

**SERVICES FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 at 11:00 A.M.  
YOUTH SERVICE "UNITY IN CHRIST"**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 at 11:00 A.M.  
SERMON: "To Be Salt and Light"  
TEXTS: Isaiah 58:1-9 and Matthew 5:13-16  
Reception of New Members  
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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### **YOUTH SERVICE PLANNED FOR SUNDAY**

Our church has a tremendous track record in Christian education. Whether it has been church staff or lay leaders, we have a long-term commitment to this vital area of church-life. In this essay I want to lift up the importance of our work with young people. This coming Sunday they will be leading all parts of the service of worship – from calling us to worship to pronouncing the benediction!

Certainly a strong and balanced education program needs to be broad scale and take into account all ages, but many of us have a special concern for the rising generation. No wonder the whole church cheers when so many children gather on Sunday evenings for fellowship, Bible study and choir rehearsal. The annual Youth Service will be a banner service of worship which will display their abundant talent, earnest faith and great fervor. Many thanks to Will Shelburne, Sr., Anne and Bill McNair and a loyal team of adult advisors who guide these activities.

These adults are entrusted with a mighty task as they support young people in a deepening life in Jesus Christ. Just consider the enormous pressures and confusing choices that are placed on young people today. A while ago, *Family Circle* magazine carried an article that included these plaintive words from a high school girl:

*"I feel seriously stressed out most of the time. My guidance counselor says my tests show I'm smart, but I'm having trouble getting B's and C's, let alone A's. I went for extra math help every day last week – I even skipped lacrosse practice – and I still only got a C on the test. I'll never get into a good college at this rate. Then the lacrosse coach threatened to suspend me for cutting practice. Wonderful! Then at home I found a note from my mom saying to fix dinner because she was working late...again. Then my baby-sitting job cancelled and I really needed the money. I was ready to scream. I'm only 16! If these are the best years of my life, would somebody please shoot me? So, yeah, I went to a party that night and got bombed."*

Young people have bought into the message that their self-worth is based almost exclusively on how well they perform, in other words on what they do. No wonder many are either stressed out or have given up. But the church has the good news to proclaim that in Jesus Christ we are loved unconditionally.

In this day, for this generation of young people, now more than ever, this gospel desperately needs to be shared. We are loved and accepted not because of anything we do or don't do, but simply because each of us is a child of God redeemed in Christ. What life shaping insight is stated in a portion of a Reformed catechism: "We are not our own. We were bought with a price." So this Sunday, attend the youth service. Add your prayers for our children and for the future of our ministry with youth. --SCW

## **WEDNESDAYS BECOME WONDERFUL IN FEBRUARY**

The mid-week dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. – programs begin at 6:45 p.m.

February 1<sup>st</sup> Animal Protection

February 8<sup>th</sup> Care for the Dying

February 15<sup>th</sup> Brain Injury Awareness

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery Summer Camp & Montreat Conference Center  
Proctor Chambless, First Presbyterian Church, Waycross

### **JANUARY TERM WRAP UP**

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the series, “Wisdom Literature of the Bible,” will wrap up with a discussion of the Song of Solomon at 9:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall. A country-style breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. Church volunteers will prepare the breakfast.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAMILY PROMISE**

First’s week of service will be February 5<sup>th</sup> when we host families who are temporarily homeless. Help volunteer with one of these activities: 6:00-7:00 p.m., dinner preparers; 5:30-8:30 p.m., evening hosts; 8:30 p.m.-7:00 a.m. overnight hosts. The sign-up board is in Stewart Hall.

### **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.

### **JOIN THE DINNER GROUP AND ENJOY GREAT FOOD**

Folks will gather at **Bowtie Restaurant**, 6724 Waters Avenue on Friday, January 27 at 6:30p.m.

Join the annual pilgrimage to **Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room** on Thursday, February 9 at 6:00p.m. Invite friends and neighbors to this mecca of Southern style cuisine served family style. Reservations are required and checks, in advance, need to be made payable to the church. The deadline is Monday, February 6. Total cost \$25/person includes tax and tip. Email [judith@savannahfpc.org](mailto:judith@savannahfpc.org) for more information and to reserve a place on the shuttle bus which will leave the church at 5:45 p.m. Everyone is invited!!

## ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Savannah Presbytery's Annual Meeting of Presbyterian Women will be held on Saturday, January 28 at First Presbyterian Church in Midway, GA. The address of the church is 672 North Coastal Hwy, Midway, GA 31320. Lunch will be served – registration is \$10.00. The shuttle bus will depart the church at 8:15 a.m. Please call 354.7615 to reserve a place. The shuttle will return to the church at 2:00 p.m.

## 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](http://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 26<sup>th</sup> and will conclude with the Service of Confirmation on Pentecost, June 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 elder-mentors is Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the John Knox Room. Dr. Williams will discuss the course of study and the proposed schedule.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. January Term Breakfast, Stewart Hall  
9:30 a.m. Combined Sunday School for Adults  
Sunday School for Children & Youth  
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir, Coffee Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
12:15 p.m. Evangelism Committee, Library  
3:00 p.m. Music with a Mission  
5:00 p.m. Youth Handbells  
5:30 p.m. Youth Supper  
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowships and Choirs

### Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Knitting Prayer Shawls

### Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

7:30 a.m. Morning Missions at Emmaus House

### Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

1:30 p.m. Jail Ministry  
5:30 p.m. Kinder Choir  
6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m. First Ringers in Room 215  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir in Room 111

### Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:30 p.m. Grace & Joy Circle

### Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir, Coffee Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
12:15 p.m. Congregational Care Mtg. John Know Rm  
3:00 p.m. Savannah State Recital

(Black History Month)  
No Youth/Junior Choir

**Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Knitting Prayer Shawls

**Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 a.m. Morning Missions at Emmaus House

**Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 p.m. Jail Ministry

5:30 p.m. Kinder Choir

6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

6:30 p.m. Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. First Ringers in Room 215

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir in Room 111

**Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 p.m. Mrs. Wilkes Dinner

**PRAYER CONCERNS, RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS, ETC.**

January 15: attendance at worship: 188; Sunday School attendance: 60; visitors: 3. January 22: attendance at worship: 108; Sunday School attendance: 46; visitors: 2.....a new hot water coil has been installed in the heating system in Stewart Hall....did you see the front page of the Savannah Morning News January 25<sup>th</sup>? Some of our church members were pictured at the latest house dedicated for Habitat for Humanity....recent additions to the church library include *Chronological History of Savannah*, published in 1900, and several volumes of the devotional resource, *Daily Guideposts*...