

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

November 2020

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

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From the Pastor:

Martin Luther never seems to have had a shyness about speaking what was on his mind. Neither was he hesitant to state his opinion of those who disregard the Apostles' Creed. Luther stated, "Those who are unwilling to learn [the Apostles' Creed] should be told that they deny Christ and are no Christians." Luther was probably overstating the case. It might be a bit much to say that people who refuse to learn the Apostles' Creed are not Christians. Luther was probably getting at the idea that those who have a distaste for the Apostles' Creed have a serious lack of appreciation for what the Bible teaches about the triune God.

The Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles but it is based on their teaching. The first time we hear the term "Apostles' Creed" is in a letter from Ambrose of Milan to Pope Siricius in 390 AD. It also appears the creed "evolved" over the first few centuries until it finally reached the form we have today. There is much the creed does not teach, but it does teach the basic tenants of the Christian faith. It is also noteworthy that the creed is a statement about what Christians are to believe, not about what they are to do. In Christianity, as opposed to man-made religion, being right with God begins with what we must believe rather than what we must do.

As we study the creed, we notice that it is Trinitarian. The first section teaches us about God the Father; the second section is focused on God the Son; and the third section pertains to the Holy Spirit and his work. In one sense the Apostles Creed is simply a brief summary of God's plan of salvation. We also should note that the creed is "catholic" in the best sense of the word. That is to say that true Christians of all types can affirm it in good conscience. Not only does the creed unite us with believers around the world, it unites us with all true believers throughout history. When saying the creed, we are professing those things that Christians have always believed to be true. The creed reminds us that the "holy catholic church" is the "enduring community." During this coronavirus crisis and time of political turmoil the creed reminds us that even as plagues come and go and kingdoms rise and fall Jesus is building his church; in fact, the Lord works through these very earthly events and movements to gather and perfect his people.

Lord willing, on Sunday November 15th I will begin a morning sermon series on the Apostles' Creed entitled "The Apostles Creed: Christian, What Do You Believe?" While the church in the West has many problems, perhaps the root of them all is a serious lack of true knowledge about God and an apathy for learning more. David Wells writes, "Biblical doctrine is what makes the church the church. We are stumbling in passing on the doctrinal core of the faith, and that goes to the heart of the church's weakness today" (*Tabletalk*, 1/11, 76). Meanwhile, as Thomas Aquinas stated it, "Theology teaches of God, is taught by God, and leads to God" (*Tabletalk*, 5/09, 11). If we are to live for God, we must first come to know God; the Apostles Creed helps us grow in our knowledge of the triune God and the salvation we have in Christ. I pray this series spurs us on in our hunger and thirst to know God, love him, live for him, and make him known.

Sunday worship services may be heard live on radio station 87.9 FM at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning if you live within a few blocks of the church. Services will not be moved indoors on November 1st as originally planned,

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Stan

From the Session

The Session met Tuesday evening, October 6, for the regular monthly stated meeting. As a rule, the monthly stated meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month. Teaching Elder Mr. Layton gave his Pastor's report with emphasis on our prayer list and other business concerning our church. A season of prayer was held for our sick and homebound, our national, state, and local elections including our Presidential and other elections as well. As we are taught in scripture, the importance of prayer and a prayer life is so vital in our spiritual life which enhances our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The Session shared their views on the Lord's Supper held October 4th during our drive-in worship and were in agreement that all went well. Mr. Layton discussed with the Session about starting an Inquirer's class in the near future with confirmation at a later date. The Budget Committee for 2021 has been appointed by the Session. In addition, and with all plans in place, the Session has decided to begin having morning worship service in the larger Fellowship Hall Sunday, November 1. A meeting will be held October 28 to confirm this date or make any other recommendations if needed.

"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my song." (Isiah 12:2)

Ruling Elder Billy Carter



WIC Update

The November 10 WIC Business meeting will be held as planned for 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall with social distancing and temperature checks. The purpose of this meeting is to plan for the year 2021. All officers are encouraged to attend and any ladies interested in providing feedback are welcome to attend. If you cannot be at the meeting, please email Secretary Jan Stivers any input you would like for us to review by November 9. Her email address is kevinandjan@rsnet.org. Thank you.

Sandra Futrell, WIC President

Announcements

- In light of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases both nationally and in Richmond County, the Session has determined that Lord's Day worship will not be moved indoors on November 1st as originally planned, but will continue outside for the immediate future.
- While working full-time, Timm Dazey continues 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.
- ASSISTANCE: If anyone needs help with essentials (grocery shopping, transportation, etc.) during these extra-ordinary times, please call either the church (910-652-5231), Pastor Stan (910-206-9035), or your shepherding elder.
- PRAYER LIST: Please call the church or email Pastor Stan with concerns to add to the Prayer List.

Anniversaries

6 M/M Barry McCormick
 1 M/M Jimmy Richardson
 20 M/M Herman Stutts
 20 M/M Tim Bowman
 22 M/M Bill Carter
 25 M/M Jack Fetter
 29 M/M Tony Ward



Happy
 Birthday!
 November

5 Jackson Stogner
 6 Dylan Wagers
 8 Jimmy Wagers
 8 Jimmy Howell
 8 Ben Layton
 11 Ben Harris
 13 Zackary Meacham
 14 Austin Bryant
 14 Morgan Raines
 17 Julian Carter
 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 other national leaders, Presidential and other elections, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Peace and Unity in our country, Coronavirus concerns, Jack Berry, Donna Buckeridge, Austin Bryant, James Callicutt, Carol Chappell, Virgie Clark, Kevin Conner, A. T. Covington, Tom Covington, Evon Craven, Laura Cromer, Ken Crow, Alli Cundy, Casey Dawkins, Perry and Lisa Dawkins, Sharon DeWitt, Christina Greene Eller, Ellerbe First Responders, Nurah Fahmy, Jack Fetter, Mark Futrell, Libbie Haithcock, Becky Henderson, Doris Hill, Melanie Johnson, Ginny Layton, Becky Mabe, Bobby Mabe, Betty McBride, Meredith McBride, Max McCormick, Dan McInnis, Shannon McNeil, Janet Monroe, Peyton Monroe, Barbara Moten, Damon Moten, Jewel Paul, Sophia Potterfield, Cozette Rush, Carolyn Sellers, Mark Sellers, Helen Simmons, Jane Smith, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Jean Stutts, Hayley White, Colton Williams, Unspoken Requests

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 6:00 pm Budget Committee Meeting	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 7:00 pm WIC Business Meeting	11 7:00 pm Session Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28
29	30	Worship service remains at 11:00 am Sunday mornings unless notified otherwise.			November 2020	

Church Officers:

Ruling Elders

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

WIC Officers

- Sandra Futrell, President
- Patricia McCormick, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Jane Carriker, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Beth Bryant, Mission to the World Chair
- Nancy Daugherty, Mission to North America Chair
- Lori Clark, Christian Growth Chair