

TIDINGS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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It Takes Grace...

Friends of the Church, I wrote the following letter this morning, thinking I would send it to the local newspaper. I'm not sure it will be published, as it goes beyond the 250-word limit of letters on the opinion page. It is offered here for you to know where my prayers have been directed today...

I woke this morning to the news of the deaths of five police officers in Dallas, Texas. This, as a peaceful protest was culminating over the deaths of citizens in Baton Rouge and St. Paul. The divisiveness and violence we see in our country and the world are not anecdotal nor isolated. It takes time and it takes focused energy of those who wish upheaval and destruction to cause the turmoil we see. Our culture is not one of inclusiveness and caring

for one another. It is marred by those who desire at some level the panic and chaos that exists. And the degrading of humanity will continue as good folks say or do nothing in response. One small thing I can do now is to state my grief over the violence of this past week and to encourage others to do the same. This is not a political issue. It is not an issue of the availability of guns. It is not an issue of hatred and races not getting along. It is, at its core, an issue of morality and, for myself, an issue of following Jesus and His agenda more than politicians and their aims. He has a better plan than any we have elected. It has come to the point of standing up and standing out in the midst of a culture that continues to spiral. Personally, I will remain focused on, and in conversation

with, those who desire good for all and are willing to speak truth to each circumstance. I believe it was Karl Barth who said we should pray with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. In these days that certainly makes much sense. So, in this day, I pray for the safety and welfare of our local police officers and all first responders. Their willingness to serve the entire community should be lifted and our appreciation should be known to them. Thanks to you all for literally placing your lives on the line for our protection and freedom.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” [Psalm 46:1]

RevLon

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Although in May we had a positive response to our last plea for funds -- in June spending again exceeded our income. Below is the month of June and the year to date General Fund income and expenses of our church.

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	(SHORTFALL)/GAIN
June	\$15,941	\$20,782	(\$4,841)
Jan-June	\$116,544	\$127,670	(\$11,126)

Thanks for your support!

Dale Davis

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

“August is like the Sunday of summer,” an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week – a chance to sleep in, do “nothing,” relax and play – then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the on-

slaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor

Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed “August is like the Sunday of summer.” God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

—Heidi Mann

YOUTH NEWS

Thanks to those that supplied paint for our “Youth Room Makeover”. Allie Downey and Emily Fischels had the vision and inspiration and with some help from Haley Cope and Dee Allen, the room looks new and fresh. Take a look whenever you get the chance. It was time and their hard work and vision looks great!

August 17th will begin our regular Wednesday night Youth Groups for Middle and High School students. Our times for meeting are 6-7:30. Our first night back will be our annual kick off with “Water Night”. Please come prepared to

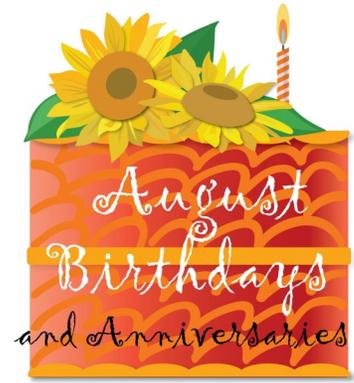
get wet, dress appropriately and bring at least one towel. Parents I would have a couple of towels for your child to sit on unless you like wet car seats. Also please put November 4-6 on your calendar which is Fall Retreat at Camp Loucon. More details will come as we near that event. We look forward to a great new school year and all that God has for us as we gather to learn, grow and celebrate His goodness!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN!

With the new school year, come the new season of suppers, programs, Bible study, worship, children and youth programming. Make Wednesday “church night” for you and invite others to come, too! The first night is August 17 (see inside for Rick’s article that will be the kick-off). A fellowship dinner is served each week at 5:15, followed by activities for all ages.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	David Betts	17th	Jerry & Phyllis Klym (A)
	Mike & Nancy Franklin (A)	19th	Shari Winstead
	Mallory Hunt	21st	Lanna Arnold
	Craig Winstead	22nd	Sandy Tucker
2nd	Mike Franklin	24th	Jerry Kelley
	Dick & Mary George Peyton (A)		Mike Shepherd
4th	Art Hall		David Brooks
	Chaun Castleberry		Connie Skultety
8th	Susan Stewart	25th	Val Dreusicke
10th	Russell Fischels		Denise Edwards
11th	Thomas Franklin McKnight	26th	Jackie Fazenbaker
14th	Bill Coates		Lon & Pat Lorton (A)
	Mike & Jo Shepherd (A)		Cookie Porter
16th	Jeana Smith		



27th John & Cheryl Bushong (A)
31st Luke Ricketts

AUGUST 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9:30AM Norma Siria Circle	2 7PM Session Meeting	3	4 7PM Brent Vernon	5	6
7	8 6PM GB Board Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 RUMMAGE SALE
14	15	16	17 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21	22 6PM Great Banquet Team Meetings Begin	23	24 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28	29 6PM G.B. Team Meetings	30	31 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	MEN! R.P.M. IS ABOUT TO REV UP! Be watching for special information on something new for all the men at First Presbyterian. You are going to want to be there! Circle September 7 on your calendar...		

BACK INSIDE

At one time, I was interested in discussing time-space continuum, string theory, neutrino spin and rotation, parallel universes, and alternate reality. I used to listen to Blind Faith, Buffalo Springfield, and Paul Butterfield Blues. I used to roam the forest and speak with the trees. Today, I wonder if I can find my way home.

“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart. Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?”

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of

our life in Christ Jesus whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification and redemption.” 1 Corinthians Chapter 1.

Yesterday, I spent some time with a young man, who has been in and out of jail, and is back in again. He realizes that methamphetamine is not only killing him, but is destroying everything he holds dear.

He asked me if he could be baptized. We discussed John 10:10; John 8: 3-12; and Acts 2:38. And that it is not the water, it is the Blood of The Lamb. And, yes.

Jesus has been very busy in my ministry and I consider it an honor and privilege to be his servant. I still think about the creation and the role we play. I sometimes listen to what I consider good music. And often wish to walk among the

trees. But, worry not, I know my way home. It is the narrow path, the one least traveled, Christ Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. “Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.”

On the Inside, Pete

A NIGHT OF GOOD CLEAN FUN AND MUSIC

We are pleased to announce that Brent Vernon is coming back for an evening of great entertainment. Brent is a South Florida based singer, songwriter, pianist, ventriloquist, children’s author and illustrator. A few years ago he shared a night with us that was totally entertaining for every age group, from our oldest to the youngest. Brent has a very natural appeal as he moves from playing and singing classic music (along with his own works), to hilarious ventriloquism with his buddy, Sam, to telling tales and stories that will capture your im-

agination. This event will be in our sanctuary on Thursday, August 4 at 7:00PM. While Brent’s books and music will be available for purchase, admission is absolutely free and we hope to have everyone from the church not only be in attendance, but also invite the community to come.

From Brent Vernon’s website: “In Luke 18:17, Jesus said that we all must enter the kingdom as little children, trading cynicism for simple faith. I gave my life to Christ when I was eleven years old and have a deep desire to see the minds

and hearts of children redeemed with the help of God-honoring creative content... The theme of this ministry has always been that of surrender. I deeply believe that God requires every part of who we are. Our goals, our motivations, our passions, our secrets, our talents – they must all be placed in the hands of God. It is only then that we find peace. He is our peace.”

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE AUGUST 13th

Church Rummage Sale

August 13, 2016

7:00 til Noon



Start cleaning out your closet—we need everything, kids clothes, adults clothes, household items, furniture, etc... this is a back to school sale so we would like a bunch of different things. You can bring your items to the church now and put in room A. Please shut door before you leave. The week of the sale you can put them in the gym. Call Connie (322-0265) or Brenda (871-1748) to help out with set up or to work the day of sale.

Thanks!

HOLA AMIGOS!

FPC has a new set of partners in the Yucatan! During our one-year follow-up visit with our partners in Xoy in June, we signed a new covenant with the members of the Getsemani National Presbyterian Church in San Diego Buena Vista. The folks there showed us the same kind of hospitality as our friends in Xoy, and are just as needy for a water plant. They now have to drive about 50 kilometers to purchase water in Tzucacab. We have sent them drawings for the building and are awaiting their estimates for the construction. When the building is finished, and when we have raised enough funds

to purchase the equipment, we'll return for installation and education.

Our friends in Xoy are doing great. They have purchased a well-used pickup truck for deliveries, and are selling over (100) 20 liter bottles each day. Nearly 90% of their product is delivered. They have also begun bottling 0.5 liter bottles to sell to the tiendas (convenience stores) in Xoy and surrounding villages. They are real entrepreneurs, but still consider the purified water as part of their ministry. They are good stewards with what God has given them and what we

have been able to share with them.

The FPC Living Waters for the World mission team is now meeting on the third Thursday of each month to plan for the return trip to San Diego Buena Vista. We would love to have new folks join us for these meetings (and for the return trip). Special training is not required but is available if you would like.



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