

# Tidings

**Clover Presbyterian Church**

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church  
Larne, Northern Ireland



*October, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Know:***

- **Sunday October 30 is a Fifth Sunday!** It is also **Consecration Sunday 2011!** Plan to be with us in worship that day, at 10:00 when we will make our Stewardship Commitments to the ongoing life and ministry of our church during worship. Plan to stay after worship for our celebration lunch in the fellowship hall. More information arriving at your home soon.
- **The Nominating Committee** needs your recommendations. The committee is seeking to discern the call of God in the lives of our 2014 class of Elders and Deacons. If you believe there is someone in the congregation they should consider, please complete the recommendation form and return it to a committee member or the church office.
- The church is preparing to go live with our system for **automated donations** at the beginning of 2012. Starting in January you will have the option of having your **church offerings drafted automatically** from your checking account. No more sitting through long boring sermons, singing hymns you don't like, waiting for the offering plate to be passed so that you can contribute to the ministry of the church! It's as easy as filling out the attached form (p. 11) and turning it in to the office. Only the church secretary will see in the information included.
- The **Fall Festival** is Saturday, October 29 beginning at 10:00 am. Bring your children and enjoy the fun, food, games, and fellowship. **Help Wanted!** If you are able to help run a game or organize the activities, please contact the church office or a deacon and offer your services!
- **RUNNERS!\*** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brookhaven 5K to *End Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy* is Saturday October 29. The race is organized in honor of Jake Pritchard, grandson of **Bill and Pat King** and raises money to support the Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy.

This year we have a **Clover Presbyterian Church team!** After you register, just click on "Join a Team" and get ready to represent.

**Want to participate?** Click [here](#) to **register** or **donate** (or ask Pat!).

**Can't / Won't run the 3.1 miles?** Sponsor a runner or give a check to Bill or Pat.

- Thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve as a Covenant Partner for our **Confirmation Class** this year. We have 8 confirmands journeying through the year toward profession of faith and full reception into church membership.
- The Confirmation class will be attending the October 16 meeting of Providence Presbytery at Grace Church in Fort Mill to witness the church at work in our region and appreciate what it means to be connected to other Presbyterians in our community.
- **The middle school and high school** youth will attend the Clover vs Rock Hill football game on October 28th. If you would like a ride come to the church at 6:30pm or join us after the game at 11pm for a LOCK-IN! Questions? Contact Debbie Dixon.

\*We took roll at the Larne 5K last week. We know who you are. Join the team. Great course, well run race.



## Keynotes: OF BENGHAZI... AND SIRTE

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:1-2*

Starting back in February, as the so-called *Arab Spring* marched across the Libyan desert, news reports updated us daily about the progress of the uprising against Moammar Gadhafi. The video from the front lines was not encouraging for freedom loving people who longed to see Gadhafi's brutality come to an end. The armed opposition looked like a junior varsity soccer team that someone had handed rocket propelled grenade launchers and second hand Kalashnikov's. Veteran reporters were skeptical. Even as their ranks were bolstered by defections from Gadhafi's officer corps, and their cause got a huge assist from NATO airstrikes in Tripoli, the revolutionaries showed little capacity for discipline on the battlefield. For weeks their chances of success seemed remote at best.

Then there came news of Gadhafi's forces advancing on the garrison town of Benghazi in the east. Mustafa Abdul Jalil, the head of Libya's revolutionary counsel was quoted in the Guardian predicting that should Gadhafi's forces reach and overrun the country's second largest city, "this would mean the death of half a million." The fight for Benghazi would be a fight to the death. A local shop owner summed it up: "Everybody in Benghazi has something to do with the revolution. Everybody is doing something. Everybody is invested in the revolution." All the pundits and strategic experts agreed, should Benghazi fall, the rebel cause would surely be crushed, NATO airstrikes or not.

NPR sent Eric Westervelt to report from Benghazi and all summer long we heard stories of the unlikely resistance, in the face of extremely long odds, of the outgunned, undisciplined, ill-trained, ad-hoc fighting force that was defending this rebel stronghold.

The rebel stronghold of Benghazi became the chief attraction in the Libyan revolution. It was the center of attention. It was the turning point in the freedom of a people. The rebel stronghold, under assault from forces loyal to the reigning power; constantly bombarded, nearly into submission, by the weapons of the status quo. Benghazi, the rebel stronghold, holding out in

hopes of a different future; laying down its life for the promise of a new and different kingdom.

Rebel stronghold - that, it occurs to me, would not be a bad description for the church. I would like to be regarded as the pastor of a Rebel Stronghold. It would be a measure of our faithfulness for the ruling powers of commerce and marketplace to consider the disciple community as a subversive, almost dangerous, enclave in open rebellion against the status quo. A sanctuary of resistance to the way things are - laying down its life for the promise of a different future. Absorbing the threats and bribes and frontal assaults of the powerful, in order to serve the interests of another kingdom, a coming kingdom. A rebel stronghold in the midst of a world entirely in thrall to wealth and consumption and momentary pleasure, defending the last best hope for justice and peace and neighborliness to be established in this world.

Now, that might sound like a strange image of the church to you. *Clover Presbyterian Church: Rebel Stronghold*, does not flow easily off the tongue. Jesus told us to render unto Caesar and Paul counseled cooperation with the civil authorities as if they were established by God himself. Being Christian does not sound terribly revolutionary or the slightest bit countercultural to us. We have been at this for almost two millennia, surely we have so transformed the culture into an approximation of God's intentions for human life, that peaceably coexisting in the world is enough for us now. There is little left for us to rebel against. Consequently we have made every effort to blend in, to get along, to cooperate with the systems and institutions of our society.

Except that our society still confers power on the privileged. Our world still settles disputes by force. Our economics still exclude the weak; our politics ignore the peasant class. All the people that Jesus told us to look out for are still stuck under the boot heel of repression and despair. The world still waits on a revolution; it still needs a rebel force motivated by a different vision.



## Keynotes:

Nowhere in the Bible are we commanded to capitulate to an unjust social order; nowhere in scripture are we permitted to tolerate hatred of the outsider, or exploitation of the poor. Pledging our allegiance to the coming Kingdom of God requires us to rebel against a culture that blames the victim, that scapegoats the vulnerable, that excludes the outcast, that punishes the least and the last.

The way things are is broken. The arc of history is headed for catastrophe because the rebels have been co-opted by the palace; invited to dine at the King's table; ushered through the halls of power; their vision bought for a price; their passion blunted by transitory comforts.

The church needs to go back to Benghazi. Our rebellion needs a stronghold. We can not be satisfied with the way things are. We can not continue to mouth the scripted talking points of our leaders, whether they claim to be concerned about "working families" or "job creators." We serve a different King, we pursue a different future, we possess a radical hope for a renewed human community. This is the kingdom we will lay down our lives for. This is the revolution we are all invested in.

The news from Libya today is all about the last remaining city that is loyal to Gadhafi, his hometown of Sirte. Sirte: the loyalist stronghold. It is the last place on earth where the best possible future they can imagine is life under the thumb of a brutal, murderous

dictator. Sirte, the loyalist stronghold - the place we have been for too long - propping up unjust systems, apologizing for failed policies, turning away from our commitments to the good news in order to insulate our own lives from distress or want; ignoring the cries of the suffering, handing over others in order to take care of our own.

There is no future for God's people in Sirte, defending the failed regimes of this world, cooperating with the systems of oppression and suffering. The journey of faith takes us instead to Benghazi, where the rebellion holds strong, where the vision is clear, where the hope for a different future unites us and strengthens our resolve.

Clover Presbyterian Church can change the world. One heart, one life, one child, one family at a time, we can change the world. We are a rebel stronghold fighting for that radical future we have been promised by God in Christ - the redemption of the world, the end of fear, the dawn of peace and generosity and love. We can make this promise a reality, and share this promise with all people. For we are rebels and we can change the world.

Peace,

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*October, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Do:***

- **Give:** We need \$7,067 per week in order to fund our operations inside the church building. There is no where else to cut the church budget without eliminating valuable ministry.
- **Help:** with the Fall Festival on October 29.
- **Recommend** candidates for office to the Nominating Committee.
- **Run:** to Stop Duchenne MD on Saturday, October 29.
- **Walk** in the CROP Walk to help end hunger. **Donate** canned goods and money on October 9th and 16th. 25% of funds raised will stay in York County. The remaining 75% helps Church World Service end hunger all over the world!
- **Sleep** at CPC on October 28th for the youth lock-in!
- **Play Golf** at the CPC Open on November 5th to support the CPC Youth Group or **Sponsor** a hole!

*October, 2011*

## ***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 - Nikki Haley, our Mayor - Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams, Tony & Connie Johnson and Billy and Sara Turner in Mozambique.

**Our Known Sick:** Bill King, Kimberly Sanders, Joe Thomas, Jean Jackson, Brad Robinson, Gene Bowman, Ollie Robertson, Taze & Ruby Bennett and Grant McLean.

**Those unable to worship with us:** Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Lou Sifford, Gene & Mary Sifford and Jim Westmoreland.

### **Friends and Relatives:**

JoAnn Barnes , mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith, dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Jake Pritchard, grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence, friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Elizabeth Barnett, mother of Tom Redmond, Eddie Doss, friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel—sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell, friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Bruce Clark, friend of Kathy Key, Ernest Cagle, grandfather of Mike Carpenter, Dian Timms, mother of Paula Clayton, Cam Robinson, brother of Brad Robinson, Joan Blalock & Jennifer Brown, friend of Hartsoe family, Ronnie Bell, uncle of Terry Swanner, Mickey Gordon, sister-in-law of Joe & Kay Gordon, David Patterson, friend of Jessica Swanner, Kristin McDonough, friend of Scott & Holly Frisk, Don Dawes, father of Marc Dawes, Sara Anderson, sister-in-law of Tammie Anderson, Rex Pritt, cousin of Lois Talbert, Sharon Fitch, friend of Alisa Johnson, Addy Nelson, Paula Brinkley's mother, Dan & Mildred Hartsoe, parents of Don Hartsoe, Anna Adams, niece of Katie Bowman, Frankie Walker, friend of Susie McLean, and Hap Fischer, father of Janet Owings.

Worshipping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

*October, 2011*

## ***Places You Need to Be:***

- **Consecration Sunday / 5th Sunday Blend:** October 30, 10:00 AM.
- **Choir Practice** ~ Wednesdays @ 7:00.
- **Praise Team Rehearsal** ~ Last Sunday every month @ 4pm.
- **Food, Migration and Faith:** dinner discussion, Second Tuesday (October 11) @ the Manse.
- **Wednesday Night Fellowship** ~ Wednesdays beginning @ 4:45 with choir for the Kindergarten thru 5th grade. Dinner will begin at 5:30 followed by Bible studies from 6-7pm for all ages (2 thru 102)!
- **Worship:** 8:45 and 11:00 every Sunday.
- **Youth Lock-In:** October 28th, 6:30pm for a ride to the CHS football game or 11pm at CPC after the game.
- **Fall Festival:** October 29 @ 10:00 am.

# Serving the church in October

*Closing* - Ted McCarley

## *Ushers ~ 10:00am*

02 Ann Goode, Jane McCall, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Gary Love, Garrison Love  
09 Lillian Lawrence, Sally Mann, Ted McCarley, Bob Mann, Tommy McLean, Bill Brooks  
16 Pat Lowe, Linda Henry, Ted McCarley, Mack Henry, Jack Scott, Eric Scott, Wes Spurrier  
23 Millie Jones, Peggy Adams, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Tommy McLean  
30 Ann Goode, Barbara Corson, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Gary Love, Garrison Love

## *Worship Leaders ~ 8:45am*

02 Bruce Elliott  
09 Georgia Westmoreland  
16 Jennifer Johnson  
23 Terry Swanner

## *Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am*

02 Wes Spurrier  
09 Brian Boling  
16 Pat Lowe  
23 Betty Westmoreland  
30 Dick Jackson

## *Nursery Volunteers (11:00)*

02 Heather McCarley  
09 Sammy Ann McCarley  
16 Christine Gourley  
23 Libby Sprouse  
30 Millie Jones

## *Acolytes*

02  
09 Mary Grace Hopkins  
16 Sydney Spurrier  
23 Hannah Brooks  
30 Alex Mcleod

## *Children's Church 10:00*

### *3 & 4 year olds*

02 Buddy & Paula Clayton  
09 Carl & Mary Adams  
16 Phyllis & Allison Maynard  
23 Scott Frisk, Garrison and Sue Love  
30 Scott & Libby Sprouse

### *K-2nd grade*

02 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley  
09 Bill & Libby Brooks  
16 Alice Aiken  
23 Katie Benton & Evelyn Pendleton  
30 Scott & Libby Sprouse

## *Sunday School*

### *Ladies Bible Class ~ Ladies Classroom*

02 Kay Gordon  
09 Alisa Johnson  
16 Pat Lowe  
23 Myrna Kosko  
30 Jim Kosko

### *Men's Bible Class ~ Rec. Building*

02 Charles McLean  
09 Dave Cyphers  
16 Meet with Ladies Bible Class  
23 J.S. Edmunds  
30 Jim Kosko

### *Adult 1 Class ~ Church Parlor*

02 Lynn Edmunds  
09 Candy McCain  
16 Donna Hartsoe  
23 Jane McCall  
30 Mary Edmunds

### *The Seekers Class ~ Church Library*

02 Bruce Elliott  
09 Jack Scott  
16 Class member  
23 Terry Swanner  
30 TBA

## *Youth Meetings*

02 Game Day ~ Cornhole  
09 No Youth Activities  
16 CROP Walk, 12:30pm  
23 Rake-N-Run (8th-12th grade)  
28 Lock-In

October, 2011

# ***Things You Need to Know (con't):***

- The youth are raising funds to help end hunger at home and overseas. Join us for the **CROP Walk** on October 16th from 2-4pm. If you Can't join us for the walk, help end hunger by donating money and food on Oct. 9th & 16th.
  - Thanks to everyone who gave the gift of **LIFE** at our **Fall Blood Drive**. We collected 20 units of blood that will save lives in our community.
  - It's not too late to be an acolyte! Children in 3rd-5th grades are invited to participate in worship by bearing the light of Christ into and back out of the sanctuary during our 11:00 worship service. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact the church office to learn how.
  - **CAAC immediate canned goods needs:** Canned goods, tomato sauce & paste, black eyed peas, etc.
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For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ~ Jesus

## **Consecration Sunday**

October 30, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Catered Celebration Luncheon to Follow

Stewardship season is upon us once again. Each year we devote a significant amount of time to thinking, praying, and reflecting on our shred commitment to the work of Christ in and through this congregation.

All around us in this congregation are signs of growth, health and strength. We have new families moving into our community and making this church their new church home. We have children roaming our halls and filling our classrooms. We have worship services that are dynamic and joyful, filled with praise and thanksgiving for the gifts God has given us. We have hard working and devoted church officers who are committed to the most prosperous and faithful future for this congregation. We have gifted and talented staff people who work tirelessly to coordinate the ministry and mission that we undertake together. We have so much to be grateful for. God's people are on the move, God's mission is alive and well at Clover Presbyterian Church.

As we grow in number and expand our program, as we reach out to the lost, hurting and needy in our community, and seek in every way to be faithful disciples of the One who has called us together in this place, we also seek to grow spiritually and deepen our relationship with and knowledge of Christ's love for us. As Christian disciples we learn and practice the disciplines of prayer and bible study, we attend corporate worship regularly and fellowship with one another joyfully. Financial Stewardship is also a spiritual discipline. Our commitments and loyalties are reflected in how we spend our money. Our priorities are displayed in check registers. Who we love; what we believe in; those to whom we are most indebted for life and love—are the ones to whom and for whom we will part with our wealth.

The church does not need your money. We will only be as much church as we are made by the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of each member that we have. We don't need your money to be the church. But we all need to give our money, and give substantially, and regularly, and cheerfully, to the work of God in this place. This is one way we commit ourselves to the one who has bought us at the price of his own Son's life.

This month we will challenge one another to consider the portion of our income, the share of our wealth, that we return to God, in gratitude and confidence for his work in and through this congregation. We will ask one another to examine prayerfully the priorities that drive our lives and household budgets. Then, on October 30, during our 10:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday Blend worship service, you will be invited to make a financial commitment to the church for 2012.

No one will call on you to ask you for money. No one will follow up with you and make an appeal on behalf of the budget. The Bible says nothing about our obligation to fund the Church budget. It says a great deal about our need to give substantially to God's work in the world.

Please be with us on October 30 and stay after worship for Lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

# October 2011 @ Clover Presbyterian Church

## Wednesday Activities:

4:45am Children's Choir                      5:30pm Supper  
6:00pm Bible Study for all ages            7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
<b>2</b> 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm AA	<b>3</b> 7:00pm PW Council ~ <i>at the church</i>	<b>4</b> 5:30pm AA	<b>5</b> Wednesday Activities	<b>6</b> 8:00pm AA	<b>7</b> 8:00pm NA	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Deacon MT Meeting 6:00pm Deacon/Session Bible Study AA 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00am <i>Circle 1 meet at the church</i>  7:00pm <i>Circle 2 meet at the home of Donna Hartsoe</i>	<b>11</b> 5:30pm AA <b><i>Food, Migration and Faith</i></b>	<b>12</b> Wednesday Activities	<b>13</b> 8:00pm AA	<b>14</b> 8:00pm NA	<b>15</b>
<b>16 ~ CROPWALK</b> 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm AA Session Bible Study 6:30pm Session Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30pm AA	<b>19</b> Wednesday Activities	<b>20</b> 8:00pm AA	<b>21</b> 8:00pm NA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA 6:30pm Officer Dinner	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30pm AA	<b>26</b> Wednesday Activities	<b>27</b> 8:00pm AA	<b>28</b> 8:00pm NA 6:30pm Youth Lock-In	<b>29</b> <i>Fall Festival</i>
<b>30 ~ Consecration Sunday</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Covered Dish Lunch 6:00pm AA	<b>31</b>					



- 01 Sonya Diaz
- 04 Carl Adams  
Linda Baxter  
Brenda Jackson
- 05 Ann Hogue
- 06 Don Hartsoe  
Billy McCain
- 07 Dick Jackson  
Janet Hopper
- 11 Mildred Elliott
- 12 Martha Davis
- 13 Mackenzie Dawes
- 14 Terry Swanner
- 15 Brian Smithson
- 18 Katrina Frisk
- 20 Christopher McCall  
Gary Lawrence  
Gene Bowman  
Cherye Boling  
Vanessa Travis
- 21 Christopher Hall
- 22 Andy Bolin  
Wylie Glenn McCarter
- 23 Garrison Love
- 26 Brooklyn Thomas  
Lily Mcleod  
Nathan Adams-Maldonado
- 28 Buddy Bolin
- 29 Nancy Ford
- 31 Evelyn McCarter



- 05 Marc & Dawn Dawes
- 06 Dick & Charlotte Jackson
- 13 Mark & Miriam Adams
- 21 David & Neel Cyphers
- 31 Chris & Molly Stewart





**www.cloverpres.org**

More information about events and activities available online:

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Director of Preschool:  
Wanda Whitesides  
*wandawhitesides@yahoo.com*

Organist/Choir Director:  
Barbara Quinn  
*barbq@carolina.rr.com*

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Pam Fowler  
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Debbie Dixon  
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# Clover Presbyterian Church

## Authorization of Automatic Draft (ACH) for Direct Payments

I (we) hereby authorize the Clover Presbyterian Church to initiate debit entries to my (our):

\_\_\_ Checking Account

\_\_\_ Savings Account

indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, and to debit the same to such accounts. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. Law.

Depository Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be Debited: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: \_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until the Clover Presbyterian Church has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the Clover Presbyterian Church and the Depository Institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_