

# *First Presbyterian Church*

## Beyond the Columns

AUGUST 2021|194 YEARS OF "KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"

### Pastor's Column

#### Living Through a Church Renovation

Any church that has ever considered a building renovation (even as subtle as a paint project) or change to the normal pattern of usage must wrestle with questions like these: What is God calling us to preserve? What is God calling us to make new? In what ways do we hold continuity with the past, and in what ways do we embrace change? And how do we find order and grace in the midst of all this messiness?

We all need to be reminded from time to time that the changes are not for us alone; they are for people not yet present. They are for neighbors who are hungry for God today, and for children and grandchildren who are still to come. Once or twice during the renovation process we have talked about the generations who sacrificed and worked hard so that the church could be here for us today, and we imagined ourselves in the same role: as those that future generations are counting on to sacrifice and work hard so that there will be a church for them. Even when we prepare our hearts well, we all need to remember that the changes are not first and foremost about us; they are for people not yet present. We are preparing for the future after decades of clinging desperately to the past. Change doesn't negate the importance of our history, but it seeks to build on what is positive and life-giving.

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## Living Through a Church Renovation continued

Second, no matter how many are involved in the planning, the work will always have some element of surprise. However, In the weeks going forward, I will use this space and others to address some of the “Frequently Asked Questions” so that the entire congregation can better understand the why of our decisions. This week I will start with an explanation of why the lid to the baptismal font has been removed for the past year.

When I interviewed with the PNC, we talked a great deal of how we might make the church seem more welcoming – beyond a casual “hello” on Sunday morning. One of the best ways to connect others with our theological heritage is to make both the communion table and baptismal font more visible. Removing the “lid” from the font and placing the communion table on the floor are tangible expressions of inclusion and welcome.

One of the most powerful analogies in the Bible regarding our transformation and sanctification in the Lord has to be the analogy of the potter and the clay. The Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay.

*“But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you our potter; and all we are the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)*

The pottery bowl is to remind us that it is up to God to mold, transform, and sanctify us as we journey through this earthly life. As a result, our formless and often ugly lives are shaped into beautiful pieces of pottery through which Christ can shine.

The pottery pieces were a gift accepted by session for another visible expression of our theology.

Change – transformative change – is not easy. It is definitely a molding process. It is a different way of thinking. Focusing on a missional need outside the church can go a very long way toward maintaining a healthy perspective within the congregation, helping us all remember that our personal feelings about the changes are a secondary concern, because the changes are not for us but for those seeking to find their connection to God in this place.





# Young Disciples

**Youth Group** August 4,11,18, & 25

6—7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

August 15th **Go-Kart racing**—More information to come.



**Lunch Ministry August 7th**—We are not yet serving meals in the fellowship hall, but we want to get back into a rotation of helping to pack meals for our lunch guests.

Please join us at 10:00 am to pack 72 lunch bags.



## Birthdays

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 2  | Alice Bradshaw   |
| 7  | Alexander Miller |
| 12 | Will Wiseman     |
| 13 | Jay Hayes        |
|    | Roy Pinckney     |
| 14 | Ellie Honea      |
| 15 | Chris Moore      |
| 18 | Donna Parris     |
| 24 | Jackson Weller   |
| 25 | Pat Pinckney     |
| 27 | Kris Cox         |
|    | Barbara Wilkins  |
| 28 | Walker Davis     |
| 29 | Ina Dodson       |
| 31 | Bill Smith       |

## Anniversaries

Aug 16, 2003 Dixie & Gene Hayes  
If we've missed your special day,  
let us know!

# Mission Focus

The focus of the Wehmeyers' ministry with the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico has been theological education, church planting and retreat-worship leadership. Don had been traveling in Mexico and Colombia engaged in these endeavors when last summer he wrote, "Between COVID-19 and tropical storm Columbus, we are not in ordinary times." The seminary stopped classes. There were significant disruptions for workers who get paid by the day. Their small church of 20 families was helping 30 families. The storm dumped tons of water with many left up to their waists in floods and roads washed out. The good news was that the Mexican people are quite stoic and respectful of one another in difficult times. Don continued to preach and teach mid-week on internet video during this time.

This summer both Don and Martha are fully vaccinated and starting to move around more. The little church Don is pastoring in Sitpatch is doing well with both in person and online services. He has been teaching online for the National Presbyterian Seminary in Mexico City. 18 young people are in the course. They have given Don confidence for the future of the Reformed Church in Mexico. He recently traveled to the mountains of Oaxaca, a seven hour dirt road trip, with two other pastors to teach a course on family counseling. Training will continue with each of the six churches in this particular presbytery. It is anticipated that San Pablo Seminary where Don has taught for many years will open again in late August, and he asks for our prayers for this.

~submitted by Linda Copeland for the Missions Committee



Drs. Donald & Martha Wehmeyer  
(The Antioch Partners)



## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will resume meetings in September. We have all felt the need for renewal and Bible study together. The Daytime Circle will meet with Linda Copeland September 13 at the church at 12:30. The Evening Circle will meet at 7:00 P.M., September 13 at the home of Bunny Hayes, 245 Linden Dr.

All interested women are invited to attend either one of these meetings. In addition to the Bible study, we will discuss the organization of the circles. If anyone interested is not able to attend on this date, please call Karan Johnson (489-3456) or Linda Copeland (799-1306). We look forward to seeing you there and continuing our service in the name of Jesus through these wonderful groups.

~submitted by Bernadine Hayes



# GUEST COLUMN



## Seemingly Empty

Of course, as we all remember, our church congregation had been meeting in the fellowship hall for a while, as the Sanctuary was undergoing some repairs.

One of the problems at one time had been rainwater leaks. In fact, one stream had dripped down onto music next to the organ, causing those unsightly things which happen to paper whenever water and paper meet!

I think some water had even dripped into the area of the organ pipes; but fortunately, there has been no Sunday morning in which I recall hearing any "aqua notes" like those produced by those children's "warbly-water-bird-whistles" enjoyed by many of us in our youth (my youth also, which has long since receded in the rear-view mirror of time).

The rain which sometimes falls through the Oculus (roof opening) of the Roman Pantheon onto the decorative marble floor below is beautiful, indeed! But rain entering a building otherwise represents cumulative danger!

On the way to choir room practice one day, Ray Hayes suggested in a somewhat mischievous tone (you know Ray) that we "sneak" into the Sanctuary to see how the work was going.

It was a strange and silent sight! Thick, half-translucent, 2-3 Mil plastic sheets covered all of the pews! And something physically thicker than the ever-present Holy Ghost seemed to linger in the air: a fine plaster-paint-chip-dust. The scene spoke of long abandonment, though we knew it had only been a few weeks since we had worshipped there! I almost expected to see Miss Havisham's "Great Expectations" 'mummified' wedding cake covered in dust-caked plastic, a spider or two crawling within!

Just before leaving, my glance turned downwards (a beneficial habit for double-hip "replacement-ees"), and I saw the clearest tracked sneaker shoe print in that fine settled dust! I realized the print was mine, but the clarity of its treads in that particulate dust brought back memories of Life Magazine's 1969 pictures of astronauts' footprints on the moon.

My friend and I had trodden in a seemingly-empty place where parishioners would soon worship God again.

And I had remembered an other-worldly place where man briefly walked, a seemingly-empty, relatively tiny part of that whole universe spanned by God.

*~Submitted by J. Mack Williams*





Day School  
Summer School  
Exploring Mexico  
&  
Italy



# 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.

Aug. 2 Lois Hayes Room 45  
Roman Eagle Rehabilitation &  
Health Care  
2526 N. Main St.  
Danville, VA 24540

Aug. 9 Grace Litzenburg  
954 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

Aug. 16 Alice Bradshaw  
Colonial Suite  
Commonwealth Senior Living  
1111 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

Aug. 23 Fae Smith  
Brookdale Danville Piedmont  
149 Executive Dr.  
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, Susie Crews, or Kent Shelton.

# Prayer & Praise

**PASTORAL CONCERNS**— Pat Argyrakis, Chuck Ayuso (Gail & Doug Jones son-in-law), Fred Baker, Chuck Bolt, Amy Bracey, Gretchen Campbell (Pat A.), Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Janet Cutright (Barry Cutright's mother), Matthew Dolianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Ina Ingram, Linda Kile, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Charlotte Lowther, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Alexander Miller, Anderson Miller, Alice N. Saunders, Diane Shelton, Judy Small, (J. Rochford's sister), Mary Lou Snead, Debra Bolt Thompson, Easton Zunker (K. Meadows)

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

**OUR VIPs**—Chuck Bolt, Alice Bradshaw, Lib Cuttle, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Charlotte Lowther,

Grace Litzenberg, Fae Smith

**CAREGIVERS**

**THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

**THE PEOPLE OF TOGO**

## That's What Neighbors Do

Jo Ann Howard, President



Have you ever felt so excited that you were sure everyone could hear the rapid beating of your heart? Well, that's how I felt when Pastor Beth, on behalf of the congregation at First Presbyterian Church, offered us the use of their chapel! Their reason...**that's what neighbors do!**

To see the look of joy on each person's face when we had our first in-person service on June 25 was awesome. Our prayer books were in the pews, our candle sticks and wine cup were on the small table, and our portable ark and one Torah stood before us. The readings were even more meaningful, the singing was powerful and our Torah looked beautiful. This wonderful evening to welcome Shabbat happened because First Presbyterian Church congregants felt...**that's what neighbors do!**

We should also be reminded that our congregaton has extended our hand and offered the use of our sanctuary to both First Baptist and Ascension Lutheran Church when they were unable to be in their own houses of worship. Yes, we understand...**that's what neighbors do!**

Let's remember that no matter what beliefs might make us appear different, when there is a need for help or support let us extend our hands in friendship, because...**that's what neighbors do!**

~this article appeared in the Temple Beth Sholom newsletter



Our 50th Anniversary Year  
Fully Licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia

# First Presbyterian Day School

## Our Students:

**Four Year Olds:**  
Monday-FRIDAY  
9:00 - Noon



**Three Year Olds:**  
Tuesday-Thursday  
9:00 - Noon



**Two Year Olds:**  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 - Noon



## Our Staff:



Wonderfully committed staff  
with up to 15 years of service

REGISTER

NOW



937 Main Street  
Danville, Virginia  
703-7622 or (540) 293-8448  
enrollment@yahoo.com  
Call For Pricing



Spacious playground



Amazing Field Trips



Fun Activities

## There's More!



**Parents Morning Out**  
9:00 - 2:00 Mon. & Wed.

**Optional Lunch Bunch**  
Monday-Thursday  
12:00 - 2:00

**Early Bird Rate**  
Monthly for Early Drop-Off





# The Magic of Broadway

BROADWAY is coming to town. Under the direction of Gary J. Sullivan "The Magic of Broadway" will be presented at the First Presbyterian Church social hall at 937 Main Street in Danville on August 27, 28 at 7:00 p.m. and on August 29 at 2:00 p.m. The cast of 8 vocalists will serenade you with a variety of Broadway songs. This talented group of singers have been rehearsing for 6 weeks to bring you some of the most beloved songs from "Kiss me Kate", "Sound of Music", "Camelot", "My Fair Lady", "South Pacific", "Man ol LaMancha" and that long running Lloyd Webber masterpiece "Phantom of The Opera" as well as many others. Hum along with those show stopper ensemble numbers "Another Op'nin', Another Show", The Patriotic "Strike up The Band", "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "That's Entertainment." Come and walk "On The Street Where You Live" and "Grow Accustomed To Her Face" Feel the heart break of the clown in "Who Can I Turn To?"

Remember all of "My Favorite Things" as you relax in your chair with your "Impossible Dreams", and "Maybe This Time" you can "Ring Them Bells." Yes you "Will Remember It Well." Come and join the fun and listen to "The Music of The Night." All in all the cast will keep you entertained with 26 songs. The musical numbers will be staged and choreographed. The cast includes Beth Broschart, Madalyn Martin, Carolyn Smith, Jean Carol Vernon, Gary J. Sullivan, D Raul West, J. Mack Williams, and John Wilt. Robert Sutter will accompany the group. Tickets are \$10.00. To purchase tickets or for information call 434-792-5796. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.







## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DANVILLE

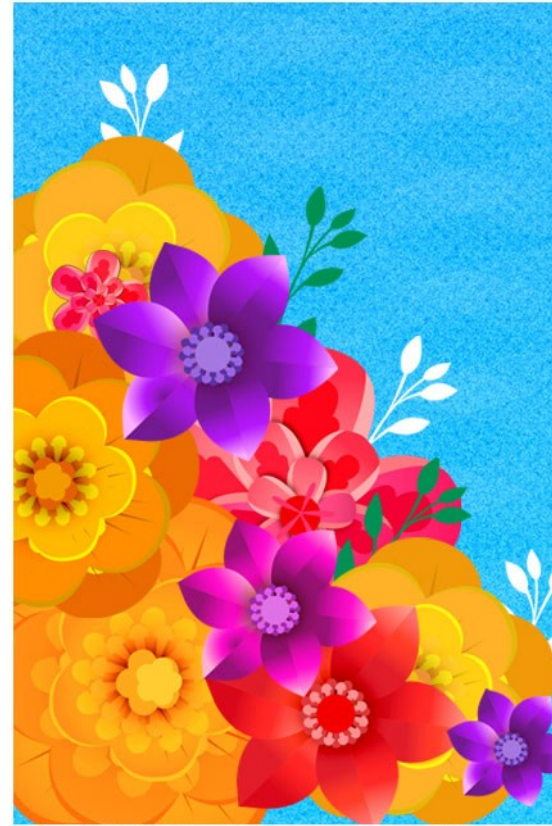
Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville.

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)



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CHURCH—DANVILLE

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