



Oh^{Give}, Thanks
to the LORD

Call upon His name; make known
His deeds among the peoples!

1 CHRONICLES 16:8, NKJV

October, 2014

Volume 36 No. 8



The Church Mouse



Chatting with Charlie – October 2014

As we look forward to our gatherings and festivities on Thanksgiving Day, an interesting question arises? What does God think of our thanksgiving to Him? Clearly He is blessed and honored by it because a life of thanksgiving is the mark of a saint who knows God's character and His position as God alone. The Lord is the giver of all good gifts and He is worthy of thanksgiving. Since God's qualities are not hidden, thanksgiving is not optional. "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." (Romans 1:20-21) The absence of glory and thanksgiving ascribed to God leads to darkened hearts and futile thinking.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." (James 1:16-18) Everything we enjoy in the present and coming age is a gift from God worthy of thanksgiving. But what if our life is a mess? What if our circumstances feel like anything but a gift from God? Circumstances may deceive us but God's Word tells us: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

God is at work for our good and His glory. Biblical thanksgiving does not focus on our circumstances, but on the character of God. Circumstances change; God does not. We who have the salvation of God through faith in Jesus Christ know the secret to peace is found in thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Philippians, said, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

By submitting our requests to God with a thankful heart, we receive peace that transcends all understanding. Thanksgiving is integral to a right relationship with God. It is the hallmark of a true follower of Jesus Christ because thanksgiving honors God, bringing glory to His name and blessings beyond measure. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And Be Thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

As we approach Thanksgiving Day may we be eternally grateful and thankful to God for who He is and for all the many blessings He has bestowed on us in the past and will forevermore. We hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Charlie, Elaine and Streeter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CALLED SESSION MEETINGS October, 2014

- Pastor Charlie was called to participate in the Stanton Weirsdale Career Day and was well received by the fourth graders
- Church cleanup day will be held November 1st from 8:00 AM to noon.
- The new member class will be held on November 15th and new members received on the 16th.
- Several special after church fellowships are upcoming.
- Letters will be mailed out soon to kick off the Stewardship campaign.
- The Session accepted Cathy Skoff's resignation as Elder effective December 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Cordle, Clerk of Session



LOVE INC. UPDATE

Love INC. Centsible Furnishings Fall Tent sale.....November 6 & 7 from 8:00 AM to 4:00PM

Time is going by fast, Christmas will be here soon, and again this year, Love INC. is sponsoring a Christmas Blessings event. This year the event will take place on Saturday, December 20th, from 9:00 AM –5:30 PM at Love INC's Haggai House and at sister house Grandma & Grandpa's House on the Ocklawaha United Methodist Church Campus. More than 200 families are expected to be seen throughout the day. Parents will shop at Santa's Workshop for gifts for the kids while the kids will shop through gently used items to give to their parents and siblings. They also will hear the Christmas Story, sing songs, make a craft, have their picture taken with Santa & Mrs. Claus and make S'mores over the camp fire. Those who volunteered in the past know what a blessing they personally received in helping out. There are many ways we can participate including helping kids shop and wrap gifts for parents, help Santa wrap gifts, help Santa meet and greet families, help kids with crafts, help set up or clean up. LETS START BY GOING THROUGH YOUR THINGS AT HOME AND LOOKING FOR GENTLY USED ITEMS OF JEWELRY, ACCESSORIES, ETC. TO BE USED FOR MEN AND WOMEN'S GIFTS. Deadline for collecting these items is **December 14th**.

During the month of September the Clearing House received over 600 calls, resulting in 104 separate families served of which 54 were new clients. Seasonal volunteers have returned but there continues to be a need for volunteers in both the warehouse sorting donations and in sales in Centsible Furnishings .

Medical Supplies Ministry coordinated by St. John Lutheran Church has a great need for transport chairs and walkers with seats and would welcome any donations.

Robbie Bourque and Marie Oille are the CMC's (Church Ministry Coordinators) from our church to LOVE INC. so please contact them for additional information and questions.

We all need to be reminded that God has given each of us special, unique talents and abilities. God is expecting something from His investment. How are you using what has been given to you?

Submitted by Marie Oille

Highlights of 2014 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery of St. Augustine

By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Stated Clerk

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

The Presbytery of St. Augustine held its Fall Stated Meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (MPCC). In the cool morning temperatures, we registered, enjoyed fellowship and snacks in the Fireplace Room, and found our seats in the Dining Hall. Ruling Elder Moderator Cynthia Graham (Lakewood) called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:00 a.m., and Terry Patterson, the new Executive Director of MPCC, offered a gracious welcome. Our attendance - including visitors - was approximately 160.

After reading Hebrews 11:1-3; 12:1-3 and Luke 17:5-10, teaching elder Wain Wesberry (First, Fernandina) brought the morning message (“An Uncommon Gathering”). The message included reflections on our faith, which is a gift of God, not stronger or better because of size, not “glamorous or glorious but only as it gives glory to God... This is how we live together!” Ann Cothran (Mikesville) led us beautifully on the piano as we sang favorite hymns with strong and unified voices. We received \$1164.00 in the morning offering, which was designated for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. After worship, we were given extra time for fellowship before returning to the assembly.

Some of the other highlights of the meeting include:

- Accepted Ruth Elswood (Highlands) as a Candidate for Ministry under our care
- Received and heard from a new teaching elder member of our presbytery, Joe Madearis
- Approved the commissioning of Larry Hadrava (Kirkwood) for pastoral service to our San Mateo church
- Heard presentations from our commissioners to the 221st General Assembly
- Elected Sandra Hedrick as the Stated Clerk for an additional year and approved contract terms
- Renewed the contract of Steve Benz as Transitional Executive Presbyter for a period of two years
- Approved the recommendations of the Administrative Commission for the Mandarin Presbyterian Church (MPC) to dismiss MPC to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) and voted to transfer its installed pastors’ presbytery membership to ECO
- Approved an increase to the minimum terms of call for full-time installed teaching elders
- Added to its minimum terms of call a requirement that our congregations pay the full cost of dues for medical expenses for both member and family coverage of all covered pastors when those dues increase in 2015 (these items will be placed on the Committee on Ministry webpage)
- Received an update on the work of transition within the presbytery and appointed members to a Transition Steering Committee (the Moderator of the Presbytery is to appoint more members to ensure diverse representation)
- Received the 2015 Asking Budget (this item will be placed on the A&F Committee webpage)

(Cont’d. next page)

(Cont'd. from previous page)

- Approved amended corporate articles and by-laws for the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Inc. and Montgomery Conference Center, Inc.
- Approved changes to our manual of operations: (1) adding the moderator of the Executive Operating Board of MPCC as a member of Presbytery Council; (2) allowing electronic meetings of our committees and commissions; and (3) increasing the number of members of the Committee on Ministry from 15 to 18.
- Received oral reports from Presbyterian Women (Patti Phillips, Moderator); the Mutual Mission Committee (Richard Kirk, Moderator); Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (Joe Albright, Board Member and Terry Patterson, Executive Director); and Transitional Executive Presbyter Steve Benz.
- Recognized and thanked our teaching elders serving in validated ministries outside the congregation
- Admitted to record the transfer of the following teaching elders: Katherine Robb Davis to Denver Presbytery; Vincent Kolb to Pittsburgh Presbytery; Andrew Marshall to Central Florida Presbytery; and Madison Munoz to Whitewater Valley Presbytery (pending)
- Elected members of committees and commissions and approved a clearer way of describing candidates in the future so that we are mindful of our obligations to elect persons who represent the diversity of our presbytery
- Appointed members to the St. Augustine Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission (SAPDAC) and gave the Moderator of the Presbytery authority to appoint additional members
- Received additional reports from the stated clerk, committees and commissions (including administrative commissions) of the presbytery and approved proposed actions.

Our lunch on the grounds included barbecue meats, green bean casserole, potato salad, mango spring salad, chocolate éclair cake, banana cake and red velvet cupcakes!

The 2015 Winter Stated Meeting will be held at Community Presbyterian Church, 150 Sherry Dr., Atlantic Beach, FL, 32233, on Saturday, February 7, 2015.

It will be my pleasure to answer any questions you may have about these brief highlights or to provide you or your congregation/session with more information. I can be reached at sandra@staugpres.org or on my cell phone: 904-612-9766. Also, you are welcome to contact our Transitional Executive Presbyter, Steve Benz, at steve@staugpres.org and (904) 733-8277 x. 125.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick
Presbytery Stated Clerk



ART CLASSES

On November 22nd, Diana Harris's art class will be painting covered bridges with acrylics on canvas.

The fee is only \$10.00 so give her a call at 425-4351 to reserve your spot.



CLEAN UP DAY AT CHURCH

Saturday, Nov. 1st, from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon will be a church clean up day. Bring your garden tools and your cleaning supplies and help spruce up the church and grounds for the holidays.

If you can help, please sign the sheet in the Narthex so we will know how many to serve for lunch.



**BOY SCOUT
BREAKFAST**

BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST

Sunday, Nov. 9th, is the annual Boy Scout breakfast. They will be serving all of your favorites—scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, milk and coffee!

Plan to come hungry and enjoy a delicious meal!



**Membership
Class**

NEW MEMBER CLASS

A class for new members will be held Saturday morning, Nov. 15th, with new members being received on Sunday, Nov. 16th. If you have been attending Weirsdale Presbyterian Church, we would love to have you become a permanent part of our family.

Anyone interested in joining our church should attend this class. Please be sure to contact Betty McEuen at 245-9412 or Pastor Charlie at 821-0055.



On Oct. 26th, Frani Moir and the Village View Gospel Quartet joined us in our morning worship. She will return on Nov. 23rd with the Men of Action who will be performing throughout our worship service. Fellowship during both of their visits will be Potluck meals so please plan to attend and bring a dish to share.

Church Directory

UPDATE



Several times in the last couple of months, we have handed out the new member information forms. Each one of you is requested to fill one out on both sides and turn it back in to the office. Once they are all in, we will be updating the directory with current information and then distributing the new directories to you. If you would like to have a more current photograph in the directory, please let us know, and we'll get a new picture taken.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Head Usher:	Don Morris
Liturgist:	Sandra Hendren
Communion Set Up:	Don and Linda Clarke
Communion Servers:	Elaine Metz, Diana McDonald, Brian Farley & Betty McEuen

As always, if you are unable to serve as listed above, **PLEASE find a substitute.** And, thank you for your willingness to serve our church.

Hosting Fellowship

The response to our request for hosts for Fellowship has been great. We have only a one Sunday left open until the end of the year. If you are moved to help out, please consider signing up for November 30th.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the kitchen in Douglas Hall, or you can call Elaine Morris at 245-7426.



Community of Gratitude

The Community of Gratitude is deeply grateful for your generous donations. They are able to feed hundreds of adults and children every month. Let's remember that the first Sunday of each month is "Food Pantry Sunday". Please continue to bring your food and personal toiletries donations and place them in the box in Douglas Hall. The Food Pantry is always in need of peanut butter, jelly, cereal and applesauce.

August, 2014:

Total Individuals	802
Households	320
Equivalent to	7218 meals
Children 0-17	210

September, 2014

737
311
6633 meals
175





We are sewing ditty bags every 2nd and 4th Monday in Douglas Hall. There is a backlog of 2300 requests from troops to fill, and there are only a couple of other groups and individuals sewing for them at this time. We will also be working on Christmas stockings in October.

There is a lot of fabric to be cut, thanks to donations from some of our members and Operation Shoebox, so we can use all the help we can get. You do not have to come to the work sessions; you can work at home on our various projects if you prefer. But it is productive to all work together, and we welcome all help!

Diana Harris is coordinating sewing sessions at church and delivering the items to Operation Shoebox. She can be reached at 352-425-4351 or at 352-625-6021.

Our troops are forever grateful for their gifts received from you through Operation Shoebox. Here is one of their letters from last March, 2014.

We are doing well out here in Afghanistan. We sincerely appreciate the support that you are offering service members. What you are doing for us does not go unappreciated.

I used the little ditty bag as my Night Vision Goggle case in the aircraft. It helps protect them from the sand and the sun during the day. Actually several of us are using the ditty bags in this manner. Thank you for the little notes, pens, paper, and other goodies that were inside the bag.

Just so you know a little more about one of the soldiers you are working to support, I will tell you a little about myself. I have been in the service nearly 20 years. For the past 12 years I have been flying Blackhawk helicopters for the Army. Prior to this point I was enlisted as an Ammunition Specialist. This has been a great privilege to serve these past 20 years.

I have been happily married to my bride of 12 years (yes, I start flying a month after I was married.) We have had the honor of having 6 happy and healthy children. They are what keep me doing what I do.

Anyway, I simply wanted to say thank you for the service you are rendering for us. God bless you for your efforts.

v/r,
S. Isaac Smith

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Continued prayers are needed for the following:

- Mary Grant's breathing problems have improved but she would like continued prayers for healing.
- Jim & Audrey Stangle received some bumps and bruises in a car accident and would like prayers for healing
- Marie Oille has completed her treatments for cancer and would appreciate prayers for her continued healing.



For further prayer requests, contact the following:

Alice Ralph	347-6647
Linda Spence	653-8835
Marie Oille	750-6452



Remember our friends who are homebound or in a care facility by sending them a card to brighten their day:

Al Bunce
1626 Bay Meadows Lane
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Gene Pratt
3131 TCU Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32817

Eleanor Redding
P.O. Box 96
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Marilyn Smith
15020 SE 140th Ave. Rd.
Weirsdale, FL 32195



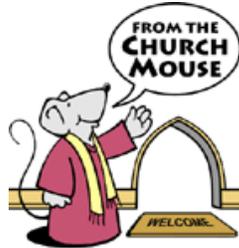
GIFTING THROUGH THE YEAR

1. The new forms for **Altar Flowers for 2015** are in the Narthex. If you are so moved to sponsor the flowers for a Sunday service, please fill out a form and return it to the office or put in the collection plate on Sundays. The flowers are only \$25.00 and add to the beauty of the sanctuary and service.
2. The **Love INC** gas cans are always conveniently located in the Narthex and Douglas Hall so you can drop your change in them as you are coming or going. The little amounts that you leave are make such a big difference to those in need of your help.
3. The first Sunday of each month is **Food Pantry Sunday**. Please put your items in Douglas Hall in the designated area.

**WEIRSDALE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

16303 SE 137th Court
P. O. Box 269
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Phone: 352-821-2757
Fax: 352-821-3554
E-mail: weirsdalepres@gmail.com
Website: www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org



**Our Mission:
Bring People to Christ
Develop our Discipleship**

Dates to Remember

Nov 1, Church Clean Up & Lunch, 8:00 AM-Noon
Nov 1, Deacons Meet, 9:00 AM
Nov 2, Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Nov 2, Food Pantry Sunday—Place Items in Douglas Hall
Nov 2, Sunday Worship & Communion, 10:30 AM
Linda Kafader of Community of Gratitude
Nov 2, Fellowship, 11:30 AM
Nov 4, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM
Nov 5, Small Groups, 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Nov 5, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
Nov 6, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Nov 9, Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Nov 9, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM
Nov 9, Fellowship—Boy Scout Breakfast, 11:30 AM
Nov 10, Sewing Group, 9:00 AM, Douglas Hall
Nov 11, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM
Nov 12, Small Groups, 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Nov 12, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
Nov 13, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Nov 15, New Members Class, 9:00 AM, Sr. High Room
Nov 16, Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Nov 16, Sunday Worship & New Members, 10:30 AM
Nov 16, Fellowship, 11:30 AM
Nov 16, Session Meets, 11:45 AM
Nov 18, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM
Nov 18, DEADLINE for Newsletter Announcements
Nov 19, Small Groups, 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Nov 19, Sr. Singles, 5:00 PM, Douglas Hall
Nov 19, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
Nov 20, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Nov 22, Art Class by Diana Harris, 9:00 AM,
Nov 23, Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Nov 23, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM
Frani Moir & The Men of Action
Nov 23, Fellowship—Potluck Hobo Soup, 11:30 AM
Nov 24, Sewing Group, 9:00 AM, Douglas Hall

Nov 25, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30 AM
Nov 26, Small Groups, 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Nov 26, No Boy Scout Meeting
Nov 27, THANKSGIVING DAY
Nov 30, No Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Nov 30, 1st Sunday of Advent Worship, 10:30 AM
Nov 30, Fellowship, 11:30 AM

Check Us Out—Keep in Touch!

www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org

weirsdalepres@gmail.com

Love INC

Help with bills, housing, clothing and food
Monday—Thursday: 9 AM to Noon
352-245-8774 or 352-245-5632

Community of Gratitude

Emergency Food Pantry
Tuesday 10AM to Noon
Thursday 1PM to 3PM
Saturday 10AM to Noon
352-288-3499

