

First Presbyterian News

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

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Dear First Folks,

Usually I just give a short note, introducing the newsletter and thanking you for your blessings and support. This month it needs to be a little longer, as I talk about Rally Day and the near future.

Rally Day is coming up in just a week, on September 8, a time of coming back to Sunday School and beginning the new year. We will have breakfast together, and introduce the teachers and classes for the new year.

Let us make Rally Day a theme for the next several months, as I am with you and after I leave. This is a time to rally together, to draw near to the church, to God, and to one another. The time between pastors can be scary and difficult, or it can be exciting and full of growth. My prayer is that because of what God does in you, it will be the latter.

During this fall, we are doing officer election and stewardship in October rather than November, so that I can moderate the meetings while I am still here, and so that these matters will be settled early. This is the time to draw near, as new, vital leaders are needed and the financial security of the church must be assured.

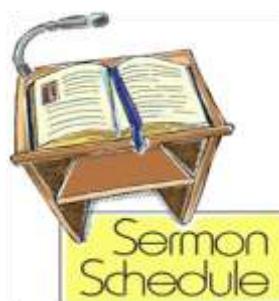
So attend faithfully, give generously, and serve well during this time. This fall will be when the church decides what their important values are, a time of Discovery that you will able to participate in. Voting in congregational meetings in October, welcoming guest preachers from this church and from afar, voting for or serving on the pulpit nominating committee (PNC) which will form probably in December, and voting for a new pastor when they are called, are times of faith exercise and prayer for all.

Joining together as a force for good and God in this community is an important ministry. You will have to do many of the things I once did, or they will not be done. Be in prayer, visit and minister with one another, and reach out to serve the community and world. Stand fast in what you believe, and let the officers and PNC what and who you hope to find in a new pastor.

This Fall is truly a time to rally together and rally for the Lord. As God walks with us all, we give thanks for his work among us from the first day until now. And we trust that the future is secure no matter what, because God can do anything, and walks with his people for ever.

Christ our Lord walks with us day by day. Let us trust in this, and live that way, and mountains will be moved, souls will be saved. Till we go to heaven one day.

Blessings and grace, ~Russell



September 1

Sermon: "The Place of Honor"

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

September 8 - Rally Day

Sermon: "Take Up Your Cross"

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

September 15

Sermon: "grateful"

Scriptures: Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

September 22

Sermon: "Holy Managers"

Scriptures: Psalm 113; Luke 16:1-13

September 29

Sermon: "It's Not Too Late!"

Scriptures: Luke 16:1-13; Luke 16:19-31

October 6 - Communion

Sermon: "Rekindling Faith"

Scriptures: Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14

October 13

Sermon: "Where are the Nine?"

Scriptures: Psalm 66:1-12 Luke 17:11-19

Note
from the
pastor





Water for the Oppressed

(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

2

As many of you know we had provided support for C.W. and Leslie Bing through their organization, Water for the Oppressed, in Zambia.

However, last year they were not able to return to Africa because the government in Zambia would not renew their permits. As a result, the Bing's have remained in Virginia where C.W. has accepted a call to serve as pastor to a church. While we are no longer providing support for the Bing's, we chose to continue to support the education of young students in Zambia. Below is a note that I received from C.W. and Leslie expressing appreciation for this support.

Don,

July 22, 2019

Before - Well pump damaged



Water for the Oppressed appreciates the educational support for the Zambian students. As you can see below, the support has blessed a number of young adults that would otherwise not have the means to attend school. Water for the Oppressed along with these students extend sincere gratitude to our friends at First Presbyterian Church South Boston for your continued prayers, compassion and support. If you have any questions or are in need of further information please let us know.

Isaac Mwale	Grade 10	\$ 176.00
Steven Kamundonga	Grade 12	\$ 177.50
Charity Kayola	Grade 12	\$ 177.50
Sithembile Nc'ube	Grade 9	\$ 112.50
Mercy Nc'ube	Grade 11	\$ 112.50
Enala Sakala	Grade 9	\$ 105.00
Mary Bwalya	Grade 8	\$ 165.00
Mapalo Bwalya	Grade 11	\$ 165.00



In His love and grace,

CW & Leslie Bing



New worship time - At their meeting on August 19, the session decided to combine our two worship services and change the time. The new service will begin on October 1, and the time will be from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Sunday School will happen at 9:30. Let us be in prayer and participation of this new step, taken as the retirement of Dr. Lee approaches, and give thanks for the blessings brought by the long and dedicated service of the 9am worship team. One service, one church, one God.

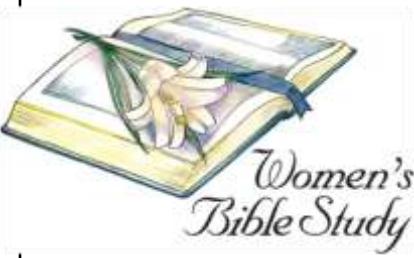
Thank You! "We are Thankful for our church family and the opportunity we had to go to West VA. for a week as part of the mission team. While we were there, we felt the many prayers from our brothers and sisters in faith. We are from our brothers and sisters in faith. We are blessed that God has called us to serve Him through showing love to others as we shine His light around the world. We are grateful for the love, prayers, and encouragement we feel from First Presbyterian of South Boston.

With Christ's Love,

Matthew & Teresa

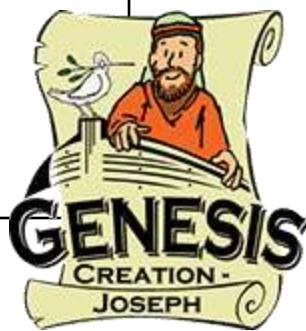
THANKS
from the
HEART





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 questions 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.

3



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 - Rally day will happen on September 8. There will be a full breakfast in between the two services, beginning at 9:30. Rally Day this year will not just be about Sunday School, but about coming together as God's people in ministry, and celebrating what God does when his people are the faithful church. In worship that day we will celebrate who we are as God's people, and rally together to face the future with faith and strength.



The Good Samaritan has greatly appreciated the clothing, and the many varied items, that has been donated to help them. As Fall and Winter approach their needs increase. Typically this time of year they run short on peanut butter, canned meats (tuna, spam, etc). They can also use winter clothes. 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.



SHRH Clothes Closet—Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital clothes closet is up and running. They have blessed several patients. Clothing is always needed as some patients come in, perhaps after an accident or other reasons, where they have to have their clothes cut off and/or destroyed, and sometimes these people do not have family that can bring them fresh 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 endeavor by providing new items or funds, please contact Leigh Moore, Hospital Volunteer coordinator at 572-3422.



Water Filter Challenge - The session decided to support a Water Filter Challenge sponsored by Blacksburg Presbyterian. They are asking for help supplying Guatemala with drinkable water. Each water filter costs \$50. We would like to help supply as many as we can. We will collect through early September. Please mark donations "Water Filter".

Bless our Schools Sunday – September 15. A day for churches throughout the world to pray for the students, teachers, and school staff in their own congregation. Imagine the impact on those who dedicate their days to educating students and for the students who need God's protection, guidance and encouragement. This time of prayer can affect every school in our area. First Presbyterian will have a special prayer moment on this day to join this effort.





Staying on Track

4

I was reading a story about a train engineer that was going about his normal day, when he noticed a car stopped on the track ahead. He realized the car was stalled and wasn't able to move. He went into action quickly to set the emergency brakes on each car to help slow it down. But the train was nearly a mile in length, weighing 6500 tons, he knew there was no chance it would stop in time. Luckily the people in the car heard the warning sound of the engine, and got out in time.

Later as the engineer was speaking to the police about the incident, an angry woman ran up and shouted that the engineer hadn't made any attempt to swerve to avoid hitting the car. What a silly idea! If the train had swerved there could have been more danger and damage. The train would have derailed. Luckily for the train the wheels clung tightly to the track and kept it going in the direction it was supposed to go no matter what was in the way.

As I read that story, I thought how many times in my life I have allowed something small, to derail me. I remember as a youth thinking church would always be there, and I was missing out on some life (world) experiences. So, I thought I'd do my own thing for a while. But now that I am older I realize that life (the world) has nothing to offer but sadness and heartache. How I wish I'd stayed on the path that I committed to when I was baptized. Staying close to Christ and His gospel is the only way to survive this world. I am grateful for the patience the Lord has for me, as I chose wrong paths, and He waited for my return. Now, I am trying to stay anchored on the path, like that train engine with my wheels on the track and following His example and path He has for me. As I mentioned last time, I do need to get better at listening, but I am trying to remain on the path of righteousness and keep the covenants I made.

I think of a song I know which talks of our "journey here below, be'neath temptation's power, through mists of darkness we must go, in peril every hour. When temptation's power is nigh, our pathway clouded over, upon the rod we can rely, and heaven's aid implore. Hold to the rod, the iron rod: tis strong, and bright, and true. The iron rod is the word of God: Twill safely guide us through." Life wasn't meant to be easy, but we are given the path to follow. We are given the tools to take hold of the rail and keep our wheels securely on the track, if we will pay attention, follow His example and obey His words/commandments. ~ Sherlyn



Bless our Schools Sunday – September 15. A day for churches throughout the world to pray for the students, teachers, and school staff in their own congregation. Imagine the impact on those who dedicate their days to educating students and for the students who need God's protection, guidance and encouragement. This time of prayer can affect every school in our area. First Presbyterian will have a special prayer moment on this day to join this effort. More information is available at www.MomsinPrayer.org.

Combined Worship Time October 1 - After many years of worship at 9 and 11, the Session has decided with much research and prayer to combine the two services together at a new time, 10:30 am, beginning October 6. This will bring us together at an important time in history, and we thank the worship team at 9 for a wonderful time of ministry, as they are ready to take a break for a while.

The 11am service will be mostly traditional in nature, with a few elements of contemporary worship. We will continue to add contemporary elements through November. For folks at both services, we appreciate your prayers and participation in this new venture. This will help us in finding supply preachers, bring us all together at one time, and present worship at a time not many other churches are in worship, to be open for prospective visitors. So note the time, please make whatever adjustments you need to make, and be in prayer for great success and honor of God in Christ. Sunday school will be at 9:30 am each Sunday beginning October 6 as well.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 September 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	2— Office Closed 	3 12 noon NA	4 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6:00pm Praise Team begins 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Begins	5 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	6 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	7 NA12—1
	9 6pm NA	10 10:30—Ladies Circle Begins 12 noon NA	11 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6:00pm Praise Team 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10:30—Women's Bible Study Begins 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	13 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	14 NA 12—1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
15 Bless our Schools Sunday 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	16 6pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	17 12 noon NA	18 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6:00pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19 10:30—Women's Bible Study 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	20 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	21 NA 12—1
22 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	23 6pm NA	24 12 noon NA 	25 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6:00pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	26 10:30—Women's Bible Study 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	27 9 am Bulletins & Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	28 NA 12—1
29 5 cents a Meal 9 am Last Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	30 6pm NA	October 1 12 noon NA	October 2 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6:00pm Praise Team 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	October 3 10:30—Women's Bible Study 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	October 4 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	October 5 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

* In Memory

19 Paul Nichols
21 Nan "Tee" Godbold
21 Courtland Thackston
22 Mike Freshour
24 Grace McAbee
24 Parker Harrell
25 Joe Ferguson
26 Fred Collins
28 Shirley Blackmon*
29 Latane' Saunders
29 Susan Chandler

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





Church Leadership

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

1. Heard a devotional by Steve Reynolds on “Changes.”
2. Shared prayer requests and folks in need.
3. Heard Presbytery Report, 3 pastors approved for full time calls, and Dr. Lee was voted officially Honorable Retired effective November 1.
4. Approved a motion on water filters for Central America.
5. Assigned behind the scenes pastoral duties to elders.
6. Updated the session on Transition progress, well under way with much done.
7. Approved moving budget process and officer election to October this year.
8. Approved annual Pig Pickin’ for November 17.
9. Discussed Shepherding groups for deacons and elders.
10. Discussed plans for Rally Day.
11. Was updated on Stephen Ministry and approved minutes.
12. Heard updates on property matters including roof repairs, and church security plans.
13. Approved combined worship service beginning October 1 for 10:30 am, with Sunday School at 9:30.

Ladies Circle starts back for the Fall - Tuesday, September 10 at 10:30 am

September 16

Deacons meet 7:00 pm

Elders meet 7:30 pm



Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Women’s Bible Study: Thursdays at 10:30 am

Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

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