

# First Presbyterian News

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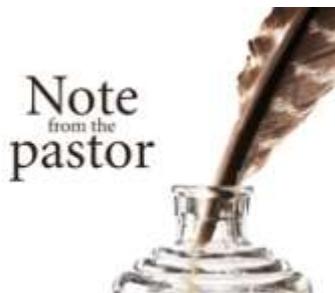
C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, D. Min  
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secretary@1stpres.cc  
Chris Jones, Choir Director  
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton  
Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader



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

434-572-3581



Dear First Folks,

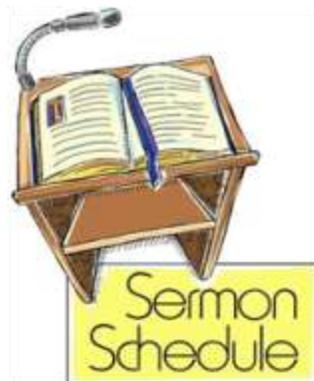
Sunday School is a really important time of our lives. Learning about God's word and gathering together with other Christians, whether as an adult or child is a key component of our faith growth. As we approach the fall, try to make plans to be a part of Sunday School as well as worship on a regular basis.

This is a very important time in the life of First Presbyterian Church, and I pray that you become more active and grow much in the grace of our Lord in the next chapter of faith. I am thinking and praying about each of you daily, and urge you to step forward so the church can be strong as I move toward retirement in November, and the church gets ready to call a new pastor. Thank you for the blessings you have been to me over the years, and I look forward to a few more in the time we have left together as pastor and laity.



In Christ,

~Russell



## **August 4**

**Sermon:** "This Very Night"

**Scriptures:** Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Luke 12:13-21

## **August 11**

**Sermon:** "Faith for the Future"

**Scriptures:** Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

## **August 18**

**Sermon:** "That Great Cloud of Witnesses!"

**Scriptures:** Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2

## **August 25**

**Sermon:** "The Real Sabbath!"

**Scriptures:** Psalm 103:1-8; Luke 13:10-17

## **September 1**

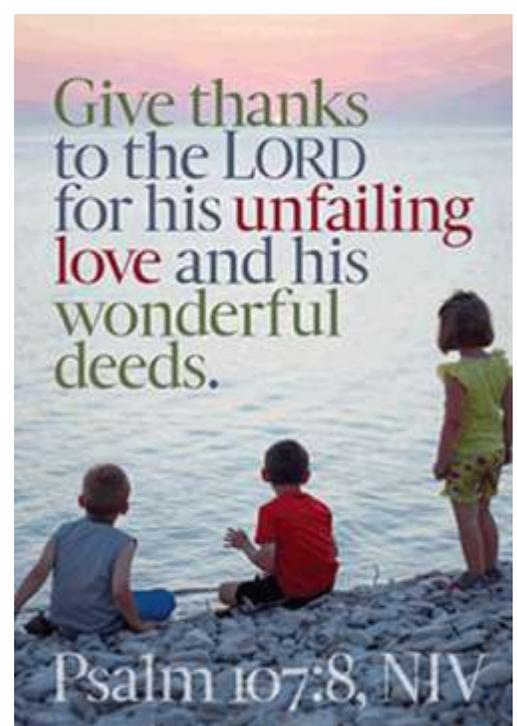
**Sermon:** "The Place of Honor"

**Scriptures:** Psalm 112; Luke 14:1, 7-14

## **September 8**

**Sermon:** "Take Up Your Cross"

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 18:1-11 Luke 14:25-33





## Paul and Reinhild Sydnor

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(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

For many years we have supported Paul and Reinhild Sydnor of IAFR (International Association for Refugees) as they work with the refugees in Lille, France. I wanted to share with you an overview of this ministry. To learn more about the work of this organization

check out their website at [www.iafr.org](http://www.iafr.org). ~ Don Cherry

Overview: We help asylum seekers and refugees survive and recover from forced displacement in Lille, France. Asylum seekers come to Northern France often in route to Great Britain. Those in Lille, have usually made a decision to stay and the application process for asylum can last several years. "We want a community that offers hope and strength for the soul" ~ Paul Sydnor

We encourage supportive relationships between refugees, local church members and community groups. We connect with like-minded groups in the region and we raise awareness. We offer activities to build resilience and strengthen faith. We reflect together with refugees on their experiences, life goal and decision as they prepare for the next stage of their journey.



Across the region and even in Lille, many of these men, women and children are forced to sleep in the rough and on the streets. France takes a hardline approach in its immigration policy and offers very little infra-structure to provide for the needs of asylum seekers. This increases the vulnerability of people and diverts attention away from the needs related to personal and spiritual well-being.

The IAFR centre gives a place to build community and strengthen faith. It provides a welcoming space for refugees, volunteers and teammates to meet, encourage and serve one another.

July 2019 - Our work among refugees is built on the confidence that God uses the movement of forced displacement to build a people for himself. This update highlights some ways we have seen God's movements in our life and ministry.

Last year I told of a family that was struggling to live and all they had gone through. A month ago they were accepted for asylum into France. I then helped him move into a new room. He is waiting for his family to join him and begin their life in France.



In April a new family arrived as new teammates. They have found a house and are learning French. They will give practical help both to IAFR centre as well as for our partners.

These are just a few glimpses of how God is on the move in our life and ministry. There is so much more...Reinhild is moving slowly in her healing. Tessa is moving to Germany to teach third culture kids...

Where and how is God moving you?

Thank you for your parts in all of this.

Paul and Reinhild

**Congratulations!** - We want to congratulate Maelyn Freshour for her dedication and determination to her school work. She earned the top GPA awards in English, Science and Math. Way to go Maelyn! She also received an award for having all A's on her report card. We love those who want to learn, and commend her for her dedication to studying. Knowledge is the only thing we can take with us when we leave, and this dedication will serve Maelyn well in her future.

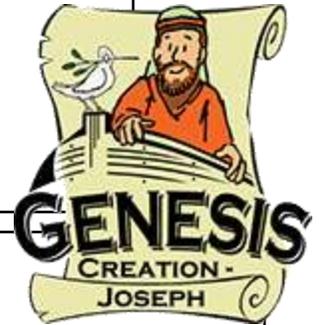




Women's Bible Study

**Women's Bible Study** - We will begin our study again on Thursday, September 12 at 10:30 am. Mark your calendar! We will be studying Genesis, and are excited to have many who have volunteered to lead the classes. We will have question to consider and aid in your study. Our group has been growing and would love to have even more come out and study with us.

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Women's Circles



**Women's Circle** - Meeting the Second Tuesday this time. September 10. at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room.

Ginny Troy will lead the class. Mark your calendar to come out. We will have a lesson from the book that we were studying last year.

Refreshments will be available.

**Rally Day** - September 8, 2019 - 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!



**Community Choir** Performance Scheduled August 11 at 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church. A special feature of the concert this year will be a phenomenal arrangement of "It is Well with My Soul", which has been commissioned in memory of Bob Davis, who played the organ for this choir each summer. It was his favorite hymn. A number of First Pres. Folks are singing in this performance, mark your calendar and plan to come out to support them, and enjoy the music.



Truth

**6 Truths to Encourage You During Pastoral Transition ~ by Ben Simpson**

The church has moved into a time of transition, and members feel like they've had the wind knocked out. He has loved them, fed them, and protected them. He has doctored their wounds and rejoiced when they rejoiced. But now this man is moving away, and sadness and discouragement well up. I simply want to share six biblical truths.

- 1. God will be with this church at all times.** You are not forsaken. God is with your congregation. "I will never leave your or forsake you," (Heb 13:5). Pastors will come and go. Only God will never leave us. And the presence of God is more vital to the life of the church
- 2. God is in control.** God "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Eph. 1:11). Do you believe that? This pastoral transition is not happening outside of the will of God. God is working this according to the counsel of his will. So the question is not, "Who is in control?" God is in control. The question is, "Will you rest in him by trusting him?"
- 3. God plans good out of this transition.** It might not feel good right now, but God has promised that he works all things together for the good of his people (Rom 8:28). Is your church part of his people? If so, this transition is included in "all things"? Therefore, you can rest assured that good will come from it. That's how awesome God is: even those things that don't feel good are used for good. It might not be the good you have in mind, but it is good. Therefore, walk forward in faith.
- 4. It's okay to weep.** While good will come out this pastoral transition, that doesn't remove the deep sadness. Losing your pastor hurts. I'm reminded of how the Ephesian elders wept at Paul's goodbye: "And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship" (Acts 20:36-38).

(Continued on page 4)



## “What Are You Thinking?”

I was listening to a couple talk the other day, and one stood out, I'd listened to it before, and really liked it. There was a story that a young married man, who was a truck driver, decided to take his wife and young son on a trip with him. This was back before seat belts. As they drove smoke started to fill the cabin, and he began to pull over. Before the truck came to a complete stop the wife, holding the young child in her arms, jumped out of the truck and rolled several times on the ground. Once the truck was completely

stopped the man got out ran to his wife and son, finding she had only a few bruises, and their son was fine, he asked “What in the world were you thinking?” She replied she was just trying to save their child. They both saw the smoke differently. He knew it was an electrical problem, easily fixed. She thought the truck was on fire, and would explode.

This story reminds me of the many times we can experience an event or situation with others, and often there are differences in the way the event is retold. We can often feel “justified” in our belittling another because their recollection differs from ours. Or wonder “What are you thinking for doing such a ‘foolish’ thing. But we do not know what is going on with others. Everyone’s perspective is different. But Paul warned “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” ~ Ephesians 4:29.

When I fell/jumped from my truck, my husband who had asked me not to take the trash without him, also could have questioned me “What were you thinking?” often in times like this we may backlash out at others because they didn’t listen, or saw things differently. I am grateful that though I know my husband wanted to say “Why didn’t you listen?” or “I told you so” he, instead, was patient and loving in my time of sorrow and need. There are times in all our lives that we speak, often well intentioned, but with harsh words. It is my prayer that we can all take Paul’s council and try harder to edify and uplift others when we speak. I know I need to work harder on listening to wise council, and not be so hard-headed, thinking I can do anything. I know the Lord was watching over me, and trying to keep me safe, but I wouldn’t listen. I also, am grateful for loving words spoken in my time of need and all the prayers offered in my behalf. If we work harder to see through each other’s eyes we can change our communication so that we too “minister grace unto the hearer”.~ *Sherolyn*



### 6 Truths to Encourage... continued

4: I believe the Ephesians knew that God would be with them, that he was in control, and that he was going to bring good out of this transition. Nevertheless, they wept. And it's okay to weep. It's actually a way of saying thank you to both God and your pastor.

5. **Ministry must go on.** Notice what the Great Commission does not say, “Go therefore and make disciples . . . if you have a pastor.”



One church that I used to work with lost their pastor. When I'd call their lay leaders about a ministry opportunity, their answer was always, “Well, you see, we just don't have a pastor right now.” They had forgotten that ministry must continue in the interim. The Great Commission doesn't include any conditionals.

Does ministry become a bit harder without a pastor leading? Probably so, but if he was a good pastor, he will have obeyed Ephesians 4:11-12 by equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. In the interim, you and the lay leadership of the church must make sure ministry continues. Get to work.

6. **The Church must not scatter.** Jesus promised the flock would scatter at his crucifixion (Matt. 26:31). For a season, that's exactly what happened. The same often happens in churches during pastoral transition. Because “their” pastor is no longer there or ministry begins to lag, folks trickle out. Some reasons for going might be legitimate, but this may also be the time in which the congregation should most strongly gather together for support and encouragement.

Recognize the temptation to scatter and work more diligently to stay bound together in unity and love. This will be a season of testing for you. I know you didn't ask for it, but with God's help, you'll endure it.



For churches currently in this situation: May the interim bring blessings you never expected, and I pray that God provides a new pastor for your church soon. ~ Ben Simpson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 July <b>5 cents a Meal</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	29 July 6pm NA	30 July 12 noon NA	31 July 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	August 1 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	August 2 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	August 3 NA12—1
<b>Mission Team working in Rainelle, WV—Remember to pray for them and their work.</b>						
<b>4 Communion</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	5 6pm NA	6 12 noon NA	7 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	8 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	9 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	10 NA 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
11 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 7 pm Community Choir performance	12 6pm NA	13 12 noon NA	14 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	15 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	16 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	17 NA 12—1
18 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	19 6pm NA <b>7:00 pm Deacons</b> <b>7:30 pm Elders</b>	20 12 noon NA	21 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	22 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	23 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	24 NA 12—1
25 <b>5 cents a Meal</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	26 6pm NA 	27 12 noon NA	28 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	29 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	30 <b>9 am Bulletins &amp; Newsletters</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	31 NA12—1

2 Meredith Howell 4 Donnell Corelle 6 Joan Owens 7 Ann Crabtree 10 Jim Luedtke 10 Drew Morgan 14 Barbara Johnston 15 Lisa Howell 16 Zachary Raney 17 Wilma Hendley* 19 Sylvia Hendly	 <p>August BIRTHDAYS</p>	20 Ronnie Crabtree 23 Wayne Roller 25 Dan Koutsos 29 Sally Slaff 29 Marge Nelson 30 Debbie Burton* 31 Polly Ratcliff*
<p>* In Memory</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.</p> </div>		
		



Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, the elders:**

1. Shared prayers and thoughts for congregation members in need.
2. Heard Devotional by Robert Guthrie. (See pages 3 and 4)
3. Elected Mike Koch as delegate for August 17 Presbytery Meeting and Don Cherry alternate.
4. Discussed next steps as transition plans continue for church and pastor as he moves toward retirement.
5. Received shepherding group assignments for deacons and elders.
6. Approved session minutes and financial report with exceptions.
7. Heard updates on Good Samaritan, Missionaries, and website.
8. Received property report, among details renovation of Sunday school lobby, replacement of flat roof over educational wing, new windows for fellowship hall, and crosswalk and street parking painting.
9. Received first draft of a church security policy.
10. Heard report on Stephen Ministry.
11. Next communion date is August 4.



**August 19**

**Deacons** meet 7:00 pm

**Elders** meet 7:30 pm

**Weekly Happenings**

**Praise Team Rehearsal:** TBA

**Men of the Church:** Thursdays at 7 pm

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