

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

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

Dear First Folks,

God is growing us in spirit, number, and love, and it is so good to see it happening in real time. Operation G.R.O.W is already a success, and we are so thankful for the beginnings of what has already happened in worship attendance, spiritual focus, and in prayer. We know that God has always done great things here at First Presbyterian Church, and ask that every person at every time concentrate on being faithful to the call of God to pray without ceasing, and to be fishers of men and women as we take the light of Christ to the world. Blessings and grace to you all.

In Christ,

-Russell



May 6 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "In God"

Scriptures: Psalm 84:1-12; Acts 17:22-31

May 13 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "The Father Almighty"

Scriptures: Revelations 1:3-8; II Cor 6:11-18

May 20 - Day of Pentecost

Sermon: "Maker of Heaven and Earth"

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-12; Col. 1:9-17

May 27- Trinity Sunday

Sermon: "Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord"

Scriptures: 1 John 4:7-15; John 3:10-18

June 3 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Conceived by the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary"

Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

June 10 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Suffered Under Pontius Pilate"

Scriptures: Matthew 27:24-39; Luke 9:21-27

Deacons and Elders goals from the Retreat

Personal -

- Seek the wisdom and grace from God to realize which obstacles in our personal life with God can be recognized as blessings.
- Stand tall and quiet, listen for God's words as the Oak stands strong in the forest.
- To be a source of strength to others, when others see us, it's like looking at an oak tree.
- They will see us deeply rooted in faith. We will be acorns spreading God's word and helping to grow new members of faith.
- Strengthening my faith through reading scripture and sharing what I learned with others.
- Meet more new people.
- Become the leader God has set out for me to be.
- Spend more time reading scripture.
- Become more motivated.
- Need for continued growth.

Church -

- Through ministry, outreach and goals, increase church attendance
- We need to share the acorns with our friends, neighbors, and co-workers to minister to those who haven't realized the Lord is our Savior and He is the only way. To attract more young adults as our future leaders.
- Adults sponsor youth day at the church and hold open invitations
- New ways to increase membership, attendance, and getting younger people to attend Sunday school.
- Would also like to see another revival.
- Monthly mission project one day, something for everybody (with/without skills).
- Consider a monthly or quarterly covered dish lunch after worship for fellowship.
- Increase attendance
- Include non-members in activities
- Covered dish after church



Explore God: Explore the Big Questions

As the celebration of Easter continues, my mind is drawn to the many people who were not with us in the celebration. Many have stepped away from or never experienced the joy of a life with Jesus. Too often the big questions weigh them down and (if we are honest) weigh us down as well.

If God is good, why is there pain and suffering in the world? How can I know for sure that the Bible is reliable? Does prayer really work? Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions? But do you feel like you're not really allowed to ask them in church? Well, we've got good news: we all have questions! And we want our church to be a safe place for anyone to ask any question anytime.

Starting April 8, 2018 a new series of discussions began titled: Explore God. A 7 week journey looking at some of the hard topics that challenge us—believers and nonbelievers alike. We'd love for you to join us and invite friends along for the ride!

Below is a list of titles and you can plan to join in:

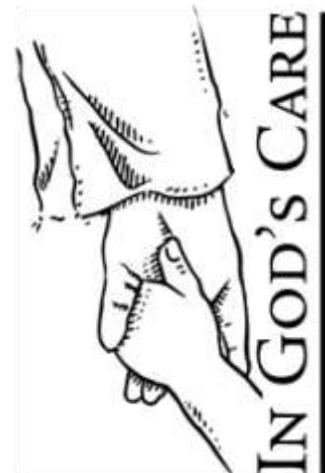
May 6—Is Jesus Really God?

May 13—Is the Bible Reliable?

May 20—Can I know God Personally? (Pentecost)

Join us and spread the word about the WORD!

[Learn more at www.exploreGod.com](http://www.exploreGod.com)

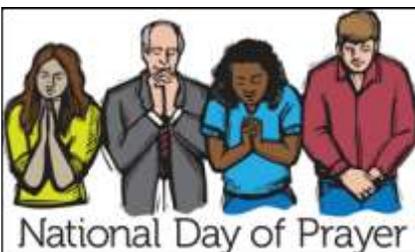


Emailed info: Church planting has its many challenges. One big obstacle of being a mobile church concerns the "Where will we meet?" You might remember that we moved locations last summer as we yielded space to another church that was being booted from their facilities and moved back to Wake Forest. God was faithful during that move and provided for us in many ways.

We are now entering that season of moving once more. We discovered that due to a policy change, we will no longer be able to meet in our current facility effective July 1.

Please pray for God's guidance, wisdom, comfort, and provision as we seek a new place to gather. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated! I will keep you posted as we discern our next move.

~ Patrick Cherry, Christ the Word Church



National Day of Prayer – Mark your calendars! National Day of Prayer this Thursday, May 3 at Halifax County High School. Beginning at 6:30. Jimmy Fortune will be our featured country singer/speaker, as we gather together to pray for our nation. Let's make this the largest event in South Boston. We also need donations of cookies to be provided for the attendees.

Operation Grow In Prayer-Starts in June

One of the key aspects we have found in growing the church is to undergird every single aspect of what is to happen in prayer. We are looking for a new prayer group to form, a re-awakening of daily prayer and devotionals, prayer lists which actually put results down on paper, phone apps which remind us to pray, and other aspects as well. In fact, we are going to pray that we pray better, more specifically, and more often. We will have some gifts for you to put in your bible soon about prayer in the Bible, prayer list construction, and possible ways to organize our prayers. Pray for every item and person in this newsletter, and tap that force that is more powerful than anything on earth.



Keep referring to the letter and document we sent you about Operation G.R.O.W. as we seek God's work in our midst and beyond. The first item was about church attendance, which has already risen thanks to you and your prayers, a number of visitors, and some say better sermons! So let us take seriously the command of Christ to grow, never accepting the status quo, and always looking for God to grow our faith. After all, our faith is the most important gift we have ever been given. So why not share it?

Attention Ladies!! We have finished our Bible Study class and are on a Summer break. However, we have had many who want to keep getting together during the summer. So we have decided to meet each 2nd and 4th Thursday for lunch. We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 am, and then go out together from there. Our first luncheon will be on Thursday, May 10. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for lunch.



The Ladies' Circle—Our May meeting will be a celebration to remember and honor Jenny Wilkins on Tuesday, May 1 at 10:30 am. We will have a brief meeting in the Philathea Room, with Dr. Lee providing the program; followed by a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Dessert and drinks will be provided, please bring a salad to share. This will be our last meeting until September. All are encouraged to attend and enjoy the time for fellowship and love.

Summer Mission Trip—We will be going back to Richwood, WV the week of July 8-14 to help the people there continue to recover from the floods of 2016. We will be again working with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). We will be housed in a former parsonage that has been renovated for this purpose. The cost is \$100 per person, which covers housing, materials and meals for the week. (Meals during travel will be at your own expense.) NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - We need willing hands and hearts. If you are interested in joining the team or need more information, contact Kim Albert, kalbert@intelos.net or 434-579-5011, or Russell Lee. We would love to have a large group go with us.



Good Samaritan—In May we will take a special collection for Good Samaritan of Peanut Butter.

Many families seek assistance from the Good Samaritan pantry. Peanut Butter is one of the items that quickly is depleted. Please consider helping this great cause and bring is some Peanut Butter for our "Good Sam" box.

MEMORIAL GARDEN APPROVED

The First Presbyterian Church approved property master plan, approved several years ago, provides guidance for optimal use of all land presently owned. The architect planned for the columbarium to be located in the northeast corner of the north property. The veteran's memorial was planned to be in the grass area near the benches and fountain on the south side of the church. During initial planning and walk of the north property with by the Columbarium Committee and Session members, concerns were raised that the columbarium would be located too far from the church and being located next to the public sidewalk and close to the planned athletic fields. The Columbarium Committee and the property Elder assessed the remaining north property and determined that there was not another suitable location for the columbarium. After assessing the south side of the church, the Session approved combining the columbarium and veteran's memorial would make better use of the available land. The Session also approved moving the playground from the south side of the church to the north property to be near the picnic shelter and athletic fields and locating the memorial garden on the old playground site. An arborist assured us that we could build there and not disturb the beautiful and historic oak tree at the center of this site. At their April meeting the session approved the contractor for the memorial garden and gave them authorization to begin construction this summer. This process has taken place over the last few years, we have given updates on the process in newsletters and bulletins as progress has been made, and now Informational briefings about the memorial garden will be provided for all interested church members in the near future.





Especially this time of year, I like to look at some amazing women that we read about in the bible. Though we don't hear too much about many women, we do have some special women we can try to emulate. One such woman is Ruth. Her story shows that she was like most of us. She got married to a man she loved, she spent many years with him, and learned to love his family as well. But what I really like is the fact that she wasn't born into royalty nor did she have famous family. She was from Moab, and not an Israelite. She married an Israelite man from Bethlehem.

His family had moved to Moab, and he and his brother had found wives there. Shortly after their arrival, their father died, and I am sure that Ruth was doing what she could to help her mother-in-law, Naomi, deal with the death of her husband. Many years passed and then her husband also died. Naomi then told her daughter-in-law to go back to her family, because she was going back to Bethlehem. Ruth refused to leave her, and said "wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." (Ruth 1:16) With that decision they both were able to comfort each other during the hard time.

Ruth later meets another Israelite man, named Boaz, who treats her well, and they marry. They have a son who will later be grandfather to King David, and later one of her descendants would be the greatest among men, even Jesus Christ. What a legacy!

She had no idea what her future had in store, or where her choices would lead, nor do we. But when we trust in the Lord, and turn to Him for direction, He will direct our paths and bless our efforts. We are known individually and loved even in the midst of all of our failings. We can return to "Bethlehem" and be the Lord's people, and find blessings beyond our imaginations, even if we didn't start out on that path.

The world would have us feel we are not as important, weak, and often inferior, but in God's eyes no one is more or less important. We are all loved by Him who created us. We are admonished in the scriptures to "Remember, the worth of souls is great in the site of God". And as mother's, I believe, we have a special place in His eyes because of our love and compassion for one another, and our devotion to our children. Through our example, generations are blessed. I love reading about these choice women.



May my choices be those that inspire and bless those around me. ~ Sherolyn



First Annual Muffins for Moms

The deacons are planning a special time for mothers, and a fellowship time for us, on Sunday, May 13th, on Mother's Day. They will be providing Muffins for Moms at a special fellowship time between 9am worship and Sunday School and then following 11 am worship that day. There will be recognition for Mothers as well during the worship times.

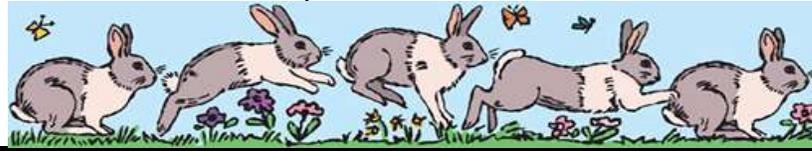
Our First Annual Donuts for Dads - June

The deacons are planning a special time for fathers, and a fellowship time for us, on Sunday, June 17th, on Father's Day. They will be providing Donuts for Dads at a special fellowship time between 9am worship and Sunday School and then following 11 am worship that day. There will be recognition for Fathers as well during the worship times.

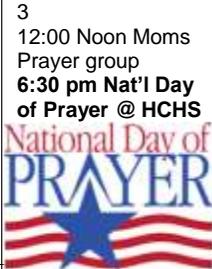


MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

At 11:00 worship service on Sunday, May 27 a special moment has been planned commemorating Memorial Day. We will memorialize those who lost their lives serving our country, veterans no longer living, and (unconventional to tradition) will honor our living veterans and family/friends who supported them. Chris Jones with the choir and our High School Graduates will participate to make these moments of remembering and of honoring God in our Country uniquely touching and special. Please plan to attend and invite your family and friends to join us.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

April 29 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	April 30 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA  10:30 am Ladies Circle 12 Noon NA	2 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	3 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 6:30 pm Nat'l Day of Prayer @ HCHS 	4 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	5 NA—Women's Group 12-1	
6 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	7 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	8 12 noon NA	9 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	10 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	11 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	12 NA—Women's Group 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	14 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	15 12 noon NA	16 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	17 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	18 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	19 NA—Women's Group 12—1
20 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	21 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	22 12 noon NA	23 12 noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	25 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	26 NA—Women's Group 12—1
27 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	28 Office Closed 	29 12 noon NA	30 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	31 12:00 Noon Moms Prayer group 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	June 1 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	June 2 NA—Women's Group 12—1

Newsletter DEADLINE



May BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeremy Cherry
- 1 Brian Farley
- 1 Megan Henderson
- 3 Rick Harrell
- 3 Les Powell IV
- 4 Kelly Gravitt O'Kelly
- 4 Ann-Carlisle Cranford-Edwards Irby
- 6 Darlene Bain
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 9 Terri Hazelwood

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

- 10 Jennifer Edmunds
- 12 Byrd Young*
- 13 Raleigh Powell
- 13 Patty Nelson
- 15 Nick Lumsden
- 15 Ginny Miller
- 22 Jim Burton*
- 24 Brittany Hazelwood
- 28 Winston Harrell
- 29 Sterling Roberts

* In Memory of



April Session Report

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

1. Opened with prayer and devotional.
2. Endorsed goals from Officer's Retreat for church action.
3. Heard info about Save a Life Tour.
4. Designated elder Art Carter to go to Church Safety Seminar at Dan River Baptist Church on April 19 at 1 pm.
5. Appointed Paige Powell as WW Glass Trustee.
6. Approved summer mission trip to Richwood West Virginia.
7. Approved construction and publicity for memorial garden.
8. Heard Stephen Ministry Report.
9. Next Communion will be June 3.
10. Memorial Day Program on May 27.
11. Approved minutes and financial report.
12. Approved new HVAC Maintenance Agreement.
13. Approved Good Sam Sock Drive

May 21

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting



Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

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