

# First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

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

## March 2018



Dear First Folks,

There are only a few weeks left until Easter, the highest celebration of the Christian. We must all seek the presence of the risen Lord Jesus as we rejoice in God's grace which sent Him to Calvary to die for our sins, and to rise again to show us the way to eternal life! May the blessings of the risen Christ be yours as you travel this Christian road. Blessings on you as you pray for the ministries of your church, as you support the ministries in various ways. Tell the glorious message of the Gospel to all you meet. It is the best news you could ever share with anybody anywhere!

In Christ,

~Russell



### 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**

### March 18 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Sermon: "We Wish to See Jesus"**

**Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33**

### March 25 - Palm/Passion Sunday

**Sermon: "The Same Mind"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11**

### April 1 - Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

**Sermon: "They Looked Up"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Mark 16:1-8**

### April 8 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

**Sermon: "My Lord and My God!"**

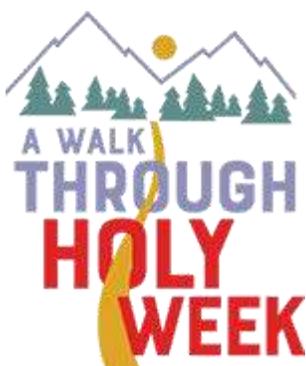
**Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31**

### April 15 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

**Sermon: "You Are Witnesses"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48**

**Resurrection Garden** - this year we came together to build a Resurrection Garden for our homes. We welcome all to make one for your home, as well. Check out our web page for the recipe, as we walk through this journey of faith from here to Easter. Lent began 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.

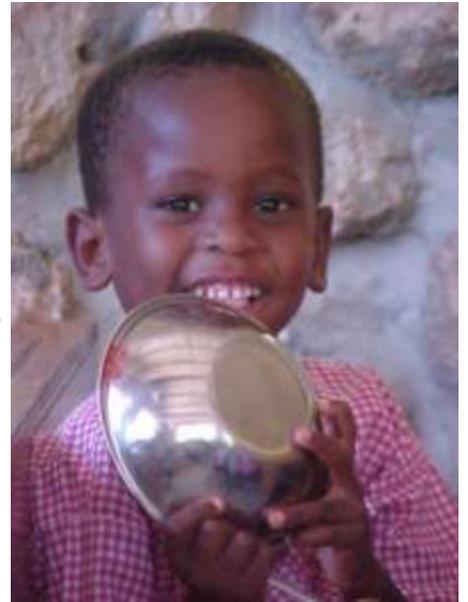


## Mission Possible

(A Presbyterian Ministry)

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**Leadership Graduation** - a ceremony for 138 of our student and adult leaders was held on Dec. 2, 2017. The graduation was a great time for them to share many of the things they learned while also celebrating their growth as leaders. Many of their closest family and friends joined them at the ceremony where they each received a certificate. At the end of the graduation, we reminded them that the ceremony was not the end of their leadership journey, but rather the beginning. They will all continue to grow and our hope is that many of them will help others become leaders too.



**Education Hand-up** - During the week of January 15, four North American educators shared their experience and knowledge with the Mission Possible educational leaders and students in Haiti. Read the story of their week [here](#). Their words and pictures give you a glimpse of the week.

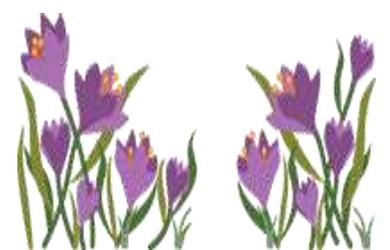
2017 was a great year for Mission Possible! We saw God's hand in many different areas of this ministry, and look forward to seeing what He has in store for us in 2018!

### In 2017 . . .

- **2,241** students enrolled in our schools
- **256** adults were employed
- **Over 790,000** meals were provided at school
- **192** people served on teams
- **19** people took Creole classes
- **200** people participated in fundraisers, where over \$10,000 was raised
- **69** new sponsorships were started, totaling 1,033 student sponsorships overall
- **138** Haitians graduated from leadership programs
- **13** Community Agents continued their training
- **Over 300** Haitians attended a Pastors Seminar
- **5,000** feminine hygiene pads were sewn
- **Over 400** hygiene kits were distributed

Through it all, God's love was shown! Thank you for partnering with Mission Possible in 2017!

**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: March 4, and March 25 (Palm Sunday). Please call, stop by, or fill in the date(s) that work best with your schedule and calendar.

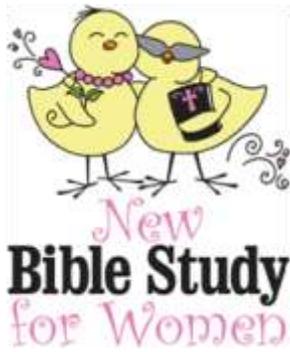


### Clocks change to Daylight Savings—

Don't forget to move your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday, March 10 before going to bed. You'll be late to church if you forget.

Thanks for all the generous donations for the "Undies Sunday" project to provide needed supplies for The Good Samaritan.





**Attention Ladies!!** We are in a new study; we are focusing on the 3

book *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer. Our minds and hearts can fall prey to depression, anger, low self-esteem, condemnation and a multitude of other negative mindsets. We learn how to more effectively set our minds on God and find peace and freedom from these destructive behaviors. Come join us for this great class and time of fellowship. We meet each Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

**The Ladies' Circle** We will meet on Tuesday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Philathea Room. Our study this year is taken from the book *Attitude is Your Paintbrush. It colors every situation* by James W. Moore. Our topic for this class will be: "The Attitude of Humility...Not All of This Is Me". Eloise Wilder will lead this chapter discussion.

We invite all ladies to come and join us in learning and fellowship.



**Lenten Luncheons**, we continue our gatherings of the community to prepare for Easter. Each Wednesday at noon 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 March.



March 7 Rev. Bill Wilkins—Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

March 14 Rev. Wayne Rickman —Main Street Methodist Church

March 21 Rev. Bob Ballance —First Baptist Church

March 28 Rev. Russell Lee, Jr.—First Presbyterian Church

We will celebrate our annual Maundy Thursday with a covered dish and communion on Thursday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. when we will gather for a devotional, and communion around the table. Bring a covered dish and join us for this time of blessing and inspiration in this prelude to Easter.



MAUNDY THURSDAY



**Palm Sunday Processional**

On Palm Sunday, March 25, we will gather at the old clinic on North Main Street with other churches for our traditional Palm Sunday Processional. We remember the day when Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people shouted Hosanna to the King! It was just a few days before his arrest and crucifixion. Plan to be there at 10 am for fellowship and worship. We will begin the Processional at 10:20 am there, then process down the street waving palm branches and singing Palm Sunday Hymns till we get to 2<sup>nd</sup> and North Main, where we will pause for a brief prayer and benediction. Someone make sure to get a First Pres church banner to carry in the march.

The Main Street Easter Sunrise Service will happen at 7 am on Easter in the prayer garden of the Main Street United Methodist Church. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this blessed time at the beginning of Resurrection Day.





## Serving Others

As we approach Easter, my thoughts are drawn to the Savior, and his life and how He was found serving others at all times. He was patient and kind, and never felt overburdened at the requests of others for help. I reflect on all those who were healed, and those whose faith was so strong that they knew He would heal them, sometimes by a simple touch. The woman who touched the hem of His garment and

Christ felt virtue flow through Him. He traveled long distances at time to do service, we don't have to travel long distances to find those who can benefit from our service. As we open our hearts and our minds to opportunities to serve, the Lord will fill them with needs of others.

We are told "O Ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day." Service helps us to forget ourselves and our problems and blesses our lives as well as those around us.

For "When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." I love these passages, and know I can find myself feeling depressed or self pity, but when I have turned myself to do for others, I truly have felt the blessings come, and the joy for helping others.

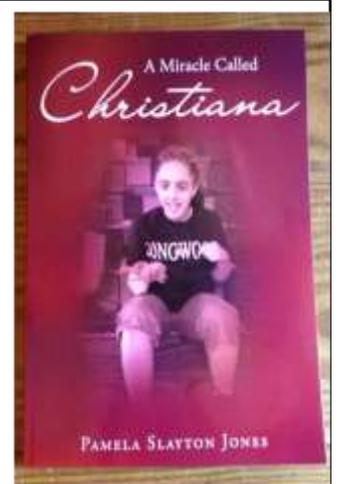
In Revelation 2:19 we read: "I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience and thy works." For the Lord will bless us with blessings so full that we will not be able to store them.

I love the Lord, Jesus Christ, and the opportunities we have to know of His life, and the example He set for me. I hope to be more like Him each day, and find more patience, more ways to serve, and more fit for the kingdom. ~ *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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### March 19

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting



### Weekly Happenings

**Lenten Lunches:** Wednesday at 12 noon

**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                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

25 February <b>5 cents a meal</b>  9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	26 February  10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	27 February  12 Noon NA	28 February  <b>12 Noon Lenten Lunches</b> with Rev. Cullum 6 pm NA	1 March <b>10:30 am—Women's Bible Study</b> 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	2  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  <b>10:30 Ladies Circle</b>  12 noon NA	7  <b>12 Noon Lenten Lunches</b> with Rev. Wilkins 6 pm NA	8 <b>10:30 am—Women's Bible Study</b> 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm AI-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	14  <b>12 Noon Lenten Lunches</b> with Rev. Rickman 6 pm NA	15 <b>10:30 am—Women's Bible Study</b> 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	16  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	17  NA—Women's Group 12—1
18  9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	19 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA <b>7:00 pm Deacons</b> <b>7:30 pm Elders</b>	20  12 noon NA	21  <b>12 noon—Lenten Luncheon</b> with Rev. Ballance 6 pm NA	22 <b>10:30 am—Women's Bible Study</b> 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	23  <b>9 am Bulletins and Newsletters</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	24  NA—Women's Group 12—1  <b>Officer's Retreat 8 am -12 noon</b>
25 <b>5 cents a meal</b>  9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	26 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	27 <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	28  <b>12 Noon Lenten Lunches</b> with Rev. Lee  6 pm NA	29 <b>10:30 am—Women's Bible Study</b> 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	30  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	31  NA—Women's Group 12—1



# March BIRTHDAYS



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

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



## Febrary Session Report

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

- 1 - Shared Prayer concerns
- 2 - Approved delegates for February Presbytery meeting
- 3 - Set new Communion Dates (29 March, 1 April, 5 Aug, 7 Oct, 2 Dec)
- 4 - Approved 2017 Annual Statistical Report
- 5 - Heard updates on Columbarium, playground, and Veterans Memorial
- 6 - Approved minutes and the January Balance sheet
- 7 - Approved Kelly Chappell for Deacon, Class 2020
- 8 - Prepared for and served Communion on February 4.

Officers met for their annual Retreat on February 24th at the home of Larry and Brenda McPeters. They prayed together, examined Scripture, and made plans for our church to be a blessing to the community and world. The theme was Oaks of Righteousness, as we saw how God plants us as a tiny acorn to grow to forests of oak trees, bringing grace and love to all we meet.



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