



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2015

Franklin Presbyterian Church



From
the
Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA
COVENANT PASTOR

One of the things I'm really happy about is that for the longest time ever, I have consistently kept up with devotional reading. In the past I would begin a new devotional reading plan at the beginning of a new year, but inevitably within a month or so my dedication to the practice would wane. Not so now! Each morning I read from *Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word*, which correlates to our lectionary scriptures, and chapters from scripture in *The NRSV Daily Bible: Read, Meditate, and Pray Through the Entire Bible in 365 Days*. Keeping up with the readings can be credited to a large extent with choosing good devotional tools; when I miss a day or two, I always catch up, so I get back on track. The *Daily Bible* offers an excerpt after each daily reading from a well-known

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Invitation and Outreach: SUPER BOWL COLLECTION & BEYOND



The Super Bowl collection of canned goods is off to a great start! As I type this, Lou and I have delivered 103 canned goods/non-perishable items (17 bags' worth!) to Co-operative Ministry. With one more Sunday to collect, this giving opportunity has been a huge success. I just want to let you know how happy I am that our church, as small as we are, does so many things to help our community.

If you attended our congregational meeting last Sunday, you received the "Filling the Year with Giving" handout (if you would like a copy, let me know). This form shows just how many opportunities there are to give not just your hard-earned money but your *time* to live out our mission to act as Christ's voice and hands in our world. The list looks daunting, but in my heart I know that this is one of the directions in which the Lord is leading our church. As the Spirit moves and as the year goes on, we may have a few more things added to an already full list. Let me know if there are any outreach or giving areas you would like to see our church support; I am always open to new ideas, especially as far as our neighborhood is concerned. No idea is too big or too small.

A couple of giving/outreach opportunities are upcoming: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Minute for Missions start on March 8, and our first Fifth Sunday offering will be March 30. Remember, for our Fifth Sunday offerings we will be collecting both canned goods that go to Cooperative Ministry *and* monetary donations for the FPC Compassion fund. If you have any questions please contact me at the church or on my cell (434) 594-7212.

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

By Vivian Christie

FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator

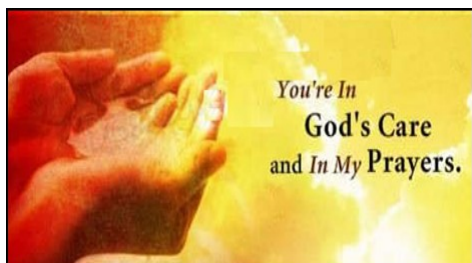
Presbyterian Women continue to study "Reconciling Paul" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. Our next meeting is February 3 at 10 a.m. in Brenner Hall. Our lesson is number Five on page 45 in our study books. The author says, "this lesson will invite you to expand your understanding of reconciliation, healing, and transformation to a much broader, even cosmological, context as you entertain the concept of new creation." Both **Robert Meredith** and **Rev. Ventura** do an amazing job with helping us understand Paul's letters.

We also will have a visitor, Cara Butler, at our next meeting. She will give us a presentation about all the labels we can clip to help support our local schools. We do a good job now, but we can do even better with her guidance.

PW is going to be helping the Franklin Cooperative Ministry by preparing a meal at Sharon's Kitchen on February 19. **Jackie Cutchin** is chairing this project for us. Please mark your calendars if you can help. More information will be shared at our next circle meeting and in our next newsletter.

Thank you to the Presbyterian Women who helped at Cooperative Ministry this month. We quickly packaged up diapers into small packages, making it easier for the workers to distribute to the needy. We had great fun and got the work done in less than an hour. Teamwork makes life so much easier.

PRAYER REQUESTS

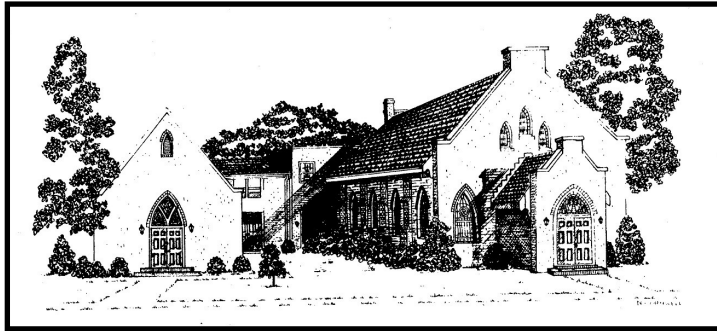
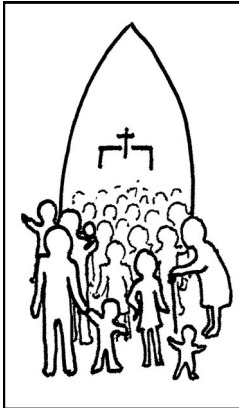


*To add or remove a name or to request continued prayers, please contact the church office.
Thank you.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Wayne & Earlene Sprouse | Krista Slane |
| Angela Drewry Kathryn Padgett's friend | Anna Cabell Wiley |
| Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner | Timmy Drake Friend of the Rose's |
| Rick Gantly Brother of Diana Conco | Ann Marie Wisher Reverend Lou's Friend |
| Diane Springfield Sister in Law of Faye Springfield | Howard Ambrose Brother of Faye Springfield |
| Nora Vasoti | Sheri Pearce Sister of Denise Kien |
| Steve Mitchell and family Friends of the Christies | Barbara Mease Children's Cent. Exec. Director |
| Allen Wright Cousin of Terry Rose | Inman Family Co-worker of Terry Rose |
| Toler Family Friend of Deloris | Shirley Mosher Friend of Deloris Joyner |
| Erin Matteson Sister of Benjamin Matteson | Holly Johnson Wells Cousin of Terry's Friend |
| Ellsworth Family | Bettie Bass |
| Mike Newton Vivian Christie's Cousin | Ryland Newsome Sister of Evelyn Vaughan |
| Jackie Cutchin | Our city & 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 |



FPC Directory Correction:

John Griffin's Cell Phone: 757-651-8350

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



08. Mary Bridges
13. Kathryn Padgett
13. James Carr
18. Harry Christie
18. Karen Cronin
18. Ed Fast



01. Vivian & Harry Christie
15. Lane & Robert Meredith



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01. | Harry Christie & Greg Avent | Lead Lector: Tiffany Matteson |
| 08. | Allen & Lauren Harper | |
| 15. | Benjamin & Tiffany Matteson | |
| 22. | Melvin Gray & Charlie Lupton | |

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From the Pastor Continued from page 1

Christian classic, such as pieces from C.S. Lewis, N.T. Wright, and A.W. Tozer (what's with all the initials?) as well as from folks like St. Teresa of Avila, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and anonymous works such as *The Cloud of Unknowing*.

In the reading for today, N.T. Wright notes that "Scripture was never simply about the imparting of information....The story was told in order to generate once more the sense of Israel as the people called by YHWH for his purposes in the world....It was written to shape and direct the life of God's people."¹ This is the feeling I get as I read through the Scripture each morning—a reminder that, as I begin my day, I am called and chosen by God for God's purposes on this earth.

I encourage you to find some way to spend even 10 minutes a day in scripture, whether in the morning or in the evening (or even both!). It is one of the best ways I know of to affirm God's love.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou

¹Wright, N.T. *The Last Word*. In *The NRSV Daily Bible: Read, Meditate, and Pray Through the Entire Bible in 365 Days*. (Harper Bibles, 2012), 124.

SESSION UPDATE

At its stated meeting held on January 21, 2015, the FPC Session:

- Reviewed the agenda for the upcoming congregational meeting;
- Heard the pastor's report from December 2014 and January 2015;
- Received financial reports, final budget, and revised purchasing and advanced payment/reimbursement forms;
- Heard an update on the manse sale and approved a motion to revisit issue of price reduction at its May 2015 meeting;
- Received report from the Invitation and Outreach team indicating that \$321.00 was received from the Christmas Eve Offering for the Compassion Fund;
- Re-elected **Kathryn Padgett** as Clerk of Session for another one-year term;
- Received the 2014 Church Statistical Report;
- Received the 2015 Community Lenten Service schedule;
- Discussed the upcoming presbytery meetings regarding constitutional amendment votes and status of Makemie Woods.



Lent Worship Team to Begin in February

You are cordially invited to gather with **Pastor Lou** on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 6 to 7 p.m. in

Brenner Hall to experience a *lectio divina*-like experience with the lectionary scripture for Lent.

At this meeting we will also discuss Ash Wednesday preparations and worship, as well as share thoughts about worship throughout the Lenten and Easter season. The group will determine its meeting schedule for the remainder of the season at this first gathering. These meetings are very informal; please feel free to come as you are and bring your dinner; we can "eat while we meet."

If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Lou. Otherwise, just let her know you plan to attend so there will be plenty of handouts.



OUTREACH: FUTURE OUTREACH AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed to help coordinate three major outreach opportunities this year: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Pentecost, and Peacemaking offerings. 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.



One Great Hour of Sharing: One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Money gets broken into three areas: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People. This offering runs from 03/08/15 to 04/05/15.

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 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 portion of money (25%) goes to the Genieve shelter. This offering runs from 09/06/15 to 10/04/15.

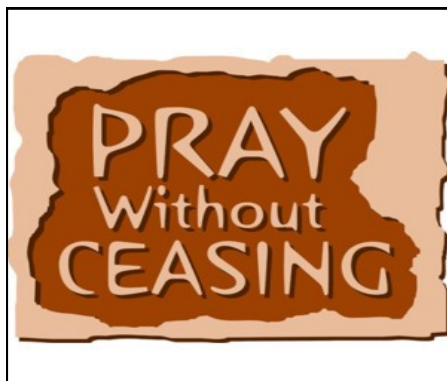
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CONGREGATION'S CORNER

Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our
hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What did Jesus and the disciples put on their fish?

-Miracle Whip.

What did the pig say to the driver?

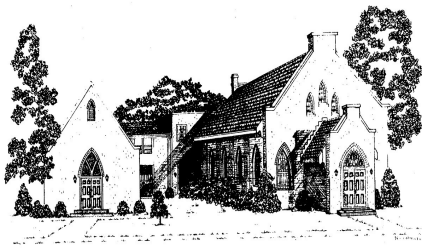
-Don't Hog the road.

What did the lost school teacher say to the pencil?






-Point me in the right direction.

Lent





FEBRUARY 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Sunday Worship 11:00 am  | 2 | 3 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am | 4 | 5 A.A.R.P. Board Meeting 11:00 am Choir Practice 7:30 pm | 6 | 7 Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 8:30 am |
| Reverend Lou Vacation February 2-8  | | | | | | |
| 8 Sunday Worship 11:00 am *Guest Preacher Rev. Judy Stanley  | 9 | 10 | 11 Lent Worship Team 6:00 pm | 12 A.A.R.P. Mtg 11:00 am Worship Team Meeting 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm | 13  | 14 |
| 15 Sunday Worship 11:00 am *Communion  | 16 | 17 | 18 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm  | 19 FPC Hosting Sharon's Kitchen 1:00- 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm | 20 | 21 Session Retreat 9:00-3:00pm |
| 22 Sunday Worship 11:00 am | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Birthdays:



08. Mary Bridges

13. Kathryn Padgett

13. James Carr

18. Harry Christie

18. Karen Cronin

18. Ed Fast

Anniversaries:



01. Vivian & Harry Christie

15. Lane & Robert Meredith



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

405 Lee St
Franklin, VA 23851
757.562.4313
franklinpreschurch@gmail.com



Worship with us each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS-- FEBRUARY 2015

| | |
|-----|---|
| 01. | Sunday Worship 11:00 am |
| 03. | Presbyterian Women 10:00 am |
| 05. | A.A.R.P. Board Meeting 11:00 am |
| 07. | Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 8:30 am |
| 08. | Sunday Worship 11:00 am -- Guest Preacher Rev. Judy Stanley |
| 11. | Lent Worship Team Meeting 6:00 pm |
| 12. | A.A.R.P. Meeting 11:00 am |
| 12. | Worship Team Meeting 6:45 pm |
| 15. | Sunday Worship 11:00 am |
| 18. | Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm |
| 19. | FPC Hosting Sharon's Kitchen 1:00-7:00 pm |
| 21. | Session Retreat 9:00-3:00 pm |
| 22. | Sunday Worship 11:00 am |

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



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