

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



SEPTEMBER 2018

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Developing strategy in a challenging world

The church is living in challenging times. *The State* newspaper came out with an article highlighting the challenges that the church in South Carolina is facing. (Losing Faith: Why South Carolina is abandoning its churches.) It cites cultural change as the primary cause of the church's decline. You can find the article at this link: <https://www.thestate.com/news/local/article215014375.html>

I agree that we are living in challenging times. It is more difficult than ever to draw people into a life shaped by the Lord. It used to be that you were socialized at church. But that is not the case any longer. There are many ways to socialize and serve outside the church that are satisfying to many. Where church was essential to life in an earlier era, it is very much optional in our day. I think we will continue to feel the impact of our culture's slide away from Christendom in the years to come. (I do not think this is all bad. If your culture does not encourage church participation, then, if you are going, you have to want to be there.) So we face a challenge; yet, there is an opportunity. A church might find it

We face a challenge; yet, there is an opportunity. A church might find it more difficult to draw people, but the people the church draws will likely be more serious about their faith!

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We are always thinking about and working on the process by which we make disciples. I am excited about the conversations that we are having in our leadership team about how to grow people in faith. I was encouraged last week to see the team of teachers that are helping disciple our children youth and adults (over 70 people). I observe that First Presbyterian is adapting to the changes of our time and working to refine our strategy for discipleship so that it works for us NOW. The goal before us is to develop a strategy that makes disciples that in turn will make disciples.

If you are reading this and sense a desire to talk about your personal discipleship plan, please contact me.

A challenge to lead the way

Your elders for Service want to invite you to consider participating in the Jobs For Life Core Training event on Sept. 28 and 29 here at First Presbyterian. This became especially dear to them as Bill Cain challenged First Presbyterian to lead the way in helping the unemployed/underemployed in our community. The training event will give participants the tools they need to run a Jobs For Life course here at First. There is an opportunity for two individuals from First to go under a scholarship so please do not let money be an issue.

Chris

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On the Cover:
Children and adults play 9-Square during the Church Cookout held the last week in August.

Session hires transitional pastor Bankhead

The Session is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. James (Jim) B. Bankhead Jr. as transitional pastor. Dr. Bankhead's first Sunday in the pulpit will be Sept. 9.

"The opportunity to serve as your second transitional pastor came as a complete surprise to us. Shortly before I was contacted, I had been praying and asking the Lord for a new challenge," Dr. Bankhead noted. "Needless to say, when I was asked the next week if I would talk to your representatives I could not refuse,



though I never expected this would work out. The people we have met and their desire to grow in Christ and for their congregation to do the same sealed our hearts. We are

looking forward to serving Jesus with you. Thank you for this new challenge."

He and his wife, Cissy, live in Spartanburg after retiring from Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, in December 2011. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year, and they have five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Please welcome Jim and Cissy to the First Presbyterian family.

'Incredible experience nothing short of a miracle'

My name is Rainey Josey. My wife, Shand, and I joined First Presbyterian Church about 20 years ago. We have three children: Ann Collins, 20, Wilson, 19, and Lane, 16. Our children grew up in our church. Shand was in charge of Mothers Morning Out, and I was fortunate to serve as deacon and elder. During those years my relationship with Christ grew stronger than ever. I will be forever grateful for what our church and church family means to my family.

I was born with a genetic heart disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Early in life, the risk is irregular heartbeats. With guidance from great physicians at McLeod, I was prescribed new medications and had an internal cardiac defibrillator implanted many years ago. I was able to lead a normal life until recently. I knew I would have to deal with the reality my heart may not make it to what we all hope is a full life. My plan was to deal with it maybe in my 60s or early 70s. I soon found out who is in charge of our life's "plan."



The Joseys pose for a family photo after Rainey rang the bell after the transplant.

About 10 months ago, my doctor in Florence explained it was time to see the transplant team at MUSC in Charleston. I had appointments and tests run a couple times a month at MUSC. On the morning of May 16, I was sitting at my office desk at home. Dr. Michael Craig from MUSC called: "Rainey, the tests we ran last week did not come back good. You need to come to Charleston right away."

Honestly, I wasn't ready. At 48 years old, with two children at Clemson and one in 11th grade, I was working full time and doing fine. It was not my plan to get that phone call. God's plan was for me to move to MUSC, put in a permanent IV

to administer the "last" option of medicine 24 hours a day and be put on the transplant waiting list. On July 5, after 7 weeks of living in a hospital room, I was given the gift of a heart and the opportunity to live out my faith through a full life. God's plan was for me to put total trust in Him and rest in the assurance that He would not fail me.

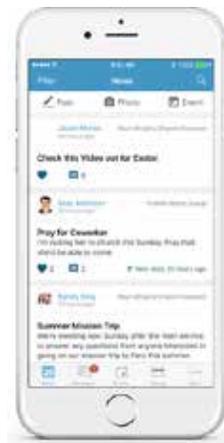
The modern-day miracle of a heart transplant took place. I am recovering in Charleston, 8 weeks later. I moved into a condo 3 weeks after surgery and am now walking 3-4 miles a day and gaining strength through physical therapy. My faith, the loving support of my family, and the prayers and support from all my church family and friends, are the only reason I have made it this far. I will be forever grateful to each of you who have helped both my family and I through this challenging time with your prayers and support. I look forward to personally thanking each of you and sharing this incredible experience that is nothing short of a miracle.

Rainey Josey

Church upgrading to new ACS product

First Presbyterian Church has a long history with ACS Technologies when it comes to our church database management system. ACS Technologies is the leading provider of information management software and service solutions to nearly 50,000 churches, schools, and organizational offices. Our relationship goes much deeper than a vendor/customer relationship. ACS Technologies is a local company founded in 1978. Additionally, several of our covenant partners are employed by ACS Technologies. In the coming months, we will be upgrading to a new ACS product called *Realm*.

Realm is a 100 percent web-based solution that helps organizational staff track congregations, contributions, send mass emails, enter contribution records, manage small groups, secure check-in and connect members together online. You may be asking yourself why I am using space in my monthly Reminder article to talk about church management systems. The answer is simple. First Presbyterian Church has approximately 800 covenant partners of all ages. Many of you are involved in numerous groups and ministries in our church. Our church management system helps our staff, elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers, and other ministry leaders keep track of who is involved and who needs to be involved. The church has been referred to as a family of faith, and we want to keep up with our family members. In the coming weeks and months, you will hear more about *Realm* and how it will help each of you stay connected with the other members of the family of faith known as First Presbyterian Church.



Campus Parking

The City of Florence is wrapping up the curb, gutter and sidewalk project along Park Avenue in front of First Presbyterian Church. As this project moves toward completion, it is important for our covenant partners who park in front of the church along Park Avenue on Sunday morning to be aware that on-street parking in front of the church along Park Avenue will no longer be available. We have plenty of on-campus parking and ample handicap-accessible parking in

the lot behind the Sanctuary adjacent to the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. This is a good time for a hospitality reminder as it relates to parking on campus.

Park only in designated spaces – This is a safety issue. Drivers and pedestrians need to be able to see and be seen in the church parking lots. Please avoid parking in a manner that blocks or restricts the traffic lanes in the parking lot. Also, please avoid blocking sidewalk access points.

Do not block driveway entrances – This is a particular concern on Park Avenue. When parking, please be sure that your vehicle does not extend into the driveway entrance. This is a safety concern for people attempting to enter from or exit onto Park Avenue. It also could present an obstacle to first responders (Fire, Medic, Police) in the event of an emergency on campus. **Observe Handicap parking** – We have a number of parking spaces marked for use by our members and guests who have significant mobility impairments. Please observe these signs.

Practice “Sacrificial Parking” – As a show of hospitality, I would like to encourage all able-bodied covenant partners to begin or continue the practice of “sacrificial parking” and reserve the closer parking spaces for our guests and for those in the congregation with mobility issues.

Offering Envelopes

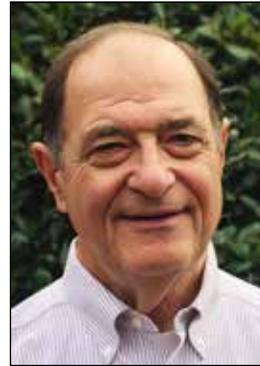
Currently, all covenant partners of First Presbyterian receive offering envelopes in their homes through the mail on a monthly basis (one envelope for each week). We have noticed a trend where many people make their contributions on a monthly basis. A growing number of our covenant partners are choosing to take advantage of online giving to make their contributions to support our church. While others place their offering in one of the envelopes found in the pew racks. If you no longer wish to receive the envelopes by mail, please contact Gwen DuRant by phone or email her at gduyant@florencefirst.org to have your name removed from the envelope service mailing list. We will continue to provide envelopes to those who wish to receive them.

The Gift of being a child of God

One of the purposes of the advent of God in Jesus is to give to all who believe the gift of being God's children. Christianity is born from the Jewish faith. Jesus was born to a Jewish mother, Mary. His father is the Lord God, creator of the universe. His adopted father, Joseph, provides his guidance in his boyhood. Paul, a prominent Jewish leader in Arabia became a Christian through a revelation of Jesus. Paul understands Jesus as the Promised One to redeem humanity at the right time. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah or Christ, which is Greek for Messiah.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7)."

Jesus is born at a time in history when obedience to the Law was understood to be a way to salvation. The Jewish leaders had lost their understanding of the covenant between God and the people. They had replaced the covenant with obedience to a strict code of law. Paul has been chosen by God to show all humanity that salvation is granted through Jesus. Paul asks the question which I have struggled with all my intellectual life. "Why then the Law (Galatians 3:16)?" The first reason the Law is given is because of sin. Through the Law God teaches what is right and wrong. Paul uses a word to explain the purpose of the law, paidagogos. The paidagogos was a "boy-leader" usually a man whose duty it was to conduct the boy until adulthood to and from his



**REV. MIKE
FLEENOR'S BLOG**
<https://onepastorsponderings.wordpress.com/>

teachers and to supervise his behavior. We might think of one who is a nanny to children as a modern paidagogos.

A second reason the Law is given is to be a paidagogos until Christ is sent to earth. The Law is to supervise until Christ was sent and now we are led by Christ and the Holy Spirit. The Law after Jesus still guides and identifies sin, but obedience to the Law does not redeem making one righteous before God. In Christ, the believer, the one who has faith, has a new identity. Jews and Gentiles become "children of God (Galatians 3:26)." The Church's contribution to the history of the world is the creation of a community without barriers.

I believe the world will become a people who are not separated by religion, culture, nationality, economy, race, or gender. We will have a common humanity. This community is not yet actualized, but it is promised to the earth's people by the Creator Lord. The Church is to work to help God bring in the Kingdom of God. The Church is to prepare people to receive Christ until the Lord sends him again. We wait with patience and with eagerness, expecting a new heaven and a new earth (see Revelation 21:1-5).

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

"Is Jesus not amazing?" Michael Card asks this question in his commentary on the Gospel of Luke. He titled his book: *Luke, The Gospel of Amazement*. We will study together on Wednesdays beginning on Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Supper will be served at 6 p.m.

We will use a video presentation by Michael Card and discuss aspects of the Gospel of Luke each Wednesday. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 31. The last study will be on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

**September 1**

David Campbell
Jimmy McClellan Jr.

September 2

Tyler Jackson
Stephen Jones

September 3

Thom Anderson Jr.
Devon Bowen
Lisa Dozier
Karen Jordan
Clara Maxwell

September 4

Stan Bergstrom
Blaine Carter
Steve Heimbrook
Clariann Kellam
Bob Whitesides

September 5

Cathy Patrick
Elizabeth Blanton
Kathryn Hopkins
Michelle Jones
Peggy Cagle

September 6

Betty Lee Gandy
Sarah Porter
Jessica Sanyi

September 7

John Bankson Jr.
David Douglas
Kathy Hatfield
Andy McInville

September 8

Morgan Banner
Alex Cotran
Paul Davis II
Lee Nunn
John Scott III

September 9

Anne Floyd
Caroline McInville
Hunter Morgan Sr.
Pearce Scott
Don Watts

September 10

Robin Cranford
Carol Fleenor
Caroline Garris
Ken Knudsen

September 11

Betty Bell
Debbie Harwell
Jason Newton

September 12

John (Mac) King II
Jo Ann Patton

September 13

Mary Watts

September 14

Bradford Brown

September 15

Chuck Collins
Mark Hanna
Carly Lewis
Dudley Saleeby Jr.

September 16

Matt Dowdell
David Handley
Patrick Lynch
Jeanne Watts

September 17

Mason Slaughter

September 19

Joyce Floyd
Claudia Harris
Peggy Taylor
Sara Watts

September 20

Marilyn Bays
Jason Coker
Milly Slaughter

September 21

Greg Cleveland
Kate Genoble
Richard Genoble
Richard Ryan III

September 22

Mike Roycroft
Rebecca Clancy

September 23

Mary Lachlan Campbell
Preston Bankson

September 24

John Joseph Alexander
Chris Hobson
Zane Miles
Elizabeth Stuber Wheeler

September 25

Annie Abernathy
Jill Cain
Al Gilpin Jr.
Grayson Jones

September 26

Ben Carter

September 27

Grace Cleveland
Jack Cleveland
Collins Coker
Graham Rabon
Pam Turner

September 28

Lendi Watkins

September 29

Franklin Emerson
Furman Brodie II
Jeremy Straus
Laura Purvis

September 30

Ginger Owen
Helen Foster
Ella Hylton
Eliza Johnson
Sara King
Ceci Mooneyhan
Luke Scott IV
Chuck van Witzenburg



September



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

LABOR DAY / CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith Beginner: Lawson-Rain
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith Intermediate: Lawson-Rain

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 9:45 AM WiM CT Committee Meeting: LR
- 11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators Meeting
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
- 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Adult Program: Gospel of Luke
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Elementary Program
- 6:30 PM First Connections
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Preschool Program
- 6:30 PM Youth Program
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: HopeHealth Parking Lot
- 9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Jan Green

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith Beginner: Lawson-Rain
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith Intermediate: Lawson-Rain
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Price Classroom
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room
- 7:00 PM HOH Life Recovery Program



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Shannon Watt's home
- 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: LR
- 10:00 AM WiM SonFlowers: Parlor, S102
- 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
- 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: Price Classroom
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: LR
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 6:30 PM WiM Prayer Warriors: LR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
- 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Adult Program: Gospel of Luke
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Elementary, Preschool, and Youth Programs
- 6:30 PM First Connections
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace: 3002 Japonica Lane

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 8:00 AM CDC Training: JFH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 10:00 AM Aglow International

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Called Session Meeting
- 12:30 PM Time2PEEP
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship



September



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith Beginner: Lawson-Rain
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith Intermediate: Lawson-Rain
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Price Classroom
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 6:30 PM Board of Deacons: LR



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
- 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Adult Program: Gospel of Luke
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Elementary Program
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Preschool Program
- 6:30 PM Youth Program
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 4:00 PM Greece informational tour meeting
- 7:00 PM Barry Jenkins Israel Trip Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

United Way Day of Caring: CLC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 6:00 PM Respite Night

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith Beginner: Lawson-Rain
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith Intermediate: Lawson-Rain
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Price Classroom
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 6:30 PM Session

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
- 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Adult Program: Gospel of Luke
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Elementary Program
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Preschool Program
- 6:30 PM Youth Program
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 6:00 PM Jobs for Life: JFH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 9:00 AM Jobs for Life: JFH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage Home
Malcolm Rogers

Heritage at Lowman
Mac King

Homebound
Linda Foxworth
Pam Hoogenboom
George Richardson

Methodist Manor
Marie Jordan

Pee Dee Gardens
Joy Tedder

Presbyterian Community
Hannah Barringer
Ann Cash
Lois Jinks
Aaron Leland

Sympathy

Billy McBride, loss of his father
Family of Kjeld Lopdrup

Households

Ronald and Kathy Hayes
Frank and Emily Hodges
John and Susan Hofler
Richard and Kathryn Hopkins
Patrick and Terry Hunt
Brandon and Ashley Hylton, Ella, Bailey, Charley
Linda Jacobs
Andy and Christina Jeffords, Carson, Coleman
Alfred and Cindy Johnson
Elizabeth Lee, Alcy

Expecting Families

Derek and Melanie Hemmingsen

Memorials

Paul Barnes
Delores Galloway
Thomas Harlee
Dickie Hursey
Kjeld Lopdrop
Dale Nunn
Elizabeth Stover
Richard Watt

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Sick & Recovering

Madeline Brice
Jack Cagle
Chuck Dennis
Grace DuBose
Linda Foxworth
Brandon Frost
Tag Gandy
Dora Hewitt
Carolyn Holland
Billy Houck
Linda Jacobs
Rainey Josey
Bob McLean
Glenda Myatt
Joan Beth Page
Mike Page
Mary Catherine Rawlinson
Alan Thomas
Orien (Butch) Turner
Martha Tyson
Pat Walker

Elders

Bruce Hubbs
Ryon Watkins

Deacons

Jan Green
Amy Brown

Mission

Operation Force for Christ
Bayonnais

Women in Ministry

Ashley Bratton
Nancy Thompson

Sunday School Teachers

Connie Stewart
Peggy Swearingen

Staff

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Glenn Ham



Volunteer CORNER

CAROL BANNER

How long have you been a volunteer at First? 10 years

How long have you been a member at First? 11 years (2007); former member 13 years (1977-1990)

What is one worship song that has really spoken to your heart? “Holy, Holy, Holy” has been our favorite hymn for many years because of a very special Christian lady who sang the descant in her beautiful soprano voice. She was a family friend and a member of our home church in Wilmington, N.C. It makes us happy when this hymn is listed in our bulletin on any given Sunday. Thank you, Ann Rodgers.

What is one spiritual tradition you have in your life or family?

Our children grew up with a home Advent wreath during this holy season. Lighting the candles each week was always meaningful for our family. As long as I can remember we have always attended a Christmas Eve service. Having Chrismsons on our home tree has become our new tradition.

What is your favorite thing about Florence?

In 1969, when Dave returned from Vietnam, his first civilian job brought us to Florence. It truly was like coming home because of the people making us feel so welcome. This remains true in Florence. However, having our grown children and grandchildren in Florence and nearby Lake City definitely makes for our most favorite thing.



Tell us about your family: Dave and I are only children. We were both blessed with wonderful loving parents who no longer are with us. We have exceptional children: a son, David, and a daughter, Cameron. David and Meredith have three of our delightful grandchildren: Jack, 15; Morgan, 13; and Ellison, 8. Cameron and Justin have our precious 3-year-old grandson, Miles, who loves and adores his Banner cousins. Dave and I have been married 51 years. We are truly blessed!

How do you see God moving at First Pres?

Volunteering at FPC has been a blessing to me! As a volunteer, I am grateful for the opportunity to know even more church members and our great church staff! Each time another young family joins our church, I see God working. Seeing another rose on the altar is another celebration. How uplifting it is to know that through mission work FPC reaches out with God’s love in other countries and in our own community. This Child Development Center provides a wonderful learning experience for young children in our community. Seeing these children learn and play in our church surroundings makes for a “Happy Place!” I love that our grandchildren are growing up in First Presbyterian Church!

First Connections meetings important step in becoming Covenant Partner

Those who want to know more about life with Jesus Christ and the ministries of First Presbyterian Church are invited to meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12, in the Pilgrim Classroom.

Meet staff and learn about our church community.

These two meetings are an important step to becoming a Covenant Partner (member).

Please RSVP to Teresa Stewart, tstewart@florencefirst.org or 843-662-2583. If you have childcare needs, please include children’s ages in RSVP.



Time2PEEP

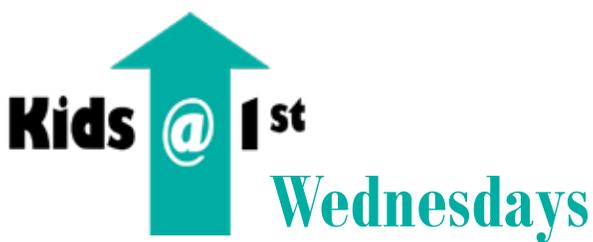
Play, Eat, Encourage, and Pray

Sept. 16 at 12:30 p.m.

Grades 1-6 from

First Presbyterian and The Assembly

We will gather to Play, Eat, Encourage, and Pray. Cookout and fun will be held after worship! There will be lots of games, including slip and slide, 9-square, and relays. Want to help? Let Alexis know.



- 6 p.m. Family Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Children go to classes
- Preschool in 4K/5K room
- Elementary go upstairs
- Sixth grade catechism

1st Grade Bible Presentation



First-grade children will receive Bibles during worship on Sept. 9. Come to the service of your choosing.

Children's Discipleship Team

Charissa Canfield, Jane Heath, Susan Snow (Discipleship Elder), Jake Stokes, Amy Williams, Alexis Morris

Vision: A group of people dedicated to intentionally creating a Christ-centered environment of experiences, which encourage the Holy Spirit's transformation and growth in our children and their families.

- Families are the primary way children are exposed to the Gospel and how they develop a view of the world that is either God-centered or world-centered. As a theological community, families can help children see the existence, character, and plan of God.
- As a team, we seek to provide opportunities for families to learn, serve, and enjoy the larger family of faith together.

New preschool year begins in September

I'm sure you've heard the expression, "Time flies when you are having fun!" This proved true this summer for the CDC! It was a great summer of day-camping fun, and it went by so quickly. Now as the calendar rolls over to September, it's time for our older classes to begin a new preschool year, which we will officially begin on Tuesday, Sept. 4. We are again participating in the Harris Teeter, "Together in Education" program. All VIC card members may participate by registering at the checkout counter. Please

ask the cashier to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school. Our school code is 3893. A percentage of your purchase for the HT and HT organics brands will be contributed to our school program. Please remember you need to re-link each school year for us to participate. Thank you, again, for opening your doors and supporting our program. It is a joy to be a part of what God is doing here at First Presbyterian through this Child Development Center. Blessings! Beth



First Pres Youth P3

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

Sunday School

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
10 - 10:55 a.m.

MOVE

September 16, 30
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Youth small groups

September 9, 23
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Dinner and Bible study

East Florence Mission

September 4, 11, 18, 25
4 - 5 p.m.

P3BC on Thursday

September 27
7 - 7:45 a.m.
We meet for breakfast, devotion, and prayer in the youth lounge.

412 on Wednesday

September 5, 12, 19, 26
6-7:30 p.m.
Dinner, devotion, and prayer

Fall Retreat 2018

The youth Fall Retreat will be November 9-11. We are going to Montreat this year. We will leave at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, and return at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11. The cost of the trip is about \$50 + food. Deadline to signup is Sept. 17. More details to come.





Church News



Scouts begin new year after camping trip

Special thanks to Hunter Morgan for leading our trip out west this summer, where they camped at 10,000 feet near snow-covered peaks and caught all the trout they could eat from mountain lakes in the Rocky mountains near Yellowstone National Park, which they also visited.

Monday night Scout meetings have resumed in the Scout meeting room for the new school year, and for boys in the sixth-12th grades interested in camping, kayaking, and backpacking, it is a great time to join!

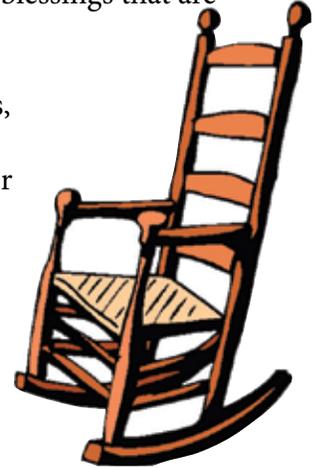


Volunteers needed for Respite Nights

Respite Nights: Volunteers are needed for the monthly respite night for families whose child or children has or have special needs. These will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15. The idea is to give parents a break from caring for their child/children. We need volunteers to help chaperone and care for the children. Please contact Ashley Hylton for questions or if you would like to volunteer: 843-319-0896 or awhylton13@gmail.com.

God's pathway to the sunset years

The end of summer is approaching and daylight hours are getting shorter. This means we have less time to see our many blessings that are provided to us every day. Such things as needed health care, good food, up-to-date facilities, a loving, caring staff, and to be able to look around to see other residents eyeball-to-eyeball instead of having to sit alone thinking of the question: What will I do when I am no longer able to take care of myself? Well, the answer is to be here with us. Without exception, it isn't easy to leave our home, but once done you realize, and your children do, too, that this place is on God's pathway for the sunset years.



THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY REPORT

Editor's note: Many readers of this publication question Kellam's truthfulness in the article. The editor leaves it to your discretion if you think it is fake news.

I've become more friendly with Ineeda Man. God made her and threw away the pattern. I have really become interested in her early childhood in West Virginia. For example, she told me about Uncle "Buckshot" Honeysucker. She said he was in the hay business. He crossed the river on a ferry and bought hay for 50 cents a bale. He re-crossed the river and sold it on his side for 50 cents a bale. He finally realized he wasn't making any money. So he asked the math teacher of the school to help him solve the problem. After hours of thinking and figuring, they came to the conclusion they needed a bigger truck.

— Tom Kellam is the foreign correspondent at the Presbyterian Community.

God's Work in our Community



Habitat for Humanity

Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build decent, affordable housing. The houses are then sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged.

Volunteers provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses, which is why the houses can be affordable. Partner families invest hundreds of hours of labor – “sweat equity” – into building their homes and the homes of others.

Contributions from First Presbyterian help with providing shelter such as pouring a firm foundation and/or installation of plumbing or electrical in each house.

For more information, visit florencehabitat.com/

God's Work Around the World

Actionnel Fleurisma

Operation Force for Christ in Bayonnais

Pray for Pastor Actionnel Fleurisma and Operation Force for Christ Bayonnais (OFCB) Ministries as he works to preach the Gospel spiritually and socially, to provide food, education, and proper medical care to one of the poorest areas in Haiti: Bayonnais.

Since its founding in 1993 by Actionnel and some local men, the OFCB vision has always been to transform lives through evangelism and education, which were scarce at that time. Since 1993 to today, the ministry has grown up to three churches in three different localities with three elementary schools, one kindergarten, one high school from seventh through 13th grade.

His prayer requests include:

A = for Haitians to have food.

B = for politics to be stable in the country.

C = for Haitians to turn their hearts to the Lord.



D = for OFCB to be financially self-sufficient.

E = for the Church to be more integrated in the community.

F = for Haitians to quit fleeing the country for Chile and Brazil searching for opportunities leaving wives and children behind.

For more information, visit www.worldofgod.org/aboutOFCB.PHP.

Actionnel Fleurisma and his wife, Yolande Delva Fleurisma, have 4 kids – three girls and one boy. They are 24, 22, 20, and 18 years old. All have finished their 13th grade of education in Haiti and are now in the Carolinas attending college.



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CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor	Dr. Jim Bankhead
Associate Pastor	Rev. Chris Handley
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Glenn Ham
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
Director of Children's Ministry	Mrs. Alexis Morris
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
The Tabernacle Experience	Mr. Joe Koenig
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Teresa Stewart
Financial Assistant	Mrs. Gwen DuRant
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Head Custodian	Mr. Ron Echols
Assistant Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane



'In the Footsteps of Paul'

Barry and Susan Jenkins will be leading a biblical tour to Greece and the Greek Isles focusing on the journeys of the Apostle Paul in May 2019. The book of Acts will come alive as we trace some of Paul's journeys to Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, and other cities. Russ Goodman, president of Faith Based Expeditions, will be with Barry and Susan at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, at the church to make a presentation and answer questions for anyone who might be interested in this trip. There are some booklets in the Welcome Center, and the booklet can be accessed online at: faithbasedexpeditions.com and in the upper right of the screen, enter the tour code: FSP519BJ.

