



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
100 W. Church Circle  
Kingsport, TN 37660  
(423) 245-0104



**Mark Your Calendar**

- 7-13 Ice Cream Social
- 7-24 Newsletter Deadline
- 7-27 Potluck Lunch
- 8-17 BLT Luncheon
- 9-21 Church Picnic at Allandale

**Weekly**

- Sunday**  
Summer Worship (through July 27)  
10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary
- Tuesday**  
Knuckleheads Men’s Bible Study  
12:15-1:15 p.m.  
History Room
- Thursday**  
Balance Class  
1:15 p.m.  
Fellowship Center



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**Only Jesus is Enough**

Accepting Jesus as Lord, reading the bible, being in church are all good things but Jesus didn’t frame his invitation that way.

**Come, follow me. He didn’t say come admire/study me; come sit on a pew, sing songs, throw money in the offering, then leave Church professing to be a Christian. He said, “Follow me, become my Disciple, learn from me in order to learn how to serve me.”**

He didn’t ask people to commit to an ideal or throw themselves into religion. What he asked them to do was, “listen/learn”, be willing to be led. There were no signed contracts, no details of where he was going or what their role would be. All he said was, “Follow me, just get up, put one foot in front of the other foot, start moving.” I believe he’d have a similar message to American Christians today.

**Finding success/acquiring money isn’t enough. The American Dream of pursuing my own happiness isn’t enough. Finding love isn’t enough. Friends aren’t enough. Religion isn’t enough. Being in a church isn’t enough. Nothing is enough! Except Jesus!**

We have but one life and our lives count. The good news: what Christ requires, he inspires. We can’t wish ourselves into living a Christian life. It’s impossible to follow him while having our own agenda. Being a Christian is a lifestyle where we realign our lives/priorities to what Christ expects. He didn’t recruit anyone with a blank slate; they were already “spiritually formed” in both positive/negative ways when they joined him. I once thought our goal as Christians was to **BE LIKE JESUS**. If we worked harder, prayed/studied/served more, we’d be like him. It won’t work. Trying to be like him by human effort is like trying to paddle in a storm with one oar! We can’t **COPY WHAT HE DID** as if he was present. He is **STILL PRESENT!** There is a difference between **FOLLOWING JESUS** and **BELIEVING HE LIVES IN YOU**. Striving to do what he did is a noble thing; letting him **LIVE HIS LIFE THROUGH US** is a better thing. He wants to live his life through me, and through us all. Serving him has been the privilege of my life. As demanding as Jesus can be, I am much harder on myself than he would ever be. Even now, as I wind down my career, I still am a “work in progress.” Every day I challenge myself to improve, to learn, to be more faithful. I take comfort in this: I am not the **MAN I’D LIKE TO BE** but thank God I am not **THE MAN I USED TO BE**. How about you! How have you grown? In what ways might God want to improve you, deepen you, and use your life for his purposes?

*Miko*



## Summer Fun!

### Ice Cream Social

This fun, delicious time will be held on **July 13** in the Fellowship Center after the 10:00 a.m. service. Enjoy ice cream with your choice of syrups, sprinkles, various toppings and whipped cream!

### Potluck Lunch

A Potluck Lunch will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on **July 27** in the Fellowship Center. Remember to bring anything of your choosing, except meat, to the Fellowship Center kitchen as early as 9:30 am. You'll need to indicate your intentions of attending the lunch **by Tuesday, July 22**, so the CF&N Committee will provide enough chicken fingers. You may call or e-mail Vickie at the church office with your reservation. We're looking forward to this great time of home-cooked food as well as time for fellowship with each other! "Amen, Let's Eat!"  
*You may register online at [www.firstpreskingsport.org](http://www.firstpreskingsport.org) and click on the Quarterly Potluck Lunches bubble or if you have a Realm account you may register directly using Realm. You may also register by calling or emailing Vickie at the church office with your reservation.*

### BLTs are Back!

BLTs are returning again this year on **August 17** in the Fellowship Center after the 11:00 a.m. service. Claudia Byrd is graciously preparing these for us. Thank you Claudia!

### Church Night Suppers

Our first Church Night Supper after the summer break will be on **September 3**. We will have an Olive Garden Italian meal.

### Church Picnic

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 21**, for our picnic at the Allandale picnic pavilion. Fellowship time begins at 5pm, and dinner will be served at 6. Braeden's will be our caterer.

## **We have a new Director of Music Ministry/Organist!**

Amy Smith has been hired as our new Director of Music Ministry/Organist! Amy has over 20 years of church music experience serving Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Catholic congregations, and as an adjunct professor at UNLV. She is a native Nevadan and will be moving from Henderson, Nevada with her husband Mike and her son Aaron. She will start work on July 1. We look forward anxiously to her arrival and hope you will make her and her family feel welcome to the area and the church. You can see samples of her previous work at the following links:

[https://youtu.be/hLzPxpswUHM?si=U\\_qm6dhKUYlpz28a](https://youtu.be/hLzPxpswUHM?si=U_qm6dhKUYlpz28a)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/rtXggF7O6Xg?si=g8C9tywY5lu4jqYa>



**1st:** Phoebe Newell  
**2nd:** Larry Long, Koleta Tilson, Jeff Quillen  
**3rd:** Kim Alvis, MaryGail Py  
**4th:** Kevin Heindselman  
**5th:** Troy Aguilar-Smith  
**6th:** Charles Beggerow, Kathy Ruffel  
**7th:** Jane Scott  
**11th:** Sarah King  
**13th:** Dorothy Lightfoot  
**14th:** Warren Sanders  
**15th:** Carolyn Doerfert  
**16th:** Eva Pearson, London Williams  
**17th:** Jordan Harker  
**18th:** Pepper McCary, Lauren McInturff, Carson Bethany, Bill Fortenberry  
**19th:** Emily Gaude  
**20th:** Ashley Hobbs, Mason King  
**21st:** Beckett Arrowsmith  
**22nd:** Karen Thompson, Charlie Babb, Caroline Pearson  
**23rd:** Katrinka Quillen  
**24th:** Greg Francisco  
**25th:** Steve Arthur, Jennie Benton, Diana Johnson-Martin  
**26th:** William Thomidis  
**27th:** Hannah Adams  
**28th:** Elizabeth Wilkins  
**30th:** Audra Moore

## Happy Birthday!



## **Second Harvest in July**

First Presbyterian Church - Kingsport volunteers will be packing food at Second Harvest Food Bank on July 16. This is always a fun time of fellowship and service. Now that schools are out for Summer vacation, this would be a great opportunity to engage youth as well as friends and relatives. Give that some thought and consider joining us this month on **Wednesday, July 16**. Contact Bob Stoots by email, cell or text (423) 782-6280 to register for the session of your choice: morning (9:00-11:00 a.m.) or afternoon (1:00-3:00 p.m.).



### Waverly Road Food Pantry

#### **Item of the Month: Peanut Butter**

Please drop donations in the basket outside the chapel door or in front of the stained glass on Sunday mornings. Your donations mean so much to those who don't have enough to eat. Thank you!



## **Summer History Exhibit: Mission Trips Over the Years**

Stop by the History Room for a look back at the geographic locations our youth have visited on Mission Trips over the years. Jenny Clemmer has recalled her own high school mission trip in 1964 and located trips since then on a map for a quick review of our youth's mission reach. Our FPC youth have traveled to numerous US locations and even into Mexico. Thanks to Jenny for arranging this display for our enjoyment, memories, and information. The exhibit will remain in place for the remainder of the summer.

### **Rekindling Our Gifts Survey**



The History Committee will distribute a survey from August 3 through August 24 to be completed by anyone who wants to make changes in their skills and interests or opportunities for involvement, or anyone who has never completed a survey. A box clearly marked that contains the surveys will be in the church foyer. Please return your Rekindling Our Gifts survey in the envelope provided to the box by August 24.



## The History of Our Church

When you hear the harpsichord residing in the sanctuary played; do you know the story behind it? On July 3, 1987 a horrible accident occurred that dramatically impacted First Presbyterian. Our choirmaster Phil Hames and one of our choir members Jimmy Coats were killed when lightening struck them on the golf course at Warriors Path Golf Course. Phil had been choirmaster at First Pres since 1973 and was much loved by the church members. He had brought many music and drama programs to our congregation. He had developed youth choirs and taken them "on the road" to present concerts. The Harpsichord was purchased in memory of Phil and Jimmy.



# One of many

## Olin Babb

This month's member to highlight has been around FPC for more years than most of us. He was baptized in 1948 by Dr. T. P. Johnston. He remembers coming to Sunday School when the young children's classroom was about where Kim's office is today, looking out towards Charlemont Street. He remembers his early teachers - Mrs. Hufford and Mrs. Zeigler. Mrs. Hufford was one of the founding members of FPC; and Mrs. Zeigler was also a very early church member. **Olin Babb** is responsible for recording and storing our church services. Olin maintains the "sound closet" located near the photo gallery of our ministers, the sound system in the balcony, and the storage shelves hiding behind a door in the office area. He has a system in place and schedules the member volunteers who record the various services. Currently they are stored on CD's but we have some older recordings from past years on reel-to-reel tapes, and cassettes in the History Room. All Sunday services are recorded as well as many funerals. Olin recalls being asked to record several weddings in the past. He has been carefully maintaining these records since he began working with Ron Dixon around 2000. That is 25 years folks! Helping Olin right now are Gary Hallen and Dan Dietrich. Anyone interested in helping with this weekly task should give Olin a call – he could use some help!



He remembers buying the current storage unit at Big Lots and assembling it to store the recordings. Today it is nearly full with 25 years of recordings! Olin says most Sundays it is smooth sailing when he turns on the power and checks to be sure everything is working. He recalls one Sunday when the microphone for the minister did not work. After trying everything he discovered the microphone at the lectern had been unplugged for a Saturday Music Concert!

Olin tells us there has been one extra job added to his "job description" – keeping the clock in the back of the sanctuary working. You will have to ask him how he manages that job!

How many of us can say we have diligently managed a volunteer job for 25 years? "Thank you" Olin from First Presbyterian for all your dedication to keeping a part of our history!





