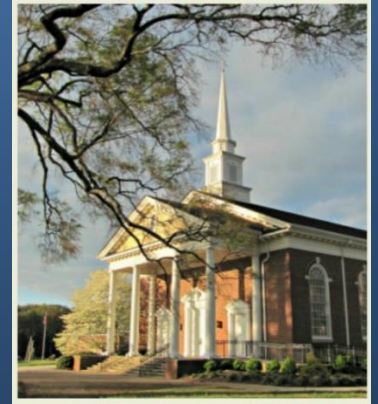


# Ebenezer ARP Women's Ministry

~To know Jesus intimately, love Jesus faithfully and serve Jesus fruitfully~



## October 2017 Newsletter

It's hard to believe it's already October! Hopefully that means cooler weather and fun boots are on the way! I'm sure you'll start seeing leaves changing colors, mums of bright yellow and burgundy and pumpkin spice everything before the month is over. One thing I love about October is pumpkins. I love the color, I love picking them out, I love toasting seeds and I love watching the kids get excited to put them out on the front porch. One thing I don't love is carving them! Yuck!

Thankfully though, this is something my husband loves to do. It's fun to be out there with him and our children as they design their perfect jack-o-lantern faces, carefully cut off the pumpkin tops and pull out all the gunk. I then take all the seeds and get them washed off and dried for toasting.

Each year as we do this family tradition, I am reminded of the adapted jack-o-lantern story as the allegory of the Christian life. I'm sure you have probably read it before but I always think it bears repeating this time of year!

The idea is that we are much like these pumpkins. We come in all different shapes and sizes and we sit out in a field covered in dirt until the Master Gardener comes and chooses us. He then washes us off and cleans us up. And not just on the outside where people can see, but on the inside where only he knows. He opens us up and takes out all the yucky gunk, all those seeds of doubt, of hate and of greed. Then he gives us a new smile and a new purpose. And after that, he's

still not done. Our Master Gardener places his light in us, to shine out to others. A light in the dark. And the darkness cannot overcome it.



John 8:12 – "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Aimee Vance, WM President  
[Vance527@netscape.net](mailto:Vance527@netscape.net)

## The October Circle Offering goes to Synodical Hall\*

\*Synodical Hall is a building located on the campus of Bonclarken and belonging to the women of the denomination. Circle offerings for Synodical Hall pay for utilities and the upkeep of the building.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Oct. 5-8**      *Communion Season*  
Churchwide event
- Friday-*      Dinner at 6 p.m. in BAB (pizza)  
Worship at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary
- Saturday-*    Worship at 7 p.m. in sanctuary  
Coffee and dessert afterwards BAB
- Sunday-*      Combined Sunday School  
The Lord's Day Worship, 10 a.m.  
Catered BBQ lunch following
- \*See church bulletin for more information.*
- Oct. 14**      ARP Women's Ministries  
Annual Meeting, Bonclarken
- Oct. 15**      All Church Prayer Time  
4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21**      Catawba Presbytery Conference  
and Annual Meeting
- Oct. 24**      Ladies Bible Study  
10:00 a.m., Room 10, BAB
- Oct. 25**      Missionary Speakers  
Josh and Vonja Thomas  
Churchwide Meal
- Oct. 28**      Ebenezer Fall Festival  
4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29**      WM Board Meeting  
4:00 p.m., Room 2 BAB



**Annual ARP Women's  
Ministries Meeting**

EVERY lady at Ebenezer is invited to join others from across the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination at Bonclarken Oct. 14 for the ARP Women's Ministries Annual Meeting. The day will be filled with special music, various seminars of interest, and a chance to hear speaker Karen Willis from First ARP Gastonia speak on the theme "Our God is Holy". Voting on the study books for next year and the installation of 2018 officers will also take place.

Registration will be from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Breakout sessions are 10:00-10:45 and 11:00- 11:45. A second registration for later arrivals will be from 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m. with the Annual Meeting part starting at 1:00. Lunch can be on your own in Hendersonville or you can sign up in advance for lunch in the Bonclarken dining hall.

For more information, contact Aimee Vance at (803)323-8000, or go online to [www.arpwm.org](http://www.arpwm.org).

**Catawba Presbytery Annual  
Women's Ministries Meeting**

Our Presbytery Women's Meeting will be Oct. 21 at Clover ARP. All Ebenezer women are invited for a time of fellowship, worship, learning and business. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by worship and breakout sessions. Lunch will be at 12:00 p.m. followed by the meeting from 1:00-2:00. The cost for lunch is \$8 and childcare will be provided. Sign up and drop off checks made out to Clover ARP Women's Ministries at the Ebenezer church office by **Oct. 4**.

*Thank you* to Martha Anderson, Vicki Talbot and Myra White for their hard work on the *Ebenezer Expo*. Thank you also to the many others who helped and who greeted people at the various ministry tables. It was a great success at helping folks get connected to the many fellowship and ministry opportunities available at Ebenezer.