



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA

August 2018



First Family News

Generations of Faith



Have you heard the good news? Sunday August 12, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church is starting a new Sunday School Class: Generations of Faith. Generations of Faith is designed for EVERYONE of ALL ages and is meant to allow us an opportunity to learn together as a community of believers. While older folks in our church have acquired wisdom worth sharing with younger folks, it is also true that young people have much to teach those of us who are older (like how to update our computer software, for example:-)

Current Sunday School Classes are invited to join the fun. (The more the merrier, right?) Children, youth, college students, new members, and those who do not regularly attend Sunday School are also encouraged to give the class a try. Our plan is to have a Kick-off to celebrate the beginning of Generations of Faith August 12th and then, following the school calendar, to end with a celebration in early May. While we will not meet during the summer, we will find other creative ways to stay connected as we have this summer with The Adventures of Traveling Jesus.

After the Kick-off celebration, here is what you can expect each Sunday: A light breakfast will be available at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At 9:45 a.m. class will begin with prayer and Scripture reading. Afterward, you will listen to a portion of an audio book, written and read by Brian McLaren, entitled *We Make the Road by Walking*. After a brief discussion, you will have a chance to participate in a variety of Learning Centers which will incorporate interactive media, prayer practices, music, art, etc. Although Kim Dudley and I will co-lead the class, we will recruit others to help with various responsibilities.

The theme for this year's educational experience is "Reading to Live." The idea is for you to learn new ways of engaging Scripture that encourage you not to read literally, but to read literately. There is a difference! In addition to the Sunday morning opportunity, this theme will continue during the Wednesday Night Program when you will gather to hear another renowned author's perspective on interacting with Scripture. You will hear a portion of Rob Bell's book, *What is the Bible: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* and then enjoy a time of reflection and discussion.



In keeping with the 2018-2019 theme of "Reading to Live," throughout the year you will be encouraged to engage Scripture on your own. You may choose to read the Bible through in a year. You may wish to keep using a devotional that means a lot to you. You may want to try something new like using the spiritual discipline of *Lectio Divina* to slowly work through a book of the Bible. Other ideas for your ongoing spiritual formation will be provided weekly through the bulletin, church-wide emails, and social media.

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P.O. Box 1094
Valdosta, GA 31603
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www.FirstPresValdosta.org

So, this is your invitation: Prayerfully consider joining Generations of Faith Sunday, August 12th at 9:30 a.m. Also, consider participating in the Wednesday Night Program which starts August 15th at 6 p.m. A light breakfast will be served on Sundays and our Wednesday Night Programs begin with a meal. As they say, "Feed them and they will come." Well, there will be food aplenty—physical food. But there will also be spiritual food. Come along! Let us learn and grow—together!

Blessings,
Dr. Glenda



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

What a fun summer Traveling Jesus has been having with the folks of FPC. Thanks to everyone who has participated! The Summer Adventures of Traveling Jesus ends on Labor Day, September 2nd so keep those pictures coming! In addition to photos posted on Facebook and Instagram, some photos are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.



upcoming events

Make plans to join us for silence, Taize chants, Lectio Divina of Scripture, and a variety of hands-on prayer practices. In recent months, we have been blessed to have many folks from the community attend this contemplative service. We hope to see you Friday, August 3rd and Friday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m.



First Friday Contemplative Service



Don't miss a chance to visit with your church family on the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship. Lemonade, cookies, and good conversation - what could be finer?

The Blessing of the Hands



Sunday, September 2nd, immediately after the sermon, you will be invited to the front of the church for your hands to be blessed by Dr. Glenda. For those of all ages who wish to participate, the sign of the cross will be made with oil on the back of each person's hand. The anointing serves as a symbol of God's grace poured out, blessing us as we continue in God's kingdom labor. Also, it serves as a reminder that wherever we go, whatever we do, we are the hands of Christ.

August

birthdays

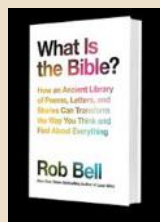
- 2 Neal O'Neal Jr.
- 4 Frank McIntyre
- 7 Emily Blalock
- 8 Julia Bess Scott
- 10 Maria Vick
- 12 Patti Amos
- 13 Don Munro
- 16 Royce Coleman
- 21 Tim Harris
- 27 Jerry Powers
- 31 Brady Jepson

August

anniversaries

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

wednesday night supper & study



Our Wednesday Night Program resumes August 15th at 6 p.m. After a meal together, we will begin a study of Rob Bell's audio book, *What is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*. In keeping with the overall 2018-19 theme of the new Sunday School Class, *Generations of Faith*, this will be another opportunity to learn to read the Bible literately, rather than literally. After listening to a segment of the book, we will reflect on it. Then, we will share how engaging in Scripture on our own throughout the week has impacted our life (whether we have chosen to keep up with a favorite devotional, read the Bible through in a year, use *Lectio Divina* to work through a particular portion of the Bible, or some other practice of our choosing). Make plans to join us - and bring a friend!

August 15

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Biscuits
Apple Cobbler
Ice Cream

August 22

Pork Tenderloin with Gravy
Rice
Mixed Vegetables
Tossed Salad
Biscuits
Banana Pudding
Ice Cream

August 29

Meatloaf
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Biscuits
Peach Cobbler
Ice Cream

other news

Over the past year, we have been blessed to have Gabby Ford as our Music Director. However, since she will be pursuing her Master's Degree beginning in August, she has decided to step down from that position. Thankfully, she will continue singing in the Choir and participating in the life of the church as a member. Gabby, we wish you every blessing!

And we have more news to share. Our Organist, Dr. Donna Gosnell, has agreed to fill the position of Music Director as well. Thank you, Donna! Now, you will be wearing two hats in the leadership of our church - but we have no doubt you are up to the task!



Please take a moment to offer a word of encouragement to both Gabby and Donna as they begin new ventures and keep them in your prayers.



Meet our new Nursery Worker, Christal Dudley. Beginning Sunday, August 26th, Christal will be available to care for small children during Sunday School & Worship. Welcome aboard, Christal!

News from Break Bread Together

Langdale Honda - Add the heat of a large BBQ grill to the South Georgia humidity on Saturday, July 28th, and you will know how red hot the hamburgers were at Langdale Honda. Langdale Honda provided the hamburgers and chips and Leadership Lowndes supplied the dessert and soft drinks for the fundraiser. Customers who were there to buy cars or get their cars services were very generous giving to Break Bread Together and getting a burger meal in return. The event ran from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and was a huge success. \$354.50 was raised for BBT. The Leadership Team and other BBT volunteers were on hand to help.

The Taste of Valdosta is the fundraiser for Quota International of Valdosta and BBT was the recipient this year. Working with the ladies at Quota was a breeze, they are so organized. This year, \$8,500 was raised and donated to BBT. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the silent auction and the volunteers who helped. It was a lot of work, but well worth the effort.

The SGMC Pink Ladies donated a check to Break Bread Together. We thank them for their support.

Recently, six recipients were added to the list of those receiving food which brings the total to 45. There are still 40 waiting.

Thanks for all you do to help the needy in Valdosta through Break Bread Together.

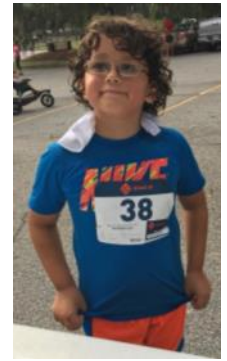
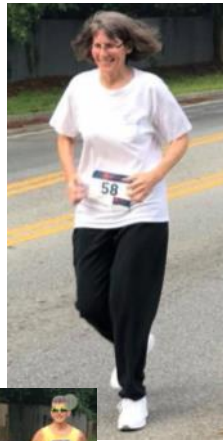
Sincerely,

Beth Mathis

Director, Break Bread Together



The 9th Annual Break Bread Together Bun Run was a tremendous success! A huge, "Thank you!" to our Bun Run organizer, Kerri Routsong, as well as to everyone who participated, sponsored, or donated their time and talents in any way. You are truly appreciated!



BUN RUN 2018

2018 New Session Committee Model

At our recent Session Retreat, Session voted to approve a new committee structure that will allow for four committees instead of the six that we currently have in place. Essentially, the work of the Property Committee is now included with Administration & Finance and the work of Christian Education and Congregational Care & Fellowship will now fall under one committee: Faith & Nurture. If you have any questions, or if you are not currently serving on a committee but would like to do so, please speak to one of the Ruling Elders.

WORSHIP (Worship, Music & Art)

Sissy Almand *	Julie Magruder
Eve Renfroe	Gabby Ford
	Donna Gosnell

FAITH & NURTURE (Education, Faith Formation, Fellowship & Nurture)

Sherrida Crawford*	Sue Miller	Libby George
John Vick	Troy Toth	Jenny Williams
Nelda Harris		

MISSION, EVANGELISM & MEDIA (Digital & Social Media)

Jesse Spencer	Jeff Stewart	Beth Mathis
Kerri Routsong *	Sue Miller	Carol Busch
Jennifer Shepherd	Libby George	Dick Shelton

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & PROPERTY

Walter Elliott *	Dick Shelton
Bart Greer *	Libby George
	Julie Stout

Names in bold indicate current Ruling Elders

* Indicates serving a 2nd term on Session

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

New Hope Missionary Baptist
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Perfectly Priscilla
SGMC Voluntary Auxiliary FBO
Nathaniel & Erma Baker
Jennifer Shepherd
FUMC Christian Home Builders SS Class
Kaleidoscope
Quota International of Valdosta

In Honor of Buddy & Sharon Coleman

Betty Sanders

In Honor of Love for FPC Church Family

Brett & Kelly Williams

In Memory of Clyde Silvers

Florence & Lamar Cole

In Memory of Jeanette Ventrelli

Maria Vick

In Memory of Mrs. Patricia M. Gilliland

Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Memory of Marvin Osborn

Dee Dee Girardin

In Memory of Vera Johnson

Eve Renfroe

In Memory of Velma Brannen

Marcus & Diane Lewis

In Memory of Thomas Bellflowers

Marcus & Diane Lewis

In Memory of Norma Jean Corbett

Cynthia Coats, Lauren, Callie & Family

Mark & Sherrida Crawford

Betty Sanders

Eve Renfroe

Shirley Hunt

Alice McDuffie

Richard & Carol Munro

Harry & Delia Hamm

Nell John

Richard & Kaye Gibson

Dick & Jane Shelton

Nelda Harris

Patricia Bowman

Linda Oliveto; Aaron & Stephanie Oliveto; Ean, Renee Oliveto & boys

The Lamar Cole Family

Patricia Shiver Pedrick

In Memory of Jerry Corbett

Alice McDuffie

In Memory Virginia McQuaig

Laura & Walter Elliott

Cynthia Coats, Lauren, Callie & Family

Nell John

Bion & Jenny Williams

Betty Beech

Mark & Sherrida Crawford

Betty Sanders

Eve Renfroe

Jacquelyn Dennis

Alice McDuffie

Dale & Deanna Williams

Jon & Linda Burch

Jerry & Judith Demott

Robert & Andrea Thom

Dick & Jane Shelton

Al & Betty Voight

Nelda Harris

The Lamar Cole Family

Jimmy & Linda Porter

Minnie Cone, Class Treasurer

Gail & Bobby Beech, Neil Beech, Ashley & Mike Tatum, Annie & James

Ray & Jean Beech

Patricia Shiver Pedrick

In Memory of Marie Phelps

Libby George

Eve Renfroe

Mark & Sherrida Crawford

Alice McDuffie

Sallie Lou Cranford Sunday School Class

Harry & Delia Hamm

The Carter Family

Betty Sanders

Nelle John

Dick & Jane Shelton

The Members of Rocky Hill Church of God & Christ

Brett & Kelly Williams

The Lamar Cole Family

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Phelps

Irene Simpson

In Memory of Lewis Stout

Libby George

The Lamar Cole Family

In Memory of Wil Mathis

The Lamar Cole Family

Patricia Shiver Pedrick

In Memory of Beverly Peters

The Lamar Cole Family

In Memory of Ms. Jackie Sirmans

Cynthia Coats, Lauren Coats & Family

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30 p.m.	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Walter Elliott			AF & Property 5:00	Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 11:00am Friends out Front Elder on Call: Bart Greer			Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Nelda Harris			PW Coordinating Team Meeting 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Kerri Routsong			Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.		

notices & updates

Notes from the July 28, 2018 Session Meeting

Session is excited to announce that Crystal Dudley will be the new Nursery Worker and that Donna Gosnell will be the new Choir Director, as Gabby Ford will be stepping down to pursue her Master's Degree beginning in August.

Session agreed to restructure standing committees from six committees to four: Worship Committee (Worship, Music and Art), Faith and Nurture Committee (Education, Faith Formation and Nurture), Mission, Evangelism and Media (Digital and Social Media) Committee, and Administration, Finance and Property Committee.

Session approved a motion that Katie Altman and Benjamin Dudley attend the Digital Disciples Workshop at Columbia Seminary in October. The workshop, "Transforming Presbyteries Through Digital Networks," is funded by a grant from the Synod of the South Atlantic. Ralph Watkins, Associate Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Columbia Seminary, will be the keynote speaker, and Jenn and John Fong will facilitate events. Session also passed a motion that FPC be one of five church test sites that will allow John Fong, a Social Media Network Ministry Consultant, to help establish a stronger social media presence for the church.

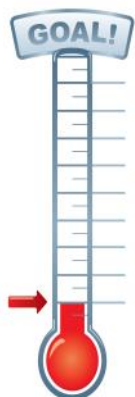
Session approved several other motions by common consent:

1. Administration and Finance Committee recommends that Session approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for a new desk top or lap top computer for the sanctuary audio and video system.
2. Administration and Finance Committee recommends that Session approve the updated Nursery Worker Job description.

Upcoming Dates

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August 3 | First Friday Contemplative Service |
| August 12 | Generations of Faith Multigenerational Sunday School Class begins |
| | Friends out Front following Worship |
| August 15 | Wednesday Night Supper and Programming resumes |
| August 26 | Next Stated Session Meeting |

August Donations for New Fellowship Hall Tables



To help us purchase new plastic tables for the Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$2036, an anonymous donor has offered a matching gift of \$1,000. That means that any amount you give during the month of August for this purpose will be doubled, up to a total of \$1,000. Please consider helping us reach our goal by the end of the month so that we can make a much-needed improvement to our Fellowship Hall.



Thank you all for the love, support, prayers and sweet sentiments during the passing of my mother. She loved her Presbyterian family and was grateful for the fellowship shared at First Presbyterian for many years.

In His Love,
Denise Munro and Family

The Church Office will be closed in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. The Office will reopen for normal hours on Tuesday, September 4th.



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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Sabina Bennett Custodian

Christal Dudley Nursery Worker

