

First Presbyterian News

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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



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

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



Dear First Folks,

God is always updating, communicating, and moving his people to work his grace in the world. This church does a faithful and wonderful job of being the church, and we are all called to share Christ with others everywhere and all the time. The good news of Christ is so important that it is the most important thing to share and the best news anyone could give. Let us be the church gathered and as we go out into the community that shows God's love and grace on a daily basis. God is faithful and full of love as he walks with us. Pray for the people and ministries in the newsletter one by one, as all ministry begins with prayer.

In Christ,

~Russell

April 7 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Dinner with Jesus"

Scriptures: Psalm 126; Jn 12:1-8

April 14 - Palm Sunday

Sermon: "The Lord Needs It"

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

April 21 - Easter Sunday

Sermon: "The Stone Rolled Away"

Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

April 28 - 2nd Sunday in Easter

Sermon: by Jim Luedtke

Scriptures: John 20:19-31; Acts 5:27-32

May 5 - 3rd Sunday in Easter

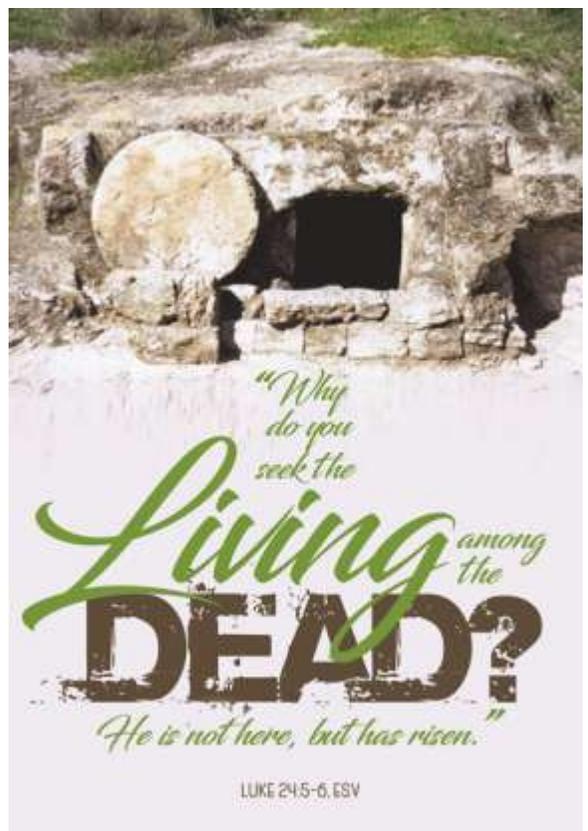
Sermon: "The Third Time"

Scriptures: Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

May 12 - 4th Sunday in Easter

Sermon: "My Sheep Hear My Voice"

Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 10:22-30





Paul and Reinhold Sydnor

2

(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

A lot has happened since our last news update this past Fall. Thank you for your continued prayers and support through a difficult time. We still have a long way to go. The best news is that Reinhold is home and the kids are here for Christmas!

Who's Doing What

Noah is finishing his last year of nursing school. he is planning to graduate next December and then hopes to work somewhere in America after that.

Tessa is finishing a masters in Religious Studies at Gordon-Conwell. She has been accepted as a missionary with "Teach Beyond." She is raising her support now and will move to Germany in the Summer to teach at the Black Forest Academy.

Luke continues to write and produce music with his group called "Cardri". This is Luke and his friend Max. Several agents and companies including BMG are looking at them. Luke lives at home and takes online college courses.

Reinhold has been recovering from Trigemius Neuralgia. The medicine has given pain relief, but the doctors have said it's too early to reduce the drug. She is trying now to find a good doctor in Lille.

I've been meeting with several different groups of refugees. I'll continue these meetings in January. Please pray for a couple of these guys as we look at the journey they have passed through and compare this to similar events in the scriptures. In February, I'll be helping to lead the RHP network meeting in Europe.

~ Paul and family



Easter 2019

Oh Jesus, gentle Lamb of God
You live in hearts today
A sacrificial death of pain
The sin of man you paid.

You bore it up upon a Cross
They stripped and scourged and jeered.
Your mother weeping mournfully
The Son she so revered.

A slaughter born of fear and hate
The King of Kings forgave,
And then did whisper "it is finished "
His purpose was to save.

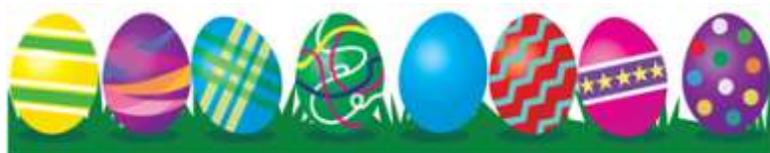
I cannot bear the guilt I feel,
For I was there that day,
Beholding every last detail
My debt which He did pay.

His Resurrection brought such joy
New life for you and me
A promise of eternity
Believe, and be set free.

The Gift which Jesus gave the world
He died so we might live,
In humble thankfulness and love
Our hearts to Him we give.

Amen

~ by Pattie Grubbs





Lenten Luncheons - Hosted by First Presbyterian Church continue for a few more weeks, come join us at 12 noon with a bagged lunch and a special devotional starting at 12:30, ending promptly at 12:45 so this can fit in a lunch hour. Devotionals presented by a local leader, the remaining schedule is as follows:

April 3: Rev. Wayne Rickman from Main Street Methodist Church

April 10: Rev. Bill Wilkins from Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

April 17: Rev. Dr. Russell Lee from First Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday—We will celebrate our annual Maundy Thursday with a covered dish and communion on Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. when we will gather for a devotional, and communion around the table. Bring a covered dish and join us for this time of blessing and inspiration in this prelude to Easter.



Palm Sunday Processional



On Palm Sunday, April 14, we will gather at the old clinic on North Main Street with other churches for our traditional Palm Sunday Processional. We remember the day when Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people shouted Hosanna to the King! It was just a few days before his arrest and crucifixion. Plan to be there at 10 am for fellowship and worship. We will begin the Processional at 10:20 am there, then process down the street waving palm branches and singing Palm Sunday Hymns till we get to 2nd and North Main, where we will pause for a brief prayer and benediction.

The Main Street Easter Sunrise Service will happen at 7 am on Easter in the prayer garden of the Main Street United Methodist Church. Dr. Russell Lee, Jr. will be providing the sermon. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this blessed time at the beginning of Resurrection Day.



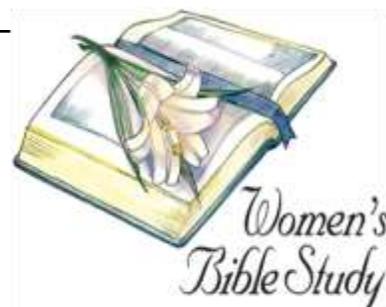
Flowers - As we approach Easter remember to start gathering flowers and greenery for the Flowering of the Cross after each Easter service.



Ladies Circle – We will meet Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. Karen Henderson will lead our class with a discussion on Easter. We invite and welcome all women in the church to come and bring a friend. Refreshments will be available as well.

Bible Study – Our class focusing on the book *Elijah, Spiritual Stamina in Every Season* by Melissa Spoelstra, will conclude soon. We have just a couple more classes. We meet on Thursday at 10:30 am.

Come out and enjoy the last few classes, even if you haven't had a chance to come previously. We will then break for the summer, and start a new class in the Fall.



New Sunday School Class – We have a new Sunday School class. Carol Foster is leading the class, using the Bible as the workbook. Time is at 10:00 am during regularly scheduled Sunday School. This class meets in the Library and is open to all men and women. For more information about this class contact Carol Foster.



As we prepare for Easter, I think of all the miracles that Christ performed. His life was full of examples for us to emulate.

I marvel at the story of Peter as he and the other disciples were on the ship with a storm brewing, seeing a figure out in the darkness approaching. They feared the image, until Christ said “Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.” Later, after Peter did walk a few steps on the water, he started paying more attention to the storm, and what he was doing, rather than keeping the faith and eyes on Christ. He became afraid and started to sink. Fearing he’d drown, he cried out “Lord, save me.” “Jesus, stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” Matthew 14: 27-31.

Aren't we all like Peter to some extent? We see many blessings in our lives, and still there are times we doubt that the Lord is happy with us, or doubt that He will continue to love us because of our sins. Maybe we doubt that He hears our prayers. Maybe our doubts are more about ourselves and our abilities. Maybe we doubt our safety if we speak out about Christ, to bring others unto Him. Whatever our doubts, we need to trust in Jesus, and His love for us, and His out stretched arm will lift us when we are in peril.

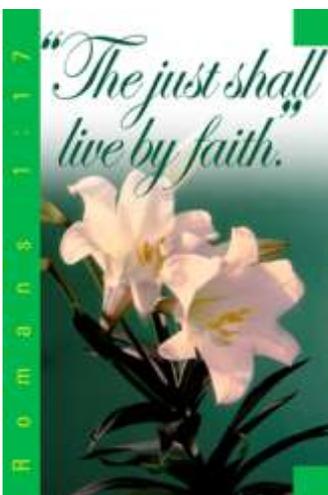
We are told in scripture that if we will believe in Christ, nothing doubting, that whatever we ask the Father in the name of Christ shall be given. Do we not see in several scriptural references to those who “seek shall find”, and those who “ask, shall receive” an answer, and to those who “knock, it shall be opened”? Thus, belief, complete faith, is essential and we can receive those righteous desires, and help from the Lord in all our doings.

Having doubts is human, but only by choosing faith can we overcome. Two quotes I've seen that say it so well: “With faith we can turn doubts into assurance and understanding” and “Choose faith over doubt, choose faith over fear, choose faith over the unknown and the unseen.” This is my hope and my prayer that I can be strong and make those righteous choices in all I do. Nothing doubting. ~ *Sherolyn*

National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 2 at Halifax County High School. Starting at 6:30 pm with a Flagpole ceremony, Prayer Stations at 6:45 pm . 7:00 pm will be the main event featuring - Country Singer and Speaker—Rory Feek. This is a gathering to encourage daily prayer for our nation. Come Pray for America at this special event! Invite friends and family to come and make this the best event in history.



Alzheimer's Community Forum – This Wednesday, April 4 from 6-8 pm in the Leggett Auditorium at Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital. Learn about Alzheimer's, dementia, and memory loss. Bring a friend. Registration is requested call 800.272.3900.



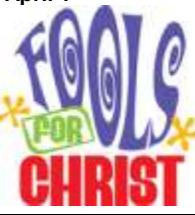
What Easter does

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is life-changing and life-giving for his followers. But, as Henry Knox Sherrill notes, Easter's “joyful news ... does not change the contemporary world.” On earth, we still must deal with sin, pain, death and brokenness. And “still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice,” Sherrill adds. What Easter does, though, is provide Christians with “the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice.”

By defeating the grave, Jesus empowers us to bear our worldly troubles with joy, peace and hope. His resurrection assures us that trials, tears and suffering are only temporary, while eternal victory and life with Jesus are permanent.
~ from Newsletter Newsletter



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>March 31 5 Cents a Meal</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA</p>	<p>April 1</p> 	<p>April 2</p> <p>10:30 Ladies Circle 12 noon NA</p>	<p>April 3</p> <p>12 Noon Lenten Luncheons 6 pm NA 6pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>April 4</p> <p>10:30 Women's Bible Study 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Church Men the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>April 5</p> <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 4:30 pm Leave for Greensboro for Barn Theater 6 pm.NA</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>NA12—1</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6pm NA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12 noon NA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12 Noon Lenten Luncheons 6 pm NA 6pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 Women's Bible Study 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>NA 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4</p>
<p>14 - Palm Sunday</p>  <p>PALM SUNDAY</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6pm NA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12 noon NA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12 Noon Lenten Luncheons 6 pm NA 6pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA</p>  <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>20</p> <p>NA 12—1</p>	
<p>21 - Easter</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9 am Bulletins & Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NA 12—1</p>
<p>28 5 cents a Meal</p> <p>9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6pm NA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12 noon NA</p>	<p>May 1</p> <p>12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>May 2</p> <p>11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA</p>	<p>May 3</p> <p>9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA</p>	<p>May 4</p> <p>NA12—1</p>



- 2 Del Pool
- 5 Sunny Watkins
- 6 Kim Albert
- 6 Will Dillard
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 8 Patricia Seat
- 10 Liza Farley
- 11 Carter Henderson
- 13 Grace Elizabeth Adams

- 13 Mark Foster
- 16 Frances Harrell
- 16 Buck Wilkins*
- 23 Jessica Lumsden Thompson
- 24 Jane Willis
- 24 Matthew Fraser Freshour
- 25 Kaitlin (Marvin) Buchanan
- 25 Kirsten Marvin
- 28 Beth Saunders
- 29 Daniel Roller
- 30 Debbie Roller
- 30 Mark Thackston

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





March Session Report

Session Notes: Since the last Newsletter, the elders:

1. Heard a devotional by Carter Henderson
2. Hosted Stated Clerk of Peaks Presbytery John Wiederholt and Committee on Ministry liaison Kym Wiederholt for a discussion about pastoral transition as Dr. Lee approaches retirement in November.
3. Was updated and prayed for members in need.
4. Heard report on Feb 21 Presbytery Meeting in Martinsville.
5. Approved removal of damaged wooden doors at Sunday School entrance.
6. Heard updates on various property matters from elder Mike Koch
7. Approved child and youth protection program.
8. Approved latest financial reports.
9. Heard details on upcoming fundraiser for columbarium.
10. Elder Robert Guthrie is updating church Facebook page and looking at fellowship gatherings.
11. Set next two communions for April 18 and 21.
12. Heard details on Easter Sunrise Service. Dr. Lee will be the preacher for service at the Methodist Prayer Garden.
13. Heard report on updating webpage, technology, and missionaries.
14. Was updated on new Sunday School Class meeting in Library for discussion of Scriptures and moving of Adult Class to Philathea Room.
15. Approved Feb 18 Deacon and Session Minutes.



April 15

7:00 pm - Deacons Meeting

7:30 pm - Elders Meeting

Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6 pm

Lenten Luncheons: Wednesdays at 12:00 - ending April 17

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

Women's Bible Study: Thursdays at 10:30 am—ending April 11

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

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