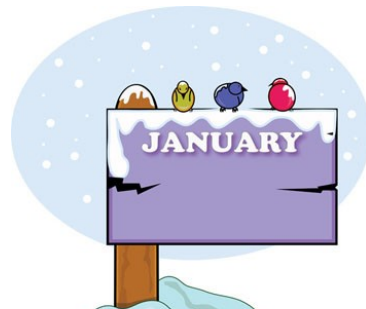


First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, GA 30014



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The deadline for the February "First Press" is January 15, 2018. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: penihaug@gmail.com or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

January Birthdays

1 Hilda Patrick
Laura Hillman
2 Rick Gunter
3 Barbara Martin
5 Janet Burtt
Buster Skinner
6 Julia Brubaker
9 Brenda Howell
Brad LeSassier
10 Betty Robinson
11 Paige Earwood
Anne Cranford
Lynda Patrick



Happy Birthday

11 Alex Jones
12 Gene Wallace
18 Becky Wade
21 Catherine Bagwell
23 Agnes Campbell
Dylan Jessup
24 Nina Giles
25 Liz Stillerman
28 Mandi Roberts
29 Sonny McDonald
31 Ansley Skinner



If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us of the **full date** and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COVINGTON JANUARY 2018

FIRST PRESS



Greetings FPC Family!

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray this January 2019 newsletter finds you happy and well! The First Presbyterian Church family of faith is very blessed by each and every one of you!!

The radio stations are back to playing "regular" music. Santa Claus and Elf on the Shelf have returned to the North Pole. Trash cans are overflowing with bits and pieces of boxes and wrapping paper. Christmas is now behind us ... or is it?

Well, it isn't! We now find ourselves directly in the "thick" of Christmas! In the church and in our faith, the time between December 25th and January 6th (Epiphany) has become an occasion to celebrate and give thanks for the arrival of God's Word made flesh—the light of God that has come into the world, the light that can never be extinguished.

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, pp. 92-93) says:

What is "Christmas"? It is three words: God in flesh; or four syllables: in-car-na-tion. The Gospel according to John (1:14) tells us, "The Word became flesh and lived among us, ... full of grace and truth." Christmas proclaims that God has come in flesh, has come "to save us all from Satan's power." Christmas celebrates far more than a birthday; Christmas acclaims the advent of messianic salvation. Christ was sent among us in order to save us...

We have seen his **glory**,
the **glory** of the
one & only **Son**
who came from the
Father,
full of
grace & truth.
John 1:14

What we pay homage to at Christmas, therefore, is that the ultimate fulfillment of God's saving purpose begins with the birth of Jesus, the messianic Savior. God's only Son is born among us in order to save the world. This is the message of Christmas.

From the beginning of time, God's saving purpose has been at work. God has raised up the seed of Abraham, including Moses and Gideon and Samson and John the Baptist. Through all these generations, God has been faithfully at work raising persons to bring us the Davidic Messiah, the messianic King, the Son of the Most High who will ascend the throne of David. Through all of human history, God has been bringing forth Jesus Christ. Now through the birth of the Savior, God's purpose will be fulfilled. God has acted to save God's people. The Christ child is born for the saving of the world.

So don't stop celebrating Christmas! Christmas has just begun! And, it's just like Kris Kringle says, "Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind!" (from the *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)). May everyone keep Christmas alive and well ... this week, next week, in all of 2019, and beyond!!

Until the next time I remain...just another silly preacher looking for a way to settle "down for a long winter's nap"!

Grace & Peace,
Steven



January 6: Ordination/Installation

New elders will be ordained and installed during the morning worship service. The newly elected elders are: Allie Hay (youth), Warren Liem, Pam Stillerman, Donna Weesner, and Cy Wolverton.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven M. Barnes
Interim Pastor
revbarnesy@me.com

Dan Walden
Director of Youth and
Children's Ministry
djwalden@mac.com

Peni Kehoe
Secretary-Treasurer
penihaug@gmail.com

Mindy Forehand
Interim Choir Director
Mindymartin143@gmail.com

Alice Walker
Organist
awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com

Jenny Giles
Pauleen Green
Nursery

Darlene Alley
Director
Early Learning Center
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SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

December Session Highlights

The following items were acted upon at the December Session Meeting:

- The December 9th stated session meeting included 14 members in attendance with 3 members absent. FPC Youth Director Dan Walden and The Rev. Steven Barnes (moderator) were also in attendance.
- A Motion to approve Michael Thompson and John McCarthy for the 2019 Nominating Committee was made by Doug Bolton, seconded by Cheryl Meichsner and approved by common consent.
- Christian Education reported that Sunday School attendance was low but that Elder Training/Presbyterian 101 classes have been well attended. The team will be looking to build a new model for education in 2019.

- The FPELC is very active; they have prepared a float for the Covington Christmas parade next Saturday as a means of getting their name out there in the community. During mid-winter they will push registration for coming year.
- The Finance Committee reported that \$1000 was spent last week on heater repairs. Roof repairs will begin soon.
- The Finance Committee reported that we are currently \$5000 under budget for November.
- Session voted to approve through common consent the proposed 2019 budget from the Finance Committee.
- Motion from Personal Committee to hire Mindy Forehand was approved through common consent of the session.
- Strategic Planning reported meeting with different session teams and that there will be a formalized plan template in March that each team can use for their strategic plan.
- Welcoming and Evangelism discussed possibility of using church van to pick up people at Merryvale and the need to pick up other members of the church.
- The Motion to approve the 5 elders brought forth from the 2018 Nominating committee was made by Doug Bolton, seconded by Michael Thompson and approved through common consent.
- A Motion to approve John McCarthy as Clerk of Session, Michael Thompson as Assistant Clerk of Session and Peri Kehoe as Treasurer for 2019 was made by Doug Bolton, seconded by Stephanie Scarborough and approved by common consent.

Submitted by
John McCarthy
Clerk of Session

The Session will meet on Sunday, January 13, for its regular monthly meeting. The meeting will be in the fellowship hall immediately after the morning worship service.



Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2018 (-8,141)

2018 November Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/Expenses	YTD Income/Expenses
Pledged Income	30,766	26,060	330,395
Non-Pledge Income	3,166	3,156	49,388
Other Income	416	40	5,090
Total income	34,359	29,254	384,873
Expenses	36,809	33,094	397,806
Net Totals 11/30/201	(-2,450)	(-3,839)	(-12,932)

Serving Us in January

January Usher Chair:
Stan Hall

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

If unable to serve,
please get a sub for
your duties

Hospital Visitors:
1/6: Jean Wolverton
1/13: TBA
1/20:
1/27:

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2019
Carter Gibson
John McCarthy
Teresa McCurry
Cheryl Meichsner
Miriam Wheeler
Allie Hay

Class of 2020
Doug Bolton
Stan Hall
Cindy Moon
Bob Tabb
Michael Thompson

Class of 2021
Warren Liem
Pam Stillerman
Donna Weesner
Cy Wolverton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed 	2	3	4	5
6 Epiphany 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Ordination and Installation of Session Elders	7 	8 Women's Circles 10:00 Eliz. Ann 10:30 Martha 7:00pm Ruth 4:00 Exercise	9 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	10 10:30 Ambassador Choir	11	12
13 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service & the Lord's Supper 12:00 Session Meeting	14	15 4:00 Exercise	16 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	17 10:30 Ambassador Choir	18	19
20 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 3:00 MLK Service	21 Office Closed 	22 4:00 Exercise	23 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	24 10:30 Ambassador Choir	25	26
27 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth & Parents Dinner	28	29 4:00 Exercise	30 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	31 10:30 Ambassador Choir		

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Presbyterian Women's Circles

Presbyterian Women will continue to explore the communities of Christ through the study of "Cloud of Witnesses."

Guests are welcome. If you would like more information contact Jan Giles at: FamilyGilesGa@gmail.com.

Circles for **January**:

Elizabeth Ann Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 8th at 10 a.m. in the Martin Fellowship Hall.

Martha Circle will meet on January 8th, 10:30 am at the home of Day Kennon.

Ruth Circle will meet January 8th, 7:00 pm at the church in the parlor. Jan Giles will be the hostess.



The Lord's Supper

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, January 13. Prepare your heart.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Choir Room. New members are always welcome. Come and meet our Interim Music Director, Mindy Forehand!



Ambassador Choir Rehearsals

Thursdays - Regular Rehearsals in Choir Room at 10:30 a.m.

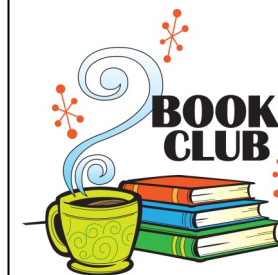


From the Church Staff

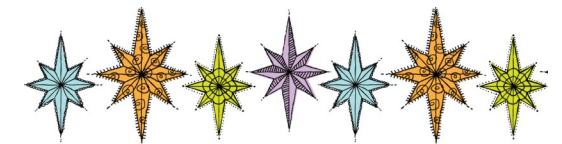
Thank you for the gifts you have given us this Christmas. We are always grateful for you and your faithful witness to the life and ministry of Christ's Church. We are truly blessed to be part of this community.

God Bless You!

Alice, Alexis, Peni, Pauleen, Jennifer, Dan and Steven



A Novel Bunch book club will meet at 1:00 pm at the home of Chris and Barbara Martin, 650 Mason Drive to discuss "Varina" by Charles Frazier.



MLK Day

Don't forget the annual MLK Celebration at Newton High Auditorium, at 3:00 p.m., Sunday the 20th of January.



YOUTH CONNECTION

Parents & Youth Dinner

Sunday, January 27th @ 6:00pm

YOUTH CONNECTION: Parents and youth (6th through 12th grades) are invited to come together for dinner followed by some discussion about our plans and our mission together. Bring your calendar!!!



WITNESS NEWS

Community Food Pantry



The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Bernice Bailey is the Director, (770-786-3048)

Suggested donations for **January**:
soups, chili, chicken & dumplings, spaghetti sauce

Baby Love

Families with low income are having difficulty affording diapers for their newborn and toddler age children. The use of cloth diapers is complicated for families without proper laundry facilities. Assistance is provided for formula but none for diapers.

Contributions of disposable diapers and or baby wipes may be brought to the narthex on Sundays as food is brought for the Food Pantry. These baby items will be distributed in the community. Monetary gifts are also accepted. Your support is greatly appreciated.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Dear FPC Family,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your loved ones are blessed beyond measure in 2019! FPELC is already feeling very blessed; we were honored to learn that Newton county citizens voted us "Best Preschool!" We will be listed in the Covington News "Best of Newton" 2019 magazine, based on a poll of the newspaper's readers. How exciting to have the community recognize this ministry!



December was a huge success with our students and families. We kicked off the month with an adorable Christmas play, complete with singing angels, wisemen, and sheep. (Miraculously, we didn't have a single crier!) Throughout the month, students learned about the true meaning of Christmas. Our wonderful teachers also arranged Pajama Days, Movie Day, and of course the Christmas parties. Students even got to make cute gifts for their parents.

We are beginning planning for our annual "Art Affair" event the evening of March 22nd. We are making big changes to it this year. First, it is no longer an adult-only evening, but a full family event. Our theme this year is "Carnival," and will include games, a live concert, and more! Of course, we will still have a variety of art projects and raffle baskets. We would love the church family to attend and get to know the families we are all in ministry to. This is such a crucial fundraiser for our school; in large part the success of our school depends upon the success of this event. Please save the date on your calendar and plan to attend!

As always, thank you for your contributions and prayers for our school. We are so thankful for such a generous church family.

God Bless,
Darlene Alley

FAMILY CONNECTION