



# THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2016



Franklin Presbyterian Church



From  
the  
astor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA

On page 8 of this very full issue, you will find some details for a celebration we're planning in order to mark our 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. Back in 1949 an intrepid band of 25 Franklin Presbyterians met at a local funeral home, and never looked back.

In reviewing a brief history of our congregation, it is easy to see that FPC has always been on the cusp of change, facing the future with a strong faith in Christ. Even though the congregation had no building, in 1950 a Lynchburg vendor was already at work, constructing the beautiful stained glass windows that even today grace our sanctuary. Brenner Hall was constructed in 1981, providing an extremely functional kitchen and a warm meeting room that has nurtured scouts, Lions, retired persons, Rotarians, music groups, and Presbyterians from across the Commonwealth.

My favorite piece of our history, however, is what was written in March 1951 by Mrs. Dorothy Lee Williams, who sold us the lot on which the church was built. It reads in part, "It is not easy to see God's purpose in every experience. There are times when we can imagine He has no concern for us, but through faith we can see things in perspective and feel that a loving hand has been at work where we least expected it."

That loving hand continues to guide our lives and work here today.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,  
*Lou*

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## Invitation and Outreach

By Benjamin Matteson, Invitation and Outreach Team Lead



This time of year at FPC we are winding down our denominational-level monetary giving with the Peace and Global Witness (formerly Peacemaking) Offering, to be collected on Sunday, October 2. We have one more Fifth Sunday offering, on October 30, and just like all Fifth Sunday Offerings, the money given will go to FPC Compassion Fund and food donated will go to Cooperative Ministry (remember, they need Jiffy/muffin mix!)

I want to thank you again for your steadfast faithful giving. Believe it or not, it's time to start planning for our holiday activities! Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and though we will be doing the Thanksgiving meals again this year, we are doing the program a little differently. We are partnering with a chapter of AARP that meets each month in Bren-

ner Hall. This year, our Thanksgiving meals will focus on the elderly and infirm of our community: individuals that would have difficulty in making a meal for themselves, and folks that might not have family to enjoy the holiday with. That's where AARP comes in: they are not only going to help prepare, plate, and deliver meals, they are going to assist in finding the people in our community that may need the meal. More information is forthcoming.

At the end of November, we will also start collecting for our annual Angel Tree Offering. We have a busy couple of months ahead of us, but we always pull through, knowing that we are living our mission statement of "acting as Christ's voice and the hands in our world." As details are worked out we will share those with you. If you have any questions in the meantime, 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



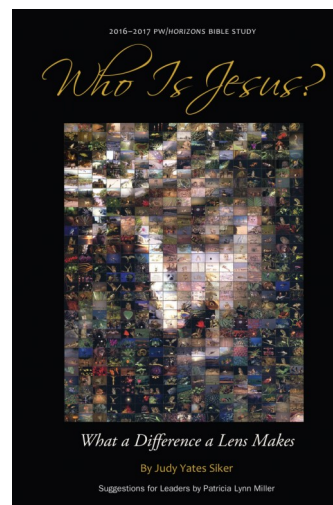
PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

WHO IS JESUS? We hope all of the Presbyterian Women will join us at circle this year to study this very important question. Our study leaders, **Robert Meredith** and **Rev. Lou**, are excited about helping us learn more about our Savior.

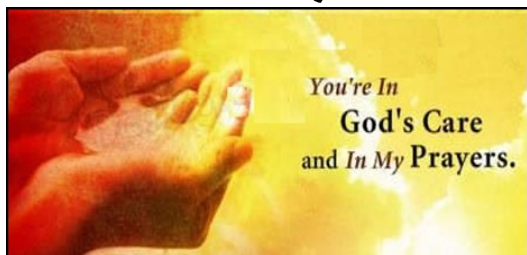
Our morning circle meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Brenner Hall. Our first meeting is October 4<sup>th</sup>. **Jackie Cutchin** and **Betty Jones** are serving as our morning circle leaders.

We are trying very hard to start a night circle. Many of you have received an email or letter about this great opportunity. We think an evening circle on the first Tuesday evening each month would allow those who work to be able to join in our Bible study and missions. Please give your feedback to **Vivian Christie**, Betty, Jackie, or Rev. Lou right away. Also, if you would like to serve as evening circle leader, we would love to hear from you.

Don't forget...you are welcome to invite guests to come with you—the more the better! And see page 6 of this issue of *The Messenger* for PW Fall Gathering information!



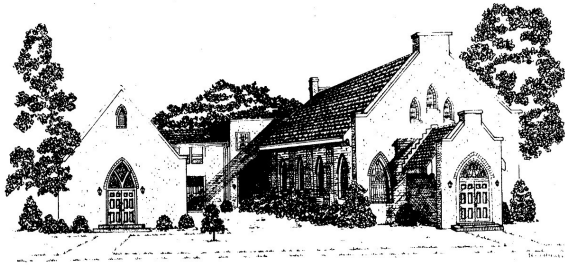
## PRAYER REQUESTS



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

### PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

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



# 2016 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

<u>Month</u>	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Average Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Total Offering</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
January	0	32	\$10,982.00	\$10,629.05
February	0	36	\$3,066.00	\$8,478.18
March	0	39	\$14,763.00	\$7,710.10
April	0	32	\$8,245.00	\$14,086.00
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

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



3 Kevin Lackey, Jim Holland  
 14 Jimmie Rose, Sue Fast  
 17 Mollie Bass  
 19 Carolyn Boothe  
 21 John Griffin  
 22 Bud Brotzman  
 28 Mike Lackey  
 29 Deloris Joyner, Stanley Boothe  
 31 Norm Shroyer, Jo Anne Kelly



4 Taylor & Andrea Harper  
 12 Terry & Jimmie Rose  
 12 James O. Carr & John Matous  
 13 Tiffany and Ben Matteson



## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

2	Ron Ventura and Jim Vasoti	Lead Lectur:
9	Bobbi Thomas and Deloris Joyner	Cathy Eischeid
16	Jimmie and Terry Rose	
23	Frank Padgett and Ron Ventura	
30	Harry Christie and Ray Terrell	

## THE MESSENGER

## SESSION UPDATE

At its stated meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, the FPC Session:

- Approved minutes of the August meeting;
- Coordinated the church calendar regarding lead lectors and communion;
- Received a report of the pastor's activities for the prior month;
- Received financial reports for information; received a report of the 2015 financial audit, in which all transactions and documentation were found to be appropriate; shared gratitude for the work of Treasurer **Kathryn Padgett** and auditors **Jim Vasoti** and **Asa Johnson**;
- Received information that stewardship planning has begun; letters will be delivered to congregation members beginning Sunday, Sept. 25; pledges are requested to be returned by Oct. 9 so that the Finance Committee can have a budget ready by mid-November for Session approval;
- Approved the Rev. Don McLean as supply pastor for Sunday, Oct. 30, Pastor Lou's vacation;
- Elected an elder commissioner to the PEVA meeting scheduled for October 25;
- Reviewed draft brochure for inclusion in visitor gift bags;
- Approved the purchase of an automatic external defibrillator (AED), with the plan to offer the congregation an opportunity to contribute towards the purchase, with any balance remaining to be pulled from the Brenner Fund;
- Approved celebrating FPC's 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary of the Rev. Mary Jane Winter with a potluck luncheon after worship on Sunday, Nov. 13.



### Prayer of the People

(from Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship)

Holy One, you are beyond our imagining, beyond our control, beyond our comfort. You will not be bound by our schemes.

Even so we maintain appearances, and we jockey with our neighbors even as we make idols from our fears.

But your ways are not our ways. You are not a god of tidy balance sheets or weekly appointments; your love is too deep, your claim too pervasive.

You are there when tempers fray and anger erupts. You are there when anxiety overwhelms and we withdraw. You are *here* in every bruised heart, every calloused hand, every tangled dream.

Move among us now. Receive our broken spirits as the offerings we bring today. Merciful God, breathe deeply into this room your reconciling love, your holy expectation. Allow us to see the faces of those we have harmed, those we have kept at a distance [silence]. Teach us to pray with our hands and our feet and our voices.

We lift to you now all that seems irreconcilable in our families, in our schools and workplaces....in our nation....in your church....and in your world.

We pray with hearts both eager and reluctant, trusting that you will meet us—and call us—just where we are, in the name of the Christ. Amen.

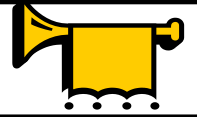
*Adapted from "Prayers of Intercession," Proper 20. In Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Vol. 2, Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ Worship Companion. Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 75.*







## News Briefs



**Franklin Presbyterian Church's Congregational Life Team Presents another....**

# Art Party

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**

**1:00 p.m.—Social Time with refreshments**

**1:30 p.m.—Painting!**

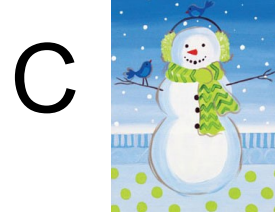


**An art party, also known as “social art-working,” is a wonderful activity that brings people together to create and have fun. You do not have to be an artist to paint—anyone can do it! This event is open to FPC members and friends, and is limited to 20 participants. Please sign up (sign up sheets in the narthex), select which picture you want to paint, and pay your fee by Oct. 5th.**

The following materials are supplied with your **\$30.00 fee\***:

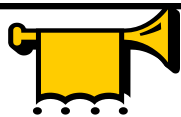
- Paint and palettes for mixing paints
- Tape, patterns and transfer paper for each design
- 16x20 pre-gessoed canvases—*that you take home when done!*
- Table top easels
- Brushes
- Water basins
- Step-by-step professional instruction

**SELECT PICTURE A, B, OR C TO PAINT:**



**REGISTER BY CALLING (562-4313) OR EMAILING THE CHURCH  
(franklinpreschurch@gmail.com) by Oct. 5th)**

**\*Some financial assistance is available; please request this through Melissa Lewis in the church office (562-4313).**



## News Briefs



### FPC Shirts to be Ordered Soon!

If you haven't turned in the interest form and you want to order an FPC shirt, please do so within the next couple of weeks. Forms are in the narthex, or you can call **Melissa** in the church office at 562-4313 for information. We will be contacting the vendor to place an order before the end of October—more details coming soon.



### Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering October 22nd



The annual **PEVA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING** will take place at **CARVER MEMORIAL PC** on **SAT., OCT. 22** from **9:30 AM - 1 PM**. "Gathering at God's Table," will start with registration followed by worship and communion led by the **Rev. Helen Bessent Byrd**. There will be a meeting, Bible Study Workshop, fellowship and vendors. A luncheon will conclude the gathering. The lunch is catered, so please **RSVP by**

**OCT. 13** to FPC PW Moderator **Vivian Christie**, Co-Circle Leaders **Betty Jones** or **Jackie Cutchin**, or Pastor Lou so we can RSVP to Carver and set up carpools.

**Don't Forget to  
Turn in Your  
Pledges and Time/  
Talent Surveys—  
Due October 9th.**



## THE MESSENGER

# Sunday Dis-Comfort

BY LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA



I was greeting people at the sanctuary's exit when a parishioner came up to me and said, "Pastor, that was a nice song but let's never sing it again. It was too uncomfortable."

"Worship isn't about being comfortable," I said. "Sometimes it is meant to challenge us in ways that we never expect. Singing someone else's song, easy or not, helps us engage in their experiences."

As a congregational pastor, I regularly selected different songs. Don't get me wrong, I have my favorite hymns and praise songs, too. But I believe singing unfamiliar songs pushes us out of our comfort zones and expands our long-held assumptions. And, for Presbyterians who are used to being very "heady," it allows us to express what we believe in a medium other than debate and conversation.

When was the last time you sang a new song? Did you allow the words to swell over you, verse after verse uncovering a new and different way of being?

The desire to be comfortable struck me most after that Sunday's service. While there are times when we need comfort, there are others when we must be unsettled to the core of our assumptions. This is one of the greatest powers of the Sabbath law. The Israelites were told that Sabbath would be the equalizer; rich and poor, animal and human, everyone was to rest on this holy day. It serves as a regular reminder that neither the works of our hands nor competitions with others creates value (the continued myth of the powers and principalities of this world).

As the election draws closer and political rhetoric crescendos, we must remember Sabbath and the invitation to dream and make real God's kingdom on earth. We live unbound to the lures of this world, fearlessly serving the One who made, claimed and called us to this time and place.

Faith is not a spectator sport. We are not meant to take in the sermon and leave as if we are the same as when we walked in the sanctuary doors. If we remain silent while others name the injustices that plague our communities, society and the world, we contribute to the breakdown of everything around us. We fail to see how the needs of others are intricately woven in to our own. When others are broken, we are injured, too.

Women know what it means to subversively create paths to the future. Shiphrah and Puah brought forth Hebrew babies even under Egyptian captivity. A Syrophonician woman altered Jesus' privileging of his own community over the needs of others. My foremothers contributed to their congregations in women's guilds and hospitality roles when the male leaders told them that they could not serve. All of the women (and more!) charted the course to a more inclusive faith community.

None of these changes came without anxiety or uncertainty. All women risked their lives or reputations to bring a taste of the kingdom of God closer to this world. If we want to strengthen the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our communities, and the whole world, then we need to live as if our faith has freed us from the powers and principalities whose soundbytes work overtime to create anxiety and terror. We can neither be complacent nor fearful. It is time to stand up and demand a new world come into being.

*Larissa Kwong Abazia is the director of church relations at Princeton Theological Seminary and was vice moderator of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. This article originally appeared in the July/August 2016 issue of Horizons, the magazine for Presbyterian Women. It is reprinted by permission. To learn more about Presbyterian Women, visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org).*

## THE MESSENGER

## CONGREGATION'S CORNER



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016

in Brenner Hall following worship

Presbyterians have been known to use any excuse to throw a party, and at FPC we're no exception! Mark your calendar now to attend a potluck luncheon after worship on Sunday, November 13 in Brenner Hall.

We will be celebrating **us** on our 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but that's not our only reason to have a party—special guest **Rev. Mary Jane Winter** will join us to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination here at FPC!

More information will be shared in the bulletin as we continue making plans. In the meantime, Mary Jane would love for you to mine your memory from back in 1976 when FPC broke new ground by calling the presbytery's first female ordained pastor, and join in a time of remembrance during and after lunch. If you have any old bulletins, pictures, or other memorabilia that would add to the festivities, please bring them!

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

## Bible Scramble

2—Praise!

A concurrent cacophony of sound? Only the Lord could make sense of it—and receive it as an expression of gratitude! Solve to discover what we should raise in praise! (PSALM 98)

- |              |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. TLVNSAOAI | 5. QFSODL | 9. IJROCEE |
| 2. DUJGE     | 6. DLUO   | 10. CIVOE  |
| 3. THOEEGTR  | 7. AMPLS  | 11. DNSUO  |
| 4. CYOVRIT   | 8. SANHD  | 12. YMECR  |

1. <input type="text"/>	7. <input type="text"/>
2. <input type="text"/>	8. <input type="text"/>
3. <input type="text"/>	9. <input type="text"/>
4. <input type="text"/>	10. <input type="text"/>
5. <input type="text"/>	11. <input type="text"/>
6. <input type="text"/>	12. <input type="text"/>

All the earth... make this unto the Lord.

Answer: 

## Ray's Joke

## Corner by Ray Terrell

What did the fence say to the sick farmer?

Keep me posted.

What do you get when you cross a preacher with a midget?

A very short sermon.

How did the corn get mad at the farmer?

They gave him an earful.





# OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11 am Worship <b>World Communion Sunday</b>  Peacemaking Offering Collection	3 	4 10 am PW Circle Brenner Hall 	5	6 10 am AARP Board Mtg  5:30pm Lions Club  7:30pm Choir Practice	7	8  1pm Art Party Brenner Hall
9 11 am Worship	10	11	12  	13  11am AARP Mtg.  7:30pm Choir Practice	14 	15
16 11 am Worship	17  7 pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg	18	19  6 pm Session Mtg	20   7:30 Choir Practice	21	22 
23 11 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28 	29 
	Pastor Lou on vacation					
		1 pm PEVA Mtg. Kings Grant PC, Va. Beach		7:30 Choir Practice		
30 11 am Worship <b>Reformation Sunday</b>  5th Sunday Offering  Guest Preacher— Pastor Lou on vacation	31   Pastor Lou on vacation, back tomorrow					

## Birthdays



3 Kevin Lackey, Jim Holland  
 14 Jimmie Rose, Sue Fast  
 17 Mollie Bass  
 19 Carolyn Boothe  
 21 John Griffin  
 22 Bud Brotzman  
 28 Mike Lackey  
 29 Deloris Joyner, Stanley Boothe  
 31 Norm Shroyer, Jo Anne Kelly

## Anniversaries



4 Taylor & Andrea Harper  
 12 Terry & Jimmie Rose; James O. Carr & John Matous  
 13 Tiffany & Benjamin Matteson



## FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Franklin, VA 23851  
757.562.4313  
franklinpreschurch@gmail.com  
www.franklinpresbyterianchurch.org



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS--OCTOBER 2016

2	Worship 11:00 a.m. <b>World Communion Sunday</b>
8	Art Party 1:00 p.m. Brenner Hall
9	Worship 11:00 a.m.
16	Worship 11:00 a.m.
17	Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00 p.m.
23	Worship 11:00 a.m.
30	Worship 11:00 a.m. Guest Preacher Rev. Don McLean



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