



Together We Can — Stewardship 2015

This Sunday we will begin a sermon series on the 2015 stewardship theme, “Together We Can.” The scripture text for this Sunday is 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 where Paul talks about us all being part of the body of Christ. You and I are individual persons; however, we are part of the body of Christ. Just as the arm and legs and heart and lungs cannot function individually, they are tied together into our body.



Unity is one of the themes that Paul is sounding to the wayward church in Corinth. He is trying to convince the members that they really need each other. Some have inflated ideas of their own importance and think they can be the church, a very small group, all by themselves. “I can see where we need to go and I can get us there all by myself,” some were saying.

No, we can’t get there all by ourselves. We really do need each other. If we don’t work together in stewardship some of us will never fully recognize our potential in God’s new kingdom. Some of us will never fully realize how much the church needs them—even when there is not a crisis. And we may never really find in our job, accomplishments or financial statement the kind of peace, satisfaction and hope that comes from working together.

Who Wants To Be First? — Sunday, October 18



This is the second sermon in our stewardship series, “Together We Can.” Last week we talked about “Our Greatest Need.” Today we discuss where we fit in God’s big plan. In Mark’s gospel, the sons of Zebedee, James and John come to Jesus one day and ask if they can sit at Jesus’ right hand when he comes into his kingdom, They want to be first, they want status, more importantly “they want....”

A lot of us want something, don’t we? We want a happy home life, we want enough of the world’s goods to make life easier, and the list goes on and on.

Jesus tells them it is not an easy thing they are asking. It takes sacrifice to be first! “Are you willing to do what needs to be done?” he asks. Stewardship is about sacrifice as well. Are you and I willing to make a sacrificial gift for the work of God’s kingdom? We aren’t asking Jesus to be first but we certainly want to be on Jesus’ team of dedicated disciples. See you in church.

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Doak, *Senior Pastor*

Outreach

at First Presbyterian

International Craft Fair to Support our Missions

October 9: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
October 10: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
October 11: 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. and
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come to Fellowship Hall and do your Christmas shopping early to support our mission programs, such as helping with expenses for the trip to Honduras. We will also have a briefing on our Haitian ministry at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

IHN News

Our next Interfaith Hospitality Network host week will be October 18-25. We need supportive volunteers to make this ministry possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Terry Nestor or sign up in the atrium.

Volunteer with

Habitat for Humanity

Volunteer any Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. building our Habitat house at 145 Carter St, a joint venture of First Presbyterian, Ebenezer Baptist West, and the Presbyterian Student Center. No experience necessary. Contact Don DeMaria, don.demaria@gmail.com, or Richard Lane, rlane@uga.edu, to get involved.

October Prime Time Presbyterians Event

The October PTP program will be on Tuesday, October 20th. We will visit the Atlanta History Center, have lunch at the Swan Coach House, and tour the Swan House after lunch. The cost is \$13.00 plus your lunch. We will meet at the Kohl's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and take the church van to Atlanta. If you plan to attend, please contact Judy Howell by email at jhowell@uga.edu or by calling (706) 549-2888.

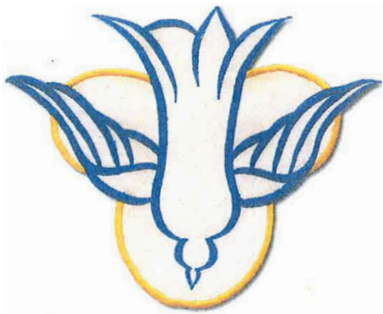
Glass Painting with Sue Marion

New Wednesday@First Class
October 21 - November 18
\$10 Supply Cost

Class is limited to ten participants.
Please call the church office to register.

Library Corner

The church library is phasing out VCR tapes to make room for newer technology. The tapes have been moved onto shelves in Room 314. Feel free to take any you like. Remaining tapes will be donated to the Project Safe thrift store.

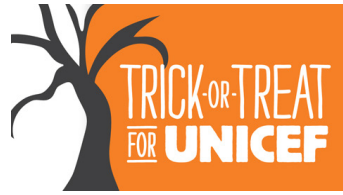


Save the Date:
The Athens Voices of Truth
Fall Music Concert
Sunday, November 1, 4:00 p.m.
Ebenezer Baptist Church, West
205 North Chase Street,
Athens, GA

Serving this community through singing and praising our Almighty God since 1979

Children's Ministry Update:

Begun in 1950, Trick or Treat for UNICEF has children ask for more than candy on Halloween. Trick or treaters carrying the small UNICEF



collection boxes collect loose change. Funds donated to UNICEF are used to provide aid to children in over 190 developing countries through immunization, healthcare, education, nutrition, clean water and sanitation. On Sunday, October 25, our children will get a jump start on Halloween, by trick or treating in the adult Sunday School classes. Children can create Biblical costumes from our supply, or may wear their own (non-scary) costumes. Be sure to start saving your change to help fill their boxes!

"We Are the World" Youth Retreat



October 9th and 10th

One of the big questions we wrestle with in youth group is what it means to be a Christian teen in today's global world? In our first "We Are The World" retreat, we will look for answers and take action together. On Friday night, youth will participate in the Compassion Experience, an interactive "tour" of life in the developing world. The conversation will continue over

dinner and late into the night as we screen the film *Darius Goes West*, a documentary about an Athens teen who created a movement. On Saturday morning, we will give back to our own community at Rivers Alive! Contact Kim at kness@firstpresathens.org for more information.

Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries*

New Women's Small Groups

Three small groups for women getting underway this fall and welcoming new members: 1) A book group which will meet over bag lunches weekly on Tuesdays in the Children's Ministry Suite at 12:15 p.m. beginning Sept 29. Their first book will be *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin. If you are interested, contact Lisa Oelke, lisakoelke@gmail.com. 2) A running group which will run early in the morning on Game Days. If you are interested, contact Heather Roberts, hwooda@uga.edu. 3) A right-brain group which will explore scripture and spirituality creatively and meet on third Mondays at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested, contact Leslie DeSimone, ldesimon@uga.edu.

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 18 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing ten elders to the Session for the Class of 2018 and to elect at least four members of the congregation to the Church Nominating Committee for 2016. Please see the insert in this edition of the Columns for the list of those members being nominated for ruling elder.

Candidates for the Nominations Committee will be nominated by the congregation from the floor the day of the meeting. If you are planning on nominating someone, please have their prior approval before placing their name in nomination.



- October 9** Laura Bennewitz, Tom Granum, Carly Hunt
- October 10** Cheryl Gazlay, Mary Hopper
- October 11** Katie Jean Griffeth, Bill Wilfong, Jr., Jean Martin-Williams
- October 12** Meghan Bawcum, Becky Hartman, Adam McLean, Sissy McRae
- October 13** Ashton Blount, V., Kim Mansfield, Mixon Robinson,

- Jr., Pam Royster
- October 14** Bill Bushnell, Bobby Heath, Glenda LaBoon
- October 15** Adam Ansley, Natalie Fort, John Kipp
- October 16** Lora Antley, Anna Belle Beusse, Mark Carter, Leita Cobb, Ginny Doak, Louise Fleming, Erin Morris
- October 17** Melanie Bradford, Jessica Greene, Amy Martin, Amy Nicholson, Jackson Parker
- October 18** Leigh Crosby, Linda, Ritter, Susanna Trier
- October 19** Kayla Blagg, Katie Delinsky, Mia Nobbie, Bob Sanks
- October 20** Sandy Boyles, Cal Camp, Jerris Hayes, Julie Nathanson
- October 21** Nan Barton, Caleb Streer

Update on Director of Christian Education Position

The Session’s Personnel Committee met recently to discuss the open Director of Christian Education position. They looked at recent trends in this field and listened to the recommendations from the Ministry Architects consultants. The Education and Discipleship Commission invited two consultants from Ministry Architects to evaluate our Children’s Ministry program upon approval of the Session last May. The church has 106 children from nursery through the fifth grade. We are averaging 45-50 children on Sunday in the Sunday school, children’s church and the children’s music program. The consultants suggested that we have an average of 75 children each week for a full-time position. Currently with a Sunday school assistant and music assistants, we have 1.3 staff working with children. The current trend nationally among churches is to look for a specialist in education for 20-25 hours per week. Churches often look first from within their congregation to see if there is someone qualified and feeling a sense of call to this position.

The Personnel Committee is recommending to Session that we pursue a model for a Director of Children’s Ministry to work 20-25 hours per week. Initially this may be an interim position to see how this model works. Please pray for the work of the Personnel Committee as they work through this process.

Music Notes from John Coble

Sunday, October 11 will be Choir Dedication Sunday at First Presbyterian. This occasion is a time when our choir members dedicate themselves to service in the music ministry of our church, and when we will honor their service and celebrate music in worship. Members of our various choirs, from the small children to older adults began their rehearsals for this season in August. We are moved closer to God by music in worship, in ways that somehow go beyond what mere words can express. What we don’t all realize is the time and energy our choir members spend preparing to lead worship. Music is carefully selected by pastors and music director; volunteers help organize music in preparation for rehearsals and services. Choirs spend countless hours learning and practicing that same music. What may be minutes of music in performance, is usually hours, weeks, and sometimes even months in preparation. We owe our choir members a great “thank you” for their dedication and hard work. On Choir Dedication Sunday, all of our choirs will be honored, and combined choirs will join in singing, including the anthem “When In Our Music God is Glorified.” May God be truly glorified then, and every week with our music in worship.



Flower Dedications

The following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **October 11 and 25 and November 15 and 22.** The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

Our Church Family

Out of the Hospital:

- Jean Hopkins
- Eunice Tritt

Sympathy:

- To John Walden on the death of his brother, Mr. James “Jim” Garvin Walden in Clayton, GA on September 7, 2015.
- To Ben and Jennings Middendorf on the death of their daughter, Katharine Wible Middendorf in Atlanta, GA on September 25, 2015. Katharine was the granddaughter of Wayne and Karen Middendorf and Bob and Janet Bishop.

Bible Readings

- Oct. 8** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Oct. 9** Matthew 9:27-34
- Oct. 10** Jeremiah 35:1-19
- Oct. 11** Acts 14:8-18
- Oct. 12** Matthew 10:5-15
- Oct. 13** Jeremiah 36:27-37:2
- Oct. 14** 1 Corinthians 14:13-25
- Oct. 15** Matthew 10:34-42
- Oct. 16** Jeremiah 38:14-28
- Oct. 17** 1 Corinthians 15:12-29
- Oct. 18** Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
- Oct. 19** Jeremiah 44:1-14
- Oct. 20** 1 Corinthians 15:41-50
- Oct. 21** Matthew 12:1-14



Thursday, October 8

2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Parkway

Friday, October 9 - 11

International Craft Fair to Support our Missions, Fellowship Hall, See Page 1 for Times
Ministry Architects Christian Formation Workshops

Saturday, October 10

8:00 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Build, 145 Carter Street

9:00 a.m. Youth Group "Rivers Alive" Service Day, Dudley Park

11:00 a.m. Haitian Ministry Briefing, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 11

4:00 p.m. Cherub and St. Andrews Choirs, Rooms 202 and 203

5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202

Monday, October 12

5:15 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, October 13

12:15 p.m. Book Small Group, Room 124

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

2:00 p.m. Share and Prayer Small Group, Talmage Terrace, 801 Riverhill Drive

5:30 p.m. Right Brain Small Group, Staff Kitchen

Wednesday, October 14 - Wednesday@First Programs

9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Brides Room

12:00 p.m. Meet and Eat Small Group, Hilltop Grille, 2310 W Broad Street

3:00 p.m. Wednesday@First programs

5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. IHN Coordinating Team Pre-Hosting Meeting, The PIT

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 15

10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Home of Josephine Paine, 640 Riverview Road

2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Mulberry Grove, 343 Price Street

Saturday, October 17

8:00 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Build, 145 Carter Street

Sunday, October 18

12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. Confirmands and Mentors Lunch

2:30 p.m. IHN Host Week Begins, The PIT

4:00 p.m. Cherub and St. Andrews Choirs, Rooms 202 and 203

5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202

5:30 p.m. New Member Social, Home of Joe and Lois Neighbors, 1030 Forrest Hills Drive

6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S Lumpkin Street

Monday, October 19

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

6:00 p.m. IHN Volunteer Recognition Night, Central Presbyterian Church, 380 Alps Road
Right Brain Small Group, Home of Carol Strickland, 1141 Nona Drive

Tuesday, October 20

9:00 a.m. Prime Time Presbyterians October Event, Atlanta History Center

9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Circle Coordinating Meeting, Room 308

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

2:00 p.m. Share and Prayer Small Group, Talmage Terrace, 801 Riverhill Drive

5:30 p.m. Renovation Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Return Service Requested

Sundays
at First Presbyterian

Sunday, October 11
Our Greatest Need
Rev. Dr. Glenn Doak

Sunday, October 18
Who Wants To Be First?
Rev. Dr. Glenn Doak

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

**Sunday School at
9:45 a.m.**

Children's Church
Children, ages 4 through
Grade 2, may leave the
11:00 a.m. service for
activities in the Children's
Ministry Suite.