



THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2016



Franklin Presbyterian Church



REVEREND LOU VENTURA

I'm sure I speak for many when I say Wednesday, Nov. 9 cannot get here soon enough—this election season has been unbelievable! It seems we are to believe that our country will fall if the wrong candidate is elected—but we can't forget that, with our system of checks and balances (based on the Presbyterian tradition of preventing one person or body from having too much power), the elections for members of Congress are equally crucial.

What I have tried to remember to these many months of mud-slinging is that Americans have felt these same emotions in elections throughout our history, and we have survived to tell the stories. I'm thinking particularly of the election of 1800, when "With Jefferson as President, so warned one newspaper, "Murder, robbery, rape, adultery, and incest will be openly taught and practiced, the air will be rent with the cries of the distressed, the soil will be soaked with blood, and the nation black with crimes." Others attacked Jefferson's deist beliefs as the views of an infidel who "writes aghast the truths of God's words; who makes not even a profession of Christianity; who is without Sabbaths; without the sanctuary, and without so much as a decent external respect for the faith and worship of Christians."¹

Regardless of who wins the presidential election, it is merely one more election in our nation's story. Our country will survive this election, I promise. Now more than ever, we need to remember that we are first and foremost God's beloved children—all of us, no matter for whom we vote.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou

¹"Thomas Jefferson: Campaigns and Elections" <http://millercenter.org/president/biography/jefferson-campaigns-and-elections>, accessed 10/28/16.

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Invitation and Outreach By Benjamin Matteson, Invitation and Outreach Team Lead



Many thanks to our generous FPC family: our Peacemaking Offering was a success! We collected \$208.00; the Genieve Shelter will receive \$100.00, with the remainder going to our Presbytery to disperse where it is needed.

As we head into the month of November, we begin one of our busiest times for outreach. The holidays are almost upon us! We are still doing some groundwork for the Thanksgiving meal project. As you know, we hope to partner with AARP to provide Thanksgiving meals for the elderly and infirm. At this point we are in the process of trying to identify those who would have difficulty in making a meal for themselves, and those folks who might not have family to enjoy the holiday with. If we are unable to find a sufficient number (as of this writing, we only have one name), we may take a break this year, re-evaluate and possibly re-tool this particular outreach. Watch the bulletin and website for the latest on the project, and pencil in November 23 on your calendar to save the date, just in case.

At the end of November, we will also start collecting for our annual Angel Tree Offering. We plan to once again pick a family or two from Franklin Social Services and collect money to provide Christmas to these families. More information to come as the holidays get closer.

As always, if you have any questions please let me know.

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



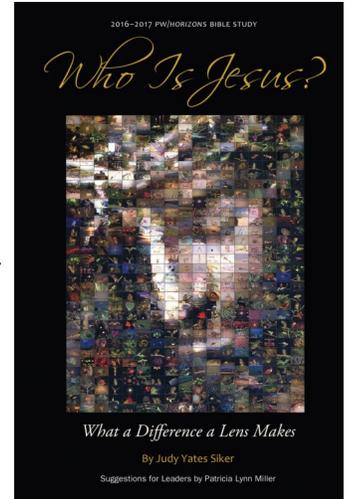
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Our circle began in October with a powerful Bible Study, "Who is Jesus?" Rev. Lou gave us a great background on the time before and during Jesus' life. We then heard what the Gospel of Mark said who Jesus was.

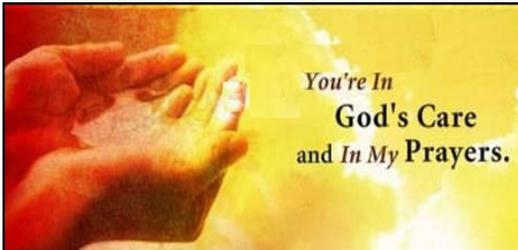
Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 1, at 10am in Brenner Hall. Lesson two is focused on the Gospel According to Matthew. The author of our study tells us that the key idea in the lesson is that Jesus is the long-awaited Jewish messiah whose teaching opens the kingdom of heaven to us here and now. Be sure to read Matthew 5-7:13, and come prepared to have a meaningful discussion.

We are still hoping to start an evening circle, and have had a few responses. If you have ANY interest, please give me a call *as soon as possible*. We have had a suggestion to move the evening circle meeting to Sunday evening instead of Tuesday evening. We have suggestions to move to The Village to include others. What are YOUR thoughts? If we are to move forward with this, we will need to begin in November.

Rev. Lou and I represented our PW at the Fall Gathering. More to report to you on that next month.



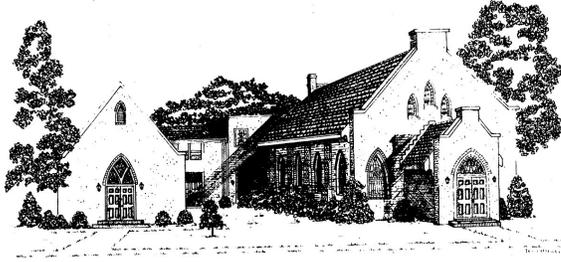
PRAYER REQUESTS



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

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lindy Drake , son of Linwood and Evelyn Drake, recovering from surgery	Lane Marie Robertson , granddaughter of Lane and Robert Meredith
Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner	Cathy Quate Reverend Lou's mother
Hannah Friend of Tiffany Matteson	Melvin and Barbara Gray Health
Doug Ventura Ron Ventura's brother	Lois Minetree Friend of Lane Meredith
Rosalind Cutchins Exec. Dir. of the Children's Center	Polly Edwards , sister-in-law of Katherine Weaver and Kaye Weaver's aunt
Rev. Marian Carmichael Diagnosed with breast cancer	Billy Lassiter Cousin of Linwood Drake, cancer
Larry Jamerson Jackie Cutchin's brother, colon and lung cancer, improving	Kaye and Katherine Weaver On the death of their Bichon, Abby
Peggy , Ray Terrell's aunt, breast cancer	Estelle Edwards Kaye Weaver's aunt
Linda Morgan , sister of Ray Terrell, upcoming surgeries	Deloris Joyner On moving into her new home!
Connie Beale Jimmie Rose's sister	Nadine Mann Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose
Family of Linda Gavin Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose, on her passing	Katherine Weaver mobility and back pain issues
Wayne & Earlene Sprouse	Charlie Lupton
Mary Lambeth's mother 98 years old, cancer, in hospice	Franklin Cooperative Ministry
Jerry Cutchin , father-in-law of Jackie Cutchin, in skilled nursing facility	Communities impacted by flooding from Hurricane Matthew



2016 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

Month	New Members	Average Worship Attendance	Total Offering	Total Expenses
January	0	32	\$10,982.00	\$10,629.05
February	0	36	\$6,514.00	\$8,478.18
March	0	39	\$14,763.00	\$7,710.10
April	0	32	\$8,245.00	\$14,086.98
May	0	28	\$9,400.30	\$11,066.93
June	0	33	\$9,113.97	\$8,081.53
July	0	35	\$8,132.25	\$8,294.05
Aug	0	31	\$7,630.00	\$7,757.26
Sept	0	28	\$7,255.00	\$7,615.01

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



7 Shannon Raybuck
 13 Gabby Lewis
 16 Evelyne Vaughan
 21 Sara Lester
 25 Mary Shroyer
 26 Melvin Gray, Andrea Harper



18 Bill & Carolyn Boothe
 21 Dottie & Dick Gilbert
 26 Lee & Jennifer Raybuck Peace



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

6	Bud and Ann Marie Brotzman	Lead Lector:
13	Robert Meredith and Asa Johnson	Robert Meredith
20	Greg Avent and Bill Boothe	
27	Ben and Tiffany Matteson	

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SESSION UPDATE



At its stated meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, the FPC Session:

- Approved minutes of the September meeting and coordinated the church calendar;
- Received a report of the pastor's activities for the prior month;
- Received financial reports for information;
- Was notified of the annual meeting of the FPC Corporation, held on October 26, and the status of the church's investments;
- Received an update on the October neighborhood watch meeting;
- Received a report from the elder commissioner and pastor regarding the PEVA meeting on October 25;
- Approved the Christian Formation team's book study of *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion* by Martin Thielen, to be held on Sundays during the Sunday School hour (9:45 a.m.) from Sunday, Feb. 5 through Sunday, April 9, 2017, and that it be offered to the community;
- Discussed several Invitation and Outreach ideas;
- Discussed how to use and where to place a donated used computer.

Two Important Actions Taken at October PEVA Quarterly Meeting

At PEVA's quarterly meeting, held October 25, 2016, two actions were taken that impact the entire presbytery.

The first was a vote to dismiss the congregation of First Presbyterian Church Gloucester (FPCG) from the PC(USA) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

The motion was put forward by an administrative commission (AC) that had been assigned to work with FPCG in October 2015 at their request to assist them in a discernment process as they considered withdrawal from the PC(USA). Over 50 listening sessions were held as the commission listened to congregants on both sides of the question. Some of the major issues for their desire to leave the denomination are: definition of marriage; the divestment issue; and using an authoritative interpretation (AI) to change the *Book of Order*. The congregational vote whether to leave the denomination was held on September 11, 2016; by secret ballot, 23 elected to stay with the PC(USA), 177 to leave; and 1 voted as undecided.

On August 28, 2016, the AC met at Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church in Hayes with some of the members that desired to stay within the PC(USA) to offer pastoral support and materials to assist them through this time. The ECO's East Central Presbytery has agreed to assume ecclesiastical authority over FPCG and its pastor (Rev. Doug Nagel) upon PEVA's dismissal. The PEVA vote to dismiss was 79 yes and 27 no votes; the motion to dismiss FPCG to the ECO passed. **NOTE: It is important to understand that this motion includes a contingency that the resolution of property issues and implementation of other conditions are met prior to complete dismissal.** Membership at FPCG in 1995 was listed as 525 and at the end of 2015 there were 338 members reported.

The second action taken at this meeting involved Makemie Woods, PEVA's camp and retreat center in Barhamsville, VA. Earlier in the year PEVA contracted with a consultant to perform a viability study to determine a way forward regarding the camp. The full report is available on PEVA's website, or you can see Pastor Lou for a copy. At the PEVA meeting, small groups met to discuss specific questions regarding whether to take action on the consultant's recommendations. We await the results of the small group discussions, and will share them with you once they are received. For further details, see Ruling Elder **Robert Meredith** or Pastor Lou, who attended the meeting.

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We Want to Be Prepared....

At its stated meeting on September 21, the FPC Session approved a motion from the Facilities Team to obtain an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit.



An AED is an electrical device that provides a shock to the heart when there is a life-threatening arrhythmia present. The most common arrhythmia is ventricular fibrillation, a very rapid erratic

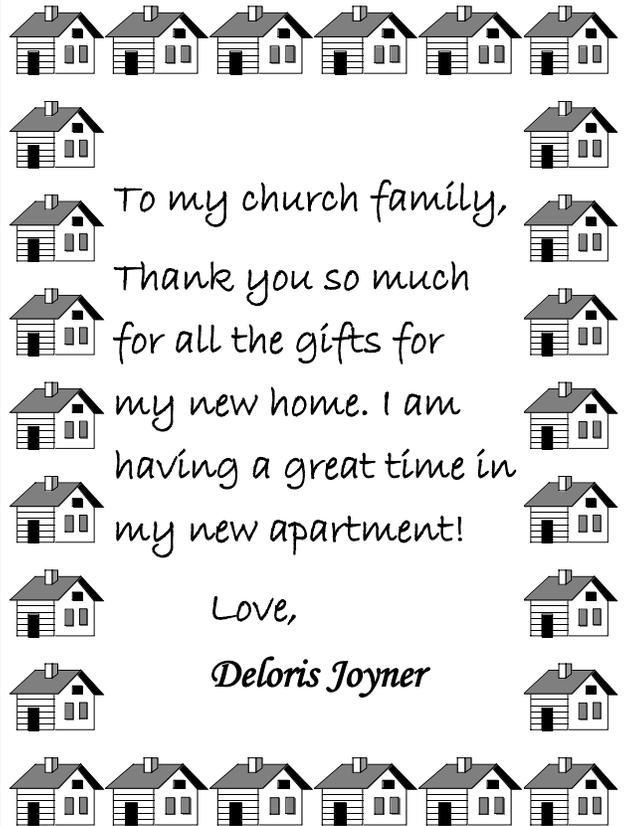
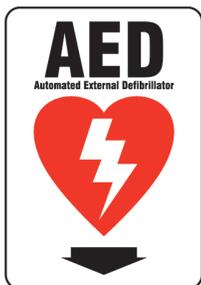
beating of the heart. The defibrillator shocks the heart to stop so that it can start rhythmically contracting again.

A unit costs between \$1200.00 and \$1500.00. The Session feels strongly that we should have an AED unit on-site in case of emergency. It was suggested that the congregation may welcome an opportunity to contribute to the purchase of an AED unit, which would be kept in the sanctuary. Should additional funds be re-



quired, they would be covered from the Brenner Fund.

If you would like to contribute, please mail or place a check in the offering plate with "AED Unit" in the memo line.



*To my church family,
Thank you so much
for all the gifts for
my new home. I am
having a great time in
my new apartment!*

*Love,
Deloris Joyner*

Greetings, FPC family!

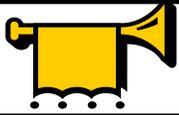
I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve all of you here as Administrative Assistant.

To Pastor Lou, a HUGE thank you for giving me a shot at this job to begin with. I can never express the magnitude of just how very grateful I am to you for taking a chance on me and giving me this opportunity!

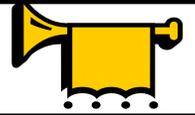
Another huge thank you to the session members. I will be forever grateful to you all for allowing me the chance to prove that I could be an asset to FPC.

To the entire congregation, thank you all for being such a friendly, open-minded, fun group of people! I look forward to each and every day that I come to work here, and I am looking forward to many, many more! God bless you all!

—Melissa Lewis
FPC Administrative Assistant



News Briefs



Advent Lectio Divina Begins

On Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 6:00 p.m., a new series of lectio divina will begin using the Advent lectionary texts.

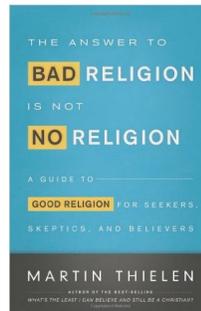
Each week, we will review the week's lectionary scripture to inform the upcoming Sunday's worship using the process of lectio divina: reading through the text three times, then reflecting upon what stands out in light of our lives and the world today.

The second meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 6:00 p.m.; at this meeting the group will select the best evening of the week to meet through the week before Christmas.

Each meeting stands on its own, so if you aren't able to make each meeting, you can drop in on any date. Additionally, feel free to bring your dinner and eat while we meet.

Hope to see you there!

The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion Book Study to Begin February 5, 2017



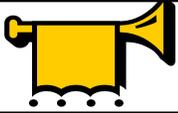
A study of the book *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion* by Martin Thielen is scheduled for the Sunday school hour, 9:45 a.m., beginning Sunday, February 5, through Sunday, April 9, in Brenner Hall.

It is not too late to indicate your interest; we will be ordering books in January.

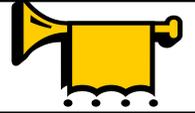
Robert Meredith, Christian Formation Team Leader, writes: This is the title of a book I recently read with the subtitle "A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Skeptics, and Believers." It is written by Martin Thielen, a Methodist minister whose early experience in the ministry I have some personal identification with. As laid out in his table of contents, Thielen discusses bad religion as religion that engages in self-righteous judgment of others; expresses a chronic spirit of negativity; breeds arrogance, intolerance, and absolutism; participates in partisan politics and excessive nationalism; and fosters nominal commitment to Christ and the Church.

No religion he says is not helpful and not necessary. One of the major motivations for his book is to address a significant trend in this country and in Western Europe for the younger generations who choose to have no relationship to organized religion, especially Christianity. He believes that those churches practicing bad religion and whose practices and beliefs seem to be mostly inferred when the term "Christian" is referenced in the media, taint all of us who call ourselves by that name.





News Briefs



HumanKind

New federal regulations are challenging the Zuni campus of Human Kind, a rural, institutional setting of co-located homes for 44 adults with mental disabilities. Staff there are working on plans for residents to be transitioned to the community by March 2017.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: At this time, monetary gifts designated for the Zuni Transition will assist in finding new living arrangements for these adults (HumanKind is one beneficiary of the upcoming Thank Offering). Additionally, write or call your Virginia legislative representatives to demand Medicaid waiver funding for the thousands of people who are still on the waiting list.

Angel Tree Fun Is On the Way!



On Saturday, December 17, we will be shopping for Christmas gifts for our Angel Tree families. The more who can shop, the quicker it goes. Project leader **Tiffany Matteson** is super-organized with names, ages, wish list items, and sizes, and we always have a great time. (If we're lucky, Santa will be around and we can take a group picture!)

Then, on Sunday, December 18 after worship, we'll have our wrapping party in Brenner Hall.

Save the dates and let Tiffany know you're available to help.



Christmas Eve Worship (Saturday)

5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship (Sunday)

11 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

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CONGREGATION'S CORNER



CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016

in Brenner Hall following worship

Planning continues on our upcoming celebration!

We are gathering materials from the church archives to display, and several of you have brought in your memories to share in the form of pictures, newspaper articles, and church bulletins. Keep 'em coming!

Our celebration was given a "shout out" at the recent PEVA quarterly meeting! There were congratulations offered from many of the commissioners in attendance on Franklin's ordaining the first woman pastor in the presbytery.

Make plans to attend if at all possible, and bring the family—this is a celebration you won't want to miss!

Bible Scramble

3-The Joy of Parenting

Bringing up children is a challenging endeavor. Solve to discover what end result a parent can look forward to. (PROVERBS 15)

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. OESNSA | 5. TDPEAR |
| 2. AWHTR | 6. CNSRO |
| 3. SEDERSIP | 7. SEOAFKR |
| 4. RESUETAR | 8. EUNEVER |

1. _ _ _ _ O _ _ _ _ _
2. O _ _ _ _ _
3. _ O _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ _ _
5. _ O _ _ _ _ _
6. O _ _ _ _ _
7. _ O _ _ _ _ _
8. _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ _ _

This really makes a man glad.

Answer: _ _ _ _ _



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What kind of tree likes to smoke?

An ash tree.

What kind of tree reminds you of an election?

A "poplar" [poplar] tree

What did the judge say to the underwear salesman?

.Make it brief.





NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 am PW	2	3 10 am AARP Board Mtg	4	5 8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast and Bible Study
6 11 am Worship Daylight Savings Time Ends (set clocks back one hour!)	7 	8 ELECTION DAY—VOTE!	9	10 11 am AARP Mtg 5:30 pm Lions Club	11	12
13 11 am Worship FPC 67th Anniversary Celebration after worship	14	15	16 	17	18 	19
20 Christ the King Sunday Holy Communion 11 am Worship	21 	22 6 pm Advent Lectio Divina	23 Thanksgiving Meals	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 	26 2 pm Put up Chrismon Tree
27 11 am Worship 1st Sunday of Advent Angel Tree Begins Begin Lectionary Year A	28	29 6 pm Advent Lectio Divina	30 6 pm Session Mtg			

Birthdays

7 Shannon Raybuck
13 Gabby Lewis
16 Evelynne Vaughan
21 Sarah Lester
25 Mary Shroyer
26 Melvin Gray; Andrea Harper

Anniversaries

18 Bill & Carolyn Boothe
21 Dottie & Dick Gilbert
26 Lee & Jennifer Raybuck Peace



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 franklinpreschurch@gmail.com
 www.franklinpresbyterianchurch.org



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

UPCOMING EVENTS--NOVEMBER 2016

5	Men of the Church Breakfast and Bible Study—Brenner Hall
6	Worship 11:00 a.m.
13	Worship 11:00 a.m. FPC 67th Anniversary
20	Worship 11:00 a.m. Christ the King Sunday/Communion
22	Advent Lectio Divina 6 p.m. Brenner Hall
24	Thanksgiving Day
27	Worship 11:00 a.m.
29	Advent Lectio Divina 6 p.m. Brenner Hall



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