



Sunday, July 19 - From *If* to *Nevertheless*



The lectionary cycle after Pentecost follows the life and rule of David as told in the books of I and II Samuel. David was Israel's second king and an extremely prominent figure in the Bible. His name appears more than a thousand times in the Old and New Testaments, more than any other.

The text for July 19 (II Samuel 7:1-17) comes as David is coming into his own. He has defeated the Philistines. Both Israel and Judah have chosen him as their king, and he has captured the supposedly unsailable city of Jerusalem, made it his capital, and brought there the ark of the covenant containing the tablets of the law and representing the very presence of God. It is David's intent to build a temple to honor God and house the ark, but God sends Nathan to David with an oracle that changes the king's mind. Indeed the oracle changes the relationship between God and Israel. Its implications greatly affect the way we understand God and live in relationship with God. Come and let's explore what it means for God's covenant with us to go from *if* to *nevertheless*.

The Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Sunday, July 26 - Do Miracles Need Faith?

I subscribe to a journal called *Homiletics*. It provides sermon ideas, jokes, and liturgical help for each Sunday of the Christian year. I've never used any of its sermons, but I often browse the magazine for its jokes. The sermon material for July 26th began this way:



"In about 1439, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press – a short time ago, historically speaking. In the 576 years since, we've managed to take the old moveable type press from the print shop to the desktop in our homes, where nearly everyone has a printer that spits out perfectly printed text in any of a gazillion possible fonts at a rate that would have left Gutenberg in shock... Then again, Gutenberg didn't have to deal with paper jams, ink priced roughly at the gold standard and stacks of old, dead printers in his hall closet. But now, printing has become even more sophisticated with the advent of the 3-D printer, which allows you to print an object out of plastic, metal or ceramic materials."

The article goes on to suggest that it won't be long before the 3-D printer is used to produce food. It might be called the "Foodini," something that Jesus didn't have when he fed the 5,000. Against the background of Jesus' feeding the 5,000 and walking on water, I plan to investigate the interface between miracle and faith.

The Rev. Dr. John Kipp, *Parish Associate*

Sundays at First Presbyterian

Sunday, July 19
Worship at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland

Sunday, July 26
Worship at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. John Kipp

Sunday School does not meet during the summer worship schedule.

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

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank



On July 5th, we collected 330 non-perishable food items for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. Our next Food Sunday will be August 2, 2015. Thank you for your continued donations and support.

Members in the Military

Do you have a family member serving in the military? The Correspondence Team of our Congregational Care Commission would like to send a note of encouragement and support. If you have a service member in mind, please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org.



Interfaith Hospitality Network News

We recently concluded our third host week of 2015 from June 21-28, and the family we hosted commented on several occasions how much they appreciated the hospitality extended to them during their stay. This is a testament to how warm and welcoming our volunteers are to our IHN families. Thank you for all your work and kindness!

Our next host week will be August 16-23, 2015. We hope you will prayerfully consider volunteering.

Library Corner

Do you have fond memories of the "Little Golden Book" classics like *Tootle*, *Scruffy the Tugboat*, *Bambi*, *The Fuzzy Ducking*, and many more? Come to the library to share these memories with your children and grandchildren!

Save the Date

Our Return to Two Worship Services
Worship at 8:45 a.m and 11:00 a.m.
August 9, 2015

The Welcome Back Sunday School Brunch
In the Fellowship Hall
9:45 - 10:45 a.m. on August 9, 2015



We are very excited about the upcoming year in Sunday School, especially the brand new curriculum for each of the Children's Ministry classes:

- The **infants and toddlers** will be using Group Publishing's *Play-n-Worship* series, filled with music, activities, and storyboards that will help little ones interact with Bible stories.
- The **preschoolers through 3rd graders** will be using a PCUSA curriculum called *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*. Each lesson reveals God's grace through Bible stories, songs, prayers, and activities for their age level.
- The **4th-5th graders** will have a hip new space and the *Grapple* curriculum by Group Publishing. These lessons help pre-teens work through real questions of faith and help them build a faith foundation of wise choices.
- There is also a new **Children's Church** curriculum, *All Together Now*, which has wonderful Bible lessons for children of different ages.

Karen Phillips, *Children's Ministry Renovation Team*

Youth Mission Trip

On July 19th, our youth group will be heading to Southern Pines, NC for a week-long mission trip. We will be joining hundreds of teens from across the country to make a big impact on this community through Group Missions. Please join us in prayer for this community and our participants:

Ann Harper Covington
Celeste Covington
Greta Covington
Maggie DeMaria
Mac McCartney
Sarah McCartney
Kim Ness
Bob Oertel

Erin Osborne
Jordan Osborne
Luke Osborne
Anna Palmer
Jack Palmer
Xan Palmer
Robert Simmons
James Williams

Meet Our New Communications Specialist



We are pleased to announce that Caitlin White has joined our staff as the new Administrative Assistant – Communications Specialist. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Caitlin is a recent graduate of Boston University School of Theology where she earned her Master of Divinity. Caitlin has been working in campus ministry and student services for Boston University while attending graduate school.

Her interest in religion and conflict resolution has also taken her on delegations to Israel-Palestine in 2013 and to Jordan and Turkey to work with Syrian refugees in 2014. She loves spending her free time outside, especially backpacking and gardening, and she is enjoying getting to know the Athens area.

Please join the staff in making Caitlin feel at home in her new position. You can reach her via email at caitlin@firstpresathens.org or by phone at (706) 543-4338 x217.



July 13 Evelyn Bawcum, Judy Crawford, Bertis Downs, Ruth Ike

July 14 Sarah Bryan, Dave Burch, Stephen Covington

July 15 Molly Brunjes, Colleen Hannafin, Lizzie Stemke

July 16 Kitty Donnan, Curtis Estes, Annie Blanks

July 17 Jenny Calvo, Lisa Jones

July 18 Tom Bowen, Helen Devore, Elizabeth Gaskill, Al Ike

July 19 John Ferguson, Lucy Ferguson

July 20 Margaret Johansen, Tony McCutchen, Parker Middleton, Carl Nichols

July 21 Gabe Padgett

July 22 Tom Bennewitz, Sophia Quasnick-Colantuno

July 23 Rosemary Bowen, Lucy Dunn, Tom Lanier, Karl Schab

July 24 Kathryn Nichols

July 25 Kelly Calvo, Sarah Carey, Chris Galay, Bill Hardell, Art Ryder

July 26 Stan Bailey, Elizabeth Blount, Chiara Bono, Donna Brumby, Claudia Cole

July 27 Rod Canfield, Charlotte Chromiak, Bill McKeller, Hilda Shepard, Christopher Wesson

July 28 Bob Frisch

July 29 Jim Bennewitz, Addie Downs, Mack Elrod, Barbara Scott

Saying Goodbye

Not everyone who moves away from Athens and First Church says goodbye officially. They generally are so caught up in the moving process that they let us know months later. However, several members have moved away this year who told us in advance, so if you are missing:

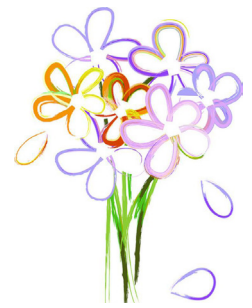
■ **Gary & Louise Fleming** moved to a retirement community in Stone Mountain, GA. Louise sang in the Chancel Choir. Gary went to Haiti on several occasions to work as a doctor with children in the clinic. Gary and Louise both sang in The Mellows.

■ **Ellen Grandgenett** moved to Seattle, WA to live with her sister and be close to family. Ellen sang in the Chancel Choir and The Mellows.

■ **Mike & Rhea Vezmar** moved to a retirement community near Cincinnati, OH to be closer to children and grandchildren. Mike served with the Outreach Commission and Property Committee. Rhea worked with the Benevolence Market, Senior Adult Ministry and others.

■ **Wayne & Julie Walters** moved to Lake Jackson, GA to enjoy lake living. Wayne and Julie taught the 3-5 year old Sunday School Class, were co-chairs of last year's "Ways to Serve Fair" and the "Celebration Weekend" when the new building was opened in 2010.

■ **Drew & Lisa Watkins** and children Mary Kate and Bobby moved back to Roswell, GA closer to Drew's work. Drew served on the Grounds Commission and on several occasions donated the plantings in the courtyard from his business Greenhouse. Lisa was involved with children and adult Sunday school.



Flower Dedications

In July and August 2015, the following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **July 19 and August 2, 9, 16 and 30**. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

Our Church Family

Home from the Hospital:

- Shirley Evans
- Jim Pope
- Elaine Thacker

Congratulations:

- To Joseph and Beverly Hromalik on the birth of their daughter, Genevieve Annette Hromalik, on June 24, 2015. Genevieve is the granddaughter of Nan and Woody Burton.

Bible Readings

- July 13 Acts 11:19-30
- July 14 Mark 2:1-12
- July 15 1 Samuel 20:1-23
- July 16 Acts 13:1-12
- July 17 Mark 3:7-19a
- July 18 1 Samuel 22:1-23
- July 19 Romans 11:33-12:2
- July 20 Mark 4:1-20
- July 21 1 Samuel 25:1-22
- July 22 Acts 14:19-28
- July 23 Mark 5:1-20
- July 24 1 Samuel 31:1-13
- July 25 Acts 15:22-35
- July 26 Matthew 25:31-46
- July 27 2 Samuel 2:1-11
- July 28 Acts 16:6-15
- July 29 Mark 6:47-56



Monday, July 13

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Room 205

Tuesday, July 14

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 5:30 p.m. Right Brain Small Group, Staff Kitchen

Wednesday, July 15

- 7:45 a.m. Food for the Soul, Food for the Body Youth Service Day, ACCA, 135 Hoyt Street
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary

Saturday, July 18

- 1:00 p.m. Crafty Christians Small Group, Room 301

Sunday, July 19

Youth Mission Trip (Sunday-Saturday), Southern Pines, NC

Monday, July 20

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Ocean Exploration Camp (Monday-Thursday), Weekday School
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Renovation Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

Tuesday, July 21

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

Wednesday, July 22

- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary

Monday, July 27

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Room 205

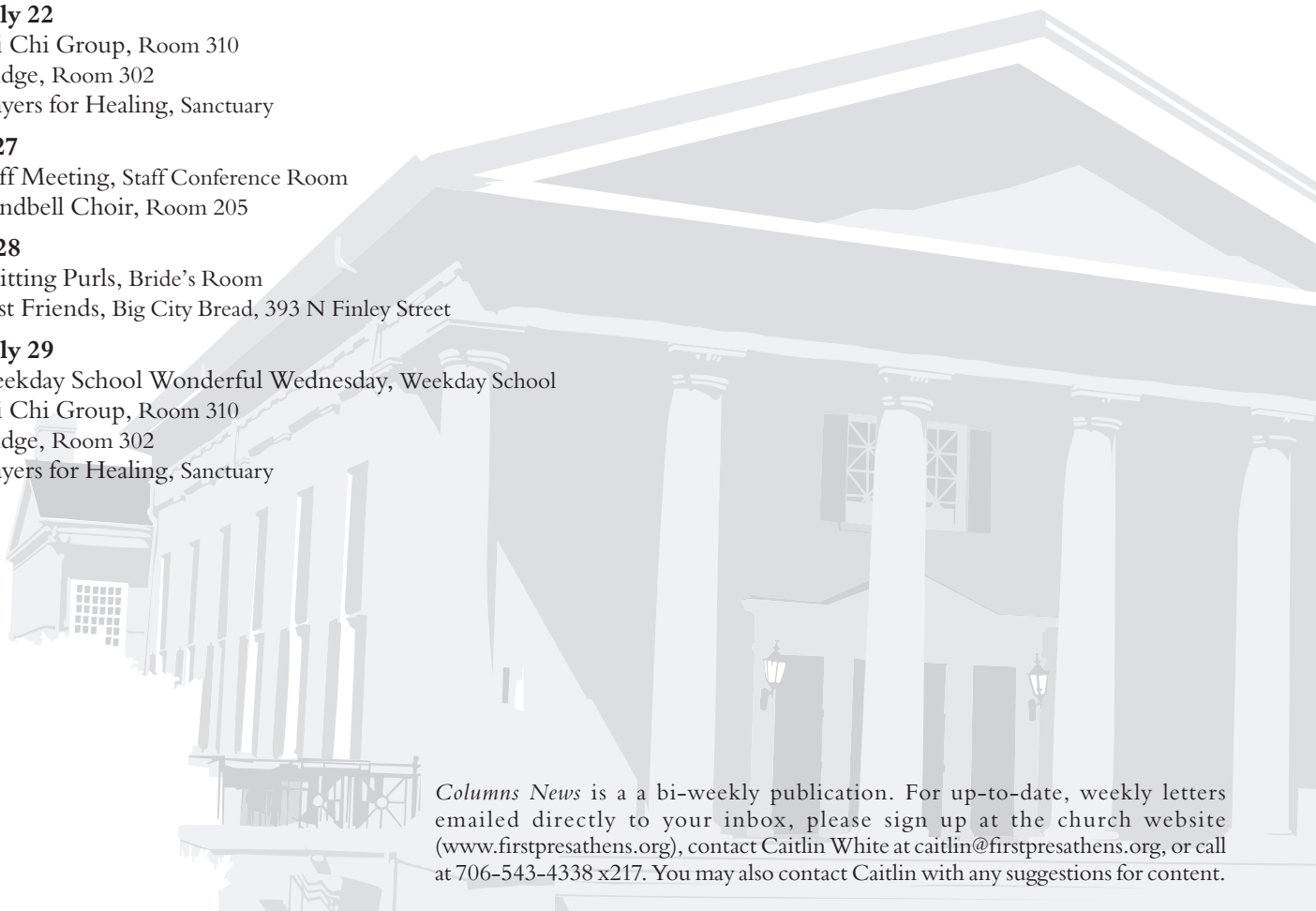
Tuesday, July 28

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Big City Bread, 393 N Finley Street

Wednesday, July 29

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary

Return Service Requested



Columns News is a bi-weekly publication. For up-to-date, weekly letters emailed directly to your inbox, please sign up at the church website (www.firstpresathens.org), contact Caitlin White at caitlin@firstpresathens.org, or call at 706-543-4338 x217. You may also contact Caitlin with any suggestions for content.