

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

May 23, 2019

“The Peace of Christ Be with You!”

In recent Missions and Worship Committee meetings, conversation transitioned into evaluations of our service of worship, something I think we should all be a part of, as we work to make worship meaningful and uplifting for all of us. Some expressed frustration with the placement of our time for “Meet and Greet” in the middle of the service. The comment was made that it interrupts the flow of worship. When I explained what the “Passing of the Peace” truly is to represent, I was encouraged to re-publish an article I wrote for the Gazette shortly after I came to Moultrie. So, here it is as follows:

I am writing now to lift-up the element of worship that all these other parts lead up to, the **“Passing of the Peace.”** In many churches “Passing of the Peace” seems more like a time for socializing, crawling over pews, running to the other side of the sanctuary to greet someone you haven’t seen for a while. This really isn’t a bad thing at all. God loves it when we gather in His name and enjoy our fellowship with one another. That’s a very important part of being church!

I take this opportunity to invite you to take a moment and notice the placement of “Passing of the Peace” in the service. It is part of our confession of sin and brokenness. We are all well aware that being family with one another, even the family of God, takes real effort and sometimes hard work. The longer we live, the more we learn that relationships can never be taken for granted. We cannot be true family with one another without at some point disappointing or hurting our sisters and brothers in faith, whom we really, deeply love. So, each week, as part of confessing our sin before God, we give thanks in gratitude for God’s forgiveness toward us. Then, in the “Passing of the Peace,” we turn to our neighbors, especially those with whom we have had real difficulty, seeking their forgiveness toward us, and offering our forgiveness toward them. This is “Passing the Peace of Christ!”

In the Directory of Worship of our venerable Book of Order, we receive this direction for our services of worship:

“As God is concerned for the events in our daily lives, so members of the community in worship appropriately express concern for one another and for the ministries of others in this world. We express this concern as we: (1) take opportunity to seek and to offer forgiveness for hurts, misunderstandings, and broken relationships among ourselves; and (2) as we respond to God’s act of reconciliation toward us by exchanging signs and words of reconciliation and of Christ’s peace.” {W-2.6001, b, (1) & (2)}

This is a good word for any church community at any time, but especially for a church going through a time of transition, such as this time for us. What a great opportunity this is for us as we worship together to both offer and receive healing in our relationships with one another where it is so needed. When you “Pass the Peace of Christ,” you are saying much more than:

“So good to see you this morning! How was the game yesterday?”

“Passing of the Peace” is a time for renewal, a time for healing, a time for reconciliation. Listen for my words in worship that are now becoming familiar to you:

Pastor: “Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also be forgiving toward one another!”

“The Peace of Christ be with you!”

People: “And also with you!”

Pastor: “Let us share the Peace of Christ with one another.”

Dr. Richard T. Gillespie

CONCERNS

Immediate Concerns

*Art Ellis *Kim Duggan Flowers *Robert Aultman *Tom Crawford (Josh Hancock’s grandfather)
*Pearl Grandy *Jane Fraser *Glenda Bivins (Ricky Griffin’s mother)
*Justin Williams (Rhonda Blanton’s cousin) *Phil Keeny *Joanne Harsh Meredith

On-Going Concerns

*Bill Acuff *Joyce Laabs *Anne Carlton *Mitch Britt (Alice Griner’s son)
*Luna Chappell (Verna Moon’s great granddaughter)

FLOWERS

The flowers in the church on Sunday, May 12 were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of GoGo and her friends, the Women of the First Presbyterian Church by Gail Jennings, Jan & Bob Norris, Kim & Joe Flowers, and Holly Beard

The flowers in the church on Sunday, May 19 were given to the glory of God and in honor of our 2019 graduates by Ronnie and Susan Reagin

SPECIAL OFFERINGS—IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE!!

- ◆ Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering—This year's offering will go to The Forgotten Initiative that supports foster families in Colquitt County.
- ◆ Mother's Day Offering—Supports Presbyterian Homes and their residents.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 9 — Pentecost

Wear red to celebrate

Sunday, June 30 — Fifth Sunday congregational covered dish lunch with patriotic theme

Sunday, July 15 – Thursday, July 18, Vacation Bible School

Sunday, August 11 — Rally Day and Missions Dinner

Wednesday, August 14 — WATCH Resumes

PENTECOST OFFERING

Sunday, June 9

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$15 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more — to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith. Won't you join in your support? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Begins May 28

Monday—Thursday 9 AM—4 PM

Friday (regular schedule) 9 AM—3 PM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Closed—Memorial Day

Monday, May 27

***Rescheduled* Stated Session Meeting**

Tuesday, May 28, 6:30 PM

Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 5:00 PM

Deacon's Meeting

Sunday, June 9, 8:30 AM

Missions Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 5:30 PM

Cornerstones Invited to a Wedding!

On Saturday, June 8 at 10:30 am, Cornerstones are invited to join **Anne Foster and Jim Soos** at the celebration of their marriage. Location: Reed Bingham State Park on the Colquitt County side at the Beach Pavilion. Dr. Richard Gillespie will preside over the Holy Ceremony as they exchange their vows to each other. They encourage you to dress casually so you may enjoy the park's many activities after the ceremony. Cornerstones are invited to share a Barbeque lunch with the newlyweds and family.



Let Susan know if you want a ride to the wedding. We will need to leave church by 9:45.

CORNERSTONES

Movie Night—Thurs. June 13, 5:30—Pizza, popcorn, movie candy and a movie. Cost is \$5. Signed up: Susan, Jane, Beth, & Ben

Lunch Meeting—Mon. June 17, 11:30—Sandwich picnic in the air conditioning of the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5. Signed up: Susan, Anne, Jim, Beth, Joyce, Virginia, & Ben.

Lunch on the Road to Sale City—Thurs. June 27 We will have another scrumptious fried chicken supper after we play BINGO. **Leave church at 10:00.** Cost is \$5. Signed up: Susan, Virginia, Anne, Jim, Ben

Peach State Summer Theater

Seniors -\$28 Adults-\$32

Call Susan now to reserve your ticket.

Sun. June 23 Mama Mia Leave church at 12:30 for lunch in Valdosta before the show at 3:00.

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

Sun. July 7 Crazy for You Leave church at 12:30 for lunch in Valdosta before the show at 3:00.

A zany rich-boy-meets-hometown-girl romantic comedy, **CRAZY FOR YOU** tells the story of young New York banker Bobby Child, who is sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on a rundown theatre. In Deadrock, Bobby falls for spunky Polly Baker, the theatre owner's daughter. But Polly takes an instant dislike to the city slicker, so Bobby vows - through cunning, razzmatazz, and a hilarious case of mistaken identity - to win Polly's heart and save the theatre. Memorable Gershwin tunes from the score include "I Got Rhythm," "Naughty Baby," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Embraceable You," "But Not for Me," "Nice Work if You Can Get It," and "Someone to Watch Over Me."

Sat. July 20 Little Women Musical- Leave church at 12:30 for show at 2:00. After show we will eat in Valdosta before returning home. LITTLE WOMEN is the timeless, captivating story of the March sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy, told in musical form filled with personal discovery, heartache, hope and everlasting love. Based on Louisa May Alcott's American classic, this Civil War story of love and family stands the test of time.

HELPING HANDS COLLECTION BOX

In April-June we will be collecting items for the Mommy Mall at Hope House. Mothers can pick up items they need for their babies. Please bring diapers, baby wipes, baby lotion, baby shampoo – anything a baby might need.



First Presbyterian Church

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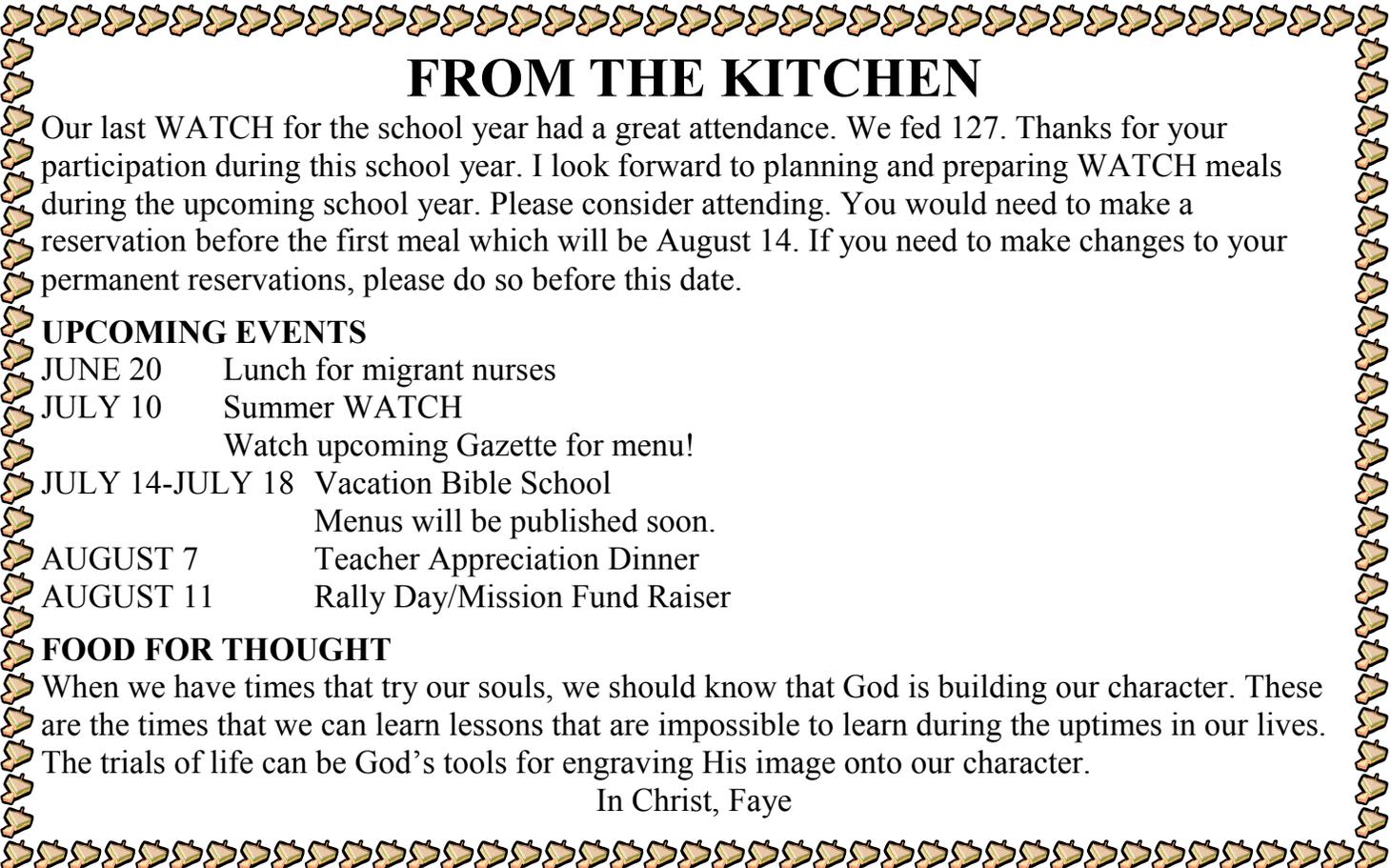
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FROM THE KITCHEN

Our last WATCH for the school year had a great attendance. We fed 127. Thanks for your participation during this school year. I look forward to planning and preparing WATCH meals during the upcoming school year. Please consider attending. You would need to make a reservation before the first meal which will be August 14. If you need to make changes to your permanent reservations, please do so before this date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE 20 Lunch for migrant nurses
- JULY 10 Summer WATCH
Watch upcoming Gazette for menu!
- JULY 14-JULY 18 Vacation Bible School
Menus will be published soon.
- AUGUST 7 Teacher Appreciation Dinner
- AUGUST 11 Rally Day/Mission Fund Raiser

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When we have times that try our souls, we should know that God is building our character. These are the times that we can learn lessons that are impossible to learn during the uptimes in our lives. The trials of life can be God's tools for engraving His image onto our character.

In Christ, Faye