



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

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Friends,

Several years ago, Andy and I attended a conference in Dallas, TX. One of the speakers was talking about the relationship between “presbytery” and “congregations” – and it was not always positive. This pastor was meeting with a group of colleagues, and they were all moaning and scratching their heads, listing the ways that “presbytery” fails to live up to its calling. It doesn’t do enough for small churches; it doesn’t hold ministers accountable the way it should; the meetings are just another chore. The list could go on...

But then the conversation changed. Together, these friends realized that – in fact – THEY were the “presbytery.” Just like a church is not defined by a building, but rather the people in it – the presbytery is defined by its members. So the leader of the conference invited all of us there to chant with her: “We *are* the presbytery...we *are* the presbytery...” And just as we all started to feel empowered to BE the change we wish to see – “we *are* the presbytery!” – she dropped it. “Shucks,” she said¹. Because it’s hard to be the change we wish to see. Sometimes we’d rather if someone else could do it. But in fact, we – First Presbyterian Church – are the presbytery. We are sharing this Christian journey with other Presbyterians throughout Southwest Virginia and across the country. We pool our resources for mission and education; we share ideas; we make decisions for our life together – about what the Church ought to be and how we can best witness to Christ.

Some of you know that our presbytery – Peaks Presbytery – is in a time of transition. Our most recent General Presbyter has recently retired, and we have a transitional leader – Rev. Carl Utley. Carl wants to meet you and hear from you – how is God at work at First Presbyterian Church, or in Pulaski? What makes you proud to be part of this church? What could we do differently? You are the presbytery. It takes all of us to make the presbytery what it ought to be: a community of support, accountability, partnership, and mission. Hope you will join the conversation! Make plans to be at church on **Sunday, October 1**, when we will greet Carl Utley in worship and join in a potluck lunch to follow.

In Christ,

Melissa McNair-King

¹ She said something else.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, October 9th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be studying lesson 2 *Cloud of Witnesses: In Community with the Living God*. Scripture background for this lesson is: Hebrews 1:1-4; Exodus 3:1-7, 19:16-25; Hebrews 12:18-24, 8:10 and Jeremiah 31:31-34. All are welcome to join us. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship time after the meeting.

Looking ahead: Church Women United will be observing *World Community Day* on Friday, November 3rd. More information will be forthcoming. Save the date.

First Presbyterian Women wish to thank all who gave so generously to the church-wide PW Birthday Offering back in May. We sent in a check for \$528 to be joined with all the offerings from across the Presbyterian Women church-wide to help support *The Family Justice Center* In Georgetown and Horry Counties of South Carolina, *Navajo Water Project* in New Mexico and *First Hand Aid* in Cuba.

From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, October 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Manse. Phyllis Vice will continue to lead us in the lesson of Today's Heroine: Mary, Part Two, Page 158, Volume II, *Women Who Dare To Believe*.

Our service project will be to support the First Presbyterian Church site in completing needed items stuffing bags for cancer patients as part of "Pulaski Go Day".

Our meal theme is pumpkin, spice and everything nice. Bring your favorite pumpkin, fall spiced or fall dish. Drinks will be provided.



Presbyterian Women –
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

WORLD COMMUNION Sunday is October 1st.

YOUTH NEWS:

- The youth group will be serving as the Cooking Team for Wonderful Wednesday on October 11. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at **4:30 p.m.** to help cook. If you have a great idea for dinner or dessert, please speak with Melissa!
- Friday, October 13: School's out! Join Melissa at Noon for lunch out at Bella's (new location near Magic Mart).

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS to the church office for the November newsletter no later than Monday, October 16th.



CHECK IT OUT!



Pastor Melissa has been leading us in a study of Romans on Wonderful Wednesdays. If you would like to delve deeper, the following books are in our church library and will be on display in the church parlor through October.

227.1 BAR The Letter to the Romans by William Barclay - Translated with an introduction and interpretation by William Barclay

227.1 FOR Letter of Paul to the Romans / First and Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians by Kenneth J. Foreman

225.9 STA Life of St. Paul by James Staker

225.92 POL The Apostle: A Life of Paul by John Charles Pollock

225.92 ROL Personalities around Paul: Men and Women who helped or hindered the Apostle Paul by Holmes Rolston

If you were unable to be a part of the *Waking Up White* book study group over the summer, but wish you had been able to join and would like to read the book that was discussed, the church library, through the generosity of Lil Haller, now has a copy. The book will be on display with the others above in the church parlor for the month of October. Check them out!

305.8 IRV *Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving - The author tells her story of how growing up white and privileged is also a part of the race story in the United States and how one "aha" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.

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.

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

This year, we will continue our tradition of family dinners on Wednesday nights. Following dinner, the children will have time for choir. The adults will have Bible study with Melissa McNair-King, centered around the book of Romans.

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 October:

Date	Cooking Team	Clean-Up Team	Program
October 4	Ron, KD, Pam	Andy, Jessie, KD	God's wrath and righteousness (Romans 1:18-4:25)
October 11	Youth Group	Joe, Michelle, Mary Catherine	Life with God (Romans 5-7)
October 18	Chili Cooks*	Larry, Phyllis, Bernice	Chili Cook-off!
October 25	Bruce & Dave	Ernie, Barbara, Ashley	Ultimate Hope (Romans 8)

Chili Cook-off! Join us for our 6th Annual Cook-off.

The competition is fierce! Only ONE cook has been crowned the winner twice.

Previous winners include: Barry Long, Bonnie Spivey, Chasity Stevens (twice), and Dianne Wallace

*If you would like to make a pot of chili, please speak with Julie or Melissa.

This is a fundraiser for Relay for Life, and you will "vote" with your cash (or check)! Each pot of chili will have a collection jar next to it. You'll vote for your favorite(s) by placing \$\$ in the jar! You can vote for more than one.

Let's eat and enjoy one another for a good cause!



DATE:

10/1/17

10/8/17

10/15/17

10/22/17

10/29/17

LAY READERS:

Tom Haller

Gene Holt

Allison Hunter

Larry Latimer

Barry Long

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

Communion

Violet Nash

Karen Payne

Barbara Roberson

Peg Vaughan