



February 2017

The First News

First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro, Georgia

Note from the Pastor

Dear FPC,

The Apostle Paul did this in nearly every one of his letters: he expressed deep thanks for the people with whom he served. Here's just a sampling of the words he used:

“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus...” (1 Corinthians 1:4)

“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.” (Romans 1:8)

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1: 3-5)

I'm no Paul, of course. But I borrow his words to try to give voice to my own profound sense of gratitude for all of you, the saints of First Presbyterian Church. I'm thankful you've been given grace by God, just like the people of Corinth. I see this grace here in countless ways, from your welcoming of children to your care for the grieving. I see your strong faith as well – another gift from God – which comes to you in the same way it came to the people of Rome long ago: through the trusting of God and one another, the looking to tomorrow with hope. I saw this faith this past weekend in our Session retreat, as leaders planned for the future of our church, and I see it every time we take on a new ministry, project, or task. You really believe that God is working among us. For this I'm incredibly thankful.

Finally, like the people of Philippi, you have chosen to “share in the gospel” in a most impressive way this year. Make no mistake – Paul is speaking of *financial support* when he uses these terms. The church in every age has required the material generosity of its members to answer God's call in the world. In fact, that very generosity is in itself an aspect of God's call; we're called to give freely and generously, whether the church needs it or not. You all have done amazingly well in this regard lately (see Joe Franklin's summary of the details on page 5). You have answered the call to share in the good work of this church family, and because of this we are now enabled to make confident plans for the future here at FPC!

I hope you will continue to do this as we move forward into 2017. The future of gospel ministry is bright for a community that lives in such grace, growing into faith, and sharing in all God calls us to together. It brings to mind one last little snippet from Paul...

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

Keep up the good work, and keep the faith!

Dan

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Wednesday Night Supper

Join us for food and fellowship on Wednesday nights! Supper begins at 5:45 p.m. Please make reservations by completing the insert in your Sunday bulletin or contacting the church office at (912) 681-2053 or office@fpcstatesboro.org. The deadline for reservations is 12:00 p.m. the Monday prior.

February 1st

fried chicken
 mashed potatoes
 & gravy
 green beans
 salad & rolls
 dessert

February 8th

chopped steak & gravy
 chicken fingers (kids only)
 butter beans
 rice
 salad & rolls
 dessert

February 15th

fried chicken
 mashed potatoes
 & gravy
 green beans
 salad & rolls
 dessert

February 22nd

No Wednesday Night
 Supper & Programs

March 1st

baked ham, chicken fingers (kids only), butter beans
 macaroni n' cheese, salad, rolls and dessert



**Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch
 Sunday, February 5th
 Immediately Following Worship**

Make plans to join us immediately following Worship on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th! The youth and their families, along with other FPC friends, will provide a variety of soups & desserts for lunch...The youth have chosen Rebecca's Café as their charity for proceeds. This is a great event for our whole church family to enjoy! For more information, visit souperbowl.org.

Backpack Buddies

FPC now provides backpacks for 33 children in our community! Please continue to donate items from our shopping list so that we can keep our cupboard stocked! Place all donation items in the basket outside of CE Office. Thank you for your continued support!

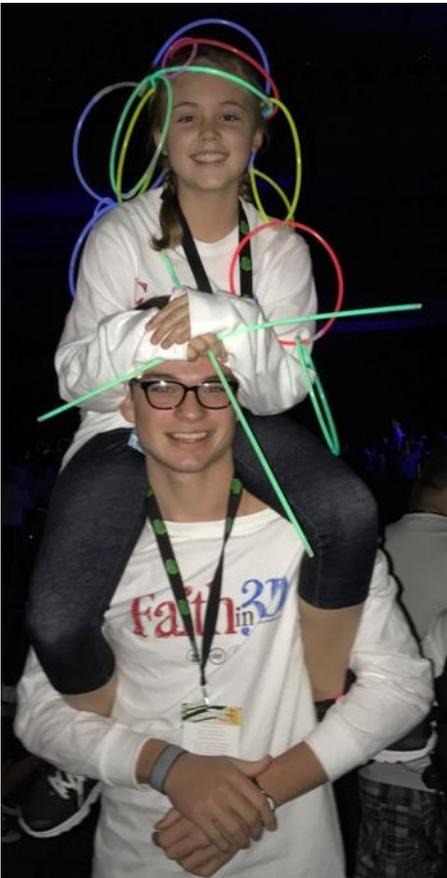
Backpack Buddies Shopping List:

small jars of peanut butter, fruit cups, Chef Boyardee meals, soups, individual packages of grits and oatmeal, small boxes of cereal, cereal bars, cups of applesauce, easy macaroni n' cheese, noodle packs, Vienna sausages, 100% juice boxes, packs of sandwich crackers, healthy snacks (raisins, fruit roll-ups, fruit snacks, trail mix, pudding cups, etc.)



Youth Spaghetti Lunch Sunday, March 26th

Please join us for our Youth Spaghetti Lunch fundraiser to be held immediately following Worship on Sunday, March 26th. All proceeds will go toward funding youth programs and activities. The cost is \$8 per plate, which includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread & pound cake. Tickets will go on sale soon! For more information, contact Susan Parrish at susan@fpcstatesboro.org. We will also have a dessert auction!



Update on Youth Trip to Faith in 3D from Jamie Copeland

We had a blast at "Faith in 3D" at Disney World over the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. We learned about diversity throughout our world and how to put our Faith into action to further God's kingdom by loving each other, even though we may be different. We discovered unity comes from God's Grace and Love, a lesson Dr. King shared so many times.

We also rode a few rides and said hello to some Disney characters!

Thanks to everyone who made this trip possible! It was a great trip and bonding time for everyone!



Session Highlights – January 15, 2017

Session Members Welcome Class of 2019 Ruling Elders – Session members welcomed new Elders, Brett Curry, Matt Gerig, Ann Henderson and Frank McDonald, to the first Session meeting of 2017. Ordained and installed on January 8th, they have been found ready for service to First Presbyterian Church and more broadly, to God's work in the world.

Session approved the following: Approval of the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session, December 18, 2016 Approval of the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting, January 8, 2017 to approve the changes to the terms of call for Pastor Dan. From the Christian Education Committee - Approval of Help, Thanks, Wow: Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott for young women's Bible study From the Worship Committee - Permission to move the tablecloths presently stored in the sacristy cupboard to different location. Request for membership transfer to Calabash Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sunset Beach, NC from Abe and Cindy Glover.

Elder Commissioner Elected for the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on Friday, February 17 at First Presbyterian Church of Brunswick. Having grown up in First Presbyterian Church of Brunswick, Elder Frank McDonald was unanimously elected to represent our church at the Stated Presbytery Meeting.

Session Retreat Planned for Saturday, January 28 – Pastor Dan reminded Session members of the on-site retreat planned for Saturday, January 28 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Many topics were presented and elders were encouraged to reflect on them and come to the meeting with ideas for action. Elders plan to discuss priorities for the year to come and narrow them down to the top 2-3 for our work this coming year. The retreat is expected to wrap up at noon.

Leadership Training Conference at Epworth-by-the-Sea – Elders were reminded of and encouraged to attend the 38th Annual Leadership Development Conference, Improvising with God, that will be held Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2017 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. Several have already signed up for the two-day conference.

February Engage FPC! The topic will be a long-time program sponsored and supported by our church. Lois Roberts and Valerie Thomas will update the congregation on the Silver Lining Club program and its impact on club members and the community. This mission was begun in 2002.

Guest pastor in February – Rev. Rachel Greiner is expected to preach on February 5 and 26.

Get mugged at First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro – Elder Annette Smith explained that First Presbyterian Church mugs will be placed in the narthex for newcomers to receive one per family. They will also be available for purchase by members of the congregation.

Schedule for Session Meetings through May 2017: The Session will meet on the following Sunday afternoons: February 26; March 19; April 9 and May 21.

Monthly Stewardship Update, January 2017

Revenue	Budget	OVER Budget	Expenses	Budget	UNDER Budget
\$26,937.47	\$22,250.00	\$4,687.47	\$20,348.22	\$20,825.41	-\$839.71

For the month of January we surpassed revenue projections by **\$4,687.47 — Well done!** We are **\$839.71 Under Budget for Expenses.** For the month of January we took in \$6,589.25 more than we expended. This is a great start for the new year.

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO ALL from Joe Franklin

2016 Financial Summary

I want to thank everyone for their faithfulness and financial stewardship during 2016. We ended the year on a high note with over \$50,000 in donations for the month of December. This allowed us to end 2016 \$13,584 over budget in Revenue. This is due to your giving and the church body deserves a great thanks for this. We also ended the year \$5,512 under budget in Expenses. This results from wise and conservative use of the available funds on the part of the employees of the church, the Session and its committees and the membership.

Pledge Season

We ended the year with a great “Pledge Season”. 56 giving units pledged over \$225,000 for 2017. This is an increase of 12 giving units and \$39,000 over 2016. This is allowing the Session to make more timely and better financial decisions for FPC. Again, you deserve a great big thanks for stepping up and making it happen.

Thank you!

February

Liturgist:

Jamie Nevil

Head Usher(s):

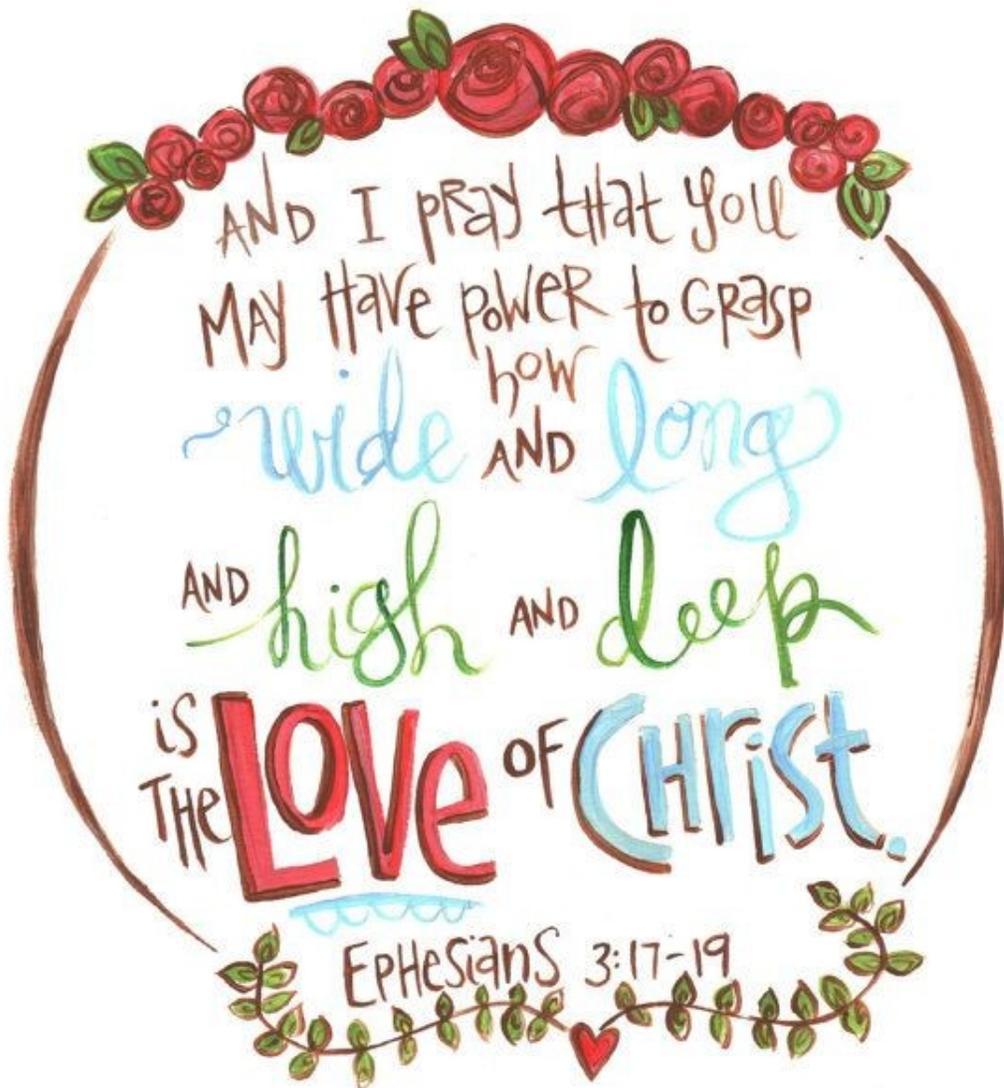
Sany & Anne Newell

Open & Close Elder:

Brian Feltman

WED-FEB 1	THU-FEB 2	FRI-FEB 3	SAT-FEB 4	
4:45 p.m. CE Committee Meeting 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 p.m. Bible Study & Programs	8 a.m.—1 p.m. Senior Companion Program	7 a.m. Youth at Starbucks	10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club	
SUN-FEB 5 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	TUE-FEB 7		WED-FEB 8	
9 a.m. Inquirer's Class 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship & Communion 12 p.m. Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch 6 p.m. UKirk College Bible Study	8 a.m.—12 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership Meeting 1 p.m. Pond House Circle Meeting 3 p.m. Facilities Committee Meeting 3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study		5 p.m. Service Committee Meeting 5:45 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 p.m. Missions Night — Children visit Southern Manor & Adult Bible Study at FPC	
THU-FEB 9	FRI-FEB 10	SAT-FEB 11	SUN-FEB 12 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
7 a.m. Men's 2x4 Bible Study 2:00 p.m. NAMI Meeting (Fielding Russell) 5:15 p.m. Pastoral Care Committee Meeting	7 a.m. Youth at Starbucks	10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club	9 a.m. Inquirer's Class 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Youth Group (Basquin) 6 p.m. UKirk College Bible Study	
MON-FEB 13	TUE-FEB 14		WED-FEB 15	FRI-FEB 17
9:30 a.m. Joy Circle Meeting	8 a.m.—12 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership Meeting 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Rebecca's Café 6 p.m. Administration Committee Meeting		5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 p.m. Missions Night — Update on Haiti Outreach Ministries and discussion of potential Mission Trip to Haiti in October	7 a.m. Youth at Starbucks Savannah Presbytery Stated Meeting Savannah Presbytery Leadership Conference

SAT-FEB 18	SUN-FEB 19 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	TUE-FEB 21	THU-FEB 23
10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club Savannah Presbytery Leadership Conference Savannah Presbytery School of the Laity	10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Youth Group (Boyer) 6 p.m. UKirk College Bible Study	3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 	7:00 a.m. Men's 2x4 Bible Study
SAT-FEB 25	SUN-FEB 26 Transfiguration of the Lord	TUE-FEB 28	Looking ahead to March...
10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club OHCM Chocolate Run at Georgia Southern University	10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Session Meeting 4 p.m. Youth Group (Henderson) 6 p.m. UKirk College Bible Study	8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership 3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	March 15th Children's Road Rally March 26th Youth Spaghetti Lunch & Dessert Auction



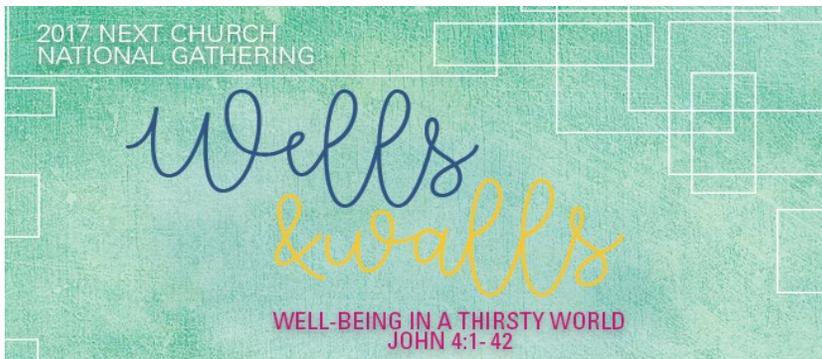
Birthdays

Valerie Thompson	2/1
EJ Okoro	2/6
Stacey Basquin	2/7
Valerie Thomas	2/9
Jim Bigley	2/10
Evan Connell	2/11
Brett Curry	2/13
Ty Boyer	2/15
Alan Davis	2/15
Maura Copeland	2/18
Troy Thomas	2/20
Bill Smith III	2/22
TJ Thomas	2/22
Don Connell	2/23
Al Toth	2/23
Burke Basquin	2/24
Sarah Herndon	2/24
Abigayle Gunter	2/25
George Chappell	2/28

Prayer List

Please pray for our members, family and friends. Names remain on the prayer list for one month, unless otherwise requested.

Ouida Barrineau, Sara Bennett, Joann Bowser, Rosalyn Cox, Marlene Davis, Jan Dennis, Barbara & Bob Focht, Susan Gunter, Harriet Hair, Hitchcock family, Del Presley, Pat Shelburne, Bob Sylwester, service men & women



2017 NEXT National Gathering March 13-15 in Kansas City, MO

Contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in attending!
To find out more, visit nextchurch.net!

Pastor Dan and Pastor Pen Peery of First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte will lead a workshop at the NEXT Church National Gathering called “Toward the Purple Church.” They both serve churches that strive to find a new middle way through the current divisiveness in politics and theology. They will talk about ways to move toward the church that is less clearly red or blue in its orientation, but more purple – that is, more representative of the diversity of our great nation and church, more reflective of a coming kingdom that we know must supersede all ideologies and platforms. They will share some of what they have learned in church-based research projects aimed not only at examining the various causes of our many divisions, but also exploring new unity in Christ.

Swainsboro Apartments Valentine Bags



Thank you to all who have dropped off Valentine’s bags so far! Please consider donating to make this Valentine’s Day special for the residents of Swainsboro Apartments. Please place items from the shopping list below either in a Valentine gift bag or shopping bag from TJ MAXX (located at front of store). Please drop off bags in front of the church library no later than *Wednesday, February 8th*.

Shopping List:

- (4) Roll Package Toilet Tissue
- (1) Large Roll Paper Towels
- (1) Box of Kleenex
- (1) Small Bottle Dishwashing Liquid
- Candy
- Valentine Bag or TJ MAXX Bag

Thank you!

FPC Weaving Project

Let's Weave ! We've Started ! I throw the shuttle and watch the fabric grow. I throw the shuttle and see the colors flow. Come learn to or observe how to "throw the shuttle" and help create a unique wall hanging that symbolizes the Church's Liturgical Calendar and represents First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro. Verdery Kennedy, Jay Broucek, Joe Franklin, Mart Parrish, Susan, Elizabeth and Jeffery Lewis learned to "throw the shuttle" having woven the Advent section, using purples, pinks, white and gold, the colors of Advent. Beverly and Del Presely have been observing.

The next section will incorporate items brought in by church members. You are encouraged to bring in a scarf, a tie, a Bible School t-shirt, fabric, ribbon, a necklace, something from a mission trip or activity, a picture, a drawing, your favorite Bible verse written on a strip of paper, an item in memory of someone. You bring it and we will find a way to include it in the weaving! Please stop by and see the weaving as it progresses. The weaving loom is located in the Elementary classroom. You may contact Betty Womack at (912) 687-6483 or betty2701@hotmail.com to schedule a weaving session or come on Wednesday at 4 pm or Sunday at 10:30 am.



Savannah Presbytery's Leadership Development Conference

February 17-18
Epworth by the Sea

Keynote Speaker:
Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana

Registration is now open for the 38th Annual Savannah Presbytery Leadership Conference on February 17th & 18th at Epworth by the Sea. This conference is for elders, staff, church members, and anyone else who would like to attend.

Registration information and forms are available online for download at savannahpresbytery.org or in the Narthex and Church Office.

To register, submit completed registration forms with selected workshops and payment to Susan Parrish. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note that it is for the Savannah Presbytery Leadership Conference.

Flowers

Placing flowers in worship is a wonderful way to celebrate special occasions and to honor or remember loved ones. If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart located outside the church office, or call (912) 681-2053. The cost of flowers is \$50. Please make checks payable to FPC and note it 'flowers'.

Rebecca's Café & ACTS

Please consider donating to ACTS & Rebecca's Café, both local missions supported by FPC. Donation items may be dropped off in baskets outside of the Christian Education Office.

Rebecca's Café: canned tomatoes, sauce and paste, dishwashing liquid, aluminum foil, aluminum pans (approx. 10x14), SOS pads.

ACTS Pantry: cereal, dry milk, cans of meat (no fish), easy open ready meals, peanut butter, cans of chili, soup, vegetables, fruit.



ACTS Facts

During 2016, ACTS interviewed 1,273 applicants and gave \$90,568.27 in assistance.

From 1999 to 2016, ACTS gave \$1,597,338.89 in assistance. This figure represents 92 % of the inflow.

SAVE THE DATE

the SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017
GSU RAC PAVILION

CHOKOLATE

run statesboro's sweetest race

To register or for more information,
visit thesweetestrace.com!

The logo for Open Hearts Community Mission, featuring a green heart shape with the text "OPEN HEARTS COMMUNITY MISSION" around it.

Church Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Dan Lewis

Christian Education Director: Susan Parrish

Youth Director: Jamie Copeland

Music Director: Allen Henderson

Organists: Duke Miles & Glenn Haynes

Office Administrator: Amie Bautista

2017 Ruling Elders

Clerk of Session: Lois Roberts (18)

Administration Committee: Chris Benatti (17) & Brett Curry (19)

Christian Education Committee: Doty Dunn (17) & Matt Gerig (19)

Facilities Committee: Brian Feltman (18)

Mission Committee: Gordon Smith (18)

Pastoral Care Committee: Maura Copeland (17) & Frank McDonald (19)

Service Committee: Annette Smith (17)

Worship Committee: Nan LoBue (18) & Ann Henderson (19)

Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Annette Smith

Secretary & Treasurer: Debi Franklin

Historian: Vacant

Special Projects: Katie Olson

Personal Service: Linda Christy

Joy Circle Leader: Verdery Kennedy

Pond House Circle Leader: Marti Parrish



First Presbyterian Church

1215 Fair Road
Statesboro, Georgia 30458



Find us on Facebook!

First Presbyterian Church Statesboro



First Presbyterian Church

1215 Fair Road

Statesboro, Georgia 30458

Phone: (912) 681-2053 ~ **Fax:** (912) 681-2399
office@fpcstatesboro.org ~ www.fpcstatesboro.org

Established 1891

Mission Statement

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro, Georgia is to be a Christ-centered family of believers called and committed to worshipping, growing spiritually, and sharing God's love and grace.