

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

I hope everyone is enjoying their Summer!

It's been a long time coming. We've enjoyed some cooler temperatures and even some rain! I know the rain is needed, but it seemed like it rained every weekend and for me, that is the time I can get out and enjoy the outdoors. Summers around here are hot and humid, and we've all figured out the best way to enjoy it. Some like to travel or vacation locally. Maybe you like to cool off at the pool or spend time at the lake. Some like to play golf or enjoy their own backyards. As we share this season, I wanted to remind you of some of God's promises. Last January, I shared promises A-G from the "Alphabet of Promises. Let me share H-N!

H: 1 John 4:10 - **Herein** is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (KJV)

I: John 14:14 - **If** you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (ESV)

J: John 14:23 - **Jesus** answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

K: Deuteronomy 7:9 - **Know** therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (NIV)

L: Isaiah 45:22 - **Look** unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (KJV)

M: Psalm 121:2 - **My** help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (NIV)

N: Acts 4:12 - **Neither** is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (KJV)

Please enjoy the summer, and remember God's promises.

God Bless,

Colter Wickemeyer

Co-Chair, Worship Committee



Thank You -

We received beautiful notes from the graduates, Brittany, Joseph, and Gavin for the gifts received. Cards are on the bulletin board.





Worship Schedule for the Summer

<u>July 2 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sermon Title: "The Ministry of Hospitality" Scriptures: Psalm 13; Matthew 10:40-42	2
<u>July 9 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sermon Title: "His Yoke" Scriptures: Psalm 45:10-17; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	
<u>July 16 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sermon Title: "Newness of Life" Scriptures: Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:1-11	
<u>July 23 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sermon Title: "What Do You Expect?" Scriptures: Genesis 28:10-19; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	
<u>July 30 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sermon Title: "Striving Toward the Goal" Scriptures: Genesis 29:15-28; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	
<u>August 6 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sermon Title: "Extravagance" Scriptures: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Matthew 14:13-21	



Prayer List - Prayers for family and friends after the passing of: Luanna Daniel; Dan Koutsos; Amauriyen Jones; Jerry Grubbs' brother, Ronald; Betty "Boo" Johnston Miller, and Clarence Morris. Mac Lacy is dealing with gout. We also send prayers to the Class of 2023, may their future be bright.

Prayers continue: Barney Newberry; Kim's sister, Sherry; Kathy Choate; Janae Butterworth and family; and Chris Jones' friend, David, who's mom, Rosa. Baby Nova.

Greeting Card Ministry - What a joy to make these beautiful cards, and know that they are brightening others' days. Due to the 4th of July holiday we will not meet in July. Our next class will be Tuesday, August 4 at 10:30 am. Come out and enjoy the fellowship and creative time. No skills are needed, and we enjoy the social time as well.



Women's Bible Study – Study from *The Shack*, by William Paul Young continues. Normally meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, however, due to the 4th of July holiday, our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 12 at 10:30 am. If weather accommodates we will meet in Picnic Shelter, otherwise, we'll be inside.

Remember the Office will be closed Tuesday, July 4
Have a great day and be safe!





PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

PNC Update - Press On!

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

Of all the Israelites, perhaps no one strove harder to please God than Saul of Tarsus.

Every area of his life conformed strictly to the Law. No one could accuse this respected Pharisee of lacking zeal. He was a man with a mission—a mission to please and serve God.

But on the road to Damascus, Saul's life changed entirely. From now on, he would no longer try to please God himself. Instead, he would press on with the goal of knowing Christ. "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Philippians 3:8 (NIV emphasis added). Saul (now called Paul) had a new mission—a mission that remained constant amid ever-changing circumstances. It didn't matter whether he was preaching to a crowd or sitting in a damp prison. Paul now had one goal before which everything in his life bowed. Paul wanted to know his Lord.

How about you? Is knowing Christ—fellowshipping, trusting, and depending on Him—the goal toward which you're striving? Ask God to help you press on to know Him today.

Like the Apostle Paul, your PNC is pressing on. We are continuing the conversation with the candidate presented to us by Vanderbloemen in April. We were able to bring this potential pastor to South Boston for an in-person visit. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to discern whether God's plan for our future is being revealed.

In His love,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman



Missionary Update - Wycliffe Bible Translation in Cameroon with Matthew and Teresa

Thanks for the enduring faithfulness of God through our ministry partners. Teresa just received recognition for her 10 years serving with Wycliffe and Matthew for his 15 years. As young as we (sometimes) feel at 38, we're often counted among the elders here in Cameroon. We've rejoiced with you as God moves mightily and provides for His people and His mission every year in unexpected ways. We have seen the transformation that Bible translation, language development, and trauma healing have brought to countless lives. Matthew's role transitions more and more towards equipping others to train. With staff transition at the Greenhouse, Teresa will soon have the most seniority.

Highlights of the past few months:

Visitors in Cameroon - With all the weirdness of the 2020s, we have been in Africa full-time since January 2020 and we are not scheduled for home assignment until 2024-2025 school year. This means we had only seen our families online, until 2023.

In April, Matthew's parents, Russell and Marilyn, had the opportunity to come visit us in Cameroon for the first time for a couple of weeks. This was a precious blessing. Having Matthew's parents visit was not only a direct blessing to us but also a testament to the love and support we have received from our loved ones back home.

Traveling - In June, [we began] traveling westward. Flying out of Cameroon to spend a short time in Europe with Teresa's sister, then fly on to the USA for a few weeks to reconnect with families and celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. After leaving the US, Matthew will head to Thailand to assist with a workshop on text parsing, grammar and morphology. As we thought about this trip, we realize Teresa will make it around the world in 57 days. Matthew's trip will be 70.

Truck - We have the opportunity to buy the truck we've been using for a great price, but this was not in the planned budget, so we have an unexpected expense of \$7,200. Any assistance would greatly help. Thank you for all your support throughout the years.

"May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you." Jude 1:2

Matthew and Teresa



GOD BLESS AMERICA

Freedom

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As July approaches I always look forward to the celebrations on the 4th. I love the fireworks and celebrating this wonderful country and those who fought for our freedom. In thinking about this I found an interesting talk that discussed people who come to America, from other countries, learn the true meaning of 'freedom'. Others think of "freedom" as "free from", as in the absence of pain or malice or suppression. Whereas, God's definition of freedom is the "freedom to" - the freedom to exercise our individual agency, knowing there are consequences for everything we say, think, and/or do. Christ wants to strengthen us and give us power as we make righteous choices. He has promised to protect those who worship Him and follow His commandments.

Conrad Hilton said "Man possesses human dignity because he is made in the image and likeness of God; ... Without this image, man has no free will and frequently neither liberty nor the capacity for liberty." Then later he said "In this struggle for freedom, at home and abroad, our greatest weapon, both a sword and a shield will be our love of and faith in God."

For centuries our ancestors fought, suffered, and sacrificed, that we might have this wonderful blessing of freedom. We owe it to them and generations to come to be willing to do the same. Unfortunately, many today are using their freedoms to restrict the freedom of others. Just as God helped the Israelites to prosper in the face of slavery to Egypt, He will support us and we too can prosper. As we unite as Christians in fervent prayer, and stand up for our right to worship, the Lord will see our faith and support the cause of truth and freedom.

John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." It is evident that the Lord "established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men who [the Lord] raised up" for this very purpose."

This divine constitution requires more; it demands for the people to respect it, and work within its established conditions. Alexander Hamilton said, speaking of the Constitution, "I sincerely esteem it a system, which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interest." He recognized it was God that helped bring unity to the founders, it was a divine calling for each to be there.

We as a nation are turning away from God, and turning away from the principles set forth in the Constitution. As we turn away from Christ, we become enslaved to the adversary. We are having to fight to maintain the choices and freedoms that were granted to this wonderful country by God Himself. Those founding fathers knew the Lord had a hand in the development of the Constitution and the country itself.

May we sing out loud (even in our hearts) the words to *America, the Beautiful**



*America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!
O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!*

~ Sherolyn

* only a portion quoted





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	26	27	28 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	29 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	30 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	July 1
2 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	3	4 - Office Closed 	5 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	6 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	7- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	8
9 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	10	11	12 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA	13 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	14- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	15 9-12 NA
16 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	17	18	19 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	20 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	21 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	22
23 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	24 	25	26 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	27 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	28 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	29
30 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	31	August 1	August 2 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	August 3 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	August 4 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	August 5
Sherolyn Out for Vacation						



We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

* In Memory

- 1 Ted VanBenschoten
- 8 Beth Roller
- 10 Ernest 'Avon' Traynham
- 12 Donna Garrett
- 13 Kit Hooper
- 15 Ginny Troy
- 16 Ashton Cranford
- 18 Steven Crutchfield
- 21 Marilyn Lee
- 21 James Edmunds
- 26 Bob Nelson*
- 26 Jo Dixon
- 27 Mac Lacy
- 27 Michael Thackston
- 28 Joanna Hughes
- 29 Kathryn McAbee
- 30 Jessica Nelson



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

The Session met on Sunday, June 18, 2023

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. Minutes from the May 21st Stated Session meeting were approved.
4. Next Presbytery Meeting – August 26, 2023, Zoom Only (Rick Harrell – Commissioner).
5. PNC Report – We are continuing conversation with the candidate presented to us by Vanderbloemen in April. The PNC hosted the candidate and family for a visit to South Boston.
6. Next communion date is Sunday, August 6th.
7. The Deacons have asked if we would consider moving the floral arrangement to a position where it can be seen by everyone in the sanctuary. In front of the pulpit would be a good location. Flowers were moved there this Sunday.
8. Property –
 - a. Rick Harrell presented an update on the progress of the repair/renovation of the manse. Estimated completion is the end of July.
 - b. The new air conditioner for the upstairs Sunday School area is being installed.
 - c. Mats have been ordered for the front of the north and south entrances to the sanctuary. (Exact wording in last month newsletter)
 - D. The carpet on the stairs and both offices was cleaned.
 - E. The oak tree on the corner of Washington Ave. and 2nd Street is dying, and there is a danger of falling limbs. It should probably be removed. Don Cherry will get quotes.
9. Budget & Finance – Financial report for May 2023 was reviewed.
10. Personnel – Sherolyn will take vacation July 31st through August 3rd, so the church office will be closed that week. Pastor Glen will be on vacation week of (on Sunday,) August 20th
11. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Women's Bible study - Wednesday July 12 at 10:30

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Greeting Card Ministry - No Meeting in July, Next meeting: August 1 at 10:30.

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

No Session or Diaconate meetings this month.

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