

SAINT TO SAINT... GOD'S JOYFUL STEWARDS

Oh boy, a church committee! In my mid-20's, I became a member of a Presbyterian church for the first time, and guess what!? My church did what every faithful church does for newcomers... they invited me to become a member of a committee! But not the Worship Committee or CE or Facilities or Fellowship. Those groups seemed to be full up... BUT there were plenty of openings on the Stewardship Committee!

I thought I knew something about it... And, at the time, Stewardship was something that I thought I knew a lot about! After all, I had participated in my company's United Way campaign and saw the red column on the poster board thermometer inch its way up toward the desired goal. I remembered selling "The World's Finest Chocolate Bar" as a high school fundraiser. I'd heard the poignant stories of the missionaries in worship explaining how many lives could be changed for just an additional \$15 a month. I thought I was prepared to be a faithful steward.

Beginning to define stewardship... When the pastor asked members of the committee what we thought stewardship meant, I explained that it was "raising money for the church." Some others agreed. The pastor, however, suggested that the kind of stewardship the Bible talked about didn't have to do with raising money... but rather with raising awareness, awareness of what the Lord was doing in our lives and in the world... and how we choose to respond to what the Lord has done.

Discovering biblical examples... The pastor led us in a study of Genesis (1:28-30) and the Psalms (24:1) pointing out how God has called human beings to be caretakers or stewards of the created world. In response to what God was doing in their lives, faithful stewards in the Old Testament gave a tenth of the firstfruits of their crops and animals (Genesis 14:20, 28:22). In the New Testament, the pastor suggested, Jesus and Paul had raised the ante... asking us to become "living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1) for the Lord!

Paul and Jesus... I was introduced to the writings of Paul in 2 Corinthians where he says that giving is not a matter of grudging obedience but rather an act of joy (2 Corinthians 9:7)... and that the Lord doesn't ask us to give beyond our means but rather what we are able (2 Corinthians 8:12). And while it's natural to worry about money and finances, Jesus taught that if we focus on living according to the principles of God's Kingdom, our needs will be met (Matthew 6:33).

The preacher ought to practice what he preaches... I now count it as a blessing my first committee assignment was stewardship and that some of my misconceptions about stewardship were set right at the beginning of my faith journey. And yet as both a minister and a Christian, I've discovered that simply coming to an understanding of what one is called to do is very different from the actual doing of it! Like everyone who lives in a culture that places such a high value upon money and the things it buys, I wrestle daily with what it means to be a faithful

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steward of all that the Lord has placed under my care, but I'm thankful that some of the guilt-inducing ought's and should's have been replaced by a sense of freeing choice and of being in a unique position to bless those around me including the church I serve.

Truly Good News... I've heard some of my minister friends complain how it can be difficult for them to preach about stewardship, because they sense that their congregations see it as "asking for a raise." I've happily never had that reservation, because I've discovered that biblical stewardship is neither about a particular church nor its pastor but rather about freedom of choice, sharing of blessings, and partnering with others to create a more just world. As both a disciple of Jesus and a preacher, to me, that's Good News!

Together with you in ministry,

Mark S.

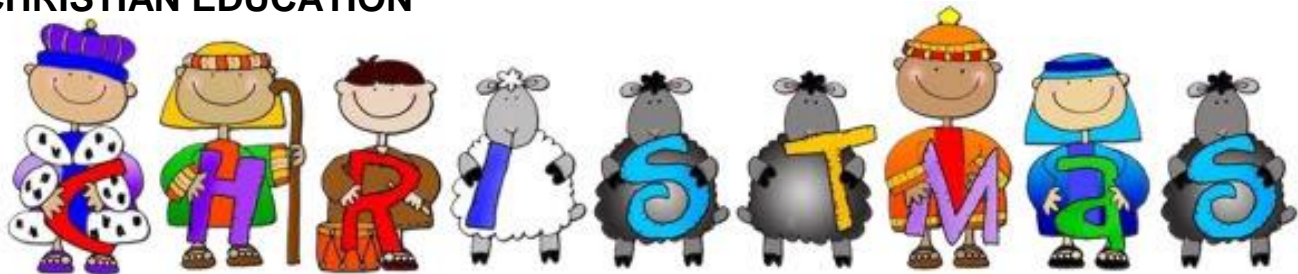
CLERK'S CORNER NOVEMBER 2011

The Session had their regular scheduled monthly meeting on October 18th. The following action items were addressed:

1. The purchase of 2500 Christmas postcards at a cost of \$970 was not approved.
2. Miscellaneous Community Day expenses will be paid for by the Outreach budget.
3. The music copyright license will be renewed.
4. New elders will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 8th, 2012.

Verne Smith, Clerk

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Christian Education Committee is excited to present to the Congregation, a Christmas Program on December 11, 2011 at our 11:00 am service. In order to bring this to fruition, we need youth ages 3 to 18 to take part. We will need help with costumes, etc., as well. Please plan to bring your child/children to practice each Sunday morning at 9:45 am, in the downstairs kitchen area. Thanks for all your support and help!

The Christian Education Committee is planning for Camp Hanover Summer Camp in 2012. We feel it was such a success that we would like to offer this program again. More information to follow as soon as we get the dates for 2012.

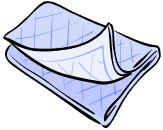
Happy Thanksgiving Day to ALL!

FACILITIES

The Facilities Committee would like to thank everybody that came out for our Workday. Please say a prayer that our work on the squirrel issue is successful and the problem is taken care of! Thoughts and prayers in regard to next year's 125th Anniversary would also be appreciated. We would love to have our church looking good for this. Please think about adopting a window in the Springtime so that we can get them looking good for our 125th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you to everyone for your continued support!



MISSIONS



The **Blanket Project** - is on-going, but checks will be mailed periodically. If you would like to make a donation, please do so any time. There is a donation box in the Fellowship Hall on the table just inside the door. Winter means warmth is needed!

CCHASM THANKSGIVING PROGRAM 2011 – Volunteers needed to package dinners

- All volunteers must be at least 12 years of age.
- Each child under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who will stay with the child throughout the Volunteer process (1 adult per child).
- Individuals wishing to Volunteer should come to the Hopewell VFW on:
 - Saturday November 12th from 9 am to 4 pm
(sorting and packing food items)
 - Sunday November 13th from 9 am to 4 pm
(sorting and packing food items)
 - Monday November 14th from 8 am to 7 pm
(package distribution and distribution to Homebound.
- Volunteers need to go to the CCHASM volunteer Desk when they arrive and will be asked to sign a Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement prior to Volunteering (agreement will be available at the desk during the event)
- Please keep your belongings with you at all times. CCHASM is not responsible for any lost or stolen property
- Any question, please call Sharon or Helen at CCHASM 804-796-3715 or e-mail at: Sharon@cchasm.org or Helen@cchasm.org



Missions will be providing Thanksgiving Dinner to two families this year.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES – Please consider filling a shoe box with gifts for boys and girls who may never know the enjoyment of Christmas gifts. Labels are available in office. See any Missions Committee member for details. **Boxes are due November 13th.**



Special Offerings for November:

Children's Thanksgiving Offering – November 20th
Five Cents a Meal – November 27th

*THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR
MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR
SUGGESTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS*

OUTREACH

Though Nifty Fifties Community Day is but a fond memory now, the Outreach committee wants to recognize those who contributed so much to the event. Thirteen thank you letters were sent to the various agencies that attended. The Bloodmobile had 21 volunteer donors and 16 were accepted. Thanks to all who donated. Pastor Mark was not only a professional MC but also provided technical assistance with sound and CD's. Kudos to Valerie and her Mel's Diner staff for ordering, delivering, and serving all the food and drink, and to Rose and Wayne for providing the grill and cooking those delicious dogs and burgers! Sandy and her crew provided the very successful Brunswick stew sale and without much sleep! Thank you, Grace, and all the bakers/cooks who donated their time for the Bake Sale. The Presbyterian Women received a check for \$241. Keith's Petting Zoo was a very popular event.

The "Gregory's Steppin' Out" and "Kountry Kicker" line dancers entertained with enthusiasm leading up to the featured act of Elvis impersonator, Sterling Riggs. We are so grateful for Glenda and Linda's perseverance in encouraging Sterling to perform for us, as well as providing all the great decorations to create the "stage". His performance was the highlight of the day!! Thanks, also, to Jerry, Marguerite, Kay, Jean, Ron, Ann and Robert Hartsell, Ruby Spain, and young Kevin for helping in special ways. The Boy Scouts were lifesavers in helping us with their unending energy in moving chairs, tables etc. We appreciate Habitat for Humanity's service in picking up all the white elephant left-overs. Special thanks to members of the Outreach Committee who supported the enterprise in so many ways... Donna Allen, Lisa Brown, Brenda Bond, Joan Mann, and Marquita Simpson.

Thanks to all those who dressed "fifties" because it sure added to the event! And thanks to all who came and contributed in other ways. If I overlooked anyone, please let me know. The bottom line is that through the success of the day, \$1776 will be added to the fund for a new permanent church sign. (Make sure to view Ron Recher's photos of the event in Fellowship Hall!)

- Judy Recher, *Outreach Committee Chairperson*

VISITORS DAY - NOVEMBER 13

On Sunday, November 13, Gregory will celebrate Visitor's Day! You're encouraged to invite a friend or a family member to come to church with you. This is a tried and proven way to help congregations grow: most people join a church, because someone invited them. How wonderful it would be to fill our pews on that day!. There will be a pot-luck luncheon after worship, and we seek your help in showing our visitors that Gregory folks are both friendly and good cooks! Please sign up what you plan to bring in the narthex or Fellowship Hall.



WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – **HOLY COMMUNION** - The dollar sign, the Boy Scout emblem, the Golden arches, the American Flag... all signs of our world that touch our minds, our hearts and perhaps even our stomachs (!) As we embrace any given sign and what it stands for, it says something about who we are as people and as disciples of Jesus. From passages Exodus 24:3-8 and Matthew 26:26-30, Pastor Mark also discovers another *Sign of the Times* that may make all the difference! We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 – **VISITORS SUNDAY** – Fashion and health magazines regularly give us examples of what our culture considers beautiful, but surprise, the Bible has a different take about "beauty," and it has nothing to do with looks. Find out what turns God's eye in Pastor Mark's message *Body Beautiful*. Read 1 Corinthians 12 to prepare. A luncheon celebrating our visitors will follow worship.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 – **DEDICATION SUNDAY** – We’ve often heard about the importance of nurturing, “an attitude of gratitude,” but how do we actually do it? On this Sunday where we sing the familiar hymns of the Thanksgiving holiday, Pastor Mark suggests an answer to this age-old question in his message, *Thanksgiving into Thanks-Living!* Sermon text will be in the November 13 bulletin.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** – If you want to win a race, a lot of preparation is required. The Apostle Paul often compares the Christian journey to a race where we’re our only competition! In his message, *Ready... Get Set... Live!* Pastor Mark explores how the season of Advent can be such a time for helpful spiritual preparation. Read Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37 to prepare.

A LETTER TO GMPC



Dear Church Family,

Ruby and I would like to thank you all for the phone calls, cards and prayers this past few weeks during her illness. Your love and support mean a lot to us and we appreciate your continued prayers.

Jerry Hasky

YARD SALE & BAKE SALE

The Boy Scouts are having a Yard Sale and Bake Sale on November 19 beginning at 7:00 am. Anyone interested in having selling space, contact Phil Hagerich @ 804-357-7369. Cost is \$10 per selling space.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Dick Mann	Ruby Hasky
Christine Belsches	Katherine Tompkins
Aida Faries	Tammy Pelter (<i>Gladys Vtipil's niece</i>)
June Hawks	Mary Chadwick (<i>Dink Armstrong's sister</i>)
Marian McDonald	Virginia Mika (<i>Sister of Grace & Helen Cibula</i>)
Peggy Surfield	Mathew Mauger
Helen Cibula	Donald Cousins (<i>friend of Glenda Mayhew's father</i>)



THOSE WHO SERVE IN NOVEMBER



CHILDRENS MINISTRIES "Teaching Christian Values for Life"

Date	Nursery	Junior Sermon	Junior Church
Nov 6	Robbi Foster	Mary Kay Schroeter	Virginia Maloney Jared Smyth
Nov 13	Glenda Mayhew	Mark Sprowl	Mary Beth Coleman Kevin Foster
Nov 20	Debra Bailey	Lisa Hartsell	Susan Walker Madison Foster
Nov 27	Ruby Spain	Valerie Harsh	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter

OTHER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Sunday Servants	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
USHERS	Gladys Wiseman Verne Smith Debra Bailey Rose Scott	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Mary Holc Doug Holc	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh Jerry Bond Debbie (Sissy) Smith	Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Marguerite Bishop Dianne Overstreet
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet
COUNTING	David Johnson Evelyn Lichvar	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Ron Recher Verne Smith	David Johnson Rose Scott

FLOWERS

- 6-Janet Swinton
- 13- Kay Alloway
- 20- Sandy & Jim Correll
- 27-Rose Scott

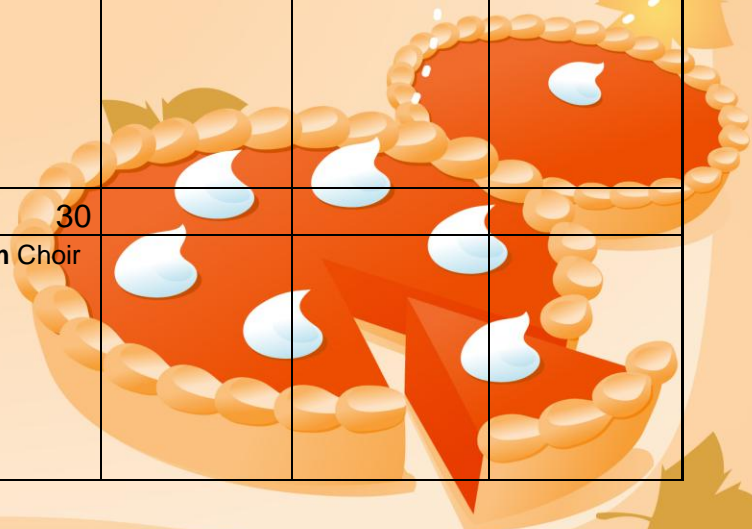


NOVEMBER
GATEKEEPERS
Keith Spain, 862-3294
& Josh Ingram, 334-5460



NOVEMBER ~ 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:30pm Day Circle 7:00pm Worship	2 7:00pm Choir	3 6:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm S&F	4	5
6 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -Communion 12:15pm S&F	7 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Missions & Outreach	8 6:00pm Personnel 6:30pm P&O 7:00pm Facilities 7:30pm Evening Circle	9 Committee Reports Due 7:00pm Choir	10 2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning	11	12
13 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -Visitors Sunday	14 Noon Widows 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:00pm Christian Ed	15 7:00pm Session Meeting	16 7:00pm Choir	17 6:00pm Line Dancing	18	19
20 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:30pm Children's Thanksgiving Offering - Trinity Methodist	21 2:00pm Line Dancing	22 Newsletter Articles Due Pre-School Thanksgiving Feast	23 7:00pm Choir	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -5 Cents-a-Meal -1 st Sunday in - Advent	28 2:00pm Line Dancing	29	30 7:00pm Choir			



Remember...
NOVEMBER 13, 2011
is
VISITORS SUNDAY



BRING A FRIEND!

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
6300 Courthouse Road ~ PO Box 182
Prince George, VA 23875-0182



COME JOIN US!!