



THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2015

Franklin Presbyterian Church



From
the
Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA
COVENANT PASTOR

Though of course nowhere *near* the scale of the true passion of Christ, for me one of the hardest things to endure through the Lenten season is the constant reminder of the suffering of our Lord. Each Sunday we read scripture that tells the story of Christ's approach to the cross and foreshadows his pain and humiliation. You all know that I am a "weeper" at the best of times, but I truly have to steel myself to get through to the other side of Lent. This year in particular it seemed tougher than usual; my sensitivity is heightened to so much suffering going on in our world to the point that I have put myself on a modified "media fast"—I have cut back on watching and reading as much of the news.

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Invitation and Outreach: OGHS & Fifth Sunday Offering



Many thanks to the church family for the huge success you made our 5th Sunday Offering! This church continues to amaze me with how we rally around an offering or an event that needs to get done. You donated \$695.00 dollars that will benefit the FPC Compassion Fund greatly. You also donated twelve bags of non-perishable goods to Franklin Cooperative Ministry. We are a small church with a big heart. It blows me away that we can have such a far reaching effect for our community. Well done!

We will be collecting One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter, this Sunday, April 5th. Please remember what the money does in our world. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36% of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32%.

Our next giving opportunity is the Pentecost Offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. Forty percent of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. Money gets broken into three areas: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and children at risk. Our portion of the money (40%) benefits the Children's Center. This offering runs from 04/26/15 to 05/24/15.

Benjamin



We are a community of believers called by God to live humbly in the spirit of Christ and to act as His voice and hands in our world.

THE MESSENGER

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

lunch—all women are invited!

- ♦ **June 7, 11am** – PW Birthday offering will be received with a birthday party to follow worship in Brenner Hall for everyone in our church. YES, even our fellas are invited!

By **Vivian Christie**

FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator

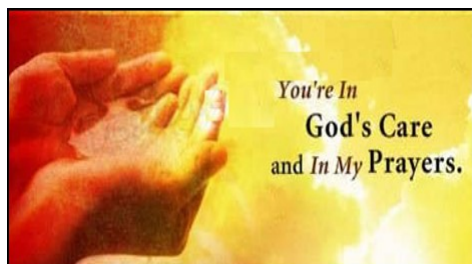
Many thanks to all who made our Gifts of Women Sunday so much fun! **Dottie Gilbert** and her team fed us some wonderful lasagna and fixings. The talented PW Drama Team presented us with a meaningful dramatic reading about the women of the Bible. And, we all enjoyed showering **Mrs. Evelynne Vaughan** as Woman of the Year. Be sure to look for the pictures in this newsletter and on our website.

Here are some important dates to remember:

- ♦ **April 7, 10am** – Circle meeting in Brenner Hall: Lesson 7 in your Bible Study Workbook. This lesson will explore the meaning of 2 Corinthians 8:1—15 and Paul's understanding of fair balance and an economy of grace.
- ♦ **April 25, 8:15 – 12:45** at Bayside Presbyterian Church—Be sure to let **Vivian Christie** or **Rev. Lou** know if you are planning to attend. We need to leave our church no later than 7am.
- ♦ **May 5, 10am** – Circle meeting in Brenner Hall
- ♦ **June 2, 11am**—Our last Circle meeting till the fall with a pot-luck salad

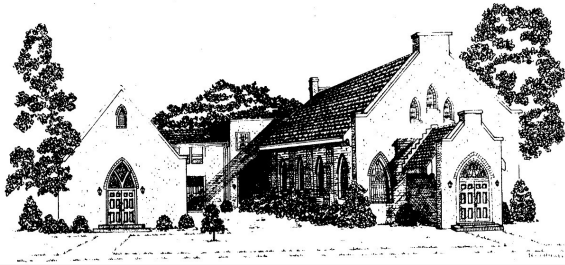


PRAYER REQUESTS



*To add or remove a name or to request continued prayers, please contact the church office.
Thank you.*

Wayne & Earlene Sprouse	Krista Slane
Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner	Anna Cabell Wiley
Rick Gantly Brother of Diana Conco	Timmy Drake Friend of the Rose's
Diane Springfield Sister in Law of Faye Springfield	Ann Marie Wisher Reverend Lou's Friend
Nora Vasoti	Howard Ambrose Brother of Faye Springfield
Steve Mitchell and family Friends of the Christies	Sheri Pearce Sister of Denise Kien
Toler Family Friend of Deloris	Barbara Mease Children's Cent. Exec. Director
Ray Powell Brother of Evelyn Drake	Shirley Mosher Friend of Deloris Joyner
Connie Beale Sister of Jimmie Rose	Wells Family Cousin of Terry's Friend
Jackie Cutchin	Bettie Bass
Carolyn Joyner	Ellsworth Family
Lackey Family	Denise Kien
Wright Family	Cathy Quate Rev. Lou's mother
Family of Angela Drewry On her passing	Rod Phelps & Family Friends of Kaye Weaver
Bill Riddick Friend of Kaye Weaver	Our City and its Leaders



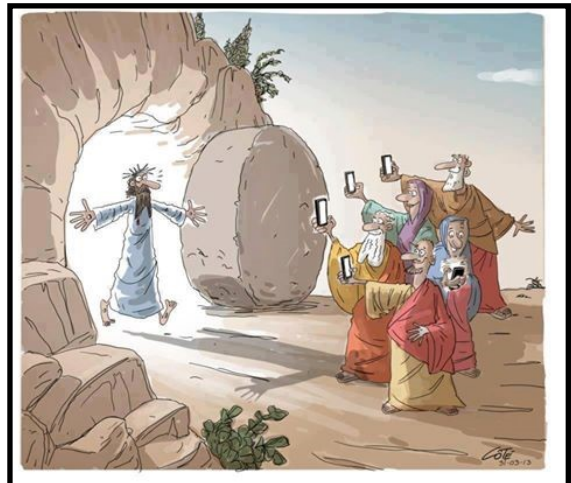
2015 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

<u>Month</u>	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Average Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Total Offering</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
December	0	39	\$10,114.11	\$7,869.94
January	0	31	\$7,988.00	\$9,059.92
February	0	35	\$7,783.00	\$8,309.27
March	0	35	\$16,222.00	\$8,627.99

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



23. Robert Meredith
30. Carlton Cutchin



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN APRIL

05.	David & Betty Jones	Lead Lector: Robert Meredith
12.	Robert Meredith & Bill Boothe	
19.	Asa Johnson & Jim Vasoti	
26.	John & Pat Griffin	

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From the Pastor Continued from page 1

I ran across the following on my home laptop just the other day, and it helped put a few things back into perspective. It is called "Praying When God Seems Distant," and was written by the Rev. Craig Wansink, pastor at Second Norfolk Presbyterian and a great guy. I thought you might find it helpful as we finish up Lent and enter the joyous season of Easter.

As we see in Job, sometimes when we pray, "Lord, take this trial away from us!" we really should be praying, "Lord, give us the strength to bear this trial." I always smile when I think of Billy Graham's wife. She is fond of saying that she is glad that God does not answer prayers the way we want them answered or she would have been married to five other men before she had even met Billy. One of the most beautiful prayers, or reflections on prayer, comes from an unknown Confederate soldier. He writes:

I asked for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.
 I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
 I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness that I might feel the need for God.
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
 I got nothing that I had asked for, but everything that I had hoped for.
 Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered; I am, among all men, most richly blessed."

During this Easter and always, remember that through you and the love of God, I am indeed most richly blessed.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou

SESSION UPDATE

At its stated meeting on March 18, 2015, the FPC Session:

- Received the monthly church financial report for information;
- Received a report from the pastor for information;
- Received a Resolution Regarding Use of Proceeds from Sale of Manse signed by the Trustees;
- Noted that Barbara Jones, church sexton, had resigned and approved opening the position for hire;
- Noted with appreciation the peephole installed in the kitchen door;
- Received a report regarding the status of the Compassion Fund and approved motion allowing Pastor to sign Compassion Fund checks once amount is approved by deacons;
- Received notice and bio of new PEVA Commission on Ministry (COM) Liaison Kay Gravatt, Ruling Elder at Simonsdale Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth;
- Received report of PEVA Commissioner to Called PEVA Meeting on 3/12/15 regarding Makemie Woods;
- Reviewed pricing on Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for church campus;
- Reviewed redesigned FPC website and offered suggestions;
- Approved relocation of library to sanctuary hallway (Norfleet entrance).



THE MESSENGER

GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY March 8, 2015

To: Presbyterian Women

I would like to reiterate on paper my overwhelming appreciation for the service of honor during worship on the Gifts of Women Sunday. When it was announced we would be honoring someone and we were to play the guessing game, I assumed we would present a lifetime membership to someone. I really got into the game and as the descriptions were announced I made many choices as to who the recipient would be. Only, when charter member was mentioned — it really hit me.

Ladies, you really performed a very impressive and professional program on Women of Faith in the Bible. Cynthia and I enjoyed every minute of it and Lou, I will always cherish your personal remarks.

If I should ever lose my memory (entirely) I know my heart will remember that day forever. One attribute you omitted was my great, great love for my church family! I am enjoying my gift book also.

My Love and God's blessings to each of you,

Evelyne

Ps. I am glad you didn't go into my many faults and shortcomings, because the service would have been much, much too long.



Evelyne Vaughan, FPC PW Woman of the Year (center), daughter Cynthia Jarvis (left), and PW Moderator Vivian Christie (right), during worship.



(L-R front) FPC Music Director Cathy Eischeid, PW Woman of the Year Evelyne Vaughan with daughter Cynthia Jarvis and (L-R rear) Dick Gilbert and Robert Meredith at the luncheon following worship.



Presbyterian Women present the dramatic reading "Voices from Scripture: Faithful Fear" by Rev. Kelly Kaufman.

THE MESSENGER

I Killed Jesus

From <http://lifeteen.com/killed-jesus/>, accessed 3/31/15

By Christina Mead

I think it's easy to read the Bible like it's a history book. Moses parted the sea, Jesus died on a cross, Columbus sailed across the ocean.

I know it's more than an account of historic events but I often struggle to see how it applies to my life.

"They" (that collective, scholarly, holy group of people) say that when you read the Bible you should place yourself in the story. So the other day I was doing that while I read the story of Christ's passion and death in the gospel of Matthew. I was looking for myself in the story. Which character am I? What is God trying to teach me? Well...

I think that I am every character in the story of the passion and death of Christ. And I think that's the whole point.

Let me explain...

I am an apostle, sleeping in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40). I'm prone to give in to laziness in the presence of holiness. In the most sacred places, like before Christ in the Eucharist, I allow my flesh to dictate how attentive my soul is. I don't put up a fight against the pull of distractions or sometimes even sleep.

I am Judas. Jesus has every right to call me both "friend" and "betrayer" barely 30 seconds apart (Matthew 26:46, 50). My heart is fickle and weak and sometimes my commitment to being Jesus' friend is blown off on the whim of an emotion.

I am Caiaphas, the high priest. I want Jesus to prove Himself to me (Matthew 26:63). I want signs and wonders to know that I really can trust Him. I want *my* prayers answered in *my* way. I want concrete proof over humble faith.

I am Peter. Sometimes I deny Jesus (Matthew 26:72). I deny Him in the face of the homeless when I chose to look away. I deny that I know Him when I don't pray before eating in a restaurant. I deny Him when I am afraid of being judged and condemned by those around me.

I am in the crowd yelling, "crucify Him" (Matthew 27:21-23). And I say it again and again every time I knowingly choose to sin.

I am Barabbas. I am chained in sin and holed up in the prison of my own pride. And instead of suffering the full punishment for my sins for which I am guilty... Christ takes my place (Matthew 27:26). And I often forget to thank Him.

I am Pilate. I want to give up when life is too challenging (Matthew 27:24). I'm ready to wash my hands of Christianity when being a follower of Jesus means pursuing virtue over mediocrity, a life of prayer over a life of pleasure.

I am Simon of Cyrene (Matthew 27:32). I suffer reluctantly. I will take the cross but I won't seek it. I'll only take it if it's been placed on my shoulders... and I don't love it.

I am a passer-by. These passers-by mocked Jesus while He was hanging on the cross (Matthew 27:30). How quickly they had forgotten all the good works He had done among their cities and towns. When popular opinion about Jesus changed, they followed suite. How quickly *I forget* the good He's done for me. In a brief moment of pain all my gratitude is forgotten and replaced by resentment.

I am one of the Roman soldiers (Matthew 27:35). I killed Jesus. My sins were the reason He was nailed to that cross. It was my fault and I know it.

But sometimes...

I am the centurion. My eyes are opened to who Jesus is in my life (Matthew 27:54). My heart swells with the truth that God became man and died for me. And this knowledge brings me peace and a resignation to amend my life.

I am one of the women standing by the cross (Matthew 27:55-56). When I'm open to God's grace, I can be a faithful and constant Christian. In the midst of pain and suffering, I can stay close to the cross. Jesus, my beloved, is my strength and He's all I need.

I am Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:59). Again, only by God's grace, I can be selflessly compassionate, putting others' needs before my own. Moved by God, I will use what He has given me in the service of others. My time, talent, and treasure are all for Him.

I am every character in the story of the passion and death of Christ. And I think that's the whole point. Why *wouldn't* every dimension of the human heart be represented in the greatest story of all time? It only makes sense because the story is timeless. We have to apply it to our lives today because the reality of its events matter today.

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THE MESSENGER

I Killed Jesus

Continued from previous page

This isn't just a story in some history book. It's the story of your salvation... how God saw the good and the bad in our humanity and He came anyway. He died anyway.

I killed Jesus. But I am also the reason He rose from the dead.

Do you have the courage to see yourself in these characters? Can you blame yourself for the nails in His hands? The stripes in His flesh? Do you realize that your sins killed Him also? And that because of you, because of His intense, unending love for YOU... He rose again.

OUTREACH: FUTURE OUTREACH AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

*Volunteers are needed to help coordinate two major outreach opportunities throughout the year. If the Spirit moves you, please contact **Benjamin Matteson** at the church office to volunteer. Duties include becoming familiar with the offering, finding people to do the Minute for Mission talk for each offering, and being the point of contact for each offering. Detailed information about the offerings is provided by the denomination.*



Pentecost Offering: A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Forty percent of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. Money gets broken into three areas: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and Children at risk. FPC's portion of the money (40%) benefits the Children's Center. This offering runs from 04/26/15 to 05/24/15.



Peace and Global Witness formally the Peacemaking



Offering: A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of this Offering to sustain their local peacemaking ministries. FPC's portion of money (25%) goes to the Genieve shelter. This offering runs from 09/06/15 to 10/04/15.

Support Your Local Schools: Something for Nothing!

We all know that there are many ways to support our schools. Here are a few easy ways that cost you absolutely NOTHING:

- ♦ Clip the "Labels for Education," including the barcode. These are found on Campbell soups, crackers and many other foods
- ♦ Clip the "Box Tops for Education," found on Ziploc bags and many other items
- ♦ Turn in receipts from Farm Fresh that you get along with your regular receipt at the cash register
- ♦ Turn in receipts from purchasing gas from Farm Fresh

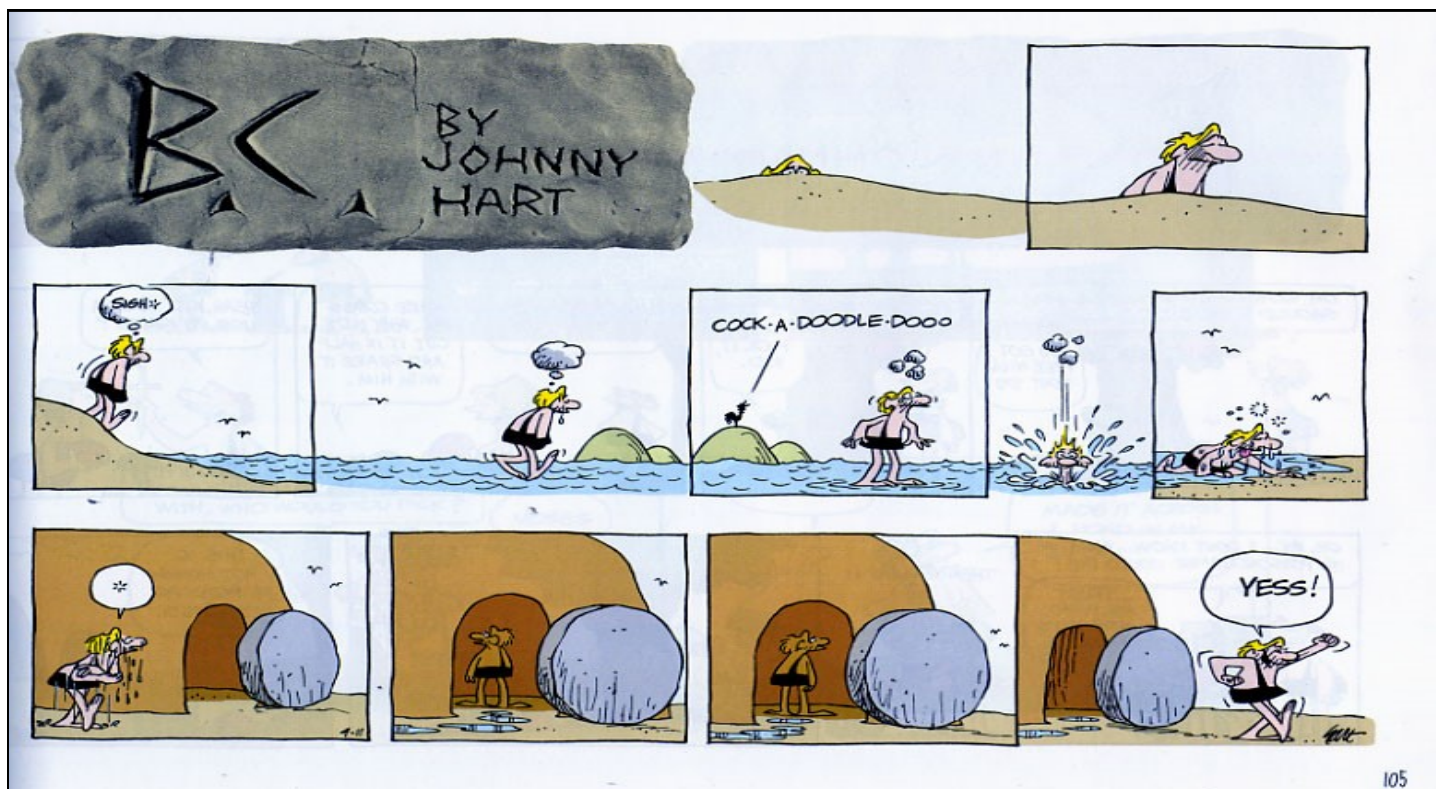
These labels and receipts can be placed in the box in the narthex.

- ♦ My Coke Rewards—on all bottles of Coke products, look under the caps, go to the website and enter the codes. You do have to set up an account, but it is easy. If you don't want to do that, bring the caps to church to **Tiffany Matteson** or **Vivian Christie**. Also, on canned Coke products, look for a code on the flap as you open the 12-pack box. It should be on the inside of the flap that you tear down to open the case. Thank you in advance for your support!



THE MESSENGER

CONGREGATION'S CORNER



The following recipe was submitted by **Vivian Christie** at the request of several women of the church. Enjoy (and share! ☺) —Editor

Red Cabbage and Apples

Chop one head red cabbage and put in cold salted water for 10-15 minutes.

Sautee 4 slices of bacon until crisp-remove bacon

Add 4 Tablespoons onion-chopped fine and

Add 2 apples peeled and chopped.

Sautee until onion browns and apples soften

Drain and pat dry the cabbage and add to sautee pan.

Crumble bacon and add to the pan.

Mix ¼ cup vinegar, ¼ cup brown sugar, 2 Tablespoons honey, salt and pepper.

Pour over ingredients and stir.

Cover, simmer 1 hour, stirring from time to time.

Note: I changed the directions ever-so-slightly. I like to have the cabbage soaking first. Then, I can pat it dry while the other stuff is cooking. Just a Viv thing. It makes a big frying pan full but only lasts us a couple/three meals.



Ray's Joke Corner

by Ray Terrell

What state has the most locks?

-Florida, the Florida Keys

What did the piano say to the automobile?

-You need a tune-up.

What do you get when you cross loud music with a surfer?


-A sound wave.





APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 A.A.R.P. Board Mtg. 11:00 am Choir Practice 7:30 pm	3 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm	4
5 Flowering of the Cross 9:15 am Breakfast Potluck 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Holy Communion	6	7 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am	8	9 A.A.R.P. Mtg. 11:00 am Worship Team Mtg. 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	10	11 Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
12 Worship 11:00 am	13	14	15	16 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	17	18
19 Worship 11:00 am	20	21 Franklin Music Study Club 12-4 pm	22 Session Mtg. 6:00 pm	23  Choir Practice 7:30 pm	24	25
26 Worship 11:00 am	27	28	29 Service of Healing and Wholeness 6:00 pm	30  Choir Practice 7:30 pm		

Birthdays: 

23. Robert Meredith

30. Carlton Cutchin



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Franklin, VA 23851
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Worship with us each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS-- APRIL 2015

02.	A.A.R.P. Board Meeting
03.	Good Friday Worship 6:30 pm
05.	Flowering of the Cross 9:15 am
05.	Easter Breakfast Potluck 9:45 am
05.	Easter Sunday Worship 11:00 am
07.	Presbyterian Women 10:00 am
09.	A.A.R.P. Meeting 11:00 am
09.	Worship Team Meeting 6:45 pm
11.	Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
12.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am
19.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am
21.	Franklin Music Club 12-4 pm
22.	Session Meeting 6:00 pm
26.	Sunday Worship 11:00 am
29.	Service of Healing and Wholeness 6:00 pm



Choir practices at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday



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