

THE PIPER

Piping Along News of Interest

AUGUST 2019

Dear Church,

God has given our students many opportunities this summer to serve, lead, disciple, fellowship, and realize that we are on mission for God every day. It began with the High School Renew Work Camp the first week school was out. Eleven students and three leaders joined in an amazing week of service and fellowship with other local churches. Through worship and prayer, we were challenged in what Jesus wanted to do in our lives. On “decision night”, I watched our students stand, indicating they wanted a deeper walk with Jesus and to grow in their trust in Him.

Then we had our Middle School Retreat at Lake Anna. We took a group of about 20 including high school/college leaders. We dove into four sessions with much discussion, Bible study, and reflection. I’m excited to see how God will use these students this year to reach their campuses for Christ.

The next week we had almost 20 students serve as leaders at Summer Jam Camp. What a joy it was to watch them worship, love children, and exude the Gospel that week! We ended it with a tubing trip down the Shenandoah River and a fried Oreos from Jack Brown’s! The next week I headed off to Cuba to see how God was working there.

The following week, 10 students and a couple of leaders drove to Granger, Indiana, for the Student Leadership Conference led by Doug Fields and Josh Griffin. The students were challenged to be examples in five key areas in their lives (1 Timothy 4:12). We came away with a deeper love for Jesus, His calling, and our desire to make a difference by serving/leading in our church and community.

The youth have gotten together various other times throughout the summer. God calls us to live a life of discipleship and that happens as we spend time together. I hope we all enjoy these last days of summer to do just that!

In Christ, Pastor Billy

If you’re interested in going on the mission trip this fall to Jimma, Ethiopia, contact Scott Thayer, sthayer@firstpreshbg.org



An Opportunity to Be a Presence in Harrisonburg

Have you ever helped with Freshmen Move in? If not, we encourage you to take the time and invest in our community in this way. JMU does a great job of organizing, and we just need to show up in our First Presbyterian t-shirts with a smile on our face. We get to be the first local face that many students and their parents meet. We get to help them in a time of need, because if they alone had to carry all that stuff up stairs, it would take a much longer sweatier time. They are already tired from the journey, and we are their respite. Our smiles and conversations can be light and life, encouragement and connection to the community (and hopefully faith community) that students and parents are hoping to find here. Let’s step up and serve. Let’s make First Pres a prominent presence among what’s going on in our own front yard! August 20th is the date. Contact Billy Craig, bccraig@firstpreshbg.org, for more details!

Question & Answer with Elder Donna Miller

Q: Tell us why you love First Presbyterian Church.

A: It's a Biblically based church

Q: How have you seen God at work in your life?

A: I have seen His hand at work throughout the many seasons of my life... more than I could ever mention here. Life truly is a journey with a definite destination, and He has been faithful in shepherding me along the way.

Q: What's your greatest hope for our life together at First Pres?

A: For a little taste of Heaven here on earth where we can enjoy and grow together in Him because of the "tie that binds" our hearts together with His.

Q: Are there any books you've been reading lately that have helped you grow?

A: Right now I'm reading a couple of books by Paul David Tripp, *A Shelter in the Time of Storm* and his devotional, *New Morning Mercies* (thank you Gerald). When I'm feeling particularly cerebral, I enjoy reading Christian classics.

Q: If someone asked you to describe what being an elder is all about, what would you tell them?

A: It's about God choosing disciples of faith to be His hands and feet in His church. It's knowing you aren't worthy to lead His church and recognizing the important responsibility He has entrusted to us. It's about all of us being in the same boat so to speak, knowing how much we need to rely on His direction and discernment. It reminds me how important it is for me to maintain my relationship with Christ, because it's about more than just me.

Q: List a few of your favorites...

A: Mexican food; the Christian classics; the best place to unwind is anywhere in nature; when I have down time I enjoy the company of a dog; I love westerns and my dream is to move out West, live on a ranch, and ride horses with a dog tagging along beside.



First Pres Young Professionals

By Carl Larsson and Kelsey Rockey

First Pres Young Professionals is a group of twenty to thirty-something-year-olds, formed for the purpose of fellowship and Bible study. Although we're a relatively new group, we've had plenty of opportunities to grow together. We met as a small group last fall for the Explore God series, and then followed up with a Lenten study on the book of Mark. Like many millennials, we enjoy fellowship at Sunday brunches and happy hour at local breweries.

One of our main challenges as a group is finding a time to meet. Many of us spend our weekends traveling for work, to visit family and friends, and – especially during the summer – for weddings. Thus, weeknight gatherings have been the best way to carve out a consistent space for growth in faith and fellowship that would otherwise be difficult for us to do as a group on Sunday mornings.

Some upcoming activities include a **Summer BBQ** after the 9am service on August 11, as well as a **small group study starting in September**. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in joining us, let us know! Contact Carl (profcarllarsson@gmail.com, 781-325-6043) or Kelsey (kelsey.rockey@gmail.com, 817-542-1254).

The Privilege of Prayer

By Ann Pace

Last week, my niece was seriously ill and in need of urgent prayer support. I contacted Gloria Price to have the need put before the prayer warriors in our church family. There was such a sense of relief knowing my church family was joining in prayer for her healing! To each and every one who prayed, I send a heartfelt thank you!

If you are interested in joining this powerful ministry of praying for the needs of the church family, contact Gloria Price at gbprice5@gmail.com. You will then be part of a group that receives emails with prayer concerns and praises.

You might also consider joining the Wednesday morning prayer time. We meet at 11am in the Conference Room to pray for the church and our community. It is a privilege and a blessing to meet together and it would be wonderful to have more of you join us!

Covenant Partners,

Imagine this: A place on Court Square where people of all nations and all levels of spiritual interest could gather in a non-traditional worship space to hear the good news of Jesus. A courtyard where children could play and learn. An international-themed cafe. A place for the homeless to shower and launder. Classrooms where our neighbors could learn life skills. Our church on Court Square with doors open wide to the community, offering the hope, the life, and the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is our focus — a vibrant, growing church.



By taking a few steps to rehab some of our existing property, we can begin to pave the way for some of these dreams to happen over the coming years.

At its August meeting, Session is set to vote on whether to approve this vision for two properties east of our sanctuary, 11 Court Square (sometimes called the Fauls building and immediately adjacent to the sanctuary) and 9 Court Square, which is adjacent to the other building.

We want you to hear about this vision, and we want to hear from you. We have created a web page with many more details ([http://www.firstpresb.org](#)), and starting Sunday, there will be a table outside the sanctuary with more information. We will also be hosting tours of 9 Court Square to show you some of what we are dreaming for these strategic locations.

For now, please read up on this upcoming decision, ask us questions and offer input. And most importantly: Pray for us as we seek our Father's direction to become the vibrantly growing church He calls us to be.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

On the Calendar

August 4—Cuba Deeper Dive, Fellowship Hall, 10:15am, Come hear stories of God's faithfulness, our friendships, and how we can encourage our brothers and sisters in Cuba!

August 11—Summer BBQ for Young Professionals (ages twenty to thirty-something). Bring a side dish or dessert to Kelsey and Carl's (487 S Mason St.) after the 9am worship service. We'll hang out before eating around noon. Burgers, hotdogs, and beverages provided. RSVP to Kelsey (kelsey.rockey@gmail.com).

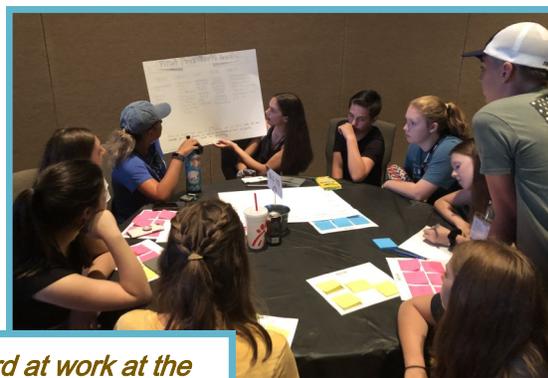
August 11—HS Youth meet at Tropical Smoothie, 5-6pm, on Rt. 33

August 14—HS/MS Youth, hike Shenandoah's renowned "Old Rag". Meet at Rockingham County Park on Rt. 33 at 7am and return that evening. Pack a lunch, plenty of water, and \$ for dinner. Return to park around 9pm.

August 18—Congregational Meeting to elect officers, 10:10am in the Sanctuary

August 20—Freshmen Move In, meet at 8am. Welcome JMU Freshman to the 'Burg by helping them move in! If you would like to help, contact Billy Craig, bcraig@firstpresb.org.

August 27—Session Meets



Our youth hard at work at the Student Leadership Conference

Meet Barbara (Barb) Morris

Barb is our new Finance Assistant, replacing part of Rose Kingston's role. Barb is a native of the valley and has 30 years of accounting and office experience. Cooking and gardening are a few of her favorite pastimes. She will be working Mondays and one other day, yet to be decided.



How is God moving in your heart and life this time of year? Any recent "God moments" and/or praises? We'd love to hear your story!

Please submit it to the Piper! Contact Emily Huffman at 434-6551 or ehuffman@firstpresb.org



August 1 – Cheryl Floyd, Wayne Hannah
August 2 – Lucinda Furry
August 3 – Lil Southard, Meghan Zumbro, Rebekah Litten
August 4 – Mary Sublett, Seth Furry, Claire Evick,
David Gonzalez
August 5 – Shirley Clymer, Ed Chappell, Sandy Lineweaver,
Jim Krauss, Heidi Saunders, Isabel Campillo
August 6 – Kathryn Hart
August 7 – Bobby Miller
August 8 – Kent Darrah, Thomas Moomaw
August 10 – Betsy Runyan, Sissy Vest, Karen Welcher,
Jordan Ortigosa
August 12 – Lee Watson
August 13 – Lois Huffman
August 16 – Olivia Davis
August 17 – Mike Delaney, Karen Wigginton, Carter Knicely,
Nathaniel Layman
August 18 – Amy Miller
August 19 – Randy Heneberger, David Briggman,
Berkley Snyder, Makayla Suffecool
August 20 – Charlie Scott, Hobey Bauhan, John Earle,
Lela Jenkins
August 21 – Linda Myers, Vince Harkins
August 22 – Don Shiflet, Travis Beatty, Andrew McCulloch
August 23 – Chris Bryant
August 24 – Maxine Heneberger
August 25 – Bev Miller, Janice Callender, Amy Werner
August 26 – Barbara Stoltzfus, Gary Edlind Sr.,
Mark Thompson, Mike Hendricksen
August 27 – John Myers, David Wigginton, Amanda Houston
August 28 – Arlenys Gonzalez, Parker Strickland,
Taylor Evick
August 29 – Caroline Hendricksen, Brooklyn Bales
August 31 – Carolyn Frank, Peter Yates, Miranda Delaney
September 3 – Pat Haden, Gerald Strite, Trudy Ham,
Suzanne Obenshain, Karen Hart,
Magdiel Gonzalez

August 1—Jordi and Kimberly Garcia celebrate 4 years
August 2—Whit and Joan Krumm celebrate 50 years
August 2—Mike and Anne Landes celebrate 22 years
August 3—Karl and Barbara Stoltzfus celebrate 56 years
August 15—Ace and Jane-Perry Blatt celebrate 32 years
August 9—Bill and Esther Boyd celebrate 53 years
August 14—Tom and Fran Clayton celebrate 42 years
August 15—Billy and Avery Craig celebrate 21 years
August 20—Kent and Kim Darrah celebrate 31 years
August 11—Keith and Betsy Dishman celebrate 35 years
August 24—Wally and Virginia Flatgaard celebrate 23 years
August 21—Steven and Carlie Floyd celebrate 9 years
August 23—Dennis Monday and Mariela Formiconi celebrate
17 years
August 21—Doug and Lila Gardner celebrate 48 years
August 5—Aaron and Anne Green celebrate 13 years
August 25—Charlie and Mary Henderson celebrate 57 years
August 26—Dee and Becky Huffman celebrate 47 years
August 6—Dan and Betsy Kennedy celebrate 26 years
August 16—Nick and Jill Langridge celebrate 16 years
August 13—Ed and Karen Lindberg celebrate 36 years
August 16—Price and Sandy Lineweaver celebrate 50 years
August 8—Tom and Nita Lord celebrate 60 years
August 22—Adam and Amy Miller celebrate 4 years
August 14—Craig and Sue Smith celebrate 48 years
August 12—Gerald and Sharon Strite celebrate 47 years
August 14—Mark and Karen Whetzel celebrate 26 years
September 2—John and Gene White celebrate 64 years
September 2—Jim and Kay Stilwell celebrate 58 years

You can now access birthdays and
anniversaries in the online directory!
www.instantchurchdirectory.com

The benefit of the online directory is that it can be edited at any-
time! Thus, if you would like to update your information or add a
photo, contact Emily Huffman, ehuffman@firstpresbg.org.
This directory is only available to those who have an email ad-
dress in the directory because the site is password protected.
You'll need to create a password when first logging in.

We Express our Sympathy to:

Brian and Lisa Shull, in the loss of Lisa's mother
Carolyn Williams, on June 13th.

Alice Humes, in the loss of her sister, Nancy Werner,
on June 14th.

We rejoice in the birth of:

Eli Gray Knestrick, born July 1 at 9lbs and 20". The
proud parents are Amanda and Mark Knestrick.

Myra Thomas Richardson, born July 17th at 8lbs. 2oz.
The proud parents are Matt and Sarah Richardson.

*What a delightful surprise! Thank you for the beautiful flowers and
for the lovely cards to me as "TLC Person of the Week". It is heart-
warming to be remembered by my First Pres family with your pray-
ers and good wishes. Blessings and my gratitude to each of you.
In Christian love, Lee Watson*

*Thank you for making me the person of the week. The flowers and
cards meant so much at a time I really needed it. Your prayers and
caring... I appreciate it so much. Thanks to all of you. Keep me in
your prayers.*

Love Alice Humes