

# Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

September 21, 2017

We have been led to believe that we have the power and ability to choose our own fate in this world. And in some respects this is true. We certainly have more options to choose whichever profession we feel led to pursue. We are not locked into doing what our parents' jobs were, and we are not told what we shall become by the government. We are able to choose whom we love and will marry; that person is not chosen for us, as is the case still in many countries and cultures. We have been led to believe that we are in control of our lives, that humanity's goodness will ultimately prevail in the world. But from what I can see, this is simply not the case. It is not the case in the world and it is not even the case in the church.

In the world we believe we are on a forward progression through history that is unconnected to the will and power of God. Yet with every forward advancement of freedom we find new ways to decimate God's good creation and kill one another. When one tyrant is cast out, another appears to take his place, and on and on it goes, but "only God has the power to cast the tyrant's weapons of mass destruction into the sea" whether they are chariots and horses, dirty bombs, guns, vehicles, or airplanes. Too often in the church we get sidetracked from our true mission of sharing the good news, bringing new people to God, and serving the least in our community, and would rather spend our time bickering over that which divides us. The epistles remind us that the church has always been this way, but that doesn't mean it is supposed to be this way. Romans reminds us to "turn away from needless bickering, and be led to faithfulness to one another and to the living Lord."

The Lord redeemed the Israelites from slavery and oppression through the parting of the Red Sea. Deliverance was something only he could offer, and the same is true for us today. In Christ, we have our true redemption; through his death and resurrection we are given new life, we are shown who has the ultimate power in the world. It is not us. It is not our petty arguments. The old children's song reminds us, "We are weak and he is strong." Our identity as Christians is tied to the fact that our God will have the final say in this world, and our purpose while we walk this earth above all else, is to see his Good News shared and his people served. In devoting ourselves to these purposes we recognize that whatever power in this world we do have is because of God's goodness and grace, and we are to use it for his purposes like Moses. We do not need to be like the naysayers who wanted to remain on the western bank of the Red Sea with the security of what they knew. Instead, we must be willing to follow God out onto the sea floor and be transformed by his grace and mercy as guides us to true freedom found only in him.

In Christ, A.J.

## CONCERNS

### Immediate Concerns

\*Betty Brown family (Scott Brown's mother) \*Lana Kimler (Dawn Lott's niece) \*Betty Hendrick family  
\*Emily Joiner family (Dennis Irby's aunt) \*Lena Marston (daughter of Matt & Elizabeth Marston)  
\*Wayne Harris \*Willie C. Haynes (Bonnie Newsome's son) \*Bud & Dolly Stringer

### On-Going Concerns

\*Howard Hall \*Bill Acuff \*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)

# About the Confessions of Our Church—

## Second Helvetic Confession

The Second Helvetic Confession was written by Heinrich Bullinger. “Helvetic” means “Swiss.” Bullinger was a pupil and friend Ulrich Zwingli, who was the “father” of the Reformation in Switzerland as Luther was in Germany. Bullinger took Zwingli’s place as preacher and pastor of the cathedral church in Zurich following his death, and led the church for forty-four years. Bullinger intended to leave the Second Helvetic Confession as his personal legacy to the church in Zurich, but had it published in 1566 in an attempt to help reconcile Lutheran and Reformed Christians in Germany. It was enthusiastically received as an authoritative statement of faith by Reformed churches across Europe. The confession is the most pastoral and practical of all Reformed confessions of the sixteenth century, always concerned to relate the interpretation of Scripture and Christian faith to the everyday life of Christians and the church.

### HELPING HANDS BOX

#### The Forgotten Initiative Closet

Often children come into foster care with only the clothes they are wearing. The Forgotten Initiative closet provides case workers with urgent needs:

Clothes, pajamas, toiletries, comfort toy, etc for immediate needs for children of all ages

### CHILDREN’S WORSHIP BULLETINS

Children's bulletins are located in the narthex, to the left of the entrance door, in the cubby area. There are two children's bulletins, one is yellow and it is for ages 3-6 and the other is blue, it is for ages 7-12.

### 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.

### MEN’S BREAKFAST

Men’s Breakfast will begin on Sunday, October 1 at 8:30 AM and will meet thereafter on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, except for November. If you would like to get an email reminder, please call (985-3158) or email ([1stpres@moultriega.net](mailto:1stpres@moultriega.net))

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Christian Education Committee

Sunday, September 24, 8:30 AM

#### Congregational Care Committee

Wednesday, September 27, 4:30 PM

#### Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, October 1, 8:30 AM

#### Presbyterian Women Board Meeting

Monday, October 2, 10:00 AM

#### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, October 4, 4:00 PM

#### Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 4, 4:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT THEMES

September 27—Packers Night

October 4—World Communion Night

We extend Christian sympathy and prayers  
to the family of

**Betty Nabors Brown, Scott Brown’s mother**  
who passed away on September 18, 2017.

### CORNERSTONES

**CALHOUN FARMS**—September 28, leave the church at 11 AM

**MONTHLY MEETING**—October 16, 11:30 AM

# FLOWERS

*The flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 17 were given to the glory of God and in appreciation to those who sacrificed for our comfort and safety during the recent storm by the families of Dan and Jimmy Jeter*

## FISH FRY PRE-SALE

Tickets for the Fish Fry to be hold on Sunday, October 15 are

available in the office and at WATCH.

\$7 for adults and \$4 for children up to 5th grade

**DEADLINE: October 11**



## STOP HUNGER NOW

Sunday, Oct. 1, 1:00-5:00pm - We will depart from church at 1:00 to head to FPC Valdosta to help package meals to be sent to partner organizations around the world. This Presbytery-wide event is family friendly and a great outreach opportunity *for all ages*. Please let Katherine know if you plan to attend.

## YOUTH NEWS

### MONTREAT SUNDAY/SHAREHOLDERS DINNER

*Sunday, September 24* - The youth will lead worship Sunday morning and share our experiences from Montreat. That evening we will host the Shareholders Dinner for all those who contributed to our fundraising tree. All those who went to Montreat are expected to participate, and everyone else is welcome and encouraged to as well!

### PRESBYTERY FAMILY DAY

*Saturday, Oct. 7, 11:00 am-3:00 pm* - Youth are invited to help man bounce houses, run games and crafts, and generally be on hand to help with crowd control. This is the second opportunity we've had to unite families across our Presbytery and to reach out to the community in Albany that is still recovering from the tornadoes last winter. Please let Katherine know if you are interested in helping.

### CROSSROADS WORK DAY - Rescheduled thanks to Irma

*Sunday, Oct. 8, 2:45 pm-7:00 pm* - We will continue our partnership with Crossroads Rescue Mission and spend some time helping them freshen up their facilities as needed. We will meet at the church at 2:45 to ride to Crossroads together, work until 6:00 or so, then share in dinner with the residents. We will conclude at our regular 7 pm time. Pickup back at church. Make sure to wear grungy work clothes.

**FALL BREAK** - Sunday, Oct. 22 - No Youth

### WILD ADVENTURES - Terror in the Wild!

*Saturday, Oct. 28* - This trip is NOT for the faint of heart! We will leave the church at 3:00 pm for Valdosta and return home around midnight. Park transitions to Terror in the Wild beginning at 6pm.

**Cost is \$30 per person.** Bring your own money for lunch and snacks while at the park. Friends are welcome, and chaperones will be needed! (Chaperone tickets will be covered by the church.)

**Registration due Sunday, Oct. 22.**

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## FROM THE KITCHEN

What a week of beautiful weather after the storm last week!!! I hope each of you have gotten things cleaned up.

### **MENU for SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

REGULAR: Chicken Parmigiana, Corn Pudding, Rutabagas, Garden Peas, Rolls/  
Cornbread, Watergate Salad, Fruit, Salad Bar

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

CHILDREN: Chicken Tenders, Cheese and Macaroni

DESSERTS: Chocolate Covered Cheesecake Squares

### **MENU for OCTOBER 4, 2017**

EVERYONE: Breakfast Casserole, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Grits, Biscuits, Strawberry  
Bread, Juice

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Our daily life requires courage, perseverance, determination, and an unending supply of love. If you are tired or discouraged, ask God for strength. With His help, you will be able to face everything that comes your way.

In Christ, Faye