

THE eDisciple

'If you hold to my teaching, you

are really my disciples.' John 8:31

Volume XIX, Number 11: November 2013

What is **TAKING** AN EXPRESSION OF GENEROSITY 2014 **THE NEXT STEP** ??

TNS

Taking the Next Step is a Biblical, spiritual and inspirational program designed to enrich and explore our understanding of Christian stewardship and generosity.

Taking the Next Step will allow us as individuals and as a Congregation to take the next step in our giving as a part of our spiritual journeys.

Taking the Next Step will invite us to have private conversations with God as to our plans for giving in proportion to what we have received in our lives through God's Grace.

Taking the Next Step will focus on the joy of giving generously.

Taking the Next Step IS NOT focused on supporting the budget of Sharon Presbyterian Church but rather to realize that through our generosity SPC can continue to expand in its wonderful missions and ministries both within and beyond our campus.

Beginning Sunday November 3 and continuing through **Taking the Next Step** Sunday on November 24 members of our team will be sharing their personal stories of how our view of giving has been changed as we have prepared to share this

exciting program with you. In addition to having an open heart, you will be asked to prayerfully consider your giving and to complete an Estimate of Giving Card as a part of worship on November 24. There will be a 12 hour prayer vigil on November 23 where each of you will have the opportunity to pray for our members, our missions and our ministries for one hour of that day. We hope that you will plan to join us in this spiritual journey.

On behalf of our **Taking the Next Step** Team, please accept our gratitude for allowing us to share this exciting story.

Yours in Christ,

David Barker, Courtney Clark, Gregory Lynn Clodfelter, Larry Gibbes, Elliott Giffen, Chris Moffat and Bonne Stukey

I can't shake the thought. Every November when the first vision of eating turkey in the company of my family strikes, it is paired in my mind with William Bradford's summons to the Pilgrims, after a year of disease and death, to "render thanksgiving to Almighty God for all His blessings."

We often think of blessings as those material benefits that make life pleasant; in that manner we have vastly more to be thankful for than did those early settlers...and vastly more blessings from which we may be a blessing to others.



As we prepare to gather with family and friends around our tables of bounty to thank God for God's many blessings, so blessed as we have been, let us also thank God for the bountiful increase in the ways and means at our disposal to become blessings for others' sakes.

**Ending homelessness...
a program at Sharon Church**

Sharon Church has been faithfully serving those who are homeless in our community for many years. Yet homelessness continues. We as a community don't seem to be making any progress towards ending homelessness...but, in fact, we are. On November 5, 2013 from 7 – 9 in the Barbara Ward Building, Paul Hanneman, Program Director and Room In The Inn Director for the Urban Ministry Center, will present a program, *A Framework for Understanding Homelessness... and Ending it – exploring our assumptions, values, and*



responses to people who are chronically homeless, learning about who is chronically homeless, and examining proven strategies for ending it in Charlotte. This program is open to all in our church and community.

**ParkSharon Community
Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 26,
7:00 p.m.**

**Living Saviour Lutheran Church
6817 Park Road**

*Dr. Rob Blumer preaching
Sharon Church choir members
participating*

**Mecklenburg Ministries
Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 26,
7:00 p.m.**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 E. Moorehead St.**

*Sharon Church choir members
participating*

It's Thanksgiving lunch for 55 Alive

Join 55 Alive for their Thanksgiving lunch and program Tuesday, November 19, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the gym. Let's do a covered dish for Thanksgiving: meat will be provided; bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Entertainment will be Rick Bean. Contact Peggy Graham to make a reservation (\$5 this time), 704-542-3030. Invite a friend to enjoy the gathering!

Recent additions to the Music Department

Welcome to Allison Schommer, Director of Youth Music, and LeighAnn Fresina, Handbell Director, who have just joined the church staff. Children's Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room of the Worship Building. Handbells rehearse Sunday afternoons from 3:30-5:00 in the Choir Room. As you welcome Allison and LeighAnn, introduce yourself so they will get to know our congregation!



LeighAnn Fresina
leighann@sharonpcusa.org



Allison
allison@sharonpcusa.org



In Memoriam

Lisa Aiken Muenow
September 29, 2013

We express our sympathy to Lisa's daughters, Megan and Rebecca Muenow, and her mother, Terry Stutzman.

Theophilus (Ted)
Hunter Hill, Jr.
October 13, 2013

We express our sympathy to Ted's wife, Diane, their families and friends.



We welcome new babies

Welcome to *Paul Francis Auten*, son of Josh and Trish Auten and grandson of Karen and Larry Auten, who was born on September 24, 2013; to *Madalyn Karen Hively*, daughter of Becky and Mike Hively, who was born on October 9, 2013; to *Jackson Scott Gray*, son of Elizabeth Scott and Jeremy Gray and grandson of Carla and David Scott, who was born on October 22, 2013.

We welcome our new members

Paul and Dorie Zeigler

(photo not available)

3853 Cypress Club Dr
Charlotte, NC 28210-2470
980-949-6029

Paul and Dorie transferred from
First Presbyterian, Greenville, SC



Paige Moody

1100 Beauwyck Ct
Charlotte, NC 28211-3187
704-906-8291

Paige transferred from
Providence Baptist, Charlotte

We express our sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Art Parker in the death of his brother, Gilbert Clayton Parker, on October 9, 2013.

Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

Gifts in Memory

Bob Hill, by Mary Keith
Ted Hill, by Judy Thrash

The Mission of Sharon Presbyterian Church is to celebrate God's love and His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and to proclaim these truths to each other and the world through the worship of God, the teaching and nurture of our congregation, and the outreach of our church to the community and to the world.

We remember in our prayers

Please remember in prayer *those in the hospital*: Ron Ledford; *those at home*: Ellen Dooley, Eloise Rushforth (Sardis Oaks), Gerry Little (Sardis Oaks), Mildred Carmichael, Sybil Starnes, Diane Hill, George and Mary Chapman, Chris Price, Nancy and Glen Walker, Harriet Smith, Janet Shartle, Brenda Paredes; *our homebound members*: Dot Walkup (Linda Skinner's mother); Angela Kinard (Brandy Bombien's friend); Francis Herndon (Scottie Trapp's father); Andrew Murray (Charles and Beth Murray's grandson); Eddie Velez (Brandy Bombien's brother-in-law); Bert Nelli (Bill Nelli's father); Sheri Ferris (M J Shetron's boss); Mary "Skip" Puckett (Trish Bleynat's mother); Edith Collins (Betty Johnson's friend); Eva Nowaczewski (John Nowaczewski's step-mother); Moses Ashbasaly (Sammy Ashbasaly's father); Frank Dimmock, PCUSA World Mission Staff; Nancy Dimmock, PCUSA Mission Worker in Zambia; Presbytery of Huanta in Peru; Rusty Edmondson and Sara Armstrong, PCUSA Mission Co-workers in Peru. *The prayer list is reset on the first day of each month. To submit or resubmit a prayer request, please contact the church office.*

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to be dedicated

Please bring your Operation Christmas Child shoe box(es) to worship with you on Sunday, November 17, so they can be dedicated in worship. On behalf of each child who receives a gift, many thanks for sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

A group of SPC Sr. High youth and adults will be working at the distribution center for Operation Christmas Child on Thursday, December 5th from 5 to 9. To sign up, contact Roz Walker, rozzywalker@yahoo.com, 704-540-7797, or Martin Pruitt, martin@sharonpcusa.org, 704-553-0869.



Room In the Inn: loving our neighbors

On Friday, December 6, Sharon Church begins its 18th season of Room In The Inn. This city-wide Urban Ministry Center program provides shelter and meals for our homeless neighbors December 1 through March 31. Every Friday night, Sharon hosts up to twelve guests, picking them up at the UMC at 5:30 and bring them to the CLAB where they are served a nice dinner, have social time playing bingo or watching TV, and sleep in a safe and warm environment. After a big breakfast, they are returned to the uptown Transit Center. During the four months, we will host ~175 homeless neighbors, some as many as three times, who would likely sleep outside with little to eat were it not for this emergency winter program. It takes at least twenty volunteers every Friday evening and Saturday morning to make this program work – drivers, food preparers and servers, overnight hosts/hostesses, clean-up crews. If you would like to help and have not yet been called, contact David Beers, 704-552-2201, dbeers22@bellsouth.net. Jesus is very clear about loving our neighbors; participating in Room In The Inn is a wonderful way to demonstrate this love.



Catching up with the Dimmocks

Our PC(USA) missionaries Nancy and Frank Dimmock are living mostly on two different continents in their new assignments. Frank works at The General Assembly in Louisville, KY, as one of three new mission catalysts, traveling to many nations to help with poverty and health issues. His vast experience since 1979 of working with women and children in Africa will aid our larger church’s understanding of world poverty. Nancy is in Lusaka, Zambia, as the Young Adult Coordinator (YAV), organizing sites and programs for young adults to participate in a transforming year in mission work. Three of their children live in Zambia with her; four other children and one new grandchild live in southeastern US. Andrew stayed in Lesotho to continue his schooling. Check the bulletin boards by the office and in the CLAB for more information.



Sign up for youth basketball

SPC Youth Basketball is starting up and new backboards and goals are being installed in the gym. Our league includes teams for boys and girls ages 6-16. SPC Crusaders play on Saturdays at area churches (including ours) December through February. To sign up, contact Ken Parker, 704-759-4983, ken.parker@bankofamerica.com, or Paul Osowski, 704-574-3894, paul.osowski@nelsonmullins.com, by November 4.

Sharon Presbyterian Church Year-to-Date Finance Report as of September 30, 2013

The Finance Committee takes this opportunity to share this Year-to-Date Income Statement through September 30. Please contact any member of the Finance Committee if you have any questions.

	2013	2012	Difference
TOTAL REVENUE	574,745	558,636	16,109
EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE			
Caring	7,778	7,141	637
Praising	26,291	14,703	11,588
Serving	32,881	32,614	267
Sharing	29,129	12,866	16,263
Sustaining	603,420	556,919	46,501
Teaching	33,920	17,509	16,411
TOTAL EXPENSES	733,419	641,752	91,667
NET INCOME / (LOSS)	(158,674)	(83,116)	(75,558)



November birthdays

- 1 Mike Christensen, Ken McAfee
- 2 Doug Allen, Brenda Fairbrother, Elliott Giffen, Michael Metzcus, Marty Moore
- 3 Evie Baker, Pete Bleynat, Erin Grier, Mason McBride, Jackson Meacham, John Tutwiler
- 4 George Chapman, Elaine Eichler, Bob Moore
- 5 Elizabeth Addis, Geoff Gardner
- 6 Cheryl Davis, Meghan Lluberas, Maryde McGarity, Ben Nordstrom
- 7 Becky Burgess, Tricia Nelson, Jay Shawver, Lee Shrum, Diana Wade
- 8 Laura Clark, Dana De Silva, Eleanor Lockwood, Austin Mack
- 10 Abbie Cochell, Jan Meier
- 11 Elizabeth Yates
- 12 Suzanne Henke, Virginia Kenyon
- 13 Trey Clodfelter
- 14 Matthew Dillard, Carolyn White
- 15 Jean Cottom, Ethan Lewis
- 16 Rey Flordelis, Scotty McElhaney, Mary Frances Zedaker
- 17 Jacqueline Boersema
- 18 Claire Droppelman, Hunter Griffith, Harrison Turnbull
- 19 Dave Brown, Ryan Fedell, Hayden Jenkins
- 20 Jacob Price, Bob Winfrey
- 22 Frank Black, Reese Presson
- 23 Lula Ashley, Bailey DeRose
- 24 Ann Bryant
- 25 Adam Specker
- 27 Caryn Gardner, Bill McClure
- 28 Gertrude Farrell
- 29 Jaeden Fargen, Anna Jolly, Lindsey McGraw
- 30 Sara Jamison, Matthew Micheau, Anne Willette

Anniversaries

- 1 Todd and Elizabeth Pickens
- 4 Alex and Susan Goeldner
- 5 Eric and Lauren Murray
- 6 Greg and Laura Nordstrom
- 8 Eddie and Vickie Saine
- 9 Steve and Sherry Meacham
- 10 Keith and Lisa Mason
- 13 Joe and Courtney Evans
Charles and Katrina Gordon
- 14 David and Miriam Wilson
- 15 Jim and Pat White
- 17 Ray and Bette Beaty
- 18 Bill and Phyllis Acton
- 19 Gene and Jo Ann Manning
- 22 Doug and Carol Ann Allen
- 24 Jerry and Susan Cline
Bob and Patty Stultz
Marvin and Pam Ward
- 25 Skip and Ginny Long
Bill and Mary Ann Unferth
- 26 Larry and Inis Gibbes
Darrell and Robin Shealy
- 29 Reginald Wallace and Linda Lee Robinson



In Christ Supporting Ministries

Well Gatherings: monthly meetings for those who provide care and advocacy for individuals navigating mental illness; November 7, December 5, Covenant Presbyterian, Fellowship Hall Room 203, 7:00 p.m.

Young Adult Weekend Getaway for 20s & 30s: January 17-19, 2014, Montreat Conference Center. Innovative sessions, inspiring music, engaging conversation.

Perspectives on Marriage Retreat: explore God's gift of marriage, deepen relationships, and enjoy time with one another. February 14-16, 2014, Martha Washington Hotel, Abingdon, VA.

For more information or to register: www.InChristSupportingMinistries.org, 704-554-2490.

Be sure to place your Christmas tree order!

Christmas is right around the corner and it is time to order your Christmas tree. Boy Scout Troop #34, sponsored by Sharon Presbyterian, is selling Fraser Fir trees and wreaths freshly cut from the mountains of North Carolina. The scouts will deliver the tree to your door! **The deadline for orders is Monday, December 2,** and the delivery date is Saturday, December 7. Order forms are available in the church office, or contact your favorite scout, or Robin Shealy at 704-541-9755.



Attendance Statistics

September 29, 2013

Morning Song	52
Worship	286
Sunday School	155

October 6

Morning Song	51
Worship	292
Sunday School	135

October 13

Morning Song	35
Worship	278
Sunday School	133

October 20

Morning Song	61
Worship	250
Sunday School	156

October 27

Morning Song	37
Worship	265
Sunday School	121

Red Cross Bloodmobile
Sunday, November 10
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Gym

We donated 23 units in August – let's see if we can beat that this time! Contact Letty Latta to reserve a time to donate, 704-321-3420, llatta6919@aol.com

Can You Spare A Drop? 

Let's stuff Christmas stockings for children in need

Join us on Sunday morning, November 24, for our first "Stuff It" event for the Salvation Army's Christmas Bureau. All ages are invited to the celebration — come for all or part of the events. The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary provides stockings for more than 14,000 children in need in the Charlotte area. We will stuff a total of 350 stockings, with 200 for 9-12 year old girls and 75 each for 3-5 year old boys and girls.



What can we provide for the stockings? Purchase NEW stuffed animals (small to fit in a stocking!) and leave in collection boxes at the Chapel and Sanctuary entrances. All other items are being supplied through our Serving Committee budget. RSVP by November 18 to let us know how many in your family will be coming for the breakfast, office@sharonpcusa.org or 704-553-0869.

November 24 Schedule

- 8:30 Hot Breakfast (no charge) served in the Gym
- 9:00 Morning Song Worship in the Gym (nursery available)
"Taking the Next Step" Sunday
- 9:40 *Stocking Stuffing* in the Gym
- 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary **"Taking the Next Step" Sunday**

THE Disciple

Sharon Presbyterian Church
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Charlotte, North Carolina 28210
704-553-0869

Fax: 704- 553-0471

Email: office@SharonPCUSA.org

Web-Site: www.SharonPCUSA.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Rob Blumer, Pastor

Rev. Ron Nelson, Associate Pastor

Martin Pruitt, Youth Director

Sharon Vanpelt, Director of Christian Education

David Tang, Interim Director of Music

Sandy Breaux, Organist

Allison Schommer, Director of Youth Music

LeighAnn Fresina, Handbell Director

Jane Crutchfield, Admin. Assist.

Tawanda Diggs, Secretary/Receptionist

Scottie Trapp, Finance Office

Bill VanDeBogart, Church Sexton

Carolyn Adams-Teal, Nursery Caregiver

Weekday School, 704-554-0882:

Beth Merchant, Director

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Missionaries supported in part by Sharon Presbyterian

