



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

Web Site: firstpresbyterianpulaski.org

Pastor: Rev. Melissa McNair-King

NO. 597

JUNE 2017

Dear friends,

Over the last year, your Session has been in a period of discernment about how to most faithfully follow God's call for First Presbyterian Church. This is an ongoing goal, and it is the Session's most important responsibility at all times – to seek God's will for this church, and strive to respond in faith.

We want your help as we move forward! It is our goal over the summer months to connect with every single church member. A member of Session will be contacting you, and asking you to share your thoughts about these two questions:

1. When in your life have you felt the sense of deepest connection to God and/or to a church community? What was happening during that time in your life and in the life of the church?
2. What is one wish/hope/dream you have for the future of our church, and how might you play a role in seeing that dream come to fruition?

I hope when you get that phone call, you will be willing to meet in person and share your memories, your hopes, and your vision. I am proud to be linking arms with you all, as we strive to follow Christ together.

Peace,

Melissa McNair-King

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, June 12th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse, for the ninth and final lesson on *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*. Background scripture is Matthew 15:21-28 and Luke 10:38-42. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

The PW ladies are in the process of replacing the worn out tablecloths used for the different functions at the church. Funds for the project will be gladly accepted. If you are interested in contributing to the cost of replacing these linens, gifts can be given to Violet Nash, our PW treasurer.

Night Circle's next meeting will be in September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

WELCOME TO THE WORLD twins, Genevieve Sharon Chapman and Elena Doreen Chapman born on May 8, 2017 to Jeff and Angela Chapman. The proud grandparents are Larry and Doreen Latimer.

COMMUNION will be served on Sunday, June 4th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES will be suspended during the summer months. Starting June 4th, there will be no Sunday School and worship will be at 10 a.m. The first Sunday of fellowship gatherings following worship at 10 a.m. will be June 4th. Session members hosting the after worship fellowships in June are:

June 4th: Relay for Life pancake breakfast brunch

June 11th: Chris Utt

June 18th: Ashley Hale, Kathy Weddle

June 25th: Larry Latimer



PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS to the church office for the July newsletter no later than Monday, June 19th.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: There will be an ice cream social on Wednesday, June 28th, at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite ice cream or topping to share. Come and enjoy some ice cream and fellowship.

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.

Thank you to our entire church family for the prayers, kind words, cards, and other expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

We love you all,
The Family of Chris Stevens

Relay for Life Update - May 2017

Thanks to all for supporting the 2017 Relay for Life / American Cancer Society after-church fund raisers. On Sunday, June 4, the Relay Team will complete this year's fund raising with a Pancake Brunch. All the food for these after church meals are donated by the Relay team and church members and all the donations received go directly to the American Cancer Society. We received about \$501 from our previous spaghetti lunch. This brings our overall donations to about \$1,700 this year.

The church Relay for Life team is planning one more after-church lunch this spring on June 4 - a Pancake-Breakfast Brunch. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, cheesy eggs and fruit. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event. In addition to a suggested \$5 donation for this meal, larger donations will be accepted of any amount including \$10 donations for luminaria honoring cancer survivors and in memory of those who have battled cancer.

This year's Relay for Life event will be held at the Pulaski County High School stadium on Saturday, June 24, from 10:00 am to midnight. This year's theme is *When We Wish Upon a Cure*. There are many Disney themed activities throughout the day planned for all ages. A schedule of Relay events will be included in the June 18 church bulletin. The Relay Team will also set up a booth at this year's Relay event. Please contact team captain, Martha Moody, for more information. Again thanks to all for supporting Relay for Life!

2 Cents-A-Meal Update

The May 7 donations for the 2 Cents a Meal program totaled \$95.50. This brings our total donations to about \$530 thus far in 2017. For many years the Pulaski Daily Bread has received 2 Cents a Meal grant funding provided by this program of the Presbytery of the Peaks Hunger Action committee. 2 Cents a Meal Presbytery grant funding received by the Daily Bread is expected to be over \$1,500 in 2017.

Montreat Worship and Music Conference

June 18 to 23, 2017

Come and Join Us!

Come and join us for a week of fellowship and relaxation in the mountains of western North Carolina! We still have 5 bedrooms available and can accommodate 10 or 11 more people for this conference.

For over 20 years our church has rented the Hickory Lodge in Montreat, NC for the 1st week of the annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference. This lodge is located in very close proximity to the Anderson Auditorium, where daily worship services are held during the conference. The Lodge is about a 5 minute walk to the Anderson Auditorium and all choir classes and other seminar lectures and classes which are in nearby buildings.

We now have only about ten persons planning to attend this conference. This includes our pastor Melissa and Daniel. But, we still have room to accommodate ten or more people. Most have registered to participate in choir and other classes, but you do not have to register to enjoy the conference and some good fellowship. The daily worship services are open to all in Montreat. This year's conference theme is Then Sings My Soul.

The conference concludes with a Friday evening concert which the adult choir (typically over 600 members) and the children's, middle school, and senior high school choirs participate along with several hand- bell choirs. A Tuesday evening talent show, Wednesday evening hymn sing, and Thursday evening performance by the adult and high-school Chamber choirs are highlights of the week at Montreat. (All of these events do not require registration to attend.)

We have the lodge rented for Sunday night, June 18 through Friday night June 23, returning to Pulaski on Saturday June 24. But, you do not need to stay for the entire week if you would like to come to Montreat for a shorter visit. The group takes turns preparing the evening meals and we eat very well all week for less than \$30 per person (including breakfast and lunch and dinner each day). Beds are available in two person rooms for \$175 per person for the entire week.

Please contact Mardia Long or Phyllis Vice for more information about this year's Montreat Worship and Music conference.

For many who return each year, Montreat is a special place where their faith is strengthened and their spirit is renewed.

ilomon le Kenya

The current news on the Arndt's Mission in Kenya

May 2017

Quickly Moving

The year is quickly moving along! We're surprised we are already entering "summertime", although it means a colder, cloudier time for us here. There hasn't been consistent rain yet, but we do need it and many others depend on it for their crops and livelihood. Pray that we would have a successful rainy season, with a few sunny days sprinkled throughout. It's a challenge, to Audrey especially, to go many weeks without the sunshine, but we are ever grateful for rain and how it refreshes and nourishes the farms and gardens nearby.

The chicken project is continuing to go well. Recently, we bought another group of chickens, now totaling 180. The first group of chickens should be laying eggs soon so we'll be sure to report back once we have fresh eggs! Also in the way of projects we are happy to note that with the help of some friends and supporters, we have been able to begin a small loan/community project with a local business man to dig a well for an area that has been severely lacking water. The well is located on five acres that the business man owns and will farm to help repay the loan portion, while with the community water portion (which was a gift from supporters) the community will be able to fetch very affordable water at 5 cents per 20 liters, almost a fourth of what they are currently spending to find water in far areas. We have also leased the 5 adjacent acres so that we can try to farm for ourselves again using this same water to help the community with projects and school fees.

This year, we've also begun two other CBS programs in the area with local youth. One is in a local high school and another is in a technical school in Loitokitok. The students are engaged and seem to really be enjoying the activities and stories. Recently, the Thorntons and the Masts were able to participate and help us to lead some of these youth groups. Audrey has begun counseling with two Kenyan girls within these school systems as well. It is going well, but is a new challenge since there are no family services or outside resources available for further therapy and support for families in crisis. Please pray for wisdom for how to best help there.

Audrey will also be working at Tumaini Counseling Centre for two weeks in June which is in Karen, outside of Nairobi for a [Restore Retreat](#). Tumaini is a huge support to missionaries in need of counseling, as being a missionary and living in a different culture involves so many different emotional transitions and new challenges.

We had a great visit with Michael and Cassie who were with us until nearly the end of April. Having the Thorntons nearby was a huge gift of encouragement. As you've probably guessed, it's hard to explain what our day to day lives are like and the small challenges that result from living in a different culture. It always

means so much for people we love to experience it too. We are grateful to be living and working here and knowing that people have an idea of our lives brings much comfort to our hearts!

Prayer Requests:

Thank you for your prayers. We would like to ask your continued prayer for these things in the months ahead:

- Pray with us as we discern the future of our time serving in Kenya and about extending our time beyond our original three year commitment
- Pray for Audrey as she uses her counseling to care for students and for her time at the Restore Retreat near Nairobi (June 19-30th)
- Pray for our income generating and community projects and for wisdom on how to structure them for the maximum help and success
- Pray for our continued language development, especially in Swahili (one of Kenya's national languages)
- Pray for continued unity and strength in our local leadership with CBS and for additional leaders to come alongside of us from within the class so that the course will be sustained



DATE:

6/4/17

6/11/17

6/18/17

6/25/17

LAY READERS:

Ernie Wallace

Joe Zagraban

Tom Haller

Gene Holt

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

Communion

Violet Nash

Karen Payne

Barbara Roberson