

# First Presbyterian News

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Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader  
Doris Koch—Treasurer



Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/firstpressobo](http://www.facebook.com/firstpressobo)

Website: [1stpres.cc](http://1stpres.cc)

## Office Hours

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

434-572-3581

Hello First Folks,

Hope everyone is well and having a great start to the New Year. In order to bring you all up to date on the progress of finding a new Pastor. As most of you know, we have just completed a congregational survey which is part of a Mission Study that is used as a tool to find a Pastor that will be a good fit for our Church. I would like to thank everyone for their response to this survey. The next step in this process, is to form our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) which we hope to get done very soon. This will be done at a Congregational Meeting.

We will need a membership in this committee that represents all facets of our congregation. The Session is also exploring the possibility of hiring an Interim Pastor to fill in until we can locate and hire a new full-time Pastor.

This process of locating and hiring a Full-time Pastor cannot be done hurriedly so as to assure to the best of our ability that we find the best fit for our Church. I am thanking you in advance for your prayers for our Church and patience in this process as it progresses.

Thank You,

Carter Henderson



## **February 2**

Sermon by Ed Lyons - A Director of Ministry Advancement & Field Reporting Services for Persecution Project Foundation, a ministry to the persecuted Christians in Sudan and headquartered in Culpepper, VA; a new FPC ministry. Ed and his wife, Lisa, have one natural born son, and two adopted daughters. Ed will present a special Sunday School this morning as well at 9:30 am.

## **February 9**

Sermon by Andy Ferguson grew up in Halifax County, at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Volens. Taught and coached in Blacksburg High School, went to Columbia Biblical Seminary 1990-1996 where he met his wife, Ginger. They have four children. He has been in pastoral ministry for 20+ years.

## **February 16**

Sermon by Don Cherry - Don and his wife, Dargan, have been members of FPC for over 30 years. They have three adult children and five grandchildren. Don is currently serving as a Ruling Elder responsible for International Missions and Church Technology.

## **February 23**

Sermon by Dr. Robert Ramey - We are thrilled to have Robert Ramey, Jr. as our speaker again. A Danville native, Robert earned his Doctorate of Ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. He has published 17 books, including The Eternal Way, this past summer. Come and welcome him and his wife Gail.

## **March 1**

Sermon by Rich Henderson - We welcome back Rich Henderson, a resident of Buffalo Junction. Rich is a Missional Commissioned Pastor with the Presbytery. He fills a once a month at a variety of churches. Welcome Rich and wife, Carol.

## International Missions Update

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Don,

Good afternoon. I hope you and your family had a blessed Christmas. I know the church will miss Pastor Lee and Marilyn. Yes, we continue to pray for the work in Zambia. The political conditions in Zambia are not great and of recent the US Ambassador was asked by the President of Zambia to leave the country. We appreciate your continued support. The children are very grateful for the help. Please greet Dargan for us both.

Happy New Year!  
C.W. & Leslie Bing  
Water for the Oppressed



We have internet! Matthew and I arrived safely in Cameroon on Sunday night, January 5. All our bags arrived and overall, we had good travel! The last couple of days have been busy as we begin to settle in. Enjoy a photo from our flight! Thank you for praying for us!

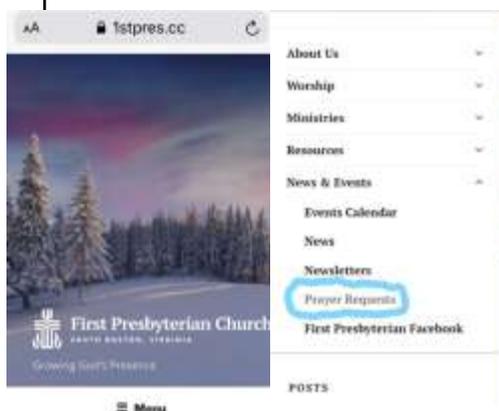
Teresa Lee  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Hi Don,

Thank you for the update from First Pres. And so greatly appreciate your prayers over these past days. It's by God's grace alone through the prayers of the saints that Bishara is alive and well today. Can't tell you how miraculous it really was.

Also, so wonderful to hear about the church's continued support for us. Please do pass along our appreciation to the congregation.

Blessings,  
Dave & Rachel Carter



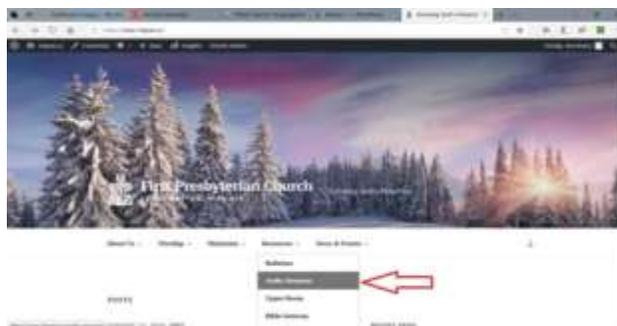
### Two New features on the Church Website: Prayer Requests

Submit your prayer requests from the **Menu** under the **News & Events tab**. Your requests will be sent to the website administrator for screening. Since this is a public website, only situations will be posted online. Detailed information will be provided to the Worship Leader so that the requests can be lifted up in prayer during the worship service. Also, **Audio added!**

Have you missed hearing any of our guest speakers? Did you know that we record each worship service?

We have now added audio files of each sermon on the church website. You can listen on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Go to <https://www.1stpres.cc/>. Click on the Resources Tab, then Audio Sermons to open

the page. Click on the sermon date and the sermon audio will play.



## Congregational Mission Study

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to the Pastor Search Congregational Survey. This is the last requirement by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) for their approval to call a Congregational Meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Your feedback will provide valuable information when they begin their task of searching for the next Pastor for our church. ~ The Session



[This Photo](#) by Un-



**Women's Bible Study** - We meet every Thursday at 10:30 am. We are studying Genesis, and are excited to have many who have volunteered to lead the classes. We have had some great discussions. We have had a good group so far. If you haven't come out, feel free to start.

**Women's Circle** - February 4 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. This meeting will replace our January meeting, that had to be cancelled due to weather. Ginny Troy will lead our discussion. Mark your calendars now. The date will get here quickly. We want to welcome all the women of the church and their friends and family. Refreshments will be provided.



**Souper Bowl of Caring - February 2** - Once again the session approved supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring which helps the local The Good Samaritan. More than 30 years ago the project began with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$153 million has been raised for local charities. It's been a powerful movement that is transforming

the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Be a part of this movement and consider giving generously on Sunday, February 2. Every dollar will go to support The Good Samaritan.

### **Shrove Tuesday Brunch on Sunday February 23**

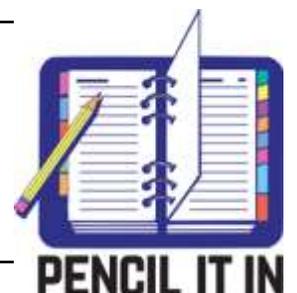
Join your church family on Sunday February 23rd after service for a delicious pancake brunch as we prepare for Lent. This traditional event was moved from Tuesday evening to Sunday to make it more convenient for church members to attend. Invite your family and friends to join us for worship and wonderful fellowship as we prepare for this holiest of seasons.



**Lenten Luncheons** - First Presbyterian will again host this annual event of Lenten Luncheons. It has grown each year, and we are grateful for those who come and enjoy fellowship together during lunch and for the area Pastors and leaders that provide the devotionals. Mark your calendars now for the season of Lent and plan to bring a bagged lunch at 12:00 noon. Dessert and drinks will be

provided. Ash Wednesday, February 26 will be our first luncheon and will continue for the next 7 weeks through Easter. We are excited that once again Rev. Susan Grimm from Trinity Episcopal Church will provide our first devotional as well as mark everyone who wishes with ashes as they exit. Devotionals will begin at 12:30 and end promptly at 12:45 to fit in the lunch hour.

**Worship Support Schedules** - The schedules for the Worship Support people are being emailed out to cut time, mailing expenses, and clutter. If you need to have a copy printed, please contact the church office so one can be mailed out to you.



**Steven Ministry** – Please pray for our Stephen Ministers. We can use more Stephen Ministers. What is a Stephen Minister? A Christian friend who listens, cares, prays supports and encourages those in need. "Christ caring for people through people." We have openings for more care receivers, as well. If you would like to help others, or know someone who is in need of care, please reach out to the church office, any Stephen leader, or any Elder.



Recently I was listening to a story about a terrible plane crash in Antarctica in 1979. I find it interesting that the crash was caused by a slight error in flight coordinates given to the pilots. The pilots did not realize incorrect coordinates had been given so they thought they were flying safely above flat ground; I however, they flew right into Mount Erebus, a mountain of more than 12,000 feet. What an awful tragedy, had they just had better vision (or coordinates). Just a small degree off course caused deadly results.

I am so grateful for the knowledge that I can be guided safely through life, if I turn to the One who has full vision of everything. It's easy to get anxious, or to think just a small step off the path will not hurt. However, so often life can take a terrible turn by a small misstep, or decision. Saul is certainly an example of this. As a young man he was righteous and chosen to be a leader for the Lord's children, the Israelites. Much of his life, he followed the Lord and became a great leader and king. But when the Philistines were threatening attack he became apprehensive. Samuel, the prophet said he would come help; he told him to wait, and he would come to offer a sacrifice and get advice from the Lord. Samuel did not come right away, and Saul got more anxious, and decided to offer a sacrifice on his own. He did not have the spiritual authority to do that and went off track from the Lord's path. He did not trust the Lord and His timetable.

The adversary wants to keep us off the path, give us "incorrect coordinates" and/or have our vision less than perfect. He creates darkness and obscure vision. But, when we trust the Lord, and follow His commandments, follow His prophet's counsel as we read His word in scripture, we can stay focused on the true picture.

Luckily, we have a course corrector, I am ever grateful for the atonement of Jesus Christ. Because of Him and His sacrifice, even though I have made many mistakes, I can change my direction and draw closer to the Lord. Because God knew we would all make mistakes and get off course on occasion, He gave us guidance and directions to return to the path. We need to give our heart and willing mind. To be anxiously engaged in a good cause. We need to hold on to the iron rod as we travel through life, then the darkness that comes will not be able to take us off the path that leads us back to our Father in Heaven.

When we come before the Lord with a broken heart and contrite spirit, we show our gratitude to God for the atonement. As we stay close to our Father in Heaven, He will guide our steps to stay on course.

~ Sherolyn

## New Sunday School Class beginning February 9

Beginning in February, the Adult Sunday School class will start a new study on the Book of Hebrews. The purpose of the study is two-fold:

- \**In general*, to help us as Christians address the question, "How does our Christian faith help us navigate this crazy world we live in today?"
- \**More specifically*, to help us as a church, during this time of pastoral vacancy, to evaluate ourselves with the related question, "How healthy are we spiritually and what is the direction of our ministry in meeting the hurts and needs of a suffering and confused nation and world?"



This study from Hebrews, led by Jim Luedtke, will seek to address these questions starting from a very basic and fundamental level.

To point us in the right direction, on February 2, Ed Lyons will be serving with us both during the 9:30 am Sunday School period and in the pulpit for the 10:30 service. On that day, both events will be held in the sanctuary.

Ed is from our new mission, the Persecution Project. For Sunday School, Ed will inform us about what is going on in Sudan, using supporting videos and photos on the big screen. And in the service, he will be filling the pulpit for our encouragement.

As a congregation that takes its faith and ministry seriously, we look forward to the service of Ed Lyons on February 2. Please, invite a friend and plan to come for both events.

The study of Hebrews itself will begin the following Sunday, February 9, in the fellowship hall at 9:30.



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

26 January <b>5 cents a Meal</b>  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 pm NA	27 January  6pm NA	28 January  12 noon NA	29 January  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 January  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon	31 January  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	February 1  NA12—1
2 	3  6pm NA	4  10:30 am Ladies Circle 12 noon NA	5  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 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 6 pm Girl Scouts	8  NA 12-1
9  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 pm NA	10  6pm NA	11  12 noon NA	12  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	  9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	NA 12—1
16  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 3 pm - Girl Scouts 6 pm NA	17  6pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	18  12 noon NA	19  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal  	20  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 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 <b>5 cents a Meal</b>  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 pm NA	24  6pm NA	25  12 noon NA	26  12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27  10:30—Women's Bible Study 12 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

# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays

- 1 Ann Ferguson
- 2 Jacquelyn McAbee
- 2 Baylee Miller
- 6 Anne Butler
- 6 Bob Seat
- 8 Pam Rowland
- 9 John Hall Greenbacker
- 10 Abbey Bales
- 11 Jonathan Farley
- 12 Morgan Paige Farley
- 13 Caitlin Joy Owens
- 13 Susan Godbold Klotz
- 13 Connie Crews Holder
- 14 Mark Crabtree
- 14 Kitty Lawson
- 15 Diane Newberry

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



\* In Memory

- 16 Kylie Berry
- 17 John Mele
- 18 Amanda Albert Bennett
- 18 Deborah Sizemore
- 19 Ashley Slaff
- 21 Sue Bales
- 22 Robert Carter
- 23 Charles Ware\*
- 23 Teresa McCollum
- 24 Skyler Smith
- 24 Melissa Fraser
- 26 Ann Egloff
- 28 Dargan Cherry
- 28 Madeline Ruth Freshour
- 29 Bob Egloff



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

1. Annette Goard served as Moderator for the January 20th Session Meeting.
2. The year end financial reports for January through December 2019 were approved as distributed.
3. Discussed the need for additional Stephen Ministers.
4. Souper Bowl Sunday—February 2nd
5. The next Presbyterian of the Peaks meeting will be held on February 13 in Forrest, VA. Don Cherry agreed to serve as Delegate with Carter Henderson as Alternate.
6. Jim Luedtke will begin teaching from the book of Hebrews on February 9 during the adult Sunday School class.

2020 Flower Calendar - There are many openings available for flowers to help beautify the Sanctuary. Call the office or stop by and fill in your favorite and special dates while they are still available.



**Flowers Needed!**

**Ladies Circle** - Tuesday,  
February 4, at 10:30 am.



**Weekly Happenings**

**February 17**

**Deacons at 7:00 pm**

**Elders at 7:30 pm**

**Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

**Women's Bible Study: Thursdays at 10:30 am**

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

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

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