

First Presbyterian News

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June 2017

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/firstpressobo

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Office Hours

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

Dear First Folks,

Summer arrives on June 21, and many things change for the church. Combined Sunday school classes, variable attendance, mission trips, picnics, vacations. Do your best to make things better by being in worship as often as possible here, and when you travel. As the sun brings us longer days and erases dark shadows for longer periods of time, may God bring us deeper faith, better lives, and spiritual blessings.

Blessings and peace to all of you. Please be in prayer for and a part of as many of the things in the newsletter as you can. We give thanks for you all from the first day we started until now, as Paul the apostle did.

Grace and Love,

~R ussell



June 4

Sermon: "In A Little While"

Scriptures: Haggai 2:6-9; John 16:15-17

June 11—

Sermon: "Money Test"

Scriptures: Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:19-24

June 18

Sermon: "The Jar Miracle"

Scriptures: Psalm 126; Matthew 2:1-12

June 25

Sermon: "Born Again"

Scriptures: Psalm 68:1-6; John 3:1-8

July 2

Sermon: "Sowing Seed"

Scriptures: Psalm 33:1-8; Matthew 13:1-10

July 9

Sermon: "Mercy Neighbors"

Scriptures: Psalm 138:1-8; Luke 10:30-40



Memorial Day Sunday -At 11:00 worship service on Sunday, May 28— we had a special moment commemorating Memorial Day. We memorialized those who lost their lives serving our country, veterans no longer living, and (unconventional to tradition) honored our living veterans and family/friends who supported them. Chris Jones with the choir and Teresa McCollum with the youth participated to make these moments of remembering and of honoring God in our Country uniquely touching and special. Thanks for all who participated and made this a special day!



Church Playground

The session, on recommendation of Christian Education committee, approved purchase of new playground equipment for a north property playground near the new picnic shelter. The cost will be about \$7500. This may be the lasting legacy you want to give to the church, so if you would like to contribute towards that project, mark your gifts appropriately or ask a session member about it.



The Summer Mission Trip is set for the week of July 23-29! We will be² working with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) in Richwood, WV, to help with recovery from the flooding there last fall. We will be housed in a former parsonage that has been renovated for this purpose. The cost of \$100 per person covers housing, materials, and meals for the week. (Meals on travel days will be at your own expense.) NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY - there is a category for "Willing Helper!" If you are interested in joining the team, or need more information, contact Kim Albert, kalbert@ntelos.net or 434-579-5011, or Russell.

Summer Kickoff/Mission Trip Lunch

The deacons and the mission team will join forces to host a hot dog picnic on Sunday, June 4, immediately after 11:00 worship. This will be a casual dress Sunday, so we can celebrate the start of the summer season as well as raise awareness about the summer mission trip (see article above). Hot dogs with all the fixings, baked beans, desserts and more will be provided for free and served under the new picnic shelter. We will get to use our brand new grill given for this purpose! There will be an opportunity for you to participate in the mission trip by making a monetary donation. There will also be some construction-related and summer-style activities. Everyone is invited!! Come fellowship with Christian friends and enjoy the beautiful surroundings we have due to God's blessings.

Red Nose Outreach Effort

Red Nose Day- You can still participate in the Red Nose day effort to stamp out poverty for children. Just make your gift to the church with Red Nose day as the memo, and be in prayer for children here and across the world. There are a few noses and bracelets left in the vestibules if you would like them.



Congratulations to our 2017 High School Graduates who all graduated on May 27, 2017.



- * Paul Edmunds will be going to college at Virginia Tech.
- * Matthew Bain will be going to college at the University of Virginia.
- * Abby Bales is partnering with her Mom, Sue Bales, to open and run the new Buttercup's Florist here in South Boston.

New Prayer Ministry - We began a new prayer ministry. If you desire to participate, please take one of the slips of paper at the door and write your name on it, fold it in half and place in basket. Following worship, please take one of the slips of paper, make sure it is not your name, and think about and pray for this person during the coming week. Let's see how God grows us in prayer and ministry.



Combined Bible School - We will have a combined Bible School with First Baptist June 5-9. Volunteers needed! Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering or if your child would like to attend. Contact Mary Tucker Irby at 222-0919 or firstbaptistweekday-school@gmail.com or Educational Chair—Nancy Pool.

Bible Reading Schedule

Week 38—May 29—June 3

2 Chronicles 36— Esther 5
Pages 1035—1059

Week 39—June 5-10

Esther 6—Nehemiah 10
Pages 1060—1086

Week 40—June 12-17

Nehemiah 11—John 2:12
Pages 1087-1113

Week 41—June 19-24

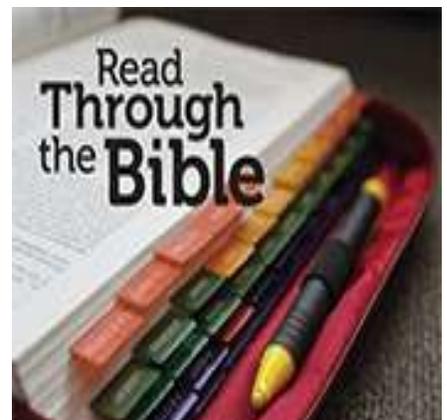
Matthew 4:23— Luke 11:54
Pages 1114-1137

Week 42—June 26-July 1

Matthew 13:1—Luke 9:56
Pages 1138-1164

Week 43—July 3-8

John 7 —Luke 19:27
Pages 1165-1189



Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cameroon 3

A First Presbyterian World Mission ministry

God continues to move mightily in Cameroon. New partnerships are being built, old ones are being strengthened, and people of many backgrounds and denominations are working together to reliably transmit the Bible into locally-translated Scripture. In addition to the printed page, digital Bibles and recordings are getting more accessible by the day. Matthew and Teresa are encouraged by supporting others working in Cameroon so that they can be effective in fulfilling their own part of God's mission.

Matthew's responsibilities continue to change in Cameroon, and he now has responsibilities at four levels. While he still serves as a Language Technology Consultant for Cameroon, he became the Language Technology Domain Team Leader for French-speaking Africa in September. In February, he passed off his role as Crisis Management Chair and accepted an additional role as Technology Coordinator for Cameroon Branch. This means that he has responsibility for Language Technology in Cameroon, supervision over the departments of Computer Services, Vernacular Media, and our Library, and finally a team-leader role for others serving in Language Technology in 8 countries of Africa. Lastly, he serves on a global team



influencing the direction of many of the tools used in Translation, Linguistics, and mother-tongue literacy. Of course, more supervising means less time to get into the nitty-gritty fun of problem-solving, and that's where Louis Pascal comes in. Louis Pascal is a bright young Cameroonian being sponsored by a special gift from one of our partner churches. He has transitioned from a role as a computer support specialist, and is quickly soaking up anything in Language Technology. Being a strong man of faith, he is also a great encouragement not only to me, but anyone we have the opportunity to work with.

Please pray for him as he improves his English and as we work to build a sustainable department.

Teresa is nearing the end of her second school year of teaching Kindergarten. She has had anywhere between two and eight students as families come in and out of Yaoundé. It has been a privilege for her to watch these students grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

Teresa is looking forward to an eight week break before next school year starts in the beginning of August.

Please continue to pray for us here in Cameroon, our friends and family back home and other places, and the people of Cameroon. Additionally, please pray for Teresa's parents as they prepare to visit us here in Cameroon!



"Summer Flowers"

Behold the flowers of June!
How fair and bright their buds appear,
as, opening to the summer air,
our eyes and hearts they cheer!

Who would have thought there could abound
such beauty and delight
beneath the cold and wintry ground
that hid those flowers from sight?

That power which made and governs all —
the mighty power of God —
alone could life and beauty call
out of the lifeless sod.

And he, who from the winter's gloom
can summer thus disclose,
shall one day make the desert bloom,
and blossom as the rose.

—Anonymous

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

4

Father's Day is a special day to me! I love thinking about my Heavenly Father and all He has done for me. As I briefly mentioned last month, I believe we were placed here for a purpose. I believe we are asked to prove our worthiness in order to return to him. We were created in his image (Genesis 1:26).

As our Heavenly Father, He is father of our spirits. And we lived with him before we were born. We can read in Jeremiah 1:4-5 "The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

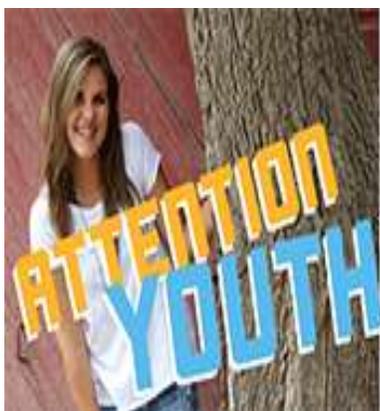
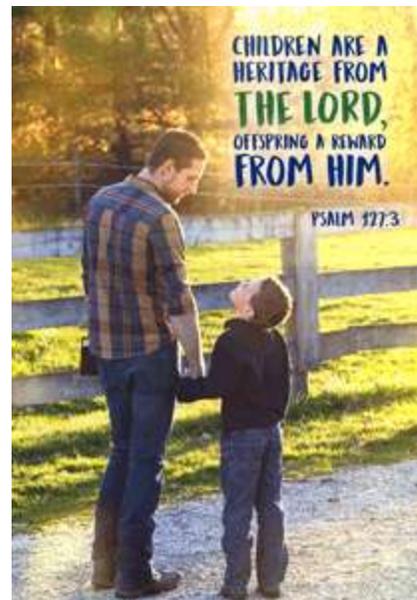
And in Hebrews 12:9 we read ... "we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"

In these scriptures we can clearly see that we were with God before we came to earth in our mortal bodies, and God is the father of our spirits.

While we lived with Him in heaven we were taught by His side and knew the struggles we would have here on Earth, but we wanted to go through them so we could be more like Him. Just as we, as children, want to grow up to be just like our earthly parents.

His plan for us was to become like Him, gain a body and become perfect as we learn to overcome temptations, and grow closer to Him each day. He loved us so much that He was willing to have His son, Jesus Christ suffer for us. What great love! To watch the suffering of one of your children, in order to save many. When we utilize that suffering and turn to the Savior and repent of our sins we show respect and gratitude for that sacrifice. As we repent and become more and more perfected in Him we gain the right to return and live with our Father again in His presence.

What wonderful Love! We Love Him because He first Loved us! ~ *Sherolyn*



Youth group meet for Sunday Night Dinner & fellowship every Sunday at 6pm.

We have a fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, June 10th at First Baptist Church.

Nickelsville Mission Trip June 12-16

Passport Camp—June 18-23 at Averett University—

Summer Sunday school begins on June 4. We will have a combined Adult Class, Taught by Art Carter "God's call on our lives" and others, and a combined children's class. Please let Nancy Pool know if you would like to help.

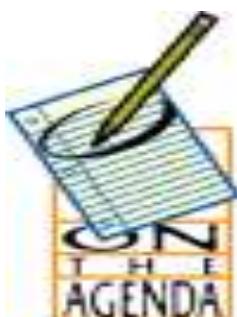


Weekly Happenings

June 19

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting

7:30 pm — Elders Meeting



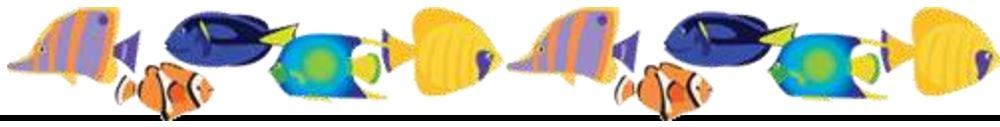
Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am

Praise Team: Wednesdays at 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Sat
28 May 5cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	29 May 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	30 May 12 noon NA	31 May 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	June 1 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	June 2 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	3
4  Pentecost SUNDAY Mission Trip Fund Raiser after services	5 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	6 12 noon NA 7:00 pm	7 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	8 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	9 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	10 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
11 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm Youth Group	12 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	13 12 noon NA	14 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	16 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	17
18  Happy FATHER'S DAY!	19 12 pm NA 7:00 Diaconate Meeting 7:30 pm Elders	20 12 noon NA  Newsletter DEADLINE	21 Summer Begins! 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	22 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	23 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	24
25 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	26	27 12 Noon AA	28 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	29 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm AI-Anon 8 pm AA	30 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	July 1



1 Lorene Womble		
3 Deborah Lesnick		
4 Corinne Williams		
6 Carol Foster		
6 Janet Adams		
6 Catesby Saunders		
7 Katye Temple Nelson		
9 Paul Edmunds		
12 Ken Cochran		
	12 Lauren Henderson	24 John Lesnick
	12 Jennifer Lee Miller	26 Jack Morgan *
	13 Robert Guthrie	29 Grace Seat
	16 Veronica Raney	
	20 Carol-Ann Lawson	“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.” —Mahatma Gandhi
	20 Scott Carter	
	21 Eliza Dillard	



May Session Report

At the meeting since the last newsletter your Elders:

1. Heard First folks updates for prayer and action.
2. Updated Mission Goals from retreat.
3. Approved Red Nose outreach effort for May 21.
4. Planned Prayer Basket ministry to begin on May 21.
5. Heard updates on membership and newsletter lists.
6. Approved Graduation Recognition for May 21.
7. Approved finance report and other finance matters.
8. Set next communion for June 4.
9. Heard Stephen Ministry updates.
10. Heard Missionary Updates and approved special projects schedule.
11. Heard updates on new playground.
12. Looked at new food ministry possibilities.
13. Approved minutes.
14. Set Summer kickoff/mission trip fundraiser for June 4.

Mission Goals for 2017

1. Determining a new hunger ministry in the form we have done in the past.
2. Sending out daily devotional emails. (which has already begun).
3. Prayer slips for worship. This involves placing a slip with your name on it in a basket when you arrive for worship if you agree to pray for others, and picking one up as you leave to pray for others in the coming week.
4. Turkey gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas
5. Expanding and resourcing children's ministries.

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Here is your June 2017 Newsletter