

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. family,

When my wife and I were looking for a church, we visited First Presbyterian Church. I remember that day vividly. At that time the church had small, red folders with forms to write your name, address, phone number, and other information. My wife dutifully filled it out and before I knew it she put the form in the collection plate. I just knew we would have to fend off phone call after phone call and visit after visit telling us how we needed to come to this church or else bad things would happen. My experience in finding or going to churches in the past informed my concerns; previously I was met with what some would call the "hard sale." I would visit a church and then the calls and visits and warnings about my mortal soul would be overwhelming, sometimes bordering on harassment.

Fortunately, the members of First Presbyterian Church were not like that at all. To the contrary, my wife and I were met with a respectful kindness. I remember the first visit from a church member who stopped by the house to say hello and delivering a loaf of bread and asking for us to come back the following Sunday. We went back and before we knew it, the pastor had somehow been invited to dinner at our house and our sweet baby Michaela was Jesus, and my wife and I Joseph and Mary, in the Christmas Cantata. First Presbyterian felt like home; good services, good people and so very welcoming.

After joining the church, I volunteered to teach bible school to the pre-k kids since my first two daughters were in the class. Back then the lessons were left in a manilla envelope in the class room along with an activity. The very first lesson I was to teach was on the Ten Commandments. I don't know that I taught much but I learned a valuable lesson that day and it was this: If you cannot remember all ten commandments, just remember these two. First, put God first in all things and second, treat others as God would treat you. Following these two simple ideas would guarantee you to keep the Ten Commandments. I try to follow these rules to this day but, as a sinner, I am not always successful.

Peter tells us "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38. In 1Peter 3:15 we are also told, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." Before coming to our church, I was met with people that were Christians but did not always act with gentleness and respect. I am so thankful to God that when Loretta Brown delivered that loaf of bread to my family she not only put God first but treated all of us as God would treat her. In this divisive world that seems to want to divide us into this group or that group, I pray we all keep in mind that as ambassadors of God, we should all treat others as God has treated us, with gentleness and respect.

Blessings,

Mike Freshour

Co-Chair, Worship Committee





Women's Bible Study - We are meeting each Wednesday at 10:30 in the Philathea Room. Our study continues with C.S. Lewis writings. If you have not been out, that is ok. We welcome newcomers. Come out and enjoy the study.

Card Ministry - We begin our Card Ministry on Tuesday, October 4 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Joni Owens has had training in making beautiful personalized greeting cards, and will share tips and skills with us. No talent is required! All materials will be provided. We'll meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Come join us and make cards for our fellow church members and for fun and fellowship.



Pepper Choplin Concert - Enjoy an evening of inspiration and humor with Composer, Conductor, and Humorist, Pepper Choplin and the community choir on Sunday, October 23 at 6pm at First Baptist Church.

Prayer List - Evelyn O. Henderson, Carter Henderson's mother passed away on September 25. Prayers for her family. Lorene Gilliam passed suddenly on September 15. Prayers for Dabney and both families. Gene Haugh's family after his passing; Chris Hutcherson's family after his passing. Liz Bates' family after her passing. England after the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Ginny Troy is in the hospital with digestive issues. Jerry Brinley, Sterling Roberts's uncle had a bad fall in long-term rehab, that required surgery, prayers for healing. David FitzLeon Plaster had heart surgery and is recovering; Luanna Daniel; Pat Hay's daughter-in-law's father passed. Pat Hay has an unborn great grandchild that needs prayers. Gene Powell broke his back from a fall, not strong enough for surgery. Gilmer Meeler - Cancer relapse, Connie Troy continues to need prayers. Jerry Grubbs completed a regimen of cancer treatments. Victims of hurricane Ian.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Vote - It is time to vote. Make sure your voice is heard during this election process. Voting in person is now open at Mary Bethune.



Stewardship - Stewardship season is here. Your church relies upon contributions of many types. Monetary contributions are certainly part of it, but when we joined the church we promised to participate actively and responsibly in the church and its mission. That participation also includes prayers, presence, and service, as well as gifts. Stewardship, therefore, will be as unique to every one of us as we are to God.

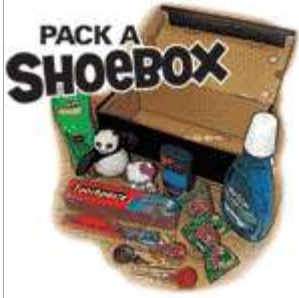
Everyone, in his or her heart has to discern and evaluate what he or she can do to be a good steward. Each of us, individually, knows how we can contribute to the church. We all have to make our decisions, based on our own personal situations, as to how much money we will contribute, how much of our time and talents we will share, and how we will be of service.

How best will we serve God. John Wesley advised us to:

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”



In preparation for our stewardship commitments for the coming year, we need to look into our hearts, and pray for God's guidance in making our stewardship decisions. ~ Elders



It's Shoebox Time Again! I don't know about you, but I hate it when Christmas promotions begin before school is barely underway each fall! But I am always on board for getting started on the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project even though Halloween is still a month away. And the time to get started is now!

Just last Sunday our guest speaker, Executive Presbyterian Carl Utley, spoke from Matthew 25 about the parable of the talents, and how God calls us to step out of our comfort zone and spread the Good News of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We have been given the gift, and we are expected to share it. Well, here's some other good news! Supporting Operation Christmas Child allows you to do just that – spread the news of Jesus Christ to over 100 countries all around the world. And it's as simple as securing a shoebox and packing it with gifts.

This ministry is about more than just gifts, though. In addition to hearing the Gospel before they receive their shoebox gift, children also receive The Greatest Gift, a storybook that shares the message of salvation. It is printed in more than 80 languages. The storybooks are taken home and shared with family and friends.

After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are invited by the local church to participate in a 12-lesson discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. The goal of the program is for children to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with family and friends. More than 30.9 million children have enrolled in The Greatest Journey since 2009.

And it all starts with a shoebox. There are a few pre-printed shoeboxes scattered around the church that you can pick up, or you can use any shoebox you may have or better yet a plastic container with lid of comparable size. Brochures with box labels will soon be available where you designate the gender and age range for which your gift is best suited. The age ranges are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 years old. The brochure also has suggestions on how to pack your shoebox, as well as what NOT to include.

A \$10 donation per box is requested to help with the cost of shipping. Just include your donation inside your box (make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church) and the church will make a one-time gift to Samaritan's Purse.

Return your boxes to the altar under the cross/flower stand next to the pulpit on any Sunday, or to the church office at any time it is open. The deadline is November 13.

You can also Build a Shoebox Online, if you are unable to physically get out and shop. Simply go to www.samaritanspurse.org and follow the simple steps. The cost is \$25, which includes the \$10 shipping donation. You will have to pay online with a credit card. If you choose this option, please notify the church office or Kim Albert (434-579-5011) so an accurate count of our participation can be made.

In the past several years we have hovered around a goal of 30 shoeboxes. I would like to issue a challenge this year to meet a goal of 50 boxes. The need around the world is always growing, but think for a moment about the millions of people in Ukraine alone whose situation has changed drastically in the past year. Samaritan's Purse is working with over 2,000 partner churches in Ukraine to provide food, medical care, and other needs, so there is ample opportunity to provide a bright spot in the darkness for many Ukrainian children.

For more information contact Kim Albert, or go to www.samaritanspurse.org.



Take Note - Daylight Savings Time will come to an end on November 6. We will turn the clocks back 1 hour. - Yay we get another hour of sleep!

Searching for a New Pastor



PNC Update - This has been a difficult month for the PNC. It has now been two and a half years since our committee was tasked with finding the next pastor to lead our congregation. During that time we have been “matched” with over 500 candidates by the Church Leadership Connection of the PC(USA). Early in the search process we discovered that many of these “matched” candidates would not even respond to our inquiries. One could only wonder as to

why these “actively seeking” individuals chose not to answer our queries. This is when we decided to seek assistance from a professional search firm that specializes in filling church leadership positions. We selected the Vanderbloemen Search Group in Houston, Texas founded by William Vanderbloemen, a former PC(USA) pastor.

When we first started working with our account executive, also a former PC(USA) pastor, he honestly told us that this would be a difficult opening to fill. Not many pastors in our salary range are interested in a solo pastor position in a rural area. He did assure us that while this search may be lengthy, God has already selected our next pastor and that it would be revealed to us in His time. We have walked, together with Vanderbloemen, through multiple interviews with candidates and to date none have been called to come to South Boston.

Keep in mind that amid this period we have been faced with a global pandemic that has taxed our small congregation. That coupled with the recent financial challenges has further limited our ability to negotiate a call to FPC South Boston.

I tell you all this not to make excuses for how long this is taking but to honestly share with you the path we are traveling together. I put all my trust in my Savior Jesus Christ who, while sinless himself, face an agonizing death on the cross to pay for my sin. Only through His redeeming grace will we have life eternal.

Your prayers and encouragement are greatly appreciated. I am confident that God is not finished with First Presbyterian Church in South Boston and that we can continue to share the good news of the gospel. *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:18)*

Grace and peace,

Don Cherry. **PNC Chairman**



October 2 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: “Mustard Seeds”

Scriptures: Psalm 37:1-9; Luke 17:5-10

October 9 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: “One Came Back”

Scriptures: Psalm 66:1-12; Luke 17:11-19

October 16 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: “In Praise of Persistence”

Scriptures: Psalm 121; Luke 18:1-8

October 23 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: “In Whom Do I Trust?”

Scriptures: Psalm 84:1-7; Luke 18:9-14

October 30 - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: “Tradition”

Scriptures: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Luke 6:20-31

November 6– Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: “Stand Firm, Hold Fast”

Scriptures: Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thes. 2:1-5, 13-17



OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	26	27	28 10:30 am Women's Bible study 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	29 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	30 12:00 PM AA	October 1
2 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	3	4 10:30 am Greeting Card	5 10:30 am Women's Bible study 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	6 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	7 12:00 PM AA	8
9 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	10 Columbus Day	11	12 10:30 am Women's Bible study 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	13 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	14 12:00 PM AA	15
16- 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 12:30 pm - Session 3:00 pm - Deacons	17	18	19 10:30 am Women's Bible study 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	20 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 - AA	21 12:00 PM AA	22
23 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	24 	25	26 10:30 am Women's Bible study 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	27 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	28 12:00 PM AA	29
30 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 	31	November 1 10:30 am Greeting Card	November 2 10:30 am Women's Bible study 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	November 3	November 4	November 5



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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



* In Memory

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




From the Elders

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

The Session met on Sunday, September 18, 2022

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. The Session approved becoming the Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 497.
4. Membership Roll – Lorene Dejarnette Gilliam passed away on September 15, 2022.
5. Next Presbytery Meeting – November 17, 2022. Rev. Coleman will be honorably retired.
6. PNC Report – Continues to work with the Vanderbloemen Search Group to identify potential candidates for our next pastor.
7. Local Missions – We will participate in Operation Christmas Child again this year.
8. Property –
 - Elliott Electric will start a phased installation of the sanctuary heat pumps in the next few months.
 - Mike Rand presented an update on the progress of the insurance claim for the fire in the Manse. We discussed the response to our letter to Brotherhood Mutual (our insurance carrier).
 - The chandelier light bulbs will be changed to “warm light” type from the current “daylight” type.
9. Budget & Finance – Financial report was reviewed
10. Worship – Next communion October 2nd.
11. Rally Day – Thanks to the Deacon’s hard work, the Rally Day breakfast on Sunday, September 11th was a great success.
12. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Upcoming :

Greeting Card Ministry - First Tuesday of the month at 10:30

Women’s Bible study - Wednesdays at 10:30

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

5 Cents-a-Meal collection - Sunday, October 16

Deacons and Session - Sunday, October 16. Session at 12:30 pm and the Deacons at 3:00 pm.

First Presbyterian Church
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