

First Presbyterian News

1

John McCarthy - Lay Pastor
Sherolyn Barnett, Office Manager
secretary@1stpres.cc
Chris Jones, Choir Director
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton
Sue Wilkins - Treasurer



Face book:
www.facebook.com/firstpressobo
Website: 1stpres.cc

Office Hours
M-Th 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm
Closed on Friday
434-572-3581

Holy Spirit, Please Guide Us!



In this Easter season, and with Pentecost approaching, it is vital we ask the question, "How are we connected to God's mission in view of Salvation History," as well as, "In a world that is increasingly divided along cultural, ethnic, and ideological barriers, how do we come together as the Body of Christ?" Scripture has been clear from the beginning that God's plan has been for the whole world, and as a Reformed theological church we hold up the Holy Scriptures, "which are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life," (Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.002) as the final authority in all matters. (WCF, 6.010)

So, what did God tell us about different people groups, and how they would be included in His salvation history? First and foremost, God created the heavens and the earth and then His image bearers, man and woman. After the fall and promise of salvation (Gen. 3:15), God scattered them across the earth during the Tower of Babel incident. Then God called Abram/Abraham telling him that he would become a father of many nations (Gen. 17:4-5) indicating the scope and breadth of His salvific plan. **God's grace from the beginning was going to encompass the whole earth.**

Throughout scripture we can see **God's grace going out from Israel and blessing many nations.** In Exodus many aliens came with Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 12:38). In Joshua, Rehab, of lowly esteem in her own culture, became listed in the passages of the faithful with Abraham in Hebrews. Jonah was told to **take God's message to the Assyrians in Ninevah, who were enemies of Israel and very cruel in warfare,** and they repented. Daniel and his friends served the Babylonians well, while at the same time being ever faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through these faithful acts they glorified God and witnessed to foreign peoples.

In the New Testament, Jesus broke through cultural and social boundaries on many occasions, **such as eating with sinners and tax collectors saying, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."** (Luke 5:31-32, NIV) He also took His Gospel to the Samaritans, in John 4, speaking to the woman at the well. Jesus also used a parable of a Samaritan to remind Israel the greatest commandment (Luke 10:25-37; ref. Mt. 22:34-40 and Mark 12:28-34). This was a huge shock considering the bad blood that had built up between the two cultures. **This flipped the question from, "Who am I required to love," to loving whoever you come across.**

Finally, Jesus told us to take the Gospel message to the ends of the earth. The Westminster Confession sums it up in this statement. **"Christ hath commissioned his Church to go into all the world and to make disciples of all nations. All believers are, therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinance of Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole earth."** (WCF, 6.190)

So how do we come together? Through the will of the Father, the work of the Son, and the ever-present guiding and power of the Holy Spirit, we are the Body of Christ. We are one body with many **parts guided by one Spirit. Therefore, our part in God's mission is clear. It is to spread the love and grace of God to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.** Holy Spirit, please guide us!

In Christ,

~ Pastor John McCarthy



May 5 - 6th Sunday of Easter

2

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 12

Scriptures: Exodus 19:1-6; Luke 6:27-49

May 12 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 13

Scriptures: Psalm 101; Luke 7:1-17

May 19 - Day of Pentecost

Sermon Title: "The Gospel Like a Wild Fire"

Scriptures: Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:1-21

May 26 - Trinity Sunday

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 14

Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-7; Luke 7:18-35

June 2 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 15

Scriptures: Psalm 27:1-14; Luke 7:36-50

Graduate Celebration - Mark your calendars! Our annual celebration for our high school graduates will be Sunday, June 9. We will honor them during worship and then gather together for fellowship and a covered dish luncheon. All are welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family.



Women's Bible Study – A new study will begin with a new schedule and location. Beginning in June the study will be "Science shows us God" meeting one time a month on the second Wednesday of the month. The next date (and start date) will be Wednesday, June 12 at 10:30 at The Busy Bean. Mark you calendar and plan for this news study and location.



GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer List - Jo Dixon, former member, fell and broke her arm. Kim Albert blessed and excited to go help Jo at this hard time. A friend of Kay Lewis' also fell and broke a leg bone (femur). Barbara Johnston was in the hospital—now at Commonwealth. Chris Jones mom is recovering from a fall. Kim Albert continues treatment, and is traveling. Our members at Commonwealth. Dale McKinny.

Prayers for Travel - Michaella Fraser Freshour traveling to Italy.

Praise - Barbara Johnston doing well at Commonwealth.

Prayers continue: Patricia Burton, Wayne Hiner, Ken McCarthy, Chappell family, Crabtree family, Pool family, and Kit Hooper.

National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 2nd. Mark your calendar for the annual National Day of Prayer event.

Beginning at 6:30 pm at Halifax County High School Auditorium. Our presenter will be Daniel Ritchie. What a motivational story he will bring.

“Born without arms, but God has glorified my difference and has given me a thriving life.” “It is my joy to encourage others, and provide them with the hope of Christ.”



God has given me the opportunity and call to speak to more than 200,000 people every year - sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as what I have learned being born visibly different. God has shaped my perspective to pursue a full life because I am defined by Him, and His grace rather than seeing myself as the sum of two empty sleeves or finding my value in the eyes of the critical opinions of the world.

My circumstances are unchanging, as are many of yours. And if God has brought me to a place of contentment - then He is most able to do the same for anyone else.

Come out and help support this event. We need more prayer here in the community, for the nation, and in our individual lives.

Men's Bible Study - Meet each Thursday at 6:30pm. Men come join their study of “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This study will conclude at the end of May.

Evangelism Study - meet each Thursday at 1pm at The Busy Bean. Studying “They Like Jesus But Not the Church” by Dan Kimball. Come join them through May.





In the days of the Old and New Testament, women were not thought of as strong, exemplary, or of much value. Yet, there are many examples of Christ showing how important women were/are to Him. And most of the women we know about in the Bible are strong spiritually, cheerful, faithful, and loyal disciples of Christ and truth.

Mary, Christ's mother, was obedient and willing to do anything the Lord asked of her. Though she was young, she did not hesitate to accept what the angel told her. Then when Christ was hanging on the cross, suffering greatly, He thought of His mother and her care.

Mary and Martha, two sisters, were devoted disciples of Christ. They help us to know the importance of priorities; we can see their faith in times of crisis.

Ruth was devoted to her mother-in-law even after the death of her husband. She followed Naomi to Israel, even though she was not an Israelite herself. Naomi suggested she leave and go back to her people, but she chose to honor her late husband and take care of his mother.

Esther, an orphaned Jewish girl; cared for by an uncle, gained favor of the king, and became his wife. After he made a proclamation to kill all the Jews, she was courageous and went in to him, even though she knew this act could cause her death, to plead for her people. She was willing to die for her people and righteousness, and the Lord blessed her.

The woman at the well. We do not know her name, but she was the first to be told by Christ, that He is the Christ, the Living Water.

We as women have great examples of the type of woman Christ would have us be. Even outside the Bible we can find many wonderful and honorable examples. Mother Teresa worked hard all her life to help the less fortunate. Joan of Arc was determined to keep England from conquering her country of France. She was strong willed, and believed she was following divine guidance to help France to victory.

Every woman (or man, boy or girl) that determines to follow God and do His will frustrates the adversary, and paves a path for others to follow. Though most of us will never have the exact circumstance that these women I've mentioned had, we all have opportunities to show our faith and be an example to those around us that: 1) God does love and care for His people; 2) that Christ does live and watches over us daily. As we strive to be better Christians and disciples of Him we help progress the righteous.

When the Lord asks "Whom shall I send?" We can be like Christ answering "Here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8 NIV) ~ *Sherolyn*





A house united

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan's power, so Jesus responded, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the "house divided" image to point out the nonsense of the scribes' words. It takes someone *other than* the "strong man" (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can't drive out evil. Sin isn't stronger than sin. Hate doesn't solve hate. Violence doesn't end violence. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Jesus came to "bind" evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God's goodness. ~ Newsletter Newsletter



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 28 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	April 29	April 30	1 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	2 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	3- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	4
5 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 3:00 pm - Piano Recital	6	7 10:30 am GCM	8 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	9 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	10 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	11
12- 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	13	14	15 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	16 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	17 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	18 9-12 NA
19- 5 Cents a Meal collection 9:30 am - Diaconate 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Session	20	21	22 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	23 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA 	24- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	25
26 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	27 - Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY 	28	29 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	30 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	31- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	June 1



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



- 1 Jeremy Cherry
- 3 Rick Harrell
Les Powell IV
Ann-Carlisle Cranford - Edwards
- 4 Kelly Gravitt O'Kelly
Kak Rand
- 6 Darlene Bain*
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 9 Terri Hazelwood
- 10 Jennifer Edmunds
- 12 Mike Long
Byrd Young*
- 13 Raleigh Powell
Patty Nelson
- 15 Nick Lumsden
Ginny Miller
- 22 Jim Burton*
- 24 Brittany Hazelwood
- 28 Winston Harrell
- 29 Sterling Roberts

* In Memory

Since our last Newsletter, our Session on April 21, discussed:

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. Minutes of the March 17th Stated Session Meeting were approved.
4. Next Presbytery Meeting – St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg Saturday, May 4, 2024. (Don Cherry – Commissioner)
5. Membership Roll –
 - A. We continue to reach out to inactive members on the church roll. Responses received were shared.
6. Pastor John gave an update on his progress toward ordination.
7. Worship –
 - A. The Deacons have scheduled a Graduate Recognition Celebration for Sunday, June 9th with a luncheon after worship.
 - B. Next communion date is Sunday, June 19, 2024.
8. Outreach –
 - A. International Mission – Received \$2000 grant check from the Presbytery Justice and Mercy Commission for the Persecution Project.
9. Property –
 - A. Several roof leaks still need to be addressed.
10. Budget & Finance –
 - A. Financial reports for March 2024 were reviewed.
 - B. Evaluating a possible replacement for the current church accounting software.
11. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.
12. Next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 12:30 pm.



5 Cents-a-Meal collection - Sunday, May 19
Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.
Deacons - May 19 at 9:30 am
Elders - Sunday, May 19 - Elders at 12:45
Evangelism Study - each Thursday at 1 pm at Busy Bean.
Greeting Card Ministry - Tuesday, May 7 at 10:30.
Men's Bible Study - each Thursday at 6:30 pm

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