



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Church  
Valdosta, GA

September 2017



## First Family News

### Where Everybody Knows Your Name

Birthday's &  
Anniversaries

3

Upcoming &  
recent events  
& celebrations

3-4

Christian ed

5

Memorials &  
gifts

6

Calendar

7

Notices &  
updates

8

It was a lovely morning in our home town of White Pine, Tennessee and I was taking a walk. Having arrived the night before, it felt good to be outdoors stretching my legs. In no time I found myself walking that oh-so-familiar path from our house, around the block, and through the neighborhood. Marilyn's house was the first in sight and I was happy to see her standing at the kitchen door. I stopped for a moment to speak to her and to give her a quick hug before continuing on my way.

I passed Margaret's home. It is one of the oldest houses in town—a two story with beautiful, large columns at the front of the house. Margaret and her husband purchased the house many years ago when it was in need of some serious tender loving care. They did much of the work themselves. But somewhere along the way, the two-story house became two separate stories and the result was the end of a marriage. Now, as Margaret approaches her retirement years, she is imagining a different future, but as a woman of faith, she is doing so with grace and strength.

I continued walking until I came to Lisa's home, which once belonged to her parents. There, when we were in high school, she and I spent many hours talking about all the things we knew about life (which turned out to be not much at all). I noticed new landscaping and numerous flowers around the property. I smiled, thinking how Lisa really did inherit her mother's green thumb. I imagined her mother smiling down from heaven, pleased that the old place still looks loved.

As I walked along, going past home after home, I realized that I know most of these people by name. I know many of their stories and they know many of mine. The words to the theme song of the 1980's sitcom, "Cheers" came to mind: "Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got. Taking a break from all your worries sure would help a lot. Wouldn't you like to get away? Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came." The story line of the TV show developed around a ragtag bunch of folks who gathered day after day. While their reasons for dropping by varied, one thing brought them back—there, in that small place, couched inside a large city, everyone knew their name.

In our faith journey, this way of knowing and being known is provided in a place often overlooked by society these days—the church. In fact, one of the strengths of the church is to offer a place where life-changing relationships can be born and nurtured. In a healthy church of a small to moderate size, people know each other's stories—the good and the bad—and they love one another no matter what.

To know and to be known—is a yearning in each of our hearts and there is no better place for that to happen than in a place like First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta. So go ahead, invite someone to church. Just tell them: "It's a place filled with God's love. It's a place where everybody knows your name."

Blessings,

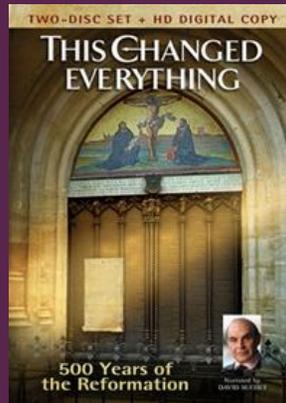
Dr. Glenda

First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 1094  
Valdosta, GA 31603  
229.242.8376  
[www.FirstPresValdosta.org](http://www.FirstPresValdosta.org)



# wednesday activity at FPC

## Wednesday Night Supper & Study



Since several of our Wednesday night participants are joining the Presbytery-sponsored tour of Scotland, we will have special programs the first two Wednesday's of September. On September 6<sup>th</sup> we will gather for a Hymn Sing following our meal. September 13<sup>th</sup>, we have something really exciting planned. Bart Greer will share about his Habitat for Humanity work-trip to North Vietnam. This is something you really do not want to miss.

We will resume "Forks over Knives" September 20<sup>th</sup>. Once we complete it, 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

September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Smoked Boneless Pork Chops w/ Fried Apples	Chicken Breast w/ Crispy Apple Bacon and Monterey Jack Cheese	Beef Tips w/ Gravy	Smoked Pulled Pork
Black Eyed Peas	Broccoli & Cheese Sauce	Creamed Potatoes	Lima Beans
Turnip Greens	Corn	Green Beans	Buttered Carrots
Corn Muffins	Yeast Rolls	Biscuits	Cole Slaw
Tossed Salad	Tossed Salad	Tossed Salad	Yeast Rolls
Variety of Cookies	Banana Pudding	Apple Cobbler	Pineapple Cake
Ice Cream		Ice Cream	Ice Cream

# upcoming events & celebrations



## FIRST FRIDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Have you heard the news? Our First Friday Contemplative Service is growing. In fact, we had several visitors last month. If you have not had an opportunity to experience this meditative service of prayer, silence, and worship, make plans to be with us Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Afterward, you might even 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!



## COFFEE CORNER COMING SOON

Likely you have noticed new Keurig Coffee makers located in the Fellowship Hall, Choir Room, and the Centennial Building. They have been purchased by church members for your enjoyment. In the past, the coffee maker for the Centennial Building has only been available on Sundays. Recently, though, Session approved replacing the Coke machine (which is rarely utilized) with a Coffee Cart which will hold a Keurig Coffee maker, along with coffee, tea, and hot chocolate options, accessible all the time. Soft drinks be available in the kitchen refrigerator. Hopefully, the Coffee Cart will be in place by next Sunday so come by, and enjoy something delicious!

## September birthdays

- 4 Denise Munro
- 5 John Gulde
- 8 Ree Plowden
- 10 Grayson Powell
- 13 Alan Stout
- 16 Judy Folsom
- 17 Marne Gulde
- 18 Laura Elliott
- 21 Joe Cordova
- 29 Bart Greer

## September anniversaries

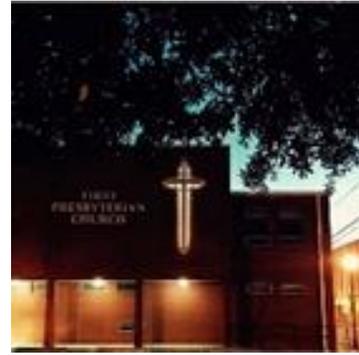
- 2 Michael & Deborah Taylor
- 8 Frank & Elsie Crane
- 11 Royce & Melissa Coleman
- 11 W Marcus & Diane Lewis



# recent events & celebrations



Our pool party was a huge success!  
Thank you, Alan & Julie Stout, for your hospitality.



Something amazing recently happened!  
The light behind our Celtic cross has been repaired. While it may not burn as bright as a solar eclipse, it is still quite lovely!



## Friends Out Front

So... do you know what happens when you give a Presbyterian a cookie? Well, they hang around to visit with one another which is exactly what Congregational Care & Fellowship has in mind with the new fellowship opportunity: "Friends out Front." Beginning October 8<sup>th</sup>, immediately after worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, you will be invited to gather out front (Patterson Street exit) for cookies, lemonade, and conversation. If the weather does not permit an outside gathering, we will meet in the Overflow Room. So plan to hang around for a few minutes to catch up with one another. It is sure to be a lot of fun!





We are preparing to refurbish the existing New Ventures classroom to make it useable for other purposes as well, including gatherings with outside groups. As part of the process, since the church library is rarely (if ever) used anymore, Session has approved closing it. Please take time over the next few weeks to come by and peruse the shelves. Feel free to take any books you wish to add to your own personal collection. After Sunday, October 1st, remaining books will be donated to the Public Library.

## 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).

## Upon Request, Recipes From the Wednesday Night Vegan Meal

### Lentil Chili

1 cup uncooked lentils (rinsed)  
 1 onion, diced  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 4 cups vegetable broth  
 1/4 cup tomato paste  
 1 cup chopped carrots  
 1 cup chopped celery  
 1 (15-ounce) can petite diced tomatoes, drained  
 2 tablespoon chili powder  
 1/2 tablespoon paprika  
 1 teaspoon dried oregano  
 1 teaspoon cumin  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
 Add all ingredients to a 4-quart slow cooker. Cover and cook on low 6-8 hours.

### Classic Black Beans & Rice

2 tablespoons olive oil  
 1/2 cup chopped onion  
 1/4 cup chopped green pepper  
 2 cloves of minced garlic  
 1 (15 ounce) can black beans (undrained)  
 3/4 cup water  
 1 teaspoon oregano  
 1/4 teaspoon sugar  
 1 package sazón goya (without annatto \*see note)  
 1 tablespoon cooking wine or 1 tablespoon cider vinegar  
 2 cups cooked white rice  
 Heat oil in a medium sauce pan, sauté onion, green pepper, and garlic. Sauté until tender, 8-10 minutes. Add in remaining ingredients and stir until boiling, reduce heat and simmer until sauce is reduced, 20 minutes. Serve over white rice.  
 I like to mash a few of the beans with the back of a spoon to flavor the sauce.  
 \*Note, if you do not have Sazón Goya an appropriate substitute would be ground cumin, chicken bouillon, and garlic salt to taste.

### Vegan Potato Soup

2 tablespoons olive oil  
 1 cup diced onion  
 1 cup diced carrot  
 1 cup diced celery  
 3 cloves garlic minced  
 4 russet potatoes, peels and cut into 1-inch pieces  
 4 cups water  
 4 teaspoons salt, divided  
 2 cups almond milk  
 1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
 Heat olive oil in large pot over medium heat. Add onion, carrot, celery, and garlic; cook and stir until soft, about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, water, and 2 teaspoons salt. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are very tender, 10-15 minutes.  
 Remove pot from the heat and puree soup with an immersion blender. Stir in almond milk. Return soup to the heat and cook until heated through, about 5 minutes. Season with remaining 2 teaspoons of salt and pepper.

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



## August 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  
David Syskind  
Perfectly Priscilla  
Beverly Peters  
New Hope Missionary Baptist  
Jaxson Routsong  
William Fuller  
Park Avenue United Methodist Church

### In Memory of Jeanette Ventrelli

Maria Vick

### In Memory of Margie Smith

Bion & Jenny Williams

### In Memory of Tommy Jean Blanton

Gus & Sister Elliott

### In Memory of Dr. Buddy Culbreth

Gus & Sister Elliott

### In Memory of Bill Holland

Bryan & Sissy Almond

### In Memory of Lane Smith

Judy Hinton  
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Ware  
Terry & Walter Peacock, Georgia Dean & Cameron Thomson  
Margaret Ann Griffin  
Grayson Powell  
Gus & Sister Elliott

## Save the Date

World Communion Sunday  
October 1st



**"FEED MY LAMBS"**

**STOP HUNGER NOW**  
Presbytery-Wide Mission Event

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

First Presbyterian Church will be one of the host sites for this fun and important Presbytery-wide event. Make plans to join us at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.



### CHOIR RETREAT

The FPC Choir will gather for a Choir Retreat Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sherrida Crawford. Lunch will be provided. If you have been thinking of joining the choir- this would be a great time to do so!

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30		1  First Friday Contemplative Service  5:30	2
3  Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Kerri Routsong	4  Church office Closed for Labor Day	5	6  Worship Meeting 5:00  Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	7	8	9
10  Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Jesse Spencer	11  Circle# 1 meeting  3:00p.m	12  Circle# 2 meeting  6:30p.m	13  Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	14	15	16
17  Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Michael Taylor	18	19	20  A & F 5:00 p.m. CE 5:30 p.m Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	21	22	23
24  Worship 11:00am  Session Meeting  Elder on Call: Jennifer Shepherd	25	26	27  Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	28	29	30

# notices & updates

## Notes from the August 27, 2017 Session

Session approved several motions by the Christian Education Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee:

1. to remove the Magnolia Street church sign due to deterioration beyond repair and cost of replacement.
2. to remove most of the books in the church library due to lack of use and more accessible online resources.
3. to remove the soft drink machine in the Centennial Building due to lack of use.

As a part of the continued cleaning process of the church, the youth rummage sale items that were leftover are being removed and donated to Goodwill. Also, old church televisions are being removed and either donated or properly disposed.

Session reviewed and approved upcoming dates:

- September 1, 2017: First Friday Contemplative Service  
September 3, 2017: Blessing of the Hands  
September 24, 2017: Stewardship Campaign begins;  
Next Stated Session Meeting  
October 1, 2017: World Communion Sunday &  
Stop Hunger Now  
October 22, 2017: Stewardship Dedication Sunday  
October 29, 2017: Reformation Sunday



Please note our new mailing address:

P.O. Box 1094  
Valdosta, GA 31603



## 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.



Thanks to your support, we now have more than 100 followers on our church Facebook page. Please continue to help us grow our social media presence by sharing our posts with your Facebook Friends.

Let's spread the word far and wide:  
FPC is a great place to belong!

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

**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

