

FPC NEWS

First Presbyterian Church, Toccoa, GA

From the Pastor

A week before I left on vacation, I told someone that I planned to "get a lot of rest," on this trip. I never could have imagined just how much rest I would get, though it was less than restful. Nothing went the way we had planned but the trip was not without its benefits. Although I didn't feel well, I did get to spend time with the family. On the last day of our trip I was able to enjoy the "Rays" baseball game while sitting in a recliner. It was the game that we had planned to be "in the stands." But, as the boys reminded me, "by being at home we got to see all of the replays." And, our team won.

Sunday afternoon and evening, Mona and I were alone preparing to come home. David and his family had returned to St. Pete, Kevin was at work, Kenny had gone out to eat with friends, and the grandkids were gone. The place was

quiet. The last evening before returning home was spent in deafening silence. I couldn't help but thinking of the missed opportunities of the week; of the memories we'd planned to build and the joys we'd planned to share.

It was a reminder to me of just how special each and every moment is. I get so locked in to schedule that I don't always take the time to recognize the special opportunities of each day. Often I confuse "activity" with "meaning." I don't talk to the boys for days and then plan to make up for it all in one week of being with them.

I have a very dear friend with whom I have been friends for most of my 58 years. For the past 35 years he has been a successful financial planner. He has never enjoyed the work but was always planning on retiring early to enjoy the "fruits of his labors." Divorce

and child support kept him from the savings he had hoped would already have him retired and with the tanking of the financial markets of the past five years his business has only barely kept afloat. He continues to work as a financial planner but works two other jobs part time to just to make ends meet. He is sixty years old and in his own words, "Fifteen or twenty years at least from any chance to retire." He really hasn't enjoyed the good life God has given him thinking he would enjoy it later. Now it is later! And, well...

My father always encouraged my brother and me to remember:

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift, and that's why they call it the present."

Enjoy the gift!

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Kickin' It: One Step at a Time

Once again, First Presbyterian Church will be a corporate sponsor for the annual Kickin' It Walk to be held on Saturday, September 25, 2010. This is a time when we join with friends in our community to help furnish free Mammograms to

women in STEPHENS COUNTY who do not have insurance and are unable to afford these services.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation toward this worthy cause, please make your checks

out to STEPHENS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH with "KICKIN' IT" in the "For" line. Pastor David will gladly accept your donations to ensure that credit is given to FPC for each donation made by it's members and friends.



Evangelism Committee to host Greeter Training

Experts agree that visitors to a church form an opinion about the church within the first ten minutes after they walk through the door. How visitors are greeted, welcomed, and made to feel comfortable usually determines if they will return and what they tell their family and friends about how they were treated on their first visit.

Of course, as a church, our desire should be to do everything possible to let visitors know that they are appreciated and that we want them to return to worship and fellowship with us. For that reason, the Evangelism Ministry is hosting a two hour program in the fellowship hall on Saturday, Septem-

ber 11 from 9-11 AM to train the Session and interested members in how to greet and welcome visitors.

During this meeting, a time-tested approach to welcoming visitors will be presented and discussed. You are encouraged to participate in this very important effort of our church as we prepare to reach out and encourage visitors to join in the fellowship and worship that we so appreciate here at First Presbyterian, Toccoa. If you are interested in learning to be a greeter, please contact Gary Lance at 706-886-8341 or the church office at 706-886-3680.

Time Deposit

Suppose your bank credited your account each morning with \$86,400, carried over no balance from day to day, and allowed you to keep no cash in your account. Then suppose that every evening the bank cancelled out whatever you failed to use during the day.

All of us have such a bank. Its name is time. Every morning it credits us with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off as lost whatever time we have failed to invest for good during the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back with time—no drawing against tomorrow. You must live in the present. Invest in order to deepen your life and your faith.

Coffee Fellowship

The Evangelism Committee would like to express how important it is to have a Coffee Fellowship following each Sunday Service.

- 1.) It gives the regular church attendees a chance to visit with each other.
- 2.) It offers an opportunity to bring visitors down to meet church members on a personal basis and to experience the fellow-

ship we all enjoy so much.

- 3.) It affords the opportunity for church members to get to know our visitors and make them feel welcome.

The Coffee Fellowship does not need to be elaborate. A simple tray of homemade or store bought cookies, apple juice (from the church pantry), and a pot of coffee is all that's needed. If the coffee maker intimi-

dates you, let someone from the Evangelism Committee know and we'll make an expert coffee maker of you in one five minute training session. All the supplies for the Fellowship are available. **WE JUST NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.** Pick a Sunday and sign up on the sheet located on the Pond Street bulletin board.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Council

The Presbyterian Women's Council will meet on Thursday, September 9th.

Circle Meeting

Due to Labor Day Weekend, the Presbyterian Women's morning circle will meet for the first time of the season on Tuesday, September 14th.

From the Secretary

Please submit all information for the weekly bulletins by 8 am on Wednesday mornings. Thank you.

Please submit all information for the October newsletter by 8 am, Thursday, September 23rd. Thank you.

Salad Supper/Hymn Sing

Due to Labor Day Weekend, the September Salad Supper/Hymn Sing will be moved from September 5th to September 12th at 6 PM.

Make plans to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Please bring a salad, some sandwiches or a dessert and your singing voice. Drinks will be provided.



Christian Education

Sunday Night Activities have resumed. All children and youth are invited to join with us on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm for beginner handbells followed by additional children at youth activities from 6:30-7:30 pm. Please note, meals will no longer be provided.

Tallulah Gorge

A youth walk of Tallulah Gorge is planned for Saturday, September 11. Plans are to leave from the church at 9:30 am. Please bring a sack lunch.

September Fellowship Dinner

The Christian Education Committee will host the September 15 fellowship dinner. We will meet at 6:00 PM for a meal of Mickey Pig's Bar B Que, potato chips, stew, slaw and buns. Following the meal, the evenings program will be a musical talent show and Karoke. If you would like to participate please sign up on the Pond Street bulletin board.

Lexie/Lucy

Lexie /Lucy will attend the September 26th Clary Center Worship, 3:30 pm, and Wilkinson Center Worship, 4:00 pm.

JAM

Jubilee Adult Ministries of NEGA Presbytery invites you to "A Celebration of Aging" on Thursday, September 16 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm at Commerce Presbyterian Church, 89 Lakeview Drive.

The program will consist of fiddle and dulcimer music by Julia McDermott and Carl Rapp of Athens and two seminars on planning ahead, wills and trusts, by Joel Burns and Jim Newland. Lunch will be prepared by The Master's Table of Winder, GA and available for \$6. For directions please call 706-355-3232 or visit the website www.cpres.org.

Music Notes

For many of us summer has been a time of relaxation and less structure. Now that the school year is starting again, it's time to return to more of a routine. May I invite you to consider joining the choir or handbells? I get feedback that many of you enjoy the music of our church, and we who are involved truly appreciate your comments. We would love to have you join us and be a part of the experience of working on music to share with others. Please see

Leah or me if you aren't sure, but would like to give it a try. We do offer "trial periods" with no obligation! I would like to offer a special invitation to the ladies to join the choir. You sounded wonderful on the Sunday you sang (as did the men on their Sunday), and we could really use some more of you.

Mark your calendar now for October 24, 4:00 pm, when our own Frank Johnston will

be giving an organ concert at our church. Watch for more information next month.

Sharon Morden

Trip to Emerald Farm

Your Congregational Care Committee invites you on another exciting trip. We will visit Emerald Farm located near the city of Greenwood, SC. There is so much to see and do on the beautiful 75 acre farm. See a wide variety of animals, walk through the herb garden, visit the Soap Factory and Gift Shop where all natural Saanen goat milksoap and body products are made, stroll through the Train and Hobby Shop, stop by the Natural Food Store for a healthy

snack or climb onboard an antique train, "The Emerald Express" for a run around the farm with authentic RR signs, the village in the woods, tunnels and more.

The trip is planned for Saturday, September 25. For additional information please contact Duane Goding at 706-886-7817.



"Quiet corner on the edge of town that offers a chance to step back into the basic elements of life."