

An open and affirming congregation of grace and welcome
where we celebrate God's unconditional love through
joyous worship, authentic relationships, and loving outreach.

First Presbyterian Missions
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Global Missions
New Church Development Commission
Fayette Samaritans
Thornwell Home for Children
Presbyterian Homes
Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather
Midwest Food Bank
Promise Place
Calvin Center

Retired Clergy
The Reverend Dr. Donald W. Smith
The Reverend Robert "Bob" Velej
The Reverend Dr. Richard A. Dodds
The Reverend Robert S. Hay, Sr.

SESSION

Morgan Morse Hay, Moderator
Alice Hamilton, Clerk of Session
Amanda DeBuc, Treasurer

RULING ELDERS

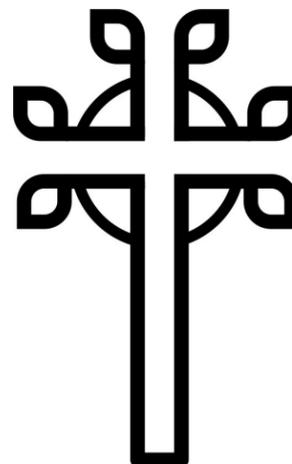
Dick Cassell, Sandra Castle-Oh
Linda Sue Allman, Fred Bryant
Beverly Garner, Brad Dyer

DEACONS

Bob Morris, Michelle Spears
Jackie Isaacson, Cathy Olson
Kathy Powell, Jack Richardson

STAFF

Morgan Morse Hay, Pastor
Pam Weir, Administrative Assistant, pam.w@firstpresptc.org
Tom Crofton, Accounting Manager, bookkeeper@firstpresptc.org
David Stivers, Music Director, stiversptc@att.net, 770-880-7693
Bill Pasch, Organist, Composer in Residence
Susan Scheuer, Pianist
Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Director of Christian Education, katelyn@firstpresptc.org
Christy Utt, Preschool Director, preschool@firstpresptc.org



First Presbyterian Church of Peachtree City

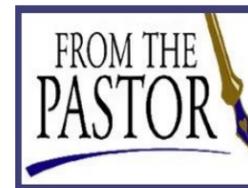
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First Press

A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
An open and affirming congregation of grace and welcome where we celebrate God's unconditional love
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Volume 16 Issue 1
January—March 2019

It will soon be 2019. Christmas has come and gone and the new year has almost begun. But what does that mean for us as a church? Should we be so quick to pack Christmas away? I love this poem by Ann Weems that speaks to this very issue.



January's Song
by Ann Weems

There is a rumor on the streets that Christmas is over.
Lights and ornaments are packed away, trees dragged to the curb,
people back to business as usual.
We're no longer in the party mood; the humbugging is back in vogue.
This is January...How can Christmas be over?!
The Child is just newborn, the song of Peace and Goodwill
still rings in our ears.
The shepherds and sages still kneel to the One who is born to us...
just born to us!
How can Christmas be over??
The story of the gospel is just beginning.
We who saw the Star now live in its Light.
We who saw and heard now believe.
Christmas is not over. We're just beginning to follow this one
who calls us now to Live in the Light of Love.
Christmas is not over.
It's just beginning and this is January's song!!

Christmas may be over, but hopefully, for us, we are "just beginning to follow this one who calls us now to Live in the Light of Love." As we gear up for a new year, and make resolutions, and dream about what the future has in store for us all, may the Light of Love guide all of our dreams and all of our resolutions.

As we move in 2019, I pray that we can all Live in the Light of Love as a church and as individuals, working to shine the light of Christ in a world that too often seems dark. I pray for God's blessings to be with us all, especially as we dream and discern the future that God has in store for us as a church family. We will be having lots of conversations in this year about what future God has in store for us. As we discuss, and dream, and listen to one another, I hope that we will keep in mind that "the story of the gospel is just beginning." How can our conversations and actions as a church family continue to bring the good news of the gospel?

I love a blank slate- a new year full of possibilities. A new calendar waiting to pencil in all of our hopes and dreams. It can be an exciting time, especially if we remember that we are in this journey together and God is leading the way!

And thanks be to God for that! Amen!

Peace,

Morgan



Members of First Presbyterian Church volunteered ten times in 2018 at Midwest Food Bank, meeting on one Monday a month from 2-4:00 at 220 Parkade Court. We have performed a variety of jobs, including inspecting and packaging discarded airline blankets, Shea Butter hair products, and chocolate stripe cookies. We never know what our task will be, but we always have a fun time while helping those in need.

Your first opportunity to volunteer in the new year is on Martin Luther King Day, January 21. Since the children are not in school that day, we hope to have many of them join us. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Please note the ages of children who will be volunteering.

Presbyterian Women will be providing lunch on Tuesday, January 22, at 11:00 for the volunteers who 'load out' donated food to agencies. If you would like to provide a salad, baked beans, chips, rolls, or desserts, please let Cathy Olson know at cathyolson50@gmail.com.



Four members of our church spent two days and nights in November at the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. Kathy Allgeier, Susan Piraino, Kim Diffey, and Carol Bryant loaded two SUVs with all the wonderful items this congregation donated to take to Thornwell. They were overwhelmed with your generosity to help provide bedding, personal items, and necessities for the children. On behalf of the Thornwell Home, we thank all of you who contributed either an item or a check to help buy what was needed. We also were able to give a check for approximately \$400 for the staff to use to help purchase Christmas presents for the children.

On the first night, we took dessert items to one of the cabins, which we learned is a real treat for the children. We learned from the volunteer coordinator that the facility is completely full of children from elementary grades to high school age. She also discussed the extensive training that the Family Teachers are given in order to provide care and guidance to the children who have been placed at Thornwell by local Social Services for crises of many kinds in their families. We found at the cabin we visited that the children we met were eager to visit with us and receive big hugs.

The next day we loaded up books from the Home's library into boxes as the library will be renovated while the building is converted to a charter school for Thornwell residents as well as neighborhood children. They expect the school to open in the fall of 2019.

The morning after that, we provided a breakfast reception for the Family Teachers while their students were in school. It gave them a time to visit with each other and for us to learn more about their challenges and rewards. It was a great function to wrap up our wonderful time at Thornwell, and we all look forward to returning there for another Mission Trip in 2019.



Bob Morris attended the Eagle ceremony for Carson Hines and Ian Fertig of Boy Scout Troop 211 in Smith Hall. These were the 97th and 98th Eagle Scouts in this troop since our first in 1989.

Congratulations to these two young men.

Also pictured Troop 211 Scout Master Jean-Paul Robichaux

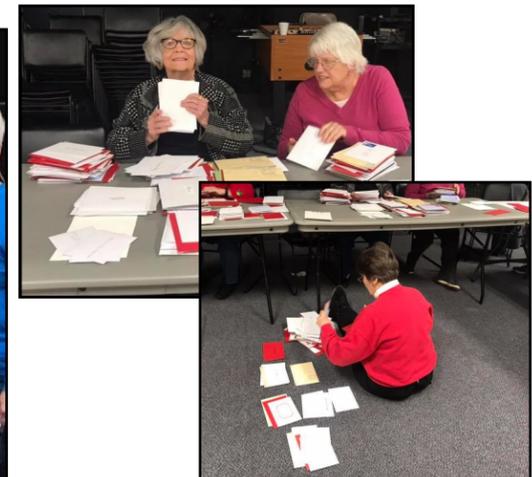


Fifty women enjoyed a festive evening on Tuesday, December 4, in Smith Hall at the PW Potluck Christmas Dinner. Those who attended brought delicious main dishes, sides, salads, and veggies, while the Presbyterian Women provided drinks and desserts. Many photos of our circles and ladies who attended were taken. Morgan puzzled us with a list of Christmas Carol Opposites. We had fun figuring out the names of familiar carols.

Many ladies provided gift baskets, Christmas decorations, collegiate shirts, food, and handmade items for the Silent Auction. Attendees bid enthusiastically throughout the evening. We raised \$880 for the PW budget, which will be used to host a St. Patrick's Day party for Capernaum, the Young Life group for youth with mental and physical challenges; to buy supplies for the Prayer Shawl Ministry; to honor a Presbyterian woman with the Lifetime Membership Award and much more.



What a wonderful time of the year to remember your church family . . . and you did! We had an overwhelming response to the Christmas card exchange sponsored by the New Day Circle. Imagine the smiles on the faces of each of the recipients as they opened a card from you. That is the most precious gift of all. We hope that same joy will carry over to you each and every day of the coming new year. Thank you to all that participated and to the elves that sorted and prepared the cards for pick up.



Our men's group has just finished three years of meeting for breakfast on the first Friday of the month. We continue to have great fellowship and food at J. Christopher's. If you have not been a part of this great group of guys, come join us in 2019. All men are welcome to come for good conversation and fun. Call Bob Morris, 770-789-2081, if you have questions. Hope to see you February 1.





As the temperatures have gotten chillier the Prayer Shawl Ministry has gotten busier creating beautiful afghans and lambs for baptisms. We now have nine members who knit or crochet each week. We meet on Monday from 9:30-11:30 in the home of Betty Keeney or at the church on the lower level by the elevator.

Since this ministry began in July 2016, we have given away 75 afghans. In the last four months we've given twenty-one afghans to members of the church, family members, and friends. We have many more beautiful, handmade afghans in our closet to share with others. If you have a friend or family member that you think would benefit from one of these beautiful prayer shawls, please let Cathy Olson know at cathyolson50@gmail.com.



Tavian Brown, great nephew of Dave and Cathy Olson, took his prayer Shawl to St. Louis in early December as they ran tests for his upcoming kidney transplant.

Callie Ann Hunt, great granddaughter of Colleen Watford, Sheryl Watford's Mom, will keep as a remembrance the prayer Shawl we gave to Colleen before she died.



Jeffrey, John, Kevin, Lucy Banks love the lambs they received at their baptism.



Rosalee Hutcheson, Erin Schauer's grandmother



Betty Keeney, who opens her home to the PSM, benefitted from a prayer shawl herself following her hip surgery.



Gail Joiner's mom, Betty Monfort

There's always something going on . . .

First Presbyterian Organist and Composer in Residence Bill Pasch had a hymn selected as the winning entry in the long-running and nationally prominent annual hymn contest sponsored by Macalester Plymouth United Church, a joint PCUSA and UCC congregation in Saint Paul, MN (also a campus church for Macalester College). The contest theme-search was for texts that ". . . call the Church to fulfill its mission to welcome and protect all peoples, especially by being a place of refuge and sanctuary." Entitled "Let All in Safety Gather Here," Bill's hymn can be sung to the existing tunes DEO GRACIAS or ERHALT UNS



Organ Notes

HERR, or to the new tune SANCTUARY FOR ALL that Bill co-composed with his frequent collaborator and friend Bob Weaver of Needham, MA. This is the fifth time Bill has been an honoree in this contest, and the third time his hymn was declared the winning (or co-winning) entry.

Bill's inventive Christmas carol "Carol of the Hen" was performed by two choruses in December. A review of the December 8-9 performances by the Wheatland Chorale in Lancaster, PA, described the carol: "William Allen Pasch's 'Carol of the Hen' [is] an allegorical text about King Herod as a fox and the holy child protected by love in the shape of the sheltering hen, written in the style of a slyly humorous madrigal, accompanied by frame drum and oboe." The carol was also performed on December 15 and December 20 by the AVE Vocal Ensemble in Huntsville, AL. The carol was published by St. James Music Press in 2013.

or something to read . . .



Book Study – *The Daniel Plan, 40 Days to a Healthier Life* by Pastor Rick Warren

Sunday, Jan 13, 9:30am, Youth Room. Facilitator: Barbara Henderson, bhender453@gmail.com

Revolutionize Your Health ... Here's the secret sauce: *The Daniel Plan* is designed to be done in a supportive community relying on God's instruction for living. When it comes to getting healthy, two are always better than one. Research has revealed that people getting healthy together lose twice as much weight as those who do it alone. God never meant for you to go through life alone and that includes the journey to health. Unlike the thousands of other books on the market, this book is not about a new diet, guilt-driven gym sessions, or shame-driven fasts. The Daniel Plan shows you how the powerful combination of faith, fitness, food, focus, and friends will change your health forever, transforming you in the most head-turning way imaginable--from the inside out. Sign up at the Welcome Center for this 6-week study or contact Barbara. She will provide you with a link to order the book.



All are welcome to check out books in our church library located near the elevators on the lower level. Just sign the card in the back of the book and leave it in the wooden box on the desk. Keep it as long as you want but do return it so others may enjoy it too. If you have library books at home that you checked out, please return them in a timely manner. Here are three new books available now.

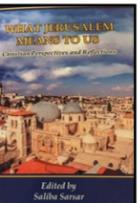
Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed by Emily Pearson (ages 6-12) Celebrate the fifteenth anniversary edition of this feel-good story that continues to inspire and celebrate a world full of ordinary deeds! Can one child's good deed change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary, an ordinary girl from an ordinary school, on her way to her ordinary house, who stumbles upon ordinary blueberries. When she decides to pick them for her neighbor Mrs. Bishop, she starts a chain reaction that multiplies around the world.



Wishtree by Katherine Applegate (ages 8-12) Warm and thoughtful, this story is told from the perspective of an ancient oak tree who has seen it all. Bestselling author Katherine Applegate gets readers rooting for the old tree, along with the people and animals who come to depend on it. The shorter length and strong plot are appealing for middle-grade readers who are growing into novels with less illustrated narrative and more complex subject matter.



What Jerusalem Means to Us is a unique book. In twenty-three essays, Palestinian Christians and other Christians of various backgrounds share their personal perspectives and reflections on Jerusalem as they draw on their intimate knowledge of and or their experiences in the Holy City.





SOME NEW FOLKS TO MEET

First Presbyterian welcomes these new members to our church family. We are a richer church with these additions, being blessed with their time, talents, and treasure.

Julia Reagan and Bill Thomas



When Julia and Bill decided to retire, they researched retirement communities and found Cresswind Peachtree City. Bill loved the idea of golf cart trails around the city where he could still get around after they take away his car keys. Bill and Julia met while studying at the University of Utah. Julia said they had to get married since they were the only single 30-year-olds on campus. Something must have worked—they have been married 33 years.

Julia grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from the University of OK with a degree in nursing, from the University of Utah with a degree in midwifery, and from the University of Phoenix with an MBA degree.

Bill is from Utah. He is a business and economics graduate of Westminster College in Salt Lake City and an MBA graduate of the University of Utah. He was in the Army for 33 years, was the CFO of a mining company in Nevada, and CFO of a non-profit in Virginia. Now that he is retired he is having fun with his candy making and cooking . . .



. . . and other things??



Linda Leck

Linda moved to Peachtree City from Atlanta in August after spending 32 years teaching Special Education in DeKalb County. She was born in New Jersey, grew up in Tulsa, OK, and has lived in the Atlanta area for the last 19 years. Linda graduated from Georgia State University with BS and Masters degrees. Linda loves to travel in the USA, especially the National Parks. She is looking forward to exploring jewelry making and discovering who she is now that she is retired.



Kelly Phelps



Be on the lookout for our new nursery worker, Kelly Phelps, and her children who are often in tow. Kelly was born and raised in Peachtree City and you'll often see here chauffeuring one of five kids around town! Ryan is 21, Jonathon 19, Lindsay 14, Cheyenne 12, and Hudson is 4. Kelly has worked with kids most of her life, including various churches in the area. When asked why she liked working with kids so much, Kelly said that her favorite thing is watching children learn and grow and figuring out new things.

Welcome to the First Presbyterian family, Kelly and kids!



AND FOLKS YOU ALREADY KNOW DOING THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT

Veterans' Day Appreciation 2018 - HeroBox

In honor of our church's veterans and Veterans' Day, we started a new tradition this year to support our military. With the assistance of HeroBox (check them out at www.HeroBox.org), our church created and shipped care packages for deployed service members. Being our first time with this project, we were not sure how many packages we were going to complete. Not surprisingly, our church stepped up and completed 45 care boxes. This far exceeded our initial goals.

HeroBox is a local non-profit that assists with care packages for service members. Ryan Housley spoke to us about HeroBox at our Veterans appreciation Wednesday night dinner. He shared stories of the needs our service members and the appreciation they have for care packages received. HeroBox assigned our church two units. One unit received 34 packages and the other, 11 packages. We pray the boxes are a blessing to both units.

The project was also a blessing to our children. Each child that participated was paired with an adult to assist them as they choose items for each package. It was great to hear each adult help talk the children through what best to choose and why each item would be appreciated by a service member abroad.

Based on the strong feedback received, we are planning to continue with care packages again next year near Veterans' Day. Thank you, First Pres, for your generous hearts in supporting our servicemen and women.





This fall was absolutely wonderful for Children's Ministry. We have transitioned to a new curriculum called *Godly Play*, which is a fun and more interactive way of learning scripture where we ask our students to enter into the stories of the Bible. We had a ball at our annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat. We also had a ton of Christmas-y activities: we skated and played at Starlite at a "Birthday Party for Jesus," made advent calendars together as a church for our First Sunday of Advent, and hosted 56 children for our annual Parents' Night Out.



Save the date for our big summer event: Vacation Bible School will be June 10-14, with a "Sunday Show Off" on what we've learned together in church on June 16. Be on the lookout for ways to participate and volunteer this year.

345 and Youth Group – We looked together at meeting times this fall to see what met our group's needs best and transitioned to a Wednesday Night time for Club 345 (3rd-5th graders) and our middle schoolers. After practicing guitar with Mr. David, we've had instructive discussions about what it means to serve and what is Advent? We've made tons of slime, and we even went Christmas Caroling!



Our high schoolers have been meeting for breakfast at Chick-fil-A before school starts once a month. We also joined Newnan Presbyterian for an escape room in November. We encourage all high schoolers to attend Music at Montreat with our choir this summer to get a taste of everything Montreat has to offer. The dates for this conference are June 23-29, and you can sign up now.

Communicant's Class – It's time for some of our students to join the church as full members. First Presbyterian invites any students who are currently in 8th grade or above to be a part of our spring communicant's class, which is also called confirmation. The Presbytery hosts a confirmation kick-off at the Calvin Center from February 1-3, 2019. We will also need one-on-one mentors for each of these students. If you or your child are interested in being a part of this important faith step, contact Katelyn Nutter Dowling to sign up or for more information.



Christmas break was a wonderful time of family and fun. Now we are back and ready to move forward in 2019. The preschool will be closed January 21 and 22. On January 22, our staff will be attending a Pre-school Conference to learn lots of fun things to bring back to our students.

February is a month in which we express our love for the special people in our lives. We'd like to express our love to the staff and congregation of First Presbyterian who shower us with their prayers and support. We especially love our students! They make our school a wonderful place to play and learn. On February 7, we will host a Kindergarten Open House for rising kindergarten families to come meet our teachers and learn more about our kindergarten program. We will have our Valentine's parties on February 14 and 15. We will close for Fayette County Schools Winter Break February 18 -20.

Registration is right around the corner! Dates for 2019-20 registration are Feb 25-Mar 4. If you would like more information about our program or would like to tour the building on a school day, call the kindergarten office.

Also in February, First Presbyterian Kindergarten is turning 50! We will host a birthday party to celebrate, and you are all invited. Join us to celebrate being the school we all love best for 50 years and counting! The party will feature fun carnival games hosted by our teachers, a bounce house, face painter, balloon artist and lots of fun. More details coming in 2019.



770-487-3699

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7 Prayer Shawl	8 Admin Comm	9 Time for Me Circle Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Youth Choirs	10 PBJ Circle	11 SGIF Circle	12
13 Town Hall Mtg Book study thru Feb 17	14 Prayer Shawl Mission Cm	15 B&G Finance Deacons ???	16 Town Hall Mtg Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Youth Choirs	17	18 Camp Calvin Women's Retreat	19
20 Christian Ed Congregational MEETING	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Church Closed Prayer Shawl Midwest FB	22 PWs @ MFB	23 Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Youth Choirs	24 Session	25	26
27 FAITH FOOD FITNESS FOCUS FRIENDS DANIEL PLAN	28 Prayer Shawl New Day Cir	29 NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY	30 Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Youth Choirs	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT
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 <p>FEBRUARY</p>			1 Men's Breakfast	2 
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3 	4 Prayer Shawl	5	6  Dinner Youth Choirs	7 <i>Eat ice cream for breakfast day</i>	8 SGiF Circle	9
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10 Christian Ed 	11 Prayer Shawl Mission Cm	12 Admin Cm	13 Time for Me  Dinner Youth Choirs	14 PBJ Circle	15	16
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17 	Happy Presidents' Day! <i>Church Office Closed</i> Prayer Shawl Midwest FB	19 Bldg & Grds Finance Deacons ???	20 NO WED DINNER	21	22	23
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24	25 Prayer Shawl New Day Cir	26	27  Dinner Youth Choirs	28 Session		
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT
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<p>well hello,</p> <h1>March</h1>					1 Men's Breakfast	2
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3	4 Prayer Shawl	5	6 Dinner @ 5:30  Service 6pm	7	8 SGiF Circle 	9
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10 	11 Prayer Shawl Mission Cm	12 Admin Comm	13 Time for Me  Dinner Youth Choirs	14 PBJ Circle	15	16 
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 Party at Chapmans'	18 Prayer Shawl Midwest FB	19 Bldg & Grds Deacons Finance Cm	20  Dinner Youth Choirs	21 March 21st  National Common Courtesy Day!	22	23
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24	25 Prayer Shawl New Day Cir	26	27  Dinner Youth Choirs	28 Session	29	30
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31