



THE PIPER

Piping Along News of Interest

NOVEMBER 2017

Dear Church,

I've been using this pastor's corner to walk through our core values as a congregation. This month I want to point to an example. I think our new covenant partners are an example of the power of us living into our core value of "intentionally pursuing real, vibrant relationships." These folks have joined us because people pursued real, vibrant relationships with them and if you haven't met them yet, use what follows to pursue a real, vibrant relationship with them now. We will all be blessed as a result. In Christ, Jon



Amanda Knestrick

Amanda, her husband Mark and daughter Mia were invited to First Presbyterian by neighbors. Amanda says she has recently grown in her faith due to the birth of her daughter. Her favorite Scripture is Philippians 4:13 and hobbies include baking, hiking, and water-skiing.

Peggy Kuehl

Peggy comes to us from Muhlenberg Lutheran Church and with experience participating in choir, hand bell choir, and as organist. Peggy says she comes to First Presbyterian seeking a conservative, Bible-based church. She has always believed in Jesus, but became more aware of having a congregational home after marriage. Her faith was also reaffirmed about three years ago during a difficult time. She obviously enjoys music, in addition to the areas listed above she enjoys flute. You can also find her reading or doing embroidery and crewel work. She has three grown daughters and works as an RN. Her favorite verse is John 14:2-3.

Margie Robison

Margie Robison (Mike Robison's wife) has decided to join as a covenant partner due to a time of clarifying her own faith. Given PC(USA) decisions, she began to delve into Scripture, discuss things with friends who had various points of view and pray a lot. Some favorite Scriptures include, Psalm 51:10-12; John 1:1-2; and Romans 8:38-39. She enjoys music (particularly hand bells and recorders), and reading aloud to children. She works part-time as manager of the Stuarts Draft Library. She and Mike have two adult children.

Karen Thayer

Karen is Pastor Scott's wife. Karen grew up in a faith filled family and was actively involved in church. She asked Jesus into her heart at the age of three. While at college, the pastor preached on Romans 12:1-2 and challenged those listening to make their lives a "living sacrifice to the Lord". From that day on, Karen says she purposed her heart to make the Lord not only Savior but also the Lord of her life. A favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6. Karen enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, study Scripture and taking walks. She and Scott have three adult children and one son-in-law.

Alex Ortigosa

Alex and family came to First Presbyterian because of the invitation from friends and neighbors. Alex is currently a student. He has recently grown in his faith by answering the call of God to be a disciple in going to Cuba in the near future and reaching out to those in need. His favorite Scripture is John 8:7; he enjoys family time and watching sports.

Allison Ortigosa

Allison grew up Baptist and accepted God as a child of about 6 years old. She renewed her faith in high school while attending Kanakuk, a Christian athletic camp, and was baptized at age 18 at Faith Baptist Church. Her favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13; she enjoys time with family and watching sports. Allison works as a scientist.

Jordan Ortigosa

Jordan came along to First Presbyterian with her parents. She says that at summer camp, she grew to know God more with the influence of her counselors and cabin mates. This built on the foundation of what her parents had shared with her. She is currently in high school and enjoys softball, track and choir. Her favorite verse is Psalm 46:3.

Surviving the Holidays

Saturday, November 11

9am - 11am, Fellowship Hall

No matter how long it's been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. Join us for an encouraging seminar that will help you survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them. Contact Pastor Scott (540) 434-6551; sthayer@firstpreshbg.org.

Prayer and Remembrance Service

Sunday, November 19, 2:30pm

If you have lost a loved one this year, we invite you to participate in this service as a way to honor and remember your loved one's life.

Introducing Our New Director of Children and Family Ministries

The Search Committee is very excited to announce the hiring of Betsy Dishman! The Search Committee began meeting in mid-July. We did a national search seeking the best candidate who would lead our Children and Family Ministries into its next season of growth and outreach. This involved advertising through local churches; job search sites with various colleges, universities, and seminaries; ECO and other denominational ministry placement sites; as well as, through various networks, including social media and job boards, like Indeed. We received 16 resumes and completed numerous phone, Skype, and in-person interviews, narrowing the field to three top candidates. There were some really gifted candidates we met during our search. Throughout the process, we prayed individually, and as a group, for God to reveal the right person to fill this position for our church at this time.

Betsy rose to the top. We were particularly impressed with her breadth of church ministry and program development experience, her leadership, vision, faith, enthusiasm, and her evident love of Jesus. She is a native of Richmond, Va. and a JMU graduate. She and her husband Keith make their home in Fishersville, Va. and they enjoy spending time with their young adult sons, Zach and Jacob.

Betsy has served area churches for more than 25 years, working in various ministry areas, including children, youth, and music. She spent the last 8 years serving as Director of Music and Children's Ministries at a Presbyterian church in Charlottesville, Va. Betsy also served in various positions of leadership and planning for conferences at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. Furthermore, Betsy has served in many capacities with GenOn Ministries, an inter-denominational non-profit which seeks to "equip Christian communities for discipleship through intergenerational relationships." Her roles have included volunteer training leader, curriculum and resource writer, and training coordinator.

While most recently Betsy has served in Presbyterian churches, she was raised and baptized at First Baptist Church in Richmond, and considers herself a "Bapti-terian". She is delighted to be joining the team of staff here at First Presbyterian and is excited that we are in ECO! Betsy will begin her ministry here on November 13th. Please join us in welcoming her to the First Presbyterian family of faith and in praying for her as she leads this vital ministry!



In Christ's Service,

Director of Children and Family Ministries Search Committee

Mike Hendricksen (Chair), Caitlin Berkey, Mary Sease, Pam Simmons, and Pastor Scott Thayer (Ex-Officio)

"Loving Christ Jesus, Boldly Proclaiming Truth, Serving Our Neighbor, Growing God's Kingdom"

Do you have a story idea for the Piper about how you or a group here at First Presbyterian is putting our vision into action?

If so then we'd love to hear about it! Did you get some great photos at a recent church event? Send them our way!

Contact Emily Huffman at 434-6551 or ehuffman@firstpreshbg.org.

From the Stewardship Committee...

As a boy, Joseph Meister was bitten by a rabid dog. At that time, 1885, his fate was certain death. But a man named Louis Pasteur had created a vaccine that might save his life. Joseph received the experimental inoculation. He lived. And having been saved from certain death, Joseph served for the rest of his natural life at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

As Christians, we have been similarly blessed with the gift of life—but life that is eternal. If that gift impacts us in any measure like Pasteur's gift to young Joseph, we are grateful. And with that kind of gratitude, we become the purveyors of a vaccine against death itself.

That is a blessing worth sharing with others. As a congregation, we are the great physician's hands and eyes and feet. We can bless the hurting, lift up the fallen, steer the lost and share with others that inestimable gift of God's son.

Our local missions committee continues to work successfully with Harrisonburg's homeless population by providing them guidance, encouragement and, at times, financial assistance. It also seeks to bless the citizens of Rainelle, West Virginia, whose community was devastated by last year's flooding. Through global missions, we are reaching out to populations for whom the Gospel is utterly foreign—a field ripe for harvest for the kingdom. Our youth committee is developing relationships with young people in and out of the church in hopes that when they leave our midst, they will be solidly grounded — both in knowledge and in relationships — in the practical Gospel. And those are only a few of the many examples of our church's work.

During this, our annual Stewardship Season, please consider how you can support our church's work through your tithes and offerings—and also how the direct works of your hands can help. There are many opportunities.

What will be your part, your portion, your pledge? How will you express your gratitude? How will you turn your own blessings into blessings for a hurting world?



- Nov 1 – Ron McCoy, Jack Broaddus
- Nov 2 – Bill Conklin, Michael Maguigan, Mac Davis
- Nov 5 – Mal Lane, Megan Sarian, Matthew Knicely
- Nov 6 – Sue Smith
- Nov 7 – Jim Dye, Nancy Nichols, Gannon Irons,
Amy Nichols
- Nov 8 – Trish Ours
- Nov 9 – Steve Remson, Donna Shiflet, J.B. Rosson,
Drew Meyerhoeffer
- Nov 10 – Donna Williams, Stan Gray, Leisa Evick
- Nov 11 – Gary Edlind Jr., Beau Ange
- Nov 12 – Jeff Martin, Heather Lam
- Nov 13 – Lucile Cook, Jim Bradshaw, Charles Evick,
Cynthia Hill
- Nov 14 – Jackie Buchanan, Anne Zumbro, Mike Houston,
Paige Green
- Nov 15 – Bill Fletcher, Dot Saum, Burns Earle,
Jennifer Sowers, Sarah Richardson,
Sydney Whetzel, Anna Campillo
- Nov 17 – Chuck Barker, Mike Miller
- Nov 18 – Lo Palmer, Jeria Robinson
- Nov 19 – Walt Wine, Billy Craig, Carly Delaney,
Andrew Moomaw
- Nov 20 – Al Decicco, Marcia Ball
- Nov 21 – Barbara Ellis, Ann Siciliano, Lourdes Rhodes,
Ryan Briggman
- Nov 22 – Nancy Deputy
- Nov 23 – Curtis Long, Terry Rhodes, Mary Broaddus,
Steve Nutter, David Grayson, Randy Kubler,
Alex Ward
- Nov 24 – Dot Hollandsworth, Heather Ange, Ashley Landes
- Nov 25 – Esther Boyd, Brian Shull
- Nov 26 – Paula Thompson, Billy Robinson, Sarah Kaylor
- Nov 27 – Cheri Smith, Will Grayson, Tanner Campbell
- Nov 28 – Anne Depoy
- Nov 29 – Betty Hedrick, Virginia Flatgaard, Rob Landes
- Nov 30 – Lisa Grayson, Carla Meyerhoeffer



- Nov 23 — Lanny and Phyllis Branner celebrate 49 years
- Nov 25 — Ed and Betty Chappell celebrate 50 years
- Nov 17 — Russ and Jennifer Ford celebrate 17 years
- Nov 10 — Bill and Kathy Hancock celebrate 33 years
- Nov 20 — Vince and Barbara Harkins celebrate 35 years
- Nov 13 — Mike and Kathryn Hendricksen celebrate 13 years
- Nov 9 — Ronnie and Debbie Landes celebrate 32 years
- Nov 9 — Jeff and Brenda Lenhart celebrate 26 years
- Nov 8 — Jim and Sallie Nelson celebrate 59 years

We Express our Sympathy to:

Sandy Shomo in the loss of her husband Harris Shomo, who passed away October 13, 2017, as well as Tom Shomo (son), Joan Byrd (sister-in-law), and Holly Albrite (niece).

Tom Sowers in the loss of his father Dr. William F. Sowers, who passed away October 12, 2017.

The Wassum Family in the loss of Ann Wassum, who passed away October 13, 2017.

Peggy Allen in the loss of her uncle Paul Monaghan, Jr., who passed away October 12, 2017.

THANK YOU FROM WORLD RENEW

Your donations to World Renew's response to hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria will go toward the long-term recovery of the individuals, families, and communities that were affected most. Your generosity not only provides tangible assistance like home repairs but also long-term recovery and other expertise to community leaders. World Renew is not the first on the scene, but often the last to leave. Every service World Renew provides is carried out by volunteers (known as Green Shirts) who serve disaster survivors with the love and hope of Christ.

Learn more at worldrenew.net/UShurricanes.



Church Office Closed
Thursday, November 23rd
Friday, November 24th

A poinsettia may be purchased to decorate our sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone special to you. Order forms are at the Welcome Desk and must be returned to the church office by Wednesday, November 8. Cost: \$8.00 each. You may also order online at www.firstpresbmg.org/poinsettia-orders/

Please attach a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

The Sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for Sunday, December 10th and the names of people being honored & remembered will be included in that Sunday's bulletin.

