



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Church
Valdosta, GA

July 2019



First Family News



Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2 p.m.

From London to New York to Atlanta, people are gathering in pubs to communicate, connect, and learn from one another over the topic of religion—of all things. For too long, many would say, the church has insisted on setting the terms for how one can find and encounter God. Yet, what if God is to be found in places we haven't been looking at all—in a co-worker who doesn't believe in God, in a Buddhist neighbor, in an agnostic friend who prefers a yoga studio to a sanctuary, or in a millennial who claims to be spiritual but not religious? Such folks may find sitting around a table with a pint in hand, with interesting people, discussing things that matter, more appealing and edifying than liturgy and hymns.

For anyone who is looking for a different space to gather and share ideas, "Pub Theology" may be just the thing. No doubt, Pub Theology groups, which are springing up around the country, are taking an old idea and making it new, because since the founding of our nation, the local pub has served as a location to discuss theology and other matters of importance.

The Pub Theology template is simple: Beer, Conversation, and God. Attendees are encouraged to pull up a chair and to bring their questions, along with an open mind. The overarching theme for the event is advertised in advance. One example might be a theme like "Back to the Future." To get us started, a facilitator might offer a brief, fun, ice breaker question—something like, "If you could give your newborn self one piece of advice, what would it be?" Afterward, we might move onto four to six questions designed to make us think, explore, speak our truth, and listen, listen, listen.

Pub Theology is not a Bible study group. Nor is it an opportunity to proselytize or convince people that "WE" have all the answers. Instead, it is sacred space to truly listen to one another, to enjoy a drink, to deepen relationships with old friends, and to build relationships with new ones.

While most people yearn to explore God in their lives, these days too many of them look at churches and synagogues and say, "This is not where I want to explore these issues." Perhaps, down the street, in a local business in downtown Valdosta, at a Pub, gathered around tables with whomever the Spirit leads to join us—perhaps, this will be the place to explore these issues. That, at least, is our hope and prayer!

If this is a ministry that interests you, make plans to join Dick & Jane Shelton, Kinney Hollingshead and me for Pub Theology—Beer, Conversation and God. We will meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at Georgia Beer Company, (109 S. Briggs Street, Valdosta, GA.). Come along—and bring a friend!

Shalom,
DrGlenda

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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.*

BREAK BREAD 5K BUN RUN



Saturday, July 20th, marks the 10th Anniversary of the Break Bread 5K Bun Run so let's work together to make this the best year yet! Here is how to join the fun:

- Run or walk the 5K.
- Be a Sponsor by contributing \$50 or more.
- Be an Angel Biscuit by donating the \$20 entry fee to Break Bread Together. Do so by Sunday, July 14 to receive a free Bun Run T-shirt.
- 2-3 people are needed to work the registration table the day of the event.
- 8-10 people are needed along the route to help direct runners/walkers (Be sure to bring a folding chair).
- Volunteers are needed Friday, July 19 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to prepare shirts and towels.

To highlight the missions and ministries of FPC, special t-shirts have been designed for volunteers and participants of the church to wear on the day of the race. (Thank you Jane Shelton!) Please contact Katie Altman at office@firstpresvaldosta.org with your t-shirt size as soon as possible. (Later, extra t-shirts will be available for those who are interested.) Entry forms and other sign up information are available outside the Sanctuary and the Church Office. To sign up to help or for more details, contact Kerri Routsong or Sue Miller.

GOD SIGHTINGS



Throughout the summer, we are sharing "God Sightings" - photographs of people, places, and things that remind you of the presence of God. So, take your best shots and send them to Katie Altman at office@firstpresvaldosta.org.

MEMORIAL PRAYER GARDEN NEWS



Phase I of the Memorial Prayer Garden is complete except for the painting of the exterior wall. Family representatives of the individuals interred in our present memorial garden have been contacted and all have agreed to the relocation of the cremains.

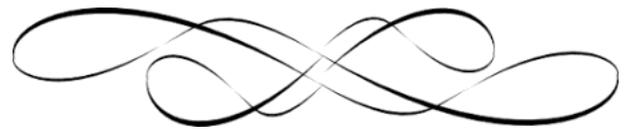
Phase II will start soon, which includes construction of a pergola along the exterior wall of the kitchen with two meditation/prayer benches, three planted container gardens, reworking the fence and gate leading to the playground, and the addition of a Celtic cross in the flower bed next to the Centennial building.

The Memorial Prayer Garden Ad-hoc Committee is requesting donations for these items or a general donation to the overall project. (Naming opportunities are available.)

Cypress Pergola	\$3,500
Benches (2)	\$1,250 each
Planted Container Gardens (3)	\$375 each
Wrought Iron Fence/Gate	\$1,500 (already pledged)
Celtic Cross Monument	\$3,250 (already pledged)

When Phase II is complete, we will have a Dedication of the Memorial Prayer Garden, and thereafter, a beautiful sacred space to rest, pray, meditate, and remember our saints.

Thank you for your prayers and your donations toward this meaningful project!



memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC

June 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
In Memory of Ree Plowden
Rebecca Ann Odom

In Memory of Sir George Aigen
Joe & Pat Cordova
In Memory of Dr. William Gee
Joe & Pat Cordova
Dr. & Mrs. Fred A. Ware, Jr.

July 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 6:00 p.m. Photography as Contemplative Practice	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30 p.m.	6
7 Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship Committee 12:00 p.m.	8	9	10 6:00 p.m. Photography as Contemplative Practice	11	12	13
14 Worship 11:00 a.m. Friends Out Front Faith & Nurture 12:00 p.m.	15	16	17 AF & P 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Photography as Contemplative Practice	18	19	20 Break Bread 5K Bun Run
21 Worship 11:00 a.m. Christian & Youth Fellowship Pool Party	22	23	24 6:00 p.m. Photography as Contemplative Practice	25	26	27
28 Worship 11:00 a.m.	29	30	31 6:00 p.m. Photography as Contemplative Practice			

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMING

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Wednesday night programing will resume, August 14th, with Centering Prayer at 5:15 p.m. in the Overflow Room. To start the year, the prayer group will study Cynthia Bourgeault's Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening. Feel free to purchase the book on your own, or if you want Katie Altman to order it through Amazon for \$13.55, please inform her no later than Sunday, August 4th. Please consider making Centering Prayer part of your spiritual journey.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We ask that the children (and students of all ages) bring their backpacks to church Sunday, August 5th. During worship, there will be a special blessing to mark the importance of the gift of a new school year. Come along, and bring a friend!



SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITY



During the month of July, we will join with other churches in Flint River Presbytery to collect supplies for Thornwell Home for Children and Youth. Thornwell is a ministry of the PC(USA) that serves children and families throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Thornwell provides safe and loving homes through family-style residential care and foster care families. Thornwell also provides academic programs, professional counseling, and therapy.

If this summer mission project is something that touches your heart, please purchase items from the list below. Place your donations in a container available in the sanctuary from July 14 through July 28. In advance, thank you for your generosity!

SUPPLY LIST

deodorant, shaving cream, dry erase markers, dish soap, and Chlorox wipes



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
- 28 Gus Elliott

July Anniversaries

- 16 Harold & Betty Ann George

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. Classes continue to be held evenings at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday in July with a wrap up celebration on August 7th.



POOL PARTY



All children and youth are invited to a pool party after worship on Sunday, July 21st. The pool party is being hosted at the home of Bion and Jenny Williams, 2913 Pebblewood Drive. Lunch will be provided, so please contact Sherrida Crawford if you plan to attend.



Blessing of the Backpacks August 4
 Blessing of the Hands September 1
 Blessing of the Animals September 29

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