

# Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church—Danville, Virginia

190 Years of “knowing Christ and making Him known”

March  
2017



Friends,

I hope that you enjoyed the month of February and our series based loosely on the book *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*, by James K. A. Smith. If you are looking for good spring reading, then you could do worse than that. If a book on worship and habit is not up your alley, then I would be happy to suggest other books to those who want to celebrate a “reverse Lent” (i.e.- adopting a practice instead of ceasing one). Just let me know.



This year, I will take on a new practice myself for the weeks leading up to Easter. Instead of preaching from the common seasonal passages (the “lectionary”), I will examine a series of parables that Jesus told his followers, as recounted in the Gospel of Luke. I have preached occasionally on various parables, but I have not done so intentionally in a series.

While the Bible is full of different types of literature, and while the four gospels themselves include such diverse items as speeches, stories, miracles, parables, and personal comments, the parables are often the most captivating parts of Scripture. They are sometimes mysterious, usually timeless, and they reveal much more about God and about us than their brevity would indicate. Some are brief and some are long, while Jesus explains some while finishing others coyly or with the phrase, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

In part, that means that when we hear parables, we might not be able to discern their meaning(s) unless we are truly prepared to hear what Jesus has to say to us. Even when we are prepared, however, the truths in the stories can still be pretty complex. While we often hope for stories to make it easier to understand God’s will and ways, sometimes in our walks of faith we might need things to become a bit murkier and a bit more challenging.

So, sometimes Jesus might speak to us clearly in a parable (or in any other part of Scripture), and sometimes he might be telling us something that we don’t quite understand. He could even use the same passages to speak to us differently at different times. It is important to remember that at the times when things seem difficult to grasp, Jesus is not pushing us away but is drawing us closer. His own disciples, who often misunderstood him, recognized this and stayed close by him, hungry to know and learn more.

Whether or not you like to commemorate Lent, and whatever you give up or take on in doing so, remember that the Holy Spirit is always at work to draw us closer to Jesus. Sometimes that will be clear and sometimes it will be difficult to see, but our task is to follow him and join him in his work. I look forward to studying these parables with you in this month of March, and I pray that we will grasp the insights, recognize the places, and connect with the people to whom God has sent us!



In Christ,  
Allen

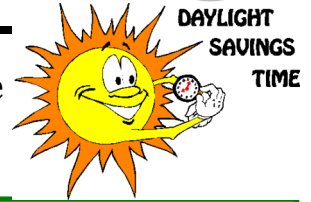
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY
26	27	28	MARCH 1	2	3	4
9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg 4:30 pm CE CMTE 6:30 pm Membership Cmte	5:15 pm Handbells	12:15 pm <u>CHAPEL</u> 6:00pm YOUTH Community Ash Wednesday Service	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9am Worship CMTE 9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	10am Staff Mtg 10:00am Women's Council 12:30pm Day Circle 7:00 pm Evening Circle	6 pm Deacons 7 pm Property cmte	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 Mens Breakfast 10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg	5:15 pm Handbells 7 pm Session	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm Family Night Supper and Game Night YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Ministry
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9am Missions CMTE 9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg 11am VIP	5:15 Handbells	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:45am Sunday School 10:40am Fellowship 11am Worship	9:30am- Prayer 10am Staff Mtg 4:30 Christian Education 6:30 Membership CMTE	5:15 Handbells	12:15 pm CHAPEL 6:00pm YOUTH	5:30 Choir	OFFICE CLOSED	10:45 Bible study 11:15 Lunch Ministry

# What's happening

Remember to Spring Forward. Set your clocks 1 hour ahead before going to bed on March 11



**Family Night Suppers** Join us for another exciting month of food, fellowship and learning. Menus will be posted in the bulletin the Sunday prior to the supper. Reservations are taken in the Juice room or you may call the church office. Tickets are \$6 per person with a family maximum of \$21

**Reserve the Dates!**

**Wednesday, March 1– NO DINNER–** Please join the Community Ash Wednesday Service at Mt Vernon United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, March 15: St. Patrick's Day Breakfast — Program: Game Night**  
Bible Club for our Pre K-Grade 5 children after dinner !

**Finale on April 5!**

## Chapel Time

Wednesdays, 12:15 pm

**A brief mid week  
time for prayer and  
worship**

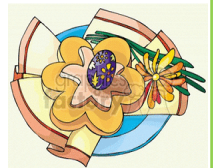
**Church Women United** invites First Pres' Presbyterian Women to join them celebrating the March gathering on Friday, March 3 at Stokesland Baptist Church, 130 Taylor Street to celebrate Human Rights. For more information contact Donna Parris at [434-793-9239](tel:434-793-9239). We will start collecting the Health and School Kits at that time also.

## **Looking Forward to Worship, Serving and Sharing at Easter**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:** March 1, 2017, 7:00 pm, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

**LUNCH MINISTRY SPECIAL:** The Diaconate is planning a special meal to celebrate Easter with our Saturday lunch ministry guests. We will need some help and are looking forward to the fellowship that happens when we work together. Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 8th** and watch for sign up sheets for food and time donations becoming available in mid March. Contact Susan Mathena and Harriet Beale for details.

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES:** First Presbyterian is hosting the Community Services during Holy Week, April 10– April 14, 2017. A light lunch will be served at 12:30 each day. Help will be needed to set up, prepare, serve and clean up from 11 am-1:30pm. Please contact Marie Louise 770-0136 if you can help.



[jackson@fpcdanville.com](mailto:jackson@fpcdanville.com) 792-7822

Youth Group: Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm

March 1 – Youth to meet for **Community Ash  
Wednesday Service**

March 8, 15, 29 – **Youth Group**

March 22 – Meet for **Lunch** instead of Youth Group  
(Spring Break Week)

March 11 – **Hiking**

March 25 – **Lunch Ministry**

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Contact Jackson for details:

[jackson@fpcdanville.com](mailto:jackson@fpcdanville.com) 792-7822 ext 3

**March 15: Bible Club**

**March 25: Bowling**

Mark your Calendar! **VBS June 19-22**  
5:30-8 p.m. (dinner included)  
Children and Adult Classes

# Opportunities to serve and share



## Prayers and Praises

**Pray for:** Kevin Bailey, Chuck Bolt, Alice & Randy Bradshaw, Beth Brown, Bill Brown, Claire Campbell, Nelson R. Clark, R. L. Clifton, Sarah Fisher (Sally Clark's Mother), Betty Fitzgerald, Fred Gunn, Flo Hall, Christina Hermetz (Kelsey Thompson's sister), Tim Hooker, Kay Huggins (son-in-law of Thomas and Alice Saunders), Conner Jones, Jana Keen and family, Angela

Langford, Larry Mann, Larry Miller, Lee Norman, Greg Nunley, Ella Ryan, Alice Saunders, Lynn Saunders

Our **VIPs:** Ruby Crowell, Maude Dalton, Rev. Cecil Eanes, Clarence Edmunds, Bill Erwin, Lois Hayes, Kathy Huggins, Ruth Lawton, Grace Litzenberg, Malcolm Mallery, Thelma Meadors, Carolyn Miles, A. B. Motley, Linda Terriberry, Nultie Wiseman

**ON THE MEND**--(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Kelvin Gunn, Libby Hodge, Paul Johnson, Grace Litzenberg, Thomas Peyton Mahaffey, Russell Vandiver, Bob Weller, Jean White, Hampton Wilkins

All of the Caregivers.

**Condolences** for those who have lost loved ones: Family of Anne Grier, February 3, Wilmington NC Jarrod Brown and Family in the passing of his aunt, Mamie Martin.

*Contact the church office with requests & updates. 792-7822. Confidentiality is respected, of course*

## Lunch Ministry

**WHAT:** Serving a hot lunch to the community every Saturday

**WHEN:** Every Saturday; volunteers work from 10:15 am –1:00 pm. Lunch is served at 11:30 am

**WHO:** Different groups are in charge each week, EXTRA HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND OFTEN NEEDED; Cooking, clean up, greeting, bible study, just chatting with our guests

March 5: PC's Women's Evening Circle

Mar 12: Westover Baptist Youth

Mar 19: Unity Presbyterian Church Women

Mar 26: FPC's Youth

If you would like to join our Missions Committee, we are looking for new volunteers. Our need especially is for new contacts for some of our missionaries. Contact Gary Wimer at 434-797-4138 or the church office.

## Sunday Servers:

Help Wanted: Liturgists, Children's Chat, Sound System operators. If you feel a calling to serve in any of these capacities, please email Brenna Takata at [brenna5008@gmail.com](mailto:brenna5008@gmail.com) or call the church office and leave a message with Christy.

## Items needed

Items are needed for **HEALTH KITS** and **SCHOOL KITS**. These kits are collected by the Presbyterian Women on behalf of the Church World Service through Church Women United. The Kits go to areas in which the CWS have missionaries. The list of items are posted in the marked bins at the Sutherlin entrance. The kits need to be at church by April 1.

**Small group gathering every Monday morning (when church is open) for prayer in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m. Please consider joining us.**

**—Linda Copeland and Marie-Louise Crane**

FPC is packing backpacks for the **Backpack Weekend Program**. Packing will occur the first Thursday in March (2). Contact Nancy Wilson if you wish to help.



# Sunday servers and sharers

## Flowers on the Reredos

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

March 5: in loving memory of Elizabeth Clark and in honor of Nelson Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fisher by Sally and David Clark.

March 12:

March 19:

March 26: in loving memory of Ted Argyrakis, on the sixth anniversary of his death, by Pat and their children.



**\*Open dates are available for sponsoring flowers. For information please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434-203-1666 or rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net**

*After the service, flowers are distributed to those persons on our prayer list or as directed by the sponsor. In charge of this month's distribution: Evening Circle*

## Serving this month March 2017

### Children's Sunday Activities

	<u>Nursery/ Sunday School</u>	<u>Younger class</u>	<u>Older class</u>	<u>Children's Chat</u>		<u>Liturgist</u>
5	Leigh Blount, Marissa Meadors	Whitney and Catie Clarke	Lisa and Lia Argyrakis	Jackson Weller	5	Jackson Weller
12	Ava Barrett	Kathy Dolianitis/ TBA	Carolyn Baker Kathy Machado	Allen Thompson	12	Gene Hayes
19	Diane Shelton Kim Clifton	Karan Johnson Gwen Baucom	Laura Jones Erin Parris	Nicky Bracey	19	Trevor Brown
26	Harriet Beale	Rebecca Atkinson Chris Moore	Sara Weller Jennifer Stowe	Kent Shelton	26	Nancy Schomer

	<u>Friendship: Deacons*, Elder</u> *Deacon on call for visitation		<u>Sat Lunch Deacon, Elder</u>
5	*Susan Mathena, Joan Reynolds CAKE SUNDAY	4	Susan Mathena, Gene Hayes
12	*Jeanne Nostrandt, Eddie Blount	11	Betzy Wilson
19	* David Parris, Bob Newnam	18	David Parris, Brenna Takata
26	*Mike Reynolds, Ray Beale	25	Mike Reynolds, Gary Wimer

	<u>Elders-Front Door</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Ushers*</u>
5	Gene Hayes	C.B. Strange	Team 1
12	Betzy Wilson	Ray Beale	Team 2
19	C.B. Strange	David Parris	Team 3
26	Gary Wimer	Dick Stoakley	Team 4

### Monthly Duties

**Collections: David Parris**

**Flowers: Evening Circle**

**Communion: March 19**

Tom Barrett, Betzy Wilson

\*Team leader may ask someone to help with ushering



# Opportunities to Study the Word

Class: rm; leader; study or statement, time

## Christian Education



### Youth and Adult Sunday School: 9:45-10:40 am

- ✂ Youth (middle and high school): rm 112; Jackson Weller; uses the scripture to be used in the week's sermon to prepare for worship
- ✂ Outlook: rm 322; Jay Hayes, Tom Barrett, Bob Newnam, Kent Shelton, Whitney Clarke;
- ✂ Seekers: rm 109; Joyce Perez; *"Feasting the Word"*
- ✂ Bible Fellowship: Library; Linda Copeland; *Common Sense and The Gospel* (A study of the Wisdom Books)
- ✂ **Children's Sunday School** ages Kindergarten through 5th grade have a Sunday School lesson during the Children's Extended Time (mid-worship approximately 11:15-12:00). The lessons follow the Liturgical Calendar, bringing to life the stories and lessons that are the foundation for our Christian faith

### CHURCH OFFICERS

**SESSION: Class of 2017:** Tom Barrett, Gary Wimer, Brenna Takata, David Zook

**Class of 2018:** Eddie Blount, Gene Hayes, Bob Newnam, Joan Reynolds

**Class of 2019:** Betzy Wilson, Joyce Perez, Bunny Hayes, Ray Beale

**DIACONATE: Class of 2017:** Mike Reynolds, David Parris, Kent Shelton, Becky Meadema

**Class of 2018:** David Swann, Kathy Dolianitis, Harriett Beale

**Class of 2019:** Jarrod Brown, Marie Louise Crane, Susan Mathena, Jeanne Nostrandt

**Alternate:** Melva Sweeney



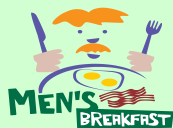
### Presbyterian Women

**Monday March 6, 2017**

**Coordinating Council will meet at 10:00 am in Room 108**

**Bible Study: at 12:30 pm in Room 108**

**Evening: 7:00 pm at the home of Harriet Beale, 129 Westmoreland Ct, Danville**



### Men of the church

**Breakfast and fellowship**

**March 18 at 8:00 am**

**Overbey Fellowship Hall.**

**All men are invited!!**

### Committee meetings

- ✂ Worship Committee: (Joyce Perez, Chair); Sunday, March 5, 9:00 am (first Sunday)
- ✂ Diaconate: (David Parris, Chair); Tuesday, March 7, 6 pm (first Tuesday)
- ✂ Property: (Tom Barrett, Chair); Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 pm (first Tuesday)
- ✂ VIP: (Pat Argyrakis, Chair); Monday, March 13, 11:00 am (second Monday)
- ✂ Session: (C.B. Strange, Clerk); Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 pm (second Tuesday) Session meetings are always open to members wishing to attend.
- ✂ Missions: (Gary Wimer, Chair), Sunday, March 20, 9:00 am (third Sunday)
- ✂ Christian Education (CE Brenna Takata, Chair): Monday, March 27, 4:30 pm (fourth Monday)
- ✂ Membership: (Chris Moore); Monday, March 27, 6:30 pm (last Monday)

## celebrating our family

*Celebrate with us on the first Sunday in the juice room with birthday cake– before and after worship*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Fletcher Meadema  
Lucy Meadema Hill

5 Mack Williams

9 Tim Kernodle,

Gerry Belton

13 Keith Walden

Sarah Abreu

Elliot Jones

14 Trevor Brown

15 Jeanne Norstrandt,

Andrew Gardner,

Phillip Gardner

16-Lisa Brown

Whitney Clarke

21 Lorraine Willeford

22 Kathy Marchado

23 Harriet Beale

23 Carol Anne Kernodle

Drake Weller

Liam Weller

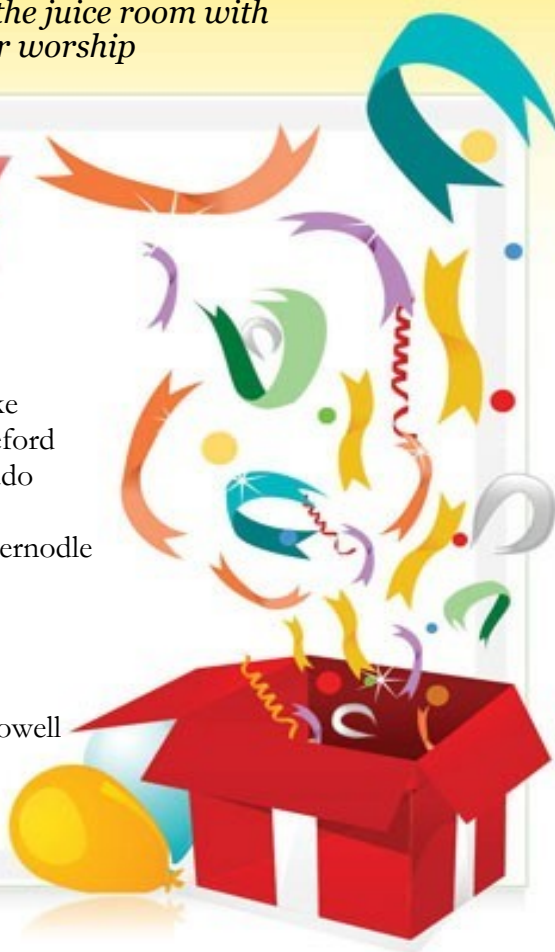
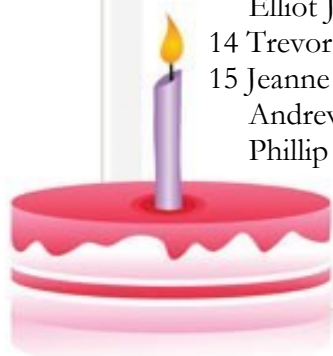
25 C. B. Strange

30 Thor Wright

31 Jeanette McDowell

Anniversary:

Ray and Harriet Beale April 5, 1980



## VIP OF THE WEEK

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

Mar. 5 Carolyn Miles 601 Bridge St. Apt. 115 Danville, Va. 24541

Mar. 12 Kathy Huggins Stratford Health Care 1111 Main Street Danville, Va. 24541

Mar 19 Fae Smith 661 Timberlake Dr. Danville, Va. 24540

Mar. 26 Ruby Crowell 4180 Riverside Drive Unit 105 Danville, Va. 24541

Many thanks to our VIP committee who selflessly visit our VIPs. It takes a special calling to help those who can no longer get to church on a regular basis still feel like they are a vital part of the church family, as indeed they are. Thank you VIP committee members.



### **On The Move.....**

Several of our church members have moved recently and wanted to let us know their new addresses

**Libby Hodge** is adjusting to her new place and is busy reconnecting with old friends and enjoying meals with a dear college friend.

Bridgewater Home Room 336 302 N. Second St. Bridgewater VA 22812 ph: [540-828-6255](tel:540-828-6255).

**Mack Williams** has moved and his new address is :

112 Mitchell Str. Apt 2, Danville VA 24541 pn: [434-713-1148](tel:434-713-1148).

**Rev. Cecil Eanes** has moved within

Commonwealth Living for Seniors at Stratford House to Apt. 404.



thankful  
grateful  
blessed

Betzy Wilson is a great grandmother and Elizabeth and Keith Walden are grandparents again! Leigh & Wilson Walden had a baby boy on February 23rd: **Lawrence (Law) Wilson Walden**. Congratulations!



**First Presbyterian Church** contributions to **God's Storehouse** in 2016 came to a total of 336 pounds of canned good and non-perishables. Our **Day School** was responsible for 175 pounds of last year's total. Let's continue to support this important community ministry!  
—Missions Committee

Thanks to the **Property Committee** for installing the handrail on the ramp to the sanctuary. It was asked for one week and installed the next! And it is beautiful!



Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on  
my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when  
I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in  
the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that  
sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

*Excerpted from St. Patrick's Breastplate*





## Review of Your House Restaurant

Our Youth went to **Your House Restaurant** in Greensboro, NC last month.

Was it as good as your house? Well, I don't know if it was as good as home, but for diner fare it was pretty darn good. If you are looking for a real food challenge, go for the "Your House Slammer." The "Slammer" is three eggs, bacon or sausage, hash browns, toast, grits, and a waffle; from personal experience, it is worth the price of admission!!! If you decide to go there, give the corn nuggets a try; they are like deep fried sweet creamed corn...AMAZING!!! All in all, we give Your House Restaurant 4 out of 5 spoons!



Your House Restaurant is located at 2306 Battleground Ave, Greensboro, NC 27408 and they are open 24/7.



Our 4's traveled to **Mt. Hermon Animal Clinic** for a tour of the office and to learn all about being a Veterinarian! Dr. Katie Rohrig always is very kind to our kiddos and sends them with all kinds of goodies! We also opened registration to the public on February 15th I'm happy to report that I only have openings in my PMO and 3 year old class! All other classes are FULL!! We have been working hard and are barreling towards the end of to year! Summer school information will go out in March so if you know anyone interested please have them contact me! Thanks for ALL of your love and support!



-Erin Parris

Check out the website <http://fpcdanville.com/>

**Attention**

If you have information for the **Sunday bulletin**, please provide it to Christy Edgar at [christy@fpcdanville.com](mailto:christy@fpcdanville.com) by the preceding Tuesday. If you would like an insert to be printed and included in the bulletin, please request it at least 10 days in advance. Thank you!

If you have information for the newsletter, please send it to [newsletter@fpcdanville.com](mailto:newsletter@fpcdanville.com).

**Mission Focus: Open Arms Foundation – The Perrows**

While you may be familiar to the Open Arms Foundation's ministry to boys, you may not know that there is also a ministry to girls.

In 2008, there was an active ministry to house girls that had become pregnant as a result sex trafficking. Today, the Foundation's focus is prevention. In partnership with a church located in one of the poorest slums in Medellin, the **Open Arms Foundation** works with young girls to prevent future involvement in the sex trade.

The young girls are involved in soccer activities in the community as a hook to draw them into the church. At church, they're taught about Jesus and about God's plan for their sexuality. They're also able to learn skills that will help them to make money in healthy and legitimate ways. By reaching girls at an early age there is a higher chance that they can be spared from the atrocities of Sexual Trafficking.



To learn more, visit <https://openarmsfoundation.wordpress.com>

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