

First Presbyterian Church—Danville, Virginia

187 Years of “knowing Christ and making Him known”.

Beyond the Columns

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 8 September 2015



Friends,

Do you remember the census? Sure you do! You answered questions, gave information, and consented to be counted among the 308,745,538 Americans whose genders, ethnic backgrounds, incomes, etc. were documented and registered by the federal government. While that might not seem like that long ago, we are actually closer to the next census than we are to the last one!

That is remarkable, because the last census was the first one to be completely computerized, processed, and available within mere months of its completion. Even the 2000 census took a while to process, thanks to those old dial-up internet connections. With the way that technology progresses these days, who knows how fast we might be able to process the next census—it could even be done by July of 2019!

In this age of readily available information, we are able to gather and process data in ways that people could not even have conceived only a few generations ago. We know how to measure, perceive patterns, and even predict many things at which our ancestors could only make educated guesses (or at least less accurate educated guesses). In doing so, we have seemingly become the masters of one of the most mysterious phenomena in the history of humankind: numbers.

It might sound strange that numbers are at the root of great human wonderment and mystery, but numbers often represented mystery and power in ancient cultures. We even find some of this in the Bible, often with numbers like 7, 12, 40, 70, and 144,000. Elsewhere in the Bible—particularly in the Old Testament—we find many examples of things being counted and cited, and even some examples of census-taking.

For the months of September and October, we will be studying the events surrounding some of those examples, which appear in the book of—you guessed it—Numbers. In Numbers, the Israelites were still making their way from Egypt to the Promised Land, but they had a few hiccups on the way. God wanted them to get ready and go, but they became hesitant and fearful. God wasn't thrilled about this, so He had them wait longer and gave them additional rules and instructions. Eventually, after many years, they were prepared to follow God when He led them to the cusp of the Promised Land.

There are some classic Bible stories in Numbers, such as the census of the Israelites, God providing quail for them to eat, and the saga of Caleb and Joshua. As with so many Old Testament stories, these can help us understand our relationship with God and where He is leading us. While we will focus on those stories in September and October, we will also look at how God ultimately answers those same concerns and anxieties in Christ Jesus, and what kind of assurance we can take from him.

Many of those assurances, of course, are articulated in the various letters written by New Testament figures to their Christian brothers and sisters. Thus, our series for September and October will be “Numbers and Letters.” I look forward to delving deeply with you into God's grace and his desires for us this fall...

...and I also look forward to Wednesday Night Suppers, Men's Breakfasts, the beginning of the Day School year, and all of the wonderful ways God has called us to serve Him together! Happy September!

In Christ,
Allen



Day School 2013-14

ERIN PARRIS, DIRECTOR

The Day School is excited to kick off another FUN year!! We're starting this year with an almost full house!! We still have several openings in the four year old class as well as in Parents Morning Out, spread the word if you know anyone who may be looking for an amazing preschool.

We're excited to welcome back Mrs. Skyler in the fours, Mrs. Rhoda in the threes, Ms. Paula in the twos as well as in PMO and Mrs. Amy as an assistant in the fours and threes.

I (Mrs. Erin) will be back in the classroom this year with Mrs. Rhoda and am VERY excited for the year to come!! Please pray for our school as we continue to grow and as always, we welcome donations to our scholarship fund.



FYI:

- ◆ The Diaconate will meet on Tuesday, September 2 at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ The Property Committee will meet Tuesday, September 2, @ 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ The church office will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.
- ◆ The VIP Com. will meet Monday, Sept. 21 @ 11 a.m.
- ◆ The Session will meet Tuesday, Sept. 8th @ 7:00 p.m. Session meetings are always open to members wishing to attend.
- ◆ The Worship Committee will meet on Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ The CE committee will meet on Monday, September 28th at Noon.
- ◆ The Membership Committee will meet on Monday, the 28th @ 6:30 p.m.



Memorial Flowers

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary on Sunday to the praise and glory of God and...

- *Sept. 6 TBA given by the Lockers.
- *Sept. 13 Open
- *Sept 20 in loving memory of my Mother, Sallie Eastwood and my Husband, G. Price Crowell by Ruby Crowell.
- Sept. 27 Open

*Open dates are available for anyone wishing to give flowers. For information on giving flowers please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434-203-1666.

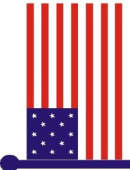





Remember in Prayer:



At Roman Eagle: Alice McDonald, .
Others: Pat Argyrakis, Anne Banks, Chuck Bolt, Alice & Randy Bradshaw, Nelson R. Clark (David's father), R. L. Clifton, W. J. "Buck" Collins, Maude Dalton, Bill Erwin, Steve Gross, Fred Gunn, Kelvin Gunn, Lois Hayes, John David Heard (uncle of John Heard), Tim Hooker, Kathy Huggins, Chris Kile, Ann Lockett, Larry Mann, Thelma Meadors, Carolyn Miles, Larry Miller, Alex Mitchell, Debbie Perrin Neal, Alice Saunders, Lynn Saunders, Melva Sweeney. Caregivers.

Serving in the military:
Mark Heard, Josh Kopp

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30</p>  <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting 8pm - Deacons 7pm - Property Committee</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:15pm - Chapel 5:30pm - Finance 8pm - Youth</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30pm - Chancel Choir 8pm - Day School Open 8pm - Dayschool Open</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office Closed</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>10:40am - Lunch Bible 11:30am - Community</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Worship</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am - Day School 9am - Dayschool begins 10:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Session</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Day School 12:15pm - Chapel 8pm - Youth</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>TBA YOUTH GRP. - HIKING 10:40am - Lunch Bible 11:30am - Community</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am - Day School 11am - PW Council 12pm - PW Salad & Circle 2pm - PW Day Circle 7pm - PW Evening Circle</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>9am - Day School 10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am - Day School 12:15pm - Chapel 8pm - Youth</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am - Day School 5:30pm - Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8am - Men's breakfast 10:40am - Lunch Bible 11:30am - Community</p>
<p>20</p> <p>TBA YOUTH PROG. DINNER 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am - Day School 11am - VIP Committee</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am - Day School 10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am - Day School 12:15pm - Chapel 8pm - Youth</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am - Day School 5:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:40am - Lunch Bible 11:30am - Community</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9am - Missions Committee 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - Day School 12pm - Christian Educ. 8:30pm - Membership</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am - Day School 10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am - Day School 12:15pm - Chapel 8pm - Youth</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - Day School 5:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>

Hello from the Stewardship Committee!

Stewardship Corner



Our Stewardship theme for 2015 is "Sharing in God's Joy". With this in mind, we will be having a special offering on September 13th to support local victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. When DOVES closed in 2010, the YWCA of Central Virginia stepped in to ensure that these victims recover from abuse and begin new lives. Our Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) has been responsible for providing direct services to area victims of sexual violence since Crisis Line of Central Virginia closed in 2012. We are strong partners with HAVEN, as they work to open a domestic violence shelter, and eventually take over these services. With United Way funding cuts, these services will have to be scaled back unless additional support from the community can be obtained. Please help us to support this worthwhile cause with a generous offering on September 13th.

Thanks from your Stewardship Committee!

Turkey and the Silk Road

Feb 22 – Mar 3, 2016

Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship Visioning Trip, 10 Days



The Great Theater of Ephesus (back

PFF is sponsoring a trip to Turkey, February 22–March 3, 2016, to visit the Seven Churches of the Revelation followed by participation in a 4-5 day conference where Christians from many different cultures will meet, worship and play together. The leader of the trip is Mike, who several of us have traveled with to Turkey

in the past. Check with me, Nancy Wilson, or directly with Mike at: mike@pff.net. Mike: "We are not looking for tourists, even Christian tourists, for this trip, we are looking for pilgrims; people interested in experiencing God's world and God's mission in a deep, profound, life changing way. Really? Ask someone who has made the trip." (Nancy Wilson)

Birthdays This Month:

- 3 Paige Wiseman
- 4 Sally Clark
- 5 Pat Bolt
- 6 Dixie Hayes
- 7 Caitlyn Crews
Susie Crews
David Hyde
- 8 Parker Davis
Millie Hatcher
- 10 Jeff Davis
Anne Harvey
- 14 Sue & Anderson Miller
- 16 Pat Knick
Sam Meadema
- 21 Tom Gillespie
Mark Heard
- 22 Ava Barrett
- 23 Rebecca Atkinson
- 24 Linda Dodson
- 25 Thelma Meadors
- 26 Carol Strange
- 27 Bob Ramey
- 28 Ashley Davis
Lauren Mathena



Saying of the month...

"No spring nor summer
Beauty hath such grace
as I have seen in one
autumnal face"

John Donne



Presbyterian Women

Monday, September 14
11:00 a.m. Coordinating Council
*12:00 p.m. Salad & Circle

2:00 p.m., Day Circle

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle at the home of Brenna Takata, 5008 Cobblestone Dr.

*Salad and Circle will be starting a one hour Bible study on September 14th at at noon Bring your lunch and enjoy the Bible study called "24 Hours That Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. The circle will meet in the Westminster Room.



THE CHOIRS:

Handbells, sanctuary and children's choirs will resume rehearsals the week of September 12th



Celebrating Reformation Sunday at First Presbyterian Church...

We look forward to a special service as we are joined by the Scottish Society on **Sunday, October 25** for the "Kirkin' Of the Tartans".

You are invited to stay for our annual Reformation Sunday Luncheon after the worship service.

Tickets for the luncheon will be available in October. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS REALLY MEANINGFUL EVENT.

The Worship Committee

Serving this month:

Infant/Toddler :

- 6 Leigh Blount & Marissa Meadors
- 13 Ava Barrett & Marie Louise Crane
- 20 Kim Clifton & Diane Shelton
- 27 Brenna Takata & Harriet Beale

Kindergarten Extended:

- 6 Dianne Harr/Carolyn Baker
- 13 Pat Bolt/Kathy Dolianitis
- 20 Susan Mathena/Karan Johnson
- 27 Laura Jones & family

Deacon Collection

John Parris

Deacon/Friendship:

- 6 D. Hyde/D. Swann
- 13 M-L Crane/J. Parris
- 20 L. Jones/M. Reynolds
- 27 S. Mathena/K. Shelton

Deacon Sat. Lunch

- 19 N. Schomer
- 26 L. Jones

Elders —Friendship/

- 6 Brenna Takata
- 13 Gail Gunn
- 20 Gene Hayes
- 27 Thor Wright

Elders-Front Door

- 6 David Clark
- 13 Tom Barrett
- 20 Ina Ingram
- 27 Jay Hayes

Elder /Communion

- 20 Strange/G. Hayes

Flowers:

Evening Circle

Sound System:

- 6 Sam Meadema
- 13 C. B. Strange
- 20 Dick Stoakley
- 27 David Parris

Young Disciples:

- 6 Joyce Perez
- 13 Susan Mathena
- 20 Donna Parris
- 27 Kathy Dolianitis

Lunch Ministry/Elder

- 5 Tom Barrett
- 12 Gail Gunn
- 19 David Clark
- 26 Thor Wright

Liturgist

- 6 John Heard
- 13 Marissa Meadors
- 20 Becky Meadema
- 27 Joyce Perez

Many thanks to all our officers and members who serve so faithfully each and every week.

Thank You...

A special thank you...during this dark and turbulent period of my life, I am blessed to have First Presbyterian of Danville for my church home and family. I thank each of you for your help, emotional support and loving care. May God richly bless you for the kindness you've shown.

Rhoda Neal

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Please accept our deepest appreciation for your kind and gracious gestures to our Mother and family. We were so grateful for the delicious food brought to us. It was a huge blessing and enjoyed by all.

Thank you for the generous gifts donated to the church in honor of Mom, and thank you for the many prayers lifted on her behalf.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to you for the outpouring of love, visits, flowers, cards, support, and prayers by First Presbyterian Church.

We are comforted in knowing that Mom is with our Lord, and no longer suffering.

My apologies to those who did not receive an individual thank you note for a gift of food. My daughter and I were in a fog the day of the funeral and did not keep track very well.

In Christ,

Debbie Hallman,

John Lockett and family

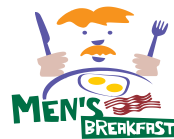
LET THERE BE CANDLELIGHT

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE would like to offer the congregation the opportunity to donate a liquid pillar candle (3" x 10", white) to be used on special occasions and services in the sanctuary given either in memory or honor of loved ones.



The candles would have an engraved plate with the name of the honoree. 18 candles are needed at a cost of approx. \$150 ea. Contact Brenna Takata or Jean Martin for more information.

Men of the Church



Breakfast Fellowship
& Bible Study

Saturday, September 19, 2015
8:00 a.m.

Come enjoy great food & fellowship & support the men's ministry.

Christian Education

By Jackson Weller

*YOUTH GROUP:

SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
6-7:30 p.m.

*HIKING: SEPT. 12

*PROGRESSIVE DINNER
SEPT. 20

*LUNCH MINISTRY SEPT. 26



Kids

REMINDER:

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



RESUME:

SEPTEMBER 13th

See you then!!!

Danville Area's 8th Crop Hunger Walk : Sunday, 4 October 2.30 p.m.



Hunger and poverty are still effecting so many locally and around the world in a devastating way. Something can be done about this. Our local CROP Hunger Walk is a great place to start. For a few miles, family, friends & neighbors will come together to, in the words of I John 3:18: "...love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

On Sunday, October 4th at 2.30 pm, Danville's 8th CROP Hunger Walk will be held to show our love and active concern for neighbors in need near & far. By our sponsored walking we'll be raising funds to change the world in ways real & measurable.

We will offer a 1K and a 5K walk from Mt. Vernon UMC. Our CROP Hunger Walk funds will benefit for 25 % our local God's Storehouse in their important work right here in Danville!

So please mark your calendars and come CROP Walking with us! Together with our First Presbyterian Church family we can walk to change the world, one step at a time or sponsor a participant (also possible online www.cropwalkonline.org in case your family from out of town wishes to contribute).

For more info, please contact Beth Bauman, at Mt. Vernon Methodist Church, telno. 793-6824, or visit www.cropwalk.org/ Danville Area Crop Hunger Walk on Facebook.

A note from your Membership Committee...

If you are in need of a ride to church on Sunday or to other church activities, please contact David Parris, Chairman of the Membership Committee at (434) 793-9239 or contact Jean in the church office. We'll make sure you get to your activity!

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9 am—5 pm

Closed Fridays

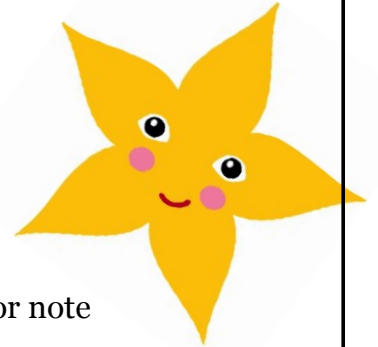
Phone (792-7822 ext 1 & Email messages (jeanm.firstpc@gamewood.net or jean@fpcdanville.com) will be checked on Fridays and responded to as needed. For pastoral emergencies the Pastor may be reached by phone at 434-548-0747 or email: allen@fpcdanville.com.

Family Night Suppers Return in October!

The Wednesday Family Night Suppers will return on October 7th
MARK YOU CALENDAR!!
District 1 will host.

VIP OF THE WEEK

Sept. 6 Fae Smith, 661 Timberlake Dr., 24540
13 Kathy Huggins, 1111 Main St., Apt. 99, 24541
20 Thelma Meadors, 10 Country Club Drive, 24541
27 Clarence Edmonds, Emeritus, 432 Hermitage Dr., 24541



Please remember our VIPs in prayer each week and drop them a card or note to let them know how much they are loved.

Thursday, September 24th is the deadline for the October issue of "Beyond the Columns"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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937 Main Street
Danville, VA 24541-1809
Office Hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: (434) 792-7822
Fax: (434) 792-7832
Website: www.fpcdanville.com