

First Presbyterian News

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

June 2015

Chris Jones, Choir Director

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Office hours: 9 am to 1 pm Monday-Friday

Dear First Folks,

Thanks to you for your support for ministry and mission of all types! It is good to be a church where God is at work in so many areas, and where nothing is indeed impossible!

Check the newsletter for praying, giving, worshipping, and planting opportunities. There are always needs and opportunities, and many of them are detailed below. From church bus to mission trip, from local mission to teaching and learning, from missionaries to Stephen Ministry, the chances to make an impact are great.

Take some time specifically to see where and when you will do what, as God continues to work his grace in and through us!

In Him,



Sermon Topics for June

May 31 *Trinity Sunday*

Sermon: Holy, Holy, Holy

Scripture: Psalm 29 Isaiah 6:1-8

June 7 *Communion*

Sermon: Real Family

Scripture: Psalm 130 Mark 3:20-35

June 14 Sermon: Greatest Results

Scripture: Psalm 92:1-4,12-15 Mark 4:26-34

June 21 Sermon: Storm Faith

Scripture: Psalm 133 Mark 4:35-41

June 28 Sermon: Struck with Amazement

Scripture: Psalm 30 Mark 5:34-43

July 5 Sermon: Hometown Prophets

Scripture: Psalm 123 Mark 6:1-13

Five Cents a Meal Sunday is June 28

Officers' Meetings - Monday, June 15

7:30 pm - Session

**Can You
Step In?**

Office Help - The church secretary will be at Montreat and out of the office on June 8-12 (Youth) and June 22-26 (Music & Worship). If you can spare a few hours to answer the phone in the church office, it would be a great help. No office skills necessary! Please call Jacquelyn at the office to volunteer.

Church Bus Dedication and Trips - Thanks to all who made possible the purchase of our new 15-passenger church bus. She is beautiful! The church bus will be dedicated following worship on Sunday, May 31. Her first voyage will be on June 7th as the youth head off to the Montreat Youth Conference. Pray for the formation of new ministries in this area as we embark on a new arena of God's work.

Join Us on Sunday, May 31

Master Plan Presentation - 10 am

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, architect Jim Boyd has prepared his final report on the Property Master Plan. The Plan has been presented to the Session and will be presented to the church membership during Sunday School on Sunday, May 31. Property Elder Mike Rand urges you to attend so that you may see the result of our process and share your thoughts.

Teacher Appreciation - We will have a special moment during worship to honor and thank our teachers for their dedicated service during this past year.

Church Bus Dedication - 12 noon

Summer Mission Picnic - 12 noon

We will kick off the summer season with a picnic on the lawn immediately following 11 am 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!



Absentee Sunday

Dearest Presbyterians Participants,

We are certainly hoping that you can be in attendance at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 14. Because of the summer temperatures and travel plans, and general staying-at-home inclinations this kind of weather promotes, many of our folks have been absent for several times. We want to start the summer off with a big boom in attendance on that

Sunday,

You will get a letter soon with some T's in it. Bring them to worship that day, and we will put them on a huge bulletin board at the front of the sanctuary. Plan now to be in your place. Let's go over the top for the Lord Jesus.

In fact, take time to bring a friend to help us in our outreach and to give them a special time of blessing as well.

I guess that by now you are wondering why we have left out all of the T's in this letter. THE REASON IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN HAVING SO MANY ABSENT T'S LATELY, WE JUST DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO PUT IN THIS LETTER.

By the way, we will have Yeast cakes and lemonade afterwards, so don't miss out on a terrific, faith-filled time of worship! Contact Elder Mike Freshour or Pastor Russell Lee if you have questions.

The first event in what we hope will become a Summer Movie Series will take place on Sunday, June 14. The movie, "Veil of Tears" will be shown at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

"This documentary reveals the untold story of millions of women in India who are culturally oppressed simply because they are women. Despite centuries of persecution, courageous believers are reaching from the inside out to minister to these women. Take a heartfelt journey through the eyes of these women, who unveil their personal stories of rejection, abandonment, tragedy and even triumph. This film was shot on-location across the stunning nation of India in some of the most remote tribal villages in the world today. This is a journey where few outsiders have gone before."

The event will be advertised to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors! The movie lasts approximately 1 hour.

If you know of another good offering for the Summer Movie Series, please let us know by contacting Kim Albert or the church office.



Youth News

The Youth Group concluded their year with Youth Sunday and an end-of-the-year cookout in May. The special, combined Youth Sunday service with a theme of "Many Parts...One in Christ" was held on May 3 and led entirely by the youth. It included special music, a scripture skit, sign language affirmation of faith, and sermon given by Michael Berry. Michael was also honored during the service as a graduating high school senior. After the service, everyone enjoyed cake and lemonade on the lawn. The month concluded with a cookout for youth and parents at the Wickmeyers' home.

Next up for the youth is a week at the Montreat Youth Conference on June 7-13. A group of 6 youth, 2 chaperones and house mother will attend this year's conference with the theme "This is Our Story." During the week, the group will participate in worship, keynote addresses, small groups, recreation and back-home groups. They also hope to have a little time to explore downtown Black Mountain, hike up Lookout Mountain and rock hop in the stream. There will be a special time of commissioning of these youth during worship before they leave. Please be in prayer for their time away in the mountains as they grow in faith!





Summer Sunday School begins June 7

Combined Children's Class - There will be one class for ages Pre-K through 5th grade this summer which will meet for "Awesome Adventures: God's Amazing Kids." They will explore the stories of amazing kids in the Bible, including Isaac, Miriam, Jeremiah, Jesus, and more. Volunteers are needed to give our regular teachers a break. This is a great opportunity to spend a little time with our own amazing kids without a major time commitment. Sunday School lessons available in the church office. Sign-up sheet is on the office door.

Combined Youth/Adult Class - This summer's class will focus on the prophets. Many associate the Old Testament prophets with stern, unyielding "turn or burn" proclamations of judgment. While the judgment of God on a wayward people is certainly an inescapable part of the prophets' language, one could also summarize their message with the phrase "turn and burn": God's people must both turn from selfish, sinful ways and burn with a passion for justice. The lessons for this summer will highlight some of the Old Testament prophets' most notable calls to just living. Please us join this summer beginning June 7. Volunteers are needed to teach; sign-up sheet and materials in the fellowship hall.

God's Prophets Demand Justice

June 7	God Passes Judgment	Amos 2:4-8
June 14	God is Not Fooled	Amos 5:14,15,18,27
June 21	God Abhors Selfishness	Amos 6:4-8,11-14
June 28	God Will Never Forget	Amos 8:1-6,9,10
July 5	No Rest for the Wicked	Micah 2:4-11
July 12	No Tolerance for Corrupt Officials	Micah 3:5-12
July 19	What the Lord Requires	Micah 6:3-8
July 26	God's Matchless Mercy	Micah 7:14-20
August 2	A Redeemer in Zion	Isaiah 59:15-21
August 9	A Choice to Be Just	Jeremiah 7:1-15
August 16	A Call for Repentance	Ezekiel 18:1-13,30-32
August 23	A Demand for Justice	Zechariah 7:8-14
August 30	A Plea to Return to God	Malachi 3:1-10



Vacation Bible School June 15 - 18 from 6-8 pm Main Street United Methodist Church "The Gift of Christmas - Jesus Christ" Ages Pre-K to 5th grade

This year we will partner with Main Street United Methodist Church, which is hosting Bible School at their church. The children will learn about and celebrate God's special gift, his Son Jesus Christ. Each night's lessons will focus on the stories of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and angels, and the magi. Volunteers who would like to teach, help with crafts, prepare dinners, bake Christmas cookies, or escort children should contact the Methodist church at 572-3290 or Denise Ferrell.

Each evening will begin with a light supper at 6:00 pm. Families are invited to come for supper each night, especially Thursday. The children will present a Christmas Program with music at 7:00 pm on Thursday night, June 18, in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited!

An adult class will also be offered Monday-Wednesday from 6:45-7:45 pm and will focus on the stories of Christmas.

An offering will be received each night to support ministry to children in poverty. On Wednesday evening, the *Holy Rollers*, a United Methodist bicycling team, will join the children for dinner and share about their efforts to raise money for the church's offering to fight poverty, support world health efforts, and help grow the Christian church in Cambodia.

Bonjour a tous!

Merci! Thank you! We are truly blessed by your love, encouraging words, prayers and gifts. Your partnership with our ministry impacts many around the world. Through Bible translation people are reading scripture in their heart language and connecting with God on a more personal level. You are a part of getting God's Word to the Bibleless. We are finishing up our last few months of French study and plan to be in Cameroon in July. We are eager to get there and see how God continues to use and bless us. Start praying with us that it will be a smooth transition. We are encouraged always by your love! "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you by His love, He will exult over you with loud singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

In His Grace & Love,

Matthew & Teresa



Corner on Local Mission

Sexton Sam's Deck and Porch

Local mission has a distinct dynamic which offers us the chance to help others in our community. Two summers ago, we renovated a home on Porter Lane. We have built ramps, changed light bulbs, and numerous other projects over the years.

The first Saturday, we tore down the old rickety deck and porch which was leaking. The second Saturday, we built the framework and decked one side of the project. The third Saturday, we will have two teams working, one building the porch and the other decking the other side.

Sam says a huge thank you to everybody with smiles and tears, and that he is looking forward to sitting on the new deck and in the screened porch without Mr. Possum grinning at him from the corner. He says words cannot express how thankful he is to all the people who have made this possible. He is totally amazed.

So far at least 16 different people have come out to help. Faith, helping hands, sausage biscuits, soft drinks, water, and crackers will unite to finish this local mission project, hopefully by Saturday, May 29.

If you would like to contribute financially to the project, you can designate a gift to SSD, or Sexton Sam's deck.

Summer Mission Trip

Plans are confirmed for the summer mission trip to Floyd County, Virginia, from July 12-18. We are partnering with the Wild Goose Christian Community (check them out at wildgoosecc.com), putting God's gifts to use closer to home this year. We are excited about helping this fledgling church improve its facilities so they can better reach out to the unchurched. There is still space available for anyone who wants to join the team, and this year it is easier than ever! The location is close enough (2-1/2 hour drive) that even if you can't commit to a full week of work you can easily drive over for a few days. There are no age restrictions; we only ask that children under 18 be accompanied by a parent or designated responsible adult.

The time has come that we need to firm up who will be part of the team this year. No skill is necessary -- there will be something for everyone who wants to be involved! The cost is \$100/person for the week, or \$15/day for part-timers, and this covers housing and meals. You need to make payment to the church office by Monday, June 8, so we can begin planning for transportation, work assignments, and meals.

If you are interested in the summer mission trip but cannot go, you can still be a part of the team by participating in other ways. Come to the hot dog luncheon on Sunday, May 31, and make a financial contribution. Join the Prayer Flower Ministry (see related article on page 6). Or simply pray for the team, the work they will accomplish, and the congregation they will serve.

To become part of the team or if you have any questions, contact Kim Albert or the church office.





2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30 am Prayer Group	2 12 noon NA	3 12 AA	4 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	6
7 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	8 9:30 am Prayer Group	9 12 noon NA 6:45 Stephen Ministry	10 12 AA	11 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	12 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	13
14 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6:30 pm Movie	15 9:30 am Prayer Group 7:30 Session	16 12 noon NA 6:30 pm Praise Team	17 12 AA	18 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	19 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	20
21 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	22 9:30 am Prayer Group	23 12 noon NA	24 12 AA	25 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	26 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA	27
28 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	29 9:30 am Prayer Group	30 12 noon NA				



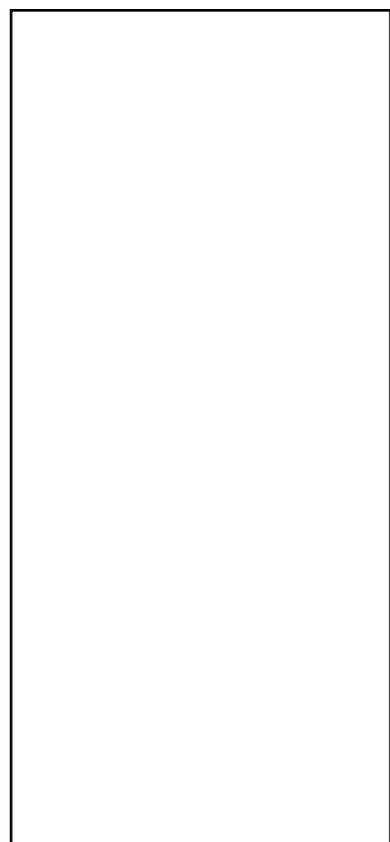
**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

*"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH
HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH."
Philippians 4:13*

A Prayer for our Stephen Ministry
at First Presbyterian:

"O God, the source of all goodness and love, pour out your Holy Spirit upon our Stephen ministry. Bless and guide the service of our Stephen leaders Russell Lee, Jim Luedtke, and Karen Henderson as they lead. Bless and guide the service of our Stephen ministers Joni Owens, Nancy Pool, Loretta Brown, Sam Torian, Carter Henderson, Eloise Wilder and Frances Harrell as they humbly serve as agents of your love. Bless and guide the footsteps of those receiving care from our Stephen ministers so that they may witness your presence and be drawn closer to you. Bless and guide all of us at First Presbyterian as we strive to become a more caring and compassionate people, living in the joyful freedom of your grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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



Prayer Flower Ministry - For those of us in the Ladies' Circle who cannot go on the mission trip, there is an opportunity to participate in your own home through a prayer flower ministry. By joining in the foundation of prayer that is in progress for the trip, each Circle member, and any other interested church member, would grow a simple flower like a marigold. While watering and caring for the plant daily, there is opportunity to meditate on God's will for the receiver of your prayer flower, whether an individual or the congregation. Perhaps through sacrifice of prayer and praise, those who otherwise would be "un-churched" may be drawn into the fellowship of Christ Jesus through His grace.

If you would like to participate in this prayer flower ministry, please contact Gail Carter or the church office ASAP so materials can be gathered and everyone can pick up their plant beginning May 31 at church. All materials including seeds, along with instructions, will be supplied. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to participate.



Children's Choir & Bells - Sunday morning children's music has wrapped up its year. Thanks to all our faithful musicians for practicing cheerfully, and to their parents who got them to choir and bells regularly! We have served our church well this year, enhancing worship on several occasions. I think the highlight was ringing and singing together "Jesus Loves Me" - that's not easy to do, but we did it well and I know He was praised by it. "You are precious in His sight!" We will begin again in September. Can't wait to see what next year brings! God's love and blessings to you, Ms. Kim, Ms. Jacquelyn, and Ms. Gail



The Elders meet each month to assess and empower the work of God in this congregation and beyond. At their meeting on May 18, they:

- Heard progress report on mission project for our Sexton Sam
- Noted that next "Special Sunday" will be on June 14
- Approved Session and Diaconate minutes
- Approved April financial report
- Heard details of purchase and operation of new church bus
- Approved monetary support for Patrick Cherry in his church startup for six months
- Looked at Summer Sunday School and Bible School Plans
- Heard details about Floyd County mission trip and May 31 fundraiser
- Approved showing of film "Veil of Tears" for church and community
- Noted that next communion is June 7, and new acolyte training is coming up

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!

June Highlights

- June 7-13 Montreat Youth Conference
- June 9 - Stephen Ministry
- June 14 - Absentee Sunday
- June 14 - Summer Movie Series
- June 15 - Session Meeting
- June 16 - Praise Team

Weekly Happenings

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

First Presbyterian Church
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Here is your June newsletter...