



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA



August 2017

First Family News

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First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 807
Valdosta, GA 31603
229.242.8376
www.FirstPresValdosta.org



Blessing of the Hands

Several years ago when I was working on my seminary's Clinical Pastoral Education requirement at University of Tennessee Medical Center, our team led a "Blessing of the Hands" service. It was set in the hospital chapel—very low key with a candle burning, quiet music playing, and a couple of residents available throughout the day. I was amazed by the physicians, nurses, and other staff members who came for a prayer and for their hands to be blessed for the work they do. After having this experience, I happened to be chatting with one of the supervisors who mentioned she had once done this in church on Labor Day weekend. I was sold!

I will never forget the first time I led a Blessing of the Hands service at First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City, Tennessee. Early that morning, one of the women approached me with a big smile on her face. She said, "Usually we go out of town but we stayed here so we could come for the service. I even washed my hands carefully so they would be extra clean." Little did she know that even before worship began, she had blessed me with her words and her enthusiasm.

Since then I have led many Blessing of the Hands services—and all of them have been extraordinarily meaningful. It is my hope that you will find the practice meaningful, too. So on Sunday, September 3rd, immediately following the sermon, I will invite you to come to the front of the church for your hands to be blessed. For those of all ages who wish to participate, using oil, I will make the sign of the cross on the back of your hand and say, "May the work of your hands be a blessing to others." The anointing serves as a symbol of God's grace poured out upon you, blessing you as you continue in God's kingdom labor.

From Scripture we read,

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but only one God is served; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

As the Body of Christ, we all have a role to play. It's not just the minister or the elders who do the *work*. It is all of us and it is all kinds of work. You may be a student preparing for fall semester; you may be an employee or employer; you may be retired. Regardless, the work of your hands can be done in the spirit of fulfilling God's purposes on earth. After all, wherever we go, whatever we do, we are the hands of Christ.

Blessings,
Dr. Glenda

wednesday activity at FPC

Wednesday Night Supper & Study



Wednesday Night Supper and Study resumes August 9th at 6 p.m.

Prior to our summer break, Kinney Hollingshead was asked to share his journey toward better health—specifically his interest in eating a whole foods, plant-based diet. After some discussion, it was decided, in conjunction with Kinney sharing food choices and meal prep ideas, it might be nice to offer a vegan meal and invite Laurelee Wilkerson, a long-time vegan, to join the fun. So make plans to be with us August 9th for an interesting discussion as well as healthy food options provided by Bart Greer, Kinney & Glenda Hollingshead, and Laurelee Wilkerson. Then, August 16th we will start exploring the documentary "Forks over Knives," which advocates plant-based foods as a way to improve health. We look forward to seeing you August 9th!

Fellowship Dinner Menu

<i>August 9</i>	<i>August 16</i>	<i>August 23</i>	<i>August 30</i>
Hoppin' John Stew	Pulled Pork BBQ	Chicken and Dumplings	Spaghetti
Lentil Chili	Baked Beans	Peas and Carrots	Green Beans
Potato Soup	Cole Slaw	Tossed Salad	Tossed Salad
Black Beans & Rice	Texas Toast	Yeast Rolls	Texas Toast
Roasted Vegetables	Fresh Fruit	Mixed Fruit Cobbler	Brownies
Hoe Cakes	Ice Cream	Ice Cream	Ice Cream
Bread			
Fruit Salad			

upcoming events & celebrations



FIRST FRIDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Join us Friday, August 4th at 5:30 p.m. for a time of silence, prayer, and worship.

Come along and bring a friend!



Children & Youth Back to School Pool Party

August 6th, immediately following worship, at the home of Alan and Julie Stout:
2551 Moore Crossing Rd. Valdosta.
Transportation and lunch will be provided.



Blessing of the Hands
Sunday, September 3rd

AUGUST birthdays

- 2 Neal O'Neal Jr
- 4 Fred McIntyre
- 6 Elizabeth Street
- 7 Emily Blalock
- 8 Julia Bess Scott
- 10 Maria Vick
- 12 Patti Amos
- 13 Don Munro
- 16 Royce Coleman
- 21 Tim Harris
- 27 Jerry Powers
- 28 Elizabeth Capece
- 31 Brady Jepson

AUGUST anniversaries

- 6 Jim & Su Meador
- 12 Bion & Jenny Williams
- 14 Tom & Sue Miller
- 17 Phil & Cathy Alday
- 23 Gus & Sister Elliott



recent events & celebrations

christian ed

Break Bread Spirit Night

The Break Bread Spirit night was a huge success with the thanks of Leadership Lowndes and Chick-Fil-A St. Augustine Rd. We raised \$254.45 from sales and \$140 in tips - all going to benefit the Break Bread Together Ministry. That is amazing!



Sunday Morning Classes

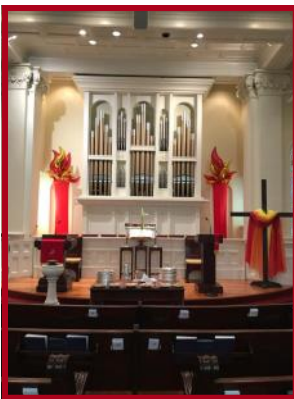
Please join us for Sunday School:

- The Ladies Sunday School meets at 9:30 for singing, 9:45 for the lesson in the Sally Lou Cranford Room. Julie Magruder is the teacher.
- New Ventures meets in the New Ventures/Library room. This class, for both men and women, begins at 9:45 a.m. and is taught by Sherrida Crawford.
- The Men's Sunday School Class, taught by Lamar Cole, begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Class of One Accord meets at 9:45 a.m. with Florence Cole and Eve Renfroe as teachers.

Children's Church is held during the worship hour on Sunday morning using the Sunday School curriculum (in place of Sunday School).

Pentecost Worship Service

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Pentecost celebration so special!

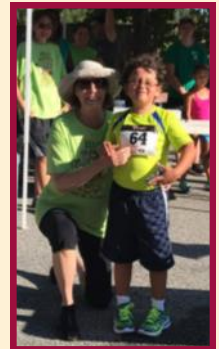


mission & evangelism



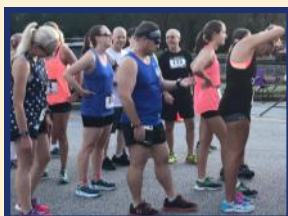
For the second year, FPC will participate in the Flint River Presbytery's "Ripples in the River" stewardship initiative. To help support the excellent programs and ministries of our Presbytery, a special offering will be collected during worship Sunday, August 13th. Give generously!

Bun Run 2017



This was our biggest race ever with 86 runners participating. At last count, we raised \$6756.41 for Break Bread Together.

God is so good! All the time!



memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



June/July Gifts

"Distributing food is a unique act of love because food is the basis for life. When the church can distribute food, it can allay one of people's most primal fears – that of going hungry – as a way of helping people come to peace. When sources of food are close at hand, peace June be sustained."

Gifts to Break Bread Together

Trinity Presbyterian Church
FPC Circle # 1
Perfectly Priscilla
Artie Mae Johnson
New Hope Missionary Baptist
Zelda Fuller
Whiskey River Club
Vickie Elliott

In Memory of Eugene Wilkerson

Nelda Harris

In Memory of Lane Renfroe

Jeff & Jane Gore
Alex McFadden
Nelda Harris

In Memory of Marguerite Harden

Jeff & Jane Gore

In Memory of Col. Clarence Parker

Alex McFadden

In Memory of Mrs. Tom Landrum

Margaret Ann Griffin

In Memory of Mike Hill

Margaret Ann Griffin

In Memory Dr. A.M. Culbreth, Sr.

Margaret Ann Griffin

In Memory of Ruth Kahler

Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Memory of Robert Alday

Harold & Betty Ann George

Libby George

Bion & Jenny Williams

In Memory of Margie Sourwine

Libby George & Eric Clanton

In Memory of Lou Blanton

Margaret Ann Griffin

In Memory of Stuart Mullis

Margaret Ann Griffin

Cynthia Coats & Girls

In Memory of Ginny Wetherington

Charles & Nancy Hobby

In Memory of Scott Retterbush

Cynthia Coats

In Memory of Sammy Dees

Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Memory of Lane Smith

Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Honor of Ed Hanahan

Alex McFadden

In Honor of Catharine Minor

Alex McFadden

In Honor of Lamar Cole

Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Honor of Alice McDuffie

Gene & Marcia Felts

In Honor of Mrs. Teeny Chaffin

Lee & Barbara Bradley



We are enjoying our new pew cushions in the Sanctuary.
In addition to being comfortable, they really help make
the space look bright and cheerful!

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Mission and Evangelism 5:00	3	4 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30	5
6 Worship 11:00am Back to School Pool Party Elder on Call: Sherrida Crawford	7	8	9 Admin & Finance 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	10	11	12
13 Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Walter Elliott	14	15	16 Congregational Care & Fellowship 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	17	18	19
20 Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Bart Greer	21	22	23 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	24	25	26
27 Worship 11:00am Session Meeting Elder on Call: Nelda Harris	28	29	30 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	31		

notices & updates

Notes from the June 25, 2017

Session approved the following:

- A 5th Sunday Potluck Luncheon to be held July 30th, 2017 immediately after worship
- FPC to participate in Flint River Presbytery's "Ripples in the River" fund raising campaign
- Dr. Hollingshead's Study Leave September 4-17, 2017

Mission & Evangelism reported the following special offering totals:

- One Great Hour of Sharing \$751
- Presbyterian Homes Mothers Day \$570

In addition, Session began first steps toward forming the Nominating Committee for 2017. Sissy Almand will serve as moderator and Sherida Crawford will be vice-moderator. Time was also spent reflecting on the recent Session Retreat & forming plans to obtain banners for the Magnolia Street brick wall to promote various programs of the church. Plans are also underway to start sprucing up some of the rooms that have been unused recently. With this in mind, a work day will be scheduled in September.

Upcoming Dates:

- No Stated Session meeting in July
- July 22 - Bun Run
- August 27 - Next Stated Session Meeting

Special Request

Break Bread Together is running low on grocery bags and asks if members could start donating some again. Thank you.



Are you happy receiving the church newsletter online instead of a hard copy? If so, please let us know!

First Presbyterian Church is once again hosting the Presbytery sponsored Stop Hunger Now event for our area. Mark your calendars for the afternoon of October 1st because this is something you really do not want to miss!

World Communion Sunday
October 1st



"FEED MY LAMBS"
STOP HUNGER NOW
Presbytery-Wide Mission Event

TOGETHER WE CAN PACK **50,000** MEALS!!!

To access **Online Giving** or for more information about **First Presbyterian Church** you June visit our website at www.firstpresvaldosta.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone app.



The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Glenda Hollingshead Pastor
revhollingshead@gmail.com
229.469.6131

Gabby Ford Music Director
gford2743@gmail.com

Dr. Donna Gosnell Organist
dgosnell@valdosta.edu

Beth Mathis Break Bread Together
breakbread@firstpresvaldosta.org

Katie Altman Administrative Assistant
office@firstpresvaldosta.org

Julie Stout Financial Administrator
jstout@cmpcpa.com

Sabina Bennett Custodian



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