

First Presbyterian News

1

April 2016

C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, D. Min

pastor@1stpres.cc

Jeanene B. Krogh, Admin. Asst.

secretary@1stpres.cc

Office Hours:

M-F 9 am to 1 pm

Chris Jones, Choir Director

Website: 1stpres.cc

Dear First Folks,

In this season between Easter and Pentecost, there is so much of God to be thankful for. The death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus canceled out sin, and declared him ruler and savior at the same time! May the risen Lord be with you daily, may God fill you with his spirit to overflowing, and may faith cover every corner of our lives. As we the church move into spring and summer, pray that God will continue to bless us in this holy partnership of the gospel, and that present and new ministries will astound and change the world around us.

In Him,

Russell

April Sermon Topics

April 3—Sermon: *My Lord...God!*

Scripture: Psalm 118:14-29; John 20:24-31

April 10—Sermon: *Breakfast With Jesus*

Scripture: Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

April 17—Sermon: *A Damascus Road Experience*

Scripture: Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-6; 7-20

April 24—Sermon: *Love One Another*

Scripture: Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

May 1—Sermon: *Heeding the Call*

Scripture: Psalm 67; Acts 16:9-15

May 8—Sermon: *Good Business*

Scripture: Psalm 97; Acts 16:16-34

April 5—The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. The study book for this year is "Quiet Confidence for a Woman's Heart," based on the Twenty Third Psalm. This session is based on verse 4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." Frances Anne Thackston will be our study leader. All women are invited to attend.

April 18—Officers' Meetings: 7 pm diaconate and 7:30 pm Session

April 24—Five Cents a Meal Sunday



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

First Presbyterian recently began training its second class of Stephen Ministers, which will allow out reach to more people with one-to-one Christian care giving. Currently, there are four trained Stephen Ministers who are equipped to provide quality Christian care to people facing a variety of personal crises.

Once commissioned, they offer care and support for people experiencing life difficulties such as the death of a loved one, job crisis, aging, separation or divorce, long-term illness or for those needing the support of a Christian friend.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry; those receiving care can be sure that their identity and what goes on in the caring relationship will remain private. In addition to the training, these lay Christian caregivers continue to receive monthly continuing education and supervision support.

(continued on page 6)



**National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m.**

The National Day of Prayer gathering will take place in the Halifax County High School Auditorium on Thursday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. The 2016 theme is “Wake Up America” Come join us along with millions of others across our nation in prayer for our nation. Mark your calendar, invite others and make plans to attend. II chronicles 7:14 is just one place in the bible whereby God encourages prayer for healing our nation. For more information, contact Larry McPeters at 434.454.6692.



Dear Bill, Bob, Chris, Debbie, Eloise, Karen, Kim, Jim, Joanie, Larry, Laura, Linda, Loretta, Marilyn, Mike, Pat, Russell and Susan,

I cannot begin to think of the appropriate words that express my feelings about your recognition of my service in the choir.

Linda’s presentation of the choir stole, Bob and Mike’s remarks, all of the work that went into the wonderful and delicious luncheon has left me speechless.

All I can say is “thank you” from the bottom of my heart. Love to all of you.

Sincerely,
Mac

P.S. The anthem was beautiful, to paraphrase “WHAT A FRIEND I HAVE....”
ALSO IN THE CHOIR!”



Officers’ Retreat—Our deacons and elders gathered for a retreat at a cabin in the country, with a beautiful setting created by God, and God was present. We agreed on a number of physical and spiritual plans for this coming year, and we look forward to seeing God work in them all. From construction on the North Property to spiritual renewal events, from tell others who we are as the church to adding new ministries, the possibilities are many and all are possible with God’s grace and your partnership. Look to hear more as the months of 2016 continue to unfold!



After 34 years in Brazil, Farris and Thelma Goodrum will be retiring from overseas ministries. Another missionary couple that we support at First Presbyterian Church is Paul and Reinhild Sydnor. The Sydnors work with refugees in Northern France. As you know, Europe has been inundated with refugees over the past few years. In 2015, it is estimated that over one million refugees entered Europe. Here is what Paul Sydnor said in his latest newsletter about his ministry in France:

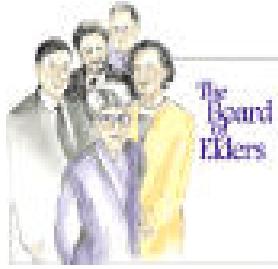
"Ministry to refugees in N. France has been like trying to hit a moving target. Ten days ago, the officials bulldozed half of the camp in Calais. This is where the local French church has been very active in supporting a refugee church. Many of the material efforts to support the refugees was lost. Opposition like this makes ministry difficult -yet even more important."

Last week, a network of churches in this region met for their first meeting to discuss involvement together, called the "Solidarity Platform". It is an answer to prayer, and without the current crisis, there would not be a church response like this. My prayer is that this network will catch the vision to help churches open their own ministry centers next to where the refugees are living in this region."

C. W. and Leslie Bing are originally from Mecklenburg County. They operated a successful well drilling business for a number of years before selling their business to become full -time missionaries. Ten years ago they moved to Zambia and founded the ministry "Water for the Oppressed." Their ministry digs and repairs wells in Zambia to provide clean drinking water to the local people. They also teach a health and hygiene curriculum and they share the word of God with the Zambian people.

In order to get the congregation of First Presbyterian Church more involved with the missionaries that our church supports, we will begin highlighting one missionary each quarter. We will devote one month to each missionary and during that month we will inform the congregation about the work that the missionary is doing and show the congregation how they can help advance that ministry. During the month of May our missionary focus will be on C. W. and Leslie Bing's Water for the Oppressed. I have spoken with C. W. and his biggest needs right now are Bibles, jerry cans and shoes. Jerry cans are 5-gallon plastic containers that are used to transport clean water. Before Water for the Oppressed starting distributing jerry cans, people would use dirty containers to transport water, which caused many people to get sick. People even used containers that previously held gasoline or other petroleum products. Throughout the month of May, we will be collecting funds to help Water for the Oppressed to purchase Bibles, jerry cans and shoes for the Zambian people. More details about this project will be available in the next few weeks.

Winston Harrell



As the deacons and elders met for their regular meetings on March 21, the words and actions and as of the retreat were still foremost in our minds.

The elders made plans to follow through on a number of items, and the deacons are-ready to accomplish some as well.

March Session Report

- Followed up on the retreat with plans for demolition of shed on north property, fence removal and planting of border shrubs, and made plans to accomplish grading of the property for columbarium, picnic shelter, and youth volleyball/soccer practice field.
- Heard updates on prayer needs and ministry events.
- Heard report that Stephen Ministry training will begin on March 22 with six new ministers to be trained.
- Approved minutes of elders and deacon's meetings before March 21.
- Heard update on Missionary Retirement of Goodrum family, began planning for use of those funds with other missionaries.
- Made plans to purchase a defibrillator for church use.
- Approved financial report.
- Heard plans for nurture of members and church growth.
- Planned next communion for Easter Sunday.
- Discussed plans for a Read-Through the Bible Ministry this year.
- Heard education plans for a younger youth ministry and additional youth ministry.
- Planned to contact architect to secure details on property plans.
- Made initial decision to celebrate Homecoming in the fall.

Favorite Psalms A Look Ahead to Sunday School in the Fall

This coming fall promises to be an engaging time as we together look at one of the most beloved books of the Bible: The Psalms.

As many of you know I took a sabbatical year from teaching Sunday School to study the Psalms. Many thanks to everyone helping out in teaching the adult class this year giving me the freedom to prepare for the 2016-2017 season.

But I also need the help of the class members and of anyone out there who is willing to help. I need to hear from all of you to share with me your favorite Psalms. Which ones have helped you? Meant the most to you? Do you have a Psalm story to tell?

For example, Psalm 121 means so much to me. Years ago my mom told me that this is one of her favorites. I looked at it and have memorized it and grown to love it because she shared it with me.

Of course, we all love Psalm 23., so don't be afraid to say so.

Please email me @ jim4u@comcast.net and let me know your choices. It will help me immensely in my preparations.

Please also pray for me that the Lord watches over me (Psalm 121!) and guides my studies. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the Fall. Until then, keep the Psalms coming! By Jim Luedtke



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9 am Bulletins 12 Noon AA 7 pm Girl Scouts	2
3 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	4 10:00 am Prayer Group	5 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12 noon NA	6 AA Noon 7:30pm Choir	7 12 Noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	8 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 7 pm Girl Scouts	9
10 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	11 10:00 Prayer Group 6:45 pm Stephen Ministry	12 12 noon NA	13 AA Noon 7:30 pm Choir	14 12 Noon NA 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	15 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 7 pm Girl Scouts	16
17 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am worship	18 10:00 am Prayer Group 7 pm Diaconate 7:30 pm	19 12 noon NA	20 AA Noon 7:30 pm Choir	21 12 noon NA 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	22 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 7 pm Girl Scouts	23
24 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 5 Cents A Meal Sunday	25 10:00 am Prayer Group 6 Girl Scouts	26 12 Noon AA	27 AA Noon 7:30 pm Choir	28 12 Noon NA 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	29	30
		Newsletter DEADLINE				

April Birthdays



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Beth Bush | 24 Jane Willis |
| 2 Del Pool | 24 Matthew Freshour |
| 6 Will Dillard | 25 Kaitlin Marvin |
| 6 Kim Albert | 25 Kirsten Marvin |
| 7 Joseph Roberts | 25 Donald Shepperd |
| 8 Patricia Seat | 25 Brian Raney |
| 10 Liza Farley | 28 Beth Saunders |
| 11 Carter Henderson | 29 Daniel Roller |
| 12 Ann Wood | 30 Taylor Rowland |
| 13 Mark Foster | 30 Debbie Roller |
| 13 Grace E. Adams | 30 Mark Thackston |
| 15 Cal Raney | |
| 16 Frances Harrell | |
| 16 Buck Wilkins | |
| 18 David Watson | |
| 23 Jessica Lumsden | |



April Highlights

April 5—The Ladies' Circle

The first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. The study book for this year is "Quite Confidence for a Woman's Heart," based on the Twenty Third Psalm. The study leader will be Frances Anne Thackston. All women are welcome.

You can sign up to receive a daily devotional and Bible verse each day via email. To receive a daily devotional go to: <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>

To receive a daily Bible verse go to <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

These links can also be found on the First Presbyterian website under the resource tab. <http://www.1pres.cc/> - Resources Tab

April 18—Officers' Meetings

Diaconate is at 7 pm followed by
Elders meeting at 7:30 pm

Weekly Happenings

Blog— Dr. Lee's blog posts on our web page have begun. Check out the articles on our website at 1stpres.cc. Titles are: What Is A Blog?, Two By Four Faith, and Soldiers of Christ.

Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am
Choir: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

Our **Facebook page** is up and running, and full of photos and comments. You can access it by searching FirstPressobo on the web, or mark it on your facebook account. Thanks to Joni Owens and Susan Chandler for their work here. Forward photos to them for inclusion, and like our Facebook page!

Stephen Ministries (Con't from page 1)

The Stephen Minister Supervision meetings occur on the second Monday of each month. The Training sessions are taking place monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays. For more information, contact Connie Marvin at 434.470.1867 or Nancy Pool at 434.572.8282.

First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
South Boston, VA 24592

PRSR
US Postage Paid
Permit #15
South Boston, VA