

SERVICES FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SUNDAY, February 12 at 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "A Song to Sing, a Faith to Share"

TEXTS: Psalm 96 and Acts 16:16-34

Dedication of Concert Grand Piano

Tent Reception will follow worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 at 11:00 A.M.

SERMON: "Jesus Call Us to be Perfect?"

TEXTS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 and Matthew 5:38-48

Sacrament of Baptism

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!

Since we will be dedicating the Steinway concert grand piano during worship on Sunday, I want to use this space to reflect on the importance of singing in public worship. Music plays a central role in our worship of God. An old adage is, "Those who sing pray twice!" And so often where spoken words leave off, music carries the heart to new heights of adoration.

First, thank you to the many members and friends of the church who have responded to the financial appeal and contributed more than \$35,000 to fund this exquisite instrument. We anticipate receiving about \$5,000 upon the sale of the former sanctuary piano, so that only a \$5,000 challenge remains.

We respond to singing at a much deeper and profound level than we do to anything else in our worship life. Music may reach us intellectually, but it also touches us emotionally and spiritually. Music also taps into our memories to remind us of events that we may not have thought about for years. Singing a hymn we know and have sung many times is quite different from reading a prayer of confession, in unison, off the printed order of worship. And learning a new hymn can often stretch the imagination to understand God's activity in our lives in fresh, new ways.

Worship is one of the few places in our lives where people are not just asked but expected to sing—and loudly enough so that people sitting next to them can hear them. Singing a hymn without reserve, without holding back, is a way of saying what we believe. The language of music—even for those of us who are tone deaf—is the best language people ever had for praise and giving thanks to God.

Worship is not and never has been something people attend in order to be entertained or fed. Worship can be entertaining. Worship can be richly nourishing. But these are not the reasons God calls us to worship. Music, and especially the singing of hymns, has a way of drawing people into worship, so that instead of being objects of worship people who come to worship become the ones who offer God their praise.

My voice isn't much, but where I sit on Sunday mornings who really cares? Blended as it is with all your voices, I trust that God likes the way it sounds. I look forward to the ways our music program will be enriched by this splendid instrument in the years ahead. Let us continue to heed the exhortation of the psalmist to sing and "make a joyful noise to the Lord." --SCW

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 12	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:00 p.m.	Tent Reception
	12:15 p.m.	Hospitality Committee Mtg, Rm 110
	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, February 13	9:00 a.m.	Knitting Prayer Shawls
Tuesday, February 14	7:30 a.m.	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
	10:00 a.m.	Jubilee Circle, John Knox Room
Wednesday, February 15		
	1:30 p.m.	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:30 p.m.	First Ringers, Rm 215
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, February 16	7:00 p.m.	Agape Circle
Friday, February 17	4:00 p.m.	Leadership Development Conference
		Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon Island, GA
Saturday, February 18		Leadership Development Conference
Sunday, February 19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	Worship/Music Committee Mtg, Rm 115
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Supper
	6:00 p.m.	No Youth/Junior Choirs
Monday, February 20	9:00 a.m.	Knitting Prayer Shawls
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Tuesday, February 21	7:30 a.m.	Morning Missions at Emmaus House
Wednesday, February 22		
	1:30 p.m.	Jail Ministry
	5:30 p.m.	Kinder Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:30 p.m.	First Ringers, Rm 215
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

PRAYER CONCERNS, RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS, ETC.

January 29: attendance at worship: 204; Sunday School attendance: 63; visitors: 11. February 5: attendance at worship: 191; Sunday School attendance: 68; visitors: 2.....Students from Bethesda Academy pitched in and prepared dinner for the families staying at the church this week as part of our ministry to the homeless. Thanks to the students and thanks to the many First members who are extending hospitality this week...

SHARING THE GOSPEL BEGINS WITH LISTENING

In sharing faith, listening opens the door to speaking. Listening to God is essential in prayer, and listening to others is a requirement for witnessing. Talking about faith begins not in our speaking but in our hearing. Genuinely loving and caring for others and hearing their story precedes our telling our faith story. Our prayer needs to, "O Lord, make me a good listener." ---from *The Faith-Sharing New Testament with the Psalms*.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONCERT GRAND PIANO

In the New Year, we encourage you to consider helping the church to fund our newly acquired Steinway grand piano for our sanctuary. The cost of the instrument is \$45,000. We are grateful for the contributions of previous generations to the instrument we have used for the past 40 years. Our session has approved a fundraising initiative to accept donations for this upgraded instrument. Please consider donating what you are able! Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, marked: for piano.

SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY HOLDS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The annual Leadership Development Conference sponsored by Savannah Presbytery will be held February 17-18 at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. The keynote is "Improvising with God". The speaker is The Reverend MaryAnn McKibben Dana. She is a writer, ordained Presbyterian minister and speaker living outside Washington DC. The LDC brochure and registration materials are at www.savannahpresbytery.org. Please check this website for the cost of rooms and meals. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

SPONSOR CHANCEL FLOWERS ON SUNDAYS

The Chancel flowers add to the beauty of worship on Sunday mornings and then later are made into smaller bouquets and taken to homebound members. Call the church office, 354-7615, to reserve a particular Sunday or complete the flower chart calendar that is located in the narthex. Make checks payable to the church for \$50 to sponsor an arrangement.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SET TO BEGIN

The 2017 Confirmation Class begins on February 26th and will conclude with the Service of Confirmation on Pentecost, June 4th. The class includes sixth graders and often a few seventh and eighth graders who have not already been confirmed in the baptismal vows made on their behalf by their parents. Orientation for confirmands, parents and elders is Sunday, February 12th at 9:30 a.m. in the John Knox Room. Dr. Williams will discuss the course of study and the proposed schedule.

CALLING PARENTS AND YOUTH FOR A WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS ABOUT SUMMER CAMP

The topic on Wednesday, February 22nd is about Savannah Presbytery's summer camp at New Ebenezer and the youth conference held at Montreat. They are outstanding opportunities for Christian fellowship and growth. Youth in third through twelfth grades are invited to join in a kick ball game in Tiedeman Park at 5:15 p.m. followed by the church-wide dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall. The menu will be chicken noodle dish and make-your-own-sundaes for dessert! (\$6/adult; \$2/child under 12). The program about New Ebenezer and Montreat will be held from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Everyone will enjoy learning about this important ministry of the church.....particularly parents and youth as they make plans for the summer. It will be led by Proctor Chambliss who has served many years as the Presbytery's camp director at New Ebenezer.

PRACTICE CENTERING PRAYER DURING LENT

Deepen your prayer life during the season of Lent by attending Centering Prayer on Fridays at noon in the church library, March 3rd through April 14th. Centering prayer is a method of Christian meditation which facilitates closer communion with God. Centering Prayer includes a series of 45 minute sessions which will use readings, video and audio to explore the practice of resting in God's presence. You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

ATTEND MUSIC WITH A MISSION CONCERT!

Mark your calendar for the next Music with a Mission Concert – Sunday, March 5th at 3:00 p.m. Chamber Music Southeast will perform a program of mostly Romantic-era music. Our new piano will be featured by pianists Phillip Bush and Lynn Kompass. We'll also hear violist Daniel Sweaney and oboist Rebecca Nagel. The concert will benefit Senior Citizens Inc., providing services for senior citizens which include Meals on Wheels, Sterling Rides, Adult Daycare and The Learning Center.

LITTLE LAMBS PLAN SPRING CONSIGNMENT SALE

First Presbyterian Preschool will hold their annual spring consignment sale on March 10th and March 11th. On Friday the sale will be from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. On Saturday the hours will be from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

First Presbyterian Preschool will host an Open House for prospective 2017-18 parents on Thursday, February 16th from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Our preschool is open to any child aged 1-4 years. Please help us spread the word about our wonderful little school!