

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

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

February 2018



Dear First Folks.

Soon we begin the season of Lent, a time of spiritual preparation of about 40 days before Easter, which happens this year on April 1. As we begin the new year, seek to know Christ more deeply and commit yourself totally to Him. Reach out to others who need to know the risen Jesus. And let us have the most beautiful Easter ever as his disciple together.

Look over the pages of the newsletter below and see how we get ready together. Be in prayer for and participate in the blessed journey of the church here at First Presbyterian!

In Him,

~Russell



February 4

Sermon: "Eagle Faith"

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

February 11 - Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: "This is My Son"

Scriptures: Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 18 - First Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "What Can Happen in 40 Days"

Scriptures: Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15

February 25 - Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Perspective and Denial"

Scriptures: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38

March 4 - Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Turn Over Those Tables!"

Scriptures: Psalm 19:1-10; John 2:13-22

March 11 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "That the World Might be Saved"

Scriptures: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21



IT IS
WELL
WITH
my
soul

(A Presbyterian Ministry)

Dear family and friends,

Please remember us in prayer. We are looking for a small ministry space to offer activities for refugees. This has been difficult to find. We are now considering the option of doing this in our house until the right place comes along. We have to make a decision about this.

Thanks,

Paul

From the website:

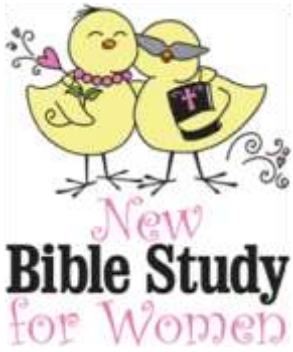
The realities are that we are in the midst of a global refugee crisis. Over 65 million men, women and children are forcibly displaced in the world. 28,000 people are newly uprooted every day. The average time of displacement is 17 years.

With the number of refugees growing, and the solutions failing, we do still have reason to hope.

- 1– Refugees are more than people in need. You would be amazed at their resiliency and resourcefulness. They really can play an important roll in their own recovery, if we let them.
- 2– God has always been at work in the lives of refugees. Consider how God showed up when Hagar, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel Jesus, Philip and others who were forcibly displaced. He is showing up for us today as well.
- 3– The Church is already present along much of the refugee highway. It carries the mandate to welcome and love the foreigner. A movement of hope is beginning to take root as local churches embrace their divine calling to begin to help people survive and recover from forced displacement.



Resurrection Garden - this year we will come together and build a Resurrection Garden for our homes. Check out our web page for the recipe, as we walk through this journey of faith from here to Easter. Lent begins on February 14. Forty days after that, on April 1, is Easter, when we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The garden begins with a large clay dish, and includes a clay pot, rocks, grass seed, potting soil, and a large rock. Here is a photo.



Attention Ladies!! We began a new study, we meet each Thursday at 10:30 am. Our focus will be on the book *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Myers. Our minds and hearts can fall prey to depression, anger, low self-esteem, condemnation and a multitude of other negative mindsets. We will learn how to more effectively set our minds on God and find peace and freedom from these destructive behaviors. Contact church office for more info.

The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 10:30 AM in the Philathea Room. Our studies this year will be taken from the book, "Attitude is Your Paintbrush. It colors every Situation" by James W. Moore. The topic is The Attitude of Determination "Take Dead Aim!". All Ladies are encouraged to attend.



Lenten Luncheons, gatherings of the community to prepare for Easter, will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14 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! Here is the schedule for February.



- February 14 Rev. Susan Grimm—Trinity Episcopal Church
- February 21 Rev. Tim Mull—Ash Avenue Baptist Church
- February 28 Rev. Ridge Cullum—Beth Car Baptist Church

Flowers— We still have many openings for providing flowers for the sanctuary. Please see the flower calendar outside the church office door. Some immediate openings are: February 4, February 18, March 4, March 18, and March 25 (Palm Sunday).

Please call, stop by, or fill in the date(s) that work best with your schedule and calendar.



Souper Bowl of Caring - February 4 during our worship service we will contribute to this worthy cause. Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food. Last year over \$10 million was collected to help feed the hungry. Our offering will be given to The Good Samaritan. Please contribute generously to help local people in need.

Shrove Tuesday - As we enter the spiritual season of Lent, the deacons are planning our annual Shrove Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendar.



How Do I Love Thee?

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I know we have all heard the poem from which I got the title of this article. But today I think I'll take a different view of those words. We read in the scriptures in many places how much we are loved by God, and Jesus. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

So, how do we show our love for the Lord, Jesus answers and said "if ye love me, keep my commandments" John 14:15.

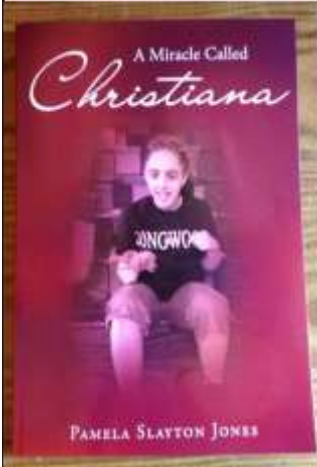
Because of the love given to us, we are to return the favor and love God for all we have. We read in the 10 commandments that God shows "mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments." Duet. 5:10. We are commanded to "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and will all thy mind" Matthew 22:37. Then in verse 39 we are commanded "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself". This is another way we show our love for the Lord.

When we love our neighbor and do the things we are commanded we are true disciples of Jesus. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" John 13:35.

One story that impresses me and shows total devotion and love is that of Jacob. He met Rachel and loved her, and wanted her to be his bride. When he asked her father, Laban, if he could have her hand, he offered to work for him for seven years in order to have her as his bride. "And Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had [for] her." Gen. 29:20. Then he went to Laban and asked for her hand and was given her sister Leah, since she was the first born daughter. He loved Rachel so much that he worked for another seven years to have Rachel as his wife. What love and devotion! We probably will never have to work like this for the one we love, but we must learn to have this kind of love for others and be willing to serve. Even if we may feel we have been mistreated, for we will be rewarded. And how great will be our reward. ~ *Sherolyn*



You are invited to **An Author Afternoon** with Pam and Christiana Jones. Many of you may remember praying for Christiana in 2008 after her critical health crisis. I remember crying in the choir loft telling you all of her miraculous comeback from all of us thinking she was gone.



Pam was librarian at Halifax County Middle School for eleven years and her husband, Jeff, was the minister at Providence and Memorial Presbyterian Churches here in Halifax County during that time.

Pam has recently written a book entitled "A Miracle Called Christiana" about their life with a special needs child and the miracles that God has given them and all of us with this child.

I am hosting an afternoon here at the church on Sunday, March 4th in the Fellowship Hall from 3-5 pm with Pam and Christiana here to talk about the book, answer questions and sign books. Books can be purchased ahead of time from Amazon or Barnes and Nobles, or a limited number will be available that afternoon.

Please come and support my friend, but also know that you will be blessed by hearing their story and by meeting this miracle child. Contact Marilyn Lee if you have questions.

~ In Christ, Marilyn Lee

Session meeting will meet during Officer's Retreat.



Weekly Happenings

Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am

Praise Team Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Women's Bible Study Thursday at 10:30am

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 January 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	29 January 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	30 January 12 Noon NA	31 January 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	1 February 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	3 NA—Women's Group 12-1
4 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	5 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	6 10:30 Ladies Circle 12 noon NA	7 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	8 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	9 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	10 NA—Women's Group 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
11 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA 	12 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	13 12 noon NA Shrove Pancake Dinner 6 pm	 12 Noon Lenten Lunches 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	15 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	16 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	17 NA—Women's Group 12—1
18 FIRST SUNDAY in Lent 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	19 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	20 12 noon NA NewsLetter DEADLINE	21 12 noon—Lenten Luncheon 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	22 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	23 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	24 NA—Women's Group 12—1 Officer's Retreat 8 am -12 noon
25 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA 	26 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	27 12 Noon NA	28 12 Noon Lenten Lunches 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	March 1 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	March 2 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	March 3 NA—Women's Group 12—1
						

- 1 Ann Ferguson
- 2 Jacquelyn McAbee
- 2 Baylee Miller
- 6 Anne Butler
- 6 Bob Seat
- 8 Pam Rowland
- 9 John Hall Greenbacker
- 10 Abbey Bales
- 11 Jonathan Farley
- 12 Morgan Paige Farley
- 13 Caitlin Joy Owens
- 13 Susan Godbold Klotz
- 13 Connie Crews Holder
- 14 Mark Crabtree
- 14 Kitty Lawson
- 15 Diane Newberry
- 16 Kylie Berry
- 17 John Mele



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



- 18 Amanda Albert Bennett
- 18 Deborah Sizemore
- 19 Ashley Slaff
- 21 Greg Farley
- 22 Robert Carter
- 23 Charles Ware
- 23 Teresa McCollum
- 24 Skyler Smith
- 24 Melissa Fraser
- 25 Ann Egloff
- 28 Dargan Cherry
- 28 Madeline Ruth Freshour
- 29 Bob Egloff (doesn't get older this year! - Lucky him :))



January Session Report

At our last session meetings, among other things, we:

1. Addressed security concerns.
2. Approved a grant endorsement for Good Samaritan from the Presbytery.
3. Set a combined officer's retreat for February 24.
4. Introduced new committee chairs to group.
5. Heard updates on Stephen Ministry.
6. Approved dates for celebration of the Lord's supper:
 - 4 Feb, 29 Mar (Maundy), 1 April, 3 June, 5 Aug, 7 Oct, 2 Dec
7. Received updates on missionaries. Three will be in country for part of this year.
8. Examined financial reports for end of year.
9. Approved minutes of Session and Diaconate.
10. Approved bidding out Lawn Contract this year.
11. Heard updates on columbarium and veteran's memorial projects.
12. Approved motion to strongly encourage that future mission trips be in Virginia.

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