

“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”

Ann Dietz, Publisher

November 2016, Issue



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember



Please thank a veteran.

September and October Financial Reports

We hope that you find this information helpful as you pray for this congregation and evaluate your giving and participation in the worship, work and mission of this part of the Body of Christ. Sincerely, the Session and Pastor

Tithes and Offerings needed for each week of this year = \$1,702.00. This figure is based on a total 2016 budget of \$88,504.00 which was approved by the Session on December 27, 2015.

SEPTEMBER

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,808.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$3,943.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$2,865.00)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	\$7,248.08 (\$3,305.08)

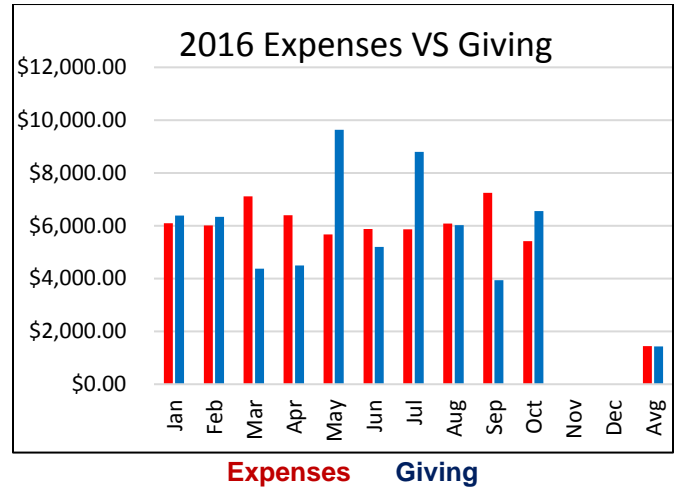
OCTOBER

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 of 5 weeks)	\$6,808.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 of 5 weeks)	\$6,550.02
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$247.98)
Total Expenses (4 of 5 weeks) resulting in an overage for the month	\$5,415.39 \$1,144.63

YEAR-TO-DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (43 weeks)	\$73,186.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings (43 weeks) received	\$61,748.02
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$11,437.98)
Total Expenses (43 weeks) This results in a shortage to expenses for the year	\$61,799.40 (51.38)

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our YTD finances for October 2016 (through week 4):



Session Highlights

Stated Meeting – September 25th

The Session:

- Approved the August financial report.
- Reviewed and approved the August minutes from the Finance Committee.
- Discussed how to motivate the older children to pay attention during worship, now that they are only going downstairs to practice songs for upcoming worship services and a few other special times.
- Discussed the possibility of a confirmation class in the near future.
- Discussed a proposed solution to the drainage problem between the sanctuary and the new fellowship hall.
- Discussed who we might hire to replace the rotten louvers in the sanctuary steeple.

Called Meeting – October 16th

The Session met with Jon Duckworth to discuss becoming an active member of this congregation. Jon was received by the congregation into membership on Sunday, October 23rd.

The Pastor's Ponderings

I read the following article in the October 24th issue of The Presbyterian Outlook.

“Look for the Supports”

By Jill Duffield, editor

“I entered the sanctuary hoping to slip into a back pew, but the church was crowded. A summer Sunday during late June in Portland, Oregon, would normally mean a choice of seats, but this Sunday the space was packed. [The PCUSA] General Assembly was in town and the congregation swelled as a result.

The pews were all but full and finding a seat that allowed for anonymity and a quick escape (if summoned to work) was difficult. I went to sit on the narrow wooden bench that lined the wall under the stained glass windows. When I arrived there was one lone man seated there, just beside the chancel doors. I sat down and he jumped up waving his hands like a referee does when a runner slides safely to base. But his was a gesture not of safety but of urgent warning. “No, no, no!” he said as gently as his troubled face could muster. “It is old!”

Seeing the alarm on the man's face, I instinctively stood up. He was so small I might have mistaken him for a child except for the gray hair around his temples. He was simply dressed: no suit, no tie. He smiled and said, “Look for the supports.” He bent his small body in half, peered under the bench and took several steps until he came to the wooden spindled legs peppered dangerously far apart under the bench that spanned the entire length of the sanctuary. “Look for the supports.” He tapped them and smiled. “It's OK to sit, you just need to look for the supports.”



I thanked him. Truly, I was grateful as I did not want to be the one to bust the bench on the Sunday when a good portion of the Presbyterian world would witness me falling on my, well, you know.

The service began and more and more people joined the Body. Many of them, like me, were looking to slide in [unnoticed] and went for a seat on the bench. The man at the door kept jumping up to warn them of their potential downfall. Arms waving, “No, no, no!” He whispered, “Look for the supports.” Over he bent, tap, tap, tap, “See?”

This went on throughout the service, with one ominous creaking sound and a more urgent, “No, no, no!” midway through the second hymn.

I wondered if this doorkeeper of the Lord was stationed there every Sunday for just this purpose as an official member of the ushering and greeting team, or if he took the duty upon himself as many church people do when they see a need.

Regardless, for me, on that Sabbath, he became the sermon, the witness, the Word made flesh.

“Look for the supports.” As the crowd swelled and more worshippers went for the bench, people seated on the back pews started to help with the protective [warning]. The job was too big for one person. No one wanted bench or congregant to collapse. “Look for the supports” became a liturgical response to the movement of the people.

As I listened to the man and his impromptu followers, I thought of people I knew who needed support. Particular people came to mind: the teenager who'd tried to hang herself, the friend in the midst of chemo, refugees, the people sleeping on the sidewalks just outside the sanctuary.

I worried that I had not been a capable doorkeeper for the Lord over the years. I had not been as vigilant as that small man. I'd been seated up front. I didn't always know what was happening on the [edges]. I don't think I told people to look for the supports and I am certain I didn't show them [exactly] where to find them.

There are supports to be found in the church, but many people don't know where to find them. They may never have been in the sanctuary before. They need to be invited. They need to be shown the places that can bear their weight and the weight of their burdens. We insiders need to hang around the [edges], get up, bend down, tell [folks about] the supports in the church and, more importantly, the support of Jesus Christ, so others can find rest, body and soul.” (The end of the article.)

So, what does this article have to do with us? First, this congregation is old – having been established in or before 1774 – and since we are still here, and mostly well, there must be some ways in which we have been supported through the years.

- How has God helped to keep this congregation going in the past? I have heard some of the stories but would love to hear more of them.
- How might God do similar things in our lives today which will keep this congregation going and growing in faith as we face the increasing challenges of a small church in our rapidly changing culture?

Second, this article relates to us as a reminder that we need to look for the supports, in our faith together and in our personal relationships with God, when things get tough in our lives and for our congregation. Some of those supports include: prayer, worship, Scripture reading, and fellowship events. And then we need to remember to point those supports out to each other as we are tempted to lose hope.

Third, once we become aware of (and remind ourselves of) the supports in our lives of faith, we have the wonderful ability to share them with those outside of the church whose lives need some care and hope. You may have heard the following statement before: “Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find food.” In the context of this article I would make this statement: Evangelism (Christian witness) is one person, who has found support from God in his/her life,

showing other people how to find that same support from God in their lives. And the good news is, we do not have to go very far to do this kind of evangelism. All we have to do is be willing to share what God has done in our lives – individually and as a church – with the people we meet in our daily living in the world.

May you all have opportunities over the next months and years to share the location of God’s supports with others, so that more people can place the full weight of their lives in the hands of God and be at peace, knowing that God will not leave them or forsake them – no matter what comes. Amen.

Pastor Yvonne

Photo from <http://www.vintageambiance.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Texas-Pine-Pew-1024x544.jpg>



By the time Thanksgiving Day arrives, we will probably know the final election results, and we might not be very happy about it. But ... let us all remember that as much as it matters who governs our towns and cities, our states and our nation, it matters much, much more who we allow to govern our lives. May we all remember that: **body and soul, in life and in death, we belong to God.** And may each of us take time on Thanksgiving Day, as we gather with family and friends, to celebrate all the blessings God has given us in our lives and thank him for his mercy and grace towards us – even while we were yet sinners.

I am thankful for each of you and pray that God will continue to shower you with his loving care all the days of your life.

Pastor Yvonne

Editor's Note: I'm doing something this month in the newsletter that I've never done before. Since Veteran's Day is November 11th I'm devoting most of this paper to the "Veterans". We have always celebrated Thanksgiving this time of the year, and I am apologizing in advance if I have offended anyone. I certainly don't mean to. But I think we should thank our veterans for our freedom, and I feel this is only one small way of doing so.

Ann Dietz

“What God Did at Pearl Harbor That Day”

This is very interesting, and I never knew this little bit of history: One can purchase a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor", by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941, Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be a Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat-you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day 1941, Admiral Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, “Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?” Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, “Either the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?”

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, “What do you mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?”

Nimitz explained. Mistake # 1: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk – we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake # 2: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake # 3: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane would have started those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas, he was born optimist. But any way you look at it, Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST. Why have we forgotten? PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY! Amen!!



“Man Walks Into a Chick-Fil-A”

Chick-fil-A, the same fast-food outlet that constantly is accused by some of being evil, has once again proved the opposite to the world.

This time it did so by unveiling an amazing Veterans Day tribute that left Georgia resident Eric Comfort in complete amazement.

According to a Facebook post he published, when he walked into a local Chick-fil-A, Comfort discovered a “Missing Man Table” that contained a single rose, a Bible and a folded American flag, as well as a plaque within which was the following explanation:

“This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. The tablecloth is white symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one Nation under God. The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast. The chair is empty because they are missing.

After the story went viral, the store manager, Alex Korchan, explained to WSB that his team members had set up the table because they “wanted to honor veterans.”

Furthermore, he revealed that he planned to offer free meals to all veterans and their family members this Veterans Day between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 pm. Korchan also put up a poster so that customers could write in the names of loved ones who they have lost.

“We've had a lot of people who have come in and seen it and been touched by it,” Korchan continued. “It's been special to see.”



“Van T. Barfoot Died”

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back? You might remember the news story several months ago about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association, and refused to take down the flag pole on his property along with a large American flag he flew on it. Now we learn who that old man was.

On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make news back then. But twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy, that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war.

And if that weren't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions.

That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel after serving in

Korea and Vietnam, a well-deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make news ... was his Neighborhood Association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21' flagpole was "unsuitable".

Van T. Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he agreed to take it down.

Then the HOA story made national TV, and the Neighborhood Association re-thought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them.

"In the time I have left," he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.

"We only live in the land of the free because of the brave! And because of old men like Van T. Barfoot.



"My Name Is Rose"

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder.

I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire

being. She said, "Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?"

I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you may!" And she gave me a giant squeeze.

"Why are you in college at such a young innocent age?" I asked.

She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich, husband, get married, and have a couple of kids."

"No seriously," I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age.

"I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me.

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she reveled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up. At the end of the semester, we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet. I'll never forget what she taught us.

She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor.

Frustrated and a little embarrassed, she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order, so let me just tell you what I know."

As we laughed she cleared her throat and began, "We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and

achieving success. You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die.

We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it! There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eighty-eight. Anybody can grow older! That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding opportunity in change. Have no regrets.

The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets.” She concluded her speech by courageously singing “The Rose.”

She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those months ago.

One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

These words have been passed along in loving memory of Rose. Remember, growing older is mandatory, growing up is optional. We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage. It God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.



“Holiday Plans”

Dear Friends:

We are having a couple of weeks in the sun shortly and thought you would be interested to see our plans for the rest of 2016.

We have been in many places, but we've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

We've also never been in Cognito. We hear no one recognizes you there.

We have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport. You have to be driven there. We have made several trips there thanks to our children, friends, family, and work.

We would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and we're not too good at physical activity anymore. We have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and we try not to visit there too often.

We've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes we're in Capable. We go there more often as we're getting older.

One of our favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At our age we need all the stimuli we can get!

We may have been in Continent, but we can't recall which country we were in. It's an age thing. They tell us it is very wet and damp there.

Finally, do your part!

“Old Person Pride”

I never really liked the term “Old Person”, but this makes me feel better about it. And if you aren't one, I bet you know one! I got this from an “Old Person” friend of mine!

I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old person reading it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see.

Old people are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the National Anthem, old people remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old people remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the moon landing. They remember the 50 plus peace-keeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an Old Person on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old Person on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old People trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old People hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection. Old People get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.

Old People have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren. It's Old People who remove their hats while eating in a restaurant in respect for the ladies and guests.

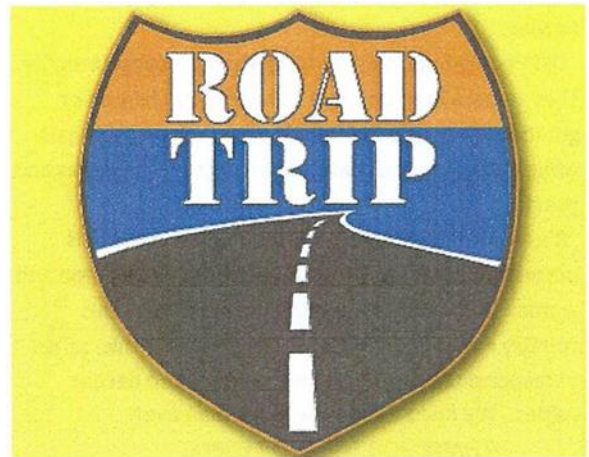
It's the Old People who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country. This country needs Old People with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values. We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for "Old People".



Life is too short for negative drama and petty things. So laugh insanely, love truly, and forgive quickly.

From one unstable friend to another. L hope everyone is happy in your head – we're all doing pretty well in mine!!



A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, how serious is my condition is because this prescription is marked "No Refills".

"You know why a banana is like a politician?"

"He comes in and first he's green, then turns yellow, and then he's rotten."

“I think Congressmen should wear uniforms, you know, like NASCAR drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors.”

A sportsman who lived in the city went to a hunting lodge and bagged a record number of birds, aided by a dog named Salesman. The next year, he returned and asked for Salesman.

“That hound ain't no good now,” the handler said with disgust.

“What happened?” the sportsman asked, “Was he injured?”

“No,” the handler replied. “Some idiot who had him for a week was so happy with him that he started calling him Sales Manager. Now all he does is sit on his tail and barks.”

“What’s Going on at QMPC in November”

Elders on Call

Oct 30-Nov 05 – Bennett Ross

Nov 06-12 – Ann Dietz

Nov 13-19 – Judy Galey

Nov 20-26 – James Sanford

Nov 27-Dec 03 – Riddle Smith

Children's Sermon & Worker for Downstairs

Nov 06th – Heather Kramer/Betty Williams

Nov 13th – Ruth Pershing/Gladys Ross

Nov 20th – Darleen Caputo visit with shut-ins

Nov 27th – Heather Kramer/Lelia Bruder

Other Events

Nov 08th – Election Day (New Bldg)

Nov 09th – Bible Study New Bldg, 6:00 pm

Nov 14th – Circle #1, 10:00 @ Ruth Preston's house

Nov 16th – Bible Study, New Bldg, 6:00 pm

Nov 17th – Bible Study, Manse 12:30 pm

Nov 22nd – Bible Study, New Bldg, 6:00 pm

Nov 24th – Thanksgiving Day

Nov 30th – Bible Study, New Bldg, 6:00 pm

“Turkey Salad”

- 1) 3 cups cooked cubed turkey breasts
- 2) 1 (16 oz) can pineapple tidbits, drained
- 3) 1 (8 oz) can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 4) 4 green onions, sliced

Combine above ingredients and serve with a fat-free honey mustard dressing. (6 Servings)
