



April 15, 2015

Sunday, April 19 - The Resurrection Goes Viral



Two Sundays ago we celebrated Easter and listened to the story in Mark’s gospel where the women who came to the tomb were filled with awe and wonder when they discovered the body of their Lord was missing. A young man dressed in white told them, “He has been raised, he is not here.” Terror and amazement overcame them and they fled because they were afraid. That is a normal human reaction anytime the heavenly impinges on earth. We don’t know what to make of it and so we react with fear until someone explains it to us. I don’t know how long it took the women to calm down but they did. We know because in a matter of days the disciples and followers of Jesus were embracing the resurrection story. Within seven weeks there were three thousand converts to Christianity on the day of Pentecost. Peter and John were going through the city of Jerusalem performing miracles. The book of the Acts of the Apostles tells the stories. Acts 4:5-12 tells what happens when Peter heals a sick man. Peter and John are hauled in front of the authorities and told to keep quiet about what they were doing. Come Sunday and see how the story turns out.

Dr. W. Glenn Doak, *Pastor*

Sunday, April 26 - Fourth Sunday of Easter *Other Sheep*

In the Gospel of John, Jesus has numerous “I am” sayings e.g., I am the bread of life” (6:35) and “I am the light of the world” (8:12, 9:5), which reveal something important about himself. In today’s text (John 10:11-18) he declares, “I am the good shepherd.” This metaphor draws on Old Testament images like that from the 23rd Psalm, “The Lord is my shepherd,” and from the 34th chapter of Ezekiel, “For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.” In this self-portrait Jesus depicts himself as caring and protective, going so far as to give up his life for the sheep. He contrasts this image of the good shepherd with that of a hired hand who will abandon the flock at the first sign of danger. We can derive great comfort from belonging to the Lord’s flock. Tucked in Jesus’ riff on the intimate connection the good shepherd has with his sheep is mention of having “other sheep which do not belong to this fold” (10:16). What is Jesus talking about and what might it mean for us in the church today? Come to church on April 26 where we will place our trust in the good shepherd through our worship and will explore the question of the “other sheep” which also belong to him.



Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Worship in April/May

Sunday, April 19

Communion

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

Scripture: Acts 4:5-12

Sunday, April 26

Carol Strickland preaching

Other Sheep

Sunday, May 3

Scottish Reformation Sunday

Walking in a ‘Thin’ Place

Scripture: 2 Kings 19:4-13

Sunday, May 10

Mother’s Day

Carol Strickland preaching

Sunday, May 17

Transition in Leadership

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Sunday, May 23

Pentecost Sunday

When the Dry Bones Live

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sunday, May 30

Trinity Sunday

Breathing in the Spirit

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Weekday Artfest

All children of the school and church are invited to this event on April 16th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Enjoy creativity galore as we explore clay with good dirt artisans, painting with our muralist, Mrs. Lenetta Root, and musical fun! WDS students are expected, church children are more than welcome with reservation by calling (706)549-8677.

Presbyterian Retirement Community

Presbyterian Homes of Georgia is in the beginning stages of building and permanently maintaining a CCRC (Continuous Care Retirement Community) in Oconee County. They have an option on a piece of property on route 441 south of the Crystal Hills sub-division and north of Hog Mountain Rd. It is approximately 75 acres of land that connects with Lake Wellbrook Rd. on the west boundary. Currently the land is zoned B-1 commercial business. In order for the CCRC to go forward the land needs to be rezoned to office/institutional/professional. The rezoning is currently scheduled to go before the Oconee County Commissioners at their May 5 meeting at the Oconee County Courthouse. Letters, phone calls and emails of support for this rezoning would be helpful to the county commissioners if you are in support of this project. Gilbert Milner and I serve on the Board of Trustees of PHGA and we are enthusiastically in favor of this project and on this location. The staff of PHGA and the Board of Trustees have been working since 2005 to bring a project like this to the Greater Athens community. Church member Susan Stone is the Director of Development for PHGA. The late John Buck Griffin served on the board of PHGA for 23 years and had a dream that one day PHGA would bring a CCRC to this community. Carl Nichols of our church is also a former board member along with Athens native James Newland. Glenn Doak, *Pastor*

The Sparrow's Nest in Need of Clothes

The Sparrow's Nest in Athens is in need of men's clothes for their clothes closet. If you have anything that you might be willing to donate, please contact Jeff Wells at 706-795-3043.

Rescheduled PTP Visit to Crystal Creek Farm

The November PTP event will be on Tuesday, April 21st. We will visit Crystal Creek Farm to see the Hackney ponies that Carl and Kathryn Nichols raise and breed. This trip was originally scheduled in November but had to be postponed. We will meet at the Lowe's parking lot on Lexington Road at 10:00 AM and take the van to the farm. After visiting the farm, we will have a Dutch treat lunch at Big City Diner in Winterville. If you plan to attend, please contact Judy Howell at 706 549-2888 or by email at jhowell@uga.edu so that we can get a head count for the van! Hope to see you Tuesday!

Sign Up for the E-Letter!

Interested in the most up-to-date communications from your church? Sign up to receive church e-letters. To do so, go to the church website, www.firstpresathens.org and fill in your email address in the box in the bottom left corner of the home screen, then press "go." You will receive a weekly email containing announcements about upcoming events, including sermons, plus occasional other notices about what's happening at FPC.

FPC Women's Small Group

Are you interested in joining a small group to meet and share with other FPC women? Many women who attended the recent women's retreat indicated an interest in getting together regularly with others for encouragement and support. There will be an organizational meeting and light lunch on Sunday, April 19 from 12:15-1:45 p.m. in the Staff Conference Room for any woman in the congregation who might like to participate in a small group. RSVP to CStrickland@firstpresathens.org, or call the church office: 706-543-4338. Bring your calendar, your ideas, and openness to what God might be calling you to do. Together we are the body of Christ and need one another! Please think and pray about what sort of group might be helpful for you. Some ideas are:

Share & Prayer: simply check in on what God is up to in your life and then pray with and for one another

Right Brain: as a group experiment with some creative approaches to your faith using, for example, art, music, body prayers

Bible or Book Study: read and study together

Meet & Eat: in homes or at restaurant

Other ?

Creating a New Direction - Session and Staff of FPC

The Education Division values the children of our church, and we are committed to building a sustainable children's ministry that is going to have a deep impact for years to come. We have invited Ministry Architects to visit us May 15 - 17 (learn more about them at www.ministryarchitects.com.) Ministry Architects will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the church through focused listening groups. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of parents, volunteers, staff and people who just love our children. We want your insights, your frustrations and your dreams to be heard. After spending two days in these listening groups, the Ministry Architects team will write a report and share with us what they've heard about the children's ministry - including assets, challenges, and how we compare to children's ministries around the country - and where it seems that God might be taking us next. On May 17 at 3:00 p.m. the report will be presented to the congregation in the Children's Ministry Suite. It will give specific recommendations and a blueprint for how to move forward with our new ministry. More information and sign up opportunities will be provided through congregational emails. If you do not have email and would like to be part of the process, please contact the church office at 706-543-4338.

Happy Birthday to:



Happy Birthday

Apr. 19 Sara Cotton, Dan Myers, Mary Stephens, Alex Veness

Apr. 20 Carol Strickland, Jimmy Spencer,

Andrew Tritt

Apr. 21 Nancy Bowen, Hugh Bowles, Jane Mann, Sara Roper

Apr. 22 Nan Cantrell, Dave Donnan, Jolene Maxwell, Charlie Williams

Apr. 23 Eleanor Bradwell, Thelma Cook, Melissa Hill, Caroline McArthur, Cooper Nichols, Alexander Stephens

Apr. 24 Happy Dicks, Thad Padgett, Matthew Raser, Graham Blanks, Susan Thackray

Apr. 25 Crawford Brunjes, Lewis Hudgins, Theresa Lee, Jo Ann Lowe, Heather Roberts, Martha Shenesey

Apr. 26 Katherine McCartney, Austin Myers, Rachel Shockley, Eva Simpson, Cynthia Wilson

Apr. 27 Leona Finch, Patrick O'Steen, Patti Reed

Apr. 28 Phyllis Childs, Catherine Farley, Don Hill, Katie McNeil, Bonny Spurlock

Apr. 29 Cynthia McCullers, Emily Noakes

Apr. 30 Hollye Colbert, Rosemary Heath, Joe Hopper

May 1 Todd Fowler, Matt Middendorf



Flower Dedications

In May 2015, the following date is available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **May 17, 24 and 31**. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

Our Church Family

In the Hospital:

- Leona Finch, ARMC

Congratulations:

- To Keith and Laura Beth Guest, Jr. on the birth of their son, Keith Hayward Guest III, on April 2, 2015. Keith is the grandson of Keith and DeDe Guest, Sr.

Elder On-Call:

The elder on call is Jane Magrino. You may contact Jane, April 15-30, at 706-338-9858. The elder on-call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Let Us Know When You Are In the Hospital

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please have someone call the church office or a pastor so we can respond.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat, June 5-6, 2015

The Health and Wellness Committee of our church is sponsoring a Marriage Enrichment Retreat. Our Retreat Leader will be the Rev. Tom Camp, who practices pastoral counseling in the Samaritan Center for Counseling and Wellness. Tom is an ordained United Methodist minister and has served as chaplain in a prison, two general hospitals, a mental health center and a boarding school, as pastor of a church and, for the last 30 years, as a pastoral counselor. The retreat will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Lavonia, GA beginning Friday evening with dinner and concluding on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Registration cost is \$80, payable to First Presbyterian Church. Hotel registration is \$114 plus tax, and meals are Dutch treat. Registration is limited to 12 couples, plus the leadership. To register, call the First Presbyterian Church front desk, or register online.

Music Notes by John Coble



All of the events of Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, are over, the big day of Easter Sunday is now behind us. Many people work hard to prepare and carry out special services during this time, but I dare say choir members are among those who work the hardest. Our St. Andrews and Cherub Choirs processed and sang on Palm Sunday, which will hopefully be another lasting memory for them. As John Bell of the Iona Community has written, "When you enable a child to sing, you ensure him or her a gift for life which can be used, free of charge, until the last breath." Between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, our Chancel Choir sang in five worship services, and had two rehearsals, not to mention the rehearsals prior to each of the services. In the days leading up to and including Easter, the Chancel Choir put in five days in a row. In the words of John Rutter, "A church or a school without a choir is like a body without a soul." At First Presbyterian Church, we have a healthy and hard-working "soul" when it comes to music. I am not writing this to brag, but to remind you that our choir members put in a lot of time and energy to make and to lead great music in our church. Take time to thank our choirs for their efforts. Thanks be to God.

Bible Readings

- Apr. 19** John 21:15-25
- Apr. 20** Daniel 4:19-27
- Apr. 21** 1 John 4:7-21
- Apr. 22** Luke 4:38-44
- Apr. 23** Daniel 5:13-30
- Apr. 24** 2 John 1-13
- Apr. 25** Luke 5:27-39
- Apr. 26** Genesis 18:22-33
- Apr. 27** Colossians 1:1-14
- Apr. 28** Luke 6:12-26
- Apr. 29** Jeremiah 30:18-22
- Apr. 30** Colossians 2:8-23
- May 1** Luke 7:1-17
- May 2** Jeremiah 31:23-25



Return Service Requested

Sunday, April 19

- 12:00 p.m. Youth Group Service Project, Athens Community Council on Aging
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group Meeting, The PIT
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Choir Room

Monday, April 20

- 9:00 a.m. All Day Staff Planning Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205
- 5:30 p.m. Website Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, April 21

- 9:10 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 10:00 a.m. PTPs trip to Crystal Creek Farm, meet in Lowe's parking lot off Lexington
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

Wednesday, April 22

- 10:00 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 2:00 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Athens Tutorial Program, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Suite
- 6:30 p.m. Forum, Guest speaker, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 23

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Rd.

Sunday, April 26

- 9:00 a.m. Parent's Retreat, The PIT
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, The PIT

Monday, April 27

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, April 28

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, home of Charlie Nobb, 1040 Gaines School Rd.

Sundays

at First Presbyterian

Sunday, April 19

Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Doak preaching,

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

Sunday, April 26

Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Strickland preaching,

Other Sheep

April 19 & 26

Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.

Children's Church Children, ages 4 through grade 2, may leave worship service with Misse Mallino for activities in the Children's Ministry Suite.

Columns News is a bi-weekly publication. For up-to-date, weekly letters emailed directly to your inbox, please either sign up at the church website (www.firstpresathens.org), or contact Emily McBride via email at emily@firstpresathens.org or call at 706-543-4338 x217.