

# First Presbyterian News

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

**August 2015**

Chris Jones, Choir Director

Jacquelyn McAbee,  
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Dear First Folks,

There are so many things to say and do as God's people, and so little time and space. My prayer is that, as the summer turns to fall, everyone will take an extra step toward faithful living and see the community of faith here as the most important place to be and go forth from. There are some amazing things on the near horizon, and I want you to see and participate in the many ways God redeems and blesses his people. Look at the sermon titles from God's word below, and see what God really intends for us, as opposed to ordinary ways of seeing and living. And watch for new "Five and Two" ministries based on recent sermon on the feeding of the 5000. May God bless us all, dear children of faith, as we journey confidently on toward heaven!

In Him,



## Sermon Topics for August

- August 2*      *Communion*  
Sermon: Heaven's Bread  
Scripture: Exodus 16:2-4,9-15      John 6:24-35
- August 9*      Sermon: Hot Stones  
Scripture: Psalm 34:1-8      1 Kings 19:4-8
- August 16*      Sermon: Making the Most  
Scripture: Psalm 111      Ephesians 5:15-20
- August 23*      Sermon: As For Me  
Scripture: Psalm 84      Joshua 24:1-2,14-18
- August 30*      Sermon: Every Perfect Gift  
Scripture: Psalm 15      James 1:17-27
- September 6* Sermon: Astounded!  
Scripture: Isaiah 35:4-7a      Mark 7:24-37

## **Five Cents a Meal Sunday is August 30**

**Officers' Meetings - Monday, August 17**  
7:00 pm - Diaconate; 7:30 pm - Session

**Youth Pool Party - Sunday, August 9 from 2 - 5 pm** at the Edmunds' home - All middle and high school youth are invited to a pool party to celebrate the end of summer vacation and heading back to school. In addition to swimming, there will also be ice cream sundaes! This is a great chance for our upcoming middle schoolers to attend their first youth event. For information, contact Jacquelyn McAbee

**College Addresses** - As your students head off to college (or back to college for another year), be sure to let the church office know of their school address, so that we can include them in our college student ministry mailings and send them the monthly church newsletters. Also, please be in prayer for these students as they face the challenges of a new chapter in their life or a new year of study!



## **Night of Song and Celebration** **Sunday, August 2, at 7 pm** **First Baptist Church**

The Community Choir, with guest soloist, Rebecca Whitlow, will present a concert featuring spirituals, hymn arrangements, and contemporary music. Several of our First Folks are singing with this combined choir which has been rehearsing each Tuesday evening throughout the summer. Come out and enjoy a night of beautiful music!



## **Sunday, August 9** **9 & 11 am Worship**

All children, youth and teachers are invited to bring their school backpacks/bags for a special blessing during each worship service. As teachers, students and other staff head back to school, what better way to send them off than with prayers of blessings!

## **Summer Celebration** **Sunday, August 23**

Come worship and celebrate what God has done in and through this congregation this summer, including reports and photos from the Summer Mission Trip and Montreat Youth Conference!



## “Soul Surfer”

Sunday, July 26, at 6:30 pm

The last installment of the Summer Movie Series will take place on Sunday, August 23, at 6:30 pm, when we will present “Soul Surfer.”

“Soul Surfer is the incredible [true] story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds, through determination and faith, to become a champion again. In the wake of the life-changing event that took her arm and nearly her life, Bethany’s feisty fortitude and steadfast faith spur her toward an adventurous comeback that turns her loss into a gift for others.

“With its encouraging portrayal of family values, and its uplifting message, *Soul Surfer* is the ultimate combination of faith, family and inspiration! *Soul Surfer* poignantly reveals the healing journey of Bethany’s comeback. By pulling together and holding fast to their Christian faith, the tight-knit Hamilton family supported Bethany as she struggled through questions such as *Why did this happen? Why did I have to lose everything? Will I ever feel the joy and power of riding the waves again? And if I can’t be a surfer, then who am I?”*

This event is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors!



## Operation Christmas Child Thank You Note

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and savior,

I’m delighted to let you know that the box gift you sent to Africa through Samaritan’s Purse landed in my family. We are very grateful to receive such a beautiful gift. My daughter received the box and we thank God for your beautiful hearts to share what God is blessing you with. I count myself blessed to receive such a wonderful gift in my family; you do not know what you have done to me as a father. I was

born a normal person until I lost my sight (blind). Things become hard because something we never expected as a family and the predicament did not end there my two last children become disabled, I have two disabled children a boy and a girl, the boy cannot walk he has clump foot, he cannot stand on his own or move and the girl has the same problem. We are happy the shoe gift box come to the same girl, she was delighted, felt loved to receive such a beautiful box from people she has never seen.

The gift brought joy in her life regardless of her condition. We are grateful for the gift and we desperately need your prayer. Do not forget us in your prayer as we do the same here. Please say thank you to Annalie, Kylie Berry, Dylan Berry, Victoria Mota, Peyton Wickmeyer, Mathew Bain and Michael Berry and to the brothers and sisters in the church. We are a committed Christian family, we believe in Jesus as our savior. We have enclosed our family photo so that whenever you look at it, it reminds of you to pray for us and also I have enclosed a photo of my two invalid children (Patrick Mutupa and Beatrice Mutupa). The girl on the photo is the one who receive the shoe box gift. One again thank you. God richly bless you.

Yours,  
Justine Mutupa (Father)  
Kawambwa, Zambia

**\*\*Check out the photos on the bulletin board**

Vacations ending, camps closing, summer slipping past and, then, September! Schools opening, renewal of schedules, many changes. However, amid the excitement of these changes, let us not forget to schedule time with our Heavenly Father. He loves us and desires to be a partner in all our activities.

Just as Jesus set aside a time to pray to His Father, so we set aside a time also, to pray to our Holy Father. We invite you to join us in the church library for prayer each Monday, 9:30-10:30 am, beginning September 14.





## The Faith of a Mustard Seed Report on Summer Mission Trip 2015

*"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20*

When this scripture was suggested for the theme of this year's summer mission trip, no one had any idea how appropriately it described what would happen at the Wild Goose Christian Community in Indian Valley, Virginia! We chose this fledgling ministry by nothing other than divine guidance, and amazingly they had two projects that seemed to perfectly suit our capabilities, a stage and a handicap ramp. But as God often does, He added some twists and turns to our plans that would have us walking and working on little more than faith.

A stage with a roof seemed simple enough, but as detailed planning took place, it became apparent that this was going to be much more of an engineering feat than we originally thought. Sixteen foot 6"X6" posts and a roof beam strong enough to span a 24' space were not only difficult to carry to the site but next to impossible to erect without heavy equipment. After consultation with former local contractor and First Friend Mac McDannald, he said God spoke to him and told him to join our mission group. Not only did he lend valuable expertise and the necessary machinery, but also secured many of the appropriate building materials for the roof. Our team had never built anything like this before, but we went on faith that we would be able to make it happen.

A few days before we left, we found out that the expected electric service at the stage site was not in place. We went with faith that either it wouldn't be too long a distance for our drop cords to reach a power source or that we would be able to quickly install some temporary service. The former proved to be the case, and we were happy to know that we were in business power-wise.

Or so we thought. When we arrived at Wild Goose on a beautiful warm Sunday afternoon, we discovered that there was a problem with the electricity at the administration building where we would live and work for the next five days. The lights were on, but there was not enough power to run the air conditioning, the well pump, the refrigerator and certainly not power tools. The well pump served the church as well, so while that building had plenty of power, neither place had water. Several of our team went right to work troubleshooting the situation, and it was finally determined that the main breaker needed replacing which couldn't happen until Monday. After moving all the food up the hill to the church kitchen, we went to bed with the windows open and faith that we would have power and water the following day.

Another little bit of information that we found out just before we left was that the well water there had never been tested. The Wild Goose folks said they would provide cases of bottled water, and we also stocked up on some gallon jugs of water. We were a little disconcerted about the water situation, but as it turned out because we were prepared for untested well water, we had water to use until the electricity was repaired! There were many other little miracles like this too numerous to mention, but everywhere we turned we saw God's hand in what was happening.

Our goal was to complete three main projects:

- a 24'X16' stage with roof
- a 25' long ramp
- landscaping at the administration building (the Mission Prayer Flower Project)

In addition, we were able to:

- Troubleshoot/ and repair the electric service at the administration building
- remove a section of chain link fence and refill the post holes
- replace the top rails on the front & back decking at the administration building
- grade for drainage and landscape the front of the stage
- weed & remove poison ivy from a much neglected flower bed in front of church
- replace the seal on one of the toilets at the administration building
- build two benches that will become meditation spots on a prayer trail
- repair damage from our equipment to the lawns at both the church and the administration building



Our mission was to help the Wild Goose Christian Community improve their facilities so that they can reach out to more unchurched people in Indian Valley and Floyd County. On Tuesday evening, we attended their weekly fellowship dinner and worship service, met many of the folks who have been attracted to this congregation, and experienced some of what they love about worshiping God in this non-traditional way. They've "exchanged pews for rockers, organs for fiddles, and yawns for songs," but as we sang, prayed and partook of the Lord's Supper with them we felt the familiar love of God strong among them.

On Saturday, before we headed home, we took in a bit of the first annual Wild Goose-A-Palooza. When we walked up the hill to the church, we saw that a bluegrass band had already moved instruments, microphones, speakers and other equipment onto the stage. They looked right at home there. We joined them on the stage for a prayer of dedication and consecration, then sat back and enjoyed the music and watched as the people came to join in the celebration. As we drove away we marveled at what God can do with a group of mission-minded folks, a loving supportive home congregation, and the faith of a mustard seed.



A communication from the pastor, Edwin Lacy, after we returned home said, "You folks will always be a very important part of the Wild Goose story. I cannot believe how much you all did and what a wonderful time it was to be with you last week. You will never fully realize how much your kindness and generosity meant to us." Check our Facebook page for photos. Wild Goose also has a Facebook page, or you can find out more about them at their web site, <http://wildgoosecc.com>.

## Dave & Rachael Carter, Missionaries to Chad

Dear family and friends,

Fasting turns to Feasting in a night. When we woke up Friday a week ago, Ramadan ended, and the party started. The number one thing on the agenda for the Eid is to visit people. So we cleaned the kids up, went out in two's with the Edge guys and had a time of it. Men visit with men, women with women, and children meander in gangs seeking to good plunder wherever possible (in the way of candy and small coins. Yes, this is pretty much like Halloween in that regard).

### Follow Up At The Camp

By Monday life was back to normal, and we headed back out to the refugee camp for one final day of the eye clinic. When we met up with Abe he was eager to share how there had been in the last several days people coming to his house to learn about the Bible. In previous conversations I'd had with him, Abe was skeptical that there were people in Chad open to the gospel. Because of our bold sharing at the first clinic (perhaps particularly his) there were now people seeking him out to learn about Jesus!

Do pray for Abe and Nyala as they shine their lights in a place where there are souls searching for a way to get out of the darkness.

### Finishing Well

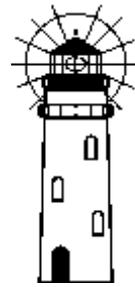
On Thursday Greg, the Edge guys and I drove down to Abeche, and yesterday they arrived in the capital via bus. All in all it was a great trip— a good learning experience for the Edge guys, and a great opportunity for outreach to local communities here. Through a total of twelve clinic days we were able to hand out almost 1,000 pairs of glasses. What is more encouraging is that well over that number were able to hear good news, probably almost all of them for the first time.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to work in hearts so that his word takes root!  
For His glory,

*Dave*, for the family



# AUGUST 2015

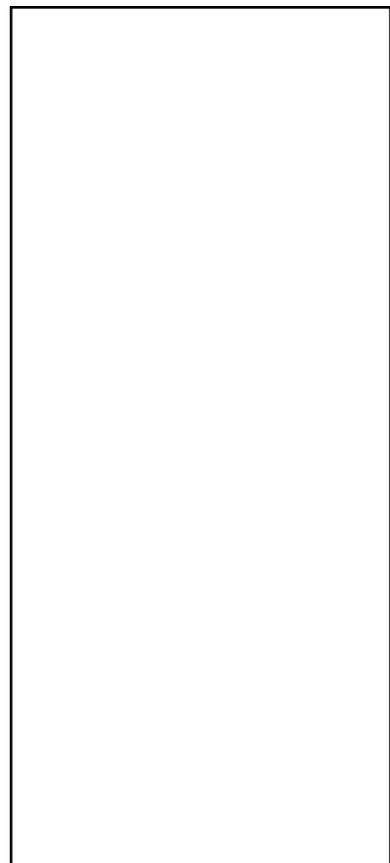


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship  7 pm Comm. Choir Concert	3	4  6:00 pm Praise Team	5 12 AA	6 12 noon NA  7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	7 9 am Bulletins  12 noon AA	1 8
9 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 2 pm Youth Pool Party	10	11 12 noon NA  6:45 Stephen Ministry	12 12 AA	13 12 noon NA  7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	14 9 am Bulletins  12 noon AA	15
16 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	17  7 Diaconate 7:30 Session	18 12 noon NA  6:00 pm Praise Team	19 12 AA	20 12 noon NA  7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	21 9 am Bulletins  12 noon AA	22
23 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship  6:30 pm Movie	24  <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	25 12 noon NA	26 12 AA	27 12 noon NA  7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	28 9 am Bulletins & newsletters  12 noon AA	29
30 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	31  6 Girl Scouts					



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

- Noted and lifted up First Folks in hospital, ill, or in need of prayer
- Approved Financial Statements
- Approved minutes
- Noted that acolyte training completed, with about 7 new acolytes
- Heard that Hat Creek retreat will be October 23-25
- Was informed that new windows were installed in rear of Sunday School building
- Concrete work complete for parking lots
- Heard report on plans for Summer Mission trip
- Received thank you notes for contributions to local mission efforts
- Noted that missionaries Farris and Thelma Goodrum have returned to US
- Approved action plan for Master Plan projects when needed



**Summer Sunday School** continues each week. There is one children's class (Pre-K - 5th grade) this summer studying "Awesome Adventures: God's Amazing Kids." Thanks to the volunteers for giving our regular teachers a summer break!

The Combined Youth/Adult Class lessons are highlighting some of the Old Testament prophets' most notable calls to just living. Please join them in the fellowship hall each Sunday morning. A few volunteers are still needed to teach; sign-up sheet on the office door and materials in the fellowship hall.

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



### Rally Day and Fall Sunday School

Rally Day, a time when we kick off a new Sunday School year will be held on September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day.

Plan to find a class for your kids and yourself to get to know others and delve into God's word in a way which encourages and grows you and yours in faith. There will be classes on Sunday mornings at 10 am throughout the school year for all age groups. We are in need of teacher/teachers for the adult class. Contact James Edmunds, Education Chair Elder, for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE** - Hat Creek Retreat will be held at Camp Hat Creek in Brookneal on October 23-25. This has always been a great time of fellowship and study as we get to know each other in a natural, casual setting. Make plans to attend!

First Presbyterian Church  
800 North Main Street  
South Boston, VA 24592

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear First Pres. Church,

Thank you all so much for the outpouring of love and support given to our family at this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness has been greatly appreciated as well as your prayers over the past few years. We are so thankful for friendships and love that God has brought into our lives by the way of First Pres.

Love,  
The Family of Wesley Chappell

**Medical Bill Fundraiser** - The Session has set up a special fund to assist Laura Edwards in helping her pay off major outstanding medical bills for her daughter Anne. The bills total over \$50,000 at several hospitals after insurance payments. Anne has a very rare disease which requires specialists at UNC Chapel Hill—a dysfunctional nervous system, which controls all involuntary movements of the body including respiration, heartbeat, digestion, and many more. She has been in the hospital eleven times over the past year and a half and has had four surgeries. If you would like to contribute, please mark your contribution *Anne Cranford Irby Fund*.

**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!

### August Highlights

- August 2 - Community Choir Concert
- August 4 & 18 - Praise Team
- August 9 - Backpack Blessings
- August 9 - Youth Pool Party
- August 11 - Stephen Ministry
- August 17 - Officers' Meeting
- August 23 - Summer Celebration
- August 23 - Summer Movie Series

### Weekly Happenings

- Men of the Church - Thursdays at 7 pm

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Here is your August newsletter...