

First Presbyterian News

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Facebook:

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Office Hours

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

Dear First Folks,

As we begin the new year of 2018, let us give thanks to God for his blessing in the past year, and ask His providence and blessing in the coming year. Let us gather for worship, pray salvation for the world, and do all the things God has ordained the church to do. Grace and peace to you all. Thanks for your prayers, support, and work for the gospel. We are truly God's blessed family! Take a look at past, present, and future news, and be in prayer for the holy work of God in Jesus Christ.

In Him,

~ Russell

January 7

Sermon: "A Baptism of Repentance"

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

January 14

Sermon: "You Are!"

Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-6; John 1:43-51

January 21

Sermon: "The Second Time"

Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Sermon: "At Once"

Scriptures: Psalm 111; Mark 1:21-28

February 4

Sermon: "Eagle Faith"

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

February 11

Sermon: "Listen to Him!"

Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:8-12; mark 9:2-9



Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T
D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N
E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A
E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S
D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A
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Answer: on back page

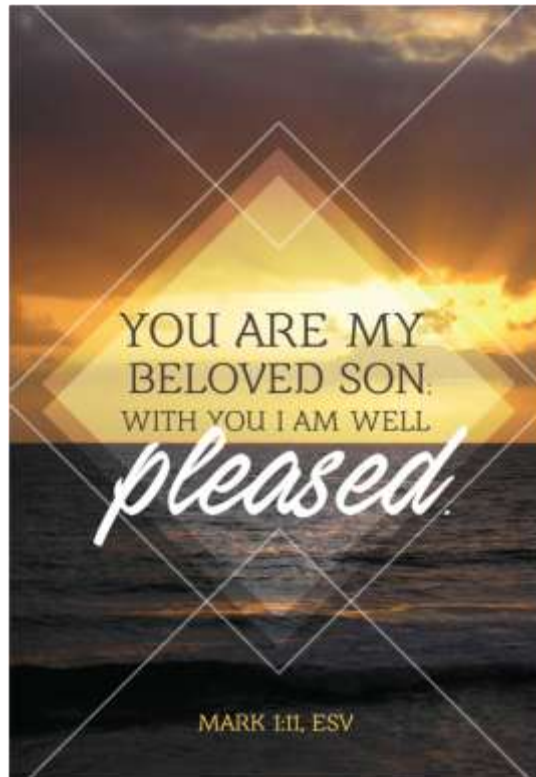
Dear family and friends,

The Lord continues to do His work, and to bless our family through the process of it all, in the victories, sorrows, trials, and unexpected joys.

How could we have made it through the year without your prayer and support? It continues to be a significant means of grace in our lives.

Thank you!

Dave and Rachel, for the family

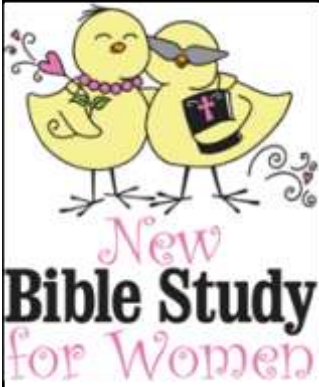


Stewardship Update— Thanks to all for your tithes and offerings for the Lord’s work here at First Presbyterian Church. It takes everyone’s help, and we urge you to consider giving a little more this year. If you have not turned in your pledge for 2018, you can do so through the remainder of the year. So far we have received pledges totaling **66%** of our budget for 2018.

Blessings surely will come for those tithes and offerings provided. For we read in Malachi 3:10-12
“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.



We have many openings on the Flower calendar. If anyone would like to plan to provide flowers the first few weeks of the new year please call, or stop by, or sign up on the sheet next to the office door. The flowers add so much beauty and enjoyment to the service. Open dates are: January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4.



Attention Ladies!! We will be starting a new women's study on Thursday, January 11 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. Please join us in the Philathea room and bring a friend! Cost of the book is \$7. Books are now available in the church office.

The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 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. Betty Plaster will be teaching this class. The topic is "The Attitude of Confidence", Sailing Under Sealed Orders. All Ladies are encouraged to attend.



Officer Ordination/Installation Class (2020)- We will gather to install and ordain new officers during 11 am service on Sunday, January 7th. Thanks be to God for our new officers who will join the Session and Diaconate that day. New elders are: Linda Lumsden, Donald Cherry, and Sandi Hughes; New Deacons: Kelly Chappell, Dianne Greene, Sue Bales, and Terri Smith (for class 2018). The new Trustee is Richard Harrell III.

Thanks to Class of 2017 officers who are rotating off for faithful service: our Elders have been: Michael L. Freshour, Connie L. Marvin, E. Sterling Byrd-Roberts; Deacons: Raymond E. Shields and Kathy Debiec.

The Trustee: Ann C. Edmunds. The W.W. Glass Trustee has been: Eloise Wilder.

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 4 - Please give generously!

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. In 2017 \$10,115,948 was raised for various charities. Over 6,500 groups participated in this worthwhile event.



Scouting News

Scouting News! First Presbyterian Church is now hosting Cub Scout Pack 496, the second oldest pack in the Dan River District. The Cub Scout experience is open to all boys, 1st grade through 5th grade and next year will be open to young ladies also.

Les and Paige Powell are the Cub masters and invite all young men to participate. In today's world, the scouting experience is extremely valuable in the development of a youth's character, as they advance towards adulthood. Outdoor skills, camping and citizenship, and devotion to God, are just a few of the areas stressed in scouting. We are meeting at the church Monday nights at 6:30 pm. If you are interested, or have a child you would like to have get started in scouting, please contact Les or Paige Powell at 470-0165.

With the New Year approaching, and the time when we set new resolutions, I find myself thinking of Christ’s admonition to “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48.

What an overpowering and daunting admonition. I know I certainly fall way short of that desire. I am so grateful that though we read that verse in the Bible, Christ knew we were not going to be able to achieve total perfection in this life. But we can achieve perfection in some things one by one.

I really like 2 Corinthians 13:11 “Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” In this verse, it tells us to be of good cheer (comfort), to be of one mind. When we are in tune with the Holy Ghost and allow its presence to guide us throughout our days we are “of one mind” with Christ. Proverbs 3:6 “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

I find comfort in knowing that though I am not perfect today, nor will I be tomorrow, that God has patience with me, and is excited with all the progress I make. For when we “counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, ... he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.” What a beautiful promise! I love the Lord, and His son Jesus Christ, and the opportunity I have to improve myself each day. Perhaps I can be more perfect next year than I am today. May God bless us in this New Year, to be better than we were before. ~ *Sherolyn*



First Pres Christmas Outreach



We are able to help many people with groceries and other needs at this time of year, and the need is great, so we are able to do this on almost a daily basis.

In addition, we were able to help two families with Christmas gifts and needs through your Christmas gift contributions in the amount of \$400 each.

One family is a single mom with 3 children living at home. The two older children are teens are going to school and working to help out, the third is an 8 year old with autistic and other medical problems. Mom has MS, and had been working until her condition made it too difficult to do so. She will soon be wheelchair bound. The roof is leaking, and so the financial help we were able to provide was a great blessing to this family.

The other family is a 43 year old man with bladder cancer. He had been homeless, but friends found him an apartment. Several churches and other have helped him with deposit, getting his electric bill going and other needs while he awaits his disability checks to begin.

We also were able to make a donation to the new Homeless Shelter on Moore Street in South Boston in the amount of \$200.

Thanks to all who helped with this project to help others in time of need. The spirit of Christmas was certainly demonstrated and felt by these families, and the homeless shelter. We found out the “homeless” shelter is not as much a homeless shelter as it is a place to get people off the streets, some education to help them get a job, and get them the help they need to start having a productive life, and provide them with self satisfaction and additional skills which will help the community.



January 15/22??

7:00 pm—Diaconate

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting

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 Starts up again Jan. 11 at 10:30am

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm



Sun	Mon			Thu	Fri	Sat
31 December 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	January 1 Office Closed 	2 12 Noon NA	3 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	4 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	6 NA—Women's Group 12-1
7 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	8 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	9 10:30 Ladies Circle 12 noon NA	10 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	11 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	12 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	13 NA—Women's Group 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
14 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	15 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	16 12 noon NA	17 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	18 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon	19 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	20 NA—Women's Group 12—1
21 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 5 pm Joy Gift 6 pm NA	22 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	23 12 noon NA 	24 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	25 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	26 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	27 NA—Women's Group 12—1
28 5 cents a meal 10: 00 am – Combined Christmas Eve Service 6 pm NA	29 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	30 12 Noon NA	31 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	February 1 10:30 am—Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	February 2 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	February 3 NA—Women's Group 12—1

- 1 Richard Harrell IV
- 1 Dabney Gilliam
- 1 Clarice Crews
- 3 Ruth Jean Slayton
- 4 John Cranford
- 7 Kay Lewis
- 7 Donna Mistal
- 10 Leon Plaster
- 10 Joshua Roberts
- 14 Paige Powell
- 14 Colby Cranford
- 14 Emily Seat
- 15 Karen Henderson
- 17 Tricia Burton
- 19 Eric Nelson
- 19 Art Carter
- 21 Peggy Fuller
- 25 Linda Lumsden
- 31 Jenny Wilkins



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





December Session Report

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

1. Met jointly with deacons and new officers for Christmas sharing.
2. Thanked elders who are rotating off.
3. Approved session and diaconate minutes.
4. Set communion for Christmas Eve morning worship.
5. Received updates on new playground.
6. Received updates on Christmas projects.
7. Received updates on columbarium and veteran's memorial.
8. Heard partial report of tree expert on large oak tree.
9. Heard update on Stephen Ministry.
10. Approved balance sheet.
11. Discusses possible security concerns.
Will gather a few more options for next month's meeting.
12. Set officer ordination/installation service for 11 am on January 7.
13. Closed with Lord's Prayer.



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South Boston, VA 24592

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