



October 2026

Dear First Pres Friends,

What a wonderful couple of days of weather we have had! Hopefully this continues so we can get outside and enjoy this weather as Fall rolls around. As we continue on into the year, I wanted to bring to your attention a few different updates.

Looking ahead, at the end of October, we will have a church-wide Fall Festival with the Youth serving as volunteers. For Prayer Meeting, we continue to meet every Wednesday at 5:30 PM, and we're planning a few special services in the near future! In just a few short weeks (or few days depending on when this newsletter goes out!) one of my favorite Sundays of the year is coming up because we have World Communion Sunday on October 4th! This is a Sunday where we celebrate our faith that is spread across the world and the beautiful diversity that makes up the body of Christ!

On a personal front, I will be applying for my Doctorate in the next few weeks. I will update y'all on any status changes and I am hopeful that I will be able to attend Duke Divinity as I pursue this endeavour. I have also been nominated to serve a second term on the Committee on Ministry (COM) for the Presbytery of New Harmony. I have agreed to continue serving the Presbytery in this capacity. Next, new mugs for the church have been prepared by the Deacons for our membership bags! So keep an eye out for those in the near future! Also, we are circulating a weekly newsletter email to the congregation with brief updates about what is going on in the church and what I can report on regarding prayer concerns. So make sure to keep an eye out for that!

Lastly, while this is a special time in the life of our church, let us also remember those on our prayer list as it continues to grow. Ginny Nickles physical therapy is going well! Tommy Gulledge is currently recovering from an infection; Gene and Rosalind Brymer fell while on vacation and Gene broke his hip and will be in recovery for the next 4 to 6 weeks; Maggie Barton & Kate Rogerson's grandmother passed away (also Tom Hammer's mother-in-law); Sue Cutchins daughter passed away; my grandmother is in treatments for lung cancer; and Lottie Brabham (granddaughter of Kim and David Brabham) has been diagnosed with leukemia and is now undergoing treatments at MUSC in Charleston. Please keep all of them who are known and those unknown in your prayers.

Blessings,

Rev. Maxwell Michaels



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Sunday School Classes

Parlor Class

The Parlor Class finished studying the interesting series, *Tame Your Thoughts*, by Max Lucado. Next up—*Breathing Room*, by Andy Stanley, a four-part study about creating healthy margins in your schedule. Sometimes we stretch ourselves thin and miss out on so many things. The study focuses on having breathing room in our time and finances, and how the lack of that breathing room affects our lives and our relationships. Join us for this wonderful time together in the Parlor!

Fellowship Class

Join the Fellowship class as they begin the 6-week studies, *Genesis, A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Adults will explore the foundational stories of the Old Testament book of Genesis with historical context, humor, and theological insight. The Fellowship Class meets each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. It is a relaxed class with lots of discussion. Please think about joining us for coffee & fellowship!

Youth Class

Our Youth Class will continue studying *Feasting on the Word*. This month they will discover ways we continually reject Jesus today, study the parable of the wedding banquet, explore what it is to imitate Christ, and connect in personal ways with the love of God and loving others. Join us! All 6th-12th graders are welcome!

Children's Class

Our Children's class, ages K-5th grade, will continue studying *Feasting on the Word*. They will study the parable of the wedding banquet and discover that they are to act boldly as God's children. children's class meets upstairs and has lots of fun!

Preschool Class—(ages 3-4)

Meets downstairs in the Louise Carpenter room and will also be studying *Feasting on the Word*. For the month of October, children will listen to the parable of the ten bridesmaids and wonder what it means to be ready for the good things God gives.

Nursery always available (downstairs)



Christian Education & Music Ministry Schedule

Wednesday, October 7

No Fun Program (Happy Fall Break!)

Sunday, October 25

Fall Carnival with Games & Prizes!

5-7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4

Fun Program to Make Veteran's Day Cards

Wednesday, November 18

Friendsgiving in the Fellowship Building!

Sunday, November 22

5-6 p.m. Christmas Pageant Costume Fitting;

6 p.m. Chancel Choir Cantata Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 25

No Fun Program or Chancel Choir

(Happy Thanksgiving!)

Saturday, December 5

10-11:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal with Pizza lunch!

Christian Education & Music Ministry Schedule Cont.

Sunday, December 6

11 a.m. Christmas Pageant (children to ring & sing)

Sunday, December 13

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata at 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Wednesday 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6

No Fun Program (Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!)

Wednesday, January 13

Fun Program resumes

Wednesday, February 10

No Fun Program (Winter Break)

Sunday, February 28

Children to ring & sing during the 11 a.m. service

Wednesday, March 31st

No Fun Program (Spring Break)

Sunday, May 2

Youth Sunday

Wednesday, May 5

Last Fun Program Celebration



***Our Chancel Choir has begun rehearsing for the Christmas Cantata each Sunday at 5 p.m. in the choir room.**

We'd love to have you if you are able and willing to sing!



FISH FRY

Hosted by the Men of the Church



Tuesday, October 13

6 P.M. UNDER THE SHELTER

- ☒ Bone-in Bream fried fish
- ☒ Refreshing drinks
- ☒ Slaw
- ☒ Hush Puppies & Fries
- ☒ Dessert

Sign up at the
Church Office!

843-537-7474



JOIN US FOR A

FALL CARNIVAL

Sunday, October 25

5-7 p.m.

Games - Food - Prizes
Hot Dogs- Cake Walk

COSTUME CONTEST FOR ALL AGES!

Join us!





Chancel Choir Spotlight



Bill Malloy

How did music first become a part of your life?

My Mom and Dad both played piano. Mom also played the organ. I can remember as a child going with her to the church and sit while she practiced. Dad would play "The Boogie Woogie" and all the children would dance in the parlor. Both of my parents sang in our church choir during the whole time we grew up.

When did you first encounter singing in a church choir?

I joined the choir after Dad became sick and was unable to continue (I think he sang in our choir for 50 years). I think this was around 1998. Jerry Hicks was the music director and Barbara was the organist. Bill Jacobs was still singing in the choir, and he was an inspiration to me as he had such a wonderful voice.

Did you sing or play an instrument as a child?

I took piano lessons from Mrs. Covington for two years. I started playing guitar when I was 14.

Was there a particular teacher, choir, or musical experience that influenced you?

I have already mentioned Jerry Hicks. He was an inspiration to me by encouraging me in many ways to be more confident and working on my breath. He had a deep booming bass voice and would sing solos. Bill Jacobs was my mentor and was always kind, compassionate and forgiving! He sang lots of solos and had an incredibly sweet voice. He told me to not only sing but to listen to everyone else's voices.

What does music mean to you today?

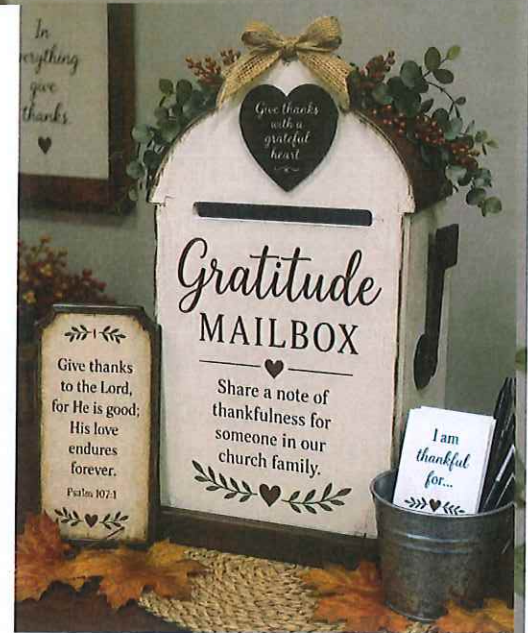
For me, music is an emotional experience; it is soothing to the soul and brings me joy; music is a way of connecting with other people: playing music or singing with others is a great way to connect in a way that reaches another level of association; and music is a way of being present: when I am playing or singing you have to be in the moment and the outside world seems to fade away.

What do you love about Chancel Choir?

Being in the choir creates connection – there's a communication that doesn't involve words. You listen, respond, and create something together. We are making a joyful noise! We are challenged by Weiz, especially for the Christmas cantata and I appreciate that extra push and her confidence in us.

Gratitude Mailbox!

This fall we invite our entire church family to join in a simple Gratitude Project—our very own *Gratitude Mailbox*! Take a moment to think about someone in our church family who has blessed you, encouraged you, inspired you, or simply made a difference in your life.



Pick up a gratitude slip, complete the sentence:

"I am thankful for someone in our church because..."

Then place your completed slip in the Gratitude Mailbox.

Your words of appreciation will help us celebrate our church family and be read aloud during the Friendsgiving Meal on Wednesday, November 18.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. "— Psalm 107:1

Let's fill our mailbox and our hearts with gratitude!

Take a moment to give thanks for someone in our church family today.

EXCITED FOR THE 'BBER MONTHS'

Faith Formation Fellowship Committee News

Mark your calendars for exciting fun filled events!

Oct. 25

Harvest Festival Carnival and Hot Dog Supper 5:00-7:00pm
Our youth will have fun games for all our kids and kids at heart to plan during this time. So, dress up in your costume or not!
Come have fun and a hot dog!

Fall Carnival



Nov. 18

Friendsgiving Cover Dish Supper at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Building. Turkey and ham will be provided.
Bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish!



Dec. 9

White Christmas Cover Dish at 5:30pm.
We will be taking up monetary gifts for Pee Dee Coalition.



Hope to see everyone at these fun events!

Presbyterian Women News

Communion

Oct. 4

Beth Witherspoon and Jean Page Watson

Nov. 1st

Tracie and Calvin Phillips

Dec. 24

Sue Funderburk and Cathy Chapman

Circle Meeting

Oct. 7

Soup Luncheon at 11:00am in Fellowship Building.
We will be taking up the Thank Offering.

Nov. 4

Regular Meeting 10:00AM in Ladies Parlor

Dec. 2

Cookie Swap Meeting at 10:00am in the Fellowship Building.
Bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share.

Youth Supper

Dec. 13

Kathie Cook, Marion Anderson and Miriam Stricklin



September Session Highlights:

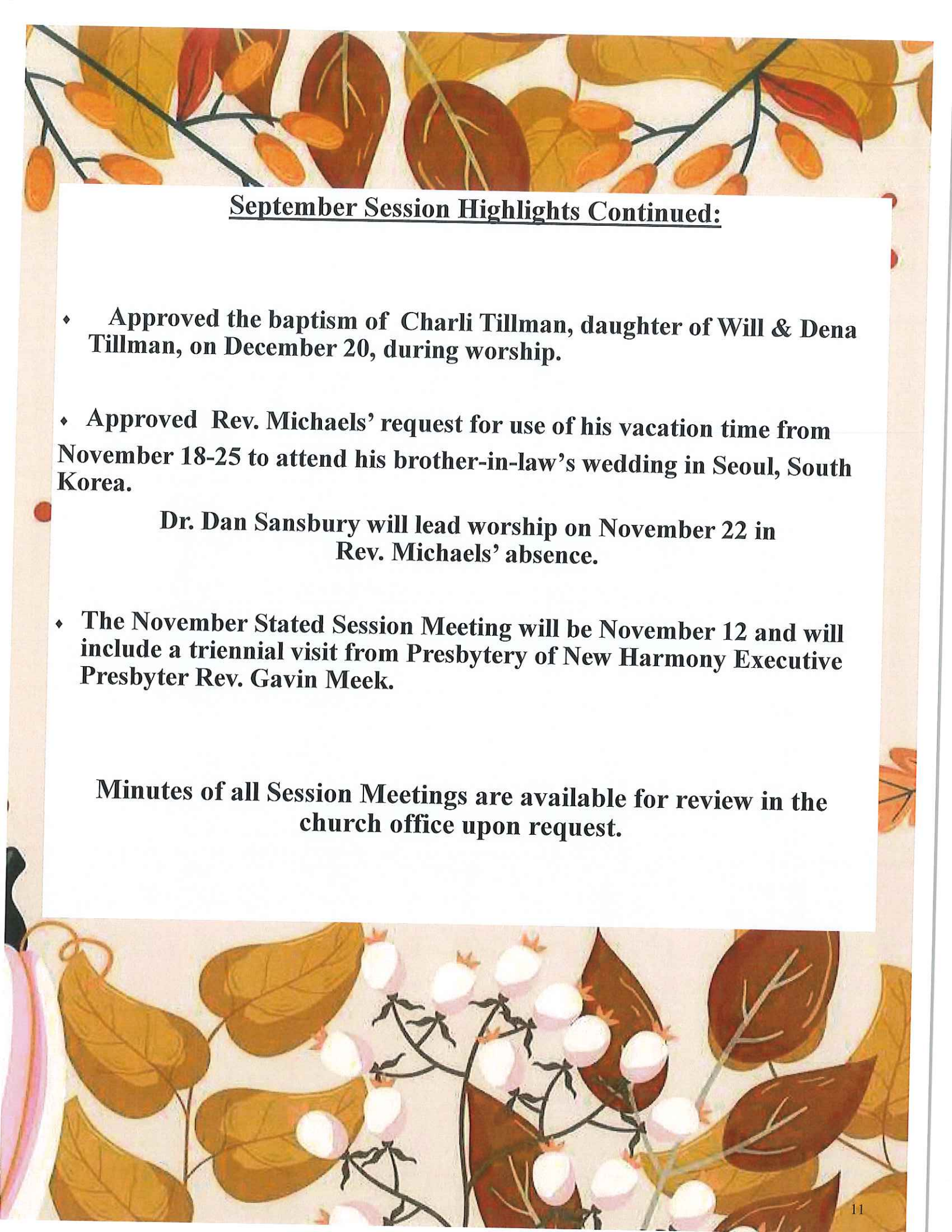
- ♦ Received the Treasurer's Report for September and year to date.
- ♦ Approved Parlor Sunday School Class Curriculum entitled:
 - Why Jesus?* by Nicky Gumbel
 - Breathing Room* by Andy Stanley
 - Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio
 - What's So Amazing About Grace* by Phillip Yancey
- ♦ Approved the recommendation of the Mission Outreach Committee that money from the Anderson Fund be distributed as follows:
 - ⇒ McArn Food Bank Backpack Program - \$1,000,
 - ⇒ FPC Youth Mission Trip - \$1,000
 - ⇒ Nancy's Kids - \$500,
 - ⇒ Thornwell Home for Children - \$1,000
 - ⇒ Shepherd's Child Christmas Gifts - \$500
 - ⇒ Pathfinders - \$2,500
 - ⇒ River of Light - \$2,500
- ♦ Approved the recommendation of the Mission Outreach Committee that money from the Joel Smith Fund be distributed as follows:
 - ⇒ The Owl's Nest - \$500
 - ⇒ The Alpha Center - \$3,000
 - ⇒ Good Samaritan Colony - \$500

September Session Highlights Continued:

- ♦ **Approved the recommendation of the Administrative Committee to replace a leaking water valve in the main boiler in the basement at a cost of \$3,400 from the Endowment Fund to be repaired by Hamer Heating & Cooling. This boiler unit provides heat to the sanctuary.**
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- ♦ **Approved the recommendation of the Administrative Committee:**
 - * **for an upgrade to the audio system in the sanctuary, which includes drop down microphones for the choir loft.**
 - * **a second microphone for the pulpit on the right side.**
 - * **a piano microphone.**
 - * **speakers above each door going toward the office hallway (where the grates are located)**
 - * **other miscellaneous hardware and wiring.**

This upgrade will cost \$12,000 with money to come from the Endowment Fund.

- ♦ **The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Church Clean Up Day on Saturday, October 24.**
- ♦ **Approved the request of The Old Cheraws Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to use the Fellowship Building for the following meeting dates:**
 - * **September 21, November 16, January 25, March 15 and May 17 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm each date.**



September Session Highlights Continued:

- ♦ **Approved the baptism of Charli Tillman, daughter of Will & Dena Tillman, on December 20, during worship.**
- ♦ **Approved Rev. Michaels' request for use of his vacation time from November 18-25 to attend his brother-in-law's wedding in Seoul, South Korea.**
 - Dr. Dan Sansbury will lead worship on November 22 in Rev. Michaels' absence.**
- ♦ **The November Stated Session Meeting will be November 12 and will include a triennial visit from Presbytery of New Harmony Executive Presbyter Rev. Gavin Meek.**

Minutes of all Session Meetings are available for review in the church office upon request.

Funeral Planning? What is that all about?

Death can be a difficult subject for one to consider; it may be even more difficult to discuss with our loved ones. However, planning for what is inevitable for all human beings can be not only a significant spiritual experience for you, but also a gift of love for your family and friends.

“The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians’ attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, the church encourages members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death, including decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation or donation of the body for medical purposes. These plans should provide for arrangements which are simple, which bear witness to the resurrection, and in which the Christian community is central.”

(Book of Order, PCUSA, W-4.1001—W-4.1002)

In our church office or upon request from Pastor Max, we can provide a simple worksheet that we can sit down and go over to get all of the arrangements ready for such a time. Pastor Max is always available to meet and have these details planned out with you. This is offered as part of our ministry of love and hope to you and your family. As you reflect upon your life, may you embrace even more deeply the love of God we know in Jesus Christ. May the information recorded in the booklet be more than a catalog of facts. May it bear witness to your faith. There could be no greater gift to your family and friends than this.

McArn Food Bank Backpack Ministry

McArn Food Bank Partners with Cheraw Primary school, to provide weekend food for 35 of their students most in need. Each week during the school year, nutritious food items are bagged and placed in children's backpacks for them to carry home for the weekend.

Food items may include (**No peanut butter or nuts**):

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| *Ravioli cups | *Mac-n-cheese cups |
| *Ramen noodles cup | *Pudding cups |
| *Jello cups | *Fruit cups, |
| *Applesauce cups | *Vegetable cups |
| *Pop Tarts | *Granola bars |
| *Individual cereal bowls | *Instant grits |
| *Instant oatmeal | *Lance sandwich crackers |

If you would like to contribute any of these items to this ministry, please place them in the designated box outside the church office door or the little red wagon in the Narthex.

Prayer Changes Things

Maggie Barton

Lottie Brabham (granddaughter of Kim and David Brabham)

Kathy Bradshaw

Shirley Brock

Gene and Rosalind Brymer

Louise Carpenter

Summer Cathey

Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)

Sue Cutchins

Betty Davis

Sue Funderburk

Tommy Gullledge

Nadia Harris

Ruth Jackson

Gerry Rogers

Susan Malloy

Robbie McCombs (friend of Dan Tillman)

Benny Moore

Marion Murphy

April Quick

Clytie Roddy

Patti Rollings

Sherryl Shaw (Friend of Susie Pace)

Lynn Smith

Lesley Jean Watson

Rev. Maxwell Michael's grandmother

For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses

October

CALENDAR of EVENTS:

Sunday, Oct. 4

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship (Communion)
5:00 pm Chancel Choir

Monday, Oct. 5

No MMO (Fall Break)

Wednesday, Oct 7

11:00 am Circle Meeting
5:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice
No MMO & Fun Program (Fall break)

Sunday, Oct 11

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Chancel Choir

Monday, Oct 12

8:30 am MMO

Tuesday, Oct 13

6:00 pm Church Fish Fry

Wednesday, Oct 14

8:30 am MMO
3:15 pm Fun Program
5:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Sunday, Oct 18

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Chancel Choir

Monday, Oct 19

8:30 am MMO

Wednesday, Oct 21

8:30 am MMO
3:15 pm Fun Program
5:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Saturday, Oct 24

Church Clean Up Day

Sunday, Oct 25

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Fall Carnival

Monday, Oct 26

8:30 am MMO

Wednesday, Oct 28

8:30 am MMO
3:15 pm Fun Program
5:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice



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October

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1** Knox Miller, Karen Tillman
- 10/3** Avery Dickson, Sam Phillips
- 10/5** Susie Ingram
- 10/6** John Long
- 10/10** Alison Chapman
- 10/12** Dan Tillman
- 10/14** Regina Evans
- 10/17** Robert Angle
- 10/27** Brylee Denham
- 10/31** Tammy Joyce



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Luke Soohyun Michaels

11/4 Lynn Smith

11/8 John Joyce

11/10 Dru Penny

11/12 Charlotte Folger, James Morgan

11/13 Grace Tillman

11/15 Emily Beck

11/ 16 Steve Cook

11/17 Jake Streater

11/18 Susan Gainey, Charlee Anna Raines Tillman

11/19 Nancy Newsom

11/20 Blair Driggers, Kane Driggers, Alice McLeod

11/21 Fred Harris

11/22 Maggie Lloyd

11/24 Dan Driggers

11/26 David Brabham

11/27 Ruth Jackson

11/28 Becky Childers, Debbie McCall

11/29 Sloan Baker

11/30 Andrew Boykin Tucker

D I N I N G H A U S