

THE FIRST PRESS

JANUARY 2018



Remember Your Baptism

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February Newsletter Deadline: January 26

Celebrate January Birthdays and Anniversaries!!!

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.

Please join us on *January 21*, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!

January Birthdays

Candace Muzny	2-Jan	Stephen Carroll	10-Jan
Mary Gayle McGibbony	3-Jan	Michelle Hover	10-Jan
Betty Nieburg	3-Jan	Gloria Eickmeyer	17-Jan
Allyn Florini	4-Jan	Tracy Rice	17-Jan
Andy Meyers	5-Jan	Earl Ricks	18-Jan
Joe Rank	5-Jan	John Bedsole	21-Jan
Jerry Jones	7-Jan	Mary Little	21-Jan
Peggy Leonhard	7-Jan	Leslie Allen	23-Jan
Hank Simpson	7-Jan	Margaret Beam	24-Jan
Jane Hynds	8-Jan	Bill James	31-Jan
Marilyn Rice	9-Jan		

January Anniversaries

Steve and Carol Shoup	9-Jan
Bruce and Sally Simpson	15-Jan
Harvey and Sherry Miller	26-Jan
Tim and Helen Bumpas	27-Jan

God Bless You on Your Special Day!



REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

Do you remember your baptism? I don't. I was only three months old when I was baptized. How am I supposed to remember my baptism?

I was the third child, so I never saw any pictures of my baptism. Mom told me that my father bought a new suit for the occasion. While they were waiting in the hallway to be called into the Sanctuary, she said I threw up all over his brand-new suit. After that story, I'm not sure I want to remember my baptism!

I've always been intrigued by Jesus' baptism. Something drew him to the Jordan River around the age of thirty. He must have studied John for several days before presenting himself for baptism. He didn't need to be baptized. Being without sin, there was no need for Jesus to repent and wash away his sin. Why did Jesus ask to be baptized?

Recognizing Jesus, John resisted at first, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" (Matthew 3:14). But John consented when Jesus said, "Let it be so for now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). So, beyond repentance of sin, this tells me that baptism is about belonging—belonging to God and to God's people, and belonging to the way God thinks and acts. Jesus asked to be baptized so he could belong. Like Will D. Campbell says, "When one is baptized, it's like moving into the neighborhood."

Though I don't remember my baptism, I do remember my confirmation. That was the day I decided to move into God's neighborhood and live God's righteousness: loving others in the same way that I love myself. I remember kneeling on the cold flagstone steps on Maundy Thursday, at age 13, with the elders pressing their hands on my shoulders. Even though I didn't know that much about the Bible, I did realize that I belonged. Like Jesus coming out of the water, I knew that God loved me.

Fifty years later I had the good fortune of meeting the pastor who baptized me in 1954. He was 95 years-old by then. Though he could not remember my baptism specifically, he remembered me and my parents and gave me a blessing. He reminded me that baptism is a sign and a seal of God's covenant grace in my life, and it's that covenant community that sustains us and gives us strength to live God's righteousness. That's why Jesus was baptized: to be engrafted into God's community for his life ahead.

On January 21, Janet Schreiner, a friend of Kathy Bateman, wants to be baptized. Her older siblings were baptized in a Presbyterian Church near Syracuse, NY, but for some reason, she was not. She lives the Christian life, and seeks a place to belong. She appreciates the welcome you have given her and the Spirit she has felt in our congregation. After she is baptized, I will introduce her, then charge you to "Remember your baptism, and be thankful." I hope you will be thinking about your baptism between now and then, live in God's love, and give thanks for your place in God's blessed neighborhood!

Lacy

p.s. Invite your friends to join us for the special **Epiphany Concert on Sunday, January 14, at 10:30 a.m.**, featuring the Chancel Choir, ASMSA Choir and singers from Henderson State and the broader community.



Were you old enough to actually remember your baptism? Were you immersed or sprinkled? Are there any pictures of your baptism? How were you dressed? Do you still have your baptism certificate the church gave you? Is there someone who was present at your baptism that can tell you what they remember?

SESSION NOTES

The December Session meeting was held a week earlier than usual in anticipation of travel and visitors during the last week of the year. A budget for 2018 was approved including income of 413,216.00 and expense of \$433,977.00, leaving a deficit of \$20,761.00. It is hoped that additional pledges will be received to eliminate the deficit. It's not too late to turn in those pledges, and it's fine to give more than was pledged!

Committees all reported on their activities. Highlights included:

- The trip to Haiti will not happen in March, but plans are still being made.
- Shelley Mills had been named Nursery Coordinator. Both Shelley and Emma Jean Moore have completed the first part of CPR training.
- The case is completed for the new sign in front of the church, but the "works" won't be here until January.
- Christmas Eve will have two services: regular morning worship at 10:30 am and a special Communion Service at 6:00 that evening,
- We had outstanding attendance at the December Family Night Supper. Thanks to Jerry Jones for leading use in a program of familiar carols.

Kathy White,

Clerk



"When Martin Luther got up in the morning and splashed water on his face, he would say, 'I am baptized!' It was a way of reminding himself that living out his baptism was a key to his discipleship. The call to discipleship is a call to be part of a community of faith."

Dwight Vogel

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Sunday, December 10, Sally Pierce and Helen Bumpas presented a check and children's gifts to Kathy French, the Director of Development of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services.

The PW Mission Committee outreach project, “**Days for Girls,**” meet on December 14, 9:00 a.m. We are making feminine hygiene kits for girls in poor areas of over 100 countries. “**Days for Girls**” refers to the days the girls miss from school each month. We need women who can sew, cut, or iron! Please join us. We meet on the second Thursday of each month. You can read more about this project at www.daysforgirls.org


Please join PW on January 31, 2018 for our 5th Wednesday Night Out at Cajun Boilers. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. and, as usual, have a great time and good food. Seating will be limited so sign up early. The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Jackie Edwards 760-1727, or 625-2025.

STATISTICS			
December Attendance:			
Dates	Worship	Visitors	Sunday School
12/3	138	13	27
12/10	134	5	24
12/17	118	9	20
12/24 a.m.	128	17	23
12/24 Christmas Eve	229	n/a	n/a
12/31	79	7	19
November Financial Statistics:			
	Year to Date	Budget:	YTD% of Budget:
Pledge Income:	251,516	288,107	87%
Other Income:	53,965	48,301	112%
Legacy Income:	94,833	101,500	93%
Total Income:	400,314	437,908	91%
Total Expenses:	367,703	437,908	84%
Income to Expense:	32,611		



“Christ saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

Titus 3

BARGAIN BOX	
November Sales and Donations	
11/1	255.00
11/8	336.00
11/15	251.00
11/22	206.05
11/29	330.10
Christmas Sale Items	246.75
Total	\$1,624.90
November Expenditures	
Jackson House	1,000.00
Total	\$1,000.00
<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. The Bargain Box is open 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, is easy to learn, and quite entertaining most days. Please call me at 501-525-0153, if you'd like to learn more, or to sign up! Thank you, Rosemary Nipper</p>	
<p>THE BARGAIN BOX IS IN NEED OF HOUSEHOLD AND OTHER NON-CLOTHING ITEMS! Please bring your good, clean, useable items to the church. Don't forget to ask other members of your family, your friends, neighbors and co-workers for their donations as well. All of the sales we make goes back to individuals and organizations that help the needy in our area. Thank you so much for your continued support, Michael Carr and the Bargain Box Staff.</p>	
<p> LIKE us on our new Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Bargain Box."</p>	
<u>Bargain Box Workers for January</u>	
3th	Mary James and Rosemary Nipper
10th	Sally Pierce and Kathy McConkie
17th	Becky Sommer and Susan Paparella
24th	TBA
31st	TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church office will be **CLOSED**, **Monday, January 1**, in observance of New Year's Day, and also on **Monday, January 15**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.



Join the Fun in 101! Rev. Sellars invites visitors and members alike to join him for his famous **Presbyterian 101 Class, starting Sunday, January 7, at 9:30 a.m. in Room #201**, upstairs in the office building. This class is a fun way to meet new people, learn about Presbyterian beliefs, and ask questions about our church's mission and programs. Please leave your name and contact information in the red attendance pad when it is passed, and Rev. Sellars will send you details. Or e-mail him at revlacy@sbcglobal.net with any questions you want him to address, or to speak with him personally. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Women's Wednesday Group will begin a new study on January 10. Please join us as we read and discuss a new book by one of our favorite theologians, Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi, by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Our weekly meetings are informal discussions as we seek to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Please join us at 10:30 in the church library for coffee, conversation, comfort and enlightenment.

The PW Day Circle Bible Study meets Tuesday, January 16, at 10:30 a.m. (the third Tuesday of each month), to continue our 2017-18 PW/Horizons Bible Study, **Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews.**

COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION

- **Committees Meet:** Wednesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.
- **Session Meets:** Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 p.m. p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Diaconate Meets:** Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Jackson House Donations January: Canned Meats. 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, 623-7233, or 701-0399.** Put your faith in action and become part of FPC's efforts to feed the poor!

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee travels to Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church in Norman, AR once a month to help in the thrift shop and the food pantry. They go on the first Saturday after the first Thursday of the month - a bit confusing, but it is usually the first Saturday of the month. Anyone interest in going should meet on the parking lot of Dixie Cafe at 7:30 am. They're home by 1:30 or 2:00 & it's rewarding & fun.



Family Night Supper

Soup & Chili

Dinner & a Movie!

Wednesday, January 10, 6:30pm

The Choir will serve as hosts, and the Fellowship Committee will furnish chili and fixings. Members are asked to bring chili, soup, salads, bread, and/or dessert. We will play an all-age appropriate full length movie with Popcorn! Please join us!



Inclement Weather Cancellations—Winter increases the possibility of church functions (Choir practice, Family Night Supper, Bible study, etc.) being cancelled, due to inclement weather, increases. In the event of severe weather, call in to the church and press “4” to hear of any cancellations.

2018 Flower Board



- Pick your date!
- Include your special dedication. If you do not wish to write it on the board, or if space does not allow, please call, email or visit the office. You may do this at any time well in advance of your day.
- **Cost is \$38.50**

We are grateful to everyone who purchases flowers that enhance our Sunday worship experience. Those donating flowers are welcome to take them home following the worship service. Otherwise we will make sure they are delivered to someone who is ill or homebound as a reminder of our prayers and presence.

Dear First Church Members,

Thank you so much for the pretty re-arranged flowers. They brightened my day. Please continue to pray for me!

Sincerely,

Melissa Loyd

Flower Angels

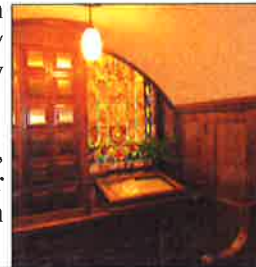
When you look at the beautiful flowers by the pulpit on Sunday mornings, did you ever wonder where they went after church? Well, there are two possibilities for their destination. The person who donated them can take them home, or they can be left for distribution. The deacons and Jan Meyers are the “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.



“We never outlive or outgrow the day when we need to recall with thanksgiving God’s self-giving to us in baptism and to see it continuing in our lives. Our baptism is permanent, but the renewal of it is a lifetime.”

James F. White

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
 Email: revlacy@sbcglobal.net

Support Staff

Ms. Yasmin J. Martin, Communications Coordinator,
 Email: firstpreshs213@sbcglobal.net
 Ms. Randi Oney, Financial Secretary,
 Email: randi1948@sbcglobal.net
 Mr. Randall Pierce, Sexton

Ms. Deleen Davidson, Choir Director, 501.463.4514
 Ms. Jamie Randall, Youth Director, 501.622.8878
 Mr. William Randall, Jr., Children's Choir, 501.622.8878
 Ms. Linda Glover, Church School Supt., 501.625.7460
 Ms. Jan Meyers, Historian, 501.624.2282

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session, 501.626.4859
 Mr. James Matheney, Treasurer, 501.991.3856
 Ms. Helen Bumpas, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, 501.767.6997
 Ms. Elizabeth Chapmond, Board of Deacons, 501.609.5117