

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

November 16, 2017

God has used “do not fear, I will be with you” as encouragement to the prophets and apostles throughout the Bible: Abraham, Hagar, Jacob, Moses, fleeing Israelites slaves, the judge Gideon, King Hezekiah, the psalmist beset by powerful enemies, the community of Jewish exiles, Jeremiah, Daniel, Mary, shepherd surrounded by angels, disciples caught in a storm, frightened disciples on the night of Jesus’ betrayal, disciples frightened by reports of a resurrected Jesus, the apostle Paul, or John of Patmos. “Do not fear, I will be with you.” But this is not our natural reaction. We are built to respond to fear in a certain way; our fight or flight instinct kicks in as we assess how to respond to a given situation; whether it is an argument between friends, car accident, or something more extreme. God urges us to let go of what keeps us from completely trusting in God. We need to let go of our anxieties, let go of what “paralyzes us into retreat, inaction, or over reaction.”

There has never been a time in my life where I have felt outside of God’s love and care. I thank my parents, and grandparents for setting that foundation in my life, and my home church members for raising me in the faith. Yet there have certainly been times in my life when I have not heeded God’s advice to Joshua. In seminary I spent several months wrestling with the idea that I might not be called to ministry. I went so far as to inquire about other degree possibilities in other fields. After months of sitting in what felt to me at the time as darkness and uncertainty, giving in to the overwhelming fear of what’s next for my life, I received a call from Montreat that I had been approved to serve as a planning team member for the following year’s youth conference, and by the grace of God I began to listen to his voice over all the other noise that weighed me down. “Be strong and courageous, do not fear, for I am with you.”

The crossing of the Jordan is merely the beginning for Joshua and his leadership of the Israelites. His greatness didn’t come to fruition in this singular moment, but began to take root as he is built up by God in the eyes of the people. It is difficult filling the shoes of someone like Moses; it takes time for a new leader to find their own way, their voice, their way of guiding the people through the fears and challenges of the world around them. But where Joshua and the people found hope was in the promises of God. They trusted in God’s will for them and the process. May we set out to do the hard work of doing the same here in this place today.

What’s next? I do not know. But I know we were built up during our revival in the word of God, in the fellowship of this community of believers, and we need to do something with the Spirit that has filled this place and inspired us last week. Ask one another where you have seen the Spirit moving in this church recently? How did the Spirit speak to you this week? And let’s find ways to be strong and courageous as we begin a new journey with God.

In Christ, A.J.

CONCERNS

Immediate Concerns

*Kevin Soos family (Jim Soos’s brother) *Willie C. Haynes family (Bonnie Newsome’s son) *Bill Acuff
*Baby Max Herndon *Jeri Chastain (Bea Chastain’s daughter-in-law) *Cindy Irby (Dennis Irby’s sister-in-law)
*Lena Marston (daughter of Matt & Elizabeth Marston) *Wayne Harris

On-Going Concerns

*Sherry Rentz *Howard Hall *Mitch Britt (Alice Griner’s son)
*Ellen Plant (Sandra Plant’s sister-in-law) *Luna Chappell (Verna Moon’s great granddaughter)
*Patsy Miller (Sandy Hooks’ mother) *Joanne Meredith (Doris Harsh’s daughter)

Music Corner

I saw this article and thought it an appropriate take away from revival last week:

Integrity by Kenneth Kuykendall

The truth is God requires His people to be people of integrity. Someone who strives to be such a person will:

1. Promote Honesty- God has called us to teach truth, speak truth, and live by the truth regardless of the consequences.

2. Practice Holiness- God's people are to be holy and different. We are salt and light. We are commanded to be holy even as He is holy. The Bible tells us that we cannot see God without holiness. Although holiness is an out-dated subject, it is still a Bible principle!

3. Pursue Humility- holiness and honesty does not equate in religious snobbery or arrogance.

Those who walk in integrity will live in humility.

4. Please Him— above and beyond all things, a person of integrity seeks to please God. If we filtered everything in our lives with this question, "Does it Please God?" we would not have to wonder whether or not we were people of integrity- we would be.

God has not called us to be popular, He has called us to be peculiar. May God help us to be people of integrity.

Doug

THORNWELL THANKSGIVING OFFERING

We will have a special offering for Thornwell Home for Children on Sunday, November 26. Thornwell offers safe, loving homes, hope for a brighter future, and wholeness and healing to children and families throughout Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

FLOWERS 2018

Holly Beard is working on the flower chart for 2018. If you interested in a particular Sunday, please call or text her at 229-798-0669. Dates will be first come, first serve.

BACKPACKS OF HOPE

Our Backpacks program costs from \$3.50 per weekend for 2 children to \$6.50 a weekend for 6 children. Please consider donating any amount to this fund.

Thanks,

Dianne Posey and Alice Griner

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 23: THANKSGIVING DAY

November 29: Missionary from Bihar, India and Budget Presentation

December 3: Stewardship Sunday and Advent Festival

December 10: PW Officer Installation

December 13: Christmas WATCH

December 17: Christmas Cantata

December 24: Lessons and Carols Morning Worship and Christmas Eve Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Education Committee

Sunday, November 19, 8:30 AM

Session Meets

Sunday, November 19, 7:00 PM

NO WATCH—Thanksgiving Holidays

Wednesday, November 22

Office Closed—Thanksgiving

Wednesday, Nov. 22—Closed at 12

Thursday, Nov. 23—Friday, Nov. 24

Worship Committee

Sunday, November 26, 8:30 AM

HELPING HANDS BOX

Hope House Mommy Mall

At Hope House, pregnant women and new fathers and mother can earn points by attending parenting classes and Bible studies to spend in the Mommy Mall. From October through December we are collecting new or "like new" items for babies and toddlers (clothes, furniture, diapers, etc.).

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 12 were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sharon Gail Harnage by Bobby and Poole Harnage

The rosebud on the altar on Sunday, November 12 was placed by Presbyterian Women in honor of Maxwell Lonz Herndon, son of Paul and Rachel Herndon, born October 18, 2017.

THANKSGIVING OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday, November 22: Office Closes at 12:00 pm

Thursday, November 23—Friday, November 24: Office Closed

There will be no Gazette next week! Happy Thanksgiving!



We extend Christian sympathy and prayers to the family of
Willie C. Haynes (Bonnie Newsome's son)
who passed away on November 11, 2017.

We extend Christian sympathy and prayers to the family of
Kevin Soos (Jim Soos's brother)
who passed away on November 13, 2017

ADVENT FESTIVAL & ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 3rd - 2:30 pm—Families of all shapes, sizes and ages are invited to the Advent Festival and Wreath Workshop! We will provide the candles, bases and simple (live) greenery for your wreaths, but feel free to bring more from home (magnolia leaves, holly, berries, etc.). Each wreath will also come with a devotional booklet to guide your daily Advent preparations as a family. We will have crafts and gingerbread houses for the kids and tree trimming in the sanctuary. Tree-lighting will be at 4:30 followed by a soup and sandwich supper, \$3. If you still have the gold platters we used as wreath bases last year, please return them to Alec or Katherine so that we can reuse them this year.

YOUTH NEWS

MOVIE NIGHT OUT ft. WONDER

Sunday, Nov. 19, 3:30pm - Meet at church at 3:30 or the theater at 3:45 for the 4:15 showing of WONDER. \$5 per person will pay for your ticket. Bring money for popcorn and snacks. RSVP: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0449A8AA28A7F49-movie

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Monday, Nov. 20 - No J&J Wednesday, Nov. 22 - No WATCH Sunday, Nov. 26 - No Youth

PROGRESSIVE DINNER HOSTS STILL NEEDED

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5-8pm - Parents, we are still in need of hosts for the 3 courses (apps, entree, dessert) of the Progressive Dinner. Please let me know if you would be willing to open your home for this fun FPC Youth Christmas tradition!

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FROM THE KITCHEN

It was wonderful to see so many at our Thanksgiving meal. The Fellowship Hall looked so festive thanks to Bea Chastain, Melody Jenkins, Dianne Klar, Debbie Peters, and Susan Reagin. Thank you ladies for being so willing to give of your time to decorate.

NO WATCH ON NOVEMBER 22—HAPPY THANKSGIVING

MENU for NOVEMBER 29, 2017

REGULAR: Cashew Chicken, Rice, Steamed Broccoli, Curried Fruit, Salad Bar. Fruit, Rolls, Oriental Cabbage Salad

DIET: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar, Fruit

CHILDREN: Hot Dogs, Fries

DESSERTS: Baked Fudgy Pudding, Caramel Apple Dumplings

MENU for DECEMBER 6, 2017

EVERYONE: Sausage Egg Casserole, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Grits, Biscuits, Strawberry Bread

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As I stop to consider all the things for which I am thankful, I place the friendship of the members of First Presbyterian at the top of my list.

In Christ, Faye