

First Presbyterian News

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March 2017

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Office Hours

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

Dear First Folks,

We are seeing already the greening of the grass and the budding of the trees as God works Springtime once again. There may be a few cold days, and possibly a little snow before the winter is over, but the signs of spring are all around us.

Here's hoping that God is making new things happen in your spiritual life as we enter the Season of Lent. March First begins a time of preparation, spiritual growth, and dedication as we get ready for Easter and its wondrous, powerful awaking of Eternal life for all who turn to Jesus.

As we journey in that direction, pray that God continues to makes us faithful, and ever growing and graceful. Take note of the information below, and take spiritual and physical action so that God will call it success beyond all measure! Thanks for your prayers, help, and hope as the people of First Presbyterian Church!

In Him,

Russell



March 5 - First Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "How God Speaks"

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

March 12—Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Humility and Healing"

Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:7-15; John 9:1-8

March 19—Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Mountains and Solutions"

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-9; Matthew 14:22-34

March 26—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "On That Day"

Scriptures: Isaiah 12:1-6; John 14:15-21

April 2—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Trust In The Lord"

Scriptures: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 18:1-8

April 9—Sixth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "God's Presence"

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-5; John 14:1-6



A special good-bye to Sam Smith as our former Sexton. We certainly will miss him and his smile. With gratitude we thank him for the many years of service to this church and its members.

Look-back Celebration

We will have a special service in March to celebrate the ministry happenings over the last year. We will combine both worship services to meet at 10 am on March 26. Sunday School will meet at 9 am that day.

Please be in prayer and attendance for that service as we share and celebrate what God has done in our midst and across the world. It is meant to bring glory to God, to become thankful for what God has done, and to inspire us to do more.

New Flower Ministry- Each Sunday we have beautiful flowers in church, and many times they are left in the lobby for the week following. A new ministry of dividing up the large arrangement and making smaller ones on those weeks we are allowed to keep them to share with people in the community may be coming. If you would like to help with this, please let Russell or the office know.



We have a new Sexton. We hated to see Sam Smith leave, but wish him well as he cares for his wife. We welcome Ernest "Avon" Traynham who joined us Feb. 1. He is a hard worker and we are grateful to have him helping us, and keeping the church in order and clean.

Also: A welcome and congratulations to Avon as he has been blessed with a new little granddaughter born on Valentine's Day. What a



The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 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. The Topic, "God's Home is Yours...Forever!" is a continuation of verse 6 "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Doris Koch will be the leader. All ladies are encouraged to attend. Please read the Twenty Third Psalm as well as lesson 12 in the study book.

Women's Bible Study Class – We just have a couple more weeks of this study group reading from "One Thousand Gifts", by Ann Voskamp. The last class will be March 9. We will meet again together in the Fall for a new book and fellowship.



Lenten Luncheons - Once again, we have some great speakers planned for this sacred time. We invite all to come, and bring friends and a bag lunch at noon to fellowship with each other, then at 12:30 we will listen to the scheduled speakers, as they share a devotion for the day. We begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1 and will continue through Easter. The schedule will be as follows:

- March 1— Rev. Susan Grimm—Trinity Episcopal Church
- March 8— Rev. Bill Wilkins—Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
- March 15—Rev. Bob Balance—First Baptist Church
- March 22— Rev. Wayne Rickman—Main Street Methodist Church
- March 29— Bob Hughes—First Presbyterian Church
- April 5— David Baird—Ash Avenue Baptist Church
- April 12—Dr. Russell Lee—First Presbyterian Church

Beverages will be provided by First Presbyterian. Desserts will be provided by various churches.

Plan to come out, we want this to be the largest attendance for these luncheons ever!

2017 Year of the Child - Youth Sunday is March 5

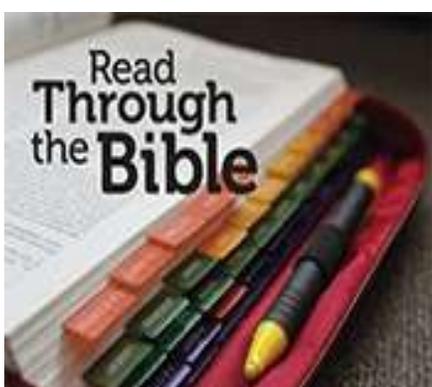
2017 has been designated the **Year of the Child** at First Presbyterian. To bring focus to our young people, Sunday, March 5, is going to be youth Sunday.

Youth will participate in both services (9 and 11), and stuffed animals will be given to all children and youth who are present. This will be the first of several initiatives designed specifically for our youth. They need to know how precious they are in the eyes of God and our church.

John 3:16 highlights God's love in a most profound way. 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life'. This scripture passage will be attached to every stuffed animal to show our young people how much God loves Christians.



Reading Bible Schedule



Week 25—February 27—March 4

1 Kings 15:24 –2 Kings 4

Pages 645—665

Week 26 — March 6-11

2 Kings –Jonah 4

Pages 672-697

Week 27: —March 13-18

Amos 1—Isaiah 4

Pages 698-724

Week 28—March 20-25

Isaiah 5—17

Pages 725-751

Week 29—March 27— April 1

Isaiah 18—Chronicles 32:23

Pages 752-785

Art and Andrea



Art and Andrea are involved in a church planting ministry among the local people in Southeast Asia. There are over 2.5 million local people with only a few known believers among them. Very few of their people have ever heard the gospel, and there is a major need to disciple and equip the few scattered believers. Furthermore, there is a major need for the Lord to raise up an Indigo pastor; as there isn't one currently.

The people live in a country that does not allow for open ministry to be done among them which creates significant challenges for both foreign workers and national believers from other ethnic groups who want to reach out for them. Art and Andrea greatly value your prayers in this work.

During 2017, they strongly desire to go deeper in discipling to the local believers and equipping them to reach more of their people. They also want to help in the creation of some resources in the Indigo language which currently does not have translated scriptures available. Their work is focused on working with the few local believers and with believers from the majority people group to try to more effectively reach out to the local people.



Although Art and Andrea live in a large city, they feel isolated as there are only a few believers around them. Andrea home schools the children. The children have been doing well learning the local language, and school has gone well, but it is often hard work.

Please pray for their work this year—especially for the discipleship opportunities and for some new people to believe in their city. If they can help form a group of believers in their city, it can be significantly used by the Lord to strengthen the broader work.

Art and Andrea wish to express their thanks for your partnership, and they enjoyed the time they had among the congregation during the fall of last year.



New Missionary Project

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. So far we have raised \$555.



Church Dedication Service.

At worship Sunday, Feb. 19 since the scripture was on Solomon's dedication of the temple, we spent most of the service in special prayers of re-dedication of the sanctuary, building, property, and people for fruitful ministry. Prayers were held at each corner of the sanctuary as we prayed for one another, for you, and for all who come to be a part of ministry here. God is sovereign over all, and as people pass by, come in, or join in the sharing of the gospel, we want be the generation to tell them about eternal life through Jesus Christ. Remember that on February 19, 2017 the church was rededicated for Christian Ministry. The first time was probably in 1842, when the first church began in Halifax, and the second in 1880, when the present sanctuary was completed.



Recently, I have been reflecting on my “human state”. I remarked to⁴ someone, that I would like to be further along on the “Be ye perfect” path than I am. This person welcomed me to “the human race”. I chuckled, as I certainly am familiar with being human. And it strikes me how patient our Father in Heaven is with us. We make so many mistakes, and we turn away from him when things are going well, and yet he is always there, and ready to put his arms around us again, whenever we are ready to turn back toward him. I think of the scripture passages where we read how wicked people often are, and Christ speaks to his prophets and lets them know that he always has his arm stretched out still, and ready to encircle us with love. He sends prophets to teach us what we need to know, and yet, we do not listen, and in **Matthew 23:37** we read “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets ... which are sent unto thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

How much different are we? I know I can get complacent with life, and feel like “all is well” but that is the adversary, leading me astray. We cannot be complacent in life and still heading toward heaven. Staying on the straight and narrow way takes work and constant re-aligning the course.

~ Sherolyn



Friday Night Dinners—Each Friday night in March at 5:30 pm with Bible Study

Casserole Sale fundraiser—for Passport Camp begins March 12. Send Amy Cole and email at amyhudsoncole@gmail.com if you would like to make a casserole. Delivery Date for casseroles is April 9

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
(March 9 will be the last class)
- Men of the Church:** Thursdays at 7 pm



March 20

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting



CALLING ALL CHAIRS – PLEASE COME HOME

A couple of dozen white folding chairs from the fellowship hall are missing. It’s possible that they attended a wedding, social gathering or reunion and moved into someone’s garage to get out of the rain or snow. Please help us get our wayward chairs back to the fellowship hall.



March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Sat
26 February 5cent Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6pm Shrove dinner	27 10 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA	28 12 noon NA	1 March 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	2 10:30 am Women's Bible 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	3 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	4
5-- 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	6 10 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA	7 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12 noon NA	8 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	9 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	10 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	11 GS Troop 796 meet 2-4 
12 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	13 10:00 Prayer Group 6 pm NA	14 12 noon NA	15 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	17 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	
19 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	20 10:00 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA 7:00 Diaconate Meeting 7:30 pm Elders	21 12 noon NA Newsletter DEADLINE	22 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	23 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	24 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	25
26 5cent meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	27 10:00 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA	28 12 Noon AA	29 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	30 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	31 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	April 1

- 2 Frank Berry
- 3 Don Cherry
- 6 Shannon Cherry Vallia
- 10 Carrington Thackston
- 11 David Harrell
- 11 Eloise Marable
- 12 Joanna Blackstock
- 14 Stewart Nelson
- 14 Vicki Cochran
- 15 Bettie Barksdale
- 20 Frances Anne Thackston



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 20 Amanda Morgan
- 23 Julia Baskervill
- 24 Caroline Edmunds
- 26 Jim Sizemore
- 27 Peyton Wickemeyer
- 27 Ray Shields
- 29 Kathy Wilkins
- 30 Chris Lumsden
- 31 Abby Adams



It's that time again to change the clocks to **Daylight Savings Time**. This year the time will change on Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 am. So, don't forget to change your clocks back on Saturday evening before you go to bed, so you won't be late to church.



February Session Report

The session meeting was short this month, and included in the annual officer's retreat on Feb. 4 with the deacons.

At the retreat, we explored scriptural descriptions and prescriptions for the church, and shared possible ministry ideas which will be added to what is already happening. Those ideas will be finalized at our next meeting together.

The session handled routine business as the deacons and elders met separately for that reason.

At our meeting, we set communion dates for Feb. 5, April 16- Easter, June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 24 -Christmas Eve.

Noted that Stephen Ministry now has eight caregivers and ten care receivers.

Approved special missionary February World Mission project for Art Carter III ministry.

Approved Session and Diaconate Minutes

Noted that repairs were being accomplished at the Manse.

Received updates on Playground Project and Church Sign.

Was informed of the hiring of a new Church Sexton. Sam Smith had to resign to take care of his invalid wife.

Suggested that church worship and ministry times be included in the local newspaper in the church news section each week.

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