

First Presbyterian News

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C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, D. Min.

May 2015

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Dear First Folks,

The next thirty to forty days will be so full of wonder and love, and take many forms of the work and power of God. Worship and Sunday School each week, the combined Youth Sunday service, new members coming in, Woodlawn picnic, a new church bus, mission trip signup for Wild Goose Christian Community in southwest Virginia, local mission to rebuild Sexton Sam's porch and deck, the National Day of Prayer, Master Plan information and actions to follow, graduations, kids out of school for summer, and that's just a start!

So be in prayer for God's work among us as we continually discover his love and grace, and help where you can. You are a part of the church where God's presence grows each day, where anything is possible, and miracles are part of who we are. Thanks be to our Lord God Almighty for his unspeakable gifts!

In Him,



Sermon Topics for May

- May 3* Youth Sunday - Service at 10 am
Sermon: One Body, Many Parts
Scripture: Psalm 139:1-16 1 Cor. 12:12-27
- May 10* Sermon: Greater Love
Scripture: Psalm 98 John 15:9-17
- May 17* Sermon: Choosing Matthias
Scripture: Psalm 1 Acts 1:15-17,21-26
- May 24* Pentecost
Sermon: Filled
Scripture: Psalm 104:24-35 Acts 2:1-21
- May 31* Trinity Sunday
Sermon: Holy, Holy, Holy
Scripture: Psalm 29 Isaiah 6:1-8
- June 7* Sermon: Real Family
Scripture: Psalm 130 Mark 3:20-35

Five Cents a Meal Sunday is May 31

Officers' Meetings - Monday, May 18

7:00 pm - Diaconate; 7:30 pm - Session

Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 3, at 10 am

"Many Parts...One in Christ"

Come out and support our youth as they lead the worship service. They have been studying, planning and preparing for months and are excited to share their part in the body of Christ. The service will include graduate recognition and conclude with refreshments on the lawn.



The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 5, at 10:30 am in the home of Kay Lewis for our annual covered-dish luncheon. All ladies are invited to attend and bring your favorite dish to share. Reverend Russell Lee will present our program.

First Presbyterian Historical Interlude at Woodlawn

Sunday, May 17, 2015
Halifax County Virginia
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mark and Jeanene Krogh are looking forward to the church picnic and hope everyone can attend. Henry Coleman, owner of Woodlawn during the 18th and 19th centuries, will be present to greet and address parishioners. You may sip plantation mint tea made by Betty the cook and view spinning wheels used by Sakey the weaver. Perhaps the working carriage used by Charles, the carriage driver, will be within view. Randolph, the boatman, will have gone downriver with hogsheads of tobacco while Jack, the cowman, will be with the herd.

Bring your favorite covered dish and picnic on the grounds of Woodlawn

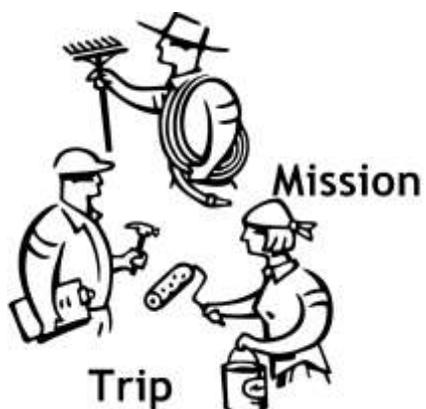
- 3 to 5 pm - Enjoy playing games such as lawn bowling, volley ball or horseshoes in the Bowling Green
- 4 pm - Optional house tour given by the owners
- 5 pm - Blessing of the food

The Elders meet each month to assess and empower the work of God in this congregation and beyond. At their meeting on April 20, they:

- Continued the process of goal setting begun at officer's retreat
- Elected Loretta Brown as delegate for May 7 Presbytery Meeting
- Church bus update - to be here soon
- Absen"tee" Special Sunday on June 14 in process
- Approved Session and Diaconate minutes
- Approved Financial Statements
- Approved recognition of high school graduate on May 3
- Gave thanks for Missionary Bings visit on Sunday, May 19
- Matthew and Teresa Lee back to Cameroon in July
- Need help for summer and fall education
- Summer mission trip to Wild Goose Christian Community in Floyd County, VA
- New acolyte training on horizon
- Stephen Ministry celebration coming in May



New Vision for Summer Mission Trip!



In response to quite a few requests that we work closer to home, we have gone back to the drawing board and continued to seek out opportunities in our state of Virginia. We have finally agreed to partner this summer with the Wild Goose Christian Community, in Floyd County, VA. Check out their website at <http://wildgoosecc.com>. They are a non-traditional worshipping community with the simple mission of reaching out to those that might never darken the door of a traditional church and talk about the good news of Jesus Christ.

Wild Goose is very excited about the progress we can bring to their fledgling ministry. They have listed as potential projects: Building a wheelchair ramp for their administration building; Developing trails (they have almost 20 acres with 5 trails that need to be cleared and connected); Removing a chainlink fence; Repairing windows; Landscaping; Building a stage for outdoor musical events

Wild Goose has adequate housing, shower, and dining facilities for our group and does not propose to charge us for our stay. All of our budgeted monies would go directly to materials for the projects that we undertake. We would still ask a fee of \$100 per person for the week (or \$15/day) to cover the cost of food, and anyone who agrees to drive could be reimbursed for their transportation cost.

Another benefit of this connection is that folks who could not volunteer a whole week would have a very easy time of traveling to spend part of the week with the team. The location also lends itself to the possibility of doing smaller weekend projects throughout the year, further strengthening the relationship.

We have two potential weeks for our work: July 12-18 or July 18-25. They are planning an exciting event for Saturday, July 18 - the first annual Wild Goose-a-Palooza! We hope to plan our trip to be able to celebrate this day with them.

Please contact Kim Albert by Friday, May 8, if you are interested in being part of the team this year and let her know which week would suit you best. You can also e-mail her with any questions you might have.

We have waited patiently to discern God's will for our work this summer, and we hope many of you are ready to take this "flight" of faith!

Summer Mission Kick-off Picnic

On Sunday, May 31, we will kick off the summer season with a picnic on the lawn immediately following 11:00 worship. On the menu will be our famous Mission Team hot dogs, along with all the trimmings! Everything will be provided by the Mission Team. You'll have the opportunity to hear stories of past mission trips, see pictures, and even have a chance to partner with this year's team by making a donation. Come celebrate summer and the Summer Mission Trip!

Youth News



The Youth Group had a busy April. They began the month with the Presbytery Senior High Retreat at Camp Bethel on Easter weekend. Five youth and two adults traveled just north of Roanoke for a full 24 hours of fun, fellowship and food. While there, the youth enjoyed singing and energizers, key note addresses, and small group meetings. On Friday night, they enjoyed a bonfire and making s'mores. The event concluded with worship on Saturday afternoon before heading home. Many thanks to Gary Bain for chaperoning on this trip.

Several Sunday afternoons have been spent making final preparations for Youth Sunday, which will be a combined service at 10 am on Sunday, May 3. Please come and see what the youth have learned and created and support them in this special day. We will also recognize our high school graduate, Michael Berry, during the service.

The youth concluded the month by sponsoring a work day at Camp Hat Creek. Several youth, along with parents and other adults from the church, spent a Saturday morning clearing brush around the cabins at the camp. This work will help them get ready for summer campers. After the work, the group enjoyed roasting hot dogs over an open fire. Thanks to all who came out to help!

Plans are in the works for an end-of-year cookout at the Wickemeyers' home on Sunday, May 24. Then a group of six youth and three adults will head to Montreat on June 7 for the first week of Youth Conference. There will be a special time of commissioning of these youth during worship before they leave.



Corner on Local Mission National Day of Prayer

The 64th annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 7, at 6:45 pm at the Halifax County High School auditorium. The theme for this year's gathering is "Lord Hear Our Cry" which is based on scripture from 1 Kings 8:28, "*Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.*" Everyone is invited to come out and join in the evening's service.

Featuring musical guest Jason Bare, the event will feature prayer and fellowship as members of the community pray for the nation, community, schools, law enforcement and military and other aspects of public life. Local Law Enforcement will also be recognized this year. Past performers or entertainment have included Jimmy Fortune, Christian husband and wife team Joey & Rory, Lulu Romans of HeeHaw, and Linda Davis.

The following history of our local observance of NDOP is taken from an article published on SovaNow.com in April of 2014. "The local community began participating in the NDOP ten years ago with the event being started in the fellowship hall of Dan River Baptist Church with 45 people attending. In the second year there were approximately 75 people in attendance. With the turnout increasing the event was moved to The Prizery by year three and for a number of years it was held there with breakfast served and special guests invited.

"As it continued to grow, the NDOP committee decided to move the event to the Armory where some 300 people crowded into the building, filling it to capacity. Still the event continues to grow and the committee decided to move to the High School Auditorium which seats 1,500 people. Since that move the event has annually attracted over 800 people who come together to pray for this community and their country."

Our Larry McPeters has been chairman for the last seven years and has served on the committee since its beginning. Pastor Russell Lee has served as Program Chair for several years, including this year's event. Our congregation has supported the NDOP financially as well for the last six years, and our secretary, Jacquelyn McAbee, serves as the administrator of the local NDOP financial accounts.

First Presbyterian Church is proud to play a major role in this exciting and growing local ministry event!



Farris & Thelma Goodrum Mission Co-Workers Serving in Brazil March 2015

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer—Acts 2:42.

Dear friends and faithful supporters,

Greetings from Brazil. In February our church, the United Presbyterian Church of Maruipe here in Vitoria, had its annual spiritual retreat during "Carnaval." In popular culture Carnaval is the final festive celebration before Lent, and Protestant churches have traditionally used this time to escape the city and the loud celebrations of Carnaval, to go to out-of-the-way places for spiritual retreats. For most churches in Brazil these retreats are particularly for the young people, but in our church the entire church family participates. The above verse, from Acts 2:42, is an appropriate verse considering the activities at the spiritual retreat: teaching opportunities, much fellowship, meals together, communion, and prayer.

A very nice location was found for the retreat in a mountainous area just a couple of hours outside of Vitoria. The cool climate was a wonderful respite from the intense heat of Vitoria at this time of the year. (December, January and February, Brazil's summer months, are the hottest months of the year here.) The retreat center had a spacious dining room, an open area for our worship services and Sunday school, a swimming pool, trampoline, and pool table. We couldn't have asked for more, and it was enjoyed by all who participated. Our son Joel (now 17) enjoyed being one of the guitarists for the worship services.

On Sunday I was pleased to be asked to bring the message for the evening worship service. The theme of the retreat had to do with "Family," so I prepared a message about family, planned two skits with puppets to illustrate the theme, and gathered together a team of puppeteers to practice the skits.

Thelma officiated at the communion service at the end of Sunday's worship experience. She had always wished to serve communion with the participants sitting around a table, and there was a huge picnic table at the retreat center. The designated leader of the retreat was Pedro Lisias, who is a seminary student and an elder in the church. He had asked the participants to make the bread that was served at communion, and this was done the day before. Always appreciative, and finding just the right words to say, he told Thelma that he hopes someday to minister the sacraments with the enthusiasm that Thelma demonstrates as she ministers communion.

We appreciate your interest in our ministry, and your prayers, as well as your continued faithful financial support. We are very grateful to individuals and churches that contribute to our support, and we do count on your prayers as we ask for God's help to do our part to restore the unity of the church family, as we seek to grow, learn, and use our gifts in service to the Church. Thanks to all of you!

In Christ's service,
Farris, for the Goodrum family

Master Plan Report Presentation

We have been working with Jim Boyd, architect with Grimm & Parker in Charlottesville, to develop a proposed master plan for the future use of church property. The process began several years ago with visioning and goal-setting by the congregation, then the formation of a Property Vision Task Force which worked on developing a vision for use of the property. The Vision Plan for the property was adopted by the Session, and part of that vision was the development of a master plan to guide all future development and renovation.

Through the use of the Vision Plan, discussions with the architect, inspection and measuring all current church property, and a series of four meetings with the Pastor, Elders, Deacons and other church members, Jim Boyd has prepared his final report on the Master Plan. The Plan has been presented to the Session and will be presented to the church membership during Sunday School at 10 am on Sunday, May 31. We hope all of you will make plans to attend so that you may see the result of our process. We look forward to seeing you there. ~ Mike Rand, Property Elder



MAY

2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 <i>Youth Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Youth Sunday Worship	4 9:30 am Prayer Group	5 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12 noon NA 6:30 pm Praise Team	6 12 AA 7:30 Choir	7 12 noon NA 6:45 National Day of Prayer 8 pm AA	1 9 am Bulletins newsletters 12 noon AA 8 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	2 9 3 pm Girl Scouts
10 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	11 9:30 am Prayer Group	12 12 noon NA 6:45 Stephen Ministry	13 12 AA 7:30 Choir	14 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	15 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	16 8 am Handyman Ministry at Sam Smith's home
17 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 3-6 pm Afternoon at Woodlawn	18 9:30 am Prayer Group 7 Diaconate 7:30 Session	19 12 noon NA 6:30 pm Praise Team	20 12 AA 7:30 Choir	21 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	22 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	23 8 am Handyman Ministry at Sam Smith's home
24 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Youth Group Cookout	25 9:30 am Prayer Group <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i>	26 12 noon NA	27 12 AA	28 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	29 9 am Bulletins & newsletters 12 noon AA	30
31 9 am Worship 10 am Master Plan report 11 am Worship 12 Summer Mission Picnic						



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

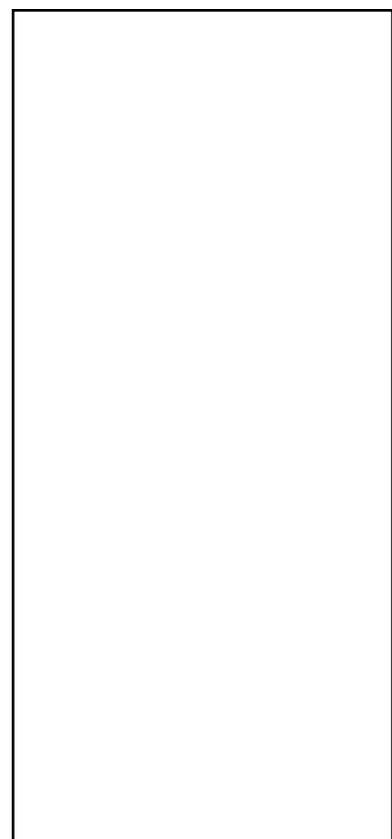
"If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." ~ 1 Peter 4:11b

On Sunday, May 17, there will be a time of affirmation and recognition for our Stephen ministers here at First Presbyterian Church. Our commissioned ministers — Eloise Wilder, Sam Torian, Joni Owens, Loretta Brown, Carter Henderson, Stewart Nelson, Patty Nelson, Nancy Pool, and Frances Harrell — have served with much compassion and dedication.

As of today, nine of our members have been trained as Stephen ministers and seven are currently active. In two years of Stephen ministry, our Stephen ministers have served fifteen care receivers, providing over eight hundred hours of quality, one-to-one, confidential Christian care.

We rejoice that the Holy Spirit is working through this ministry at First Presbyterian and that God's love is shining brightly as we serve others.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, please contact our church office at 572-3581.



Local Mission for Sexton Sam - Sam and Shareon Smith's back screened porch at their home in Sherwood Forest has a hole in the roof, and possums and other critters are taking up residence. There is also a hole in the roof where water comes in. He has seen us build ramps and do renovation work for others and has asked for the help of his church family. Join the Handyman's ministry on Saturdays, May 16 and 23, and at other times as needed, to demolish the structure and build back a new and safe structure. All who have been looking for a chance to roll up their sleeves locally, this time is for you. Work will start at 8 am on those days with the Men of the Church coordinating, and adults and older youth invited to come and help. Contact Sam Lewis or Mike Koch for details.



Church Bus

After several months of planning and praying, First Presbyterian now has a church bus!

This shiny, like-new 2009 Ford Eldorado Aerotech 15-passenger bus is destined for many trips of First Folks and friends who go out to places where mission, fellowship, and love can be found. It has been purchased to be used with youth, older adult trips and ministries, and Mission Team, and other groups are already thinking how it can accentuate ministry here. Thanks to committee members Kelly Chappell, Colter and Kim Wickemeyer, and Frank and Julianna Berry for their help in the process. It will be dedicated soon, so look for the new addition to the First Family, and plan a ride soon! If you would like to make a contribution to its purchase, designate it for First Pres Bus.

Graduate - Congratulations to William Monroe Jacobs who received his PhD in Theoretical Chemistry from Emmanuel College of the University of Cambridge in October 2014. His degree ceremony takes place in Cambridge on May 16, 2015. He is currently employed as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Harvard University's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Will is the son of Ann Monroe Swaim and Jake Jacobs of Fredericksburg, VA, and the grandson of Barbara B. Johnston and the late Monroe Swaim.

Stay up to date! Check out the church's Facebook page and website - 1stpres.cc - to stay up to date on things going on at First Pres!

May Highlights

- May 3 - Youth Sunday
- May 5 - Ladies' Circle
- May 5 & 19 - Praise Team
- May 7 - National Day of Prayer
- May 12 - Stephen Ministry
- May 16 & 23 - Handyman Ministry
- May 17 - Afternoon at Woodlawn
- May 18 - Officers' Meetings
- May 24 - Youth group cookout
- May 31 - Master Plan presentation
- May 31 - Summer Mission Picnic

Weekly Happenings

- Prayer Group - Mondays at 9:30 am
- Choir - Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
- Men of the Church - Thursdays at 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church
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Here is your May newsletter...