



# THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*  
408 N. Jefferson Avenue  
Pulaski, VA 24301

Editor & Layout: Doreen Latimer

Office: (540) 980-2132

E-mail: [firstprespulaskiva@gmail.com](mailto:firstprespulaskiva@gmail.com)

Web Site: [firstpresbyterianpulaski.org](http://firstpresbyterianpulaski.org)

Pastor: Rev. Melissa McNair-King

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Dear friends,

At the turn of another year, I continue to be thankful for all the ways that you serve God and one another at First Presbyterian Church. This is a community that is largely without “sideline” Christians – each of you lives out your faith on a daily basis, and each of you knows that you have a part to play in helping our church remain faithful to God. You are a church that says “yes”. You say “yes” to your neighbors in need. You say “yes” to opening your doors to others. You say “yes” when asked to serve as teachers, cooks, readers, servers, helpers.

At this time of year, I am especially thankful for those among us who are finishing up a term on the Session. Session members are spiritual leaders for our congregation – they commit to praying for the church, seeking God’s will, and making decisions. They chair committees for you; they run errands, and set up for receptions, and make phone calls, and attend presbytery meetings. They offer new ideas. Most of all, they study and pray, seeking to be faithful to Christ so that they can faithfully lead us.

Please join me in thanking these leaders who have served for the past three years: **Ashley Hale, John Hunter, Larry Latimer, and Dianne Wallace.**

With gratitude,

Melissa McNair-King

*NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN*

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, January 8th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be studying the fifth lesson of *Cloud of Witnesses: In Community with the Tradition of the Past*. Scripture for this lesson is Hebrews 3:1-6, 11. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

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From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, January 8th, 6:30 p.m. at Bella Pizzeria in Memorial Drive Shopping Center. Our service project for the month is the Women's Resource Center in Radford. Please bring one package of toilet paper or paper towels along with a few of the following needed items:

**Current Urgently Needed**

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

**Current Needed Items**

Juice

Coffee

Cereal

Creamer

Individual Snacks

Canned Fruit/Jars of Fruit/Fruit Packs

Pork & Beans

Pasta Sauce (with veggies and meat)

Ramen Noodles

Chef Boyardee Canned Pasta

Sugar

Chunky/Progresso Soups

Canned Meat

Deluxe Mac and Cheese

Baby Formula

Complete Pancake Mix

Vegetable Oil

Dry Milk

**Currently Not Needed are canned vegetables.**

All women of the church are encouraged and welcome to attend and join in Christian fellowship and service.

Presbyterian Women –

Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving



PW Year End Annual Report  
2017

First Presbyterian has two circles. The Day Circle has 9 active women from the church and Evening Circle has 8 active women with one participating in both circles making a total of 16 women. In the past year these women have accomplished the following:

- January: Items for the Warming Station were collected. Both Day and Evening Circle members met for fellowship and dinner at *Al's on First*.
- February: Blankets for *Project Linus* were made.
- March: Items for the *Women's Resource Center* were collected. Twelve plates of cookies for our shut-ins were delivered. Both Circles along with women from the congregation presented the worship service for the *Presbyterian Gifts of Women Sunday*. A few of our members participated in the *World Day of Prayer* observance.
- May: A few members participated in the *CWU Friendship Day*.
- October: Collected items needed to complete the bags for cancer patients as a part of *Pulaski Go Day*.
- November: Collected items for the *Children in Worship* bags. A few members participated in the *CWU World Community Day*.

Each Circle had an on-going Bible Study. Day Circle finished up the Presbyterian Women study of *Who Is Jesus* and started on *Cloud of Witnesses* on the book of Hebrews. Evening Circle is still using *Women Who Dare to Believe*.

A fund for replacing tablecloths that are used for different functions at the church was started. After extensive probing around the church by Dianne Wallace and Phyllis Vice, several tablecloths were found that had been "missed placed" and were found to be in very good condition. A recommendation was made that the "Tablecloth Replacement Fund" be used for any expenses that may come up to keep the cloths that were found clean.

Following is an account of the monies that were given in offerings:

\$528 Birthday Offering (including donations from the congregation)  
\$200 Presbyterian Disaster Relief  
\$ 50 Women's Resource Center  
\$ 50 Free Clinic  
\$ 50 Presbyterian Children's Home in Wytheville  
\$ 50 Presbyterian Women Mission Pledge  
\$928 Total

If a tally were done of the money given for items that were collected over the year, the total of giving would be well over \$1,000.

Respectfully Submitted  
Phyllis Vice, Moderator

## Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

We start off with a family dinner every Wednesday night! Following dinner, there are activities for all ages.

Plan to make Wednesday church nights a part of your regular routine! It is a special time of learning and growing together as a church family. The suggested "offering" for dinner is \$4/person or \$15/family. This is anonymous, and give-as-you-can. Everyone is welcome regardless.

Thank you to those who are serving in January:

Date	Cooking Team	Clean-Up Team	Adult Program
January 3	OFF	OFF	OFF – Happy New Year!
January 10	Chasity, Melissa, Julie	Joe, Michelle, Mary Catherine	Faith & Pop Culture
January 17	Dianne, Phyllis, Martha	Larry, Phyllis, Bernice	Faith & Pop Culture
January 24	Barry, Violet, Carla	Ernie, Barbara, Ashley	Faith & Pop Culture
January 31	Barry, Violet, Carla	Andy, Jessie, KD	Faith & Pop Culture

### In case of Inclement Weather:

We typically follow the decision of Pulaski County Public Schools – if they close for inclement weather, Wonderful Wednesdays does not meet.

Any cancellations of services or programs at First Presbyterian Church (for Wednesday evening or Sunday morning) will be announced in three ways:

1. **TV stations** (WSLS and WDBJ)
2. **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/FPCPulaski](http://www.facebook.com/FPCPulaski))
3. **Text message alerts.** To sign up for these messages, text @melissamk to the following number: 81010. You can also email Melissa and ask to be added to the list ([melissa.mcnair@yahoo.com](mailto:melissa.mcnair@yahoo.com)).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1st.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7:** We will have the joy of hosting nearly 50 youth during our regular worship service. These youth will be traveling home to Charleston, SC from a winter ski trip. They are from Dorchester Presbyterian Church (where Jeff Kackley is the pastor) and First Presbyterian Church, Charleston. Please give them a warm welcome. After worship, they will have a pizza lunch in the fellowship hall before completing the drive home. They have invited you to join them for lunch!

**YOUTH GROUP:** We'll have our annual Epiphany party on Sunday, January 7! Epiphany is the day we celebrate the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus. Join us from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Manse, and bring a "white elephant" gift to share! (Recycled, re-gifted, and silly items welcome; please spend no more than \$5 if you purchase something.)

**THE ELDERS FOR 2020** will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 14th. They are: Gene Holt, Chasity Stevens, Ron Walters and Joe Zagrapan. Chip King will be installed for the class of 2019.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** will be on Sunday, January 21st, following worship. This is to review the pastor's terms of call and hear from the finance committee.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS** to the church office for the February newsletter no later than Monday, January 22nd.

**IF YOU HAVE** pledged for 2018, please pick up your offering envelopes in the back of the sanctuary.

**FLOWERS:** The new calendar for 2018 is in the back of the sanctuary. Please select a special Sunday or Sundays and sign up to put flowers in our sanctuary. Fresh flowers add to our worship experience and are a wonderful way to glorify God and remember or honor people we love. You may order flowers from a florist and have them delivered or bring flowers from your garden and put them in a vase. If you need a vase, you can borrow one from the church. Also, please let Doreen in the church office know what wording you want in the bulletin by Wednesday of that week.



Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards, kind words of remembrance and well wishes during Barbara's illness and death. Your friendship and love during this time means a lot to me and I will cherish it always.

Sincerely,  
Bob Ingram



**CHECK IT OUT!**



According to the Presbyterian calendar, on January 18th a week of prayer begins for Christian Unity. Unity involves the understanding of one's own beliefs and an understanding of what others believe. Only by knowing what is different and concentrating on what is common ground can true unity be achieved. The following books in our church library may be a starting ground for your understanding and unity. They will be on display in the church parlor through the month of January. Check them out!

**230.5 GEA** Basic Beliefs of the Reformed Faith: A Biblical Study of Presbyterian Doctrine by Felix B. Gear.

**270 BAT** Protestant Background in History by J. Minton Batten

**270 LAN** Fire Upon the Earth: The Story of the Christian Church by Norman F. Lange

**270 THO** Trice Through the Ages: A History of the Christian Church by Ernest Thompson

**270.8 HUD** Coffee, Tea, and Holy Water: One Woman's Journey to experience Christianity around the Globe by Amanda Hudson - Somewhere between making cinnamon cappuccinos, coffee frappes, and chai smoothies, barista Amanda Hudson started pondering the great diversity of caffeine - and the even greater diversity in life, in the church, and in faith.

**274 OLS** Christianity and the Celts by Ted Olsen

**280 STU** How we got our Denominations: A Primer on Church History by Stanley I. Stuber.

**290 HAR** Popular Aspects of Oriental Religions by Louis O. Hartman.

**297.09 FUL** A World without Islam by Graham E. Fuller - The author guides us through history, geopolitics, and religion to investigate whether or not Islam is indeed the cause of some of today's international crises.

**CH 226.6 SMI** First to be Called Christians by Ethel L. Smither

**CH 270 BAI** The Church of our Fathers by Roland H. Bainton

**CH 285 LIL** I Will Build My Church by Amy Morris Lillie

If there is a book you would like to read from our church library but are unable to get it, give Phyllis Vice a call (980-3106) and she will be happy to get the book to you. To check out a book write your name and the date you are taking the book on the card that is in the pocket in the back of the book. Place the card on the black and white spotted box (the card catalog) on the shelf nearest to the windows.

December 2017

## THE CURRENT NEWS ON THE ARNDT'S MISSION IN KENYA:

### Tidings, Tinsel and Transitions!

On November 3rd, we celebrated God's incredible faithfulness as 19 pastors and church leaders graduated in Chronological Bible Storying of the New Testament. These students have worked incredibly hard and have been faithfully committed. Most of these students have been studying with us for the past two years. Seeing this class, and the unity that has formed because of it, gives us such excitement for what the Lord is doing in Kenya and in Loitokitok particularly. We look forward to witnessing how God continues to reveal His never ending love and faithfulness to and through His people.

Late last spring, we began praying about what God would have for us next, anticipating that our now graduated pastors and church leaders would be taking over leadership roles in CBS in three surrounding locations. As we reach this time of transition, we need your prayers as we help set up and establish these new classes and hand over the reins to this new group of leaders. In the process of transitioning out of Loitokitok, we looked and prayed about other ministry options in Kenya, but after a long season of discernment, we both feel a stronger call to return stateside to live and work in community ministry. While we are excited and filled with joy at this prospect, it also brings with it paralleled sadness, as Kenya has become our home and has lodged itself into our heart these nearly 3 and a half years.

Last month, Chase traveled to a refugee camp on the border of South Sudan to train pastors in Chronological Bible Storying there with a dear friend, and CBS partner, George Mixon. We also had the privilege of having a friend of ours, Drew Fitzpatrick, come down and teach our class about Bible translation. He introduced the need to translate the Bible into the heart languages of the people and to get it in their hands in a timely way. Chase enjoyed teaching in Kakuma with George and Benson (despite the heat!) and it was a privilege to have Drew down in our area as well.

December 3rd-7th, we hosted a youth camp at the A.I.C. Girls Secondary campus. There were 37 youth in total (ranging from ages 14-28), most of them being from Ngong area. Pastor Benson and his church have been dear to us since first coming to Kenya in 2008. Chase told stories from the book of Daniel, there were devotions, hiking, movies, team competitions, discussion groups, meals, and of course many cups of chai. There was plenty of laughter and rain to go around, and we thank God for both!

Exciting news!!! The Arndt family is now expanding from TWO to THREE! That's right folks, BABY ARNDT is coming late April 2018. By God's grace, we're learning to hold both immense joy and sadness together as we experience these transitions. As excited as we are to be near our families

and friends during this time, it does make us sad that our friends here won't meet baby Arndt as they will have walked through almost the entire pregnancy with us, and are a tremendous part of our lives as well. However, we do trust and look forward to the day that God will bring us together again in his faithful time. We know that God understands the depth of both of these emotions and more in our hearts. Please continue to pray for us through these emotions and transitions into our reentry stateside. And be on the lookout for the next newsletter in February about ways you can support us during reentry into the states.

Thanks to God and you all we enough funds in our account to end our time here well without any more giving, so we wanted to let each of you know you can stop your giving with us and find another place God is calling you to use it for His glory. We so appreciate everything you have done for us!

Each of you are vital to this mission and vision. Thank you for partnering with us!

Surrounded by His grace,  
Audrey & Chase  
[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)





**DATE:**

**LAY READERS:**

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:**

**1/7/18**

Gene Holt

Doreen Latimer

**1/14/18**

Allison Hunter

Violet Nash

**1/21/18**

Barry Long

Karen Payne

**1/28/18**

Jordan Phillips

Barbara Roberson