

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



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See our website at: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

The deadline for the October "First Press" is September 15, 2019. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

- 2 Hadley Allen
- 3 Brigham Arnold
- 7 Jerry McGaffney
- 9 Pam Stillerman
- 14 Dana Hall
- 15 Karen Moss
- 16 Carolyn Watson
- 17 Jay Lanners  
Chris Martin
- 18 Pat Harper
- 19 Ethan Booth  
Will Gregory  
Serwaa Amuzu



- 20 Cindy Moon
- 22 Cheryl Gibson
- 24 Murray McClure
- 25 Richie Amuzu
- 26 Jane Williams
- 27 Robin Hillman  
Adriane Ivey
- 28 Tootles Tingler
- 30 Roger Tingler  
Bernice Bailey  
Aubrey Evans

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 SEPTEMBER 2019

# FIRST PRESS



## Greetings FPC Family!

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray this September 2019 newsletter finds you happy and well. The First Presbyterian Church family of faith is very blessed by each and every one of you ... please don't ever doubt or forget that!

I once received an email from a bank with the tag line, "When life changes, we're right here with you." And, I thought ... that's brilliant! What a great slogan to lead into an email from a bank who wants its customers to realize and remember that no matter what—through thick and thin—they are there for their customers! I remember hoping that their advertising campaign would be successful just because I liked the slogan (even though I never banked with them!).

But, beyond banking, that tag line will preach my friends! God says to each of us all the time, "When life changes, I'm right here with you." Through thick and thin, through ups and downs, through good times and bad ... God is right here with us. God doesn't come and go. God is present!

This idea of God's presence with us is captured in the short piece of scripture in Mark's gospel of Jesus calming the storm. As with most all stories throughout scripture, there are multiple ways of interpretation—multiple angles of perspective or focus that can be found. Often times with the story of Jesus calming the storm, the emphasis is placed on the storm itself, or the disciples' unbelief, or on Jesus' miraculous actions of calming the apparent horrifying weather.

It is often overlooked that Jesus was even in the boat at all! As the boat drifted into the violent storm, and the disciples began to panic as the water threatened to sink their boat, there is Jesus ... present, with them in the boat. After they awakened him and he calmed the weather he said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Jesus could just as easily have said to them, "When life changes, I'm right here with you." Right here with us. Every moment of our lives. God is present!

And, you better believe it! Through this season of transition, God has been right here with us, and if you haven't been sensing it yet, I promise you soon will be as we enter the autumn months and beyond!!

May the grace, mercy, love, and peace of God be with all of you!

Until the next time I remain ... just another silly preacher giddy as anything that college football season begins as this newsletter goes to print!

Grace & Peace,  
Steven



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, September 15, at the 11:00 worship service.

Prepare your heart.

# SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES




**Session Meeting**  
The regular monthly meeting of the Session will take place on Sunday, September 15, directly following the 11:00 worship service.

We love our Volunteers!

## August Session Highlights




- ◆ New members Angela Gilmer and Curtis & Carolyn Watson all accepted by letter of transfer.
- ◆ Senior Pastor Nominating Committee has started interviewing.
- ◆ Director of Family Ministries Search Committee recommended the Rev. Kimberly Stokesbary Briggs. More details to come.
- ◆ Caryn Thompson requested parking and practice space for the "Sounds of Support Concert" for the Newton Rockdale Suicide Prevention Coalition on September 27.
- ◆ Session approved a renewal of medical and pension benefits for staff through 2020.
- ◆ Doug Bolton reported that 39 pints of blood were collected at the last Red Cross Blood Drive.
- ◆ Family Promise training is scheduled to have volunteers in place for FPC Covington's first week hosting.
- ◆ Doug Bolton and John McCarthy are commissioners for the August 17 Presbytery meeting at Memorial Drive PC.
- ◆ Next Session meeting September 15.

Michael Thompson, Asst. Clerk of Session



**NAME TAGS**  
We make names tags in batches of 6 or more due to our name tag format. We will be making a batch the week of September 9th. If you do not have a tag or have lost one...please sign up on the tablet provided in the narthex.  
We encourage everyone to wear their name tag each Sunday to help the newer members get to know us!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	2 office closed  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	3  6:00 Presbyterian Women's Salad Supper	4 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	5 10:30 Ambassador Choir	6	7
8 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	9	10 4:00 Exercise	11 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	12 10:30 Ambassador Choir	13	14 
15 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service with the Lord's Supper 12:00 Session Meeting	16 7:00 NAMI	17 4:00 Exercise	18 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	19 Newsletter Deadline! 10:30 Ambassador Choir	20 	21 8:00 Men's Breakfast & Study
22 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 International Lunch and Welcome for Rev. Kimmy Briggs	23	24 1:00 A Novel Bunch 4:00 Exercise	25 9:30 Newsletter Mailing group 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	26 10:30 Ambassador Choir	27 5:00-8:30 on the Square Community Sounds of Support Concert (Suicide Prevention Coalition)	28
29 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	30 	<b>see our website at: www.fpccov.org</b>				

## Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2019 (\$-19,282)

2019 July Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/Expenses	YTD Income/Expenses
Pledged Income	31,768	22,427	203,099
Non-Pledge Income	3,583	3,630	24,030
Other Income	416	40	3,310
Total income	36,601	26,097	230,438
Expenses	38,594	27,144	246,676
<b>Net Totals</b>	<b>(-1,992)</b>	<b>(-1,047)</b>	<b>(-16,238)</b>

## Serving Us in September

**September Usher Chair:**  
Miriam Wheeler

**Sound Engineer:**  
Ken Walker

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

**Hospital Visitors:**  
9/1: Jean Wolverton  
9/8: Jean Wolverton  
9/15: Betty Bailey  
9/22: Darcel & Bob Tabb  
9/29: Beth & Danny Vining

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

**Class of 2019**  
Carter Gibson  
Jay Lanners  
John McCarthy  
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

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Dear FPC Family,

We have had a wonderful start to our school year! The Lord was gracious in answering our prayers for more students, and we are still enrolling! The classrooms are adorable and have created such a welcoming environment. We welcomed two new teachers to our staff this year, and are thrilled that the majority of last year's teachers returned.

In August we studied "Clothing." In addition to fun activities about fabric textures and colors in the classrooms, the children went on two field trips! The three year old classes visited Gigi's Alterations to see sewing machines and how clothes are put together. Our four year old class walked to the new Rush Tees store on the Square to see how t-shirts are printed. What an amazing, generous community we live in!

In September we are going to be learning about "Water Pipes." We love to inspire children's natural curiosity by questioning where water in our homes comes from, and where does it go when it leaves. Our memory verse is from Genesis 1:10, "The gathered waters He called seas. And God saw that it was good."

We will have Someone Special breakfasts on September 12th and 13th, where each child gets to invite a special guest to come enjoy a pastry breakfast with them. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, family friends, and parents are welcomed through the church doors and fellowship together. Any church members wanting to help host these guests would be appreciated! Just let me know if you are available.

If you come to the Fuzz Run this month, stop by our FPELC booth and say Hello! Bring children by to get a free temporary tattoo.

We are staying busy in the ELC and having so much fun! Thanks for all the support and prayers that you give us.

God Bless,  
Darlene



first presbyterian early learning center

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### Staff Email Adresses:

We are introducing new email addresses for the church office staff that all have the same ending as our church website. Going forward, please use the following emails to contact the pastor(s) and Peni at the church office:

Pastor Steven — [steven@fpccov.org](mailto:steven@fpccov.org)

Peni — [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org)

And when Kimmy arrives on October 1st, she will have a similar email address as the others.



Join us for our annual Potluck International Luncheon on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> following morning worship in the Fellowship Hall. **Please bring your favorite dish to share – the more international flavor the better!** We look forward to having members of our congregation share their special international dishes and speak about their heritage and church origins.

This luncheon will be our opportunity to meet our new Director of Family Ministries, **the Rev. Kimberly Stokesbary Briggs** (who goes by **Kimmy**). We are very excited to have Kimmy join us so mark your calendars – find your favorite international recipe – and help us welcome Kimmy to First Presbyterian!

### Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

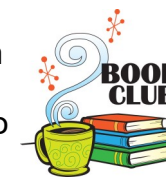


The men will meet on **Saturday, September 21, at 8:00 am** in the fellowship hall. Bring your breakfast and a friend. Our study continues with the book *The Day the Revolution Began*.

### A Novel Bunch Book Club

The Novel Bunch will gather on Tuesday, September 24th, at 1pm to discuss *Take Me With You* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Location to be announced.

All are welcome.



### Community Food Pantry

Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Bernice Bailey is the Director, (770-786-3048).

Suggested for September:  
Boxed macaroni & cheese;  
rahmen noodles



### Baby Love

**Disposable diapers and wipes** are given to those in need. Diapers can be left in the narthex in the cradle. Monetary donations may also be made. Put "Baby Love" in the memo space on your check.

## CHOIR NEWS

### Choir Rehearsals

**Sanctuary Choir** rehearsals take place on **Wednesdays at 6:45pm** in the choir room. **Handbell Choir** rehearsals take place on **Sundays at 9am** in the sanctuary. We would love to have anyone interested join us! If you cannot make the weekly commitment, but are interested in singing or ringing, please let Krista Firkus know as the need for soloists and alternates often arises.



### Ambassador Choir

Ambassador Choir meets on Thursdays at 10:30 am. They welcome all who are able to rehearse during the week and who are willing to sing at worship when scheduled and a various venues in Newton and Rockdale area. Alice Walker is the Director.



Praise  
God  
with  
Music

**Jackson Lake Ski Camp**

From Susan Boteler



**Hang On!**

It's hard to believe we just completed our 4<sup>th</sup> summer of visits for children who live at Thornwell. To date we've had 12 groups of kids come! We've hosted elementary, middle and high school age, both girls and boys.

The high school boys were here last week. Per the usual, we swim, float, tube, ski, surf, wake board, knee board, kayak, paddle board, jump off the diving board, go down backwards on the slide, jet ski, learn how to drive a boat, jump off the top of the pontoon, jump off Conley Ditch Bridge and pontoon at night. And have I mentioned that on the last morning we had several guys learn how to barefoot ski!

So many blessings came our way this summer. Cathy and CW Massey (the couple that helps Gary and I with the week) decided to buy hoodies for all and have them printed with "Jackson Lake 2019 – swim, ski, surf, tube, boarding, kayak, fun, eat, sleep, repeat." Cathy took the hoodies to a shop in Newborn and when the owner found out why we were having them done

she offered the printing for FREE! And one of our lunch volunteers for both weeks brought gift bags for all the kids; lots of items were donated from the Belk stores in Conyers and Athens.

Jeramie (one of the family teachers) came over and sat down at my table towards the end of lunch on Thursday. "Susan", he said, "Does your church *really* know how much these visits mean to us? It can be a Wednesday in December at 2pm and the subject of Jackson Lake comes up. I just really can't explain to you how meaningful and what an impact this one trip each year means to all the kids. The lake trip remains constant dinner conversation with our guys." I told Jeramie that I would make sure the church knows.

I receive thank you notes from all the kids every summer. Here are just a few:

- ◆ Thank you for the amazing week at your home and the amazing food. –Ty
- ◆ Thank you for everything you did for us at Lake Jackson by showing love and hospitality. It will never be forgotten. – Mitch
- ◆ Thank you so much for letting us come again and for spending so much money on gas so we would be able to do things. – Steven
- ◆ Thank you for opening your home to us and for helping me push boundaries. – TQ
- ◆ The memories made at Lake Jackson will always hold a special place in my heart. Before I came to Thornwell I never really got the chance to do fun kid things like vacations. I definitely never got to go tubing, surfing, driving a boat or paddle boarding. Some people say God sends special Angels down to Earth. Not many people in the world do great and kind things at no cost. I'm happy to have met an exception. – Delaney
- ◆ Thank you so much for letting me stay at the lake and eat at your house, spend your time and money on me. –Markell
- ◆ Thanks for the tube rides and your hospitality. Thank you so much. You're the nicest people we've ever seen. -- Kourtney



And I want to say a big THANK YOU to First Presbyterian Church. These Jackson Lake ski adventures simply cannot happen without all the folks over the past 4 summers who have contributed time, effort, cooking skills and money. When I talk about Thornwell to my friends and I mention that all lunches and dinners are brought to us on the lake by church members, they are amazed. And I am too. My church family rocks. Every act of kindness plants a seed. Love you all.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3  
6:00 PM –FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Yeah, the heat of the summer will soon be over and the warmth of fellowship in the PW will begin. We encourage ALL women of the church to attend this first meeting and also to join one of our circles. Members, please call your circle leader to make reservation and come with a salad of your choice. Good food, fellowship, a short program and bible study is the plan. We will have plenty of food, so y'all come.

Throughout this year we will study the 10 commandments in our small groups. The Martha and Elizabeth Ann circles meet during the day on the first Tuesday of the month and the Ruth circle meets at 7:00 in the evening. We always welcome new friends.

The synod gathering of the PW will again be at St. Simons, Epworth by the Sea on October 25-27. Anyone interested in going should contact Jean Wolverton.

Beth Vining and Susan Perkerson have again volunteered to create our large basket to take to the Caring Hands Auction at the Athletic Club of Atlanta on October 20, 2019. Last year Presbyterians raised over \$4000 selling these baskets to benefit Presbyterian Homes. The combined auction and golf tournament last year made over \$541,000 for the Caring Hands Fund. So, we need to donate items for this basket as soon as we know the theme. It would be great to have more from our church attend this gala event.

**Welcome to Our Newest Members**



First Presbyterian welcomes new members, **Curtis and Carolyn Watson**. They come to us by transfer of letter from Epiphany Lutheran Church in Conyers. They reside in the Livingston area. Curtis and Carolyn are both retired and look forward to becoming active members of our congregation. Curtis is retired from Delta. Carolyn is a retired music teacher. They have lived in many parts of the United States including Anchorage, Houston, Jackson Hole, and Atlanta. Together Curtis and Carolyn have two children and five grandchildren.



**Angela Gilmer** is welcomed to First Presbyterian Church Covington by transfer of letter from Bethany Presbyterian. She has belonged to both Methodist and Presbyterian churches. She is the daughter of Homer and Ruby Rae Sharp. Angela is retired from the Department of Corrections where she was a probation officer. She is the proud mother of two children and the grandmother of two grandchildren. Angela looks forward to becoming more active with Presbyterian Women and our congregation.