

*November 2016*

# *Good News*

**Verse of the Month:** *“Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100: 4*



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**“Broken Vessels” an old story and a meditation on  
our task as believers  
from the Interim Pastor**

November is always a very hopeful month for me. Thanksgiving falls at the end of the month and Advent starts shortly thereafter. It is the month in which our anticipation of the Nativity of our Lord begins to build in earnest. And yet, we are still early enough in the festive season to still be at ease, even meditative.

I came across this story a few weeks ago. It is an interpretation of the formation of the universe and our own place in it as people of good will. It is called the “Ancient Midrash of the Broken Vessel”. It is a kind of ancient parable.

Before God created the world, there was only God. When God decided to create the world, God pulled back in order to create a space for the world. It was in this space that the universe was formed.

But now, in that space, there was no God. God created divine sparks, light, to be placed back into God’s creation. When God created light and placed light inside creation, special containers were prepared to hold that light.

But, there was a cosmic accident. The containers broke. The universe became filled with sparks of God’s divine light as well as shards of the broken containers or vessels. This teaches us that until the sparks of God’s light are gathered together, the task of creation will not be complete.

This is our solemn duty. We call it “***Tikkun Olam***”, the repair of the world. Start small, gather the sparks of your own neighborhood or community and begin to repair the vessels.

Let those who have ears, hear. We are people who have been repaired by God through Jesus Christ. There is no way we can fully express our thanks for that redemption. We can show forth our own thanksgiving by working to gather the divine sparks of humanity and repair the world.

Happy Thanksgiving and don’t forget; the annual Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical service will be here at the Presbyterian Church on the night before Thanksgiving, 23 November 2016 at 7:00PM.





## **Sunday School and Related News for November**

Our theme this year is Blessed! We will focus on even in our darkest times when we are Blessed because we are children of God! We are blessed for all the teachers, aides, and kids that make our Sunday School program possible. We have a great team. We are grateful to our sponsors who have been very generous in their support of our program.

Our lighthouse bulletin board teaches our kids to move towards the light of Jesus.

### **Highlights and Up Coming Events**

- ◆ Our **Christmas presentation** and the Birthday party for Jesus will be held on December 11, 2015. Bob Gillis and Priscilla Schultheis are bringing their talents together to bring us an amazing presentation and will we have a fun birthday party celebrating the birth of our Lord. It will be a pot luck luncheon so bring your favorite dish.
- ◆ Our first Fellowship Sunday will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>, this is an opportunity for all the children to come together for some creativity, praising and fun. Grades Pre K-6 will be reporting to Madden Hall once dismissed from service. This first lesson will be on gifts the children will be creating things to share with those less fortunate.

I look forward to all our events. Stay tuned for the announcements.

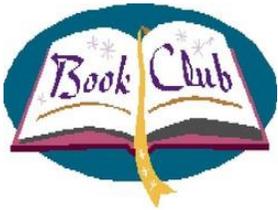
In his Service,  
Tina



### **Women's Circles**

The theme of this year's Bible studies for our women's circles has been Biblical stories of water. Water is central to this month's story of the Samaritan woman at the well. A physical need becomes an opportunity for Jesus to extend the hospitality of water and teach about a new kind of water - the Living Water. In this lesson we will look at the Biblical mandate to show compassion and offer hospitality to everyone.

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Betsy Cunius. The Martha Circle will meet in the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. All women of the church are encouraged to join us at the time and place that is best for you. We will be happy to see you and will welcome you warmly.



## Christian Readers Book Club

We will be meeting on November 16 to discuss the book “Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café” by Max Lucado. Come join us for some lively discussion. We meet in the Cobb lounge at 6:30 P.M. Hope to see you there.



## Worship Committee Report

The search for the new Music Director continues. Thanks to Ms. Louise Speitel and Mr. Ken Marshall, the complete job description is posted on the church website, and the ad approved by Session is posted on [Indeed.com/Craigslist](http://Indeed.com/Craigslist).

The music for the November services includes Mr. Harold Hawkes on Nov 6, Communion Sunday, and a Choir Anthem under the direction of Mr. Richard Older. Mr. Rick DeKarski will provide organ/piano music on Nov 13, 20 and 27.

Respectfully submitted, David Burgess, Worship Chair.



## 2016 Flower Chart

The 2016 Altar Flower chart is hanging in the vestibule. If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the altar on any Sunday please mark the chart to reserve your date and fill in a form (which can be found next to the chart). The cost of a single urn bouquet is \$55.00 which includes the delivery fee.

If you would prefer to place your own order and arrange your own delivery, you are welcome to do so. Be sure to reserve your date on the chart and fill in the form with the information you would like in the bulletin.

Forms and payment (if applicable) are due in the church office no later than noon the Tuesday before your reserved date.



## Mission/Evangelism for November



### Mission

**Correspondence:** We continue to receive thank you's from the Community Food Bank for our donations.

**Advertising:** Our church is advertised in the local Current newspapers. It provides an overview of the church schedule on Sunday morning. It's nice to see our name in the paper. We are looking into the cost and practicality of advertising in the **Four Seasons of Smithville newsletter**. We are going to display our banner of yearly events at the end of the cemetery fence closest to where we park the van so the public can see what's happening all year and hopefully join us for some of them.

**The Bakely House:** All goes well with the Bakely House. Our guests take excellent care of the house. Our next walk through inspection will take place in September.

**Family Promise:** The turnout at Boscov's for Friends Helping Friends was incredible. We sold 28 tickets and raised \$140 for Family Promise. We attended a special training to prepare for our guests. We'll be looking for volunteers to help prepare meals, help kids with homework, crafts, and games. We'll be looking for people who will support our guests with sensitivity and kindness while offering comfort and dignity to all. Betty Price is picking up wash cloths and hand towels for our families while they are with us.

**Recycled Shoes:** We send the shoes out whenever we fill four boxes. We are currently working on our third box. Keep those shoes coming!

**Real Partners Uganda:** We were able to raise \$500 for Mustard Seed Academy's Christmas in September program. Thank you all for your generosity to this project.

**God Care People Ministry:** Our Pakistani Christian friends are extremely grateful for funding recently received. They are most appreciative to buy food for the families in their church. They are extremely thankful for our support. We are now approved to place our church's name on the website so that anyone can donate to this ministry through our church. We will send all funds through Western Union. That way God Care People ministry will receive a greater portion of the funds intended for the program.

**Operation Christmas Child:** We are currently distributing shoeboxes to anyone in the church willing to pack a box full of goodies for a boy or girl in a third world country. The pictures we have seen that show children and teens receiving these gifts are remarkable. It is a blessing to be part of this mission project. Remember to include \$7 in the box for shipping and handling. The due date is the week of November 14 - 20.

**Angel Tree:** We will be setting up our angel tree before too long. Names of children and teens will be written on tags and displayed on the tree for anyone to take. We will be able to give

Christmas presents to children who need extra TLC due to family circumstances. In the name of Jesus, we can make a difference by making this Christmas more joyful for many boys and girls.

**Budget:** We are adjusting our budget from \$31,500 to \$30,000 since Karen Moritz, a Presbyterian missionary that we supported, stepped away from that role to seek a new direction and calling. We wish her the best.

**New Ideas:** We discussed ways to outreach at Stockton University. It would be awesome to have a college age group doing a Bible Study and worshipping with us on Sundays!

**Our next meeting** will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 9:30 am in the Cobb Lounge.

In His Service, Priscilla Schultheis



## Prayer Chain

If you would like to join our Prayer Chain please notify the office. **The only requirements are that you have a willingness to pray and keep all requests in confidence.** (Requests are passed on to Chain members through our notification system.)

We trust that you do already pray for special needs, and perhaps God is calling you to be part of this ministry.

*If you have a prayer need please call the office. Your request will be kept in strict confidence.*

## Family of God

by Lisa Whitaker



I arrived to the Far East of Russia and was met by one of our staff members. On the ride to the apartment where I would be staying, she began to tell me a little bit about the different students that were part of the group I would be teaching. As she began to tell me of one young man, Timur, from Kyrgyzstan, she explained that he and his sisters had been adopted by a missionary family when he was a young boy. She then said, “Oh, you lived in Kyrgystan, maybe you know them”, and she told me the family’s name. I laughed and said, “Know them? His adoptive parents were students in a school I staffed in Russia in 1994”. She then went on to explain more of his story. I remembered that my friends had adopted this sibling group and in fact, I had visited them shortly after the children moved in with them. I pulled out my computer and began looking through pictures and found a picture from 2004 of this young boy and his family. Needless to say, when we finally got to the school and I met him, he was shocked to know that I had been to his home 12 years ago. Throughout the week, he and I talked about his

family and I showed him some more pictures I had from my time in Kyrgystan. I pulled up one picture of a Kyrgyse lady I had met on an outreach and he said, “Hey, she is the mother of my best friend.” This young man listened intently as I taught and participated in discussions, prayed out and asked questions. One of the staff told me the last night I was there, that he had not prayed out during the school and this week they felt was a breakthrough for him. I could tell as I interacted with him that it was significant that I knew part of his story and was able to affirm how excited his adoptive parents were to have he and his sisters join their family. God never ceases to amaze me how he cares for us so specifically and is able to weave our stories together in ways we could not imagine. We truly have an amazing Father, who cares so deeply for His children.



### Stewardship News

Our offerings totaled \$106,689.86 through the third quarter of the year. By comparison our offerings totaled \$122,616.33 through the third quarter of 2015. Most of the difference comes from the Winter Fund Raisers. The 2015 Winter Fund Raiser generated \$20,605 versus the 2016 total of \$6,434. The regular giving is about \$2,000 less in 2016 in comparison to 2015 when subtracting the dedicated Winter Fund Raisers. September giving totaled \$10,279.18 versus \$11,655 in 2015. Net rental income was \$10,771.77 through the end of August. Our net rental income continues making up for the decline in our regular giving. The rental properties are a very important source of funds for our finances.

Our General Fund began the year with \$75,388.90. At the end of August it stood at \$79,000.49. Contributions from the McMullin Fund, the net rentals and other miscellaneous income, such as the Golf Outing, have also contributed to the balance. We have also been utilizing our anonymous contributions designated for specific purposes to assist us with physical upgrades such as the new carillon and the King of Kings program. Expenditures are tracking below budget by approximately \$3,000 as of August 31.

November is Stewardship Month and as you can see we must all step up with our time, talent and treasure. We must “Continue Rowing Together” to meet our budgetary needs in 2016.

Kirk Conover  
Stewardship Chair



## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has begun meeting to select Trustees, Elders, and Deacons. Please prayerfully consider serving if you are called. This is a very important time for the leadership of our church and if you are called it is because we have the utmost confidence that you can perform the tasks before you. Remember "with Christ all things are possible".

In His Service,  
Dawn Duran, chairperson



## Fellowship Committee

Breakfast is still being served every Sunday morning at 8:30AM. The cost is still only \$3 for adults and \$2 for children ages 12 and under, the best price in town! Our cooks, set up, and clean up people work very hard and we always have the faithful few that come out and enjoy our breakfast, but we need more people to come out to make it worth continuing. Please come join us each Sunday morning.

Thank you to all who helped out with and/or came to the Applefest on Oct 14th. The turnout was a little low but a good time was had by all that attended. A special thank you to Bill Hoesten for cooking the hotdogs, Doris Wood for making the sauerkraut, Kris Jenoriki for making 4 huge trays of apple crisp, and Felix and James for donating this year's addition of baked beans and chili. Also, thanks to all who donated "apple" baked goods, ice cream, or whipped topping. And of course, thank you to John Channell and the "Applepickers" for the wonderful music.

Our next congregational event will be held in December. John Taylor will be singing at our concert and there will be a dessert reception following the concert. Please see the attached flyer for details.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,  
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



## Evergreens November 16, 12 Noon

Evergreens will meet Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at noon for their sandwich luncheon. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Please note this is the 3rd Wednesday due to Thanksgiving. Our guest will be Joelynn, from Fischer Flowers, who is a flower designer and very artistic. Let's have a good attendance and invite a friend.

## **Lunch Bunch Wednesday, November 9**

Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Wednesday, November 9th, at Romanelli's on Rt. 9 in Galloway. Van will leave church at 11:30 for those who need a ride.



## **Property Committee Report**

The Property Committee met on Sep 20<sup>th</sup>. Items of discussion were; the Carillon is out for service and will be back in service by the end of the month. New entry carpet will be installed soon for vestibule and narthex. Refrigerator and freezer are new and have been in service and working as advertised. There are other small repair jobs that are being handled at this time.

We will be purchasing a snow blower for the church to use this winter. If anyone is interested with helping with snow removal using the snow blower, please contact me.

Many Thanks to all the volunteers that came out on Sat Oct 15<sup>th</sup> for fall cleanup day. We are blessed to have the people that come out to these events to help keep our beautiful church looking so good. Thanks again for all of your hard work.

God Bless to all,  
Dan Hughes  
Property Committee Chairman

## **2017 Planning Calendar**

Our 2017 planning calendar is now hanging in the church office. All chairmen and group leaders are encouraged to update this when scheduling meetings and/or events. (Please use the water-soluble marker provided.)

And remember, our online calendar linked to our website is updated regularly and available 24/7. This is a great planning tool when groups and committees are scheduling in advance!





## Re-Introducing – John Taylor - -

Taylor is truly a dedicated servant of the Lord. He has an unflinching faith, not bowing to winds of compromise. His purpose, to present the gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian music. “I want to be the Christian music version of Billy Graham.”

“I want to present to my Lord, barrels of crowns to lay at his feet when I stand before him on that glorious day”.

His vocal range is indeed profound and dramatic. He sings from the depths of his spirit. “The music I sing has to minister to me first. It must glorify Jesus Christ and magnify his love, grace, compassion and forgiveness.”

“My relationship with Jesus had come in my early years. I was a prayer warrior. I could pray and now I could sing.”

John sang his way through high school. During those years he won competitions for Male Popular Vocalist of New Jersey and the following year Male Classical Vocalist of New Jersey. The same person in two separate categories had never been done before. He also performed in Cole Porter and George Gershwin revues as well as tenor and baritone soloist in 'The Messiah, works from John Michael Talbott and Vivaldi's Requiem with the New Jersey Symphony. John states, “I sang for three different services and churches traveling between them on Sundays. I sang in Catholic and Protestant churches with diverse congregations and developed a love for different styles of music from the more reverent traditional hymns to fast paces African American gospel songs.”

Over the years John has sung for Presidents Ford, Reagan and Bush as well as Bob Hope, General and Mrs. Westmorland, Dick Clark, Ed McMahon and many Governors, Senators and Statesmen. Taylor, now a recording artist, has offered his musical talent at Fort Dix for many years. He has performed with the Gaithers Christmas Concert in Philadelphia, bringing 35,000 people to their feet, and has been a “sought-after” soloist at the Ocean City Tabernacle for many years.

Indeed, we are blessed to call him a “long-time friend” of our church. Do plan to be blessed by his concert in our Sanctuary this Dec. 9 (Fri.) at 7pm, and enjoy meeting him at the lovely dessert reception following.

Planned by your Fellowship Committee,  
Dawn Duran, Chair.

Plan ahead <sup>now</sup> for our CHRISTMAS  
CONGREGATIONAL EVENT:

**JOHN TAYLOR** ---  
in concert!!!



FRI-DEC. 9<sup>th</sup>



AT 7:00 pm

(A lovely Dessert Reception  
to follow...)

Tickets IN ADVANCE **ONLY**  
starting on SUN. - NOV. 13<sup>th</sup> ---  
(\$10 - Adults \$3 - 18+ Under & All students)

See Joanie ASAP - 641-1839 - Sorry, no refunds

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ALL SEATS ARE RESERVED: HANDICAPPED always given  
preference --- (BUT) you are WELCOME + ENCOURAGED to  
request your "favorite" spots well in advance - thus making  
it easier for Joan. Cash preferred - Help us to avoid requests  
to pay AT THE CONCERT - An eve of BLESSINGS awaits us all!!!



I want to thank the Deacons for the lovely fruit basket. I also want to thank everyone for the prayers during my recent cancer diagnoses. I have had my surgery follow up appointment and was told there was very little cancer found and there is no need for chemo. GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS!!!

Patti Morris

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Just a note to thank everyone for your cards and prayers following my sister Mae's death.

Elaine Risley

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Many thanks for the beautiful prayer shawl, cards, thoughts, and prayers on the passing of my sister Rose Smith.

God bless you,  
Olga Davies

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Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer wish to thank the deacons for the lovely fruit basket received during Ron's recent illness. They are pleased to report he is feeling much better and are glad to be back in their usual pew on Sundays.

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**Remember, Deadlines are Important!**

- Sunday bulletin announcements – Noon Wednesday
- “The Presby Post” (Friday email) – Noon Thursday
- “Good News” (monthly newsletter) – the 20th of the month

All articles are to be **in writing** and submitted to the office (email preferred) by the due date. Please keep in mind it may be necessary to edit articles due to space limitations in our printed publications.



## Serving in November

### Lay Assistants

06 David Burgess  
13  
20  
27

### Head Ushers

06 Vic & Rita Abelson  
13 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas  
20 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd  
27 Bob & Barbara Hudak

### Offering

06 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale  
13 Jack & Dee Heil  
20 Tina Brown, Greg Hamaty  
27 Roy Birkbeck, Jo-ann Weller

### Acolyte

06 Franklin Nale  
13 Kassie Little  
20 Jackson Harvey  
27 Jacob Sabo

### Nursery

06 Jennifer Platt  
13 Gloria Achamizo  
20 Jennifer Platt  
27 Gloria Achamizo

### Deacon of the Month

Betsy Eberhard

### Van Drivers

06 John Channell  
13 Dirk Williamson  
20 Tina Brown  
27 Vic Abelson

### Refreshment Hosts

06 Anna Mae & Vic Werner, Fran Weir,  
Kathy Boyte  
13 Dawn Duran, Ruth Champion  
20 Jack & dee Heil, Karen Muldoon  
27 Fellowship Committee

### Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

06 Set-up –  
Cook – Melvin Washington  
Clean-up – Ginny Davenport  
13 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki  
Cook – John Channell  
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson  
20 Set-up – Donna Hughes  
Cook – Bill Hoesten  
Clean-up – Dirk Williamson  
27 Set-up –  
Cook – Leo Ransone  
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

### Counter Schedule

06 Barbara & Bob Hudak  
13 Debbie & Don Wong  
20 Barb & Dan Hughes  
27 Leo Ransone, Nancy Conover