



THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2015

Franklin Presbyterian Church



From
the
Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA
COVENANT PASTOR

I was not only deeply touched but also *very* surprised at the lovely flowers from the choir and the extremely generous gift you all gave me to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month! I don't know how on earth you kept it secret!

As I posted on Facebook later that Sunday, along with a picture of the flowers and the beautiful card signed by most of you, I think I need to start a Congregation Appreciation Month, to celebrate the joy that you all bring me. Although, quite frankly, I celebrate you each week; not a single day goes by that I don't thank God for each of you and for bringing us together.

Gratitude is a big part of our lives as Christians. It's an integral part of prayer. Remember that prayer acrostic, ACTS? It stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. To me it's significant that truly

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Invitation and Outreach:



We are coming into a busy time of year: everyone's schedules seem to fill up through this holiday season. The Children's Thanksgiving offering, a special one for FPC, is collected this month. Every year the church supports this offering because it sustains one of the children's homes in which our own **Ray Terrell** grew up. This offering will be collected on Sunday, November 22.

Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts, this year we are taking a break from our annual Thanksgiving dinner for the needy in our community. Our plan is to return to this tradition in 2016.

However, one annual tradition is still in the works: our church will be Christ's voice and hands in our world by making the Christmas season bright for a family (or two). Watch your bulletins, announcements, and an article in next month's *Messenger* for important details as the Christmas season draws near.

We also have a 5th Sunday offering on November 29 of donations for our Compassion Fund and canned goods for Franklin Cooperative Ministry, as well as the Christmas Joy offering and Christmas Eve offering coming in December. Did I mention this was a busy time of year for the church? Please listen for announcements and watch your bulletins for more information on these offerings.

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

Presbyterian Women will meet again on Tuesday, November 3, at 10 a.m., in Brenner Hall. **Robert Meredith** will be our Bible study leader. We will study Lesson Two, "Life-Giving Waters—Baptism."

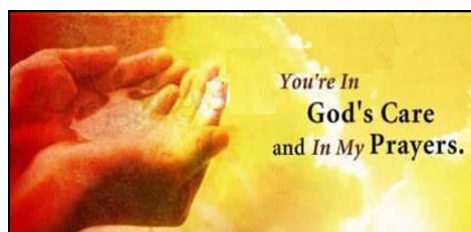
For our project this year, our women are "Feeding a Friend—Ray Terrell." We hope to provide a meal once a week. If you would like to sign up, please see **Vivian Christie** or **Betty Jones**.

Rev. Lou Ventura and **Vivian Christie** attended the Fall Gathering of Presbytery Women of Eastern Virginia on Saturday, October 10. We had a wonderful time visiting with the women throughout our Presbytery. We enjoyed the worship service, and the music was wonderful. The guest speaker, Sushma Ramswami, from India, was very inspiring. After worship, we had choices of workshops. Vivian met with a small group with Sushma; what an unbelievable, accomplished woman she is. Lou attended the jewelry making workshop. We both attended the Alzheimer's workshop. We learned so much and had such a great time. We hope to have more ladies attend with us next time. (Hint: they are looking for a host church for the Spring Gathering in March/April!)

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

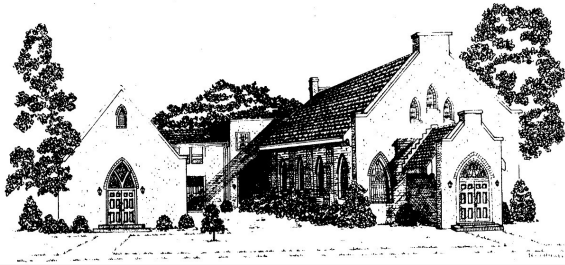
PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

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 Reverend Lou's mother	Ann Marie Wisher Reverend Lou's friend
The Ellsworth Family	Doug Green Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose
Rod Phelps and Family Friends of Kaye Weaver	Barbara Gray
Allen Wright Cousin of Terry Rose	Lisa Shepardson Friend of Tiffany and Benjamin Matteson
Tricia McGuire and Family	Rosalind Cutchins Exec. Dir. of the Children's Center
Larry Owens in TN Father of Terry and Jimmie Rose's son-in-law	Krista Johnson Co-worker of Kathryn Padgett
Jackie Cutchin	Krista Slane Friend of Vivian Christie
Carol Dixon Sister of Jimmie Rose	Kathy Worrell Friend of Vivian Christie
Bob Edwards Katherine Weaver's brother	Ron Ventura Reverend Lou's husband
Addison Peak Friend of Jackie & Carlton Cutchin	David Jones



2015 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

		Average		
	New	Worship	Total	Total
Month	Members	Attendance	Offering	Expenses
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
July	0	40	\$7,183.25	\$10,222.77
August	0	32	\$8,644.00	\$9,927.08
September	0	34	\$6,680.00	\$7,475.05
October	0	38	\$18,660.00	\$7861.63

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

07. Shannon Raybuck
16. Evelyne Vaughan
21. Sarah Lester
25. Mary Shroyer
26. Melvin Gray



18. Carolyn & Bill Boothe
21. Dottie & Dick Gilbert
Sue & Ed Fast
26. Jennifer & Lee Peace



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

01.	Frank Padgett & Ron Ventura	Lead Lector: Robert Meredith
08.	Ann Marie & Bud Brotzman	
15.	Asa Johnson & Robert Meredith	
22.	Greg Avent & Bill Boothe	
29.	Tiffany & Benjamin Matteson	

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From the Pastor Continued from page 1

meaningful worship also contains these elements. We adore God in our call to worship and opening sentences; we corporately confess our sin; we thank God for his many blessings in our prayer of the day, in our reading and hearing Scripture, and in our sharing of the Lord's Supper. I believe that even when we sing our hymns, we are proclaiming God's blessings: we use the words and tunes of the songs and the gifts of our voices—yes, *all* voices!—to joyfully glorify God. Our prayers of the people are supplication, a time when we bring requests for our needs and the needs of others to God.

It is my hope that you find worship to be a time that not only allows you to rejoice in and praise our God, but a time that renews and refreshes you to step outside the narthex doors every Sunday at noon, ready to help remind the world of God's everlasting love.

And for that everlasting love, my friends, thanks be to God.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou

SESSION UPDATE



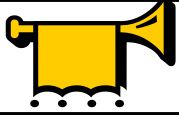
At its stated meeting on October 21, 2015, the FPC Session:

- Received minutes of previous meeting, pastor's report, and financial reports for information;
- Received a request from the FPC Treasurer for the Session teams' budget requests for 2016;
- Noted rescheduling of the Blessing of the Animals to Saturday, Nov. 14 at 3 p.m. at the Harold Atkinson Park on 2nd Avenue;
- Held a discussion on neighborhood kids playing in the back yard and pavilion; heard a report that according to Virginia law if anyone is hurt on

church property we are not liable; however, as a reminder, signs will be placed on or near the pavilion that church property is to be treated with respect and play is at one's own risk;

- Discussed holding an Advent *lectio divina* group similar to last year's;
- Held a discussion regarding whether or not to change to the new PC(USA) hymnal, *Glory to God*. Since we have been using hymns from this book for the past two years, the Worship team made and approved a motion to purchase a minimum of 100 hymnals to be stored in the narthex and distributed by the ushers each Sunday (rather than filling all pews with the new hymnals). The congregation will be asked to help defray the cost of the new hymnals by making donations towards this cost. Bookplates will be placed in the front of hymnals "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" as designated;
- Approved Pastor Lou's vacation Nov. 8 (following worship) to Nov. 15 (except for the Nov. 14 Blessing of the Animals Service). The Rev. Judy Stanley will fill the pulpit on Nov. 15;
- Heard a report that the Men of the Church will begin a brief Bible study each month during their meeting, beginning with Genesis;
- Heard a report that the Nominating Committee has been engaged to seek a candidate for Ruling Elder for the Class of 2018. Cathy Eischeid (currently completing Sarah Lester's term) has agreed to serve a full term of her own;
- Requested that Pastor Lou consider offering a Bible or book study after the first of the year.

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News Briefs



Blessing of the Animals Rescheduled

Due to anticipated severe weather with the landing of Hurricane Joaquin, the Executive Planning Board of the Franklin Fall Festival decided late Wednesday, September 30, to cancel the festival and all associated events, originally scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3.

The festival has been rescheduled for November 13-14, and our Blessing of the Animals will be held on Saturday, November 14, at 3 p.m. in the same location—Harold Atkinson Park across from City Hall on 2nd Avenue.

Notification will be provided to the *Tidewater News* as well as posted on FPC's Facebook page and on flyers posted at the vet's office and other locations around town. Let your friends know!

Allen Harper Inducted into Livestock Hall of Fame



Our very own **Allen Harper** was one of five people inducted into the 2015 Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame last Saturday, Oct. 24 on the campus of Virginia Tech. The ceremony was held at Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Science's Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena, which will permanently display the portraits of the 2015 honorees (Allen's portrait appears at left).

Allen was cited for his many contributions to the swine industry through his leadership of the Virginia Pork Industry Conference and his research in swine nutrition and management in the area of lessening environmental impact. Allen also received the Virginia Pork Industry Association's Extension and Service awards and the American Society of Animal Science Southern Section Extension Award.

See the *Tidewater News* article on Allen on the bulletin board. Congratulations, Allen—we're proud of you!

Advent *Lectio Divina* to be Offered

Three to four sessions of *lectio divina* on each week's Advent scriptures will begin on Wednesday, December 2 at 6 p.m. in Brenner Hall.

Lectio divina is Latin for "divine reading." *Lectio divina* does not treat scripture as texts to be studied or analyzed, but as the Living Word, viewing the scripture with Christ as a key to their meaning. While these sessions will not strictly follow the process for *lectio divina*, there will be repeated readings of the verses, along with reflection and discussion. As the Spirit leads, there may also be discussion of other worship-related elements, such as the prayer of confession and hymns and carols.

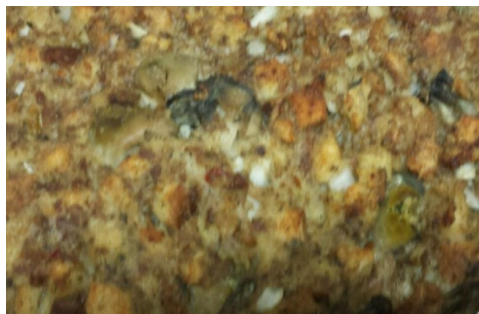
Consider joining the group saturate yourself in the message of our Lord and Savior's in-breaking into the world.

See Pastor Lou if you are interested, or just show up. (You can even bring your dinner and eat while we meet!)



THE MESSENGER CONGREGATION'S CORNER

Oyster and Sausage Stuffing



Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups turkey broth
1/4 cup margarine
1 (6oz) package corn bread stuffing mix
1 pound bulk pork sausage
1 pound ground beef (optional)
1 small onion (chopped)
1 beaten egg
1 pint oysters (drained)
1 tsp poultry seasoning
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9 X 9 baking dish.

Bring the turkey broth to a boil in a saucepan over medium heat, and melt the margarine in the both.

Stir in stuffing mix until thoroughly combined. Transfer the stuffing to a large bowl. Stir in sausage, ground beef, onion and egg until combined.

Lightly mix in the oysters, seasoning salt and pepper. Transfer the stuffing to the prepared baking dish, and cover dish with foil. Bake until sausage and ground beef are cooked through, about 1 hour.



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What do you get when you cross shoe laces with oysters?

Strings of pearls.

What did the piano say to the automobile?

You need a tune up.

Why can cake stand hot weather?

It has frosting on top of it.



NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day Worship 11a.m. Holy Communion	2	3 Election Day 10 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Mtg/ Bible Study	4	5 7:30 pm Choir	6	7
8 Worship 11a.m.	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12 7:30 pm Choir	13	14 3 p.m. Blessing of the Animals at Harold Atkinson Park (2nd Ave.)
15 Worship 11a.m.	16	17	18 6 p.m. Session Mtg	19 7:30 pm Choir	20	21
22 Christ the King Sunday Worship 11a.m. Holy Communion	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Worship 11a.m. First Sunday of Advent Begin Lectionary Year C	30					

Birthdays



7 - Shannon Raybuck
16 - Evelynne Vaughan
21 - Sarah Lester
25 - Mary Shroyer
26 - Melvin Gray

Anniversaries



18 - Carolyn & Bill Boothe
21 - Dottie & Dick Gilbert
Sue and Ed Fast
26 - Jennifer and Lee Peace



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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franklinpreschurch@gmail.com



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

UPCOMING EVENTS-- NOVEMBER 2015

1	Worship 11:00 am—All Saints' Day—Holy Communion
7	Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Brenner Hall
8	Worship 11:00am
14	Blessing of the Animals 3 p.m. Harold Atkinson Park, 2nd Ave.
18	Session 6:00 pm
22	Worship 11:00 am—Christ the King Sunday—Holy Communion
29	First Sunday of Advent, Begin Lectionary Year C

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



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