 4:00PM and opened with prayer. Ben Pettit from Story Marketing was not able to attend because a conflict came up.

Minutes from the previous session meeting were approved without objection.

Marian Elliott gave an update for worship committee and all received a copy for the whole year.

Motion: That the session approve all dates for communion and special worship service.

1. Communion dates: April 2, April 13 Maundy Thursday, June 4, August 6, October 1, December 3 and December 24.
2. Special Sundays: February 26 (Transfiguration Sunday) March 12 (Time change), April 9 (Palm Sunday) April 16, (Easter), May 14 (Mother's Day, June 4 (Pentecost Sunday), June 18 (Father's Day), November 5 (Time change), November 26 (Christ the King), and December 24 (Christmas Eve Sunday).
3. Decorating for Thanksgiving (November 19 and 26 following service).

Motion passed without objection.

Kerry Caldwell reported for witness and service: She is creating a sign for United Ministries Box. She is meeting with Deb Richardson from Triune Mercy Center on February 17 (tomorrow).

Carter suggested an idea for the committee.

St. Anthony furnished new pocket books for homeless women and filled them with necessary items.

Danny McClure gave a written report on his committee. He reported a good church potluck lunch that honored Andrew for his service as treasurer. It was suggested that Education try to have a men's breakfast. Jim Greene suggested a blue grass band that he knows who will also play for the worship service. A discussion on Danny's committee indicated a need for people to cover set up, decorate and clean up. Tempie and Marian already help set up. Charlotte and Betty are available to help.

Carter Berry gave report on DP Foundation. All received a copy. We have received the \$100,000. DP request and it has been deposited.

Jim reporter on Finance Committee. Motion made by Jim to save money instead of checks with dual signatures and put in place a system of checks and balances. Motion was seconded by Jack Perry and motion passed.

Jack Perry gave report on building and grounds. The replacement of the lights in the church hit a snag and it was agreed that Jim and Jack would talk to Dan Rigby and report back to session. A raised garden bed project was brought up and approved by session. Kerry Caldwell will take the lead on this project.

Jim Green talked about Budget and Finance and all received a copy. Jim reminded all to have new budget requests in by August meeting.

Volunteers are welcomed to help Betty Kunz with newsletter.

Continuation of Session minutes.....

Rachel handed a printed copy of her report and asked all to read it and pass questions to her. She will be gone Sunday March 26 and the week prior to this. Kerry will ask if Deb Richardson from Triune Mercy Center can preach on this Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.
Next stated meeting: March 17, 2017 at 4PM.

McCarter Presbyterian Women 2016 Bazaar Fund Donations

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$50.00
Thornwell Home for Children	\$75.00
Bobbie Brown Funeral Flower	\$85.00
United Ministries	\$50.00
Memorial of Officer Jacobs	\$30.00
Organ Transplant	\$25.00
Thornwell School Supplies	\$100.00
Presbyterian Disaster Fund (tithe)	\$244.00
Eddie Sue Ware Funeral Flower	\$70.00
Shoebox for Samaritans Purse	\$15.00
Total	\$744.00

Financial Report for Kelly Sunday School Class

Jack Perry, Treasurer

The Kelly Sunday School Class takes up a small offering each Sunday to be used for flowers, cards, food and memorials. Any amount of money left in the account at the end of the year goes to charity. Below is a list of charitable donations for this past year.

For year 2016

Gifts, Food Baskets, Flowers and	
Cards to class members	153.16
Memorial/ Eddie Sue Ware	\$25.00
Samaritans purse	\$21.84
Miracle Hill	\$50.00
Meals on Wheels	\$50.00
Shriners Hospital	\$50.00
Meyers Center/Special Children	\$50.00
Salvation Army	\$50.00
American Red Cross	\$50.00
Total	\$500.00



Education & Family Fellowship Committee

On Sunday February 12, 2017, the Education and Family Fellowship Committee sponsored a congregational potluck meal. Prior to the meal the members gathered to recognize and honor Andrew McAllister for ten years of loyal service as our church Treasurer. Andrew teaches us all to never give up as he continues to battle serious health issues and live his faith daily. God bless you.

A Letter from the Heart to McCarter

I would like to thank my church family for the unexpected but thoughtful expression of thanks that was extended to me last Sunday (February 12, 2016).

It came as a complete surprise as it has been my pleasure and privilege to have served as treasurer these past ten years.

Thank you all for the certificate of appreciation, the cards and gifts. You are truly a great family who have so much love and compassion for everyone. Since February of last year, when my cancer returned, I have been so thankful to all of you for the cards, words of encouragement and prayers that have blessed me so much.

My reason for retiring as treasurer became a necessity when the cancer spread to my bones and I am once again on a different regime of drugs which causes me to have very little energy and tire easily.

My last visit to the Oncologist showed good results from these drugs. However, he could not tell me how long I will be on them.

I am confident that Carolyn Greene will make a great treasurer as she has been a help to me this past year and I thank her for that.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Andrew McAllister

The McCarter family will definitely uplift Andrew with our prayers and continue to support him as he continues his fight with cancer. His loyalty, commitment, and love for Christ bears witness to his faith. We are so grateful for you and your family.

January through December 2016 Presbytery Report

Date		Amt.	Balance
04/18/2016	Per Capita-GA	\$377.36	377.36
04/18/2016	Per Capita- Synod	\$79.50	456.86
04/18/2016	Per Capita-FHP	\$23.85	480.71
07/30/2016	UP Benevolence	\$500.00	980.71
07/30/2016	OGHS-Hunger Program	\$346.00	1,326.71
07/30/2016	Mother's Day Offering	\$361.00	1,687.71
12/31/2016	UP Benevolence	\$500.00	2,187.71
12/31/2016	Joy Gift Offering	\$160.00	2,347.71
12/31/2016	Thornwell Offering	\$40.00	2,387.71



Witness & Service Committee

2016 United Ministries Food Pantry Donations

Johanne Puckett, Volunteer Food Coordinator for Unities Ministries wishes to thank all local churches who contributed food donations in 2016. Last year the food pantry provided food to 2000 individual households with the total number of people served reaching 4,000. Johanne reports that every can or box of food donated doubles in value at United Ministries. When the pantry doesn't have to purchase food, that money can be redirected to fund other services like heat, housing or education.

Please continue to support this wonderful mission and let's work together to wipe out hunger in our local communities. McCarter is an important part of this mission.

Kerry Caldwell coordinates the food pantry donations for McCarter. Thanks Kerry for all your hard work.



Finance Committee

Financial Report for McCarter:

General Fund \$3,399
 Building Fund \$19,258
 Money Market \$31,000
 CD \$26,609
 DP Fund \$79,767

Financial Report Continued – Donations from DP Funds:

Thornwell \$1000
 Safe Harbor \$1000
 Harbest Hope Food Bank \$1000
 Miracle Hill \$1000
 Triune \$1000
 Board of Pensions \$1000
 PCUSA \$1000
 Frontera de Cristo \$2000
 Wine to Water \$500
 Heifer International \$500

Presbyterian Women to Fund Missionary Efforts at U.S Mexican Border

The women of our church are selling Café Justo coffee to help in the support of missionaries Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Escobar in their border ministry. One pound bags are available to purchase for \$12 a bag, and are outside Rachel's office.



Carter Berry 3/16
 Danny McClure 3/21



Montie Burger, Jean Lindsey, Agnes Houston, Charlie Houston, Andrew McAllister, D.B. McCauley, Deryl McKinney, Christine Ferguson, Harry Newton, Rev. Mark Adam and Miriam Escobar

Life Line Screening

Preventive life line screens have been shown to save lives and prevent serious medical emergencies from occurring. Our friends at Life Line Screening extends their appreciation for our church hosting the event and thus helping to save lives in our community. The screening was held in late February.

Upcoming Fundraiser for Loaves and Fishes

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 2nd, from noon-3PM. Taste of the Upstate is the largest annual fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes. This year it will be held at Zen downtown Greenville and will feature a New Orleans style jazz and Gospel brunch. In addition, a silent auction will take place with several nice raffle packages, and ladies can win a prize if their hat is chosen Best Sunday Hat.

Last year, Loaves and Fishes rescued over 2.1 million pounds of food and helped to feed over 270,000 persons in our community. More information is posted on bulletin board.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Assistance Program

The McCarter Church congregation has always supported the Assistance Program through its annual Joy offering. This program provides assistance to teaching elders, missionaries, and other church workers and their families, primarily because of financial hardship. Last year, 1,200 persons received assistance.

Support for this program is essential in order to continue to offer grant programs to inspire, renew, and develop new clergy for the future. The program also provides financial assistance for those PC (USA) workers and their families who may have undergone catastrophes or need housing supplements upon retirement because of meager salaries and the higher cost of living.

The entire letter of appreciation from the Board of Pensions is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

On the lighter side.....



- Q. Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a good joke?
A. It might crack up!
- Q. How does a rabbit keep his fur looking good?
A. With hare spray!
- Q. What do Easter Bunny helpers get for making a basket?
A. Two points, just like anyone else.
- Q. What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?
A. A rash of good luck.
- Q. What do you call a bunny with a large brain?
A. An egghead
- Q. Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?
A. Because they're always a little short.