

First Presbyterian News

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A Season of Prayer

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

As October begins and the fall season is upon us, I have become aware that we are also entering a new season of prayer. Throughout this summer we have been praying for various concerns: people who are ill, families who have lost loved ones, doctors, nurses, first responders, who bear a heavy burden due to the COVID19 pandemic, the political and philosophical divisions in our country, our government leaders, men and women of our armed services, the Church, and many other concerns. These concerns are still with us, and I hope you pray each day for these and your personal concerns. God wants to hear our concerns and cares because our prayers deepen our relationship with God through Christ. Jesus gave us the Lord's prayer to encourage us to bring our cares and concerns to God. Jesus also taught his disciples to observe the world around them and maintain awareness of the changing world and the physical and spiritual needs around them.

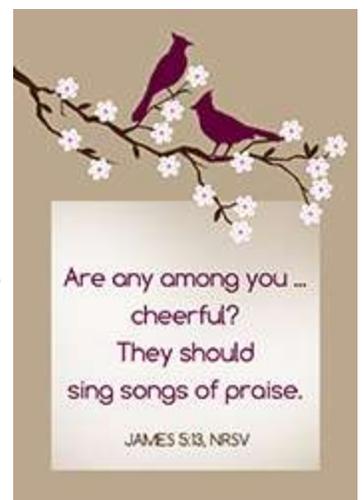
And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

We observe our church and community, and we realize that we are entering a new season of prayer because we have new concerns that we want to bring to the Lord in prayer. On October 10, 2021 we will begin our stewardship campaign, which is not just a matter of pledge cards and budgets, but a time of prayer for each church member to examine their current giving and ask the Lord's guidance for the coming year. We know that contributions are down, and the church is operating on a significant deficit. What is the Lord calling upon you to do?

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. James 5:13-15

On October 24, 2021 our church will convene a congregational meeting to elect members to the nominating committee in order to begin the process of electing classes of elders and deacons. Just as stewardship requires a new season of prayer, so does the process of selecting leadership. First Presbyterian Church of South Boston is blessed with members who have demonstrated a wide variety of skills and talents as well as deep dedication to Christ and his church. Could the Lord be calling you to serve? Please be in prayer for the process and your personal role. What is the Lord calling upon you to do?

There are other important seasonal issues that need our prayers: November elections, children's education as the pandemic continues, and do not forget to pray for your Pastor Nominating Committee.



(continued on page 3)



Prayer List - Bill Joor's son, Billy had complications after surgery; Mike and Ellen Haskett diagnosed with COVID; Debra Sanders, Kay Lewis' sister, had a second surgery for tumor removal. Ronnie Newton was in ICU with COVID, we pray he is better. Rhoda VanBenschoten, Ted's sister had COVID, is recovering, tests and procedures are forthcoming due to a mass that was found. Continued prayers for Donnell Corelle, Keith Gilliam's family continue to need of prayers. Dan Koutsos can use continued prayers as he continues dialysis. Del Pool can still use prayers as he receives therapy for continued healing. Marge Nelson continues to improve. Mark Foster, Sandra McGregor has brain and lung cancer; Eric Lewis, Jim Luedtke's son-in-law, was in ICU after heart surgery with post-op complications and also from COPD. Gail Smith, Glenn and Cynthia's neighbor has been diagnosed with lymphoma, and her husband Dannie; Bob Duncan, Don and Dargan's friend is in need of prayers as he waits to be on a transplant list. Wynn Henderson, Mark and Carol Foster's grandson, Wynn Henderson, is in need of prayers.

Communion - Our next observance of the Lord's Supper will be October 3. Mark your calendars and make sure you come to church to observe this holy sacrament. We will also have communion on December 5, and during the Candle Light Service, Christmas Eve. Mark your calendar so you don't miss partaking of the Lord's Supper on these dates.



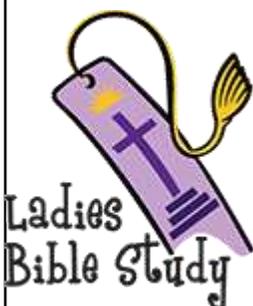
Flower Calendar - We have most of the remaining year open and available for flowers to help beautify the sanctuary. Consider any plants you may have around the yard, or in pots. These work well, as well as flower arrangements. The Lord has provided beauty in abundance, let's show Him our appreciation for these blessings by utilizing some of the beauty around us.

Congregational Meetings - We have two (2) congregational meetings planned in conjunction with our Stewardship campaign and developing new officers. Our first congregational meeting will be Sunday, October 24 after service to elect the remaining members of the Nominating Committee. On Sunday, November 14 will be the second meeting where we will review the 2022 budget, and elect new officers. Mark your calendar.

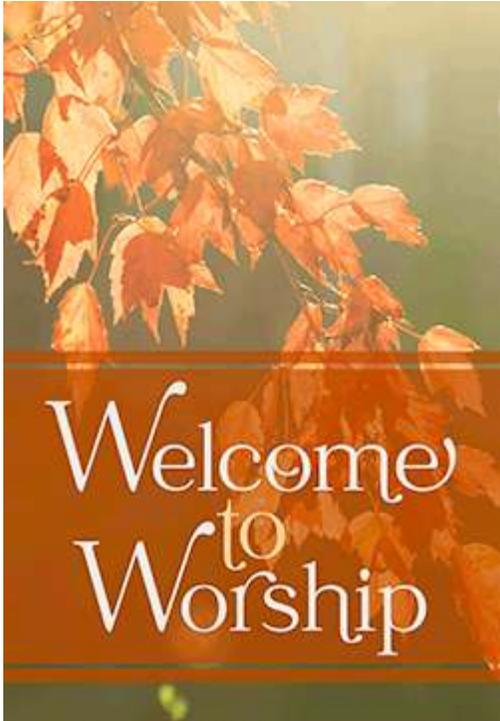


Haiti Relief - Thank you to all for the generous donations to this worthy cause. We were able to raise \$1750 to send to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA).

Ladies' Circle - Our next meeting for the Ladies' Circle will be this Tuesday, October 5 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. We had a great discussion last month; we are using the Upper Room as our source material. All women are invited to attend.



Women's Bible Study - We will restart the Women's Bible Study group. The first meeting will be this Thursday, October 7 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. The study will come from *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. This study will help us to recognize good and evil so we can have better discernment.



October 3 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Sermon Title: "Curse God and Die?"

"Scriptures: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Mark 10:2-16

October 10 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Title: "What More is Needed?"

Scriptures: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Mark 10:17-31

October 17 - Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Our God Listens"

Scriptures: Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Mark 10:35-45

October 24 - Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Faith to Follow"

Scriptures: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Mark 10:46-52

October 31 - Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Ordinary People"

Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:11-14

November 7 - Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Kinsman Redeemer"

Scriptures: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:24-28

(continued from page 1 - Interim Pastor's message)

The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

~ Rev. Glenn Coleman



**Searching
for a New
Pastor**



The PNC Update - Strong words of encouragement from the apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Rome: ⁴ *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.* ⁵ *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, - Romans 15:4-5 (NIV)*

September 2021 marks 18 months since the PNC began this search process. At this point in time, we could all use some encouragement. This is not an easy task, and the very future of our church may be at stake. As time drags on, we have seen excitement as we talk with "promising" candidates and felt disappointment as these potential pastors decide not to continue our dialog. I know that solo pastoring a relatively small church in rural southern Virginia is not a position that appeals to everyone. Couple that with the challenges of this time of transition and a global pandemic there is plenty of cause for worry. This is when we must look to God's Word for strength and encouragement.

Please pray for us as we watch doors close and others open. We know that God has already selected our next pastor and that He will reveal them to us in His time.

Grace and peace,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman

“Judge Not”

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Recently I heard someone talking about a sign they had seen years prior. It read “Everybody is somebody’s weirdo.” That message struck me. I am sure that sometime in each of our lives we have come across someone who was very different than us, and perhaps we made a quick judgment regarding that person. I think of several times in my life I have judged another thinking they and I were very different, and at first didn’t want to associate with them, only to find later, how similar we were and we became best of friends. How interesting that some of the roughest looking people can be gentle giants.

Have you ever “judged” someone to later find your “judgment” was incorrect?

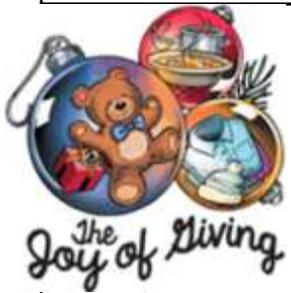
There are so many examples and admonitions to not judge another, and yet as humans we often find ourselves doing just that, sometimes before we even realize we have done so. Some of these admonitions come from old sayings, here are a couple: “Never judge a book by its cover”, “Never judge another man until you have walked a mile in his footsteps”. One of my favorite scenes is in the movie Bambi. I am sure you all remember, when Bambi was very young and learning to walk then his legs went out from under him. Thumper saw him and said, “He doesn’t walk very well, does he?” Afterward, Thumper’s mother asks him what his father had just told him that morning. Thumper replies, “If you can’t say somethin’ nice, don’t say nothin’ at all.” Another saying I’ve heard:

*There is so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it ill behooves any of us
To find fault with the rest of us.*



All of these stories and sayings give evidence that we should heed the council of the Lord, where we read in multiple scriptures to “judge not” or to “judge righteously.” (see Luke 6:37, and/or Leviticus 19:15). One scripture states that we should say in our hearts – “let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds”. As human beings we often find it hard to take that attitude, but ultimately God will be the judge, and we know His judgment is just. We need to trust the Holy Ghost which “leadeth to judge righteously”. We are all children of God, and He loves each and every one of us. I know that just because one acts differently, looks different, talks different, are not reasons for judgment, but rather opportunities to embrace. Diversity, is the spice of life. I am grateful for the lessons I’ve learned, that God loves us all, and we too, are to love one another. Bringing others unto Christ is the ultimate goal for all Christians.

~ Sherolyn



Giving Is a Joy - As we approach Stewardship season, I saw this article on the Presbytery website. “They say money can’t buy happiness, but research indicates this may not be entirely true. The trick is to focus on what you *give*, rather than what you *get*.” So, where should you go to “purchase” this joy?” The answer: your church and charities. The key is the word *donate*. Those who donate money tend to be happier than those who don’t.

Research also shows that those who give regularly are happier than those who only give one time. And it’s not just happiness that is affected; people in pledging households are more optimistic about their future and are more likely to believe that people can generally be trusted. The one caveat, the research can not tell if donating makes one happier, or if happier people are the ones who donate, but either way, it’s clear that donating is a clear sign of happiness. For more info on this research go to: pcusa.org/research.

Time Change: Daylight-Savings time will be ending November 7. Mark your calendar so you will remember to turn your clocks back in time for services, so you can show up on time, and not an hour early.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	27 6:00 pm NA	28 12:00 PM NA	29 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	30 8:00 pm - AA	October 1 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	October 2
3 - Communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	4 6:00 pm NA	5 12:00 PM NA	6 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	7 8:00 pm - AA	8 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	9
10 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	11 6:00 pm NA	12 12:00 PM NA	13 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	14 8:00 pm - AA	15 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	16
17 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	18 6:00 pm NA	19 12:00 PM NA 6:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Elders	20 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	21 8:00 - AA	22 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	23
24 - Congregational Meeting 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	25 6:00 pm NA	26 12:00 PM NA 	27 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	28 8:00 pm - AA	29 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	30
31 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	November 1 6:00 pm NA	November 2 12:00 PM NA	November 3 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	November 4 8:00 pm - AA	November 5 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	November 6

- 4 Susie Luedtke
- 7 Laurie Edward Morris
- 13 James Wyatt Barczak*
- 20 Virginia Crutchfield
- 21 Pat Guthrie*
- 21 Rev. Glenn Coleman
- 22 Les Powell III
- 26 Kathy Farley
- 26 Joni Owens
- 26 Red Guthrie*
- 29 Rowena VanDuser Smith



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



* In Memory



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

The Session met on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer and updated the Session on congregational news.

2. A congregational meeting has been set for Sunday, October 24th for the purpose of electing a minimum of four members to serve on the Nominating Committee to form a ballot for church officers for the Class of 2024.

3. A congregational meeting has been set for Sunday, November 14th for the purpose of electing church officers for the Class of 2024 and to present the budget for 2022.

4. The PNC report is currently in conversation with a promising candidate. Discussion is continuing and we are hopeful that this will yield a positive result.

5. Christian Education - Rally Day was held Sunday, September 12th. Due to concerns over growing COVID-19 infection rates, there was no meal served prior to worship service and teacher recognition took place during the service.

6. The special offering to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for Haiti on August 29th, was successful. \$1750 was collected.

7. The Deacons have taken on this year's Stewardship Campaign to begin on October 10th.

8. Finance Committee - First eight months financial reports were reviewed. Giving is down, we are nearly \$25,000 behind year-to-date vs the 2021 budget.

9. Worship Committee - Next communion will be Sunday, October 3, 2021.

10. Work continues developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual. The Deacons have helped develop the Wedding and Funeral policies.

11. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Upcoming :

Ladies' Circle - Tuesday, October 5 at 10:30 am.

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Women's Bible Study - Each Thursday beginning October 7th at 10:30 am

Deacons - Tuesday, October 19 at 6:00 pm

Session - Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 pm

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