

Info from CBC November 2015 Newsletter

Ramblings of a Man on Mission

I sit here in the prayer garden meditating on life and my relationship to it. I don't know if you have ever done that. I find myself thinking about how my life is small in relation to the world. I wonder can I possibly make a difference in life. I am not depressed or hopeless, rather the opposite; I am raptured in the sheer joy of the Lord. I am humbled by my small size in the scheme of things. Yet, amazed by such a large call in my life. How can I make a difference? How can I effect change? How can I have an eternal impact on this generation that needs a full fledged revolution? I am seeing a truth that is looming large over my life. It screams to me like a starting buzzer of a sporting event. It is irresistible, irrepressible and inescapable. The truth is I must do my part. That's it! No more no less. If we all adopt this mentality, our world will change.

I sense a calling in my life that I cannot ignore. Like the mariner senses the call of the sea, the astronaut the call of the stars, the explorer the call of the unknown. I am drawn to the insatiable desire to leave this world better than I found it. How do I do it? How do I respond to such a call? There are two words that come to mind, *prepare* and *go*. The Mariner never would go to sea with a ship that is unseaworthy. He would never go without the right equipment or knowledge. To do that would be instant failure or even death. The Astronaut must undergo grueling preparation, and even then, he still may not be able to travel to the great unknown of the universe. The explorer carefully plans out every aspect of his journey in order to arrive safely at his destination.

For the first 50 years, I feel I have been preparing for this ministry I am doing now, a ministry of loving and leading God's people. This preparation is leading me all around Clarendon Baptist Church and Alcolu. It has led me around Clarendon County, our State, and World. I feel prepared for something. I feel full. I feel ready. Now I must go! Just as it would be absurd for a mariner, astronaut, or explorer to spend their life preparing then leaving the ship at the dock or the rocket ship on the launch pad or the explorer who never leaves the port, it is equally ridiculous for me to prepare my life and never leave the dock. I am on the launch pad ready to explode into space (some of you will get that reference) and journey to new endeavors. I want to; no, I **have** to be on mission with the Lord.

I am not speaking of leaving my current ministry. In fact, I believe that CBC is at the center of my call. I believe whatever God does in me will overflow to our church. In fact, CBC was sent to me by the Lord just in time to save me, so it is part of His plan for me in my going. Maybe it will be the beneficiary of all of that preparation.

I am prepared to pour. To pour out the gold that He has poured into me. To pour out the love He has poured

into me. To shower the grace he has given me to others. To bless those who need His blessing. I am a conduit of God's love, grace and mercy to a world that has lost its way and is living upside down.

Going is a journey. I was visiting a monastery in Moldova. It was beautiful! At the top of the mountain was a huge cross looking down over the area. After walking and working most of the day, Tom, my friend, or so I think, invited me to go to the top. I decided that if I wanted to experience that cross, I would have to lay aside my exhaustion and go. So I began the journey with my friend. It was very steep and about 1/3 of the way up I was huffing and puffing. I stopped to take in the view and catch my breath, and Tom was encouraging me, "Come on up; it's not that much farther." So I began again, and stopped another 1/3 of the way up and looked around and could not see the Cross; so I thought about stopping, but Tom yelled, "Come on, old man!" So I went the rest of the way. Once I topped the last step, my huffing and puffing didn't matter. I arrived at the top. All of my worries and doubts about the climb dissipated into the joy of arrival. I then saw the Cross on top of that mountain as if it was the guardian of the land. I think it is that way in life. Many of us see the cross and desire the cross but refuse to put aside our fears, anxiety, and aches and pains to experience it. My going began with a single step. That is what I am learning. I must go no matter what. I must take that step, the step of faith.

In this season of Thanksgiving, go to the Cross. Find your call and go on Mission with Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving! Pastor Mike & the DeCostas

Deacon Update

A few weeks ago, as the rains fell and the waters rose, I stopped to take account of the things that are really important to me. I'm sure many of you did the same. It's amazing how God can use an historic rain event to get us focused back on Him, our families, and our neighbors around us.

For years now, my favorite holiday has been Thanksgiving. I must admit, part of the reason I've enjoyed it so much is the day normally involves a big meal and watching football (two things I really enjoy). Thanksgiving Day wasn't designed to be about food and football. It's a day set aside each year to give thanks to God for the wonderful country we live in. The Pilgrims began this tradition many years ago, by giving thanks to God and celebrating with a feast. The early

settlers realized God had provided this land and also recognized a need to thank Him.

This Thanksgiving, as you gather with family and friends, make sure the focus isn't on food and football. Instead be sure to spend time with God and truly thank Him for all He's provided. His provisions come to us daily, in the form of His grace. None of us deserve this grace He provides, yet He gives it freely. For this we should be thankful.

“Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind.” Psalm 107:21

Tommy Geddings, CBC Deacon Secretary

Calendar of Events

- 1** The Anchormen in Concert ~ 10:30 a.m.
Deadline to pay for Winterblast
- 3** Ladies Night ~ 6 p.m.
- 4** Sr. Adult Trip to Coastal Carolina Fair
- 10/12** Ladies Encounter
- 13** Youth Bonfire at Pastor Jon's
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 14** OCC Packing Party
- 17** Deacons Meeting
- 24** DeCosta Hotdog Supper ~ 6:00 p.m.
- 25** No Services/No AWANA
- 26-27** Church Office Closed
- 26** Thanksgiving
- 28** Clemson vs. Carolina
- 29** 5th Sunday/Combined morning
worship/No dinner/
No evening activities

Looking Forward

- (Dec. 1st) Elderberry's Christmas Dinner
- (5) Children's Christmas Cookie Bake
- (6) Children's Christmas Musical
- (8) Deacons Meeting (11-13) Winterblast
- (13) Adult Choir Christmas Musical
- (19) Christmas Banquet
- (24) Christmas Eve Communion Service
- (25) Christmas
- (27) Combined A.M. Service/No P.M.

Workers for November

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| Audiovisual: | 11/1 | Patrick Lester |
| | 11/8 | Terry Gaff |
| | 11/15 | Rob Hussey |
| | 11/22 | Cory McWhite |
| | 11/29 | Collin Gaff |
| Nursery: | 11/1 | Early: No Early Service
Late: DeeDee & Tolley Horton |
| | 11/8 | Early: Patrick & Crystal Lester
Late: Tabitha Gardner Jordan Price |
| | 11/15 | Early: Adrienne McCabe Mary Lynn Lee
Late: Christi, Julia, & Morgan Morris |
| | 11/22 | Early: Betsy Jordan Linda Pierce
Late: Beth Lyles Tami Blascak |
| | 11/29 | Kathy Lee, Lauren Lee, Julie Rickenbaker |
| Toddler Church: | 11/1 | No Toddler Church |
| | 11/8 | Heather Olsen |
| | 11/15 | Erica Eaddy |
| | 11/22 | Adriene Jones |
| | 11/29 | Crystal Thompson |

Building Attendant: James Richburg

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|----------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Flowers: | 11/1 | Open | 11/22 | Open |
| | 11/8 | Taken | 11/29 | Open |
| | 11/15 | Open | | |

Ushers: Johnny Baker, Sean Briley, Jamie Hodge, Gary Lee, Toey Lee, Tommy Lee, Steve Lowe

Prayer Ministry

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Darlene Bryant | Esau Dennis |
| Valorie Evans | Patricia Flowers |
| Juanita Hunter | Mary Frances Lee |
| William Locklair | Mary-Esther McCabe |
| Kenny Powers | Rodney Richburg |
| Shaun Richburg | David & Melva Young |

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Terry Davis | 15 Elizabeth Hussey |
| Ruth H. Turner | 16 Sandy Evans |
| 2 David Gabert | 18 Beth Lyles |
| David Young | Grace Tufares |
| 3 Elizabeth McInnis | Christi Williams |
| Vassar Turner | 20 Melva Young |
| 6 Chris Jordan | 22 Ray Evans |
| 7 Deborah Ward | 23 Brandi Dennis |
| 8 W.L. Gardner | Gary Lee |
| Crystal Lester | 24 Kim Gardner |
| LaRena Powers | Laci Thompson |
| 9 Adrienne McCabe | 26 Rolston Eargle |
| 10 Donna Burgess | 29 Sarah Elizabeth |
| Reese McInnis | Geddings |
| 11 Tori Goff | |
| Debra Perkins | |
| 13 Patrick Lester | |
| Crystal Thompson | |

If we have missed your birthday, please call the church office so that we can add your name to our birthday list.

October Monthly Records

Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 145
Avg. Worship Attendance:
8:45 – 87 11:00 - 132
Monthly Offering Total: \$22,312.61
Building Fund: \$23,393.09

Encouragement Opportunities

Faith Promise Missionary Family:
Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Crane (Donna)
5592 Pinecrest Circle
Noblesville, IN 46062
843-665-7060
cranes@ukrainemedicaloutreach.org

Student of the Month:

Morgan DeCosta
PO Box 307
Alcolu, sc 29001

Shut-in of the Month:

Valorie Evans
2923 Alcolu St.
Alcolu, SC 29001
(803) 473-2993

CBC Happenings/Missions

The Anchormen in Concert

Sunday, Nov. 1 ~ 10:30 a.m. - Noon

No Early Worship Service

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

A free will love offering will be taken.

Winterblast at Camp Longridge ~ Dec. 11-13

For 3rd – 7th graders.

Cost: \$60 – CBC Member \$95 – Non-member

Deadline for signup/pay is Nov. 1st.

Point person: Pastor Jon

Ladies Night

Nov. 3 ~ 6 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Bette Noble

Bring a dish to share and invite a friend!

Ladies Encounter 2015

Tues., Nov. 10 & Thurs., Nov. 12

Guest Speaker: Pam Elliott

Featured Artist: Marguerite Palmer

Cost: \$15 Doors open: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner served: 6:30 p.m.

Point persons: Denise Jones & Adrienne McCabe

OCC Drop-in Packing Party

Sat., Nov. 14 ~ 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Stop by and pack a box – or two!

Donations still being accepted!

Elderberry Trip to Carolina Opry Christmas Show

Tues., Dec. 15 ~ Cost of \$35 includes transportation, matinee, and dinner at Benjamin's Seafood Restaurant. Limited seating. If interested, must sign up and pay on or before Sunday, Nov. 15

Point Person: Doris Daniel 803.478.3372

DeCosta Family Hotdog Supper

Tues., Nov. 24 ~ CBC FH ~ 6 p.m.

All are invited!

Ongoing Missions Opportunities

Harvest Seed

Collecting Sunday School literature and other Christian teaching materials to send to pastors and missionaries worldwide.

Contact Person: Karen DeCosta

Donations for Ukraine

Collecting gently used clothes and other items
to send to Dr. & Mrs. Crane for use in their ministry
in Ukraine.

Contact Person: Donald Morris

Wednesday Night Menus & Kitchen Teams

11/4 M: Sloppy joes, Baked beans, Slaw,
Chips, Apple Crisp

T: Jim & Juanita Hunter, Linda Pierce

11/11 NO AWANA/Ladies Encounter Week

11/18 M: Taco, Refried beans, Spanish rice,
Dessert

T: Mac & Erica Eaddy, Darrell &
Vassar Turner

11/25 NO AWANA/Thanksgiving Week

*“As we express our gratitude, we must never
forget that the highest appreciation is not to
utter the words but to live by them.”*

~ President John F. Kennedy~