



# The First News

*First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro,*

January  
2017



## Note from the Pastor

Dear FPC,

For the past few years, I have been in the habit of offering you a poem to begin the new year. I can't recall exactly where this tradition came from, but I think it had something to do with a class I took one winter where we studied the many connections between preaching and poetry. I think it's also true that something about this season pushes us to measure our words a bit more carefully, to seek out brevity in our language. There has been so much said through the holidays, I think, particularly by preachers. Now we who speak for a living need to try saying more with fewer words. And that's what poems do, after all. They cram a great deal of thought and expression into just a few words. A friend recently shared the following, "Looking at the Stars" by Robert Bly:

*I still think about the shepherds, how many stars  
They saw. We owe our love of God to these sheep  
That had to be followed, or companioned, all night.  
One can't just let them run. By midnight*

*The stars had already become huge talkers.  
The Parent sits in her proud Chair, and is punished.  
The Dog follows the Hunter. Each time a story ends  
There is such a long pause before another begins.*

*Those of us who are parents, and getting older,  
Long, as tonight, for our children to stand  
With us, looking at the stars. Here it is,  
Eight thousand years later, and I still remember.*

Of course, poetry also conceals as much as it reveals, dealing in ambiguities and obscure allusions. I can't say I have this one figured out yet. But I did enough research to recall a few constellations I had forgotten (Cassiopeia, for example, is the over-proud queen mother, punished for boasting about her daughter). Even apart from having it all figured out, though, I can still appreciate the beauty in these images and thoughts: the shepherds as "parents" who "companion" their sheep; the parents who long to spend a moment with their children under the stars; and finally, the sense of time passing in stories, tales shared through the generations.

We in the church do this, of course. We tell stories of God and who God has been among us, passing them down to our children and grandchildren. We "companion" them in the faith, praying they will look back one day and remember what we taught them in quiet, sacred moments. We don't have to have it all figured out, for goodness sake. Part of the point seems to be that the stars shine brightly whether we notice them or not, and that is comforting. But when we do notice, we ought to give witness, to say what it is we have seen and felt. We needn't all be poets, but we can all speak God's love into the world.

Bly's poem, by the way, comes from a collection called *Eating the Honey of Words*, which is another beautiful image, don't you think? Let it be so for us, as we speak of God's love in word and deed – short and sweet!

Grace to you and peace,

Dan

Dan

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**Backpack Buddies**

The final food bags for 2016 and the Christmas gifts for our children at Mill Creek Elementary School were delivered to the school on December 13th. Dawn Beck, the school counselor, expressed her gratitude for all that we at First Presbyterian continue to do to help the students at Mill Creek. She stated that we are making a big difference in the lives of these at risk children. Starting in January 2017, we will add another student to our list to receive a weekend food bag. This will make a total of 33 children that we will help each week. Your generosity makes this possible. Thank you so much for your continuing support of this very vital mission.

**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.)

**Wednesday Nights in January**

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 contact the church office at (912) 681-2053 or office@fpcstatesboro.org. Reservations must be made no later than 12:00 p.m. the Monday prior.

**January 4th (Missions Night)**

**Menu:** fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, rolls, salad, dessert

Come prepared to help chop, slice, dice and assemble casseroles for Rebecca’s Café! We will also need a few people to help us pack the backpacks for the week.

**January 11th Menu:**

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

**January 18th Menu:**

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

**January 25th Menu:**

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



College Conference @ Montreat...January 2-5. Three of our students: Logan Chappell, Andrew Lambert & Jose Maley will be attending the conference along with Dan. Prayers for travel and that they have a wonderful experience.

## Faith in 3D – Youth Trip to Disney World

Six of our youth and two leaders, Jamie Copeland and Stacey Basquin, will be heading to Walt Disney World, January 13-16 for “Faith in 3D.” This event is sponsored by the PCUSA and takes place every 3 years or so over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. Prayers for travel and that the youth learn a lot! Read on for more info about this amazing weekend!

### *Thoughtful, Imaginative Worship*

We’ll explore together God’s dream for the whole world through artistic liturgies designed to inspire rich lives of faith. With sermons from dynamic preachers, music by the extraordinary Twain’s Jackrabbit, bold prayers for the nations, and engaging spiritual practices; worship sits at the heart of the Faith in 3D experience. Worship will lead us to a richer imagination about who God is, and to respond to the needs of the world around us.

### *Dreams around the World*

Students will travel by church group to explore countries at Epcot’s World Showcase through exclusive backstage access before the park is open to the public. They will be led by Faith in 3D leaders as well as leaders from the Disney Youth Education Series as they experience the culture, faith and fun that each country has to offer. Together, they will have an incredible chance to learn more about the world and dream about what the world could be!

### *The Legacy of Dr. King*

Faith in 3D takes place on the weekend that lifts up the life and ministry of preacher and history changing activist, Martin Luther King, Jr. For young people, it is imperative that history connect deeply with their own personal struggle for sharing their faith, acting courageously, and making change in the world around them. Join Faith in 3D as we actively tell the story, hear the words, and consider the impact for freedom and community that this man of faith cultivated. Throughout the weekend we will dream about ways to continue the witness of Dr. King and provide specific opportunities to respond.

# Session Highlights – December 18, 2016

**Examination of Class of 2019 Ruling Elders** - Pastor Dan confirmed that a period of study and preparation had been completed by elders-elect Brett Curry, Matt Gerig, Ann Henderson and Frank McDonald *as to their personal faith, knowledge of the doctrine, government and discipline contained in the Constitution of the Church; and the duties of the ministry.* Current Session Members then examined the elders-elect regarding their faith, understanding and expectations of their service to First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro. All were approved and warmly welcomed by those present and the Ordination and Installation was set for Sunday, January 8.

**Appreciation for Class of 2016 Ruling Elders** – Session members expressed their appreciation to the Class of 2016 -- Burke Basquin, Sam Broucek, Allen Henderson and Mike Kennedy -- for their service and commitment to First Presbyterian Church and more broadly, to God's work in the world.

### Session approved the following:

- Approval of the membership transfers of Jay Hankins and Kate Hankins to Presbyterian Fellowship of Fountain Inn, Fountain Inn, SC
- Approval of the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session, November 20, 2016
- Approval of the 2017 Church Budget - to be shared with the congregation as soon as possible.
- Treasurer Joe Franklin offered to answer any questions ([jfrankli@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jfrankli@georgiasouthern.edu)). In addition, the Administration Committee will provide a paper copy at the church office for those who wish to review more content.
- On Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, Elder Chris Benatti will provide a brief overview and explanation of the 2017 Budget to the church family.

**Rev. Matthew Lovett, Associate Minister of Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church** - will preach on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> as Pastor Dan travels to Montreat with UKirk Members to participate in the College Conference, *Beyond Babel* (<http://www.montreat.org/college/>).

**Session Retreat Planned** – Pastor Dan reminded Session members of the on-site retreat planned for Saturday, January 28 and asked them to prepare by praying, reflecting and thinking about the following: (1) what excites you about the church, (2) what concerns you about the church and (3) what is urgent and must be addressed by the church.

**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 (<http://epworthbythesea.org/>). Keynote Speaker, Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana is a writer, ordained Presbyterian minister and speaker. (<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/3/2/maryann-mckibben-dana-named-winner-top-presbyteria/>)

**Who Should Attend the Leadership Development Conference?** “It is for pastors, clerks, elders, deacons, treasurers, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, choir directors, Christian Educators and anyone committed to the church of Jesus Christ.” ~ *Savannah Presbytery.*

## Monthly Stewardship Update, December 2016

Revenue	Budget	OVER Budget	Expenses	Budget	OVER Budget
\$50,140.05	\$30,633.33	\$19,506.72	\$26,538.46	\$26,372.83	\$165.65

We are **\$19,506.72 Over Budget for Revenue**. This is due to a couple of large gifts that came in during this month. Otherwise, we would have missed the budget for the month and for the year. Thank you to those donors. Our Expenses are \$165.65 Over Budget for the month. For December, we brought in \$23,601.57 more than we spent.

## December 31, 2016 YEAR TO DATE (FINAL)

YTD Revenue	YTD Budget	OVER Budget	YTD Expenses	YTD Budget	UNDER Budget
\$280,120.24	\$266,500.00	\$13,620.24	\$267,363.22	\$272,914.21	-\$5,550.99

**Year To Date we are \$13,620.24 Over Budget for Revenue.** Two large donations at Year End helped to put us over the top. We have kept Expenses in line and are \$5,550.99 Under Budget. Year To Date we brought in \$12,757.02 more than we spent.

Anyone seeking more information or more detailed information may contact me at [jfrankli@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jfrankli@georgiasouthern.edu).



### Online Giving News

The Give+ Mobile app is now available and provides another easy and convenient option for giving. The app is free for contributors to use and can be downloaded at the App Store by searching for "give plus church."

# January

## WORSHIP NOTES

Liturgist: Chris Benatti

Head Usher: Verdery Kennedy

Open & Close Elder: Lois Roberts



SUN-JAN 1 1st Sunday after Christmas Day		TUE-JAN 3		WED-JAN 4		THU-JAN 5	
No Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship No Youth Group  <i>Montreat College Conference (January 2-5)</i>		8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership  1:00 p.m. Pond House Circle Meeting  3:00 p.m. Facilities Committee Meeting		5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper & Missions Night  7:00 p.m. UKirk Bible Study		8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Senior Companion Program	
SAT-JAN 7		SUN-JAN 8 Baptism of the Lord		MON-JAN 9		TUE-JAN 10	
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Silver Lining Club		10:00 a.m. Sunday School  11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion Elder Ordination & Installation  12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting  4:00 p.m. Youth Group		9:30 a.m. Joy Circle Meeting Home of Verdery Kennedy Lesson on Chapter 8, <i>"The Samaritan Woman", Twelve Extraordinary Women</i>		8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership  10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Rebecca's Café  3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study (Hosea Study)  6:00 p.m. Administration Committee Meeting	
WED-JAN 11				THU-JAN 12		FRI-JAN 13	
4:45 p.m. CE Committee Meeting  5:00 p.m. Service Committee Meeting  5:45 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting  5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper & Programs  7:00 p.m. UKirk Bible Study				7:00 a.m. Men's 2x4 Bible Study  5:15 p.m. Pastoral Care Committee Meeting  6:00—8:30 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study		Youth Faith in 3D Disney Trip <i>(January 13-15)</i>	

<b>SAT-JAN 14</b>	<b>SUN-JAN 15</b> 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	<b>MON-JAN 16</b> Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	<b>TUE-JAN 17</b>
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Silver Lining Club	10:00 a.m. Sunday School  11:00 a.m. Worship  4:00 p.m. Session Meeting		8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership  3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study
<b>WED-JAN 18</b>	<b>THU-JAN 19</b>	<b>FRI-JAN 20</b>	<b>SAT-JAN 21</b>
5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper & Programs  7:00 p.m. UKirk Bible Study	10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Savannah Presbytery Child Protection Training (FPC Statesboro)	7:00 a.m. Youth at Starbucks	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Silver Lining Club
<b>SUN-JAN 22</b> 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	<b>TUE-JAN 24</b>	<b>WED-JAN 25</b>	
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  11:00 a.m. Worship  4:00 p.m. Youth Group	8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership  3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper & Programs  7:00 p.m. UKirk Bible Study	
<b>THU-JAN 26</b>	<b>FRI-JAN 27</b>	<b>SAT-JAN 28</b>	
7:00 a.m. Men's 2x4 Bible Study	7:00 a.m. Youth at Starbucks  7:00—9:00 p.m. Cultivate Women's Gathering (Statesboro First United Methodist)	Savannah Presbytery's School of the Laity  8:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Session Retreat at FPC  8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Cultivate Women's Gathering (Statesboro First United Methodist)  10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Silver Lining Club	
<b>SUN-JAN 29</b> 4th Sunday after Epiphany	<b>TUE-JAN 31</b>	<b>Looking Ahead to February...</b>	
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  11:00 a.m. Worship  4:00 p.m. Youth Group	8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Community Bible Study Leadership  3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	<p>Sunday, February 5th Souper Bowl of Caring Soup Lunch <i>Please plan to stay after worship for a delicious and warm soup lunch provided by FPC Youth and friends. All donations will go to help feed the hungry.</i></p> <p>Wednesday, February 8th Wednesday Night Supper &amp; Missions Night</p>	

SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY'S  
J. RICHARD BASS

# School OF THE Laity



## Savannah Presbytery's Leadership Development Conference

February 17-18 at Epworth by the Sea

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana**

**Improvising with God** — Our time together will explore the theology behind good improvisation and how it can shepherd us joyfully and faithfully through times of change. This is not a performance-oriented endeavor, focused on skits and cleverness. Rather, improv is self-reflective, internal work. It is a way of seeing the world as it is and responding with courage and conviction. Scripture will be a primary conversation partner for us, along with theology, human psychology, literature, pop culture, music, and more. To register or find out more, visit [savannahpresbytery.org](http://savannahpresbytery.org) or call the church office at (912) 681-2053.

### Christian Education

**Date:** Saturday, January 28

**Location:** White Bluff PC  
10710 White Bluff Road, Savannah  
\$80 includes tuition, lunch and snacks

### Old Testament & History, Mission & Polity

**Date:** February 18-19

**Location:** Epworth by the Sea

Registration forms available at:  
[www.savannahpresbytery.org](http://www.savannahpresbytery.org)



# cultivate

A Women's Gathering Around the Word

Featuring **KELLY MINTER**

**Statesboro First United Methodist Church**  
**January 27th & January 28th**

**\$30 General Admission & \$25 Group Tickets (10+)**

Find out more at [kellyminter.com/cultivate](http://kellyminter.com/cultivate)

## FPC Weaving Project

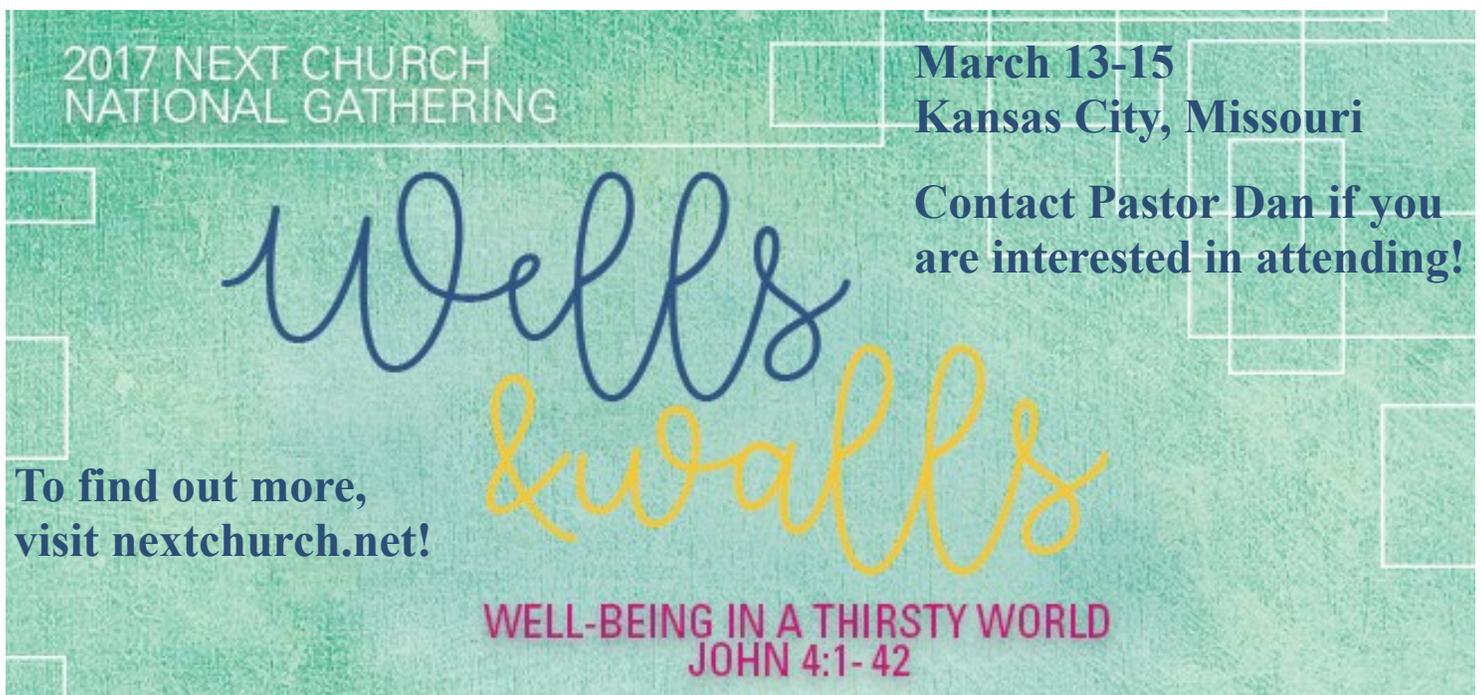
Everyone, regardless of age and ability is welcome and encouraged to help create a unique and original piece of art celebrating the spirit of our church community. The piece will be a collection of individual artistic and symbolic expressions that represent First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro.

**How will we do this?** By hand weaving a beautiful piece of fabric on a floor loom. Betty Womack will set up a floor loom in the Elementary Sunday School classroom and guide you through the process of weaving, or you can watch Betty weave something you bring in. *Sessions will begin Wednesday, January 4th from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.*

**What fibers will we weave with?** The loom is dressed with a white warp. Everyone is encouraged to bring something they want woven into the fabric. This could be something to honor or be in memory of someone. Be creative while thinking “What would express the SPIRIT of FPC, Past, Present and Future?” Anything that can be manipulated over and under other fibers can be used such as paper cut in strips (a drawing, a sermon, a picture, a bulletin), ribbon, yarn, scarves, ties, bowties, fabric/cloth. Pieces of jewelry, beads and other items can also be incorporated into the weaving.

**What will we do with the finished weaving?** The completed wall hanging will be placed somewhere for all to see and enjoy. And to remind us when we all work together something beautiful will be created. So let us know where you think the weaving should go.

For more information, contact Betty Womack at (912) 687-6483 or [betty2701@hotmail.com](mailto:betty2701@hotmail.com).



2017 NEXT CHURCH NATIONAL GATHERING

March 13-15  
Kansas City, Missouri

Contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in attending!

Wells  
& walls

To find out more, visit [nextchurch.net](http://nextchurch.net)!

WELL-BEING IN A THIRSTY WORLD  
JOHN 4:1-42

The poster features a green textured background with white grid lines. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout. The main title is in white, the dates and location are in dark blue, and the contact information is in dark blue. The phrase 'Wells & walls' is written in a large, stylized, cursive font, with 'Wells' in blue and '& walls' in yellow. The bottom text is in pink.

## NOVICE & EXPERIENCED WRITERS OF ALL AGES NEEDED!

The Christian Education & Worship Committees are working to put together a Lenten Devotional written by members & friends of First Presbyterian.

Guidelines will be provided at a later date. We will need 40 writers to complete the project.

## ACTS & Rebecca's Café

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 Items:* canned tomatoes, sauce and paste, dishwashing liquid, aluminum foil, aluminum pans (approx. 10x14), SOS pads.

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

## 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, you may do so by signing 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 'First Presbyterian Church' and note it 'flowers'. The 2017 flower chart is now posted outside of the church office.



**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](http://thesweetestrace.com)!**



## January Birthdays

Trent Grooms	1/2
Jerrilyn Smith	1/2
William Wynn	1/2
Owen Connell	1/6
Linda Christy	1/9
Suzanne Dunn	1/15
Robert Masee	1/15
Edward Dennis IV	1/16
Bob Dixon	1/17
Gary Hankins III	1/17
Anne Newell	1/17
Jim Ward	1/19
Debi Franklin	1/20
Brady Basquin	1/21
Connie Connell	1/21
Emily Anne Broucek	1/22
Bill Hight	1/23
Tal Callaway	1/24
Fern McMahan	1/26
William Simpson	1/28
Brad Newell	1/30
Robert Masee IV	1/31

## Prayer List

Please pray for our friends, family and members. Names will 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, Bill Hight, Del Presley, Pat Shelburne, Bob Sylwester, service men and women

## 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)  
**Christian Education Committee:** Doty Dunn (17)  
**Facilities Committee:** Brian Feltman (18)  
**Mission Committee:** Gordon Smith (18)  
**Pastoral Care Committee:** Maura Copeland (17)  
**Service Committee:** Annette Smith (17)  
**Worship Committee:** Nan LoBue (18)

### 2017 Elected Elders:

Brett Curry (19)  
Matt Gerig (19)  
Ann Henderson (19)  
Frank McDonald (19)

## Presbyterian Women

**Moderator:** Annette Smith  
**Secretary & Treasurer:** Debi Franklin  
**Historian:** Vacant  
**Special Projects:** Katie Olson  
**Personal Service:** Linda Christy  
**Circle Leaders:**  
Verdery Kennedy (Joy)  
Marti Parrish (Pond House)



## **First Presbyterian Church**

1215 Fair Road  
Statesboro, Georgia 30458



**Find us on Facebook!**  
First Presbyterian Church



## **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.