

First Presbyterian News

Glenn Mark Coleman - Interim Pastor
Sherolyn Barnett, Office Manager
secretary@1stpres.cc
Chris Jones, Choir Director
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton
Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader
Doris Koch—Treasurer



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

Office Hours
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
434-572-3581



To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ at First Presbyterian Church of South Boston, Virginia.

Warmest greetings from your new transitional pastor.

Today, I have paused while moving to share few words with you. I have recently asked myself, "Who in their right mind moves to a new residence in the middle of a Global Pandemic?" The answer is—those who listen for and obey the call of God. When God calls, we Christians obey. When God called Abraham to leave his home and travel to an unknown location, God promised to be with him and to prosper him in many ways. Abraham believed God and moved from his home through God's direction. Abraham was an ordinary and sinful man, but because he believed and acted upon God's Word, God counted it to him as righteousness.

It occurs to me, just as I am responding to a call from God, the First Presbyterian Church of South Boston is also responding to a call from God to a new beginning in the life of the church. A chapter of the church's history has ended, and a new chapter is ready to begin. My job as a transitional pastor is to partner with the church membership to prepare well for that new chapter. The time of transition is a time to celebrate history, evaluate, and pray about the direction God is leading the church to take in the future. Together, we will celebrate the grace of Jesus Christ, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and order the life and ministry of the church according to God's will.

Just as God made promises to Abraham, so also, has Christ made promises to us in this transitional time. First Christ promises to be with us, wherever two or more are gathered in His name. He has promised to provide for our needs and dispel any anxiety in His perfect love. He has sent His Holy Spirit to guide us in all truth and empower us for the tasks of ministry and the making of disciples. As we study God's word and pray together, Christ will prosper us and answer our prayers. I am encouraged and count myself blessed to have been called to First Presbyterian Church of South Boston. I look forward to meeting each of our members in whatever way that may be appropriate under the current pandemic guidelines.



God bless each one of you,

Glenn Coleman

Meet the new Interim Pastor - Rev. Glenn Coleman and his wife, Cynthia, will be here July 1, and he will begin providing the worship services beginning July 5. We are excited to begin benefiting from his leadership and experience. They are moving from Charleston, WV. Rev. Glenn and Cynthia met on a blind date. This is the second marriage for both, and they have three children, Jason, Margaret, and John. They also have six grandchildren scattered across three states: North Carolina, Virginia, and Utah. Faith is the utmost priority in their lives, singly and together. They have a combined total of thirty-one years living in VA. They are looking forward to adding South Boston to their list of VA communities.



(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

Dear family and friends,

How do you feel when you just finish reading a really good book? For me, I often have the sense of fulfillment, but also a bit of sadness. Fulfillment because the story was so good, illuminating deep eternal realities that I want to see come true in my life and in the world. And sadness because the story is over.

There's not an easy way for us to tell you that our time in our current location is coming to a close. We've sensed for years that we wouldn't be spending the rest of our lives here. And during our last home assignment, the Lord made it clear to us that this would be our last term in this place.

We are feeling that sense of fulfillment, as we have, by His grace, run the race he prepared for us. We are sad because first and foremost for the kids, this is home. For Rachael and I, it is in many ways the forge where the Lord has melted, refined, molded, beaten, and sharpened us to conform more into His Son's image. This area runs deep in us.

In the coming weeks we'll be sharing more about what comes next. We will say now, though, that we are, by His grace, staying on the field, and with Pioneers, which we are so grateful for. Lord willing, we will return to the US for home assignment in the Fall. Would you ask the Lord to shower His mercies and graces on us in our final weeks here?

15 Years - Rachael and I have been married 15 years as of yesterday. By His grace, the Lord is the foundation of it. And if there has been a theme to these fifteen years of marriage, it's been Chad (for better or for worse!). He has been so faithful.

Coaching Workshop - This week Rachael has been going through a Coaching training workshop over Zoom and will finish it next week. Coaching is a vital skillset in our role as leaders, and it's a wonderful opportunity for Rachael as she coaches those we serve in our Area Leader role.

Lord willing, next year, we will be moving to Spain! In the future, we'll go into more detail about the why's and what's, which have everything to do with the where. It's worth sharing now, though, that we'll be taking on a new Area Leader role, but for a different part of North Africa. This is brand new territory for us, but we are really looking forward to it.

Would you continue to pray for us in our last weeks in our current location? For unexpected blessings from the Lord as we say goodbye and prepare for what's next.

For His glory and our good,

Dave, for the family



How will we use our freedom?

In 2000, Cornelious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community.

Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online

petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

What would *you* do with such undeserved freedom? What *do* we do with the unmerited freedom God grants us despite our sin, and with the freedoms we celebrate on July 4? May we follow Anderson's example and use our freedoms — social *and* spiritual — to serve others.

~ adapted from *Homiletics* (from *Newsletter Newsletter*)



Church Resumed -

Services resumed Sunday, June 21, quite successfully. 35 people were in attendance, which was amazing as many are traveling or choosing to stay home a bit longer.

Masks were worn by ushers and congregants arriving and departing. As every other pew is closed, many removed, or partially removed, their masks during service. Most wore masks for our unison responses.

Chris Jones played his beautiful music as we meditated on the words we would have otherwise sung.

Walks With Jesus demonstrated how we can "sink" and be overcome with worldly and personal concerns. We saw how the sweetness of God's love, through His Holy Spirit, can support, protect, and lift us up to serve to God's glory; we can rise above the "worldly" and live for God, trusting Him and accepting His protection of us. Sang David, in Psalm 86:10, "..for you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me."

Jane Lyon delivered a powerful message, "Run Toward Your Giant", incorporating Matthew 10:24-39 (with Jesus' instructions to His disciples) with the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. She helped us recognize the 'giants' in our lives and encouraged us to try a different tactic. Like David, saturate our mind with God. Face our Father first and most. Then in faith run toward our giant, declaring, "By the Power of God, in the name of Jesus, you can't have me giant, you're going down!"

We didn't need to sing with voices to sing in our minds and hearts, "We Need Thee Every Hour", following Jane's message; that was made clear by her and it closed a meaningful worshipful experience.

I'm grateful for our Elders for deciding to resume services and for our Committee who worked diligently to open church by following guidelines to provide a safe and comfortable experience for all who attended, with hopes of a meaningful worship experience.

The Committee consisting of Carter Henderson, Carol Foster, Kelly Chappell, Rick Harrell, and me will continue to re-evaluate and make changes as needed for your safe and pleasant Worship experience at 1st Presbyterian. We welcome your feedback.

I feel overwhelmed knowing God's power through His Holy Spirit for the blessings and gifts He has given each of us. I see opportunities He presents for us to grow in our faith, to grow the Church, and to face our future together.

Be wise staying safe. Use resources to grow your faith. Know you may contact your Elders at anytime for anything and your Committee with suggestions or questions.

With love and gratitude to you, my Church family,

~ Linda Lumsden,
Elder of Worship and Chair of Church Resumption Committee



Steven Ministry – Especially during this difficult time, if there is anyone you know who could use some support, someone to listen, and/or encourage them through an illness or this health crisis. Please contact one of the Elders, or one of the Stephen Ministers. They are here and wanting to be of support for those who are sick, lonely, depressed, or just needing a friend. Or if you are someone who is willing to reach out to another or help them in any way you can, we need you! More Stephen Ministers are needed. Please reach out to an Elder or another Stephen Minister to be added to this group.

COVID –19 Phase III - We are hopeful that as Virginia is able to enter into phase III that more of the church services will be available. Check in with the office and/or watch emails to stay informed about additional services resuming.

—STAYING—
CONNECTED





Freedom

4

I have been thinking much about our wonderful country and our founding fathers who fought for our freedom. I was listening to some thoughts about "Freedom" I read that many view the word as "freedom from" as from pain, oppression, bondage, etc. God intended for us to have freedom. To be able to choose good or evil, and to choose to serve Him.

Often, these days it seems to me that the word is used too frequently to allow people to misbehave then get away with it.

I have heard people say that church regulates too much of one's life, and some may think laws and commandments are too restrictive. In wanting to be "free" they choose to ignore laws and/or God. However, I like to think of a kite, and how it only will fly if a string is attached and anchoring it.

We too, need an anchor. Throughout scriptures, the Lord told prophets that if we cease to trust, honor, and obey His commandments, and turn to evil ways that we will have to pay the consequences.

During Jeremiah's time he tried to tell people to repent. He lamented that people were choosing wickedness and the Lord spoke to him, we read in Jeremiah 11:3 "And say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant" and then in verse 9, "A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem." Then in verse 11, "Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them."

I am saddened by sites and news all around me. I feel like times are resembling those of Jeremiah. As a prophet he was trying to convince his people to repent. Though Jeremiah tried to convince the people, they hardened their hearts, and would not hear. Soon afterwards they were scattered and captured into bondage by Assyria.

We also read in scripture that whoever "seeks to overthrow the freedom of [this] nation... [will] bring to pass the destruction of all people". We need to turn to the Lord, I was so hopeful that with this health crisis it would lead the nation back to realizing where to turn for peace, so that we can maintain our freedoms. The scriptures are full of examples of what happens when we turn away. I am grateful for this country and the freedoms we have; I pray we remember to whom we owe this blessing. ~ *Sherolyn*

PNC Update

This month we finalized the work on our job profile to be posted on the Vanderbloemen website. We were asked to include an introductory video to introduce potential candidates to our church. With the guidance of a local videographer, Ernest Richardson, we developed a plan for who would speak and what would be said. We would like to thank all who agreed to participate in this undertaking.



Mike Rand talked about what we desire in a new pastor.

Nancy Pool introduced the community, South Boston and Halifax county.

Matthew Bain and Linda Lumsden shared memories and information about First Presbyterian Church.

If you would like to check out the job posting and the video, you can visit the Vanderbloemen website at:

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/job/first-pres-south-boston-pastor>

Blessings,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman

July 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 28 June Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA | 29 June 6:00 pm NA | 30 June 12:00 PM NA | July 1 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | July 2 7:00 pm - Men of the Church | July 3 9:00 am Bullet folded 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA |  |
| 5 Welcome Rev. Glenn Coleman! Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA | 6 6:00 pm NA | 7 12:00 PM NA | 8 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | 7:00 pm - Men of the Church | 10 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | 11 12:00 PM NA |
| 12 Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA | 13 6:00 pm NA | 14 12:00 PM NA | 15 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | 16 7:00 pm - Men of the Church | 17 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | 18 12:00 PM NA |
| 19 Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA | 20 6:00 pm NA Deacons and Elders time- TBD | 21 12:00 PM NA | 22 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA Newsletter DEADLINE | 23 7:00 pm - Men of the Church | 24 9:00 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | 25 12:00 PM NA |
| 26 Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA | 27 6:00 pm NA | 28 12:00 PM NA | 29 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | 30 7:00 pm - Men of the Church | 31 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA | August 1 12:00 PM NA |



JULY Birthdays

* In Memory

- 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
- 18 Steven Crutchfield
- 21 Marilyn Lee
- 21 James Edmunds

- 26 Robert 'Bob' Nelson*
- 26 Jo Dixon
- 27 Mac Lacy
- 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.



Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

- 1 - Approved resumption of worship services to begin on Sunday, June 21st
- 2 - Worship service details discussed
- 3 - Communication continues with missionaries
- 4 - Information on new Interim Pastor posted on the website
- 5 - PNC produced an introductory video to be included in the Vanderbloemen job posting
- 6 - Vacation Bible School will not happen this year
- 7 - Rev. Glenn Coleman, our new Interim Pastor, will start work on July 1st
- 8 - Minutes from May 18th Session meeting approved
- 9 - Improvements on church building and grounds continue
- 10 - Manse being prepared for Interim Pastor
- 11 - Financial report in the (Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Income and Expense, and Year to Date Offerings versus Budget report) approved
- 12 - We all thank Rev. Betsy Soto for serving as our Moderator for the past few months
- 13 - The next Session meeting will be held on July 20, 2020.

July 20

Deacons - TBD

Elders time TBD-



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

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Here is your July 2020 Newsletter