



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 57, Issue 9, November 2017

A Note from the Pastor “Presbyterian Saints”

In early Christian tradition, saints’ days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr’s death — his or her “birthday” as a saint. By the middle of the church’s first millennium, there were so many martyrs (particularly due to the persecution of the Roman emperor Diocletian) that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints’ Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

As with most of the major Christian Feast Days (Christmas; Epiphany; Easter; Pentecost; etc.) the commemoration of All Saints’ was attached to a pagan celebration, already well established. It was through this quasi-symbiotic marriage of secular and sacred that Christianity was able to gain a foothold and grow. The pagan celebrations were reshaped and re-branded to suit this new religion—an early form of *spin doctoring*!

All Saints’ Day has a rather different focus in our tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks for members of the community of faith who have died in the past year.

On Sunday, November 5th, we will remember and honor the saints of First Presbyterian Church, reading aloud the names of those in our congregation who have died since last All Saints’ Day and providing for a time to name others – family and friends – who have also died during the past year. This year, in addition to ringing bells, we will also light candles in their memory.

Whenever we worship, we join with all Christians, past, present and future, known as “the Communion of Saints.” We acknowledge this specifically every time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, in the words that precede our singing of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy): “With the community of faith from every place and time – with saints and sinners, with apostles and angels, with those who know how deeply you love us, we forever sing to the glory of your name.”

Join the communion of saints for what promises to be a special worship service this Sunday!

Yours in Christ,
Carolee

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, 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:

- Approved the year to date financials as of September 30, 2017.
- Confirmed the electronic vote of Session to approve a supplemental expenditure of \$4,000.00 for additional services in connection with the upgrade to the church database software.
- Confirmed the electronic vote of Session appointing David Strickler as Chair and Joe Weaver as Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee.
- Approved a recommendation from the Faith Formation Committee to develop space in the sanctuary for a pray ground and commission its use at the November 5, 2017 worship service.
- Approved Carolyn Matthews as the elder commissioner for the November 11, 2017 Presbytery meeting.
- Approved calling a Congregational meeting following worship on November 5, 2017 to elect someone to fill the unexpired term of Bill McElvie in the Session Class of 2019.

In addition the Session heard:

- A report from Agnes Yost about the improvements and additional technological features of software improvements in the new membership/financial database that are now available for the use of not only the staff but the entire congregation.
- A report from Shirley Giarritta from the Building and Grounds Committee to put up a mural of photographs in the Fellowship Hall which would be periodically updated of congregational activities.
- A request from Buck Belt and Barb Aber for volunteers to assist in the First Sunday gathering scheduled for November 5, 2017 after worship service and to work at the Halloween on the Hill October 28, 2017. They also updated Session on the progress in producing a new church directory.
- An invitation from Rev. Kelly to join her on November 8, 2017 at a presentation sponsored by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and Presbytery of Baltimore entitled Introduction to Systemic Racism. She also shared with Session an opportunity to attend workshops on February 26-28, 2018 sponsored by the Next Church 2018 National Gathering in Baltimore.
- A reminder from Rev. Kelly that October 31, 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Our church will celebrate the anniversary at the October 29 worship service.
- Pam Jam updated Session on a meeting the Southminster Committee had with Michael Mudge whose church offered to buy the Southminster church. Discussions continue.

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

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for Sunday, November 5, 2017 immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect someone to fill the unexpired term of Bill McElvie in the Session Class of 2019.

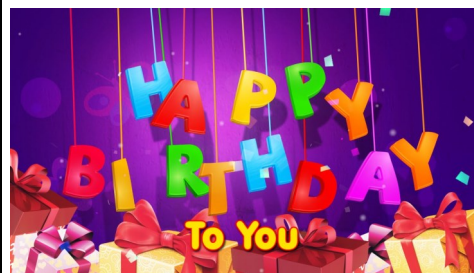


Just a reminder to set your clocks back one hour **this Sunday, November 5.**

DIRECTORY UPDATES

The Congregational Care and Outreach Committee are working to produce an updated church directory this fall. Photographers and people assisting in updating the congregation's contact information will be on the right side of the sanctuary after worship this Sunday, November 5th. A copy of the printed church photo directory should be available to the congregation before Christmas. All the updates to the directory will be reflected in the electronic version of the directory used by people who download the Instant Church Directory on their smart phones.

****Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd, and Friday, November 24th, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**



Matt DiNola	2-Nov
Bob Dawson	8-Nov
Sheri Corley	9-Nov
Kelsey Parker	9-Nov
Louise VanMeter	11-Nov
Shirley Lacy	12-Nov
Jack Workmeister	12-Nov
Christopher Fritz	13-Nov
Randy Sterne	15-Nov
Cheri Duncan	17-Nov
Kathy Getty	18-Nov
Kim Mills	21-Nov
Marilyn Nelson	21-Nov
Jane O'Rourke	29-Nov



Congratulations to Alex and Chris Kellermeyer on the birth of their daughter, Christine Elizabeth Kellermeyer, on Monday, October 9th. Also, congratulations to grandparents Bill and Ann Kellermeyer.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

On Friday, November 3rd, we will be mailing you a “Giving with Gratitude: It’s a Time To...” 2018 pledge card. We ask that you consider giving proportionately to your income and resources. Giving back to God is a journey and tithing is a level of giving to work towards. This requires us to make a conscious effort to determine an appropriate level of giving for today and then to be open to allowing our giving to grow in the future. Consider increasing your pledge by 1% of your income each year. This practice of giving has the power to transform lives.

Please bring your pledge card to worship on Consecration Sunday, November 12th so that together we may offer them to God as part of a truly meaningful worship experience. Your pledges represent the largest component of the church’s budget. With your support we can plan our priorities for both our ministry and mission for 2018.

If you cannot be present on November 12th, please mail the card back in the envelope provided. If you are in need of a pledge card, extras will be available in the back of the church or by contacting the church office.

Thank you for your past ministry of giving and any financial support that you can provide in 2018.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

FALL FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

This year we had over 50 members attend the annual Stewardship Dinners!! At the dinners members got to share a meal together, review accomplishments that FPC has made over the year, and see their church come to life in the narrative budget. Above are some pictures taken at the Levitas and Kazary dinners.



Thank you to Buck and Jane Belt, Rex and Sandra Burton, Bob and Sharon Kazary, and Cathy and Mike Levitas for welcoming us into your homes!



Milestone Mission Follow Up Event: WV Flood Work Camp



On Thursday, October 19, approximately 20 of us gathered in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the follow-up of the Mission Trip Milestone of those who went to Kanawha County, West Virginia, last month. As we shared a meal of soup and sandwiches, the mission participants talked about their experiences at the work sites and with the families on whose homes they were working.

Julie and Bob Courtney shared a slideshow of the mission team as they worked. It was a wonderful opportunity for those of us who couldn't go on this trip to hear their stories. The mission team asks that we keep Nikki, Bill and Molly, the family whose home they were building, as well as the family with which Phil and Gary worked in our prayers.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

HALLOWEEN ON THE HILL



On Saturday, October 28th, nearly 400 people attended Halloween on the Hill, a community-wide carnival co-hosted by First Presbyterian Church and Emmanuel Episcopal!! This year, we also partnered with Hope Against Heroin and Prescribe Change to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic and to provide resources and support.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Many years ago, when alternative giving was new, the Mission Committee started "Reason for the Season" to make up the deficit from a reduced budget. We wanted to be able to give what we had promised.

Since then, it's been a way to extend help beyond the mission budget. Our mission contributions have gone around the globe, and stayed close to home, to help others.

They have been your healing hands in Kikuyu Hospital, Kenya, your voice educating children in Uganda and Nepal. They have been your feet distributing farm animals through Heifer. In Cumberland, they have extended help through our Special Ministries, and twice in WV they have enabled hands-on help to flood victims. Other places include Alaska, South Dakota, Ukraine, Syria, Lesotho, and many more.

This month, the mission Committee will decide on two global and two local missions to highlight, along with the scholarships for "our" seven students in Pakistan through PEB. You can "meet them" on the hall bulletin board in December through their thank-you notes, drawings, and portraits.

All of the projects will be highlighted on the hall boards. Please take time to look at them and get familiar with the projects. Prayerfully consider contributing. Reason for the Season makes a great alternative gift for someone who has "everything",...or nothing.

COMMUNION SERVICES THIS SEASON

THE DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP indicates that communion may be received in one of three traditional ways: passing the elements to each other around the communion table; coming forward to receive the elements by intinction; or seated in the pews. For most Sundays of the year we practice communion by intinction. However, when the service is of a more somber nature, we receive communion in our seats. The following is our communion schedule for the next few months.

November 5th –

seated communion for All Saints Day as we remember all the “saints” of our lives

December 3rd -

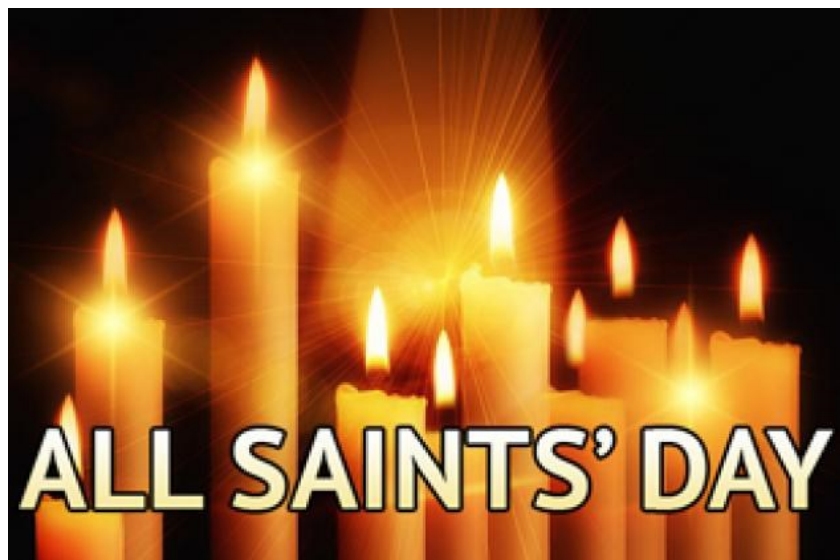
seated communion for Advent as we prepare for Christ’s birth

December 24th –

communion by intinction to celebrate Christ’s birth

January 7th –

communion by intinction to celebrate Epiphany

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We will celebrate All Saints Day this Sunday, November 5. During the communion liturgy, we will pause to read the Necrology, the list of those among our membership who have died since All Saints' Day 2016. You will also be invited to lift up the names of others among us, friends and family, who have died in the past year, and to light candles in their memory.



On November 5th, we will begin offering a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families called the "Pray-ground". All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

**A NOTE FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MINISTRIES**

Dear Friends,

As we approach the month of November, I am mindful of the abundance of things for which the music ministry at FPC can be thankful. Talented and devoted members of both the Sanctuary Choir and the JoyBells, an outstanding pipe organ and piano, and the prayerful and financial support of a loving congregation are just a few of these things!

In November, music during worship will reflect that spirit of gratitude, beginning on November 5, All Saints Sunday, with cherished anthems celebrating the faithful lives of those who have gone before us. The month will culminate in music celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday and Reign of Christ Sunday on November 26, marking the end of the liturgical year.

And looking beyond this month to the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the Sanctuary Choir would welcome your participation in the special music planned for that joyous time. Please speak to me, or any choir member for more information on upcoming rehearsals.

Yours in Christ,
Bryan Lohr

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Our next Contemplative Prayer Service in the style of the Taizé community will be offered in the chapel at 5:00PM on Sunday, November 19th. 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.

2017 CHRISTMAS MUSIC OFFERING

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

TOTAL GIFT: \$_____

To the Glory of God in Memory or Honor of: (Please circle one)

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated "Christmas Music 2017" in the memo line.

Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians.

**Later this month be looking for the 2017 Poinsettia Order forms
and pricing in the upcoming bulletins and in the December E-News.**

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

November

Address Service Requested



The Faith Formation and Congregational Care and Outreach Committees invite you to our third annual Advent Event and Hanging of the Greens. Join us after worship on Sunday, December 10 for an intergenerational gathering designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ. After lunch and a brief refresher on Advent, we will head to the sanctuary to bless the Christmas Tree and (NEW THIS YEAR) introduce the Christmas Tree Blessing Milestone Moment, which you can take home and use with your own tree. After the blessing, you are invited to help decorate throughout the sanctuary and education building or bake cookies in the kitchen to take to our in-home members later.