

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD Growing INWARD Growing OUTWARD

singing and praising

becoming more like Christ

sharing the good news



JUNE 2019

Lord bless you so you continue to bless others

WOW!

What a great experience for Cissy and me in being invited to serve as your “transitional pastor.” This is especially true for me after retiring and setting my mind firmly on never doing “interim work” in a church. (How many times have I “set my mind” not to involve myself in something. And then the Lord uses circumstances to challenge my “mind set.” And then He requires me to seek Him in the middle of that challenging circumstance.) Thank you, Risen Jesus, for your challenge and for prompting me to accept the invitation to come here.

There are so many people we want to thank, who have opened their hearts to us, loved and encouraged us and our family and prayed for and with us. The list is so long I cannot name you all. You so loved and encouraged us that we cannot help but love you in return. Thank you.

Frankly, I am a little jealous of Darryl and Mary Lee Evans getting to be with you permanently. So love them and encourage them and their children like you did us. (And K.G., I have changed my mind about praying in the way you suggested. I’ve had enough change for the last year to last me for a while.)

The Risen Jesus guide you by His words and by His Holy Spirit. The Lord bless you so that you continue to be a blessing to others. The Lord fill you with his Holy Spirit to live as His faithful disciples until Jesus returns or until you go to be with Him.

As we say in our family, “love you the most,”

Jim and Cissy Bankhead

P.S. See you sometime sooner than later.

Congregation Approves New Senior Pastor

At the congregational meeting on May 5, the congregation approved the call by the Pastor Nominating Committee of Dr. Darryl C. Evans to serve as our new senior pastor and head of staff.

He is coming to us from First Presbyterian Church (ECO) of Kannapolis, N.C. He is married to Mary Lee, and they have two children: Will (9) and Addie (6). This is indeed a joyful time for our church, and additional information will follow over the next several months.



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ON THE COVER
Rufus Bratton and Landon Watkins paddle on Lake Chinquapin at Look Up Lodge. Confirmands and mentors spent a weekend away at the retreat center in Traveler's Rest.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Every spiritual blessing is yours!

Do you realize how blessed you are! When we come home from Haiti often the response is, "Wow, we are so blessed." But is that really the kind of blessing we need?

Think with me about "spiritual blessing." Paul in Ephesians 1:3ff says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ Jesus with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places even as he chose us before the foundation of the world so that we may be holy and blameless before Him." Paul says that "EVERY" spiritual blessing is yours in the heavenly places; those can't be physical blessings which are located here, in time and space! There is a reality where the presence of the Lord is the center of gravity (not the sun). And if you are found in Jesus (believe on Him as your Savior and Lord), then you are blessed to live with him, in Him and Him in you forever! Your creator and redeemer makes it possible to be born into his loving presence forever! That is a blessing! When you decide to receive his grace you begin to experience the blessing of His love even now. You taste it and grow in a sense of it in the present. But it is in the heavenly places waiting for you as an "Inheritance."

We need to cultivate in our hearts a growing sense of the joy of being in the presence of the Lord, face to face. The one who dreamed you up and can make all things right in you is calling you into a life with Him

A Parting Word of Thanks

Jim and Cissy Bankhead came to us last September and have been an amazing blessing to our congregation during these months of transition.

I am personally thankful for how Jim has been an encouragement to me and to our whole staff. He constantly shared his wisdom and his bad jokes with us for the entire season. Cissy has been a vital partner in ministry through her own participation and leadership. God has blessed.

Thank you, Jim and Cissy, for moving to Florence by faith and sharing your God-given talents and, more importantly, your heart for our Lord. Godspeed!

... forever. Celebrate this reality. When a believer is able to grasp what is coming it turns the overwhelming difficulties of today into a passing moment that somehow God is even using to bless us.

Paul in Colossians tells us to meditate on this reality. "Since then you have been raised with Christ set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above (on the heavenly places), not on earthly things, for you died and your life is now hidden in Christ with God!" (Colossians 3:1-2) We are blessed in Christ, my friends, and as you grasp the blessing that is yours you realize that the things of this world begin to become less valuable to you and the eternal things grow in value. May your heart be filled with wonder!

To follow up on our visit with Actionnel and Yolanda Fleurisma in May, let me share that God did some amazing things. Several folks were able to meet with the Fleuris-

mas while they were in town, which is always encouraging. They were able to meet with several African-American pastors, including Norman Gamble, New Ebenezer Baptist; Calvin Robinson, Trinity Baptist; and Merritt Graves, Mt. Zion AME. They also met with Marion and Joyce Ford. The end result was an invitation for Actionnel to preach at Trinity in September and then for Calvin Robinson to travel to Haiti to visit Bayonnais. This is always an encouragement to OFCB. In addition, on the Sunday that Actionnel preached for us and representatives of the World of God were present, our congregation responded with great generosity. Eleven or 12 new children were sponsored and one-time gifts were given totaling over \$10,000 of giving to the OFCB school children. Thank you for your continued support.

To God be the glory!

Chris

Toward a Healthier Church

Numbers can tell us a great deal about the overall health of an organization. The numbers for First Presbyterian Church so far in 2019 are encouraging. We have welcomed new covenant partners into our fellowship. We have celebrated the arrival of new babies to a number of our families.

Each year, First Presbyterian Church asks our covenant partners to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of the church in our community and around the world. Last year, for the second year in a row, we had a budget surplus. We also had a strong response to our annual stewardship emphasis. 191 of our covenant partners pledged over \$1.2 million in support of the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church, and our leadership was very encouraged by the response. Thus far in 2019, our actual pledged receipts are approximately 14% lower than we expected at this point in the year. With that said, it is important to note that our staff and ministry leaders are being good stewards of what has been given as they plan and implement ministry activities. First Presbyterian Church has been able to meet our commitments to support our missionaries and also provide support to the local agencies (House of Hope, Light House, Mercy Medicine, A Choice to Make, etc.) Additionally, we are well on our way to paying off the debt on our Sanctuary renovation and new education wing.

I am sharing this information with you to say thank you to our covenant partners and others who give faithfully to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Normally, by this time all covenant partners have received contribution statements that serve as a reminder of the commitments made to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control (staff illness and data conversion issues) we have not been able to get those statements out. Contribution statements for January – June will be mailed in early July. In the meantime, if you would like a copy of your contributions record you may contact Gwen DuRant, Financial Assistant, or you may view your contribution record on REALM.

These are exciting days at First Presbyterian Church. As we prepare to welcome Darryl Evans as our new Lead Pastor and Head of Staff, let me encourage you to reflect on what it means to be a good steward of that

Stewardship is about more than money. Christian stewardship involves giving of our time, talent and treasure, all of which are gifts we've received from God. Each covenant partner plays an important role in advancing the name of Jesus throughout our community. Thank you for doing your part.

which God has blessed you. Stewardship is about more than money. Christian stewardship involves giving of our time, talent and treasure, all of which are gifts we've received from God. Each covenant partner plays an important role in advancing the name of Jesus throughout our community. Thank you for doing your part.

Summer is officially here! Children will soon be out of school! It is time for family vacations, trips, summer camp, sports camps, and numerous other activities. Many of you have or will be travelling this summer. Your travels may take you away from church on Sunday. I want to remind you that the summer months are also active months for the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Summer means Vacation Bible School, Mission Camp, The Great Escape (Junior High camp) and Fun in the Son (High School). Our missionaries depend on our continued support during the summer. Unfortunately, we see an upswing in requests for assistance with housing, food and utilities during the summer months. As you are planning your summer activities, I encourage you to remember your financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church. One way you can do this is by signing up for online giving either through REALM our new 100% web-based database solution from ACS Technologies, or on our website www.florencefirst.org/giving. Thank you for your continued faithful support of the ministries of our church.

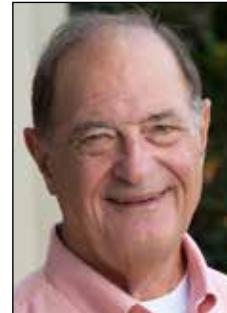


Marriage in Corinthians

The seventh chapter of I Corinthians deals with marriage and sexual activity in Corinth. Paul is not writing a complete view of marriage; he is responding to the issues raised by the Corinthians. Both the Christians in Corinth and Paul believed in an apocalyptic view of the world. The second coming of Jesus is eminent. The beginning of Chapter 7 indicates the Corinthians have an ascetic refusal to engage in sexual activity: "Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: 'It is well for a man not to touch a woman (1 Corinthians 7:1).'"

Paul divides his counsel to the Corinthians into three groups: 1) the married, 2) singles who have been married, and 3) singles who have never been married. We are to read this chapter with the understanding that it is written in the first century as we interpret it in the 21st century. Also, Paul is stating his opinion: "This I say by way of concession, not of command (1 Corinthians 7:6)." Paul and Jesus both teach that marriage is permanent and is between a man and a woman. "But because of cases of sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband (1 Corinthians 7:2)." "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate (MARK 10:6-9 from Genesis 1:27 and 2:24)." For all of recorded history marriage was viewed as between a man and a woman. There may be opinions in our culture for a civil marriage between people of the same sex, but the church is to bless marriage as between a woman and a man.

Paul gives a hint to his status concerning marriage when he writes to women and men who have lost a spouse to



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

death. "To the unmarried and the widows, I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried as I am. But if they are not practicing self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion (1 Corinthians 7:8-9)." Maybe his wife has died. Paul would then know what it is to be a widower and single. He thinks it is best to remain single and celibate as he is. Paul does not agree that a believing spouse should seek "higher" spiritually by divorcing an unbeliever. Paul's revolutionary view of marriage between a believer and an unbeliever is filled with hope for acceptance of faith by the unbeliever. Because the second coming of Jesus has not occurred we as modern Christians reevaluate Paul's advice into modern terms. First, marriage is a call to live in partnership with one's spouse. Wives and husbands benefit from mutual love mirroring the relationship of the Church and the LORD. Second, singleness provides a celibate person greater freedom and flexibility to serve God without distractions. Third, Paul's view of marriage promotes the healthiest view of sexual purpose and beauty. American society has much to change to become obedient to God's view of discipleship in marriage as given by Paul in I Corinthians 7.



Flowers in the Sanctuary

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place memorial flowers in the Sanctuary.
Contact Genia Tyson (genia_tyson@hotmail.com or 843-665-0295) or Melba Whitesides (843-669-8209).
Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.

Women in Ministry Joint Meeting

To all women at First Presbyterian Church:

We want you to participate in a joint meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall for the purpose of planning for the new year starting in September 2019.

We will share ideas of how best our women can serve and we want your input! We believe that each and every woman has gifts and talents that can be used to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please join us as we meet together to entertain new ideas for the upcoming year.

Refreshments will be served.



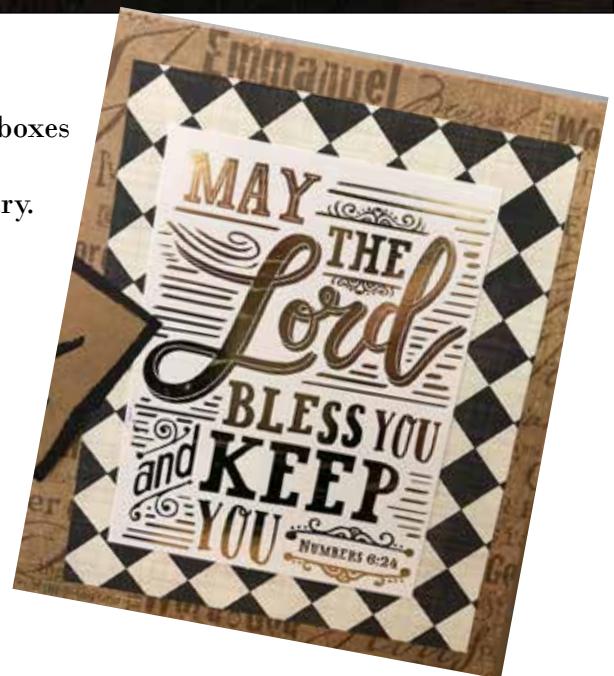
“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23



Congratulations to our seniors!

During the recognition Sunday, June 2, graduates receive gift boxes from the congregation. Thank you to all who donated, and to Allison Hallman and Lynn Porter for their work in this ministry. Congratulations to the Class of 2019:

- Amelia Abernathy
- Campbell Frost
- Hayden Lewis
- Ross McMillan
- Mary Frances Moore
- Patrick Morgan
- Carson Munn
- Taylor Powell
- Maggie Reames
- Cooper Wallace
- Hampton Weatherford



Spring Handbells Concert

May 8



The Chancel Handbell Choir celebrated the season with its Spring Handbell Concert, which featured a new composition, "Simple Praise," by Lee Nunn. It can be viewed at www.florencefirst.org/music. If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583.

Congratulations to our graduates

It's amazing how fast children grow! Our child development center here at First Presbyterian will be three years old this August. Our 2019, 4K class graduated preschool, two weeks ago. They will head to "big" school and kindergarten this fall. Most of these graduates were first enrolled in our center as 2-year-olds back in August 2016.

Our graduation theme this year encompassed the 50th anniversary of the beloved book by Eric Carle, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Written by our staff, the children performed a skit based on very hungry preschoolers. As they entered 4K last fall, they were very hungry for 4K knowledge. With the hard work and guidance of their 4K Teacher, Mrs. Dawn Gerhard and her assistants, the children have grown and learned many new things. They are butterflies now and ready to soar to new learning heights! A healthy, positive



foundation for the formal years of education is laid in a quality preschool setting. The children in our center spend an average of 6 to 10 hours a day with our CDC staff, while their parents work or attend school. Here at the center, we encourage the children to engage in age-appropriate activities and experiences that leave them curious and hungering for more. Before we know it, they will be graduating high school and off to college. Congratulations CDC Graduates class of 2019, we are so proud of you! Soar high!

Beth

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?



Ryleigh Doar:
"A doctor."



Knox Dowling:
"Play football and
be a healthcare
worker."



Jasionne Echols:
"A policeman."



Anna Parsons Fast:
"A dentist."



John Hofler: "A
grocery store
worker because I
love money!"



Gray McMillan:
"Not sure. Maybe
stay at home and
do things, like the
dishes."



Rivers Nettles: "A
lawyer with Cagle
Brother's Law."



Abigail Rogers:
"Own a bakery
with my sister."



Stirling Temple: "A
Star Wars Trainer
with Disney."



Charlotte Tuttle:
"A family doctor."

June BIRTHDAYS

June 1

Donna Collins
Jim Dameron
Landis Lane
Emily McLean
Melanie Sprenger
Butch Turner

June 2

Jameson Draeger
Coleman Jeffords

June 4

Courtney Emert
Bryan Harwell

June 5

Brittany Miles

June 6

Margaret Charles
Grayson Prince
Gerry Rosenlund

June 7

Marshall Benton

June 8

George Beshere
Drew Caudle
Jay Jones

June 9

Mary Jernigan

June 10

Caleb Meyer
Abigail Tuttle

June 11

Troy Lamb

June 13

Emily Hodges
Jon Lewis
Betsey Moore
Mary Tiller Rabon
Thomas Ray
Anna Reames
Celia Urquhart

June 14

Hannah Carpenter
Gray Scott
Katherine Watts

June 15

Merrette Dowdell
Marty Hucks

June 16

Ken Charles
Carter Hardee
Beverly Harrell
Bobby Henegar
Eric Kim
Cathy Lee
Susan Snow
Gordon Weatherford
Hunter Welch

June 17

Breeden DuBose
Grace DuBose
Charles Lamb

Hunter Morgan
Edmund Whitehead

June 18

Jo Lynn Bratcher
McKenzie Lehmans
Collins McBride
Addison Suggs
Abi Urquhart

June 19

Hunter Burch
Ansley Moore
Gil Vassy

June 20

Jim Braswell
Lila McMillan
Cammie Moree

June 22

Amelia Anne Brown
Mary Grady
Alaina Naylor
Ashley Scott

June 23

Frank Ellington

June 24

David DuBose
Robin Stoupenos

June 25

Justin Dozier
Jason Grimsley
Ida Whitehead

June 26

Alan Floyd
Bryan Rabon

June 27

Dawn Benton
Heather Draeger
Weatherly Tiller
Genia Tyson

June 28

Cindy Coward
Richard Genoble
Johnny Stoupenos
Ellen Wilhoit

June 30

Scarlett Cranford
Sally Dameron
Tammy Moore
Susan Perrou



June



SUNDAY, JUNE 2 Graduation Sunday

- 9:00 AM Sunday School: Pilgrim
- 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, JUNE 3

- 8:00 AM Stretch Your Faith: Summer Basics
- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group



TUESDAY, JUNE 4

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 6:30 PM WiM Joint Summer Meeting: Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

- 6:00 PM Elders Officer Training: Price Classroom
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Summer Book Study: Journey Classroom

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 7:00 PM RedWolves night at the ballpark

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

- 9:00 AM Sunday School: Pilgrim
- 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies on the Lawn
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Vacation Bible School

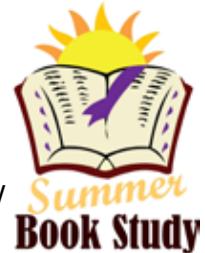


MONDAY, JUNE 10

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 5:30 PM Vacation Bible School

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 5:30 PM Vacation Bible School



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

- 5:30 PM Vacation Bible School
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Summer Book Study: Journey

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

- 10:00 AM Downtown Roll and Cycling Festival

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

- 9:00 AM Sunday School: Pilgrim
- 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies on the Lawn
- 4:30 PM Volleyball

MONDAY, JUNE 17

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

- 12:00 PM ServeFLO Luncheon for Law Enforcement
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Summer Book Study: Journey Classroom





June



THURSDAY, JUNE 20

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive: JFH
- 6:00 PM Track Club Banquet: CLC

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- 9:00 AM Sunday School: Pilgrim
- 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball

MONDAY, JUNE 24

- 8:00 AM Mission Camp: JFH
- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
- 8:00 AM Mission Camp: JFH
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

- 8:00 AM Mission Camp: JFH
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Summer Book Study: Journey Classroom

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 8:00 AM Mission Camp: JFH
- 3:00 PM Feeding Children Everywhere: CLC

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

- 9:00 AM Sunday School: Pilgrim
- 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball



Best Week Ever!

WinShape Camps

JULY 15-19 **REGISTER NOW!**

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Chick-fil-A

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

Heritage

George Richardson
Joy Tedder

Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice
Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan

Presbyterian Community

Hannah Barringer
Ann Cash
Aaron Leland
Tom and Clariann Kellam

Sympathy

Bruce Hubbs, loss of his mother
Kate Moore, loss of her mother
Joanna Refvem, loss of her mother
Family of Linda Foxworth
Family of Alice Nickles

Households

Klay and Merrell Kennedy, Sammie, Emily Grace, Hudson
Wanda (and Bryan) Hill
Edward and Christie Henderson
Christina (Taiter) Jarrett
Michael and Jennifer Foxworth, Cailin, Lena, Eiley

Memorials

Linda Foxworth
Dora Hewitt
Henrietta Hubbs
Heather Krohn
Donna McLaughlin
Ruth Montgomery
Linnie Myers
Alice Nickles

Honorarium

Ella Rawlinson

Birth

Hunter McCoy Scott born
May 30, 2019, son of
Luke and Kathryn Scott.

Sick & Recovering

Thom Anderson
Jonathan Bankhead
Jack Cagle
Barbara Covington
Chuck Dennis
Grace DuBose
Theresa Echols
Carolyn Holland
Rainey Josey
Ginger Owen
Mike Page
Mary Catherine Rawlinson

Elders

Bill Refvem
Shannon Watt

Deacons

Kara Morgan
Jake Stokes

Mission

East Florence Mission
Gray Scott

Women in Ministry

Ellen Pearson
Virginia Spencer

Sunday School Teachers

Charissa Canfield
Chris Canfield

Staff

Beth Hepler
Wanda Lasane



God's Work in our Community

East Florence Mission

The Outreach had its beginnings in 1970 following a lay renewal at First Presbyterian Church. A Bible Study Group rented a small house in the east Florence area, where Sunday afternoon meetings were held. Gradually, neighborhood children, primarily black, started to come and soon became regular in attendance. The number of participants became so large that meetings began at First Presbyterian Church, then at Trinity Presbyterian Church for a short time. In May 1987, EFM moved into its present building at 320 National Cemetery Road. The building consists of a large multi-purpose room with a concrete floor. It is used for basketball and other games, as well as for meetings and eating. There are six classrooms, a kitchen, office, library, and bathrooms. Outside is a large playing field and playground.

People of all ages participate in the various programs but the ministry mainly reaches young people. We believe the only way to help them is to present the Gospel message, pray that they will have a life-changing experience with Jesus Christ, meet physical needs when nec-



essary and possible, build trust relationships through real love and concern, counsel them according to Biblical principles and offer them strong educational opportunities.

We are dependant on many people who volunteer their time to help us in many different ways. Most of all we would ask you to pray with us so that we would have wisdom and strength, that we would be able to study the Word and share it effectively, and that the Holy Spirit would direct us daily.

Helping the garden grow



Children from the Child Development Center take turns watering their garden.

Gardening with children helps them with their development. "Young children can practice locomotor skills, body management skills and object control skills while they move from one place to the other carrying tools, soil, and water." And it's a great way to engage children in trying new foods and in learning practices to grow them.



Church News

Artists needed for summer project

Artists are needed in helping the children's mission hall summer project. Please contact Janet Brand, Janet81661@aol.com, if interested.



Pilgrim Class announces Sunday School

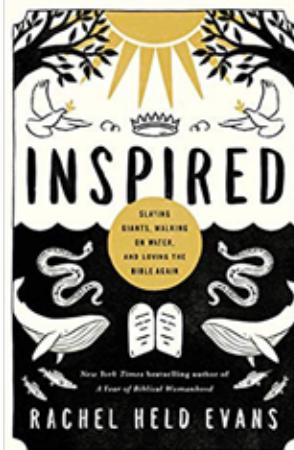
The Pilgrim Sunday School class will be held at 9 a.m. Sundays throughout the summer. Adults are encouraged to attend.

Summer book study to be held

You are invited to participate in a book study of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans.

Chris and Charissa Canfield will guide this discussion as we wrestle through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries.

We will meet in the Welcome Center (moving to the Journey classroom) at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the summer beginning June 5. If interested in joining us, please buy a copy of the book via your favorite outlet. It is available through Amazon in print and digitally, as well as through other outlets. If childcare is needed or you have questions, please contact Charissa at 843-621-0940 or charissa@can-designonline.com.



Adult studies to be offered during VBS

Two adult classes will be offered during the week of Vacation Bible School, June 9-12.

A Bible study will be led by Mike Lavespere, and a parenting class, Foundations of a Godly Home, will be led by Wendell and Margaret Jones.

Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the CLC, and the classes will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed for Missions Committee

Are you interested in being a part of local and world missions, sharing the gospel and love of Jesus Christ with others? Please contact Carolyn Holland or Janet Brand.

Family Promise needs volunteers

Family Promise will host a family August 4-11 at First Presbyterian Church. Contact Janet Brand, Janet81661@aol.com, if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

Busy summer ahead for Scouting Ministry

Our Monday night Boy Scout meetings have ended for this school year.

Meetings start back on Monday, August 26; however, we have a busy summer of exciting outdoor adventures.

Camp Coker, summer Boy Scout camp, is in June, and we have 20 Scouts leaving for Philmont Scout ranch in New Mexico for two weeks of backpacking in the Rockies. In July, we have a group traveling to visit the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. The group will also be whitewater rafting in North Carolina and spelunking at the Lost Sea Wild Cave adventure in Sweetwater, Tenn.

In August, we have a group going to H2O camp at Bulls Bay and another group going to Idaho backpacking with Hunter Morgan. An amazing total of over \$40,000 in Scout trips.



— Submit church news briefs to Kim Brauss at kbrauss@florencefirst.org or calling the church office.

City of Florence Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival



Donations and volunteers will be assisting Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO week. Contact Janet Brand on how to help: Janet81661@aol.com.

Save the date for the free City of Florence Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at First Presbyterian Church. The ride this year will be in honor and in memory of law enforcement and first responders.

Join in the fun as a volunteer or participant. The 3-mile ride starts Park side at 10 a.m. The festival will include inflatables, raffles, balloons, games, face-painting, vendors, and more.

Greatly appreciated donations will go to Helping Florence Flourish's citywide projects. No registration is required. All ages are welcome.

Contact Janet Brand for more information and how to volunteer at Janet81661@aol.com.

International Symposium to be held on C.S. Lewis

From Malta to Montreat, world-renowned scholars will assemble for an International Symposium on C.S. Lewis & the Inklings on November 5-6 in Montreat, N.C. This premiere event will explore the continuing influence of these Oxford Dons on literature, religion, and the public's imagination.

Among the speakers is the only surviving Lewis family member — stepson Douglas Gresham, who also serves as executor of the estate and executive producer of the Narnia films by Disney. Douglas will provide a personal glimpse into C.S. Lewis and Gresham's mother, Joy Davidman, as well as behind the scenes challenges and successes in efforts to bring the Narnia novels



to the 21st Century through the multi-platforms via Netflix. The Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, an independent non-profit educational organization that is independent of any denomination, organized this symposium.

Lecturers and performers range from Dr. Don King, Montreat College professor, to Dr. David Downing, co-director of The Marion E.

Wade Center in Atlanta, to Dr. Hal Poe, professor of faith and culture at Union University.

Symposium registration covers program lecturers and panels, materials, the one-man C.S. Lewis play, exhibit reception, two dinners, one luncheon, and program breaks/refreshments. Early discount (\$225/person) ends May 31. Advanced discount (\$260/person) runs June 1-August 31. Regular registration is \$300 starting September 1.

Space is limited, so attendance is first registered, first served. For more information, email SusanA@Montreat.org or info@phcmontreat.org. To register, visit <https://montreat.org/events/cslewis>



Join us at the RedWolves game

Join us for a night of RedWolves baseball! Come out to the ballpark with your church family! At 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6, the covered picnic area at Francis Marion University's Sparrow Stadium is reserved for First Presbyterian to enjoy RedWolves baseball, Florence's Coastal Plain League team. They'll be playing Lexington County Blowfish. You will be able to purchase tickets at the gate and join us in the picnic area.



Beginning on June 2, children in 3K - first grade will have a different type of learning time during worship.

After the children's message, they will go to the 4K/5K Sunday School room for a special time of learning about how God keeps His promises.

Parents are needed to lead the lessons from the *Show Me Jesus* curriculum. A link to the schedule is posted on the church website and will be emailed and texted to parents. Two adults are needed each week. *All parents are asked to participate.*

Art Camp

July 22-26 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children who have completed first through fifth grades can come let their creative juices flow learning numerous art techniques.

Cost is \$50. Children will bring their own lunch. Register online through link at www.florencefirst.org/camps/ or on Realm under events. Have questions? Call Sasha Hall: 843-616-5154.

SERVEFLO

Mission Camp

9 a.m. to noon June 24-27

- Sponsored by First Presbyterian, Central United Methodist, & St. Luke Lutheran
- NEW THIS YEAR: St. Luke Lutheran hosts the camp on Cherokee Road
- Camp is for those who've completed first through sixth grades
- Don't delay as space is limited. Go to florencefirst.org or Realm to register.
- Youth volunteers are needed. Contact Alexis.



The River: Family VBS

5:30 to 8 p.m. June 9-12



God's river of love flows from the first garden to the last. Jump in and let the gospel carry you through. We begin each night with Family Dinner then classes for everyone!

- Parents and other adults are encouraged to attend. There will be a parenting class and an adult Bible study offered each night. Childcare is available for children under 2K as long as you are on campus.
- Everyone is encouraged to register ahead of time so enough food can be prepared without being wasteful.
- Register by going to the church website and clicking on the Camps link. Parents and children of First Presbyterian should register as participants. Friends should register as guests.

*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"
John 7:37-38*

First Presbyterian mugs available for purchase

"I am the way
and the truth
and the life"
- John 14:6

Come with us and
LIVE FOR HIM.

First Presbyterian
FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

First Presbyterian Church coffee mugs are available for purchase. Please sign up in the church office if you would like to buy the \$4 mug.

Summertime a time to share teachings in relaxed way

Associate Pastor's note: This new Parenting column addresses, on a monthly basis, some of the challenges Christian parents face. Alexis Morris, Brock Page, and I (Chris Handley) will share the responsibility of giving parents a nugget to help and challenge moms and dads.

Summertime is here! What a great opportunity to slow down and catch your breath; a break from the regular routine to reconnect as a family. It is also a time when Sunday school teachers and children in worship leaders take a sabbath.

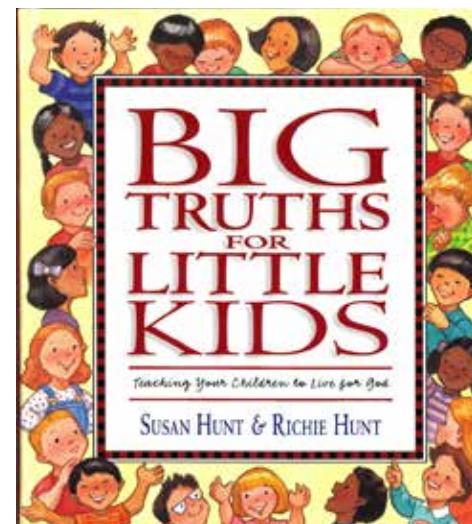
While these faithful leaders are on break, I encourage you to use summer as a time to teach your children in a more relaxed, informal way. A fancy word for that is catechesis: the ancient Christian practice of passing on the faith to the next generation.

For generations and generations, parents and other adults have passed on the faith without wondering if they were qualified or if they knew enough. They shared the truth found in the Bible in their everyday lives. In recent history, catechisms have been used with adults and chil-



dren to teach the basics of Christian doctrine. Catechisms are a series of questions and answers that can help teach the truth found in the Bible. A great book to use with children is a book by Susan and Richie Hunt called Big Truths for Little Kids. The Hunts have imagined a family living in a neighborhood that love the Lord and seek to share that love with those around them. Each chapter has a short story to read together, talking points, a prayer and several catechism questions. The first question is this... "Who Made You?" "God."

Remember parents have more influence on the spiritual growth of their children than anyone else. William Still, a Scottish pastor, said that there are three things parents need to do for their children: pray for them, live by example and teach. Tell your children you are praying for them. Lead them in the ways of the Kingdom of God. Catechize them. The LORD commands that



we do this in Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Happy reading this summer!



Blood Drive First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall
700 Park Ave
Florence, SC 29501

**Thursday, June 20, 2019
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, please contact the Church Office at 843-662-2583.

Youth Ministry News



Spring Break Mission Trip 2019

Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: No Sunday School in June
- Small group: High School Girls Small Group, June 2 and June 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m., dinner and lesson
- MOVE: June 2 and June 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m., dinner, lesson, games
- 412 on Wednesdays will not be held in June.
- Youth at RedWolves game: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6

Graduation Sunday

- We will honor our graduating seniors during the 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service on Sunday, June 2. If you have a graduating senior, please make plans to attend.

Great Escape

- This is our annual week-long conference for middle school students in grades 7-8. The conference is conducted by Youth Conference Ministries and is held at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. The conference uses engaging worship music, dynamic speakers, and high-energy fun, and engaging recreation to teach students about the gospel of Christ, as well as challenge them to grow in their faith.

Fun In The Son

- This is our annual weeklong conference for high school students in grades 9-12. The conference is conducted by Youth Conference Ministries and is held at the Hilton Head Beach and Tennis Club in Hilton Head. The conference uses engaging worship music, dynamic speakers, and high energy, fun, and engaging recreation to teach students about the gospel of Christ, as well as challenge them to grow in their faith.

GET INVOLVED IN SERVEFLO 2019



From the Downtown Roll and Cycling Festival on June 15 to donating blood at the church on June 20, and helping clean up elementary schools and other acts of service on June 22, there's plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved in blessing our community. Sign up today at serveflo.org to volunteer.



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501
 PHONE: 843-662-2583/FAX: 843-662-1726
www.florencefirst.org

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

Covenant Partner Magnetic Name Badges

Mary Anne Bradley
 Covenant Partner

Do you have trouble remembering names? Do you want new members in our church to adjust easily by knowing who you are? Wear it to church, church functions, meetings, etc., and greet your church family with confidence.

Order Form

Please return this form to the Church Office with your check made payable to First Presbyterian.

Name (exactly the way it should appear on your badge)

Please use another form for more than one name.

Number of badges: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

