



Sunday, May 17 - What Are They Up Too?



The scripture reading for this Sunday is from Acts 1:15-17, 21-26. Luke, the writer of Acts as well as the third gospel, tells us a story of the first business meeting of the young church. It is right after the ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:6-11) and before Pentecost (Acts 2). That's right, a business meeting, a congregational meeting. Luke says there were about 120 members and Peter stands up and says we need to elect a replacement for Judas.

It seems a little odd that they would pick that moment to elect someone to replace Judas. I wonder what is really going on here? They pray about it, take a vote and Mathias becomes a leader of the church. They could have spent their time singing hymns and praying waiting for Jesus' quick return, but they didn't.

What they did was a thoroughly Easter act when you think about it. They were making plans to continue into the world to serve others as Jesus had called them to do. They weren't just waiting around for their friend, the resurrected Jesus to return, they were making plans so that when the Holy Spirit came upon them they were ready to go into the world and serve. See you in church.

Sunday, May 24 - Communion/Red/Doves

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church. It is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples now turned apostles giving them the strength and power to go forth evangelizing the world.

We will celebrate with wearing the color red (the color of Pentecost symbolizing the "flame" of the Holy Spirit), having doves in worship with us (another symbol of the Holy Spirit) and observing communion.

The sermon will be built around Ezekiel 37, the valley of dry bones story. God asked Ezekiel the question, "Can these bones live again?" On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit is answering the question about the dry bones of the faithful, "Yes, they can!" See you in church on Pentecost in our red showing!

Dr. W. Glenn Doak, *Pastor*

Summer Worship Hours and More

The Session voted on April 13 to have one worship service this summer starting on Sunday, May 24 and returning to two worship services on August 9. There will be child care and children's church for nursery age through the 2nd grade.

Communion will be observed on these Sunday's this summer: May 24, June 28 and August 2.

Project Safe

First Presbyterian members and friends will go to Project Safe Thrift Store on Monday, May 18 to help organize, sort and do whatever is needed. We will be there from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Project Safe is located at 995 Hawthorne Avenue in the Bell's Plaza shopping center. To sign up or get more information, contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com.

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank



In May, we donated 261 food items to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. For our collection on June 7, the Food Bank needs canned pasta, juice boxes/pouches and canned sweet potatoes. Thank you for your donations!

April Finances

Revenue Received	\$65,445
Anticipated Revenue	\$93,148
Expenses Actual	\$102,203
Budgeted Expenses	\$103,461
YTD Revenue	\$372,018
YTD Expenses	\$427,834

Total revenue year to date is \$3,414 greater than budget and total expenses year to date are \$8,482 less than budget.

Presbyterian Homes Rezone

The Oconee County Commissioners approved the rezone for a 70 acre parcel of land on Route 441 South that will enable Presbyterian Homes of Georgia to go ahead with plans to develop a Continuous Care Retirement Community (CCRC) on the property. The development will include independent living cottages, duplexes and apartments; assisted living apartments; memory support care and skilled nursing. Construction on the project could begin as early as mid-2016 and ready for move-in in late 2018. Information about the project can be obtained from www.phgainc.org or phone 404-231-5758 or 1-800-808-3309. Susan Stone, a member of our congregation, works for PHGA and could also put you in touch with more information. Her email is ssstone@phgainc.org.

Nepal Disaster Relief

Thousands are dead or injured from the massive earthquake and aftershocks that shook Nepal on April 25th. First Presbyterian's Mission and Outreach committee voted to send \$2,000 to Nepal for disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The need is great. To donate online through PDA: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR99999>. You can also donate by calling 800-728-7228 ext. 5839. Be sure to indicate it is for Nepal. You can also put a check in the Sunday offering plate noting that it is for PDA/ Nepal.

Pentecost Offering



On May 24th, First Presbyterian Church will collect the Pentecost Offering, which helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and to address the needs of at-risk children.

Sixty percent of the proceeds is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth and Children-at-Risk. The remaining forty percent will be used right here in Athens and will contribute to a scholarship fund for Barrow Elementary families who cannot afford the cost of the after-school program for their children. The after-school program is a wonderful extension of the school day for many elementary students-- and children who come from families who cannot afford the modest tuition are likely the ones who need it most. So please give generously and help the professionals at the school help more children in need-- it can make all the difference in the life of a child.

Handicrafts for Market for Missions

The Market for Missions will be held again this year on October 9, 10, and 11. You are invited to bring your own handicrafts to the market for sale. You may either donate the whole amount received or donate that part which is over the amount you spent for materials. The money will go to the designated fund for mission trips, such as the one to Honduras, to cover some of the expenses of the participants. Ten Thousand Villages will also send Fair Trade International crafts, and we will receive a percentage of their sales. So get out your knitting or quilting or woodcarving or paints or other materials and consider sharing your talents to help support the mission fund. Last year we raised \$555.39 for this fund and \$1300 for Bethlehem Ministry (our mission in Haiti); and we hope to do even more this year. Contact Mary Burton (706-543-9619; marybu@charter.net) for information or to reserve a spot at the Market.

Action Ministry

We are currently supporting Action Ministries through our participation in Our Daily Bread. This summer, they will be having a program of bringing lunches to children who may not get a meal over the summer. They also have an enrichment program which consists of interacting with the children. They need volunteers! They welcome volunteers of any age (though probably most suitable for 8 and up), and anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Teens on their own can be paired with an adult. Groups will meet at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church Mon-Fri at 11:30. You will pick up materials, directions, and get instructions and go to one of 8 sites. If you are interested or have further questions, please contact Beth Deroshia bderoshia@gmail.com directly, or indicate your interest on their volunteer link at <http://vols.pt/BZFbSd>. Thanks for making a difference!

2015 Graduates

North Oconee HS	Mary Campbell Cobb	University of Georgia
Clarke Central HS	Addie Downs	Dickinson University
Athens Academy	Richard Ferguson	University of Georgia
Cedar Shoals HS	William Kirch	Robert Morris University
Abbeville HS, SC	Xan Palmer	Virginia Tech University
Athens Academy	Allison Thurston	Presbyterian College
Athens Academy	Tommy Ward	Wofford College
Prince Avenue	Kirby Watkins	Abraham Baldwin
Christian School		Agricultural School

Congratulations to our 2015 high school graduates!

Happy Birthday to:



Happy Birthday

May 17
Wright Cook,
Judy Thompson

May 18
Barbara Moore

May 19
Ted Beck,
Carolyn Hally,

Paul Izant, Calvin Latimer,
Lucy Lindsey, Karen Phillips

May 20 Shirley Evans,
Elaine Thacker

May 21 Lindsay Barrett, Benjamin
Carey, Harvey Humphries

May 22 Larry Jones, Nick Kalivoda,
Ann Mattocks

May 23 Ann Harper Covington,
Jennings Holloway, Pat
Wilson

May 24 Terry McRae, Katie
Williams

May 25 Lisa Oelke

May 26 Ellie Adams, Bess Hopkins,
Judy Howell, Bryan Pruiett

May 27 Debbie Woodall

May 28 Mary Dudley, Diane
Hudgins, Lenna Johnson

May 29 Christy Chambers, Gayle
Wachtel

May 30 Nic Brown, Audrey
Kretschmar

Happy Retirement, Marie Evans!

Many thanks go out to Marie Evans, Weekday School Administrative Assistant, for 27 years of service to the school! Marie began her career at the school when her son Tyler was a student here. After starting as a substitute teacher, she moved into her role as Administrative Assistant and has spent her days wearing many hats to help the school run well. While one of her main duties has been bookkeeping, she has often been the voice on the telephone or face at the desk to assist parents. She also enjoyed playing the piano for the children's programs. Asked what her plans are for retirement, she said she plans to, "Enjoy being 'GiGi' to my first grandson, Camden, as well as traveling and perhaps even taking some dance lessons!" She also plans to continue the organic garden on her family's farm that her husband, Dan, started. Job well done, Miss Marie! Many thanks and ENJOY!



Music Notes by John Coble

Directions for *Singing from John Wesley's Select Hymns, 1761*. We can still learn from them today. 1. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please. 2. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can. 3. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing. 4. Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan. 5. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound. 6. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawing way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first. 7. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.



Flower Dedications

In June 2015, the following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **June 14 and 21**. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

In Memoriam
Margaret Bear Moore
1925-2015

Our Church Family

Congratulations:

- To Dala and Rachel Griffeth on the birth of their daughter, Emily Louise Griffeth on April 30, 2015. Emily is the granddaughter of Katherine Kipp and the great-granddaughter of John and Sara Kipp.

Save the Date

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, May 17 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Bible Readings

May 17 Ezekiel 3:16-27
May 18 Hebrews 6:1-12
May 19 Luke 10:1-17
May 20 Ezekiel 11:14-25
May 21 Hebrews 7:18-28
May 22 Luke 10:38-42
May 23 Ezekiel 43:1-12
May 24 1 Corinthians 2:1-13
May 25 Luke 14:25-35
May 26 Deuteronomy 4:15-24
May 27 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
May 28 Luke 16:1-9
May 29 Deuteronomy 5:1-22
May 30 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10



Sunday, May 17

- 8:00 a.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for Marie Evans, Atrium
- 3:00 p.m. Ministry Architects Report, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship End of Year Party, The PIT

Monday, May 18

- 9:00 a.m. Project Safe Volunteer Time, 995 Hawthorne Ave.
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, May 19

- NEGA Presbytery Meeting, Covenant Presbyterian, Augusta
- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Circle Coordinating Council, Room 308
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

Wednesday, May 20

- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 2:00 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Suite

Thursday, May 21

- 5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Lay Callers Meeting, Pastor's office

Sunday, May 24 - Start of Summer Worship Schedule with 10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day, Church offices closed

Tuesday, May 26

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Ted's Most Best, 254 W. Washington St.

Sundays
at First Presbyterian

Sunday, May 17

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

**Dr. Doak preaching,
*Transition in Leadership***

Sunday, May 24

**Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Dr. Doak preaching,
*When the Dry Bones Live***

May 17

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.

Return Service Requested