



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA

October 2017



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Why Do We Do What We Do?

Once there was a man who visited a church that he liked so much, he kept returning Sunday after Sunday. Eventually, the rhythm of worship began to feel comfortable—the prayers, the songs, the sermon, the offering, the sending out. But try as he might, there was something he failed to understand. You see, when the people stood to say the Apostle’s Creed, in unison they turned toward the back of the church to say the creed before turning back around to be seated again. Bewildered, the man asked one person after another why they did such a thing but no one knew.

Finally, the man approached the oldest gentleman in the church in hopes of learning the answer to his question. “Sir, I have been coming to your church for a while. I like the people, the preacher, and the worship. But one thing really puzzles me.”

“What?” the gentleman asked.

“Why does the entire church turn toward the back of the church to say the Apostle’s Creed?”

Smiling, the man replied, “It is quite simple really. Years ago when this church was first built, we did not have hymnals with prayers and creeds printed in them like we do now. Some of us knew the Apostle’s Creed by heart; others did not—especially the children and young people. So a decision was made to have the Apostle’s Creed painted on the back wall so that everyone could read it together. Of course, the years passed and eventually the letters were painted over. I guess we just never thought to stop doing it.”

Why do we do what we do? This is a good question for us to ask ourselves as individuals and as a church—particularly in light of our 2018 Stewardship Campaign led by the Administration & Finance Committee. *Why does the committee do what it does?* The most obvious reason is that your pledges are used to develop a responsible and effective budget for the church. Moreover, using the information you provide, the A & F Committee and Session work hard to offer ample opportunities for you to join in God’s kingdom work through your service of time, talents, and treasures.

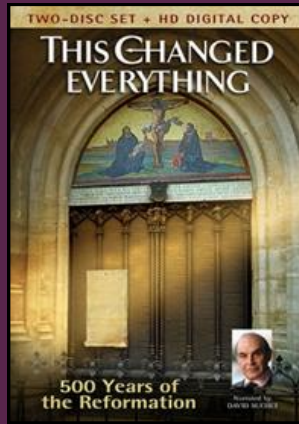
Why do we do what we do? You might think since God owns everything anyway, why does God need my contribution to get things done? Well, God may not *need* our time, talents, and treasures—but God *wants* them. When we give abundantly to the things of God, we bear witness to our trust in a caring, generous God. Our obedience helps us remember the birds of the air and the lilies of the field for which God also amply provides. In truth, the more we give, the more we demonstrate our reliance on God for our needs. That’s just one of the reasons *we do what we do*.

Blessings,
Dr. Glenda



wednesday activity at FPC

Wednesday Night Supper & Study

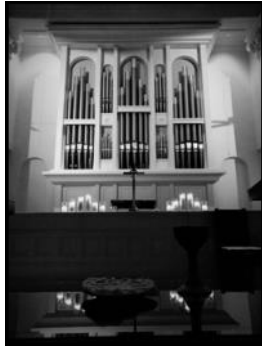


We are nearing the end of our “Forks over Knives” video and discussion about healthy eating. Soon we will turn our attention to an important event in the life of the Presbyterian Church - namely the 500 Year Anniversary of the Reformation. Through the video “This Changed Everything,” we will celebrate the fruits of the Reformation while also exploring questions about the cost of division and, perhaps, share ideas regarding the next 500 years. Concerning our actual start date, watch for details in upcoming Bulletins and “News You Can Use” weekly updates.

Fellowship Dinner Menu

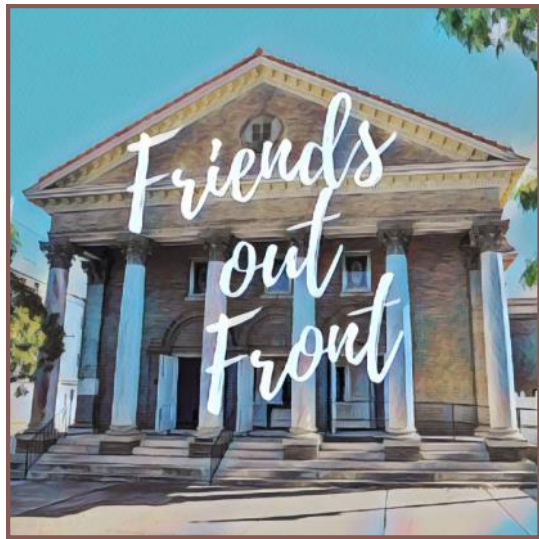
October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Chicken Tetrazzini	Meatloaf	Grilled Pork Tenderloin	Fried Chicken
Mixed Vegetables	Creamed Potatoes	Sweet Potatoes	Creamed Potatoes
Caesar Salad	Green Beans	Turnip Greens	Green Beans
Bread Sticks	Yeast Rolls	Rolls	Biscuits
Cheese Cake & Fruit	Tossed Salad	Tossed Salad	Tossed Salad
Ice Cream	Peach Cobbler	Double Chocolate Cake	Blueberry Cobbler
	Ice Cream	Ice Cream	Ice Cream

upcoming events



FIRST FRIDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Make plans to attend our next **First Friday Contemplative Service** October 6th at 5:30 p.m. Afterward, you might consider other First Friday activities that are offered downtown - like going out to eat with friends you just so happened to invite to the service!



So... do you know what happens when you give a Presbyterian a cookie? Well, they hang around to visit with one another after worship. And who knows where that might lead us? Starting October 8th on the 2nd Sunday of each month, immediately after worship, the Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee will host "Friends out Front." So come along. Have a cookie, some lemonade, and some good conversation. (If weather does not permit an outside gathering, we will meet in the Overflow Room)

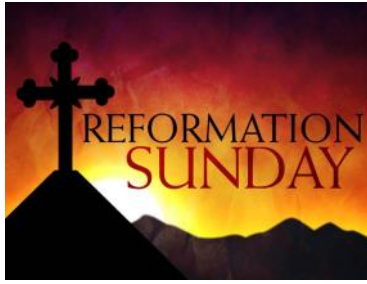
October birthdays

- 2 Zan Fulbright
- 3 Macy Stewart
- 3 Marissa Pennington
- 5 Jane Williams
- 13 Jennifer Shepherd
- 14 Virginia McQuaig
- 14 Ralph Gosnell
- 14 Phil Alday
- 14 Evie Toth
- 14 Mary Toth
- 15 Sabina Bennett
- 17 Butch Purvis
- 21 Bette Dean
- 23 Ansley Taylor
- 25 Bruce Cousins
- 25 Pat Cordova

October anniversaries

- 11 John & Maria Vick
- 26 James & Henrietta Traynor





REFORMATION SUNDAY

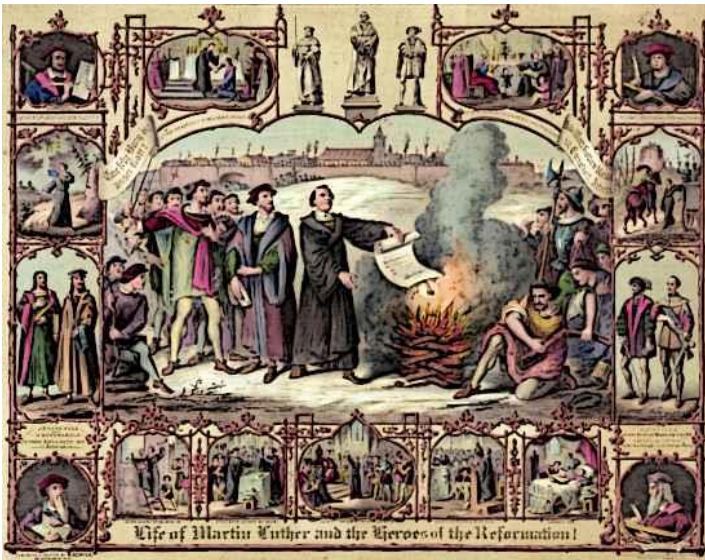
October 29, 2017

The story goes that Martin Luther launched the Protestant Reformation on Oct. 31, 1517, when he nailed his famed 95 Theses on the Sale of Indulgences to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg. The Reformation may really have started a few weeks later, but that has become the traditional date, so the last Sunday of October is when we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

What an incredible journey it has been!

During worship, October 29th, we will gather to give thanks for Reformers like John Calvin and John Knox and we will stop to consider “The Next 500 Years.” What might the Spirit be calling us to do in our time that is as challenging, as rewarding, and maybe even as fruitful as the actions of Martin Luther and other Reformers?

Come, join the celebration!



THE PROTESTANT REFORMATIONS

As part of the world wide celebration recognizing the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (a watershed event in the Western world that influences who we are today as Christians and Presbyterians), the **New Ventures Sunday School Class** invites you to a six-week study beginning Sunday, October 15th. *The Protestant Reformations*, written by best-selling author Donald K. McKim, highlights how we speak of the “Protestant Reformation” as if it was one movement. However, in recent years historians have concluded that there were actually multiple “reformations” during the 16th century.

The first four lessons of the study focus on the Protestant ‘reformations’ that took place during the 16th century: Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist and the English Reformation. The fifth lesson covers the dividing theological issues that were unique to each of the four traditions while the final lesson summarizes the legacies and influences of the four ‘reformations’ on the church today.

Make plans to join us. You will be warmly welcomed!

christian ed & presbyterian women

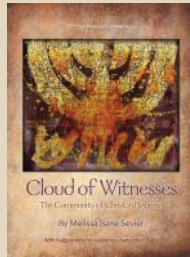
Sunday Morning Classes

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). On the first Sunday of the month; however, children are invited to remain in worship to celebrate Communion with their church family.

PRESBYTERIAN women



The two Presbyterian Women Circles have resumed meeting after the summer break and Hurricane Irma. Both Circles are using the 2017-2018 Horizons Bible Study, "Cloud of Witnesses: the Community of Christ in Hebrews." As reflected in the title, community is the overarching theme that ties together this nine lesson study on the epistle to the Hebrews. The author, Melissa Bane Sevier is a teaching elder in the PC (U.S.A.). After more than 23 years as a pastor, Melissa chose in 2015 to leave the pastorate and focus on her longtime ministry of writing and photography. Reverend Sevier's introduction to the Bible study can be viewed at this link, http://tiny.cc/Horizons_Cloud. By the way, if you haven't previously attended a Circle meeting, please know you will be warmly welcomed at the Bible study and fellowship time that is most convenient to your schedule-in the afternoon or evening.

Circle #1 will meet the 1st Monday, October 2nd at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle #2 will meet the 2nd Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 pm, at the home of Sherrida Crawford, 2867 Carroll Ulmer Rd., Valdosta.

Save the Date

Saturday, November 4th - Save the Date

Flint River Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering

Mark your calendars for the Saturday morning of November 4th for a special event and worship service: the Annual Gathering of Flint River Presbyterian Woman. The gathering will be hosted by Second Presbyterian Church in Thomasville, GA. Contact Sherrida Crawford for more information.

upcoming celebrations

*30 Years
of being
Flint River Presbytery*

The Presbytery of Flint River
invites you to an Anniversary Celebration
marking 30 Years of shared Mission and Ministry
Please join us on Saturday, October 21st at 10 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
1100 First Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901
For a day of remembrances, worship, and fellowship

Registration begins at 9 a.m.
Presbytery Meeting begins at 10 a.m.
Celebration and Worship beginning around 11 a.m.
Lunch following worship, \$6 per person
Childcare is available by contacting First Presbyterian
at 706.322.4523 by October 16.

RSVP your plans to attend to June Denney
at jdenney@flintriverpresbytery.org or 229.435.9726



5th Annual Tricks & Treats Dinner and Costume Party

We've had so much fun the past few years spending the evening with Adam and Eve, Elvis, and The Three Blind Mice that the Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee has arranged for the 5th Annual Tricks and Treats Costume Party! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 29th at 5:00 p.m. when we'll enjoy a Potluck Dinner followed by a show of costumes in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are able, please bring your favorite meat, vegetable, salad, bread or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided by the church.

In addition to playing games, prizes will be given for best male, best female, best group costumes, and best talent display. So dust off your disco suit, piece together a clown outfit, or buy a costume from the store and come along for an evening of laughter and fun!

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



September 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 may be sustained."

Gifts to Break Bread Together
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Joan Ruepp
Mike & Janet Rigg
Ray & Sue Hamel
New Hope Missionary Baptist
Elders of First Christian Church

First Christian Church's IGS Group
Tommy Clements
Dee Dee Girardin
Carol Busch
Carl Winn Line
Sue Ellen & Kenneth Rumstay
Margaret Ann Griffin

In Memory of Mrs. Ruby Sullivan
Lee & Barbara Bradley
In Memory of William Holland
Cynthia Coats
In Memory of Elsie Neale
Culbreth Stout & Associates PC

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Worship 11:00am</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>Elder on Call: John Vick</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Circle # 1 3:00 Fellowship Hall (Formally Circle 1 & 2)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Mission & Evangelism 5:00</p> <p>Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 11:00am</p> <p>Friends Out Front</p> <p>Elder on Call: Sissy Almand</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Circle # 2 6:30 At the home of Sherrida Crawford</p>	<p>11</p> <p>A & F 5:00</p> <p>Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 11:00am</p> <p>Elder on Call: Sherrida Crawford</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Congregational Care & Fellowship 5:00</p> <p>Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00</p> <p>Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 11:00am</p> <p>Session Meeting</p> <p>Stewardship Dedication Sunday</p> <p>Elder on Call: Walter Elliott</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>A & F 5:00 p.m. CE 5:30 p.m</p> <p>Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 11:00am</p> <p>Reformation Sunday</p> <p>Elder on Call: Bart Greer</p> <p>Tricks & Treats 5:00pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

notices & updates

Notes from the September 24, 2017 Session

Session approved several motions by the Christian Education Committee:

1. to approve a Children and Youth Fellowship Outing to Raisin' Cain Farm to be scheduled on a Saturday in October.
2. to approve a Children and Youth Caroling Activity in December (date to be determined).
3. to approve holding a joint Adult Sunday School Class for December 24th and 31st.

This year's Stop Hunger Now event is being held at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 1st. The Missions Committee needs strong people to help unload the Stop Hunger Now truck after the 11:00 AM worship service.

The church's buildings survived Hurricane Irma with only minor damage.

Session reviewed and approved upcoming dates:

- October 1, 2017: World Communion Sunday; Stop Hunger Now
- October 6, 2017: First Friday Contemplative Service
- October 22, 2017: Stewardship Dedication Sunday; Next Stated Session Meeting
- October 29, 2017: Reformation Sunday



Hand Bell Choir Coming Soon

Plans are underway to start a Hand Bell Choir in the near future. It will be multi-generational.

In other words, everyone is welcome! If you have any interest in this new music ministry, please be in touch with Gabby Ford.

Barney Google & Snuffy Smith

By John Rose



Need A Church Bag?

We still have lots of church bags available! Perhaps you have been meaning to purchase one.

If so, they are available in the church office for \$10 each.

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



The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

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