

## Beyond the Columns

February 2019

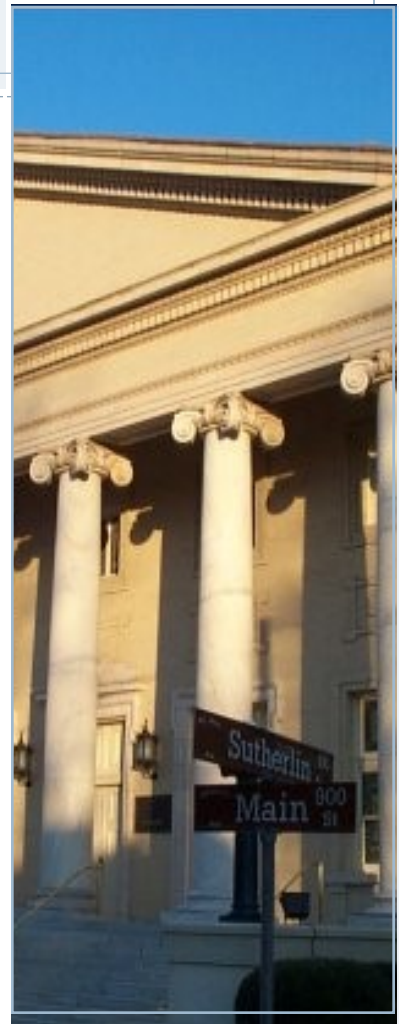
February is a month in which we hear a lot about love. Hallmark, Russell-Stover and flower shops have some of their biggest sales of the year. The anniversary list on the church calendar gets a little longer and when we think of appropriate passages of Scripture to read, some of us would pick I Corinthians 13 to ponder. When I Corinthians 13 is read, what do you picture in your mind's eye? We might picture tuxedo clad grooms meeting beautifully adorned brides coming down the aisle to lovely music in order to be wed. Maybe, we hear Paul's words as they are read to describe one of Christ faithful disciples, who having gone to meet their Lord, now know in full what we know only in part. Maybe, we hear Paul's wonderful description of what love is and what love isn't. Love is patient and kind. It is not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful or rejoice in wrongdoing. It rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things. Without it we gain nothing. The images that we picture are almost always of full and fruitful lives made worth living because of the steadfast love of God for each and every one of us. It is an idyllic vision toward which we should always be aspiring.

When Paul wrote these words to the Corinthians, he had an entirely different picture in mind. He wrote to a faith community that was fractured and hurting. He wrote to a church that was going through a pastoral crisis. The Corinthian Christians were abusing their freedom, refusing to share, scorning their neighbor's spiritual gifts, boasting in their own gifts, seeking recognition for themselves, and jockeying for position in the church. Anything but idyllic, the Corinthian church needed to be reminded that when it comes to Christian love, it has little to do with romance. The problems arose not because of the lack of spiritual gifts in the Corinthian church, but the way in which those gifts were exercised.

Paul's words become even more powerful when we realize that they are needed in today's church just as much, if not more. Paul exhorts the Corinthian Christians with a simple command; practice love. Love is not a feeling; it is something you do. It should be what characterizes each and every one of our churches. You can come up with great programs. You can have talented preachers. You can have knowledgeable teachers. But, if you don't share God's love with each other and show God's love to those around you, your church will fail in its mission.

Without learning how to love the Lord and each other, you will never see clearly. Without love we will never mature into a spiritual adult. Without love found in Jesus Christ our hopes will never be realized. And our faith will be crushed under the burdens and uncertainty of life. Life starts with love and ends with love. If we the burdens and uncertainty of life. Life starts with love and ends with love. If we work hard enough at learning how to love, it will make all of life worth living. The next time you read Paul's beautiful ode to love, hear it as a call to action rather than a descriptive word play and this will help you come much closer to understanding love.

In Christ,  
John



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming Events,
- Stewardship Corner, new members, chili cook-off, and much more.



Contact Jackson for details: [Jackson@fpcdanville.com](mailto:Jackson@fpcdanville.com) or 434.792.7822 ext. 3

### **Children Events:**

Join us for Bible Club on February 6th and 20th. We meet at 6:00 p.m. for Church Dinner and then join together for Bible Club.

### **Youth Events:**

We will meet for Youth Group February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 6:00—7:30 p.m. join us for a meal, fellowship and study.

Middle School Geocaching February 16th—We'll meet at the Church at noon, go grab some lunch and then go Geocaching until 3:00 p.m. If you've never been, it's always fun, come join us for this Middle School event.

Lunch Ministry February 23rd

Diner Drive February 24th—We will meet at 4:30 p.m. at the church and go out to dinner at a diner. These are always interesting and fun adventures!!!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!! For June 17– 20th for VBS !!! Children & Adult Classes !!!**

**More info to Come !!!**

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Congratulations to Martha Bell! She became a great-grandmother January 22nd with the birth of Olen Wesley Bell who was 6 lbs., 9 oz. proud parents are Matt & Lexi Bell. Best wishes to all!

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>3</b> 9 Worship Comm. 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>4</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg. 12:30 Day Circle 5:45 pm Deacons 7 pm Even. Circle	<b>5</b> 5:15 pm HandBells 6 pm Property	<b>6</b> 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS 6 pm Youth	<b>7</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> Office Closed	<b>9</b> 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>10</b> 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>11</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg. 11:00 VIP Comm.	<b>12</b> 5:15 pm HandBells 7 pm Session	<b>13</b> 5 pm PNC 6 pm Youth	<b>14</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>17</b> 9 Missions Comm. 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>18</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg.	<b>19</b> 5:15 pm HandBells	<b>20</b> 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS	<b>21</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b> 10:45 Bib. Study 11:15 Lunch Program
<b>24</b> 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	<b>25</b> 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg. 4:30 CE Comm. 6:00 Membership Comm.	<b>26</b> 5:15 pm HandBells	<b>27</b> 5 pm PNC 6 pm Youth	<b>28</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir		

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**To Know Christ And  
Make Him Known**

## PRAYERS AND PRAISES



**PASTORAL CONCERNS**— Martha Bell, Chlodine Bittner (J. Weller's grandmother), Chuck Bolt, Lisa Bolt, Amy Bracey Bill Brown, Lisa Brown, Tim Burnette, Claire Campbell, John Cao, Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp,

Charles & Lib Cuttle, Rev. Cecil Eanes, Dianne East (K. Meadows), Fred Gunn, Lois Hayes, Martha Jo Hodges, Dianne Hottenstein (S. Mathena), Kay Huggins (son-in-law of Thomas and Alice Saunders), Conner Jones, Doug Jones, Gail Jones, Maurice Katoen, Jana Keen and family, Beth Landfair (John's mother), Bill Landfair (John's step father), Freel Shipe (J. McDonald's father-in-law), Angela Langford, Ruth Lawton, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Carolyn Miles, A. B. Motley, Dana Overstreet (S. Mathena), Paul Patrick (Charlotte Lowther's son-in-law), Ella Ryan, Alice Saunders, Lynn Saunders, C. B. Strange, Alan Sweeney, Tom West, Willem van der Griendt, (ML father), Samantha Williams, Mary Venegas (R. Meadow's sister), Easton Zunker (K. Meadows)

**ON THE MEND**--(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Joe Alexander, Dianne East, James Gill, Sr. & Jr., Kelvin Gunn, Mrs. Helen Harris, Mary Ann W. Lewis, Erica Mann, Jane Marini (B. Fitzgerald's daughter), Russell Vandiver, Nultie Wiseman

**OUR VIPs**—Chuck Bolt, Alice Bradshaw, Charles & Lib Cuttle, Rev. Cecil Eanes, Flo Hall, Lois Hayes, Goldie Keesee, Ruth Lawton, Charlotte Lowther, Grace Litzenberg, Carolyn Miles, A. B. Motley, Fae Smith, Tom West, Nultie Wiseman

### CAREGIVERS

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

### THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

Our condolences to the friends & family of Lee Norman who passed away 1/4/2019

Our condolences to the friends & family of Iris M. Ireson, Ava Barrett's mother, who passed away 1/15/19.

Our condolences to the friends & family of Dr. Randolph G. Bradshaw who passed away 1/24/19.

## SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

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

**WHEN:** Every Saturday; volunteers work from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m.

**WHO:** Different groups are in charge each week. **EXTRA HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!** Cooking, clean up, greeting, Bible Study, chatting with guests.

February 2: Women's Circle

February 9: Westover Baptist

February 16: Unity Presbyterian

February 23: Youth

### REMINDER:

The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is Saturday February 16th at 8:00 a.m. We will continue our James MacDonald "Act Like Men" bible study. Please join us as we are challenged to take hold of our God-given role.



It's never too late to send in your membership directory page. If you haven't done so, ask Vickie (Vickie@fpcdanville.com) to send you the form by email and gather some wonderful holiday pictures to go with it. The second roll out is still available (Dunglinson-Roberts or Office) to those who had not gotten those sheets.



Our church contributed 109 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable food items to God's Storehouse in 2018. The Day School was responsible for 53 pounds of this total amount. Please be reminded to support this important community ministry with your contributions to the "blue bins."





## Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

February 3rd—The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of the mother Iris Martin Ireson by Tom and Ava Barrett.

February 17th—The flowers today are given in honor of Adjowa Kassa and in support of, and with prayers for the people of Togo by Marie-Louise Crane.

Day Circle will be in charge for the month of February.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434.203.1666 or rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net, for more information. After the service, flowers are distributed to those persons on our prayer list or as directed by the sponsor.



## 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.

February 11 Alice Bradshaw  
1111 Main St. Colonial Apartment  
Danville, VA 24541

February 18 Fae Smith  
661 Timberlake Dr.  
Danville, VA 24540

February 25 Ruth Lawton # 239  
Bright Leaf Place  
432 Hermitage Drive  
Danville, VA 24541

If you feel visiting the elderly is your gift, please consider joining our VIP Committee. Talk to one of the following members: Pat Argyrakis, Gwen Baucom, Mary Ann Shelton, Joan Reynolds, Bunny Hayes, Nancy Wilson, Carolyn Baker, Susie Crews, or Kent Shelton.

## Property Committee

### Bob's To-Do List

Computer, streaming TV & sound system hardware & repair Sutherlin Speakers

Investigate the aging alarm system, Carbon Monoxide & Fire Alarm

Investigate humidity control with Centech in Sanctuary

Investigate Amp replacement

Routine Maintenance items around the church building ongoing.

Sun Sail for playground Area

### Completed items:

Painted Sutherlin foyer



## PRESBYTERIAN MISSION EMPHASIS

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### Christian Education Committee

Brenna Takata, Chair

Christian Education  
will meet February 25th  
at 4:30 p.m.



Worship Committee will  
meet February 3rd 9:00  
a.m. in the Chapel.

It was during the early 1990's that First Presbyterian Church supported the ministry of Rev. John Cao, now 59 years old and in a Chinese prison sentenced to seven years on charges of "organizing illegal border crossings." He is a permanent resident of the U.S. but not a citizen, though his wife, Jamie Powell, and sons, Amos and Ben are. As China does not recognize dual citizenship, Rev. Cao decided to keep his Chinese passport to continue ministering in China, and to forgo becoming a U.S. citizen.

President Xi Jinping has cracked down on the growing missions movement among house churches. Cao's foreign ties, his renown among house church leaders and his ability to mobilize others to serve in Burmese schools may have prompted authorities to make an example of him. John Cao is described as a "tireless evangelist." One who knows him said, "He really impacted a generation of house church leaders with wider world missions."

Cao, who has lost sixty pounds and suffers from several physical debilitating conditions, learned recently that the schools he helped establish in Burma were shut down. He considers his time in prison as he "Sabbath year" saying, "All this is God's plan. We just follow God's will. The results are in God's hands." Pray for John Cao and his American family living in North Carolina.

(A summary of an article by June Cheng from World Magazine, Nov. 24, 2018)



Monday February 4th the Day Circle meets at 12:30 p.m. continuing their bible study called "God's Promise: I am with you" taught by Charlotte Lowther.

Evening Circle will meet that same evening at 7 p.m. in the home of Bernadine Hayes 245 Linden Dr., to continue their bible study "Chasing After The Heart Of God" taught by Joyce Perez.

All are invited and definitely reach out to a friend and bring her along as we study the Word of God.

We ask you keep our mission co-workers Rev. Bradley Long and family as well as Rev. Paul Sydnor and his wife, Reinhild, in your prayers for continued healing.



We welcome back Jackson Weller to our handbell choir and we are very excited about our two newest members Jackie Rochford and Alex Walthall. Handbells will play on Sunday, February 3rd in our morning worship service.



## GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE FROM THE BICENTENNIAL

### COOKBOOK 200 YEARS OF COOKING BY THE DAN

*German Chocolate Cake by Judy Hooker*

*9 x 13 pan bake at 350 for 45 minutes*

1 C. coconut

1C. pecans (chopped)

1 pkg. German Chocolate Cake Mix

1 stick butter

8 oz. cream cheese

1 box 10x sugar—3 2/3 cups

Grease pan. Sprinkle coconut and pecans in pan. Mix cake mix as directed and pour over nut mixture. Melt butter and cream cheese in saucepan. Stir in 10x sugar and pour over cake batter, then bake. Cool before cutting. Can be made a day ahead.

## Stewardship Corner

### December 2018 Financials

	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Bud/Act (This Year)
<b>Contributions</b>	\$ 60,252	\$ 348,604	\$ 319,848	\$ 326,500	\$ 22,104
<b>Other Income</b>	\$ 2,238	\$ 6,463	\$ 4,138	\$ 5,505	\$ 958
<b>Transfers</b>	\$ 13,044	\$ 165,977	\$ 125,173	\$ 102,473	\$ 63,505
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ 75,534	\$ 521,044	\$ 449,159	\$ 434,478	\$ 86,567
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 55,111	\$ 465,949	\$ 443,272	\$ 434,478	\$ (31,472)
<b>Net Total</b>	\$ 20,423	\$ 55,095	\$ 5,887	\$ -	\$ 55,095

### Stewardship News

Hello everyone from the Stewardship Committee! We hope everyone is having a happy and successful new year. The above financials reflect our 2018 yearend numbers and we had a very successful year. We also received more pledges in December to bring our numbers to 67 pledges totaling \$245,173. Thank you for being a most generous congregation! Watch this column for updates on our upcoming 2019 campaign.



If you are graduating high school or reapplying to college, please stop by the office and get your scholarship application. It's early so you have plenty of time!! Get your application today! Call the office if you have any questions.



- 1 Sara Weller
- 2 Ray Beale
- 3 Katie Gillespie
- 4 Suzanne Fehrenbaker
- 6 James Gill, Jr.
- 8 Olivia Walthall
- 11 Virginia Jones
- 16 Wesley Heard  
Adjowa Kassa
- 19 Brooke Atkinson
- 21 Jean Roman  
Jill Perez
- 24 Ruth Lawton
- 25 John Parris, Jr.
- 26 A. B. Motley
- 27 Bernadine Hayes

If we've missed your special day please let us know !!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville. Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks west of downtown.

On Sundays, Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 AM and worship services are at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary. For all other events, please see our calendar and missions page. You can also follow us on Twitter and like us on facebook.

You can reach us at  
(434) 792-7822 or  
vickie@fpcdanville.com

**Opportunities to Study the Word    Sunday Mornings**

**Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:45 a.m.– 10:40 a.m.**

**Youth (middle & high school) Rm 112** /Jackson Weller & Tom Gillespie discuss the scripture lesson being used in the sermon, to prepare for worship/discussion type class

**Bible Seekers/Rm 109/** Joyce Perez “Feasting on the Word” / discussion type class

**Bible Study Fellowship/Library/Linda Copeland** Ligonier Ministry’s “Tabletalk Magazine” / discussion type class

**Outlook/Rm 322/Jay Hayes, Tom Barrett, Bob Newnam, Kent Shelton & Gene Hayes** “The Present Word” / lecture type class

**The Children’s Extended Time** (mid-worship 11:15-12:00) Deep Blue Cokesbury Curriculum bringing to life the stories & lessons that are the foundation for our Christian faith.

**K-2/Rm 304/**various instructors

**Gr 3-5/Rm 306/**various instructors

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CHURCH**

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## DAYSCHOOL NEWS

The first of the year is upon us and we're praying for no more snow so these kiddos can enjoy school!! Registration for the UPCOMING school year begins on February 3rd for current students, current student siblings and church members. February 18th it begins for new students! So hard to believe we're already preparing for the 19-20 school year! Enjoy our picture for the Christmas program!

Erin Parris



Martin Luther said: "I have a busy day so I am going to spend the first 3 hours in prayer." We invite you to take out an hour for prayer: join Dr. McDonald, Linda Copeland & Marie-Louise Crane on Monday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the parlor at church where we pray for our church, family, our community, our nation and the world.



### Son Servants Trip

We are extremely excited to be doing something very different this summer, First Presbyterian has partnered with Son Servants in a new way. While First Presbyterian has had a long standing relationship with Son Servants (over 30 years), we have sent hundreds of young people as short-term missionaries with Son Servants over the years, (many have even served on staff with Son Servants), this year we will be hosting a short-term mission trip. We will house and feed a group of Middle School students as they come to Danville to serve our Lord Jesus.

This is an exciting adventure, but it's an adventure that requires us to help. We will need volunteers the week of July 15-20 to help with cooking breakfast and dinner. If you are available to assist preparing or serving a meal please contact Jackson Weller at 792-7822 ext.3 or [jackson@fpcdanville.com](mailto:jackson@fpcdanville.com).





**Our Wednesday Night Suppers** this month will be February 6th at 6 p.m. which will be a covered dish. The program will be a bible study presented by Joyce Perez. Team 1 is in charge.

February 20th will be our next WNSupper, the meal TBA. Team 2 is in charge. The program will be presented by Joyce Perez.

**Time for both dinners is 6 p.m. \$6 per person ages 11 & up Children 10 & under eat free. Max for a family (4 or more) will be \$18.**



It was a wild & crazy night at the Hot and Spicy Chili Cook-off, Wednesday January 23rd. Fun was had by all!! If you missed the announcement, the King of the Chili—the Grand Ladle Award for the First Annual Chili Cookoff went to Nick Argyrakis. We tried to get him to share his prize winning recipe but his lips were sealed!!





## MESSAGE FROM THE VISION COMMITTEE

The second Vision for our Church is:

“We see a Church not living in the past but joyfully looking to the future”

I sometimes hear members say “Back in the day we use to ....”, or “I can remember when ....”, or “A long, long time ago the men of the church would ....”. We all have fond memories of First Presbyterian Church at its peak membership in the 1970’s and 80’s. However, society has changed--- For everything there is a season. But God has given us a special gift. It’s called the present. What is God leading us to do in this new year of 2019? Let us joyfully look to the future and discover how we can serve God today.

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Our own, Ina Dodson, has been selected to exhibit at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History January 13th—March 3rd. **YOU ARE INVITED.**

As you know she is a versatile artist, who paints local subject matter and places she has visited around the world. Because she is a member of the First Presbyterian family, I hope you will join us. Invite a friend. She will be delighted. —Gail Davis



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I am so very grateful for the many prayers and calls I have received during my illness. God and prayers work wonders. I have seen my surgeon and do not need to return for 6 months. I truly feel I can be taken off the “on the mend” list. I am well and fairly active. I truly appreciate the love and prayers of so many.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Wiseman Lewis



First Presbyterian Church  
Session, Diaconate and Trustees

Session

	2019	2020	2021
	Betsy Wilson	Gary Wimer	Tom Barrett
	Joyce Perez	Martha Bell	Eddie Blount
	Bunny Hayes	Fred Baker	Mike Reynolds
	Ray Beale	David Parris	Brenna Takata
			David Clark (Alternate)

Diaconate

	2019	2020
	Becky Meadema	Nicole Bracey
	Marie-Louise Crane	Kathy Dolianitis
	Susan Mathena	Kim Meadows
	Jeanne Nostrandt	David Swann
		Will Brown (Alternate)

Clerk, C. B. Strange

**Trustees**

Tom Gillespie

Jim Motley

Chuck Bolt

**Nominating Committee 2019**

Lisa Argyrakis

Fred Baker

Karan Johnson

Donna Parris

Elder TBD

Deacon TBD

