



THE MESSENGER

MAY 2015

Franklin Presbyterian Church



From the Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA
COVENANT PASTOR

Have you had a chance to explore our newly-designed website? **Benjamin Matteson** and I continue to update and renew it (as well as keep the content current) in order to provide a dynamic web presence for the church. We also have a Facebook page, and either Benjamin or I try to log in there at least once a week and keep up with all the interesting posts we find. Though we may not see droves of people in our pews each Sunday from these efforts, we *are* ministering to whomever may “drop in” on our website or Facebook page. Those are just two more venues that allow us to share what Jesus Christ has done and continues to do for us in this congregation (and the world!), and two more avenues to invite folks to join us.

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Invitation and Outreach: Pentecost Offering, Fifth Sunday Offering, and the Block Party



Thank you, church family, for making the One Great Hour of Sharing offering a success! We collected \$433.00—a good showing, considering we had a 5th Sunday offering the week before. You always step up to the plate when it comes to giving, and it is appreciated!

Up next: 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 is retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. Money gets distributed 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.

On May 31st we will be collecting our second 5th Sunday offering of the year. Just like the last 5th Sunday, we will be collecting canned goods for Franklin Cooperative Ministry and any monetary donation will go to the FPC Compassion fund. We will make sure to announce this in the coming Sundays.

Mark your calendars for our annual block party! This year’s block party will be on Saturday, June 27th from 12:00pm-2:00pm. We will have inflatables, delicious food, and **Harry Christie** will be there with snow cones and popcorn. A good time will be had by all—you won’t want to miss it! As with prior block parties, we will need monetary donations and people willing to help with the event. More information will be upcoming, please let me know if you have any questions.

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

By **Vivian Christie**
 FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator



**PRESBYTERIAN
 WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, May 5, at 10am in Brenner Hall. We will study Lesson Eight, page 69, in our Bible Study books. This month, our lesson focuses on 2 Corinthians 11:1-33. This passage invites you to reconsider Paul's understanding of apostolic power, authority, and honor, and to redefine your own.

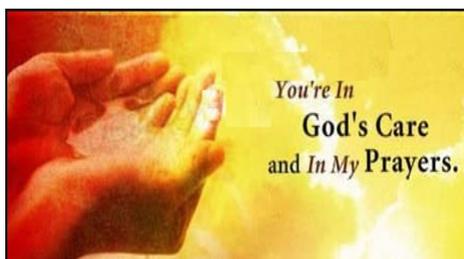
In June, our circle meeting will be June 2, at **11am**....a different time... because we will all bring a salad to share. **YUMMY!** Also, we will be celebrating PW's Birthday with a special offering on June 7th and a birthday party following worship in Brenner Hall.

At our meeting in April, we decided to purchase 10 new pew Bibles in memory of **Goldzsie Cabell**. Plus, we set up a Reception Fund with the balance of a generous donation made directly to PW by Goldzsie's niece, Barbara Brown. We also decided to donate \$150 to our Deacon's Compassion Fund.

If you need a ride to our circle meetings, please give **Betty Jones** or **Vivian Christie** a call. We would love to have you join us!



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
Steve Mitchell and family Friends of the Christies	Timmy Drake Friend of the Roses
Toler Family Friend of Deloris	Ann Marie Wisher Reverend Lou's Friend
Nora Vasoti	Bettie Bass
Sheri Pearce Sister of Denise Kien	Barbara Mease Children's Cent. Exec. Director
Cathy Quate Rev. Lou's mother	Shirley Mosher Friend of Deloris Joyner
Jackie Cutchin	Ellsworth Family
Lackey Family	Denise Kien
Rod Phelps & Family Friends of Kaye Weaver	Bill Riddick Friend of Kaye Weaver
Joe Banty Son-in-law of David & Betty Jones	Drewry/Lyon Families On the passing of Virginia Lyon
Allen Wright Cousin of Terry Rose	Mike Joyner Brother of Deloris Joyner
Bill Boothe	Evelyne Vaughan
Elaine & Ava Rose For safe travels to Scotland	Frances Wilber



<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 BIRTHDAYS



- 01. Val Schwolow
- 03. Carolyn Joyner, Tiffany Musselman
- 13. Evelyn Drake
- 14. Jennifer Jones Banty
- 22. Kaye Weaver
- 30. Carol Holland



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN MAY

03.	Ray Terrell & Frank Padgett	Lead Lector: Benjamin Matteson
10.	Allen Harper & Charlie Lupton	
17.	Melvin Gray & Ray Terrell	
24.	Bud & Ann Marie Brotzman	
31.	Benjamin & Tiffany Matteson	

THE MESSENGER

From the Pastor Continued from page 1

One of the most interesting classes I took in seminary was “World Christian Perspectives.” Despite the title of the course, one of the assignments was to interview Christians *and non-Christians* using specific questions about religion, faith, and spirituality. I discovered with amazement that I was having to scramble to find the required number of non-Christians in order to complete the assignment. That was my first clue that I unconsciously tended to socialize and be with people who are just like me. Now that I am in active ministry, of course, it is even MORE difficult to be around people who don’t look or think like I do.

What about you? My guess is you may find, as I did, that most of your family and friends and co-workers are (eerily?) similar to you.

This leads us to ask ourselves some really crucial questions: Where can we go to be with others who are not like us? How often can we get there? And, once there, can we take the opportunities God puts in front of us to share the good news? Sometimes, our web presence can help us reach those “others.”

On our Facebook page last week, I shared a graphic that said, “We will never change the world by going to church. We will only change the world by being the church.” What we do inside the church to nurture and renew each other is to give us strength and courage to go outside the church and be the church—be the voice and hands of Christ in our world, and that means with folks who are likely going to be very different from us. It’s our God-given mission; we don’t have to be perfect at it, but we are called to obey. How can we, individually and together as a congregation, answer those questions? I would love to hear your thoughts!

Joyfully and with love in Christ,

Lou

SESSION UPDATE

At its stated meeting on April 22, 2015, the FPC Session:

- Received the monthly church financial report for information;
- Received a report from the pastor for information;
- Discussed at length the status of the manse along with Financial Committee Chair **Lauren Harper**. The manse has been on the market “as-is” for almost a year with several viewings but no buyers. Approved up to \$4000.00 from the Brenner Fund for sanding and two coats of sealant on the manse hardwood floors to assist in marketability. *These funds will be returned to the Brenner Fund once the manse has sold.* Sanding and sealing the floors is in addition to the work that has already been done by helpful FPC elves: cleaning and staging the bathrooms, pulling up carpet, and overall cleaning. The **Harper Family** has generously donated the installation of new carpet in the den of the manse (there is no hardwood beneath). It is hoped that these efforts will be sufficient to get the manse sold.
- Discussed at length the quote for repairing the flat roof over the Sunday School wing. Essentially, the roof needs to be replaced, and the estimate is approximately \$14,000.00. There are very few roofers that will work on flat roofs; finding a vendor and obtaining this quote took several months. Approved using Brenner Fund monies to perform this work.
- Confirmed “Art Party” on Friday, May 29th at 5:30 from the Congregational Life Team.
- Christian Formation Team confirmed date to begin sorting, packing, and donating books from the Library in preparation for moving Library to the area off the sanctuary.



THE MESSENGER

Status of Makemie Woods: Update



At the March 2015 called meeting of the presbytery we voted to move forward with keeping Makemie Woods open for retreats. The management team also promised to monitor the budget carefully.

We continue to work on various possibilities for camping events at Makemie Woods.

Individuals, families, youth, young adults, other adults, scout units, congregations, and clusters of congregations – whether Presbyterian or blended denominations, almost all groups are welcome to use the camp in ways they can imagine beneficial. Makemie Woods is a resource of our presbytery and we are maintaining it for all of us to use.

The Makemie Woods Management Team’s plan is to get us through this year of retreats, and then continue with three more years of operation, supporting an outdoor ministry program plus whatever new ideas presbytery might vision. To that end, the first quarter is not so shiny: (1) January was very slow with respect to retreat revenue, (2) February weather was hard on the buildings and systems at the camp, and (3) March was a high energy usage month. However, there are some observations that generate hope: (1) The retreat revenue has picked up and by the end of May we should be back on track or at 50% of our retreat revenue target of \$80,000, and (2) Camp Jordan isn’t until July, but it has some promise of being slightly larger event than in past years, (3) Individuals and congregations are pledging. We did not count on those gifts but are so grateful and very appreciative.

National & Presbytery Giving 2014

National Giving

	ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	Pentecost Offering	A Season of Peace	Christmas Joy
Dollars in 2013	\$6,504,746	\$1,348,599	\$1,968,370	\$3,921,296
Participating Churches	6,194	2,340	2,640	4,601
Participation %	60%	20%	20%	40%

At the April 2015 PEVA meeting, statistics were presented showing the Special Offering giving for 2014. At left are denomination wide figures; pay special attention to the last row labeled %. On a national level, 60% of congregations participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, 20% in the Pentecost Offering, and so on.

Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Giving – 2014

	ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	Pentecost Offering	A Season of Peace	Christmas Joy
Dollars in 2014	\$30,871	\$35,252	\$4,976	\$1,489
Participating Churches	41	18	22	8
Participation %	72%	31.5%	38.5%	14%

The graphic to the right shows how congregations in PEVA distributed their giving among the offerings in 2014. You can see that PEVA is partial to OGHS and the Peacemaking Offerings.

**THE MESSENGER
CONGREGATION'S CORNER**

**God's Helpers
By George W. Wiseman**

God could not be in every place
With loving hands to help erase
The tear drops from each baby's face,
And so he thought of mother.

He could not send us here alone
And leave us to a fate unknown;
Without providing for His own,
The outreached arms of mother.

God could not watch us night and day
And kneel beside our crib to pray,
Or kiss our little aches away;
And so he sent us mother.

And when our childhood days began,
He simply could not take command.
That's why he placed our tiny hand
Securely into mother's.

The days of youth slipped quickly by,
Life's Sun rose higher in the sky.
Full grown were we, yet never nigh
To love us still, was mother.

And when life's span of years shall end,
I know that God will gladly send,
To welcome home her child again,
That ever-faithful mother.

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What is Jesus's favorite room in a house?

-The Master's Bedroom.

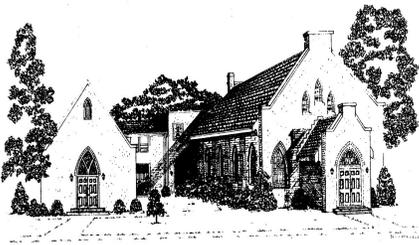
What kind of pitcher uses medicine for pain?

-A relief Pitcher.

Why did the electric heater come onto the baseball field?

-It wanted to warm the pitcher up.





MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3  Worship 11:00 am FPC Inc Trustee Meeting 12:00 pm	4	5 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am	6	7 A.A.R.P Board Meeting 11:00 am Choir Practice 7:30 pm	8	9 Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
10  Worship 11:00 am * Guest Preacher Rev. Larry Toney	11	12	13 	14  A.A.R.P Meeting 10:00 am Choir Practice 7:30 pm	15	16
..... Rev. Ventura on Vacation						
17 Worship 11:00 am	18	19	20 Session 6:00 pm	21 Lions Club 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	22 	23
24 Worship 11:00 am *Communion	25	26	27	28 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	29 Art Party 5:30 pm	30 
31 Worship 11:00 am *Communion						

Birthdays: 

01. Val Schwolow

03. Carolyn Joyner, Tiffany Musselman

13. Evelyn Drake

14. Jennifer Jones Banty

22. Kaye Weaver

30. Carol Holland



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-- MAY 2015

03.	Worship 11:00 am —FPC Trustee Meeting directly after worship
05.	Presbyterian Women 10:00 am
07.	A.A.R.P Board Meeting 11:00 am
09.	Presbyterian Men’s Breakfast 8:30 am
10.	Worship 11:00 am *Guest Preacher Rev. Larry Toney
14.	A.A.R.P. Meeting 10:00 am
17.	Worship 11:00 am
20.	Session Meeting 6:00 pm
21.	Lions Club Meeting 6:00 pm
24.	Worship 11:00 am *Communion
29.	Art Party 5:30 pm
31.	Worship 11:00 am *Communion

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



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