

# First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

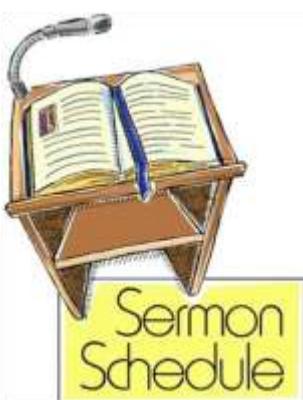
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dear First Folks,

As we enter the fall, we are blessed by your prayers and presence in worship. Many thanks for the person God has made you to be, and for the fact that you are a part of First Presbyterian Church in southern Virginia! Take a look at new beginnings in your life for you and your family, and take new steps which help us grow in spirit and number and grace. There are many opportunities to pray and act in the following pages. Always remember, no matter the other very important things going on in your life, God ranks first. He loves with a love that is higher than any love. He created us with marvelous attributes, helps us daily to find miracles and new adventures, and will take us to the blessing of heaven one day. God's blessings to You on this marvelous time in the history of God's people.

In Christ,

~Russell



## September 2

**Sermon: "Every Perfect Gift"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27**

## September 9

**Sermon: "Doing Everything Well"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 125; Mark 7:24-37**

## September 16

**Sermon: "Me and My Big Mouth"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 19; James 3:1-12**

## September 23

**Sermon: "The Greatest"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 1; Mark 9:30-37**

## September 30

**Sermon: "He Prayed Again"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 124; James 5:13-20**

## October 7

**Sermon: "In These Last Days!"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12**

## October 14

**Sermon: "One Thing You Lack"**

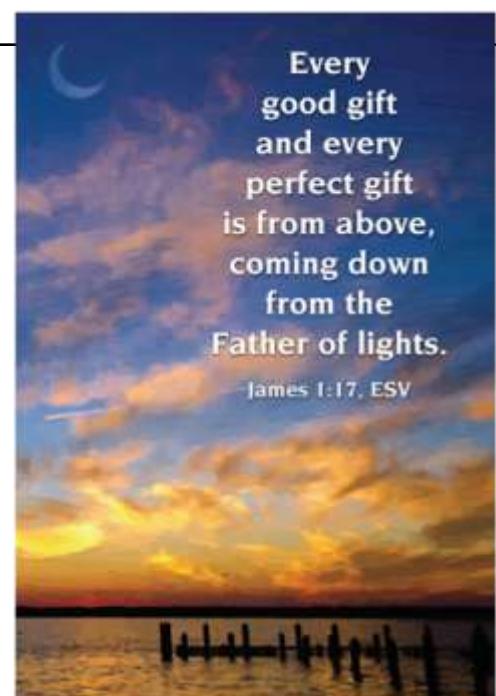
**Scriptures: Psalm 22:1-14; Mark 10:17-31**

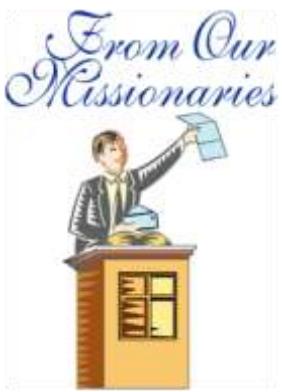
## **From Trials to Triumphs**

British evangelist Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947) was impoverished and illiterate during childhood. He also stammered, which embarrassed him greatly. When he married a Salvation Army preacher, she taught him how to read using the Bible.

Wigglesworth recognized that all the adversities he'd faced were key to his ministry's effectiveness. "Great faith is the product of great fights," he said. "Great testimonies are the outcome of great tests. Great triumphs can only come out of great trials."

(NewsletterNewsletter.com)





## Paul and Reinhild Sydnor

(A Presbyterian Ministry)

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**Our Mission**—We help asylum-seekers and refugees survive and recover from forced displacement in Lille, France. In addition, we connect to other church communities in the region to build networks and raise awareness.

**Centre Update**—Currently the Lille team is renting a small room as a temporary ministry space. In March 2018, the leader of the “France pour Christ” church plant in Lille contacted us to contribute funding toward the purchase of a church building. In return, IAFR will use space in the building as a ministry centre for asylum seekers and refugees. IAFR’s refugee work in Lille will be benefited in many ways by expanding its ministry into the church facility. It connects the team directly to a local church and it brings the cultural and administrative expertise needed for such a large project.

**Financial Commitment**—Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for the initial start of the centre. Thanks to our generous donors, as of summer, 2018, we have received \$9,219.00.

We have agreed to contribute approx. \$12,000 toward the renovation cost of the building in exchange, we will be able to use the building during the week for ministry activities. Any remaining funds will be used for specific set-up costs that IAFR will have in the centre. To reach our goal we still need approximately \$6650. ~ Paul Sydnor



**Next Steps**—September thru December—help with basic renovation steps to make the building useable (new floor, roof, entrance doors, wiring, plumbing, heating, interior rooms). January - Begin ministry activities.

**Involvement & Need** - Besides the financial contribution we would like to help with the renovation and we need work teams. Please contact paul@iafr.org about your involvement or interest in sending a work team, as well as any other questions related to the ministry centre.

~ Paul & Reinhild Sydnor and family



**Young Adult Ministry** - The session is launching a Young Adult Ministry effort this fall, to be a blessing to our current “young adults” and to others who might join us. Fellowship, study, and blessing times will be forthcoming. We are planning to hire a person who will facilitate that ministry and possibly lead youth ministry as well. A gathering will be planned for September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at a place TBA. This is for everyone from age 19 through around 45, even beyond, and several groups may arise out of this. Be in prayer for focused ministry to these vital and busy folks!

**Operation G.R.O.W. Notecards**— We have the G.R.O.W. notecards available for member to pick up to send out to neighbors, friends, or anyone that may need an invitation to attend a church. So many these days do not attend any church, and we'd love to help them to come to know the Lord, and grow as a church at the same time. Stacks of 5 cards have been bundled together, use them, and feel free to ask for more as needed.



**RALLY DAY!** - September 9—We will begin with worship at 9am, a full breakfast at 9:30 am, our Sunday School Program in the Fellowship hall at 10:15 am, and worship at 11 am. Sunday School Classes and teachers for all ages will be ready to share the word of God each Sunday morning. Make sure to be here on that day, and make an extra special effort to commit to what God can teach us all this year!

**Pray for our Schools Sunday** - On September 16, 2018, Moms in Prayer International is sponsoring “Bless Our Schools Sunday” a time for churches around the world to pray for the students, teachers and school staff in their own congregations. First Presbyterian will have a special prayer moment on this day to join this effort. God will surely hear and be pleased at the unity. More information is available at [www.MomsinPrayer.org](http://www.MomsinPrayer.org).

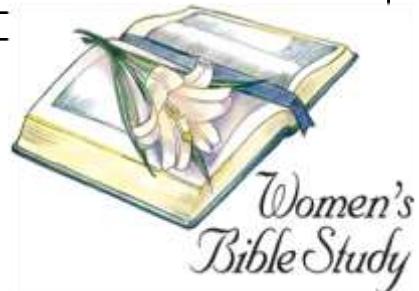




**Ladies Circle** - Beginning Tuesday, September 4th. We will meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Philethea room at 10:30 am. Ginny Troy will be leading our group for this first class. We will have light refreshments offered. Invite friends and neighbors to attend this group with you.

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**Women's Bible Study** - Our Thursday women's Bible study will be starting back up on Thursday, September 20th at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying *The Invisible War* by Chip Ingram. "The Bible clearly teaches us that Satan is on a mission to destroy God's people. And the problem is, Satan doesn't telegraph his temptations and schemes. Instead, he's very secretive as he attempts to lead Christians down a delicate, subtle, gradual path of deception." In this eight part series, we will see what God has to say about Satan's goals and tactics, the spiritual armor God offers us, and the confidence we can have about our sure victory over the enemy." Please plan to join us and invite others.



#### Rogation Service on October 07

We are looking forward to another Rogation service. We plan to have it on Sunday, October 7th at 3:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to have friends and neighbors come out and join us so we can bless their crops and animals. Bring some pickings from your crops and your four legged friends to be blessed. Let's make this a year to remember!

#### Pig Pickin' In October

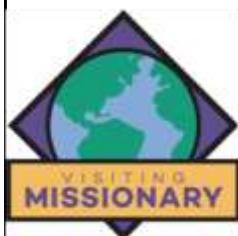
The planning will soon be underway for our annual Pig Pickin' for late October or early November. We have been blessed to have the picnic shelter area, and this will be a great opportunity to invite friends and family members to join us with some fun, food, and fellowship under the picnic shelter. We will have many outdoor activities available for the kids and adults (ex: soccer, football, volleyball, and corn-hole).

We will plan to eat under the picnic shelter, but the Fellowship Hall will be available as well.



We will begin to collect items for The Good Samaritan in September. As Fall and Winter approach their needs increase. We just reached out to them to find out what items they are in short supply. They asked for three items: Canned meats, peanut butter and Large Men's shoes. We appreciate all the help and donations. The Good Sam box is in the main lobby, and ready to accept any donations as they come in.

**Memorial Garden** -The Columbarium and Veteran's Memorial and their settings beside the church are near completion. They will bookend a place to gather in quiet meditation, and for some to rest eternally as our souls are with God in heaven. Stop by to see what a beautiful place it is. Planting of grass and shrubbery will happen soon. Dedication time will be on Veteran's Day, November 11, right after 11 am worship. Opportunities to make small and large contributions to this project are available. We will be sending more information to you by mail soon.



**Missionary News**— Most of our missionaries are in the U.S on Home Assignment. During this time they are still working for their ministry and still need our support, both in prayer and funding. We're planning a Missionary Weekend, November 18, where some of the missionaries will be here to speak and share their experiences. More details will follow as date and information becomes available. Mark your calendars for this special Sunday.

**Upper Rooms—September/October** issue now available, come get your copy while we have them available.



Jesus Prays  
in Gethsemane

Mark 14:32-34

## Repent Ye and be Perfected

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We are commanded to be "perfect even as (our) Father which is in heaven is perfect" Matthew 5:48. We are commanded to keep the commandments. In Isaiah 1:16 we are told to "cease to do evil".

Most of us can say we are "perfect" in keeping some commandments (ie: not killing, stealing, etc); but if we are honest with ourselves, how many really keep all 10 commandments all the time? Keeping the Sabbath day holy, and completely for the Lord, isn't something I've perfected.

So, this brings me to my main topic for this month. As I mentioned last month, faith is the first principle of the gospel. So now we'll discuss the second, which is repentance. Since we are told in the scriptures that "no unclean thing may enter into the kingdom of God", we would have a

problem if it were not for the gift of repentance. God gave us this gift to help us through our life. Since we all sin and become unclean, it is only through repentance that we can be cleansed and purified and perfected to meet the requirement of heaven. Christ says in Matt. 4:17 "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". We are also told: "By this ye may know if a man repented of his sins-behold, he will confess them and forsake them."

Repentance is such a vital part of life as a Christian. It's hard to separate faith and repentance, because we need faith to have a desire to repent, and to trust we will be forgiven. We need to repent to grow in faith, spirituality, and most important to return to our Father in Heaven; since we cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven if we are wicked. As we come before the Lord with broken hearts and contrite spirits for the wrongs we have done, Christ's atonement pays the price, and we are made pure and clean. But without repentance His atonement would be for naught. The Lord knew we couldn't completely follow Christ's example and be perfect, we sin every day, but as we repent we are forgiven over and over again. In the dictionary we learn that repentance is changing and turning our hearts to the will of God. I find peace knowing as Lynn G Robbins said "Repentance isn't His (God's) backup plan in the event we might fail. Repentance **is** His plan, knowing that we will." What a marvelous promise we find in the scriptures "Behold he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more." Because the Lord loves us He is "long-suffering" and will continue to forgive us, as we repent with real intent to change. ~ Sherolyn

**Women's Heart Health** - Dr. Srinivasan from Sentara Halifax Heart Center is coming out to speak to women in the community regarding heart health. This will take place at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints church building on Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00 pm. There will be a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served. Come find out how to stay heart healthy and enjoy some heart healthy snacks.



**AED**— Our Zoll AED (Defibrillator) has arrived and will soon be placed outside the Sanctuary doors so that it will be available to use as needed. If anyone would be willing to receive training to operate this, please let us know. The one we have has clear instructions and will not operate unless the heart has stopped. It is fully automatic, so no previous knowledge or experience is necessary, just follow prompts as directed by the unit. We will plan some trainings and instruction to those interested.

**SHRH Clothes Closet**—Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital is starting a new program to help hospital patients. Some patients come in, perhaps after an accident or other reasons, where they have to have clothes cut off and/or destroyed, and sometimes these people do not have family that can bring them clothes to wear. They are looking for donations to help provide these folks with clothing. They are looking for new items (sweats, t-shirts, socks, under garments) of various sizes. If you can help with this new endeavor by providing new items or funds, please contact Leigh Moore, Hospital Volunteer coordinator at 572-3422.





# September 2018



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

August 26 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	August 27 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	August 28 12 Noon NA	August 29 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	August 30 <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	August 31 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	Sept. 1 NA12-1
2 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	3 <b>LABOR Day</b> Office Closed	4 <b>10:30 am - Ladies Circle</b> 12 noon NA	5 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	6 <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	7 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	8 NA 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
10 <b>RALLY DAY!</b>	10 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	11 C J O P H N O R T H F T A R D O R I G I N 9/11 REMEMBRANCE	12 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	13 <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	14 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	15 NA 12—1
16 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	17 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA <b>7:00 pm Deacons</b> <b>7:30 pm Elders</b>	18 12 noon NA	19 12 noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	20 <b>10:30 am Women's Bible Study begins</b> <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	21 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	22 NA 12—5
23 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	24 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	25 12 noon NA <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	26 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	27 <b>10:30 am Women's Bible Study</b> <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	28 <b>9 am Bulletins and Newsletters</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	29 NA12—1
30 <b>5 cents a meal</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm 6 pm NA	October 1 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	October 2 <b>10:30 am - Ladies Circle</b> 12 noon NA	October 3 12 noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	October 4 <b>10:30 am Women's Bible Study</b> <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	October 5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	October 6 NA12—1



- 1 Mike Koch
- 6 Connie Marvin
- 6 Salli Pool
- 7 Connie Cox \*
- 8 Harman Saunders
- 8 Michaella Freshour
- 8 Doris Koch
- 9 Joanie Cranford
- 10 Sam Lewis
- 10 Julianna Berry
- 10 Carole Woodward

11 Tommy Wilkinson

14 Matthew Lee

16 Eric Roberts

17 George Burton

18 Dylan Berry

18 Jeremy Luedtke

19 Paul Nichols

21 Tee Godbold

21 Courtland Thackston

22 Mike Freshour

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

\* in memory

24 Grace McAbee

24 Parker Harrell

25 Joe Ferguson

26 Fred Collins

28 Shirley Blackmon\*

29 Latane' Saunders Schwabe

29 Susan Chandler





## August Session Report

Since the last newsletter the Session has in their monthly and other meetings:

1. Prepared for and served communion.
2. Heard updates on operation G.R.O.W. Notes for members to mail next step.
3. Heard a devotional on giving things to Jesus by Sandi Hughes.
4. Noted and entered into record deaths of Ann Edmunds and Martha Thompson.  
(Dates 7/27/2018 and August 7, 2018)
5. Looked at plans for Fall Sunday School. Rally Day will be September 9.
6. Perfected a Young Adult Ministry plan.
7. Heard a Presbytery Report from Smith Mountain Lake meeting by Dr. Lee
8. Heard tentative plans for Good Samaritan outreach in September.
9. Heard updates on property matters including lights and water for picnic shelter and painting of playground equipment.
10. Approved balance sheet and minutes.
11. Set next Communion for August 7.
12. Heard updates on website plans and AED training and placement.
13. Heard that Matthew and Teresa Lee will speak at worship on September 23.



### September 17

7:00 pm - Deacons 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

First Presbyterian Church  
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