

First Presbyterian News

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Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader
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Office Hours
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dear First Folks,

We have so much to be thankful for. God in Jesus Christ has saved us, and he loves and is ready to bless us each day. We have a community of friends who love one another and who bless each other all the time.

Summer, when attendance drops and our folks travel, brings new opportunities to get to know one another. It gives us the chance to sit in different places, to talk to people we often pass by, and to realize that our part in worship and ministry is crucial to the work of God. It may, as every day should, give us openings to invite folks to join us here in this special place.

If you are not able to be in worship sometimes, pray for and support the ministry here, and pray for me as I earnestly and prayerfully seek God's grace daily for me and for all of us. This is what being a Christian is all about. Seeing the present, and knowing that God has our future secure forever!

Blessings and peace to you all.

- Russell

July 1—

Sermon: "The Third Day He Rose again from the Dead"

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8



July 8

Sermon: "He Ascended into Heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty"

Scriptures: Peter 3:22; Mark 16:15-20

July 15

Sermon: "From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead."

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 4:1-8; John 5:19-27

July 22

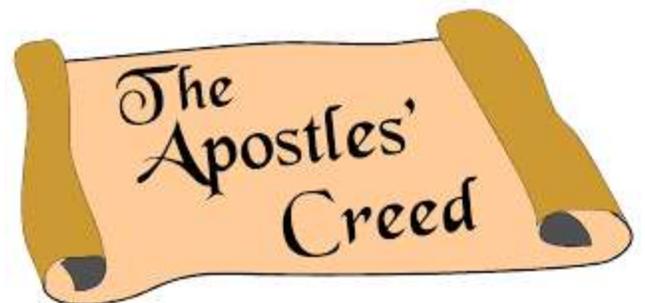
Sermon: "I believe in the Holy Ghost"

Scriptures: John 15:26-27; John 16:12:15

July 29—

Sermon: "The Holy Catholic Church"

Scriptures: Galatians 3:26-29; 1 Cor. 4:14-21



August 5

Sermon: "The communion of saints"

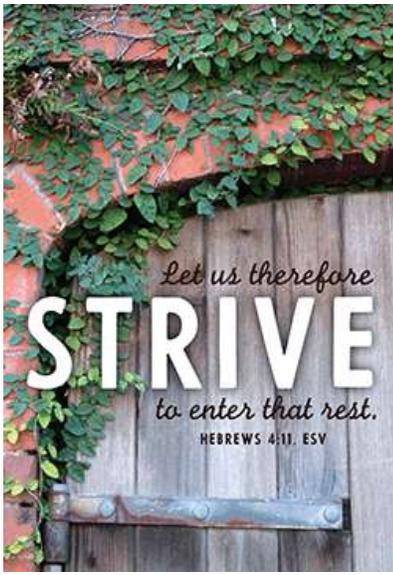
Scriptures: Rev. 19:6-15; Hebrews 10:19-25

August 12

Sermon: "The forgiveness of sins"

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

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



Dave and Rachel

(A Presbyterian Ministry)

Dear family and friends,

June 1, 2018

It has been a whirlwind the last two weeks with our Area retreat, a family on a survey trip, packing up for home assignment, and dealing with acute illness. One way or another, though, we are nearing our departure date!

Renew '18—Thank you for your prayers for our organization’s retreat. There were a lot of moving parts, with people staying in four guest-houses around the city, but it went off without any real hiccups.

Temperatures maxed outside at 110, which made the inside only 10 degrees cooler. Despite, or perhaps in part because of it, our time seemed to be marked by unity and encouragement from the word and fellowship together in the Holy Spirit. It was a joy to sit back and watch what the Lord was doing through these relationships during the week.

Home Assignments (HMA) - After two years of transition, high stress, lots of good things and some hard things, we need a lower key season. Would you pray for the Lord to give our souls and bodies rest these next months? Would you pray for the Lord to guard us from things that treated to rob that rest?

Overall, we are thankful for what the Lord had for us this past term, and look forward to returning, Lord willing, at the end of the year with tanks full.

June 15, 2018

After unexpected delays and rerouting, we caught our last flight just in time, and made it back to the US safe and sound (and with our luggage) first week of June. We jumped into a lot of family time right off the bat, as Rachael’s grandfather had passed away the week before. It was good to be present for the funeral, as these important family events we often miss living overseas.

Poured out—While I’ll be scaling back in the updates during our Home Assignment, Rachael will be writing more. She has a new blog for this season of life, called **Poured Out**. If you’ve read Rachael’s stuff in the past, then you know you’re in for a treat. If not, then here’s a wonderful surprise for you. Either way, check it out!

For His glory and our good,

Dave, for the family

Operation G.R.O.W. News/update—

The session saw note cards which were produced specifically for us to use in outreach. We will give each of you five cards and envelopes to send to people you may have missed in worship recently, folks who might want to come and join us in ministry, or someone who just needs a note of encouragement from you. Remember, the number one way people come into a church is if they are invited by church members.



Back of the card (referred to above) you will read:

The Missing Lamps - In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. At last he decided to build them a church. No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at it’s beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, “*But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?*” The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a lamp which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship. “*Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted,*” the nobleman said. “*Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.*”

“Let Your Light So Shine” Matthew 5:16

Let God daily light up the world through us, beginning in church, then to the community, and the world! Through every form of communication and action, we “let our light shine” as Jesus commands his disciples.



Summer Mission Trip 2018 – July 8-14



Approximately 15 First Folks and friends will travel to West Virginia to continue³ flood recovery work from the summer of 2016. We are excited to work again with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), with whom we served in Richwood, WV, in July of 2017. Not only were we provided with plenty of work to do, but the strong faith-based structure of their disaster response administration and work ethic provided an uplifting and immensely rewarding volunteer experience for our team. So much so, that a small group returned for a few days in September to complete a project, and the entire group unanimously requested that we return there if possible.

As with every mission trip we won't know until each day begins exactly where we will be and what kind of work we will do. We go on faith and trust that God will match our skills with the needs, and between us and the Methodists we will come up with the tools and materials to do what needs to be done!

James 2:17 says, ***“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*** But the mission team has also found that ***Action by itself, if it is not accompanied by faith, is empty.*** Please pray for the team and the mission, that the action AND the faith will be present as we work to be the hands and feet of God in West Virginia.

Mission Trip Daily Prayer Focus

Each day for the week of July 8-14, we are asking you to pray for a specific aspect of the summer mission trip. If you feel led to share your prayer or a scripture with the group on any day, you can text or e-mail Kim Albert at 434-579-5011 or kalbert@ntelos.net. We love to hear from you - your support lifts us up and encourages us! Also, watch the church Facebook page for daily photos and updates.

Sunday, July 8: Today please pray for **safe travel** as the team drives approximately 5 hours into wild, wonderful West Virginia. Last year's journey was quite the adventure, and we were grateful for some of you back home who were following our trip and were able to relay some information for us!

Monday, July 9: Today we ask you to pray for **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)**, particularly the **West Virginia Conference Disaster Response**, which is the organization that is coordinating our work and overseeing our experience. UMVIM is the short-term mission sending agency of the United Methodist Church. The agency that we partner with is critical in that they must match the skills of our group with the work that needs to be done, so that not only will they get jobs completed but our group will make the best use of our talents and have a meaningful experience.

Tuesday, July 10: Today please offer up prayers for the **mission team members**. By now we have some idea of the challenges that await us during this week. Please pray for safe travels and safe work. Pray for good relationships – among team members, with the homeowners we will serve, and with our work supervisors. Pray for the work we will do, and that our eyes will be opened to God's miracles each day. And pray that we will not only be a blessing to someone, but that we will each be blessed by this experience.

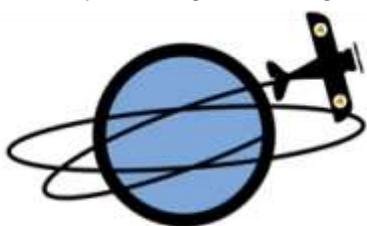
Wednesday, July 11: Today we ask for prayers for the **unknown people** whom we will serve. When the flash floods hit in June of 2016, one resident stated, “This is so devastating, a poor town that has next to nothing is losing what little it has.” There were 12 counties affected by this event, many of the towns already poverty stricken. Many residents voice a spirit of hope, with statements such as, “With all of the people that have come in, and all that they have done, you just have hope.” We go with that spirit of hope, that God will use us for His glory.

Thursday, July 12: Today please set aside some special time to pray for the **families of the team members**. All team members are leaving some family members behind to go away from home and work for strangers. We know that many who remain at home will send their hearts and prayers with us. So we ask your prayers for the families, that they will walk in faith through the week without their loved ones and be strengthened and encouraged by God's work that will be happening.

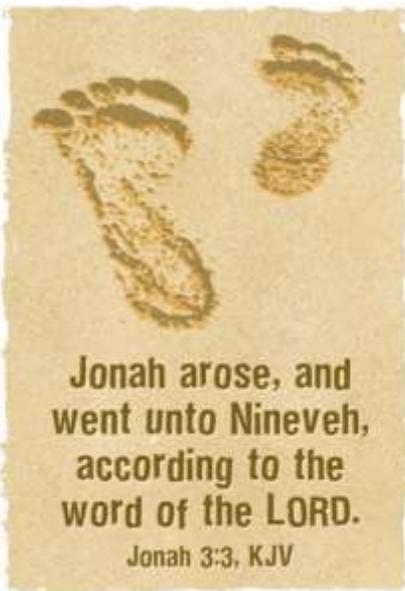
Friday, July 13: Today we ask for prayers for **people in the Eastern Panhandle area of West Virginia and Elon and Lynchburg, Virginia**, two other areas close to home that suffered from natural disasters in the spring of this year. Eight counties in northeastern WV were declared in a state of emergency after flooding that swept away cars and homes, destroyed roads, and left at least 20 dead. A tornado swept through the small community of Elon, VA, destroying entire neighborhoods, and touched down in areas of Lynchburg, wrecking havoc on businesses. The mission team is waiting and watching for opportunities to be of service in these areas.

Saturday, July 14: Today we again ask for prayers for **traveling mercies** as we return home. We join with you in the prayer that we have **shown the face of God** to those we have encountered and that **He will be glorified** through our efforts.

Thanks for all the donations we have received over \$1100.



MISSION
TRIP



Can you relate to Jonah? I do!

I have on numerous occasions thought that the task, or life event, I had before me was “too great” and perhaps even had thoughts of “running away”. Jonah not only thought that the task the Lord had asked of him was too great, but he did attempt to run away. We see not only the human side of Jonah, one who was afraid and even chose the wrong path, ie running from the Lord, but we also see his repentance and acceptance of what was required of him. Those around him attempted to help him, but they soon realized there was no option, but to toss him out. Sometimes those around us may try to influence us to not do what we know is right, but ultimately we cannot run from God, and He will chastise us for being disobedient.

I relate to this story in so many ways. I think that we are often thrown into the deep waters and can find ourselves swallowed up “by a great fish” of sorts due to our poor decisions. I am touched by Jonah’s prayer, he says: “I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell, and thou heardest my voice.” (see Jonah 2:2- 9)

I would hope I might be more like a children’s song which iterates a prophet’s words: “*I will go, I will do the things the Lord commands, I know the Lord provides a way, he wants me to obey.*” When we obey right away we are blessed.

Jonah didn’t trust the Lord to protect him in the wicked city. We must put our faith and trust in the Lord, for He will direct our paths for good. As that song says, the Lord will provide a way for us to accomplish the thing which he commands. The Lord knows us individually and loves us. He wants us to listen to His directions from the beginning but will accept our efforts even when we needed to be chided along the way.

I relate to Jonah, his fears, his desire to run. I’m grateful for the example of forgiveness. I know I too, make poor choices on occasion, and have turned away. Hopefully, I am learning to listen and act promptly. Hopefully, I can be more in tune with the Lord and His desires for me, and I will accept my opportunities to grow, to help others, without hesitation. And rejoice with the Lord in those victories.

~ Sherolyn

Memorial Garden -The new memorial garden, which will include a columbarium and veteran’s memorial next to the church, will begin construction during the week of June 25. These are an integral part of the Master Plan, adopted some years ago. Now that the playground has been moved to North Property, gutters have been routed to underground drains, construction can begin on the project itself. The first step will be in the area next to the sidewalk, please observe the barriers during construction for safety. For information about the details and progress, contact Elder Mike Koch or Sam Lewis.



Defibrillator, or AED -The session, after recommendations from church members, and investigation of needs and options, has approved the purchase of a device which addresses cardiac arrest at the church. It is called an automatic external defibrillator. We hope we will never have occasion to use it, but agree that it is better to be safe than sorry. Some details about the AED follow. It analyzes and looks for shock-able heart rhythms, advises the rescuer of the need for defibrillation and delivers a shock if needed. A built-in computer checks a victim’s heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes. The computer calculates whether defibrillation is needed. If it is, a

recorded voice tells the rescuer to press the shock button on the AED. This shock momentarily stuns the

Independence Day- This year as we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us give thanks for the country in which we live, for the citizens and soldiers who fought to establish and form this country on Christian principles, and for the freedom to worship our Lord God in today’s world. Let us declare independence from the worries of the world, and trust in the eternal security and blessings God provides his people every day.





July 2018



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

- 3 Leah Long
- 5 Beth Roller
- 9 Hayden Watson
- 10 Ernest "Avon" Traynham
- 12 Donna Garrett
- 15 Ginny Troy
- 16 Ashton Cranford
- 16 Hannah Bush
- 17 Roberta McCrowell
- 18 Bill Marable
- 18 Steven Crutchfield
- 21 Marilyn Lee
- 21 James Edmunds



- 26 Bob Nelson
- 26 Jo Dixon
- 27 Mac Lacy
- 27 Michael Thackston
- 28 Joanna Hughes
- 29 Kathryn McAbee
- 30 Jessica Nelson

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





June Session Report

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

1. Prepared for and served the Lord's Supper during worship.
2. Addressed some security concerns. Installed new inner lock in Sunday school lobby entrance.
3. Ordered a defibrillator for emergency use.
4. Heard additional operation G.R.O.W plans.
5. Received information about limb removal over new ark location.
6. Received prices on running water and electric to Picnic Shelter.
7. Heard updates on beginning construction in June on Memorial Garden.
8. Approved balance sheet for May.
9. Heard updates on website work, Missionary gatherings, Stephen Ministry.
10. Set next communion for August 5, heard info about possible homecoming and spiritual renewal.
11. Approved minutes.



Community Choir – Rehearsals began for the community choir on Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church's Sanctuary. We welcome all to come and participate in this special choir. There will be a special arrangement of "It is Well with My Soul" in honor of Bob Davis.

July 16

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting

Deacons will not meet in July.



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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