

TO MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

FOCUS

Albemarle Road Presbyterian Church

6740 Albemarle Road • P. O. Box 25903 • Charlotte, NC 28229-5903 • Telephone 704-537-1204
Fax 704-537-1284 • www.arpcusa.org • Email: newsletter@arpcusa.org

Communion Worship - 8:00 a.m. * Praise Breakfast - 8:30 a.m. * Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. * Worship 10:30 a.m.

Volume 44, No. 11

November 2009

Stewardship 2010 'Tis the Gift to be Simple



Dear People of God at ARPC,

The past year has not been an easy time financially for many in our church family. Stress - fear - anxiety are the words that capture the state of mind of many across our entire nation. In recent history we have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies. Even though we are told it is coming to an end, we are continually confronted with another piece of economic uncertainty.

Think about this: A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO GOD'S PEOPLE THROUGH ALL OF THIS? This will be our focus during our Stewardship Season on Sundays, November 8, 15, and 22. Titled 'Tis the Gift to be Simple,' we will critique a society that tells us "you deserve it," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it. But we will also celebrate the joy of Jesus Christ as we obey God's call to live simply and generously. Each Sunday we will hear sermons and personal testimonies that will help us deal with these issues most of us struggle with at one time or another.

On Commitment Sunday, November 22, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our tithes and offerings to God through ARPC in the coming year.

Our Schedule

DATE

Sunday, November 8
Sunday, November 15
Sunday, November 22

SERMON

"Faith in the Midst of Financial Crisis"
"Defined by Generosity"
COMMITMENT SUNDAY!
"Cultivating Contentment"

On November 22, a Thanksgiving Breakfast for all will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center. All adults will join for a teaching by Adam Jackson titled "Wisdom and Finance." You will be invited to bring your commitment cards forward to the Lord's Table during the 10:30 Worship Service.

I eagerly look forward to sharing this time with you. As the great reformer Martin Luther reminded us, "if the gospel doesn't relate to where we really live, it is not the gospel."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ron



Sympathy

Love and sympathy are extended to Ginger and Wirt Neale and their family on the death of Ginger's mother, Mrs. Oma Crooke, on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Mrs. Crooke had been an ARPC member since 1973.

Thank You

The Neale Family greatly appreciates the many prayers, cards, wonderful food, and personal encounters that were so warmly provided to us by our friends at ARPC during the recent loss of Ginger's mother, Oma Crooke. The Celebration of Life service for her was wonderful. We so appreciate Ron and Rob providing this very memorable service, as well as the beautiful contribution from Sandy and Annette. We thank God for all of the wonderful members at ARPC!

Address Changes

Please make the following address changes in your new pictorial directory and also in your PW directory:

Ross, Kim and Caleb Shearer
106 Stuart Avenue, Apt. #2
Downingtown, PA 19335
Telephone (same): 706-580-7546

Bobbie Carder
White Oak Manor, Room 18E
4009 Craig Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28211

Regan and Stacie McGuirt & Carson
2901 Oakley Woods Lane
Apex, NC 27539

FOCUS DEADLINE

Items are due on the
20th of each month at 10 a.m.
Mark this on your calendar
for each month.

Serving ARPC in November

NURSERY

Sunday School

Nov. 1 Nancy Parker, Susan Culbreth
Nov. 8 Ginger Blackwelder, Robin Silipigni
Nov. 15 Nancy McLemore, Martha Blackmon
Nov. 22 Diann Pallman, Debra Stavrakas
Nov. 29 Kim and Mike Hall

Worship

Nov. 1 Ronnie and Margie White
Cam and Maria Harne
Nov. 8 Bill and Diann McGuirt
Rick and Darlene Penninger
Nov. 15 Dan and Lee Shearer
Tony and Bonnie Nodine
Nov. 22 Bandy and Marty Margeson
Sarah Tate, Jennifer Yelton
Nov. 29 Karin and Phil Boling
Polly and Jason Rowell

Children's Church

Nov. 1 Robin and Joe Silipigni
Nov. 8 Kim and Adam Jackson
Nov. 15 Nichole and Troy Disser
Nov. 22 Keela and Matt Shoosmith
Nov. 29 Mary Ann and Josh Ogle

HEAD USHERS AND ASSISTANTS

Nov. 1 Eddie Massey, Vickie Massey
Nov. 8 Eddie Massey, Vickie Massey
Nov. 15 Eddie Massey, Vickie Massey
Nov. 22 Eddie Massey, Vickie Massey
Nov. 29 Marilyn Michue, Ray Michue

Elder of the month: John Walls

Recent Illnesses

Ben Wilson
Evelyn Freeman
Jane Hutchko
Ron Hill

Our Faithfulness for October 2009	10/04/09	10/11/09	10/18/09
2009 Budget to date	\$373,174.00	382,503.35	391,832.70
Received toward Budget to date	296,974.90	301,854.65	314,483.65
Received on Budget per Sunday	12,253.45	4,879.75	12,629.00
Needed per Sunday	9,329.35	9,329.35	9,329.35
Church School Attendance	82	97	107
Worship Attendance	193	213	207
2009 Building Maintenance Fund:			
Received toward pledge to date	\$25,557.96	26,051.96	26,472.46
Received per Sunday	928.50	494.00	420.50

October 5¢-a-Meal Offerings (thru October 18) total \$252.88

November 5¢-a-Meal Offerings will be collected Sunday, November 1, 2009.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Rob Chambers

Parenting in the Pew

We are just finishing up a five-week study during Sunday School of the book "Parenting in the Pew." The author's premise is that parents are the best ones to teach their children to worship and it is their sacred responsibility. My prayer has been that this book would impact not only how our children worship, but also how their parents worship. This continues to be my prayer. Worship is a wonderful privilege that God has given us. It is the most important activity that we do. It should be a way of life as well as something that we gather to do together as a church on Sunday mornings. Worshipping with others wholeheartedly, expressing your love to God and experiencing God's love is the greatest experience we will have in this lifetime.

I pray that you will see parents in our congregation sitting with their children, intent on helping their children pay attention and participate fully in the worship service. High-school students and middle-school students ought to have the maturity and self-discipline to do this with just a little encouragement. For a four-year-old it is

another story. If you see a parent with a wiggly child, whispering to this child, having them stand in the pew when the congregation stands, and putting the hymnal and Bible in front of the child at the appropriate times, and have them look at the book as if they were reading along as well; say a little prayer for that parent. If the child is noisy and a little distracting, be patient. God is at work and busy constructing a new worshipper. Construction can be a little noisy and messy sometimes.

I also pray that we would all pay attention, and participate in every part of the worship service with all of our hearts. How could I not worship fervently the One who created me, died on a cross to save me from my sins, keeps me alive moment by moment, and loves me more than I have ever loved anything in my whole life? It is the least I could do, and it is the best I can do.

Worshipping the living God in spirit and in truth — it is our duty, our calling, and our privilege. Let us join together and bless God and one another with fervent worship. Amen.

ARPC Youth Mission Statement: Our mission is to

pursue a growing relationship with God daily as we pray, worship, study, fellowship, serve and witness.



Youth News

For years I have tried to create a small group of committed disciples with our youth. Though we have done many good things with our youth over the years, I do not feel that I have ever quite achieved this. I think we are getting close this year with both the SYC and the MYC. The Youth have made solemn vows that they will be committed disciples of Jesus Christ. The next step is to help them see that this also means committing to one another and encouraging one another to keep their focus on following Jesus Christ and following through on their commitment. I challenge you youth to follow through, and I ask you parents to encourage them. I ask everyone to pray for our youth, that they will be true disciples of Jesus Christ, grow, and make a difference in the world. Pray that our youth would know true fellowship in Jesus Christ, and they would learn to love one another as they learn to love and obey Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 1

Regular Sunday night meetings: 5 - 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 8

Regular Sunday night meetings: 5 - 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, November 14 - 15

SYC Camping

Sunday, November 15

Regular Sunday night meetings: 5 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 21

Church work day. All youth are invited to join their church in cleaning and maintaining the place where we come together to worship and be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, November 22

Regular Sunday night meetings 5 - 7 p.m.

Friday, November 27

SYC Operation Christmas Child

Sunday November 29

NO Sunday night meetings

Saturday, December 5

MYC paint ball?

Sunday, December 6

Regular Sunday night meetings: 5 - 7 p.m.

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias/ Wreaths

Take part in helping us decorate our campus and buildings with poinsettias and wreaths. You can order them by filling out the form below and dropping it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office with your check if you are interested in participating. The cost per plant is \$7.50 and per wreath is \$15.00. Make checks payable to ARPC marked for "Poinsettias" or "Wreaths." Orders and money should be turned in by Sunday, November 8. Wreaths will be placed on the campus on November 28. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 6. A list of all memorial and honor gifts will be published in the December 6 bulletin. Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.

Poinsettia/Wreath Order Form

I will give _____ Poinsettias at \$7.50 each.

I will give _____ Wreaths at \$15.00 each

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering

Presbyterian Women will celebrate the 2009 Thank Offering on Sunday, November 22, 2009, during the worship service. This is a yearly offering we take to support approximately 27 projects throughout the year. These projects, both in the United States and abroad, must meet several criteria to be selected. Two recipients selected from our Synod in 2008 were for projects in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, and Elberton, Georgia. Special Thank Offering envelopes will be available for your contribution. We ask for your prayers and gifts for these most worthwhile Presbyterian Women ministries. Thank you.

Susan Culbreth
PW Special Giving Coordinator

A Note from Rob Chambers

Thanks to all for your prayers and well wishes. FYI - I have prostate cancer that will be treated aggressively. On November 16 or 19, they will perform surgery to remove the prostate. This will be followed by hormonal therapy, radiation, and chemotherapy. The good news is that soon I should be cancer free.

God Bless you all,
Rob



Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Circle #1 will meet on **Monday, November 9, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in Calvin Hall.**

Circle #3 will meet on **Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 9 a.m.** (note early time) in the church parlor. Pat Caddell will be the Moderator, and Dianne Dalto will be the Hostess. Our project this month is the kitchen and college bags.

Circle #4 will meet **Thursday, November 5,** at 10 a.m. at Jean Harrelson's home. Ginger Neale will be our Bible Moderator. Please bring a sandwich for lunch and items for our college students' gift bags. Our Alpha desserts are to be brought to Calvin Hall by Monday evening, November 2.

Circle #5 will meet on **Monday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m.** in the John Knox room of the Family Life Center. Annette Morrison will lead us in our study, chapter 10. Maria Harne and Sheila Sells will be our hostesses. Please remember to bring snacks to put in the exam bags for our college students. Also a reminder to the ladies that will be bringing desserts to the Alpha program in the Chapel building: please have them in the chapel building kitchen either Sunday morning or Monday November 9 by 6:00 p.m.

Circle #6 will meet on **Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 7 p.m.** at the home of Ginger Blackwelder (6208 Amber Mist Lane Charlotte, 28211). If you cannot join us, would you please be so kind as to give Ginger a call at 704-364-3497 so she can plan for space needs. Our mission projects for this month are the college goodie bags and fruit baskets for our special people. We will continue the study of "Total Forgiveness," Chapter 3. Join us for a lively discussion on this life-changing process. As always, the door is always open to newcomers.



PW Coordinating Team

The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet at 7 p.m. in the FLC on Monday, November 23, 2009.

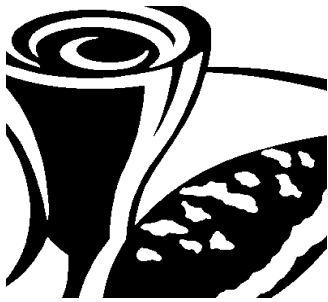
Small Group News

The Covenant Small Group will meet on November 19, 2009 (early). Tony and Bonnie Nodine are the hosts this month.



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Address Service Requested



*THE ARPC FAMILY
Celebrates*



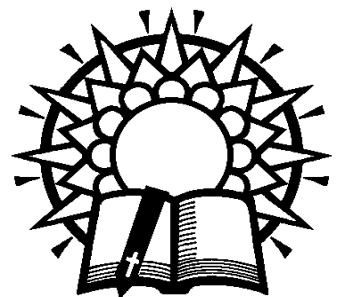
*All Saints' Day
and*

*The Ordination of Brian Daoust
to the ministry of Word and Sacrament*

*Sunday, November 1, 2009
at 10:30 a.m.*



*Bagpipes! Reception in the FLC after
worship to honor Brian and Ashley.
A Day of Joy!*



Spiced Saturday 2009

November 14

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon



On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me... Come to Spiced Saturday 2009 and find out!

The theme this year is the **12 Days of Christmas** and promises to be one of the best yet!

Your hostesses have planned a scrumptious breakfast that will be served at 8:30AM followed by a full morning of holiday crafts and projects to kick off the 2009 holiday season.

In addition to the registration form included in this newsletter, you may print one from the website or pick one up in the narthex Sunday morning. We are requesting that all registration forms be turned in by November 1.

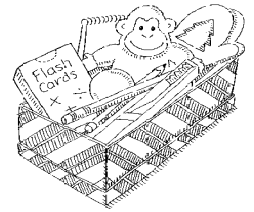


Plan and pray about who you should invite!

Looking forward to seeing YOU there!

Operation Christmas Child

Help light up Christmas for a child this year through Operation Christmas Child. Simply obtain an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container; fill it with toys, extra batteries, hygiene items, candy, a handwritten note, etc.; then, most importantly, say a prayer for the child who will get the box.



Bring your box(es) to church with you on November 8 and 15.

For more information, you can find forms to go with the boxes in the narthex.

Second Harvest Thanksgiving Food Drive

On November 8 and 15 you will find boxes in the narthex to fill with food. This food will help Second Harvest feed the Charlotte community during the Thanksgiving season and upcoming months. Please help our neighbors with the most essential of needs.

Buy a little extra the next time you are at the grocery store and graciously give.



Volunteers Needed

Our children need you to serve in the Nursery - Not just on Sundays, but for all the other occasions during the year. These include Alpha meetings, Christmas Eve Service, Annual Meeting, Ash Wednesday, Lenten Bible Study, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Committee meetings, and Workdays. There are many opportunities: One (or two) of them is right for you. Sign-ups will be in the narthex before and after church, or call Nancy Parker at 704-536-3384, Brigette McLemore or Martha Blackmon.

A Blessed Thanksgiving from your Church Staff

