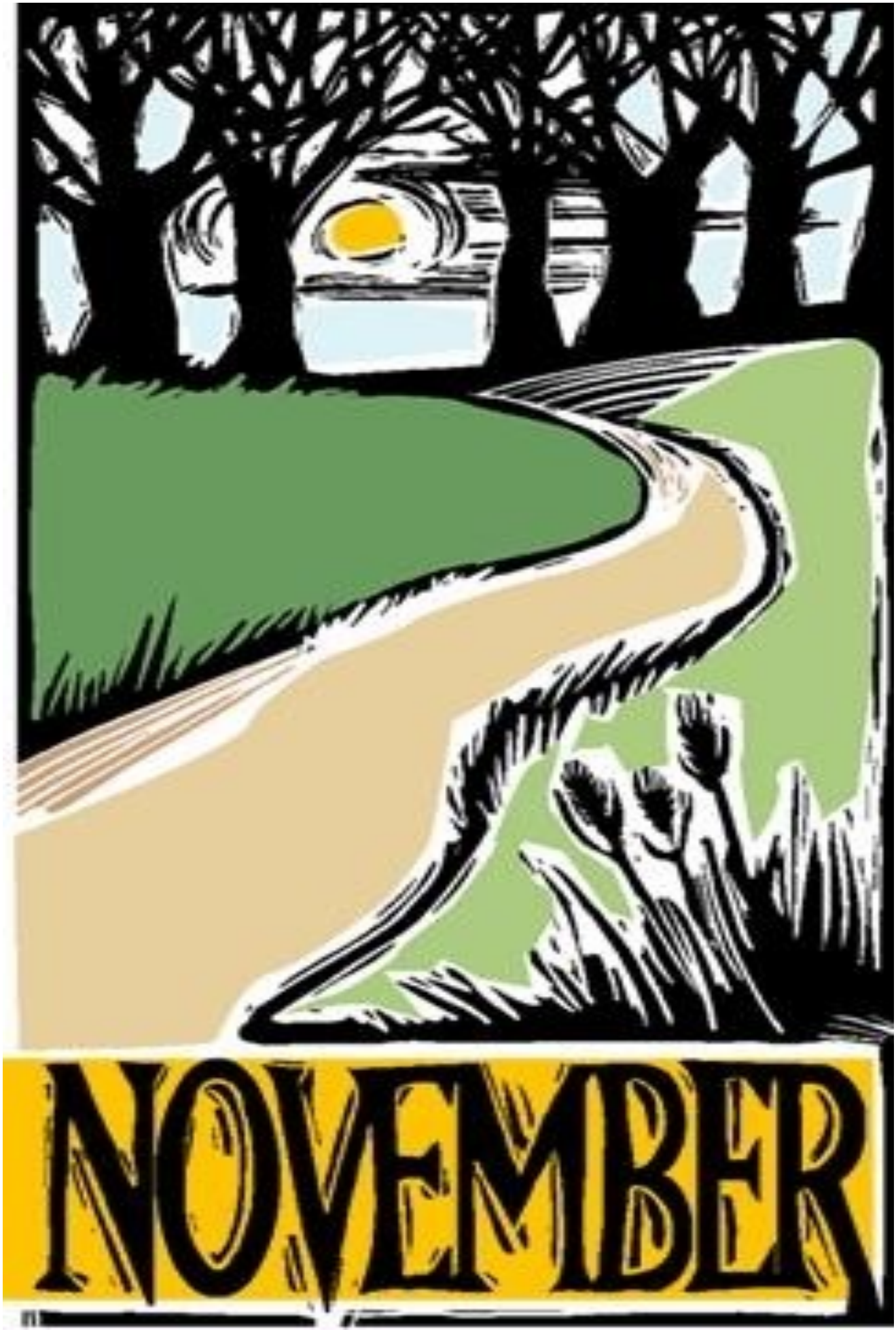

NOVEMBER

October, 2015
Volume 37 No. 8

The Church Mouse

Chatting with Charlie – October, 2015

As we enter November we are less than a month away from Thanksgiving Day. But for God's people, Thanksgiving should be more than a special day on the calendar. The Bible urges us to live a life of thanksgiving each day. Being thankful to God for all of His blessings is truly a mark of being a Christian. Let's explore some ways to express our thanksgiving to the Lord based on Psalm 100, a song of praise to God as our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer.

Don't Be Afraid to Shout Praise to the Lord - Psalm 100:1 says, "Make a joyful shout to the LORD." Biblical shouting is associated with great achievement or joy. Joshua told Israel to march around Jericho for six days and on the seventh day to lift a great shout. When they did, the walls fell down. As appropriate may we shout for joy since God loves to hear our praises.

2. **Don't Be Afraid to Serve the Lord with Gladness -** "Serve the LORD with gladness" (Psalm 100:2). Gladness means happiness. No service to the Lord, whether great or small, should be done grudgingly. May we all serve the Lord with a glad heart and joyful smile.
3. **Don't Be Afraid to Come into the Lord's Presence -** "Come before His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2). God calls us to come into His presence privately each day and together in corporate worship. May we continue to regularly assemble with our fellow believers in thanksgiving, hearing the Word, worship and fellowship.
4. **Don't Be Afraid to Get to Know the Lord** - The rest of Psalm 100:3 says, "Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (emphasis added). The psalmist calls the people to recognize and "know" God's words, works and ways. May we come together in our small groups to get to know God and our brothers and sisters in Christ more intimately and to encourage one another to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith as the Saints who have gone on before us have done.

As we approach this Holiday Season, may we take the time to stop and silently reflect on all the blessings God has bestowed on us over the years and graciously respond with a loving, thankful servant's heart toward God and our neighbors.

Your brother in Christ,
Charlie

Highlights of 2015 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting

By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk

"The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, the Lord's word is upon my tongue." 2 Samuel 23:2

The Lord called us together for our Fall Stated Meeting on October 6, 2015, at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (MPCC). The theme was "the Mission of the Church," and visible signs of the church in mission in our communities were placed at the Lord's Table and all around our meeting space. The morning offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was nearly $1,400.

In the inviting fall weather, approximately 120 teaching elders and commissioners and 25 visitors registered and began a time of visiting that would resume during a fellowship break and again as they enjoyed a lunch on the grounds. Many of the past moderators of the presbytery attended the meeting and were recognized just before the worship service with individualized name tags and a clap offering.

The morning message - "King David: The Credits" (2 Samuel 23:8-39) - was brought by the Rev. Dr. Josh Braley of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Archer, Florida. As Josh led us deeper into God's word, he pointed out that when King David speaks his last words on his deathbed, you would think that scripture would follow those words with a eulogy about King David and his many accomplishments. Instead, there is a list of his loyal, brave and courageous friends (reminding Josh of the long credits at the end of a Hollywood movie). David's kingdom was a blessing because of the work of many people together, as a team. Josh shared how God's grace has recently been at work in his life in the way that the whole presbytery supported him and his wife Laurel after their twins were born prematurely earlier this year. He encouraged us to always remember the importance of togetherness as our presbytery serves Jesus Christ, stronger together than we could ever be alone.

Highlights of the presentations and actions during the meeting led by our Moderator Cynthia Montgomery included:

• We elected the commissioners and the young adult advisory delegate (YAAD) who will attend the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Portland in 2016 (and their alternates). We also elected individuals to be a part of our committees and commissions, re-elected the stated clerk, and approved her renewed contract.

• We welcomed three new teaching elder members: John Diller, pastor of our Orange Park church, Holly Inglis, associate pastor of our Palms church (who will be installed at 5:45 p.m. on October 18), and Marcia Graham, an honorably retired member transferring to us from Newton Presbytery.

• We met two inquirers for ministry and approved their move to candidacy: Meagan Findeiss, who is attending Austin Theological Seminary, and Bailey Pickens, who is attending Yale Divinity School.

• We approved retirement resolutions for three of our members: Carol DiGiusto, Larry Seymour, and Eriberto (Eddie) Soto.

• We recognized with gratitude the teaching elders who serve the church in validated ministries outside the congregation, such as teaching, chaplaincy and leading non-profit entities.

• In addition to receiving the 2016 Asking Budget, we approved a new investment policy proposed by the Administration and Finance Committee. We also approved a new policy relating to nomination of synod commissioners and a change to the Manual of Operations that establishes a separate Representation Committee.

• The MPCC Executive and Associate Directors (Terry Patterson and Previn Moore) and Vice-Moderator of the Executive Operating Board (Don Mossa) provided updates on the success of the summer camping programs, renovations at MPCC, and the visioning process that is taking place.

• Moderator Patti Phillips brought us news from Presbyterian Women, and Moderator Richard Kirk described upcoming events for the Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission. He also introduced Dave Tuttle of Presbyterian Social Ministries, which has recently received a grant for its work in the community from the "Together in Mission Fund" in connection with its relocation to the campus of our Murray Hill church.

• Additional presentations were made for our Youth Workers Network (Breanna Sooter of our Riverside church and Wilson Kennedy of our Palms church) and the purpose and work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (Milton Fulton of our Hodges Boulevard church).

• Updates were received from the Discernment and Design Team and each of the commissions and committees of the presbytery that did not make oral reports.

• We approved a DREAM grant proposal made by the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville for its work in the community done in partnership with the Showers of Blessings Harvest Center.

• The lunch provided outdoors included fried chicken and orange marmalade pork loin, hash brown casserole, California-style vegetables, salad, yeast rolls, banana pudding and Milky Way Cake.

• After lunch, many of the attendees got to work assembling PDA clean-up buckets. In all, 35 completed buckets (some donated and some assembled on site) were delivered to a designated PDA storage site that very afternoon, with another 25 to be completed and delivered soon. These buckets will be available for use in South Carolina as needed in the coming weeks.

The Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, Florida on Saturday, February 6, 2016, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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. In addition, if you attended the meeting, I would love to hear your comments and suggestions. *I can be reached at sandra@staugpres.org or on my cell phone: 904-612-9766.* Transitional Executive Presbyter Steve Benz also welcomes your input and can be reached at steve@staugpres.org or 904-733-8277, ext. 125.

Rev. Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk
sandra@staugpres.org - 904-612-9766 (cell)

FELLOWSHIP BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST

The Boy Scouts are treating us to breakfast Nov. 8th after the worship service. You will enjoy all of your favorites—scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, milk and coffee!
Join them in Douglas Hall after the worship service.

New Members Class

A class for new active and affiliate members will be held at 8:45 AM on Saturday, Nov. 7th, with new members being received on Sunday morning, Nov. 15th. If you are interested, please talk to Betty McEuen at 245-9412 or Pastor Charlie at 821-0055.

Called Congregational Meeting--November 22

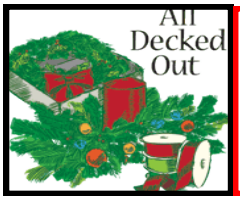
A Called Congregational meeting of all active members will be held after worship on Nov. 22nd to discuss and approve a recommended revision to our bylaws, receive the report from the 2015 Nominating Committee and hold our annual elections. A copy of the Bylaws packet will be available for each member family after worship on Nov. 8th and 15th.

Angel Tree

The Deacon's Angel Tree will be set up in the Narthex on Sunday, Nov. 15th. The cards on the tree are filled out by families in the area who will not be able to give their children Christmas gifts. Each card is for one child and lists an item that child would love to receive.
If you would like to participate, please take a card, purchase the item and quantity on the card, get a gift receipt and return the unwrapped gift with card and receipt attached to Douglas Hall placing it in the numbered box that corresponds with the family number on the card. These items need to be in the boxes by December 6th.
Make it a Merry Christmas for these families!

Harvest Table

Before the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 22rd, the Harvest Table will be set up at the front of the Sanctuary. Place your fresh vegetables such as squash, potatoes, onions, carrots, etc. and fruits on the table. After the service, the items will be taken to the Food Pantry to be distributed to the needy.



DECORATE THE CHURCH

We will be decorating the church on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, after the worship service.
Hope you will plan to stay and help.

POINSETTIAS

We will start taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas on Nov. 22nd. Order forms will be in the Narthex and should be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 6th.

COMMUNITY OF GRATITUDE REPORT
September 2015

Total Individuals	1270
Number of Households	313
Equivalent:	10,863meals
Children 0-17:	325
Adults over 60	217

SENIOR SINGLES

Senior Singles will meet in Douglas at 5:00 PM, Wednesday, Nov. 18th.
Come and have fun!
All are welcome.

CRAFT BAZAAR & MARKET

On Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14, we will open our doors to the community for our second Harvest Happenings Craft Bazaar & Market. Our talented members have been hard at work again to make this the most unique Bazaar in the area! Our diverse selection will include children's gifts, handmade jewelry, Christmas decorations and "Dye your own silk scarf"….the list is endless. Flyers are available in Douglas Hall.

We will again need your help with advertising, bringing the items up from downstairs, setting up, working the days of the show and taking it down. Our proceeds will go towards updating the church parlor. Please mark these dates on your calendar! It's a great opportunity to make acquaintances, share our beautiful grounds and the history of our church.

If you have any questions please call Elaine Rumpel at 352-821-0055.

HOBO Soup

Sunday, Nov. 29th, is Hobo Soup Sunday for Fellowship. Bring cans of soups (no creamy soups, please) to Douglas Hall so the cooks can prepare them on Sunday morning.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2015 Church Directories are being distributed. If you have not received yours, contact Linda Spatta in the church office at 352-821-2757 to pick up yours. We ask that you take one per family.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING AMPLIFIERS

Hearing amplifiers can be found in the Narthex for your use during the worship service. If you have any questions, ask the head usher or the person at the audio/visual cabinet.

VOLUNTEER COOKS WANTED

The Tuesday Time Out group is looking for volunteers who would like to prepare a meal at the church on occasion (or even just once) for Tuesday Time Out.

You would have assistance with the menu; there would be a team of volunteers to help in the preparation, and there would be no expense to you. The number of people served would be between 30 and 90 depending on the season.

Call Gary at 561-929-6210 if you would like more information. Give it a try. It's a lot of fun!

Romans Life Application Study Schedule

The Romans Life Application Study groups have been established and are just beginning to meet. If you are interested, there is still time to get into one of them. The schedules and contact information are as follows:

Sundays:	Women's Group	Led by Sue Cordle and Cathie Vibber	8:55 AM
Sundays:	Men's Group	Led by Pastor Charlie & Jim Bowers	8:55 AM
Wednesdays:	Stonecrest Area Group	Led by Linda Spence	1:30 PM
Thursdays:	Men's Midweek Group	Led by Pastor Charlie & Jim Bowers	5:30 PM
Fridays:	Del Webb Area Group	Led by Ann Myers & Alice Ralph	10:00 AM

Contact:

Jim Bowers (352-288-3286) Sue Cordle (352-245-7882) Ann Myers (352-653-3319)
Alice Ralph (352-347-6647) Linda Spence (352-653-8835) Cathy Vibber (352-821-3682)

The sewing group that makes the ditty bags and Christmas stockings for our troops stationed over seas meets in Douglas Hall on the second and fourth Monday each month. They are concentrating on Christmas stockings from now until the holidays. Next meetings will be November 9th & 23rd.

Cutters, sewers and crocheters can all help; your efforts are appreciated.

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

Receiving news from our troops is always a heart warming experience. They love the ditty bags and Christmas stockings that are put together with such care and love for them, and they return their gratefulness with wonderful letters. Here is one ……...

Good afternoon,
I received one of your ditty bags this afternoon. Thank you so much. It is really nice to get something homemade. I will be sure to cherish my bag and make sure it comes back home with me.

Please pass my gratitude along to the women of Weirsdale Presbyterian Church and all of your volunteers. Again, thank you for you continued support.

Very respectfully,

Shane W. Suber
SGT, USA
MISO Support Element Intelligence Analyst

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist:	Nov. 1st, 15th & 22nd:	Bobbi Lytle
	Nov. 8th & 29th:	Sue Cordle
Communion Set Up:		Nancy McPeek
Communion Servers:		Robbie Bourque, Bobbi Lytle, Elaine Metz, Alice Ralph, Linda Rou

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!

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Prayers for Don Cunningham for successful cancer surgery and speedy recovery.
- Prayers for the family of Betts Mengel's daughter Melissa on the passing of Melissa's husband.

For prayer requests, contact the following:
Ann Myers 352-653-3319
Robbie Bourque (H) 352-391-9538 (C) 352-350-3750

PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

If you have a prayer request, please call **Ann Myers** at 653-3319 or **Robbie Bourque** on her cell at 350-3750 or at home at 391-9538.

Also, if you would be interested in helping on the prayer chain, call either Ann or Robbie and let them know.

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

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 forms for **Altar Flowers** 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 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. They are always in need of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, applesauce and personal toiletries.

Check Us Out—-Keep in Touch!

www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org

weirsdalepres@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Nov 1, Food Pantry Sunday Bring donations to D.H.
Nov 1, Romans Life Study, Women's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Meeting Rm 3rd Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 1, Romans Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Sr. High Rm 1st Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 1, Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion, 10:30 AM
Nov 1, Fellowship, 11:30 AM
Nov 3, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall
Nov 4, Romans Life Study, Stonecrest Area, 1:30 PM
Nov 4, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM
Nov 4, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
Nov 5, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall
Nov 5, Roman's Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Upstairs, 5:30 PM
Nov 6, Roman's Life Study, Del Webb Area, 10:00 AM
Nov 7, New Member Class, 8:45 AM
Nov 7, DEACONS Meet, 9:00 AM

Nov 8, Romans Life Study, Women's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Meeting Rm 3rd Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 8, Romans Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Sr. High Rm 1st Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 8, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM
Nov 8, Fellowship, 11:30 AM
Nov 8, SESSION Meets, 11:45 AM
Nov 9, Operation Shoebox Sewing Group, 9:00 AM
Nov 10, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall
Nov 11, Romans Life Study, Stonecrest Area, 1:30 PM
Nov 11, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM
Nov 11, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
Nov 12, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall
Nov 12, Roman's Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Upstairs, 5:30 PM
Nov 13, CRAFT BAZAAR, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM
Nov 13, Roman's Life Study, Del Webb Area, 10:00 AM
Nov 14, CRAFT BAZAAR, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Nov 15, Romans Life Study, Women's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Meeting Rm 3rd Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 15, Romans Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Sr. High Rm 1st Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 15, Sunday Worship, New Members Received,10:30 AM
Nov 15, Fellowship, 11:30 AM
Nov 17, Tuesday Time Out, 11:30, Douglas Hall
Nov 17, Deadline Newsletter Announcements
Nov 18, Romans Life Study, Stonecrest Area, 1:30 PM
Nov 18, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM
Nov 18, Sr. Singles Meet, Douglas Hall, 5:00 PM
Nov 18, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
Nov 19, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM, Douglas Hall
Nov 19, Roman's Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Upstairs, 5:30 PM
Nov 20, Roman's Life Study, Del Webb Area, 10:00 AM

Nov 22, Romans Life Study, Women's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Meeting Rm 3rd Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 22, Romans Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Sr. High Rm 1st Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 22, Sunday Worship,10:30 AM
Nov 22, Harvest Table
Nov 22, Called Congregation Mtg/Elections, 11:30 AM
Nov 22, Decorate the Church, 11:45 AM
Nov 22, Fellowship, No Potluck this month, 11:30 AM
Nov 23, Operation Shoebox Sewing Group, 9:00 AM
Nov 24, Tuesday Time Out Thanksgiving Meal, 11:30 AM
Nov 25, Romans Life Study, Stonecrest Area, 1:30 PM
Nov 25, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft, 4:30 PM
Nov 26, THANKSGIVING
Nov 27, Roman's Life Study, Del Webb Area, 10:00 AM

Nov 29, Romans Life Study, Women's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Meeting Rm 3rd Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 29, Romans Life Study, Men's Group, Douglas Hall Downstairs Sr. High Rm 1st Door, 8:55 AM
Nov 29, Sunday Worship,10:30 AM
Nov 29, HOBO Soup, Fellowship, 11:30 AM

W E I R S D A L E
P R E S B Y T E R I A N
C H U R C H

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

Weirsdale Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Fellowship: 11:30 AM

Study Groups:

Sundays 8:55 AM Men's & Women's: Church
Wednesdays 1:30 PM: Stonecrest
Thursday's Men's 5:30 PM: Douglas Hall
Fridays 10:00 AM: Del Webb