

First Presbyterian News

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January 2017

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Website: 1stpres.cc

Office Hours

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



Dear First Folks,

We have begun the New Year in humility and great expectation that God will work great things in us all. Let us be in prayer that we and those whom God leads our way in this New Year will be a faithful and growing body which shares the gospel and meets the needs of a world which needs Christ.

Take note of the ministries and updates below. We look forward to a wonderful time of love and grace in 2017. Pray, be a part of, and encourage others in their Christian walk.

Thanks you for being a blessing to others and to me.

In Him,

Russell



January 8—

Sermon: "Number My Days"

Scriptures: Psalm 14; Psalm 39:1-7

January 15

Sermon: "A Man of God"

Scriptures: Psalm 24; 1 Kings 17:7-24

January 22

Sermon: "Nobody Answered"

Scriptures: Psalm 127; 1 Kings 18:16-26; 30-40

January 29

Sermon: "A Whole Heart"

Scriptures: Psalm 131; 1 Chronicles 28:9-11; 19-21

February 5

Sermon: "What Would We Ask?"

Scriptures: Psalm 116:12-19; 1 Kings 3:5-14



Puzzle!

Write a word that fits each definition. Then place the letters in the numbered boxes to read a Beatitude, one of the special statements Jesus shares in Matthew 5.

The color of coal	_ _ _ _ _
	1 2 8 17 21
Flower with thorns	_ _ _ _ _
	9 4 3
Woman's Sunday garment	_ _ _ _ _
	7 23 6 5 24
Vegetable in a pod	_ _ _ _ _
	14 10 16
A light for my _____	_ _ _ _ _
	20 11 12
Electric fish	_ _ _ _ _
	13 15
Dark green gem	_ _ _ _ _
	18 19 22

1234567

8910

111213

1415161718192021222324

Answers: black, rose, dress, pea, path, eel, emerald; blessed are the peacemakers

Stewardship Update-Thank you for your pledging so far for the 2017 budget. We will continue to receive pledges for a couple weeks. At the time of publication we were at 68% of the budget.



Women's Bible Study - To all ladies!

Our study of Dee Brestin's, Idol Lies, is a tremendous blessing for our group of women. Our class will resume meeting on January 5 and will meet each Thursdays throughout January. (12, 19, 26) Please join us! It's never too late to start. We are striving to replace those idols with our loving God!

The Crayon Initiative- This is the last month to collect.

This project is a great way to get rid of broken and any unused crayons laying around, and keep them out of the landfill. We have collected quite a few boxes and the bin is fairly full, but we would love to have several containers to give to Matthew Bain in his efforts to help children in hospitals have a little joy.



The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 3, 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. This lesson, verse 6, will be led by Kay Lewis. All ladies are encouraged to join us. Please read the Twenty Third Psalm as well as lesson eleven (11) in the Study Book.

The Good Samaritan experiences a higher than normal need for donations at Christmas time and during the winter months. Staples that they can always use are canned fruit, canned meat, peanut butter, canned soup, macaroni & cheese, ramen noodles, and quart-size packets of powdered milk. There are blue Wal-Mart reusable bags in the sanctuary and the foyer tagged to remind you of these needs. Pick up a bag, fill it up, and return, or just pick up some extra non-perishables on your next shopping trip to help offset hunger in our community!



Officer Installation. Congratulations to new elders and deacons and the trustee elected in November! They are: New Elders: Art Carter, Steve Reynolds, and Jim Sizemore; New Deacons: Brenda McPeters, Laura Edwards, and Skyler Smith. The new Trustee is Dr. Mac Lacy.

We are planning our ordination/installation service for January 8th.

Also thanks to the class of 2016 who have served faithfully and are rotating off when the new officers take over. They are: Elders: Kim Albert, Winston Harrell, JE Tuck, Jr. Deacons: Theodore VanBenschoten, Stephen Reynolds, and James Sizemore. The Trustee: J. Wayne Adams, Jr. The W.W. Glass Trustee has been: T. Godbold

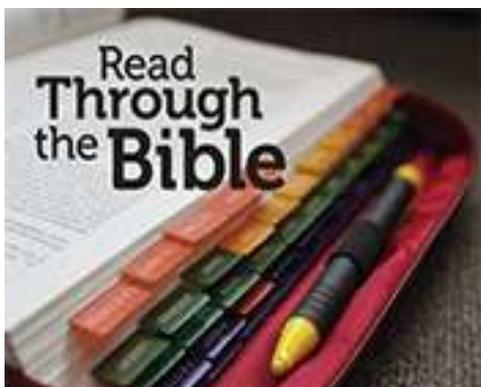
May God bless them, all the other officers, you, and all of us in the new year as we seek to remain faithful to him, and to serve him with power and joy.

Bible Quiz: In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?



- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above

Reading Bible Schedule



Week 17: January 2 - 7

Psalms 81—107
Pages 438 - 456

Week 18: January 9-14

2 Samuel 7 - Psalms 122
Pages 462 - 480

Week 19: —January 16-21

2 Samuel 13-15 - Psalms 57
Pages 485 - 507

Week 20—January 23 - 28

Psalms 97 - Psalm 68
Pages 512— 527

Week 21—January 30—February 4

Psalms 111— Song of Solomon 5
Pages 534— 556

Water for the Oppressed

Update and message from this missionary group:

The lack of water, as a result of broken hand pumps at community schools, is not uncommon in rural Zambia. The lack of water leads to delays for the kids coming to class because they are standing in lines waiting to fetch water. You have to remember that the schools share the wells with the surrounding community, so it is normal to find lines of people waiting to draw water. The kids draw water as a part of their daily chores. This water is used to wash out toilets, clean classrooms, and replenish water coolers at the school site. During the year, WFTO repaired broken hand pumps at several schools. We visited Mugoto Primary School and found two hand pumps on site with only one of them still functional.

Another school visited was located in Kachembele community, which is comprised of 500 students with a staff of six teachers. During the visit they found two wells, but only one working hand pump, although it would stop due to low production during the pumping process. WFTO investigated the other well and tested the water and found it to be acceptable and then installed a new hand pump, chlorinated the well, and poured a concrete apron around the well. We know the teachers are happy for the hand pump repair but not sure if the students can say the same—they now have no excuse for missing class!

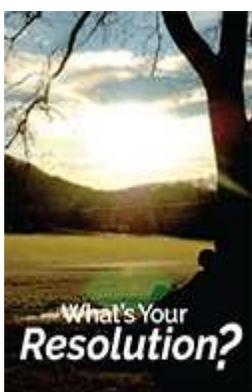
Over the past several years, WFTO has assisted several individuals in fulfilling their dreams of a college education. WFTO has been blessed to locate donors and match them with students in Zambia. Two of these students will graduate from college in December: one with a degree in the education field, and one in the medical field. The path for these two students has been difficult, but they have completed their studies. We ask one student how the college degree would impact their life and the response was, “I will be able to find a job, assist my family financially, and give back to the rural community as I pass on what I have learned.”

WFTO continued to go beyond our general ministry of providing water and the Word by meeting common, everyday need in the rural communities. For example, we distributed 137 Jerry Cans which blessed approximately 75 families. Jerry Cans are five gallon plastic containers which are used to collect water from the hand pumps.

Yes, the Word is still priority one. WFTO continues to evangelize the rural community through integrating the Word into our hygiene training programs, ministering the Word during our weekly discipleship meetings, ministering to students at a nearby school using the chronological Bible story cloth, and in Sunday School.

According to Romans 10:17, “so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” We witnessed just that, as 66 individuals made professions of faith, as the Word was presented. Each new believer received a Bible in their respective language.

THANK YOU! On behalf of everyone at WFTO to all who have made 2016 a blessed year!



“Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”
—Jonathan Edwards

“How few there are who have courage enough to own their faults, or resolution enough to mend them.” Benjamin Franklin

“The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.” -G.K. Chesterton

“You have 365 new blank pages. What will you write on the first blank page?” -Lailah Gifty Akita

Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed. -Cavett Robert

God’s promised spring

Like winter, some seasons of our faith journey feel cold, barren, devoid of life. Will renewal ever come? Will spring flourish again in our heart? Yet the world bears witness to God’s power to bring new life where all seems lost.

In the early 1990s, the St. Louis neighborhood of South City deteriorated sharply due to a stagnant economy, population decline and crime. Then Bosnian refugees started settling there. Thousands of people renovated abandoned houses and other buildings; they started businesses and brought skilled labor back to the neighborhood. As the area returned to life, the refugees experienced renewal, too — hope in place of discouragement, opportunities where none had existed, peace instead of war, life replacing death.

When our faith is challenged by despair, lost dreams or an uncertain future — when God’s promises feel as dead as winter — real-life renewal stories are signs of spring. They testify to the resurrection God has in store for us.



Happy New Year Everyone!

With the new year brings opportunities to make resolutions. Nearly everyone we speak to can list several items that they plan for their new year's resolutions. This time of year brings me to be grateful for Jesus and his atonement. Without his sacrifices to overcome our sins, we would be lost. During this new year, I always find myself wanting to be better than the previous year. If I can look back and find that I did indeed, make improvements from the previous, then I was successful, even if I didn't achieve all that I desired. The beautiful thing about Jesus and his atonement is that we can make new resolutions and become better each day through repentance. As I strive to become a better me, I in turn can make the world around me a better place as well. The Lord has told us to be glad in what we have. I know I can look back on bad decisions and get depressed, but that is Satan's work. The Lord wants us to find joy and "take up our bed and follow him" - Matthew 9:6. It is up to us to have the faith and then take action. Remembering to enjoy the moment as well as making improvements each day can help me feel closer to heaven. ~ Sherolyn

Flowers—We have many openings for anyone wishing to beautify the sanctuary, by providing flowers. Dates available are Jan. 15, 22, & 29 and all of February. Please stop by, or call the office to sign up for your choice of dates.



Youth meetings restart at 6:00 pm on January 8th.

January 22—WinterJam - Leave church for Raleigh RBC Center at 3pm. Cost is 10.00 at the door. Tenth Avenue North, David Crowder, Sadie Robinson from Duck Dynasty, Britt Nicole, Newsboys, Andy Mineo and more.

We are planning a Winter Ski/Tubing February 10. (If it is too cold, or the weather is terrible, the alternate date is March 14.) This trip will cost approximately 50 dollars if you ski. It will be cheaper if you only Tube.

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 (starting back January 5)
- Men of the Church:** Thursdays at 7 pm



January 16

- 7:00 —Diaconate Meeting**
- 7:30 pm — Elders Meeting**

The Good Samaritan experiences a higher than normal need for donations at Christmas time and during the winter months. Staples that they can always use are canned fruit, canned meat, peanut butter, canned soup, macaroni & cheese, ramen noodles, and quart-size packets of powdered milk. There are blue Wal-Mart reusable bags in the sanctuary and the foyer tagged to remind you of these needs. Pick up a bag, fill it up, and return, or just pick up some extra non-perishables on your next shopping trip to help offset hunger in our community!



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Sat
1 New Year's Day	2 Office Closed	3 12 noon NA	4 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	5 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	6 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	7
8 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	9 10 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA	10 7:45 AM Youth Devotion @ Bojangles 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12 noon NA	11 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	12 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	13 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	14 GS Troop 796 meet 2-4
15 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	16 10:00 Prayer Grp 6 pm NA 7:00 Diaconate Meeting 7:30 pm Elders	17 7:45 AM Youth Devotion @ Bojangles 12 noon NA	18 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	20 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	21
22 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	23 10:00 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA	24 7:45 AM Youth Devotion @ Bojangles 12 noon NA Newsletter DEADLINE	25 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	26 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 9 am Bulletins 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	27 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	28
29 5cent meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	30 10:00 am Prayer Group 6 pm NA	31 12 Noon AA	February 1 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	2 8 pm AA	3 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	4

- 1 Richard Harrell IV
- 1 Dabney Gilliam
- 1 Clarice Crews
- 3 Ruth Jean Slayton
- 4 John Cranford
- 7 Kay Lewis
- 7 Donna Mistal
- 10 Leon Plaster
- 10 Joshua Roberts
- 14 Paige Powell
- 14 Colby Cranford
- 14 Emily Seat
- 15 Karen Henderson
- 17 Tricia Burton
- 19 Eric Nelson
- 19 Art Carter
- 21 Peggy Fuller
- 25 Linda Lumsden
- 31 Jenny Wilkins



Lessons from a Snowman:

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



December Session Report

At their meetings in the last month, the session:

1. Began with Christmas combined meeting of Elders and Deacons.
2. Mentioned First Folks for prayer.
3. Designated 2017 “Year of the Child” as one of the session’s emphasis.

“And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people” Luke 1:17

4. Heard update on Columbarium design.
5. Heard report on membership roll update.
6. Noted next communion will be Dec. 25 at our combined Christmas Day worship.
7. Heard reports of placement of new Stephen Ministers.
8. Heard missionary reports. Art Carter will be a special emphasis in February.
9. New women’s bible study will begin again on Jan. 5.
10. Approved Session and Diaconate minutes.
11. Noted various property matters done and to be done
12. Heard updates on Homeless Shelter Christmas project, Good Samaritan food needs, and Crayon Initiative.
13. Received financial reports as of November 30.

Answer to Bible Quiz: G

Answers to puzzle (pg 1): black, rose, dress, pea, path, eel, emerald; Blessed are the peacemakers

First Presbyterian Church
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South Boston, VA 24592

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Here is your January 2017 Newsletter