

Pastor's Column

The season for giving thanks is upon us. During this time of year, we are invited to take stock of all those things for which we are grateful. Often these "gratitude" inventories are comprised of things or people we have in our lives for which we are thankful: family, friends, health, material comforts, etc.

Yet, maybe Thanksgiving can also be a time to reflect upon a different kind of gratitude. Rather than accounting only for those things we *have* (relationships or comforts), what if we contemplated the things we get to *do* or *be*? What about the opportunities we are given to be God's hands to help others, to serve others? What about being grateful that we can be a friend, parent, spouse, sister, son, etc? What about expressing gratitude for opportunities we have in life to grow spiritually: to learn how to forgive, or to develop greater compassion, or to practice generosity? How about giving thanks for the life of faith, the opportunity to walk through this world as Christ's disciples.

Our consumerist culture has trained us to value the things we *have*. Yet, having things is not the only measure of what should be valued in life. Life is about so much more than "having." Each day we rise and walk out our doors, we are given the gift of becoming a certain kind of people: people who journey with Christ. We know whose we are (children of God) and who we are (disciples of Christ). We have a story that shapes our lives and which offers a purpose for living our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tracy



WORSHIP COLUMN ~ November 2013

November 3rd ~ 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Worship Service with Communion
10:00 am Education Hour
11:00 am Worship Service with Communion
Lectionary: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 4:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

November 10th ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Worship
9:30 am Deacon's Meeting
10:00 am Education Hour
11:00 am Worship
Lectionary: Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or
Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 17th ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Education Hour for Adults
11:00 am Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 65:17-25; *Isaiah 12*;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 24th ~ Christ the King

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Education Hour
11:00 am Worship
Lectionary: Jeremiah 23:1-6; *Luke 1:68-79*;
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43



Member's Birthdays for November

- 1 Karen Stucker
- 3 Jennifer Cotto-Ecklund
- 5 Lauren Mook
- 7 Mary Jean Conibear
- 11 Sarah Smith
- 11 Elizabeth Harbison
- 11 Brian Belus
- 16 Jim Whitefield
- 17 Joysline Chia
- 18 Gary Melius
- 23 Doug Harbison
- 28 Alma Kelly
- 29 William Harbison

Young Adults November Birthdays

- 22 Grace Burker
- 26 Nicholas Harbison

FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

These numbers only tell part of the story of this important and meaningful ministry. It is the people behind the numbers, those who receive this food and offer us their thanks and their blessings, and this congregation who provide such generous support, both in time and in donations, that are the essence and the real story that these numbers represent. Our thanks to all of you.

2013 September

Children	62	
Adults	153	
Elderly	46	
Infants	1	
People	262	
Total Meals	2358	

Please Help Us Recruit New Volunteers – New Pantry Volunteers are always welcome! But right now we are in great need of more folks.

- Can you give us an afternoon a month?
- Do you know someone who might like to join us?
- Come and bring a friend along.
- Ask a neighbor.
- Post a flyer at work or at your library.



When would I work?

- On a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30am to 4:00pm.
- One afternoon a month (or as many as you wish).

What would I do?

- You would work with 3 or 4 other volunteers.
- You might guide a client through our "store" to help them choose their groceries.
- You might greet and “check in” our clients.
- You might help to stock shelves.
- If you and a friend would like to work together, we can schedule that for you.
- You will feel good about the time you spend with us, helping our neighbors.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL
BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays, November 6th and 20th and
December 4th & 11th 2013**

Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



SUNDAY SCHOOL SLEEPOVER

The new date for our sleepover is Friday, November 8th. Bring your sleeping bag, favorite games and snacks for a fun night with a Halloween theme. Maybe we'll dunk for apples, have a contest for best costume, and tell scary ghost stories! We'll be open to suggestions for ideas of activities if anyone has something special they would like to do. Arrival time will be 7 pm on Friday, and pick up time will be 8:30 am on Saturday. Hope everyone can make it! Contact Vicki Moorhouse 838-1996 or Amy Erickson 876-6874 to RSVP. We'd like a head count of attendees. Please check the bulletin/deedee for follow up information regarding any possible date change.

Opportunities to Become a Blessing...



Volunteer in the Food Pantry



Help with the Children's education hour



Prepare a meal for the University Student Program



Serve as a Liturgist



Call someone you haven't seen at church in a while



Join the choir

Do you have a “Blessing Story”?

Blessings come to us in many ways. They surprise us at the best and worst of times. Sometimes we don't recognize them until they've passed by. Our *New Beginnings* focus this year is “*Blessings*”. *Maybe you have a story* that could bless another through the monthly newsletter. Use the space below or as much as you'd like to share and submit to one of the deacons. Some of you may prefer to e-mail your 'blessing story' for editing to:

universitypresbyterian@verizon.net SUBJECT: Blessings article

Name:

Contact Info:

Special All Saints Taize Service, November 1:

Our usual First Friday Taize service will take on a special focus to commemorate All Saints Day on Friday, November 1. Joining us in this special service will be the members of Deerhurst Presbyterian Church. The service will be extended slightly by about 10 minutes (from 5:30 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.) and will include the lighting of candles in remembrance of loved ones.



Soup and Pie Luncheon November 17th

Once again the Deacons will be hosting a soup and pie luncheon.

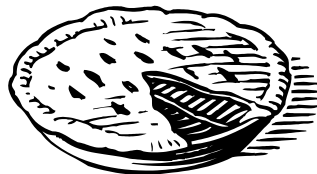
We will be serving at noon on Sunday, November 17th in the auditorium. There is nothing more warming than a good bowl of soup on a chilly autumn day. Is there anyone who doesn't enjoy a good piece of pie? Coffee, tea, and juice will be available too. Last year there were several different soups ranging from organic chicken vegetable soup to pumpkin. Come and see what we will have this year.

We will offer "cash and carry" from 10-10:30 am and during the noontime luncheon.

As you know, prices for food continue to rise, but we are not raising our prices. Soup, pie and beverage will be \$6.00 or you may purchase individual items.

This is a fund raiser for the Deacons' Fund. The purpose of the Deacons' Fund is to provide for members, associate members and the immediate families of the congregation when there is a genuine and immediate need for financial assistance and they are unable to obtain these funds elsewhere.

Come and enjoy the food and support the Deacons' Fund.



Worshipping and Giving Thanks with MacAlpine Presbyterian Church

UPC has received a generous invitation to join the congregation of MacAlpine Presbyterian Church for worship and a special Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 24. The UPC Session has accepted this invitation and we look forward to worshipping and breaking bread with our brothers and sisters down the street on Bailey Ave. Because this will affect our worship life here at UPC on that day, here are some details for you to know.

On Sunday, November 24:

- ❖ **the 9 a.m. service will take place as usual at UPC**
- ❖ There will be **NO Church school and NO 11 a.m. service here at UPC.**
- ❖ We will join MacAlpine in worship at 10:30 a.m. at their church at 2700 Bailey Ave.
- ❖ Carpooling will be arranged from the UPC parking lot. Arrive by 10 a.m. if you want to share a ride.
- ❖ Following the service at MacAlpine, we are invited to join in a Thanksgiving meal.

We hope you will join us in the spirit and tradition of Thanksgiving as we forge new friendships and give thanks to God for our abundant blessings.

A Blessed Summer of Novels

The Lord's timing is gracious, wise, and delightful. I didn't start my teaching semester with the usual frenetic pace this year. Instead, after a restful forest summer prepping my heart for my poetry, taking photos, and reading several of Francine Rivers' books, I was refreshed in my spirit. I'd finish one, then order another on my Kindle, after thinking, "No, I really should get some school prep done." Truly, the prep in my heart makes for a better learning experience for the students. It's been good.

The hand of God is in the historical and fictional characters as they all represent me, a part of me; choices I've made or thought about making; words I've said. I hear the author's personal loss and salvation story in them, but find my own there too. It is providential that a leader from our forest community where we had a difficult year of discord, leant me "The Sin-Eater". I found myself praying more for my own heart to change towards those with opposing views, and that in the negative, I would still find some good.

The next books challenged me gently: "Redeeming Love" and then the "Mark of the Lion" collection. They stirred me to notice again the stuff I tuck away: those fears and attitudes I stubbornly push back to the dark corners of my heart. What a gift! Inspired words can certainly tap us on the shoulder to look up from our sorry messes to the Love that loves us anyway.

God's light continues to surprise me and reveal fresh learning. These stories are definitely more than creative and vibrant in their descriptions. The characters are me. They're people I know. The Heavenly Father I haven't always honored, listened to, or obeyed, knows when my heart is ready for a fresh lesson or reminder. It is an undeserved blessing that He watches over me and provides me with what I need at just the right time. He is the Word!

~ Lidia Vieira