

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dear First Folks,

We are nearing the high point of the Christian year! Easter is almost here! We can gather with the risen Lord Jesus because of it! Eternal life is ours because of it! It was the day which changed the course of history! The Roman Empire thought they had gotten rid of Jesus, but it is gone and he is still here, not just in Jerusalem but all over the world.

As we approach Easter, make it a time of rededication of your faith, to the holy work to which God has called us, and to the wonderful things God can do through committed people who can count on one another in all things!

Easter blessings to you all, as we gather for Sunrise Service, for Sunday school at 9 am, for the combined worship experience at 10 am that day, for the special Cantata and worship experience prepared by the Choir, the sacrament of Holy Communion, and the flowering of the cross. May God bless us all as we continue to be the church of Jesus Christ, alive, well, growing, and full of mission!

In Him,

Russell



April 2—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Trust In The Lord"

Scriptures: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 18:1-8

April 9—Sixth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "God's Presence"

Scriptures: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 18:1-8

April 16—Easter Sunday

Sermon: "Easter Past Passover"

Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 35:1-7; Luke 24:1-13

April 23—Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "No One Like You"

Scriptures: Jeremiah 9:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-5

April 30—Third Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "I Will Plant Them"

Scriptures: Jeremiah 32:36-41; 1 Cor. 3:5-11

May 7—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Your Presumptuous Heart"

Scriptures: Obadiah 1-4; Matthew 6:19-24

May 14—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Wheel Within a Wheel"

Scriptures: Ezekiel 1:4-17; Acts 8:26-35

Art Carter III Special Project

All of our missionaries are grateful for your support. Thanks for your response to our missionary special giving moment. Because of your gifts, Art and Andrea can make repairs to their home, buy materials for evangelism, and accomplish other things they could not do without that giving. The goal was \$2000, and the totals came in at \$2005!

Youth Worker

The session approved a search for a part-time youth coordinator to assist in ministry to our youth. If you know of candidates or have suggestions, please let us know.



Church Playground

The session, on recommendation of Christian Education committee, approved purchase of new playground equipment for a north property playground near the new picnic shelter. The cost will be about \$7500. This may be the lasting legacy you want to give to the church, so if you would like to contribute towards that project, mark your gifts appropriately or ask a session member about it.



Lenten Luncheons - We've had some great speakers so far for this sacred time. There are a couple more weeks and we invite all to come, and bring 2 friends and a bag lunch at noon to fellowship with each other, then at 12:30 we will listen to the scheduled speakers, as they share a devotion for the day. We continue through Easter. Here is the remaining portion of the schedule:
 March 29— Bob Hughes—First Presbyterian Church
 April 5— David Baird—Ash Avenue Baptist Church
 April 12—Dr. Russell Lee—First Presbyterian Church
 Beverages will be provided by First Presbyterian. Desserts will be provided by various churches. Plan to come out, we want this to be the largest attendance for these luncheons ever!

Palm Sunday Processional

On Palm Sunday, March 9, we will gather at the old clinic on North Main Street with other churches for our traditional Palm Sunday Processional. We remember the day when Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people shouted Hosanna to the King! It was just a few days before his arrest and crucifixion. Plan to be there at 10 am for fellowship and worship. We will begin the Processional at 10:20 am there, then process down the street waving palm branches and singing Palm Sunday Hymns till we get to 2nd and North Main, where we will pause for a brief prayer and benediction. Someone make sure to get a First Pres church banner to carry in the march. We are making plans to have a live donkey join the parade, as we did a few years ago!



Easter Sunrise Service-



The Main Street Easter Sunrise Service will happen at 7 am on Easter in the prayer garden of the Main Street United Methodist Church. Dr. Lee, along with Bob Ballance from First Baptist, and Wayne Rickman from Main Street Methodist, will be participating. Plan to attend this blessed time at the beginning of Resurrection Day.

Combined Service on Easter Sunday

The Session approved a combined service as both the 9 and 11 am come together for a special 10 am worship on Easter Sunday, April 16, with Sunday school at 9 am. The choir will present a special Easter cantata, "Come to the Cross and Remember", by Pepper Choplin, with special moments of spiritual drama and inspiration during the presentation. There will be elements from the nine am service, and we will celebrate communion that day.

Flowering of the Cross



We will conclude Easter worship with our traditional flowering of the cross. It is a special time of worship and fellowship as we gather to remember that Jesus made a dark evil symbol a vision of beauty and life. Please bring flowers from your yard, negotiate with neighbors for flowers they might have, or buy flowers to bring to put on the large cross on the lawn that day. Bring your cameras and memory, for it will be a wonderful moment!

Reading Bible Schedule

Week 29—March 27— April 1

Isaiah 18—Chronicles 32:23
 Pages 752-785

Week 30 — April 3-8

Isaiah 38—58
 Pages 786-817

Week 31: —April 10-15

Isaiah 59— 2 Chron. 35
 Pages 818-844

Week 32: —April 17 - 22

Hab. 1— Jeremiah 16 Pages 845-878

Week 33—April 24-29

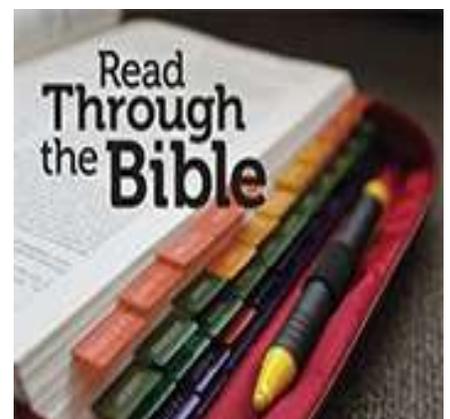
Jeremiah 17— Psalm 79 Pages 879-913

Week 34—May 1 - 6

2 Kings 24 32:23—Psalm 137 Pages 914-942

Week 35—May 8-13

Lament. 1 — Ezekiel 16 Pages 943-970





Looking Back and Moving Forward

By Rene Inniger

As we enter 2017, we can't help but look back and see God's faithfulness throughout 2016. Our hope is that you will see beyond these numbers and celebrate His faithfulness to this ministry!

-2,217 students attended our schools

- Over 790,000 meals were made for our students
- 7,000 hygiene kits were prepared and distributed
- Over 200 adults were faithful Mission Possible employees
- 218 people traveled with us to either Haiti and/or the Dominican Republic
- 127 people began sponsoring students
- Nearly 2,500 Bibles were distributed
- The construction at our new Degeance Haiti property began, and the construction of our new office here in Findlay Ohio completed.



In the midst of everything we continue to press on toward the goal of equipping the next generation of Christ-centered leaders everyday. Thank you to the thousands of People who partnered with us in 2016. We look forward to seeing what God has in store in 2017! ~ Kurt Bishop, President

Teacher School Graduation! By Rene Inniger

We are thrilled to give you the news about our Teacher School graduation! In July, 42 of our teachers graduated from the school. The Teacher School is a three year program to help our current educators increase their professionalism and credentials.

Seventeen of the graduates were qualified to take the national examination to become a nationally certified teacher. All seventeen passed! That makes us feel good about the value of our program.

Officials at the graduation included Moise Sam (M.P.'s D.R. field leader), Herve Pierre (M.P.'s Haiti field leader), and Tracy Rath (M.P.'s Education Coordinator), and Herb Codington (M.P. Board Member).

Thank you for helping us raise our standards in Haiti! ~ Kurt Bishop, President

The Reason We Go—By Rene Inniger



Often we get the question, "Why do you take people on mission trips? Wouldn't it be more efficient and save on plane tickets to just send the money to Haiti?" Mission Possible takes many people to Haiti and the Dominican Republic because we know it makes a special difference to the Haitians — people have come so far at great expense to tell them something important. It also makes a profound impact on the lives of team members. This account comes from Abbey, a recent high school graduate:

"I've learned that when we are truly serving Jesus, it often won't make much sense to the rest of the world. Does it make sense that a group of young adults would give up a week of their summer to come to Haiti, willingly, in order to work? Does it make sense that young kids will let a stranger pick them up, or will sing and dance with no limitations together? Furthermore, does it make sense that when I expected to be serving God beyond the point of exhaustion, I actually feel more alive for God, and exceptionally loved by Him this week? He provides for us; He loves us; He delights in our hearts. The idea of taking a missions trip, and coming home feeling like you received more from God than you were able to give to Him, is not something you'd expect. Glory to God, because without Him, I would not have been able to stand in the middle of the forest, on the top of a mountain, holding the same little boy I met months ago, spreading the love of Jesus!"

The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 4, at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. During 2016 and 2017, we have used the study book, "Quiet Confidence for A Woman's Heart", based on the Twenty Third Psalm. It has been an enlightening and amazing journey. At the April meeting, Eloise Wilder will present at "overview" of the twelve lessons. As always, all ladies are encouraged to attend.

Ladies' Circle



As Easter season approaches I find myself thinking more about the sacrifice that the Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ made for me. He suffered great pains due to mistakes I was going to make, and loves me enough to do so. It humbles me to know his love for me. And because he was resurrected, I too, will be resurrected and can be made perfect in him, IF I strive hard each day to follow his example. I joy in knowing that he lives. I love the passage when the angel came to Mary Magdelene and asked "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen." He had power to die and then power to live again, and because of his death, I have power to overcome my sins and live with him and my Father in Heaven again one day.



Even though he had talked with his disciples and told them of his mission to be a sacrifice and live once more they did not believe it was him after they saw him die. But in Luke we read "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Luke 24:39). Easter is such a vital event in the life of us as Christians. If it weren't for Easter we wouldn't have Christmas. Had Christ not died and then been resurrected his life would have been as any other man, and not celebrated. But he alone had power to give up his life and bring it back again. He provides the way, so that I can live and grow and learn to be more Christ like in my daily actions.

~ Sherolyn



April 2— 5:00 pm Music (Handbells & song)

6:00 pm Youth Group/Dinner

April 23—5:00 pm Music (Handbells & song)

6:00 pm Youth Group/Dinner

April 30— 4:00 pm FunDay at Hayes' Farm! Volleyball, basketball, cook-out and a bonfire! Come enjoy the fun!

Sanctuary Flowers—We have open dates for someone to provide flowers for the Sanctuary on April 2 and April 9th



Weekly Happenings

Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am
Praise Team: Wednesdays at 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

April 24

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting

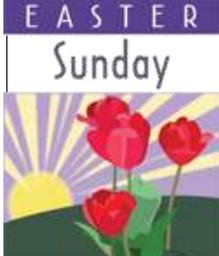
CALLING ALL CHAIRS – PLEASE COME HOME

A couple of dozen white folding chairs from the fellowship hall are missing. It's possible that they attended a wedding, social gathering or reunion and moved into someone's garage to get out of the rain or snow. Please help us get our wayward chairs back to the fellowship hall.





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
Sat

26 March 5cent Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6pm Shrove dinner	27 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	28 12 noon NA	29 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	30 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	31 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	April 1
2 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	3 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	4 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12 noon NA	5 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	6 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	7 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	8 GS Troop 796 meet 2-4
9  9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	10 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	11 12 noon NA 	12 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	14  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	15
16 	17 Office Closed 12 pm NA	18 12 noon NA 	19 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	20 8 pm AA No Men of the Church meeting tonight	21 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	22
23 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	24 10:00 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 Diaconate Meeting 7:30 pm Elders	25 12 Noon AA 	26 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	27 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	28 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	29
30—5 cent meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	May 1 10:00 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	2 12 Noon AA	3 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	4 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	6



1 Beth Bush	25 Kirsten Marvin
2 Del Pool	25 Brian Raney
6 Kim Albert	28 Beth Saunders
6 Will Dillard	29 Daniel Roller
7 Joseph Roberts	30 Debbie Roller
8 Patricia Seat	30 Mark Thackston
10 Liza Farley	
11 Carter Henderson	
12 Grace Elizabeth Adams	
13 Mark Foster	
15 Frances Harrell	
16 Buck Wilkins	
18 David Watson	
23 Jessica Lumsden	
24 Jane Willis	
24 Matthew Fraser Freshour	
25 Kaitlan Marvin	



March Session Report

At their meetings since last Newsletter the Session

1. Met to plan and serve communion
2. Approved Session and Diaconate minutes.
3. Refined goals for ministry from officer's retreat.
4. Heard updates on columbarium.
5. Heard updates on church sign.
6. Approved purchase of new playground equipment for young children on North Property.
7. Approved combined worship service for Easter at 10am. Sunday school at 9 am.
8. Heard updates on Membership rolls.
9. Approved search for part-time youth worker.
10. Heard updates on Stephen Ministry.
11. Moved their April stated meeting to April 24.

Men of Church - Men of the Church will NOT meet on April 20, due to it being Easter break.

First Presbyterian Church
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South Boston, VA 24592

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