

## Congratulations, Laura!

Laura Quillen, daughter of Jeff and Donna Quillen and granddaughter of Katrinka Quillen, will graduate from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis in May with a degree in medicine. She will begin her residency training in internal medicine at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in July.



### To Our First Presbyterian Women members:

Call, text, or email Mary C. Ruth if you are interested in discussing the possibility of a daytime Bible Study for our women, time and day to be chosen.

Maryruth10@yahoo.com

423-530-4310

### Space for Grace Summer Schedule

9:45am in the Fellowship Center  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

May 19  
June 16  
July 21  
August 18

Be on the lookout for the Fall schedule later!  
Text @fpcs4g to 81010 to be on the text list for this worship service

### Youth Montreat Dates:

June 2-8

Rising 9th-Graduated 12th  
\$150 per youth/ Max \$200.  
Half payment due May 5  
Contact Russ Pearson.

## First Presbyterian Church

# The First Press

Seeking to see the Face of Christ...Striving to be the Hands of Christ

Vol. 541, Issue 5

May 2024

### Mark Your Calendar

- 5-16 Chamber Players Concert
- 5-19 Lemonade on the Lawn
- 5-19 Space for Grace Worship
- 5-23 Newsletter Deadline
- 6-9 Lemonade on the Lawn
- 8-11 Sunday School Kickoff & BLTs

### Weekly

**Tuesdays**  
Knuckleheads Men's Bible Study  
12:15-1:15 p.m.  
History Room

**Thursdays**  
Balance Class  
1:15 p.m.  
Fellowship Center



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100 W. Church Circle  
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## To Be Continued...In Us

During the summer, I will do a sermon series entitled "TO BE CONTINUED", based on Acts. Luke, its author, calls it "ACTS OF APOSTLES" but it might be called the ACTS OF HOLY SPIRIT. Acts was never meant to be the APOSTLES' GREATEST HITS. The main character wasn't John, Peter, or Paul but the HOLY SPIRIT. Luke picks up after Easter. The Disciples wait in an Upper Room, huddled in fear. The Holy Spirit comes in a mighty way and the Church was born. This wasn't Church as a place to come and go. This was Church as it was meant to be: a community, working together, serving together, caring for each other, carrying on Jesus' mission. This movement soon spread out in many directions, took in all people, and turned the world upside down. Luke will tell gripping stories of courage, love, and excitement. All the HEROES eventually die but the JESUS MOVEMENT kept going.

Luke starts his story in Jerusalem and ends it in Rome. Luke left out the details of Paul's death. His purpose in Acts wasn't to glorify any one person but to glorify GOD. Instead of ending with Paul's death, he ends with Paul finishing his work. Paul ran his race, kept the faith, and he endured to the end. As far as Luke was concerned, what better way to end a story. His last words are the inspiration for this series...

**He welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming God's Kingdom teaching about the Lord Jesus with boldness, without hindrance**

Without hindrance, Luke! Tell the unvarnished truth Why not end Acts by writing what happened.

**Paul died in jail, the Church fell apart in crisis, Christians sat around waiting for God's next move.**

Because that didn't happen. Luke leaves his readers, us included, to fill in the blanks. The last chapter of the EARLY CHURCH is the first chapter of the LATER CHURCH. Christianity is TO BE CONTINUED IN US. We've joined a movement already in progress. Christ's mantle is passed to us. God is not finished writing his story. Let me invite you into this series. I will post the readings in advance so that you will have time to ponder them before coming to worship. Here is a parting thought as we prepare for this series:

**The outlook of our lives determines the outcome of our lives. Our focus determines our reality.**

*Mike*



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## Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.  
Chapel

11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary

## Summer Fun!

**May 19 & June 9**

Lemonade on the Lawn  
Homemade cookies too!

Please join us for Lemonade on the Lawn on Sunday, May 19 and June 9, after both services. We will serve the homemade cookies and lemonade in the hallway leading from the chapel after the first service, and after the 11 o'clock service we will serve the lemonade and cookies outside under the Porte-cochere. Come and join us for this delightful treat!



**August 11**

Sunday School Kickoff  
& BLT Luncheon

**September 29**

All-Church Picnic



## Let's Get Together!

The Congregational Fellowship & Nurture Committee would like to hear from the congregation some ideas for local outings where we could get together some small groups to attend things such as plays, festivals, attractions, etc.. We would like to do some of these over the summer. Please contact Barbara Foust with any suggestions. Thank you!

## Announcing Retirement

### *A New Season ~ God's Call*

**"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance... A time to gain, and a time to lose; A time to keep silence, and a time to speak" ... (Eccl:3)**

The time has come for me to speak. At the time in 2006 when I sat with the pastor and Tammie Davis, and they extended God's call to become your Director of Music Ministry, I responded that I could envision spending the next fifteen years in your service. That was now eighteen years ago, and I have reached that magical full retirement age. After much prayer and counsel with Pastor Mike and the Administrative committee, I am certain God is calling us ALL into a new season.

Before my Susan passed away, she and I had long been prayerfully seeking the next chapter of our shared life. Even now after her departure, the sense of God's direction has become ever clearer. I have given all that I have to this position, and to this cherished family of faith and musicians. The fulfillment that I have received is far beyond all that I've invested. Now, it is equally clear to me that the needs of our music program going into the future are beyond my scope to fulfill. In the eleven months since Alice Sanders left, my weekly search for a permanent half-time organist has come up empty, leaving me the task of finding and preparing substitutes for 77 Sundays through the end of July. The challenge has been extraordinary!

There is a promising answer to this dilemma. In May, the Search Committee will post a national search for a single full-time position: **Organist/Choir Director** to begin on August 1st. This was once the exact profile this church enjoyed in its most abundant era. This move will also relieve the church's budget of a half-time salary, while bringing in a person with a fresh set of skills, visions and energy. Let us waken to the possibilities of how God is creating our future!

And for me, the call continues. I will continue to treasure my relationships here, while being free to travel to visit my three grown children and eight grandjoys. God has granted me professional opportunities as a guest performer, teacher, and conductor in their cities of San Francisco, Nashville, and Cleveland, OH. I am thankful beyond measure to the beautiful musicians and people of First Presbyterian who have made this a glorious chapter in Susan's and my life. As Ecclesiastes says, **"God has made everything beautiful in its time. And He has put eternity in their hearts."**

You will forever be in mine.

*Always Yours in Christ,  
Mark Davis*



**May 1:** Ben Harris

**May 4:** Chuck Mooney, Clayton Walker

**May 5:** Bill Adams

**May 9:** Hunter Wright, Celia Osborne, Peyton King

**May 13:** Larry Maston

**May 14:** Christine Baugh, Randell Drayne

**May 15th:** Sally Crawford

**May 17:** Jennifer Walker

**May 18:** Leslie Pope, John Bovender, Grayson Mott, Valerie Joh

**May 20:** Bette Patton, Stewart Taylor, Autumn Hagan

**May 21:** Kinsley Argabrite

**May 25:** Dave Hafele

**May 27:** Tricia Argabrite, Colin Pendleton

**May 31:** Kathy Redwine

*Happy  
Birthday!*

## Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

*(as of April 29, 2024)*

<b>Pledges Budgeted to Date:</b>	\$255,806.68
<b>Pledges Received to Date:</b>	\$285,124.85
<b>Difference:</b>	\$ 29,318.17

<b>Loose Offerings</b>	
<b>Budgeted to Date:</b>	\$ 14,659.32
<b>Received to Date:</b>	\$ 7,717.23
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>(-\$ 6,941.09)</b>

### **Special Offerings -**

5 Cents a Meal - April	\$408.00
<i>(a portion went to The Clothes Closet)</i>	

Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing	\$387.00
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## Waverly Road Food Pantry



For May please bring a **can of vegetables** for the Waverly Road Pantry. Baskets are located near the Chapel door and in front of the stained glass near the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your donations. They mean so much to those who don't have enough to eat.



## Niches Available in the Columbarium

There are niches available in the First Presbyterian columbarium located in the Memorial Garden at the rear of the church. They are designed to accommodate two urns and feature an engraved cover for both decedents. They are reasonably priced and represent a cost-effective ecological approach and appropriate alternative to a traditional cemetery. Details are available through the church office.



# The History of Our Church



Over the next several months the History Committee is sharing a bit of information about various furnishings and features of our church. You probably walk by or see them often; but don't know how they came to be a part of FPC. In the earlier days of FPC, families made memorial contributions to provide things we needed. We no longer encourage donations of things to the church, but do encourage donations to the Memorial Fund or the Legacy Program when you want to remember someone or provide funds for future church needs. These funds enable the church to direct resources where they are most needed.

*Renovations of the Nursery in 2000 was possible when Lockie Mahady left FPC a generous undesignated bequest upon her death. The majority of her bequest and the design skills of Jim Wright enabled us to have a great facility.*

## Second Harvest Work Day



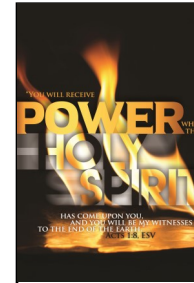
Many thanks to all of you for participating at Second Harvest in April! After missing the last couple of months, it was much fun for me to see everyone and get back in the spirit!

We packed smaller boxes for the first time, containing a similar number of food items that have gone in plastic bags before. I do not know who the target recipient group

is for these, but it is interesting how many different containers are used. Collectively FPC packaged six pallets for a total of 584 boxes!

Here are some pictures from the morning crew! Becca graciously volunteered to be our photographer, and she did an awesome job! After taking the first shot, she said she couldn't see us very well! So, a second picture was necessary. I now see why she wanted a do over!! Thank you, Becca.

Bob Stoots



## Readings for New Sermon Series

Below are the readings for May for Mike's new sermon series so that you will have time to ponder them before coming to worship.

- May 5... "The Opening Act" Acts 1:1-11
- May 12... "People Like Us" Acts 1:15-31
- May 19... "Stuck in An Upper Room" Acts 2
- May 26... "Jesus Builds His Team" Acts 2:43-47

## Sermon Notes

Beginning in May, Dr. Shelton will provide the scripture readings and a note guide for each weekly sermon. This information will be sent out with the **Weekly Update** email that includes your weekly bulletin and announcements. On Friday the Weekly Bulletin will be posted on the website under **What's New** on the Homepage. You are encouraged to download a copy of the note guide and bring a copy with you on Sunday mornings. A few print copies will be available on Sunday mornings if you have trouble downloading the file. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday mornings, you will still be able to livestream the service and follow along with the note guide or you can access the sermon on Monday mornings on the website under **Weekly Sermons** on the homepage.



## Vacation Bible School June 17-20!

Get ready to pitch your tents of kindness and ignite the campfire of empathy as we explore the wilderness of compassion together! At "Camp Compassion: What every living thing needs," we'll be diving deep into the values of love, empathy, and understanding, while having a blast with fun-filled activities, heartwarming lessons, and unforgettable experiences. But wait, there's s'more! We need YOU to join our team of compassionate counselors, fearless leaders, canteen workers, and enthusiastic helpers to make this camp the best it can be! Whether you're a seasoned camper or new to the wilderness, your passion for spreading love and kindness is all you need to join our crew. Together, we'll create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every camper feels valued, loved, and accepted. So dust off your hiking boots, grab your compass, and join us at "Camp Compassion" as we journey together to spread love and kindness to all! Sign up today to be a part of this incredible adventure and let's make memories that will last a lifetime! See you at "Camp Compassion"! Contact Head Counselor, Russ, to discuss your role!

Blessings,  
First Pres VBS Team

## Salvation Army Lunch Serving

Several members of First Pres have volunteered to serve lunch to members of our community on the second Sunday of each month at the Kingsport Salvation Army. If you'd like to add your name to the list of volunteers, please contact Catherine Tucker. 423-782-7782. Thank you.

### Thank You

First Presbyterian Church Family, Mom and I want to express our thanks to the church family for your prayers and support you gave us during our difficult days with Kay. It helps to have a church family standing with you.

Thank you,  
David and Inez McBee



# All-Church Retreat 2024

