

THE CHURCH CALENDAR	
<b><u>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21</u></b>	
9:00 A.M.	Sunday school
10:00 A.M.	Worship
4:00 P.M.	Ragsdale Circle
5:00 P.M.	Children/Youth
<b><u>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</u></b>	
11:00 A.M.	Adult Prayer/Bible Study

REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

- Family of Mitchell Starnes
- Family of Joann Funderburk (Terri Robinson’s grandmother)
- John Robinson - recovery from bladder cancer surgery
- Bobby Hughes - recovery from stent placement
- Dana Tyson - recovery
- Mark Huey - recovery
- Diana Hallman - ALS
- Shut-Ins:
- Linda Henderson

Al Starnes

Robert and Nancy Watterson

Jean Stogner

Gail and Joanne Dailey

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE	
<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>	
09/21:	Karen Baxley/Robin Cox
09/28:	Chandler K./Debbie C.
<b><u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH</u></b>	
09/21:	Paula Peasley/Destiny Peasley
09/28:	Sheri Wells/Kobe Wells
<b><u>SAFETY PATROL</u></b>	
09/21:	Bryan Walker
09/28:	Bryan Walker
<b><u>DEACON OF THE MONTH</u></b>	
Mike Walters	
<b><u>ELDER OF THE MONTH</u></b>	
Joseph McCain	
<b><u>USHERS:</u></b>	
Greg Brasington, Steve Willis, Mike Walters, Mike Hagins	

UNITY A.R.P. CHURCH

3495 UNITY CHURCH ROAD

LANCASTER, SC 29720

803-285-3492

unityarp@comporium.net

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

LANCASTER, SC

PERMIT NO. 71

5-DIGIT PRESORT

T H E L A M P L I G H T E R

The Newsletter for Unity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 37                      [www.unityarpchurch.org](http://www.unityarpchurch.org)                      SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

**OCTOBER CELEBRATION**

In light of the recent “Bonclarken Weekend” survey, the elders decided to cancel the 2025 Bonclarken Weekend and, instead, have a Fall celebration at Unity. If you would like to serve on the planning committee for that event, please contact the church office or let pastor Hammond know ASAP.

**FROM OUR CORNER**

Some of our church family might not be aware that Phonzo Starnes stepped down as Unity Cemetery Manager, if you missed being at the Memorial Association Meeting that took place in the sanctuary on August 24, 2025, as we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of our church. Phonzo has been a diligent care giver of our cemetery grounds for more than ten years. This job entails many hours of work in several areas. A major responsibility of the cemetery manager is to “lay out grave sites” before grave diggers move in to “open” a grave. As we all know, death has no respect for weather conditions. This means that the manager is often in extreme weather: summer heat, winter cold, snow, rain, and sleet. The manager is required to be present when monuments are placed. That beautiful fountain requires upkeep. The old fountain required lots of maintenance as it aged and deteriorated. Water purification is ALWAYS a priority when the temperatures are high and there are long spells of heavy rain which cause the growth of algae. When we have periods of extreme cold the fountain needs to be drained. At one point Phonzo cleaned all of the tombstones to get the mildew stains off. He has always been generous of acknowledging the hard work of Tim Hallman as he mows and weed eats. Phonzo and Richard worked well together and enjoyed much camaraderie which involved lots of laughter and surely some shared feelings of frustration at times. There was also one afternoon when Phonzo and I stood, looking down at Richard as he lay on the ground with a seven-hundred-pound tombstone on top of him. The two of us could NOT lift the stone, and were helpless. Richard was able to gradually dig enough ground under himself and work his way out. He was bruised but not seriously hurt. The three of us concluded there was an angel in the garden that afternoon! I have heard visitors comment many times that our cemetery is one of the best kept and most beautiful in this area. So, the next time we stop to admire the peace and serenity of this setting we need to offer a prayer of thanks for the leadership Phonzo provided over the years and time he gave. “Well done good and faithful servant!”

CHURCH 110

OUR FAITHFULNESS FOR  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

TREASURER’S REPORT

2025 BUDGET	\$374,280.08
BUDGET NEEDS TO DATE	\$271,543
OFFERING TO DATE	\$263,739.25
BEHIND	\$7,803.75
NEEDED 09/14	\$7,339.00
OFFERING 09/14	CONTRIBUTIONS - \$3,733.48
	FACILITY RENTAL - \$
	COTTAGE RESERVATIONS- \$
	TOTAL RECEIVED - \$3,733.48

In memory of Joann G. Funderburk by Glenn and Marcie McCain  
In memory of Edith Workman by Glenn and Marcie McCain  
In memory of Mitchell Starnes by Guy and Betsy Smith  
ENDOWMENT  
In memory of Charles Starnes by Richard and Patty Carter  
In memory of Edith Workman by Joe and Toni Flynn  
In memory of Edith Workman, Mitchell Starnes, and Joann Funderburk by Billy and Geraldine Carnes  
MEMORIAL GARDEN  
In memory of Mrs. Joann Funderburk by Mike and Rosemary McCain  
COTTAGE PAINT  
In memory of Mitchell Starnes by Doug and Debra Eudy

BLDG/ GROUNDS MAINTENANCE YTD	\$7,307.68
BLDG/GROUNDS MAINTENANCE 09/14	\$216.85

In memory of Joann Greene Funderburk by Bill and Linda Carraway  
In memory of Joann Funderburk and Edith Workman by Sara Logan

FROM THE UWM

First up: If you want to be included in the email distribution list with the Catawba ARP Women's Ministry (CWM), please email CWMOFTHEARP@gmail.com. ARP Women's Ministries is an organization that exists to encourage, equip, and connect the community of ARP women to minister together for God's glory and purpose. Catawba Women's Ministry consists of and serves all women in churches of the Catawba Presbytery.

2nd: The next Gather and Grow event with the Catawba Women's Ministry is October 18th, 2025, at Grace Presbyterian Church at 445 Spears Creek Church Rd., Elgin, SC 29045. Joining the email list from above will insure you receive all emails about registration for upcoming events.

3rd: Jubilee 3/Super Women's Retreat is November 7-8, 2025, at Bonclarken Conference Center and celebrating 150 years of ministry. Speakers will be Suzanne Allers, Gillian Brickey, and Martha-Margaret Cotten all with World Witness. As we are aware, the Jubilee Birthday Fund and Celebration was established by the ARP Woman's Synodical Union in 1925, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the commissions of the first ARP missionary, Miss Mary Galloway, in 1875. The word "jubilee" came from Leviticus 25:11: "The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you."

If you are interested, please let Jennifer know as soon as possible. The Unity cottage has been reserved for now for this event. The schedule begins Friday, November 7th at 6:00 p.m. with dinner and ends with lunch on Saturday, November 8th . Call Bonclarken at 828-692-2223 to register, whether staying in our cottage or not. Along with obvious registration information, please provide that you are part of Catawba Presbyterial. The registration fee for private housing is \$49/day with no meals and if 3 meals \$87.25, or Saturday lunch only \$61.50.

Again, if you add your email address to their distribution list, you will be sure to receive all information promptly.

Thank you,

Karen M Baxley

Secretary of UWM

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

The Unity Women’s Ministries invites you to a bridal shower honoring Emma Hammond on Saturday, September 27th. The shower will be held in the fellowship hall from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and will be a brunch. Emma is registered at Amazon, Target, and Crate and Barrel.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Our next men’s breakfast will be Saturday, September 20th at 8:00 a.m. Guest speaker will be Jamie Miller, executive director with Sheltered of Lancaster. The menu will be rotel grits, biscuits, donuts, juice and coffee.

ELDERS MEETING

The elders will meet on Sunday, September 28th following the worship service. Please make note of the change of date.

YPCU FALL RETREAT

Please be in prayer for the YPCU and leaders as they will be attending the fall retreat at Bonclarken this weekend.

GROUNDWORKDAY

The Deacons will host a workday on the grounds on Saturday, October 4th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please bring tools for trimming shrubbery and trees.