

# First Presbyterian News

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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](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



First Pres. Family,

As a pastor, I have always been interested in the Interaction of the various components of faith, church membership, and calling. Since the Covid19 Pandemic it has been important to evaluate how these components can be nurtured under the masked, socially distanced, protocols. In my research I recently refreshed my memory on the writing of John H. Westerhoff who has written about stages of faith, particularly his book, *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Westerhoff contends that there are four stages of faith development:

- \* **experienced faith**, Young children experience faith by observing parents and participating in the customs and rituals of the faith tradition into which they are born.
- \* **affiliative faith**, Older children and teens develop *affiliative faith* by belonging to a faith community and experiencing all aspects of liturgy and ritual, as well as a sense of community membership.
- \* **searching faith**, This is the faith of questioning and internalizing what has been taught. Often seen as a transitional stage that moves one from believing the faith of others to having a strong sense of personal faith.
- \* **owned faith**, This is the faith that is developed from searching and internalizing to produce a strong personal faith that continues to expand and grow throughout life.

Westerhoff's work has been updated and likely superseded since the initial publishing in 1976. However, there is much in these stages of faith development to appreciate for our current situation:

- \* First of all, each stage relies upon, and presupposes, consistent participation in the faith community. Showing up each week is essential! We know that many cannot be with us in person because of health concerns that render them more at risk. But many of those folks have communicated that they are listening to the sermon online each week and following our newsletters and daily e-mails. People are showing up as safely as they can.
- \* Faith grows in the context of community. When it comes to faith development it does take a village! South Boston Presbyterian Church is a caring congregation that seeks to nurture the faith of young and old alike. Wearing masks, social distancing, and other safe practices in worship are a witness to the love we have for our neighbor, just as showing up witnesses to our love of God.
- \* It is not just OK to question and discuss issues of faith, it is essential. Searching faith is growing faith! Proverb 27:17 says that iron sharpens iron meaning that as we express, discuss, and live our faith we grow together. Our personal faith is a faith that continues to grow throughout our lives, and we own it and live it to the best of our abilities!

In Christ's love,

~ Glenn Coleman, Interim Pastor





# Paul & Reinhild Sydnor

(A First Presbyterian Mission)

### Ministry Overview

The Covid-19 confinement in France lifted on May 11th. We still have restrictions, but we are slowly building various relationships and ministries. These ministries have touched over 60 people this summer. Activities in the last four months have included:

- \* Driving license support group
- \* Community meals
- \* Prayer & faith support
- Mobile phone repair
- \* Computer learning courses
- \* Emergency food & water deliveries
- \* Garden & greenhouse help

We have worked closely with a local refugee led association called "Treasures of Earth" to empower and support their ideas. The newly opened centre offers the needed place for these joint activities such as the driving support group in the photo above.

We will continue to support these asylum seekers this Fall as they offer a French course and hair cutting service among their compatriots. Below is a list of highlights from this past summer.

- \* Emergency water deliveries alongside of homeless asylum seekers
- \* Emergency tents and Water team
- \* Sharing a meal together in the asylum seeker camp
- \* Rice for everyone
- \* Repairing phones and Learning about computers
- \* Discussing Faith



We thank God for all that is happening.

Please pray for more workers to join our team here in Lille.

*Paul*

PS. In August, I took part in a panel discussion of the Lausanne Global Diaspora Network summit. Over 800 people joined the livestream.



**October 4 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon Title: "A Parable About a Vineyard"**

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

**October 11 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon Title: "Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9**

**October 18 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon Title: "The Things That Belong to God"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 99; Matthew 22:15-22**

**October 25 - Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon Title: "Love God, Love Neighbor"**

**Scriptures: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Matthew 22:34-46**

**November 1 - Reformation Sunday**

**Sermon Title: "Our Servant King"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Matthew 23:1-12**

**November 8 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon Title: "The Day Is Coming"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**



**Sunday School** – Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. each week and taught by Jim Luedtke, his lessons are taken from Hebrews. The youth have Teresa McCollum as their teacher, and class is at 10:00 a.m. each week.

**Ladies Circle** meets again on Tuesday, October 6. We had a great turnout last month and enjoyed listening to Rev. Coleman. We are able to social distance and still enjoy the time together. This next month we will be honored to have Cynthia Coleman as our guest speaker. Come out and enjoy the fellowship one with another.



**Prayer Requests** - Freddie Collins, Marge Nelson, Joe Ferguson, Donnell Corelle, Mary Eleanor Priest, Brenda McPeters

**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 October 1 - 15 is to finish the following statement: (Name was the most influential person in my spiritual life during my membership at First Presbyterian of South Boston because ...**

**Your assignment for October 15 - 31 will be to finish the following statement: I remember a time when the members of First Presbyterian Church were very happy because ...**

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



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**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 August 2020, totaled 130,107.59. When compared to the amount needed to keep pace with the budget, \$145,856.64, the church is currently \$15,749.05 behind schedule. The monthly offering for August totaled \$15,158.02.



# CHOICES!

## Choices

My thoughts lately have been centered on my gratitude to my Father in Heaven for my many blessings.

For being born here in a free country where we can worship as we see fit, where we are free to make choices, and where we have the opportunity and responsibility to choose righteous leaders for the country.

I strongly believe that this is a choice land, that God directed those who came here so that they could have the freedoms they were searching for, and also to help pave the way for our wonderful lives today. We can find quotes from George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, stating they believe they were led by God. Christopher Columbus stated that "Our Lord unlocked my mind, sent me upon the sea, ... (many) who heard of my emprise called it foolish, and mocked me. But who can doubt that the Holy Ghost inspired me?"

Men through the years have fought valiantly to insure our freedom. Freedoms we may take for granted; I know I have until recently. Our religious freedoms and liberty are being threatened.

Satan has such power and influence over many. The scriptures are replete with prophecies of our day saying evil being called good and good evil. We as Christians need to step up to preserve our liberty and freedoms. To go to the polls and elect righteous leaders who will lead our country through this turmoil and insure our continued liberty, democracy, and religious rights.

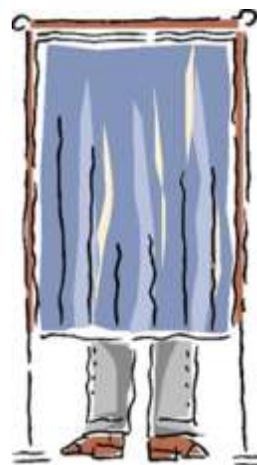
I found this quote from Anne Frank "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." What a true statement. We can make a difference, even just one person, then another person, and it can ripple into a full wave of change.

Christ was a perfect example of not submitting to the wrong leaders. He knew who He was... the Son of God, come to save the earth from sin. He suffered for each one of us in order to pave the way for us return to our Father in Heaven.

I think too, of the scripture with Joshua "Choose ye this day, whom ye will serve". He then tells them to choose the other gods of the other lands or the true and living God of Abraham. The people answered and said "Nay; but we shall serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 & 21).

Now is the time to choose whom we shall serve. The Lord and righteousness or the evil that is out there and trying to steal our happiness and joy. May we choose the Lord and make a stand for freedom is my prayer.

~ Sherolyn



# CAST YOUR VOTE!

## PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to work with the Vanderbloemen Search Group to find our next permanent pastor. We know that God has already selected this person for our church and that He will reveal them to us in His time.

Please continue to 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





# October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship	28 6:00 pm NA	29 12:00 PM NA	30 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	October 1 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	October 2 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	October 3
4 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship	5 6:00 pm NA	6 12:00 PM NA	7 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	8 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	9 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	10 AA-6-8 pm
11 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship	12 6:00 pm NA	13 12:00 PM NA	14 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	15 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	16 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	17 AA 6-8 pm
18 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	19 6:00 pm NA	20 12:00 PM NA Deacons and Elders time— 6 pm	21 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	22 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	23 9:00 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	24 AA 6-8 pm
25 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	26 6:00 pm NA	27 12:00 PM NA	28 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	29 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	30 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	31 AA—6-8 pm 



- 1 - Bobby Owens
- 4 - Susie Luedtke
- 7 - Laurie Morris
- 13 - James Wyatt Barczak\*
- 15 - Loretta Brown
- 18 - Michael Berry
- 20 - Virginia Crutchfield
- 21 - Pat Guthrie\*
- 21 - Rev. Glenn Coleman
- 22 - Les Powell III
- 26 - Kathy Farley
- 26 - Joni Owens
- 29 - Rowena VanDuser Smith

\* In Memory

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

## Congratulations!



Rowena VanDuser and Don Smith will be married on October 3. We are excited for them and their future. Wishing them all the best in this new adventure.



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

1. Rev. Coleman has asked the members to write a few sentences for a Faith History project. There will be several subjects to reflect on the history of First Presbyterian South Boston.
2. Mike Koch continues to monitor on-going repairs needed to maintain and the upkeep of the church and Manse. Work has been contracted to improve drainage at the Manse. The refrigerator in the church had an electrical issue which was addressed. The boiler is being worked on to prepare for the winter, as it wouldn't stay on once started. Thanks to Mike for all his dedication and hard work to keep us safe and functional.
3. We continue to receive communication from the missionaries supported by FPC-SoBo.
4. Linda Lumsden and Chris Jones are putting together music for worship services that abide with CDC guidelines and enjoyable and safe for the congregation.
5. We are hoping to have communion scheduled soon.
6. Financials for the month of August were presented and approved. Financial Chair, Mike Rand, is working on a proposed 2021 budget.
7. The Good Samaritan is in need of canned foods. Mike Freshour, Local Mission Chair, asked if there are any small repair needs such as: carpentry, plumbing, electrical or perhaps a ramp built, to let him know.



**October 20**

**Deacons - TBD**

**Session - 6:00 pm**



**Ladies Circle is BACK! :)**

Meeting each first Tuesday of the month.  
Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6.

**Choir is meeting again!**

6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings

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

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