

First Presbyterian News

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C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, D. Min
pastor@1stpres.cc
Sherolyn Barnett, Admin. Asst
secretary@1stpres.cc
Chris Jones, Choir Director

February 2017

Website: 1stpres.cc

Office Hours

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



Dear First Folks,

It is wonderful to see all the things God is doing here, and I am thankful that you can be in prayer for, in participation in, and at the help of vital and new ministries. From young to old and in between, we are the church, and we all need God's blessings and love in our lives. As you see the events below, pick out items to pray for. Be in attendance at every event that you can possibly attend. As the Year of the Child unfolds, the officer retreat happens, and worship and other wonderful moments of God's communication take place, I am thankful that God is here, and that you are a part of the marvelous things God is doing at First Presbyterian Church!

In Him,

Russell



February 5

Sermon: "What Would We Ask?"

Scriptures: Psalm 116:12-19; 1 Kings 3:5-14

February 12

Sermon: "The Lord In Charge"

Scriptures: Proverbs 16:1-11; Matthew 19:23-30

February 19

Sermon: "Watch Over This Temple"

Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 6:12-21; Matthew 15:13-20

February 26

Sermon: "In His Time"

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Hebrews 2:1-5

March 5

Sermon: "How God Speaks"

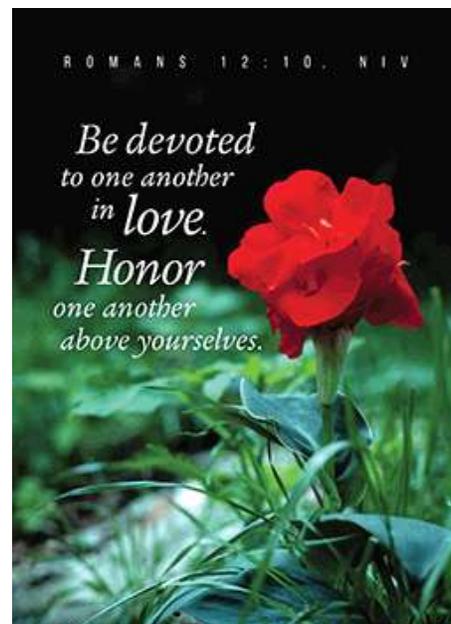
Scriptures: 1 Kings 19:1-13; 1 Kings 19:14-21

Picnic Shelter posts -

As you know the posts will all be named for apostles. So far we have named posts for the following apostles: Matthew, John, James, Thaddeaus, and Bartholomew.

These men were blessed to follow Jesus and walk with him. Their testimonies strengthened seeing all the love Christ showed for all.

We too, are examples of his love as we go throughout our days and lives.



2017 Year of the Child



During 2017 we will be celebrating all the children of the church, and planning moments and ministries for them. The first moment will be the dedication of stuffed animals to give to each child of the church, from birth to 18, and telling them how much God loves them and we love them. We will dedicate the bears, frogs, kittens, dogs, and monkeys on Sunday January 29.



The Crayon Initiative- Matthew Bain, one of our teens, is on the Presbytery of the Peaks youth council, commended a Crayon Outreach project. The goal was to collect as many crayons as possible that are no longer being used, melt them down, and give to patients in children’s hospitals. We were able to nearly fill a tub with crayons. We want to thank everyone who helped with this project and a special “Thank You” goes out to Matthew for commissioning this project.

The Ladies’ Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 7, at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. We are continuing the study Book, “Quiet Confidence for A Woman’s Heart”, based on the Twenty Third Psalm. This lesson, verse 6, will be led by Kay Lewis. All ladies are encouraged to join us. Please read the Twenty Third Psalm as well as lesson eleven (11) in the Study Book.



Women’s Bible Study Class –New class starting! This one titled “One Thousand Gifts” by Ann Voskamp. The class will begin meeting on Thursdays, February 9 at 10:30am for 5 weeks. Ann hungers to live her life well, she says “Forget the bucket lists about once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Find joy in the midst of daily life.” This book invites you to wake up to God’s everyday blessings. Come join us as we discover the joy of everyday life.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner— The men of the church will host their annual Valentine's weekend Spaghetti Supper on Sunday, February 12 at 6. This will be a wonderful time for children and adults as well! Skits and jokes and contests will happen, as gather in the name of the Lord for Fellowship.



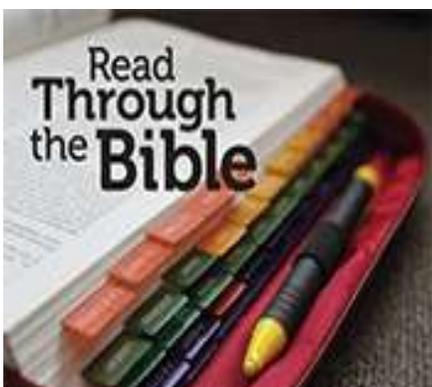
Souper Bowl of Caring - February 5 - Please give generously!

SM On Super Bowl Sunday in 1990, a simple prayer inspired a youth group to create a fun, yet meaningful way to fight hunger and reach out to those in need. Today, Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities. So far in 2017, there are 330, groups participating and have collected \$1,780,399, and 100% of that was donated to charities in their areas.

Lenten Luncheons, gatherings of the community to prepare for Easter, will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 20 at noon, and continue every Wednesday until Easter. Bring a bag lunch and come to hear various pastors and friends of the community share a devotion at 12:30 each day. We will adjourn promptly at 12:45. Come and bring your friends for a blessed time!



Reading Bible Schedule



Week 21—January 30—February 4

Psalms 111— Song of Solomon 5

Pages 534– 556

Week 22 — February 6-11

Song of Solomon—Proverbs 20

Pages 560-582

Week 23: —February 13-18

Proverbs 21– 26

Pages 587-611

Week 24—February 20-25

Proverbs 27— 2 Chronicles 12

Pages 617- 639

Week 25—February 27—March 4

1 Kings 15:24 –2 Kings 4

Pages 645—665



Hello from Carter Caravan

Happy New Year!

We got to start ours off with a bang, as we had family in town. On Sunday night Rachael's parents arrived in N'Djamena, and stayed with us until late the next week. It was great to see them, spend time together, and share in person what we've been recounting stories about for the last 13+ years.

Abe and Nyala have been opening their home quite regularly to Scott these days. You'll remember Scott as the Tama man who helped us get set up in Guereda, whose family we lived with, and shared with from the word time and time again. Since we've known him he's gone from belief in Jesus and desire to follow him, to returning to Islam, living more or less a secular lifestyle.

For the past few months Scott has been coming over to study the word with Abe and Nyala. Abe in his own estimation has seen Scott grow nearer the Lord in recent days. Please do continue to pray for Scott!

I would appreciate your prayers for a potential opportunity. Since we moved to N'Djamena, I've been trying to sort out how to meet people. As it turns out it's been more difficult than I anticipated. In a possible answer to prayer, a friend of mine put me in touch with a professor at the Islamic University here in N'Djamena. To my knowledge this is the only institution of its kind in the country, and likely hardly ever has a believer walk on campus in any given week.

This professor will pitch the idea of me teaching English at the university a few times a week to the dean. Would you ask the lord to make this clear if he would have me step forward in this direction? If this is just a good idea, but not what he wants right now, please ask that he'll close it and open the right door.

It's the hear of the cold season here in Chad, but N'djamena isn't showing signs of it these days. The weekend's highs are projected to top out at around 108degrees F. Here's hoping things average out over the next month or so!

Two weeks ago Marlene arrived in N'djamena. Having served in Chad for 16 yrs already, she is coming back this time with our organization, and has joined the Urban team I'm part of. We are praying and working towards seeing the Lord bring a church planting movement to N'Djamena among its Muslim population. With possibly 20% or more of Chad's Muslims here in the capital, and only one or two small Muslim background fellowships (of 5 or 6 people each), there is tremendous opportunity for the Kingdom to transform this city.

Please pray for Marlene's transition, and for the Kingdom to come among the N'Djamena's Muslims!

For His glory and our good,

Dave, for the family



A Dream come true for Hannah.

We recently went to a ranch outside of town where we got to ride horses. The fact that Hannah's horse was white was the icing on the cake to her perfect day.

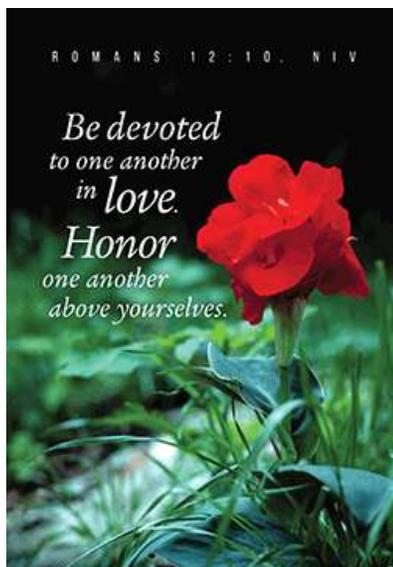
New Missionary Project for February and March

The Session has approved a special project in support of Art and Andrea, overseas missionaries. This project will be above and beyond our regular prayer and monthly financial support.

They have financial needs above their approved budget so they can make some repairs to the house they rent, replace water filters and for additional ministry materials to equip new believers. There's a need for additional materials for the local discipleship group they mentor and for evangelical outreach.

There is a small display located in the sanctuary so you can learn more about their work.

Please prayerfully consider how God may lead you in an "above and beyond" gift to participate with them in their work. We would like to be able to help them with a one-time gift of \$2000.00.



Valentines is a day when we tend to reach out a little more to show those we love, just how much we do love them. It also is one of those holidays that tends to be too commercialized. Showing love is one of the most important things we can do. The first and great commandment “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” “This is the first and great commandment.” “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” ([Matt. 22:37–40](#)).

We are commanded to “Love your enemies, ... and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you”. It is only in showing love for those we meet and have contact with that we can feel God’s love for us. ~ Sherolyn



Friday, Feb. 3 - Buffalo Wild Wings and a Movie! Choice of movies are: “The Resurrection of Gavin Stone” or “Hidden Figures”.

Friday, Feb. 10 - leave church at 7:30 am for Wintergreen for the day.

Friday, Feb. 17 - Valentine’s Spaghetti Supper and Variety Show at FBC Fellowship Hall (Fundraiser for Passport Camp)

Friday, February 24 - Dinner and Youth Meeting at 5:30 pm at Amy’s house. 1316 Irish Street, SoBo.

Upcoming: June 15, 16,17 mission trip to Nickelsville, Scott County Virginia

June 23-28 PASSPORT CAMP—Greensboro College, NC

Weekly Happenings

Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am

Praise Team: Wednesdays at 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Women’s Bible Study: Thursdays at 10:30 am
(beginning Feb. 9th)

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm



February 20

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting

The Good Samaritan experiences a higher than normal need for donations at Christmas time and during the winter months. Staples that they can always use are canned fruit, canned meat, peanut butter, canned soup, macaroni & cheese, ramen noodles, and quart-size packets of powdered milk. There are blue Wal-Mart reusable bags in the sanctuary and the foyer tagged to remind you of these needs. Pick up a bag, fill it up, and return, or just pick up some extra non-perishables on your next shopping trip to help offset hunger in our community!



January Session Report

At their meetings in the last month, the Elders among other things:

1. Met to consider the work and blessings of the church.
2. Set a joint officer's retreat for March 5.
3. Approved elders Jim Sizemore as chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee, Art Carter as Spiritual Renewal and World Mission Chair, and Steve Reynolds for Local Outreach Chair.
4. Considered and prayed for needs and blessings of the church.
5. Gave an update on Columbarium project.
6. Received update on Stephen Ministry. 8 care receivers at present.
7. Approved 2017 Communion Dates of Feb. 5, April 16 -Easter, June 4, August 6, October 1 and December 24 -Christmas Eve.
8. Noted that Missionary Project for Carters will happen in February.
9. Had an update on Women's Bible Studies.
10. Was updated on Year of the Child ministry for January.
11. Approved Deacon's and Elders Minutes.
12. Addressed Property repair and new ministry projects such as playground and sports field.
13. Received update on Local Mission. Homeless Shelter Project doubled goal to reach \$3000 as well as a microwave and twin mattress set.
14. Approved Good Samaritan grant endorsement.
15. Approved December balance sheet.
16. Endorsed suggestion to put church information in Friday's announcement section of local newspaper.
17. Approved new elders for ordination and installation on Jan. 15.

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

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