

“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”

Ann Dietz, Publisher

November 2017, Issue



GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

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 = \$1,704.42. This figure is based on a total 2017 budget of \$90,334.00 which was approved by the Session.

SEPTEMBER

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,817.66
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$5,613.50
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$1,204.16)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$179.22)

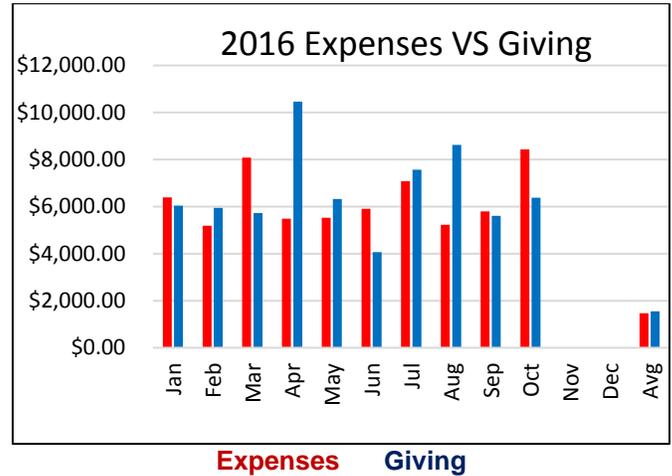
OCTOBER

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,817.66
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$6,376.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$441.66)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$2,064.30)

YEAR-TO-DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (43 weeks)	\$73,289.85
Actual Tithes and Offerings (43 weeks) received	\$66,744.76
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$6,545.09)
Total Expenses (43 weeks)	\$63,109.56
This results in an overage to expenses for the year	\$3,635.20

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our YTD finances for October 2017 (through week 4 of 5):



Session Highlights

Stated Meeting – October 22nd

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the September financial report.
- Approved the revised guidelines and eligibility requirements for monetary gifts from the Henry Harney Scholarship Fund. We will publish these clarifications soon.
- Approved a motion to purchase a 25 foot fiberglass flagpole from the Flagpole Warehouse in Acworth, GA to be placed in the grass island in our parking lot. We will also purchase a U.S., a NC and a Christian flag from that company. James Sanford has agreed to pick up the flagpole at the manufacturer's location in Mebane, NC to save us considerable shipping and handling. The total cost is \$613.73.
- Approved contacting a local company to give us an estimate on fixing our leak in the old fellowship hall under the sanctuary and eliminating the mold which is now present in several of the classrooms.
- Approved reducing the Unified Giving pledge to the presbytery from \$2,500 to \$2,000 for 2018.

- Approved Ann Dietz to preach on Sunday, November 26th so that Rev. Thurmond can preach at the ordination serve of her friend at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, AL on that day.

Some Bible Trivia

1. According to Psalm 126, what caused laughter among the Jews?
2. What old man laughed at God’s promise that he would father a child in his old age?
3. Who danced around the altar of their false god?
4. Whose wife despised him for dancing in the streets?
5. What book says, “Our dancing has turned to mourning”?

The Pastor’s Ponderings

Earlier this week a member of this congregation asked me to explain one of the phrases in the Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in the holy, catholic church ...” In the conversation which followed, I realized that several of you have concerns about the phrase and so I decided to spend some time in this newsletter to provide some theological framework for this part of what we believe as Christians.

Notice that the word ‘catholic’ is not capitalized. If it were capitalized it would be a proper noun and would mean the Roman Catholic Church. (By the way, if ‘catholic’ were capitalized, I would not say the words either, because I am Protestant, not Roman Catholic.) The dictionary defines the word ‘catholic’ as: broad or wide-ranging; universal in extent; involving all; of interest to all; pertaining to the whole Christian body or church. The Greek origin of the word literally means “pertaining to the whole”.

The Second Helvetic (Helvetic which means Swiss) Confession defends the phrase this way in section 5.126 of the Book of Confessions: “... since there is always but one God, and there is one

mediator between God and men, Jesus the Messiah, and one Shepherd of the whole flock, one Head of this body, and, to conclude, one Spirit, one salvation, one faith, one Testament or covenant, it necessarily follows that there is only one Church. We, therefore, call this Church catholic because it is universal, scattered through all parts of the world, and extended unto all times, and is not limited to any times or places.”

Notice in this excerpt from the Second Helvetic Confession that the word ‘church’ is capitalized. That is done to indicate we are talking about the ‘universal or world-wide’ Church and not just the Christians in the United States or a particular denomination. When you see the word ‘Church’ (capital ‘C’) it means all believers in Jesus everywhere – whether they are Protestants, Roman Catholics or Messianic Jews.

Several Scripture passages come to my mind regarding this point. First, in John 17:20-22, Jesus is praying to God the Father regarding us (those who believe through the testimonies of the disciples) and what he prays for, is oneness of spirit. Jesus says: *“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one ...”*

The second Scripture passage is from the Apostle Paul who takes up this theme of oneness in First Corinthians 12. Here is a portion of that chapter (verses 4-13): *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the*

working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

To avoid the confusion with using the word ‘catholic’ in a Protestant creed, many churches have changed to a more modern version of the Apostles’ Creed. That version reads this way:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

The third day he arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty,
from thence he shall come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

As you may notice in this more modern version, there is another phrase in bold. This is because, there is a significant number of Christians who will not say ‘he descended into hell’, when reciting the Apostles’ Creed. To mention that Jesus descended into hell is intended to emphasize several things: first, that Jesus was truly dead not that he was a sinner in any way. Second, the fact that he actually died and descended into the underworld – Hades or the Hebrew *Sheol* – also sets up the next statement regarding his resurrection. Not even the prison bars of hell

could contain the One in whom the Holy God had become flesh. Jesus is even depicted as preaching the Good News of salvation to the dead in First Peter 3:19. Jesus did not come back to life as Lazarus did through a power from outside himself, but was raised by the power of the Spirit of God. Since Jesus, The Father and the Holy Spirit are all ONE, however, then we can say that Jesus actually participated in raising himself from the dead. In other words, because Jesus was God in the flesh, his flesh died but his divine nature – his God essence – could not be defeated by death or the forces of hell. Therefore, when we profess that Jesus descended into hell and rose again on the third day, we are professing that even though the forces of hell tried to defeat the Son of God and his love for us, Jesus was victorious!

And that means that through Jesus, we too, will experience victory over death and the forces of hell at our own resurrections, where we will be united with Christ in God for all eternity. I cannot think of a more wonderful hope than that!

So ... if you prefer to use the more modern phrases when we recite the Apostles’ Creed in worship, please do so. As there are a variety of gifts in the Church according to the will of the Holy Spirit, so there can be a variety of words in our worship which help us all to participate, as we are comfortable and able.

Pastor Yvonne

Bible Trivia Answers

1. Bringing the captives back to Jerusalem – Psalm 126:2
2. Abraham – Genesis 17:17
3. The priests of Baal – First Kings 18:26
4. King David’s wife, Michal – First Chronicles 15:29
5. Lamentations 5:15



People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For if you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa

Never Forget Your Friends

A newlywed young man was sitting on the porch on a humid day, sipping ice tea with his Dad. As he talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, the Dad thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look on his son. "Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older. Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally, (if possible) but keep in contact with them somehow.

"What strange advice!" thought the young man, "I just entered the married world, I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be everything I need to make sense of my life."

Yet, he obeyed his Dad; kept in touch with his friends and annually increased their number. Over the years, he became aware that his Dad knew what he was talking about. Inasmuch as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a person, friends are the bulwarks of our life.

After 60 years of life, here is what he (and you) will have learned: Time passes. Life goes on. The distance separates. Children grow up. Children cease to be children and become independent. And to the parents, it breaks their heart but the children are separated from the parents. Jobs

come and go. Illusions, desires, attractions, and sex weakens. People do not do what they should do. The heart breaks.

The parents die. Colleagues forget the favors. The races are over. But, true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles they are. A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, intervening in your favor, waiting for you with open arms or in some way blessing your life.

When we started this adventure called LIFE, we didn't know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead. We didn't know how much we would need from each other. Love your parents, take care of your children, but keep a group of good friends. Dialog with them but do not impose your criteria.

Lisa Beamer on Good Morning America

If you remember, she's the wife of Todd Beamer who said, "Let's Roll!", and helped take down the plane over Pennsylvania that was heading for Washington, DC back on 9/11.

She said it's the little things that she misses most about Todd, such as hearing the garage door open as he came home, and her children running to meet him.

Lisa recalled this story: "I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose husband died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insight with a classroom of students.

As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things a side on the edge of her desk and sat down there. With a gently look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, "Class is over. I would like to share with all of you, a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important. Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate, and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment.

Perhaps this is God’s way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day.” Her eyes, beginning to water, she went on, “so I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice.”

It doesn’t have to be something you see; it could be a scent of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone’s house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please look for these things, and cherish them. For, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the “stuff” of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted.

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester. Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I try and appreciated all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Go barefoot. Or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dip ice cream cone. For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn’t do.

If you like this, pass it on to a friend. It not, toss it, and go on with your life! Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

God Bless you every day of your life. The nicest place to be is in someone’s thoughts. The safest place to be is in someone’s prayers, and the very best place to be is in the hands of God.

Have a Great & Blessed Day!!!



Puppy Size

This is one of the neatest stories you will ever read. You will know precisely what this little girl is talking about at the end.

Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. “We’ve been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this,” the mother told the volunteer.

“What is it she keeps asking for?” the volunteer asked.

“Puppy size” replied the mother.

“Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that’s what she’s looking for,”

“I know we have seen most of them,” the mom said in frustration.

Just then Danielle came walking into the office. “Well, did you find one?” asked the mom.

“No, not this time.” Danielle said with the sadness in her voice, “can we come back the weekend?” The two women looked at each other, shook their heads ‘yes’ and laughed.

“You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there’s always a supply,” the volunteer said.

Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. “Don’t worry, I’ll find one this weekend,” she said.

Over the next few days both Mom and Dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking anymore," Dad finally said in frustration.

We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size, either," Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs.

Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted.

Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "sorry, but you're not the one." It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer. "Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it! She screamed with joy. "It's the puppy size!"

"But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks." Mom said.

"No not size ... the sighs. When I held him in my arms, he sighed," she said.

"Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!"

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

"Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each

other, you both sign. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said. Then, holding the puppy up close to her face, she said, "Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart."

Close your eyes for a moment and think about the love that makes you sigh. I not only find it in the arms of my loved ones, but in the caress of a sunset, the kiss of the moonlight and the gentle brush of cool air on a hot day. They are the sighs of GOD. Take the time to stop and listen; you will be surprised at what you hear.

"Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

I hope your life is filled with sighs!!!!



It Doesn't Hurt to Have a Little Biblical Humor!!

1. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
A. Ruthless
2. What do they call pastors in Germany?
A. German Shepherds
3. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
A. Noah, He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
4. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little Prophet.
5. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?
A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the Apostles were all in one Accord.

6. Which Servant of God was the most Flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?
 - A. Moses. He broke all 10 Commandments at once.
7. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?
 - A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.
8. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
 - A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

It Never Happened??

When I was a kid, I couldn't understand why Eisenhower was so popular. Maybe this will explain why.

General Eisenhower warned us. It is a matter of history that when the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Dwight Eisenhower, found the victims of the death camps he ordered all possible photographs to be taken, and for the German people from surrounding villages to be ushered through the camps and even made to bury the dead. He did this because he said in words to this effect: "Get it all on record now – get the films, get the witnesses – because somewhere down the road of history somebody will get up and say that this never happened. The UK has now debated whether to remove The Holocaust from its school curriculum because it "offends" the Muslim population which claims it never occurred. It is not removed as yet, however, this is a frightening portent of the fear that is gripping the world and how easily each country is giving into it. It is now more than 60 years after the Second World War in Europe ended. You are reading this because it is being sent as a memorial chain, in memory of the, six million Jews, 20 million Russians, 10 million Christians, and 1,900 Catholic Priests who were murdered, raped, burned, starved, beaten, experimented on and humiliated while many in the world looked the other way! Now, more than ever, with Iran, among others, claiming the Holocaust to be a "myth" it is imperative to make sure the world never forgets.

This is intended, hopefully, to reach a lot of people. Be a link in the memorial chain and help distribute this around the world. How many years will it take before the attack on the World Trade Center "NEVER HAPPENED" because it offends some Muslims? Or some other people whom feel offended? Or decide the past is not "politically" correct. Amen!!

Happenings @ QMPC in November

- Nov 02nd – Prophets Bible study, Pastor's home @12:30
- Nov 07th – Christian Education Committee meeting @6:00
- Nov 09th – Prophets Bible study, Pastor's home @12:30
- Nov 12th – Congregational meeting following worship to elect new elders
- Nov 13th – Circle #1 meets @Ruth Preston's home, @10:00
- Nov 14th – Finance Committee meeting @ 6:00
- Nov 16th – Prophets Bible study, pastor's home @12:30
- Nov 19th – Session Meeting following worship
- Nov 20th – Bring Harvest Home food distributions 3-4 pm
- Nov 23rd – Thanksgiving, **No Bible study**
- Thanksgiving Week – Pastor Yvonne will be on vacation
- Nov 26th – Ann Dietz preaching
- Nov 27th – Circle #2, meeting @ church 6:00 pm
- Dec 05th – Nov/Dec birthdays luncheon, Timberwoods @ 12:00

Happy Birthday to:

- Nov 01st – Lauryn Reel
- Nov 02nd – Todd Pershing
- Nov 03rd – Elly Paul
- Nov 08th – Ann Dietz
- Nov 16th – Elijah Pritchard
- Nov 22nd – Bradley Dellinger
- Nov 27th – Christine Rose

Happy Anniversary to:

- Nov 27th – Fred & Betty Williams

General Events for November:

Nov 05th – Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 07th – Election Day

Nov 11th – Veterans Day

Nov 23rd – Thanksgiving Day

Items Needed for Bring Harvest Home

Stovetop dressing

Ramen noodles

Turkeys/Hams

Chicken broth (canned or boxed)

Cranberry Sauce

Pinto Beans

Canned sweet potatoes (yams)

Rice

Want to freak someone out? Add two extra legs to the turkey when it's in the oven.

Where did Noah keep his bees? In the Ark hives.

Who Knew?

Wesson Oil will eliminate ear mites. All it takes is a few drops of Wesson Oil in your cat's or dog's ear ... massage it in, then clean with a cotton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. The oil soothes the cat's skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.

Dawn Dishwashing Liquid kills fleas instantly. Add a few drops to your dog's bath and shampoo the animal thoroughly. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Goodbye fleas.

Rainy day cure for dog odor. Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.

Did you know that drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately, without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional pain relievers?

Did you know that Colgate Toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns?

Before you head to the drugstore for a high-priced inhaler filled with mysterious chemicals, try chewing on a couple of curiously strong Altoids peppermints. They'll clear up your stuffed nose.

Achy muscles from a bout of the flu? Mix 1 tablespoon horseradish in 1 cup of olive oil. Let the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then apply it as a massage oil for instant relief for aching muscles.

Sore throat? Just mix ¼ cup of vinegar with ¼ cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

Cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer. Dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly, even though the product was never been advertised for this use.

Honey remedy for skin blemishes. Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.