



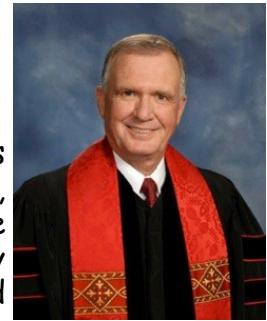
Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren...

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Winter 2013

A Christmas Message

By Dr. George Howle, Senior Pastor, St. John's UMC.



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When God chose to come into the world as a human being, He was not born into royalty, the rich or the wealthy. God chose to come as the son of two humble parents whose only possessions were their beliefs that only God could change their world.

These humble peasant parents' son spent his entire life serving unselfishly the poor, needy, sick, lame, blind, helpless and hopeless, and to all outcasts, bringing light and hope to a dark world.

In this Christmas season, ACTS is an organization who knows that only God can come and change our world. Today, the hope of the baby Jesus continues through the ministry of ACTS, in service to those in need throughout our community.

This is the last year we celebrate Vicki's gifts of love and leadership of ACTS. What a difference she has made in the lives of hundreds and thousands in the Aiken community. We cannot begin to thank her for the lives she has touched. All we can do is join her in this ministry. As her pastor, I am deeply moved by her commitment to Christ, and her willingness to selflessly give of herself to others. She is a true example of what it means to "walk in the steps" of Jesus.

And now, Carla has become the new shining light. We welcome her into this ministry!

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank ACTS, all the volunteers, the contributors, and the friends who have brought hope and light this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas

ACTS will be closed December 23–January 3 for Christmas.



ACTS Thanks -

Harvest Home, a Thanksgiving concert benefitting ACTS, was held November 17 at First Presbyterian Church. The USCA orchestra and Concert Choir, Masterworks Chorale and Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church presented familiar hymns and anthems of the season, led by Dr. Joel Scraper, Director of Chorale Activities at USCA and Ken Courtney, Director of Music/Organist, First Presbyterian Church. Donations of Thanksgiving meal ingredients as well as a monetary offering were collected for ACTS.

Students, faculty and staff of USC Aiken gathered November 21 to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner at the University's first One Table event in the campus quad. Those attending brought canned goods, school supplies or other donations for ACTS. Ahmed Samaha, assistant vice chancellor of Student Life, said "We are thrilled with the first ever USC Aiken One Table event and believe it will be a wonderful new tradition on our campus."



Volunteer Rosemary Buchanan prepares ACTS newsletters for mailing.

E-Mail or regular mail?

ACTS now e-mails the newsletter and other information to 163 people instead of printing and mailing. Printing is expensive and preparation for mailing takes many hours of volunteer time. How about putting e-mail newsletters on your list of 2014 Resolutions! Just send an e-mail to info@actsofaiken.org. Save money, trees, and Rosemary!



2014 Lexington Race Against Hunger

The 2014 Lexington Race Against Hunger will be held February 22, 2014, with an anticipated 1400 runners and walkers! There will be a 5K Fitness-Walk run, a 10K Run, and a 1 mile fun run, all beginning from Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

All participants are asked to bring a can of food to help feed the hungry. ACTS is one of several charities benefitting from the race. See the ACTS website for more details at www.actsofaiken.org or the Lexington Race Against Hunger website at www.lexrah.org.

It's a date!

As the old year ends, most people spend a few minutes organizing their new calendars with important dates and upcoming events. But if you find you have an extra calendar or three, please bring them to ACTS! Calendars will be marked on the 3rd Saturday of each month and given to Senior Food clients to help them remember the correct day to pick up their food.



Just Give!

Life tends to get even more hectic during the holidays. But one thing is easy—making a donation to ACTS! Just go to the ACTS website at www.actsofaiken.org and click on the "Just Give" button. You can choose the amount you want to donate and even choose how your gift will be used. If you want your gift to be in honor or in memory of someone special, you can do that too!

A donation that helps so many in our community can be the perfect gift for a loved one who doesn't need any more "stuff" but would appreciate a gift that shows just how thoughtful you are.

While you're on the ACTS website, look for a coupon for use in the ACTS Resale Store. It's a great place to finish your Christmas shopping or look for that special outfit for holiday parties!



**Get your tickets now for the
2014 Icicle Ball**

The sixth annual Icicle Ball will be held February 8, 2014, and tickets are available now for \$75 per person. You can purchase yours by stopping by the ACTS office or mailing your check. Tables of eight are also available, as are corporate sponsorships.

This year's event will once again be held at St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church in the Stevenson-McClelland Parish House. Dinner will be catered by Newberry Hall. Music for dancing will be provided by the Palmetto Groove Party Band.

The Icicle Ball has raised over \$125,000 for the ACTS Food Programs in the past five years, and is such a popular event that tickets often sell out. Be sure to get yours today! They make a wonderful Christmas gift!



In honor and in memory—

Gifts have been given in honor of: Vicki Bukovitz; Mary Kate Strack; Christmas - Evans & Shirley Daggett; 50th Anniv Ed & Bessie Whittle; Christmas - Melissa & Shane Brow; Marrie & Bob Ellerbe; Sonny & Katie Snell; Vickie & Jesse Key; Johnnie & Jim Woodward; Linda Fulmer; Margaret Rushton; Commie Peebles; Rev. Chris Crotwell; Alice & Jay Creamer; Birthday - Amy Shumpert; Christmas - Dr. Ron Lee; Christmas - Libby Howell; Sandy D'Ascenzo; Margaret Logan; Sandy Miller.

Gifts have been given in memory of: Travis Miller; Charles Wade; Ed Looney; Allan Birk's father; Rev. Gene Mulligan; Monty Montgomery; Robert O'Conner Sr.; Linner Bussey; Charles Acton; Lorenzo "Sox" Falaw; Sally Danz; Marie Clement; Kathleen George; June Blohm; Barry Wade.

Keyhole Gardens—the key to good nutrition in a small space.

Keyhole gardens are a combination raised garden and compost pile, perfect for small spaces and gardeners interested in low maintenance. First made popular in Africa, they began catching on in Texas and other hot, dry places. The gardens hold moisture and nutrients due to an active compost pile placed in the center of a round bed. The design retains moisture and nourishes the soil, requiring less time and effort for maintenance.

From a bird's eye view the garden is shaped as a keyhole. A notch is cut into a round garden bed, the notch makes for easy access to the center compost well. Most of the materials needed to construct the garden can be recycled materials.

Preferred crops for a keyhole garden include root and leafy vegetables like carrot, onion, turnip, lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard and herbs.

Information is available on-line or at Noble Breads in Aiken (www.noblebread.com). ACTS clients benefited this year from a number of community gardens. A keyhole garden would make it possible for many others to enjoy the benefits of fresh produce.



The family of Dick Rutland provided Thanksgiving dinner for 80 ACTS families in his memory.

ACTS 12th ANNUAL HOLIDAY HEATER & UTILITY DRIVE

340 Park Ave SW, Aiken, SC 29801

- Yes, I can sponsor the purchase of _____ heater(s) @ \$40.00 each for a total of \$_____.
- Yes, I would like to make a donation to ACTS Utility Assistance Fund for \$_____.
- Yes, I would like to make a donation to ACTS General Emergency Fund for \$_____.

Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) Inc.
340 Park Avenue SW
Aiken, SC 29801

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hygiene products
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sweatshirts and pants
long and short sleeved shirts
children's clothing (size 2T–16)
new underwear and socks (all sizes)
volunteers—the lifeblood of our ministry!



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