

Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church—Danville, Virginia

189 Years of “knowing Christ and making Him known”

February 2016

Chasing and Embracing

Friends,

Have you met that special someone? If so, how did you first meet? Did someone play hard to get? Were there rough patches here and there? Were there times of sorrow and forgiveness that led to new life?

In every relationship, there are some moments of chasing and some moments of embracing. Even in the case of friendships and family relationships, there are times that we pursue one another and times that we have to stop and embrace. Hopefully most of those times are good, but every now and then we are chasing and embracing in order to grieve together or to reconcile with one another.

We can have the same kinds of ups and downs in our relationships with God. If you are familiar with Psalm 23, you know the beginning of the last lines: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...” The word for “follow” is *radaph*, and it also means “pursue” (or “harass,” for that matter). God’s goodness and mercy don’t just follow us wherever we go (wouldn’t that be nice?); God *pursues* us with them.

This means, of course, that sometimes we need to let ourselves get caught. Just like our lives, the Bible is full of stories of chasing and embracing. We might think that our lives are a search for God, but in reality, God is in pursuit of us at all times. Sometimes we recognize Him and let Him embrace us, and other times we might be running from him, even unintentionally. With Valentine’s Day in the middle of February, we’ll look this month at the biggest love relationship that we all share: the one that we have with God. While John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world...” we know that it is not just the world, but us—individually and together—whom God loves and for whom He sent Jesus.

If you happen to have a good story about chasing or embracing somewhere in your own history—be it

romantic, friendly, or another experience of love—and you would like to share it, then I’d love to hear it. Our own experiences and pursuit of love can help us understand all the ways that God is reaching out to us. Meanwhile, if you get the sense that God is chasing you, or if you are going through something and you need to feel loved, I hope that our messages this month can help you remember how much God does love you.

In our life together, I hope that we can be inspired to show and share the love of Christ with everyone to whom the Spirit sends us. In this cold month with a manufactured holiday of love, we have the opportunity to speak of a deep and steadfast love that God has offered everyone, creatively, sacrificially, and eternally, in Christ. I look forward to seeing you and sharing in that with you this month.

In Christ,

Allen



Leaping frogs—
February has
29 days in 2016

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>31</div> <div> 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:40am - Fellowship @ 11am - Worship </div>	<div>1</div> <div> 9:30am - Prayer Group 10am - Staff Mtg. 11am - Womens Circle Coor 12pm - Salad and Circle 2pm - Day Circle 6pm - Evening Circle @ Pat </div>	<div>2</div> <div> 6:15pm - Handbells 6:30pm - Membership 7pm - GN Choir 7pm - Property Cmte. </div>	<div>3</div> <div> 12:15pm - Chapel 6pm - Children's activity 6pm - Wed. Supper 6pm - Youth </div>	<div>4</div> <div> 5pm - God's Storehouse 5:30pm - Ch. Choir </div>	<div>5</div> <div> Office closed </div>	<div>6</div> <div> 10:45am - Bib. Study 11am - Deacons 11:15am - Lunch Program </div>
<div>7</div> <div> 9am - Worship Cmte. 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:40am - Fellowship @ 11am - Worship </div>	<div>8</div> <div> 9:30am - Prayer Group 10am - Staff Mtg. 11am - VIP </div>	<div>9</div> <div> 6:15pm - Handbells 7pm - GN Choir 7pm - Session </div>	<div>10</div> <div> 12:15pm - Chapel 6pm - Youth 7pm - Ash Wednesday </div>	<div>11</div> <div> 5:30pm - Ch. Choir </div>	<div>12</div> <div> Office closed </div>	<div>13</div> <div> 10:45am - Bib. Study 11:15am - Lunch Program </div>
<div>14</div> <div> 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:40am - Fellowship @ 11am - Worship 12:30pm - Ice Skating </div>	<div>15</div> <div> 9:30am - Prayer Group 10am - Staff Mtg. </div>	<div>16</div> <div> 6:15pm - Handbells 7pm - GN Choir </div>	<div>17</div> <div> 12:15pm - Chapel 6pm - Children's activity 6pm - Youth </div>	<div>18</div> <div> 5:30pm - Ch. Choir </div>	<div>19</div> <div> Office closed </div>	<div>20</div> <div> 8am - Men's breakfast 10:45am - Bib. Study 11:15am - Lunch Program </div>
<div>21</div> <div> 9am - Missions Committee 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:40am - Fellowship @ 11am - Worship </div>	<div>22</div> <div> 9:30am - Prayer Group 10am - Staff Mtg. 12pm - CE Committee 6:30pm - Membership </div>	<div>23</div> <div> 6:15pm - Handbells 7pm - GN Choir </div>	<div>24</div> <div> 12:15pm - Chapel 6pm - Youth </div>	<div>25</div> <div> 5:30pm - Ch. Choir </div>	<div>26</div> <div> Office closed </div>	<div>27</div> <div> 10:45am - Bib. Study 11:15am - Lunch Program </div>
<div>28</div> <div> 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:40am - Fellowship @ 11am - Worship </div>	<div>29</div> <div> 9:30am - Prayer Group 10am - Staff Mtg. </div>	<div>1</div> <div> 6pm - Deacons 6:15pm - Handbells 7pm - GN Choir 7pm - Property Cmte. </div>	<div>2</div> <div> 12:15pm - Chapel 6pm - Wed. Supper 6pm - Youth </div>	<div>3</div> <div> 5:30pm - Ch. Choir </div>	<div>4</div> <div> Office closed </div>	<div>5</div> <div> 10:45am - Bib. Study 11:15am - Lunch Program </div>

What's happening

Faith and Prayer Walk

This month, after Sunday service, continue worship by walking around the block in prayer and thanksgiving. Meet at the Sutherlin entrance— weather permitting.



Wednesday night supper

Dinner 6:00 pm Program at 6:45-7:30 pm

February 3 - District 1 Program: Game Night

February 17 - District 2 *Program: "A Taste of Italy" hosted by Membership Committee

Reservations are required by Monday before the dinner. Payment will be taken at the time of reservation. Call the church office: 792-7822

Chapel Time

Join us for a short lesson and prayer
Every Wednesday at 12:15
In the Chapel (Sutherlin Entrance)

Church Women United will meet at FPC in the Juice Room and Chapel on Friday, March 4th to celebrate Human Rights. Refreshments to start at 10.30 and the worship service at 11 a.m.

For information contact
Donna Parris at [434-793-9239](tel:434-793-9239).

Grazie Mille for "A Taste of Italia"

The magnifico meal for the Feb 17th Wednesday night supper is compliments of Dell' Anno's Pizzeria. The membership committee sends a thousand thanks to Dell' Anno's for this contribution.

Plan to attend as the committee has some stupendo divertimento in the works!

Reservations are required. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Lunch Ministry.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The Main Street Ministerial Association would like to invite the congregation to attend the Ash Wednesday service on February 10 at 7:00 PM, at West Main Baptist Church

If work is still being done on their front walkway, please enter from the side entrance on the parking lot side.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Ice Skating Rescheduled

Sunday, Feb 14, immediately after Church

Wednesday Activity Feb 3rd and 17th at Supper

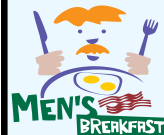
Sign up required

Contact Jackson for details:



Presbyterian Women

Monday, February 1, 2016
11:00 a.m. Coordinating Council
12:00 p.m. Salad and Circle
2:00 p.m. Day Circle
6:00 p.m. Evening Circle
"SOUP and Circle at Pat's"
Pat Argyrakis 115 Fenton Place
434-228-7904



Men of the church

Breakfast Fellowship
& Bible Study

Saturday, February 20,
8:00 a.m.

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

Opportunities to serve and share

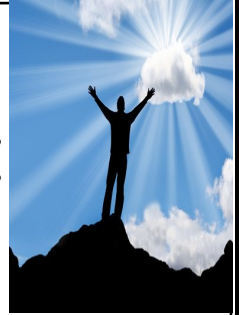
Prayers and Praises*

Anne Banks, Chuck Bolt, Pat Bolt, Alice & Randy Bradshaw, Beth Brown, Mary Ann Burton, Nelson R. Clark (David's father), Bill Copeland, Ruby Crowell, Maude Dalton, Ronnie Dinkle, Rev. Cecil Eanes, R. L. Clifton, W. J. "Buck" Collins, Clarence Edmunds, Bill Erwin, Betty Fitzgerald, Steve Gross, Fred Gunn, Lois Hayes, Tim Hooker, Kathy Huggins, Chris Kile, Ruth Lawton, Thomas Peyton Mahaffey, Larry Mann, Alice McDonald, Jake McGee, Thelma Meadors, Carolyn Miles, Larry Miller, Alex Mitchell, A. B. Motley, Debbie Perrin Neal, Richard Russell (Ina Ingram's brother), Ella Ryan, Alice Saunders, Melva Sweeney, Russell Vandiver, Bill Weaver, Nultie Wiseman.

All of the Caregivers.

Serving in the military: Mark Heard, Josh Kopp

Praises for answered prayer in improved health: Robert Brooks, Reva Goss (successful completion of cancer treatment), Kelvin Gunn, Tim Hooker, Glenda Hyde, Lynn Saunders, Diane Shelton



**We would appreciate knowing if the status of those on the prayer list has changed. It is wonderful to share the evidence of the power of prayer, or if we need to increase the intensity or direction of our petitions to the Lord, Our Savior. Contact the church office with requests & updates. 792-7822. Confidentiality is respected, of course.*

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!

The Membership Committee

Lunch Ministry

WHAT: Salvation Army's lunch ministry is extended to Saturdays at FPC.

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

WHO: Different groups are in charge each week, extra help is always appreciated.

Feb 6: FPC's Women's Evening Circle

Feb 13: Westover Baptist Youth

Feb 20: Unity Presbyterian Church's Women

Feb 27: FPC's Youth

GOD'S STOREHOUSE

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

WHAT: Preparing backpacks of food items to be distributed to children for weekends.

WHY: Malnourishment and hunger greatly influences a child's school performance. This program provides food over the weekend so that children will be ready to learn on Mondays.

WHO is needed and HOW do I help? Four (4) people to assemble the packs at God's Storehouse, and assist in delivery to Woodberry Hills school.

WHEN and WHERE: Assembly will be on Thursdays, February 4 and March 5 at God's Storehouse at 5:00 pm. Delivery will be at 1:00 pm Fridays, February 5 and March 6.

CONTACT: Nancy Wilson, coordinator
434-793-2644



Sunday servers and sharers



Flowers on the Reredos

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

- ♥ Feb 7: open
- ♥ Feb 14: In loving memory of Eric Obye by Linda, Keith, and Alison.
- ♥ Feb 21: open
- ♥ Feb 28; open

***Open dates are available for sponsoring flowers. For information please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434-203-1666. 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: Women's Day Circle*

Serving this month January 2016

Sunday School. Kindergarten Extended

	<u>Nursery/ Sunday School</u>	<u>Older class</u>	<u>Younger class</u>	<u>Children's Chat</u>
7	Leigh Blount, Marissa Meadors	Erin Parris, Pat Bolt	Karan Johnson, Susie Crews	Kent Shelton
14	Ava Barrett	Laura Jones, Carolyn Baker	Kathy Dolianitis, Gwen Baucom	Whitney Clarke
21	Kim Clifton, Diane Shelton	Sara Weller, Carolyn Baker	Whitney Clarke, Catie Clarke	Tom Barrett
28	Harriett Beale	Sara Weller, Jennifer Vance-Stowe	Kathy Dolianitis, Karan Johnson	Tom Gillespie

Liturgist

7	Colin Meadors
14	Bunny Hayes
21	Brenna Takata
28	Gail Gunn

Collections

Mike Reynolds

Friendship: Deacon, Elder

7	Kent Shelton, Brenna Takata
14	Kathy Dolianitis, Cindy Zook, Tom Barrett
21	M-L Crane, Ava Barrett, Dave Zook
28	Mike Reynolds, John Parris, Ina Ingram

Sat Lunch

6
13
29
27

Deacon, Elder

Susan Mathena, Tom Barrett
Gail Gunn
David Parris, Gene Hayes
John Parris, Brenna Takata

Elders-Front Door

7	Gail Gunn
14	David Clark
21	Ina Ingram
28	Tom Barrett

Sound System

Dick Stoakley
David Parris
Fred Baker
Edward Blount

Communion

Gene Hayes, Gail Gunn

Flowers

Women's
Day
Circle

Committee News



Joyce Perez' employer, Verizon, has matched her 50 hours of volunteer work for our Lunch Ministry with \$750! Does your employer have a program in place?

We hope you'll check!

Joyce is going to Colombia with her husband Richard and daughter Olivia to work with Bill Perrow's Open Arms Foundation from March 5th-13th. They would love for anyone to join them if you feel so led.

A bin for Crossroad's TRUTH HOUSE, with lists of their needs, is located at the Sutherlin Entrance. They are a Christian Counseling ministry for recently released incarcerated women. We hope you will take a moment to pick up a list and help us raise some of their needs.

God's Storehouse contributions: Linda reported that Contributions to God's Storehouse for 2015 came to a total of 218 pounds. Our Day School contributed 145 pounds of this total. Thank you for your participation. Please remember to make donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items for 2016."

Report from Paul Sydnor:

"Please keep our mission co-worker, Paul Sydnor, in your prayers. The refugee camp in Calais has increased from 1,500 to 6,000 inhabitants. Paul is there to minister to them and tell them of The Good News of Jesus Christ."

David Swann, Missions Committee

Committee meetings

- ♥ Property: (Tom Barrett, Chair); Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 pm
- ♥ Worship Committee: (Brenna Takata, Chair); Sunday, February 7, 9:00 am in the Parlour
- ♥ Church Officers Retreat: Friday, February 5, 5:00 pm and Saturday, February 6 TBA
- ♥ Session: (C.B. Strange, Clerk); Saturday, February 6 AFTER OFFICERS RETREAT. Session meetings are always open to members wishing to attend.
- ♥ Diaconate: (Susan Mathena, Chair); Saturday February 6 AFTER OFFICERS RETREAT
- ♥ VIP: (Pat Argyrakis, Chair); Monday, February 8, 11:00 am
- ♥ Christian Education (CE): Monday, February 22, at noon (12:00 pm).
- ♥ Missions: (Nancy Wilson, Chair); Sunday, February 21, 9:00 am
- Membership: (David Parris); Monday, February 22, 6:30 pm

CHURCH OFFICERS: The annual officers meeting will be held on Friday Feb 5, 5:30-9:00 pm and Sat morning Feb 6, 8:30- 10:30 am (estimated ending times). The Session and the Diaconate will have their respective meetings following the conclusion of the retreat.

Church Officers 2016-2018

2016 SESSION
Class of 2016 Ina Ingram, Hampton Wilkins,
Thor Wright
Class of 2017 Tom Barrett, Gail Gunn,
Brenna Takata, Dave Zook
Class of 2018 Eddie Blount, Gene Hayes,
Bob Newnam, Joan Reynolds, (Gary Wimer, Alt)

2016 DIACONATE
Class of 2016 Marie-Louise Crane, Susan Mathena,
David Hyde, John Parris
Class of 2017 David Parris, Kent Shelton, Mike
Reynolds, Cindy Zook
Class of 2018 David Swann, Kathy Dolianitis,
Ava Barrett

Christian Education



Class offerings

Class: rm; leader; study or statement, time

Sunday School: 9:45-10:40 am

- ♥ Outlook: rm 322; Jay Hayes, Tom Barrett, Bob Newnam, Kent Shelton, Whitney Clarke; Uniform Lesson Series: "The Present Word"
- ♥ Seekers: rm 109; Joyce Perez; "Feasting the Word"
- ♥ Bible Fellowship: Library ; Linda Copeland; Tabletalk, a devotional guide from Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul.
- ♥ Youth: rm 112; Jackson Weller; uses the scripture to be used in the week's sermon to prepare for worship
- ♥ Children's Sunday School ages Kindergarten through 5th grade have a Sunday School lesson during the Children's Extended Time. The lessons follow the Liturgical Calendar, bringing to life the stories and lessons that are the foundation for our Christian faith
- ♥ Chapel Time: Chapel on Sutherlin; Allen Thompson; short lesson and prayer; Wednesdays, 12:15
- ♥ Women's Circle : first Monday of the month , 12 noon, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm (see page 3 box for details)
- ♥ Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday of the month (see pg 3)

Day School 2015-16

ERIN PARRIS, DIRECTOR

The Day School is in full swing after Christmas and we're ready to start the downward stretch towards graduation. Reminder that registration for the fall term starts on February 1st for current students, current students' siblings and church members. Registration opens to the public on the 15th so get those forms in quick to reserve a spot... We expect a full house!



jackson@fpcdanville.com 792-7822

Youth Group meetings on
February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Washington DC Trip – February 26-28: We will work at the Capital Area Food Bank in DC, you must 14 years or older, cost of the trip is \$70.



A note from the Choir

The Choirs at FPC always welcome new participants.
Rehearsals are typically scheduled as follows, but always refer to the calendar pg 2!

Chancel Choir Thursdays at 5:30 pm
Handbells Tuesdays at 6:15 pm
Good News Choir Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Please contact Heather at
heather.robertson@pcs.k12.va.us

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

More opportunity to fellowship and study God's word in our Wednesday Women's Bible Study. We meet in room 103 on Wednesdays at 4.30 pm beginning February 17th. The 6 week study is *"Final Words From the Cross"* by Adam Hamilton. If you wish to join and have your book ordered please contact Barbara Wilkins (barbara.wilkins@lpnt.net).

Celebrating our family

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Month:



1 Sara Weller
2 Ray Beale,
Madeline Quinn
3 Katie Gillespie
4 Suzanne Fehrenbaker
5 Winfred Smith
7 Russell Ingram
8 Olivia Walthall
11 Virginia Jones
14 Courtney Tucker

16 Wesley Heard
17 Lise Kay Barnett
19 Brooke Atkinson

21 Jean Roman,
Jill Perez,
Doris Wrenn
24 Ruth Lawton
25 John Parris,
Leslie Trainor
26 A. B. Motley
27 Liz Goodman,
Bernadine Hayes
28 Chris Kent

Please share with us your anniversary date. Call Marie-Louise at 770-0136
or email mlinusa@comcast.net

VIP OF THE WEEK



Feb 1 Nultie Wiseman, 5969 Dry Fork Road, Dry Fork VA 24549
Feb 7 Alice McDonald, Roman Eagle Nursing Home 2526 North Main St.
Danville, VA 24541
Feb 14 Maude Dalton, Brookdale Rehabilitation Ctr, Room 21, 149 Executive Dr.
Danville VA 24541
Feb 21 Ann Banks Riverside Rehabilitation Ctr. Room 12-A 2344 Riverside Drive,
Danville, VA 24541
Feb 28 Lois Hayes, 1111 Main Street Apt 115 Danville, VA 24541

Please remember our VIPs in prayer each week and drop them a card or note



Day School Students
learning to read



Notes and updates



From Tom Barrett, Chair of the Property Committee:

Carbon monoxide is a danger anywhere there is combustion of oil, propane, or natural gas. The heat in the main building is natural gas. On Saturday (1/16/16), we had an event and I am pleased to report that our CO alarms worked! The furnace repair people were unable to come until Monday and suggested we call the fire department. They turned off the gas. We opened doors and aired out the building. Repairs are complete. I am sorry for any inconvenience this caused teachers and students in the day school. Thanks to the fire department for their help and to staff who helped with arrangements for the Sunday service.

As an extra note, if anyone is using these fuels, they need a CO alarm. Smoke and CO alarms can be purchased at Lowes and Home Depot. Follow the directions on placement and number of alarms. These alarms averted a more serious problem.



The Backpack Program got off to a great start in January. Thanks to Gail Ramey, Kent Shelton, Linda Copeland and Nancy Wilson for last month's assistance. Back packs will be packed again on Feb. 4 at God's Storehouse.

Long time FPC member June Pierce passed away on Monday January 11, 2016. As she had not been able to attend in many years, her service was conducted by her daughter's church on Jan 15th. Patty Gray appreciates the continued prayers for strength to get through this difficult time. Cards may be sent to:

Patty and Jonathan Gray, 1547 Seamster Rd. Providence, NC 27315-9455

Newsletter NEWS

Thanks for all of the positive feedback and suggestions received on last month's newsletter. You might have noticed a few of the suggestions have already been acted on! If you have items and or dates to be placed in next month's newsletter, please submit by the 20th of the month.

As always, we will try to be responsive to suggestions.

To save costs for mailing and printing, if you use the computer, you may access the newsletter on the church website and receive it through email. There will be printed copies through-out the month at each church entrance. www.fpcdanville.com

David Parris: johndparrissr@gmail.com , Marie-Louise Crane 770-0136 mlinusa@comcast.net

Susan Mathena 770-3655 susan.mathena@gmail.com Church office 792-7822

Check out the website

<http://fpcdanville.com/>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED