



*Reflections
from the
Rocking Chair*

As we are in the month of October, it is time for Stewardship Season. Not that stewardship is something we only do in the Fall, but we are called to live everyday as good managers of God's resources, money and abilities given to us. From the very beginning, we read in Genesis how God created a partnership with the humans and gave them the task of overseeing and handling all that is.

I am reminded of the parable that Jesus told about the three servants who were entrusted with part of their master's property. (See Matthew 25:14-30) Each servant was given a portion to oversee and keep safe in the master's absence. What is interesting in this parable is that two of the servants take what was given to them and see it as an opportunity to grow it and make more so that more could be accomplished. But one servant is fearful of the master and chooses to bury what is given to him. And when the day of reckoning comes, the two servants return a double amount, while the one offers the original amount back to the master. The way that each one deals with what is entrusted to him is a matter of perspective: either to act out of gratitude or out of fear; from a viewpoint of abundance or of scarcity.

Fear is a strong emotion that can cause us to flee the situation, freeze and be unable to do anything, or fight and to defend what is ours. This parable shows that responding in fear does not set the servant free but instead imprisons him so that he is unable to do anything. This one servant responds seeing the limitations of what he is given, and so he buries it, holding on to the gift and then returning what was given. But even the master chides him by saying, "You could have put it in the bank and earned some interest, and returned more to me."

We too have to check our own worldview and perspective on life. Do we respond as if there is not enough and so we cannot share? Or do we respond with thankfulness and gratitude, and see what has been given is not to be held onto but to be shared? We each have to manage what it is that God has given to us to take care of, and to use for our welfare and the welfare of our family. But also it is given to us that we might see the blessing and goodness; thus be willing to live generously and share of what we have. It is important to help our children and grandchildren to learn how to be generous with what we have so that they can be generous in their living.

As a church, we, too, can respond to God's generosity either with gratitude or with fear. Either we see our situation through the lens of scarcity or abundance. This congregation has been blessed over these last 149 years with people's generosity of money and sharing of time and abilities. As we approach this threshold of 150 years as a church in this community, may we respond to God's gifts to us with thankful hearts and an openness to care for those around us.

Our theme this year for Stewardship is "Reaching Our Community," and we have been doing this in a variety of ways. From feeding hungry children weekly, to helping with a family's home, to providing for those who have been impacted by the recent hurricane, we have been responding with a view of abundance and thankfulness. I hope that as we come to Commitment Sunday on November 10, you will look at your life, your resources and all that God has entrusted you with, and prayerfully seek guidance from the Spirit to respond to the call to reach our community. Let us give generously as God has given to us, that we might make a difference in our world.

Grace and peace,

Ann



It's that time of year again! We're looking for people who would like to write a devotional for our Advent Devotionals booklet. The theme is **"The Past is a Present"** and will be **due November 4**. It's a matter of writing 200-400 words on this topic...which is not difficult. It will be fun to see how each writer interprets the theme with their writings. If you are interested in being a "published author," contact Ivy Ritchie at ivyritchie@btes.tv or call her at 423-723-3237.

Activity for Kids and Youth/Fundraiser for Youth Program

Sunday, December 1st 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a couple of hours kid free while the Youth Group and adult leaders feed your kiddos pancakes, watch a Christmas movie, and play some fun games in our comfy pajamas!

Donations are highly encouraged and GREATLY appreciated to help us with funding for our Youth Program at the church. The suggested donation is \$15 for 1-2 kids in a family, and \$25 for 3 or more. We can accept cash or checks made out to Central Presbyterian Church.



November 1 Church yard and garden cleanup day. We'll be working from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bring garden tools and gloves and spend a day working around the church to get it ready for the winter months. There will be indoor projects, too!

Following Worship on November 3, The Worship Committee will have a "Clean-up/Spruce-up the Sanctuary Day." We will be vacuuming and rotating the pew cushions and dusting the pews and pew racks. We will also check for sharpened pencils, hymnals, and Bibles in each pew rack. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome. If you like, bring hand vacs and dusting cloths. For more information, contact Patty Caldwell, Worship Committee member (423) 797.0599. Thanks for any help you can give.

Sermons



October 27
Sanctuary

November 3
Central Hall

November 10
Sanctuary

Mark 10:46-52
Reformation Sunday

Mark 12:28-34

Mark 12:38-44

Stepping Forward in Faith
(Please wear Red)

Loving God and Loving Others

Faithful Generosity

Calendar

October 23 - November 6

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, October 23 | Central Life Delivered | 4:00 p.m. Admin & Staff meeting |
| | | 5:30 p.m. Dinner - Baked potatoes & fixings |
| | | 6:00 p.m. Program - Familiar Psalms |
| | | 7:00 p.m. Choir practice |
| Friday, October 25 | | 9:00 a.m. Gamers @ Caldwell's |
| | | 7:00 p.m. Christian Education meeting |
| Sunday, October 27 | | 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School |
| | | 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary - Wear RED |
| | | 11:15 a.m. Healing Service |
| | | 3:30-5 p.m. Trunk or Treat |
| Monday, October 28 | | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study - at Perkins, Exit 7 |
| Wednesday, October 30 | | 1:30 p.m. Widows' Grief Group |
| | | 5:30 p.m. Dinner - Breakfast for dinner |
| | | 6:00 p.m. Program Wisdom Writing: Ecclesiastes |
| | | 7:00 p.m. Choir practice |
| Thursday, October 31 | | 4:30-7 p.m. Halloween on Euclid |
| Friday, November 1 | | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Church yard clean-up day |
| Sunday, November 3 | | 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School |
| "FALL BACK" | | 10:00 a.m. Worship in Central Hall - Communion |
| | | 11:00 a.m. Youth - "Choose to be Grateful" |
| | | 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Clean-up day following worship |
| Monday, November 4 | | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study - at Perkins, Exit 7 |
| | | 4:00 p.m. Care & Concern meeting |
| | | 7:00 p.m. King Lecture in Central Hall |
| Tuesday, November 5 | VOTE TODAY | |
| | | 7:00 p.m. Worship committee meeting |
| Wednesday, November 6 | Central Life Delivered | |
| | | 1:30 p.m. Widows' Grief group |
| | | 5:30 p.m. Dinner - Baked Spaghetti |
| | | 6:00 p.m. Program - Wisdom Writing: Proverbs |
| | | 7:00 p.m. Choir practice |



Fall Back 1 hour on November 3. Daylight Saving ends...so if you forget, you'll be just in time for Adult Sunday School or a cup of coffee and your pick of places to sit!

Wednesday, October 23
Dinner, then activities at the church.


Sunday, October 27
Trunk or Treat 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Please come in your costume at 3:00 p.m. to help decorate

Thursday, October 31 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Halloween on Euclid (wear your costume & hand out candy!)

Sunday, November 3
"Choose to be Grateful" 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Special Event

Saturday, November 9
Friendsgiving & Night of Gratitude 6-7:30 p.m.




Sunday, October 27 3:30-5 p.m. Join us, dress up, provide your own candy to give away, and decorate your trunk for our annual Trunk or Treat. Plan to have a great time with our children enjoying the festivities. There will be an Acai Bowl Food Truck in the parking lot preparing wonderful, healthy options for sale.

Thursday, October 31: Halloween on Euclid 4:30-7 p.m. Feel free to wear a costume and come give out candy and information about the church to those who are trick or treating on Euclid Ave. We will have tables set up at the end of the alley with candy and goodies to hand out.



Saturday, November 9 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Friendsgiving & Night of Gratitude (Youth) We are trying something new this year for our Youth Group Friendsgiving! We are extending the invitation to other youth groups and young people in our community to join us for a Thanksgiving themed meal, games, worship music, and some activities that help us remember what we are grateful for this season. Although the evening is hosted by and geared toward our young folks, families are invited and encouraged to participate in the fun!

We are asking the families from Central to help provide bread, sides, veggies, and desserts to the meal. Josie will bring the turkey!

If you are planning to attend, please text Josie, tell her in person, or send an email to josiannrussell@gmail.com with your name and number of people in your group. We are excited to spend this time together!



Session Notes

The session of Central Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, October 15 for their monthly meeting.

After Ann Aichinger led the devotion and opening prayer time, the session shared interesting things about themselves that others might not know. We heard all kinds of fun and unique stories from one another.

Ann Aichinger shared the pastor's report and she encouraged the Session to approve being a part of the Vital Congregations Program of the PCUSA. After some discussion, this was approved. Ann will seek to submit the application when the time comes.

David White agreed to attend the Abingdon Presbytery meeting on November 14 at Wytheville Presbyterian Church. Ann Aichinger reviewed the calendar and highlighted several special events coming up.

John Barker reported on the status of the Mashkin and Moha families.

The Committees made their reports of activities and plans. The following items were approved:

- ◆ Fellowship and Dining will be hosting a potluck after worship on November 10 as a part of our Commitment Sunday celebration.
- ◆ Mission Committee recommended that we participate in Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes, the Angel Tree Christmas event through Communities in Schools, Be the Church Sunday on December 29 as a part of worship and the Souper Bowl of Caring/Tackle Hunger from January- February 9.
- ◆ Finance Committee reported that the Harmon Estate has had a good year and there will be a distribution to the four areas of ministry in 2025.
- ◆ Worship recommended having only one Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. this year.
- ◆ Worship Committee recommended to shift the worship services starting January 5, 2025 to alternate, beginning with Central Hall. This would allow for several major events, including the 150th celebration worship services to be in the Sanctuary.
- ◆ With the shift of having January 5 worship in Central Hall, Communion will be served on January 12 in the Sanctuary.

After sharing an update on the Buckner House project as well as pastoral concerns, Laurel Broadfoot closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19 at 7 p.m. hybrid.



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|------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Nancy Kiser | 1 | Verle Sutphin | 1 |
| Danny Clark | 7 | Phyllis Morris | 8 |
| Rob Blanton | 10 | Terri Surber | 15 |
| Nataly Moha | 15 | Clayton Kiser | 16 |
| Robert Streeter | 16 | Mark McCord | 17 |
| Makenzie Self | 17 | Avery Herold | 18 |
| Christa Anderson | 18 | Nicholas Fuller | 18 |
| Josie Russell | 19 | Nancy Arnold | 21 |
| Terri Davis | 22 | Debbie Wagner | 22 |
| Gina Ridgeway | 22 | Harper Ellis | 24 |
| John Dodge | 25 | Vickie Clark | 28 |
| Kelly McBride | 30 | | |

It’s Time for Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child!!

Please consider filling a shoe box with fun items that will go to children around the world. Shoeboxes are located in the entrances to the Sanctuary and Central Hall. Return the shoe box to the church by November 17. See Bernice Hagaman with any questions.



Care Portal

We have recently become a member of Care portal which is a local clearinghouse for volunteers to help families and individuals in our area. Care portal is a national program, but we are a part of the southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee portal. The mission of Care Portal is to respond to immediate needs within a community and connect individuals and organizations in meeting those needs. They primarily work with children and their families. But since Hurricane Helene, they have added a Hurricane Response aspect. This is not another program, but it is mission driven. It is not about organizing within our church, but about inviting all who are interested to have opportunities to respond to needs expressed.

If you are interested in being a part of the Care Portal and associate with Central Presbyterian Church, you can sign up today at <https://www.careportal.org> and click on the *How it works* button. There you can learn more about what is involved and you can also sign up and then receive information about immediate needs. The best part of this is that there are many people already involved in Care Portal in our area and are already responding to families and children.

Once signed up, you might begin getting requests for help. You are under no obligation to respond or do anything, unless you feel you can meet that need. As a church, we would want to have some training for those who have signed up from the Care Portal staff about what is involved and how we as a faith community can meet the needs of our neighbors. But that training will come at a later time. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Ann Aichinger or Laurel Broadfoot. This is another way we can reaching our community to offer the love and grace of Christ to those in need.

Pastoral Concerns:

Rich Williams will be having some follow-up tests on his liver;
Josie Russell is having some medical tests;
Jean Thomason has had some skin cancer removed;
Terri & Larry Surber are at UVA Medical Center;
Nancy Arnold has continuing issues with balance;
Frances Van Dyke has continuing issues with her treatment for cancer;
Thais Sikora has some breathing issues caused by her asthma.



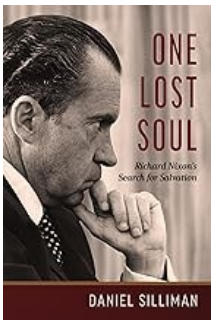
Continued Prayers for:

Guy Briggs, Ken Brittle, Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Dick Gordon, Bob and Becky Ingram, Heather Kiser, Missy McCord, Woody McGlothlin, Ken Moss, Archer Parsons, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Marvin Tadlock's brother, Donald; Barbara Mann's daughter-in-law, Pamela; Wes Ritchie's work friend, Johann Coetzee; Glenn Myers' cousin, Heather; Donnie Spurell's sister, Barbara; Guy Briggs' daughter, Tracey Patterson; Joy Briggs' friend, Ginger; Amy Williams, friend of the church; Peggy Callison's son, Orion; Sandy Wilson's aunt, Connie Perry; Doris Hall's aunt, Mildred Rutherford; Doris Hall's good friend, Becky.

Please call the church office (276-669-3157) with any pastoral concerns, and please feel free to contact Ann Aichinger or any of the Elders through email, Facebook, or by phone.



King Lecture Series on November 4, 7 p.m. Central Hall. Daniel Silliman, PhD will be speaking on *When Richard Nixon Haunts Your Dreams: A Disgraced President and the Politics of Forgiveness*.

Dr. Silliman is the News Editor of *Christianity Today*. This ought to be an interesting, thought-provoking, lecture.

Thank you for the donations of gently used grocery bags for our Backpack program. Please place the bags in the bin next to the church office door. Bring **flattened bags** to make it easier on our volunteers.



Backpack Bags



The Bristol Music Club will be having their annual benefit on November 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Central Hall to make money for music scholarships. Please contact Judy Dowe at 423.335.8349 for more information.

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E-mail: office.cpc@bvu.net

How to Keep in Touch:

www.facebook.com/CPCBristol: You do not have to sign-in or log on. Just click “not now” and the site will pop up. Scroll down to find the latest message.

www.CentralPresBristol.org: Click on “View Sermons” then scroll down to see Pastor Ann’s videos for each day.

Options for giving to the work and ministry of Central Presbyterian:

- * You can give in a check, or cash, in the offering plate, dropped by the office, or mailed to:

Central Presbyterian Church
331 Euclid Avenue
Bristol, VA 24201-4013

- * You can give through your online banking to Central.
- * You can set up an automatic deposit from your account; please talk with the Finance Director on how to do this.
- * You can TEXT to **CentralPres** (no spaces and Capital C and P) to **73256**. You will be directed to make your donation through Realm.
- * Use the QR Code to connect to the website and the “Give Online” link.
- * You can give one time, or regularly, through your **Realm Connect** profile.



How to contact us:

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|---|--|
| Ann Aichinger, Pastor | ann.cpc@bvu.net |
| Robert Campbelle, Music Director | robertcampbelle@gmail.com |
| Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist-Emerita | gvbjoyb@btes.tv |
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| Jeremy Kline, Kitchen Coordinator | |
| Michelle Blankenship, Dir. of APPLE Academy | applepreschool@yahoo.com |
| Nursery Staff | |

Office Hours:

The current office hours are:
9:00 to 3:00 Monday—Friday
Please call 276-669-3157 for
office hour changes and updates.



Serve the Lord with Gladness