



# The Wood-Burner



Woodburn Presbyterian Church Newsletter September –October 2021 #07-08-21 -2



*We Welcome all to come  
worship with us!*

**Woodburn Presbyterian  
church**

**Session and contact info**

**Class of 2021**

**Pat Cross 910 371-2404**

**John Crowder 910 371-9921**

**Class of 2022**

**Pam Butler 399-1668**

**Kathy Blair 412-999-9592**

**Class of 2023**

**Janet Morris 408-1295**

**Nancy Smith 703-400-7702**

**Pastoral needs?**

**call Pastor Scott**

**(910) 269-1442**

**Or**

**Mary Sue at (910) 371-9614**

**Leave message**



**Find us on Facebook and on  
our Web page**

## *If God is for us, who is against us?*

*Romans 8: 31-39: “<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things?*

When we think of the journey, to rebuild this church, we are persuaded that this virus may not separate us from God and our faith, but it certainly separates us from each other and has a big impact on people coming to worship. God is for us, who can be against us? Such a powerful and profound question! Whenever you feel upset, depressed, sad, frustrated, and disappointed, you need to remember that God is with you; we need reminded of that especially in this time in the life of our church. In fact, we are more than conquerors because God loves us. we must be like Paul who is fully convinced and persuaded that not even death, life, angels, principalities, height and depth nor even this virus can ever separate us from God and His Son. No matter what you're going through right now, please know that even that problem is in God hands as we give them to Him. He not only can handle them He will conquer them and solve them with us.

How Paul makes his point about God love is enduring and we can never be separated from that love, he first tells us of prize we win as we endure. He talks about the glory which is to come as something that enables us to go through trials. He talks about the Holy Spirit interceding with us, with groans too deep for words, in order to encourage us in trials like the one we are going through. He talks about God's Fatherly kindness and compassion in His providence over all things. Paul is speaking to the human

heart with the assurances that we need to keep on going.

Paul then throws out four questions for the purpose of encouraging us to remember the truth that He has taught us, not just in the eighth chapter, but in the whole book of Romans. Paul strikes at our doubt, our wayward spirit. For we are prone to wonder and need assurance. The very first question is who can be against us? And in that question, Paul is referring us back to Romans, chapter 1:18 and following, where Paul makes it

very clear that apart from Christ, the one who is against us is God. He's the one against us in our sin when we are apart from Jesus Christ.

Paul, having told us about this glorious work of redemption done by of God, at the initiative of God, now says if God is now for us, okay, well then who out there is there left to be against

us? It's the big concern that we had in our reality is that God is against us in our sin apart from Christ. And if that has been remedied, through God's work in sending His Son Jesus Christ, and in His work of the Holy Spirit uniting us to Jesus Christ, well then, who can be against us?

Then in verses 33 and 34, He asks two more questions. The second question is who can accuse the chosen ones of God? And the third question is who is the one who condemns? If God was our accuser when we were in our sin apart from Christ, and if God has come to our rescue in Christ, and is now no longer our accuser, but our justifier, Paul is saying, okay, exactly who is it out there who is going to take up this old accusation?

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**NEEDED**

**This newsletter  
begins again  
after a period  
of suspension  
due to the  
covid virus  
We really need  
your input as  
to what you  
need to have in  
this newsletter.  
send me your  
message at  
910 520 3720  
or email me at**

**Email  
comments at  
thelnr.crowder  
@gmail.com  
Or call  
910 371-9921  
Would you  
like to help  
with this news-  
letter? Call me**

**Go to Paul page 3**

## Birthdays for September and October 2021

If you get a chance wish these a BIG Happy Birthday!!

### September

Iva Kate Williamson—7th  
Mercedes McCoy—11th  
Mario Banks - 15th  
Margaret Coker—19th  
Doris field -26th  
Janet Morris—27th

### October

Brenda Bunting—2nd  
Dan Bollinger—5th  
Charles Burkhammer—8th  
Connie Reaves—10th  
Kathy Blair—15th  
Shirley Tabler - 15th  
John Silva —20th  
Cindy Meadows—26th

*If we missed yours please contact us and let us know—We are working on an updated church listing and hope will have it updated soon. Please see form on page 5*

## Anniversaries for September 2021

*If we missed yours please contact us and let us know—We are working on an updated church listing and hope will have it updated by next publication.*

*Pastor Scott and Brenda Bunting—13th  
John and Barbara Silva 23rd*

*None for October*



### Highlights of some of the Session meeting issues June 26 (Session Meeting for July and August were cancelled)

John and Barbara Birkenheuer have expressed their desire to join Woodburn Presbyterian Church. Letter of Transfer was mailed on June 16, 2021. They have since joined our church family.

Introduction to Church on July 18, 2021.

Welcome Fellowship after service.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina COVID protocol update for Youth and Adults.

247<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Report was received.

Annual Review of Session Records (copy attached) was completed on Thursday, May 27, 2021. The findings were as follows:

\*Approval of annual Statistical Report -- APPROVED

\*A small plaque will be hung on the Sunday School Room celebrating Jane Cooke.

\*The Session approve that the Leland Veterinarian employees and customers can park in the church's parking lot during the week.

\*Approved to seek information regarding the church's info and announcements to be in the Star News.

\*Filming of the full church service will be discontinued once the church opens up fully then only a modified version will be uploaded to announce and promote the church will be conducted.

The Annual Meeting should be headed "ANNUAL WOODBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATION MEETING" – Template Updated – AGREED approved by session we will do in one meeting.

The Annual Meeting must include the congregational approval of the Pastor's Salary

A Financial review was conducted by the financial committee in June and a report submitted to the session. A 6 month overview is being prepared and will be submitted to the congregation by end of September and this will give a 6 month overview of the churches financial position Jan-June 30 2021.

\* Next Session meeting September 18.

A Budget for the 2022 will be presented In December

If you have any questions please contact any session member of the Pastor

## Covid 19 Recurrence causing a Delay in Re-opening Church —Fully

*Editor's Note: After polling the session a decision was to cancel Church services on Aug 29th BUT We have approved to have church services to continue in accordance with the below restrictions*

### Open letter to our members and our visitors

September 5, 2021

As a result of the recurrence of the Covid 19 variant the church canceled the church service last Sunday. This was an effort to do our part in the wellness of our community and our members.

As a result of the increased Covid variant cases in our community the following will be re-implemented until further notice,

\*The pew pads will not be used until further notice. Our greeters please encourage our guest to sign the register. (Name, address, and phone number)

\*Hand sanitizers and mask will be provided at both entrances of the church. Trash receptacles will be added at all exit doors so that you can discard these if you choose.

\*We will encourage wearing mask and maintaining social distancing (6 feet) even though you have been vaccinated and discouraging direct person to person contact.

\*The offering plates will be kept at the front and the back of the church for your convenience.

\*After service "receptions" will not occur and the planned luncheon for September will be postponed until a later date.

\*The men's and ladies' breakfast on Saturdays will be postponed until later dates.

\*The women's circle and get together will also be postponed until further notice.

We will pray for all those who maybe sick and are fighting this sickness' as well as others that are in need.

If you have any prayer needs and just need some comforts, please do not hesitate in calling Pastor Scott or talk with any session member

910 269-1442

*If you have contracted the virus, please let Pastor Scott know. We can then take any steps to ensue a safe environment. We want to pray with you and be as safe as possible. This virus is active and all around us. Any information you give to Pastor Scott is held in confidence unless you say to tell others.*

**If you are home bound and need prayer and or other assistance PLEASE contact the church and or Pastor Scott**

**“Paul”** From Page one —contin....

And then He says, furthermore, who is going to condemn us? If God has condemned Christ in our place for all those who believe in Him, who is it exactly who is going to raise the condemnation against us when Christ has been condemned in our place, and God's justice has been satisfied? What all these means Paul is summarizing the main teachings of his book, he's attempting to buttress our assurance because he knows that Christians struggle with assurance. We struggle with the security of our salvation, we've struggled with confidence with God's unchanging love, because we know the fickleness of our own heart. We know that we are prone to wander, Lord, we feel it, prone to leave the God we love. So how do you encourage Christians who are realistic about themselves?

How often I get to witness to others about the assurance that Jesus has paid the prices for their sin and they are free from sin. It seems the most difficult part of the journey is accepting the free gift of salvation. We cannot even start the journey if we think in some way, we have to earn heaven, because the reality is none of us can do that, earn heaven. I have found that I never have convinced anyone of the free gift of Christ. I tell you brothers and sisters, He does the heavy lifting, because He is the only one who can do convince us. My constant prayer is that God can use me in some way to let others know how much He loves them and He has a free gift of salvation for them and they cannot earn it, but accept it.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2 Corinthians 9:15 “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

## What about giving to the church —Is it tithing?

Pastor Scoot

**D**espite the fact that many people use the word “tithe” synonymously with any church-related giving, the word tithe literally means “tenth.” A lot of the confusion around the topic of whether Christians tithe comes from the terminology. Throughout the Old Testament, Israelites were expected to give 10 percent of their resources to God. That tithe or “tenth part” was a requirement of the law. And that’s already a little misleading, because when you factor in all of their required giving, Israelites actually gave around 23 percent of their income. The tithe was an obligatory offering from the law of Moses requiring 10% of an Israelite’s first fruits, because God provided the harvest, this first part was returned to Him. It provided for the Levitical priesthood, festivals, and the needy. We are not under that obligation, Israel was and really that was their way of funding the government, their Priesthood and taking care of the needy so to speak.

The conversation gets a little messy when many Christians use the word “tithing” to denote any sort of giving. Christians who have grown accustomed to thinking of all giving as tithing can struggle with this biblical concept. So it’s essential that we’re clear in our terminology. I believe that tithing, giving 10%, is not part of our obligation as Christians. I believe that generous giving is necessary and we give generously. What is our obligation? By the way giving is not just about our money, I want to always take about our time and talents as well.



The statistics around tithing indicate that less than one-quarter of any congregation tithes. And on average, Christians give around 2.5 percent of their income to churches. So in that sense, no, most Christians do not tithe, but I am always thankful for those who do, who give generously, and many of us give generously. You might and that is a good thing, the real question is what is that God requires of us? Here are some scripture that help us on this subject, and remember we are talking about all you have, money, time, talent.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8:** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever

sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 8:12:** For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

Luke 6:38: Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

We are to give with no expectation that our preferences will be met by our giving. **This is The Lord's money, talents, and abilities that He gave us so we might give. The bounty comes from Him. That you for all you give to this fellowship, in his name.**



## Discipleship

By John Birkenheuer

**“Come. Follow me.”** Jesus used those three simple words to call Peter, Andrew, James, and John as his disciples. He repeated the same three words to call James and John, and later, Matthew. All left their jobs immediately, leaving their old lives behind. They didn’t pepper Jesus with questions. Without hesitation, they committed to follow their teacher and Messiah and commit to His lifestyle and mission. More than two thousand years ago, the words of Jesus were the beginning of creating a culture of discipleship.

By definition, a disciple is a follower who accepts and assists in spreading another’s doctrines. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ. It requires that we study, pray, and obey the word of God. Being a disciple calls us always to give testimony and to disciple others to walk in His way. ([1 Peter 3:15](#))

Jesus issued a literal command for the original disciples to follow him. They immediately pulled up stakes, left their jobs and families, and followed Him. He’s no longer here in the flesh, with an invitation to join Him on the way to Jerusalem. But, he continues to invite us to become disciples.

Discipleship is a process, a journey that exposes people to the love of God and community, to great teaching, authentic relationships, and solid accountability. It’s a commitment to become a life-long learner of Christ. Maturity doesn’t happen overnight. It takes time, lessons, and failures—often the best learning tool.

After His resurrection and before ascending back into Heaven, Jesus spoke to his disciples. In the passage, [Matthew 28:18-20](#), sometimes known as the “Great Commission,” He gave them their marching orders, and they are still marching orders for Christians today. It’s filled with action verbs: Go. Make. Baptize. Teach.

What does this action plan mean? What, exactly, are we being called on to do? There isn’t a one-size-fits-all checklist because God created us as unique individuals

and placed us in the exact place He wants us to grow our faith and make disciples. Making disciples can look different for each of us, but discipleship includes one common factor: relationships. You can’t disciple someone unless you have a relationship with them.



*Disciples of Christ*

As Christians engaging in discipleship, this means we humbly teach, strengthen, and encourage one another to know and follow Jesus more closely. It means we bravely pursue relationships centered on authenticity, intimacy, commitment, vulnerability, and prayer, all the while relying on the power of the Spirit and the Word of God to mature and mold us. ###

*John Birkenheuer*

*A little background on John and Barbara*

*John Grew up in the city of Philadelphia, Pa, and graduated from Villanova University*

*He worked in sales and marketing most of his life, with time off to do human resources and headhunting for a number of years. The last number of years he was in the start-up of the big talker radio show and retired from WWAY. TV.*

*He had attended the QRE program in Elizabethtown NC and preached up down the coast from Jacksonville to Wilmington and out to Burgaw for a number of years before becoming the pastor at Potts Memorial pcusa for a number of years.*

*Barbara also grew up in Philadelphia and attended Temple University and was in Human Resources at Presbyterian Hospital where she worked as the Assistant Director for a number of years. They moved to Severna Park, Md for 20 years where she became the Director at The Severna Park Assistance Network and then moved to the Director of the Community Center at Woods Church pcusa. When they moved to Wilmington in 2001 she became the Director for Habitat for Humanity until her retirement in 2010.*

*As some has seen John submits a column in our Facebook page and other publishing's. He and Barbara bring a lot of experience to our church and have already been meeting with Pastor Scott on ways to increase our membership and other ways to improve our promotion of Woodburn church to the community*

*Please welcome them to our church family.*

## On-Line Giving

By John Crowder —Ruling Elder .

We are discussing the possibility of providing an avenue to allow our members and other to give **-ON-LINE to Woodburn.** As some of or most of you are doing now you pay most if not all your monthly bills by paying on-line. I can’t remember when the last time I wrote a check except to the church and to the IRS.

We have discussed the pros and cons of this but the pros out way the cons (in my opinion) . Another benefit would be to allow those that do not generally come to church each Sunday to give instead of using the postal service. This opens a wide avenue of perspective givers. Most of these methods do show some fees for the church but they are very low versus the benefit. However, before we do this the session would like to know if you will use this to tithe you weekly or monthly giving. There is many different mechanisms being used by many of churches to receive tithing.

Please let other session members know if you would use it or not. When (and IF) we will give you all the information needed. Regarding the giving records we will continue to give you listing of your giving on an annual basis BUT you can also see what you have given on a running balance basis on an on-line report to you.

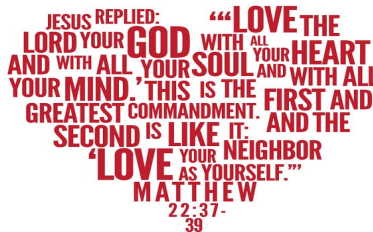
910 520 3720 jcrowder4@ec.rr.com

**Summary Financial report July 2021 to Sept 11, 2021**

Total **receipts** including special offerings –Building Fund and other  
July Receipts -- \$7001.50 July Expenses \$7820 Please note that we did not have church on July 31 due to Covid  
Aug Receipts --\$4825.00 Aug expenses \$11268.00 Please note this includes a natural gas bill, the pastor's self-employment tax, some cemetery expense and other were planned expenses, but the power bills were somewhat high due to the summer temperatures.  
Balances for special accounts are as follows: Building fund \$17023.40, Angel fund \$870, Adult SS class, \$1521, Bereavement Fund \$250, Vacation Bible School, \$1377.56 and cemetery Fund \$1610.12  
The overall all bank balance (as of September 11th ) including these budgeted areas is \$81725 this is down from our January balance of \$93271.75.

**The Church REALLY NEEDS your Help!**

We are updating our church directory and really need updated information about you and your family regardless if you are members or not. This is a way for you and the church to keep up with all the information going on in the church. If you have a valid email address, USPS address and or a cell or home phone number. For those of you that are concerned about sharing this information WE WILL not share it with any outside entities. This is for our records and no others and it will NOT be posted on the web or internet. We do have a “ONE Call” calling tool and we use this to put out pertinent information regarding relative issues such as promoting activities etc. Please fill out the below information, drop it in the collection plate at church or send USPS the church or email it to us. Thanks



**Woodburn Presbyterian Church , Leland NC 910 371-3020**

Contact information request and update

Please fill out the below information so that the church can keep you informed on announcements and other information relevant to our church family. Either drop it in the collection plate or mail to:

**Woodburn Presbyterian church  
P O Box 1140, Leland NC 28451**

*(This information cannot and will not be shared outside of our church)*

Please print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate—(Month only) : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ( to be used for our “one call” system)

Email : \_\_\_\_\_