

THE CHIMES

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 301 West Main Street
Walhalla, South Carolina

*We are called and empowered by God to spread the Gospel and
to share the love of Jesus Christ in service to all.*

The Rev. Dr. Frank G. Honeycutt, Pastor

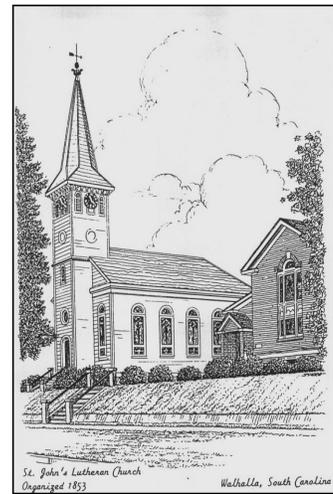
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November 2016

Unsolicited Advice from a Departing Pastor...by Pastor Frank

Well, this is the final newsletter column of my pastoral career. It's been great to be among you, my fourth parish in 31 years. They've all been different, but also share common challenges as Christianity across the country has experienced great change over these three decades. Faithfulness does not have to be reinvented with each new generation. Here are a few common observations that I leave you in the form of loving pastoral advice.

Continue to become proficient in your study and understanding of the Word of God. Lutherans may not agree with a fundamentalist slant on the Bible, but you have to hand it to them. They know how to get around in The Book. Martin Luther changed the world because he was in love with his Lord revealed in scripture. It's been enlivening and exciting to be part of small study groups throughout these decades. It's also been disappointing to discover that some Lutherans cannot articulate the basic difference between Exodus and Acts. Spend time daily in the Word. Start new study groups. Ponder slowly a tough passage. One sign of a strong church is biblical fluency. We will do a lot of wheel-spinning without it. (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Show up on Sundays for worship. We are given an amazing gift each week in the celebration of Holy Communion. Faithful discipleship cannot be sustained without this sacrament. Jesus assumed regular reception of the bread and wine as the early church was forming. As you might imagine, I've heard a multitude of excuses over the years for worship absence—wrong time, wrong style, too busy, you name it. In most cases, these excuses are rather flimsy compared to what's being missed. I've stopped trying to understand how Christians can spend an entire Saturday tailgating and watching the Tigers or Gamecocks, but cannot find a couple hours for church on Sundays. This is only a single (and handy) example of misplaced priorities. Holy Communion is absolutely central for the health of a disciple. Don't neglect this amazing gift. (see Luke 14:15-24)

Remember your Baptism. Most people keep a calendar. All of us know key dates. If you do not know the date of your baptism, I must caringly wonder why. In Maslow's old hierarchy of needs, *identity* is one of the keys to health and maturity. Baptism shapes our Christian identity. For a Christian, life begins and is viewed through this watery lens. You were ordained for ministry in baptism, a sacrament that exceeds (in biblical importance) any ordination of, say, a pastor. Your baptism date defines and shapes all other dates—birth, marriage, national holidays. If you don't know your baptism date, do some research and discover it. Luther made the sign of the cross over his body at dawn and at bedtime in remembrance of his baptism. The cross is the shape of the baptismal life. The Christian life is the sacrificial life. (see Romans 6:3-11)

Give generously. I'll never forget a talk with my dad just before Cindy and I were married. He called me aside privately. I thought we'd gone over the sex talk already when I was in the 8th grade. But what he wanted to talk about was financial giving in church life. "Your mom and I," he said, "did not have a lot of money when we were first married. But we committed to giving generously early on. It wasn't easy; still difficult some months. But it's been a very important part of our marriage over these years—to give to others." If you do not give a set percentage of your income away to others—to the church, to local and global causes benefitting the poor and hungry—I invite you to start. There is joy in sacrificial giving. (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Disciples need disciplines in order for the Holy Spirit to transform us. These four disciplines have been practiced by Christians for twenty centuries. We are in a new era for the church in North America. Our best theological reflection will be prayerfully needed moving forward. Start (or continue) with these four habits. God's peace to all of you!



You are invited to join us as we celebrate the ministry and retirement of

Pastor Frank Honeycutt

Sunday, November 20th, 2016

Worship at 10:25am
Luncheon at 12noon

St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Sign-up at the Spiritual Ops table is a "must" as we will have a large crowd and need to be prepared for ample food and seating.

Please bring a dish or two to share- *with a little extra.*
Cake and drinks will be provided.

A basket will be available for your cards, notes and well wishes for Pastor and Cindy.



MORNING CIRCLE:

The Morning Circle will meet on November 15th in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM. Peg Turner will be our hostess and Kathy Gross will give the devotion. We will be preparing Christmas gifts for delivery to DSS adults. We welcome all women of the church. Join us as we begin to think about service projects for 2017. *Note: We will NOT be holding a cookie sale this year.*

The Gloria Shealy Circle

The Gloria Shealy Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00 for our annual Potluck Dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a delicious dish to share. Marcia will lead us in devotions. Our donation will be toilet tissue to be given to United Way. We will be planning our project to sponsor children for Christmas gifts and our Christmas meeting. We invite ladies who are not involved in a circle to come join us.

Reminder....

Knitters-Crocheters meet **November 9th.** Come enjoy the fellowship and click your needles. Plan to stay for lunch, too.... **Only one gathering in November**



Wednesday Lunch
November 9th (One lunch only in November) We gather for lunch at 11:30 am. Sign up today or speak with Libby McLean at 638-7070 or Cathie Nowell at 638-3284



Parish News.....

Carter Grant (grandson of Jan and John Beaty; son of Ashley Beaty) was baptized 10/2. **Nora Mae Garland** (daughter of Erin and Jamie) was baptized on October 23. Welcome to the newest children of God at Saint John's!

Michael and Lynn Pode (sponsored by Allen Harding) are the newest members of our church community. Welcome!

Congrats to Mikayla, Vince, and Evan Kreuzberger (and the Sharpe and Yuda families) upon the birth of **Harper Rae**.

Charlie Ward, Riley Bateman, and Randy Parris Affirmrd their Baptism Oct. 30th through the Rite of Confirmation. The vows and promises they made are an important part of discipleship and the Christian life.

Next Sunday (Nov 6) is **All Saints Sunday** in the Christian tradition. We'll process into the cemetery as part of the service, remembering those who've died in the past year

Givelify...a new way to give. St. John's is up and running with this new approach to giving.



The Annual Congregational Meeting November 13, 2016 immediately following the Worship Service



The St. John's Preschool has covered letters A-H and Bible Stories about God's creation. We have enjoyed music with Ms. Marcia, Computer Pals, Yoga with Ms. Christin and have started a Power Tumbling Class for the 4's. We have missed Mr. Dottie, and hope she is feeling better soon. We had a visit from our local Fire Station and learned fire safety. Thanks to everyone that has contributed or donated to the Preschool, we appreciate all of the items.

Wish List:

- Clorox Wipes
- Baby Wipes
- Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizer

With Love, Mrs. Cindy and The Preschool Teachers



Men in Mission Meeting
Monday November 7
at 6:00

We will be discussing
Mere by Christianity by C S Lewis



CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

**Abbrev. St. John's
Council Minutes
Sept 19, 2016—6 p.m.**

- Treas. /Fin. Report—Year-to-date indebtedness to church restricted funds:

\$28,017. 2016 Benevolence is paid.

- “Givelify”-- secure tech way to make contributions.
- Council Nominations—Terms of Allen Harding, Chris Lawrence*, Blair Stoudemire*, & Tiffany Chapman* expire. *Are eligible and will run for re-election. Additional names due.
- Property—Relocating fellowship hall windows to the outside of the walkway is not feasible at this time.
- Worship & Music—Wedding Guidelines available in the church office.
- Preschool—Enrollment is 47.
- Interim Pastor—Ginny Aebischer, SC Synod Office, @Nov. Council meeting.
- Council Budget Meeting—Oct 10, 2016
- Reg Meeting—Oct 17, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Wilson, Secretary

2016 Congregation Council Elections

Dear Members:

Soon, we will elect new leaders for the Congregation Council at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary. We will be voting for a total of 4 seats, all 3 year terms. Members of Council do not run for office as in the secular world. They should be humbly led by the Holy Spirit. A Christian leader is someone who:

- *Is humble and led by God's design
- *Builds up the Body of Christ and brings joy to the congregation
- *Seeks oneness and harmony within the congregation
- *Attends worship and events on a regular basis
- *Does not foster false witness

At this point, the following have allowed their names to be placed in nomination: Dean Fogel, Tom Ward, Tiffany Chapman (I), Blair Stoudemire (I), Chris Lawrence(I). If you are considering allowing your name to be placed on the ballot, please notify me before the meeting. We will also accept nominations from the floor. I can be reached at 710-1452.

In service in His kingdom;
Bill Brackett



WELCA News.....

Another fulfilling and eventful year for WELCA will soon be coming to an end. Our last quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, December 10, at 10:30 AM in the church social hall. We will have our cookie exchange and each person is asked to bring three dozen cookies. Some will be given to Lakeview Nursing Home and the remainder will be divided among those present. Gloria Shealy circle will be the Host. Our election of officers for the 2017 - 2018 term will take place. We would like to have as many women in the Church as possible to attend. This is your organization, so please come out and support it.

Fredi Hallman, President

OKTOBERFEST 2016.....*the results!*

Congratulations St. John's- Approximately \$1500 was raised for Mountain Lakes Access Health Dental Clinic and for Rosa Clark Health Clinic. We had over 100 volunteers who put in over 500 hours of baking/setting up/ manning/taking down the booth. All our baked goods were sold, along with the 53 apple strudel made by volunteers. Thanks again to all who volunteered to make this another successful Oktoberfest!

SAVE THESE DATES.....

- **Saturday, December 3rd** - the congregation- young and old- are invited to gather in the **Sanctuary at 1:00pm as we decorate the St. John's Crismon tree** and ready our Sanctuary for the Walhalla Candlelight Tour of Churches scheduled for that evening between 6 and 8pm.
- **The Walhalla Christmas Parade begins at 5pm. Thursday, December 29th** - At 1:45pm carpools will leave St. John's to Christmas Carol to our shut-ins.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE Worship** - at 5pm and 10:30pm.

Mark your
calendar NOW for
the

LKC Jubilee



February 25, 2017

Our name has changed a little, but the fun remains unchanged! Join us for a great night of food and entertainment with a purpose! More information coming soon.



**Give Gifts
that
Give
Twice**

EARLY HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Last chance to order from the SERRV catalogue will be Sunday **November 6th**. Please

have your order and payment at the Spiritual Ops table by then. This will insure Christmas delivery. Serrv items are high quality and reasonably priced. A portion of the sales went to help master artisans from around the world. A portion of the proceeds from our catalogue sale will be donated to the advent ministry. If we have over \$300 in orders shipping is free.

St. John's Staff

Rev. Frank G. Honeycutt, Pastor
Bill Brackett, Congregational President
Anna T. Zelaya, Parish Secretary
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Christopher Girardeau, Youth Director
Ray Burroughs, Sexton/Biggerstaff Christian Retreat
Marsha Cabbage, Organist and Director of Music
Cindy Kelly, SJ Preschool Director
Chuck Rawlins, Congregational Treasurer
Mark McLean, Financial Secretary
Jeri Klaren, Martha Murtiashaw, Thelma Miller,
Marcia Lyle Carolyn Brandt: Altar Guild
Cory Drennon, Cemetery Grounds Keeper
Dave Parkey, Special Projects



Annual Fall Craft Fair

Saturday,
November 19th
9am-2pm

**A Great way to start early
Christmas Shopping....Don't miss all the
fab items at the Craft Fair!**

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301 West Main St.
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