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

Time Sensitive Church News
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The deadline for the April "*First Press*" is March 15, 2018. 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!

March Birthdays

1 Roger Gossage
2 Judy Davis
Janet Carmichael
3 Nick Smithson
4 Anne Savage
Michael Thompson
5 Jenna McCurry
6 Harry Hinton
7 Beth Vining
10 Rob Jones
Dylan Jones
11 Doug Bolton
13 Jack Weesner
14 Jessica Vincent
15 Jean Wolverton
16 Shawn Loftin
Terri Digby
17 Jim Alstead
Jonathan Miller
Tom Stillerman
18 Miriam Wheeler
19 Roger Wallace
21 C.J. Hunt
23 Rainey Loftin
24 Sam Hay, IV
Jessica Jessup
25 Sarah Davis
26 Dennis Amuzu
28 Debi Selin
30 Lynn Miller
Louise White
Jasmine Ardis
Amelia Evans

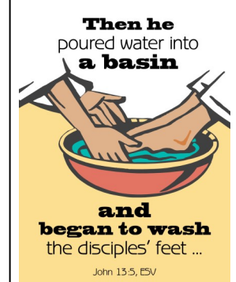
If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us of the **full date** and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COVINGTON MARCH 2018

FIRST PRESS

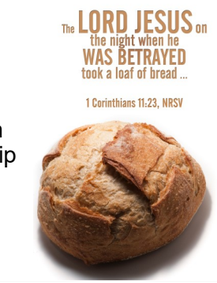
Community Holy Week Services

For many years our congregation has been a part of noon worship services during Holy Week. This year the services will be at First United Methodist Church, March 26-30. Billy Wade will be preaching and members of our choir will be providing special music on Good Friday that week. Lunch will be provided each day at the end of the services.



Maundy Thursday Service

Our annual candlelight communion service around tables in the fellowship hall will be at 6:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, March 29



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Please join us for our "Welcome to FPC" luncheon on Sunday, March 18th immediately following our 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will be inviting our "new church members and long-time visitors" to First Presbyterian and this luncheon will give us an opportunity to welcome them to our church family. Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and special music will be provided by talented FPC church members. You won't want to miss the fun and fellowship!

EASTER SUNDAY

We will celebrate the Resurrection at worship on ***Easter Sunday,*** April 1, at 11:00 a.m..

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr.
Pastor
wbwade75@gmail.com

Dan Walden
Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
djwalden@mac.com

Peni Kehoe
Secretary-Treasurer
penihaug@gmail.com

Jim Patrick
Interim Choir Director
patrickjo@charter.net

Alice Walker
Organist
awalker.organist@gmail.com

Aubrey Evans
Shaun Evans
Nursery

Kara Sugg
Director
Early Learning Center
fpelcdirector@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, GA 30014
(770)786-7321
Fax (770)786-6596
www.fpccov.org

Session & Administrative Notes

Session Retreat

The Session will be on retreat at The Burge on Saturday, March 10. Cassandra Morrow, Congregational Consultant for Church Growth and Vitality and presbytery staff person for transitions will be leading the retreat to help us begin the pastoral transition process. Please keep us in your prayers.

Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2017 (-11,540)

2018 January Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	30,776	23,875	Same
Non-Pledge Income	3,166	4,189	
Other Income	416	90.	
Total income	34,359	28,154	
Expenses	36,809	33,091	
Net Totals 1/31/2018	(-2,450)	(-4,937)	Same

January & February Session Highlights

The following items were acted upon:

- Finance team will form a committee to perform a financial review of FPC & ELC records as required of the PCUSA.
- Session approved proposal from the Welcoming & Evangelism team for new signage outside the church to be used to promote the Early Learning Center and other events at the church.
- John McCarthy & Stephanie Scarborough represented FPC at the Feb 10th meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. The Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle was installed as the new Executive Presbyter of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery.
- Sybil Laib Hernandez reaffirmed her faith as a member of FPC Covington and two of her children, Elena Rose Hernandez (7 months) and Johnathan Jesus Hernandez (3 years), will be baptized on Sunday March 4th.
- A motion was passed to establish a new Lawn Care and Maintenance contract with Great Estates Landscaping. A motion was passed to investigate removal of the pyracantha on Washington Street side of property.
- Congregational Life and Care reported on two events planned in March: a New Member Dinner to be held after church services on the 18th and an in-home supper club being planned for the 24th.
- Facilities and Maintenance reported that the sanctuary furnace has been restored to health and is in good working order. Sunday school furnace with the noisy fan has been repaired as well.
- The Session Retreat on March 10th 9:00 am till 12:30 pm will be hosted at Burge Plantation and facilitated by Cassandra Morrow on the Pastoral Transition Process. Stated session meeting will follow the retreat.
  - 2017 Statistical Report for PCUSA was reviewed and approved by session.
  - Pastor Billy Wade announced his intention to step down from his position as pastor, effective the end of July.

John McCarthy, Clerk of Session

Serving Us in March

Usher Chair:
Michael Thompson

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

Hospital Visitors:
3/4: Sub for S Fortson
3/11: S Paschal
3/18: D & B Tabb
3/25: B & D Vining

If unable to serve, please get a sub for your duties

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2018
Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Scarlett Mccurry
Stephanie Scarborough
Tom Stillerman
Koen Ardis
Sophia Hawley

Class of 2019
Carter Gibson
John McCarthy
Teresa McCurry
Cheryl Meichsner
Miriam Wheeler

Class of 2020
Doug Bolton
Stan Hall
Cindy Moon
Bob Tabb
Michael Thompson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 25	February 26	February 27 4:00 Exercise	February 28 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	1 10:30 Ambassador Choir	2	3
4 Lent 3 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth Connection	5	6 Circle Meetings: 10:00 Eliz. Ann 10:30-Martha 7:00 Ruth 4:00 Exercise	7 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	8 10:30 Ambassador Choir	9	10 Session Retreat Daylight Savings @ 2am
11 Lent 4 Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2 a.m. 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth Connection	12	13 4:00 Exercise	14 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	15 10:30 Ambassador Choir	16 6:30 pm FPELC Art Affair at the American Legion	17
18 Lent 5 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Welcome Lunch 5:00 Youth Connection	19	20 4:00 Exercise	21 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	22 10:30 Ambassador Choir	23	24 8:00 Men's Bible Breakfast Supper Club
25 Palm Sunday 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 3:00 *Mary Poppins*	26	27 4:00 Exercise	28 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	29 Maundy Thursday 10:30 Ambassador Choir 6:00 Candlelight Communion	30 Good Friday at FUMC led by FPC - noon	31

12:00 noon Lent Worship & Lunch at First United Methodist Church

Third Annual Lake Jackson Ski Camp for Thornwell

We have 3 groups of cottages coming to Lake Jackson this summer for fun in the sun. All groups will come on Monday and leave on Thursday. And once again Cathy Massey and I absolutely cannot pull this off without our village of cooks. Some of our most glowing feedback every year from the Thornwell kids, family teachers and Lake Jackson volunteers centers around the food! And we have a new volunteer at the lake, Devra Phillips, who will graciously open her home for all meals. I hope some or all of you are up for the challenge and joy of feeding hungry kids and adults again in 2018. The number of people needing to be fed will number between 15-20. Want to participate but don't have time to cook a meal or financially can't afford to feed the masses….no worries! If you have time to pick up a meal for us from a restaurant in Covington and deliver it to the lake, we would love your help in that way (Susan will place the order and pay). My email is sboteler@mindspring.com. Home 770-698-0750 and cell 404-234-4113. I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you so much. Susan Boteler

Here are the dates and who's coming:

June 18-21 – Berkele – high school girls

July 9-12 – GA Beattie – middle school boys
July 23-26 – TPH – high school boys

Baby Love

In the last week of December the Food Pantry, the Shelter and the Salvation Army received a final Baby Love delivery for 2017. Thanks to the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church for supporting this local project so faithfully this year. The effort resulted in the distribution of 2,559 diapers and 3,792 wipes among the many young families in the community in 2017.

Meals on Wheels Saturday, March 31 will be led by Teresa and Scarlett McCurry. Contact them if you want to volunteer at: Scarlett — 678-577-1852 or Teresa — 770-527-0127.

Judy Davis will once again be traveling to Nicaragua to deliver water filters and to test the water where wells are available. Because of the airlines increasing luggage fees, we will purchase some of our supplies there. A generous person has already supplied the bags and contents for the baby bags which I will be preparing. We can still use small travel size soaps and shampoos. If you would like to contribute to the purchase and delivery of water filters, Spanish Bibles, and food bags, you can do so by check written to the church and noted "Nicaragua fund".

Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 1:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

Food suggestions for **March**: canned vegetables

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Find Help. Find Hope.

March 26: Community Action for Mental Health
The Rockdale/Newton affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will be hosting a new monthly meeting for anyone interested in community action for mental health issues. It is the newest effort in our line of "Mental Health Mondays" starting March 26. On the fourth Monday of each month, we will meet at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 2375 GA-20 in Conyers to hear presentations and commit to advocacy on behalf of those with mental illness. Our first gathering will be in the form of a "town meeting" to gather interest and ideas. Future meetings will alternate between hosting speakers and working on specific projects. If you are interested or have any questions, you may call our chair Michael Thompson at 518-577-8691.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Circles

If you would like more information contact Jan Giles at: FamilyGilesGa@gmail.com.

Circle meetings for **March** are:

- **Elizabeth Ann Circle** will meet at FPC in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, **March 6**, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Martha Circle** will meet at the home of Cheryl Meichsner 13153 Vista Drive Covington, on March 6th at 10;30 a.m.
- **Ruth Circle:** Meeting place and time to be announced.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 11, at 2:00 a.m.

Set your clocks forward one hour before retiring on Saturday evening!

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study will meet in the fellowship hall on **Saturday, March 24**, at 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. We will continue our study of Rob Bell's *Love Wins*. Bring your breakfast and a friend.

The days of my recent illness were made more pleasant with the many greeting cards I received. Thanks for the prayers for my recovery, too. Our church family is very important to Jean and myself and we realize this everyday of our lives.

Our love to all,
Jim Elder

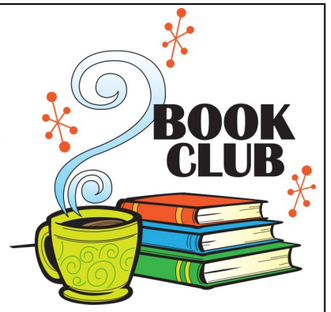
Foundation Builders Class Study Paul's Letter to the Romans

The **Foundation Builders** Sunday school class is continuing its lively study on Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. You are invited: 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning in March. The classroom is the middle room on the west side of the church building (over the fellowship hall).

[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39

First Meeting



The new book club will meet **March 27th** and the 4th Tuesday of each month. In March they will have a discussion regarding *The Last Girl*: *My Story of Captivity* by Nadia Murad.

The meeting will take place at 1 p.m. at the home of Barbara and Chris Martin, 650 Mason Drive. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Judy Davis (mitday@aol.com) or Barbara Martin (cbmartin@charter.net) if interested.

On-line Giving Information:
If you are currently paying your pledge at "Realm" on-line, please note that this year, if you are pledging, you should use the *fund* "2018 Pledge Year" so that it will be credited to the current year.
Under the fund menu just type in 2018 and it should pop right up! Those who do not pledge should use the fund called "non-pledge". Call Peni Kehoe in the church office if you have problems or need help signing up on Realm for paying your pledge or giving your donations to other funds.

Family Connection

Fundraising Auction

Friday, March 16th

First Presbyterian **Early Learning Center** ART AFFAIR is a fun, casual, adult evening filled with art of all kinds. You will find art created by the children of the FPELC, local artists, and friends of FPELC. Come out and enjoy the live auction excitement, silent auction drama, great raffle items, refreshments, and fun! This year's event will be held at the American Legion in Covington.

Mary Poppins

March 23, 24 & 25

The Oxford Youth Singers will be featured in a musical theater presentation of MARY POPPINS at Porter Performing Arts Center. Come out and support the arts and artists in our community!

Youth Connection will be attending the matinee performance on **Sunday, March 25th at 3:00 p.m**. For tickets or information, go to www.newtoncountyarts.org, or call 770-786-8188.

Early Learning Center

Dear FPC Family,

Our students spent the month of February learning all about Space. They explored the planets, the stars, astronauts, and space travel. We learned that "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). The Reptile Wrangler came to visit us in early February since we had to reschedule after our snow days. We got to see so many different and exciting animals, and our students and teachers got to pet some of them. Open registration began for next school year. Please spread the word!

During March, Easter and Spring, our verse will be Luke 24:6, "He is not here, but is risen". We are excited to teach the students all about Spring and what happens during that wonderful season. We are also going to teach the students the wonderful story of resurrection at Easter.

We are in final preparations for our **Annual Art Affair** which will be held on **March 16** at American Legion on Legion Drive at 6:30 p.m. Event ticket prices are $15 for one ticket, $25 for two. Tickets will be available in the preschool office Monday-Friday and Miriam Wheeler will have some on Sundays. The committee is finalizing the list of donations from local and metro vendors. We're hoping to secure items from attractions such as Zoo Atlanta (Family Pass $119), The Aquarium (Adult Ticket $31.95, Youth Ticket $25.95), and the like. If you're interested in making a contribution toward this event, obtaining an individual ticket or family pass to any of these places would be tremendously appreciated. We are also selling sponsorship packages with advertising for the evening. There are different price points for various advertising. All donations, whether through sponsorship, cash donations, or actual items donated are tax deductible. If you're able to contribute in any way, please let me or any of the teachers know. We will have raffle baskets available for preview on Sunday, March 11. You may purchase raffle tickets at that time, and you don't have to be present to win. We will be raffling a Big Green Egg!! We would LOVE to have our FPC family participating at the event.

As always, your generosity and prayers for our school are greatly appreciated. We are so thankful for such a generous church family.

Blessings, Kara

Music News

One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible comes from Psalm 87:7. It reads: "Then those who sing as well as those who play the flutes shall say, 'All my springs of joy are in You!' "

What a blissful representation of our innate desire as followers of Christ to lift our voices to heaven. The image of the springs captures the sense of joy overflowing as music flows from us in response to our great love for God. From singer to flautist, from bell ringer to trumpeter, from pianist to organist, from choir member to congregational singer, we are ALL called to worship the Creator in whatever way we know how.

I have been immeasurably blessed in this first month by the congregation and music ministries of FPC. There is a palpable energy in worship and love for musicmaking amongst our volunteers and congregants. It has been a joy to be a part of it and to feel so welcomed by you all. My husband, Thomas, and I were particularly thankful for the warm welcome we received at the reception held on February 11th. Thank you so much!

I look forward to continuing to get to know you all. I am eager to find new members for our Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir and am hoping to include some instrumentalists from our congregation in worship. Please do not hesitate to join us at a rehearsal on a Wednesday night or a Sunday morning or feel free to reach out to me at alexisward725@gmail.com if you would like to know how you can offer your gifts to this ministry of music.

Thank you again for a wonderful first month. God bless!
Alexis

Ambassador Choir News

Ambassador Choir Schedule - Winter/Spring 2018

Thursday, March 1 - Regular Rehearsal in Choir Room at 10:30 a.m. - Directed by Becky Ramsey

Thursday, March 8 - Regular Rehearsal in Choir Room at 10:30 a.m. - Directed by Becky Ramsey

Sunday, March 11 - Sing at FPC for 11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Anthem will be "The Love of Christ Our Savior" by James Koerts. Please be in FPC Choir Room at 10:30 a.m. for Rehearsal. Wear Choir Robes.

Thursday, March 15 - Regular Rehearsal in Choir Room at 10:30 a.m. - Directed by Alice Walker

Thursday, March 22 - Regular Rehearsal in Choir Room at 10:30 a.m. - Directed by Alice Walker

Thursday, March 29 - Meet in Choir Room at 9:00 a.m.. Wear purple shirts. Sing at Merryvale at 10:00 a.m. Complimentary lunch at Stalvey's.

Holy Week (March 26 -30) - Sing at a 12:00 Noon Community Holy Week Service. Wear purple shirts. Complimentary lunch. Details to be announced.

Thank you for your faithfulness in attending rehearsals and preparing for performances during Alice's recuperation from pneumonia. Ambassador Choir is a very important part of the life and ministry of FPC Covington. We love and appreciate each one of you!

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Ambassador Choir Rehearsals

Thursdays - Regular Rehearsals in Choir Room at 10:30 a.m.