

SERVICES FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 at 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "Pitching Our Tents on Hope" TEXTS: Psalm 16 and Acts 2:14, 22-36

Will Shelburne, Sr., preaching

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 at 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "Where's Your Emmaus?" TEXTS: Exodus 15:1-10 and Luke 24:13-35

Stephen Williams, preaching

THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER SUMMED UP IN THE WORD "GRACE"

The Easter message can be summed up in the single word "grace." The Confirmation class has been learning about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have discovered that grace is not a familiar word in our daily language nor a familiar experience in our daily life. We are impatient with the idea that we cannot do for ourselves what needs to be done. We evade the idea that we cannot do certain things for ourselves. But there is a limit to our human wisdom and ability.

We are weak. The strongest and wisest person is weak. All of us pooling our human wisdom and ability are weak. Because we are weak, we make a mess of our do-it-yourself projects, whether it is building a life or building a community. It is to our weakness and to our failures that Easter speaks. It speaks the word "grace." It says that God in Jesus Christ is personally and actively involved in our lives.

There is a fatal flaw in human nature. The Bible calls this flaw "sin." Our sinful condition is an attitude of the heart where we say we can live without God. But we are not able to make a good life by ourselves. We cannot make a real home by our human efforts. We are confused and helpless because we cannot stop doing the wrong things we want to avoid. Our best efforts are continually getting fouled up by our flawed and sinful ways.

During Lent, the mid-week services asked the presenters to cite a favorite Bible passage. One person mentioned 2 Corinthians 12:9. It is a passage about God's grace. "My strength is made perfect in weakness." Although we are undeserving, God moves toward us to save and to help us. Grace comes to us as God orders our lives. Look back on your life and you will be impressed with the fact that so often good things have come through no effort of yours, sorrows have turned to blessings, defeats into victories.

Grace comes in the midst of the day's burdens and responsibilities. There is strength for the task and comfort for the sorrow. Grace comes most powerfully in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, where our sins are forgiven, and in Christ's resurrection where we are given new life to live like people who really are the children of God. And with new life comes the stunning promise of eternal life. Easter overcomes the fatal flaw. Join us in these weeks of Eastertide as we joyfully sing our Alleluias because by divine grace we have been brought back into relationships with God. —SCW

SOME WAYS TO DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE

The topic at the Men's Breakfast this month was prayer. It was a good program that touched on the very heart of the Christian life. Here are some suggestions to help your prayer life:

- Pick up a free copy of *These Days* in the church narthex. This daily devotional booklet prepared by our denomination has proved itself useful to many of our members.
- Use the *Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study*, with its suggested Bible readings and interesting profiles of Presbyterian ministry around the world. Visit www.pcusa.org for this daily resource. The important work of our missionaries, Farsijana and Bernard Adeney and Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather are included.
- Borrow a good commentary from the church library such as William Barclay's small volumes on each book of the New Testament. Brief sections of Scripture are followed by Barclay's own insights on the particular text.
- Attend the prayer group that gathers in the church library on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

IT WAS A GLORIOUS EASTER!

The sunrise service at the Isle of Hope Marina had strong attendance with about 120 people including several families with children and even babies! Will Shelburne preached, and there was singing and reading of Scripture. The skies were clear so that the sun rising above the Skidaway River was a spectacular sight. A stunning \$900 was raised for Backback Buddies. The children's service was also memorable as many of the youngest worshippers offered prayers and read Scripture. The service concluded with a crowd of children flowering the cross which is always a highlight. Then an appreciative group enjoyed a buffet of breakfast casseroles prepared by the Christian Education Committee. When the Chancel Choir began the introit for the eleven o'clock worship service from the balcony, their faith informed voices filled the sanctuary with excitement as they sang, "Alleluia! Christ Lives!" written by Anne McNair. We heard a solo from Messiah, "The Trumpet Shall Sound," and the Chancel Choir's "The Day of Resurrection" expressed the robust joy and hope of the day.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING PLANNED FOR APRIL 28

The young adults of First Presbyterian Church will gather for a "Mix & Mingle" at Imlay House from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on Friday. There will be plenty of great conversation, good food and free childcare. Please bring an appetizer to share. For childcare reservations contact Will Shelburne...will@savannahfpc.org or call 354-7615.

CRADLE ROLL DEDICATION PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 14

Cradle Roll Sunday is a wonderful tradition at First. Families with children two years old and younger (children who have not yet celebrated their third birthday) are invited to the front of the sanctuary where prayers are offered and a blessing is given to each child. The Cradle Roll blessing is early in the service, and Extended Session care for small children is available for the rest of the hour. The Cradle Roll blessing is a vivid reminder of how children are a gift from God and the important role the church takes in caring for children and families. Older siblings and other family members are invited to the chancel for the blessing. Please call the church, 354.7615, or email judith@savannahfpc.org to let us know you will participate.

JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children ages 3 years-5th grade are invited to Vacation Bible School, June 5-9, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The children will learn about heroes of the Bible and discover the qualities that make them and us truly heroic in God. Daily themes which discuss the qualities that God's heroes have are: *Heart, Courage, Wisdom, Hope, Power*. Vacation Bible School requires lots of volunteers, so please contact Will Shelburne if you would like to help.

ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN PRESBYTERY'S SUMMER CAMP!

The camp is held at the New Ebenezer Conference Center in Rincon. Registration forms are available on Savannah Presbytery's website, www.savannahpresbytery.org. The early-bird deadline is May 12, all registrations postmarked after May 12 must include a \$35 late fee. T-shirts may not be available for late registrants. The costs listed reflect the amount that First members and their children will pay for the camps. Please turn in your checks, made payable to First Presbyterian Church, and completed registration forms to the church office, **not to the Presbytery office**, by May 11. If you have questions email Will Shelburne, will@savannahfpc.org. This year's camps include: Junior Leader Development Camp (rising 11th—graduated seniors) June 18-24; cost: \$160. **Space is limited. Family Camp (Rising 1st and 2nd Graders) June 23-24 (1 night/2 days) Cost: for child and parent \$95; for each additional child or parent \$50. Primary Camp (Rising 3rd and 4th Graders) June 22-24 (2 nights/3 days) Cost: \$95/after May 13 \$130. Elementary Camp (rising 5th and 6th graders) June 19-22 (3 nights/4 days) Cost: \$145/after May 13 \$180. Youth Camp (rising 7th graders—graduated seniors) June 19-23 (4 nights/5 days) Cost: \$195/after May 11 \$230.

FAREWELL DINNER PLANNED

Pearl's Saltwater Grille, 7000 LaRoache Avenue, is where the Dinner Group will meet Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. Say farewell to a church member who is moving to Wilmington, N.C. All are welcome.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY DINNERS AND PROGRAMS RESUME ON APRIL 26

"Conversation with City Councilman, Julian Miller" will be the program Wednesday, April 26 at 6:45 p.m. The dinner line opens at 6:00 p.m. featuring chicken tetrazzini, garden salad, vegetables and dessert. \$6/adult, \$2/child under 12.

Everyone's Invited to the Annual Picnic!

Sunday, April 23 is the date for the annual picnic in Tiedeman Park sponsored by the Hospitality Committee. Enjoy grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans and potato chips. There will be games for children.....rain location is Stewart Hall. \$5/adults, free for children under 12. All are welcome.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 23	9:30 a.m.....	Sunday School, Confirmation Class
	10:20 a.m.....	Evangelism Committee Mtg, Library
	10:30 a.m.....	Coffee Fellowship, Chancel Choir
	11:00 a.m.....	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.....	Youth Handbells
	5:30 p.m.....	Youth Supper
	6:00 p.m.....	Youth Choir
	6:30 p.m.....	Junior Choir
Monday, April 24	9:00 a.m.....	Knitting Prayer Shawls
	12:00 p.m.....	Lunch Bunch, Jason's Deli
Tuesday, April 25	7:30 a.m.....	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
Wednesday, April 26	1:30 p.m.....	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.....	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.....	Wonderful Wednesday Dinner and Program
	6:30 p.m.....	Children's Choir
	6:30 p.m.....	First Ringers
	7:30 p.m.....	Chancel choir
Thursday, April 27	6:30 p.m.....	Dinner Group, Pearl's Saltwater Grill
Friday, April 28	6:00 p.m.....	Young Adult Gathering, Imlay House

Sunday, April 30	9:30 a.m.....	Sunday School, Confirmation Class
	10:30 a.m.....	Coffee Fellowship, Chancel Choir
	11:00 a.m.....	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.....	Youth Handbells
	5:30 p.m.....	Youth Supper
	6:00 p.m.....	Youth Choir
	6:30 p.m.....	Junior Choir
Monday, May 1	9:00 a.m.....	Knitting Prayer Shawls
Tuesday, May 2	7:30 a.m.....	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
Wednesday, May 3	1:30 p.m.....	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.....	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.....	Wonderful Wednesday Dinner and Program
	6:30 p.m.....	Children's Choir
	6:30 p.m.....	First Ringers
	7:30 p.m.....	Chancel Choir
Saturday, May 6	8:00 a.m.....	Men's Breakfast with Butler Presbyterian Church

PRAYER CONCERNS, RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS, ETC.

April 9: attendance at worship: 201 ; Sunday School attendance: 65 ; visitors: 6. April 16: attendance at worship: 272 ; Sunday School attendance: 35 ; visitors: 34..... Big thanks to those who helped make our work day, April 8, a huge success.....including planting the raised bed vegetable garden and weeding and spreading pine straw in the courtyard.

MEN GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Annual Men's Breakfast with Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church will be held on Saturday, May 6, 8:00-9:00 a.m. at Butler Presbyterian Church, 603 W. Victory Dr., Savannah, Ga., 31405; \$4/person. All are invited.