

## Beyond the Columns

*"You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
Will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in whom I trust.' " Psalm 91:1-2*

The Psalms are filled with beautiful oasis in the sometime arid atmosphere of our day to day lives. In a world filled with fearful insecurity, frightening news, and cataclysmic world changing events, we hear Psalm 91 calling us to trust in the Lord. We are to trust that God will provide a refuge where no evil shall befall you, and no scourge come near you. The Psalmist calls us to trust that God will send angels to guard us and bear us up from the turmoil of this world. The Psalmist reminds us that God will not let us be dashed against a stone. God will protect us from the lions and snakes of this world. The Psalmist reminds us that God will deliver, will protect, will answer our prayers, will be with us in trouble, will rescue us, honor us, will satisfy us and show us salvation.

What wonderful words these are and yet do we truly trust them? Lent has traditionally been a time of deprivation; a time of concentration on Jesus' suffering and death; a time to face our own unworthiness and our sinful nature; a time to fast and pray. It has been a time of introspection and self-examination. These are certainly important things to think about during Lent. What if we were to use Lent, not just as a period of deprivation and self-criticism, but also as a bold invitation to live in the divine presence, protection, safety, and love described in Psalm 91?

Katherine Amos, in her Feasting in the Word commentary article, suggested several ways we could challenge ourselves to trust in God during Lent. "We could acknowledge and respond to God's offer to dwell in our hearts in many ways. We could pour energy into increasing our awareness of God's presence with us, no matter what the circumstances of our lives. Our prayer during Lent could be to ask God to let divine love open our hearts and increase our awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We might ask God to increase our courage as we respond to God's love by loving and protecting others. We could learn to listen for God's voice as our relationships with God unfold. We need to seek and expect God's presence, guidance, and protection, while being continually grateful for the work of God in our lives. We need to be vulnerable to God and God's action in our lives."

That is a tall order. It would be easier to give up chocolate or limit our cell phone use than to live in that kind of trust and obedience to God. Yet, how much better off would we be if we truly practiced trusting in God? What if we truly lived in God's "safe house"? What if we truly trusted in God's abiding eternal presence? We could see God as a protector from danger and one who provides a place of love, nurture, and care. We could grow into the awareness that God dwells in our hearts in times of trouble, joy, sickness, health, vibrancy, sadness, loneliness, and death. We could revel in the love of a friend who walks with us, cries with us, and loves us with a continuing deep and abiding love.

Our spiritual practices during Lent may differ. Maybe, we could try to read the scriptures as if we were actually present with Jesus and the disciples. Maybe, we could write a letter to God expressing our love and desire to deepen our relationship. Maybe, we could paint a picture that expresses our love and trust for God. Maybe, we could just practice "hanging out" with God, enjoying a daily routine of prayer and conversation with God. Whatever spiritual discipline we may choose, let us commit ourselves fully to following our Lord to the cross. It is at the foot of the cross and in the glory of the empty tomb that we will find the love and hope that will bind us to Him for all



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar .....	3
Youth and Children .....	2
Prayer and Praise .....	4
Recipe of the Month.....	11
Sunday Flowers .....	5
VIPs .....	5
Stewardship in Action.....	11

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming Events,
- Stewardship Corner, VBS news, Diaconate News, Day School News and much more.



Contact Jackson for details: Jackson@fpcdanville.com or 434.792.7822 ext. 3

**Children Events:** Bible Club March 13, 20, & 27th

Looking ahead: Palm Parade April 14th, Easter Egg Hunt and Party April 21st

**Youth Events:** No Youth Group March 6th—Community Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity UMC

Youth Group March 13, 20, & 27

Lunch Ministry March 23rd

March 30th Thrift Shopping (We'll meet at church at noon, grab some lunch & then hit up some of the local thrift shops for a shopping spree extravaganza!!!)

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

**More info to Come !!!**

Stewardship Corner						
January 2019 Financials						
		MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Bud/Act (This Year)
Contributions		\$ 37,522	\$ 37,522	\$ 76,678	\$ 28,292	\$ 9,230
Other Income		\$ 744	\$ 744	\$ 239	\$ 126	\$ 618
Transfers		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,674	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues		\$ 38,266	\$ 38,266	\$ 85,592	\$ 28,418	\$ 9,848
Expenses		\$ 24,786	\$ 24,786	\$ 31,301	\$ 33,070	\$ 8,284
Net Total		\$ 13,480	\$ 13,480	\$ 54,290	\$ (4,652)	\$ 18,132
Stewardship News						
Hello everyone from the Stewardship Committee! Our committee has been working hard on our kickoff for the 2019 Stewardship Campaign. Our Stewardship theme for 2019 is " <i>Many Gifts; One Spirit</i> " and we will be doing our official kickoff at the March 24th worship service. Please plan to be there!						

# March 2019

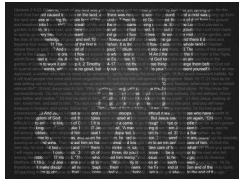
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2 10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Program
3 9 Worship Comm. 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	4 10:30 Co.Council 12:30 Day Circle 5:45 pm Diacons 7 pm Even. Circle	5 5:15 pm HandBells 7 pm Property	6 5 am PNC 7 am Comm Ash Service @ Trinity UNC	7 4 am God's Sonhouse Backpack sermon 5:30 am Chancel Choir	8 Office Closed	9 10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Program
10 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship 12:30 - 2:30 Diacon Charge	11 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg. 11:00 VIP Comm.	12 5:15 pm HandBells 7 pm Session	13 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS 6 pm Youth	14 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 Office Closed	16 8:00 Men's Bible Study & B'Fast 10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Program
17 9 Missions 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	18 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg.	19 5:15 pm HandBells	20 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS 6 pm Youth	21 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	22 Office Closed	23 10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Program
24 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship	25 9:15 Prayer Mtg. 10:00 Staff Mtg. 4:30 CE Comm. 6:00 Membership	26 5:15 pm HandBells	27 5 pm PNC 6 pm WNS	28 5:30 pm Chancel Choir	29 Office Closed	30 10:45 Bible Study 11:15 Lunch Program
31 9:45 Sun.Sch. 10:40 Fellowship 11 Worship 12 Fellowship						

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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, 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, Joan Sprinkle (G. Jones), C. B. Strange, Alan Sweeney, Willem van der Griendt, (ML father), Samantha Williams, 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), Leslie S. Vance (G. Jones), Russell Vandiver, Nultie Wiseman

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

### CAREGIVERS

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

### THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

Our condolences to the friends & family of Rev. Cecil Eanes who passed away on 1/25/19.

Our condolences to the friends and church family of Rev. Tom West who passed away 2/23/19.

## 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.

March 2: Women's Circle

March 9: Westover Baptist

March 16: Unity Presbyterian

March 23: Youth

March 30: Outlook Class

### REMINDER:

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



Our Membership Directory is still expanding. Please pick up your copies (new and revised ones available for this Roll Out #3) from the table in either the Donglinson-Roberts room on Sundays or at the Wednesday Night Suppers in March beginning Sunday, March 3rd.



## DIACONATE NEWS

**Hands On volunteer opportunity:** The Kitchen Committee will be cleaning our McCain kitchen and pantry on March 9th at 1 p.m. If you love to clean—come help us get ready for Holy Week, we'd love for you to come in your 'scrubs' and with your cleaning gloves on. See you there and... thanks for all you are and do for our congregation.

## Sunday Flowers on the Reredos



March 17th— The flowers that enhance our worship are given in appreciation to the VIP Committee for their devotion to our shut-ins. Their visits and calls, and their special helpers, Nick and Barry, are to be honored through their faithfulness to the elderly. THANK YOU!

March 24th—The flowers are given in loving memory of Ted Argyrakis by Pat and children.

Evening Circle will be in charge for the month of March.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434.203.1666 or [rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net](mailto: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.

March 4: Goldie Keesee Room 101, Roman Eagle Nursing Home 2526 North Main St., Danville, VA 24540

March 18 : A. B. Motley 480 W. Main St. Apt. A3, Danville, VA 24541

March 25: Charlotte Lowther, 345 Mowbray Arch, 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.

***Our next VIP Meeting will be held March 11th at Pat Argyrakis' house, 115 Fenton Place. We will begin at 9 a.m.—note time change— with a brunch and follow with our regular meeting.***

## 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

Concern in Ladies restroom with wall/mold

### ***Completed items:***

Leak in front corner of sanctuary (Sutherlin & Main) has been repaired

Heat has been repaired in Westminster room has been repaired

Sutherlin Entrance wall has been repaired

LED light in hallway replaced



## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Christian Education Committee

Brenna Takata, Chair

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



Worship Committee will  
meet March 3rd 9:00 a.m.

## PRESBYTERIAN MISSION EMPHASIS

Have you ever heard of ECFA? It is an organization that enhances trust in Christ-centered churches and ministries by establishing and applying Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship to accredited organizations. Founded in 1979, ECFA provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising, and board governance. The Christ-centered ministries accredited by ECFA include churches, denominations, educational institutions, rescue missions, camps, and many other types of tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations. Collectively, these organizations represent over \$26 billion in annual revenue. The 2019 updated Mission Booklet will be out soon and will show the ECFA certifi-



Monday March 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 Harriet Beale, 129 Westmoreland Dr., Danville, 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.

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.



If you are interested in helping with the God's Storehouse Backpack program, please call the office. We will need help Thur. March 7th at 4 p.m. at God's Storehouse. Our next date to help out will be Thursday May 2nd.

CALIFORNIA SPINACH SALAD FROM THE BICENTENNIAL  
COOKBOOK 200 YEARS OF COOKING BY THE DAN

*California Spinach Salad by Mary Barksdale*

2 C. fresh spinach broken into bite size pieces  
4-5 large fresh mushrooms, sliced  
6 slices bacon crisp & crumbled

**Dressing:**

1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
2 tsp Dijon mustard  
2 Tbsp. wine vinegar  
1/2 C. olive oil  
2 Tbsp. fine chopped onions  
1/4 tsp. lemon juice

Combine salad ingredients. Combine the first four dressing ingredients.  
Gradually add oil, then stir in onion & lemon juice. Toss with salad ingredients.



## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION



In our December "Stewardship In Action", we highlighted a special form of stewardship practiced by Ray Beale. This month we'll highlight the contributions of Gwen Baucom. Gwen has been a very active member of First Presbyterian. She has been involved with many committees. Gwen is a faithful member of the Outlook Sunday School class. We have all enjoyed many delicious dishes

she has prepared for the Annual Christmas Outlook Breakfasts as well as our Wednesday Night Covered Dish dinners. She can be found quite often working in our kitchen on Wednesday nights and Saturdays for our Lunch Ministry. Many of our shut-ins enjoy visits from Gwen as a member of the VIP Committee. Our First Presbyterian children are very fortunate to have Gwen helping with the Children's Sunday School. Gwen is also active on the Membership Committee and the Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle.

Thank you Gwen for being a special gift to our congregation and being involved in so many varied activities.



2 Fletcher Meadema

5 Mack Williams

9 Tim Kernodle  
Gerry Belton

12 James Gill, Sr.

13 Keith Walden  
Sarah Abreu  
Elliot Jones

15 Jeanne Nostrandt  
Andrew Gardner  
Phillip Gardner

16 Whitney Girten

21 Lorraine Willeford

22 Kathy Machado

23 Harriet Beale  
Carol Anne Kernodle  
Drake Weller  
Liam Weller

24 Walter Gunn

25 C. B. Strange

31 Jeanette McDowell

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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## **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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## DAYSCHOOL NEWS

The Day School is busy taking field trips and having SO many fun activities planned at school! March 4-7 we will be having Dr. Seuss week! Everyday will be a theme based on one of his books, the children will dress up accordingly and there will be a yummy snack too! Our four year olds traveled to Danville Family Vet at the end of February for a tour and Dr. Martha Cutright came and showed our kiddos the proper way to brush those pearly whites! Busy time of year but we smell spring... So do you?!

Erin Parris



## 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 March 13th at 6 p.m. which will be a delicious soup. The program will be our Lent Bible Study. Team 3 is in charge.

March 20th will be our next WNSupper, the meal TBA. Team 4 is in charge. The program will be the Lent Bible Study.

March 27th we will have a WNSupper, the meal TBA. Team 1 is in charge. The program will be the Lent Bible Study.

**Time for 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.**



*When flowers are placed in the sanctuary in remembrance or honor of loved ones, they beautify our worship service and they also touch the lives of our shut-ins, VIP's, and hospitalized church family. Consider placing an arrangement, there are always open Sundays. Call Rebecca Atkinson at 434.203.1666 or [rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net) for more information.*

Ash   
Wednesday

Our Community Ash Service will be at Trinity United Methodist Church on Arnett Blvd., Wednesday March 6th at 7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support this meaningful service.



*Congratulations on the birth of Abigail Ruth, daughter of Chris & Lucy Hill, proud grandparents, Sam & Becky Meadema, great grandparent Alice Bradshaw.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE VISION COMMITTEE

The Third Vision for our Church is: “We see a vibrant, energetic, healthy Church where everyone has a Christ-like attitude and behavior.” In the early 1990’s the singing group 4HIM released a song titled “The Basics Of Life.” The chorus of that song says “We need to get back to the basics of life; a heart that is pure and a love that is blind; a faith that is fervently grounded in Christ; the hope that endures for all times; these are the basics, we need to get back to the basics of life.” When we talk about being a vibrant, energetic, healthy Church, that stems from getting back to the “basics of our faith,” and the “basics” of our faith is following Jesus, being like Jesus or being the way Jesus is, being Christ-like. There are three things being Christ-like focuses on, our surrender to God, our freedom from sin, and our spiritual growth.

- Surrender to God: we shift our focus from us to God, John the Baptist said in John 3:30, “He must become greater; I must become less,” so we focus more and more on Jesus and His glory, losing ourselves in His will.
- Freedom from Sin: since Jesus lived a sinless life, the more we become “dead to sin”(Romans 6:11) and live into a life of purity, the more like Jesus we will be. As we offer ourselves to God, sin is no longer our master, and we are more clearly identified with Christ (Romans 6:1-14). We also have divine help when it comes to restraining sin in our lives; praise our Lord for: the Word of God, the intercession of Christ, and the power of the Spirit who indwells us.
- Spiritual Growth: when we first become a Christian, we are immature in wisdom and knowledge and inexperienced in grace and love. In each of these things our charge is to become stronger—and more Christ-like. Our aim should be to pursue God in prayer, study, and worship.

2Peter 3:18 – Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1Thessalonians 3:12 – May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.

A Church that is Christ-like (Jesus centered and Jesus focused; living into God’s grace, love, humility, forgiveness, charity, and redemption) is vibrant, energetic, and healthy because our Lord is working in and through each member and grace and love abounds. Let’s make our aim to pursue God more and more each day.



Save the Date

VBS June 17– 20th

We will have classes for Children & Adults

Mark your calendars and invite your friends!

# First Presbyterian Church

## Session, Diaconate and Trustees

### Session

	2019	2020	2021
	Betzy 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, Brenna Takata

### **Trustees**

Tom Gillespie

Jim Motley

Chuck Bolt

### **Nominating Committee 2019**

Lisa Argyrakis

Fred Baker

Karan Johnson

Donna Parris

Elder TBD

Deacon TBD

