

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



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See our website at: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

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](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com) or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

- 2 Judy Davis
- 4 Janet Carmichael
- 4 Anne Savage
- 6 Michael Thompson
- 6 Harry Hinton
- 7 Beth Vining
- 10 Rob Jones
- 11 Dylan Jones
- 11 Doug Bolton
- 13 Jack Weesner
- 14 Jessica Vincent
- 15 Jean Wolverton
- 16 Shawn Loftin
- 16 Terri Digby
- 17 Jim Halstead
- 17 Jonathan Miller
- 17 Tom Stillerman



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 2019

# FIRST PRESS



## Greetings FPC Family!

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray this March 2019 newsletter finds you happy and well! In these days and weeks of cold and wintry weather, may the love and warmth of our community of faith bring warmth to you and your family.

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will gather together to share and celebrate in worship that Wednesday evening, and I invite and encourage everyone to join our church family and others for this special service. We will gather for worship at Covington First United Methodist Church at 7:00pm on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Then we will have kicked-off the season of Lent—a journey of faith that takes us on a journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, the cross, the tomb, and beyond! But, it is likely that we here at FPC fall somewhere on a wide spectrum of belief and understanding about Lent, each of us with a variety of questions like ... What exactly is Lent? Are we really supposed to "give up something?" And so on and so forth. Indeed, for many people, the significance, meaning, and intent of Lent gets lost amongst such questions and answers.

If you are wondering how best to observe Lent, then maybe it's best to consider what Lent is really about. So, we must first ask ourselves, "Is Lent about us ... or is it about God?" The answer is that Lent is 100% about God—what God did through the life and death of Jesus Christ, and what God is still doing in our lives and in our world today. All too often, the emphasis on "what to give up" places the focus on us rather than on God. It doesn't matter to God whether we choose to stop eating chocolate or choose to stop drinking soda for 40 days (or to give up something else). What matters to God is that we take time to turn to God, to allow ourselves to journey with Christ toward Jerusalem, the cross, and the empty tomb, and to be changed by the power and grace of God's mercy and love.

The prophet Joel provides help for us in understanding the purpose and intent of the season of Lent:

*Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. (Joel 2:12-13)*

Ultimately, whatever we do during Lent is between us and God. But, let's remember that maybe God is more interested in us engaging in activities and ideas that remind us of our dependence on God and what God does, instead of things that remind us of ourselves and what we do. Friends, let us return to God with all our hearts, and take time to prepare ourselves for something as amazing as Easter!

O Lord, hear our prayer:

Forgiving God, stay with us as we walk through Lent for the 40 days starting on Ash Wednesday. Help us to learn more about you and how we fit into your plans for creation during this time you have given us for prayer and discernment. Open our eyes as we walk with Jesus at our side, so that we can see any new path you want us to follow. Open our ears to what you are saying when we read and hear your Word. More than anything, know that we're sorry to have forgotten you this past year. We seek to return to you more fully in the coming days. This we pray in the name of our guide, your Son, Jesus. Amen!



## FROM OUR PASTOR

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven M. Barnes  
Interim Pastor  
[revbarnesy@me.com](mailto:revbarnesy@me.com)

Dan Walden  
Director of Youth and Children's Ministry  
[djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Peni Kehoe  
Secretary-Treasurer  
[penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)

Mindy Forehand  
Interim Choir Director  
[Mindymartin143@gmail.com](mailto:Mindymartin143@gmail.com)

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[awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com](mailto:awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com)

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Nursery

Darlene Alley  
Director  
Early Learning Center  
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*Continued at the top of page 2*

## SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Continued from page 1

### From the Pastor

Until the next time I remain ... just another silly preacher wondering if I'll ever find the words to express just how thankful and lucky I feel to be interim pastor of this wonderful church!

Grace & Peace,

Steven



### Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2019 (-4,647)

2019 January Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	31,768	27,122	Same
Non-Pledge Income	3,583	3,039	Same
Other Income	416	40	Same
Total income	36,601	30,201	Same
Expenses	38,594	36,717	Same
<b>Net Totals</b>	(-1,992)	(-6,516)	Same

### Serving Us in March

March Usher Chair:  
Doug Bolton

Sound Engineer:  
Ken Walker

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

Hospital Visitors:  
3/3: J Wolverton  
3/10: J. Wolverton  
3/17: Betty Bailey  
3/24: D & B Tabb  
3/31: B & D Vining

### MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2019  
Carter Gibson  
John McCarthy  
Cheryl Meichsner  
Miriam Wheeler  
Allie Hay

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

Class of 2021  
Warren Liem  
Pam Stillerman  
Donna Weesner  
Cy Wolverton

### February Session Highlights

- Orientation for the Pastor Nominating Committee begins this month. Next steps will be announced soon.
- Annual statistical report for 2018 reviewed and adjusted to 257 active members.
- Session retreat scheduled for March 8-9. Each committee will submit a report for strategic planning purposes.
- The Souper Bowl of Caring raised more than \$1,000.
- A Supper Club night is planned for March 23.
- The Facilities & Equipment team is reviewing replacement windows and painting needs.

Submitted by  
Michael Thompson  
Assistant Clerk of Session

The Session will be on retreat  
March 8th and 9th. On Friday  
evening they will hold the regular  
monthly meeting. On Saturday  
they will meet at The Burge and  
work on plans for the coming  
year. Please keep us in your prayers.



**Daylight Saving Time**  
begins March 10, at 2:00 a.m.  
Set your clocks forward one  
hour before retiring on  
Saturday evening!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 
3 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service with Communion	4 6:00 ELC Board Meeting	5 Women's Circles 10:00 Eliz. Ann 10:30 Martha 7:00 pm Ruth 4:00 Exercise	6 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Worship at First United Methodist Church	7 10:30 Ambassador Choir	8 6-9:00 pm Session Retreat at Burge	9 9:00-2:00 Session Retreat at Burge
10 Lent 1 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time begins 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	11 4:00 Exercise	12 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	13 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	14 10:30 Ambassador Choir	15 10:30 Ambassador Choir	16 8:00 Men's Breakfast & Study
17 Lent 2 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 	18 7:00 NAMI	19 4:00 Exercise	20 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	21 10:30 Ambassador Choir	22 ELC Spring Family Festival	23 Supper Club
24 Lent 3 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	25 1:00 A Novel Bunch Book Club	26 4:00 Exercise	27 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	28 10:30 Ambassador Choir	29 Meals on Wheels	30 Meals on Wheels
31 Lent 4 Same as above					<b>see our website at: www.fpccov.org</b>	

## SUPPER CLUB

FPC has scheduled a "Supper Club" dinner on **Saturday, March 23, 2019** for all adults. This is a fun time for fellowship, and a great way to get to know each other better by meeting for dinner at designated homes. Please sign up on the form below to attend the dinner as a guest or as a host/hostess. You can place this form in the offering during church, or deliver it to Peni at the church office **no later than March 17**.

**As a Host/Hostess** you would plan the menu and provide the entree, set the time of the dinner and then call the guests on your list to ask them to bring a side dish.

**As a Guest** you would bring a side dish suggested by the Host/Hostess.

I would like to be a **host/hostess** for the dinner in my home.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I can seat \_\_\_\_\_ # of people (total number, including host/hostess)

I would like to attend the dinner as a guest.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

See you at dinner!



Forms will also be available in the Sunday bulletins.

## WITNESS NEWS



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

### Family Support Group

Every Third Monday of the Month  
7:00 - 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 Michael Thompson at 518-577-8691 or email him: [mkthompson96@gmail.com](mailto:mkthompson96@gmail.com). When you attend the meeting come in the door on Clark Street to the right of The Garden.

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

### Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Bernice Bailey is the Director, (770-786-3048)

Suggested donations for **March**:

Canned Vegetables



### Baby Love

Remember your donations of disposable baby diapers of all sizes or packages of baby wipes. Please place them in the cradle in the narthex. Thanks!



## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION



### Presbyterian Women's Circles

Presbyterian Women will continue to explore the communities of Christ through the study of "Cloud of Witnesses." Guests are welcome. If you would like more information contact Eleanor Scarborough at 770-786-4661 or [wascarone@bellsouth.net](mailto:wascarone@bellsouth.net).

Circles for March:

**Elizabeth Ann Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 5th at 10 a.m. in the Martin Fellowship Hall.

**Martha Circle** will meet on March 5th, 10:30 am at the home of at the home of Jean Blair. Sherri Bolton will lead our Study Lesson.

**Ruth Circle** will meet March 5th, 7:00 pm. At the home of Penny Blakeney.



### An Invitation for Women

The Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will take place on March 17th, at 2:00 pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3003 Howell Mill Road NW, Atlanta, 30307. All women are invited. Call 678-787-8239 for more information.



### The LORD'S SUPPER



The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, March 3rd at the 11:00 worship service.  
Prepare your heart.

### Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Choir Room. New members are always welcome.



### Ambassador Choir Rehearsals

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir room. Come join in making a joyful noise!

### Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

The Men's Bible Study will meet this month on **Saturday morning, March 16, at 8:00 am** in the fellowship hall. We will begin a Lenten study. Bring your breakfast and bring a friend.



**BOOK CLUB**  
A Novel Bunch book club will meet **Tuesday, March 26th at 1:00 pm**. We will discuss "America's First Daughter" by Laura Kenmoie and Stephanie Dray. Location to be announced.

### Be a Good Steward

If you live in the City of Covington or the City of Oxford, you receive a recycling tub along with your trash bin. It is an act of love for God's environment if you recycle as much as possible!



If you live where recycling is not provided with your trash service you may take it to the recycling center that is off of Alcovy Road just past Bulldog Tire if you are traveling from Hwy. 278.

### Help Deliver Meals on Wheels



**Meals on Wheels** will be led by Doug Bolton and Allie Hay. Contact them if you want to volunteer on March 30.

Doug can be reached at [dougbolton@yahoo.com](mailto:dougbolton@yahoo.com).

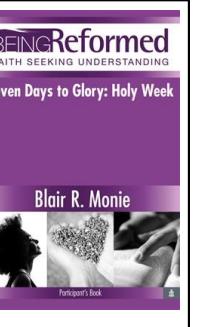
## FAMILY CONNECTION

### Lenten Study

Sundays @ 10:00am beginning March 10th

Join us for a special Lenten study entitled [Seven Days to Glory](#) led by our pastor, the Rev. Steven Barnes, during the Sunday School hour.

"The last week of Jesus' life encompassed some of Christianity's most significant events. Based on the Gospel of Mark, this study looks at each of these days to describe the importance of Jesus' actions at the time, and what they mean for Christian living today."



### Spring Family Festival & Art Affair

Friday, March 22nd @ 6:30pm



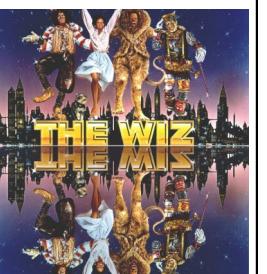
First Presbyterian Early Learning Center is planning a family festival filled with live music and fun of all kinds. We will have live and silent auctions of art created by the children of the FPELC, local artists, and friends of FPELC, and raffle baskets with all kinds of local goods and services. Come out and enjoy the auctions, raffles, games, music, refreshments, and fun! This year's event will be held in the fellowship hall and on the church playground. Advance purchase tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25, or buy 4 and get the 5th ticket FREE!

### The Wiz

March 15, 16, 17

The Oxford Youth Singers will be featured in a musical theater presentation of THE WIZ 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 17th at 3:00 p.m. For tickets or information, go to [www.newtoncountyarts.org](http://www.newtoncountyarts.org), or call 770-786-8188.



## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

### Dear FPC Family,

February was an amazing month of Space exploration at the ELC! I hope you had a chance to see the cardboard rocket ships, star gazing areas, and star lab set up throughout the month. Our preschoolers now know so much about planets, our solar system, and space in general. Who knows, maybe we have inspired a future astronaut!



I would like to extend an invitation to all of the FPC family to our Spring Family Festival. This is the new version of Art Affair, and now includes activities for all ages. The event will be held Friday, March 22, at 6:30 pm here at the church. We will have an art auction, raffle baskets, carnival games, hot dog dinner, Ty Rumble concert, bouncy house, and more! Our teachers and students and have all been working diligently on one of a kind art creations that you won't want to miss. The success of this event is a financial driving force of the ELC.

So, come on out and support the school and get to know the families we serve! Tickets are available at the church office. (\$15 each, 2 for \$25, Buy 4 get 5<sup>th</sup> one Free!)

Enrollment for the fall semester is now open, so if you know of anyone looking for a class for ages 1 to 4, please send them our way! You can also show them [www.fpelc.org](http://www.fpelc.org). As always, thanks for all of your prayers and support!

God Bless,  
Darlene Alley

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Please welcome **Mark and Jennifer Fogarty** to First Presbyterian Church Covington for over 17 years, he decided it was a good fit and time to make it official. Randy's hobbies and interest include gardening, walking, baking, and travel (domestic and international). He enjoys spending time with family and friends and is getting into volunteering as retirement gets closer. Randy is also a huge Georgia Bulldog fan!

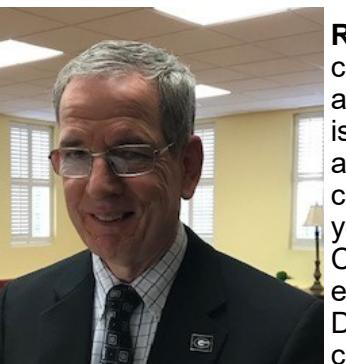
Appeals Review Officer. Randy attended Methodist churches, but has found the transition to the Presbyterian Church to be very smooth. After attending First Presbyterian Church Covington for over 17 years, he decided it was a good fit and time to make it official. Randy's hobbies and interest include gardening, walking, baking, and travel (domestic and international). He enjoys spending time with family and friends and is getting into volunteering as retirement gets closer. Randy is also a huge Georgia Bulldog fan!

**Catherine Bagwell** relocated to Oxford from upstate New York two and one half years ago. She teaches psychology at Oxford College. Her family, Doug, Noah (age 14), Ada (age 12), and herself are enjoying Georgia's warmer weather. Catherine grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and earned her undergraduate from the University of Richmond. She continued her education at Duke University, receiving a Ph.D in clinical psychology. Catherine and Doug both taught for a number of years at the University of Richmond and met on faculty there. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her family, watching Noah's and Ada's many games and sporting events, running, and cooking. It is a pleasure for Catherine to be a part of FPC.



First Presbyterian Church Covington welcomes **Krista Firkus**. She is from Conyers, Georgia, and currently resides in Porterdale, Georgia. As a student at Berry College, she spent two summers in Costa Rica teaching English while completing her Bachelor of Music degree. After graduation, she spent a year in South Korea teaching English. Upon returning from

Korea, she attended University of South Carolina where she received her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance. Krista spent five years teaching voice at Gordon State College and started her own business, Resonance Music Academy. In addition to teaching voice and piano lessons out of her Porterdale business, she is now employed as the chorus teacher at Cousins Middle School in Newton County. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her dogs, George and Charlie.



**Randy Layton** is welcomed to First Presbyterian Church Covington. He is from Tennille, Georgia, and the youngest of five children. For the last 29 years Randy has called Covington home and been employed with the Georgia Department of Labor. He currently works as an

**Julie and Jeff MacKenzie** join First Presbyterian Church from Rock Springs Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Julie was born in Michigan and Jeff in Virginia. Julie is retired from social services where she worked with Alzheimer and Parkinson patients and enjoys reading clubs and volunteering in her free time. Jeff is retired from architecture and enjoys drawing, drama, and gardening. Both enjoy dancing and singing and are active with the Silver Saints Choir. They have a son and daughter. Their son lives in Covington where he is employed in a profession with large equipment. Their daughter lives in Shanghai where she teaches high school. They look forward to staying active with FPC.

