Tangible Demonstration of the Kingdom of God

As this issue of the Reminder goes to press, we are in the midst of “The City Project”, a two week long local mission outreach to the community of Florence where many of you have put “hands and feet” to your faith. I am very proud of our staff, elders, deacons and many covenant partners (members) who have helped to make this outreach of FPC one that has touched and changed lives in our community. During a recent training event with our newly elected officers, we were discussing the nature and purpose of a congregation. ECO, our new denomination, describes the nature and purpose of a congregation as follows:

The Church is visible whenever two or more are gathered in Jesus’ name. The congregation is composed of members of the body of Christ who have covenanted together to engage in the mission of God in their particular context, with Jesus Christ as Head. Each congregation should strive to be a tangible, if provisional, demonstration of the Kingdom of God. Congregations exist in a variety of forms yet have these ends in common: sharing the Good News of reconciliation to God in and through Jesus Christ, gathering people for divine worship and nurturing relationships for spiritual accountability and mutual ministry, all the while preparing disciples to be the sent people of God in the world. (1.0101)

It is with great joy that so many of you have participated in the numerous ministries, which have occurred over this two-week period, which showed FPC to be a “tangible demonstration of the Kingdom of God”. I know you were blessed by your efforts, as much as those whom you served were blessed by your presence. Thank you for allowing Jesus to work in and through your life.

You have heard me share recently from the pulpit about how our recent Amazon Team experienced God on our mission journey as we brought the Gospel to people who had never heard the Story before. The City Project reminds all of us that we are all called to be missionaries (one who goes forth to proclaim the Gospel) and that act of obedience can begin right here in our own community.

Our ECO polity also says that when Covenant Partners (members) commit to the cause of a life lived in and through Jesus Christ; they grow in Christian community together to become more Christ-like (1.0304). The Gospel of Jesus Christ has impacted our community because you chose to be obedient and to serve Him.

May God continue to bless you and FPC as we seek to be faithful and committed servants of our Lord and Savior.

God Bless

Summer Worship Schedule

Extended through August 18th
No Sunday School
10:00 AM Combined Worship
Services followed by Lemonade Under the Oaks
Unity of the Christian Community

Emperor Trajan reigned Rome 98AD to 117 AD

Yesterday, I preached on the unity of the Christian Community. Jesus prayed for it. It is precisely this unity for which Jesus prays that will convince people of the reality of the Gospel. In John 13:34-35 it says, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” History testifies to a community of believers, in modern Turkey, who are loving their Lord and one another in such a way that those outside the community of faith must take note. The commitment and love of this small band of believers in the second century toward one another and even to those outside the community made a powerful impact.

Jim Dameron, Alice Caldwell and myself had the pleasure of attending the Elder Leadership Institute in early July in Spokane Washington. The event was an “immersion week” that helped elders understand their call into eldership. One of the significant aspects to our week was being introduced to professor and author, Dr. Jerry Sittser. He has written several books one of which I want to quote at length today. Every elder that went through the “immersion week” is assigned reading that challenges them toward discipleship. This quote comes from Sittser’s, Water from a Deep Well. The second chapter is called “Belonging: The Spirituality of Early Christian Community.” Sittser gives context and commentary on correspondence between two political leaders of that day as they dealt with Christianity:

“In A.D. 112, Pliny the younger (62-113), the newly appointed governor of Bith ynia and Pontus, two provinces located in modern day north central Turkey, wrote a long letter to Trajan, the Roman emperor, to solicit the emperor’s advice concerning how to deal with the growing menace of the Christian movement. Pliny was a Roman gentleman, highly educated, a man of means and influence. After receiving his appointment, he set out immediately to tour the territory, to collect information, and to make observations that would allow him to establish a just administration. It soon became obvious that Christianity was one of his biggest problems. What Pliny heard and subsequently reported in his letter to Trajan provides a fascinating perspective on pagan attitudes toward the early Christian movement. First, he mentioned that Christians had become an economic nuisance. Their commitment to honor and obey Jesus as Lord had the indirect effect of undermining pagan rituals. New converts to Christianity had abandoned temple worship, which led to a loss of revenue among those who sold sacrificial animals and temple merchandise. Merchants complained to Pliny that Christianity posed a threat to their economic livelihood.

Second, Pliny accused Christians of forming a “political club,” the best word he could find to describe the Christian church, which was attracting pagan converts. Christians were proclaiming a new message, caring for the sick, organizing social events, providing hospitality, burying the dead, supporting widow and orphans, and raising money for the destitute. Pagan political clubs existed too, of course. But most of these were small and local. Though potentially troublesome, they nevertheless honored the basic values of Roman culture, especially the state religious cult. The Christian church was different. Like some deadly virus, it was spreading beyond local boundaries, as if aspiring to become a universal faith.

The influence of the movement was undeniable, though Pliny believed that it could be thwarted if the proper pressure was applied. “The contagion of this superstition has spread not only in the cities, but in the villages and rural districts as well; yet it seems capable of being checked and set right.” Pliny had already used harsh measures, and they seemed to be working. Pliny tried to force Christians taken into custody to invoke the name of the gods, to make an offering of wine and incense to Trajan’s statue, and to revile the name of Christ. These procedures served as a test of religious allegiance. Some cooperated.

Continued next page
This year’s City Project has been a HUGE success!
Thank you to each and every one of you who donated and volunteered your time and talents to love Florence in the name of Christ and share His love!

But many did not, which infuriated Pliny. “For I do not doubt that, whatever kind of crime it may be to which they confessed, their pertinacity and inflexible obstinacy should certainly be punished.”

It is clear that by the early second century the Christian movement was already influencing pagan culture. It was providing a sense of belonging that was not readily available through traditional Roman institutions, thus earning a reputation that reflected what the New Testament teaches about true community.”

Our life together today…certainly lived in a different context where government structures do not inhibit our gathering or come close to physically deterring our commitment to Christ…is the best way we can testify to the love we have received in and from Jesus.

Let it be so and be challenged toward discipleship to Jesus.

Chris

Hear the Bells-Hear His Call: Ring the bells for our prayer ministry. We invite individuals and families to sign up for a time to ring the bell by signing up online through the link on our website (Go to www.florencefirst.org, scroll down to the Quicklinks at the bottom of the homepage and click on Bell Ministry Online Signup.) Or contact the church office with a date and time.
Gifts and Contributions: You can make a Difference!
As we move into the summer and fall season of the year, we all know this is a slow time for gifts and contributions. I am asking you to review your pledge commitment and be aware that we depend on these weekly/monthly commitments to meet our monthly budget for the church. To those who are meeting your pledge, thank you. We all know that utilities, payroll and mission support does not change during these months, as all of this is allocated on a monthly basis and your help is greatly appreciated.

Remodel Reminder: Please be Careful out There!
As you know by now, we are going through a remodel at the Church. Many avenues around the Church are blocked. We have fencing up and doors that are locked off from entry. As you move around the campus, be observant of all surroundings and help with the children as they move around the campus. Thanks for your cooperation. The tear down is in progress as you can see.

Thanks for all you do for First Presbyterian Church

Connect with Groups on The City
Get more involved in First Presbyterian Church through Groups on The City
When you first join The City member’s site, you automatically become a member of the main First Presbyterian Church group. But you want to connect with other groups that you are involved with in the church in order to develop deeper communication and relationships!

1. Click on Groups in the lefthand column, more options will appear
2. Click on search for groups, a list of all groups will appear
3. You can scroll through the list of Groups or search by typing into the search box at the top of the page.
4. When you find a group you want to participate in, click on the group name.
5. Click on Join Group!

The City is helping members in our church stay engaged in daily life and ministry. It’s a group-oriented social network that’s all about helping our church build deeper community and extend the love of Christ to the world.

Haven’t received your Invitation? Visit www.FlorenceFirst.org/the-city and click Request an Invite.
Get Your Plate On!

Fall Social

Wednesday, August 28

Dinner - Live Music - Inflatables

Let’s start Wednesday nights off with a bang!

Visiting Missionaries

Caleb & Louise King
Sunday, August 4th after combined worship

Caleb and Louise King will be with us after worship services, and you are invited to visit with them at a fried chicken lunch. Please RSVP to the church office, 662-2583.
The Mission of the Parking Lot Ministry

To share the love of Jesus Christ in a tangible way.
"For whenever you did these things for the least of these, you did them for me."

The Parking Lot Ministry is an interdenominational ministry that occurs every Saturday of the year located in the Hope Health parking lot on the corner of East Palmetto and Jarrott in Florence. First Pres became aware and involved in this ministry during the City Project two years ago and it has grown and is a great blessing in our church. We serve the second Saturday of each month and assist at times when there is a shortage of volunteers at other times. There are three components of the ministry:

**Devotions**
At 7:00 am there is a time for devotions to any with ears to hear. This is normally led by Lamar Alexander and coffee and donuts or something similar is provided by volunteers. This is a time you can talk with people to share testimony, witness, and pray with and for anyone who is there. Consider this and taking a pot or two of coffee or a snack if you feel led to encourage others. There may also be an opportunity for children’s devotionals.

**Breakfast**
We prepare a hot meal at the church and take it to the parking lot to serve. The meal is prepared from 6:00 to 7:45 am in the church kitchen. We normally serve 125 to 175 plates. If you would like to serve please be at the Hope Health parking lot by 7:50 am. 8 to 10 servers needed.

**Donations**
Donations of personal hygiene items for those in need are sometimes passed out. Things like bar soap, body wash, lotions, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant, and any similar items for personal care. If you have donations, please bring them to pass out at the parking lot by 7:45am.

Please pray for all who volunteer and who go to the parking lot in their needs. There are many lost, hurting, and confused who are present each week. First Presbyterian Serves Saturday, August 10 this month.
August Birthdays

01 Kendall Brand  09 Mary Caroline Vaught  17 Henry Johnson  22 Amy Jones
02 Henry Purvis  09 Chris Canfield  17 Jay Reece  22 Catherine Canfield
03 Kathy Grace  09 Minnemie Murphy  17 Frank Lee, Jr.  23 Charlie Grace, IV
03 Wallace Vaught, Jr.  09 Catherine Ervin  17 Brian Wallace  23 Cindy Johnson
03 Rhett Spencer, Jr.  09 Lincoln Emert  18 Evans Holland  24 Martha Dusenbury
03 Caden Bulliner  10 Adeline Blair  18 Stuart Snow, Sr.  24 Porter Stewart
03 Bennett Blair  11 Amy Williams  18 Julie Griffith  24 Brett Green
04 Jane Ames  11 Chris Johnson  19 Carson Munn  24 Ellen Grace Marechal
04 Casey Coker  12 Scott Ham  19 Matt Purvis  24 Sarah Ella Hardee
04 Bob O’Harra  12 Carol Crom  20 Pam Hoogdenboom  25 Lane Gilpin
05 Joe Koenig  12 Donna Green  20 Dan Hicks  25 Patti Hubbs
06 Davis Lee  13 Andrew Halus  20 Betsy Johnson  26 Phyllis Williams
06 Jake McKay  13 Pieter Murphy  20 Philip Moore  27 Dakota Hawkins
07 Tabatha Davis  13 Sherrill Fussell  20 Charissa Canfield  28 Tom Kellam
08 Sandra Anderson  14 Jim Moore  20 Jeff Singletary  28 Carolyn Caudle
08 Rufus Bratton, Jr.  14 Ellen Fails  21 Charlie Ervin  28 Ryon Watkins
08 Peggy Swearingen  14 Taylor Knudsen  21 Mary Lou Arnold  29 Rod Jernigan
08 Ruthie Blair  15 Mary Louise McIntyre  21 Mary Jane Holland  29 Virginia Spencer
09 Jennie O’Bryan  15 Tamara Hoefer  21 Wit Poston  30 Lyllian Scott
09 Donna Crockett  15 John Shurman  21 Gregg Jones  30 Tillman Johnson
09 Janet Brand  16 Kent Caudle  22 Kent Caudle  31 Kaye Abramson

Did we miss your birthday? Please contact Teresa Stewart at 662-2583 or tstewart@florencefirst.org so we can correct our records.

Sunday, July 21, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Mason S. Slaughter
born September 17, 2007

Millicent Hanna (Millie) Slaughter
born September 20, 2012

son and daughter of Sonny and Marla Slaughter
Sunday, August 11, 2013
10:00 AM  Combined Worship Service
4:30 PM  Volleyball: CLC

Monday, August 12, 2013

Tuesday, August 13, 2013
6:00 AM  Men’s Bible Study: Price CR
9:30 AM  Women’s Prayer Group
7:00 PM  Called Session Meeting

Wednesday, August 14, 2013
6:00 PM  Summer Surprise (Youth)
6:30 PM  Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30 PM  Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, August 15, 2013
7:15 AM  Men’s Breakfast: Pres. Community

Friday, August 16, 2013

Saturday, August 17, 2013

Thursday, August 1, 2013
Children’s Mission Camp
Youth Camping Trip
7:15 AM  Men’s Breakfast: Pres. Community
9:30 AM  Feed My Starving Children Shift 1: CLC
12:30 PM  Feed My Starving Children Shift 2: CLC
2:30 PM  Feed My Starving Children Shift 3: CLC

Friday, August 2, 2013

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Sunday, August 4, 2013
COMMUNION SUNDAY
10:00 AM  Combined Worship Service
11:15 AM  Lunch with Missionaries Caleb & Louise King
4:30 PM  Volleyball: CLC

Monday, August 5, 2013

Tuesday, August 6, 2013
6:00 AM  Men’s Bible Study: Price CR
9:00 AM  Women’s Prayer Group

Wednesday, August 7, 2013
5:00 PM  MOVE (Youth)
6:30 PM  Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30 PM  Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, August 8, 2013
7:15 AM  Men’s Breakfast: Pres. Community

Friday, August 9, 2013

Saturday, August 10, 2013
6:00 AM  Parking Lot Mission: Hope Health Parking Lot

Promotion Sunday: August 25
Wednesday Night Fall Social: August 28
Construction has begun with the removal of the Fellowship Hall.
Sympathy
John McCants - loss of Mother
Wendy Paul - loss of father
Virginia Spencer - loss of parent

Remember In Prayer This Month

Hospitals
MCLEOD
Ruth Montgomery

*Due to confidentiality rules, our pastors do not receive information regarding a patient’s hospitalization. Please call the church office if you or a fellow member is admitted to the hospital.

Extended Care Residents

ELMCFROFT
Alfred Hopkins

HERITAGE
Linnie Myers

PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY
Mary Booth
Adelaide Moss
Lucy Thomas
Shirley Cruickshank

LAUREL GARDENS
Joy Tedder

Extended Care refers to church members who are residing in a skilled nursing or assisted living facility.

Special Requests
Amanda Herndon
Dove Haynesworth
Eileen Parker
Rosa Lee Gregg
Sherrie Barrett

Recovering/Sick
Betty Knapp
Daphne Caldwell
Diane Rouse
Larry Brice
Linda Foxworth
Sherrill Fussell
Gwen Misurella
Deloris Galloway

HOUSEHOLDS
- Dr. & Mrs. Greg & Tomi Jean Cleveland, Jack and Grace
- Dr. Lee Cleveland
- Mrs. Shelia Cockfield
- Mr. & Mrs. Jason and Casey Coker, Cannon
- Mr. Michael Coker
- Mr. & Mrs. Chuck & Lisa Collins, Emily and Amelia
- Ms. Cindy Collins

Families Expecting
Daniel & Emily Jordan
Pat & Becka Tuttle: October
Jake & Lori Stokes: January

Memorials
Grady Greer
Diane Kimbell
Edna Kirkpatrick
C. D. Meyers
R. C. Ham
Nancy Bratton

FAMILY MEMBERS SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Adam Eason Chapman (Afghanistan) - Diane & David Chapman’s nephew
Hunter Wilson (Afghanistan) - Martha Dusenbury’s grandson

Extended Care Residents

Families Expecting
Daniel & Emily Jordan
Pat & Becka Tuttle: October
Jake & Lori Stokes: January

Memorials
Grady Greer
Diane Kimbell
Edna Kirkpatrick
C. D. Meyers
R. C. Ham
Nancy Bratton
The Presbyterian Community Report

What a summer! None of us grey-haired earth angels can remember a summer like this one. It rained so hard and so often that our administrator wanted to give swimming lessons. The reason: we have areas on our beautiful campus that water collects like a pond and so deep he was afraid that some of our campus walkers would try to walk through them and water over their heads. However, our Activity Director really used our huge front porch for all kinds of activities. Ice cream churns, popcorn parties (we have our own machine) Coke floats and games such as Drop the Handkerchief, Giant Steps, hopscotch, marbles and many other games played years ago but forgotten by today’s generations. We are not allowed to play hide and go seek. All of us don’t wear location bracelets.

Ineeda Mann finally arrived. Her luggage was lost by Greyhound. Once again, we are taken care of and provided for our every need. Walt, our administrator greeted her and said, “No problem.” He took her to our lost and found department and she picked out an entirely new wardrobe. She was really surprised and happy. She said, “I don’t recognize any of the labels. The only ones that I ever knew about were Walmart, Sears and the Salvation Army Thrift Store.” One thing we don’t understand- she wanted the artificial leg. When asked why, she said she wanted to make a lamp in art class to place in her window at Christmas time. Wow!

-Tom Kellam, Foreign Correspondent

Presbyterian Women’s Circles

Ladies, please consider joining us for a Circle this fall. Meet with other ladies for fellowship, service, and Bible Study once a month. This year, Circles will meet the second week of the month on Tuesday morning, afternoon, or evening, Wednesday evening, or a new time on Thursday evening.

If you are interested, please call Kate Moore (662-2284) or Teresa Stewart in the Church office (662-2583) for more information.
Promotion Sunday
August 25 at 9:45 am

All rising 1st through 6th graders should come with their parents to a celebration in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am.

Recognition will be made for those who achieved their faith goals for the previous year. You will be introduced to your new teachers and go to your classroom for a welcome back party!
Save the Date!

Make notes of these important dates of events you and your family don’t want to miss.

Wild Wednesday  
Rising 1st- 6th grade

August 17 Pool Party at the Cleveland’s  
3108 Oliver Road, Timmonsville  
10:30-12:30  
Lunch is provided.  
One parent is asked to stay.

Wednesday August 28–
Wednesday Night Fall Social

Living Nativity
December 11-12

The Good News Club at Royall Elementary is getting ready for another Spirit filled year!

Where can you be a part of the club?

Volunteers are needed for:  
⇒ Shepherds  
⇒ Supply shoppers  
⇒ Administrative support

Please let Alexis know.

The Good News Club is a great way to disciple a child who may not have a church home. Be a part of this life-changing experience!
**Scouting Ministry Update**

The scouts have had a busy summer. Ten scouts attended merit badge college at FDTC, twenty-two scouts attended Camp Coker summer camp, one attended the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, several attended the Order of the Arrow week and twenty-three scouts and leaders went to Canada with Hunter Morgan for a week long canoe trip. Two more scouts earned their Eagle Scouts over the summer. This brings the Troop 477 Eagle Scout total to 200 since 1961 when John Banks helped start the troop as a sister troop to Troop 478.

In August, we have a day at the Fuller’s lake house planned with lots of water skiing, wake boarding and tubing. Monday night meetings start back after the summer break on August 26 at 7 PM. If you are 11 years old or finished the 5th grade you are invited to join us this new scouting year.

The Scouts left July 25 for a 10 day trip to Canada!

**Parking Lot Ministry**

**Saturday, August 10th**

First Presbyterian will be serving the Parking Lot Ministry Breakfast the 2nd Saturday of each month. If you would like to help, please contact Donnie Wheeler at jwheeler007@sc.rr.com.

Psalm 147:1

*Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.*

Contact Ann Rodgers Chandler to find out more!

---

**Lemonade & Cookies Under the Oaks**

The Fellowship Ministry Unit invites you to enjoy lemonade and cookies under the oaks after each combined service in July.

---

**The Reminder Newsletter Delivery Changes**

In order to save costs and time, the Reminder newsletter will no longer be mailed starting with August’s *Reminder*. It will be available online or via email in an easy to read/print format. You may also pick up a printed copy in the church office or on Sundays in the Sanctuary if you are unable to view it online.

View newsletters at www.florencefirst.org/newsletter
First Pres Youth

The high school and middle school ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Florence, SC

Important Dates
Aug 1    Feed My Starving Children at First Pres, 9:30am
Aug 1-3  End of Summer Camping Trip to Huntington Beach State Park
Aug 7    MOVE, 5-8pm
Aug 14   Summer Surprise, 6-9pm
Aug 25   Sunday School starts back, 9:45-10:45am in the Garage
Aug 25   MOVE on Sunday night starts back, 5-8pm
Aug 28   Fall Social (churchwide), 6:00-7:30pm

Big Thanks to Our Alumni
We've had a great summer, and a big “thank you” goes out to Emily Jackson, Stephen Handley, Brian Barbee, and Kaleb Griffin. These four college students served our First Pres students and their families in huge ways this summer by leading home groups, going on trips, and just being all-around awesome! If you see these guys thank them for allowing God to use them here at First Pres!
CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor-------------------------- Dr. Barry L. Jenkins
Associate Pastor--------------------- Rev. Chris Handley
Director of Music/Organist- Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader--------------------- vacant
Director of Youth Ministry--------- Mr. Stacey Severance
Youth Intern--------------------- Ms. Christina “Taiter” Garrett
Director of Children’s Ministry ------- Mrs. Alexis Morris
The Tabernacle Experience ---------- Mr. Joe Koenig
Business Administrator--------------- Mr. Rudy Lee
Administrative Assistant ---------- Mrs. Stephanie Jones
Church Secretary--------------------- Ms. Teresa Stewart
Financial Secretary----------------- Mrs. Theresa Hilton
Custodian------------------------------- Mr. John McCants
Housekeeping------------------------ Ms. Wanda LaSane

www.florencefirst.org
Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFlorence