



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA



February 2018

## First Family News

### THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

Birthday's & Anniversaries

2

Upcoming Events

3

Christian Ed

4

Mission & Evangelism

4

Worship

5

Memorials & Gifts

6

Calendar

7

Notices & Updates

8

In case you have missed it, Christmas is over— at least that is what the calendar tells us. It is what the sanctuary proclaims as well— with the absence of all the red, green and purple. Truly, the beauty and wonder of the season can make it difficult to let Christmas go. But then, do we really have to let Christmas go? Shouldn't the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of God's love, remain in our hearts and minds and lives— always?

As I sit before my computer typing these words, we are already immersed in the new year and February is upon us. Traditionally, a new year creates a time and space to reflect upon the year just past and to consider what might lie ahead. We tend to make plans and set goals for things we might do better, learn more about, etc. As Christians, a good question to ask is: "In 2018, what does God expect of me?" Ouch! Now, that is getting a little personal, isn't it? But think about it. Isn't it something believers should consider as we make plans and set goals?

So here is a New Year's invitation: Set aside some time to bravely ponder what God might expect from you in 2018. Might attending church regularly be an area in which you need to grow? If so, prayerfully consider making worship attendance a priority in your life. Might God desire to strengthen your faith through spiritual disciplines like prayer and silence? Maybe the First Friday Contemplative Service is just what your soul needs. Perhaps God is leading you to spend more time studying Scripture and learning with other believers. If you are not already participating in a Sunday School class or in the Wednesday night programs, now may be the time to take advantage of these learning opportunities. It could be that serving others is something to which God is calling you. Then join in the good work of our church— there is always something to do— some way to contribute to God's Kingdom work here at First Presbyterian Church.

As your Minister, my prayer is that you will continue the work of Christmas each and every day of 2018.

Blessings,

Dr. Glenda

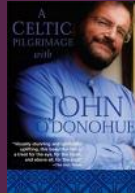
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*The Mission of First Presbyterian Church is to celebrate God's grace and to share Christ's love through worship, study, and service.*

# wednesday activity at FPC

## Wednesday Night Supper & Study



Lately, we have explored the Reformation as well as heard from folks in our church who traveled to Scotland last year. As part of our discussions, we have wondered about the nature of Celtic Christianity, particularly how the spiritual wisdom of the Celts might inform our spiritual journey today. If the ancient ways of Celtic Christians interest you or if you are intrigued by the idea of pilgrimage as a spiritual practice, come, join the fun, Wednesday, February 7th. Together, we will view and discuss the DVD: *A Celtic Pilgrimage with John O'Donahue*. (O'Donahue was an Irish poet and Catholic scholar who was awarded a PhD in philosophical theology from the University of Tubingen.)

Since the following Wednesday (February 14th) is Ash Wednesday, we will resume the study February 21st.

### Menu

*February 7*

Meat Loaf  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Corn Muffins  
Tossed Salad  
Banana Pudding  
Ice Cream

*February 14*

Chicken Pot Pie  
Broccoli  
Yeast Rolls  
Tossed Salad  
Chocolate Pudding  
Ice Cream

*February 21*

Smoked Boneless Pork Chops  
Sweet Potatoes  
Baby Lima Beans  
Corn Bread  
Tossed Salad  
Cherry Cobbler  
Ice Cream

*February 28*

Grilled Beed Tenderloin w/Mushroom Gravy  
Rice  
Green Beans  
Biscuits  
Tossed Salad  
Chocolate Cake  
Ice Cream

## February birthdays

- 3 Katherine Phelps
- 15 Alice McDuffie
- 17 Catharine Minor
- 19 Betty Lloyd
- 27 Marie Phelps
- 27 Mike Warnecker

## February anniversaries

- 18 Walter & Laura Elliott



# upcoming events



Most Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Dr. Glenda will hold Office Hours at Birdie's Market on Patterson

Street. Come by if you want to talk or feel like sharing a cup of coffee or tea. Being present and available to one another deepens our connections as spiritual companions-and it's fun!

\*Please note, due to a Presbytery committee meeting February 8th, Dr. Glenda will not be available at Birdie's but make plans to stop by February 15th. See weekly emails or FB to confirm future availability. Also, feel free to call the church office to confirm.

First Presbyterian Church

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual



FATHER DAUGHTER  
*Valentine Dance*  
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 9TH-10TH, 2018  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. or 9:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
JAMES H. RAINWATER CONFERENCE CENTER

\$15.00 per person  
Tickets on sale Jan. 15th online at:  
[www.FatherDaughterDance.org](http://www.FatherDaughterDance.org)  
For information call (229) 460-3800

#FVALDOSTA

## Tuesday's at the Table



Wednesday, February 14th marks the beginning of Lent, which commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert prior to beginning his ministry. During the Season of Lent, believers follow in the footsteps of Jesus by making preparations for the celebration of Easter. Customarily, such preparations are made through prayer, fasting, and other spiritual disciplines. This year, during the Lenten Season, FPC is pleased to offer a worship opportunity, "Tuesdays at the Table." Starting February 20th, each Tuesday of Lent (except for March 13) at 5:30 p.m., we will gather in the Overflow Room or the Sanctuary, depending on the size of the group. Together we will sing a Taize-style chant, reflect on a saying from the Gospel of Thomas using the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*, sit in silent meditation through the practice of Centering Prayer, and share Communion.

The Gospel of Thomas is an early Christian non-canonical sayings gospel that many scholars believe provides insight into the oral gospel traditions. It was discovered near Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945. We will consider one of the 114 sayings of this wisdom teaching each week. If this is a Lenten practice that interests you, make plans to join us February 20th at 5:30 p.m. And bring a friend!

# mission & evangelism

# christian ed



At the February 10, 2018 Flint River Presbytery Meeting, Mission Co-workers, Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer, will share about their ministry with the people of Guatemala. Then, Sunday, February 11th, they will bring the message during worship at FPC. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about God's work in Guatemala.



Christmas Caroling---what fun!!



## Christmas Parade Festivities

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and/or distribute our goody bags & water.



Flint River Celebration of Faith  
March 9-11, 2018

"I've already made plans to attend Celebration of Faith and it's not too late for you to consider attending. I've attended COF multiple times and have always found the conference worthwhile as a way to both slow down, and to be spiritually recharged by the enthusiasm of the various presenters. Like most conferences with multiple tracks, there is something for everyone. About a ninety minute drive from Valdosta, Georgia Veteran's State Park and Lake Blackshear are easily accessible from I-75. I encourage you to consider attending the Flint River Presbytery sponsored conference, if even for just a day instead of for the entire weekend."

- Sherrida Crawford  
Christian Education Chair and Session Elder

# worship

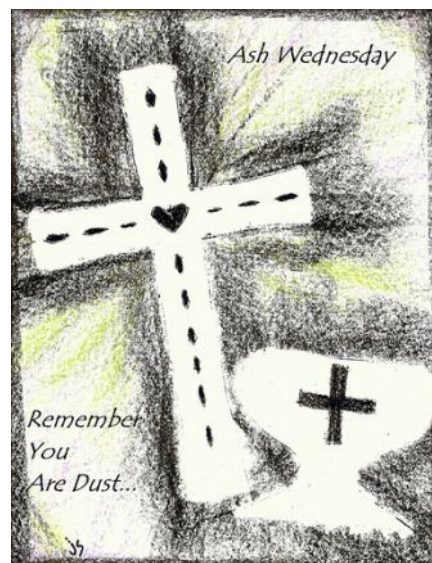
## Highlights from Advent & Christmas



We are excited to announce the start of a new Handbell Choir for all ages and invite you to become a member! Rehearsals begin Sunday, February 18th following the worship service. A basic knowledge of reading music is helpful, but not required! Come join us in worshipping our God and King through this transcendent form of music-making.

For questions, please contact Gabby Ford at (256) 627-3524 or [gford2743@gmail.com](mailto:gford2743@gmail.com)

Ash Wednesday Service  
February 14th at 6:45 p.m.  
Come, let us begin the Lenten journey together.



# memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC

## December - January 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

Perfectly Priscilla  
Margaret Ellis  
Brian Greene & Jane Gore  
The Exchange Club of Valdosta  
Ted Pyles  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
PAUMC Chapel Bible Class  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Baker  
Gregory Haugen  
Artie Mae Johnson  
Ladies Guild of Messiah Lutheran  
Park Ave Methodist Church  
Betty Newberry

### In Memory of Alex McFadden

Alen & Julie Stout  
Alice McDuffie  
Judge & Mrs. Arthur McLane  
Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Memory of Hadley McDuffie

Alice McDuffie

### In Memory of Jim & Mayme Bennett

Mike & Evelyn Bennett

### In Memory of Doug Hetzel

Cynthia Coats

### In Memory of John Tomlinson

Barbara Tomlinson

### In Memory of Sandy Griffis

Dodie Powers & Lyndel Massey

### In Memory of Margie Stephens

Dodie Powers & Thad Heaney  
John & Barbara Milhous  
Mary F. Treese

### In Memory of Jason Vann

Bion & Jenny Williams

### In Memory of Orrin Vann

Bion & Jenny Williams

### In Memory of Carlton Parrish

Alice McDuffie

### In Honor of Florence & Lamar Cole

Ann Smith  
Betty Tillman  
Alice McDuffie  
Lee & Barbara Bradley  
Eve Renfroe

### In Honor of Jane Gore Greene

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Roberts

### In Honor of Jane Ferrell

Margaret Ann Griffin

### In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Archie Griffin

Margaret Ann Griffin  
Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Mrs. Marilyn Kemper

Margaret Ann Griffin

### In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Wes Blanchard

Margaret Ann Griffin

### In Honor of Alice McDuffie

Betty Tillman  
Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Betty Sanders

Betty Tillman  
Alice McDuffie  
Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Walter Elliott & Family

Lucy & Stephen Enniss

### In Honor of Patti Amos

Ann Smith  
Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Jane Gore & Brian Greene

Ann Smith  
Florence & Lamar Cole  
Lynn & Frank Kilgard  
Lee & Barbara Bradley  
Pat & Mili Collins  
Eve Renfroe

### In Honor of Mili & Pat Collins

Ann Smith  
Sue & Tom Miller

### In Honor of Lynn & Frank Kilgard

Ann Smith  
Lee & Barbara Bradley  
Pat & Mili Collins

### In Honor of Beth Mathis

Ann Smith

### In Honor of Rev Richard & Debbie Hart

Lynn & Frank Kilgard  
Lee & Barbara Bradley

### In Honor of Anghaarad & Zane Dees

Lynn & Frank Kilgard

### In Honor of Ann Smith

Lynn & Frank Kilgard  
Florence & Lamar Cole  
Pat & Mili Collins

### In Honor of Chuck & Barbara Williamson

Bryan & Sissy Almand

### In Honor of Lee & Barbara Bradley

Lynn & Frank Kilgard  
Florence & Lamar Cole  
Pat & Mili Collins

### In Honor of Mili, Pat & Noelle Collins

Lynn & Frank Kilgard

### In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Fuller

Zella Fuller

### In Honor of Family & Friends

Alice McDuffie  
Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Betty Tillman

Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Eve Renfroe

Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Our Loving Church Family

Florence & Lamar Cole

### In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Bubber Tillman

Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jud Rackley

Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Mrs. Mary Gray

Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Dr. Briggs Smith

Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Dr. Frank Corker

Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Enniss

Sister & Gus Elliott

### In Honor of Mrs. Frances Brown

Lee & Barbara Bradley

### In Honor of Verallynn Edwards

Lee & Barbara Bradley

### In Honor of Ms. Judy Hinton

Pat & Mili Collins

### In Honor of Sue & Tom Miller

Pat & Mili Collins

### In Honor of Ms. Marcy Swank

Pat & Mili Collins

### In Honor of Bill & Nancy Williamson

Bryan & Sissy Almand

### In Honor of Kinney & Glenda Hollingshead

Eve Renfroe

### In Honor of Melissa Coleman

Eve Renfroe

### In Honor of Noelle Hunt Collins

Sue & Tom Miller

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30	3
4 Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Jesse Spencer	5 Circle #1 3:00pm Fellowship Hall Alice McDuffie Hostess	6	7 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00  Choir Practice 7:30	8  No Coffee House Office Hours	9  Father Daughter Dance	10  Father Daughter Dance
11 Worship 11:00am Friends out Front  Elder on Call: Jennifer Sheperd	12	13 Circle #2 6:30pm @ Libby George's House	14 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service 6:45 Choir Practice 7:30	15	16	17
18 Worship 11:00am Handbell Practice  Elder on Call: John Vick	19	20	21 A & F 5:00 CC & F 5:30 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	22	23	24
25 Worship 11:00am  Session Meeting Handbell Practice  Elder on Call: Eve Renfroe	26	27	28 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30			

# notices & updates

## Notes from the January 28, 2018 Session Meeting

Session approved several motions:

1. The Worship Committee moved Session to grant permission for Presbytery Mission Co-workers, Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer, to preach, February 11, 2018.

2. The Worship Committee requested approval for Don Vollenweider to serve as pulpit supply Sunday, March 18, 2018.

3. The Christian Education Committee moved that Session approve a Children Fellowship outing to a theatrical performance at 10:30 am, Saturday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Sawyer Theater, VSU Campus.

4. The Christian Education Committee moved Session to approve the Easter Egg Hunt and Church Picnic activity to be scheduled on either March 18 or 25 (final date to be announced).

Jesse Spencer will attend the next Presbytery Meeting to be held on February 10, 2018, at Elmodel Presbyterian Church in Newton, Georgia.

Session reviewed and approved upcoming dates:

February 2	First Friday Contemplative Service at 5:30 p.m.
February 4	Souper Bowl Luncheon & Annual Congregational Meeting
February 9-10	Father Daughter Valentine Dance
February 11	Visiting Missionary Co-workers & Friends out Front
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service at 6:45 pm
February 20	Tuesday's at the Table begins at 5:30 pm
February 25	Next Stated Session Meeting

## Sunday Morning Options:

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. 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.

## Save the Date:

April 28	"Turn Down the Volume" Day Retreat at FPC
July 21	Break Bread Together Bun Run

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



## The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

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