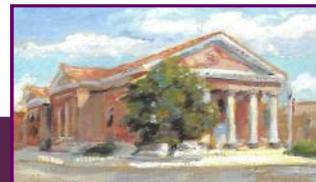




# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA

June/July 2018



## First Family News

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Fun Times!

Can you believe that June is upon us? This is the month for celebrating the end of the school year and the beginning of summer fun. June is also the month that we recognize the men in our lives on Father’s Day. As a result, over breakfast one morning, I asked Kinney, “If you could share one fun story about each of the children when they were young, what would it be?” In no time at all, he came up with the following:

“When Samuel was little, at a yard sale I happened to find an old bicycle with a baby seat attached. Once I bought him a helmet, off we went. Whenever I wasn’t working, we would go for long rides. Back in those days, it wasn’t common to see a parent riding a bike with a child tagging along on back, so I got lots of “advice” from the old guys at the drug store (being a young father and all). But Samuel loved it as much as I did. I remember the first time he fell asleep on one of our rides. I kept feeling this bump, bump, bump. It was his sleeping head bouncing against me. That worked for me, so he kept sleeping and I kept peddling.”

When I asked Kinney about Sarah, his immediate response was, “Skittles and ‘Old Time Rock and Roll.’ Sarah loved two things more than life itself—candy and dancing. So, all I had to do on days when Samuel was away at school and Sarah needed to be entertained was buy her a pack of Skittles. At other times, music was the key. I can still see her dancing around the house when I would sing Bob Seger’s “Old Time Rock and Roll.” That was her favorite. She would dance and dance, and usually, my voice gave out long before her energy did.”

Our middle son, Seth, has a knack for fixing things, but that wasn’t always the case. “At first, I just remember Seth taking things apart, leaving bits and pieces and parts all around him. Whenever I could find a broken VCR or something like that, I would bring it home for him and it would entertain him for hours. It seemed like pieces and parts would always be the result of his tinkering, but eventually he began to put things back together. Finally, he even began fixing things (with no pieces and parts left over) and building things. It’s funny how many of our conversations continue to be about some project that’s keeping him busy.”

Although Kinney wrestled around with all the boys, it took longer for Shane and Kinney to grow out of it. For years, Shane would jump, and Kinney would catch. Then, as Shane got older, the battle became more balanced. Finally, the pendulum swung in Shane’s favor. Kinney says, “Well, finally I began to fear for my life—so I had to put a stop to all the strongholds and headlocks—for my own sake.” The wrestling may have stopped, but the endless teasing (which has always been their favored mode of communication) continues.

When I reflect on Kinney’s very different “fun times” with our four children, I am reminded of our Heavenly Father who loves us so. Surely God loves to watch us laugh and enjoy life. Too often, people think of God as a serious God with no sense of humor, even an angry God eager to dole out punishment. But that’s not how I imagine God at all. The God who created all the beauty of the earth and its bounty, the God who gave us music and art and poetry, the God who gave us earthly fathers to care for us, the God who sent his only Son into the world to show us abundant life and joy—how could this God not be pleased when we enjoy the very life gifted to us?

As Father’s Day approaches, may we pause and give thanks for the men in our lives that we happen to call “Father,” as well as other men who have made—and continue to make—our lives full of fun!

Your Sister in Christ,  
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.*

# celebrating at fpc

Youth Sunday and Pentecost have given us even more reasons to celebrate God's love.



Hallelujah!  
Praise God in his holy house of worship,  
praise him under the open skies;  
Praise him for his acts of power,  
praise him for his magnificent greatness;  
Praise with a blast on the trumpet,  
praise by strumming soft strings;  
Praise him with castanets and dance,  
praise him with banjo and flute;  
Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum,  
praise him with fiddles and mandolin.  
Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD!  
Hallelujah!  
(Psalm 150)



Over the past year and a half, FPC has been blessed to be the spiritual home of Jon, Paige, and Chasey Grodecki. Even though they knew they would be temporary residents in the Valdosta area, that did not stop them from quickly becoming permanent residents in the heart of our church family. Before their recent move to Jacksonville, Florida, they kindly stopped by the church office to deliver a going-away gift that included the following letter, which I have been given permission to share. I hope you receive it as I did—as a lovely tribute to the good work you are doing here at First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta. To God be the glory! Blessings, Dr. G

Hi Rev. Dr. Glenda,

Paige, Chasey, & I want to thank you and the congregation at First Presbyterian for the love and growth with God you have provided over the last two years. This has been the most wonderful and uplifting church experience in our family's life. Our family is moving to Jacksonville on Thursday, in an effort to return our focus to strengthening our family's faith in a permanent community.

With the last two years focused between St. Pete, Florida (My mom and brother who have both passed) and Savannah (Paige's parents whom we recently moved to Paige's sister in Indiana), Paige and I feel that God has blessed us with the opportunity to grow in a new place that can meet all our financial and spiritual needs. Of course, my biggest concern will be locating a new spiritual Presbyterian family that can build on the values and examples set by your congregation.

I also wanted to be sure that you knew that the mission work you and your congregation are doing, is making a difference. Chasey has never been more loved and welcomed in a church and finds attending a total joy. Paige and I have grown with God and the Presbyterian church emotionally and spiritually since attending, especially with you as our Pastor. In addition, I now reflect daily on Walter, Sue, and the Routsong Family as inspirational witnesses of God's work – and I look forward to growing with the Presbyterian community with your congregation as an example of good Christians “fishing for me”.

All our love,  
Jon, Paige, and Chasey



### Another Reason to Celebrate:

We have received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 for renovations to the church facility. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Anonymous Donor!

## upcoming events



### 5th Sunday Potluck July 29

We hope you will plan to stay after worship on the 5th Sunday in July to join church family and friends for a covered dish luncheon. Please bring your favorite meat, vegetable, bread or desert to share. The church will provide drinks. Everyone is invited.



Christal Dudley is attending the 2018 Montreat Youth Camp Sunday, June 10th through Saturday, June 16th. Sherrida Crawford is serving as a Commissioner of Flint River Presbytery for the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Her travel dates are June 15th through June 23rd. Please keep both Christal and Sherrida in your prayers as they go forth to learn, grow, and serve in God's kingdom work.

# traveling jesus & other news

Our Summer "Adventures of Traveling Jesus" is underway and WOW, has Jesus been busy. Keep those pictures coming!



In worship



Visiting at SGMC



Enjoying ice cream



Lake Tahoe



Disney World  
on the way to Jamaica



In Savannah



Traveling Jesus (and a few of his friends) helped Kinney & DrG move this past weekend. Their new address is: 5957 Valencia St. Lake Park, GA 31636



## Even the Administrative Assistant of FPC Needs a Vacation!

Our Administrative Assistant, Katie Altman, is preparing for a much-deserved vacation. While she is away, Monday, June 18 through Friday, June 22, Beth Mathis will be answering the phones in the Church Office from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Thank you, Beth!)



## Break Bread Together BUN RUN July 21st

Please see the newsletter insert for ways to participate in the 9th Annual Break Bread Together Bun Run. In addition, volunteers are needed Friday, July 20th to prepare shirts and towels for the race. Those who can help will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m.

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



## May 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

New Hope Missionary Baptist  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Perfectly Priscilla  
Mark & Christine Sherling  
Tillman Callendar CWF  
Genesis Baseball Academy

### In Honor of Beth Mathis

Lee & Barbara Bradley

### In Memory of Mrs. Nancy Thornton

Charles, Nancy, Joseph & David Hobby

### In Memory of Mrs. Beverly Peters

Lee & Barbara Bradley

### In Memory of Mr. Larry Leonard

Lee & Barbara Bradley

### In Memory of Vivian Gaskins

Dee Dee Girardin

### In Memory of Mr. Garland Ashley Register

Cynthia Coats & Girls

Ellen Braswell & Family

### In Memory of Mr. Clyde Silvers

Libby George

Bion & Jenny Williams

## June

### *birthdays*

1 Sissy Almand  
3 Lamar Cole  
9 Carol Brotherton  
9 Grady Folsom  
11 Mark Crawford  
15 Eva Plowden  
18 Dr. Glenda Hollingshead  
20 Meredith Williams  
23 Sue Miller  
28 Michael Taylor

## June

### *anniversaries*

6 Lamar & Florence Cole  
8 Ebb & Kimberlee Dudley  
12 Trent & Carol Busch  
22 Justin & Keeley Collins  
23 Joe & Pat Cordova  
26 Matthew & Katherine Phelps

## July

### *birthdays*

6 James Williams  
11 Melissa Coleman  
12 Tom Miller  
15 Jenny Williams  
17 Don Brotherton  
19 Bryan Almand  
19 Frank Crane  
20 Justin Collins  
25 Gabby Ford  
26 John Vick  
27 John Elliott  
28 Betty Tillman  
28 Gus Elliott

## July

### *anniversaries*

16 Harold & Betty Ann George

# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30 p.m.	2
3 Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Bart Greer	4	5	6 Mission & Evangelism 5:30	7 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8	9
10 Worship 11:00am Friends out Front Elder on Call: Nelda Harris	11	12	13 A&F 5:00	14 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	15	16
17 Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Kerri Routsong	18 <i>Katie's Vacation</i>	19	20 Congregational Care & Fellowship 5:30	21 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	22	23
24 Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Jesse Spencer	25	26	27	28 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	29	30

# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 4th of July Office Closed	5 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	6 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30 p.m.	7
8 Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Jennifer Shepherd	9	10	11 A&F 5:00	12 No Coffeehouse Office Hours	13	14
15 Worship 11:00am Friends out Front Elder on Call: John Vick	16	17	18 CE 5:30	19 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	20	21
22 Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Eve Renfroe	23	24	25 Worship 5:00	26 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	27	28 Session Retreat & Session Meeting  9-2 pm
29 Worship 11:00am  Elder on Call: Sissy Almand	30	31				

# notices & updates



## Notes from the June 3, 2018 Session Meeting

Session passed a motion by the Administration & Finance Committee to approve a special solicitation of gifts from the congregation for new Fellowship Hall tables. The committee received a report of a \$1000 matching gift for the new tables.

Session passed a motion by the Christian Education Committee to start a new multi-generational Sunday School class.

Session approved several other motions by common consent:

1. Ratify May 19, 2018 email vote to postpone Session until Sunday, June 3 after worship (due to a death in the pastor's family). Motion passed.
2. Ratify May 24, 2018 email vote for Sherrida Crawford to attend the June 9, 2018 Presbytery Meeting as the Commissioner for First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta. Motion passed.
3. The Worship Committee moves that Session approve Father Jim Elliott for pulpit supply July 15, 2018.
4. The CE Committee recommends that session approve Children & Youth Fellowship activities for June & July (Dates to be determined): Wild Adventures visit and pool parties at members' homes.

June 15th - 23rd, Sherrida Crawford will be attending the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis, MO, on behalf of the Flint River Presbytery.

### UPCOMING DATES

June 9	Flint River Presbytery Meeting
June 10	Friends Out Front
July 6	First Friday Contemplative Service
July 8	Friends out Front
July 21	Bun Run
July 28	Session Retreat 9 am to 2 pm at Kinderloup Club House
July 28	Next Session Meeting at the end of the Session Retreat

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for thinking of me on the occasion of my graduation. Your support through this momentous time in my life, as well as the past 10 months, has been unimaginable. You have welcomed me and my family with open arms and I can't thank you enough. You have truly gone above and beyond to make me feel a part of the church family and I'm excited to see what the future holds with the knowledge that you all are there with me. Thank you for the recognition during Sunday service and for the kind gift. I can't wait to read the book!

Many thanks,  
Christal Dudley

## Sunday Morning Classes (Summer Schedule)

Please join us for Sunday School:

- Ladies Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. for singing and at 9:45 a.m. will move to The Class of One Accord for the Sunday School lesson.
- New Ventures class is taking a summer break and will not be meeting in June and July.
- The Men's Sunday School Class, taught by Lamar Cole, begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- Children's Church is not being held during the summer months. The children are invited to remain in worship during the months of June and July. (Activity boxes are available in the back of the church.)

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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