

# The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

February 2017

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church...

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## The True Forgiver....

*Psalm 139:3-5 "You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me."*

My brother and I had a long conversation on Skype recently. Since we are in this brand-new year, he and I took some time and had a nice chat. Thanks to the genius of modern technology!!! It was good to catch up with him. In fact, we haven't had a chance to have a long and nice talk since I moved to this country. During our conversation, something was nagging in my brother for a long time. It was a such a burden in his heart. It was about my relationship with my family in Korea. He wanted to say something before, but didn't want to make a big deal out of it, so it festered in his heart for years. He felt he had all the responsibility and obligation to the family since he was there and I was not. After listening to him, I felt defensive at first but then later I sincerely apologized for my ignorance and insensitivity to what he was going through. You know, my brother is a nice and humble guy. He accepted my apology and all seems well now.

After the conversation, I felt that my one-time apology might not be enough, because forgiveness is not a quick process. To be truly forgiven by a person, we need to allow ourselves to feel the pain of what was lost in the person. We need to at least think about the similar sorrowful steps which developed within the person. Then our asking for forgiveness could be truthful and genuine.

But is it possible for us to feel the same level of pain that the other person went through? Are we able to understand the years of agony which might have haunted the person in many different areas psychologically, physically or emotionally? On the other hand, can we find a person who went through the same level of experiences we had, so he/she can truly understand what we have been through? I would doubt that we would meet that person.

That's why we need to come to the Lord daily, meet Him and confess what we have been through. Our Lord is the only one who can truly see us through, and deeply understand why we did what we did. Jesus does not momentarily visit us, but He has known us before we were even born. He is our true forgiver, comforter, and Savior.

We are still in the brand new year. Don't waste your time finding a comforter among your friends. Christ is near you. Come to Him. Put your trust in Him this year.

Jay Kim

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- Website: [www.alliancefpc.com](http://www.alliancefpc.com) - Reverend Jay Kim, Pastor -

# *It Takes a Lot of People*

Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders Communion	Children's Message	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team
2/5	Open	1) F. Tolstedt 2) D. Lurz P. Dobry	Hannah Weisgerber	V. Hughart B. Krejci G. Krejci A. Boots	Barb Kendle	Manda Clarke	Available Prayer Team Members
2/6		Communion Crossroads					
2/12	Open		Amanda Mittan	Same	George and Belva Krejci	Manda Clarke	Available Prayer Team Members
2/19	Open		Manda Clarke	Same	Bob and Marcia Boots		Available Prayer Team Members
2/26	Insun Colerick		Kim Hielscher	Same	Janet Williams		Available Prayer Team Members

## **\*\*Men's Breakfast\*\***

Our Men's Life Group will have their next breakfast on Saturday, February 11th in the Fellowship Hall.

Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast!



Attention: The Covenant Commitment (Formerly Per Capita) for 2017 is \$50.08 per member. You can remit this with your regular offering on Sunday, please just designate that it is your Covenant Commitment on the Memo portion of your check. Thank you!



## **Stmt of Receipts - Fin'l Sec'y - January 2017**

Offerings	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	12/29	Monthly Total	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2016
Pledged Offerings	3,865.00	2,096.00	896.00	635.00		7,492.00		7,492.00
Un-pledged Offerings	192.00	135.00	615.00	265.00		1,207.00		1,207.00
Loose Offerings	18.76	50.00	57.00	8.00		133.76		133.76
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$4,075.76</b>	<b>\$2,281.00</b>	<b>\$1,568.00</b>	<b>\$908.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$8,832.76</b>		<b>\$8,832.76</b>

# Thank You . . .

*May God bless you for your love and prayers that were offered to our family at the time of our loss. The support and comfort that was offered meant so very much to each and every one of us.*

*We are so grateful that the Lord has blessed us with friends like all of you.*

*In Christ's Love,  
Laona Perrin and Family*



## February Birthdays

- 2 Linda Spencer
- 4 John Hansen
- 6 Karla Kutschke
- 12 Steve Redecker
- 15 Cindy Foster
- 15 Judy Meyer
- 17 Phyllis Simpson
- 20 Joyce Butzine
- 22 Jacob Lux
- 22 Kade Joseph Kelley
- 29 Traci Clarke
- 29 Chad Kelley



## Circle Meetings

### Good Morning Circle

Good Morning Circle will be meeting Wednesday, February 1st at 9:00 a.m. at Crossroads. Doris Kuhn and Elaine Potmesil will be Hostesses.

### Serendipity Circle.

Serendipity Circle will be meeting Wednesday, February 1st at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Helen McConnell will be Hostess.

### C.T. Board

C.T. Board will be meeting on Wednesday, February 15th at 9:00 a.m. at Crossroads. Hostesses: Marcia Boots and Donna Kutschke

**J**une Tolstedt would like to thank everyone for the many wonderful Birthday Cards that She received on her special day. She appreciates hearing from all of you and is very thankful for her Church family!



**It is time to be thinking about applying for Scholarships through the Presbyterian Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

**If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Betty Blakey, Memorial Committee Scholarship Chairman, at 308-762-5539**

## Children and Youth News — February 2017



It is already the second month of 2017. February is the month associated with love. Let's all share God's love with each other and especially the children in our Sunday School.

Thank you to Manda Clarke who led the children in the Elementary Classroom in January. February's Teacher will be Gayle Redecker.

Easter is not until April this year. However, it is time to be thinking about our Annual Children's Lenten Secret Pal Ministry. We have five, possibly six, children who will need a sponsor for this ministry. Many of you have been Lenten Pals in the past. If you would like to be one of the children's sponsors again this year, or would like to be a sponsor for the first time, please contact Barb Kendle by February 24th. Contact her at church, or her home phone: 762-1679. This ministry will conclude on Palm Sunday, April 9th, at the Lenten Secret Pal Luncheon. (For more on this Children's Ministry, see the accompanying article in the Chimes.)

Barb Kendle, CYM Moderator



*Secret Pals  
are such  
precious friends.*

### Lenten Secret Pals

It is almost time for our Church's Lenten Secret Pals Children's Ministry. This is a fun activity uniting the adults and children of our church during Lenten Season. Children ages four to 11 (5th grade) are secretly matched with an adult member, or couple of our Congregation. Through small weekly gifts and notes the children are reminded of the meaning of Easter. Following is how this ministry works:

1. Each week of Lent the secret pal child receives a small gift from you. (\$5 or less) Each gift should have some connection to the Christian faith. A simple card or note with each gift quoting Scripture or other saying can help the child make the link between our faith and the gift.
2. Unwrapped gifts are placed in the Sunday School Office anytime during the week, but prior to 10 AM on each Lenten Sunday, (March 5th, March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd) in a specially marked sack with your child's name on it. \*(The office will be locked, except Sunday mornings. Ask Pat to open it for you if you come during the week. Office Hours: 8:30 AM—12:30 PM, Mon.-Thurs.)
3. The final gift, given at a Lenten Pal Tea after church on Palm Sunday, (April 9th), is not placed in the children's sack, but it is brought to the gathering where the "secret pals" will be revealed. This final gift is wrapped and \$10, or less in cost.

This is truly a rewarding activity. If you would like to be a Lenten Secret Pal for a child in our Congregation, please contact me by Friday, February 24th, at 762-1679. (Leave a message on the answering machine if I am not at home, and I will get back to you.)

### Bible Studies and Times:

**Sunday—Morning Star—8:00 a.m. (Agents of Babylon)**

**Sunday—Adult Sunday School —9:00 a.m. (Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World)**

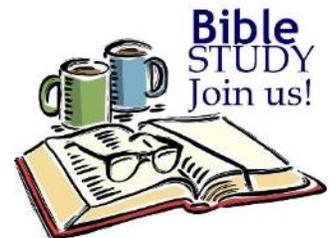
**Tuesday—Early Morning Bible Study—6:30 a.m. (Escape the Coming Night)**

**Tuesday—EWG Bible Study—9:00 a.m. (Encounter With God)**

**Wednesday—Young Family Bible Study—6:30 p.m. (Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman)**

**Thursday—Women of Faith—9:00 a.m. (Armor of God)**

**Thursday—Living Stones—2:00 p.m. (Ten Questions Christians are Asking) **Note: New Meeting Time****



You are invited to a  
**Heart for Mission Tea Party**

Sunday, February 12, 2016

In the Fellowship Hall

Immediately following church services

Your Mission Team is continuing with "A Heart for Mission" theme by serving homemade frosted heart-shaped cookies at Fellowship Time following February 12th Worship. We will also be selling cookies to earn money for another year of sponsorship in support of our Gospel for Asia Missionary, Rachana, who is serving and witnessing in Nepal. We are planning a festive occasion and appreciate any and all support from you, our church family.



## This and That . . .



Your Trustees have been discussing work projects for 2017, that are needed for our building and grounds. The southeast corner of the kitchen and above, outdoor roof leak has been repaired by Jerry and we are now fixing the damaged wood piece and the patching of plaster cracks and peeling needs to be done. We are looking for anyone in the Congregation with plaster experience to lead the Trustee Members in how to make this repair.

A possible fundraiser toward the fund for replacing the Parlor windows has been suggested. The Sunday before Mother's Day and Mother's Day Sunday, Elaine would set up her camera and backdrops to take immediate family photos for a donation towards the windows. She will e-mail the photo file, or copy it onto a flash drive if the family would provide one. The family could then take the file to the printing business of their choice. Please watch for more details closer to May.

## Trustee's Planning

# Stewardship Corner

The following are the first five of ten “Essential Truths” regarding Christian Tithing. The remaining five will be shared in the March Chimes.

**1. The Lord Jesus expects and requires us to give.** Jesus said to His disciples, "when you give" not "if you give" ([Matthew 6:2](#))! Hence, Christian giving is not optional, but rather essential. We often hear folks say: "in the Old Testament they had to give, but not in the New - now we only give if we want to." This is clearly not Jesus' teaching. He expected all His followers to be givers. Christians will give. **Are you giving?**

**2. The Lord Jesus wants us to give for the right reasons.** Jesus warned His disciples not to give for the sake of being admired by men. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them," He said ([Matthew 6:1](#)). When we give, we must be careful to examine our motives. We ought to give for the glory of God and the good of His people. We must desire His approval of our giving, rather than the praise and admiration of people. **Are you giving for God's praise or man's?**

**3. The Lord Jesus wants us to practice benevolent or charitable giving.** Jesus said "When you give to the poor . . ." ([Matthew 6:2-3](#)). Jesus is specifically teaching about "alms" in this passage: aid, charity, or benevolent offerings for the needy. **Do you give amply enough to the Church that she can be generous in benevolent giving?**

**4. The Lord Jesus reminds us that our giving is ultimately to the all-seeing heavenly Father.** Jesus said "When you give . . . ; your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you" ([Matthew 6:3-4](#)). When we give, we are not simply adding to the Church budget, we are giving up a thank offering to the Father Himself. Thus, we must all give "as unto the Lord." Our ultimate goal in giving is to please Him. **Are you conscious of the fact that your giving is to the Lord and seen by the Lord?**

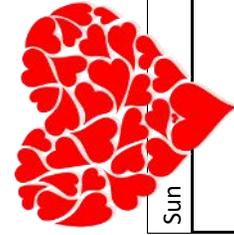
**5. The Bible teaches that Christian giving is an act of worship.** In connection with the previous point, we see this truth stressed in another way in Paul's word's "On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save" ([1 Corinthians 16:2](#)). Paul here teaches the Corinthians that their taking up of the collection is an act of worship which is to be a part of their regular Lord's Day worship. When we put our money in the plate, we are worshiping Almighty God in accordance with His Word. Note well, Paul is speaking here of a "collection for the saints" - this is giving by the Church to the Church for the Church. **Did you realize that giving is a part of worship? Is your worship in this area abundant or inhibited? Is giving to the Church a priority with you?**

We have not come close to reaching our potential for giving.  
Won't you pray that we will give as we ought?  
That we will give for the right motives? That we will give joyously?  
And that we will give extravagantly.

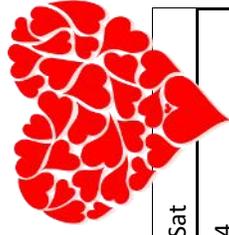
*Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is the Senior Minister of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi and is the author of this article.*



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



# February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 -9:00 Good Morning Circle—Hostesses: D. Kuhn/E. Potmesil -1:30p Serendipity Circle—Hostess: Helen McConnell -6:30p Family Bible Study	2 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones	3	4
5 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship, <b>-11:45 CYM, SPF, Outreach Mtg</b>	6 12:45p Communion at Crossroads	7 <b>-9:00 Missions Meeting</b> -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	8 -6:30p Family Bible Study	9 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones	10 -12:00 Noon Hilltoppers	11 -8:00 Men's Life Breakfast
12 <b>DOVES Sunday</b> -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship <b>-11:45 Heart for Missions Tea</b>	13 <b>-7:00p Session Meeting</b>	14 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads <b>-6:30p Trustees Meeting</b>	15 -9:00 C.T. Meeting at Crossroads—Hostesses: M. Boots/D. Kutschke -6:30p Family Bible Study	16 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones	17	18
19 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship <b>-11:45 Deacons Meeting</b>	20	21 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads <b>Chimes Deadline</b>	22 -6:30p Family Bible Study	23 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones	24	25
26 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship	27 -11:30 Ladies Lunch at Arbys <b>-7:30p Prayer and Worship Mtg.</b>	28 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads				

First Presbyterian Church

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Return Service Requested



February 2017

### Thoughts for the Journey—How We Worship...

THE WORSHIP OF GOD IS THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CENTER OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH. The Westminster Shorter Catechism affirms that our chief end in life is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” This places the worship of God at the very center of what it means to be God’s people and makes worship the highest expression we can render to our God-given humanity. Christian worship is a corporate act of the people of God where we gather to realize God’s presence and respond with praise to God’s gift of love to us in Jesus Christ.

The next several months this column will focus individual acts of worship that take place each Sunday.

#### **RESPONDING IN GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE**

17. **The Lord’s Prayer**—concludes our series of prayers. This prayer, taught by Jesus to His disciples, is the prayer which binds all Christians together in service and devotion.
18. **The Offering**—is our response to God’s Word by giving and is a significant act within the Liturgy. As we dedicate our gifts to God, we also dedicate our lives and acknowledge once more that we are God’s and what we have is but a gift to be held in trust.
19. **The Doxology**—is a Trinitarian song of the praise we sing as our gifts are brought forward. “Doxology” is Greek for “words of praise” and we sing to the Old Hundredth tune.

**Let’s begin to approach our morning of worship as we enter the Sanctuary—directing our hearts and minds towards our gracious God in order to glorify Him and give ourselves totally to Him in praise and worship.**