

First Presbyterian News

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November 2017

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www.facebook.com/firstpressobo

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Office Hours

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

Dear First Folks,

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas are on the horizon already. God is reminding us as the weather turns crisp and cool in the mornings that He is with us all through the year. We have so much to be thankful for in this church, country, and world, but the greatest blessing is that God through Jesus Christ is with us forever and that faith does not depend on circumstances. Be in prayer for the ministries here, and ask God to help you take stock of how your walk with Him is going. Chances are, you need to move closer to Him, seek His presence in more of your life, and ask His forgiveness for failings and falling away from Him. There are so many things described below God is doing here, and more coming up. Thank you for being a part of First Presbyterian Church, of God's holy kingdom, and a loving and fruitful disciple to today's world!

In Him,

-Russell



November 5

Sermon: "The Greatest Among Us"

Scriptures: Psalm 43; Matthew 23:1-12

November 12

Sermon: "God's Wedding Banquet"

Scriptures: Psalm 70; Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 -

Sermon: "Ruin or Blessing"

**Scriptures: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18;
Matthew 25:14-30**

November 26

Sermon: "Sheep in Faithful Service"

**Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:11-16; 20-24;
Matthew 25:31-46**

December 3

Sermon: "New Beginnings In Christ"

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-5; John 1:1-8

December 10

Sermon: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10; Mark 1:1-3



Youth Ministry

The youth gathered this past Sunday afternoon with Leanne Pulliam to prepare gifts for the folks at Boston Commons Retirement Center. The rain was pouring, so they will deliver them later. Look for chances to gather as this new youth ministry gets off the ground. Be in prayer for and participation in this important ministry. Look for contacts by email and cell phone from Leanne as plans continue to develop.



Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour Saturday, November 4 before going to bed. Otherwise you may show up to church an hour early.



Patrick Cherry

Christ The Word Church

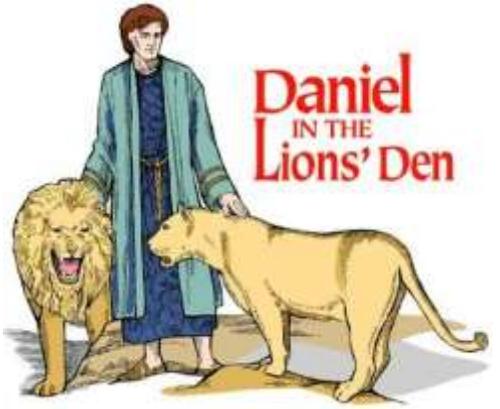
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A First Presbyterian World Mission

We've Moved! - Now located just outside Raleigh, we meet at Thales Academy in Wake Forest.

From: October 2017 Newsletter

There is perhaps no greater story of resolve, unshakeable conviction, unyielding commitment, unshakeable courage, and uncompromising character than Daniel in the Old Testament book that bears his name. In a turbulent time when followers of God were strewn across a hostile empire, Daniel shows the lengths that humanity can go when clinging to our God even when great powers stand against us. There is so much more to Daniel than a Sunday school story of a man cast into the lion's den emerging unscathed.



What does Daniel teach us today? How can we find the conviction, commitment, courage, and character he embodies? Today we need more Daniels than ever before...will you be an UNCOMPROMISING follower of Jesus?

Join us on this 4-week journey through the book of Daniel as we discuss how his story still speaks to us today.

All are welcome to join them in their study through the Book of Daniel throughout November

#DANIELatTheWORD

UNCOMPROMISING DANIEL - The Book of Daniel Still Speaks Today

Nov 05 | Uncompromising Conviction
Daniel 1

Nov 12 | Uncompromising Commitment
Daniel 3

Nov 19 | Uncompromising Courage
Daniel 4

Nov 26 | Uncompromising Character
Sunday After Thanksgiving
Daniel 6



Community Thanksgiving Service - This year our combined Thanksgiving Service will be held at **Main Street Methodist Church, Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 PM**

Turkey Thanksgiving Blessings—This is the second year we will give frozen turkeys to those in need in the community. We received many good comments about this ministry. We will assemble at least 40 turkeys to give out on November 20th and 21st. If you would like to contribute dollars or turkeys to this project you can drop them by anytime this month before that date. We estimate each turkey will cost about \$15. Also if you can help in the giveaway process on that day, please let us know. Jesus reminds us to remember the poor, and to reach out to those in need.



Thanksgiving Outreach- Thanksgiving day will be a time to serve a good thanksgiving meal to those in need. The community thanksgiving meal will be held again at the South Boston Church of God across from the Gazette Virginian. Preparation time will begin about 7am on Thanksgiving Morning.



The Case for Christ—Women’s Bible Study - We are studying Lee Strobel’s bestselling book; which delves into the reliability of the Bible and proves that Christ is indeed exactly who He claims to be.

We meet each Thursday at 10:30. Karen Henderson and Wendy Daniel are coordinating this study.

Please join us for this powerful study and enjoy fellowship and spiritual growth. We welcome you all!

For More information please contact the church office at 572-3581 or Pattie Grubbs at 470-5606.

The Ladies’ Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 7 at 10:30 AM in the Philathea Room. Our studies this year will be taken from the book “Attitude Is Your Paintbrush, It colors every Situation” by James W. Moore. Ginny Troy will be teaching this class. The topic is “The Attitude of Compassion”, Lead with your Heart. See you all there!



We had such a great time at our Pig Pickin on October 15th. The BBQ was the best ever!

We are so grateful for our Deacons for planning and organizing this activity. A special Thanks goes out for Steve Crutchfield and Steve Reynolds for their many hours that day, watching over and preparing such a wonderful meal.

From College Student Matthew Bain: I know this comes a little late, but I want to give a warm “Thank You” to everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts as I graduated high school and am beginning my college career at UVA.

During the Summer, I worked at a Christian Summer Camp (Camp Bethel) and was busy keeping kids in line and showing them how to live their lives in a Christ-like way.

I am now attending the University of Virginia. I have been accepted in the School of Engineering and am loving college life! I joined the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and have enjoyed participating in weekly Bible studies and group meetings. I also joined the Global Water Brigade which works in rural Honduran and Ghanaian Communities to implement sustainable water solutions to prevent water related illnesses in communities with limited access to clean water. We will be spending Spring Break in Honduras.

I decided to lend a hand doing a mission project in Appomattox with Wayne and Donna Davis (Teresa Davis Lee’s parents). I hope to do more with them in the future!



Much Love, Matthew Bain 113 Hancock, Charlottesville, VA 22904-2018

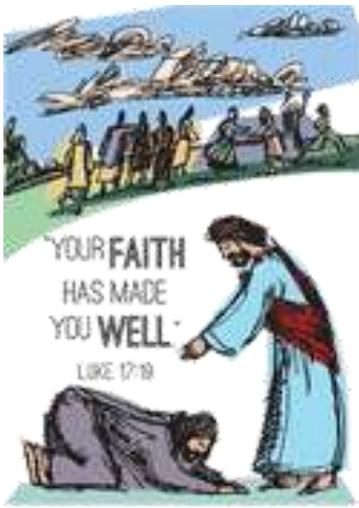


Focus Missionaries for October/November: Matthew and Teresa Lee - Every six months we focus on one missionary family and their needs with additional financial and prayer support through our “above and beyond the budget” special gifts. This fall our focus is on **Matthew and Teresa Lee with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon**. Our objective is to raise **\$2,000.00 during October/November**. One potential project they have identified is support to help fund the work of the young man below that Matthew is training. So far we have raised just over \$1000.

Matthew’s department was recently able to hire Louis Pascal, a Cameroonian, to work with him in Language Technology. As the Lee’s look toward their next furlough, Matthew is training Louis Pascal to help bridge the gap while Matthew and Teresa are home, and to free them to do additional translation work. Over the past few months Louis Pascal has been helping Matthew translate training materials into French, doing research, and helping to facilitate workshops. Louis Pascal already plays a major and rewarding part in bringing the Bible to the people of Cameroon. Currently Louis Pascal’s project is currently funded at 60%. It is used to pay Louis Pascal’s salary and provide for his materials, travel, and training.

Would you consider helping to support Language Technology (and Matthew) for this special project?

Make your gifts payable to First Presbyterian Church. Mark them for Wycliffe. We will forward all the funds that are raised at the end of November. Contact Art Carter if you have any questions.



As we approach the month of November, my thoughts turn more and more to the holiday of Thanksgiving. This is such a special time, when friends and family make an extra effort to spend time together. Often families may share some of what they are grateful for during this time together.

I am reminded that we are commanded to “give thanks in all things”. It is when we have gratitude in our hearts that we are less judgmental of others, we see the world with “rose colored glasses”.

I know for me, it is often hard to see and be grateful for my trials, but I know that even in times of trials and hardship, we should turn to God in gratitude; it is with hind-sight that we can see the blessings that came to us from those trials and hard times. So we should be grateful for the growth we are about to

receive. Never in the scriptures do we read about how easy life is, but we do know that through our struggles and trials we grow stronger, and often those times bring us closer to our Father in Heaven. In this season when thoughts of Thanksgiving draw nearer to all, I pray to make a habit of finding the silver lining even in the midst of the dark and gray clouds. I saw an exercise that I think would be fun... Take the alphabet and come up with a list of something we are grateful for, for each letter.

I know I need to work more on having an Attitude of Gratitude. The story of the ten lepers is a great example, and perhaps very typical of human kind. We want and need to be healed, and pray for that healing, and then after receiving the blessings and healing we walk away. Taking time to remember to return and give thanks helps us to be humble, and more open to spiritual blessings and promptings to do those things our Father in Heaven wants for us. Oh, to be more like the one, than the nine.

~ Sherolyn



Congregational Meetings—Both meetings after 11 worship -
November 5- To elect remainder of Nominating Committee. There will be two elders, one deacon appointed by their respective bodies, and a majority elected by the congregation.

November 19- To hear budget, approve Pastor’s terms of call, and elect officers.

November 5 will be the kickoff for our annual stewardship drive. Please be in prayer about how God has blessed you and how you can be a part of this important effort to support the church and honor Your Lord.

Stewardship Note- This is an important year for stewardship at First Presbyterian. The many vital ministries here depend on your prayers and support. Read carefully the stewardship packet that will be coming your way this week. This is not business as usual in a world which needs the life-giving powerful witness that we can give.

November 19 will be Stewardship Dedication Sunday. On that day we will celebrate God’s blessings to us and our tithe and offering pledges for the coming year.



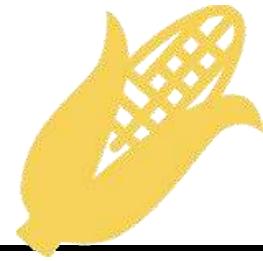
Advent- As we approach Christmas this year, we begin the season of Advent, starting four Sundays before Christmas, on December 3. Be in prayer for the Advent worship times, Christmas ministries, and the Chancel Choir Cantata which will happen on Sunday morning December 17. Christmas Eve morning will be a special worship time for us, and the Christmas Eve Evening Candlelight Service, at 5 pm, is always a highlight!



November 20
 7:00 pm—Diaconate
 7:30 pm — Elders Meeting



Weekly Happenings
Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am
Praise Team Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Women’s Bible Study—Thursday at 10:30 am
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	30 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	31 12 Noon AA	1 November 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	2 10:30 am—Case For Christ-Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	3 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	4 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
5 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	6 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	7 ELECTION DAY 10:30 Ladies Circle 12 noon NA	8 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	9 10:30 am—Case For Christ-Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	10 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	11 NA—Women's Group 12—1
12 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	13 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	14 12 noon NA	15 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	16 10:30 am—Case For Christ-Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	17 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	18 NA—Women's Group 12—1
19 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	20 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders 	21 12 noon NA 7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service	22 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	23 	24 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	25 NA—Women's Group 12—1
26 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	27 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 	28 12 Noon AA	29 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	30 10:30 am—Case For Christ-Study 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	December 1 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	December 2 NA—Women's Group 12—1

Decorating Party



3 Norma Henderson	6 Sam Smith	7 Susan Wilkinson
8 Jim Albert	10 Sarah McCollum	11 Irene Smith*
11 Matthew Bain	12 Bruce Wilkins	13 Kim Wickemeyer
13 Sarah Bush	14 Bob Hughes	16 Peggy Burton
20 Russell Lee	21 Andrew Ferguson	22 Ann Dellacona
23 Debbie Ferguson	23 Jean Long	26 Pat Hay
26 Charles VanDuser	27 Maelyn Freshour	28 Mike Marvin
30 Barry Roberts	30 Kathy Debiec	



October Session Report

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

1. Prepared for serving communion on October 1.
2. Approved a baptism for Wyatt Barczak on November 5.
3. Shared congregational notes and prayed for church members.
4. Heard updates on new playground.
5. Heard updates on columbarium and veterans memorial projects.
6. Heard updates on new church sign.
7. Set next communion for Dec. 24 am service.
8. Heard missionary reports.
9. Approved minutes.
10. Approved Stewardship plans.
11. Approved financial report.
12. Closed with prayer.



Virtual Poinsettias Ministry—The holidays are quickly approaching

Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettia flowers, and folks are given the opportunity to donate them in honor or in memory of loved ones. We will purchase a certain number, but any number of virtual poinsettias may be given. The cost this year is \$25 per poinsettia. Dollars above the actual cost will be used to help buy wreaths and garlands for outside the church, and the rest will be given to a local charity. Forms will be distributed in the next Newsletter and available at Church during December.

First Presbyterian Church
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