



THE PIPER

Piping Along News of Interest

FEBRUARY 2018

Life Groups Lenten Series – The Cross

Are you looking to connect with others and grow in your faith? Then join us as we start some new small groups! The week of February 18 through the week of March 25 various groups will be meeting to discuss our Lenten theme of "The Cross".

Contact Pastor Scott, sthayer@firstpreshbg.org

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 14, 7:30pm

Community Egg Hunt

Mar. 31, 10:00am



Dear Church,

I've been thinking about the intersection of our core value of "faithfully leading in our community" with both the line in our mission statement about "serving our neighbor" and Christ's reminder in **Matthew 20:26-28** about leadership where he says, **"Not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."** My conclusion in all this is that for us to live into our core value of faithfully leading in our community we need to serve. The great news is we already do in many ways. We exercise servant leadership in our community through soup kitchen and Open Doors. We do it through EPIC (Educational Partnerships In our Community). We do it by making our facilities available to Young Life for both offices and programs. We also make our facilities available to NA, OA, Home Schoolers, The Bach Festival, First Night and so on. We do it by encouraging all of you to view your service with community organizations as a part of your broader ministry. **We recognize that most ministry and most community leadership happens outside the walls of the church.** We are doing well when it comes to faithfully leading in our community, but we can and need to keep growing.

Over the last few years, as an extension of the same process that helped us articulate our core values and mission statement, we identified "life skills" as the area we feel most called to exercise servant leadership in, on behalf of our community. We've also said that one way we might do this is by providing a bridge between JMU and elementary students to address the life skill of childhood literacy. Another way we've dreamed of exercising servant leadership (in the area of life skills) has been to incorporate a life skills element into our hopes for the Fauls Building. All of this has been somewhat on the back burner as we first made a denomination change and then built a staff team, but with that work behind us, **I believe it's time for us to move from dreams and ideas to proactive action.** While we are doing well when it comes to faithfully leading in our community, our Lord calls us to, and our community needs us to, do more. Let's get after it to the glory of God.

In Christ,

Jon

Youth Ministry News: Discipleship Opportunity for Parents

As parents, we are called to disciple our children — to teach them the truths of God's word and to show them what it means to walk daily with the Lord. Parenting is a high calling and can sometimes seem overwhelming. Where do we begin? What do we say?

The best place to begin is by getting ourselves in God's Word and spending time growing in our own walk with Christ. We would like to provide an opportunity for growth and fellowship with other parents who are also on this journey of raising children in the Lord.

Beginning February 11, and continuing each Sunday evening, there will be a parent's gathering at the Craig's home from 7–8:30pm. Our first book study will be *You and Me Forever*, by Francis and Lisa Chan. It's a book about marriage, but also about so much more. This study will last six weeks. We believe you will be encouraged in your faith in new and exciting ways. After we finish this study we'll begin a new one by David Paul Tripp. Contact Billy (bcraig@firstpreshbg.org) with questions and to register. You will need to purchase the book beforehand.

GriefShare Seminar

In September, First Presbyterian Church launched GriefShare, and it ran for 13 weeks. Over the course of the series, we had 21 people involved, coming either on Wednesday mornings, or evenings. The fifteen participants (from the church and community) shared in different ways how much the program helped them. The seven facilitators not only guided small group discussions, they also listened, encouraged, and shared from their own grief journey.

GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. It's a safe place where you are around others who understand the pain you feel. It provides strength and hope to navigate through this difficult time in one's life. The program offers Biblical, Christ-centered teaching which focuses on grief topics from a relevant and practical perspective. There are three parts to the program - DVD presentations featuring nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, small group discussion, and a resource book which gives valuable insights, encouragement, and questions for you to process your own grief personally.

Here are some of the feedback comments we received from the participants:

I felt very welcomed and comforted when I spoke of hard things.

Thank you for providing a safe place to "collect" my grief.

It helped me understand my feelings and thoughts better.

My faith was strengthened more.

I was touched by your kindness and compassion.

I appreciated being given permission to cry and "own it".

It really helped with learning to avoid pitfalls and choose healthy ways to remember my loved one, but also how to move forward.

We gained so much from the comments and perspectives given in the videos.

It gave me insight on how to deal with my grief during the holidays.

I was sinking into depression and I know the goodness of God was sent to me by all of you. Now I know He cares and will provide the way to help me through.

If you or someone you know might benefit from GriefShare, we will be starting another series at the end of February. Contact Pastor Scott (sthayer@firstpreshbg.org; 540-434-6551 ext. 104) for more details.

Warm Feet and Warm Hearts

By Pat Haden

What a blessing First Pres has been to our neighbors in need during this winter season! Two of our Soup Kitchen volunteers, Kappy Barnes and Joy Strickland, noticed that many people coming to have dinner with us on Tuesday night did not have winter foot wear. At this time the temperatures were in the below zero numbers at night. Kappy and Joy said, "These people need boots", and a mission was born. We simply placed a boot on the table for Open Doors volunteers and printed a message in the church bulletin asking for "donations for boots". Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$1,026.55.

Kappy and Joy bargain shopped, purchasing roughly 25 pairs of boots in various sizes. The boots were set out at the next Soup Kitchen and given to those in need. Many of the guests put on their boots right away and we were able to provide many of them with new socks. They were all very appreciative.

That night we had guests who needed sizes we did not have and several additional pairs were purchased for them. As we become aware of additional neighbors in need of boots, we are purchasing the sizes needed. It has been a true labor of love for all of us who serve at Soup Kitchen. One family sometimes attends Soup Kitchen with their son. Kappy and Joy made sure he also received a pair of boots and a gift his

Dad said he wanted for Christmas. It was wrapped in Christmas paper and tagged "from Santa".

This experience has proven to all of us that when our volunteers see a tangible need and set up a process to let our First Pres family fulfill this need, we can do awesome things! \$157.28 remains in the Soup Kitchen fund and will be used for boots or other winter gear as the need arises.

Thank you for letting our Soup Kitchen volunteers share the love of Jesus with our neighbors in need.



“Quarter Sunday Offering”

The Medical Benevolence Foundation,
a Presbyterian agency

**“For as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26**

Twice a year First Presbyterian receives the “Quarter Sunday” offering which is used to benefit those with medical needs around the world. Last year, MBF reported the following uses of funds from church offerings:

- More than 12,000 mothers and babies got a healthy start to life by giving birth at one of MBF’s partner clinics and hospitals.
- More than 1,800 new nursing students, at eight of our partner nursing schools, worked on learning how to improve health care in the developing countries.
- More than \$10,000,000.00 worth of life-saving medicines was delivered to Christian non-profit agencies in Haiti to aid with medical relief.
- 435,000 people were given access to health care at MBF’s partner hospitals in Haiti, Malawi, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Immediate needs

Two containers with 1.5 million dollars of equipment and medicines each are ready to ship to Haiti and Malawi. The cost to ship each container is about \$30,000.00. FPH’s offerings are tentatively scheduled for March and October. We thank you for your generous support in the past and prayerfully request your support to meet medical needs around the world.



Annual Meeting Sunday, February 18

**We will be meeting in the sanctuary at 10:15am,
thus the Adult Sunday School classes will not meet,
so that everyone can attend the meeting.**

“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? Or, is there a recent book, Bible study, or sermon that particularly spoke to your heart or challenged you spiritually? If so, don’t be shy, we’d love to hear about it! Did you get some great photos at a recent church event? Contact Emily Huffman at 434-6551; ehuffman@firstpresbg.org

Session Highlights, January 30, 2018

- A. Bill Cale, Billy Craig, Jon Heeringa, and Scott Thayer shared highlights from the sessions attended at the ECO Conference.
- B. Administration Committee - Session approved the Budget for 2018 as presented by the committee. February 18, 2018 is the date approved for the Annual Meeting.
- C. Global Missions – Global Missions will continue to coordinate special offerings.
- D. Local Missions - Drive-by Blessing Bags are being prepared to distribute to individuals seeking assistance on our highways.

A complete set of minutes for the previous month’s meeting is available at the Welcome Desk.

It was truly a special blessing to be TLC person of the week at Thanksgiving and near my birthday. Thank you all for thoughtful cards and notes, visits and beautiful flowers that brightened my room last week. It is always a treat to get the Piper, bulletins from Gary and TV broadcast of the service. Please keep us in your prayers, we love you all.
Bill and Nancy Fletcher

Thanks for letting me be the TLC person of the week. I was touched by the many beautiful cards—especially the written messages. It meant so much; also the beautiful flowers. Thanks for thinking about me.
Love, Dot Spicer

It was a joy to be TLC persons of the week. We enjoyed the many cards and good wishes as well as the lovely flowers. The beautiful Kerus quilt has brightened Bill’s room and is much appreciated. The Thanksgiving cookies were delicious. We thank you for all these remembrances. We miss you all.
Bill and Betty Lee



Feb 1 – Danny Evick, Alexander Davis, Caleb Landes, Cali Craig
Feb 3 – Martha Graham, Judy Gray, Tom Kuster, Kathryn Hendricksen, John Niland
Feb 5 – Randy Cline, Grace Edwards
Feb 6 – Scott Lemn
Feb 7 – Lila Gardner, Mark Graham
Feb 8 – Dick Brown, Judie Wine, Sallie Funkhouser, Mollie O’Leary
Feb 9 – Bill Cale, Anne Callahan, Rick Schlabach
Feb 10 – Peggy Allen, Chip Rothery, Ally Ortigosa
Feb 11 – Pam Simmons
Feb 12 – Judy von Seldeneck, Bruce Davis, Clay Sowers
Feb 13 – Fred Bates, Hailey Bales, Eliza Kiser
Feb 14 – Carroll Ryan, Tonia Campillo
Feb 16 – Jim Hollandsworth, Carolyn Wetsel, Bill Boyd, Jordan Albrite
Feb 17 – Daphane Stone
Feb 18 – Lou McCoy
Feb 19 – Libby Stevens
Feb 20 – Donna Grist
Feb 21 – Emily Kubler, Meghan O’Leary
Feb 22 – Danny Beam, Keri Davis, Tessa Gorby
Feb 23 – Joan Krumm, Carl Larsson
Feb 24 – John Little
Feb 25 – Alex Banks, Elizabeth Evick
Feb 26 – Matt Muterspaugh
Feb 27 – Bill Hancock, Michael Ford
Feb 28 – Art Edmunds, Steven Floyd

We Express our Sympathy to:

Betty Lee Young in the loss of her husband, Bill Young, on January 11, 2018.

Shirley Clymer in the loss of her brother, Wayne Bauman, on January 11, 2018.

Brenda Lenhart in the loss of her mother, Betty Ackermann, on January 12, 2018.

Barry Niland in the loss of his mother, Gladys Niland, on January 14, 2018.

Scott Dove in the loss of his father, Paul Dove, on January 16, 2018.

Dot Hollandsworth in the loss of her husband, Jim Hollandsworth, on January 20, 2018.

Tired of writing checks or forgetting your offering at home? Ask about electronic payments. The service is free! For information, contact Donna Meadows in the church office.



Feb 14 — Kemper and Ashleigh Funkhouser celebrate 9 years
Feb 15 — Chuck and Geri Barker celebrate 44 years
Feb 15 — Ray and Linda Ramquist celebrate 32 years
Feb 23 — Bill and Susan Cale celebrate 47 years
Feb 24 — Jim and Vicki Krauss celebrate 28 years

A Praying Church

We want to be a praying church. Your leaders recently identified deepening our prayer life as a priority during the coming year. We've identified 14 ways we can all be involved in that. Read more at firstpreshbg.org/want-praying-church/.

On the Calendar

February 1 & 8 Small Group Leader Turbo Training
February 4 Home Communion
February 6 Church Security Training, 6:30pm
February 14 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 Prep for Worship Class, 10:15-11am, Rm 225
February 18 New Sunday School Series starts
Week of February 18 – Week of March 25 Lenten Life Groups “The Cross”
February 21 Birthday Themed Fellowship Dinner, 5:30pm
February 22 Griefshare starts (mornings and evenings)
February 23 Work as Worship Simulcast, 8:30am-3:30pm
February 24 Babysitting Fundraiser for Young Life, 6pm
March 3-10 College Spring Break Mission Trip to Florida
March 17 Babysitting Fundraiser for Young Life, 6pm
March 31 Community Egg Hunt, 8:30am-12:30pm
April 1 Easter Sunday (no Sunday School)
April 8 New Sunday School Series starts
April 8 Home Communion
April 13-15 High School Modgnik Retreat
April 15 Second Service Sunday Potluck
April 21 Children’s Ministry Training Event and Young Life Babysitting Fundraiser, 8:30am-12:30pm
May 27 no Sunday School
June 3 New Sunday School Series starts
June 3 Home Communion
June 10-15 Renew Camp at EMHS
June 25-29 Summer JAM Camp, 8am-12:30pm