

# The Epistle

**ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

November, 2012

Volume 12, Number 11

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## FROM THE PASTOR



Our power is shut off, and suddenly we become thankful for electricity. Our garbage is not picked up, and suddenly we become thankful for the garbage collector's weekly stop. A good friend dies, and suddenly we discover how much he meant to us. Our water becomes too polluted to drink and suddenly we appreciate having good water.

Why is it that we take for granted the uncounted blessings of life until they are removed from us?

Although as people of God we have much to be thankful for every single day, our nation does set aside a day this month that we call "Thanksgiving," which, although it is supposed to be a day of remembering our blessings, has become merely a day of feasting and recreation for many.

But as we prepare to celebrate this day in its true spirit, consider these words, shared by Troy Mason, pastor of Cherry Point Baptist Church in Havelock, NC:

I am Thankful for.....

....the taxes I pay

....because it means I'm employed.

....the clothes that fit a little too snug

....because it means I have enough to eat.

....my shadow who watches me work

....because it means I am out in the sunshine.

....a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing

....because it means I have a home.

....the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot

....because it means I am capable of walking.

....my huge heating bill

....because it means I am warm.

....all the complaining I hear about our government

....because it means we have freedom of speech.

....the lady behind me in church who sings off key.

....because it means that I can hear.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Pastor – continued from page 1

I am thankful for

....the piles of laundry and ironing  
....because it means my loved ones are nearby.

....the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours  
....because it means that I'm alive.

....weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day  
....because it means I have been productive.

We speak of thanksgiving, but have you tried thanksgiving? What is thanksgiving? It is gratitude in action. It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly. It is thanking God for your talents and abilities by accepting them as obligations to be invested for the common good. It is thanking God for all that men and women have done for you by doing things for others. It is thanking God for happiness by striving to make others happy. It is thanking God for beauty by helping to make the world more beautiful. It is thanking God for inspiration by trying to be an inspiration to others.

Let's all make this a season of Thanksgiving!

See you in church.

*Jay*



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#### NOVEMBER HYMN OF THE MONTH - #558, "Come, Sing a Song of Harvest"

The text of this hymn is particularly appropriate for the month of Thanksgiving. It was written by Fred Pratt Green and was first sung in September of 1976 at the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival of St. Mary's church in Norfolk, England. The tune used in our hymnal was composed in 1609 by Melchior Vulpus, a German composer, schoolmaster and musicologist. Vulpus wrote over 400 hymn tunes, in addition to hundreds of other types of music, and is considered the leading composer of hymn tunes between Martin Luther and Johann Crüger. Note particularly the prayer of the 4<sup>th</sup> stanza: "And lest the world go hungry while we ourselves are fed, make each of us more ready to share our daily bread."

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#### **ANSWER TO OCTOBER BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

*As recorded in the New Testament, which man lost his ability to speak when he learned that he was to become a father? Why? What act did he perform that enabled him to regain his speech?*  
Zechariah, husband of Elizabeth, was made unable to speak when he doubted the words of the angel that his wife would have a son (who was to be John the Baptizer). He regained his speech when he affirmed the name of John in the temple (see Luke 1:8-20 and 57-80).



**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>“The Greatest Commandment”</b> Text: Mark 12:28-34	<b>Phyllis Watkins</b> Reading: Ruth 1:1-18
<b>November 11</b>	<b>“Praise for the Passionate”</b> Text: Mark 12:38-44	<b>Karen Krone</b> Reading: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
<b>November 18</b>	<b>“Genuine Thankfulness”</b> Text: Mark 10:35-45	<b>Diane Hancock</b> Reading: Psalm 100
<b>November 25</b>	<b>“What Is Truth?”</b> Text: John 18:33-37 (Also “Ask the Pastor” and your chosen hymns)	<b>Diane Taylor</b> Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7



**IN HIS SERVICE**

NOVEMBER USHERS

Jack Brewer  
Rosalee Brewer  
John Watkins  
Phyllis Watkins

NOVEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, November 4 – Jack Brewer  
Myrna Stell  
Phyllis Watkins  
Bronnda Coleman

**\* \* \* OUR OCTOBER RECORD \* \* \***

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
<b>October 7</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$ 2,141.00</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>\$ 2,103.00</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>\$ 1,891.00</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>\$ 2,155.00</b>



Birthdays This Month

- November 5 Beverly Long
- 7 Pam Houglan
- 8 Dana Reece
- 10 Gwen Reese
- 11 Ben Parke
- 12 Emily Puckett
- 13 Joey Samsel
- 14 Shirley Berthold
- 15 C F Houglan
- 22 Jeannine Bailer
- 23 Allen Cook
- 29 Lucy Smith



Anniversaries

November 14 – Keith and Dana Reece

“In marriage, each partner is to be an encourager rather than a critic, a forgiver rather than a collector of hurts, an enabler rather than a reformer”

*-H. Norman Wright and Gary J. Oliver*



**TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

Which Bible character is credited with the invention of wine – and also the invention of intoxication?



**OUR MONTHLY “REGULARS”**



- Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am**
- Worship – Sundays, 11:00am**
- Session meets at 12:15pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except July)**
- Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm**
- Bell Tones – Mondays, 6:15pm**
- Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm**
- Men’s Fellowship – 1st Tuesday of the month , 7:00am at Tex and Shirley’s**  
All other weeks, Mondays, 7:30am at the church
- Circles normally meet on the 1st Tuesday, times and places announced**
- Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm**
- Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm**
- Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm**
- Gad-A-Bouts normally meet on the 4th Tuesday, times and places announced**



**FOOD CART**

November is Thanksgiving food items month - canned green beans, canned corn, yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce. Please remember that there is a great need in Greensboro for Urban Ministry assistance, and many families count on our help.



**“SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS”**

It’s still a month away, but be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Sunday evening, December 9 for our annual Covered Dish/Christmas Program. Bring your favorite dish. The Fellowship Committee will provide drinks. After we eat, our handbell groups will treat us to the “Sounds of Christmas,” with music from both the Biblical story and the sounds of today. Don’t miss it!



**THANK YOU!**

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the many remembrances and kindnesses shown in connection with “Pastor Appreciation Sunday.” The newspaper ad was most thoughtful and very much appreciated. The cookies and goodies were (are) delicious and I thank you for them. But most of all I am grateful for the many cards and other expressions of love and support. I take these very seriously, and have read over all those messages several times. They mean very much to me. We don’t always fully understand the workings of our God, but I do view my ministry opportunity at St. Paul as a sacred calling, and I do believe that God still has positive things in mind for this church. Please continue to pray with me and let us work together as we trust God to show us what we yet may do. Again, thank you! Much love,

*Gay*



Looking for a good book to read? “Pursued: God’s Divine Obsession with You” by Jud Wilhite is an excellent look at a God who “pursues” us – not to punish, but to love.



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Tony Jones, Andy Bristow, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Beverly Long, Bob Berthold, Margaret Simmons, Georgia Giberson, Wendy Woods, Sheila Taylor, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Jane Christopher, Jean Shuford, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Becky Trollinger, Kevin Tewes, Chris Westmoreland, Joyce Myers, J. D. Hall, Jo Hall, Zachary Reavis, Eric Laming, Joe Herndon, Tim Gard, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Amy Losoncy, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, and all who serve in our armed forces.



### Help Feed the Children With Backpack Beginnings

Over 50% of children in Guilford County’s school system are on free or reduced price lunches. We can help to make a difference.

In NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, St. Paul will be collecting donations of items for Backpack Beginnings. With the help of many volunteers, this organization fills backpacks to be taken home by students each Friday.

We have been asked to help by collecting money and multi packs of single serving raisins and cheese sandwich (NO peanut butter) crackers, as well as multi packs of single serving milk. The milk needed is “shelf stable” milk that needs no refrigeration and is packed like juice boxes with straws in 3 or 6 packs. Sometimes it’s shelved near juice packs, and sometimes it’s shelved near coffee creamers. It doesn’t need refrigeration. Make sure that the “sell by” date is at least January, 2013, or preferably later.

If you’d rather somebody else do your shopping, you may give donations to Janice Woods or write checks to St. Paul and put “Backpack Beginnings” in the memo.



The pansies planted around the church were donated in honor and appreciation of John Watkins by Ben and Carol Parke.