

The

REMINDER

Growing UPWARD Growing INWARD Growing OUTWARD



FEBURARY 2020

Delight in the Lord and give thanks

Dear friends,

After my first 6 months, I am still rather amazed to be here. The way the Lord has brought us down to Florence has been something that no one could have planned. I find that there are so many things to be thankful for. Over the past few years, I have been learning more about delighting in the Lord and how thankfulness paves the way to joy, even as the apostle Paul wrote from prison:

“Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:4-6)

I have found that starting each

day with thanking God for three things transforms life by opening up our hearts relationally not only to one another, but also to the Lord. Thanksgiving helps us hear God’s voice better. With the turn of the New Year, we started beginning our weekly staff meetings with a time of thanksgiving.

It amazes me how easy it can be not to think of something to give thanks for and become stuck in a “rut,” but this habit does strengthen over time with practice. Here are some things I am thankful for:

- Mary Lee’s mom, Peggy, has finished her chemotherapy!
- Susan Snow is giving a big gift to the church by agreeing to be our interim Children’s Director until the search team hires a permanent director.
- Our newest covenant part-

ners (together with the “covenant connectors” – i.e. longtime partners helping our newer ones be connected to the life of our congregation)

- Being a part of ECO with our upcoming National Gathering
- An increasing number of covenant partners are using their gifts and serving the Lord, including in ministry units and teams even as we bond more as a congregation.
- Being filled with the wonder of the Book of Revelation
- Many things are going well, and we will have a fine State of the Church meeting on Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

I simply enjoy being here with you. I feel like so many good things are ahead of us. The Lord is beginning to stir in us; may we delight in Him.

Peace,
Darryl



Wednesday nights at First Presbyterian

The planned February menus are:

- February 5: Stew beef and rice, carrots, and banana pudding
- February 12: Tacos and ice cream sandwiches
- February 19: Chicken fajitas and dessert
- February 26: Chicken pot pie, salad, rolls and ice cream

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ON THE COVER

Scouts and families swim with manatees as part of their January trip to Florida.

To submit content for March’s publication, contact Kim Brauss by February 20 at kbrauss@florencefirst.org.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Pull up a chair, find your ministry

I sat at several different tables this month, where we were celebrating God's work and planning for more opportunities to serve.

The other day, I sat across the table from Chris Canfield (who was leading our meeting) with about 15 others. The meeting took place at Ron Echols' church (Southern Calvary Baptist) in their fellowship hall. For the past year, our community group made up of the Canfields, Halls, Hughes, Fleenors, Danny Jones, Stan Bergstrom, Lindsey Bannister, and Handleys packs food boxes monthly at the church on the fourth Sundays.

We were now gathered to surround Mary, a 76-year-old widow, living in her family home on North Jefferson Street. Her home is in such a state of disrepair that it is unsalvageable. Several contractors have taken a look at the house (built in 1926) and pronounced the structure DOA, (i.e. dead on arrival). So the meeting was called to discuss a way forward to help her. The city was represented by two council women. There were two pastors, two contractors, a marketing specialist, a teacher, a business owner, two city officials, two managers, an insurance agent, a few housewives, Mary and her daughter sitting around the table. I am excited to see a group of people working together from all kinds of walks of life to care for Mary. We will see what God will be doing with us.



I sat around the table with Matt Goodstein, Chris Canfield and Bryon Frost (along with several others from churches around Florence) last Thursday as we discussed the next Jobs For Life class that we hope to host in March and April. Jobs for Life is an experience/course where those who need training for soft skills can receive the help they need to be better employees. The curriculum is built around the idea that God has made us to work. When people begin to understand that they will move toward a life that is more complete and purposeful.

I sat with Janet Brand and two more people from other churches as we began to plan ServeFLO 2020 (June 13-21). First Presbyterian will host both the Run4Hope and the Downtown Roll on June 13. ServeFLO is looking for team leaders to help

lead teams on the primary workday of June 20.

If you want to sit around a table and talk about where to serve, out of your passions, and use your gifts, I would love to sit with you. We are looking for folks to deliver meals on wheels, we are hoping to help feed hungry people through My Brother's Keeper, build homes and share the love of Christ, among other things.

Chris

Welcome interim children’s ministry director

Welcome New Staff

I am happy to announce that **Susan Snow** has joined the FPC Church Staff as Interim Director of Children’s Ministry. The Director of Children’s Ministry Search



Susan Snow

Committee has been meeting regularly for several months and is continuing their work. With the approach of Vacation Bible School and other children’s ministry activities, the committee felt that it is in the best interest of the church to hire an interim. The search committee unanimously recommended hiring Susan to serve until a permanent Director

of Children’s Ministry is found.

Susan is no stranger to Children’s Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. She has been involved with our children for many years through Vacation Bible School, Mission Camp, Good News Clubs, as a confirmand mentor and Sunday School teacher. Most recently, as the head of the Discipleship Unit of the Session, Susan has volunteered numerous hours coordinating the various aspects of the church’s ministry to children since Alexis’ departure in August last year. **Welcome Susan!**

Church Pictorial Directory

We are partnering with **Lifetouch**, which will print the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed will receive a complimentary directory and an 8x10 portrait. (Additional photos are available for purchase, although this is completely optional.)



You can sign up for photography online at our church website at **www.flor-encefirst.org** or call Kim at **843-662-2583**.

You should allow approximately an hour for your photography session, during which time you will check-in, be photographed and view your portraits.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATES

- Tuesday through Friday, February 25-28, from 2 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, February 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The directory is a great resource tool to help us connect names with faces. In addition to the hard copy for you to take home, the staff will be able to load all the pictures electronically onto REALM.

Do More ONREALM

First Presbyterian Church implemented a new ACS database system called REALM last year. Since then, many covenant partners, staff and leaders have taken advantage of this system to communicate with each other. REALM allows you to update your personal information, follow church announcements, and look up other covenant partners. REALM also allow you to manage your giving to First Presbyterian Church. You can access REALM from your home computer. You can also access REALM from your mobile device (phone, tablet, etc.) with RealmConnect. Simply download the Connect app from wherever you get your mobile apps (App Store, Google Play, etc.) If you have questions, contact Teresa Stewart in the church office and she’ll be happy to help you get signed up. Our goal is for everyone to get connected. **Let’s be the church ... together.**

Resurrection is central belief of the church

I CORINTHIANS 15

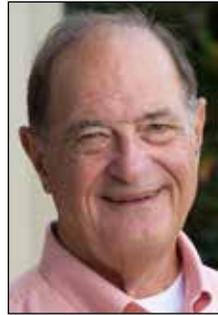
Paul is finishing a letter to the Church in Corinth. The second coming of Jesus has been delayed, even longer than Paul himself believed. The first century eyewitnesses to the resurrected Jesus have begun to die and the Christians in the church have begun to die. The issue had been presented to Paul, and he writes to the Church in Corinth witnessing to the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus to the Church.

The 15th chapter of I Corinthians is a stand-alone witness to the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus to all believers. Paul begins the discussion with a defense of his apostleship and authority of preaching the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus, which is good news to a dying world.

“Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain (I Corinthians 15:1-2).”

In Paul’s declaration of his apostleship, he states several of the central beliefs expressed in The Apostles’ Creed. Jesus the Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and then was raised. Paul reminds the Corinthians that this was “according to the scriptures.”

The Scriptures for Paul and Jesus is what we as Protestants know as the Old Testament. Most likely it was a Greek Old Testament translated from Hebrew which we call The Septuagint. Paul understood the Scriptures as pointing to the coming of Jesus. Jesus’ rejection by the Jewish Religious Leaders and death is reversed when the LORD God raised Jesus. Many people had seen the resurrected Jesus and at the time of the writing of the letter to the Corinthians (mid-50s ACE) some of these were still alive. Paul’s claim to being an



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

apostle is based upon the resurrected Jesus appearing to him.

“Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God (I Corinthians 15:8-9).” This call of the Lord God through the appearance of Jesus to Paul establishes Paul as a prophet proclaiming the truth of God to the Gentiles or the nations of the world.

I believe Paul understood himself to stand in the tradition of Isaiah and the prophets to be a light to the nations. The confessional statement indicates how the Gospel was preached in the first century. The resurrection of Jesus is crucial to the beliefs of the church. “Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:12-14).” This is the foundational statement of the Church.

Our faith is not in vain because the witness of the church and our experience points to the resurrection of Jesus. The Church and the Gospel are linked in relationship for as long as the Kingdom of God is delayed. Our belief in the resurrection of Jesus depends upon Jesus’ appearing to Paul and Jesus giving Paul the truth of the promise of the covenant to redeem and raise humanity.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary. Contact Genia Tyson (genia_tyson@hotmail.com or 843-665-0295) or Melba Whitesides (843-669-8209).



Mid-Winter Gathering

Dozens of women turned out for the Mid-Winter Gathering on January 25. Women collected and put together cold weather bags for House of Hope's mission with the homeless. They also wrote to our college students.

Women in Ministry Monthly Groups

Women in Ministry's aim is to strengthen our relationship with God and build each other up in the body of Christ.

If you are not involved in a circle, please, join in for Christian fellowship and Bible study. We have a place for you!

Bread and Fish	February 8	9 a.m.	Call Peggy Swearingen
Joyful Hearts	February 11	10 a.m.	Room 100
Morning Mercies	February 10	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Posies and Petals	February 11	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Prayer Warriors	February 11	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	February 11	10 a.m.	Home of Pam Morgan
Soul Sisters	February 11	noon	Presbyterian Community
Serenity	February 11	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	February 10	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Women of Valor	February 12	6:30 p.m.	Room 202



Entering the Mission Field

THE GREAT COMMISSION

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Evangelism Unit wants to invite you to interact with our missionaries. Walk the ramp off the Welcome Center to learn about the missionaries we support — made possible through your gifts to the church. Explore mission opportunities you may be interested in as they are posted. If you are interested in getting involved, sign up.



Covenant Partner Linda Westbrook views the Mission Wall off the Welcome Center. Come explore how First Presbyterian supports missions around the globe. For more on the missions we support, visit page 13.

GET INVOLVED IN MUSIC MINISTRY



The Chancel Choir is led by Ann Rodgers Chandler.

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

If you're interested in joining the music ministry, contact Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, 843-662-2583 or achandler@florencefirst.org.

Sharing God's love on Valentine's Day

What an amazing God we serve! Isn't it wonderful how he brings GOOD out of the not so ... good? Take "Valentine's Day" for an example. The dark origin of it leaves a bad taste in my mouth. I don't know when it happened but somewhere along the way, Valentine's Day was re-born. It became "Saint Valentine's Day" or the "Feast of Christians," a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine's Day. Today, Christians celebrate Valentine's Day as a special day.

Sometimes the smallest gift of kindness can stay in our minds and hearts forever. It is so easy, however, to go overboard trying to show someone our affection. Valentine's Day candy, cards and STUFF appear immediately on store shelves, as the last bit of discounted Christmas wrapping paper disappears.

At First Presbyterian Child Development Center, Valentine's Day is a special day. It's a wonderful tool to help young children learn how to share God's love.

On Tuesday, February 4, the 3K and 4K CDC Children will once again be entertaining the Keenagers with a few minutes of fun valentine songs and chants. We hope you come to hear the children sing, eat lunch with your friends and fellowship! There will be fun for everyone and lots of surprises! Mark your calendars now because you don't want to miss out!

Blessings,

Beta



Let the good times roll ... The Toddler class is loaded and ready for a nice morning buggy ride!



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

FEBRUARY 1

Buddy Brand

FEBRUARY 2

Worth Player
Cathy Welch
Ross McMillan

FEBRUARY 3

Allison Hallman
George Stuber
Eliza Blanton
Amy Graham

FEBRUARY 4

Zach Hall
Anna Roycroft
Susan Jenkins
Adele Weatherford
Maddelle Christian

FEBRUARY 5

Philip Baugh

FEBRUARY 6

Heather Warner

FEBRUARY 7

Jeannie Beshere
Floyd Goodstein

FEBRUARY 8

Hampton Weatherford
Michele Naylor
Shelley Hucks
Ellison Banner
Thomas Rogers

FEBRUARY 9

Glenn Bell

FEBRUARY 10

Heyward Hanna
Leah Hawkins
Dave Lawson

FEBRUARY 11

Brian Fast
Mike Weatherford

FEBRUARY 12

R. Justin Hardee
Cheryl Pullmann
Brooks Lavespere

FEBRUARY 13

Ashley Hylton
Kevin Rawlinson

FEBRUARY 14

Hale Emerson
Wyatt Emerson

FEBRUARY 15

Joseph Caine Player
Walter Johnson

FEBRUARY 16

Van Ervin

FEBRUARY 17

Debbie Jackson
Brian Urquhart
Christina Jeffords
Hal Fuller

FEBRUARY 18

Sarah Moseley
Mary Courtney Rogers

FEBRUARY 19

Shelley Gandy
Billy Harrington
Lisa Collins
Glenn Odom
Frances Rogers
Rick Ryan

FEBRUARY 20

Reese McLaurin
Ethan Hall
Susan Ingram
Terry Hunt
William Campbell

FEBRUARY 21

Becka Tuttle

FEBRUARY 22

Andrew Nance
Renda Barnes
Mary Anna Emerson

FEBRUARY 24

Andy Truman
Maria Whitehead
Hayden Lewis

FEBRUARY 25

Verida Marchette
Kathryn Scott
Brandon Frost
Madeline Brice
Aubrey Crawford

FEBRUARY 26

Michael Foxworth
Lily Green
Yarrow Babb

FEBRUARY 27

Celine Cotran
Kathy Griffin
Kim Hawkins



February



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service:
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
- 6:00 PM Basketball Practice (Girls): CLC

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 5:15 PM Basketball Practice
- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
- 9:30 AM WiM Coordinating Team Meeting: LR Chapel
- 11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators: Pilgrim Room
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study:CLC
- 12:00 PM Keenagers: JFH
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)
- 5:15 PM Basketball Practice (8U Boys): CLC
- 6:30 PM Basketball Practice (14U Boys): CLC
- 7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 10:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor
- 5:00 PM Tenacious Grace Gala: JFH, CLC

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission
- 9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Peggy Swearingen

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 Scout Sunday

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Congregational Meeting
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
- 6:00 PM Basketball Practice (Girls): CLC



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 10:30 AM WiM Morning Mercies: Lawson-Rain
- 5:15 PM Basketball Practice
- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: Lawson-Rain
- 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Room 100
- 10:00 AM SonFlowers: Presbyterian Community
- 12:00 PM JFW Bible Study: CLC
- 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: Price Class
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: Lawson-Rain
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 5:15 PM Basketball Practice: CLC
- 6:30 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
- 6:30 PM Session: Off campus
- 6:30 PM WiM Prayer Warriors: Lawson-Rain
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Valor
- 7:30 PM Basketball Practice (17U Boys): CLC
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 10:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor
- 5:30 PM Basketball Practice (10U Boys): CLC



February



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 Valentine's Day

CDC Valentine's Day Classroom parties

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10:00 AM Aglow International

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service:

4:30 PM Volleyball

5:30 PM Embracing God's Word

5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

6:00 PM Basketball Practice (Girls): CLC

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Presidents' Day

5:15 PM Basketball Practice

5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith

7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH

12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC

1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room

3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)

5:15 PM Basketball Practice (8U Boys): CLC

6:30 PM Basketball Practice (14U Boys): CLC

6:30 PM Board of Deacons: Pilgrim

7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room

7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal

5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH

6:30 PM Wednesday night programs

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

7:30 PM Basketball Practice (17U Boys): CLC

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

10:15 AM Women's Bible Study

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor

5:30 PM Basketball Practice (10U Boys): CLC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service:

4:30 PM Volleyball

5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith

7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH

12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC

1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room

2:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits (through 8:50 p.m.)

3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)

6:30 PM Session: Lawson-Rain

7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room

7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Ash Wednesday

2:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits (through 8:50 p.m.)

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal

5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH

6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00 PM FCA Spring Banquet Set-up

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

10:15 AM Women's Bible Study

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor

2:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits (through 8:50 p.m.)

6:00 PM FCA Spring Banquet

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Boy Scouts: CLC

10:00 AM Lifetouch Portraits (through 4:40 p.m.)

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

Heritage

George Richardson

Home

Adele Kassab

Casey Taylor

Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Presbyterian Community

Hannah Barringer

Ann Cash

Aaron Leland

Tom and Clariann Kellam

Macy Turner

Memorials

Thom Anderson

Kenneth Charles

George Oliver

Honorarium

Allen Griffin

Households

Lindsey Banister

Jim and Ruth Bertram

Hunter and Laura Bulloch

Debbie Elliott

Darryl, Mary Lee, Will and Addie Evans

Stanley and Lynette Gaddy

Farrel Godwin

Chad Hayes

Fred and Marla Kunz

Ron Love

Perry and Jenna MacLennan

Andrea Mozingo

Lyn and Pat Ortiz

Sympathy

Jim and Cissy Bankhead, loss of their son Jonathan

Charlie Bazen, loss of his brother

Family of Chuck Dennis

Ron Echols, loss of his wife

Linda Lawson, loss of her brother

Gwen Misurella, loss of her sister

Nancy Moore, loss of her sister

*Lord, Hear
Our Prayer*



Sick & Recovering

Madeline Brice

Jack Cagle

Kit Fulmer

Jimmy Green

Anna Gregg

Mary Ann Nash

Glenn Odom

Ginger Owen

Rosanne Saunders

Peggy Corbin Scheu

Frances Welch

Elders

Mike Lavespere

Susan Snow

Deacons

Brian Fast

Carol Fleenor

Mission

PADD

Bob and Kristi Rice

Women in Ministry

Elizabeth Blanton

Hunter Burch

Sunday School Teachers

Chris Scott

Munford Scott

Staff

Brock Page

Wanda LaSane

Baptisms

Ella Kate Pennstrom

Elizabeth "Liza" Porter Tuttle

God's Work in our Community

PADD

One of First Presbyterian's local ministry outreaches is with Presbyterian Agency for the Developmentally Disabled (PADD).

PADD is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation chartered in South Carolina in the year 2000. The mission was established by the Presbytery of New Harmony, a Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA. PADD is led by a volunteer Board of Trustees and continues a close relationship with Presbytery.

Its mission is to provide the highest quality of life and the greatest level of independence for each resident within the context of a community based residential facility.

The purpose of PADD is to; build and operate homes; coordinate community services; create training and support programs; maintain standards; raise funding. PADD operates a six-bed Community Residential Care Facility (CRCF), and a 4 bed Community Training Home 2 (CTH II). Both homes are located in Florence and are for women.

God's Work Around the World

One of FPC's ministry outreaches is in South Sudan with Bob and Kristi Rice serving with Presbyterian Mission.

Bob and Kristi arrived back in South Sudan in early January after a few months in the U.S.:

"It feels great to be home again. Bob is teaching two classes at Nile Theological College (NTC) this semester – Contextual Theology and Early Church History. He is busy now preparing for the classes, but has struggled with a cold for the past week that has sapped his energy and made preparations difficult. Kristi is reconnecting with her colleagues who have worked together to facilitate workshops on trauma healing and reconciliation, and they are making plans for workshops this year. Our church partner, the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, is sending four people to a School of Reconciliation in Rwanda in March, and they will join the team of facilitators for these workshops. A few prayer requests for us:

1. For continued healing for Bob from his broken hip last year – he still experiences some pain.
2. For health and energy for Bob as classes begin in February
3. For God's direction and open doors for Kristi and colleagues regarding plans for reconciliation workshops this year.



Bob and Kristi Rice

4. For peace in South Sudan. The government and opposition groups are trying to implement a peace agreement signed last year. We pray that God brings an end to conflict and that refugees can return to their homes."

Here is a recent blog post about their return/adjustment back to South Sudan:

<http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/2020/01/return-home-to-juba.html>

And here is a 10-minute video created a few months ago that gives an overview of what they are doing and a few testimonies: <https://youtu.be/LCl7URTjopg>

WELCOME

New Covenant Partners



Lindsey Banister



Jim and Ruth Bertram



Hunter and Laura Bulloch



Debbie Elliott



Mary Lee, Will, and Addie Evans



Stanley and Lynette Gaddy

WELCOME

New Covenant Partners



Chad Hayes



Farrel Godwin



Fred and Marla Kunz



Ron Love



Andrea Mozingo



Perry and Jenna MacLennan



Lyn and Pat Ortiz



First Presbyterian's new covenant partners were introduced to the congregation during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 26, after the Session approved membership.

Becoming a covenant partner is important not only to the congregation but even more importantly for the covenant partner as they are positioned to receive encouragement, support, and correction that the Lord promises to those who share spiritual fellowship.



CONFIRMATION IS BEGINNING

Please pray for the confirmands and their mentors as they begin this exciting and challenging time in the growth of their faith.

Confirmand

- Mac Burch
- Brooklynne Clancy
- Jacqueline Clancy
- Lily Green
- Joey Hall
- Ella Hylton
- Mason Slaughter
- Laura Tiller

Mentor

- Jim Dameron
- Ashley Hylton
- Barbara Green
- Cynthia Knudsen
- Mike Fleenor
- Sally Dameron
- Paul Davis
- Kara Morgan



Mac Burch



Brooklynne Clancy



Jacqueline Clancy



Lily Green



Joey Hall



Ella Hylton



Mason Slaughter



Laura Tiller



Time2PEEP will be held Sunday, February 9, after worship. We will travel to The Assembly after our 11 a.m. worship service. Families are welcome. Children in first grade and higher can travel together on the church bus. Please contact Charissa Canfield if you have any questions, charissa@candesignonline.com.



Church News

Keenagers luncheon to feature CDC

Keenagers will meet at noon Tuesday, February 4, for their luncheon in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Join us for a program complete with the sights and sounds of the Child Development Center.

Afterward, join Jan Green and friends for Dominoes. In January, all who played won a game!

GriefShare resumes at end of February

GriefShare Mondays will resume February 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m., in Room 104. GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment, and you will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your journey through grief.

Poetice International donor matching funds

Poetice International's mission base has been a gathering place for thousands of people, and these facilities have played a pivotal role in facilitating restoration and transformation in the lives of the lost and the least.

Poetice senses a need for additional facilities on its mission base and many other infrastructural needs to accommodate growth and enrich our capacity to empower the Church to fight for justice.

One immediate need is for an outdoor multi-purpose pavilion. Every week hundreds of children are led in discipleship trainings and games. Poetice has outgrown the indoor facilities to host this weekly gathering and moving the children outside isn't an option. With a simple open-air design, this proposed outdoor pavilion would also allow concerts, community gatherings, and other trainings more than doubling the capacity indoors.

Poetice has a donor that is donating a matching gift of up to \$20,000 toward the pavilion. If you would like to make a donation, please make it out to First Presbyterian Church Missions with the memo line matching funds POETICE Pavillion.



Scouts to celebrate 110th birthday

Our Scouts will attend church together to celebrate scouting's 110th birthday on Scout Sunday, February 9. Our Scouts also will be helping with the American Heritage Festival in Lake City, attending a camporee at Camp Coker scout camp and end the month with a trip to Boone for snow tubing, boarding and skiing. We had a large group of scouts travel to Florida to swim with the manatee and enjoy a day at Disney last month.

Consider sponsoring a child in Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere with 80 percent of its 10 million inhabitants living in poverty. Since 2007, First Presbyterian church has been involved with Organization of the Christian Force of Bayonnais (OCFB), which believes the only way for Haiti to come out of its devastating poverty is through education. OFCB operates a medical clinic, a Christian non-denominational church and many agronomy programs. An important part of OFCB's ministry is a K-13th grade school. Currently 48 families are supporting 78 children in Bayonnais. By the end of this school year, First Presbyterian Church would love to double its financial support to these children and their families. Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring a child for \$40 a month/\$480 per year?

Parental guide to discipling teenagers

By Brock Page

Youth Ministry Director

A terrific resource that our church has access to through the denomination is Axis.org. They have excellent resources for parents and leaders of youth. The articles on the site cover a range of issues, and I recommend you check them out. Here is an excerpt from the article, *A Parent's Guide to Discipling Teens*:

Generational Cultures? What do you mean?

Just as someone from China can feel lost and confused when visiting Mexico, someone from one generation in a particular country can feel confused around someone from another generation in that same country. Their experiences, backgrounds, values, ideals, and language can be so different that it's hard for them to relate to or understand each other, despite being raised in the same country. Yes, even though people from two generations might speak the same language, they often don't



because the ways in which they use their native tongues are foreign to each other.

So how does culture translation help?

A great example is when 60- or 70-something grandparents visit their teenaged grandkids. The grandkids are talking about V-bucks and emotes, whether they saw someone's "story," who's DMed whom, that crazy "meme," and so on. Though these terms and ideas are part of the grandkids' everyday verbiage and experience, the grandparents typically have no idea what they're talking about. And because of this gap of understanding, it's hard for either generation to communicate—let alone connect—with each other.

Through studying different genera-

tions and their respective cultures, those who engage in Culture Translation not only understand others better, they can also communicate effectively with them about things that matter because they understand what motivates them and how to speak their language.

But even more importantly, it's a crucial component of faith. When we've said that to parents, they usually look at us skeptically. "Hold up," they're thinking. "The Gospel is all we need. Why are you trying to add to it?" A valid question.

Our response is that Culture Translation is not changing, adding to, watering down, or ignoring parts of the Gospel; rather, it's simply changing the ways in which we communicate the Gospel and show its relevance to teens' lives. It's an awareness of how new generations communicate, what they're influenced by, and what they like, and that awareness then informs how we communicate the Gospel to them and show how it's much more fulfilling than anything else they're into.

READING CHALLENGE

Remember the (Six-Minute) Reading Challenge for children and youth from Pastor Chris Handley:

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

...finish it before Valentine's Day and let us know. We will have a celebration and maybe a bookclub moment to discuss the book!

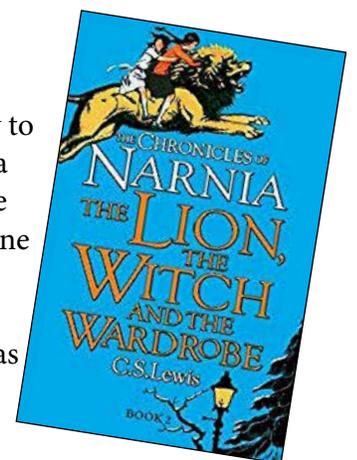
And for our young families and the young at heart, a few words from *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*:

"No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a Story. It's an adven-

ture story about a young Hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne — everything — to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of fairy tales that has come true in real life!

You see, the best thing about this Story is — it's true."

Let's keep reading together!



Youth Ministry News

Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 / 10-10:50 a.m. / Light breakfast, Fellowship, Lesson
- Small group: Feb. 9 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson
- MOVE: Feb. 2, 23 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson, Fellowship
- 412 on Wednesdays: Feb. 12, 19, 26 / 6:30-7:30 p.m. / Bible study and prayer
- East Florence Mission: Feb. 11, 18, 25 / 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Super Bowl Party on February 2

- On Sunday, Feb. 2, we will have our annual Super Bowl party from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet to bring an appetizer/dessert for the party.

Ski Trip 2020

- On Feb. 14-17, we will travel to Winterplace, W.Va., for our annual youth ski trip. We will leave Friday afternoon and return Monday night. The cost will be about \$250. Please let me know if this is something your student would like to attend so I can make arrangements for transportation. More fine-tuned details to come.



Presbytery Youth Retreat

- We continue to plan a presbytery-wide youth retreat for the end of April. We have secured a location, Camp Bob Cooper on Lake Marion. We are working on securing a speaker and music, as well as assessing the interest of other churches in the presbytery. We will continue to update.

The Culture Translator

- *A terrific resource that our church has access to through the denomination is Axis.org. One nice resource they have is The Culture Translator. It is a weekly update for parents and leaders of youth with all the up to date trends in youth culture. I would encourage you to check it out. Here is a sample from the latest email:*

Woke: To be fully aware of current events, particularly injustice and racism in society. “Stay woke.” Especially related to racial and social issues, this term was added to Merriam-Webster due to a quote by Congresswoman Barbara Lee in 2017.

Yeet: Originally a dance that began trending on Vine in 2014. However, recently the word has become more popular as an exclamation. It is typically used for excitement or approval, but nowadays has many meanings and uses.

Mood: At the moment, this word is being used to caption images that express a person’s current feelings. It can also be used to show what you’re in the mood for or to relate to something someone else has posted. “Big” and “whole” moods mean an even stronger emotion or desire.

Lit: Since the 1910s, to “get lit” was slang for getting intoxicated. Nowadays, its meaning has been broadened to simply describe something that’s really good. Often related to parties, phrases like “it’s lit” or “so lit” mean that the party is wild. Simply saying “lit” means “cool,” and the word has also been heavily used by rap artists such as Travis Scott. (Alternative usage: an abbreviation for “literally.”)

Savage: Internet slang that relates to something someone does that is shocking, but done without care of the consequences. Though dehumanizing, the popularity of this term has allowed the sting of words to be watered down for entertainment purposes. Even Wendy’s social media has been deemed “savage.”



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CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Dr. Darryl Evans
Associate Pastor	Rev. Chris Handley
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Interim Praise Team Leader	Mr. Keith Hamrick
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
Interim Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Susan Snow
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
Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Fellowship and Fun Retreat at the Farm

All women of the church are invited to the retreat at the farm from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, February 29.

Come spend time in devotion, crafts, and lunch. After a devotional time together we will break up to enjoy craft lessons or to just enjoy the company, conversation, and fellowship with others. Black Water Farms is a beautiful privately owned farm at 2026 Fire Tower Road, 10 miles from Irby Street straight out National Cemetery Road. So it's not too far, but just far enough to enjoy the countryside.

In the event of rain, the retreat will be held in the indoor facilities at the farm. More details to come.

