
Sherrill's Ford Presbyterian Church

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Russ and Marcia Reighley, Pastors

Elizabeth Brownell, Worship Leader



December 2017 - January 2018

Pastor's Pulpit

December 1, 2017

Happy Advent season to all. As you know Advent means "coming", and there are certainly many things "coming" to our church. We have events "coming" in and out of our church in December and January: PW dinner and gift exchange on the evening of the 4th, Youth play on 12/16, Third Thursday on 12/21, and the Longest Night service right after the meal on the 21st, a beautiful cantata ("The Greatest Story Ever Told") on the 17th, plus two Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion services at 7 and 11 on the 24th. We don't slow down much in January. The "Bells of Lake Norman" are coming on the evening of the 7th, we have Third Thursday on the 18th, and the choir takes the cantata to Abernathy Laurels on the 21st.

The Holy Spirit is constantly “coming” and working through the hands of our members, both inside and outside of our church; it is beautiful to watch. The mere fact that there are at least ten (both turkeys and chickens) ready to be prepared for our December Third Thursday meal is a testimony to the “works of the Spirit” amongst us; plus, we have many other things in the works.

Marcia and I are so richly blessed by our Lord to be allowed to serve this marvelous community of believers and doers. The gifts you gave us; the model of our church, and the amazing memory book, are prominently on display in our home; but more importantly, the thoughts from each of you are held tightly in our hearts.

Peace be to All



October



Bandys H. S. Football Dinner

Feeding the high school teams on game day is customary in our community. Local businesses, families and churches volunteer to provide a meal. On October 13th Bandys High School varsity football team came to SFPC where we served them dinner before their evening game. It was most exciting to see these youth in our Fellowship Hall! The menu was salad, spaghetti, rolls and fresh fruit. Russ said the prayer before the meal, and the players locked arms while they listened. At the conclusion of the meal the team minister had a brief message for the players. Again, it was impressive to observe this. As the team left for their game, each player stopped to thank the volunteers who had fed them - and Russ for his role in the dinner. It was a great experience for all.

Quotable Quotes

Below are some quotes from Russ's recent sermons. If you hear something you feel is powerful during Russ's message, jot it down and give to Bitsy to be added to our next newsletter so it may be "re-shared" with our congregation.

*"The adornments to the cloak are peace, grace, mercy, hope and forgiveness. Will I wear the cloak? Wearing it says you agree to share the adornments."

*"Pride is the barrier between us and God."

*"Can we recognize our sin? Can we confess our sin? If we do we are forgiven."



Pastor Appreciation

On October 22nd our church held a surprise reception for Marcia and Russ after our regular service. There was a cake and punch - along with some scrumptious finger foods. Marcia and Russ were recognized for their wonderful contributions to our church. Presented to them were a handmade wooden replica of Sherrill's Ford Presbyterian Church (thanks, Gwen Beatty) and a lovely book which compiled members' favorite memories of Russ and Marcia during the last 5 years.



Third Thursday Dinners

Since our first community dinner in August, the number of diners has increased each month. It is certainly a privilege to share the joy with church members and others from our community who come to enjoy delicious food and feel the warmth of good Christian fellowship. Thanks to all who have cooked, donated food, worked and shared the message of God's love.



Member Spotlight - Nell Sherrill

Nell Marlin McNeely was born in Mt. Ulna, N.C. in 1923. Her parents were Sally and Lawrence McNeely. Nell's grandfather (Bob Mac) used to travel to Balls Creek Camp Meeting from Iredell and when Nell imagined his trip as a child she thought he was traveling to the other side of the world!

Nell's family moved around Rowan County during her childhood. Her first job was at Cascade where she worked with "copping" (filling long spools with yarn.) She met her future husband (Bob Sherrill) when she was a cloth inspector at Mooresville Mills. Nell and Bob married in 1948. They moved into their forever house (next to Sherrills Ford Presbyterian Church) in 1962.

Miss Nell began a career with hair dressing in the 1950's and continued in the shop behind her house until 1973. During this same time she was an excellent seamstress - making clothes for herself and sports coats for Bob. Over the years she has enjoyed altering and changing her older outfits to meet current fashion styles.

Some people might be surprised to hear that Miss Nell and her husband were in a band during the 70's - and enjoyed traveling around North Carolina playing the kazoo! Highlights for them were performances in Renfro Valley and Pigeon Forge!

After Bob passed away in 2003 Miss Nell continued her loves of sewing and working with the crafters at SFPC. She no longer drives but enjoys visits and hearing from other friends in Sherrills Ford.



November

Veterans' Service



On the evening of November 11th our church honored military veterans as well as first responders. JROTC from Aaron Brownell's school presented our flag. A large crowd attended - and enjoyed a program of patriotic music and narration. One particular song had the vets stand as their branch of the military was called out.

Each veteran/first responder received a wooden pocket cross from Russ. It was very moving to share our appreciation with those who have served our community and country. All attending were invited to share a soup and salad dinner in the Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the service.



Dorothy Clifford Celebrates 80th Birthday



Friends surprised Miss Dorothy with a celebration lunch in honor of her 80th birthday recently. There was good food and a wonderful cake. We love you, Miss Dorothy!

Mother Teresa:

“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence...We need silence to be able to touch souls.”

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

December



Our church had a wonderful time setting up for the Christmas season! On November 25th we had a thorough clean-up of the sanctuary and the materials used to decorate the inside and outside of the church. After our regular service on November 26th members decorated the building with Chrismon trees, wreaths, swags of holly, a nativity scene, and the advent candles. On that same evening there was a special service,



written by Elizabeth Brownell, and performed by the choir and speakers. The meaning of "The Hanging of the Greens" was detailed, and the congregation was asked to participate in the final decorating - putting Chrismons on the tree.



On December 3rd during the first Sunday of Advent, Edie Raether spoke about Hope and lit the "Hope" Advent candle.



Church Calendar

December

4	Women of the Church	Dinner at Linebergers	6:30 p.m.
9	Festival of Tables	Potluck Lunch	12:00 p.m..
16	Children's Play	(Refreshments Afterwards)	5:00 p.m.
17	Cantata	(During Regular Service)	11:00 a.m.
21	Third Thursday Dinner		5:30 p.m.
	Longest Night Service		7:00 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve Service		5:30 p.m.; 11:00 p.m.

January

2	Women of the Church Meeting		10:00 a.m.
7	Bells of Lake Norman		
18	Third Thursday Dinner		5:30 p.m.