

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
becoming more faithful

Growing INWARD
becoming more holy

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



JULY 2019

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

New senior pastor to start August 1

Darryl Evans is set to start as our new senior pastor on August 1, 2019. He completed his work at Kannapolis at the end of May, and he and Mary Lee recently sold their house. They have made several trips to Florence to look at houses and schools here, meet the church staff, and move some of Darryl's books and papers into his office. Will and Addie came on



one trip, and they saw the church, the town, and have already made some new friends. Between now and August, the Evans family is taking some well-deserved time off for vacation, to spend time with family, and to rest and re-charge their batteries. Darryl confesses that part of him is chomping at the bit to get started here in Florence, but the PNC and Session encouraged him to have this time off and he realizes that he needs this time to be still, to pray, and to reflect so that he will be refreshed and ready to dive-in on August 1. Please keep the Evans family in your prayers throughout the summer. Exciting times are ahead!

Elders final session with Dr. Jim Bankhead



Transitional Pastor Dr. Jim Bankhead and Elders pose for a portrait during their last Session together.

Core group sought for Jobs for Life service

Jobs for Life (JfL) seeks to restore dignity to people's lives and transform communities through a biblical understanding of work. In Genesis 2:15 we learn that we were created and designed by God to work.

Typical approaches to alleviating poverty involve giving money or food and do not solve the true problem of generational poverty with its many negative effects including depression, domestic violence and crime.

We are seeking a core group of believers willing to help us start JfL program. For more information about the JfL program and this opportunity to serve our Florence community, please call Bryon Frost at 843-615-8393.

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ON THE COVER
A VBS group talks about creation, and how we are made in God's image.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Be encouraged — Notice God's movement

What have you been noticing in these days? Where have you seen God moving? I still can't get over dragonflies! Go to my Facebook page. God is so creative!

But then I have seen Him working and creating in and around us. I was in our June 18 deacon meeting (the third Tuesday of the month), and I felt the Lord raising up a new set of deacons that are energized for their ministry. John Scott is moderating this year; James Johnson is vice moderator. Amy Brown and Karen Jordan will be helping deacons as they seek to care for their flocks. Ronnie Welch will be coordinating the deacons and others with ushering this year. These folks are excited and committed. I am very encouraged! God is moving!

I was in our June 25 elders meeting (fourth Tuesday of the month), and we continue to learn a new way of gathering. The language we are using is: "we are moving from the board room to the Upper Room." The elders are building a culture that deliberately seeks to listen more for the Lord and to one another as we meet. I watched as conversations took place that led to deeper relationship.

During our ServeFLO events, I watched as the ministry of Janet Brand and her volunteer team brought the Law Enforcement Officers together from the city and county. These two forces don't often have this type of time to connect. About 150 officers were served



Chris Handley leads campers in an activity reinforcing the meaning of Upward, Inward, and Outward during the lunch. God was moving in that time no doubt.

A team of folks from First Presbyterian went to our beloved Ron Echols' church, Southern Calvary Baptist, to serve on June 22. This team cleaned up the neighborhood and church grounds and packed

food boxes, as well as hosted a cookout for the neighborhood. About 150 neighbors came and sat around tables and enjoyed the meal and the conversation. I watched one of our volunteers listened to one of the young ladies from the neighborhood and obviously encouraged this teenager with her attentiveness. God was moving in so many ways that day.

One of the exciting things to notice about life with God is that when you are attentive to Him, He is often doing something right where you are. Watch for Him. Even write it down. Tell someone else about it because that will be encouraging to hear how you have seen God at work!

Chris

Toward a Healthier Church

Stewardship is about more than money. But clearly monetary giving is the starting point. In the Old Testament we read: “Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17) Dave Ramsey has this to say about tithing and giving:

“A **tithe** is an amount (a percentage of your income – 10%) and an offering is anything given beyond that, but **not in place of the tithe**.

After you’ve *tithed*, you can give in other ways: Giving a cash offering to your church above and beyond the tithe, giving money to a charity you support, giving to a friend or neighbor in need, or giving of your time or talents. **Not only does giving of your money or other resources generate good in the lives of others, it also generates contentment in your heart.**” (www.daveramsey.com/blog/daves-advice-on-tithing-and-giving)

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 through our Ministry Action Plan. The **2019 Ministry Action Plan** approved by the Session totaled \$ 1.66 million. That translates to a weekly need of \$31,954.00 to fully fund the ministries of First Presbyterian Church for 2019 which includes support to our missionaries (Emerts, Kings, Carol Crom and others), as well as providing support to the local agencies (House of Hope, Light House, Mercy Medicine, East Florence Mission, etc.) Thus far in 2019, our **actual** weekly receipts are averaging \$ 27,996.00. The chart at right shows a snapshot of our collective giving for the first six months of 2019 (as of 6/26/2019). I have also included a line showing gifts received for our Firm Foundation Debt Retirement campaign and the remaining balance on the loan for the Education Building.

Despite the deficit, First Presbyterian Church is current in our support of our missionaries. Additionally, our staff and ministry leaders are to be commended for being good stewards of what has been given as they continue to plan and implement ministry activities. Contribution statements for January – June will be mailed in early July. These statements are intended to serve as a reminder of the commitments made to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyter-

Average Weekly Need	\$31,954.00
Year to Date - Average Weekly Giving	\$27,996.00
Average Weekly Giving - surplus/ (deficit) - YTD	(\$3,958.00)
Total Ministry Action Plan Receipts - YTD	\$699,904.00
Firm Foundation Receipts to Date	\$675,592.00
Loan Balance	\$223,044.14

an Church. When you receive your statement, let me encourage you to reflect on what you see and respond as God prompts your heart.

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.

Two New Ways to Give!

Did you know that we now offer **TEXT to Give** to our Covenant Partners and guests? It is simple and can be done any time and from anywhere. From your mobile device, simply text **Florencefirst** to **73256** and you will receive a link to our online giving site where you can make a secure donation to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Please note that standard text messaging rates will apply.

Additionally, as we continue to implement **REALM**, our covenant partners and guest can now **SCAN** this QR code from your mobile device and be directed to our on-line giving site.




Discerning Paul for the modern church

A very difficult concept in I Corinthians to understand is Paul's discussion of food offered to idols in chapter 8. This concern of the Corinthians seems so far removed from 21st century America because we do not sacrifice animals to false gods.

Our churches, however, are heavily influenced by modern inventions. The world of personal phones, social media, and immediate breaking news has created a "modern" world much different than Paul's world. One obvious difference is the mobility of the modern world. Communication and travel create different people than those who read the letters in the first century. In modern culture, what is detrimental to the church? What is the modern church's "food offered to idols?" This issue was an important one for the first century Christians. They had written to Paul "concerning food sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 8:1)."

As this issue is studied in modern terms we find three concerns. First, how much does culture influence the Church? Second, how does the relationship between different socio-economic groups affect the church? Third, how does love overcome knowledge in the church? I believe every person has her or his own beliefs and theology. Everyone has knowledge. The Corinthians have claimed knowledge: "all of us possess knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1)." Paul responds with the theme of the entire letter written to the Corinthians (I Corinthians): "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. (I Corinthians 8:1)."

Knowledge and learning can lead to arrogance and disputes based upon intelligence and prejudice. The Gospel is at stake in the eating of food in the pagan temples. "For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their con-



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

science is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 8:10)?"

The Gospel as Paul preached it does not allow for arrogance nor prejudice nor inequality between genders or race. A person's acceptance is not based on knowledge but on faith. A person expresses devotion to God by loving others. Love always triumphs over knowledge and builds up a community. If food is eaten in pagan temples, then how far does the church accept participation of church members in social organizations.

The basic threat to the worship of God is other organizations can replace God and become idols. Idolatry is a prevalent and destructive sin and threat to the worship of God. Nationalism can become an idol. Materialism, the worship of possessions, can become an idol. Of course, the accumulation of money is an idol for many in the world. Each of us needs to examine what separates us from worshipping God in Christ. That which replaces God in our lives is an idol. Watch one hour of television on a major network with commercials and we will see the idols of America. Do not worship things or ideas. Worship God. "I will praise the name of God with a song. I will magnify Him with thanksgiving (Psalm 69:30)."

Mike



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 launching two new circles

The Women In Ministry have two new circles planned for this year. Both groups are going to target young women in their 20s and 30s.

One group will meet on the second Monday of the month around 10 a.m. led by Erin Johnson. This group formed out of the desire for fellowship of moms working inside the home.

The other group will meet the second Wednesday around 6:30 p.m. led by Sasha Hall. This group may appeal to women (single or married, with or without children) who work outside of the home.

The circles of women meet monthly to study scripture and plan service-based activities, along with supporting our missionaries.

All circles unite in several activities throughout the year, and bring us all together for fellowship and worship to the Glory of God.

Monthly meetings will start up



again in September for the 2019-2020 year.

If you or someone you know are interested in joining one of these groups, please notify Donna Grubb, Moderator, 843-409-1234, or Jayne Boswell, Co-Moderator, 843-229-7790.

We pray for the completion of these groups as we continue the planning this summer.

Women in Ministry's Directory

Please review your contact information in the Women in Ministry Directory. Submit any changes to Teresa Stewart by August 1.



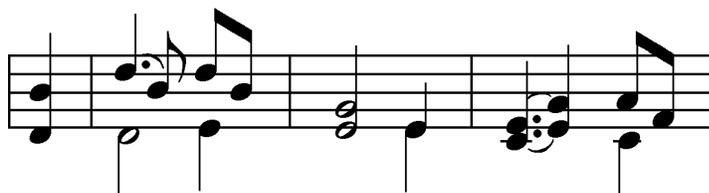
Get involved in Music Ministry

Tuesdays

- 1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble (Ladies of all ages)
- 4 p.m. Girls' Ensemble (Sixth grade and older)

Wednesdays

- 5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir
- 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal



If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583.

SERVEFLO



ServeFLO 2019 began with about 200 participants in the Downtown Roll and Cycling Festival on June 15 and finished up with the Feeding Children Everywhere packing 30,000 meals on June 27.

There were plenty of citywide projects, including Resurrection Outreach Center, where Jake Stokes led a group of volunteers that included FPC Covenant Partners Allen Griffin, Don Hebert, and Donnie Wheeler; the Savannah Grove Elementary School playground area clean-up; and the Boys and Girls Club luncheon. The Red Cross Blood Drive collected 23 units.



CDC children enjoying the joys of summer

Summer is in full force here at the First Presbyterian CDC. The classes are all enjoying their camping themes this summer. Early morning playground time has replaced the hot afternoon outside play. On those afternoons we are making good use of the CLC.

Our garden continues to grow, and so far, we have harvested and tasted beans, potatoes, green peppers, one cucumber and one tomato! The 4K children and their teachers are doing a great job watering and weeding the plants.

Our Mad Scientists Camp (4K) had a surprise visit recently from a “real” scientist, Mr. Jamell Brown. Mr. Jamell was introduced to us by one of our parents. He is a Analytical Research and Development Specialist with pharma services and is employed with Thermo Fisher Scientific in Florence. He did a great job teach-



ing to the children’s level. He spent time explaining the scientific suit he was wearing — everything from his goggles and gloves to his pants and shoes. The children were captivated! They especially enjoyed his dry ice experiment and a water experiment with special additives.

I am happy to report that we had our unannounced visit last week from childcare licensing and our center passed with NO violations! To God be all the Glory!

Blessings! *Beth*





July BIRTHDAYS



July 1

Randy Cranford
Julia Watkins
Stephen G. Jones

July 2

Pessy Losah
William Bratton
Derek Hemmingsen

July 3

Harper Suggs
Harriett Gilpin
Maggie McInville
Frances Welch
Avery Hucks

July 4

Natalie Hall
Louise King

July 5

Ken Jackson
Lucinda Hubbs
Erik Marechal

July 6

Benjamin Lewis
Bobby Garris
Amelia Carter
Mary Kirkpatrick
Weston Lewis
Emma Carter
Kate Carter

July 7

Renee McRae
Wendy Singletary
Wanda Granger
Stirling Temple
Guy Slagle
Richard Hopkins

July 8

Maggie Reece
Emily Jordan

July 9

David Prince

July 11

Frank Hodges
Alana Tyler
Rob Lewis
David Spearman

July 12

Sammie Kennedy
John Hofler
Luke Poston
Susan Rhea

July 13

Jan Bray
Nabil Cotran
Ann Houck

July 14

Gregg Jones
Hunter Moore
Barbara Maffett

July 15

Robbie Suggs
Tony Meeks
Eiley Foxworth

July 16

Pat Conyers

July 17

Mac Gandy
Jessica Garris
Margaret Lee
Mitchell Green
Jim Moseley

July 18

Pam Morgan
Robert Miles

July 19

Jane Moss
Landen Turner

July 20

Isla Louise McCoy
Marty Taylor
Nancy Harwell

July 21

Amanda Grubb
Denise King
Weber Mimms
Freeman Williams
Mike Porter
Alice Bankson

July 22

Ella Grimsley
Martha Nance
Rob Molnar
Jimmy Green

July 23

Walt Burch
Alice Caldwell
Tenny Moss
Martha Blanton

July 24

Beth Player
Ford Scott
Kim Ryan
Christy Wallace

July 25

Shawn Bulliner
Alicia Truman

July 27

Troy Mbonu
Michael Miles

July 28

Eddie McRae
Margaret Jones
Hannah Moree
Caleb King

July 29

Thomas Hardee
David DuBose
Jerry Fussell
Bruce Crawford

July 30

David Sanderson
Vicki Hebert
Thomas Davis

July 31

Palmer Jones
Marie Jordan
Seth Crawford



MONDAY, JULY 1

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
6:30 PM Propel Women Personal Leadership
Conversation Series: Lawson-Rain

TUESDAY, JULY 2

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study: Pilgrim Classroom
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 4 Fourth of July

Church office closed
7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

SUNDAY, JULY 7

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

MONDAY, JULY 8

Youth: Fun in the Sun week
8:00 AM Stretch Your Faith: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
6:30 PM Propel Women Personal Leadership
Conversation Series: Lawson-Rain

TUESDAY, JULY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study: Pilgrim Classroom
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

THURSDAY, JULY 11

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

SATURDAY, JULY 13

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: Hope Health Parking
Lot

SUNDAY, JULY 14

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

MONDAY, JULY 15

8:00 AM WinShape
10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group

TUESDAY, JULY 16

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
8:00 AM WinShape
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group - Hucks
6:30 PM Board of Deacons: Lawson-Rain

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

8:00 AM WinShape
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 18

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
8:00 AM WinShape

FRIDAY, JULY 19

8:00 AM WinShape

SATURDAY, JULY 20

10:00 AM Aglow International

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**

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

MONDAY, JULY 22

8:00 AM Stretch Your Faith: Lawson-Rain
 9:00 AM Art Camp
 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 6:30 PM Propel Women Personal Leadership
 Conversation Series: LR

TUESDAY, JULY 23

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Bazen's
 9:00 AM Art Camp
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group - Hucks
 6:30 PM Session

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

9:00 AM Art Camp
 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study: Pilgrim Classroom
 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 25

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 9:00 AM Art Camp

FRIDAY, JULY 26

9:00 AM Art Camp

SUNDAY, JULY 28

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

MONDAY, JULY 29

8:00 AM Stretch Your Faith
 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 6:30 PM Propel Women Personal Leadership
 Conversation Series

TUESDAY, JULY 30

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study: Pilgrim Classroom
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

AUGUST 4: Dr. Darryl Evans' first sermon
 AUGUST 18: Two worship services resume
 SEPTEMBER 9: GriefShare resumes



Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

Heritage

George Richardson

Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Presbyterian Community

Hannah Barringer

Ann Cash

Aaron Leland

Tom and Clariann Kellam

Sympathy

Family of Joy Tedder

Walt Johnson and Chrissie Prince,
loss of their mother

Nigel Watt, loss of his mother

Households

Yarrow and Michelle Babb, Kendall, Caroline, and Kate, Emma,
and Ben Carter

Kent and Carolyn Caudle

Win and Allison Hallman, Grace Bostick

Jim and Kate Moore, Mary Frances, Lucy

Memorials

Joe Crawford

Linda Foxworth

Wendell Holland

Pamela Hoogenboom

Dora Hewitt

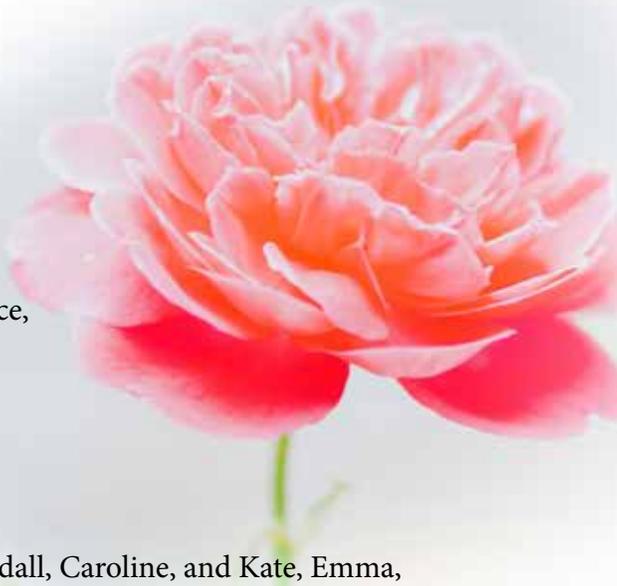
Henrietta Hubbs

Ruth Montgomery

Alice Nickles

Joy Tedder

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer



Sick & Recovering

Thom Anderson

Jonathan Bankhead

Jack Cagle

Barbara Covington

Chuck Dennis

Theresa Echols

Carolyn Holland

Ginger Owen

Mike Page

Mary Catherine Rawlinson

Elders

Mike Lavespere

Chris Scott

Deacons

Butch Carroll

Brian Fast

Mission

Carol Crom

iHope

Women in Ministry

Kathryn Hopkins

Susan Snow

Sunday School Teachers

Becca Tuttle

Pat Tuttle

Staff

Alexis Morris

Brock Page

God's Work in our Community

iHope Center

iHope Center, which opened its doors in 2017, is a distinctly Christian counseling center serving the churches and community members of Florence and the Pee Dee.

“The vision of iHope Christian Care and Counseling, Inc. is to be a distinctly Christian counseling center serving individuals, families, couples, and ministry leaders with affordable counseling and care. We are committed to offering hope and healing through Jesus Christ. As Christian counselors, we are called to bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captive, and comfort those who mourn. iHope desires to be an extender of the local church, offering counsel to those



going through a season of difficulty. We are a support and resource for local pastors and for our community. Many people desire counseling and healing offered through Jesus Christ, but they do not know where to turn, cannot afford counseling, or are unaware of available resources. iHope is intended to be a resource within reach of anyone who wants help.”

God's Work Around the World

Carol Crom, Entrust

It was so good to be with you in February. I discovered later that I was a year off and it's actually been 21 (not 20) years since First Presbyterian Church – Florence became my home sending church. Thank you for your gifts and prayers toward an increase in my ongoing support level.

During the trip to South Asia in March and April we were excited to hold “graduation” for 14 Bible school and college faculty from Entrust's writers' training. Seven other schools are eager to begin the series of four workshops this fall. Two other large seminaries have invited us to train 25 faculty to write interactive, contextual courses for distance education.

Five days after returning from Asia, I headed to Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia. In Greece, our worldwide staff celebrated Entrust's 40th anniversary. Serbia is Entrust's newest country of ministry. It was a joy to visit long-term friends who sold their house and all their possessions (except what fit in five suitcases) in Colorado Springs and moved to Novi Sad to encourage and build up struggling churches.

I returned home May 15 after nearly four months of travel to find no water. Water main breaks on both



sides of my townhouse caused extremely low water pressure. For nearly a month, I had to shower and do laundry at friends' houses and for a few days both toilets didn't function. Friends overseas remarked they didn't think things like that could happen even in the U.S.

Please pray for the expanding number of seminaries and Bible schools participating in the writers' workshops in South Asia, that the courses written would bring about transformation in people's lives rather than just transferring information. Pray that Entrust's worldwide staff would remain faithful to God's call and for provision of the resources needed for each project to have lasting impact for the Kingdom.

Thank you for your support, friendship, and love in Christ.

— Carol Crom is Director of Donor Relations with Entrust and is based in Colorado Springs.



Church News

Name badges can be ordered online

Covenant Partner Name Badges can be ordered on Realm.

Once in Realm, go to Community Events, then click on Covenant Partner Name Badges. At the top of the screen, under Register, check who “will be attending.” Follow the directions from there.

Have questions? Contact Teresa Stewart at 843-662-2583 or email tstewart@florencefirst.org.

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.



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.

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>

Fellowship of Teachers to be held July 10

Fellowship of Teachers Dinner and Discussion to be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, in the Fellowship Hall. This Fellowship is for all who taught children, youth, or adults last school year, and for anyone interested in being part of the education ministry at First Presbyterian. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to Teresa Stewart at 843-662-2583 or email tstewart@florencefirst.org.

Few spots remain for Art Camp

Join in the creative fun July 22-26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spots are going fast! Only 20 spots are available. Children who have completed first through fifth grades can come let their creative juices flow, learning numerous art techniques.

Cost is \$50. A light morning snack will be served, but also children must bring a packed lunch. Volunteers are needed, as well. Art Smart 2019 will be a dive in to visual arts as well as music and dance. We will be experimenting with STEM projects every day. A trip to the Florence County Museum is on the agenda, as well. Register online at www.florencefirst.org/camps/ or on Realm under Events.

Have questions? Call Sasha Hall: 843-616-5154.

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 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, to help with this ministry.

GriefShare resumes in September

GriefShare, a grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one, will return September 9. Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays in Room 104. You will find it to be a caring environment.

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

City of Florence Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival



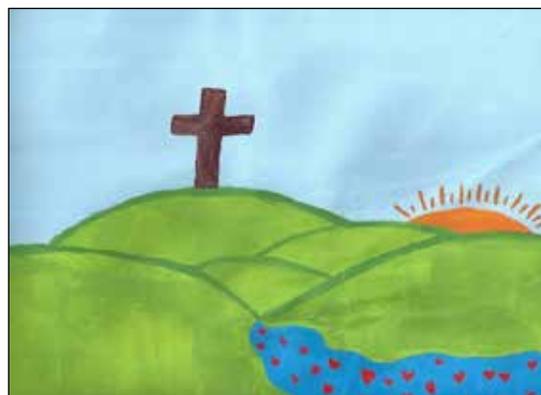
A couple hundred bicyclists kicked off the Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival on Saturday, June 15. After the roll throughout downtown, cyclists enjoyed a festival that was complete with games, face painting, and food. Donations to the event went to Helping Florence Flourish for its citywide projects during ServeFLO.





Vacation Bible School: The River

The first Family VBS was full of families eating together, worshipping together, and sharing the gospel. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made it all flow!



SERVEFLO Mission Camp



Mission Camp, which was held June 24-27, is an opportunity for children from four congregations to bless the city of Florence and glorify God through acts of compassion, service, and relationship building. Children, youth assistants, and adult crew leaders worked directly with 13 different local agencies over three days. On the final day, campgoers participated in Feeding Children Everywhere. FCE is a meal-packing event resulting in 30,000 child-sized meals being available for distribution in Florence and the surrounding communities.

Ultimate parenting tool: Understanding God's grace

Associate Pastor's note: This column addresses 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.

By Brock Page

Director of Youth Ministry

Is parenting difficult? You bet! What about parenting a teenager? Almost impossible. Just kidding ... kind of. Many of you that have had teenagers or have teenagers, know the struggles of navigating the adolescent years. They are emotionally unpredictable — seemingly happy one minute and sad the next. I find helpful articles on parenting in general and parenting teens specifically in a couple of places. *The Gospel Coalition* has many helpful resources along those lines. Another ministry site I follow is John Piper's ministry, *Desiring God*. It has superb, biblically based articles that cover almost every topic imaginable. So, of course, there are articles on parenting and teens. I read an article titled "Raising Teens Requires Listening Well," by Lindsey Carlson.

Carlson writes, "If you are the parent of a teenager, you likely are living through an encore season of teaching your child to use his or her words. This development stage can be more exhausting than it was in the toddler years. Instruction in the basics was so much easier: Say "Mama." Can you say "please"? Say this. Don't say that. Say it kindly." As a parent of a recent young child, teaching him how to talk was somewhat challenging. As a parent of two



teenagers, however, teaching them how to speak is proving to be much more challenging.

Carlson continues, "Now, your teenager has a robust vocabulary and can competently communicate, but when he/she uses words idly, to fight with siblings, speak harsh words in response to discipline, or bottles up their emotions and uses no words at all, it reminds you that your teenager is still growing. As articulate as they may be, they must continue to actively learn to use their words to glorify God. Teaching this skill is significantly more challenging. ... It requires discipleship. ..."

Carlson provides valuable insight here. We have a different task as parents of teens than parents of young children. Teens are at a place where they can communicate but sometimes struggle to do it appropriately. This is a condition of the heart, and it must be addressed by first addressing the heart. Then, the action/words themselves can be addressed. The ultimate tool to address this is God's grace, poured out through His son, Jesus. Our children need the heart transforming love and grace of the Savior. That is first. There are, however, practical steps to address their words after they understand the grace of God.

Carlson notes:

1. *Take Their Words Seriously*

Your teenager's words offer a glimpse inside their heart. (Matt.12:34-35) Strive to pay attention, even when you're tired, hurt, or frustrated. Let your teenager know you are taking their heart seriously by taking their words seriously.

2. *Take God's Word Seriously*

Your teenager needs the word of God (Eph.6:17), to make sense of the world they live in, their own heart, emotions, actions, the gospel, and the Spirit's work in their life. In order to train your teenagers to "choose what is right" and know "what is good" (Job 34:4), stock your home with scriptural snacking opportunities for your teen to feast their ears on God's truth.

3. *Flee Ungodly Words*

Not only does your teenager need to fill their mind and heart with Scripture; but they also must defensively flee temptation by avoiding ungodly words. Help your teenager understand "curse words" aren't the only tempting teenage offender; they must also flee slander, gossip, lies, and words of divisiveness and hate. (2 Timothy 2:15-16)

Carlson's words are convicting. I have not done a good job with any of the above challenges. I pray that God would work on my heart. First, that I would evaluate how I am doing as far as taking God's word seriously and fleeing ungodly words. Then, I pray He would give me wisdom and grace to steer my children toward Him as they learn to watch their words. The complete article can be found at desiringgod.org.

Youth Ministry News



Great Escape 2019

Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: No Sunday School in July, Combined Worship Services
- Small group: High School Girls Small Group, July 14, 28 / 5:30-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson
- MOVE: July 14, 28 / 5:30-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson, Games
- 412 on Wednesdays: No 412 in July
- Youth Sunday: July 28, 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service

Youth Sunday

- The youth will lead the 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service on Sunday, July 28. They will lead in singing, prayers, and the message.

Fun In The Sun

- This is our annual weeklong conference for high school students in grades 9-12 that runs July 8-13. 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.



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

CHURCH STAFF

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

As our new senior pastor, Dr. Darryl Evans, and his family arrive later this summer, consider getting a name badge to be easily recognized and remembered.

It's a useful tool to facilitate conversation.

The name badge form is available in the Welcome Center, at right, or on-line in Realm.

A badge costs \$7.

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: _____

