

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

On February 21, 2018, the man who was once called our nation's pastor died. Billy Graham was indeed an influential preacher who counseled presidents and witnessed to Jesus Christ in more than one hundred eighty-five countries. Graham's televised crusades were a part of my childhood. Our family would gather around the television whenever Billy was preaching. What I learned from his sermons helped form my faith in Jesus Christ. Billy Graham's ministry became a part of my personal faith story.

When I was a college student near Black Mountain, North Carolina I had the privilege to meet Billy. I had been invited to join a dinner party where he was the keynote speaker. He was promoting a fundraiser to build a local medical facility. I was impressed by his stature and a humble graciousness that was evident in his demeanor. I was also impressed by his ability to gather Christians from various protestant denominations to support a worthy cause. Throughout my subsequent life I continued to tune in to Graham's broadcasts and read the several books he wrote. I came to cherish his example of humble commitment to Christ and his stewardship of fame and fortune in service to God.

My final encounter with Billy Graham was also the result of an invitation. My youngest son John was serving as counsel for the House Judiciary Committee in 2018 when Graham's body was lying in state at the Capital Building. John had been invited to join a special viewing for government employees. He was allowed to bring a guest, and knowing of my regard for Billy, he invited me to come. My son and I rode the metro-train early that morning. When we arrived, there were long lines waiting to view the casket. But our viewing was a special time set aside for government employees that was scheduled for the afternoon. We filled the morning hours, very appropriately, at the new Museum of the Bible. This trip became a pilgrimage to honor powerful influences on my spiritual formation. I felt very privileged to have the opportunity to pay my respects and honor Billy Graham.

We waited about an hour and a half in the line to enter the rotunda. Many Senators, Congressmen/women, were in line with a great number of staff. When we finally entered the great circular room, our eyes were drawn to the center of the room. We saw a plain pine plywood casket with a wooden cross on the top guarded by military and police honor guard. I found out later that the casket had been crafted by inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. Learning about the origin of the casket deepened my appreciation for the experience, as I knew that Billy and Ruth Graham were great supporters of prison ministry.

I wanted to share this story with you in order to highlight two ideas:

First, that within the Church of Jesus Christ, God provides us with worship experiences and people who can serve as mentors and role models in our spiritual formation.

Secondly, I wanted to highlight the importance of sharing our faith stories and important influences upon our spiritual formation. Much of the Bible is composed of individual faith stories inspired in God's people for the purpose of building faith in others. Consider the stories of Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Esther, Ruth, and the many other Old Testament people as well as Peter, Paul, Timothy, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Dorcas, and Prisca and Aquila, in our New Testament.

During the months of September and October you will have an opportunity to share significant events and influences you have experienced here at First Presbyterian Church of South Boston. Please see the announcement concerning faith history in this newsletter.

~ Glenn Coleman





MISSIONS CORNER

International Missions

This month I would like to share the introduction to a newsletter that I received from a ministry that I have supported for years. This note spoke to me and I hope that it will do the same for you.

Blessings, Don Cherry

Dear Friend,

We have more to be thankful for than we do to complain about.

It seems like everyone in our world is upset. COVID-19 is disrupting our way of life. Protesters are demanding justice and change. Political parties are blaming political parties. Governments are blaming governments. Shouting has replaced talking. Fighting has replaced fixing. We want every problem in the world solved, and we want it solved RIGHT NOW!

Perhaps we forget that this is not our home.

C. S. Lewis said, "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this" It is tempting in times of crisis to hoard and protect ourselves rather than seek and rescue those who are suffering. A human soul is exponentially more valuable than personal comfort.



Heaven and eternity are real. Even if everything gets worse, we have so much more to be thankful for than we do to complain about!

Thank you for being a shareholder in this work,

Joshua Macleod

President, Watermelon Ministries



September 6 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: "Good Judgment"

Scriptures: Psalms 119:33-40; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Forgive us our debts, as..."

Scriptures: Exodus 15:1-11. 20-21; Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Spell G-R-A-C-E"

Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Before Us?"

Scriptures: Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

October 4 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Parable About a Vineyard"

Scriptures: Psalms 80:7-15; Matthew 21:33-46



Sunday School – The Session approved the re-start of Sunday School beginning on Sunday, September 13. Adult Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m. each week and taught by Jim Luedtke, he will resume his lessons taken from Hebrews. The youth will have Teresa McCollum as their teacher, and class will begin at 10:00 a.m. each week.

Prayer Requests - As this is our first Prayer Request section, all recently known prayer requests are being listed: Donnell Correll - Cancer; Joe Ferguson - Cancer; Brenda (and Larry McPeters); Miriam Odom Smith (Linda Lumsden's mother-in-law); Sandi Hughes' mother fell and broke her hip, now in Rehab; Terri Hazelwood's family exposed to COVID; Les Powell knee replacement; Susie (and Jim) Luedtke - exposed to COVID; Pattie Grubb's cousin - diagnosed with COVID and is very ill. Mary Lou Hite - recovering from COVID but still has residual problems; Virginia Lowery - recovering with many facial fractures resulting from a car accident with a suicidal person - Virginia is 84; Margaret Covington's brother died of COVID, his wife is ill with the virus; Carol Foster's 3 y.o. granddaughter was ill, with respiratory issues.



Faith History Project of First Presbyterian Church of South Boston, Virginia

One of the tasks of the Transitional Pastor is to encourage the congregation to think about their journey of faith in the context of the Church's history and discuss, celebrate, and express their impressions of their experience. Our Transitional Pastor Glenn Coleman has developed a way for us to approach this important process within the limitations of the pandemic precautions.

At their August 23 meeting the Session endorsed the idea and encouraged Rev. Glenn Coleman to implement the following Faith History Project:

September and October will be divided into four, two-week intervals. In each interval members of the congregation will be asked to respond to a simple question about their faith life here at FPCSB. Members will be asked to submit their answers by email if possible, but also through the most comfortable means available because we would like to encourage as much participation as possible from all age groups in the church. Handwritten responses can be transcribed, and Pastor Coleman would welcome the opportunity to listen and take notes of verbal responses from shut-in members as he could listen socially distanced on a porch or outside a window.

At the conclusion of the project a special newsletter will be published sharing all of the responses for each interval. It is hoped that as the congregation reads those responses more discussion and celebration of the history of the church will take place.

Your assignment for September 1 through September 15 is to finish the following statement: *My fondest memory related to First Presbyterian Church South Boston is . . .*

Your assignment for September 15 through September 30 will be to finish the following statement: *First Presbyterian Church South Boston went through a difficult time when. . .*

Send your responses to the church office at secretary@1stpres.cc or mail to First Presbyterian Church 800 N. Main St South Boston, VA 24592-3341.

Call the church office to arrange an interview with Pastor Coleman.



Finances - We want to keep all informed of our current standing financially. Monthly we will post this information and updates.

The Year to Date Offerings Versus Budget report was presented showing that offerings through July, 2020, totaled \$114,949.57. When compared to the amount needed to keep pace with the budget, \$127,624.56, the church is currently \$12,674.99 behind schedule. The monthly offering for July totaled \$16,522.88.



Where Can I Turn for Peace?

With all the commotion and “noise” around us. I have been reflecting on my faith and where I find peace.

I know that the Lord knows the beginning from the end. He knew many eons ago that this virus was going to be here, and the commotion that it would cause us. I also know that He has a plan and it will eventually work out and we will find ourselves on the path toward Him again. We just need to be patient and faithful as we journey on this path of life. I find solace and peace as I listen to a wonderful song that expresses it so well, second verse states: “Where, when my aching grows, Where, when I languish, Where, in my need to know, where can I run? Where is the quiet hand to calm my anguish? Who, who can understand? He, only One.” Christ is our anchor. He is there for our reaching. He knows our pains and wants to comfort us. His peace is there for all who seek.

Also, reading and staying close to the scriptures I find comfort. In John 14:27 "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". We also find “He who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come”. I love those words! We can have peace of heart, and not worry or be afraid if we are righteous.

Even in history we can see evidence of the Lord being with the faithful. As this country was forming, the faith of those who fought, along with the blessing of the Lord, allowed this country to become the great nation it has been. 2000 soldiers of a bygone era, young and valiant, had such great faith in the Lord, and their love for family and country allowed them to fight the enemy with not one life being lost though all were injured. They had great faith that the Lord would spare them and help their cause was granted. They were raised up in righteous families, with parents who taught them to have faith in the Lord and His mercies.

All of us have troubles and trials. We are faced with a world we never expected, nor want, but here we are, and we, as Christians, need to stand up and become a powerful force for right. I know the Lord wants this country to survive and maintain its freedoms, long ago granted. If we are strong and faithful, say our prayers, as a mighty group, for this country and its safety, I know that righteousness will prevail. Ultimately, we are in the Lord’s hands and all will work out, if faith will endure. ~ *Sherolyn*



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV



Pray for this nation and celebrate safely! Labor Day is a great time for picnics and spending time outdoors. The Church office will be closed.

PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has a meeting scheduled with Vanderbloemen, our search firm, on Sunday, August 23rd. At this meeting we will be presented with some potential candidates that have been vetted as a “good fit” for our church. At that point any candidates of interest to the committee will be scheduled for initial video interviews. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as we move forward with the work that



you have entrusted to us. We pray that God quickly reveals to us the Pastor that he has selected to lead First Presbyterian Church of South Boston into the future.

In His gracious love,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman



September 2020 ⁵

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA	31 6:00 pm NA	September 1 12:00 PM NA	September 2 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	September 3 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	September 4 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	September 5
6 Worship - 10:30 am NO Sunday School or Nursery 6:00 pm NA	7 Office Closed 	8 12:00 PM NA	9 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	10 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	11 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	12
13 Worship - 10:30 am  6:00 pm NA	14 6:00 pm NA	15 12:00 PM NA Deacons and Elders time- 6 pm	16 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	17 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	18 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	19
20 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth classes 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	21 6:00 pm NA	22 12:00 PM NA	23 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 	24 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	25 9:00 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12:00 PM AA	26
27 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth classes 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	28 6:00 pm NA	29 12:00 PM NA	30 12:00 PM AA 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	October 1 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	October 2 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA	October 3

- 1 - Mike Koch
- 6 - Connie Marvin
- 6 - Salli Pool
- 7 - Connie Cox*
- 8 - Harman Saunders
- 8 - Michaella Freshour
- 8 - Doris Koch
- 9 - Joanie Crawford
- 10 - Sam Lewis
- 10 - Julianna Berry
- 10 - Carole Woodward
- 11 - Tommy Wilkinson
- 14 - Matthew Lee
- 16 - Eric Roberts



* In Memory

- 17 - George Burton
- 18 - Dylan Berry
- 18 - Jeremy Luedtke
- 19 - Paul Nichols
- 21 - 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.





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

1. Session recognized those on the prayer list.
2. Sunday School classes will resume September 13th with the Adults beginning at 9:30 am and the Youth class beginning at 10:00 am. With social distancing guidelines observed.
3. The July Finance Reports were presented and approved by the Session. A request from the South Boston Police Department for a \$50.00 donation has been approved and will be funded by our Local Missions budget.
4. Mike Koch continues to assess and manage repairs being made to both the Manse and the church building to include cleaning the Manse, repairing leaks and some minor construction to the patio, sidewalk and basement in order to prevent further damage from occurring. The church made fairly significant repairs over the last several months such as the heating, air conditioning, lighting, roof repairs and others. Thanks go out to Mike and Avon for their efforts.
5. Local Missions Chair, Mike Freshour would like to know if there are church members in the community in need of repairs such as plumbing, electrical and construction.
6. In addition to the N/A and A/A meetings that have already resumed, the Boy/Girl Scouts will start in-person meetings at the church.
7. A guide for the lighting system providing step-by-step trouble-shooting is now available. Thank you Don Cherry.

September 15

Deacons - TBD

Elders - 6:00 pm

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