Galatia Presbyterian Church

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January

2016

I want to begin by saying “thank you” to everyone who worked so hard through the Christmas season. I especially give thanks for the families who read the Advent readings, the choir for an exceptional Cantata, and the elders who assisted during the Christmas Eve service. December was an exciting month in the life of Galatia and to top it all off, we were also blessed to have a wedding! I know you join me in congratulating Davey and Shelby and wishing them all the best in life.

This last year brought many challenges to Galatia but it also brought many blessings. In looking back, you can see God’s hand at work in so many ways and I pray that you are encouraged as we look toward the new year. 2016 will be filled with opportunities to witness to God’s love and mercy; to share the gospel with others and to be a positive influence in this community and the world around us.

On January 10th, we will ordain and install your new officers. I ask you to pray for and encourage them as they move into new leadership roles. I also hope you will take the time to thank the officers who are coming off the Diaconate and Session. They have worked hard and I know we are better off for their devotion and service.

As we go forward in the work of the Lord together, know of my constant prayers for each of you. I am grateful for the friendships that are forming; for your kindness to Tonya and my father; and especially for your encouragement to me. Keep your faith in Christ and listen carefully for where he is leading you into the future.

What a blessing it is to work in the service of the Lord at Galatia Presbyterian Church! God Bless you all and may he continue to bless your ministry in this world.

Peace,

Brett

**Colossians 2:6:** “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk with him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”



**The Chimwemwe Way:  The family we are not**

In my head I have visions of a family. It happens to include 2 boys, 2 girls, and loving parents. It includes religiously eating 2-3 meals a day together. It includes long lists of traditions and routines. It includes going to church each Sunday, a stay at home mom, and plenty of love and attention from both parents. It happens to look like the family I grew up in.

But that is not Joel and me. Joel eats his phala sitting on the couch with me on the floor feeding him, or I sit on the front stoop, and he plays, stopping by for a bite. I don’t have a tree for Christmas. I leave Joel everyday with a nanny while I go to work. We share a room about 10ftX10ft in a house with people from a very different culture from mine. A culture that Joel fits into seamlessly while blunders are a daily part of my routine.

And yet, we read books together, go on adventures to the market, and chat about airplanes that aren’t in the sky. We celebrate our stacks of blocks, a ball that rolls back no matter how hard we throw it up the hill, and poop that happens to land in the potty (or not). We laugh, sing songs, teach each other games, and munch on mangoes together.

Families are people who love and take care of one an other. In the words of the author Todd Parr, “There are lots of different ways to make a family. It just takes love. Share your home and share your heart.”

As we begin a new year, ask God how you are being asked to share your home and heart. God is planning something big. Listen.

PS. Due to some problems with land ownership, a pastor planted in our garden. We are putting up a temporary grass fence and will hold the money until a better fence can be built as soon as possible.

-Susan Rembert

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**FINANCIAL REPORT** (submitted by Frank Dawson, Treasurer)

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| **Other Income and Disbursements for November 2015** |
|   | **Received this Month** | **Received this Year** | **Disbursed this Month** | **Disbursed Year to Date** |
| 2¢ Meal Offering (Presbytery) | $55.36 | $651.91 | $55.36 | $651.91 |
| Children’s Hope Alliance (Barium) | $59.25 | $128.05 | $30.35 | $68.80 |
| Building Fund **(Special Fund)** | $1,735.00 | $69,839.58 | $103,334.81 | $210,281.57 |
| Cemetery Fund **(Special Fund)** | $80.00 | $1,390.00 | $1,790.00 | $5,540.00 |
| Timothy Fund **(Special Fund)**  |  |  |  |  |
| Organ Fund **(Special Fund)** | $20.00 | $23,030.00 | $22,705.00 | $55,510.00 |
| Gideon’s |  | $62.00 | $62.00 | $62.00 |
| Pentecost |  | $20.00 |  | $20.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing |  | $201.00 |  | $201.00 |
|  |  |  | Sunday School Attendance:  |
| **Financial Report for General Fund** | **November** | **Year to Date** | 11/1 26 | $35.06 |
| Total Funds Received | $14,976.53 | $165,324.49 | 11/8 25  | $35.25 |
| Total Food Panty Funds Received | $654.03 | $4,858.28 | 11/15 29 | $23.11 |
| Total Funds Expenditures | $16,629.64 | $179,405.16 | 11/22 24 | $16.85 |
| Total Funds Required | $22,560.71 | $248,167.81 | 11/29 29  | $59.25 |