



# THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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NO. 586

JULY 2016

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This prayer was composed by Rev. Laurie Ann Kraus, Associate Mission Director for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, in light of the shooting that took place on June 12 in Orlando, Florida. May it bring you peace and comfort. May it challenge us all to spread love even in the face of hatred.

Once again, Holy One, we cry, *how long, O Lord?* We wonder, *when will it be enough?* We pray you will forgive our society which tolerates violence, our fearful xenophobia, and our willingness to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to words and deeds of intolerance. Your LGBTQ people slaughtered in this horrific attack are our brothers, our sisters, our parents and our children, and this loss of life diminishes all the human family. The same lifeblood—the gift of a loving God—flows through all our veins, and spills out without regard to difference, staining the floors of our places of fellowship, community, and learning; staining our lives with sorrow, fear and regret. Let the same heart beat as one among us, that we will draw together across these false divides, and rise up as one to breathe peace where there is no peace, and heal our communities and our world.

God of life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance, as the sound of gunfire echoes across Orlando, we seek the grounding power of your love and compassion. We open our hearts in anger, sorrow and hope: For those who have been lost: brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends. Your children, enjoying an evening of music and friendship, whose lives were ended or maimed in a hail of hatred and gunfire. We pray for those who have been spared and those whose lives are changed forever, that they may find solace, sustenance, and strength in the hard days to come.

We give thanks for first responders: who ran toward gunfire, rather than away, who dropped everything to save the wounded and comfort survivors. We pray for doctors and nurses and mental health providers, who repair what has been broken, who bring healing and hope in the face of the unchecked principalities and powers of violence.

God of the rainbow, once long ago, you stretched your light across the heavens to renew your covenant of peace with your people, you promised not to destroy. Help us in these days to believe that promise, and to participate in it, and to treasure the life which it treasures. In the wake of an event that should be impossible to contemplate, but which has become all too common in our experience, open our eyes, break our hearts, and turn our hands to the movements of your Spirit, that our anger and sorrow may unite in service to build a reign of peace, where the lion and the lamb may dwell together, and terror no longer hold sway over our common life. In the name of Christ, our healer and our Light, we pray, Amen.

## *NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN*

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Around \$280 was collected for the PW Birthday Offering. We thank everyone who supported this project.

The Synod PW Coordinating Team is proposing a change in the bylaws that will be voted upon during the Business Meeting at the Synod PW Summer Gathering at Massanetta Springs. The letter sent out by Theresa Underwood, Moderator of the Presbytery of the Peaks is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read what she has to say. An e-mail of support to her view has been sent to her.

The 2016-2017 PW Bible study looks to be very interesting. The study is entitled *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*, written by Judy Yates Siker. Over the nine lessons we will be looking at what Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, Hebrews, Non-canonical Gospels, other Abrahamic Faiths and Contemporary Cultural Interpretations have to say about who Jesus is. The study books are \$8 or \$12 for large print. If anyone is interested in having a copy ordered, see Phyllis Vice.

Both PW circles will not be meeting through the summer.



Presbyterian Women –

Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

**CONGRATULATIONS to Kim Webster!** On May 10, 2016, the Town Council for the Town of Pulaski adopted a "Resolution of Appreciation to Kim Webster For Her Service to the Citizens of the Town of Pulaski". Kim has been a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church and a servant to the town of Pulaski for many years. We are proud to claim her as our own!

**COMMUNION** will be served on Sunday, July 3rd.

**SESSION MEMBERS** hosting the after worship fellowships in July are:

July 3rd: no brunch

July 10th: Mary Catherine Williams

July 17th: Martha Moody

July 24th: Archie Boothe, Larry Latimer

July 31st: John Hunter



**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on Monday, July 4th.

**CAMP PEAKS:** New Dublin Presbyterian Church will host a day camp, July 4-8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 4-12. Worship, music, crafts, games, campfires, and hikes. Come explore God's amazing creation. Call 674-6147 or 307-5084 for more information or to register.

**THE YMCA OF PULASKI** has launched the "NoKidHungry Initiative" this summer! The Y is serving free dinners for children age 18 and under all summer long. Up to 50 children can be fed each weeknight. Volunteers are needed for this program Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to help prep, serve and clean-up as well as offering enrichment activities. First Presbyterian Church will be volunteering **July 5 - 8 (Tuesday - Friday)** for this important mission to the children of our community. Please speak with Ashley Hale or Melissa McNair-King if you would like to be part of the team on one or more nights. If you would like to volunteer, but are unavailable July 5 - 8, call Allison Hunter at the YMCA (980-3671) to see what opportunities are available!



**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS** to the church office for the August newsletter no later than Monday, July 18th.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL:** Join us on Wednesday, July 27th, from 7 - 8 p.m. for an ice cream social! Bring a favorite ice cream or topping to share. We will enjoy tasty treats and "Olympic" themed games. The First Presbyterian Olympics are designed for ALL ages and physical ability levels.

**THE ADULT CHOIR** will be taking a well deserved break during the summer. If you or anyone you know has a talent to share during the summer worship services see Mardia Long or Phyllis Vice.



## CHECK IT OUT!



Do you consider yourself an open minded person? What genre of books do you read? Only mysteries? Historical fiction? Biographies? Christian fiction? Non-fiction? Science? Religious? We all have our favorite but to have a truly open mind we need to stretch it beyond our favorite type of reading material and venture into uncharted words. Stretch your mind this summer. The following books will be on display in the church parlor. Check them out!

**133.9 BUR** Heaven is for real: A little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back by Todd Burpo - This true story, retold by his father but using Colton's uniquely simple words, offers a glimpse of the world that awaits us.

**221.92 GUR VOL. I** Women who dare to Believe: Mothers, Sisters, Daughters of God by Nan Gurley and Bonnie Keen - This is a cutting edge Bible study focusing on women in Scripture who walked in courage and pushed against their culture to take their place in the unfolding plan of God.

**236.9 MOR** Eyewitness News: A Visit with a Visionary by Dale Lindsey Morgan - A dramatization of an interview with John, the writer of Revelation.

**236.9 ROS** Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today by Barbara R. Rossing.

**248.2 GRO** The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living as if He doesn't exist by Craig Groeschel - The author gives an honest hard-hitting look into the ways people believe in God but live as if He doesn't exist.

**272 FOX** Foxe's Christian Martyrs by John Foxe - Newly updated in today's language and abridged, this work of Foxe shares the amazing stories of faith under fire - of Christians persecuted to the point of death.

**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.

**640 BIA** Green Mama: The guilt-free Guide to helping you and your kids save the Planet by Tracey Bianchi - The author offers creative tips and spiritual inspiration to help you make wise environmental choices in your community, at the office, and during ordinary afternoons at home.

**823.9 BRO** Inside the Voyage of the Dawn Treader: A Guide to exploring the journey beyond Narnia by Devin Brown - The author takes you through "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" chapter by chapter, offering comments and opinions and uncovering the work's rich meanings.

**FIC MIL** Long Time Coming by Vanessa Miller - The lives of two women intersect. One cannot have children, the other has three, but is dying of cancer. Neither woman expects the blessings God has in store for them.

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.

May 2016

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

### Life on the farm

Greetings family and friends! We hope this finds each and every one of you well. We have had an exciting month with work on the french bean farm, pastor trainings, finishing up our school work for the semester, and new developments with work and friends in Loitokitok. Our leader training programs in the schools went very well. We have finished the first semester with our students and adjusted our program to a longer monthly session from a weekly one. This way the students have a longer, uninterrupted time to fellowship and learn the Bible stories! It has been humbling to teach these girls and see them start to process the Word of God in a new and deeper way than they have before. We are also exploring the opportunity of doing some leadership training in another area school soon.

Our pastors' trainings in Chronological Bible Storying have taken off better than we could have ever thought. We have been training three leaders to assist with the class on Wednesdays, and on Fridays they help us teach a class of around 20-27 pastors on any given week. Then on Sundays we have been able to visit the pastors' churches one by one to observe them teach/preach and give feedback to help them in their individual circumstances. So far we have covered thirteen of the Bible Stories covering from creation all the way to Joseph (the whole book of Genesis). We look forward to seeing how the pastors will use this training to grow our local community.

We also will be working for two weeks with a youth camp called Blue Sky again this summer. Blue Sky is a youth camp for third culture kids as well as youth who may not have had any introduction to the gospel before. We will be assisting with Bible Studies, watching over cabins, and take part in all sorts of fun games over those couple of weeks!

The farm project for beans, Olchamba le Mpirs (Garden of Grace), has had some challenges at the start but we are excited for our next harvest. Our first harvest for the first acre was very small (463 kgs) due to drought, water cost, managing workers, and lack of inputs to the soil. However, we have adjusted all those steps and the second acre is doing very well. We are hoping that this second acre will yield around 3 tons.

All profits generated from this farm will be used for partial scholarships and helps for educational needs in the community. Workers are families from the community with educational needs. Currently we have selected three families to work on the farm and their salaries go directly toward their child's school fees. We also have given partial scholarships to four students to help supplement the high cost of school here. Three are in high school and one is in a local teacher's college. We have

a few partners with us in this farm project to help us off set start up cost and provide initial scholarships until the farm starts to generate revenue and I would like to thank each of them for their contributions. To find out more about how you can contribute or participate with this project please email me at chasevarndt@gmail.com.

In the days ahead, it seems that Chronological Bible Storying and the farm project will be Audrey's and my primary mission. With monthly workshops with schools, pastors' trainings twice a week, church visits and preaching, sharing and training community members, we are excited about the accessibility and ease with which we can share the gospel and grow together with our friends. We also are exploring some new ways we can help in development of CBS materials and trainings with the group that helps facilitate most of these trainings in Kenya. Please pray with us as this develops!

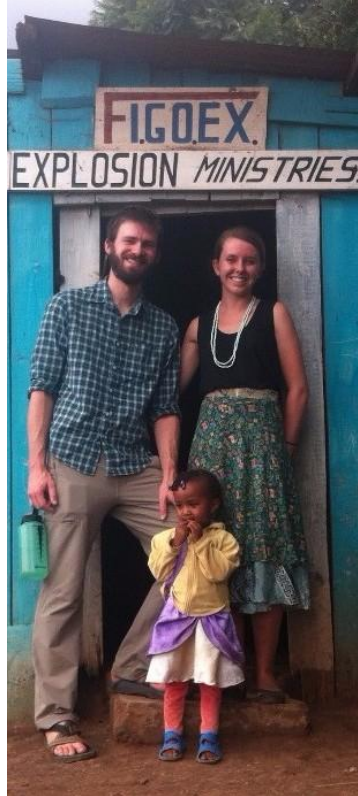
**Prayer Requests:**

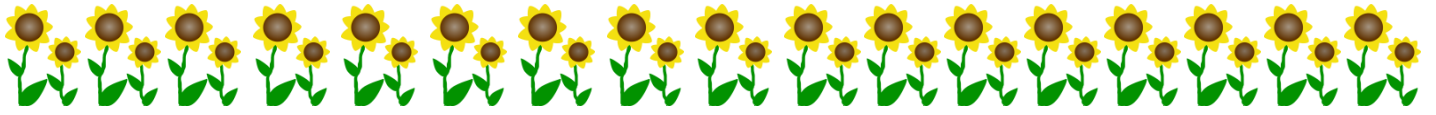
Thank each and every one of you for your prayers. We would like to ask your continued prayer for these things in the month ahead:

- Pray for the french bean farm project as we try to increase our yield.
- Pray for our time at Blue Sky, that we would encourage the staff and students attending.
- Pray for Audrey and her developing friendship with a local female evangelist, Jane. Jane has expressed interest in the CBS method, so Audrey plans to begin meeting her at her local shop to spend time together.
- Pray for continued development of new relationships in our community. We are starting to feel a part of the community and we are grateful for your prayers in this area!
- Pray that the pastor trainings will cause authentic spiritual growth in the pastors' churches and in their pastoring.
- Pray for us as we begin to brainstorm and hopefully develop some new topical materials that integrate the CBS method.
- Pray for our financial support and ways each of you might be called to partner and be a part of our mission here in Kenya among the Maasai.

Each of you are a vital piece to this mission and vision and we thank God for you. Thank you for partnering with us!

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





**DATE:**

**LAY READERS:**

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:**

**7/3/16**

Chasity Stevens

Violet Nash

**7/10/16**

Chris Stevens

Karen Payne

**7/17/16**

Phyllis Vice

Barbara Roberson

**7/24/16**

Ernie Wallace

Allie Phillips

**7/31/16**

Tom Haller

Peg Vaughan