



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 58, Issue 4, May 2018

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

For three years, we have been using Milestones Ministry as a congregational tool for developing and growing as people of faith. It gives us a meaningful way to mark important moments in our lives by saying, "This is something important, and God is here, too." Whether it is a baptism, getting your driver's license, retiring, graduating from high school or caring for aging parents, the practice of marking milestones gives us a way to recognize and name God's presence in our everyday lives. (See highlights from The Egg Hunt and Blessing Milestone and the High School Graduation Milestone under "Learn and Grow," later in this newsletter.)

If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in a milestone event, you can get a taste of it by using the "Taking Home Faith" insert included in the bulletin each week. While milestone events revolve around important moments in our life, Taking Faith Home revolves around the readings for Sunday worship.

In each week's insert, you'll find the same four steps we use in Milestones: caring conversations based on questions that engage the theme of the week, devotions based on one of the weekly Bible readings, an opportunity for serving others connected to the theme, and a ritual to reinforce theme.

Early next week, we will be emailing you the Taking Faith Home insert for Ascension Day, May 10, which gives you an opportunity to learn more about Jesus' ascension as well as finding ways to connect it to your daily living. You can use it with a group or during your individual devotional time.

We hope you'll find this to be a helpful way to be more intentional about connecting with God on a daily basis and grow in your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline M. Kelly". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Blessings".

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2018 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Received Miranda and Bridget Forbes as new members of the church by reaffirmation of faith.
- Approved the Membership Record as of April 14, 2018 with 182 active members and 13 other participants.
- Confirmed the electronic vote of the Session to engage Big D Electric for the replacement of LED lighting throughout the church facility.
- Approved the year to date financial records as of March 31, 2018.
- Approved a plan to move forward with planning for a retreat with Session and an outside facilitator from NEXT Church to discuss how we can better assess whether and how well we are doing God's mission in the world.
- Elected Jeff Getty to serve as Vice chair of the Nominating Committee for a two-year term.
- Elected Shirley Giarritta to serve as a ruling elder commissioner to the May Presbytery gathering.
- Approved the purchase of two new lapel microphones from Commercial Sound and Music, Inc. at a cost of \$997.96 using funds from the Non-Wills and Memorial account.

In addition the Session heard:

- A report from Rev. Kelly on a field guide from NEXT Church which provides a framework to evaluate and assess our ministries. It focuses on a theology to articulate why we do what we are doing and using storytelling to help people see the transformation that occurs in believers. Rev. Kelly suggested a Session retreat be scheduled and agreed to undertake further planning.
- A report from Pam Jan of the Administration and Finance Committee that the Southminster Church sale to Bethany House of the Lord has closed and the church is in receipt of the proceeds pending any decision on the use of the funds.
- A report from Phil Mills of the Mission Committee that he has contacted Habitat for Humanity about supporting their plan to build a house this year in Frostburg by taking on the landscaping of the entire project.

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



BRIDGET & MIRANDA FORBES

Bridget and Miranda Forbes were received as new members on Thursday, April 19, 2018, by reaffirmation of faith. Bridget is the Human Resources Director for the HRDC and Miranda works for Willetts, the company that hosts our church website. Both are natives of Allegany County. They married in October of 2017.



BECCA & HARIS MEDINA-GUESS

Becca and Haris Medina-Guess were received as new members on Sunday, April 22, 2018. They recently moved to Cumberland from Guatemala, where they were married in November of 2017. Becca works for the Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary and Haris serves a barista at the new Corner Tavern and Cafe and Clatter.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSINGS/STAFF VACATIONS

The Church office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, **May 28th** in observance of Memorial Day.

Executive Administrative Assistant Brittany Jackson will be on vacation from May 29th - June 4th. The church office will be staffed from 9:00AM-12:00PM by office volunteers.

Sexton Zach Dodge will be on vacation from June 1st - June 7th.

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Bill Kellermeyer	6-May
Paul Aber	7-May
Gary Hendrickson	7-May
Nancy Hall	8-May
Carolyn Weaver	8-May
Buck Belt	11-May
Christopher Weddle	12-May
Lauren See	14-May
Marisa Aurigemma	19-May
Ronnie Barb	28-May
Bob Lange	28-May
Susan Mills	30-May

BALTIMORE PRESBYTERY TO HOST 224TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



As a member of the Presbytery of Baltimore, our congregation will have the unique opportunity to help host the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore. The Assembly will worship together, meet for Bible study, disperse into committees to consider proposals coming to the Assembly, and vote on policies that will govern our Church. We will have opportunities to visit, observe, and volunteer.

To raise funds to host the Assembly, the Presbytery has established the "224 Fund", inviting each congregation to "buy a share" at a cost of \$224 per share. Congregations are encouraged to buy a share in each of the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Individuals are encouraged to buy an individual share of \$22.40.

First Presbyterian Church has "bought a share" for \$224, using funds from our non-Wills and Memorials Gifts. Now: Save the Date!



Congratulations to first-time grandparents, Bob and Julie Courtney, and first-time aunt, Melissa Courtney, on the birth of their grandson and nephew, **Rowan William Courtney**, on Monday, April 9th to Josh and Ashley Courtney.

LET THERE BE LIGHT! AN UPDATE FROM THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CREW

In today's world, "Let There Be Light" might be better translated, "Let there be Light-Emitting Diodes!" Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) provide a highly efficiency and long-lasting source of light (translating to energy savings and reduced maintenance costs).

Thanks to Bob Courtney, we will soon benefit from a Potomac Edison program to provide free LED fixtures for churches and small businesses at a fraction of the actual cost to install them. The session approved our application for this program and the payment of installation costs from Wills and Memorials funds. Sometime later this spring, you will begin to notice the difference as more than 200 fluorescent and other lights in our facilities are replaced with LEDs.

YOUNG ADULT DINNER



The Young Adult Fellowship group met on Saturday, April 14th for fellowship and dinner at Shirley Giarritta's home. Ten people gathered at 5:00 pm to relax and chat over some cheese and crackers and then enjoyed a delicious dinner together.

Special thanks to Shirley for opening her home and preparing such a nice main dish. It was a very nice evening and she was a wonderful hostess.



Congratulations to **Marisa Aurigemma** who will be graduating from Allegany High School on May 23rd. She will be furthering her studies at Frostburg State University in the fall.

Congratulations to **Ben Fiscus** who will be graduating from Allegany High School on May 23rd. He will be furthering his studies at the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall.

Congratulations to **Addison Stroup** who will be graduating from Allegany High School on May 23rd. She will be furthering her studies at Virginia Tech.

Congratulations to **Sean Aurigemma** who will be graduating from Frostburg State University in May.

Congratulations to **Atticus Speis** who graduated from Frostburg State University in December.



**MILESTONES MINISTRY
SAVE THE DATES**

**Caregiver Milestone
Sunday, June 17th at 11:15AM
In the Fellowship Hall**

This milestone event will encourage caregivers of aging or ailing parents or spouses to gather with others to talk about how their lives are changing and provides the resources to address the changes with faith, hope, and love.

EGG HUNT AND BLESSING MILESTONE



The Egg Hunt and Blessing Milestone was celebrated on March 31, 2018, the day before Easter, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall and playground. There were 27 people in attendance, including 12 children.

Cindy Corley and Jane Belt organized the event, encouraging conversations about memories of Easter over a potluck breakfast. Devotions were led by Rev. Kelly using plastic eggs filled with symbols of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. The children colored eggs and blessed them, followed by an egg hunt in and around the playground.



LEARN & GROWN



Graduation Milestone

a promise and a journey



Thirty members and friends gathered at Ann and Bill Kellermeyer's on Friday evening, April 27, to celebrate graduation from high school with Marisa Aurigemma (and Peyton Natolly), Ben Fiscus and Addison Stroup. We shared a meal and conversations, reflecting on God's presence in this life changing event for seniors and their parents. We were all blessed to be able to share this meaningful time with them as we ate, talked and prayed together.

On May 13 during worship, will share gifts and best wishes from the congregation with the graduates as we bless them on the next step in their life's journey.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP AUCTION



The Great Dakota Giveaway was held on Sunday, April 30th, to help raise funds to send 20 inspired volunteers to serve at a summer learning camp for children in South Dakota. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the auction raised approximately \$3,500.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



MISSION HIGHLIGHT: OUR CZECH PARTNERSHIP

Ahoj! Have you taken a minute to check out the hall bulletin board about our Czech partner church, Farní sbor ČCE ve Vsetíně (horní sbor, or “upper church”)? Since becoming partners in 2011, we’ve been learning about each other through our three main activities: worship; fellowship; and mission. There are exciting things happening in the near future, too!

On March 18th our congregations shared a fifth worship service. Their church members saw our power-point with photos of First Presbyterian events in 2017. We saw their video explaining how the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) denomination came into being 100 years ago this year. Several of our congregational members commented on the beauty of Vsetin, which Georgene McKenzie and Linda Smith can vouch for! Vsetin and Cumberland have several things in common. In addition, both congregations heard two sermons on the same text from both ministers. We listened to Bryan play two Baroque pieces on the organ, and they sang two African-American spirituals. Some of their members watch our service on YouTube every Sunday.

We’ve hosted several visitors, including Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, now retired from the Synodical Council, and Daniel Zenaty shortly before he became General Secretary of ECCB. Two young women, Sara Fojtu and Lucka Simkova came in 2013 to visit us before attending the International Youth Conference. They still correspond with Bill and Carlotta Shaffer. Other visitors have come also. In April 2016, Georgene and Linda attended the 2nd Partnership Conference, held in Prague, and spent the weekend in Vsetin.

For two years our Mission Committee has sent a donation to Vsetin for their summer camp, which is open to church and non-church youth. Last year we also helped three young adults attend Robert Gamble’s “Peace Camp” in Odessa, Ukraine. It was a wonderful experience on both sides! Last year Vsetin raised money for Rev. Gamble’s “This Child Here” program with children in Odessa and plan to contribute this year to another mission we support.

We’d like to expand this partnership/friendship. Below are some things you might like to consider doing:

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE: July 14 - 21, 2018 in Herlikovice, Czech Republic, July 14-22. Information on this great conference may be found at <http://icamp.evangnet.cz>. Registration forms at <https://bit.ly/international-camp>.

(Mission Highlight will continue on page 10.)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

(Mission Highlight continued from page 9.)

NEXT ECCB-PCUSA GATHERING: April 1 - 5, 2019 at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. Consider attending! It's a good way to learn more about the Partnerships. More information and registration forms will be available on the Partnership website: www.czechpres.net. It has information about the other four Czech Partnerships, a calendar of events, the 2016 Conference, and more.

100th ANNIVERSARY of ECCB in September of this year! Celebrations are being planned.

VISITORS: In June, both Daniel Zenaty, the general secretary of the ECCB, and Oliver Englehardt of the Synodal Council will be coming. On June 12th, Oliver will be in Cumberland to meet us. He has a cousin and uncle living in Frostburg! Small world!

ORGANIZING A PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: Up until now the Mission Committee has been planning and coordinating events. Ideally we would like to have a separate group dedicated to the Partnership, as Vsetin does, to plan shared worship services, new ventures, possibly even extending an invitation or taking a trip over. . .

If developing a friendship with people from another country is an interest YOU have, please contact Linda or Georgene.

THE PENTECOST OFFERING



On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, our congregation will be contributing to the Pentecost Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA.

A gift to this offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering will be retained by our congregation to help support The Family Junction, an organization striving to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community.

The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Children-at-Risk
- Ministries for Youth
- Pentecost Offering Financials

Please consider giving generously to this worthwhile offering on Pentecost Sunday.



SUMMER LUNCHBOX PROGRAM

Tick, tock, tick, tock...the school year is winding down and summer is approaching. Time to start thinking about the 2018 Summer Lunchbox season. We will again be making and delivering lunches for eight Fridays this summer -- beginning Friday, June 22 and running through Friday, August 10. Please plan to join us for any or all Friday mornings this summer. We welcome all helpers. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks, or contact Cathy Levitas with any questions.

WORSHIP WITH US

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

I continue to be amazed and humbled by the culture of welcome here at First Presbyterian Church. While the winter of 2018 made for some stressful commutes from my home in Pennsylvania, the effects of snow, ice, and wind have always been quickly mitigated by the generosity of spirit and faith in action I encounter here.

Lent was made an extra special time in the worshiping life of FPC this year by the celebration of two baptisms. For these services, the sacrament was made even more meaningful by special musical offerings from our young adult group and members of the Sanctuary Choir.

It was again a blessing to come together with the clergy and musicians from Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran churches for worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

I'm especially grateful to Mikayla and Zach Dodge, Beau Hartman, and Eric Ringler, who comprised our ad hoc young adult quartet, singing music ranging from ancient Gregorian Chant and music of the High Renaissance to a folk hymn and one of my own compositions.

While we could have done with a bit less wind at Rocky Gap, the Easter Sunrise Service was the perfect way to begin celebrating the Resurrection, complete with some wonderfully atmospheric musical selections from the Dodges. Students from the brass department at Frostburg State joined the choir for Easter worship in the sanctuary, where we were able to sing our "Alleluias" in a variety of musical styles and genres.

On April 29 we recognized the JoyBells as they ended their "season." Even though their full group will not be present in worship for a few months, I invite you to prayerfully consider attending a JoyBell rehearsal when they resume in September- you won't regret it! Thank you to Julie Courtney and to all of our ringers!

Throughout the past months, I've been appreciative of Rev. Kelly's leadership, the support of the Worship and Music Committee, and, of course, the members of the Sanctuary Choir, who remain committed to weekly Wednesday rehearsals, come early for services without complaint, tolerate my frequent musical (and non-musical) digressions, and demonstrate their faith by their example of leadership. Our music ministry could not happen without them!

As the choir enters the last month of their season, I am already at work on our summer music "schedule." If you or someone you know may be interested in sharing music (vocal or instrumental) during worship over the summer, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I am especially interested in welcoming young musicians and artists to participate in worship this summer.

Blessings,

Bryan Lohr

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

May

Address Service Requested

WORSHIP WITH US



PENTECOST SUNDAY!

On Sunday, May 20th, we will celebrate **Pentecost**.
Please help us celebrate the gift of the Spirit
by wearing something **red**.