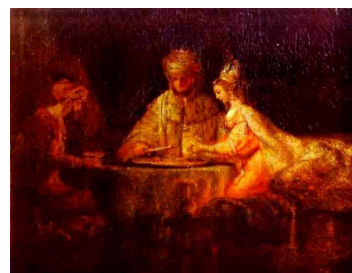




Once Upon a Time — Sunday, September 27

Text: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The book of Esther is a Jewish novella set among the Jewish diaspora community in the Persian Empire during the reign of Ahasuerus (the Persian Emperor Xerxes 486-465 BCE). It's got all our favorite fairy tale characters—a humble orphan who becomes a queen, her kindly uncle (actually older cousin), an evil conniving villain, a buffoonish king, plus lavish parties at the castle every time you turn around. (Disney, take note!) The tale turns when Esther foils a devilish plot to murder her people, the Jews. Ironic reversals are the order of the day. Although God's name is never mentioned in this biblical book, Esther is full of Gospel Good News, and we all need to hear some Good News!



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

Unity on World Communion Sunday — Sunday, October 4



Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. In the late 1930s, a Presbyterian minister had the idea to agree on one Sunday each year when all churches would celebrate the sacrament of communion as a sign of our unity in Christ, and he convinced the Presbyterian General Assembly and then other denominations. Of course, some Christian bodies were already celebrating communion every Sunday; The Roman Catholics, the Episcopal Church, some Lutheran groups and the Disciples of Christ have always celebrated the sacrament every Sunday. In those days, we Presbyterians were celebrating communion four times per year. Today, most denominations celebrate communion monthly or every Sunday. Some of the luster is off the idea of a World Day for communion, but I still like the idea of Unity: the idea that all of us are doing something together.

The text for this Sunday is from Genesis 2:18-24, one of the two creation stories in the Bible. This text speaks of God's plan for all the earth, the unity of creation, and how closely Creator and creation were interwoven. See you in church Sunday.

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

Peace and Global Witness Offering



Consider these statistics: 1 in 4 U.S. students reports being bullied at school. Up to 70% of women experience violence in their lifetimes. Conflict and political violence are on the rise in 48 countries. Human trafficking and forced labor affect 3 of every 1,000 people in the world today.

To help address these diverse challenges, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports a range of ministries devoted to peacemaking and reconciliation. This includes bearing witness in communities of conflict around the world, hosting education programs to raise awareness, driving local peacemaking efforts, offering catalyst support to our mission co-workers, and much more. Twenty-five percent of our offering will go to the Georgia Conflict Center, an integral part of violence prevention and conflict management in the Athens community. Please give generously to this special offering which will be taken on October 4, World Communion Sunday.

Children's Ministry Update

Things are continuing to go well in the Children's Ministry on Sunday morning! Our regular class schedule has gotten underway and we've got a lot of excited, engaged children in Sunday School and Children's Church. Here's what will be coming up the next few weeks in each class:

- *Nursery (Birth-age 3)* — Coordinator: Wendi Finch
The nursery will continue to learn the story of Baby Moses and make crafts to help understand the lesson.
- *Pre-K (ages 3-5 and potty trained)* — Teachers: Sarah Bryan, Jennifer Castleman & Dan Trier
- *Kindergarten & First Grade* — Teachers: Leslye Queen & Karen Cobb
- *2nd-3rd Grade* — Teachers: Madie Fischetti, Jerry Rogers, John Carey, Don DeMaria & Mary Havick
The Preschool, Kindergarten-1st grade, and 2nd-3rd grade classes will be studying God's blessing of Ishmael & Isaac on September 27 and Isaac & Rebekah's wedding on October 4.
- *4th-5th Grade* — Teachers: Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson & Jody Corry
The 4th and 5th graders will continue to discuss challenging questions. On September 27, they'll ask the practical question "Why can't I sit in the front seat?" On October 4, they'll start to discuss Jesus by answering the question "What if Jesus is a liar?"
- *Children's Church* will continue its fall lesson series based on the book of Exodus.
- Mark Saturday, October 24 on your calendar for a fall family event open to all church members. Details to come soon!



Leslie Trier, *Children's Ministry Renovation Team Co-Chair*

Youth Ministry Update

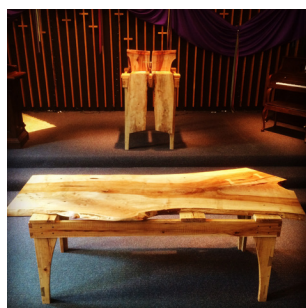
In honor of Labor Day, I had the opportunity to share with our children about those who work for God around the world. Did you know that there have been missionaries serving the Presbyterian Church since 1834, and today, there are 165 men and women serving in 71 countries? In addition, PCUSA has an amazing program for ages 19-30 called the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. YAVs commit to one year of simple living in an intentional Christian community. Their time is focused on cross-cultural mission, leadership development through faith in action and vocational discernment. Over fifteen years ago, my year of service in Belfast, Northern Ireland was truly life changing, as I hope it may be for a few of our youth one day in the future.

Visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionyearbook> to learn more about PCUSA missionaries. You can engage in ministry alongside them by praying through the Mission Yearbook each day.



Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries*

Presbyterian Student Center Dedication



Thanks to the generosity of friends, we have a new baptismal font, pulpit, and communion table at the Presbyterian Student Center that were given in memory of John Reed and Michael Reed. Resurrection can be witnessed all around us, and this furniture is no exception. When we had to remove a pecan tree from our property several years ago, we saved a portion of it for this purpose. This summer, our friends at ME Speak Design in North High Shoals worked tirelessly to turn this tree into something beautiful that reminds us of God's grace and love every time that we see it. On Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m., we will dedicate that furniture to the glory of God as we worship together with friends in our chapel at 1250 S. Lumpkin St., and we would be honored to have the members of First Presbyterian Church of Athens in attendance. A brief reception will follow.

Andy Cooke, *Campus Minister*

International Craft Fair

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. You will be able to purchase crafts from Haiti, pottery from Casa de Amistad, international crafts from 10,000 Villages (jewelry, nativities, ornaments, toys, wooden bowls, and other interesting items), and from our members: pottery, jewelry, quilts, woodworking, knitted items, and baked goods.

If you are contributing to the fair, set-up will be on Thursday, October 8, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Mary Burton at (706) 543-9619 or by email if you wish to make other arrangements for delivery of your contribution. Volunteers are also needed as cashiers and hosts for all craft fair hours. A chart will be available in the atrium for you to sign up, or you can contact Mary Burton if you are willing to lend a hand for an hour or two.

Please note that the deadline to register for the Hondura Mission Trip, March 5-12, 2016, is October 1st.



September 24 Bryan Cole, Sidney Doornbos, Cash Havick, Hal Pritchett, Heather Reed, Moffatt Williams, Jr.
September 25 Linda Delinsky, Laura Hill, John McKillip, Sam Steward
September 26 Verner Chaffin, Sandra Kays, Bob Rentz
September 27 Camden Camp, Jerry Crawford, Beau Gilmore, III, Amanda Thompson
September 28 Bruce Borders, Bud Hartman, Jr.

September 29 Sherry Caven, Steve Whiten
September 30 Cameron Bogue, Pirie Humphries, Lizzie Simmons, John Ward
October 1 Mac Corry, Knox Huff, Jr., Wendy Humphries, Lillian Jones, Pat Searcy, Joy Swank
October 2 Charles Cantrell, Laura Clark, Heather Crawford, Cassi McCormack, Mary Lil Raymer
October 3 Carol Ashmore, Pat Marshall
October 4 Charley Burch, Jr., Lynn West
October 5 Joan Duffett, John English, Nancy Joy
October 6 Carol Brown, Patti Burch, Kay Chaffin, Mike Farley, Mary McKillip, Susan Noakes
October 7 Kendall Kookogey, Hal Hodgson, III, Carol Robinson

August Financials

Income for August	\$88,085
Income YTD	\$714,197
Expenses for August	\$102,907
Expenses YTD	\$894,460

Flower Dedications

In October 2015, the following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning worship: **October 11, 18, and 25**. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org to schedule a date.

**In Memoriam
Howard Wiarda
1939-2015**

Our Church Family

Out of the Hospital:

■ Elinor Terrell

Sympathy:

■ To Becky Padgett on the death of her mother, Lee Padgett on the death of his mother-in-law, and Jessica Padgett Venables, Thad Padgett and Gabe Padgett on the death of their grandmother, Mrs. Betty Corley in West Columbia, SC on August 21, 2015.

Save the Date: When In Our Music God Is Glorified

Sunday, October 4, 5:00 p.m.
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Athens
Combined choirs of
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
First Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church

Dr. Daniel J. Bara, Guest Conductor

Music of Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Brahms, Parry, and Wilberg with organ, piano and brass



Music Notes from John Coble

“Music is a fair and lovely gift of God which has often wakened and moved me to the joy of preaching. St. Augustine was troubled in conscience whenever he caught himself delighting in music, which he took to be sinful. He was a choice spirit, and were he living today would agree with us. I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people gay; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor. I would not exchange what little I know of music for something great. Experience proves that next to the Word of God only music deserves to be extolled as the mistress and governess of the feelings of the human heart. We know that to the devils music is distasteful and insufferable. My heart bubbles up and overflows in response to music, which has so often refreshed me and delivered me from dire plagues.”

(Martin Luther, translated by Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand, A Life of Martin Luther.*)

Bible Readings

Sep. 24 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Sep. 25 2 Kings 9:17-37
Sep. 26 1 Corinthians 7:10-24
Sep. 27 Luke 5:1-11
Sep. 28 2 Kings 17:24-41
Sep. 29 1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Sep. 30 Matthew 7:13-21
Oct. 1 2 Kings 18:28-37
Oct. 2 1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Oct. 3 Matthew 8:18-27
Oct. 4 2 Kings 20:1-21
Oct. 5 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1
Oct. 6 Matthew 9:1-8
Oct. 7 2 Kings 22:14-23:3



Wednesday, September 23 - Wednesday@First Programs

- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 11:45 a.m. Meet and Eat Small Group, Savannah Room, The Georgia Center
- 3:00 p.m. Wednesday@First programs
- 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Thursday, September 24

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Hollander Senior Living
- 6:00 p.m. Family Pizza Night, Weekday School
Lay Callers Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Saturday, September 26

- 8:00 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Build, 145 Carter Street
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation Retreat departs

Sunday, September 27

- 1:15 p.m. AYS Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub and St. Andrews Choirs, Rooms 202 and 203
- 5:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Parlor
Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, September 28

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Room 310
- 3:00 p.m. Wednesday@First programs
- 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 498 Prince Avenue

Thursday, October 1

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Home of Josephine Paine, 640 Riverview Road
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Bentley Senior Day Care, 135 Hoyt Street
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee, Children's Ministry Suite

Saturday, October 3

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

Sunday, October 4 - World Communion Sunday

- 4:00 p.m. Cherub and St. Andrews Choirs, Rooms 202 and 203
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 2:00 p.m. Share and Prayer Small Group, Talmage Terrace, 801 Riverhill Drive

Return Service Requested

Sundays
at First Presbyterian

Sunday, September 27
Once Upon a Time
Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland

Sunday, October 4
The God of All the World
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.