

First Presbyterian News

1

C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, D. Min
pastor@1stpres.cc
Sherolyn Barnett, Admin. Asst
secretary@1stpres.cc
Chris Jones, Choir Director
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton
Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/firstpressobo
Website: 1stpres.cc

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

Dear First Folks,

This note is a little longer than the usual hello each month. Members should have received my letter about the joy of being a pastor and information about my retirement in November. I am so thankful for the chance to be the pastor here for the last twenty nine years, and am ready to make the transition to retirement. They say ministers never retire, they just go out to "pastor", and I suspect that is true. Ministry is in my blood, anoints my heart, and I am so glad for the blessings we have had together, and the ones we shall have as we journey to November and beyond.

Thank you for your faith and love, and for the wonders God has done in you. You are truly each a treasure, and together a treasure trove of God's blessings! I will continue full time ministry here until then, and urge you all to find the blessings we can find here at First Presbyterian now and in the future.



There is much to do to get ready, and the officers are working hard to do the things which make a smooth transition and get on the road to finding a new pastor in the new year. Please ask the elders or me if you have any questions, and be in prayer for God's wonderful work here.

In Christ,

~Russell



June 2- Communion

Sermon: "Time for a Prayer Meeting"
Scriptures: Psalm 97 ; Acts 16:16-34

June 9 - Day of Pentecost

Sermon: "The Lord's Great and Glorious Day"
Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21

June 16 - Father's Day

Sermon: "Access to His Grace"
Scriptures: Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5

June 23

Sermon: "Now that Faith Has Come"
Scriptures: Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29

June 30

Sermon: "The Mantle of Elijah"
Scriptures: Psalm 77:1-2, 11-202; Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

July 7

Sermon: "To Every Town and Place"
Scriptures: Psalm 66:1-9 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14

Sermon: "A Neighbor"
Scriptures: Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 10:25-37





Persecution Project

2

(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

May 20, 2019 -If you're paying attention to the news coming out of Sudan, you will know that there is a big question mark on what kind of "permanent" government will end up ruling the country.

As of this writing, Sudan is still controlled by a military council of Islamists who are no friends of religious freedom, or any other freedoms for that matter.

As a result, the Nuba mountains region, home to one of the largest Christian communities in Sudan, is still cut off from the outside world. The people are still living in famine conditions. It is still considered a crime to bring in any relief to the suffering.

But the good news is that Persecution Project is still there.

We're there because of your faithful and active compassion for our brothers and sisters.

I just received some new photos from the field showing the PPF team repairing more broken well pumps in the Nuba.

"Water is life" as the saying goes. More than 80% of all disease in the Nuba is waterborne. Consequently, every safe water well is literally a life-saver.

As someone who has contributed generously towards our Safe Water Program, I wanted to share this encouraging news with you.

Our teams have repaired more than 637 broken wells in the Nuba. Each well is often the only clean water source for up to 1,000 people and livestock.

This means your giving is literally saving lives of man and beast, and showing the love of Christ, the Living Water, to a community desperately in need of good news and good friends.

Thank you for being a friend to the persecuted. I've enclosed some of the pictures from our well repair team to encourage and remind you to continue praying for these brave folks who are an extension of your heart and hands in the Sudan.



Sincerely,

Matt Chancey, Founding Director



Blue Hymnals - The old Presbyterian Hymnals, edition 1990, which have been removed from the church to make room for our new ones are looking for a good home. If you would like one, or know of a church that could use one, Please let us know. We will glad to deliver!



Ladies Circle – We are on break for the Summer. See you all again in September. We have really enjoyed our discussions, our guest speakers, and each one who came out to participate in these discussions and enjoying the fellowship/friendship. Have a great Summer.

Women's Bible Study - We are on Summer break, but look forward to a great new study this fall. We will begin in September, and will be learning and reading from the book of Genesis. We are looking forward to many who will help teach so we can all learn from different perspectives. Watch for more information as September nears. In the mean time enjoy the Summer and be safe.



Thank you note from Meredith Howell.

Dear Pastor Lee and Congregation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the generous scholarship donation. I have enjoyed being a part of the church family and treasure the friendships I have made. Love, Meredith.

Summer Kick-Off Picnic and Mission Team Fundraiser -

Thanks to all who were a part of the fundraiser hot dog dinner! Thanks to the deacons and team members, and to all who helped. So far over \$600 dollars has been raised for the mission effort. As shared with the session at their last meeting, the team will travel to the Richwood, West Virginia area to do poverty and disaster relief. We look forward to continuing the strong relationships we have established there, and are grateful for the respect of our leaders and the thanksgiving of the recipients of your ministry.



Summer Mission Trip - The Summer Mission Trip is in the planning stages! The dates are July 28 - August 3. The Mission Team is always looking for people who want to try a new experience. There are only two requirements - a love for the Lord and a desire to serve His people. No special skills are needed - there is a job for every one. Partial week stays can usually be arranged. To get on board or more information, contact Kim Albert - 434-579-5011 or kalbert@ntelos.net.

Summer Choir - Hello everyone,

I hope you're ready to do some singing this summer. We will begin our weekly rehearsals for our Summer Community Choir on Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 at First Baptist Church. We will either have the concert on Sunday, Aug 4 or Sunday, Aug 11, depending on everyone's availability. Please respond and let me know which of those dates work best for you. I hope to see EACH of you on June 11. If you have friends or fellow church choir members that sing, please invite them to join us.



Thanks,

Susan Davis



In a world where chaos abounds, we could certainly use some great heroes. Who are your heroes? Who our heroes are, is a choice, I'd like to propose that many of the best heroes we could look to emulate are ready at our fingertips, if we turn to the scriptures? As a child I learned a song teaching to follow the prophets. They certainly should be our heroes.

Let's look at just a few heroes we know of: Noah was a prophet, he was called preach repentance, but no one would listen. They were busy sinning – Noah preached in vain. I'm certain when the rain fell for days, wished they had listened. Another hero is Jonah, who was also a prophet; he tried to run away from the Lord, but later learned that is impossible, he realized he must obey. Daniel, too, was a prophet, he refused to sin by taking the meat and wine the King provided. He knew if he followed his beliefs God would provide and protect him. He stood up for his beliefs even though it meant he'd be punished and thrown into the lion's den, he did not falter. The Lord protected him. Esther, too, is a hero. She knew that going before the king could be dangerous and feared for her life, but she put her faith and her love for her people first. The scriptures are full of great people who made mistakes, yet the Lord found ways to build them up and work with them to help teach, lead, and/or deliver His people.

Noah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther, and many others learned that when we listen and do as we are commanded, the Lord will not let us fail. All these stories show the love of God for His people, and that He will help provide safety and many blessings when we live as He commands. We have the scriptures to help us know stories of those who lived before, and so we can learn by their examples. The heroes of the scriptures teach us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. (Prov. 3:5-6.) I love the scriptures and the prophets who wrote them to guide us and teach us by their example. I pray the world will realize where to find their heroes, and choose heroes wisely, and follow the teachings of the prophets. ~ Sherolyn



A Note from Sherolyn: To my First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you all for the many prayers, calls, and visits during my hospital stay and as I continue to recover from my fall and injuries. I am so grateful to count you all as friends and family. I feel your love and support as I grow stronger each day. I was in a great deal of pain before surgery, but afterwards the pain has been very minimal. I am grateful I can do some of the work from home, but look forward to being able to be back at work as soon as I can. I will not be able to walk, or put weight on my leg for a couple months, but at least I am now working on bending my knee and can see major improvements each day.

Thank you again for all your love, prayers and support of me through the past years, and especially now during this time of trial. Love, Sherolyn

Secretary Update - Sherolyn is able to do finances for church, bulletins, newsletters at home. Please email her at her church email address (secretary@1stpres.cc) when you need to communicate.





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

26 5 cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	27 Office Closed 	28 12 noon NA	29 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	30 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	31 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	June 1 NA12—1
2 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	3 6pm NA	4 12 noon NA	5 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	6 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 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
9 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	10 6pm NA	11 12 noon NA	12 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	13 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	14 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	15 NA 12—1
1  Happy Father's Day!	17 6pm NA 7:30 pm Elders	18 12 noon NA 	19 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	20 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	21 9 am Bulletins & Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	22 NA 12—1
23 5 cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	24 6pm NA	25 12 noon NA	26 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	27 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	28 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	29 NA12—1
30 5 cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	July 1 6pm NA	July 2 12 noon NA	July 3 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA		July 5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	July 6 NA 12—1



- 1 Laylo Ridgeway
- 1 Lorene Womble Gilliam
- 3 Deborah Lesnik
- 4 Corinne Williams
- 6 Carol Foster
- 6 Janet Adams
- 6 Catesby Saunders
- 7 Katy Temple Nelson
- 9 Paul Edmunds
- 12 Ken Cochran



- 12 Lauren Henderson
- 12 Jennifer Lee Miller
- 13 Robert Guthrie
- 16 Veronica Raney
- 20 Carol-Ann Lawson
- 20 Scott Carter
- 21 Eliza Dillard
- 24 John Lesnik
- 26 Jack Morgan
- 29 Grace T. Seat

* In Memory

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





May Session Report

Session Notes: Since the last newsletter, the session has

1. Heard reports of improvements to the property. New flat roof installed.
2. Heard updates on security.
3. Heard updates on updating the website.
4. Prayed for members of the congregation.
5. Received information on the Summer Mission Trip
6. Met jointly with the deacons for pastor to share transition letter and schedules.
7. Approved minutes from last meetings.
8. Took care of other matters as needed.



Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: TBA
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

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

PRSRT
 US Postage Paid
 Permit #15
 South Boston, VA

Here is your June 2019 Newsletter