

# The Crossnore Chronicle

December 2011/January 2012 – Volume 2011 Issue 9 – December 2011/January 2012

*The Communication Team of Crossnore Presbyterian Church publishes the Crossnore Chronicle monthly: Editors Betty Redman France, Fred France. The deadline for articles is the last Sunday of each month. Email Betty France at [frdnbtv@charter.net](mailto:frdnbtv@charter.net), call her at 828-387-2197 or drop off articles at the church.*

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Can you believe that Advent is already here knocking on the door of our souls and asking us to come along once again on the four week journey to Christmas? Are you packed and ready? The gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent is Mark 13:32-37 and it sets the tone for our travels. This reading reminds us not only to remember the Christ who has already come to us—but, also to prepare for the Christ who will come again. Jesus tells his followers to keep awake, to stay alert, and to be ready; for we do not know at what hour he will come. We are invited to walk right into the anxiety of not being *the one in control*. We are challenged to examine our lives—our beliefs, routines, convictions, prejudices—to see if there is any room left for Emmanuel “God with us” who comes in ways we may not easily recognize or accept.

Advent teaches us that “we do not know everything, cannot know everything, and are not responsible for knowing everything. It tells us that, ultimately, we live in mystery.” (quoting from Jan Richardson).

In the midst of our daily stuff, we are urged to stay awake and open our eyes, so that we will begin to sense and see something is coming; something is drawing near. How will you stay alert to the signs of the coming of Emmanuel? *How will you pace your daily journey through Advent to recognize the One who brings hope, peace, joy, and love to all who are awake?*

## Mark 13:32-37

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Kathy

## Mission Team News

Carrol Berkley

Thanks to everyone for helping make our benefit supper for Crossnore Elementary School a huge success! Together with our co-sponsors, Fellowship Presbyterian and First Baptist Church, we were able to raise \$1,419.00 to help meet some real needs of the school.

Our mission outreach for Spruce Pine Prison ministry this Christmas season donated \$250 to help provide turkeys for their Christmas dinner. Several church members went to the prison on December 15<sup>th</sup> to help serve the meal and share in the Christmas spirit.

## QUESTIONS?

All of us question every aspect of our lives. That is how we learn the things we need to know. We ask the doctor to explain a diagnosis. We search for the best home heating method. Yet, many feel that they do not need to learn about their religion: Christianity.

Go to church; hear a sermon; go home. Is that enough to ground you in your faith? Sermons are important, but our reformed faith requires us as individuals to also be able to read and interpret the Bible ourselves.

When Jesus gave the two great commandments he was speaking in response to a question. When we tell others about our faith we are responding to questions. But, if we do not seek answers how can we explain to ourselves, much less to others the fundamentals of our faith.

A reliance on the reading of the Bible is not compromised by studying related matters necessary and helpful for its proper interpretation. These matters can include the history of the times, an examination of how other religious writers such as Luther and Calvin explained certain passages, examination of the Confessions, and the most neglected opportunities in our church: Sunday school and Bible study.

Although many adults feel that Sunday school is for children the adult classes at our church delve deeply into our theology. In addition to studies of the Scripture we have learned about our confessions, the history of the Bible, spiritual disciplines, and many other matters not taught in the Sunday school classes you attended as a child, or in most other church's adult classes. Gary Gascho just finished a series on *The Screwtape Letters* and Frances Brown and Anne Longbrake are preparing stimulating lessons for the coming weeks.

Get up an hour earlier and join us for interesting and informative discussions our Christian faith.

### ***In Memory of William "Bill" Mashburn October 3, 1925- November 2, 2011***

Bill Mashburn, a longtime member and friend of our Crossnore church family, passed away suddenly in early November. Bill loved our church and congregation and looked forward to his summer time with us. He and Reenie were actively involved in church activities. You could always find Bill sitting next to Rachel Deal collecting donations for our monthly country breakfasts, with Reenie on the serving line, generously heaping sausage gravy on homemade biscuits. We will miss Bill's bright eyes and cheery smile and we look forward to having Reenie back with us this summer. Her winter address is: 3139 Dowling Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309. Below is the obituary from the memorial service honoring Bill's life which was held on November 5, 2011 at Wildwood Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

*William C. Mashburn, DDS, passed away suddenly November 2, 2011, in Tallahassee. Born October 3, 1925, in Miami, FL, he was a graduate of Miami High School, attended the University of Miami, and graduated from the University of Tennessee Dental School after serving in WWII. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara, of 56 years. Survivors include his wife, Lorene; 3 sons, Lee (Salt Lake), Don (Charlotte), Ron (Vero Beach), and daughter, Lyn Bland (Jackson, MS); 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He served as president of the Greater Miami Dental Society and practiced dentistry in Coral Gables for over 40 years. Bill's hobbies were sailing and boating. He spent many weekends with friends and his children on Biscayne Bay.*

### **Session Report**

Three new elders were elected to the Session on November 6 – the Class of 2014. They are Ellen Wilson, Carroll Berkley, and Boyd Barrier. They will start their terms in January and will be replacing Tommie Tennent and Rachel Deal. Thanks to all.

Recent deaths in our church family include 'Bill Mashburn, Ted Graham and Ken Wiblitzhouser. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

Crossnore Presbyterian is joining with Crossnore Fellowship Presbyterian, PCA and Crossnore Baptist Church to hold a fund raising dinner at on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Crossnore Baptist

Church to benefit the children of Crossnore Elementary School. This mission service project will help the school buy much needed supplies for the children.

Jim Taylor and Barbara Joss served as commissioned elders at the Presbytery meeting in October. The meeting included two worship services led by Jack Haberer, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook. He encouraged participants to have a positive look for the future.

Three pastors and three elders were elected to attend the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in July of 2012. Barbara Ross was elected as one to represent the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

The church has received \$4000 towards pavement of the church driveway. It comes with a challenge for us to match it in order to have the total \$8,000 cost for this work. Please consider making a special donation to the paving fund.

Money is being received toward the repair of our beautiful hand-painted glass windows in the sanctuary. Mike Gragg is developing a repair plan for the lower windows; In addition to moneys coming from congregational members and friends, plans are for making a grant proposal to help fund this project.

Worship services will be held in the Fellowship Hall in January, February and March.

May each of you have a blessed holiday season.

Barbara, Clerk of Session

### **When Do You Step Out of Your Joyous Role?**

Betty Redman

At a meeting of ministers one of them asked, "When do you ever take off the robe?" He was referring to his role as a member of the clergy, a role akin to living in a fishbowl. The life of a minister is so public, so open to others, that many of them might ask this same question.

Shakespeare wrote in *As You Like It*\*, "All the world's a stage ... and one man in his time plays many parts," and so do we all in our lifetimes play many roles. Ministers may be administrators, counselors, evangelists, executives and on and on. Each may move from one role to another and another and another. We may be mothers, fathers, breadwinners, volunteers, and on and on. There is one role and one mantle, however, that never leaves the shoulders of any of us. That is the role of teacher. Whatever role ministers or lay people who call themselves "Christian" may play, they are always teaching by what they say and what they do.

One of my fondest memories from the many Presbyterian summer camps and retreats I attended is the time I spent with the leaders, many of them ministers. They ate, sang, did kitchen duty, played games and just hung out with us as we talked about all the obvious and mysterious things in the Bible and in life. They were fun. From them I learned that God wants us to enjoy

life. The church is fun. People care about people. Even young people are important. I also learned that people share their time, their caring, their concern and their joy with others. Most important, though I didn't realize it at the time, I learned about the Bible and the Presbyterian faith. Smiling faces, voices raised in song, fair play, sharing of joys and concerns, excitement about Bible stories - all are written indelibly in my memory and on my heart. One of the reasons I remember them so vividly is that they really were fun. The activities - the songs and games, stories, exercises in Bible studies, treasure hunts - all were entertaining learning experiences for us.

Sometimes we in the church lose sight of the fact that people learn when the atmosphere is relaxed and learning experiences are designed to be more fun, even to make us laugh. We have stress at work, at home and at school, in a lot of situations, and the church can offer us not only a place of acceptance but a relaxed atmosphere of pleasure in learning and in building relationships. Teaching and having fun are not mutually exclusive. We can do both, sometimes together and sometimes separately, but church should include both. Helping people want to be with us is preferable to trying to making them feel guilty when they don't come.

Yes, we are all teachers, and it is not an easy role for any of us. We are teachers as we live and work together as those of the Christian faith and among those who do not accept Christian beliefs and principles. Everything we do and say at meetings, at work, in our families, in our social lives - everywhere we are - teaches to those around us something about the Christian faith and how it impacts our lives. We teach the importance, or lack of it, by the examples we set in our relationships with others. The role and the mantle rest on our shoulders. As Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always, to the end of the age."

As the birth of the great teacher who gave us this direction approaches, let us remember the his life, the relevance of his teachings, and the difference they can make in the world if observed. Let us also remember the joy of this season when we give to others and receive from others we love, just as God who loves us gave the greatest gift of Jesus. The birth, the life, and the death of Jesus show a way of life for all Christians to follow. How well we witness to that life and show the joyful meaning of this season depends on us.

## Interesting Quote and Thought for the Day

The Rev. Robert C. Dykstra gave his inaugural lecture as [Princeton Theological Seminary's](#) Charlotte W. Newcombe Professor of Pastoral Theology on Nov. 14.

"If the kingdom of God is within us, and especially within children, as Jesus claimed," Dykstra says, "that kingdom within us may be in the form of a child's interest in the beautiful around him or her, and in the artistic abandon which children tend to exhibit and that adults tend to lose track of."

## Pastor Kathy's Reflections on the Guatemala Partnership Trip, November 13-22, 2011

Deborah Garrison and I want to thank you for supporting our trip to Guatemala. Without your financial support, Deborah would not have been able to participate. I was returning to Guatemala for the fifth time but Deborah had never been outside the USA. Twenty people participated in the November Guatemala Partnership Delegation from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

There is far too much to share in such a small space but here are a few highlights from the many ways we saw God's presence in Guatemala:

- The beauty of the countryside was breathtaking; green fields, terraced crops on the mountain slopes, wild flowers in bloom—hydrangea, poinsettias, bougainvillea, and impatiens .
- The vibrant color and creativity of Guatemalan artists in the local markets and on the streets were amazing—I returned with two new stoles woven from the looms of local women's cooperative.
- The many faces of the working poor were haunting and humbling when we realized that the tortillas or trinkets they sold each day may be their only income for their family.
- So many children are forced to stop their education at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Public education is free but their parents are not able to buy the required uniforms and books. Families may also need the children to help provide childcare or work.

The open arms of the Lebano Presbyterian Church members were still waiting for us at the church when we arrived hours late. We shared in worship with them twice and were able to have meetings with the session, the women deacons, and the youth group. They are excited about the possibility of our churches supporting one another in prayer and importance of

- in mission.
- The generous hospitality provided by our host family was beyond our expectations.

We stayed with Irlando and Lydia in their humble home shared with grandchildren, chickens, turkeys, ducks, pigs, and dogs. They let us live their lives for the few days we were with them...going to the river to swim and wash clothes, cooking tortillas on an open fire, going to the food market, and spending hours talking and sharing photos and stories. There were no televisions, computers, or smart phones. Can you imagine??!

Deborah and I left filled with the colors, the smells, the stories, and the snapshots of the faces of those who have truly become our brothers and sisters in Christ. We also return filled with the blessings of being able to make such a trip and to have a church family here in Crossnore that wants to open its doors and ministry to the world.



## It's that Giving Time of Year

As we enter our new year and prepare ourselves for all of the blessings and challenges we will face. We praise and thank God for the gift of Jesus the Christ through our worship and education, fellowship and service. God wants us to use our time, talents and treasures to further God's will and work in the world – to give back in thanks for all that has been provided to us.

We are blessed beyond our needs in so many wonderful ways. And one of the important ways we show our gratitude for God's grace and mercy is through our financial giving. Christian worship always includes an offering as a response to all that God has given to us. It enables us to better serve our community – to be a welcoming congregation practicing hospitality and providing opportunities for people to make a difference, to honor others in ways beyond our simple acknowledgement of their contributions to church and community, and to create goodness through our actions in tangible ways. It enables us to do those things which are necessary and desirable.

In this Season of Giving, take time to ponder and to pray about your financial support of the work and ministry of Christ through Crossnore Presbyterian Church. We are living in an exciting time, our congregation continues to grow in numbers and God is encouraging us to grow deeper in our faith and wider in our service. We need your continued support.

This past year has been a good one. Many things have been accomplished; many things remain to be done. The parking lot needs to be paved including the entry road from 221. We have received a challenge grant to do the entry road. We need to raise \$4,250 and the matching grant will be \$4,250. We raised \$3,000 to date. The total cost is \$8,500. We have begun replacing and repairing the windows in the basement of the Sanctuary and in the Sanctuary itself. The windows in the lower area have been completed and there is a noticeable difference in comfort, heating and reduction of water damage. The sanctuary windows can be repaired at a cost of \$4,000 per window. That will protect and preserve the windows which are hand painted and a unique part of our heritage. Repairing them will also help to reduce our heating costs.

We have been continuing our mission work locally and globally. We just finished a joint project to help Crossnore Elementary School, two members of our congregation have just returned from Guatemala, we have our monthly food drives and so forth.

Our regular offering and tithes support our ministry and, as a connected church, we also support the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and the General Assembly. In addition, we are always collecting donations for special needs: for the homeless, the hungry, One Great Hour of Sharing, Crop Walk, Souper Bowl Sunday, Heifer International, the Gideon's, disaster relief and many others.

Thanks to each of you who have given of your gifts in so many ways and have helped our congregation to be better disciples and witnesses to God in this community and the world. Now we ask again for your support. It is the end of the year and we are beginning to prepare our new operating budget. In fact we will be


having a Congregational Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> following regular services to receive the budget. Now would be the time to plan your giving for the coming year. Pledge cards will be available and completed pledges will help the Stewardship Team to project our income for the coming year.

Please complete your pledge/tithe and get it back to us as quickly as possible. Thank you again for all that you do.

Yours in Christ's service,  
The Stewardship Team


### Say Thanks Every Day

The Stewardship of Gratitude for Congregations



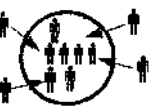
#### Say Thanks

Say Thanks Every Day to God and others in appreciation for the difference their participation and contributions make in your life, work & faith.




#### Give Back

Serve people, communities and the church, who have made a difference in your life, work & faith.




#### Make Welcome

Practice a hospitality of openness and opportunity for people to make a difference.



#### Honor Others

Honor people and communities for their participation and contributions of faith and stewardship.



#### Create Goodness

Create goodness in response to the grace of God's call to faith and stewardship.

Dr. Ed Brenegar Circle of Impact Leadership Guide Services  
<http://edbrenegar.typepad.com> ed@edbrenegar.com 828/275-1803  
Say Thanks Every Day: Copyright©2010 Ed Brenegar

**NOTE: Your Pledge Card for 2012 in on the following page. You can just print this page and complete your pledge and then either drop it in the plate on Sunday or mail it to us at the church address.**

**Thank You in advance and have a wonderful Christmas!**

**PRINT THIS PAGE AND RETURN THE UPPER PORTION  
TO THE CHURCH**

**Pledge Card**  
**CROSSNORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Financial Stewardship Commitment for 2012

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I/we make the following commitment to support the ministry of the church through our congregation.

52 weekly payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or

12 monthly payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or

\_\_\_\_\_ payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Cash or check herewith \_\_\_\_\_ totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**OTHER**

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment is subject to revision if needed. Please make a copy for your files.

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You may cut the upper portion off and mail it to the church at:

***Crossnore Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 386, Crossnore, NC 28616***, or you can place it in the collection plate on any Sunday you are at worship.

***Say Thanks Every Day***  
***The Stewardship of Gratitude***

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-8  
New Revised Standard Version

## Guatemala Mission Trip



## All I Want for Christmas is a Water Buffalo

After raising funds to purchase lambs and pigs through Heifer International the past two years we are going to buy a water buffalo this Christmas. A challenge grant of \$125 is already pledged if we can raise an additional \$125. A water buffalo can be given to a poor village through Heifer International for \$250. **If you would like to honor someone with your donation, please include their name. Make checks payable to: Crossnore Presbyterian Church and designate it for "Water Buffalo."** You will receive a water buffalo magnet as our gift to you! If you would like more information their website is: [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

In poor Filipino villages, water buffalo from Heifer provide draft power for planting rice and potatoes, milk for protein and manure for fertilizer and fuel. A farmer can plant four times more rice with a buffalo than by hand. Water buffalo haul heavy loads to the market where the sale of extra produce brings in vital income for clothing, medicine and school. By renting their buffalo to neighbors, Heifer partner families can earn money for home improvements and soon those same neighbors might receive a water buffalo of their own as recipients pass on the gifts of animals and training. Protein-rich milk, strength to till soil, manure to enrich the land are just some of the many benefits a water buffalo provides. In turn, water buffalo are happy just to graze on coarse grasses and other plants not suitable for harvesting.



**Disciple Cross Necklaces are still available for a donation to the Mission Team funds.**

Find Clarence Kenyon after worship today in the fellowship hall and see the selection of colors he still has. They make great Christmas presents!

# Calendar

## Sunday

*All Sundays*

09:00 am Sunday Morning - choir practice (Winter Hours)

10:00 AM – Sunday School for All Ages

11:00 AM –Worship

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**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month** – Communion

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month** – *Five Cents a Meal Offering*; and, *Canned Goods, Groceries and Pet Food for Volunteer Avery*

**Last Sunday of each month** – Newsletter article deadline – drop in box at church, email Betty France at [frdnbt@charter.net](mailto:frdnbt@charter.net) or call Betty at 828-387-2197

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Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 am- Coffee, Cocoa, Cookie Fellowship

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – 12 N – Congregational Meeting to receive new budget

## Tuesday

*All Tuesdays*

**Prayer Cloth Ministry** is on Tuesdays at 10:30am. We always need more thread and Polyfill; if you are interested in joining, can contribute, or would like more information contact Lorraine Alls: [allsrevlb@yahoo.com](mailto:allsrevlb@yahoo.com)

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## Wednesday

*All Wednesdays*

**Bible Study:** 12-1:30 PM, Church Fellowship Hall

**Wed. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>** - 12:00-1:30pm- Bible Study on Christmas Stories

**Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>** - Bible study group will not meet his week

## Thursday

*All Thursdays*

Information for the Sunday Church Bulletin - due in the morning at 9 AM

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12<sup>th</sup> - 2pm to 4 pm : Session Meeting, Fellowship Hall

## Saturday

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** - 5:30pm- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, nursery service will be provided

### Prayers for those in Need:

For all of our children and youth who are such a vital part of this congregation

Prayers for all people who are suffering from addictions of all kinds

Prayers for all in need regardless of race, color, sex, creed, or affiliation

The President of the USA, and men and women in the armed services around the world, particularly those serving in Afghanistan and Iraq; and the families of those serving

All those living in harm's way, in war torn countries, and in poverty

For Presbytery Member: Korean Presbyterian Church of Asheville (107 Firwood Court, Asheville, NC 28804) [dkwin@hotmail.com](mailto:dkwin@hotmail.com)

As we pray each week for specific churches in our Presbytery, we can also remember our missionaries and mission activities as a reminder that our family extends into all the world: Barbara Nagy, as she continues her work at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi; Rebecca Young and her ministry in Indonesia; Frank and Nancy Dimmock and their family in Lesotho, Africa; Virginia Gartrell, working in Brazil, and all others who have dedicated their lives to helping those in need around the world

