



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA

May 2019



First Family News

YES, LET'S WRITE A BOOK!



Last spring, I attended a writer's conference in Raleigh, N.C. The keynote speaker was Barbara Brown Taylor with several other well-known authors contributing. It was such an inspirational experience, I returned home with a book title, chapter layout, and a commitment from an artist to contribute artwork for the project.

Since then, I have worked on the book sporadically to gather numerous resources, complete the introduction, and outline each chapter. But as a minister responsible for writing sermons and articles on a regular basis, finding time to add something extra—something like writing a book—well, it has been quite a challenge. Nevertheless, I have continued to feel the urging of the Spirit to create—to write. Finally, after much prayer and pondering, I had an epiphany. Why not invite the church along for the ride? Why not ask my FPC family to add their voices and their experiences to the story? And, why not do so through a summer sermon series that is fun and thought-provoking and interactive?

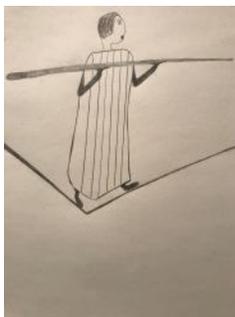
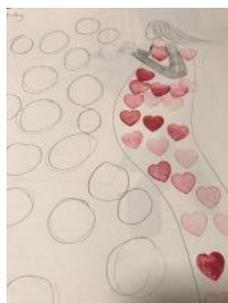
Divine inspiration, don't you think? Well, I hope you do because I am planning to preach twelve sermons this summer about the "Faces of God." I will share various ways I have seen or imagined God throughout my faith journey, and I will invite you to do the same. Hopefully, together we can learn more about God and one another.

Since the desired outcome of the project is a book, sermons can be heard in person or via Facebook live-stream, but they will not be uploaded to our website. Additionally, each Sunday the bulletin will provide a prompt, an idea, or a question for you to ponder. I hope you will reflect on it and share your thoughts with me—either in person or through text message or email.

In advance, thank you for joining me on this summer journey. I pray you will be spiritually enriched by the experience. I pray God will multiply our efforts to bless people beyond our church doors.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Glenda

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1094
Valdosta, GA 31603
229.242.8376
www.FirstPresValdosta.org



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

GOD SIGHTINGS



Last summer our church family stayed connected by sharing photos of “Traveling Jesus.” This summer, Memorial Day through Labor Day, we are sharing “God Sightings.” The idea is to share photos of places, people, and things that remind you of the presence of God. You might take a photo of a beautiful sunrise or a child licking an ice cream cone. Send your best shots to Katie Altman at office@firstpresvaldosta.org so she can post them to Facebook and Instagram. Some of your photos may also show up in other places—like the bulletin board outside the church office or as the cover art for summer bulletins. So...have a little fun. Be on the lookout for the divine and share your “God Sightings!”

PHOTOGRAPHY



Join Jane Shelton, CRE, for a summer study on Photography as a Christian Contemplative Practice as we explore "Eyes of the Heart" by Christine Valters Paintner. No fancy camera is required, a mobile phone camera or whatever camera you have will do! We will learn creative expression and explore photography through prayer and sacred presence. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on May 29th, June 5, June 26, and every Wednesday in July with a wrap up celebration on August 7th. Come join the fun! If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, please let Katie know by May 15th so that she can place an order. The cost of the book is \$11.99.



NEWS DELIVERY CHANGES

How does FPC receive important information? Several options are available. You may stay apprised of the life and ministry of the church through Facebook and Instagram. You may receive news via weekly emails. Each Sunday you are provided information through the bulletin as well as verbal announcements. Soon another option will be provided when flat screen TVs are added to the Fellowship Hall and the Overflow

Room. They will allow us to advertise current and upcoming happenings in a fresh, new way. Regarding one of our publications, however, a few changes are on the horizon. It just so happens that printing and mailing the monthly newsletter is quite expensive, so much so, Session has agreed that changes are needed to help us be better stewards of our resources. So, here is what is about to happen: The newsletter will be shorter and more concise. While it will continue to be available digitally, it will no longer be labeled and mailed to recipients, (except to our AT-Home folks who request mailings). Hard copies will be placed on the shelf outside the church office and on the narthex tables for you to pick up at your convenience. Lots of wonderful things are happening at First Presbyterian Church—things that we want you to know about—things that we want you to share!

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



April 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 and First Presbyterian Church

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Lee Gould
James & Henrietta Traynor
Joe & Pat Cordova
Tillman-Callendar CWF
In Memory of Fred Deloach
Marcus & Diane Lewis
In Memory of James Macarages
Cynthia Coats

In Memory of Ree Plowden
Eve Renfro
Betty Sanders
Cheryl Gray
Eleanor Gum
Mike & Evelyn Bennett
Joe Hall

In Memory of Dr. Neal O'Neal, Sr.
Drs. Patricia & Dennis Marks

In Memory of Dr. Neal O'Neal, Sr.
Mike & Evelyn Bennett
Susan Shelton
Mary Pate
In Memory of Gene Connell
Bion & Jenny Williams

May 2019

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 Worship w/Communion 11:00 a.m.	6	7	8 Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Supper & Study 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	9 NO Coffeehouse Office Hours	10	11
12 Worship 11:00 a.m. Mother's Day	13	14 6 p.m. Lip Sync Battle @ The Salty Snapper to benefit Break Bread Together	15 AF & P 4:00 p.m. Last of Wednesday Programming for the Summer Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Supper & Study 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	16 NO Coffeehouse Office Hours	17	18
19 GoF Celebration- Last Sunday School Class for the Summer Worship 11:00 a.m.	20	21	22 PW Birthday Potluck 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	23 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	24	25
26 Worship 11:00 a.m. Session Meeting	27	28	29 6:00 p.m. Photography as Contemplative Practice Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	30 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	31	

Notes from the April 29, 2019 Session Meeting

Session approved the following:

1. To mount donated televisions in the Fellowship Hall and Overflow Room for the purpose of providing announcements and church news.
2. To place on the church calendar Saturday, July 20 as the date for the 10th Annual Bun Run.
3. For Conner Thomson to serve on the VSUPC Board as the 3rd representative from FPC.
4. For the Noisy Offering to be received quarterly with contributions to benefit Children and Youth Ministry.
5. For Souper Bowl Luncheon contributions to benefit First Presbyterian Church's Hospitality Ministry.
6. To approve a letter of transfer of membership for Jesslyn Brantley to Park Avenue United Methodist Church.
7. To send a letter to Eleanor Gum affirming her removal from our church rolls.
8. To change the church newsletter so that it is more concise and to eliminate mailings to save on printing and postage. Future newsletter hard copies will be available outside the church office and on the narthex tables.

Other News: Our annual Session Retreat will be at Kinderlou Saturday, July 13.



CALLING ALL WALKERS FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL BUNRUN

Did you know that the Bun Run celebrates its 10th anniversary this year? Some of you are great runners and we love to see you cross the finish line. A few folks prefer walking in the event, though, and walking is what interests Jaxson Routsong and Dr. Glenda. In fact, they want to encourage everyone who enjoys walking to join them Saturday, July 20th. Let's form a team of FPC walkers—the more the merrier! And just think—we have plenty of time to train. So—let's get walking!

May Birthdays

- 1 Kinney Hollingshead
- 12 Donna Gosnell
- 12 Allan Jepson
- 15 Brett Williams
- 18 Kelly Williams
- 22 Peggy Chitty
- 24 Henrietta Traynor
- 27 Whitney Williams
- 30 Benjamin Dudley

May Anniversaries

- 1 Wesley & Julie Street
- 7 Ed & Emily Blalock
- 8 Alan & Julie Stout
- 14 Grady & Judy Folsom



Presbyterian Women Birthday Potluck

You are invited to join us at our annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our traditional, casual potluck meal will be a time to relax and enjoy one another's company and just have fun.

Did you know that **ONLINE GIVING** is available through our website? If you are interested in giving to the church online, just go to our website at www.firstpresvaldosta.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page, or you may scan the QR code above with your smartphone app. The process is fast and easy!

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

Rev. Dr. Glenda Hollingshead Pastor
revhollingshead@gmail.com
229-242-8376

Jane Shelton Commissioned Ruling Elder
jane@sgatravel.com

Dr. Donna Gosnell Music Director & Organist
dgosnell@valdosta.edu

Beth Mathis Break Bread Together
breakbread@firstpresvaldosta.org

Katie Altman Administrative Assistant
office@firstpresvaldosta.org

Julie Stout Financial Administrator
jstout@cmppca.com

Sabina Bennett Custodian

Christal Dudley Nursery Worker

Benjamin Dudley Technology Intern

