

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

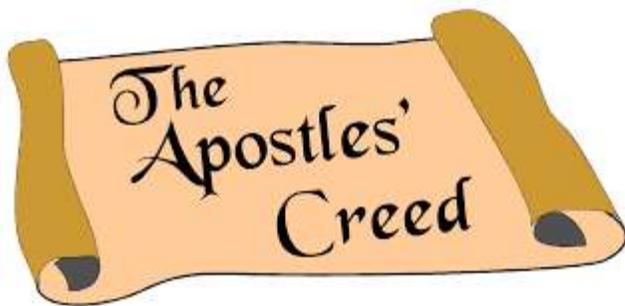
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dear First Folks,

Summer is in full swing, and so are we at First Presbyterian Church. Many are travelling, some are resting, and others are somewhere in between. Take a look at the information below and see how you can pray and act. We are gearing up for new ministries and old in September. Construction continues on the Memorial Garden. The new playground is taking shape, with the ark sailing over and the treehouse has been moved there as well. Be in worship when you can, and pray for us when you can't. God has much to do in this important time of ministry, so let us join together in love and grace.

In Him,

-Russell



Based on the Apostles' Creed and the scriptures from which it comes. This sermon series will help us to grow in faith and understanding.



August 5

Sermon: "The communion of saints"

Scriptures: Rev. 19:6-15; Hebrews 10:19-25

August 12

Sermon: "The forgiveness of sins"

Scriptures: Luke 7:44-50; 1 John 1:5-10

August 19

Sermon: "The Resurrection of the Body."

Scriptures: Philip 3:20-21; 1 Cor 15:35-55

September 2

Sermon: "Every Perfect Gift"

Scriptures: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27

September 9

Sermon: "Doing Everything Well"

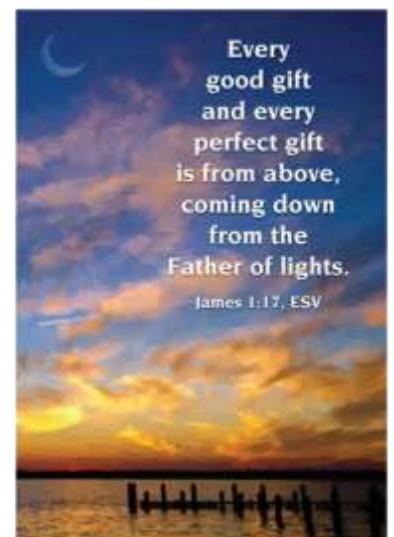
Scriptures: Psalm 125; Mark 7:24-37



August 26

Sermon: "And the Life Everlasting."

Scriptures: Rev. 21:1 & 3, 22:5; John 3:16-21



Matthew and Teresa Lee—Wycliffe

(A Presbyterian Ministry)

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The last weeks in Cameroon were filled with sorting, packing and preparing to transition back to the United States. We enjoyed special moments with friends. Our days and lives in Cameroon have been full of sweet friendships and are full of God's love. We certainly are different people as we leave than we were when we arrived; we have grown in our love for God, and others.

Special Bible Dedication - Matthew had the opportunity over the past years to work with a project that has helped so many. Translating the bible from Latin script to a modified version of Arabic, has been a blessing, as the native speaking people can pick up a reader and go right into reading the Bible, understanding each and every word.

We saw joy as people received and read the scriptures for the first time.

Teresa had just a joy in teaching the children for these past years. Friendships were formed, they grew academically, and hungered for more knowledge. While here in the US, the children and their creativity, hugs, high-fives, and laughter, will certainly be missed.

Working with other teachers and staff, over the past three years, I am grateful for the advice, conversations, laughter and times of prayer that I had with these ladies. I will miss them greatly! I am glad technology will allow us to continue to pray for the students and teachers. ~ Teresa

As I prepared to leave for Home Assignment, I had to release some of my extra responsibilities the last couple months. I am excited to see how things will progress under the direction of these various new leaders. ~ Matthew

Arriving back in Virginia, we will be here until the beginning of January! During our time here Teresa would love to visit and observe kindergarten classrooms, as well as share opportunities with teachers about teaching overseas. If you have any connections with classrooms of Kindergarten or university levels where Teresa could share her talents and observe, please let us know.

We'd love to hear from you! You can contact us by phone or email.

Matthew Phone: 434-471-2317 / Matthew_Lee@wycliffe.org

Teresa Phone: 434-471-2728 / Teresa_Lee@wycliffe.org

Skype Username: Erros84

We are also on Facebook and Twitter. You can also check out our blog. ~ Matthew and Teresa

Operation G.R.O.W. Notecards— We have the G.R.O.W. notecards available for member to pick up to send out to neighbors, friends, or anyone that may need an invitation to attend a church. So many these days do not attend any church, and we'd love to help them to come to know the Lord, and grow as a church at the same time. Stacks of 5 cards have been bundled together, use them, and feel free to ask for more as needed.



RALLY DAY! - September 9—We will begin with worship at 9am, a full breakfast at 9:30 am, our Sunday School Program in the Fellowship hall at 10:15 am, and worship at 11 am. Sunday School Classes and teachers for all ages will be ready to share the word of God each Sunday morning. Make sure to be here on that day, and make an extra special effort to commit to what God can teach us all this year!

Community Choir Performance Scheduled August 5 at 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church. A special feature of the concert this year will be a phenomenal arrangement of "It is Well with My Soul", which has been commissioned in memory of Bob Davis, who played the organ for this choir each summer. It was his favorite hymn. A number of First Pres. Folks are singing in this performance, mark your calendar and plan to come out to support them, and enjoy the music.





MISSIONS VOLUNTEERS

A team of 14 First Folks and Friends returned to Richwood, WV, to continue work on rebuilding after flooding in June of 2016. We had such a positive experience last summer working with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) and serving the people of Richwood, that we all wanted to return there if possible. We were able to make it happen, and our group was not disappointed in the blessings gained from those we worked for/with and those we served!

This year's team consisted of Kim Albert, Kelly and Lance Chappell, Wayne Davis, James Edmunds, Mike, Michaela, and Maelyn Freshour, Robert Guthrie, Russell and Marilyn Lee, Matthew and Teresa Lee, and Larry McPeters. As always, we saw each person's special gifts revealed as God worked through us in this mission.

The first job we knew about before we left. In the summer of 2017 we helped Jim remove the last few items from his family home before it was demolished. Our construction supervisor, Buck, told me that he was really looking forward to our group coming because he knew we had a plumber and he needed to get the plumbing finished in Jim's new house. Robert was not totally excited about spending all week doing the same work he does every day, but God had this plan for him, and he, along with the help of Wayne and Teresa, completed the job. They also did some electrical work to install lights in the basement – their special skills were in Richwood exactly when they were needed.

On a side note, Marilyn and Kim were shopping for groceries on Monday, and Kim was wearing the "Richwood Strong" t-shirt given to her by the team last year. It caught the eye of an older couple, and after striking up a conversation it turned out that she was the sister of Jim, and our group was working on her family home site, the house she grew up in. Kim showed her pictures taken last year, just before the house was demolished, and she exclaimed, "That was my Mama's house!"

The second job was rebuilding a garage just up the street from Jim's house. Robin, the homeowner, was so grateful for our presence. She helped when she could, provided the team with refreshments and cold water, and shared photos and stories of her experience with the disaster. The biggest focus here was getting the roof on, and Larry directed this operation with Lance as his #1 helper. God created this opportunity for Larry to share skills with the younger folks, as he taught Lance the fine points of putting on a tin roof, and gave Michaela and Maelyn their first taste of operating power tools! Mike was at work on this job, watching his girls grow in service, and Russell was a part of this crew, too.

The third job was another God-send. We were already slated to continue installing vinyl siding on Harold's house, but the week before we arrived Harold fell and broke his hip. So now he also needed a ramp to access his home. James and Kelly eagerly took on this job, even though neither of them had ever built a ramp before. They were completely blessed by the idea of doing this service for this man, even though we never met him. We heard marvelous testaments to Harold's Christian character from many sources. One of our mealtime devotions was about building character through adversity; we don't think for one minute that Harold needed any character-building, but God used Harold's adversity as an opportunity to build character in some of our group.

Matthew and Kim chipped away at the siding on Harold's house and pump house all week. There was a group of inexperienced young people from Lumberton, NC, who needed work, and Buck asked if we could help him by leading them. So Matthew spent several days teaching the finer points of installing siding and providing a meaningful work experience to these folks. His gift of teaching was certainly put into use!

The final project was Harold's greenhouse. It may not seem like a greenhouse is such an important thing to rebuild, but Harold's was washed away in the flood and his garden is extremely important to him, as he grows vegetables to give away to the needy. James, Mike, and Russell worked on the greenhouse, with help from Michaela and Maelyn, and they succeeded in putting on the roof and installing some siding.

Marilyn was challenged with the task of playing house-mom to our group without a designated helper. Cooking and cleaning up after this bunch is no easy task! She planned breakfast, put out fixings for us to prepare bag lunches, got our water coolers ready, had dinner going when we got back from working, and sometimes even had appetizers or desserts planned! God provided pleasant spirits for each of our team members and there was always someone helping with the preparation and clean up of each meal.

Throughout the week we were also treated to opportunities to enjoy God's beautiful creation. We appreciated the cool evening temps and clear skies with a corn hole tournament outside the church where we were staying. Case manager, Grace, brought each team donuts Thursday morning. Buck invited us down to the banks of the North Fork of the Cherry River for an evening complete with a bonfire and s'mores. The team at Harold's house spent Friday afternoon break in the river.

The bottom line is that we returned home with an amazing sense of awe at what God can do when He calls His people to service. He showed older folks that they've "still got it!" He showed younger folks the possibilities. He spoke through each of us as we shared devotions. He used us as examples, and helped us each learn new things.

And, "May Jesus Christ be praised!"



Missionary News— Some missionaries are in the U.S on Home Assignment. During this time they are still working for their ministry and still need our support, both in prayer and funding. We're planning a Missionary Weekend where most of the missionaries will be here to speak and share their experiences. This will take place in the fall. More details will follow as date and information becomes available.



As a child I was taught Articles of Faith. The fourth one starts like this: “The first principle ... in the gospel (is) first faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...”. Faith really is the beginning. It is the foundation of religion. Without it we have nothing. Paul taught that “faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Faith is not merely believing in Christ, we must act on that belief. We read in James 2:17 “Faith, if it hath not works, is dead”. So, if we truly have

faith in Christ we will be willing to do anything He asks us to do. This reminds me of a book that I am reading titled *Believe Christ*, by Stephen E. Robinson. In this book he points out that many times we as Christians will say “I believe in Jesus Christ” but often our actions and things we say tell others that we don’t actually believe Christ. Do we believe His words when He promised “If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me” meaning if we truly believe Him, we can do anything at all with His help and IF it is His will. Like the example we read in Matthew 17:20 “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed...nothing shall be impossible unto you”; we could move mountains!

I know there have been times in my life that I certainly say “I believe in Christ” but I also have felt like my sin was “too great” or I sin “too much” for Him to forgive me. But that is an example of not believing Him when he said “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18).

Faith is a gift from our Heavenly Father; “it is not a perfect knowledge”. He wants us to trust Him and listen to His guidance and He will direct our paths back home to live with Him. We develop stronger faith when we study the scriptures and listen to His guidance and directions through the Holy Ghost, then follow those directions. Again, this is like the analogy of the good seed briefly stated that if we will have a desire to believe, that belief can work and grow, just like a seed planted. As the seed grows when in good soil and given nourishment, so too does our faith grow as we nurture it with study and Sunday worship, and willingly following Christ’s example.

I certainly have a long road to travel to be the person I hope to be, but with Christ, all things are possible, and because I know He loves me, He will guide my steps to perfection if I will let Him.

~ Sherolyn

Memorial Garden/Columbarium –Construction began on the South side of the church building in July and should be completed soon. Please remember to keep young people away from the construction zone, marked by yellow caution tape.



AED— Zoll AED (Defibrillator) was ordered and arrived in July. We had received several suggestions by one of our medical professionals for safety. It will be placed in a convenient area outside the sanctuary for easy access in case of need. If anyone would be willing to receive training to operate this, please let us know. The one we purchased has clear instructions and will not work unless the heart has stopped. It is fully automatic so that it doesn’t have to rely on human knowledge or experience, but a person is required to follow the directions provided by the device.

SHRH Clothes Closet—Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital is starting a new program to help hospital patients. Some patients come in, perhaps after an accident or other reason, where they have to have clothes cut off and/or destroyed, and sometimes these people do not have family that can bring them clothes to wear. They are looking for donations to help provide these folks with clothing. They are looking for new items (sweats, t-shirts, socks, under garments) of various sizes. If you can help with this new endeavor by providing new items or funds, please contact Leigh Moore, Hospital Volunteer coordinator at 572-3422.





August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	30 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	31 12 Noon NA	1 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	2 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	3 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	4 NA—Women's Group 12-1
5 Communion 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	6 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	7 12 noon NA	8 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	9 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	10 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	11 NA—Women's Group 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
12 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	13 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	14 12 noon NA	15 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	16 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	17 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	18 NA—Women's Group 12—1
19 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	20 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	21 12 noon NA Newsletter DEADLINE	22 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	23 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	24 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	25 NA—Women's Group 12—5
26 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	27 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	28 12 noon NA	29 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	30 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	31 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	September 1 NA—Women's Group 12—1

- 2 Meredith Howell
- 4 Donnell Corelle
- 6 Joan Owens
- 7 Ann Crabtree
- 10 Jim Luedtke
- 10 Drew Morgan
- 14 Barbara Johnston
- 15 Lisa Howell
- 16 Zachary Raney
- 17 Wilma Hendley*
- 19 Sylvia Hendley



- 20 Ronnie Crabtree
- 23 Wayne Roller
- 25 Dan Koutsos
- 29 Sally Slaff
- 29 Marge Nelson
- 30 Debbie Burton
- 31 Polly Ratcliff*

If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.



* In Memory



July Session Report

Since the last newsletter the Session has in their monthly and other meetings:

1. Approved minutes and financials.
2. Set next communion for August 5.
3. Heard Dr. Lee's target date for retirement- November 2019.
4. Approved making a plan for young adult outreach in church and community.
5. Shared devotional and prayer concerns of congregation.
6. Heard updates on Memorial Garden and power/water for picnic shelter.
7. Heard report on recent purchase and arrival of AED for emergency heart use.
8. Heard reports on education, Summer and Fall Sunday school.
9. Heard next plan of Operation G.R.O. W- note cards for church members to mail.
10. Various other routine matters, and some new as well.



August 20

7:00 pm Deacons Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting



Weekly Happenings

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

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

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Here is your August 2018 Newsletter