

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

It is **spring cleaning time** again....the church freezer, that is. Any food found the freezer will be thrown away when we clean it the week of May 18th. Please remove any food that needs to be saved. Thanks.

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Nepal

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas with our partner, ACT Alliance and its members who are already on the ground. Immediate response will help provide needed food, water, supplies and medicines to the affected towns and villages. **GIVE:** Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999 with reference to Nepal. Gifts can be made on-line, by phone, 1-800-872-3283, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (EST), or checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (USA), P. O. Box 643700, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700. You may also make a check payable to First Presbyterian, memo "PDA Nepal", and place it in the offering plate. **PRAY** for those who suffered loss of family or those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.

**Mother's Day Caring Hands Offering:** One of the special offerings we collect each year is for Presbyterian Homes Caring Hands Fund. Brochures telling about Caring Hands and offering envelopes are available on the ushers' table in the narthex. Give as your heart leads!

If the way be clear, there will be a **Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 31**, at the conclusion of the worship service, for the purpose of hearing a report and acting on the session's request for the approval of a Capital Funds Campaign.

It's that time of year when we celebrate our **Graduates from various institutions.** If you have graduates in your family from high school, college, graduate school, or technical schools, please let us know. We need the student's name, school, awards or degrees, majors, discipline, etc. As we have room, we will list future plans such as continuing education, employment and military. Call or e-mail the church office or [info@fpccov.org](mailto:info@fpccov.org). We will print the information the last Sunday in May and in the June newsletter.



### This Week at FPC

**Sunday, May 17**  
9:00 Handbell Choir  
9:30 Children's Choir  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:00 Youth Party at the Boteler's

**Tuesday, May 19**  
4:00 Exercise

**Wednesday, May 20**  
6:45 Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, May 21**  
10:30 Ambassador Choir

**Friday, May 22**  
Front Office Closed today and Monday (Peni Haug out)

**Sunday, May 24 - Pentecost**  
9:00 Handbell Choir  
9:30 Children's Choir  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVINGTON

If you would like information about membership or the programs, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to one of the pastors as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

### E-mail:

Pastor, Billy Wade: [wbwade75@gmail.com](mailto:wbwade75@gmail.com)

Dan Walden: [djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Church Office/Peni Haug: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)

Website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, SW  
Covington, Georgia 30014



### Food Pantry Needs

Bring donations to the church or drop them off at the Community Food Pantry from 9:00-12:00 Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. Call (770) 784-0037 for directions. **Special requests for May: 2 pound bags of sugar;** you may bring other staple goods as your heart leads.

**Baby Love:** The Witness Team has an on-going project to collect disposable baby diapers and wipes to distribute to local agencies to help families in need. You may place your donations in the receptacle here at the church and the donations will be delivered. Monetary donations are also accepted. Your donation by check, or cash in an envelope with your name will be credited to your offering statement.

## THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

### Nursery Volunteers today:

Trista Hooten-Wilson

### Next Week:

The Bates Family

### May Usher Chairs:

Fletcher Stamps & Jack Weesner

### Sound Engineer:

Ken Walker

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

### Class of 2015

Gary Boteler  
Billy Fortson  
Jan Giles  
Jim Stillerman  
Bob Tabb  
Fletcher Stamps  
Jack Weesner

### Class of 2016

Charles Ardis  
Joyce Ashworth  
Betty Bailey  
Patrick Carmichael  
Perri Walden

### Class of 2017

Baxter Bouchillon  
Adrian Ivey  
Michael Thompson  
Danny Vining  
Jean Wolverton

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr.	<i>Pastor</i>	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Dan Walden	<i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato	<i>Nursery</i>
Peni Haug	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Tiffany McWaters	<i>Director of the Early Learning Center</i>
Alan Bunn	<i>Music Director</i>		



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2015



## Order of Worship GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name* J. S. Bach  
*This is My Father's World* John A. Behneke  
*Children of the Heavenly Father* Frederick Steffen  
*Voluntary on Middlebury* Dale Wood

*You Raise Me Up* Graham/Lovland  
Bobby Reidling and Courtney Mull, duet  
*When I am down and oh my soul's so weary;*  
*When troubles come and my heart burdened be;*  
*Then I am still and wait here in the silence until you come*  
*And sit a while with me.*  
*You raise me up so I can stand on mountains;*  
*You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.*  
*I am strong when I am on your shoulders;*  
*You raise me up to more than I can be.*  
*There is no life, no life without its hunger;*  
*Each restless heart beats so imperfectly.*  
*But when you come and I am filled with wonder,*  
*Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.*  
*You raise me up to more than I can be.*

✦CALL TO WORSHIP Patrick Carmichael  
*The Creation* by James Weldon Johnson  
"And God stepped out on space. And He looked around and said: 'I'm lonely--I'll make me a world'..."

✦HYMN 37 *Let All Things Now Living* ASH GROVE

CALL TO CONFESSION from Psalm 34:18  
"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Let us therefore admit our brokenness to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
**O God, maker of heaven and earth, source of all meaning, You made a universe of infinite complexity and beauty and entrusted us humans with the care of a tiny jewel called earth. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from others with whom we share this planet, grant us Your peace. Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of Your Spirit, and sustain us with the Bread of Life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of Your new creation, we pray.**  
(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS based on Psalm 36

The steadfast love of the Lord extends to the heavens.

**How precious is His steadfast love for all the universe.**

All people may find shelter in the shadow of His wings.

**For the Lord is the fountain of life and the light of the world.**

In His Light and grace, we are forgiven! Amen.

## ✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

TERRA BEATA

Hymn 370, stanza 1

***This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hands the wonders wrought.***

## ✠ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### ANTHEM

*Holy Now*

Peter Mayer

Rebecca Bates

*When I was a girl each week.... on Sunday we would go to church and pay attention to the priest, as he would read the Holy Word, and consecrate the holy bread....and everyone would kneel and bow.*

*Today the only difference is....everything is holy now everything, everything....everything is holy now.*

*When I was in Sunday school....we would learn about the time Moses split the sea in two....and Jesus made the water wine And I remember feeling sad....that miracles don't happen still.*

*Now I can't keep track....cause everything's a miracle Everything, everything...Everything's a miracle.*

*Wine.... from water is not so small  
But an even better magic trick  
Is that anything is here at all  
So.... the challenging thing becomes  
Not to look for miracles  
But finding where there isn't one*

*When holy water was rare at best....it barely wet my fingertips  
But now I have to hold my breath....like I'm swimming in a sea of it  
It use to be a world half there....heaven's second rate hand me down.*

*But I walk it with a reverent air....cause everything is holy now*

*Read.... a questioning child's face  
And say it's not a testament  
That'd be very hard to say  
See.... another new morning come  
And say it's not a sacrament  
I tell you that it can't – be - done*

*This morning, outside I stood....and saw a little red winged bird  
Shining like a burning bush.... and singing like a scripture verse  
It made me want to bow my head....I remember when church let out*

*How things have changed since then....everything is holy now*

*It used to be a world half there...heaven's second rate hand me down  
but I walk it with a reverent air....cause everything is holy now.*

## THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

*Creation!*

*All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for Children.  
Afterward, children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:12; 2:4-9

Romans 1:20

### SERMON

The Rev. Larry Kennon

*The Theory of Everything*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### ✠ HYMN 15 (stanzas 1-4)

LASST UNS ERFREUN

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

### ✠ AFFIRMATION OF CREATION

from Scripture

**So we believe:**

**“The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth...”** (Isaiah 40:28)

**“The Heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork...”** (Psalm 19:1)

**“In he beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...all things were made through Him...in Him was life and the life was the light of human-kind...the light shines in the darkness”** (John 1:1-5)

**“Let all the earth fear the Lord -- let all the inhabitants stand before Him in awe -- for He spoke and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood forth...”** (Psalm 33:8-9)

**“In Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...all things were created...for Him...and in Him all things hold together...”** (Colossians 1:16-17)

**“Behold, the dwelling of God is with us...we shall be His people...death shall be no more...and night shall be no more...for the Lord God will be our light...and He shall reign forever and ever.”** (Revelation 21:1-4; 22:5)

**So we do believe. Amen.**

## CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 35 in front of hymnal

### THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *How Can I Keep From Singing* arr. Moglebust  
Handbell Choir

### ✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HOW GREAT THOU ART

(Hymn , stanza 1)

***O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!***

## ✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Creator God, we thank you for all creation. Help us to live and act in harmony and interdependence with all creation as Your stewards. Give us Your guidance in restoring the face of the Earth and the just sharing of resources among all peoples to rebuild the Kingdom of God. Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### ✠ HYMN 43

*On Eagle's Wings*

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

ALL sing refrains

stanza 1: Choir stanza 2: Solo

stanza 3: Solo stanza 4: ALL

### ✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Let us seize hold of the living God, the weaver of heaven and earth, the eternal One beyond, above the heavens but whose Spirit is here with us in our past and present and future. Let us be consumed in the wonder of God's love. He is Lord who takes all that is ordinary and makes all creation extraordinary. Go in peace. Amen.

### ✠ CHORAL RESPONSE Hymn 43

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

ALL sing refrain

***And he will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.***

### ✠ POSTLUDE *Jesus Christ, Our Lord Redeemer*

J. S. Bach

✠ Please stand if you are able.

In wisdom you have  
made them all;  
the earth is full of your  
creatures.

Psalm 104:24, NRSV



### Worship Notes

✠ We welcome the Rev. Larry Kennon as our guest preacher today.  
✠ Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with worship today  
✠ Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** again when you leave.