



Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

2421 Ashley River Road • Charleston, SC 29414

Telephone: (843) 766-4219 / (800) 230-9293 (in SC) / Fax: (843) 766-2804

Web: www.chas-atlpresbytery.org

**PRESBYTERY
EXECUTIVE and
STATED CLERK:**

Donnie R. Woods

ASSOCIATES:

J. Dechard Guess
Congregational Life

Jessie A. "Pie" Mikell
Congregational Nurture

Deborah C. Guess
Campus Ministry &
Mission
dguess@gmail.com

Sue S. Mathews
Resourcing &
Communication

Eriberto (Eddie) Soto
Latin American Ministries

Devia P. Phinisee
Campus Minister,
Orangeburg Campuses
dcphinisee@yahoo.com

TREASURER:

H. Arnold Haas

SUPPORT STAFF:

Marion Wrenn
Office Manager

Miriam Ortiz
Office Secretary

Caroline Gast
Campus Ministry Assistant
Charleston

Lula DeBose
Campus Ministry Assistant
Orangeburg
debose141@hotmail.com

**E-MAIL
ADDRESSES:**

dwoods
deckguess
pmikell
smathews
esoto
mwrenn
secretary

@chas-atlpresbytery.org

November 20, 2007

TO: The Leaders of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
RE: A Time to be Thankful

Dear Presbytery Leaders:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. (Psalm 107: 1-3, NRSV).

Several weeks ago, I emailed my siblings across the country to see how many would be traveling home to Mississippi for Thanksgiving. Every year all of us try to carry on the family tradition of gathering together on the farm for dinner and spending time with mother, who is 86 years old now. As difficult as it is to get 18 siblings together in the same place at the same time these days, most of us will be there. As we gather around the table (not literally, of course, as some are in the kitchen, dining room, living room, etc.) the preacher in the family (that would be me) leads worship. Psalm 107 is read responsively, we share specific events in our lives for which we are grateful, and conclude with prayer and thanksgiving for the meal.

Originally, this psalm was sung by groups of pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to celebrate one of the annual festivals. The opening verses call for everyone to give thanks – thanksgiving for safe travel across the desert, thanksgiving for being freed from prison, thanksgiving for healing from sickness, and for safe travel across the sea. It ends by praising God for his bounty. It speaks profoundly to us today with the clarion call to give thanks for all that God is doing in our world and in our lives.

I am truly thankful to each one of you the ministry we share together. I am grateful for all the lives that are profoundly changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ shared around the world. I am thankful that our hearts are open to meeting the needs of brothers and sisters across the bounds of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. We are engaged in this ministry together and each one of us has been blessed with something to share.

Let us truly give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his steadfast love does endure forever!

Your servant to the churches,
Donnie