

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

Some time ago I read a story about a small church in Pennsylvania that had reached a turning point in its life. It had always been known as a friendly little country church, however more and more of its children were moving away, leaving an ever-smaller group of older members to carry on. Fewer people in the pews and a dwindling budget led to a diminishing ministry in the community. Many people believed that the church would be closing its doors soon. One evening as the Session was debating the various future options for the church, discussion was paused by a knock on the door.



A haggard and worn hiker was seeking to fill his canteen and get permission to pitch a tent on church grounds. This was a common event at the church since the Appalachian Trail was adjacent to church property. When the committee resumed meeting, a member spoke up saying that God had just shown them where the future ministry of the church was to go. The group caught a vision of ministry to hikers passing on the Trail. The excitement was infectious as they brainstormed the many ways that they could witness to hikers through acts of hospitality. In the following years the church was revitalized as more people caught the new vision of ministry. New members were attracted to a church that was excited about its ministry and there was talk of expansion where just months before there was talk of closing.

In March of 2018 Sherry Blackman wrote about this church for "Presbyterians Today" magazine including the following: *"The outreach to hikers literally transformed the Presbyterian Church of the Mountain. Larry Beck, a long-serving church elder, was involved at its inception, when stated-supply pastor William H. Cohea designed a presbytery-funded survey to assess the needs of Appalachian Trail hikers passing through Delaware Water Gap.*

Beck recalls: "In 1976, the church was in trouble. It was dying. Only 15 congregants gathered for worship each Sunday, and did little else. The church did some soul-searching about how they could show God's love in the world. After much discussion and prayer — and yes, some resistance and more prayer — we decided we would start on this journey by opening our church building to Appalachian Trail hikers, since the church is located right on the trail as it crosses from Pennsylvania into New Jersey." Today the church has 130 members. Their hands-on ministry to hikers involves both the oldest and youngest congregants, who gather to serve and interact with dozens of hikers every Thursday evening of the summer for a potluck hot-dog dinner."

In this time of transition, we have been talking about the First Presbyterian Church of South Boston and how the transition period allows an opportunity to look around seeking a vision of what ministry God may be calling the church to perform. We need not wait until circumstances force a change, we can be in prayer and alert our senses for a knock on the door.

- Rev. Glenn Coleman, Interim Pastor



A shared experience



What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy? ~ Newsletter/Newsletter



"A mother is your first friend, your best friend, your forever friend." ~ Unknown

"Motherhood is the biggest gamble in the world. It is the glorious life force. It's huge and scary—it's an act of infinite optimism." ~ Gilda Radner

"A mother who knows her relationship with God helps her children to know Him and to be encircled by His love." ~ Bonnie Parkin

"Motherhood is near to divinity. It is the highest, holiest service to be assumed by mankind." ~ Howard Hunter

"The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the World." ~ W.R. Wallace

"It may be possible to guild pure gold, but who can make his mother more beautiful?" ~ Mahatma Gandhi



May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "Abiding in Him"

Scriptures: Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8

May 9 - Mother's Day

Sermon Title: "Conquering the World"

Scriptures: Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6

May 16 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "Moving On"

Scriptures: Psalm 1; Acts 1:15-26

May 23 - Day of Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Our Advocate"

Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21

May 30 - Trinity Sunday

Sermon Title: "Abba! Father!"

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17

June 6 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "The Gift of Sabbath"

Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-18; Mark 2:23-3:6

Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!
~Annette Wynne (Newlsetter/Newsletter)





Ladies Circle - Our last meeting before we take a break for the Summer will be May 4 at 11 am at Roma Restaurant. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Glenn Coleman. We are excited to have him come speak with us again. We hope many of the women will come out to this meeting. We hope to see you all again in the Fall. Have a safe and blessed Summer.

Flower Calendar - The flower calendar is up for the 2021 year. Call or visit the church office door to request your favorite dates for providing flowers in the Sanctuary. Very few days have been reserved. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, special dates... all are wonderful reasons to beautify the sanctuary. Dates do not have to be on or close, they can look back at dates and recognize a special occasion that may have been missed.



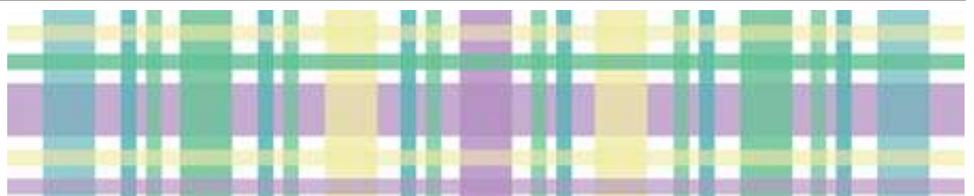
Prayer List - Continued prayers for Freddie Collins, Donnell Corelle, Brenda and Larry McPeters, Richard and Judy Stotlar. New prayer lists include: Kim Albert was in the hospital again, but again is home, and we pray she continues to progress in her healing.

Jack Horner, Sarah Helen Greenbacker's great nephew and Ann Cabell Zimmerman's great grandson, was diagnosed with Leukemia. He is 4 years old. Zachary Godbold, "Tee" Godbold's grandson, had elbow surgery on April 5 after breaking it during a fall. He is in college. Colby Harris, 5 year old great grandson of "Tee" Godbold will undergo a second open heart surgery on May 12 at Boston Children's Hospital. Bowman Family—Todd Bowman passed away suddenly. Gene Haugh has pulmonary issues. Gracie Lynn Bates - born 2 mo. Premature, weighing only 3 lbs, daughter of Robbie and Maranda Bates, she is in VCU hospital. Carter Henderson's mother fell, broke her hip, but had surgery and doing very well. William Glass IV, son of Dr. Wm Glass (previous pastor), passed away. Larry McPeters had knee surgery on April 8 and doing very well. Dr. Kim' 14 year old son was involved in a serious car accident, his soccer playing days are questionable. Janet Adams is now in (Woodview Nursing Home) for therapy, Dr. Wayne retired to be with her. Caroline Laughorn's grandfather was diagnosed with Leukemia and later passed. Joanna Blackstock's father passed away April 12. Jack Dunavant's wife, Bertha Jean passed away after a serious fall. Sheyanne Hauger, an employee of the Henderson's, passed away after a serious car accident. Sandy Tribley fighting cancer and under Hospice care. Keith Gilliam's family in need of prayers. Horace Griffin is in need of prayers as he suffers with liver disease, sepsis, and his kidneys have shut down. Then finally prayers needed for a good news event: Winston and Whitney Harrell are expecting twin girls. We are excited for them.

Celebration - We want to celebrate the graduates for their hard work and successes they have had through their school years. Wishing them well as they journey through the next stage of their lives. We will also celebrate and officially welcome Cynthia and Glenn Coleman to our church and area. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 13. We will have a meal and enjoy fellowship out at the picnic area after church.



Communion - Our next observance of the Lord's Supper will be Sunday, June 6. Mark your calendar so you can make sure to be here for this special day.



Follow in Jesus' Steps



True Followers

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As Easter is over, and Spring is finally here. I find myself loving the newness of Spring, the newness of life. I have been working hard in my flower beds, and garden. I love the opportunity to work hard and enjoy being outdoors and the beauties that abound.

This brings my heart peace and hope for a bright future. I have been thinking about how much Jesus Christ showed His love and compassion for others.

We have such great scripture stories, i.e.: the first person to see Christ after the resurrection was Mary Magdalene. She had become very fond of Him, and remorseful that she would not see Him again. To her surprise, soon she was speaking with Him. What a great story of love - we can feel His tender love for her and for the disciples when they all came to see Him.

His example of love and compassion is a guide for us. We can read in scripture "Therefore, what manner of men (and women) ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am", and "pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ". Christ-like love has been defined as charity. "I know that this love which [Christ] had for the children of men is charity; wherefore, except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which [Christ] hath prepared in the mansion of [His] father."

Just hours before Christ was to fulfill His journey here on earth, He told His disciples "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you. ... By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35)

He was the greatest example of love, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

May we be found with that kind of love for all those whom we come in contact. I am ever grateful for my Exemplar and especially for His love for me to give His life for my sins.

I love the Lord, Jesus Christ! I know He lives and loves each of us. ~ *Sherolyn*

PNC Update - As I reported last month, we are continuing in another "search cycle" with the Vanderbloemen Search Group. We hope to have some new candidates to review shortly. We continue to receive additional downloads of PIF's (resumes) from the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection (CLC). To date we have received over 300 PIF's (resumes) from PCUSA and Vanderbloemen has screened these submissions for potential candidates that would be a "good fit" for our church.



This month we were contacted directly by a candidate who expressed interest in our church. However, before we were able to screen and schedule an interview, he withdrew his name (in just a matter of days) from consideration because he began discussions with another church. To say the least, this is frustrating!

I know that I must sound like a broken record but through all of this, we continue to accept that God has already selected our next pastor and that He will reveal His choice to us in His time. James 1: 2-3 says "² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

We thank you for your continued prayers and your encouragement as we "persevere" with the work to which you have entrusted us.

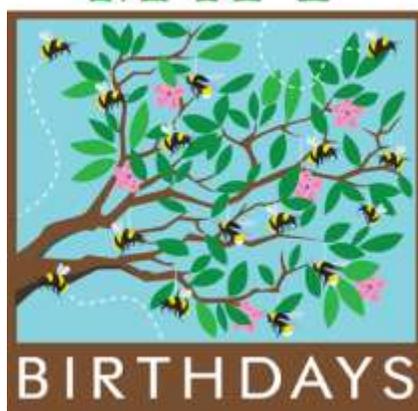
In His saving grace,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	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 - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	30 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	May 1
2 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	3 6:00 pm NA	4 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle 12:00 PM NA	5 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	6 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	7 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	8
9 - HAPPY Mother's DAY	10 6:00 pm NA	11 12:00 PM NA	12 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	13 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	14 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	15
16 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	17 6:00 pm NA	18 12:00 PM NA 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Elders	19 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	20 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 - AA	21 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	22
23 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	24 6:00 pm NA Newsletter DEADLINE	25 12:00 PM NA	26 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	27 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	28 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	29
30 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	 MEMORIAL DAY	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5

MAY



- 1 Jerry Cherry
- 1 Brian Farley
- 3 Rick Harrell
- 3 Les Powell IV
- 4 Kelly Gravitt O'Kelly
- 4 Anne-Carlile Cranford-Edwards
- 6 Darlene Bain*
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 9 Terri Hazelwood
- 10 Jennifer Edmunds
- 12 Mike Long
- 12 Byrd Young*

- 13 Raleigh Powell
- 13 Patty Nelson
- 15 Nick Lumsden
- 15 Ginny Miller
- 22 Jim Burton*
- 24 Brittany Hazelwood
- 28 Winston Harrell
- 29 Sterling Roberts

* In Memory

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

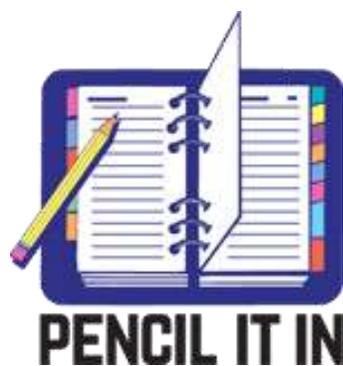




Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

The Session met on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman updated the Session on congregational news.
2. The minutes of the March 16th Session and Diaconate meetings were read and approved as written by the Session.
3. Two officers (Ted VanBenschoten – Elder and Pattie Grubbs – Deacon) submitted letters of resignation for personal reasons. The resignations were regretfully accepted. Unexpired terms will be filled in the next election cycle.
4. First quarter financial reports were reviewed.
5. An outdoor fellowship event is being planned by the Deacons for June 13th after the worship service. This will be to officially welcome Rev. Glenn Coleman and his wife Cynthia to our church, and to honor our High School graduates.
6. A riding lawnmower has been purchased for use by Avon (Church Sexton). He is doing a great job taking care of the grass and landscaping. This will be a significant savings in our annual lawn care costs.
7. We will continue to pursue the sale of the church bus and golf cart. We do have a church that is interested in the bus and Jeff Henderson has given us a quote on the golf cart.
8. Don Cherry is taking the lead on developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual.
9. Next communion will be Sunday, June 6, 2021.
10. The Shepherding Groups have been reorganized to incorporate the newly installed officers. Some reorganization will need to be done due to the officer resignations.



Upcoming :

Ladies Circle - Tuesday, May 6 at 10:30 am at Roma Restaurant

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Deacons - Tuesday, May 18 at 6:00 pm.

Session - Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
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Here is your May 2021 Newsletter