

First Presbyterian Church **PresbyNews**



August, 2023

Dear Friends,

Last Wednesday morning, I drove over to the Darlington Presbyterian Church for a visitation and funeral service for Mrs. Finley Lucas James, wife of Albert James, III. Many years ago, when Albert had completed his military service in 1970, he and Finley returned to his home in Darlington. As often happens in churches, this young couple was then invited to lead our youth ministry on Sunday evenings. I was in high school at the time. I can remember many occasions when we met in people's homes for our youth program on Sunday nights. Albert and Finley gave caring, thoughtful and incisive leadership to us when we were teenaged youth. They listened and encouraged more than they directed or judged. Later, when I was home in Darlington from college or seminary, they were further encouragers for me as I prepared for the ordained ministry. So, I was sure to attend Finley's service last Wednesday morning, along with about three hundred other people. After the service, I spoke to Graham Segars, Finley's daughter. I told Graham of her mother's positive influence on me. (Graham and her husband, David Segars, are member of First Church, Hartsville, so I was their pastor for over seven years.)

Since Wednesday morning, I have been thinking about those people, like Finley and Albert, who influence us. All these fifty years later, I can remember specific situations where they were helpful to me in my faith development, and the questions that all teenagers ask. It is a lot like my 50th high school reunion, which I attended Saturday night, July 29. We may have looked as bored as teenagers could look in those high school classes long ago. Yet, we now value highly those teachers who tried so hard to get some useful information into our thick heads.

I say all this because we are on the verge of another critical year for our children and youth in our church. From Mother's Morning Out to Sunday evening youth, from children's choir with Weiz Baker and bells with Lindsay Bennett, thru Sunday School and Wednesdays of Fun Program, we try to fulfill our baptism vows. We try to nurture, that is, grow faith in all our children. That faith is the content of what we believe as Presbyterian Christians as well as the character of Jesus Christ that we hope to duplicate in our children. Everyone is asked to share in these children, youth and family ministries! Everyone is asked to support our next installed pastor and Coordinator of Youth Ministries, whenever those persons are called! Everyone is asked to participate more in Sunday School and chancel choir as a new school year begins!

Who can you influence to believe? Who knows, fifty years from now, who will remember you? Will you be remembered by present-day children and youth for your faith and service to Jesus Christ, as I remember Finley James? We have opportunities now to have a very positive influence on the younger generation. I hope we will make the most of every opportunity to grow faith in Jesus Christ!

Dr. Dan Sansbury, Interim Pastor

NEWS FROM MRS. WEIZ.....

Children's Ministry

I am excited to announce many exciting new opportunities this fall! Come one, come all--calling children ages 1st-5th grade! Join our "Fun Program" ministry every Wednesday afternoon and during Sunday School on Sunday mornings as we learn more about Jesus and have FUN! **Fun Program begins on Wednesday, Sept. 6th, 3:15-4:45p.m.** and we will have a **NEW** fun-filled, educational Bible Study offered, "The Gospel Project." The Gospel Project is a powerful children's curriculum which takes children through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation during Sunday School & Fun Program. From outdoor games to service projects to singing & ringing praises to the Lord to journeying through the Bible, girls and boys will learn more about following God's command to "put your love into action" (1 John 3:18). Register your child today for our 2023-24 year at FPC. Forms are located in the church office, bulletin, and newsletter. Return the form to me by scanning digitally or dropping it in my office door box.

Our Acolyte Ministry is starting back! Dr. Dan, Mrs. Evans, and I will hold a training session in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 27, from 10:00-10:45a.m. 2nd-12th graders will not want to miss this wonderful service opportunity to our church and our Lord. Acolyting is a dynamic leadership position in the church and there are so many benefits. I hope to see you there!



NEW--Pastor's Pals! **NEW** activities are available in the narthex for children ages 1st grade & up who remain during the service! Worksheets, games, and fun activities are provided for our little ones in a canvas bag labeled "Pastor's Pals" located in the narthex. Just pick one up before the service and enjoy! We just ask that you neatly place all items back in their respective bags and return to its proper place after the service so that other kids can enjoy the following week. An engaging, interactive worksheet is available for those children who pay special attention to the service. Just fill it out and see Dr. Dan after church for a prize!

Please pray for the parents, children, volunteers, CE council, Mrs. Lindsay, and me as we embark upon a wonderful faith-filled children's ministry! Check out the children's calendar for the fall listed below and thank you for this opportunity to serve our church and the Lord!

Children's Ministry Schedule 2023-24

Sunday, Aug. 27—Acolyte Training with Mrs. Weiz, Mrs. Mary Jane, & Dr. Dan! In the sanctuary from 9:45-10:45a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 6—Fun Program! 3:15-4:45p.m. with Mrs. Weiz & Mrs. Lindsay

Sunday, Sept. 17 —Sunday School & Acolytes begin! The new young Adult Sunday School class meets!

Wednesday, October 4--- NO Fun Program

Sunday, Oct. 15---Children to Sing & Ring!

Monday, Nov. 20—5-6p.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal for 3 yo-5th grade

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd—NO Fun Program

Wednesday, Nov. 29—Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:15-5:15p.m.

Wednesday, December 6-- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:15-5:15p.m.

***Saturday, Dec. 9**—10:30-Noon—*Possible* Christmas Pageant Rehearsal if needed

Sunday, Dec. 3—Youth & Children ring Handbells

Sunday, Dec. 10—11a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 13—**Service Project!** Make Christmas cards for older adults

Sunday, Dec. 17— Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 3--NO FUN PROGRAM/ MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, Jan. 10—Fun Program Resumes

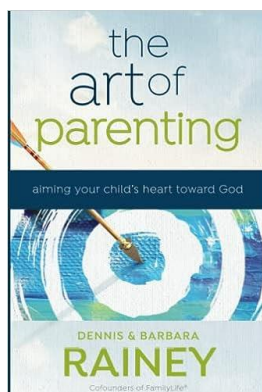


Adult Christian Education

Rally Day is Sunday, September 10 at Cheraw State Park! Worship begins at 11a.m with lunch afterwards. Bring a lawn chair & picnic blanket! Special thanks to our dedicated Sunday School teachers. They have one of the most important tasks in the world—sharing the love of Jesus and teaching God's word!



Sunday School begins September 17! We have classes for ALL ages! The **NEW** Young Adult class will meet upstairs in the first classroom on the right. From **September 17-November 5** I will teach the 8-week series "The Art of Parenting: Aiming Your Child's Heart Toward God," a Bible study that offers advice on how to establish Christian values in your home. This study will help you to experience God's truth and apply his word in your family by focusing your attention on the Biblical principles in your children's lives. Equip your child with a solid foundation so they may build upon it for the rest of their lives! Please join us for this special time of fellowship and learning about God's word!



Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsal will resume from 6-7p.m. on Wednesday, August 23rd, in the choir room. I will offer a wide variety of sacred music for the fall. If you would like to deepen your faith and grow musically, join us! Why sing in the choir? **Music benefits your health!** It helps with blood pressure, reduces stress, improves symptoms of lung and heart problems, alleviates anxiety, and helps with depression. **Music is powerful!** Physiological studies of music have long been explored. It can make you happy, move you to tears, and take you beyond what this world has to offer. **Music is bonding!** Once you sing together on a regular basis, you never forget a particular service or performance you did together. It brings togetherness. **Music keeps you young!** It helps with memorization and keeps your brain young. By learning lyrics, pitches, and rhythmic values, it forces your brain to work extra and exercises your memory skills. **Music keeps you alive!** It can increase your life expectancy! Yep, it sounds too good to be true, but Harvard and Yale Universities published a study in 2008 that demonstrated that the life expectancy of choir singers was longer than other people who don't sing in a choir. **Music makes you smarter!** Studying music and singing in choir actually makes you smarter. Because there are many mathematical elements to music, it invigorates the brain and helps with other studies such as fostering foreign languages. **Music keeps you active!** Skip the gym! You may not immediately associate chorus as a work-out, but there are plenty of physical benefits. It boosts the amount of oxygen in the blood and increases energy levels. It also works out a range of muscles in the upper body. Most importantly, **Music is worship!** Music elevates your experience to worship our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you have a hidden talent for singing or playing an instrument, please let me know! I would love to utilize and develop YOUR artistic talents! Pray about singing in the choir, even if it is short-term. The benefits are clearly extraordinary!

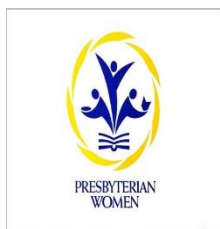
Please be in prayer for our fall schedule as we embark upon new and revived ministries at our church.

In Christ,
Weiz

A note from Miss Lindsay: Bell and Chimes update...

We are getting ready for the upcoming season of Fun Program and Youth. The handbells are currently in Irmo at Jeffers Handbells for general maintenance and polishing.

The Youth ringers do a great job of polishing the bells throughout the year. But, it has been several years since they have been professionally polished and serviced. Jeffers is a fascinating place with bells of all sizes, various bell parts and tools methodically placed on various tables. There are actually few Handbell service companies available. We are fortunate to have such a company in SC. After leaving the facility, I started thinking about the technicians and their commitment in caring for the bells. We all enjoy the handbell music during our church services, so thanks to those dedicated technicians for preserving this special artform.



Presbyterian Women News

Duties

Communion August 6

Mary Jane Evans and Katelyn Evans

Circle will begin September 13. This year our Bible Study will focus on the women of the bible. Cathy Chapman will be our Bible study leader. Thank Offering will be taken up on September 13. Pledge cards and handbooks will be given out at the September meeting. If you are unable to attend circle and would like to help with communion, youth suppers, and bereaved meals please email me at MJEvans@greatpeedee.com or text me at 843-921-7077.

The church sanctuary now has a hearing loop installed. This is a system that sends the audio captured on the microphones directly into a hearing aid worn by anyone in the congregation. The system provides the cleanest, clearest sound imaginable for hearing aid wearers and does not require a headset, as it works with any hearing aid that has a T-coil. We also have a limited supply of loop receivers and headsets that can be used during worship if your hearing aid is not equipped with a t-coil. For assistance during worship, feel free to ask an usher.

If you wear a hearing aid and are unsure if it is equipped with a T-coil, please consult with your audiologist.



Session Highlights from the May Meeting

- 1) Advertising has gone out seeking Coordinator of Youth Ministries for FPC.
- 2) Mission Ministry Team delivered approximately 30 Friendship meals to folks in church and community.
- 3) Approved expenditure for the new Hearing Loop System in the sanctuary.
- 4) Received report from 109th Stated Meeting of New Harmony Presbytery which took place at Sumter First.
- 5) Approved revised Funeral Policy for FPC.
- 6) Approved communion for Rally Day on Sept 10th with Executive Presbyter Rev. Gavin Meek administering the sacrament.
- 7) Approved moving communion from July 2nd to July 9th.
- 8) Approved Rev. Christa Brewer as guest minister on Sept. 3.
- 9) Approved use of Session House for wedding of Sara Ingram on October 21, 2023.

Session Highlights from the June Meeting

- 1) Heard updated Financial report for the month of May.
- 2) Acolytes program will begin training August 27 for grades 2-12.
- 3) Mission Ministry team served thirty (30) meals to local residents in May
- 4) Heard report from CE Committee for adopted curriculum for Fun Program and Sunday School (The Gospel Project)
- 5) Fellowship Committee will have a back to school lunch after worship service on July 30, 2023
- 6) Had first look at the revised Wedding Policy for FPC

The Session, our governing board of elders, has changed its meeting date to the 4th Tuesdays for the remainder of this year. The elders will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on August 22, 2023.

Our high school youth attended the Montreat Youth Conference in July. “In.Joy” was the theme. We explored the sources and meaning of joy grounded in the light of God’s love and healing power through worship, music, learning, and play!

We had a great week of laughter, tears, sun, rain, singing, worship, ENERGIZERS, hills, food, dancing, hiking, foam pit, color/paint party, the Huckleberry, Escape Room and a BEAR! During our Candlelight Service around Lake Susan, a shooting star was bright overhead as our graduated senior, Elizabeth, extinguished her candle. Definitely God was with us!

Thank you to all that sent food, made cookies, packed goodie bags and prayed. We appreciate you sending us to Montreat.



Nursery Volunteers



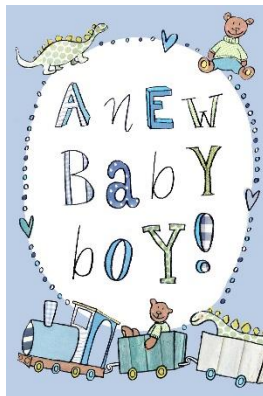
If you would like to volunteer to help in the nursery during worship, please sign up at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545afaf22ab9-nursery#/>



MMO NEWS

MMO will resume on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.



Congratulations to Ben and Brittany Tillman on the birth of their son, Cooper James Tillman, on May 29, 2023. Proud grandparents are Bill and Charlene Tillman.

Congratulations to McArn and Katie Bennett on the birth of their son, Camp Williamson Bennett, on Saturday, July 22, 2023 in Charlotte, NC.

Proud grandparents are Robby & Lindsay Bennett and Jeff & Leslie Jeter. Jeff's mom and Katie's grandmother was a long time member of our church, Mrs. Helen Jeter, as were great grandparents, Bob & Murphy Bennett.

Prayer Changes Things

Gerry & Bobby Rogers; Ina Coggeshall
Atha Lou Gibson; Gray & Bea Sloop
Bennie and Benny Lou Moore;
Jodi Reid (cancer)
Craig Dubos
Beth O'Neal
Marion Murphy
Monty Dodson
Elsie Rainey (Shirley Brock's sister)
Jo Ellen Stewart
Donna Bilby (Libby Knight's sister in law)
Gloria Turner
M. J. Martin
Emma S. Hamden
Keller Smith



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

the family of Carole Kennedy.

the family of Robert "Bobby" Polson.

John and Bron Long in the death of his mother, Mrs. Johnnie Long.

August Calendar Of Events

1	12:00 pm	At Ease Lunch
6	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
8	5:30 pm	Christian Education
10	5:30 pm	Worship Comm. Mtg.
13	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
19		Presbytery Mtg. (Zoom)
20	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
22	6:00 pm	Session Meeting
23	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal
27	10:00 am	Acolyte training
	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship



AUGUST

1-Kevin Miller
2-Gavin McCall
4-Madelyn Tinsley
5-Peggy Stewart, Bill Tillman
6-Mac McCall
8-Lee Tillman
10-Eva Tillman
13-Tony Griggs, Laura Brabham Noorani,
Cloie Tillman
15-Grayson Cauthen
16-Jimmy Funderburk
24-Billy Polson
25-Shirley Brock
26-Philip Dickson, Bron Long, Calvin Phillips

