



Tidings

Bringing News of the
Clover Presbyterian Church

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church
Larne, Northern Ireland

November, 2009

Things You Need to Know:

- **Crossfire**—five young adult musicians spending a year in mission with Youth Encounter, will be with us in concert on Wednesday, November 18th. After spending the fall touring and singing in churches in this country, they will head to Africa for four months beginning in January. Elliot Cox, son of Karen and T Cox is a member of Crossfire. We are looking forward to sharing this evening with them and learning more about their mission work in Africa.
- **No early service during ADVENT!** November 22 will be our last early service of 2009. Advent starts on November 29th and we will consolidate our congregation, and our voices, into one service per week in the sanctuary at 11:00!
- The **Community Thanksgiving Service** will be held on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 pm at New Beginnings Baptist Church.
- The **Hunting Island Church Camping Trip** is scheduled for April 30—May 2, 2010. Please make your reservations by completing a reservation form (located in the Atrium) and returning it with your \$60 deposit to Tammie Anderson. If you have questions, please contact Tammie (684-5594).
- Darwin Shaver will present an Organ Recital on **Sunday, November 22** at 3pm at Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, NC.
- The Children's **Christmas Pageant** ministry needs your children! Be sure to return the form indicating what parts they would be willing to play in this cherished retelling of the Christmas gospel. The Pageant will be presented in worship on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 11am in the Sanctuary.
- The Season of Advent will begin on Sunday, November 29 with our traditional **Hanging of the Greens Service**. Once again this year we will have one worship service each Sunday during Advent at 11:00 in the sanctuary. Other Special Advent events include the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 6 at 11:00; and the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 20.
- **Operation Christmas Child** ~ Information booklets are located in the Atrium. Please pick one up and drop your filled shoe box off in the Atrium. **Deadline to turn in filled shoeboxes is Sunday, November 23.**
- **Advent Fellowship, Sunday, November 29, 4:00 pm.** Come make an advent wreath for your home and enjoy the fellowship of the season. We'll provide the candles and wreath forms—you bring the greenery, the ivy, the berries, whatever you need for your wreath. Bring enough to share! Join the fun. Celebrate the season. Make sure to reserve your place. \$10 covers the expenses—wreath form and candles—you bring the rest!

Things You Need To Know Continue on Page 7



Keynotes: THE Great National Day

You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

Exodus 23:16

Those who know me well remember that I have an irrational fondness for Thanksgiving Day. It is the thing that I love about our country the most. And it is not the food or the parades, the Friday shopping or the Lion's game in the afternoon. No, instead I love that our first memory as a people is bound up in the best things about our national character – hospitality, peace, table fellowship – and gratitude. Before we declared certain truths to be self-evident, or gathered representative legislatures to make and administer our laws. Before we chained the first slave or denied the first woman her right to vote. Before we started perfecting this grand experiment in liberty and personal freedom, we were refugees in a foreign land struggling to survive, dependent upon our indigenous neighbors for the stuff of life. And when we beat the odds, when we survived that first New England winter and gathered a harvest, we recognized these blessings as wholly undeserved gifts of God. Our people didn't start with "The Battle of This" or the "Concordat of That," but with a feast of "Wow, You Saved Us... **Thanks!**"

The Italians may have Columbus Day. The Irish have St. Patrick's Day. But there is something uniquely Calvinist about Thanksgiving.

So this year my Thanksgiving present to myself is Sarah Vowell's most recent historical reflection, *The Wordy Shipmates* (which, even though it's out in paperback, I got in hardcover because, well, it's Thanksgiving!) *The Wordy Shipmates* is about the Puritans, our spiritual ancestors. It tells the story, not of the Plymouth bound Puritans on the *Mayflower*, but their theological cousins aboard the *Arbella* who sailed ten years later. It recounts the life, thought, and impressive verbosity of John Winthrop and his friends who founded the Massachusetts Bay colony.

Vowell loves history like few in her generation and she writes in an unmistakable voice.

She also loves Puritans. It seems that she loves Puritans more than most of us who have Puritan DNA in our veins. She is fascinated by them and determined to redeem their somewhat questionable reputation:

"I'm always disappointed when I see the word "Puritan" tossed around as shorthand for a bunch of generic, boring, stupid, judgmental killjoys. Because to me, they are very specific, fascinating, sometimes brilliant, judgmental killjoys who rarely agreed on anything except that Catholics are going to hell."

Vowell unpacks the doctrines of providence and predestination and shows, colorfully, how they came to influence the ethos of the young nation deeply. It is a story that reminds me that only the Puritans, only a people wholeheartedly convinced of the sovereignty of God and the immediacy of his blessing presence in history, could start a new people off with a feast of Thanksgiving.

Sometimes I wonder if we are worthy of Thanksgiving; if we have grown too self-satisfied; too independent and self-reliant, to observe a day of national humility anymore. A day of national bombast we do quite well – all the other National Feasts have sort of melted into an undifferentiated mass of self-congratulation and flattery. So I worry that Thanksgiving is an ideal we struggle to live up to; perhaps we aspire to be the people whose formative memory is one of humility and gratitude for undeserved blessing; but we have trouble getting out of our own way enough to make that true.

That too is somewhat true to our Calvinist Puritan roots. Yes we know that we are miserable sinners, wholly dependent upon God for life, but at the same time we are the elect, those set apart by God for his special purpose from all eternity. "This contradiction – between humility before God and the egomania unleashed by being chosen by God – is true of both Winthrop and colony of Massachusetts itself."



Keynotes: THE Great National Day

And, one might add, the succeeding generations of their descendants as well.

That is a conflict we know. It is the contradiction that makes Thanksgiving our most important national day of the year (that's right, July 4th!). It is that day when we try, feebly perhaps, but not insignificantly, to balance the equation, to give some heed to the humility part, the gratitude part; to

acknowledge that we are stewards of a liberty, a prosperity, an influence and privilege in the world, not of our own making.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Peace,

“Birthday Party for Jesus”

God has blessed us in so many ways and he calls us to share those blessings with others. This year the number of homeless and hungry families in our community is staggering. That makes our annual “Birthday Party for Jesus” more important than ever. Parents simply cannot provide the basic necessities for their children much less gifts and clothes during the holidays. This leaves us with a wonderful opportunity to show Christian love and support to 50 of the most needy children from the Clover School District.

The Women of the Church are delighted to again sponsor a
“Birthday Party for Jesus” at
God’s Kitchen on Monday, December 21.

We will again be providing a list of the children and their clothes sizes and toy wishes. You will be asked to adopt a child and take their bag home to fill and return to the church at a specified date. Santa will distribute the bags at the birthday party. We will be asking once again, that a pair of shoes and a “hoodie” be in each bag for your child. If you aren’t a shopper we will gladly accept donations and we will do the shopping for you. We desperately need your support and prayers as we continue to plan this event. You will be hearing much more about it in the coming weeks.

We will be calling on you to help! Be praying with us as we attempt to spread the Christmas message and make the holidays brighter for those less fortunate. Details will follow in the coming weeks.

Love in Christ,
The Women of the Church

November, 2009

People Who Need Your Prayers:

The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President – Barack Obama, our Governor-Mark Sanford, our Mayor-Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams and Tony & Connie Johnson.

Our Known Sick: Grant McLean, Taze Bennett, Ruby Bennett, Nona Beamguard, Mary Sifford, Gene Sifford, Ann Wright, Mildred Elliott, Marge Woods, Joe Williams, Judy Eibel, Avery Goode, Charles Ford, Ken Graham, Carol Ludwig and Betsy Johnson.

Those unable to worship with us: Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Anne Hall & Mary Lou Sifford.

Friends and Relatives:

JoAnn Barnes – mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith – dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Alice Fowler – aunt of Julia Smith, Jake Pritchard – grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence – friends of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Al & Mary Jauregui – grandparents of Jacqui Marquez, Mack Falls – cousin of Dick Jackson, Carrie Reese – niece of Janet Owings, Anne Futch – sister of Bear Owings, Elizabeth Barnett – mother of Tom Redmond, Sharon Fitch, Eddie Doss – friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Paul Timms, father of Paula Clayton, Mackenzie DeCuir, Alex VanEtten, mentor student of Libby Sprouse, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Dan Hartsoe – father of Don Hartsoe, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel – sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell – friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Debra Good – friend of Jeannie Edmunds, Bruce Clark – friend of Kathy Key, Libby Claire McGarity, Ida & Ernest Cagle – grandparents of Mike Carpenter, Miriam Snyder – mother of Kelly Crowe, Vernon Feiler – grandfather of Chris Rice, Carly Bennett – grand-daughter of Don & Kay Westmoreland, Jennifer Newsom – sister of Travis Newsom and Will Martin, grandson of Gary & Lillian Lawrence – serving in Afghanistan

November, 2009

Places You Need to Be:

- **CROSSFIRE!** ~ November 18. 5:30 pm.
- **Advent Fellowship and Wreath Making**—November 29, 4:00 pm. Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday School** ~ classes available for all ages. Sunday morning 10:00 a.m.
- **Worship** ~ every Sunday, here at 8:45 or 11:00.
- **Bible Study** ~ Wednesday nights, 6:00 pm.
- **Junior/Cherub Choir** ~ Wednesdays, 4:45pm.
- **Handbells** ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm,
- **Beach Retreat** ~ Sign up now for next May!
- **Christmas Pageant** ~ December 6, 11:00 am. (Ministry Team Meeting—November 18, 4:30 pm)
- **Officer Training** ~ November 17, December 1, 8, 15.
- **Confirmation Class** Christmas Field Trip—December 19th. Olde Salem.

November, 2009

Things You Need to Know:

- **FW Friends** will conclude this quarter on Wednesday, Nov. 11! Our Wednesday night fellowship schedule will resume on January 13.
- **Deadline to order poinsettias** ~ Sunday, November 29.
- The **Advent devotion table** is set up in the hall downstairs, outside the Fellowship Hall. There you will find many options for marking the season of advent in prayer and reflection, individually or as a family. Check it out!
- The **Confirmation Class Christmas Field trip** is coming up on Saturday, December 19. Travel back in time to 17th century America as we experience Christmas in the colonies at Olde Salem. \$10 plus money for food on the way back.
- Congratulations to our **New Officers**, elected on Sunday, November 8 to serve on the Session and Board of Deacons beginning in January. Elected were: Elders (Class of 2012) – Carl Adams, Bruce Elliott, Ann Hogue, and Tommy McCall, Jr. Deacons (Class of 2011) – John Preston; (Class of 2012) – Scott Frisk, Millie Jones, Sally Mann, and Sammy Ann McCarley.
- **Youth Day at Presbyterian College** is Saturday, November 21. 10 Senior highs and adult leaders will be going to Clinton for a day of fellowship, worship and FOOTBALL! (Campus tours and general PC worship as well!)
- **Join the Choir for Christmas!** The Chancel Choir is busy preparing music for the Advent season in December. Every Wednesday night choir practice is devoted to Christmas music from 7:45 –8:15. Join us and celebrate Christ's birth in song (if you can sing...)!

November, 2009

Things You Need to Do:

- **Welcome** our new members and our visitors who worship with us and join us in fellowship every week.
- **Return your Pledge Card!** Consecration Sunday on October 25 was a great success, but we are still missing 21 pledges from last. IF you have not yet made your commitment to our common life in 2010 please complete and return your commitment card as soon as possible so that the Session can complete it's budgeting work.
- Join us for fellowship and **Advent Wreath making**, on November 29th at 4:00. Sign up sheet enclosed.
- Volunteer to help the **Christmas Pageant Ministry team** make this year's pageant an event to remember. The Ministry team meets Wednesday, November 18 at 4:30 pm.
- **Bring items** for shoeboxes or fill a shoebox!
- **Officer Training!** Starts November 19th.
- **SING!!!** Join the Choir for Christmas (and beyond...). Wednesday nights 7:00 (Christmas music from 7:45).
- **Volunteer:** to help in our Nursery; on Wednesday nights; at Children's church; anywhere you see a need.
- **Join an Adult Sunday school class** (if you are not already involved): Adult 1 (Church Parlor), The Seekers (Church Library), Ladies Bible Class (Ladies Classroom), and Men's Bible Class (Recreation Building).



**450 Pairs
Of Underwear
For Haitian
Orphans**



Presbyterian Women

Council- Monday, November 3—meet at the church at 7:00pm.

Circles- Monday, Monday, November 9

#1 meets at the church at 10:00am.

#2 meets at the home of Kay Gordon at 7:00pm.

#3 meets at home of Lisa Hall at 7:00pm.

Serving the church in November

Closing - Charles Ford

Worship Leaders ~ 8:45am

01 Bruce Elliott
08 Georgia Westmoreland
15 Greg Rowland
22 Jennifer Johnson

Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am

01 Janet Owings
08 Betty Westmoreland
15 Pat Lowe
22 Jim Kosko
29 Brantlee Spurrier

Greeters

01 Kay Gordon, Sally Mann
08 Peggy Adams, Linda Henry
15 Pat Lowe, Jane McCall
22 Lillian Lawrence, Evelyn Pendleton
29 Barbara Corson, Millie Jones

Offering

01 Dick Jackson
08 Jane McCall
15 Neel Cyphers
22 Don Hartsoe
29 Barbara Corson

Acolytes 11:00

01 Jay Rowland
08 Thomas Key
15 Sean Clayton
22 Alex Mcleod
29 Dominique Perez

Nursery Volunteers (11:00)

01 Sara Bolin
08 Jane McCall
15 Evelyn Edmunds
22 Janelle Brackett
29 Martha Spurrier

Children's Church 11:00

3 & 4 year olds

01 Buddy & Paula Clayton
08 Carl & Mary Adams
15 Phyllis & Allison Maynard
22 Greg & Kristy Rowland
29 Bill & Libby Brooks

K-2nd grade

01 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley
08 John & Julie Preston
15 Marc & Dawn Dawes
22
29 Katie Benton, Sally Mann

Sunday School

Ladies Bible Class—Ladies Classroom

01 Kay Gordon
08 Willie Westmoreland
15 Pat Lowe
22 Myrna Kosko
29 Alice Thompson

Men's Bible Class—Rec. Building

01 Don Westmoreland
08 Charles McLean
15 Dave Cyphers
22 J.S. Edmunds
29 Alice Thompson

Adult 1 Class—Church Parlor

01 Greg Rowland
08 TBA
15 Donna Hartsoe
22 Jane McCall
29 TBA

The Seekers Class—Church Library

01 Bruce Elliott
08 Jack Scott
15 Class member
22 Lisa Hall
29 TBA

November 2009 at Clover Presbyterian Church

4:45am
5:30pm
6:00pm

Wednesday Activities:
Music Garden, Children's Choir
Supper
FW Friends, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study,
Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA</p>	<p>2 7:00pm PW Council</p>	<p>3 5:30pm AA 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>4 Wednesday Night Activities</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Deacon Bible Study Youth Fellowship AA 6:30pm Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>9 10:00am Circle 1 7:00pm Circles 2 & 3</p>	<p>10 5:30pm AA 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11 Wednesday Night Activities</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Activities AA 6:30pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 5:30pm AA 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Officer Training</p>	<p>18 4:45pm Music Garden, Children's Choir 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Cross Fire</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 5:30pm AA 6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>25 <i>No Church Activities</i> <i>Church office closed</i></p>	<p>26 <i>Church office closed</i></p>	<p>27 <i>Church office closed</i></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Hangng of the Greens 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:30am Covered Dish Lunch 4:00 pm Advent Wreaths! 6:00pm Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1 7:00 – Officer Training</p>				

November

- 01 Harry Hogue
- 02 Andy Smith
Lisbeth Carpenter
- 03 Melanie Wall
- 05 Mary Sifford
- 06 Vic Stine
- 07 Emily Robinson
- 08 Sean Clayton
- 09 James Johnson
Trey Miller
- 10 John Bailey
- 11 Lisa Hall
- 12 Marsi Tripi
- 13 Dorothy Sanders
Evelyn Edmunds
Nathan Dawes
- 15 Lori Hawkins
- 16 Thomas Key
- 17 Ann Wright
Isabella Marquez
- 18 Cameron Westmoreland
Debbie Moore-Black
- 19 John Wesley Edmunds
Neal McCain
Scott Frisk
- 20 Tyler Wall
Greg Rowland
- 21 Colin Clayton
- 22 Amy Thomas
- 23 Ruth Sebris
Trey Mcleod
- 24 Beth Hinshaw
- 27 Holly Frisk
- 28 Adam Uzzell
Allison Crowe
Blakely Bolin
Kay Westmoreland



- 01 Bill & Pat Lowe
- 02 Jim & Willie Westmoreland
- 08 Andy & Julia Smith
- 09 Taze & Ruby Bennett
- 14 Mike & Linda Lunsford
- 29 Billy & Candy McCain



Thanksgiving

Tidings

November, 2009
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Clover Presbyterian Church
202 Kings Mountain Street
Clover, SC 29710
information@cloverpres.org

803-222-9108 office

Pastor:
Douglass Key
dkey@cloverpres.org
Director of Music:
Christine Newsom
csevako@lcsdk12.sc.us

Seminary Intern:
Marty B. Simmons
jams@comporthum.net
Organist:

Secretary:
Pam Fowler
Pamtfowler@bellsouth.net
Director of Preschool:
Wanda Whitesides
w.whitesides@att.net

More information about events and activities available online:
www.cloverpres.org