

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



AUGUST 2021



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Elder Class of 2024 has now begun to serve on the Session with the five newly elected elders who started their terms in July. Each year, one of the first orders of business is to elect a Clerk of Session for the next 12 months, and I am honored to have been so elected. On behalf of the Session, I would like to express our deep gratitude to Debbie Jackson for all her faithfulness and hard work as she finished her year as Clerk.

Some highlights of the past month include:

- We welcomed new covenant partners.
- The church's finances are strong, and we are thankful for covenant partners' generosity to the Lord so that our ministry can continue to flourish.
- We are hopeful that the season of Covid is winding down, and we are delighted that the Sunday School year is about to begin.
- We celebrate WinShape Camp that concludes this week.

- Our special offering for our ministry partner Actionnel Fleurisma in Haiti is coming along well, and there should be an update given during worship on Aug 8.
- We welcomed Wynde Edwards and Taiter Garrett as part of our staff team.

The Lord is at work in our church and I am excited to see where He leads us. We are blessed in so many ways, and with those blessings come a responsibility to be a blessing to others. Life is never without its challenges, yet I am looking forward to this next season of ministry with you. In all things, let us look to Him and give Him the glory!

Mike Nunn
Clerk of Session

In all things, let us look to Him and give Him the glory!

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ON THE COVER: A group of children plan their attack with a WinShape leader during a game of sharks and minnows.

Perspective

Dear Church Family,

Remember the words of the Teacher in Ecclesiastes 3:

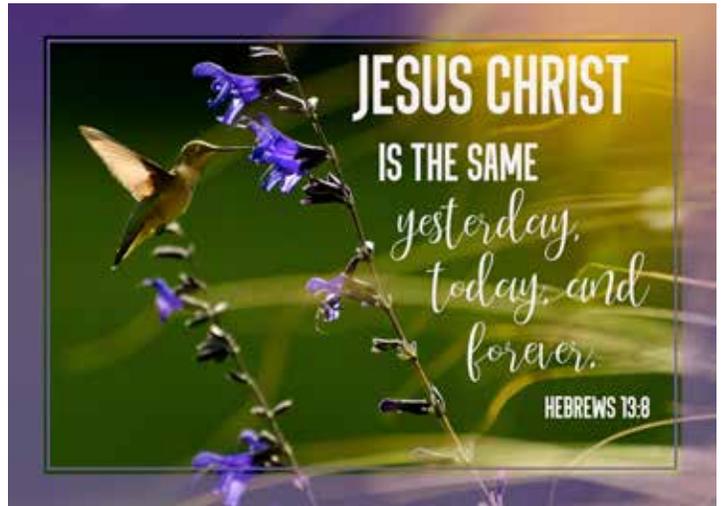
“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die,
 a time to plant and a time to uproot,
 a time to kill and a time to heal,
 a time to tear down and a time to build,
 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
 a time to mourn and a time to dance,
 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
 a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
 a time to search and a time to give up,
 a time to keep and a time to throw away,
 a time to tear and a time to mend,
 a time to be silent and a time to speak,
 a time to love and a time to hate,
 a time for war and a time for peace.

Today is confusing because it often feels like there is such a mixture of things going on. We might be asking ourselves, “What ‘time’ are we in?” Sometimes the seasons of life swirl like a tie-dye. Right now some of us are struggling, such as grieving the health of a loved one; some of us already are facing the school year; some of us are wondering if we are truly accepted; some of us are wondering how did we get this busy; or maybe you are wondering whether Covid is past us or if a Delta wave is coming.

What season – or seasons – are you in? Are you in between the busy-ness and the hardship? Or did you just have a time of rest at the beach knowing that deer season is right around the corner?

Part of the good news of this passage from Ecclesiastes is that – despite any and every season – there is a clear sense of transcendence over it all. Perspective brings stability. Seasons come and seasons go. There is something greater than them all: Our Lord who does not change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).



Jesus we know. We know He is our Lord. He died for us; He was raised for us; He intercedes for us. He is loving, joyous, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful ... and we know there is always some mystery about Him. Now we know only in part; fullness will come later. Aslan cannot be tamed. But He is on the move.

This week a few of us met with Tom Boone, an ECO pastor who works at the Outreach Foundation and saw a few glimpses of Aslan. We heard stories about the underground church rapidly growing in places such as Iran and China. It is hard to know which of these two countries the faith is expanding the fastest. For various reasons, it cannot be measured. There is mystery. Yet one thing seems clear: during this past year of Covid – with people secluded in their homes – through social media more people heard the Gospel this past year than any year before. Isn't that joyous?

There is a time for everything. Sometimes we simply stay the course. Sometimes the call is to remain faithful to what already has been revealed to us to keep the faith. A new season is coming.

Peace,

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Made for This

This week, at WinShape camp, over 160 kids had the BEST WEEK EVER! These young people heard the message, “You were made for this” (Ephesians 2:10). One day, they had opportunity to write their personal response to the good news of Jesus Christ. I am excited to hear how the children responded. We will get that information from the WinShape team soon.

I know that you’ve seen some of the pictures and all the activity on campus has been a joy. There have been children from over 25 area churches! We have accomplished the goal of having 50 percent black kids and 50 percent white kids. We had 12 kids from East Florence Mission, where Brock Page now serves as their director. Brock was at camp with those children. We had Hispanic children from the Hispanic church that meets at Trinity Presbyterian. It was a joy to watch!

The 25 WinShape staff that came into town are a top-notch group of young people. Two of them, with whom I spoke, graduated from college and hoped to go to work for WinShape full-time in Atlanta. Two other staffers graduated from college and plan to attend law school this fall or next. Another finished her master’s degree in Education and was heading to work in a university on Monday! This group of young adults have had the opportunity to experience serving the Lord with such intensity that I am sure it has left its mark on each of them. I thank Green Team leader, Hayley Jarnigan, and her team for their sacrificial service.

I had the joy of watching our very own 10th-grader Freeman Williams give himself as a volunteer all five days of WinShape, along with about four other young people from other churches. Let me thank him publicly for his service. He was here every morning this week before 7:30 a.m. and left after 5 p.m. He loved on the children in the name of Christ in special ways. Only Freeman can serve the Lord on a “one-wheeler”! (Ask him about his “one-wheeler” sometime). I also want to thank our meal team (Susan Hofler, Sally Dameron, Carol Fleenor, Cynthia Knudsen, Melanie Neal, Betsy Moore and Dottie Handley, my favorite!). These ladies pumped out lunches for 60 campers and delivered those along with snacks for 160 for every camper



every day. Sissy and Dan Hicks were the snack brigade, preparing snacks all week. Tabatha Davis, Don Hebert and Brandon Hylton helped us provide lunch for the team on the Sunday they arrived, and Shannon Watt cooked a meal for the team on Wednesday of camp. I thank all of you for that service! Thanks also goes to the three area Chick-fil-A stores for providing 436 box lunches on Friday!

We have already begun negotiations for next summer’s WinShape camp. So, if you missed it, start making plans for 2022.

It excites me to hear a theme like Ephesians 2:10 for our children, which says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared for us to do.” You were made IN CHRIST to do works that He has made for you. Os Guinness said, “Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service.” Let’s all figure out what “we are made for”! All for Him.

Chris

Toward a Healthier Church

Being Good Stewards

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) The Bible mentions money over 800 times and of all of Jesus’ parables, more than half of them talked about money. Why? Because that is where so many people get tripped up! When we can release at least 10 percent of our income back to God, our money doesn’t have as tight of a hold on us because we realize that God is in control of our finances. We remember that everything we have has been given to us by Him. Many who grasp what God has truly given them seem to agree that 10 percent doesn’t even feel like enough! (www.crosswalk.com/family-finances)

Dave Ramsey has this to say about tithing and giving: “A **tithe** is an amount (a percent of your income — 10 percent) 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)

Once we understand what a tithe is, the next question becomes, “**Why should I tithe?**” Dave Ramsey has this to say about the “why tithe” question:

The tithe was not put into place for God’s benefit — He already has everything He needs. He doesn’t need our money! (And “our” money is already His anyway.)

Tithing is an act of obedience and should be given freely with pure motives. In other words, we give without expecting anything back in return. And it teaches us to be good stewards of what God has given us.

Tithing was created for our benefit. It teaches us how to keep God first in our lives and how to live unselfishly. (www.daveramsey.com/blog/daves-advice-on-tithing-and-giving)

Facts and Figures

By now, all covenant partners should have received quarterly contribution statements reflecting individual giving through the first 6 months of 2021. In order to carry out the **Ministry Action Plan** set forth by our pastors, program staff and the various ministry units of the Session, we need to receive contributions of \$32,688 per week. The chart below shows a snapshot of our collective giving for the first half of 2021.

2021 Ministry Action Plan Summary

Pledge Gifts Received	\$695,010.00
Non-Pledge Gifts Received	\$177,642.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$7,725.00
Total 2021 Ministry Action Plan Receipts	\$880,377.00
Total 2021 Ministry Action Plan Expenses	\$883,989.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$3,612.00)

As the chart shows, our expenses are running slightly higher than revenue for the year. As you look to the fall and back-to-school, let me encourage you to include continued financial support of the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church in your plans. One way you can do this is through online giving, which allows you to support the ministries of our church even when you are away. To learn more about the online giving option, visit our website, www.florencefirst.org, and click on the online giving link at the top of the home page. You may also make a gift and view your giving history through Realm.



A Call to Revival

Romans is the longest and most studied of Paul's letters to the church. It has created and affected many renewals and changes in the history of the world and in the church.

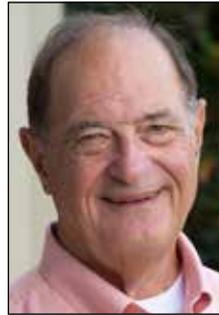
A first time the reading of Romans changed history was by Augustine in Carthage in the fourth century as the Roman Empire crumbled. Augustine brought Paul's view of the rebellion of humankind to the forefront of the Church's thought.

A second example is in the midst of the Enlightenment or Renaissance. The reformers led by Martin Luther cautioned the Church leaders to remove their pride and political power and recapture the Lordship of God in Jesus Christ.

A third example is the rebellion of European church leaders against Germany, Hitler, and the Third Reich led by Karl Barth's commentary on Romans in 1917. Reinhold Niebuhr was influenced by Romans and wrote his Moral Man and Immoral Society outlining the sinful nature of corporate America in 1932. The world is in need of Revival to return to a sense of obedience to the Creator Lord.

Paul in Romans writes a convincing argument creating a political and theological ideology of the nature of humanity to reject the LORD God as absolute authority over creation and human ideas. The letter to the Romans contains the world view to change the world as Christianity witnesses to God through Christ speaking to the modern world.

Everyone has a world view based on their childhood influences, their peer pressures, their education, and their feelings and emotions. Those who follow Jesus allow the Holy Spirit to speak through the Bible and Church to shape our world view. Those who follow the Jewish faith allow God to speak through the Old Testament and the synagogue to shape their world view. In the next few months, I would challenge you to examine your world view and base it upon your understanding of Jesus as revealed in Scripture and the Church's influence.



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

Paul's letter to the Romans seeks to deal with the breakdown of the relationship between the Creator LORD and the created world. It is written with at least a triad of purpose. First, Paul the apostle to the Gentiles introduces himself to the church in Rome. Second, he defends the Gospel to include Gentiles without being bound to the obedience to the Law. This is the doctrine of justification by faith. Third, Paul upholds the righteousness of God. The Creator God of the Universe is faithful and can be trusted. Because Romans is Paul's longest and most theological letter, it is included in the New Testament at the beginning of the Pauline letters.

Paul introduces himself in the beginning of each of his letters. First, he says he is "a servant of Jesus Christ." The word for servant (*doulos*) can also mean slave. Paul considers himself bonded by his own loyalty to Jesus the Messiah or Christ. Second, Paul claims he is "called to be an apostle." In Galatians 1:15, Paul states that God "revealed His Son to me." The authoritative call of God was a revelation, vision, or apocalypse of Jesus to Paul to become an apostle. This is the driving force or motivation to complete the call of God. Paul saw the risen Jesus which gave him authority to speak the revealed word of Jesus to the world. Third, Paul is "set apart for the Gospel of God." Paul as apostle has a specific task given to him. Paul's commitment to the Gospel defines the historical Church's understanding of this Gospel.

Welcome our new Covenant Partners

Welcome our new Covenant Partners: Larry and Sandra Davidson; Will and Erin Patton; and Gary Pletan and Melissa Bush.



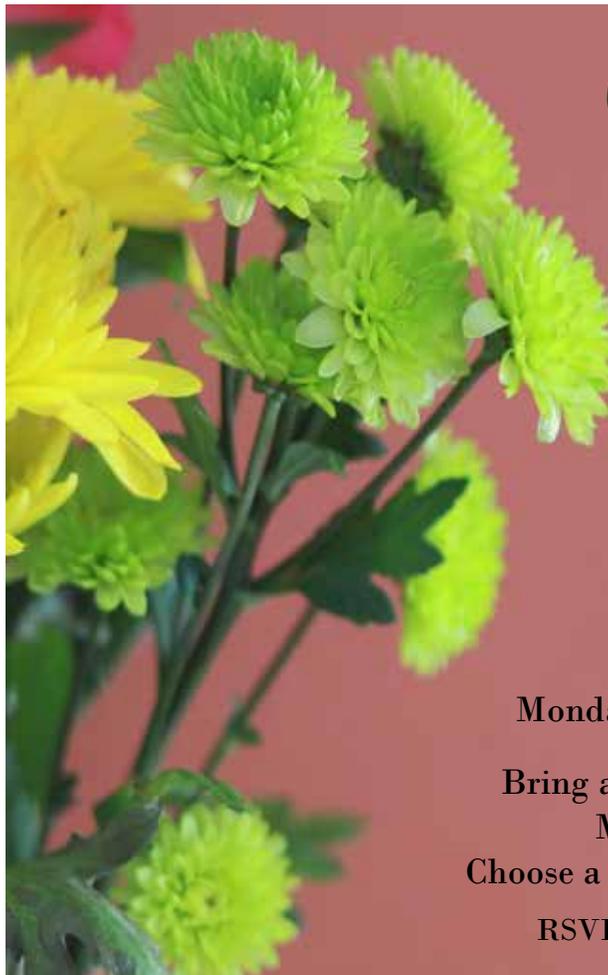
Larry and Sandra Davidson have lived in Florence for over 2 years. Larry is a physician in Florence. They have two daughters, Anna, who is 23 and lives in Greenville, South Carolina, and Emily, 20, who lives in Florence.



Will and Erin Patton, left, have been in Florence since 2014 after moving from Charleston. Since then, they have been blessed with two amazing daughters, Emily and Natalie. They have been attending First Presbyterian for the last year and are excited to become Covenant Partners.



Gary Pletan and Melissa Bush have lived in the Pee Dee area for 17 years. They have attended First Presbyterian Church since January 2019: “Everyone was so welcoming and friendly when we visited, it felt like God had led us to our Church home. We’re very grateful to become covenant partners.”



You're invited

**WOMEN'S
MINISTRY
KICKOFF**

Monday, August 30 • 6:30 PM • Christian Life Center

Bring a salad to share • Fellowship with other women
Meet circle leaders and Bible study leaders
Choose a circle to join • Hear introduction to Bible study

RSVP for childcare by Aug. 23: tstewart@florencefirst.org

Support for our brothers, sisters in Haiti

Dear Church Members:

As you know it has been four years since First Presbyterian Church has been able to send a mission team to visit our friends in Bayonnais, Haiti. We were initially unable to travel because of the political instability in the country, then COVID, crime, and now the assassination of President Jovenel Moise. Actionnel Fleurisma, pastor of OFCB, has been faithful to send updates this past year during the COVID pandemic. Most of his letters begin with “COVID-19, Gangs, Kidnapping, Crimes and Starvation.” Issues that infrequently occur in the United States are a regular way of life for Haitians.

Actionnel describes the community as living in “fear, uncertainty, doubt, and hopelessness.” Without regular mission teams visiting, donations and support has dwindled, and the whole community is suffering. Our church donation last year was critical to the survival of the people during the world-wide pandemic lockdown.

In response to our neighbors’ needs, we once again would like to encourage Covenant Partners to make donations to Haiti as the Lord leads you. We are hoping to raise another \$50,000. The Outreach and Enabling units have committed to making gifts of \$10,000 each and an FPC donor has already matched these gifts. One third of the money raised will go to purchase rice and beans to meet the immediate physical needs of the community. One third will go to improve the long-term agricultural needs. And one third will provide very basic medical and educational needs.

If you would like to support Haiti, please make donations to First Presbyterian Church with a memo to “Haiti Relief Fund.” If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact Janet Brand by email at janet81661@aol.com. Thank you for your continued generosity, support, and love for our brothers and sisters in Bayonnais.

Outreach Unit

The Making of a Childcare Outreach

Once upon a time, about eight years ago, there was a growing church, with a new and improved facility and a deep passion to minister to young families, through a childcare outreach.

After months of investigating what the biggest childcare need was in the Florence area, the appointed search team, (an elder and the children's minister) reported that the biggest need was not a half-day, mother's morning out, as some had originally thought. The most urgent need in Florence County was for more full-day faith-based childcare centers, particularly ones who would support full-time care for infants and toddlers.

About the same time the entire Florence County area had embarked on a city-wide, development plan, which would encompass downtown revitalization, new businesses, additional housing, etc. This well thought out plan would hopefully provide a better community for young families and others. Ultimately, it would hopefully revitalize an older community, living in the past. With this in mind, the members (Covenant Partners) of First Presbyterian Church, Florence, set forth not only to provide an additional fulltime childcare center, but also to go over and beyond by providing a faith-based, child development center. It was their hope and prayer that in turn this type of program would provide multiple ministry opportunities for young and old. Young children in age-appropriate classes would have opportunities each weekday to learn, grow and develop to the best of their ability, all under the watchful eye of the church. After much prayer and discussion and more prayer and more discussion, a vision was born to have such a childcare outreach here at First Presbyterian Church. This vision was a vision of many people, not just one or two, but many.

No one really knew what the child development center would look like. However, they did know where in the new facility the center would be. The Sunday School classrooms had been designed by an in-house architect, who knew the ins and outs and the how and whys of what was needed. So by the grace of God and the guidance of the Covenant Partners, the architect, designed children's classrooms that were beyond adequate to



Above: The Child Development Center building.
Left: Morning prayer time in the 2K class.

house not only a Sunday School for children but also a state of the art, child development center.

In fall 2014, the church moved into the new part of the building and young children filled the Sunday School classrooms that would later be shared by the child development center ministry.

Fast-forward to mid-summer 2015, with the guidance and mandate of S.C. Childcare licensing the search was on to find a suitable person to come on board as the child development director. This person would lead the way for the child development center to become a faith-based, full-time licensed facility, meeting all South Carolina DSS, DHEC and SC Fire Marshal regulations. In late December, such a person with the needed knowledge, experience and education was found. This person, appointed by God, received the vision and the race was on. ...

Stayed tuned next month for the rest of the story.
Blessings, *Beth*



August

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
5:00 PM Youth Back-to-School Bash

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast: Bazen's
10:30 AM WiM Bible Moderators: Lawson-Rain
5:45 PM WIM CT Meeting: Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

6:00 PM Youth Senior Night
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
7:00 AM Youth Coffee: F.E. Pops
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
10:00 AM Children's Sunday School Rally: CLC
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
5:00 PM Youth
5:30 PM Embracing God's Word Leadership
Coffee: JFH

**MONDAY, AUGUST 9**

11:00 AM Enabling Committee Meeting:
Women's Only Classroom
12:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting: LR
5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast: Bazen's
12:00 PM Discipleship Committee Meeting:
Women's Only Classroom
2:00 PM Fellowship Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

6:00 PM Youth
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
5:00 PM Youth (Dinner provided)

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast: Bazen's
6:30 PM Board of Deacons: JFH

August

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

12:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting: Pilgrim
6:00 PM Youth
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
5:00 PM Youth (Dinner provided)
5:30 PM Embracing God's Word Leadership
Training: JFH

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast: Bazen's
6:30 PM Session

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

6:00 PM Youth
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Youth Parent Meeting
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
5:00 PM Youth (Dinner provided)
5:30 PM Embracing God's Word Leadership
Training: JFH

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
6:30 PM WIM Kickoff Dinner: CLC
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast: Bazen's

...BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT...

SINGING & MAKING MELODY

TO THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART.



Ephesians 5:18-19, ESV

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Commander Nursing Center

Jessie Moss

Home

Adele Kassab

Glenn Odom

Lowman Home

Mac King

Methodist Manor

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community

Ann Cash

Helen Foster

Aaron Leland

Clariann Kellam

Hospital/Rehab

Richard Nash, McLeod Room 845

Kit Ellington, Heritage

Fred Swearingen, Willow Trace

Memorials

Joyce Haizlip

Households

FLOCK 1: Anna Spivey

FLOCK 2: Rob and Sasha Hall, Zach, Joey, Natalie and Ethan

FLOCK 3: Kathy Hatfield

FLOCK 4: Brett and Donna Green

FLOCK 5: Rufus and Ashley Bratton, Sims and William

FLOCK 6: David and Christy Douglas

FLOCK 7: Sam and Lisa Dozier, Sarah and Meredith

FLOCK 8: Glenn and Betty Bell

Sympathy

Sonny Slaughter, loss of his father

Beverly Davis, loss of her brother & mother

Jimmy Green, loss of his mother

Sick & Recovering

Butch Carroll

Kent Caudle

Aubrey Crawford

Kit Fulmer

Sherrill Fussell

Debbie Harwell

Linda Lawson

Isla Louise McCoy

Mary Ann Nash

Martha Tyson

Shannon Watt

Jack Williams

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer

Elders

Rob Hall

Jeremy Williams

Deacons

Nabil Cotran

Ellen Pearson

Mission

Helping Florence Flourish

Actionnel Fleurisma

Women in Ministry

Ruth Bertram

Terry Hunt

Sunday School Teachers

Carol Fleenor

Heather Taylor

Staff

Taiter Garrett

Susan Snow

August BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 1

Ella Naylor

AUGUST 3

Caden Bulliner
Michael Frost
Kathy Grace
Rhett Spencer
Wallace Vaught

AUGUST 4

Jane Ames
Casey Coker
Bob O'Harra

AUGUST 5

Rob Hall

AUGUST 6

Jake McKay
Jerry Neal

AUGUST 7

Tabatha Davis

AUGUST 8

Sandra Anderson
Rufus Bratton
Brittany Reames
Peggy Swearingen

AUGUST 9

Donna Crockett
Lena Foxworth
Jackson Mozingo
Mary Caroline Vaught

AUGUST 10

Caulder Christian
Lincoln Emert

AUGUST 11

Chris Johnson
Joe Pearce
Amy Williams

AUGUST 12

Marshall Campbell
Carol Crom
Donna Green
Scott Ham

AUGUST 13

Sherrill Fussell
Andrew Halus

AUGUST 14

Ellen Fails
Anna Parsons Fast
Taylor Knudsen
Brittany Matthews
Jim Moore

AUGUST 15

Tamara Hoefler
Mary Louise McIntyre
John Shurman

AUGUST 16

Janet Brand
Joey Hall
Yvette Mbangowah

AUGUST 17

Frank Lee
Jay Reece
Emmett Straus
Brian Wallace

AUGUST 18

Evans Holland
Stuart Snow

AUGUST 19

Carson Munn

AUGUST 20

Charissa Canfield
Dan Hicks
Betsy Johnson
Moses King
Fred Kunz
Phil Moore
Jeff Singletary

AUGUST 21

Charlie Ervin
Mary Jane Holland
Gregg Jones
Wit Poston

AUGUST 22

Catherine Canfield
Kent Caudle
Ella Pennstrom

AUGUST 23

Joe Commander
Charlie Grace
Cindy Johnson

AUGUST 24

Martha Dusenbury
Brett Green
Sarah Ella Hardee
Ellen Grace Marechal
Porter Stewart

AUGUST 25

Lane Gilpin
Patti Hubbs
Ronald Welch

AUGUST 26

Sallyann Frost
Andrea Mozingo
Andi Rae Straus
Phyllis Williams

AUGUST 27

Dakota Hawkins

AUGUST 28

Carolyn Caudle
Betsy Harris
Heather Taylor
Ryon Watkins

AUGUST 29

Farrel Marie Godwin
Rod Jernigan
Virginia Spencer

AUGUST 30

Tillman Johnson
Ron Love
Lyllian Scott

AUGUST 31

Lynette Gaddy



Congrats to Scouts earning merit badges

Twenty of our Scouts and leaders enjoyed a week at Camp Barstow Boy Scout Camp on Lake Murray in July. Over 75 merit badges were earned and several Scouts advanced in rank during the week of outdoor fun and scouting activities.

Hunter Morgan is leading a group of scouts backpacking in the Sierra Nevada mountains in California this week.

Hunter's trips are an adventure of a lifetime and many of the Scouts on the trip are veterans to Hunter's trips. Monday night Scout meetings for the new school year will start back in September after a day at the lake sailing, water skiing, wake boarding and tubing in late August.

Donations sought for school supplies

School Supplies Drive: Donations are being accepted for those in need of school supplies in Florence School District 1 and Cross Cultural Workforce Impact. Supplies in need include: book bags, notebooks, pencils, crayons, markers, erasers, folders, rulers, loose-leaf paper, binders, pens, etc. Drop off donations in the Welcome Center. For more information, please contact Jayne Boswell at 843-229-7790.



HOPE Village to open in October

In October, House of Hope will open the doors to the first four Tiny Homes in HOPE Village. Construction workers added siding to the homes in mid-July. All homes have been framed with the last 11 roofs being added. Windows and exterior doors are in the front 13 houses, as well as shower stalls and can lights. All Hope Village residents will apply through the Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter. The homes are to provide a safe place of refuge for men, women and children who are homeless.

— To submit a brief for the newsletter or bulletin, please email Kim Brauss at kbrauss@florencefirst.org.

WinShape: Made for This



WinShape Camps for Communities — along with Helping Florence Flourish and First Presbyterian Church — brought together about 160 children from the Pee Dee area for a week of faith and fun.



Get Ready for Rally Day

Sunday School Rally Day
will be held at 10 a.m. August 8
in the Christian Life Center.
All children, families, and teachers are invited
to a special breakfast and fun activities
to kick-off our Sunday School Year!!!

Presentation of Bibles

All rising first-graders will be presented with their
Bibles at both services on August 8, 2012.

Sunday School Prep



The children's Sunday School teachers gathered for a time of Fellowship and Information on July 28. We got to know each other better, discussed our plans for the upcoming year, our continued efforts to build teams for each class, the rooms to be used, curriculum, rosters, and Ministry Safe. It was wonderful to see the willingness and dedication on the part of these teachers for our children here at First Presbyterian. Thank you all so much!!!



GETTING TO KNOW

Wynde Edwards

Describe your primary responsibilities at First Presbyterian: My areas of responsibility include Sunday School, Children's Church, CDC Chapel, Wednesday Evening Programs, Catechism/Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Christmas and Easter Events, Curriculum, Teacher/Volunteer Recruitment, as well as other missional opportunities for children. I pray that by loving, encouraging, and equipping the children, families, and volunteers we will work together to be in service and praise to God, as well as instilling a deep and abiding love for Jesus Christ.

What is your favorite thing to do in Florence? Try new restaurants and explore antique and vintage shops.

Tell us about your family: I'm blessed with a wonderful husband of 31 years who loves the Lord, his family, and his precious Boykin Spaniels, Remi and Rocky. He serves as Executive Director for the Darlington County Free Medical Clinic and served as Chief Financial Officer in government and other organizations. Our daughter is O'Neill. She is a graduate of Sweet Briar College in Virginia and then attended law school in North Carolina. She is an attorney in Murrells Inlet, has an incredible love for animals, and has two precious Boykin Spaniels, Scout and Lady. Our son, Caleb, is an Eagle Scout, attended college in Virginia and South Carolina with an emphasis on Criminal Justice, graduated from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Academy. He has been with the Florence County Sheriff's Department going on four years. He is married to the love of his life, Kelley, who works in banking. She is a kind and loving daughter-in-law! As for me, my life has been blessed with wonderful jobs that God has placed before me. Through the years, my husband's work required family moves, but God always opened doors, and I'm so grateful! I have worked in



church ministry for almost 20 years, taught school for 12, coordinated activities with seniors in retirement settings, and worked for non-profit and state programs for at-risk children and families.

Tell us about your hobbies: My joys in life are being with my husband for dining experiences, training our Boykin Spaniels for field trials, painting particularly in oils, home projects, hearing beautiful music, and exploring antique shops, historical settings and museums.

How do you see God moving at First? I see God working and moving through the Christ-Centered people here at First Presbyterian. Whether it is serving on session, a committee, teaching any age, singing in the choir, working with Helping Florence Flourish, or volunteering in any way at the church (large or small) God sees the heart of His people. This is a church who loves Jesus Christ and wants all to experience his amazing love and grace.

Contact Wynde at wedwards@florencefirst.org or 843-992-8609.

GETTING TO KNOW

Taiter Garrett

Christina “Taiter” Garrett started as the interim Next-Gen Ministries director for the youth in July. She’s previously worked part time with the youth girls at First Presbyterian.

Describe your primary responsibilities at First Presbyterian Church:

Walking along side the youth (7th – 12th grade) teaching them about God’s word & love, the importance of prayer / how to pray, speaking words of encouragement to them, reminding them how important it is to be consistent, to be servant minded, and to seek accountability from people they trust.

We meet together for fellowship several times a week, including (but not limited to) the following: Sunday School, Sunday Night Large Group, Small Groups, Wednesday Night Gathering and Thursday morning coffee.

What is your favorite thing to do in Florence?

I enjoy going on long bike rides or walks with my friends.

Tell us about your family: My family means the world to me. I am so thankful to the Lord for growing us closer over the years. My immediate family members live in Clarendon County & Summerville.

Tell us about your hobbies: I enjoy gardening, baking and cooking, reading, riding my bike, working out, spending time with my friends, taking lots of pictures, going to concerts and listening to music, especially Sara Groves, Bethany Dillon & John Mayer.



How do you see God moving at First Presbyterian?

The Lord is always up to something. For me, I see God moving in the way the youth are becoming a family, learning to pray for one another & speak kind words. We are consistently meeting together & He is meeting us there.

God has definitely been stretching & preparing me to step into the role of interim Youth Director. It’s encouraging to look back on things I have written down & prayed about for months that the Lord is now revealing what His plans have been all along. I believe this next season will be a season of growth, in many areas, for the youth & myself.

To contact Taiter, call 843-601-7442 or email tgarrett@florencefirst.org

Summer wrap-up

Summer has flown by! The youth have enjoyed getting together several times a week all summer long. We have spent time playing volleyball, meeting for coffee, going to a RedWolves game, participating in WinShape and having an end-of-summer party at Skate Land.

As we head into the new school year, I just want to say how much I am looking forward to walking along side the youth as the new interim Youth Director. We have a long list of great things planned, including lots of fun trips, parties, and putting the final touches on the youth rooms. Thanks, again, to Palmer Jones for how much work he put into them already.

I have been so encouraged by many of you who have spoken kind words to me as I step into this role. Prayers for the youth and myself are greatly appreciated. I'm excited to see what the Lord does this year! If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, please feel free to ask any time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 1: 5-7 p.m. Back to School Bash. Dinner, games & prizes!

Wednesday, August 4: 6-7:30 p.m. Senior Night. Come say goodbye to the class of 2021. Dinner provided.

Thursday, August 5: Coffee at F.E.Pops. 7 a.m. meeting time starts again.

Sunday, August 8: 10 a.m. Sunday School starts back. Breakfast provided.

Sunday, August 29: 10 a.m. Parent Meeting during the Sunday School hour. Breakfast provided.

SAVE THE DATE: Small Groups will start back on Sunday, September 12. 5:30-7 p.m. Dinner provided. Locations TBD.

Sunday Night Youth Group (5-7 p.m.): August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Wednesday Night Gathering (6-7:30 p.m.): August 4, 11, 18 and 25





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 www.florencefirst.org

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
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Vic Rockhill
Interim Director of Youth and NextGen Ministries	Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett
Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Wynde Edwards
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
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



Embracing God's Word A Study in Matthew

Join Us!
 Sunday's, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
 Christian Life Center
 First Presbyterian Church
 September 12th - October 24th
 January 9th - February 20th
 Cost \$10.00

Lecture with women's, men's, couple's small groups

For more information contact **Janet Brand,**
janet81661@aol.com.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me...and you will find rest for your soul" Matthew 11:29

