

THE FIRST PRESS

MARCH 2018



“Get It and Give It”
Confirmation 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Message From Rev. Lacy Sellars	4
Session Notes	6
Presbyterian Women	7
Statistics	8
Bargain Box	9
Announcements	10
Holy Week Schedule	12
Son-Rise Service	13
Garden Stop	14
Easter Lily Order Form	15
Thank You!	16
Special Care List	17
Prayer Chain	18
How To Reach Us	19
Calendar	Insert
April Newsletter Deadline: March 26	
Celebrate March 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>March 18</i>, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!</p>	

March Birthdays

Cheryl Martin	4-Mar	Brooke Hopkins	18-Mar
Addison Stone	5-Mar	Tyler Gardner	19-Mar
Joseph Allshouse	6-Mar	Judy Wright	19-Mar
Gary Cline	6-Mar	Kathy Harst	20-Mar
Gage Gould	7-Mar	Stephanie Sams	21-Mar
Linda Rath	7-Mar	Katie Cattaneo	22-Mar
Gene Brooks	9-Mar	Grant Muzny	22-Mar
Margie Florini	10-Mar	Robert Raines	23-Mar
Fred Fuquay	10-Mar	Ann Hiers	24-Mar
Mari Simmons	10-Mar	Sarah Jean Lindsey	25-Mar
Amy Westmoreland	10-Mar	Yvonne Jones	29-Mar
Jade Rice Coats	13-Mar	Penelope Westmoreland	31-Mar
Orville Poole	14-Mar		

March Anniversaries

Richard and Jan Kelley	2-Mar
Scott and Randa Couch	4-Mar
Lacy and Darlene Sellars	10-Mar
Robert and Barbara Spindler	10-Mar
Hiram and Susan Cooper	18-Mar
Bill and Jamie Randall	18-Mar
Daniel and Joan Clinton	29-Mar

God Bless You on Your Special Day!



“GET IT AND GIVE IT” OR GRACE AND GRATITUDE

(Read Matthew 18: 23-33 before reading my article. You’ll understand it better!)

I have to tell you how “graced” I am by my Confirmation Class. I don’t have a class picture yet, so picture them in your mind: Isaac Carroll, Andrew Chapmond, Grayson Farnier, Cody Gardner, Tyler Gardner, Lilly Hardin, Nicholas Hinson, Cole Kilzer, Emma Kilzer, and Mary “Cookie” Moore. I am “graced” to know each of these amazingly-gifted persons who are committed to being with me each Sunday, seeking to know who God is and what God wants with us.

I’m also graced by Cheryl Poole and Patricia Mills who make sure that lunch is on the table each week when everyone arrives, and who share their Christian witness so honestly with our class. They are walking the confirmation journey with us until decision day on May 20, the Day of Pentecost.

What does it mean to be “graced?” Last week our Bible study was Matthew 18:23-33, the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. It took us a while to add it all up, but we realized that ten thousand talents, in today’s money, is about seven billion dollars—with a B! How could a servant rack up that much debt without being stopped? Why would a king trust that much money to a lowly slave, when he suspects it was being misused?

That’s when I told the class that you and I are the slave in this parable, and God is the king—that’s when it all fell into place. God freely gives us life, breath, health, freedom, family, food, shelter, and five senses to enjoy it all. Even if you could put a price tag on such gifts, seven billion dollars would be only a little pocket change in comparison. God freely gives us everything we have because God wants to be involved in our lives. God gives us so much more than 10,000 talents. We are “graced.”

So, what do we do with all that grace? Well, God expects us to “give it!” If we “Get it,” we should also “give it!” However, when the slave in our parable meets a fellow slave who owes him, perhaps, \$7,000, he’s not quite as forgiving. Instead of forgiving our friend (remember we are the slave who has been forgiven seven billion dollars), we demand payment and throw our friend in prison. The Confirmation Class got the point; do we?

Sometimes we just need to be reminded of how “graced” we are. Living in a world of high anxiety, and fearful about our future, we forget how much we have been graced already. We fear it can all be taken from us, so we decide not to “give it,” but to keep it. In this parable, In the parable, Jesus reminds us that when we “give it,” we discover our faith and the value of gratitude in our anxious world.

So, if you’re burdened by anxiety this Lenten season, remember how you have been “graced” by God. Instead of keeping it for yourself, or being suspicious of your neighbor, “give it.” It’s the way a disciple of Christ acts and lives. No matter what happens in your life, or what mistakes you make, God still loves you and continues to give you grace. Since we’ve got it, let’s give it.

Please be praying for our Confirmation Class this spring as they learn and grow in Jesus’ name, and decide whom they will follow and serve with their lives.

Lacy

SESSION NOTES

The Session reviewed our 2017 Annual Statistical Report which is sent to the office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). The report showed that we lost 16 members in the year by death, transfer, or removal from the rolls. We gained a total of ten members which gives us a total of 288 active members on December 30, 2017. Of the active members, 165 are female. Average Sunday morning attendance during 2017 was 112.

A Congregational Meeting has been called following morning worship on March 11 for the purpose of electing a member to fill a vacancy in the Diaconate Class of 2019. Carroll Bridges has agreed to have his name placed in nomination.

Other committee reports included:

- Several roof leaks which recently appeared are under warranty and have been repaired.
- We will have baked potatoes as the featured item for the March Family Nigh Supper.
- A confirmation class is now meeting weekly with Rev. Lacy.
- There will be an optional foot washing prior to the Maundy Thursday Communion Service.
- The new sign in front of the church is now operational!

Kathy White,
Clerk



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


The PW Mission Committee outreach project, "**Days for Girls,**" meet on March 8, 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

SAVE THE DATE!!

The 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held August 2-5, 2018, in Louisville, Kentucky. 2018 is also the year that PW celebrates its 30th anniversary!

#PWGathering #2018ChurchwideGathering

STATISTICS			
February Attendance:			
Dates	Worship	Visitors	Sunday School
2/4 Scout Sunday	150	9	29
2/11	111	9	26
2/18	107	12	26
2/25	110	13	22
January Financial Statistics:			
	Year to Date	Budget:	YTD% of Budget:
Pledge Income:	21,934	272,615	8%
Other Income:	4,208	48,101	8.75%
Legacy Income:	8,333	100,000	8.33%
Total Income:	34,475	420,716	8.19%
Total Expenses:	31,426	420,716	7.45%
Income to Expense:	3,049		
COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees Meet: Wednesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. • Session Meets: Wednesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. • Diaconate Meets: Wednesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. in the library. 			

BARGAIN BOX	
January Sales and Donations	
1/3	351.10
1/10	345.00
1/17	112.00
1/24	273.00
1/31	288.00
Total	\$1369.10
January Expenditures	
GC Single Parent Scholarship	1500.00
Total	\$1500.00
<p>THE BARGAIN BOX IS IN NEED OF HOUSEHOLD AND OTHER 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>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 new Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Bargain Box."</p>	
<u>Bargain Box Workers for March</u>	
7th	Frances Bateman and Jeanette Cline
14th	Sally Pierce and Kathy McConkie
21st	Becky Sommer and Susan Paparella
28th	June Scully and Joan Clinton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church Office will be CLOSED Friday, March 30, in observation of Good Friday.

The Women's Wednesday Group: 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, March 20, at 10:30 a.m.** (the third Tuesday of each month), to study lessons 6 and 7 of our 2017-18 PW/Horizons Bible Study, **Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews.**

Jackson House Donations March: Canned Soup. 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!



Family Night Supper St. Patrick's Day March 14, 6:30 p.m.

Our guest speakers will be members from the Vera Lloyd Home. They will share with us all they do at this facility.

Fellowship Committee will furnish a Baked Potato Bar and beverages. Members are asked to bring side dishes, salad, or desserts to complement an Irish Feast.



Family Night supper continues to collect donations for "2 cents a meal." A month of meals for an individual equals a donation of \$2.00.

IT WAS A SOUPER BOWL WIN

The "Jackson House Seven" would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations on "Souper" bowl Sunday! You gave from your heart to the sum of \$620.00 to feed the men, women and children at Jackson House.

Our money buys minestrone soup from Project Hope Food Bank. Then on the fourth Monday of each month our "JH7" prepare and serve the soup and sandwiches to those folks needing a meal. Our chefs are Bob Clark, John Ochsner, Carrol Bridges, Bill Creason, Pat Edwards, Al Carney, and Bob Pierce.

On the fourth Monday of each month, please take a moment and pray for our men and the hungry folks provided a lunch. Our guys couldn't give that hot soup without your help. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile mission!

Lenten Lunches

Rev. Lacy continues to lead a Lenten study from **12:00 Noon until 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

This year we are studying a new book by Max Lucado, *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. In this six-week study, we will explore Paul's wisdom for overcoming anxiety given in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Philippians, verses 4-8. Each week we will explore the reasons we become anxious in our modern lives, and seek biblical solutions for trusting our fears to God. While anxiety is part of being human, it doesn't have to dominate our lives. So, bring your friends and join us as we seek God's solution for living a faith-filled life.

The "lunch" part of our Lenten Lunches will come from our members. Please bring sandwiches, casseroles, or any of your culinary specialties to provide a light lunch for 10 - 12 persons. We need 2 people to sign up each week. A sign up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall for those who can provide lunch. Please call Becky Sommer or Dianna Thayer for more information, or to sign up to serve.

You may pick up a study book in the church office.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



- **Palm Sunday**, March 25, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.,
Worship 10:30 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday** Worship Service, March 29,
6:30 p.m. Optional Foot Washing Service, 7:00 p.m.
Worship and Communion
- **Office Closed**, Good Friday, March 30.
- **SonRise Service, Saturday, March 31, 11:00 a.m., on the lawn beside the Farmer's Market.**
- **Easter Sunday, April 1, Brunch and Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 9:00 a.m.** (No Sunday School) Members are asked to bring filled plastic eggs for the hunt. All Youth are invited to come and hunt for Easter Eggs. Members and guests are asked to bring brunch foods to share. The Fellowship Committee will provide Danish, fruit, juice, milk and coffee. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.
- **Easter Morning Worship** at 10:30 a.m. Special Music and Holy Communion.



Maundy Thursday Service March 29, 7:00 p.m.

Foot Washing Service, 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held March 29th, at 7:00 p.m. This year we will have an *optional* Foot Washing Service prior to the Maundy Thursday Service, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. We hope everyone can attend both events. Those participating in the foot washing will need to wear easily removable shoes, sandals, or socks. This will be a very memorable and humbling part of the evening. If you are attending just the Maundy Thursday service, please enter quietly and be seated as we proceed, and conclude, the foot washing service.

11th Annual SonRise Celebration

Breaking the Chains

Written & Directed by Alyson Marx & Garrett H

All are invited to witness this Celebration
 Re-enactment of
 Jesus' Life, Sacrifice & Resurrection

Saturday, March 31, at 11 AM

On the Lawn beside the Farmer's Market

Brought to you by many denominations
 and organizations in your community.

So if the **SON** sets you **FREE**,
 You are **FREE** indeed.

John 8: 36



Jesus' blood breaks the chains that bind us to sin and death.

Join us for an unforgettable re-enactment of Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection.

Saturday, March 31, at 11:00 a.m., on the lawn beside the Farmer's Market.

Brought to you by many denominations and organizations in your community.



Not Pictured: Karen DeMott, Ann Hiers, Sally & Bob Pierce, Pat Edwards, and Michael Carr

CHURCH GARDEN STOP

A special thank you goes out to Karen DeMott, Ann Heirs, Sally and Bob Pierce, Pat Edwards and Michael Carr. They were the members that worked on our garden triangle in front of our church last month. They trimmed back the rose bushes, pulled weeds, raked leaves and picked up sticks and trash.

Some of you may not know this but our church is responsible for keeping this area beautiful. It was started many years ago by The Men of the Church and since then numerous members, both men and women have worked on

this spot to keep it beautiful. When it was first adopted, The Men would go out weekly and work on it.

Through the years seasonal plants were added for less maintenance and now we only have to work on this area a few times a year. St. Mary's church agreed to take care of the small bed right across from their doors in this area and the Math and Science maintenance department agreed to mow this spot for us in the summer months. Also, once in a while clients from Small Group Therapy volunteer to clean this area. As you can see, it takes many loving hands to maintain this beautiful spot in our city. If anyone would like to help with this project, please let Michael Carr know, 767-5844, we only meet a few times a year. Again, thank you!



EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Lilies to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1. Please fill out this form and include it with your payment. You may drop it in the offering plate or mail it in to the church office.

Order deadline: *March 26*. The cost is **\$23.50**

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Lilies _____ *X 23.50 = \$* _____

In Memory of: _____

And/ Or

In Honor of: _____

Our thanks to our lovely Flower Angel and all of our Church Family for the beautiful flowers. They were a bright spot in a long week.

Thank you,

Orville and Ann Poole

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.

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
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 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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Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session, 501.626.4859
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