

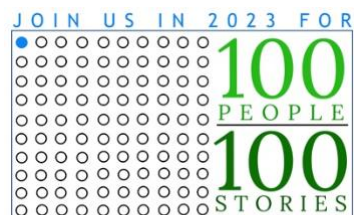


LIME LIGHT

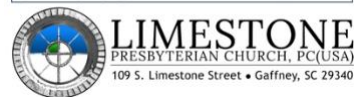
WHAT'S CENTER STAGE AT LIMESTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • GAFFNEY, SC

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

In the New Church Year, A Focus on People



People emerged as a theme in the responses to the visioning prompts this past Fall. There was delight at seeing new faces in worship, but there was also the ongoing question of how to share the story of our congregation with the community and how to welcome people into our church family.



Following up on that theme, in the year 2023, in worship, in Bible study, in other programs, you'll be introduced to 100 people of faith - some will be people of the Bible, others from history, some contemporary. We'll update the graphic above and have a place on the website with information, links, and more about the people we meet (the first is Noah...but Noah in the context of Advent!). We'll also be adding some of *your* stories and stories of Limestone saints of the past to the website in the coming year.

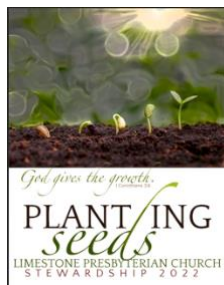
So that takes care of people in Bible and history (both "big church" history and Limestone's history). But there remains a world of people just outside our doors now. How many of those people will you introduce to Limestone in the coming year? That doesn't mean targeting people as potential members, it simply means talking about things you find meaningful and helpful here at Limestone Presbyterian Church. For many of you, that's the music program. For others, it's the fellowship we share. Still others find joy in service. Are you talking about that in the community? Are you helping tell Limestone's story by talking about this place? As we think about and pray for growth in our congregation, we have to ask the question, "How will people know if we don't tell them?" So as Jesus told the followers of John the Baptist, "Go and tell John what you see and hear."



With Many Thanks from Lynn

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made my installation service such a joyous occasion. If I start to list people, I know I'll forget someone - though I will say a particular thank you to the children for their gift of "This Little Light of Mine" during the service - it was a highlight for me, and I hope all of you enjoyed singing it as much as I did!

The day was wonderful in every respect, and all the visitors who spoke with me had such glowing comments about Limestone - the place and the people. I'm grateful for everything you have done to make me feel welcome and get settled in. I'm grateful to be in ministry with you. So now that everything's official...let's get going!



Reflecting on Stewardship 2022

God gives the growth. Yes, indeed! Our October emphasis on stewardship ended with a Ministry and Market Fair and offering all our gifts to God in worship.

Many thanks to everyone who turned in a Time and Talent Survey.

We're sorting and getting information to committees as well as looking to see what new groups might emerge for LPC folks with common interests.

Many thanks as well to everyone who turned in an Estimate of Giving for 2023. Your Finance Committee and your Session are preparing the budget for the coming year. Being able to estimate the church's income lets us be as generous as possible in our planning.

God also gave growth to our "\$20 Experiment." There was monetary growth: we distributed \$1000 to the congregation on Sunday, October 9. In worship on October 30, we turned in more than \$1800. In addition, some of those \$20 bills found their way into the community in care bags with water and other necessities for people experiencing homelessness, into donations for warm hats and gloves for children, into an Operation Christmas Child box, and more.

The real growth wasn't as much about the money as it was about how (and how much) we thought about what it meant to be good stewards of the church's resources. Stewardship isn't a one-month-a-year consideration. It isn't just about the church budget. It isn't concerned with a disembodied concept - it's about our lives and our practices. We'll be talking about stewardship every month going forward. But for now, we'll thank God for the growth...and we'll look for more seeds to plant.



Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. On the Reign of Christ Sunday (11/20) we celebrate Christ's ultimate power over the world. Because that has not fully happened yet, on the following Sunday (Advent I) we again start waiting for the return of Christ. Watch for some new things in coming weeks (this newsletter format is a sneak peek!), and don't forget to wish each other a Happy New Year on November 27!

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