

# Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church of Danville  
193 Years of "Knowing Christ and Making Him Known"

September 2020



## **DRAWN IN TO REIMAGINE LIFE BEYOND THE COLUMNS**

Do the words "fun," "deep," "creative," and "God" go together in your mind—or in your life? If not, then you may take a particular interest in this series. You may also be interested if descriptors like "stuck," bored," "exhausted," "anxious about the future," or "in need of better options" fit a little too well in your life right now.

Over the next several weeks we'll explore the surprising parallels between creativity and the spiritual path. In the process, we'll uncover some unexpected ways by which a narrow life may open out into more expansive territory, how a flattened life may be revived and once again become three-dimensional, and how we all may find and live into our "sweet spot"—or our sacred Calling—a bit more fully.

In the modern world, there is crucial need for creativity. When you compare the world as it was in the 1950s and the world we live in now, for instance, it quickly becomes apparent that the average person of any age or occupation has been asked—no, required—to respond to shifts that our ancestors only a few generations ago could not have envisioned. The stresses and strains have been extensive. We've had to do some pretty quick thinking—and soul-searching—as a species to come out on top of these shifts or even just to keep up with them. Sometimes they seem on the verge of overwhelming us.

History has proven over and over that when the Holy Spirit is at work in people on a vast scale, you get into some pretty "deep shift"! If you think that God is sitting idly by on the sidelines watching all the challenges we face and not doing anything to help us out, think again. Yet whatever God does involves an in-breaking of new awareness. With every awareness we're called to break out of whatever box we've been in and follow the Spirit into new territory.

In this series I will be challenging you with a single question:

Does God live within YOUR dream, or do you live within GOD's dream?



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How you answer this question—not with your lips but with your life—determines the extent that you will truly be happy.

If God’s role in your life is merely to live within YOUR dream, then God must live within the limits of your intelligence and imagination. You define the playing field, and God must play by your rules, stay within your boundaries and timeframe, and play on your side. When you live within God’s dream, however . . . well, let’s just say the playing field becomes far larger than you can imagine. And the game is different.

In the creative process—as in the process of spiritual transformation—you dream God’s dream, then you hover around God’s dream until your response to it comes out of your deepest loves and passions. After a period of hovering, you take the risk of acting on what you’ve discerned.

Once you’ve acted, you listen. You listen because you’ve entered new territory and need to pay attention to the new information you receive as a result of being in a new place. Then you reintegrate your listening to further refine the vision and adjust course where necessary. Finally, you rest and celebrate what you and God have accomplished together—which further inspires you to dream all over again.

Hopefully, you will rekindle and reimagine our life together BEYOND THE COLUMNS.

*Pastor Beth*

PS: The sermon series is based on resources from Eric Elnes, PH.D., Rev. Marcia McFee (Worship Design Studio), and Troy Bronsink – whose book, *Drawn In: A Creative Process for Artists, Activists, and Jesus Followers* (Paraclete, 2012),



## REIMAGINE LIFE BEYOND THE COLUMNS

“Love one another as I have loved you.” Jesus issued this new command and promised that “By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples.” This mission of the church is unchanging but each new circumstance demands new energy, imagination, intelligence, and love.

The officers and congregation of First Presbyterian Church-Danville, Va. wrote down and published a ‘Vision for Spiritual Growth’ statement to guide our decisions in following Jesus’ command at this time and in this place. The statement contains this sentence: “Just imagine what God can do with a congregation of 200 people following His will.” The Holy Spirit which produced such a sentence has empowered our search for pastoral leadership and has enlivened conversations on every aspect of our life together.



A new vision produces change. We now welcome Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart (Pastor Beth) as our new Minister of Word and Sacrament. You also have noticed changes in some of the church spaces, changes in the bulletin, and you now see a new banner in the front of the building which reads “REIMAGINE LIFE BEYOND THE COLUMNS”. It is no accident that this banner picks up on the City theme of “Reimagine That Danville Virginia”.

To be sure, we are not engaged in simple civic activity. We are introducing a courageous statement of our purpose in this place and for this time. Three additional banners will be hung to complete the message. Watch the sermon texts, listen to the sermons, reread the vision statement on the web site, and you will appreciate the message as it is revealed.

Further, you have seen and will have a chance to display in your yard or office window, a sign which is shown above.

This sign uses a modern symbol “#We Are The Church” to remind us of our identity as a part of Christ’s body with many gifted parts.

Now look back at the bulletin and you will see our order of worship organized under the headings:

DRAWN IN TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S GRACE

DRAWN TOGETHER TO EMBODY GOD’S GRACE

DRAWN FORTH TO EXTEND GOD’S GRACE

Spoiler alert: Our sermons for the next three months will more fully explore these three topics. We are “Drawn In” links closely to the “To Know Christ” portion of the mission printed in the bulletin for many decades.

“Drawn Together” wraps around living together as the body of Christ. “Drawn Forth” pulls us to reach out to others and recalls the “To Make Christ Known” portion of the historic mission statement.

Be alert to the work of the Spirit among us and celebrate. Encourage one another. We are to be continuously transformed by the renewing of our minds to follow God’s will. His good, pleasing, and perfect will. Each of us has a role and each is created and gifted to be exactly what is needed at this time and in this place to show love for one another as you have been loved.

## Prayer and Praise

**PASTORAL CONCERNS—**  
Chuck Bolt, Lisa Bolt, Amy  
Bracey, Bill Copeland  
(Linda Copeland's father)  
Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's

sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Matthew  
Dolianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Fred Gunn (W.  
Gunn's brother), Rev. Dr. Faye Savage Gunn (Fred's  
wife), Lois Hayes, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Larry  
Mann, Ruth Meadors, Tony Parker (W. Barrow's fa-  
ther), Mary Lou Snead, Debra Bolt Thompson, Easton  
Zunker (K. Meadows)

**ON THE MEND--**(Praise & Gratitude for improved  
condition) Mrs. Helen Harris

**OUR VIPs—**Chuck Bolt, Alice Bradshaw, Lib Cuttle,  
Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Charlotte Lowther,  
Grace Litzenberg, Fae Smith, Jean White

### CAREGIVERS

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

Our condolences to the Gunn family in the loss of  
Rev. Dr. Faye Savage Gunn (Fred).

Our condolences to Dixie Hayes in the loss of her  
mother.

### SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

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

**WHEN:** Every Saturday;  
volunteers work from  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m..  
Lunch is served at 11:00  
a.m.

During the summer. Since  
our regular volunteer  
churches have taken a  
break from assisting, we  
need volunteers—call the  
office if you can help on  
Saturdays.



This year's Crop Walk will be different!  
We will have a virtual walk October 4th.

If you are interested -  
Contact Barbara Wilkins or  
Jackie Rochford

### DAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Day School needs volunteers for their COVID Care  
program. This program runs Monday—Friday  
9 a.m.—3 p.m. in the fellowship hall.  
Children in grades K—5 are participating at our site.  
If you are interested in helping contact Erin Parris at  
540-293-9445.**



## Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

**September 6**—The flowers today are given in loving memory of Pat Bolt, on her birthday, by Lisa Bolt and Chuck Bolt.

**September 13**- The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Florence Rochford by Jackie Rochford.

**September 20**- The flowers today are given in honor of those who provide lunches every Saturday, by Jay and Bernadine Hayes.

The Evening Circle will be in charge for the month of September.

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.

September 6 — Charlotte Lowther  
345 Mowbray Arch  
Danville, VA 24541

September 13 — Chuck Bolt  
133 Westmoreland Ct.  
Danville, VA 24541

September 20— Betty Fitzgerald  
2240 Lady Astor Place #6  
Danville, VA 24541

September 27 — Bill Fitzgerald  
2240 Lady Astor Place #6  
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, Joan Reynolds, Bernadine Hayes,

### 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 Amp  
replacement

Routine maintenance  
items around the  
church building  
ongoing.

Front porch needs bird  
protection

Investigate replacing  
electrical panel in base-  
ment with  
modern equipment

Women's bathroom to  
be refreshed

My family and I want to extend a most hearty thank you to everyone in the congregation who so generously welcomed us to the community. Your expressions of support were invaluable at a time when we were nearly overwhelmed by the immensity of the move. No matter what the need, you have been quick to respond. The experience of a “pounding” took on a whole new meaning when expressed with southern hospitality. Our pantries, kitchen, and refrigerator were stocked with paper products, kitchen supplies and food that made our first days so much easier. The gifts of money and cards helped us to settle into our home. My prayer is that God will richly bless each of us in the days ahead as we continue the settling in process at both home and church. You have been most gracious with your displays of genuine hospitality and generosity. I have also heard many courageous testimonies as I have visited in your homes. Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place. Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Beth & family*



## Stewardship in Action

This year the Stewardship theme for First Presbyterian Church is **“We are the Church – We serve with energy, imagination, intelligence and love.”** Our church is so fortunate to have a congregation who serves with such love. This month we highlight two members who serve in so many ways - Eddie and Leigh Blount. Even as our church doors closed due to the pandemic, both of them continued to care for us and our church building. Eddie serves on our Session and chairs the Property Committee. He and his committee work hard to insure that our building is maintained and safe. Leigh serves on our Pastor Nominating Committee. Through the prayerful and tireless efforts of this group, we now welcome our new pastor. Eddie and Leigh help with our Saturday Lunch Program and Leigh works with our children’s Sunday School program. These are only a few of the ways this couple has shared their talents. Thank you Eddie and Leigh for your dedication to the Lord’s work here at First Presbyterian Church and our community.







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

Youth Sept 19th Hiking trip

Sept 26th Lunch Ministry



DRAWN IN TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE

DRAWN TOGETHER TO EMBODY GOD'S GRACE

DRAWN FORTH TO EXTEND GOD'S GRACE

We have purchased the Hygenica Electro Hygiene System which will disinfect and sanitize our church. We are using this through out the building. The chemicals used in the "fogger" will "remove 99.9% of viruses, pathogens, and bacteria, including most coronaviruses, including but not limited to COVID –19, influenza A, rhinovirus, and norovirus."\* At times a slight residue is left behind that can feel "sticky."

There is a sign up sheet at the Main Street entrance next to the Admin. Office. If you are a committee chair, please fill out this sheet when you meet at the church so the room can be disinfected.

If you have any questions about the system or products being used to disinfect please contact the church office.

\*Operator's Manual



3 Paige Wiseman

4 Sally Clark

6 Dixie Hayes

7 Caitlyn Crews

Susie Crews

8 Millie Hatcher

10 Jeff Davis

14 Anderson Miller

Sue Miller

16 Gail Jones

Pat Knick

Sam Meadema

21 Tom Gillespie

22 Ava Barrett

23 Rebecca Atkinson

24 Linda Dodson

26 Carol Strange

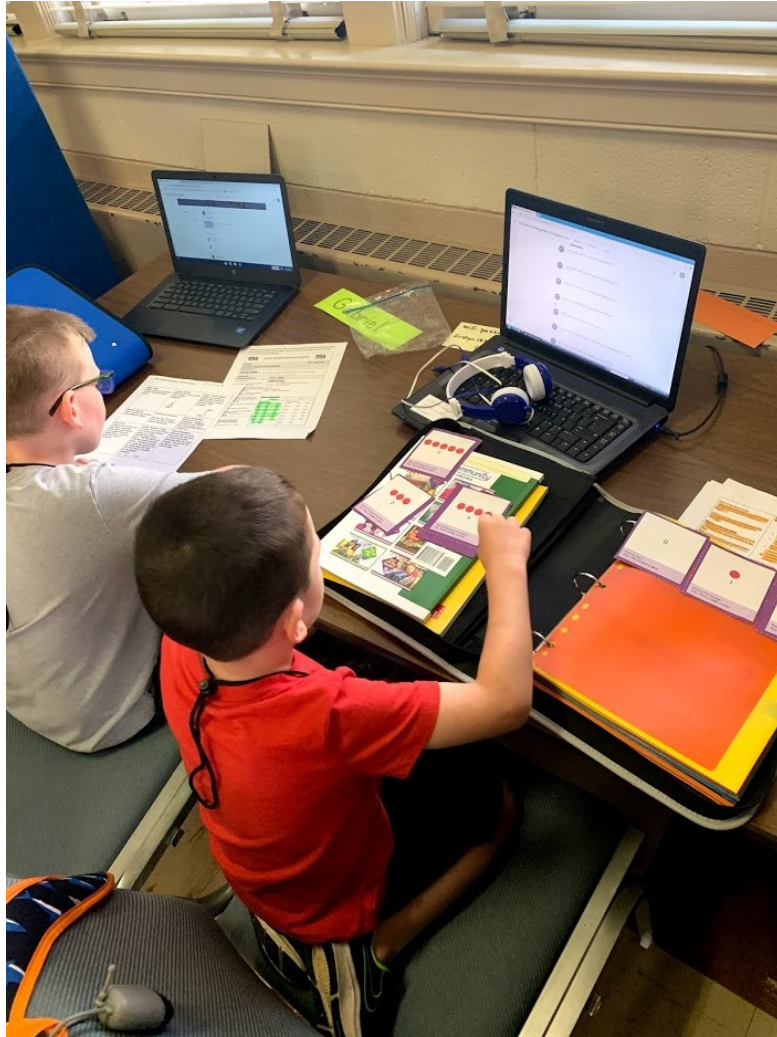
27 Bob Ramey

28 Lauren Mathena

Ashley Davis

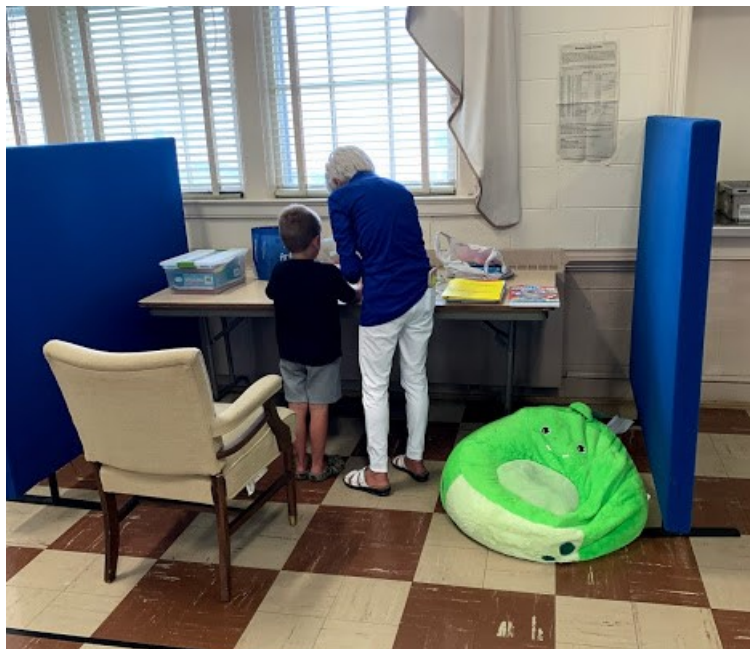
If we've missed your special day  
let us know !!

## COVID CARE PICTURES





Here are some pictures of the Day School Covid Care program. We still need volunteers. If you are interested please contact Erin Parris at 540-293-9445.



## 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. You can reach us at (434) 792-7822 or [vickie@fpcdanville.com](mailto:vickie@fpcdanville.com)



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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