

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, GA 30014

Time Sensitive Church News
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The deadline for the September "First Press" August 18, 2015. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: penihaug@gmail.com or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

August Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Daylanie Gibson | 13 Emily Bunn |
| 4 Betsy Morehouse | 14 Jean Elder |
| 5 Mac Cranford | 15 Tiffany McWaters |
| Velma Prescott | 16 Haylee Burtts |
| Grady Wade | Carol McGiboney |
| 6 Danny Vining | 17 Homer Borders |
| 7 Avery Lewis | 18 Ryan Henderson |
| 8 Sandy Morehouse | 22 John Stamps |
| 9 Bill Loebler | 23 Charles Strickland |
| 12 Kenny Compton | |



- 25 Kevin Hester
26 Dale Tingler
29 Brad Hawley
31 Holden Evans

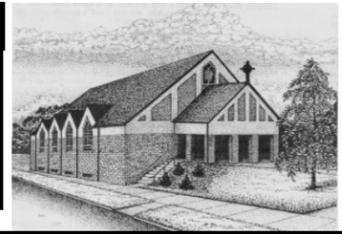


If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

First Presbyterian Church, Covington

AUGUST 2015

FIRST PRESS



From Our Pastor



This is the season of Pentecost in the church. We began the season remembering the account of that first Pentecost which is told in the second chapter of Acts. We celebrated the Holy Spirit being poured out on the disciples of Jesus, firing them with passion for the Gospel and moving them in new directions to proclaim and live out that Gospel.

What is likely to cause anxiety among staid Presbyterians who cling to order and decency is not just the disorder of one worship service during the year, but the possibility of what it might mean beyond that; what it might mean for us who are living in such a rapidly and radically changing world.

"What does it mean?", those first disciples asked one another on Pentecost. Many of us are asking that same question these days as values and traditions are questioned and left behind, and institutions including

the church face decline – at least in this country. What does the Spirit's activity mean for us? What now?

Jeffrey D. Jones, in his book, *Facing Decline, Finding Hope*, says that we in the Christian Church are facing deep changes or a slow death. We continue to seek new answers to old questions. What we need to do is ask new questions.

When the Spirit comes, we're told, "Your sons and your daughters will prophesy; your young men shall dream dreams." But listen, we are told, even "your old men shall see visions" – which is very good news for some of us.

Perhaps something is dying in order to be reborn by the power of God. God often uses the weak and lowly for great works. At this point, even with empty pews, we look to me something more like the Church of Pentecost. We have people of different races, people from all over the world in our midst, a great diversity of gifts.

What now? Our *Declaration of Faith* says that God sends us out into the world to stand before the Lord in behalf of all people. It tells us that our cries for help and our songs of praise are never for ourselves alone; that worship, which is central, is no retreat from the world, but part of our mission. We serve humankind by discerning what God is doing in the world and joining God there. We affirm that we risk disagreement and error when we try to say what God is doing here and now, but we find guidance in God's deeds in the past and God's promises for the future as they are witnessed to in Scripture. So, we will have to know the scriptures well.

With this Rally Day, we watch for the Spirit's work among us, stirring us up, doing new things, calling us to trust this One to lead even where we cannot see the way.

Billy Wade



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SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Monthly Financial Reports

2015 May Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	33,942.	38,312	159,567
Non-Pledge Income	2,500	4,623	22,568
Other Income	333	1,760	4,900
Total income	36,984	44,695	187,035
Expenses	37,418	35,175	175,400
Net Totals 5/31/15	(434)	9,519	11,634

Pledge Arrears for 2015 May: \$ -10,146 June: \$-18,900

2015 June Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	33,942.	25,188	184,755
Non-Pledge Income	2,500	3,677	26,226
Other Income	333	35	4,935
Total income	36,984	28,900	215,936
Expenses	37,418	36,751	212,152
Net Totals 6/30/15	(434)	(-7,851)	3,784

Financial Report

Please note that while our non-pledge giving is over budget (a good thing!), our pledge income is now almost \$19,000 below budget. Our Session Teams and Staff are keeping our expenses down, but it's possible some of our ministries may not be able to meet all needs. If you are able to "catch-up" on your pledge, it would go a long way to fully realizing our ministry at FPC! Thanks to all have continued to make their offerings this summer!
The Finance Team

June 2015 Session Highlights

- A Congregational Meeting was called on May 31 to approve the launch of a new Capital Campaign with a goal of \$500,000 beginning on Rally Day, August 16.
- An estate gift was received for \$500,000 which has been moved to an endowment fund for special ministry and mission initiatives.
- Sunday School classes for adults and children will continue through summer.
- Session to review mid-year raises for staff and has approved the search for a seminary intern for youth and children.
- New cabinets were installed for the food pantry. More food items are needed!
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for Rockdale/Newton starting a support group for family and friends caring for people who are mentally ill on the third Thursday of each month.

Michael Thompson, Clerk of Session



Session Meeting

The August Session meeting will take place on **Sunday, August 9**, following the morning worship service.

SERVING US IN AUGUST

August Nursery Volunteers 8/2: Josh/Holly Hughes Family 8/9: Nina Giles 8/16: Baxter/Lisa Bouchillon 8/23: Shaun/Aubrey Evans 8/30: Trista Hooten-Wilson	August Usher Chair: Jean Wolverton Sound Engineer: Ken Walker	August - Hospital Visitors 8/2: Jon Williams 8/9: Cy Wolverton 8/16: Leon Hughes 8/23: Day Kennon 8/30: Alice Walker
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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 Adriane Ivey Michael Thompson Danny Vining Jean Wolverton
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AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly E-newsletter: If you are not receiving the FPC weekly E-News, send your e-mail address to: info@fpccov.org or call the church office.					July 31 First Day of School for Newton County Students	1
2 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	3 	4 1:00-6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	5 4:00 Prayer Group	6 Early Learning Center Open House 10:30 Ambassador Choir	7	8
9 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	10 First Day of School for the ELC	11 4:00 Exercise	12 4:00 Prayer Group 4:00 Adventure Club 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	13 10:30 Ambassador Choir	14	15
16 RALLY DAY 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with the Lord's Supper	17 7:00 pm NAMI	18 4:00 Exercise	19 4:00 Prayer Group 4:00 Adventure Club 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	20 10:30 Ambassador Choir	21	22 Greater Atlanta Presbytery Meeting
23 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	24	25 4:00 Exercise	26 4:00 Prayer Group 4:00 Adventure Club 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	27 28 29 		
30 Same as above						

WITNESS AND OUTREACH NEWS

Baby Love



Another **delivery of diapers and wipes** was made to the Food Pantry, Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army at the end of May. At that time the distribution totaled approximately 1200 diapers and 1500 wipes for 2015. We are now enjoying the peak of summertime and Baby Love continues to be supported by the members and friends of FPC. Donations of baby diapers and wipes can be placed in the small cradle in the Narthex. Checks or cash may be placed in a pew envelope with your name and Baby Love and you will receive credit to your offering statement.



Find Help. Find Hope.

Family Support Group

Every Third Monday of the Month
7 - 8:30 pm

If you have a loved one with a mental illness, this group is for you. Be a friend, bring a friend. For questions and information, call Caryn Thompson at 770-648-6432. Come in the door on Clark Street with the sign for the Care and Counseling Center.

Sponsored by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for Rockdale and Newton counties.

Treats for the Shelter Folks

Another "**Sundaes on Sunday**" gathering was enjoyed by the residents of the Homeless Shelter on Sunday May 17th. This time 6 children and 8 adults were in attendance. Ice cream is certainly a big summertime treat for everyone and each child seemed to enjoy the token gift they received.

Nicaragua Mission Trip



Eleven year old **Taylor Bouchillon**, son of Lisa and Baxter, after hearing about the world's shortage of clean water and the devastating effects of contaminated water, decided that he wanted to do something about it. And so, four months ago he began cutting grass, washing cars, and doing odd jobs for his extended family. Taylor raised \$180.00, enough to pay for six water filters. The filters will be delivered to our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters the first week in August. Judy Davis and the entire Nicaraguan team are so grateful for Taylor's contribution and for this young man's compassionate concern for others. The Nicaraguan people who receive these will be much healthier due to Taylor's unselfish gift.

A big thanks to Lisa Bouchillon, Taylor Bouchillon, Grace Harris, Riley Loftin, Judy Hooten, Palmer Wilson, Tory Bouchillon and Raleigh Loftin, who packed twenty baby bags which will be taken to Nicaragua on August first.



Jeanne Cannon
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1-205-388-8428



John McCarthy, Terri Digby and Jake:
3144 Academy Springs Circle SE
Covington, GA 30014

Betty Robinson
Merryvale
11980 Hwy. 142 N
Oxford, GA 30054

Dot Fincher
4181 Floyd St. #B
Covington, GA
30014

The Silver Saints and the Ambassador Choir met together on May 7th. It was a great time. Since then things have occurred to change the original tentative calendar. The Silver Saints have temporarily become the **Greatest Generation** (again) and enjoyed lunch together at Stalvey's Restaurant on Thursday July 9th. A group of 12 attended including a new couple. This makes our first time together a success. The plan for the future will be as we did in July. An announcement will be in the bulletin and newsletter, the date will be indicated, the time always will be 11:30, the place will be identified and a reminder to call the church office to confirm attendance will be requested.



Fun for the Saints

To Our Friends at FPC:

Mere words will never adequately convey to the Pastor, Staff and Members of First Presbyterian what comfort, what solace, what blessings we have received from your many and varied acts of Christian Love at this sad time of our lives. However, let these two simple words, "Thank You" come to you with all the love in our hearts for you. And may God richly bless you.

Patrick, Janet and the Carmichael family

Dear Friends,

I send my sincere thanks for all your cards and notes during my recent health crisis. Your lovely messages buoyed my spirit during my lengthy rehabilitation. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Sincerely, Jeanne Cannon



From Alice Walker

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the appreciative notes I have received from so many of you!

Your encouragement means more than I can express. It is my joy and privilege to be your Organist and to have served God for twelve years in this wonderful church.

Sincerely,
Alice Walker



Adult and Children's Choir News

The first **Handbell Choir rehearsal will be on Sunday, August 9 at 9 am in the sanctuary.** I look forward to seeing all of you then to start reading our new pieces. Soon to follow will be a preliminary schedule of our "play dates". When you receive it, please look it over and compare it to your personal calendar and let me know

(as best you can) if you will be able to play bells in worship on the dates listed.

The first **Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will be on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:45 pm in the choir room.** My daughter, Emily, has her elementary school open house on the previous Wednesday (8/5), so our first rehearsal will be a

week later on 8/12. I look forward to seeing all of you then to begin working on our new music for worship.

The first **Children's Choir rehearsal will be on Sunday, August 9, at 9:30 am.** I look forward to having your child(ren) sing along with us. The children will be dismissed at 10:00 to attend Sunday school.

FAMILY CONNECTION



It's time once again for...

Adventure Club

Starts Wednesday, August 12th

Adventure Club is for all children grades Kindergarten through 5th. We'll meet on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:45 pm to learn about God and God's people through games, drama, music and arts & crafts.

Ambassador Choir Singing Dates

Thursday, August 20 - 11:30 AM - Sing at Benton House. Please meet at FPC at 10:30 AM for warmup. Wear purple shirts. Complimentary lunch at Stalvey's.

Sunday, September 6 - Ambassador Choir sings at FPC. Please meet in Choir Room at 10:30 AM. Wear choir robes. Lunch afterwards at Alice and Ken's house.

Sunday, October 4 - Ambassador Choir sings at FPC for World Communion Sunday. Please meet in Choir Room at 10:30 AM. Wear choir robes.

Saturday, October 10 - Change the World Day at FUMC. Meet there by 12:00 noon at the FPC tent to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food. Please wear purple shirts.

Sunday, November 1 - Ambassador Choir sings at FPC. Please meet in the Choir Room at 10:30 AM. Please wear choir robes. Complimentary lunch to be arranged.

Sunday, December 6 - Ambassador Choir sings at FPC. Please meet in Choir Room at 10:30 AM. Please wear choir robes. Complimentary lunch afterward.

Rally Day

It is hard to believe, but summer vacation is almost over. **Sunday, August 17th**, is Rally Day, the day when we begin a new Sunday School season, the day when many of our programs and activities begin again for the school year.

On Rally Day, new Sunday school teachers and classes will be introduced at a church-wide gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. The Christian Education Team will provide a healthy breakfast.

The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated on Sunday, August 16, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Prepare your heart.



CONGREGATION CONNECTION



Address: 13153 Vista Drive, Covington, 30014

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

RICK AND CHERYL MEICHSNER

Rick and Cheryl Meichsner moved from the Oregon Coast one year ago this May to be near their three children and four grandchildren. Their grandsons are all boys, and range in age from 2 to 8. And, they have one more grandchild on the way, due in November.

Rick worked as a journeyman carpenter and instructor for over 30 years, and now in retirement enjoys woodworking, hunting, hiking and kayaking.

Cheryl worked as a legal assistant for 28 years, and now works at Bard Medical. She enjoys sewing, crafting, quilting, photography, tea parties, hiking and kayaking.

SUMMER PICNIC

It was a hot Sunday afternoon when about 65 friends gathered at Clarks Grove for our summer picnic. Much good food, swimming, games, and lively conversation helped all to forget the temperature. Many thanks to all who helped put up the five tents, who hauled food and ice, who chauffeured people in golf carts (Sam Hay and Bob Tabb), and to all for cleaning at the end of the day. Special thanks for Dan Walden for loading tables and chairs into his truck. We did have a good time----just HOT. Perhaps next year we should consider an outdoor event for a cool fall day.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TRAINING

The 2015-2016 Horizons Bible Study, "**Come to the Waters,**" offers an invitation to be cleansed, renewed, and challenged as we explore Biblical references to water.

"Come to the Waters" promises leaders of Presbyterian Women Circles and church school study groups nine lessons exploring key references to water in our Scriptures.

The rich imagery of water throughout the Bible helps us to understand and articulate our faith. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the Scriptures on water nourish our souls.

The weekday course at Columbia Theological Seminary Harrington Center will be August 3-5. the instructor will be author of the study, Judy R. Fletcher. Fee is \$195.00 per person, or \$185.00 per person for two or more from the same group.

The weekend course will be August 14-15. The instructor will be Linda Morningstar, Presbyterian clergywoman and frequently requested Bible Study Leader. Fee will be \$100.00 per person, or \$90.00 per person with two or more from the same group. For additional information, please visit www.ctsnet.edu. Hopefully, a number of our Presbyterian Women at FPC will be able to attend one of these training courses.

