



NOVEMBER 2017

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

By Tom Dendy

2 Thessalonians 1:3 -- We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

As your pastor I say, "Thanks be to God and each one of you who make Celebration Presbyterian Church the wonderfully warm and welcoming church that we are." I am grateful for the many ways that you generously and faithfully live and give to worship God and to serve others through the ministry and mission of CPC. God has blessed us and has allowed us to be partners in blessing others through our programs and our people out in the community making a difference in the lives of neighbors and strangers. On Christ the King Sunday, November 26, I begin my seventh year as your pastor and I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us as we finish 2017 and enter 2018 together. I love you all and am deeply humbled to serve alongside each of you here at CPC. God is amazing and so are each of you!

In Christ's Service, Pastor Tom

Our HYMN OF THE MONTH for November is **Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**, hymn number **648** in our Glory to God Hymnal. This canticle for use at the close of worship comes from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and is included in our Glory to God Hymnal in honor of the full communion agreement between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The biblical basis of the hymn's text is Psalm 105:1-3, 42-45 and it concludes with echoes of Isaiah 55:12. The hymn's was written by John W. Arthur © 1970 and the music was written by Ronald A. Nelson © 1978.

The hymn text is as follows: Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

THANKS-LIVING -- If there was a drug with no negative side effects that helped you eat healthier, exercise more, experience less depression, and sleep better, how long would it last in the pharmacy? We would flock to doctors for prescriptions. The pharmaceutical company would have a hit. It may not be a drug, but **gratitude** may be as important to your health as nutrition. Let's look at some of the benefits. People described as thankful tend to: Eat healthier, Develop stronger immune systems, Experience more energy, Demonstrate optimism and mental acuity, Cope with stress better, Describe life with high satisfaction, Exercise regularly, Solve difficult mental challenges easier, Have deeper friendships, Sleep better, Have increased self-worth and self-esteem, Show increased productivity and Enjoy work and perform better on the job.

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Pastor Tom Dendy

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SESSION UPDATE

By Pastor Tom

Holy Communion will be served November 5, 2017. Next Stated Session Meeting is November 19, 2017 at 12:30 pm.

Following are the actions from the October Session meeting:

Elder Alexander gave a detailed explanation of the church's finances. We are still recovering from the summer lull. Everyone can help by catching up on their pledges. The budget process for next year is beginning, and it will be our first year with no Presbytery support. Please pray for all involved in working through the budgeting process, and please turn in your pledges on dedication Sunday, or by October 31 to the church office.

The next movie night will feature the movie "War Room" — date to be announced later.

- Elder Mulligan prepared an informational card to be displayed in neighborhood community centers or bulletin boards. If your community has a "Next Door" website, we'd love for you to post an invitation to our church. See Elder Mulligan if you would like a card to post or the information to post. Let's support getting the word about Celebration out to all of our neighborhoods.
- Savings account balances are lower than they have been in several years. Elder Alexander continues to closely monitor church spending. The Session covets your prayers for a bountiful stewardship campaign. We are blessed to have the careful attention of Elder Alexander watching over our finances.
- The Preschool continues to see increased activity at the Lunch Bunch Sessions. Bernie Pettijohn will be chairing the Preschool Board. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Preschool Board. If you are interested, talk to Bernie. The Board meets once per month and is an important support to our Preschool program.
- Celebration hosted the October New Harmony Presbytery meeting. We had about 100 folks from all over our Presbytery in our church. A special thanks to Nancy and Mike Resnick for the outstanding job they did planning breakfast and boxed lunches for all these folks. From set up, to parking, to greeting with hugs for all, to our wonderful choir performing, to serving and clean up, everyone really pitched in to make the day a great success. We received a letter of thanks from New Harmony Presbytery for the excellent job we did in accommodating so many people and making everyone feel welcome. Thanks to everyone who helped, and to Pastor Tom for his vision in wanting to make this happen.
- Attendees of the Presbytery Meeting were invited to bring a food donation to Helping Hand, one of our local food banks. It is with great joy that I report 336 pounds of food was collected for this great cause.
- At the Presbytery meeting, our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Bruce Ford was honorably retired. Bruce has been a loving support to us and he will be missed, but will always be our friend.
- A blood drive is planned for November 1 from 3-7:30. Blood is a gift that can save three people's lives with one donation. A soup dinner will be provided for donors. Contact Nanette Kelly to make an appointment. Please support this important cause.
- Don't forget to support Belk Charity Days. Coupons were sold by the youth October 22 and 29. Funds raised will be used to send youth to Camp Pee Dee. Remember to use your coupon at Belk on Saturday, November 4.
- This year, the Session voted not to host the "Celebrate the Child" Sunday in 2017.
- The Session is in discussion of fundraising ideas for next year that will engage our community. If you are interested in fundraising, please be ready to volunteer next year!
- Elder Evans proposed an innovative approach to Ash Wednesday. Celebration will offer "Drive Through Ashes". Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, so we will offer a chance for a blessing and ashes by simply driving through our parking lot. Pastor Tom and Commissioned Ruling Elder in Training Cecilia Evans will be in our parking lot from 5-6pm for anyone to drive up and receive a blessing and ashes.
- Kudos to Pastor Tom for building our new sign that announces our anniversary and invites folks to worship.
- The Session voted to pledge support to New Harmony Presbytery for 2018.

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YOUTH

By Cecilia Evans and Jackie Sinnet

See the Page 8 for information on the upcoming Sneakers for Santa collection and the Polar Express.

Thank you to those who purchased Belk Charity Days tickets. Remember to use your ticket on November 4, 2017 from 6-10am.

MISSIONS

By Cecilia Evans

One of my favorite things each month is reflecting on the impact Celebration members have on the community each day. Whether it is a smile, a card or helping hand, all we give is important in the mission and outreach of the church. This month we had Bob Miller, Ken Krenzer, Judy Leonard, and Donna Woodard wrap up the Pelicans season working 59 games and donating their wages to the church. Thank you for your hard work and dedication working at the Third Base Grill throughout the summer.

A lot of our missions are based around food: Shepherd's Table, Meals on Wheels and Helping Hands. At the 90th meeting, of the New Harmony Presbytery, we extended our Helping Hand ministry and asked for participants to bring canned goods. Through this outreach we collected 336 pounds; this is in addition to the 750 pounds we had previously donated to Helping Hand.

As we continue into the holiday season we will kick-off on Wednesday, November 1, 3-7:30 PM with an American Red Cross Blood Drive. When one pint of blood can help to save up to three lives it is a great way to engage and give back to the community. Light refreshments will be served.

Sneakers for Santa is one of our favorite times of the year. We get to pair all those socks collected in July with a nice pair of new shoes for Christmas to give to children in the area. As you are out shopping those holiday sales look for some sneakers for this great cause.

Relay for Life has reached out early this year with incentive for early registration for the April 14, 2018 event at Market Common Valor Park. If interested in joining the team, please register by October 31, 2017. You may win a two-night stay at the Double Tree by Hilton. Questions? Contact Nanette Kelly.

LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler

Our October luncheon brought us to California Dreaming, a first for us. Our hostess was Carol Stepanek. Thanks, Carol, for making the arrangements.

There were 16 Ladybugs in attendance. We were happy to have Cindy Smith with us as she started her new job and is currently working the 4-12 shift.

We collected \$150.00 for charity and it went directly to the Salvation Army earmarked for the Puerto Rico victims of Hurricane Maria and the victims of the Las Vegas Massacre.

There were some serious and some not so serious conversations going on. There was also one incident of throwing, but no names will be revealed. A good time was had by all.

The next lunch will be Thursday, November 2, at noon, at Carolina Ale House, located at 2915 Hollywood Drive in Myrtle Beach (at the former site of Planet Hollywood). Judy Leonard will be our hostess. So we know how many to plan for, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invited.....hope to see you there.

VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

Elder of the Week:

Nov 5—Nancy Torcivia

Nov 12—Joe Alexander

Nov 19—Carol Butler

Nov 26—Cecilia Evans

Liturgist

Nov 5-Priscilla Mulligan

Nov 12—Carol Butler

Nov 19—Carla Baker

Nov 26—Kathy Wechter

Visitors Table/Greeter

Nov 5—Nanette Kelly

Nov 12-Priscilla Mulligan

Nov 19-

Nov 26—Barbara Barranco

Pre K -Kindergarten Children's

Church- Tonja Paolini

Children's Church Grades 1-5

Trudy Miller

Nursery

Nov 5—Donna Woodard

Nov 12—Betsy Hughes

Nov 19—Nanette Kelly

Nov 26-Donna Woodard

Media Shout

Nov 5—Katrena White

Nov 12—Katrena White

Nov 19—Bernadine Lamar

Nov 26-Katrena White

Sound Booth

Nov 5-Nicklaus McIlrath

Nov 12—Carol Butler

Nov 19—Carol Butler

Nov 26-Nicklaus McIlrath

Ushers for the month of November

Corey Jacobs, Margaret Reeder, Beth

Bruton, Barb Johnson

Communion for November—

Rick Thornburgh, Joe Alexander, Ken

Krenzer, Donna Woodard





ADOPT A GARDEN

By Barbara Barranco

Now is your chance to adopt one of our church gardens! I am now retiring from five years overseeing the church gardens, the sprinkler schedule, and the church work days as well as tending the perennial garden. The perennial gardens were started by others and it's been my joy to keep them colorful and interesting year-round. I'm hoping there are some fellow gardeners who would enjoy taking care of at least one church garden to keep our church grounds looking fabulous!

If you look around, you may note several gardens—some little parking lot beds, some medium, and some larger. On the left are two: the top photo is part of our perennial garden by the church entrance, and on the bottom photo is the bed of drift roses surrounding the entrance posts.

Get your family together and volunteer, or ask some friends to join you in a gardening adventure. The gardens will be yours to tend, weed, fertilize, prune, and add plants as you desire! See me after church or call me at 843-421-9438 and I'll be glad to give you a tour of the gardens!

THORNWELL

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, we will receive a special Thanksgiving Offering for Thornwell during morning worship. Founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875, Thornwell is a joyful Christian community, offering hope and wholeness to children and families. Its goals are to provide loving homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children, to offer an opportunity for healing by providing proper healthcare and mental health counseling for every Thornwell child, and to offer Thornwell's children hope for a successful future by providing educational support and teaching self-advocacy. Remember to save your Box Tops for Education. They help purchase items for Thornwell children.



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BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Take a moment to wish those who have a birthday this month birthday wishes or send them a card.

If your birthday is not listed, please let Linda Berry in the office know.

3—Talita Ikahihifo-Bender

8—Karolyn Davey

10-Donna Woodard

10-Kasey Watson

11—Missy Kiser

19—Gail Alexander

19—Dalton Coleman

20-Bob Miller

21—Thomas Bender

21—Martha Schmidt

22-Ken Deubler

22—Carol Mitchell

25—June Marcus

26—Tiffany Dunn





HELPING HAND

Thank you! We collected 336 pounds of food for Helping Hand during the Presbytery Meeting on October 10. That brings our total to date of 1086 pounds of food. Thank you so much for your generosity to help those in our area who need assistance.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Joe Alexander

September total unrestricted income was \$61,664 which included Preschool registration fees for the school year of \$15,700. Total September expenses were \$46,619 for a net profit of \$15,045. The first nine months of the year total income was \$379,216 vs total expenses of \$391,602 for a YTD net loss of \$12,386. Although this YTD net loss is below the budgeted net loss of \$15,534, we will need to work towards changing this to a positive income situation. Stewardship is one of the ways we can make a difference.



PRESCHOOL

By Susan Spraker



Our October was so much fun. All the children, parents and siblings braved the heat and enjoyed the trip to Thompson Farm. We had over 200 people attend—our largest group to date. This was the perfect way to end our Down on the Farm theme. The end of the month was spent celebrating Halloween. Everyone was so excited to share what they were dressing up as for the big day. Our parties this year were a big success.

November will bring our annual Thanksgiving Feast to the preschool with turkey, sweet potato chips, cornbread muffins (provided by Ms. Jeanne) and a friendship fruit salad made from the fruit brought in by each of our students. Preschool will be closed November 22-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

I hope everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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Report on Presbytery meeting held October 10, 2017 at Celebration Presbyterian Church by Elder Terry Pettijohn

After the Call to Order with Prayer, a worship service was held. Pastor Tom then welcomed everyone and spoke briefly about Celebration. A main focus was the Committee on Ministry's Honorable Retirement program for Bruce Ford, our Executive Presbyter, who retires in January. Most of the meeting consisted of reports of committees. Long Range Planning Committee presented a plan to reorganize Presbytery, and discussion suggested there would be changes in the plan. The 2018 preliminary Budget was also presented. And the Program Council reported on Camping Ministry and Presbyterian Men. A report from Board of Pensions stated the Housing Allowance for ministers was ruled unconstitutional in Wisconsin, and ramifications for all churches was discussed. A box lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by reports on preparation for ministry, nominating committee, administrative commissions. Ella Busby had positive things to say about Celebration. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Tom.

Elder Pettijohn's Reflections on Per Capita

The official definition: "Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians" (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

Per capita is just a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA.). It is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund -- part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

We pay dues to the organizations to which we belong. Per capita is basically our dues to the church. It is a tradition in the Presbyterian Church going back to Philadelphia in 1734. Congregations (through their sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member -- per capita apportionment -- to their respective presbyteries. The per capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation's presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly -- based on their respective budgets for the coming year.

At each GA, the per capita rate is set by dividing the total GA-approved budget by the total PC(USA) church membership. At the GA level, per capita helps to pay for sending commissioners to GA, training events, exams for future pastors, various committees, some expenses of the moderator, the historical society, and interchurch events. At Synod and Presbytery levels, per capita pays for administration and programs for members. Per capita makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we do. Our Constitution provides a moral and theological compass that builds community and calls us to Christian faithfulness in gratitude to God.

For <u>2018 the per capita</u> (dues per person) that <u>Celebration pays amounts to \$13.99</u>. This is broken down into \$4.76 for our <u>Presbytery</u>, \$1.50 for our <u>Synod</u>, and \$7.73 for our <u>General Assembly</u>. Each year, each church is asked to pay its fair share. Our share is \$13.99 per person. Celebration pays per capita for each member each year. But since many of us do not come from a Presbyterian background, we might not be aware of the per capita system of dues. In many Presbyterian churches, members are asked to pay per capita over and above their estimate of giving pledges as this helps the church focus on its main mission.

Those people who would like to help Celebration Church by paying their own yearly dues (in addition to their pledges) are greatly appreciated. Just write a check for \$13.99 per person to Celebration Presbyterian Church. Thank you.

NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Blood Drive 3:-7:30pm	LadyBug Luncheon Coastal Ale House 12pm	3	4
Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church COMMUNION	6	7 Quilters 10am	8 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	9 Team B cooks at The Shepherd's Table Thanks- giving Potluck Dinner 6-8pm	10	11
12Adult Bible Study 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church He~Brews Café	13	14 Quilters 10am	Choir Rehearsal 7pm	Team E cooks at The Shepherd's Table	Breakfast Buddies Early Riser Diner 9am	18
19 Adult Bible Study 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church He~Brews Café Thanksgiving Offering STATED SESSION MEETING 12:15	20	21 Quilters 10am	Church Office Closed Preschool Closed 22-24	THANKS-GIVING	Preschool Closed	25
26 Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Quilters 10am	Choir Rehearsal 7pm	30		
10:00am Fellowship 10:15 <i>Worship 11am</i> Children's Church	in your nam	JABEZ —"Oh that we. That your hand we se hurt to others."	would be with us an		d keep us from	

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PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED

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Successful people practice gratitude. After all, I don't see how you can be called successful if you aren't happy and thankful for all life has to offer. Here are five ways to cultivate an "attitude of gratitude":

- 1. Write it down. Keep a gratitude journal. Try it for 30 days. Be specific about what you are thankful for. Watch how your thoughts develop over time. You may start out simply, but when you add stories and color, it becomes more powerful.
- **2. Talk about it.** Sharing what you are thankful for isn't just for Thanksgiving. Make it a habit to talk about what you are grateful for all year long. It will reinforce your feelings.
- **3. Meditate.** Whether you regularly meditate or not, take a break a few times a day. Focus on a spirit of thankfulness. Who are you thankful for? Bring the person to mind. Imagine your life surrounded with blessings.
- **4. Express it.** Find that teacher who made a difference in your life, and tell him. Write a personal note and tell a long lost friend what she meant to you.
- **5. Seek it.** If you want to be thankful, get around people with that characteristic. Some people just bubble over with enthusiasm and gratitude for life. I once met an elderly lady who was exuberant about life. She was in a nursing home and could have complained for hours. Instead, she welcomed me into her room and started telling me about the birds outside her window. She was thankful for their company, for their song in the morning, and for their vibrant colors. As I listened to her, I realized that I wanted that special spark. -- © Skip Prichard



SESSION UPDATE CONTINUED

(Continued from Page 2)

- Thanks to the Nominating Committee: Elders Ken Krenzer and Priscilla Mulligan, and congregants Terry Baker, Bob Miller, and Kathy Wechter. The committee worked very hard to find members willing to serve on the Session in 2018. Terry Pettijohn was elected to fill a vacancy for the Class of 2018 and Cecilia Evans and Nancy Torcivia were elected to the Class of 2020. If you have a calling to be on the Session, please talk to Pastor Tom or any Elder. We would love to expand the size of the Session, and training and support is provided for new Elders.
- The Technology and Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with social media, website, and other technology projects. If you are willing to serve, please speak with Nancy Torcivia.
- Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, and the Session is considering combining Sunday morning worship and Candlelight Services.
- We were blessed with a \$10,000 gift to the Endowment Fund.
- Remember friends, Celebration spreads the love of Jesus when we all unite in spreading the word about our loving church. When you see a visitor, welcome and love them. When you have a chance, invite someone to church.
- It has been scientifically proven that people who are prayed for do better than those who are not prayed for, even if they don't know someone is praying for them. Can you please remember to pray for your church, for Pastor Tom, for your Session, and for all the beautiful people who are Celebration Presbyterian Church. Blessings to you all!

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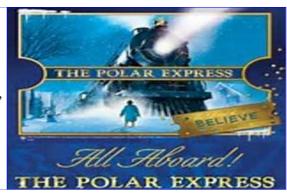
POINSETTIAS

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Celebrate the season by enhancing our sanctuary with a Christmas Poinsettia.

It is now time to place our order for the Christmas Poinsettias. This year we will be ordering a red poinsettia for \$10.00 per plant. The poinsettias will decorate the church for the Christmas season. Order forms will be available in the bulletins each Sunday in November. More information will be available in the weekly CPC updates.

On Friday, December 1, 6:30-8:30 pm. Celebration Presbyterian Church will host **The Polar Express experience**. Children of all ages are welcome. Please plan for the children to come in their PJs to have a fun-filled evening, including pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, a magical story of the Polar Express, crafts and more. The cost is \$10 per child, parents and children under 2 are free. Please RSVP by signing up on the Celebration website by November 26. Space is limited. Look forward to seeing you there.



We will be collecting **new**Sneakers for Santa during the month of November. These will go with the socks we collected earlier this year. We would like to focus on middle and high school age children this year but you can also get smaller sizes for the younger children. Last year we collected 100 pairs and would like to meet or exceed that number this year.







PROVIDES KIDS THAT DO NOT HAVE SHOES WITH A NEW PAIR FOR CHRISTMAS

WHEN: NOVEMBER

SHOES WILL BE COLLECTED AT
CHURCH &
DISTRIBUTED BY THE
SALVATION ARMY





HOSPITALITY

By Nancy Resnick

Hospitality has planned a **Thanksgiving themed potluck dinner** on Thursday, November 9, from 6-8pm. There is a signup sheet for you to indicate how many will be attending and what dish you would like to bring to share. Make plans to come and fellowship with one another here at Celebration.



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Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor
Sarah Abushakra—Music Director
Linda Berry—Office Administrator



CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

We are Christ followers who are open, accepting, loving and welcoming to all!



CELEBRATION LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 9, 2017 AT 12PM AT THE PINE LAKES COUNTRY CLUB \$25 PER PERSON INCLUDES TAX AND GRATUITY

Meal includes your choice of entrée, a garden salad, roasted red potatoes, sautéed green beans, rolls, butter, chocolate mousse with raspberry, iced tea and coffee

Entrée Choices: Lemon Herb Salmon, Petite Filet, or Chicken Franchase

PLEASE SIGN UP ON SHEET IN THE NARTHEX ALONG WITH YOUR ENTRÉE SELECTION. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CPC AND GIVE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR NANCY RESNICK.

WE ARE ASKING EACH PERSON TO BRING AN UNWRAPPED CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR EITHER A GIRL OR BOY, AGES BIRTH THROUGH 11 YEARS OLD.