

## The Messenger

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**Purpose:** To publicize the good news of the mission and ministry of Walhalla Presbyterian Church for the glory of God.

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# The Messenger

Newsletter of The Walhalla Presbyterian Church and  
The West Union Chapel

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November 2011

## Vince's View



Dear Family & Friends of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and West Union Chapel,

In this month of *THANKSGIVING*, I invite you to consider this meditation from Thomas Merton's *Thoughts In Solitude*:

*To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us--  
and He has given us everything.  
Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace,  
for it brings with it immense graces from Him.  
Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive,  
is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God.  
For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience.  
And that is what makes all the difference...  
Gratitude is therefore the heart of the solitary life, as it is the heart of the Christian life...  
We live in constant dependence upon this merciful kindness of the Father,  
and thus our whole life is a life of gratitude—a constant response to His help which comes to us at every moment.*

God has given us everything in the Good News Who is Jesus Christ. Our gratitude can powerfully convey this Good News to the culture around us so steeped in the confusion of materialism. Central to our understanding and effective proclamation of the Christian Gospel today is to see God's absolute life more clearly; and to live with gratitude for how the physical and material cosmos is a gift overflowing to us from the absolute life of Almighty God.

God has revealed to us that He is full of joy. God's joy is deeper than mere happiness. Joy is the absolute essence out of which happiness is sometimes briefly and fleetingly experienced by us humans. But Joy is eternal, never ending, constant, and abiding. Joy is part of God's very nature. God is full of joy. The abundance of His love and generosity is inseparable from God's infinite joy. All of the good and beautiful things from which we occasionally drink tiny droplets of soul-exhilarating joy, God continuously experiences in all their breadth and depth and richness.

Jesus Himself was and is a joyous, creative Person. He does not allow us to think of our heavenly Father Who fills and overflows space as a morose and miserable monarch, a frustrated and petty parent, or a policeman on the prowl. We simply cannot think of God in such ways while confronting Jesus' proclamation: "He who has seen Me has seen the Father," because one of the most outstanding features of Jesus' personality is precisely His abundance of overflowing joy.

This is the marvelous inheritance Jesus gives to all of us when He promises: "I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11) Here is one of the deepest truths of true Kingdom living! The steady joy of Jesus Christ is never ruled out by His, or our, very real experiences of sorrow and grief.

Thanksgiving to God is about the absolute value of the whole of the Christian life God has given us in Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving to God is about Kingdom living with an attitude of deep gratitude in all things according to the absolute values of the King. William Temple, the archbishop of Canterbury wrote:

The spiritually minded person does not differ from the materially minded person chiefly in thinking about different things, but rather in thinking about the same things differently.  
It is possible to think materially about God, and to think spiritually about money [and everything else].

This *THANKSGIVING* season, live in the Joy of gratitude to God for Who He is. "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) When others see the freedom of your abiding gratitude and peace, they will be drawn to Jesus.

Grateful for your partnership in the gospel,

Pastor Vince Alig

# The Messenger

November 2011 Edition

A publication of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and  
West Union Chapel



## I will praise the name of God with a song;

## I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30

# Session Highlights

by Rosemary Bailes

## At their Stated Meeting on August 24, 2011, the Session:

Prayed for ill and bereaved members, family and friends.

**Read:**

- a letter from St. Luke Methodist Church, Walhalla, requesting membership transfer for Jessie Johnson Bunning.
- a letter from the Mountain Rest Meals on Wheels coordinator inviting WPC to serve as the Walhalla host site for reception and pick-up of meals.

**Approved motions for:**

- participation in the 2011 PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering
- approval of a *Safe Place Policy* addressing child protection in the church.

**Heard announcements that:**

- building plans for renovation and construction at West Union Chapel are progressing.
- the draft of the proposed 2012 budget is currently \$243.78 lower than last year's budget.
- the Men's Fellowship class made a recent visit to Jack Wyatt at the Richard Campbell Veteran's Home in Anderson.

## At their Stated Meeting on September 28, 2011, the Session:

Heard a devotion by Don Manly on the theme of the infallible authenticity of Holy Scriptures as the Word of God, based on 2 Timothy 3: 14-17.

**Read:**

- a letter of thanks from the Salvation Army for a \$500 donation.

**Approved motions for:**

- sponsoring an evangelistic "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event for Walhalla children on Oct. 31.
- scheduling 2012 VBS on July 9-13, and Good News Bible Club on July 23-27.
- adhering to stated procedures for using expenditure voucher procedures (information to be posted in bulletin board area).
- appointing Deb Wickliffe as chair of the SUS Fund.
- expenditure of \$2500 for upgrading of overhead electrical wiring in church facility.
- planning joint elder training with Richland Presbyterian Church in January.

**Heard announcements that:**

- the Oconee Backpack Lunch Program has raised approximately \$53,000 to date.
- the Foothills Presbytery will meet on November 6 at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, with Harry Silsby representing WPC as elder commissioner.

#####

**YOUR SESSION PRAYS FOR YOU;  
PLEASE PRAY FOR YOUR SESSION.**



## BIRTHDAY

- 11/5.....Becky Satterfield
- 11/6.....Jim Abercrombie
- 11/8.....Vince Alig
- 11/10.....Annette Morrah
- 11/11.....John Lockwood
- 11/20.....Lynda Alexander
- 11/20.....Betty Palmer
- 11/22.....Nelle Rochester
- 11/23.....Margaret Lockwood
- 11/27.....Pamela Sexton

## ANNIVERSARY

- 11/8.....Andy & Becky Satterfield
- 11/9.....Jimmy & Anna Keys Davison
- 11/18.....Don & Sylvia Rumer
- 11/30.....Sharon & Roger Welfare

## Walhalla Presbyterian Church Rosters—November 2011

- 6th** Communion—Don Morocco  
Lay Reader— Jack Workman  
Head Usher— Harry Silsby  
Counters— John Bickford & Jim Elder
- 13th** Flowers in the Church— Annette Morrah  
Lay Reader— **TBA**  
Head Usher— Art Shick  
Counters – John Bickford & Jim Elder
- 20th** Flowers in the Church— Gayle Griffin  
Lay Reader— Cheryl Morocco  
Head Usher— Robert Owens  
Counters – John Bickford & Jim Elder
- 27th** Flowers in the Church—**AVAILABLE**  
Lay Reader—John Bickford  
Head Usher—Jim Elder  
Counters—John Bickford & Jim Elder

# Stewardship Commitment Sunday, November 6th

**"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no  
variation or shadow due to change."  
(James 1:17)**

*ALL GOD'S GIFTS* has been our stewardship theme for this year. On November 6th, we will receive everyone's faith promise pledges of financial giving for the 2012 mission year.

Please remember to prepare your faith promise pledge for 2012 and to bring it with you to worship on November 6th. On that day, all of our stewardship commitments will be dedicated to the glory, honor and praise of God.

### Financial Update Year to Date Through September 2011:

<b>Tithes and offerings received:</b>	<b>\$115,902.90</b>
<b>Missions &amp; Program Disbursements:</b>	<b>\$137,779.29</b>
<b>Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$21,876.39</b>

In the book of Acts, when the church faced obliteration through jail, torture and persecution at the hands of the Romans and Jews, they didn't hold a stewardship campaign. They held a prayer meeting. Their prayer was not at all about money.

They did not pray, "Lord, we cannot continue to spread the gospel without money. God, extend your hand and provide us with ample financial resources."

Rather, they prayed: And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak Thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out Thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Thy holy servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29ff RSV)

Pray for God's Spirit to give all of us the boldness to risk everything we have and are for the continuing proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through our church. May the Holy Spirit grant us the courage and faith we need to fulfill the mission and ministry of Christ's Body together through the end of this year; and into God's great future.

# Hymn of the Month

Submitted by: Doug Keel

## Because He Lives

1971

*There is hope in your future, says the Lord.*

Jeremiah 31:17 (NKJV)

**A**s I prepared this volume of hymn stories, Gloria Gaither graciously shared with me the background for this beloved song.

*When Bill and I started our family in the sixties, racial tensions were tearing the country apart. Civil rights activists had suffered and some had been killed. The Vietnam conflict was claiming thousands of lives, and tensions boiled over on university campuses. Many young people were growing disillusioned and "dropping out."*

*In this climate, Bill and I sought to write songs with lasting answers to the turmoil of the human spirit. But in the fall of 1969, several things happened to test the reality of our own convictions. We realized we were expecting another baby. Though we had always intended to have another child, we weren't planning a baby so soon. My body hadn't quite recovered from the last pregnancy. Making matters worse, Bill contracted mononucleosis, which left him exhausted and depressed.*

*This combination of national turmoil and personal trouble discouraged us, and we occasionally asked each other, "If the world is like this now, what will it be in fifteen or sixteen years for our baby? What will this child face?"*

*While pondering and praying about these things, we came to realize anew that our courage doesn't come from a stable world, for the world has never been stable. Jesus Himself was born in the cruelest of times. No, we have babies, raise families, and risk living because the Resurrection is true!*

*Our baby arrived safe and sound, and we named him Benjamin, which means "most beloved son." A few weeks later "Because He Lives" was born in our hearts and poured from our souls:*

*How sweet to hold our newborn baby*

*And feel the pride and joy he gives;*

*But greater still, the calm assurance—*

*This child can face uncertain days because He lives.*

*Over the years this song has reassured us that our Lord's Resurrection is the central truth of life. He lives, we can face tomorrow. Many times since, as our children grew, our business-life changed, our fortunes shifted, or our direction clouded, our family has found assurance in this very personal song.*

*It's "our song," but we're grateful others have loved it, too.*



## CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome the birth of Alexis Ross Rochester on September 30<sup>th</sup>, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz. and 19" tall!

The proud parents are  
Bruce & Angel Rochester and the  
proud grandparent is Lillian Rochester.

## Family Night Supper

Wednesday

November 9th

6:00pm

(reserve your place now)



## Presbyterians in the Kitchen

### German Hot Potato Salad

Rosemary Bailes

This recipe came from Bobbie Wilhite, a member of St. Luke Methodist Church. Bobbie's potato salad appears at many events each year during Oktoberfest season. Try it; you'll like it!

**10 medium red potatoes, scrubbed clean**  
**1/4 lb. bacon, diced (or fried in strips and crumbled)**  
**1 medium onion, chopped**  
**1/3 cup vinegar**  
**2 Tbsp. butter or margarine**  
**salt and pepper to taste**  
**green onions or chives for garnish (optional)**

Slice potatoes thin, leaving peel on if you wish. Boil until tender, but do not overcook; drain. Cook bacon in a large frying pan; drain well and set aside, reserving drippings in pan. Sauté onion in bacon drippings until soft. To onions, add vinegar, butter, and crumbled bacon. Salt and pepper potatoes to taste and add to mixture in frying pan. Simmer slowly and stir until well mixed. Sprinkle chopped green onion tops or chives on top. Serve warm. Serves 6 to 8.

Note: This salad keeps well and can be reheated. The flavor actually seems to improve the next day!

## Lunch for Life

Walhalla Presbyterian/West Union Chapel volunteers served lunch to approximately 25 Lunch for Life guests on October 15. Guests and servers enjoyed a meal of bratwurst, potatoes, coleslaw, and homemade cake, followed by a devotional by L4L chaplain Scott Durham, drawing for door prizes, music, fun, and Christian fellowship.

Thanks to those who donated food and/or helped prepare and serve: Vince Alig, Lamar and Rosemary Bailes, Sue Caldwell, Doris Cash, Frank Forbes, Don Manly, Annette Morrah, Don Morocco, Carol Silsby, Diane Vore, WUC members (door prizes), and Carol and Camp Garland from Welcome Wesleyan Church. You brightened the week and blessed lives for many area folks!



## Operation Christmas Child

The Norton Dendy Circle will again sponsor "Operation Christmas Child".

Operation Christmas Child is the largest children's Christmas project in the world, run by the Christian charity Samaritan's Purse.

In its simplest form, it is all about a gift—given by you to a child in need. You wrap and pack it, we check and send it, and our partners overseas deliver it. It's that simple.

More information will be coming soon on how to pack your box. The age categories are; Boys & Girls 2-4, 4-9, 10-14. Suggested shoebox fillers are listed below.

Dedication Sunday is November 13th.

### OUR FAVORITE SHOEBOX FILLERS

Comb	Etch-A-Sketch
Brush	Small Lego mini kits
Girl hair accessories	School Supplies (pencil, sharpener, erasers, paper, crayons, markers, scissors, sidewalk chalk)
Zip Bag with soap & washcloth	Small note pads
Double zip bag—hard candy, gum mints, lollipops	Art kits
Underwear	Watercolors with paint brush
Socks	Small playdough
T-shirt	Small cars—wooden or matchbox
Flip-flops	Plastic cup, bowl and flatware
Croc type shoes	Funny straws
Tennis shoes	Bean bag/small pillow
Toothbrush	Musical instruments (bells, kazoo, harmonica, whistle)
Toothpaste	Sewing kit for teens
Sunglasses	Small puzzles
Hat, scarf, gloves, mittens	Bag (shopping type \$1.00 like the ones at the grocery store)
Flashlight & Extra batteries	Jewelry
Yo-Yo	Watch
Jump rope	Stuff animal
Hand Puppet (bath mitt)	Small baby doll
Finger puppet	Picture & address on an envelope
Stickers	
Visors	
Small bouncing ball	
Slinky	



## CHRISTMAS PARTY AND PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

**9:45am**—All are welcome to the church-wide Christmas Party that will replace the usual Sunday School hour. Breakfast will be served, and a time of fun and fellowship will follow.

**11:00am**—A program consisting of the combined musical gifts of the church will follow the Christmas party, and will take place during the usual worship hour. Anyone still interested in sharing a musical gift during this program may talk with Diane Vore.



## Christmas All Year

Submitted by Ruthie Alig

The Christmas All Year Small Group joyfully announces the remaining meetings and deeds for 2011 and beginning 2012:

**Wednesday, Nov. 2**

Noon to 2 pm, for lunch and final planning

**Sunday, November 27**

First Sunday in Advent

(advent wreath candle lighting begins)

**Saturday, December 3**

10 am - Decorate church

(sanctuary, tree and wreaths)

**Saturday, December 10**

10 am - Place poinsettias around sanctuary

(delivery 12/9)

**Sunday, December 25**

People take their poinsettias home

after the worship service

**Wednesday, January 4**

10 am - Clean church of all Christmas decorations

**Saturday, Feb. 25**

Celebrate one year anniversary of our small group...brunch?

We'd love to have you join our small group for any, or all, of our life together.

Call Ruthie Alig at 944-2269 if you have any questions.

Write Santa with your gift requests.

**Walhalla Church Services**  
 9:30AM Kid's Praise Time  
 9:45AM Sunday School  
 11:00AM Sunday Worship

# November 2011

**West Union Chapel Services**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00AM Sunday Worship  
 4:30 PM Sunday Bible Study



By Diane Vore



# HOOP IT UP

Last time, I wrote about baseball, but being from Kentucky, I can't give basketball short shrift. Basketball season is descending upon us, and Kentuckians are coming out of hibernation. We sleep through football season, but wake up for basketball. So I've been thinking a lot recently about two different aspects of the game of basketball as being symbolic of our Christian walk. First of all, I've been thinking about **choosing teams**, and secondly, I've been thinking about **turnovers**.

## Choosing Teams

Becoming a Christian is like choosing a new team to play for. By default, we are automatically born playing for the Opposition, also known as the Kingdom of Darkness. However, the Coach of the Other Team, the Kingdom of Light, calls us to switch sides, and even sent His Son to pay the price to buy us back from the losing team. Once we accept that invitation, we become part of a new Team and submit to our new Coach. We train and build our skills, and do what we can to make sure that our Team is advanced.

However, that brings me to the next topic I've been thinking a lot about: **turnovers**.

## Turnovers

Today's game of basketball is so fast-paced, that turning over the ball is inevitable. Virtually every player who gets in on the game is likely to cause a turnover at least once. I have been thinking lately about the Team I play for, and how many times I "turn over the ball". Fortunately, God can teach us through modern parables such as basketball, so here is what I've learned.

When a basketball player turns over the ball, there is no arguing that the other team is benefited. Often the turnover results not only in a missed opportunity for that player's team to score, but also in points being scored by the opposing team. There is no argument that causing a turnover is never classified as a good thing. However, it is important to remember that causing a turnover does not mean that the player has switched the team that he plays for. Yes, he may have accidentally benefited the other team, but he did not switch his loyalty or his contract to them.

Considering this has helped me gain a new perspective regarding how many times in my Christian walk I cause turnovers that help the Other Team. In daily life, in the heat of battle, there are many forces that come against us and try to "knock the ball out of our hands". The Enemy is not going to let us score points unopposed. But just because I cause a turnover, even though it results in missed opportunities for my Team, and likely some advancement of the Other Team, it does not mean that I have switched my loyalty and suddenly belong to the Opposite Team. I simply need to listen to my Coach, and practice the skills that will keep me from making the same mistake in future encounters. If a teammate of mine causes a turnover, I need to remember that negative responses from me and other team members will not buy back the lost points or opportunities, nor will they strengthen and train the player for the future. Turnovers are never a good thing, but we need to remember that when we turn the ball over, even if it because of carelessness on our part, we do not suddenly belong to the Opposite Team. We still know Whom we play for, and in learning from our mistakes we can become stronger players who advance our Team in future confrontations. So while we ideally seek to avoid all turnovers (unless of course they are apple or cherry), we need to keep them in proper perspective when they do happen, so that we can grow and learn, and encourage our Team.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Sundays 4:30pm Bible Study/WUC *1st Sunday of the month, Prayer and Healing Service 6pm at WPC * 2nd Sun of the mo., Oconee Bowling Alley Lanes/Seneca 6:30pm	*3rd Monday of the Month Bible Study at the home of Don & Sylvia Rumer 7:00pm 	*Every Tuesday YoungLife Mtg. at Safe House 8pm  *2:30pm Good News Club/Walhalla Elementary School	*4th Wednesday Session Meeting 5:30pm		*Every Friday 8:00am Old Joe Men's Breakfast—Kountry Kupboard 	RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS: <b>TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!</b> REMINDER: <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS November 20th</b>
		1	2 12pm Christmas All Year Mtg/WPC 4:30pm CE Mtg/WPC 7pm Choir	3	4	5 Daylight Savings Ends Midnight — Set Clocks back 1 hour
6 WPC Communion Sunday 2pm Presbytery @ Fort Hill PC 6pm Prayer & Healing Service at WPC	7	8 7pm Norton Dendy Circle/WPC	9 6pm Family Night Supper 7pm Choir	10 3pm Nettie Long Circle/WPC	11	12 Soup Sale @ Richland PC for OPSF
13 6:30pm Bowling—Oconee Lanes/Seneca	14	15	16 7pm Choir	17	18	19
20 12:15pm 3rd Sunday Luncheon/WUC <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE!!!</b>	21 Bible Study at the Rumer's moved to 11/28	22	23 5:30pm Session Mtg./WPC 7pm Choir	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 First Sunday in Advent	28 7pm Bible Study at Don & Sylvia Rumer's Home	29 5:30pm Missions Team Mtg/WPC	30 7pm Choir			
<b>COMING UP:</b>	12/3 Walhalla Christmas Parade	12/10 West Union Christmas Parade	12/11 Christmas Party and Family Christmas Worship Service	12/24 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	12/25 11am Christmas Sunday Worship	