

NOVEMBER 28, 2019 -11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ NOVEMBER 28, 2019 -11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The First Press

November 2019



“COME, YE THANKFUL
PEOPLE, COME!”

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Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!!!	
<p>Every third Sunday of the month the Church provides a cake during fellowship time to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries that occur that month. This is also the opportunity to contribute a dollar to the "Birthday Fund" for each year you are young! The Birthday Board is exhibited, envelopes and a box are available for your use or you may put your check in the offering plate. Please write on your check "Birthday Fund" so that it will be deposited to the correct account. The Birthday Fund goes towards scholarships for our graduating seniors.</p> <p>Please join us on <i>November 17</i>, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!</p>	

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November Birthdays

Kathy Hopper	2-Nov	Lynn Landers	11-Nov
Daniel Clinton, Sr.	3-Nov	Frani Bailey	14-Nov
Shelia Allen	5-Nov	Dolores Pierson	14-Nov
Bobbie Blundell	5-Nov	Scott Couch	17-Nov
Bob Pierce	5-Nov	Truman Bailey	18-Nov
Sally Simpson	6-Nov	Dick Mattson	19-Nov
Kaeden Schaffer	7-Nov	Nicholas Hinson	21-Nov
Carolyn Tennyson	8-Nov	Allen Lee	22-Nov
Jo Newton	9-Nov	Randa Couch	24-Nov
Charles Feldman	10-Nov	Bill Randall, Sr.	27-Nov
Maisie Moreland	10-Nov	Paul Rice	30-Nov
Shelley Bailey	11-Nov		

November Anniversaries

Truman and Frani Bailey	5-Nov
Andy and Cindy Meyers	11-Nov
Dick and Carol Mattson	18-Nov
Paul and Tracy Rice	18-Nov
Ed and Lynn King	30-Nov

God Bless You on Your Special Day!



“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!”

Take a good look at the picture on the front cover of this newsletter. What do you see? I see serving pans of delicious food ready to be opened and enjoyed. I see faithful church members excited to greet and serve our Whittington Valley Community on Thanksgiving Day. I see volunteers back in the kitchen delightfully dancing around each other as they organize pots, pans, desserts, and drinks. I see smiles on everyone’s face as the gift of Thanksgiving inspires their work. Giving is such fun!

Looking at this picture, I recall Jesus in the wilderness with his disciples, looking at the large crowd coming toward him. “Phillip, where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” Phillip answered him, “Six months wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little” (John 6:7). Andrew replied, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” (John 6:9).

This time of year, I confess I’m often like Andrew. I see God’s arrival, but just don’t think it’s enough. In addition to Thanksgiving, I’m worried about the church budget for the coming year. The numbers rarely reconcile. This church accomplishes so much, and we have so many responsibilities. How will we ever make the income match the expenses? How will we show our gratitude to the most capable church staff with whom I have ever worked? Will we be able to care for this amazing physical plant that has been entrusted to us by members of generations past? How will we attract and welcome new members who will help us build a faith home for our children and their children?

Then, an envelope arrives in the mail. A man in Texas, who visits our church twice a year when his family gathers at the lake, sent a generous check to support the Thanksgiving Day Dinner along with a note, “Looking forward to seeing you again soon!” Then I remembered that the dinner you see on the front cover is self-

supporting. After an initial gift from session five years ago, the costs of this dinner have not expended this initial resource. “If there’s a will, there’s a way,” you might say. However, Andrew might say, “Where God is at work, there always will be enough, with plenty left over.”

First Presbyterian is an incredible place to worship and serve our God. Jesus Christ is alive and active in all our members who love one another and go out of our way to bring healing and hope to the world around us. Whenever a need presents itself, our members come through—with a smile on their face! Thank you for being such a generous church and for turning me from an “Andrew” to a joyous believer.

I hope to see you in worship throughout November. On November 3, we will celebrate All Saints worship and call the names of the saints who witnessed their faith on earth and now live in heaven. On November 10, bring your completed pledge cards with you to worship and we will dedicate our stewardship to God’s work for the coming year. Our youth will be ushers throughout November, and will participate in the Children’s Sermon on November 17. New members will join our church in November, and I want you to welcome them home!

When I look again at the picture on the front of this newsletter, I see the nurture of our loving church family. 2019 has been a challenging year for both Darlene and me, and we want to thank our church family for your prayers and support that have sustained us when we were discouraged. Doctors continue to give us encouraging news and we thank each of you for your healing prayers. Thank you for being our church family and walking God’s path with us. Together we will continue serving God’s people the finest bread that God provides!

Lacy

Session Notes

The Mission Committee was happy to report a successful Whittington Fest Block Party sponsored by our church, Roanoke Baptist, and St. Mary's Catholic Churches. We hope to have more mingling between the congregations next year. The Christian Education Committee also reported a successful educational seminar on "The Last Segregated Hour" by Professor Stephen Haynes of Rhodes College in Memphis. The topic was "kneel-ins" to bring attention to racial segregation in churches in the 1960's.

Paul Rice attended the October meeting of Arkansas Presbytery at Ferncliff. He was fascinated by an overture to be presented to the General Assembly to write a new confession of faith which is more inclusive. The overture was approved by a fairly close vote of Arkansas Presbytery and would have to go through a voted by General Assembly and then go to all the Presbyteries to be actually approved.

November and December Session Meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. one week earlier than usual, November 20 and December 18, to avoid conflicts with holidays.

Other items from the Session reports:

- A picture of members of our congregation in their "Haiti" tee-shirts was featured in the last Haiti Education Foundation Newsletter.
- The Stewardship Campaign is under way with November 10 designated as Dedication Sunday when pledge cards will be presented during the worship service.
- We have sold a sliver of land adjoining an in Whittington Creek to the City for flood abatement. No other property has been sold.

Kathy White,

Clerk

STEWARDSHIP 2020

It is that time of year again, when Session asks for our help in giving them the information, they need to prepare the church budget for the coming year. Session relies on our financial pledges to form the framework that supports the programs and commitments of First Presbyterian Hot Springs.

Most importantly, our budget reflects our individual worship of our Heavenly Father, because the money we give back to God reflects our individual trust in God's promises to provide for us. Matthew Chapter 6 tells us as believers "not to be anxious about your life... your Heavenly Father knows your needs. But seek ye first His kingdom and his righteousness, and all (necessary) things shall be yours as well."

Making the commitment to actually sign a pledge card is sometimes difficult. What if my old car finally breaks down, what if we have to buy a new refrigerator, what if I have to have the surgery I've been putting off. Not a single one of us knows what 2020 will bring, only God. He has given us His promise. He knows what lies ahead and is asking only that we trust in him. We may be totally unaware of some of the blessings we receive but be assured, He keeps His promises.

Your pledge is a decision that you or your family makes. It is a confidential decision. The pastor doesn't know what it is, the treasurer doesn't know, the Finance Committee doesn't know, only the Financial Secretary. If circumstances change for you in 2020, God knows. If you and He have talked it over and if changing your pledge is the decision, it can be done.

So, bring your completed pledge cards to worship on November 10 for dedication. This is our opportunity to examine our lives to be sure we are living up to God's words to us in Matthew, seeking Him first. It is our opportunity to choose to be faithful disciples, caring for and managing all God has given us. It is our opportunity to choose to commit our time, abilities, material resources and influence to further His kingdom.

Thanks be to God for His abundant grace.

Sandy Matheney



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW Sewing Group - "The Sew Whats" Each year PW collects gloves, hats, mittens and scarves to help those in need when the cold weather hits. This year, in addition to collecting them, we want to make them! We are calling on all members & friends who can knit or crochet to get out those scraps of yarn & get started. We also have patterns and material to sew the hats, mittens and scarves. We need donations of yarn and suitable material such as flannel or fleece. We meet Thursday, **October 10 and October 24.** (every 2nd and 4th Thursday). Please join us! Contact Jeanette Cline or Carol Mattson with questions.

P.W. is now collecting Gloves, Mittens, and Socks for children and adults in need. All sizes! Please place them in the boxes in the Fellowship Hall. Deadline is December 1st.

The PW Day Circle Bible Study, meets, on November 19, 10:30 a.m. Our current P.W. study book is, **Love Carved in Stone**, by Eugenia Anne Gamble

The Women's Wednesday Study, The Gift of Years, is a collection of meditations on where we are all headed, by Sister Joan Chittister. One of our most celebrated spiritual writers, Ms. Chittister currently serves as co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a partner organization of the United Nations. Our group has been meeting for over a dozen years, but new members are always welcome to join us. Come to the church Library at 10:30 on Wednesday mornings for lively discussions of contemporary religious texts.

Women of First Presbyterian, it's time again for your coordinating team to plan the budget for the coming 2019-2020 year. Last year you pledged \$2,280.00 by giving up just one Starbucks coffee for the month. We spent that money on mission, birthday, and thank offerings. Also, Vera Lloyd Children's Home, honorary memberships, 3 HS graduation gifts, Days for Girls project, Christmas gifts and other mission projects. This year our theme is to "**Light up the World**" with our giving. A poster is in the Fellowship Hall so you can see how much "light" is being spread. Please continue to give at least \$50.00. We are fantastic stewards of your pledges. Remember your pledge money funds mission activities outside of Garland County. Bargain Box money funds projects inside Garland County. Make checks to **PW** and give to Sally Pierce. We never know what "**light**" our money will bring to someone!



Sally Pierce presents Tyranny Osborne with the Presbyterian Women Single Parent Scholarship. Tyranny is a Theological Major.

Bargain Box monies in October were sent to ASMSA and NPC Helping Hands Program. Both groups received \$500.00 each. The students attend ASMSA because of their high academic achievement. Many come from low income families. Our funds purchase ten \$50.00 Walmart gift cards that are given to needy students determined by the ASMSA staff. The Helping Hands Program was established by John Postman, a former FPC member, to assist NPC students that have an urgent emergency. Students can “borrow” money for a new tire, gas money, etc. to continue with their education. The money is then paid back and paid forward.

We are now open until 4:00 on the **second Wednesday** of each month to accommodate the ASMSA students. They can’t leave campus until 3:00 so couldn’t come and shop “The Box”. This month we had quite a bunch come and shop. Kathy McConkie showed one boy a stethoscope tie for \$.50. He bought it as a Christmas present for his brother who is in school to become a doctor. Kathy told him to tell his brother it came the “The Box,” which is a boutique store in Hot Springs!

Please remember “The Box” as you declutter and reduce. Many folks, including our ASMSA youth, buy Christmas presents for family and friends. As we know, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure!”



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Top Ten Reasons to Become Involved in Presbyterian Women

1. To use your time in meaningful ways.
2. To meet new people and make new friends.
3. To give direction to the future of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
4. To learn marketable skills, gain valuable experiences, and share these with others.
5. To transfer your Christian belief into action.
6. To discover new outlets for creative expression and feel a sense of accomplishment.
7. To gain a sense of making a contribution to the lives of others.
8. To enjoy the fellowship and fun of working with others for a common purpose.
9. To grow and develop personally as a Christian woman and disciple of Christ.
10. To be challenged by Christ's call to be servants.

Presbyterian Women Manual

Thanksgiving Community Meal

First Presbyterian Church invites you to a free traditional Thanksgiving Day meal in our Fellowship Hall. We will be serving from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. All are welcome!

First Presbyterian Church
213 Whittington Ave.
501-624-5646
Call for more information



STATISTICS			
October Attendance:			
Dates	Worship	Visitors	Sunday School
10/6	98	7	21
10/13	99	3	27
10/20	83	9	17
10/27	96	3	24
September Financial Statistics:			
	Year to Date	Budget:	YTD% of Budget:
Pledge Income:	198,644	269,902	74%
Other Income:	40,990	56,105	73%
Legacy Income:	75,000	100,000	75%
Total Income:	314,635	426,007	74%
Total Expenses:	331,152	442,801	75%
Income to Expense:	(16,517)		
COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION NOVEMBER SCHEDULE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees Meet: The week of November 20. Contact your Moderator for specific place, date, and time. • Session Meets: November 20, 7:00p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. • Diaconate Meets: November 20, 5:00p.m. in the Library. 			

BARGAIN BOX	
September Sales and Donations	
9/4	395.00
9/11	348.00
9/18	341.00
9/25	205.00
Total	\$1289.00
September Expenditures	
NPC Nursing Scholarship	1,000
The Call	700.00
Total	\$1,700.00
<p>Bargain Box is always in need of most items. We can always use clean clothes, working appliances, and unbroken household items. If you are unsure about your donation you can always check with a Bargain Box volunteer. We appreciate your donations. 100% of our sales go to help organizations in Garland county. THANK YOU!!!</p>	
<p>Won't you consider volunteering in the Bargain Box on sales days? By giving your time you would be helping your neighbors, nursing students (scholarships), and children in distress. Please Rosemary Nipper, 501-525-0153, if you'd like to learn more, or to sign up!</p>	
<p>LIKE us on our Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Bargain Box."</p>	
<p><u>Bargain Box Workers for November</u></p>	
• 6th	Gwen Davis and Carol DeHut
• 13th	Kathy McConkie and Sally Pierce
• 20th	Mary James and Janet Muse
• 27th	John and Frankie Ochsner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Liturgists

- 11/03 Paul Mills
- 11/10 Paul Mills
- 11/17 Garrett Garner
- 11/24 Garrett Garner



Join the Fun in 101!

Rev. Sellars invites both visitors and members to his **Presbyterian 101 Class, at 9:30 a.m.** in the office building, across the hall from his office. This class is a fun way to meet new people, learn about Presbyterian beliefs, and ask questions about our church's mission and programs. Leave your name and contact information in the red attendance pad when it is passed, and Rev. Sellars will send you a personal invitation with all the details. Or e-mail him at revlacy@sbcglobal.net with any questions you want him to address. Everyone is welcome to attend.



The Mission Committee has Haiti t-shirts for sale in Fellowship Hall. They are \$15. If we don't have your size we will order it. Please see Dick or Carol Mattson.

Family Night Supper Thanksgiving Dinner

**November 13, 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**



Join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner! The Fellowship Committee will furnish the turkey, and members are asked to bring a dish to complement a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Our guest speaker, Mary Zunick, Cultural Affairs Manager at Visit Hot Springs, will present information about the Hot Springs Area Cultural Alliance and our Sister City program. Join us!

Jackson House Donations in September: Corn and Beans. Small and medium cans please. First Presbyterian provides two people to bag and hand out groceries every Monday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **If you'd like to volunteer, please call Jeanette Cline, 701-0399.** Put your faith in action and become part of FPC's efforts to feed the poor!

DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

Are you like me and sometimes forget to bring something for Jackson House on the first Sunday of the month? Of course, you have staples in the pantry that you could have brought but just forgot. Well don't feel bad, as you can still help those that are hungry at Jackson House. In fact, cash or checks are a great way to triple the food you forgot to bring. Jackson House can purchase food at the local food bank at 30 cents on the dollar! WOW! Now you don't have to fret that you left the spaghetti sauce and noodles on the kitchen counter. Just write a check to FPC and mark it for Jackson House. You'll be glad you did and so will the hungry folks.

Spend Thanksgiving Day at First Presbyterian

In true pilgrim spirit, First Presbyterian Church is hosting a **Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the entire community on November 28 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Bring your family to meet our friends from the Whittington Valley and Park Avenue neighborhoods as we give thanks to God for our many blessings. Dinner is free of charge.

The Thanksgiving Day Task Force has posted sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, seeking volunteers to bake pies, dressing, and to serve in several capacities to welcome and serve our neighbors. Come discover God's blessings as you spend Thanksgiving Day at First Presbyterian Church!

YOUTH: Event updates will be sent by text, mail, email, Instagram and the church's FB page. Please make sure and respond when asked to or if a RSVP is requested!!! Thanks!

Instagram: [hspresyouth](#) & [firstpreshs](#)

Church Website: Firstpreshotsprings.org

Facebook: [First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs, AR](#)



Memorials Received in November in Memory of...

Gregory Bray

(Jessica Rowton's Father)

from

Nancy Doyle

Nell McFarland

from

Kathy McConkie

Jeff and Michael Carr

Nancy Doyle

Flower Angels



When you look at the beautiful flowers by the pulpit on Sunday mornings, did you ever wonder where they went after church? Well, there are two possibilities for their destination. The person who donated them can take them home, or they can be left for distribution. The deacons and Jan Meyers are the "flower angels" of FPC. Monday mornings, Jan creates artistic vases with the flowers and greenery. A deacon will come by and pick up these "rays of sunshine" and deliver to those in our church needing a bit of cheer. So thanks to all of you who provide the beauty of the Earth to FPC members!

Columbarium

Have you visited our Columbarium lately? Do you know we have one?

The Columbarium is the beautiful room, beside the stairs, leading to the balcony. When you are there, a peaceful, calm feeling surrounds you; stained glass, lovely woodwork, and close proximity to the sanctuary all make it a perfect place of forever rest.

Take some time to visit our Columbarium, again, or for the first time. If you are considering it for yourself or your family, please call the church office for more information, 624-5646.



How to Reach Us

First Presbyterian Church
www.firstpreshotsprings.org
 213 Whittington Avenue
 Hot Springs, AR 71901
 Church Phone: 501.624.5646 Fax: 501.624.2938
 Business Office Hours
 Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Lacy S. Sellars, Jr.
 Home: 501.318-9904, Cell: 501.282.0209
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Support Staff

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 Mr. Elsen Portugal, Organist, 501.693.8388
 Ms. Jamie Randall, Youth Director, 501.622.8878
 Mr. William Randall, Jr., Children's Choir, 501.622.8878
 Ms. Linda Glover, Church School Supt., 631.375.0817
 Ms. Jan Meyers, Historian, 501.624.2282

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session, 501.626.4859
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