



May 2017

The First News

First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro, Georgia

Note from the Pastor

Seasons

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” Who would have thought that one of the biggest pop hits of the rebellious 1960’s would be a catchy little ditty composed of bible verses? I can just hear the hippies singing *turn, turn, turn* in their heads!

These verses, of course, come from the book of Ecclesiastes, a book from which we rarely read in worship. The author of the book, called the Preacher, is a philosopher – some would say a cynic – who looks on all the pleasures and pursuits of the world as “vanity.” Though it can sometimes sound depressing, the book really makes a very valuable point about human life and creation: we spend our lives trying to impose order and gain a sense of control, when all these efforts are ultimately a “striving after the wind.” We are not in control; God is.

As May approaches, and the season begins to change – not only in terms of weather but of activity, and focus, and pace – we would do well to remember the message of the Preacher. We move through these days, as through all of time, under the watchful eye of God. We do not make our own futures; we do not control our own destinies. As we look ahead to warmer weather – new patterns of work and school, and all other things that come with the season – we must make a conscious effort to look to God for guidance. It is likely that in this, as in all seasons, both joy and sorrow will come knocking unannounced, and we will be reminded that in all things we depend on our Creator, just as the blooming plants and animals do, or as Jesus said, the lilies of the field.

The good news of the gospel, however, is that the seasons of our lives, random as they seem, are not caught in an endless cycle of nature. On the contrary, God is taking us somewhere – God is leading us; God has the end in mind. And the end is peace and love, like the hippies said, but it’s also justice, redemption, and healing. Most of all, the end is grace; and for that we have only God to thank.

Have a wonderful May!

Dan

Dan

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Children’s Chair Campaign

#neednewchairs #chairsdon’tmatch #notsamesize

Please help us furnish new chairs for our children’s classrooms! The Children’s Chair Campaign will kick off on Sunday, May 7th and will run through June. We are asking friends and family to purchase a chair at a cost of \$45. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and note it ‘chair campaign’. Thank you!



Backpack Buddies Update

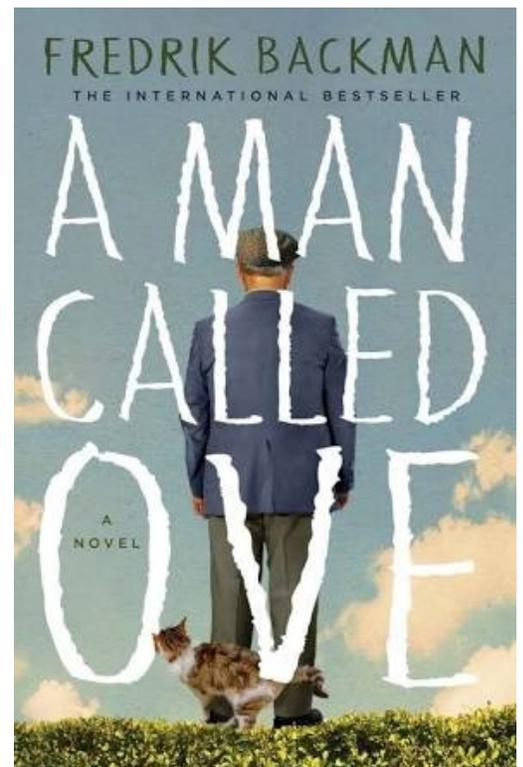
There are only a few weeks of school left! Please help us finish out the school year by donating items from our shopping list: small jars of peanut butter, fruit cups, Chef Boyardee meals, soups, individual packages of grits and oatmeal, small boxes of cereal, cereal bars, applesauce cups, Vienna sausages, easy macaroni n’ cheese, noodle packs, 100% juice boxes, packs of sandwich crackers, healthy snacks.

Summer Book Club

We are starting a summer book club at First Presbyterian! Our first meeting will be on **Thursday, June 1st at 12 p.m.** A light lunch will be provided. The reading for June has been described as an easy read and one that would be suitable for men & women...“A Man Called Ove.” Please contact Susan Parrish at susan@fpcstatesboro.org or (912) 681-2053 if you are interested or have any questions. For more information, visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Man-Called-Ove-Novel/>



Princeton Book Review: Ove is a “don’t judge a book by its cover kind of man.” When you first meet—he is different—the self-appointed mayor of the neighborhood who performs a series of daily tasks that annoy. He notices everything. He barks at the slightest infraction. He is steadfast and arduous. But as the story progresses, you stop seeing his arrogant manner. Like a beautiful sunrise, he gradually warms your heart, then steals it. Don’t miss this beautiful transformation. It’s a delightful tale that is both sad and happy.



Thank you to Children's Sunday School Teachers!

We are wrapping up a wonderful year of Sunday School for our children this month and would like to express our gratitude to those who commit their time to teaching our children. Thank you!

Would you prayerfully consider being a Sunday School teacher for the upcoming school year? Our teacher rotation is currently once every three weeks; our year starts August 6 and runs through the end of May. Please contact Susan Parrish for more information at susan@fpcstatesboro.org.



Gadgets & Gizmos VBS 2017
SUN, JUNE 11 - WED, JUNE 14
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Gadgets & Gizmos...Uniquely Wired. Wonderfully Made. Every kid is uniquely wired for one reason. They were wonderfully made in the image of God.

The Gadgets & Gizmos VBS is geared to capture a kids' imagination about their Creator so they can discover how they are...MADE by God, MADE for a relationship with Jesus, and MADE to love others.

This summer, discover how the Creator of all things created us to know and love Him.

Memory Verse:

“Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NIRV)

Volunteer Needs:

Small Group Coach & Leaders, Crafts, Snacks, Games, Youth Helpers, Decorating, Nursery, Host Team(help with registration and fill in as needed).

Please contact Susan Parrish at susan@fpcstatesboro.org if you would like to help!

Session Highlights – April 9, 2017

Session Members Rejoiced – in the news of the arrival of Chimdi Okoro, born Saturday, April 8, 2017, to Uche and Madu Okoro.

Session approved the following:

Approval of the Minutes of the March 19, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Permission for Kellye Watts, who teaches piano at the Averitt Center, to use the sanctuary and Carlton Hall for a piano recital on Saturday, May 13th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at a reduced rate of \$50.00.

Treasurer's Report – was distributed and reviewed. Participation in online giving and automatic bank transfers has increased. In response to a question about donating stock, Elders also discussed how stock holdings can be given to the church. Session will explore more about this and other giving options in the year ahead.

Elder Commissioner to Savannah Presbytery Meeting – Ann Henderson was elected Elder Commissioner to the May 23, 2017 meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Savannah. Nan LoBue and Doty Dunn agreed to be substitutes if needed. Ann will accompany Pastor Dan to represent our church.

Gifts of Women Sunday – is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 14, 2017. Rev. Susan Lewis will be preaching. We thank God for all women who are called to serve in the church as they pray, preach, sing, teach, and lead.

April 19 Wednesday Night Supper – Pastor Dan will review some of the content from the NEXT Church Conference (March 12 – 15), including an explanation of the content of *The Sarasota Statement*, a new confessional statement written in response to the current state of the church and the world. Check it out for yourself at: <http://nextchurch.net/new-statement-faith/>

Nominating Committee 2017 – Maura Copeland and Gordon Smith were selected as the Session members for the 2018 Elder Nominating Committee. They will seek the participation of 3-5 church members to complete the committee. There will be a called meeting of the Congregation on a Sunday in May to approve the Nominating Committee. Then the Nominating Committee can begin their search for Session members for the Class of 2018.

May Engage FPC! will be presented by Doty Dunn. She will provide information about the FPC Haiti trip scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 – Sunday, October 22, 2017. A core group has been established but more participants are encouraged to consider this unique opportunity to serve.

Monthly Stewardship Update, April 2017

Revenue	Budget	UNDER Budget	Expenses	Budget	UNDER Budget
\$19,799.39	\$22,250.00	-\$2,450.61	\$20,535.43	\$20,825.42	-\$289.99

We are \$2,650.61 Under Budget for Revenue. However, we also were Under Budget for Expenses by \$289.99. For April, we spent \$736.04 more than we brought in.

April 2017 Year to Date

Revenue	Budget	OVER Budget	Expenses	Budget	UNDER Budget
\$96,049.09	\$89,000.00	\$7,049.09	\$93,393.14	\$94,301.67	-\$908.53

Year To Date we are \$7,049.09 Over Budget for Revenue. We are also \$908.53 Under Budget for Expenses. Year To Date we brought in \$2,655.95 more than we spent. Why are we Over Budget for Revenue? Two members have paid their entire year's pledge by way of stock gifts. Thus, saving the member on any tax on the gain of the stock and being able to deduct the full amount of the gift as a charitable donation. Both members gave more in their stock gifts than they had pledged. This has worked out well for all concerned!!!! Anyone seeking more information or more detailed information may contact me at jfrankli@georgiasouthern.edu.



Savannah Presbytery Announcements

Summer Camp - Register NOW! June 19-24, Camp New Ebenezer

At Summer Camp, "... we all get a real taste of what God created life to be. We all commit to loving others as God has loved us. We are committed to seeing Jesus in each other. It is no wonder that it is so hard to leave, to say "goodbye" to those people who have shared with us a taste of the Kingdom." Proctor Chambless, Camp Director

For more information, visit <http://www.savannahpresbytery.org/events/youth/summer-camp/>

Register Now for the 2019 Class of the School of the Laity!

Every summer, a new group of students begin an adventure that proves to enrich and enliven their faith. Come, be part of this exciting two-year journey! You will begin by exploring the Bible, moving on to learn reformed theology, polity, history and practical ministry/discipleship, all with excellent instructors. Our graduates say that the School of the Laity changed their lives! Join us this summer, June 9-11!

For more information, visit <http://www.savannahpresbytery.org/events/school-of-the-laity/>

May 2017

Liturgist: Burke Basquin (Brett Curry on 5/7)

Head Ushers: Andrew & Yvette Allen

Open & Close Elder: Gordon Smith

MON-MAY 1		TUE-MAY 2		WED-MAY 3	
<p>5:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women's Mother Daughter Dinner & Birthday Offering All ages are welcome! Bring your daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and girlfriends, and join us for a night of fun, food and fellowship. Please bring a salad to share with everyone. We will also collect our annual Birthday Offering at this time.</p>		<p>1 p.m. Pond House Circle Meeting</p> <p>3 p.m. Facilities Committee Meeting</p> <p>3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study</p>		<p>5:45 p.m. Hamburger & Hot Dog Supper <i>(Please RSVP)</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Splash into Summer Join us for a night of food, fun and fellowship as we 'Splash into Summer'! This will be a great time for all ages, as we enjoy our last Wednesday night together before breaking for the Summer.</p> <p>Haiti Trip Interest Meeting Please make plans to attend this upcoming meeting if you are at all interested in being a part of the Haiti Mission Trip this October. <i>The minimum age requirement for HOM is 15 years old and must be accompanied by parent. For minors ages 16 year olds or older, a parent must sign waiver.</i></p>	
THU-MAY 4		FRI-MAY 5		SAT-MAY 6	
<p>8 a.m.—12 p.m. Senior Companion Program</p>		<p>7 a.m. Youth at Starbucks</p>		<p>10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club</p>	
				<p>SUN-MAY 7 4th Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday & Graduate Luncheon</p>	
				<p>10 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship Service Please make plans to join us for Youth Sunday! This will be a special service as the Youth of FPC lead Worship.</p> <p>12 p.m. Graduate Luncheon We will gather immediately following Worship to celebrate our graduates! Please bring a couple of side dishes to share.</p>	
TUE-MAY 9			WED-MAY 10		THU-MAY 11
<p>10 a.m.—2 p.m. Rebecca's Café</p> <p>3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>6 p.m. Admin Committee Meeting</p>			<p>5:00 p.m. Service Committee Meeting</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting</p>		<p>7 a.m. Men's 2x4 Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 p.m. Pastoral Care Committee Meeting</p>
FRI-MAY 12		SAT-MAY 13		SUN-MAY 14	
<p>7 a.m. Youth at Starbucks</p>		<p>10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club</p>		<p>5th Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day</p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11 a.m. Gifts of Women Worship Service</p>	

TUE-MAY 16	THU-MAY 18	FRI-MAY 19	
3:30—5:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at the Beaver House Restaurant Our luncheons at the Beaver House have started back and we will be meeting each third Thursday in the month at 11:30 for lunch. Reservations are not required. Men, women, youth, and children of all ages are invited to attend. Friends and friends of friends are also invited. Come and get to know your church family and friends better as we enjoy a good meal and great fellowship together.	7 a.m. Youth at Starbucks	
SAT-MAY 20	SUN-MAY 21 6th Sunday of Easter	TUE-MAY 23	THU-MAY 25
10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club	10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Session Meeting 4 p.m. Youth Group	Savannah Presbytery Stated Meeting <i>FPC Savannah</i>	7 a.m. Men's 2x4 Bible Study
SAT-MAY 27	SUN-MAY 28 7th Sunday of Easter	MON-MAY 29 Memorial Day	
10 a.m.—2 p.m. Silver Lining Club	10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Youth Group	Church Office Closed	

May Birthdays

Traci Presley	5/1	Jill Gerig	5/13
Jamie Copeland	5/3	Eleanor Hutchinson	5/13
Beverly Presley	5/5	Matthew Humphrey	5/14
Beverly Womack	5/5	Del Presley	5/16
Alyssa Allen	5/7	Haley Parrish	5/17
Lois Roberts	5/7	Charlotte Wynn	5/17
Dick Burnett	5/8	Chris Connell	5/20
Landrey Copeland	5/8	Jean Burnett	5/26
Katie Bigley	5/9	Jamie Nevil III	5/26
Durelle Tuggle	5/9	Steve Cauley	5/28
Nancy Brown	5/10	Charlene Mann	5/28
Annette Smith	5/12	Rachel Nevil	5/29
Ed Dennis	5/13		



Welcome to our newest members of FPC!

Take a moment to greet them and welcome them to the FPC church family as you see them!



Monique Bos

Monique grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, and has also lived in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Washington. She moved to Statesboro to teach first-year writing at Georgia Southern. Monique works as a lecturer in the Writing & Linguistics Department at Georgia Southern and also review mysteries for Publishers Weekly magazine. Her hobbies include writing and reading (of course!), nature photography, travel, history, and animals (she lives with a dog and cats, love snakes, and is very excited to be in gator country).



Brandi Hawkins

Brandi is from Dacula, Georgia. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor degree in Nursing with a Minor in Psychology at Georgia Southern University. Her parents have been married 25 years, and she is an only child. She has a very close-knit family full of immediate and extended family members who have helped her get to where she is today. Outside of school, Brandi loves antiquing while exploring flea markets, estate sales, or antique stores, with a cup of hot herbal tea. She also enjoys camping and boating, both of which have been favorite family activities throughout her childhood. Brandi has an orange calico cat named Goku that makes her every day brighter.



Linda Kimsey

Linda was born in Cleveland, TN. She recently retired from the Navy - stationed in Bethesda, MD. She has three siblings. Her mother was very active in First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, TN. Her uncle was a missionary in South America. She now teaches Health Administration as an Assistant Professor at Georgia Southern University and . Linda enjoys hiking and would like to take back up the trumpet!



Patti Moore

Patti is originally from Akron, Ohio. She married her husband, Michael in 2001, and they moved her to Statesboro. She has two children from a previous marriage, and they have three grand children through them. Michael has three children with two more grandchildren through his daughter, and another on the way! They are excited to be growing as a family and love to visit family every chance they get. Patti also enjoys travelling and photography.

You did it!

Congratulations



High School Graduates

Meghan Gerig, daughter of Matt & Jill Gerig and Kenneth & Kristi Craven will graduate from Savannah Arts Academy on Tuesday, May 23rd. While at SAA, Meg was actively involved in the music discipline as a saxophonist earning a spot in the musical honor society, Tri-M, as a part of the wind ensemble and Starlight Jazz Band. She also found time to compete in Odyssey of the Mind state competitions, was a Junior Interpreter at the Davenport House, and was a member of Beta Club and International Night Club. She will be attending University of Georgia in the fall where she will be studying Bio Chemistry.

Brockman Presley will graduate from Statesboro High School on May 27. He will be working in his lawn service this summer and will continue volunteering with the Statesboro Police Department while attending Ogeechee Tech to become a First Responder for Bulloch County. Brockman will attend Georgia Southern University in the fall and plans to major in Criminal Justice to prepare for a career in Law Enforcement with the Georgia State Patrol.

College Graduates

Sterling Bowles, from Albany, Georgia, will graduate from Georgia Southern University on May 6 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. Sterling hopes to remain in Statesboro and work in the banking industry.

Lizzy Boyd, from Acworth, Georgia, will graduate Cum Laude from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Middle Grades Education (Science and Socials). She has been involved in UKirk and the GSU Honors Program. Lizzy plans to become a middle school Science teacher!

Logan Chappell, granddaughter of George & Judy Chappell, niece to Stacey & Burke Basquin, cousin to Julia, Brady & Sara, will graduate from Georgia Southern University on May 6 with a double major...Bachelor of Business Administration in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation and Marketing. Logan has accepted a job with Echo Global Logistics in Atlanta as a Client Sales Representative.

TJ Thomas, son of Troy & Valerie Thomas, will graduate from Georgia Southern University on May 6 with a Bachelor in Studio Art and Minor in Writing. After graduation, TJ plans to attend graduate school and seek an internship.

Eudiah Ochieng, from Atlanta, Georgia, will graduate Magna Cum Laude from Georgia Southern University on May 6 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Eudiah has been involved in the GSU Honors Program. She plans to pursue a Master of Public Health with concentration in community health.



2017 Church Directory Updates Needed!

The 2017 Church Directory will be published in June! Please stop by the Narthex during the month of May to review your contact information and make any changes.

If you would like to be added, please complete a Connection Card also located in the Narthex.

An email will also be sent out so that you may review and reply via email.

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, Carolyn Broucek, Rosalyn Cox, Marlene Davis, Family of Jan Dennis, Barbara & Bob Focht, Susan Gunter, Harriet Hair, Dave Olson, Del Presley, Pat Shelburne, Bob Sylwester, Valerie Thomas, Senior Companion Program, Service Men & Women

Flowers

Placing flowers in worship is a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones and to celebrate special occasions. 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'.

Weaving Update

The weaving banner is almost completed, but there is still time if you would like to weave. Please call Betty Womack at (912) 687-6483 to set up an appointment by Friday, May 5th.

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: dishwashing liquid, canned tomatoes, sauce and paste, 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, fruit, vegetables.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. - Matthew 25:35

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!

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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.