

First Presbyterian News

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

Dear First Folks,

We are the church of God, and it is so good to see you in church and in the community. Let us draw close to one another and our God as we lift up the values God has entrusted to us, and bring all the support and love and participation we can muster as we enter a new phase of ministry. This is a time, I near retirement in November, for you to step up and be even stronger than before. As vacations and trips and other matters call us away, let us be here to worship and serve as much as possible, so that the church can face the future with confidence and strength.

We are a lighthouse to the world to show them how Christian people live, work, and serve our Lord. God's grace and love, as well as his daily blessing of his people, is forever. We must never forget it, and always trust in it.

Blessings,

~Russell



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

July 21

Sermon: "Let's Go To Bethlehem"

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:6-8; Luke 2:1-10

July 28

Sermon: "When You Pray"

Scriptures: Psalm 138; Luke 1:1-13

August 4

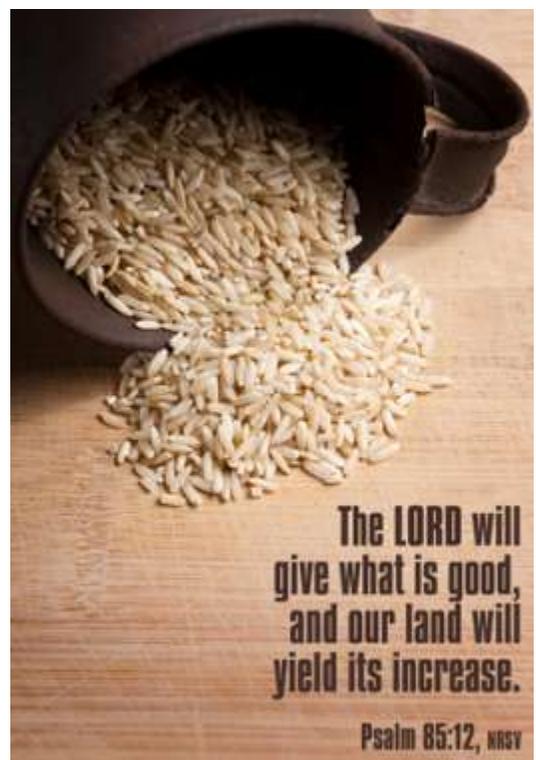
Sermon: "This Very Night"

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



Matthew and Teresa Lee

(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

Matthew is finishing his Master's degree. During one of his final classes he found ideas for his thesis. My thesis is to find a way that collected and annotated recordings can be shared back with the community whether in classrooms, in the home, or even on mobile. He hopes to finish his last class and the thesis by November then graduate in December. He is still directing work in Cameroon, and participating in and leading translation conferences across the world.



Teresa worked in Orlando in April and May as a teacher at Wycliffe School. She met families that serve or will serve around the world. Children are so precious! Children who were going to be heading overseas learned about people who do not have God's word, and listening to them pray for the people and learning to where their new home is on the map was priceless! Children who were returning from the mission field shared stories about what they loved and will miss about that area. They also shared stories how they learned that God is always with us no matter where we live. The time was so rewarding for Teresa seeing how God uses families in many ways to share the Gospel and minister to those He loves.

miss about that area. They also shared stories how they learned that God is always with us no matter where we live. The time was so rewarding for Teresa seeing how God uses families in many ways to share the Gospel and minister to those He loves.

We Need You! - Missionaries do not go out on their own, they are carried by prayers, encouragement, and resources of the church. More of all three areas are needed. In order to return we need to have our monthly financial partnership budget realized. We need to have **\$1,140 per month**. We need to be back in Cameroon early January, in order for Teresa to start teaching 2nd semester. Our goal is to have this partnership at 100% by November in order to have time to complete the needed paperwork to return.



We ask that our supporting friends, family, and churches pray about this with us. If God leads you to help by giving monthly, quarterly, or annually we thank you for our support.

We will be in Virginia August 17-October 8, and look forward to visiting as many as we can. We would love to spend time with groups, families, churches for ice cream, walks, meal at your favorite place, or want to learn how to make a Cameroonian dish? How about having friends come so we can share about the ministry. Most of all we want to see how God is working in your lives and share how He is in ours.

Prayers and Praise -Prayers for Matthew to complete his thesis, be diligent and manage time wisely. Prayers for Teresa as she helps the children in Orlando in June, and for financial partners that we can meet our 100% goal. Praises - Matthew is nearly finished with his Master's degree. Teresa is able to help First Presbyterian Preschool as a substitute, relationships with partners who pray, encourage, and/or offer financial support. Praise God! He is Almighty! Everlasting! Merciful! Wonderful!



"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up"
~ Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

Matthew and Teresa





Summer Mission Trip 2019 – July 28-Aug 3

Approximately 17 First Folks and friends will travel back to West Virginia to continue flood recovery work from the summer of 2016. We are excited to work again with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), with whom we served in Richwood, WV, in July of 2017 and 2018. Not only were we provided with plenty of work to do, but the strong faith-based structure of their disaster response administration and work ethic provided an uplifting and immensely rewarding volunteer experience for our team.

When asked if there was still work to be done there, our contacts said, “Yes! And we’d love for you to come back!” Three years later there are those who are still waiting – waiting for their homes to be rebuilt, for reimbursements to be issued, for their lives to be put back together. We have developed a great relationship with this group, and a heart for the people of this area, and we are happy to be working with them and for them again.

As with every mission trip we won’t know until each day begins exactly where we will be and what kind of work we will do. We go on faith and trust that God will match our skills with the needs, and between us and the Methodists we will come up with the tools and materials to do what needs to be done!

If you are inclined to share a prayer, some scripture, or an uplifting thought with the team, text or e-mail Kim Albert, 434-579-5011, kalbert@ntelos.net, or any team member. We love to hear from you – your support lifts us up and encourages us! You can follow our week on the church Facebook page.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Mission Trip Daily Prayer Focus -

Each day for the week of July 28 – Aug 3, we are asking you to pray for a specific aspect of the summer mission trip. If you feel led to share your prayer or a scripture with the group on any day, you can text or e-mail Kim Albert at 434-579-5011 or kalbert@ntelos.net. We love to hear from you - your support lifts us up and encourages us! Also, watch the church Facebook page for daily photos and updates. *Galatians 6:9*

Sunday, July 28: Today please pray for **safe travel** as the team drives approximately 5 hours into wild, wonderful West Virginia. When asked if there was still work to be done there, our contacts said, “Yes! And we’d love for you to come back!” We have developed a great relationship with the Methodist group we work with there, and a heart for the people of this area. *Psalms 121:8*



Monday, July 29: Today please offer up prayers for the **mission team members**. By now we have some idea of the challenges that await us during this week. Please pray for safe travels and safe work. Pray for good relationships – among team members, with the homeowners we will serve, and with our work supervisors. Pray for the work we will do, and that our eyes will be opened to God’s miracles each day. And pray that we will not only be a blessing to someone, but that we will each be blessed by this experience. *1 Peter 4:10*

Tuesday, July 30: Today we ask for prayers for the **people we are serving**. When the flash floods hit in June of 2016, one resident stated, “This is so devastating, a poor town that has next to nothing is losing what little it has.” There were 12 counties affected by this event, many of the towns already poverty stricken. Three years later there are those who are still waiting – waiting for their homes to be rebuilt, for reimbursements to be issued, for their lives to be put back together. *Matthew 25:40*

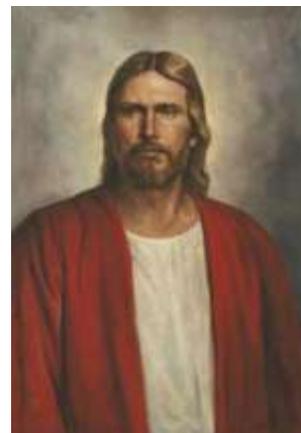
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“Worth Bothering About”

Mary Poppins... who doesn't love the show? I am thinking about this show, partly because it's at the Prizery, and a new version came out recently. In the movie *Mary*, a magical woman, blows into London on an East wind. The Banks children are mischievous and manage to run multiple nanny's away. Mary comes to care for them. She teaches them valuable lessons in firm, but kind, and mystical ways. The children grow to love her and become much better-behaved children. Mary decides it's time to move on as the story draws to the end. Bert, who has been a friend of Mary's for years, asks her why she is leaving and comments that they are “good kids”. Mary replies “Would I be bothering with them if they weren't? But I can't help them if they won't let me, and there's no one so hard to teach as the child who knows everything.” Bert is confused and asks “So?” “So, they've got to do the next bit on their own” replies Mary.

This story reminds me of us. We are all God's children, and He has given us miraculous helps for our journey here on Earth. Some of those helps are called commandments. But, do we sometimes act like the Banks children, and think we know it all and do not need the help of someone who can teach us beyond what we currently know? Do we think because we are Christians that we are better than others? We all need help, and God considers us “worth bothering about”. He wants to help guide us safely back to His presence. But we must let Him! I know, I can think of times that I felt like I was pretty smart. As a teenager, I certainly thought I knew it all. It's amazing how much more there is to learn, when we open ourselves up to the possibilities. God sent His son Jesus Christ here to redeem us from our sins. But we must be willing to come to Him, to acknowledge our faults, and strive to follow the paths that He set as an example for us. The choice is ours. In scriptures we read “Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by one or the other.” He wants us to choose to do right, because we want to please Him. He does not force us to make the right decisions. The more we keep the commandments the more we can understand and recognize the paths to take to return to our Father in Heaven. I know we are “worth bothering about” and the Lord wants to do help us as much as possible, we just need to open our hearts and minds to listen to the directions for our lives. This is the time for us to “do our bit”. ~ *Sherolyn*



Thursday, Aug 1:

Today please set aside some special time to pray for the **families of the team members**. All team members are leaving some family members behind to go away from home and work for strangers. We know that many who remain at home will send their hearts and prayers with us. So we ask your prayers for the families, that they will walk in faith through the week without their loved ones and be strengthened and encouraged by God's work that will be happening.

John 13:34



Friday, Aug 2:

Today we ask for prayers for **the countless number of people who have suffered from natural disasters in our country in the past year**. The damage from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and other disasters is devastating. We cannot physically help everyone, but we can pray! *Romans 10:13-14*

Saturday, Aug 3:

Today we again ask for prayers for **traveling mercies** as we return home. We join with you in the prayer that we have **shown the face of God** to those we have encountered and that **He will be glorified** through our efforts. *1 Samuel 12:24*



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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 4 - Office Closed 	July 5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	July 6 NA 12—1
7 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	8 6pm NA	9 12 noon NA	10 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	11 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	12 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	13 NA 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
14 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	15 6pm NA	16 12 noon NA	17 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	18 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	19 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	20 NA 12—1
21 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	22 6pm NA 7:30 pm Elders	23 	24 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	25 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	26 9 am Bulletins & Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	27 NA 12—1
28 5 cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	29 6pm NA	30 12 noon NA	31 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	August 1 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	August 2 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	August 3 NA12—1

- 8 Beth Roller
- 10 Ernest "Avon" Traynham
- 12 Donna Garrett
- 15 Ginny Troy
- 16 Ashton Cranford
- 16 Hannah Bush
- 17 Roberta McCrowell
- 18 Bill Marable
- 21 Marilyn Lee
- 21 James Edmunds
- 27 Mac Lacy
- 27 Michael Thackston
- 28 Joanna Hughes
- 29 Kathryn McAbee
- 30 Jessica Nelson



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



Summer Choir - Hello everyone,

I hope you're ready to do some singing this summer. We began 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. If you have friends or fellow church choir members that sing, please invite them to join us.

Thanks,

Susan Davis

July 4th – This week we celebrate the Independence of this wonderful country! Let's not let the day be just about fireworks, cookout, and fun activities. Let's remember those who gave their life for this country. The fact that God had His hand over this country to allow us to enjoy the many freedoms which we often take for granted. One of those freedoms of course being religious freedom.



Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: TBA

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

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