

The First Press

February 2020



"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain...Then he began to speak, and taught them."

Matthew 5: 1-2

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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>February 16</i>, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!</p>	

February Birthdays

Melissa Cantacuzene	FEB 01	David Mills	FEB 15
Jackson Florini	FEB 01	Neil Simmons	FEB 15
Bill Pathmann	FEB 01	Ian Poole	FEB 17
Jonas Westmoreland	FEB 01	June Scully	FEB 17
Ian Carr	FEB 02	Brenda Brandenburg	FEB 18
Gwendolyn Davis	FEB 02	Jay Patterson	FEB 20
Elissa Poole	FEB 02	Hiram Cooper	FEB 21
Theo Byrne	FEB 03	Mike McGibbony	FEB 21
Ashley Hopkins	FEB 04	Jamie Williams	FEB 21
Sally Pierce	FEB 04	Stefanie Poole	FEB 23
Robert Weidmann	FEB 04	Dawn Cattaneo	FEB 24
Jannis Smith	FEB 08	Tatum Rice	FEB 24
Janice Dodson	FEB 09	Barbara Vann	FEB 24
Judy Forrester	FEB 09	Mary James	FEB 25
Jennifer Winston	FEB 09	Darin Garner	FEB 27
Adlee Muzny	FEB 14	Amanda Davis	FEB 28
Tavia Weidman	FEB 14	Jan Kelley	FEB 28
Regina Durham	FEB 15	Stanley Grise	FEB 29

February Anniversaries

Robert & Tavia Weidmann	FEB 14
Don & Peggy Leonhard	FEB 15
Ernest & Rosemary Nipper	FEB 21

God Bless You on Your Special Day!



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS

February may be the shortest month of 2020, even with Leap Day added this year, but when I survey all that's happening around the church, I would not be surprised if February turned out to be the busiest month of 2020!

First and foremost, I want to give Joan Jones the richest blessings of First Presbyterian Church as she moves to Memphis this month to be close to her daughter and son-in-law, Gwen and Penn Owen. Her and Bill Creason's grandmother joined our church in 1912, and their parents sat nearly in the same location for worship that Bill and Judi currently sit. Joan still has the old coffee can their grandmother used to count the Sunday School offering every week while sitting in a simple wicker seat at the Sanctuary door. We honor the love and ministry that Joan and Gary have given our Lord through the years, both in this church and throughout Gary's long and distinguished career as a pastor and administrator. Come wish Joan well at a reception after worship this Sunday, February 2, as we pray God's blessings on her new home in Memphis. We will miss you greatly Joan!

Then, February 9 is Boy Scout Sunday. During worship we will celebrate our church's continuous support of Arkansas Troop One since 1921. We will honor our Scoutmaster, Ken Armstrong, who is retiring after almost 30 years of faithful leadership to move out of state to be close to family. Ken's devotion to BSA and the young men of Troop One is exceeded only by his devotion and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you, Ken for your years of dedicated service to Christ our Lord and to Troop One!

I also want to tell you what a joy it is working with the AA Community as our session is seeking another location for their meetings, which minister to some 400 people each week. As you may have heard, Oaklawn is purchasing most of the property around their current location at 411 Sellers street, east of the track. Our church owns the former Forest Hill Chapel mission, which we organized in the 1940s. For nearly fifty years this

building has housed AA and other related services. With the help of Steve DeMott, who wrote and transacted the documents transferring the property to us from Arkansas Presbytery in 2006, we hope to sell the property to Oaklawn and purchase a newer and more-functional facility that will house their ministry for the next generation. Please be in prayer that our task force will find just the right facility to house this successful ministry of our church.

Yes, February usually means that the season of Lent is quickly approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 26 this year, which means that Easter is somewhat later than usual. Mark your calendar to attend the Ash Wednesday Service of Remembrance at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. You will have the option of receiving the imposition of ashes on your forehead, reminding us of our mortality and our need to trust God's direction as we walk with Christ during Lent. The Session will meet a week earlier this month, on February 19, at 7:00 p.m. in order that everyone may attend the Ash Wednesday service. Begin the season of Lent with us.

For the front cover of this newsletter, I selected a picture of the Mount of Beatitudes in the Holy Land, which is the assumed location of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The scripture passages for the month of February will focus on these sayings of Jesus in Matthew 5, plus the story of the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17. I hope this image will aid your devotion as you read my weekly email articles. If you would like to receive this weekly preparation for Sunday worship, give your email address to me or Yasmin and we'll be glad to send it to you. Please be in prayer for these and many more activities happening in our church during the month of February.

Lacy

Session Notes

The first Session meeting of 2020 was held on Sunday afternoon, January 26, having been postponed from a cold, damp Wednesday evening. The Session reviewed and approved a scholarship policy as updated by the Christian Education Committee. This Church has a long tradition of awarding college scholarships to our Freshman members who apply during their high school senior year. Currently, the primary source of funding these scholarships is gifts from members of a dollar for each year on their birthdays.

Ken Armstrong will be honored on Scout Sunday, February 9, upon his retirement as longtime leader of Boy Scout Troop One.

The bequest of \$484,567.15 which this Church received from Arthur Thomas (Tommy) Young is being invested in our Endowment Fund. Because of the size of the gift, one half of the money has been placed in a special "Quasi Endowment Fund" which the Session has up the three years to determine how to use. The other half is in the General Endowment Fund which is used to "grow the fund."

The 2019 annual financial report on the operating budget indicated income of \$417,418.64, 98% of budgeted income. Expenses were \$439,208.85, 99% of budgeted expenses. Expense over income is \$21,790.21. This was based on a budget with an annual deficit of \$18,780.00, using \$100,000 in income from the Legacy Fund. The 2020 budget has a smaller deficit but does use more investment income.

The Mission Committee has Emergency Food Supplies (not a food pantry) available during two hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This was not designed to replace the Jackson House which this Church actively supports.

Other items from the Session reports:

- The Personnel Committee is updating the Organist Job Description and will be advertising soon for the position.
- It is hoped that our lighted sign will be working after the receipt of a final part. The Building and Grounds Committee has no shortage of projects!
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be during the March Family Night Supper.
- The local portion of the 2019 Global Witness Offering will be given to Potter's Clay.

Kathy White,
Clerk

ASMSA Students Serve at First Presbyterian Church

ASMSA Students are required each year to complete so many hours of Community Service. Since the school was closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, eight students took that opportunity to complete some of their volunteer hours here at First Presbyterian Church.

We had 8 students work 3 hours each on MLK Day. Two volunteered in the Bargain Box. They cleaned and worked on display in our selling room. The other six students worked outside in the garden triangle across the street, in front of our church. They weeded the beds, raked leaves, and trimmed the liriopie. They also joined the Bargain Box workers for treats at snack time.

The students did a super job and we loved having them here to work with us. We hope they will come again! Thanks ASMSA!





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The PW Sewing Group begins a new project this month! We will be making *Fidget Mats* for dementia patients. Come help cut, sew, crochet, iron, and visit. We meet every 2nd Thursday, 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. Please join us! Contact Jeanette Cline or Carol Mattson with questions.

The PW Day Circle Bible Study, meets on Tuesday, February 18, 10:30 a.m. Our current P.W. study book is, **Love Carved in Stone**, by Eugenia Anne Gamble

Women's Wednesday Study, *Misquoting Jesus*. This story behind who changed the Bible and why by Bart Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, explores how for almost 1500 years manuscripts were hand copied by scribes who were deeply influenced by the cultural, theological, and political disputes of their day. Interested women are welcome to join this study group which meets in the church library at **10:30 on Wednesday mornings** for lively discussions of contemporary religious texts.

THE TUBE HAS SPILLED OVER AGAIN

Thank you, First Church, for the continuing donations of your quarters in the Heifer tube. It reminds me of putting the coins in the gumball machine as a child. However, the \$110.00 is going for mission work purchasing animals for those that have so much LESS than we have in our pockets.

The mission committee is buying four flocks of chickens, two flocks of geese (I'm sure those of you on the lake would be happy to send a few more flocks), two alpacas, and **half of a goat** (you know our mission committee!) Heifer Project will double our purchase, so we hope a whole goat will go overseas to help a family.

Please continue to drop those quarters in the tube! Maybe next time we can purchase a whole goat!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE LIGHTING UP THE WORLD!

Our 19-20 General Fund pledge drive was successful, thanks to you! We budgeted \$ 2, 775 for benevolences outside of Garland County. We collected \$2, 650 from your donations. Woo Hoo! Two Vera Lloyd residents had a great Christmas and the organization received a nice check. The birthday and thank offerings along with the annual fund will all receive at least \$300.00 each. When you are thinking about the ONE cup of Starbucks coffee you gave up and donated that money to PW,

smile. You helped women and children around the world smile too. Our mission is not done, and the Sew What's are looking for more projects with the money you contributed. Thank you!

BARGAIN BOX DONATIONS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

During these two months the Presbyterian Women are honoring two of our churches departed members, Judy Crawford and Joel Hamilton. Judy had a career as an OB/Gyn nurse. She was also VERY active in the PW group both in this church, statewide and nationally. The PW board made a decision to remember Judy by naming the NPC nursing scholarship in her memory. The \$1,000.00 donated in February will assist several women to obtain their nursing degree.

January's \$2500.00 came from bargain box sales and Joel Hamilton's memorial donation. Joel gave money to the bargain box to help women and honor several members of our church who assisted him during his trying times. Joel was a dentist and the PW board thought giving to women going to college to better themselves would be a great way to use his donation. One thousand dollars of Joel's memorial was combined with our bargain box sales for the Garland County Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

We appreciate Judy and Joel for the love they shared during their time with us.

SAVE THE DATES

As you get your 2020 calendars, please jot these dates down for Presbyterian Women gatherings. Make plans with your friends to attend and meet other women from around the state.

Our spring gathering will be on **Saturday, April 18th** in Clarksville. It will be held at the University of the Ozarks. A chance for us to return to college and learn about our organization.

Next, is the retreat on **August 7– 8th** on Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville. The topic is "Preserving Traditions through Workshops, Worship, and Wonderous activities." There is plenty of lodging for you to book your stay. **Phone 800.760.8126 or email Stay@MountSequoyah.org** Once again make plans with your sisters in Christ to attend a relaxing and rejuvenating gathering.

We will not be having a Cluster 3 Fall Gathering in 2020. However, as you check out the above opportunities, you will be able to enjoy God's words and fellowship in unique surroundings during the year.

STATISTICS			
January Attendance:			
Dates	Worship	Visitors	Sunday School
1/5	100	2	18
1/12	103	3	26
1/19	93	4	22
1/26	102	2	18
December Financial Statistics:			
	Year to Date	Budget:	YTD% of Budget:
Pledge Income:	263,782.10	269,902	98%
Other Income:	53,636.54	56,105	96%
Legacy Income:	100,000.00	100,000	100%
Total Income:	417,418.64	426,007	98%
Total Expenses:	439,208.85	442,801	99%
Income to Expense:	(21,790.21)		
COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION FEBRUARY SCHEDULE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees Meet: February 19, 6:00 p.m. or contact your Moderator for specific place, date, and time. • Session Meets: February 19, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. • Diaconate Meets: <i>February 16 (3rd Sunday of each month) in the Library, immediately after church.</i> 			

BARGAIN BOX	
December Sales and Donations	
12/4	556.00
12/11	368.00
12/18	486.00
12/25	CLOSED
Total	\$1410.00
December Expenditures	
C.A.S.A.	1,000.00
Our Promise	500.00
Bargain Box Luncheon	158.66
Jackson House - Toys	274.85
Total	\$1933.51
<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 [REDACTED], 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 February</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th • 12th • 19th • 26th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carol DeHut and Gwen Davis Kathy McConkie and Sally Pierce Ann Hiers and Rosemary Nipper John and Frankie Ochsner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

February Liturgists

- **2nd** Steve DeMott
- **9th** Steve DeMott
- **16th** Jim Black
- **23rd** Jim Black



Family Night Supper

Italian Night!

Wednesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.

Join Us for Italian Night! The Fellowship Committee will furnish pasta sauce, various pastas, and Chicken Parmesan. Members and friends are asked to bring their favorite sauce, salad, sides and/or desserts to complement an Italian Feast.

Liz Robbins from the Hot Springs Historical Society will share some Hot Springs' History with us. Bring a friend!

Jackson House Donations in February: Baby and toddler items: diapers, wipes, baby food, juice, cereal, etc. 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!

2020 Flower Board—Pick your date and 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.