



THE MESSENGER

JULY 2015



Franklin Presbyterian Church



From
the
Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA
COVENANT PASTOR

It's *already* been a busy summer, and it's only just July! We've had the flat roof over the Sunday School wing repaired, replaced the skylight over the stairs, and the manse has sold! Many thanks to **Lauren Harper** for her work with Mary Lilley, the realtor, and to **Harry Christie**, who has kept the vendors for both the church and the manse on track. Before the manse sold, the hardwood floors were sanded and sealed, and the Harper family generously replaced the den carpet. Without a doubt those efforts helped seal the deal: I think it was within a week of the completion of these projects that a strong *cash* offer (which came incredibly close to our asking price) was submitted. We hope to close sometime early this month.

We also held a wildly successful Block Party (see article below). *Tons* of preparation go into this event, but in my opinion, it is well worth it.

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Invitation and Outreach: Block Party



As schedules get back to normal and we recover from last weekend's Block Party, it's important to reflect on the accomplishments and miracles of the day. The entire week leading up to the Block Party tends to be really hectic: I spend the week praying for good weather, wrestling with the city, walking the neighborhood handing out fliers to our neighbors, playing phone tag with 3As Inflatables, and shopping for food for the event.

Among our many little miracles of the day was a big one: the weather! The forecast throughout the week called for varying percentages of rain, and I was praying for a nice day to share Christ's love with our neighbors. Every day I prayed a simple prayer: "God, please let the rain hold off until 2:15, and help us to reach whomever you want us to reach with this event." Every day I prayed that simple prayer, and God was faithful! Not only did he give us good weather (even if it was really hot) until 2:15, but he gave us nine extra minutes: I felt the first raindrops at 2:24 p.m.! We had the event packed up by 2:40, which is when the bottom dropped out and it was raining buckets. It was one of our most successful block parties, with over seventy people and everyone having a good time. God is good!

I want to thank the church family for your faithfulness with this event, which would not be the success it was without you. You donated money, made side dishes and prayed for a successful event. I want to thank the folks that braved the heat while making short work passing out fliers: **Vivian Christie**, **Dick Gilbert**, **Val Schwolow**, **Pastor Lou**, and **Tiffany Matteson**. I also want to thank **Harry Christie** for setting up tents and doing the popcorn and snow cones (it was a *great* day for snow cones!). THANK YOU!

Benjamin

P.S. If anyone has any pictures from the Block Party, please email them to me at franklinpreschurch@gmail.com.



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

By Vivian Christie
FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator

Mark your calendar for August 30th, when the new Presbyterian Women's officers will be installed during our worship.

Our Bible Study for this year is complete, and we begin with a new study, "Come to the Waters," on October 6th. We give praise and thanks to **Mr. Robert Meredith** and the **Rev. Lou Ventura** for being our Bible Study leaders this year. They can take a very puzzling piece of scripture and make it come alive. We hope to have you lead us again next year.

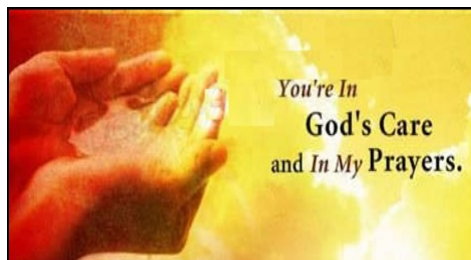
If you have a need between now and October, please call the church office and ask them to contact us. PW is always available to tend and care for our sheep, our church and community members.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

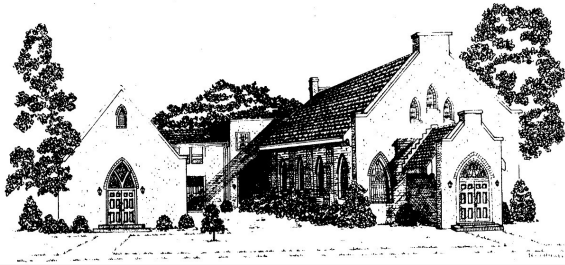


PRAYER REQUESTS



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

Wayne & Earlene Sprouse	Frances Wilber
Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner	Timmy Drake Friend of the Roses
Cathy Quate Rev. Lou's mother	Ann Marie Wisher Reverend Lou's Friend
Ellsworth Family	Bettie Bass
Rod Phelps & Family Friends of Kaye Weaver	Shirley Mosher Friend of Deloris Joyner
Evelyne Vaughan	Denise Kien
Allen Wright Cousin of Terry Rose	Bill Riddick Friend of Kaye Weaver
Chloe Jarratt Friend of Lauren Harper	Smithwick Family Friends of Deloris Joyner
Rosalind Cutchins Exec. Director of Child. Center	Nahala Smazel Family of Jimmie & Terry Rose
Williams Family Friends of the Harpers	Bertha Taylor Family of Jimmie & Terry Rose
Billy Atkinson Vivian Christie's brother-in-law	Kathy Worrell Friend of Vivian Christie
Jennifer Stephenson Friend of Jackie Cutchin	Kelly Joyner Niece of Deloris Joyner
Ron Ventura	Franklin Cooperative Ministry



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	\$9,008.74
April	0	41	\$8,742.00	\$8,833.39
May	0	35	\$9,340.00	\$11,404.17
June	0	36	*\$24,894.00	*\$28,656.92

*Roof repair & floors at manse

JULY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



10. Taylor Harper
12. Bettie Bass
12. Joshua Raybuck
17. Cody Thomas
27. Asa Johnson
27. Tiffany Matteson
30. Betty Jones



02. Carol & Jim Holland
23. Pat & John Griffin



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN JULY

05.	Bobbi Thomas & Betty Jones	Lead Lector: Ann Marie Brotzman
12.	Jim Vasoti & Asa Johnson	
19.	Tiffany Matteson & Deloris Joyner	
26.	Harry Christie & Frank Padgett	

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From the Pastor Continued from page 1

I heard several people say they look forward to this party every year; one person told me that she missed it last year, but rearranged her schedule this year in order to attend. That tells me we are meeting a need: perhaps not just for food, but for *community*, a time to be with people who care.

A big part of the success of the Block Party is the large turnout of our own congregation. It is easy to have a good time when you see that you are in the company of people who do not mind showing their love for each other as well as for those outside their group through the hospitality they provide. I wasn't able to stay as long as I wanted to this year, but I have to tell you that my heart was full as I saw so many people having such a wonderful time together.

Radical hospitality, indeed.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,

Lou

SESSION UPDATE



At its stated meeting on June 17, 2015, the FPC Session:

- Received the monthly church financial report for information;
- Received a report from the pastor for information;
- Acknowledged upcoming communion on 7/5, Block Party on 6/27, Service of Healing and Wholeness on 7/29, and the "Making Arrangements: Your End-of-Life Decisions" workshop date of 9/19 with a potluck soup and sandwich dinner to follow;
- Elected a ruling elder commissioner to attend the July 28, 2015 PEVA meeting at Hidenwood PC in Newport News;
- Discussed revision of pastor's terms of call.

PCUSA Reaches Out to Sisters and Brothers at Emanuel AME Church of Charleston, SC

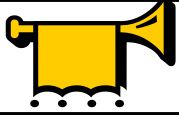
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaches out to its sisters and brothers of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Charleston, South Carolina, where nine people were killed when a gunman opened fire on June 17 during Bible study. We grieve with the families of the victims and members of their church community.

The chief of police in Charleston has named this a hate crime. We know of no other name for a crime that forces a five-year-old child to play dead in her church in order to live. Arresting the shooter is the job of law enforcement. Arresting hate is the work we are all called to do as disciples of Jesus Christ. May God never give up on us as we face our own racism and its tragic impact on congregations, their communities, and our very souls.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, God who has brought us thus far on our way, only you know why someone would enter into your house of worship and open fire on your children. Only you know why hate would run so deep that it would cause one of your creations to kill others you have formed. In our confusion over this senseless act, we appeal to you for understanding and courage to continue to fight for justice. We pray right now for the families of those who lost lives at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. on June 17, and ask that you would wrap your loving arms around them and the entire community. Likewise, we pray for an end to the continued racial unrest and violence that permeates the United States and the world, and ask you to guide us to work earnestly for change. Now unto you who is able to keep us from falling, we pray all these things. Amen

Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk, PCUSA; **Linda Valentine**, Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency; **Heath K. Rada**, Moderator, 221st General Assembly (2014) of the PCUSA; **Larissa Kwong Abazia**, Vice Moderator, 221st General Assembly (2014) of the PCUSA

THE MESSENGER



News Briefs

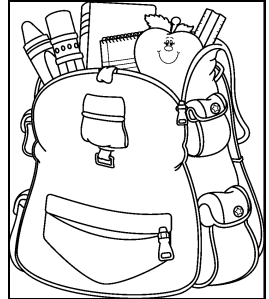


Invitation and Outreach: Second Annual “Adopt a Book Bag”

by Benjamin Matteson

It seems like school just ended for the year, but much to the dismay of some of our teacher friends, school will be back in session in two short months. This year we will once again help out local kids with school supplies through our “Adopt a Book Bag” project.

As with last year, the Invitation and Outreach team will purchase 20 book bags, and church members will then have the opportunity to “adopt” one of these book bags. When a book bag is adopted, the “guardian” will find a list of school supplies in the bag. The guardian will then take the list to Wal-Mart (or a store of his/her choosing; the list will have Wal-Mart pricing) and purchase those items on the list. We are exploring the possibility of expanding this project in some way for the teachers of the school as well.



The program will begin the end of July. More information will appear in upcoming bulletins and the next newsletter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact **Benjamin Matteson** at the church office or by cell phone 434-594-7212.

Mark Your Calendar for the “Making Arrangements—Your End-of-Life Decisions” Workshop

The “Making Arrangements—Your End-of-Life Decisions” workshop will be held Saturday, September 19, from 3 pm. to 5 p.m. in Brenner Hall. The workshop will be open to the public through flyers and a notice in the *Tidewater News*.

A light potluck dinner of soup and sandwiches is planned for after the workshop. Watch the narthex for a sign-up sheet to bring food and drink, as well as for the workshop itself. We'll need to know how many handouts to prepare as well as how many folks to feed (maximum 25).

To My FPC Family:

Please know I greatly appreciate all the cards, flowers, food, phone calls and other remembrances especially your prayers during my surgery and ongoing recuperation. Almost every day I was remembered in some way by someone. It reinforced my belief that God has many earthly angels. I love each and every one of you.

Evelsine Vaughan

THE MESSENGER

CONGREGATION'S CORNER

Jesus on the 4th of July

We gather 'round to celebrate
on Independence Day
pay homage to our country
as the children run and play.

With barbecues and picnics
and fireworks in the air
the flag we own is proudly flown
to show how much we care.

The stars and stripes spell freedom
she waves upon the breeze
while bursts of colors can be seen
above the towering trees.

This is all quite wonderful
we revel in delight
but God above in divine love
has brought this day to light.

With just a stroke of liberty
a touch of His great hand
He gave democracy to us
and helped this country stand.

The stripes upon our stately flag
were touched by his sweet grace
each star of white that shines so bright
reflects His loving face.

So as you turn to face the flag
for battles that were fought
be filled with pride for those who died
and freedoms that were bought

But don't forget to thank the One
who gives the bright display
the reason why we paint the sky
on Independence Day.

Written by:
Marilyn Ferguson



Church Mice™

A Christian Cartoon by Karl Zorowski

GOD REALLY
LOVES YOU!



Church Mice

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WHAT'S THAT,
PREACHER?



www.churchmice.net



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What did the farmer say to the corn?

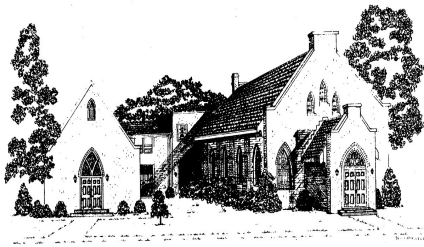
-Quit stalkin' me!

What did the mouth say to the brain?

-Mind your own business!


What do you get when you cross a mouse with
after shave lotion?

-A Musk rat.




JULY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 	3	4 
5 Worship 11:00 am *Communion	6	7	8	9	10 	11
12  Worship 11:00 am	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19 Worship 11:00 am	20	21	22 Session Meeting 6:00 pm	23 	24	25
26 Worship 11:00 am	27 	28	29 Service of Healing and Wholeness 6:00 pm	30 	31	

Birthdays: 

10. Taylor Harper 12. Bettie Bass 12. Joshua Raybuck 17. Cody Thomas
27. Asa Johnson 27. Tiffany Matteson 30. Betty Jones

Anniversaries: 

02. Carol & Jim Holland
23. Pat & John Griffin



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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

UPCOMING EVENTS-- JULY 2015

05.	Worship 11:00 am *Communion
12.	Worship 11:00 am
19.	Worship 11:00 am
22.	Session Meeting 6:00 pm
26..	Worship 11:00 am
29.	Service of Healing and Wholeness 6:00 pm



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