

Church Chatter Newsletter November, 2019



A Season of Thanksgiving: Be Sure to Thank People Too!

It is that time of year again, when we all look forward to spending time with friends and family. Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to continue in our family traditions or start new ones. In my house there are a few things that absolutely must happen this time of year. Anya loves to decorate- so there are pumpkins stacked at our front door, our fridge is already stocked with eggnog (lactose free for me of course), and we love watching all the holiday movies together. I'm sure you've got your list of "must dos" as well. But as we enjoy all these traditions, I would like to share with you this article I recently read written by the Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts on the deeper meaning of Thanksgiving. Here it is for your reflection:

The primary purpose of Thanksgiving Day is to express gratitude to God for God's many gifts. Although sometimes this gets forgotten in our secular culture today, still most people realize that our thanksgiving should be directed primarily in God's direction. However, this season of year also gives us a chance to say thanks to people. We can express our gratitude to those in our lives for whom we are grateful and who sometimes don't get to hear this from us very much. As long as I'm thanking the Lord for my wife and my children, for example, doesn't it make sense for me to tell them?

We see an example of this sort of thing in the letters of the Apostle Paul. On several occasions he not only thanks God for his churches, but also he tells them of it. Consider Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly" (1:2). "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?" (3:9).

Imagine how you'd feel to hear this from someone important in your life. My guess is you'd feel honored, happy, maybe a bit embarrassed, and even thankful. It's a wonderful thing to hear that someone is truly thankful for you. In fact, it's one of the best feelings in life. Thanksgiving provides a salutary occasion for saying thanks, both to the God from whom all blessings flow *and* to those who are conduits of divine blessings in our lives. It's a time to stop what we're doing and say "Thank you" to the people in our lives who deserve to hear this from us. Even if you manage to thank only one other person this Thanksgiving, that small gesture can make a big difference in the life of that person.

So, may I encourage you to use the occasion of Thanksgiving to thank the people in your life who matter to you? Tell them that you're thankful for them. Drop someone a note, make a short phone call, or text them. Telling people that you're thankful for them will enrich your life as well as the lives of those for whom you are grateful.

I thank God for each one of you. Happy Thanksgiving!

From: Pastor Olive, Carl & Anya.

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro held its annual Dedication Sunday on November 3, 2019. This was the culmination of a month long stewardship campaign led by the Stewardship and Finance Committee. On this Sunday, the Minute for Stewardship was delivered by S & F Chairman Elder Brian Turner and written by Stan May. The following is the text of that message:

Stewardship: Something To Think About ...

In January 1965, Mona and I, and a gang of children landed in Clayton County. My job: Manager of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Until then, all of us were baptized and grew up in the Baptist Church.

Before I could even get settled in at my office, a gentle, humble man named Philo McKinnon came calling and invited us to come to the Jonesboro Presbyterian Church. We did. We liked it. That was 54 years ago. Been here ever since.

Now I'm sure that you never thought of a Chamber of Commerce in context with the Church. But in reality, they operate the same way. Both have as their goal building a better community in which to live and work. Both have to develop a Program of Action that will make people want to INVEST their money in that organization in order to achieve that goal.

Let me pause here to emphasize that word INVEST. Too often, we get lax with our words and talk about CONTRIBUTIONS. At the Chamber, we never use the word CONTRIBUTION. A contribution is when you put a dollar or two in the "kitty" for one of the many causes that people are often collecting for. Instead, when you INVEST in the Chamber, you are supporting a program to make the community a better place.

It's no different at the Church. You INVEST your dollars so that the Church will have the resources to pursue Gods work here on earth.

Have you ever stopped to think about the "most memorable gift you ever received"? And more importantly, "Who gave it to you"? Think about it for a moment and I believe that you will come to the same conclusion that I did. It's life itself. And who gave it? GOD ... the person that we came here this morning to worship. Without his gift of life, we would not be sitting here this morning.

Then doesn't it make sense that we would want to INVEST in his work here on earth? To me it does ... I hope that it does to you also as we go about planning his work for the coming year.

I would like to share with you what I refer to as the "three M's" The first of these is "Manpower". We have a tremendous source of manpower available here at FPCJ. The Mission Team ... All those who participated in the Rummage Sale The Men of the Church ... Presbyterian Women ... and the list goes on .

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The second M is for what I call “Moxie”. This is a loose term that stands for the “know—how” ... knowing what to do, when to do it, and most importantly how to do it.

The third M obviously is “Money”. This is the final cog in the wheel that provides the resources necessary for the first two M’s to function. And that is where each of us enter the picture. As we begin preparations for a new year, I encourage you to give prayerful thought to how YOU can have an even bigger role this year in the pursuit of Gods work in our area.

I would like to share this little story with you..

A WISE MAN SAYETH...

And in those days, behold there was a city with an active Church. And it came to pass as the days went by the Church flourished and grew great.

And there were other Churches, great and not so great, and they that spent their days in adding to the alibi sheet. Mightily were they astonished. They communicated, one Church to the other, saying "what the heck", and "how doth that Church get away with it?"

And it came to pass that many Church leaders were gathered together, and a soothsayer came among them. And he was one wise guy. And they spoke and questioned him saying, "How is it that this small Church is accomplishing the impossible - flourishing during recession and growing during repression?"

Whereupon the soothsayer made answer: "They of whom you speak haveth a Church with one big pile of hustlers. They arise very early in be morning and goeth forth full of pep. They complaineth not, neither do they know how. They are arrayed in purple and fine linen with a smile and a look of hope and confidence, while ye go forth shaking your head in woe, with pants not pressed."

"While ye gather here and say one to the other, 'verily this is a terrible day to work, they are already abroad. And when the eleventh hour cometh, they need no alibi. They knoweth their duty. Men say unto them, 'nay, nay" when they begin their work, yet when the time cometh all will join in because they knoweth masses are needed to do good work and to prosper."

"They taketh with them daily two angels: 'inspiration' and 'perspiration' and worketh hard ". Verily I say unto you, "Go and do likewise".

Presbyterian Women's Mission in Haiti

By Vicki Westervelt

The Presbyterian Women at FPCJ are involved in many diverse missions. Over the years missions involving children have always been a priority. We have sponsored a child from Thailand and several from Christian City in the past. The backpack ministry and support for Suder Elementary remain important missions to us.

I want to tell you about another current mission and how PW became involved. We are currently sponsoring a child at Present Hope Ministry, Inc. in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. Her name is Anaylie Duperval and she was six on June 28th. Anaylie is the second child we have sponsored in Haiti.

I introduced PW to Present Hope when it was Love and Grace Ministry. John and I had been sponsoring a child there for three or four years. I knew the need for sponsors was great and wanted to give the ladies in PW the opportunity to become involved in a mission that had a place in my heart. John and I became involved after being asked by our friends Tim and Elaine if we would be interested in sponsoring a child there. Tim is a doctor and Elaine is a nurse and they had been going on medical missions for several years. Elaine had told me that they had not been able to find a place where they felt they were totally fulfilled by their experience. Elaine heard about Love and Grace in her hometown (Ellijay, GA) newspaper. A young women from Ellijay named Dedra Key de Chavez had started a ministry to help the children in Ouanaminthe, Haiti with her husband. It turned out she was the daughter of one of Elaine's former schoolmates. Soon she and Tim were going to Haiti for their medical missions. They fell in love with the children and were impressed with the commitment to helping these children they saw. They also saw that the money being sent to sponsor a child was all going for the child which was important to me.

As many of you may know Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. They also still have an extremely corrupt government. There are no free schools furnished by the government. If someone opens a private school they have to pay the government for each child attending the school. This was one of the reasons for the name change to Present Hope I mentioned. Schools need to stay small and under the government's radar. Present Hope furnishes two nutritious meals daily to each student and whenever possible a meal to any child who comes begging for food. Parents in Haiti routinely give their children cookies made of dirt just to fill their stomachs. I will admit I had one of these cookies to show the ladies when I asked if they wanted to sponsor a child. The Present Hope School provides both secular and Christian Education classes. Many Haitians still practice Voodoo and many government officials claim to be Voodoo priests.

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Presbyterian Women's Mission in Haiti

In January John and I had the opportunity to meet Dedra in person when she spoke at Tim and Elaine's church. Many groups and individuals in their church are sponsoring children or donating to the ministry. She spoke about her background and how she became involved in the ministry in Haiti. Her first trips to Haiti were with her family and her church in Ellijay. She grew to love the people and with each trip felt more deeply drawn to leave her life and family in the USA and move to Haiti to make the lives of these children better. John and I both felt that her story was the closest we had ever come to hearing from someone who had the kind of calling that Jesus's disciples must have felt. After church we had the opportunity to speak privately before her presentation at lunch. I had the chance to find out a little bit more about the girls we sponsor, During the presentation we learned about the progress of the construction of the new school and got to ask questions about Haiti, the ministry, and the building project.

I feel blessed to be a part of such a caring and giving group of women who opened their hearts to join me on a mission that had come to mean so much to me. If any of you feel moved to join us with this mission you can sponsor a child for \$30 a month or give to the school construction:

- 1 classroom - \$5,000
- 1 classroom wall - \$1,000
- 80 bags of cement - \$500
- 3 steel rebars - \$100

Any donation amount is greatly appreciated. Please pray for Dedra and her staff. What they have accomplished so far could only have been done with our Lord's help.



Photo above is Linedacheca
(sponsored by John and Vicki Westervelt)



Photo above is Anaylie (sponsored by PW)



Presbyterian Women are taking a road trip! The John Bulow Campbell Library at Columbia Theological Seminary is one of the first seminary libraries to host the traveling exhibit, "Exploring Human Origins," from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. We are planning our trip on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. We will be leaving around 11:00 AM, from the Chick-Fil-A Dwarf House in Jonesboro following the monthly Breakfast Club, with an outing for lunch to follow the exhibit. Small groups are asked to schedule a tour in advance so, please let Julie Hancock or Jane Luetkemeyer know if you would like to join us by Sunday, November 3, 2019.

The Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle is tentatively cancelled for November 2019. If a meeting date is decided, an email will be sent out.

The Evening Circle will meet on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Family Life Center. Presbyterian Women will be preparing dinner for the Men of the Church this month. Meal items and preparation will be forthcoming from Melissa Ham. The Evening Circle will finish up with the 2018/2019 Horizons Bible Study God's Promise – I Am With You and are on Lesson 9, *God with Us*.

Just a reminder, we've made a few changes to our Bunco schedule and will now play from October through May, usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month. This month's Bunco will be on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 11:30 AM. The meal will be provided by Jane Luetkemeyer and Julie Hancock. Here is a reminder of the rules...\$5 to play per person, two winners only - the one with the most wins and the one with the most Buncos and all winnings must be donated to one of three missions - Good Shepherd, Marion Mission Wells or Haven Mission, as chosen together by the winner(s). Please let Jane or Julie know you're coming by Saturday, November 9, 2019.

Thank you and hope to see all of your smiling faces at one or ALL of our upcoming events!

November 2019



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Dedication Sunday Communion Meal FPP 1-5 pm	4 FPP 5-10 pm		6 9 am Breakfast Club Choir 7 pm FPP 5-10 pm	7 FPP 5-10 pm	8 Miracle on 34th St. FPP 7:30 pm	9 Miracle on 34th St. FPP 7:30 pm
10 Miracle on 34th St. FPP 2:30 pm	11 PW/PMOC 6:30-8:30 pm	12 PW Morning Circle 10 am	13 Choir 7 pm	14 FPP 9-5 pm	15 Miracle on 34th St. FPP 7:30 pm	16 PW Bunco 11:30 am Miracle on 34th St. 7:30 pm
17 Miracle on 34th St. FPP 2:30 pm	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline Choir 7 pm	21	22	23 FPP 9-5 pm
24	25	26	27 Choir 7 pm	28 	29	30 Decoration of the Church 9 am

THE FRONT PORCH PLAYERS PRESENT

Miracle on

34TH STREET

Based on the screenplay by **George Seaton**

NOVEMBER 2019

FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS 8,9,15,16

@ 7:30PM

&

SUNDAYS 10 & 17

@ 2:30PM

RESERVED SEATING

ADULTS-\$15/SENIORS AND CHILDREN-\$12

GENERAL SEATING

ADULTS-\$12/SENIORS AND CHILDREN-\$10

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,
1842 Lake Jodeco Road, Jonesboro, GA
30236

For tickets:

call #770-897-1404 **or** online @
thefrontporchplayers.com **or** at the door





Happy Anniversary

November

11/01 - Nancy & Keith Parkhouse
11/26 - Olive & Carl Mahabir

November

11/03 - Julie Hester
11/03 - Eddie Markovitch
11/03 - Andrew Taylor
11/03 - Wendy Taylor
11/05 - David Apronti
11/08 - Barbara Rhinehart
11/13 - Alice Apronti
11/16 - Laura Wigington
11/23 - Carol Francis
11/25 - Mike Fox

BOOK CLUB

Correction from Bulletin Announcement!

December 12, 2019 (Thursday) Book Club: *Glory Over Everything* by Kathleen Grissom. This is a sequel to our book (*The Kitchen House*) which we read last month. Please join us. Any questions see Nancy Parkhouse or Ruby White. **All are welcome.**

Thank you!

Jack and I would like to say "Thank You" once again to everyone who helped make the Yard Sale possible. The amount of time spent and the effort you put forth made the yard sale successful. It's a pleasure to belong to a church that has so many wonderful people. "Thanks" once again.

Alan L. Bergmann

Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Tisch Brain Tumor Center in memory of Ryan. I grew up in a very special church filled with incredibly kind and dear people. Your support of my family over the past three years has been staggering. I am forever grateful to each of you.

With love,

Ann Hatfield Patterson

A church workday was held on Saturday, October 5th and I would like to thank all who came out to help! Several items on our list were accomplished, including work on the grounds, kitchen cleaning, storage room organizing and the utility room was cleared of quite a bit of "stuff." Your donation of time is very much appreciated!

Laura Wigington, Chair
Buildings and Grounds Committee

"WHAT WE ONCE ENJOYED
AND DEEPLY LOVED
WE CAN NEVER LOSE,
FOR ALL THAT WE LOVE DEEPLY
BECOMES A PART OF US."

HELEN KELLER



THE FAMILY OF

Dwaine Lee Willett

IS HONORED BY YOUR THOUGHTFUL
EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,

Thank you for the donation in Dwaine's honor to the Children Ministries of Wesley Monumental United Church. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated by the family.

With Gratitude,

Cynthia Willett and Family

Extended Prayer List

Church Member

Pray For:

Sue Alford	Richard Baldwin
Raymond and Susan Baggarly	Rodney Mitchell
Betty Bush	Marilyn Vaughan
Faye Callina	Pat Goggin
Carolyn Fox DuPree	Randy Bradley, Broward Clark
Mike and Ronda Fox	Stephen Mitchell
Carol Francis	Francine Walker
Brianne and Kevin Graham	Libby Graham, Melissa Gunter
Mike and Julie Hancock	Henry Hancock, Donna Pratt, Kenny Edmondson, Matt and Skylar Guarnieri
Carol Hatfield	Ann, Dorothy, and Amelia Patterson
Julie Hester	Lauren Parker
Mary Huie-Jolly	Lucie Huie
Stan May	Karen Pearce, Tony May, Paul Carrington-May
Bill and Barbara Rhinehart	Rocky Boulware
Keith and Jennifer Taylor	Lauren Hutchinson, Barry Smith, Sandy Hawkins
Walt and Gwen Taylor	Dewey Ellenburg, Betty Lovin, Sarah Corley, Charles Kelley, Mike Pickett, Nancy Hendrix, May Etheridge, Richard Whitton
Brian and Deanie Turner	Christopher Turner
Laura and Mike Wigington	John and Carol Abbott
Rick and Karen Ferrell-White	Lacy Rabanal
Pat Wood	Randy Clokey, Bob and Charlotte Roach
Debbie Woodard	Howard Marsh, Rebecca Browning

Church Member and Friends Prayer List With On-Going Concerns

John Anzalone, Raymond and Susan Baggarly, Dave Harland, Carol Hatfield,
Eloise Belle Isle, Dorothy and Fred Kobus, Chris Lizama, Stan May, Elliot McElroy, Greg Par-
khouse, Bill and Barbara Rhinehart, James White, Lee White, Rick White and Karen Ferrell White.

Military Prayer List

Jason Ali-Talha, John Ham, Philip Ham, Josh Hamby, Chris Harvill, Daniel Hudalla, Kyle Hudalla,
Austin Kobus, Logan May.



Advent on my mind!

Saturday , November 30, 2019	9 am	Decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent Season
Sunday, December 1, 2019	10:30 am	Hanging of the Greens Worship Service
Sunday, December 8, 2019	10:30 am	Worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, December 15, 2019	10:30 am	Choir Cantata and Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 22, 2019	10:30 am	Advent Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2019	4:15 pm	Cookie Fellowship, FLC before Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2019	5 pm	Christmas Eve Worship and Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 29, 2019	10:30 am	Service of Lessons and Carols

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

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Committee Chairpersons

Administration	Julie Hancock
Building & Grounds	Laura Wigington
Christian Education	Carol Abdo
Congregational Care	Jane Luetkemeyer
Outreach	Melissa Ham
Stewardship & Finance	Brian Turner
Endowment	John Westerfelt
Worship	Debbie Woodward
Treasurer	James White

Cyndi Smith — Clerk

Staff

SESSION

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Moderator
Carol Abdo
Julie Hancock
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At First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,
we believe Jesus calls us to **love wholly, connect fully, and serve abundantly** each and every day; spreading the Good News of God’s redeeming love by act, word , and deed.