



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 57, Issue 6, August 2017

A from the Pastor

Faith Formation at First Presbyterian: This is not your Father's Sunday School

During my time as your pastor, our Christian Education ministry has been undergoing big changes – exciting changes. Like so many churches, we have been working toward a new paradigm for teaching and learning the faith – one that shifts the responsibility from paid professionals to lay leadership; from the church to the home; and from instruction in morality and doctrine to formation of disciples.

The primary driver of this shift is the change in emphasis from instruction to formation. If the goal is to keep our promises to be Christ's faithful disciple and to encourage one another to know and follow Christ," then teaching the content of the Christian faith is only part of the process. We also need to provide opportunities to practice the faith.

For our education ministry, that has meant changing the name from "Christian Education Committee" to "Faith Formation Team;" adding new faith formation leaders to the team, exploring resources aimed at equipping us to practice the faith; working in partnership with other ministries, such as worship and congregational care; and exploring ways for families and multigenerational groups to learn together.

One of the tools we have been exploring recently is called Milestones Ministry, a "tool" for faith formation that incorporates much of what we have been looking for. As you will see in this newsletter, we celebrated two milestones this summer: recognizing our newest licensed drivers and helping to prepare mission trip participants for their experiences in South Dakota and Virginia.

As we approach the fall, a third milestone event is being planned for Kickoff Sunday at Rocky Gap (September 10) for participants in the mission trip to West Virginia. In addition, the Faith Formation Team is also planning three small groups for adults, experience-based learning opportunities for youth, a structured learning opportunity for children during part of worship and resources for families to use at home during the week.

If you have questions about our Faith Formation ministry or want to find new ways to explore and practice your faith, please speak to Joe Weaver or Caroline Kelly. We'd love to have you join us this fall!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caroline". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Blessings,".

JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2017, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Authorized the Clerk of Session to send a letter to Robby May thanking him for his three years of service to the youth of our church and the Lord.
- Approved the Clerk's request to remove from the Inactive Roll those who did not respond to a letter inquiring about their desire to remain inactive members.
- Added Sharon and Warren Gregory to the list of Other Participants.
- Approved the year to date financials as of May 31, 2017.
- Confirmed the following as members of the Personnel Committee as per the Bylaws: Jane Belt replacing Cindy Corley on behalf of Administration and Finance, Ann Kellermeyer representing the Congregation and Jeff Getty as Clerk of Session.

In addition Session heard:

- A report from Jeff Getty that Robby May's employment as our Youth Ministry Coordinator ended rather precipitously on June 13 after a series of communications with Rev. Kelly, in which he expressed, among other things, concern about his ability to lead the youth mission trip in July. Robby had announced his intention to resign in mid-July.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that Anne Bryan had agreed to serve as the leader of the youth mission trip in July.
- A report from Agnes Yount that the proceeds from the sale of the Southminster manse to 1st Way Pregnancy will be restricted to pay future expenses of the Southminster church and grounds.
- A report from Shirley Giarritta that two refrigerators have been rented for use in the Summer Lunchbox Program and plans to carpet and add new trim in the stairwells is on hold.
- A report from Judy Stern about the Hope Against Heroin Walk scheduled for June 17, 2017 and a reminder the Summer Lunchbox Program will start on June 23, 2017.
- A report from David Stickler that the flags usually displayed in front of the church have not yet been found since their removal during the stripping of the sanctuary on Palm/Passion Sunday; a reminder that the fans in the sanctuary should not be turned on as they push hot air back into the sanctuary instead of pulling it up; and a report that Kickoff Sunday with worship and the congregational picnic will take place September 10, 2017 at the Lakeview Pavilion at Rocky Gap.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that she and Bryan Lohr will be attending a Worship and Music Conference at Montreat June 18-24.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that the Driver's License Milestone Event held on June 9 at Rocky Gap went very well.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or Moderator.

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Norma Sterne	5-Aug
Joan Ralston	7-Aug
Bob Salathe	8-Aug
Eric Ringler	9-Aug
Nancy Hosken	16-Aug
Pam Griffith	19-Aug
Ann Rebuck	22-Aug
Agnes Yount	24-Aug
Jane Belt	30-Aug



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

† Prayers and sympathy to the family of longtime member, Louise Grimm, on her death on Thursday, July 6, 2017.



Congratulations to Sharon Squires and Elva Berry on the birth of their granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Carly Jane, on Monday, July 3rd, to Sharon's daughter, Heather Moore.



As we prepare to welcome the newest member of the church, Jax Boor, plans are being made to provide meals for his family. Stayed tuned for more information in the coming days about how you can help.

HIGHLANDERS FELLOWSHIP

Highlanders is a long-time fellowship group of the congregation that gathers monthly for lunch and fellowship.



In July, the Highlanders met at Patrick's for lunch and fellowship.

CHAPEL UPDATE



The Chapel now has a heating and/air conditioning unit. This wonderful addition makes the space available for use during any season. Please consider using the Chapel for your monthly meetings!

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



We're looking for volunteers to assist with coordinating and/or donating food for our First Sunday Food & Fellowship after worship on the first Sunday of each month. Two people are required to help set-up, assist during the fellowship and clean-up. Please contact Buck Belt ([301-707-8072](tel:301-707-8072) or at cbeltjr@thebeltgroup.com) or Barb Aber ([301-461-3729](tel:301-461-3729) or at Barbaber125@gmail.com) if you would be willing to assist as a coordinator or be a food donor for any of the upcoming Sundays:

September 3rd

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd

Detailed instructions will be provided.

Thank you,
Congregation Care and Outreach Committee Chairs
Buck Belt & Barbara Aber

LIVESTREAM NOTICE

LIVESTREAM has cut off free access to their platform so, for the immediate future, our worship services will not be available in live video format. As we research and consider other streaming options, please let Carolyn Matthews or David Stickler know if and how you have used this service and any thoughts about our ability to broadcast our worship services beyond our sanctuary walls.

MILESTONES MINISTRY UPDATE



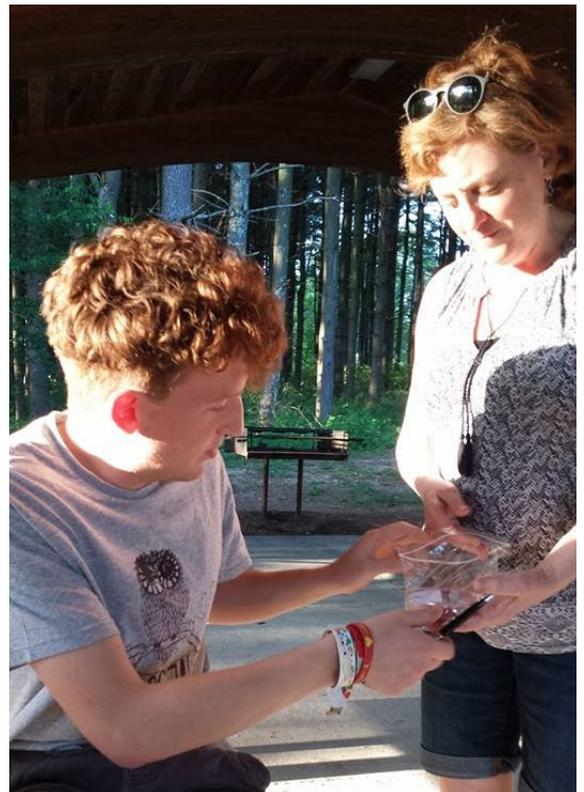
Milestones Ministry is a multi-generational tool for faith formation. It helps mark significant events in our lives, from baptism and confirmation to losing your first tooth, getting your first phone, caring for aging parents and retirement. Using a four-step process that includes scripture reading, reflection, prayer and conversation, Milestones helps participants discover how God is present in these important transitions as well as our everyday lives.

This summer, we have marked two milestone moments: Getting a Driver's License and Going on a Mission Trip. At each gathering, we shared a meal together, talked about the significance of the milestone we were celebrating, read and reflected on scripture, blessed and prayed for each other.

GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE

On Friday, June 9th, a group of youth and their parents and congregation members gathered at the White Pine Shelter at Rocky Gap State Park to celebrate the milestone of getting a driver's license. We talked about the connection between this important rite of passage and our relationship with God, as we gifted and blessed the soon-to-be licensed drivers.

New driver Ben Fiscus receives a gift and a blessing as he reaches this new milestone.



GOING ON A MISSION TRIP

On Sunday, July 2nd, mission trip participants, their families and congregation members gathered in the Fellowship Hall before worship to help with final preparations for mission trips to South Dakota and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. As part of the preparation, participants were matched with prayer partners so participants could be prayed for and encouraged during the trip.



Co-facilitator Ann Kellermeyer leads the group in a conversation about the challenges they might expect to encounter .



Mission Milestone participants enjoy breakfast and fellowship together.

During worship we commissioned the youth mission trip and South Dakota Learning Camp participants



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

LEARN & GROW

YOUTH MISSION TRIP



During the week of July 10th the youth served in Onancock, Virginia for their summer mission trip, where they teamed up with Youth-Works for a week long program of service, worship and reflection. They will gather for a cookout and pool party on August 5th at the Wright-Taube home.



WEST VIRGINIA FLOOD RELIEF WORK CAMP



We still have some openings for the mission trip to Greenbrier, WV from September 16-22. If you are interested in participating or if you would like more information, please contact Phil Mills at [240-727-1995](tel:240-727-1995).

MISSION MILESTONE FOLLOW-UP

Join us for an ice-cream social in the Fellowship Hall after worship next Sunday and hear from our mission trip participants about their experiences in South Dakota and the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

ACCIDENTAL SAINTS: Finding God in all the Wrong People

Cheri Duncan will be leading a book study this fall based on Nadia Bolz-Weber's 2015 book, *Accidental Saints*. Bolz-Weber is a highly-acclaimed preacher and speaker and New York Times best selling writer, but she is also unconventional and sometimes irreverent. In the book, she writes about what happens when a group of unlikely religious people form an authentic Christian community focused more on practices than on doctrine. If you are interested in finding out more or in joining the group, please contact Cheri at jakob3289@hotmail.com or [301-707-4920](tel:301-707-4920).

FINAL WEEKS OF SUMMER LUNCHBOX HELP NEEDED!!!

Calling all sandwich makers and lunch packers! We will be making and delivering lunches for two more Fridays this summer. Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – noon on August 4th and 11th! We welcome all helpers. Please sign up on the sheets in the side hallway at church or call Cathy Levitas at [301-707-7386](tel:301-707-7386) for more information.



SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP



During the week of July 10, 17 South Dakota Learning Camp participants traveled to Marty, South Dakota to serve at the Presbytery-sponsored Ihanktonwan Learning Camp.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

This summer it has been a joy to explore together the Narrative Lectionary- the jubilant rhythms and plaintive sighs of the Psalms and the exhortations for peace and unity in Ephesians.

My heartiest thanks go out to all the members of the congregation who have eagerly volunteered their time and talents, sharing special music during worship in June and July. While more special music is in store for August, the start of the Sanctuary Choir season will soon be approaching. Please stay tuned to weekly announcements for more information. New choir members are ALWAYS welcome.

If you have any questions about choir membership, or the music ministry in general, please feel free to speak with me after worship or contact me anytime.

Yours in Christ,

Bryan Lohr

bryan@bryanlohr.com

[\(814\) 442-4168](tel:814-442-4168)

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING



We will offer prayers and blessings for students and teachers of all ages during worship on Sunday, August 20, in preparation for the start of a new school year. In connection with the blessing, we are collecting school supplies for Allegany County students in coordination with United Way's "Stuff the Bus." Supplies need to be delivered to the church no later than Sunday, August 13 in order to meet the pick up deadline.

Supplies needed are: backpacks, pencils, pens, colored pencils, crayons, book covers, small tissue packs, notebook paper, 3-ring binders, erasers, flash cards, 3-prong folders w/ pockets, 3-subject spiral notebooks, 1-subject spiral notebooks, glue sticks, composition books, washable markers, pencil cases, rulers, scissors, index cards, rulers, folders



Our next Contemplative Prayer Service in the style of the Taizé community will be offered in the chapel at 5:00PM on Sunday, August 20th. You can come as you are, invite a friend, or the person walking down the street. You may remain silent or participate in the singing and reading. You can also bring an instrument to join in! We will gather for this service on the third Sunday each month.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

August

We Thank God For:

Address Service Requested

**SAVE THE DATE:
FALL KICK-OFF**



Our Fall Kickoff has been scheduled for Sunday, September 10th, at Rocky Gap State Park. The kickoff will be held in the Lakeview Shelter starting with a milestone celebration at 8:45AM, followed by worship at 11AM and a congregational picnic. Please mark your calendars! If you have any questions or if you would like to see how you can help, contact Carolyn Matthews or Buck Belt.