

# The First Edition

## *First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC*

November 2018

www.pcanet.org  
Church Website: www.ellerbepca.com

Volume XXVIII Edition 11

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### From the Pastor

If we do have a holiday of truly Christian origins, it may well be Thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims following their harvest in the fall of 1621, about a year after landing at Cape Cod. Though they had experienced many hardships and their losses weighed heavily upon their hearts, they were particularly grateful to God for their preservation. So, they gathered with their Wampanoag Indian friends and shared a three-day autumn harvest feast. The Indians listened as the Bible was read and prayers were offered and food was enjoyed by all. It was later in 1863 in the midst of Civil War that President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving to be a national holiday.

Thanksgiving is approaching and Thanksgiving is a time in which we are particularly reminded of the many blessings we enjoy. Thanksgiving truly is a mark of saving faith. I think particularly of Psalm 136 which begins "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever" (v. 1). The psalmist rehearses God's work in creation, his loving redemption of his people from bondage, his planting his people in the promised land, and his enduring love which will not let his people go.

No doubt most of us look forward to an enjoyable time of family, friends, and food this Thanksgiving. For many of us (well, I am speaking for myself) Thanksgiving is the one meal we look forward to all year long (and may last all afternoon long). Fortunately, Thanksgiving is not quite as commercialized as Christmas. Yet, not unlike Christmas, it can be easy for us to forget the "reason for the season." So, may we stop to give thanks. May we thank God for the measure of health and happiness we enjoy; may we thank him for friends and loved ones; may we especially thank him for his incredible gift of salvation to us in Christ. May we thank the Lord for the fact that we live in a country in which we are still, in large measure, free to worship in spirit and truth and carry out the Great Commission. And as we think of the civil liberty we enjoy, may we give thanks for the many men and women who have served, fought, and died to preserve that freedom for us. And one last thing, perhaps we should take the time as those Pilgrims did to share that meal with others who may be lacking some of those blessings we so enjoy.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Layton

### Special Fund

**Mr. Timm Dazey will be preaching and leading worship on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.** While working full-time Timm is continuing to pursue seminary studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte. The Session has set up a fund to help defray Timm's seminary costs. Persons wishing to contribute to this fund should so designate on their checks.



Circle II met on Tuesday night, October 23 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. In Sandra Futrell's absence, Kim Yates presented lesson six from our study in the Fruit of the Spirit – Peace entitled "Christ, Our Peace" based on Ephesians 2:11-22. "For He Himself is our peace, who has made Jews and Gentiles one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... (V14). Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His spirit" (V19-22).

Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 27 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall where we will join other women in the church to decorate the church for Christmas. Jane Smith will be bringing pizza! We invite any lady not currently involved in Circle to join us.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

Circle III met Tuesday, October 2 at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Circle President Susan DeWitt led the lesson, *Finding Peace in God's Presence* from the study guide Fruit of the Spirit. The lesson featured Psalm 46 about God being in control of all things.

Projects included a gift being purchased for Pastor Appreciation and the distribution of school supplies to the two area schools. Thanks to all who participated in this project. Jan Stivers will assume the card ministry responsibilities and Jeanine Wall will be the Treasurer. The November project will be to have a special offering for nursing home patients who do not have family to provide Christmas gifts at the Pruitt nursing home. Circle members will also help decorate the church for Christmas on November 27 and will purchase poinsettias in memory of Circle III sisters.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 6 at 1:00 pm. Please join us!

Jan Stivers, *Secretary*

## WIC Update



The quarterly WIC meeting was held Tuesday, October 9 at 6:30 pm with a light meal served by the Social Committee. The meeting followed at 7:00 pm. Pastor Stan gave an update from the Session. Patricia McCormick, co-chair of Christian Growth, introduced the speaker Amy Black, from Second Street Presbyterian Church in Albemarle. Amy brought a friend, Karen, with her. Amy summarized some of the personal struggles her family has faced during the past year and reminded us that God loves us and is making something beautiful when there are things happening that we don't understand. In the dark times, God is with us. The most common phrase in the Bible is "Do not fear" and we need to remember this when we are going through trials. She shared scripture from seven different books of the Bible. In closing, she invited all to attend the Christmas luncheon at Second Street Presbyterian on December 8 (details below).

WIC President Beth Bryant updated the group on church projects including the sign on highway 220 being replaced, feedback about tile and grout for the church bathroom was given by several ladies, and Jan Stivers will develop a new church directory once the membership roster is updated. The Hospice Wish List project is ongoing and they are very appreciative of the donations. Special thanks to Jane Smith for making a delivery to Hospice Haven.

The nominations committee will begin contacting ladies about serving for the WIC. Patricia McCormick volunteered to be the next Vice President (VP). The By-laws were reviewed and the VP's term should alternate opposite years of the President, which has not currently occurred, so the next VP term will be only for one year.

Special thanks to Circle II for providing another Movie Night and for hosting the Fall Festival. A basket was placed in the vestibule for Pastor Appreciation day held October 28.

### Upcoming events:

Wednesday, November 7, 6:00 PM—Ingathering with men preparing the meal and Circle III hosting and providing desserts. A service will follow the meal in the fellowship hall.

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 PM—Administrative Meeting for all WIC and Circle officers.

Tuesday, November 27 6:00 PM—Dinner hosted by Circle II and the church will be decorated after the meal.

Saturday, December 8—Ladies are invited to attend the Second Street Presbyterian Church's annual Christmas Luncheon from 11:00 am—1:00 pm. Each lady should bring a finger food and an ornament to exchange. Please be at the church by 9:45 am for departure.

Beth Bryant, *WIC President*

## From the Session

The regular quarterly Session/Deacon joint meeting was held Wednesday evening, October 10. The Session held their regular stated monthly meeting afterwards. Mr. Layton reported on the health and hospital issues involving our church members. He requested, and was granted, vacation for November 16-22.

An update on the Emergency Action Plan was discussed including keeping medical supplies current at all times. Final plans were made for the Farmer's Day Parade Outreach in downtown Ellerbe which will be held on November 17. Plans for the 2019 Revival were approved by the Session and is scheduled for May 8 with Rev. Rick Light as the featured speaker. The 2018 Christmas Cantata has been approved for Tuesday evening, December 11, at 7:00 pm with a reception following. The 2019 Budget Committee was appointed and approved by the Session. Other business and correspondence of the church were handled including special prayers for all in need.

Long time Session member Austin Bryant is recovering from illness and may our church members continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

*RE Billy Carter*

## Choir Notes



November is upon us which serves as a reminder of the special events associated with this time of year including Thanksgiving. Yes, this is truly a time to count our many blessings, praising our Lord for all He has done. What a special time of year! May each of us be thankful as we celebrate the beauty that surrounds us, the visible scenes of nature, and most of all the endless love God has for His people. Our choir looks forward to this season as we prepare for these events beginning with our annual Ingathering November 7.

The choir has been faithfully preparing for our annual Christmas Cantata which will be held Tuesday evening, December 11 at 7:00 pm. Choir Director Ted Futrell has selected special music which shares the Christmas story through traditional Christmas music and is familiar to all.

Faithful choir member Barbara Wagers is missed as she recovers from surgery. May she have a speedy recovery as our prayers go out to her.

*In Spiritual Hope, Billy Carter*

## Church Transportation

The Session is desirous of providing transportation for anyone wanting to worship but needs transportation. If you are willing to drive others to worship or know of anyone needing transportation to worship, please let a Session member know.

## Youth Group Refreshments

The Youth group meets monthly on the first Sunday night, 5:00—6:30 pm. We are asking for volunteers to sign up to provide refreshments. A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

### Church Officers:

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#### Ruling Elders

- Austin Bryant
- Bill Carter
- Tim Clark
- Timm Dazey
- Rickie DeWitt
- Robert Mabe
- Richard Smith
- Jimmy Wagers
- Tony Yates

#### Deacons

- Chris Meacham (class of 2019)
- Buck Smith (class of 2018)
- Tommy White (class of 2019)

#### WIC Officers

- Beth Bryant, President
- Mollie Snyder, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Jane Carriker, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Effie Meacham, Mission to the World Chair
- Victoria Smith, Mission to North America Chair
- Lori Clark & Patricia McCormick, Christian Growth Co-Chairs

## Greeters

4 Mr. Timm Dazey & Josh Dazey  
11 M/M Chris Meacham  
18 M/M Richard Smith  
25 M/M Ted Futrell & Family

## Anniversaries

6M/M Steve Bryant  
6M/M Barry McCormick  
7M/M Gray Yarbrough  
18M/M Jimmy Richardson  
20M/M Tim Bowman  
22M/M William Carter  
25M/M Jack Fetter  
29M/M Tony Ward




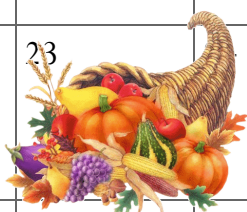
Happy Birthday  
November

5 Jackson Stogner  
6 Dylan Wagers  
8 Jimmy Howell  
8 Jimmy Wagers  
8 Ben Layton  
11 Ben Harris  
13 Zackary Meacham  
14 Austin Bryant  
14 Morgan Raines  
18 Julian Carter  
19 Grey Yarbrough  
20 Hannah Craven  
24 Thomas J. Covington  
26 Melanie DeWitt  
27 Brittany Greene  
30 Shannon Futrell



## Prayer List:

Armed Forces and Families, Our President and national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Peace and Unity in our country, Storm Victims, Jack Berry, Joyce Britt, Austin Bryant, Kevin Conner, A.T. Covington, Evon Craven, Sharon DeWitt, Steve DeWitt, Mark Futrell, Libbie Haithcock, Becky Henderson, Doris Hill, Patrick Kelly, Tommy Kinney, Gayle Mabe, Jameson McAnanny, Meredith McBride, Robert McCormick, Dan McInnis, Afshin Meymandi, Mary Murdock, Jane North, Larry Parsons, The Potterfields, Archie Robinson, Cozette Rush, Carolyn Sellers, Mark Sellers, Jane Smith, Mollie Snyder Family, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Barbara Wagers, Donna White, Katie White, Jack Yates, Unspoken Requests.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>November 2018</b>	<b>Every Sunday:</b> 9:15 –9:45 am—Prayer season, conference room. 10:00 am—Sunday School opening in sanctuary followed by classrooms. 11:00 am—Worship service			1	2	3
4 <b>5:00 pm Youth Group</b>	5	6 1:00 pm Circle 3, fellowship hall	7 <b>6:000 pm Ingathering</b>	8	9 <b>Youth Group campout at church</b>	10 
11 6:000 pm Prayer Service	12	13 <b>7:00 pm WIC Administrative Meeting for Circle &amp; WIC officers</b>	14 6:000 pm Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Session meeting 7:00 Deacon's meeting	15	16	17 <b>Farmer's Day Parade Outreach</b>
18 6:000 pm Prayer Service	19	20	21	22 <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	23 	
25 6:000 pm Prayer Service	26	27 <b>6:00 pm Circle II hosting dinner, then decorating the church</b>	28 6:000 pm Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Session Shepherding meeting	29	30	