



the Chimes

February 2017

F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

Notes from the Pastor

In an attempt to keep us connected to the larger church this month I want share with you information in regards to the Presbyterian Church USA. In 2016 during our 222nd General Assembly "A Way Forward Commission" was put in place to study our structure and make improvements within the PCUSA. The commission has begun their work and are asking for input. Below you will find more information about the commission and it's purpose. At the end there will be a link to their survey for you to give your input. I would encourage you to take time to fill out the survey as we are part of this church body and our voices do matter.

Blessings,



Pastor Elise



Worship Schedule

- **8:30am** Childcare Begins
- **9:00am** Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- **9:00am** Sunday School Classes for Adults & Children
- **10:00am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- **10:00am** Children's Music Time
- **10:00am** Fellowship/Fair Trade Marketplace
- **10:30am** Worship Service
- **6:30pm** Youth Group

WAY FORWARD COMMISSION

“To study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA).”

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) created the [Way Forward Commission](#) “to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA). That vision shall take into account the ministries of PMA and OGA, but shall not be bound by the current configuration of those ministries, except where mandated by the church’s Constitution.

The mandate of the commission is to engage/contract a qualified, examination team that may include some or all of the All Agency Review team, with the requisite skills and abilities to assess institutional performance, both internally among the agencies and externally as they interface with the congregations. This examination team is charged with conducting a comprehensive, detailed analysis that will provide clearly detailed, measurable recommendations for improvements to the commission for implementation by the agencies.

The commission shall further describe and implement a General-Assembly level staffing pattern that will accomplish its vision. The commission shall be guided in its development and articulation of this vision and structure by Reformed ecclesiology as expressed in our Constitution.”

MEMBERS

The commission shall be comprised of no more than 12 voting members (with a quorum to be a simple majority of 7) at least 2 of whom should be members of the 2016 Assembly Committee on the Way Forward, with every effort made to include an advisory delegate from that committee. The commission membership will include a representative from both the PMA Review Committee and the OGA Review Committee, a representative from both the current Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB) and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), and at least one mid council staff person.

Teaching Elder Mark Hostetter, moderator

Teaching Elders Eileen Lindner and Eliana Maxim, vice moderators

[Full Commission membership](#) (PDF)

WAY FORWARD COMMENT SURVEY

The Commission has developed a process for receiving initial communications and suggestions from any interested PC(USA) groups or individuals. The online form is designed to assist the Commission in identifying areas for continued discernment about the ministries and structure of the national denomination.

The survey is available at the following address:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WayForwardCommentEnglish>

SESSION SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church Session met on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. Pastor Elise opened the meeting with prayer, and the minutes from the last meeting were approved. The Clerk presented several communications, and Session approved a request for the baptism of Liam Stalnaker on a date to be announced. Jim DeLong reported healthy growth in investment funds and a healthy operating budget. Session approved the operating budget for 2017 that was recommended by the Administrative Team. Session approved the Worship Ministry Team's recommendation to hold Communion on the following dates: January 29, February 26, and March 26. Session approved requests by the Property Team for a September wedding and for the Fairmont State University Spring Choir Concert in March. Session approved requests by the Christian Discipleship Ministry Team to add two nursery workers. New member classes will continue through February, and new member installation will be held March 5th. The next Session meeting will be Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Pam Pittman

PRESBYTERY OF WV MEETINGS

We are looking for elders to attend the Presbytery Meetings in 2017. If you are interested in attending any of the following meetings, contact Rev. Elise Neal

- February 25, 2017 - First Presbyterian Church, Charleston WV
- May 18, 2017 - Bridgeport Presbyterian Church, Bridgeport WV
- August 19, 2017 - Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins WV
- November 16, 2017 - Lewisburg Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg WV

January Prayer List

The Family of Dr. Sam Durso
The Family of Ron Poling
John Brewer
Leona DeLong
Alena Dodd
Peggy Eddy
Angie Fowler
Jim Frank

Mildred Griffeth
Scott Hauser
Tom Miller
Suzann Murphy
Amanda Peterson
Mildred Phileus
Elaine Pollack
Ruth Ann Powell

Simon Rohaly
Chris Smith
Patty Snider
Linda Stoops
Alayna Stewart
Art Stuart Jr.
Dorothy Trisel

Music Notes

One of the things that makes our music ministry at First Presbyterian Church special is a long tradition of handbell choir music. Over the years the bells have seen a lot of use and are now in great need of being refurbished and serviced. The worship committee has initiated a fund drive to help pay for the handbell repair and I would encourage you to make this worthwhile investment in our handbells. They have served us well, and are now in need of some love and care. When you give, be sure to indicate that the donation is for the handbells. For any questions, please contact Pam Stalnaker, chair of the worship committee.

February Cultural Events in the Community to aware of (These are ticketed events):

Monday February 6 - Pen Trio at the FSU Folklife Center at 7:30 pm, part of the FSU Music on the Hill Guest Artist Series

Sunday February 19 - Allegheny Chamber Players 4 pm concert at the MAC in downtown Morgantown
This is a concert of several chamber musicians of the Morgantown area. I will be performing the first work on the program, the Madeleine Dring Trio for flute, oboe, and piano.

Sunday February 19 - Ayrehart at St. Peters Church Fairmont at 3 pm, part of the Fairmont Chamber Music Society

May you always have a song of joy in your heart,

John Morrison
Director of Music/Organist

Committee Notes

The worship/music team has created a wish list for items needing repaired or replaced in our church. We've prioritized the list and are asking our church family to help us raise the money for these specific needs. Several of you have told us that you would prefer to support specific projects rather than budget these projects with pledged money.

Our first project is to repair all four octaves of the bell choir. The estimated cost for this is \$2500.00. Because this service needs scheduled early, and we will be without the bells for awhile, we encourage you to send your donation to Rebecca soon. Please write a note on the memo of your check to indicate the money is for the bell repair project. You can also make a donation through your PayPal account.

If you have any questions or ideas for projects you would like considered, please email me at pstalnaker@aol.com.

God bless,
Pam Stalnaker



OUTREACH

The first Outreach Committee Meeting of the year was held on the 16th at 6pm in the parlor area of the church. A lot was accomplished as we overviewed all the current missions/objectives of Outreach and set new goals. All are welcomed to join us for our next meeting which will be communicated during worship announcements.

THE STREET STORE

The store is still going strong and coats are in high demand as the temperatures drop. A special thanks to the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church for donating coats to the store, along with Mercy's Storehouse, and Jane Clement with Coats for Kids. We are so appreciative of our community partners. So far this winter we have given out 355 coats.

EQUAL EXCHANGE

Need coffee, chocolate, or olive oil? If so, check out our equal exchange items inside the glass cabinets on the Jefferson Street side of the church or at the Arts and Antiquities Marketplace! New items are being added all the time. All monies earned go toward Shoes for Kids.



CENTS-ABILITY OFFERING

A featured offering this month is the Cents-Ability Offering. Half of this offering goes to the Presbytery, while the other goes towards the Marion County Food Pantry. Our January Cents-Ability total was \$59.62.

The food pantry is often confused with the Union Mission. The food pantry does not serve meals, but serves a useful and needed purpose of giving away food to those in need. Over the course of the past year, the food pantry gave away food to 7,084 people and 774 different families. If church members shop online at Amazon.com, 0.05 percent of eligible purchases will automatically go to the pantry if they log on to smile.amazon.com/CH/55-0649945 when making purchases.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the Big Game to help those in need. The church's Souper Bowl of Caring event is Super Bowl Sunday (February 5th). Come down after worship for great food (including soups and desserts) and consider making a donation for this worthy cause. The church donates all proceeds towards the Wesley House. The Wesley House provides free meals and food for students at Fairmont State throughout the school year.



Christian Discipleship

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

Christian Discipleship is looking for people to host our Lenten Small Groups. Lenten Groups will begin the first weekend in March. The groups will consist of about 10 people and will allow for fellowship time and meaning theological discussion. Curriculum will be provided. We would love to offer 4 groups this year to accommodate our growing congregation, so we are looking for 4 hosts and for people to lead discussions. If you are interested in hosting or leading, please contact Diane Floyd. Childcare will be made available. Signups for the groups will be available early February.

FIRST FRIDAY

The theme for February's First Friday is Love and Friendship. On Feb. 3, from 5:30-8:30 the children are welcome to come to the church for some fun while parents enjoy a night out. The adult volunteer signup sheet is located on the usher table in the back of the sanctuary.



NEW MEMBER CLASS/FELLOWSHIP 2017

The new member class is going well. If you are unable to attend the class but still have a desire to formally join the church, please contact Rev. Elise Neal.

YOUTH

On Sunday, Feb. 5 is Super Bowl Sunday. All youth are invited to Rev. Elise's house to enjoy the game with friends and fun. 6 Cherrybrooke Lane, 6:30pm. The youth group will continue to meet on 6:30pm on Sunday evening at the church. We are still looking for some adult mentors who are willing to step up and be role models for the youth within our church.

PRESBYTERY OF WV YOUNGER YOUTH RETREAT

The 2017 Younger Youth Retreat will be held on Friday, March 3 - Sunday, March 5 at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, WV. This retreat is for youth in grades 6-8. The theme for the year is "Super" Heroes: Ordinary People Who Do Extraordinary Things. Focus: The Bible is full of God's superheroes; ordinary people who trusted God and were able to do extraordinary things. As we explore God's call to them, and how they responded, we will consider how God also calls us, ordinary people, to do extraordinary things. The registration deadline for this event is Feb. 20th. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

YOUTH IN SERVICE

On February 4th, from 10am-4pm, Youth across the Presbytery are encouraged to join together in a variety of ways at three different sites to participate in local mission. You might find yourself at a food pantry, a clothes closet, or helping elderly persons in their homes.

The day will begin with an Opening Gathering at 10am, following which participants will go out to local mission sites, and the day will end with a Closing Gathering. Gathering times will be the same across all three sites, while local mission sites will vary. Each participant is asked to bring a brown bag lunch. There is no cost for the day. Contact the church office for registration details. The site for our youth is First Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg.



Scenes from the January Youth Lock-In, Submitted by Sami Minney

NURTURING FAITH IDEAS

Here you will find weekly suggestions and activities from the Presbytery's Nurture Committee to link worship and home and to nurture faith development in the family. These are intended for all ages and all family types – with children or grandchildren or families with no children.

February 5: Matthew 5:13-20 says you are the light of the world and lights are not meant to be hidden. We must let our light shine so that others will see our good works. What can you do to shine your light and help make someone's day better?

February 12: In the text from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, we are told that we are all God's servants working together. What are ways that you can work with God's servants? Gather a group of people and volunteer at a food pantry or visit a nursing home together or help someone with their chores.

February 19: Among the instructions that Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:38-48 is that we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. This is a very hard thing to do. It is difficult to love people who hurt us. Who in your community or our our world do we need to pray for? Pray for them each day this week.

February 26: In Matthew 17:1-9 we hear the story of Jesus' transfiguration, or transformation, as Peter, James and John watched. And then they heard a voice from heaven say, "This is my beloved Son." They had a "mountaintop experience." How do you think the disciples felt when they heard the voice? How might we hear God's voice today? What might God say to you?

February Lectionary Text

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY—FEBRUARY 5

Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12] Psalm 112:1–9 [10] 1
Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16] Matthew 5:13–20

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY—FEBRUARY 19

Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18 Psalm 119:33–40
1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23 Matthew 5:38–48

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY—FEBRUARY 12

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 Psalm 119:1–8 1
Corinthians 3:1–9 Matthew 5:21–37

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD—FEBRUARY 26

Exodus 24:12–18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16–21 Matthew 17:1–9

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 2 - Mike Stalnaker
Feb. 3 - Ken Miller
Feb. 7 - Cayden Cooper
Feb. 8 - John Schooley
Feb. 12 - Judy Cooper
Feb. 18 - Jim Nolan
Feb. 19 - Delores Harsh
Feb. 19 - Kaylen Neal
Feb. 22 - Ruth Powell
Feb. 27 - Dave Roberts

JANUARY GIVING

January 1	\$1,431.00
January 8	\$2,628.00
January 15	\$1,873.58
January 22	\$1,818.73
January 29	n/a
Jan. Total	\$7,751.31
YTD Total	\$7,751.31

CORRESPONDENCE

Thanks to the Sunshine Committee for the "shower" of cards. Your prayers are most appreciated during this difficult time.

Judy Shaver

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

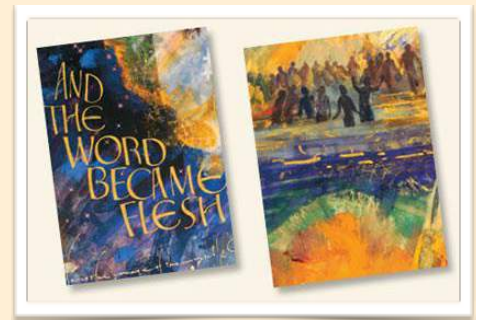
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday Feb. 19th.

ST. JOHN'S BIBLE

On Friday, March 31, 2017, the Presbytery of West Virginia will be hosting the Heritage Edition of the Gospel/Acts volume of the St. John's Bible in partnership with Montreat Conference Center. This volume is part of the 299 Heritage Editions which have been created, reproductions of the original hand-crafted version which is now on display in at St. John's University.

Ann Laird Jones, Montreat's arts ministry director, will be leading a workshop from 6:30-8:30 pm on March 31 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, WV. This workshop will look at the making of the St. John's Bible and the importance of writing text and imagining scripture. This will be

an opportunity to see, touch and engage the Gospel/Acts volume, particularly the "I Am" sayings of Jesus, and to work on an illumination based on the text using a variety of art supplies. This workshop is designed for ages 6 and up; no art experience is expected. This workshop is offered free of charge, though advance registration is required. To register, contact Susan Sharp Campbell, susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-645-4568 with any questions.



February Ministry Volunteers

LITURGIST

Feb. 5 and 12: Kim Steele
Feb. 19 and 26: Adam Ranson


USHERS

Eddie & Kathy Snider
Ronnie Harsh
Eric Schroder



The church with a heart in the heart of the city!

the February 2017 Chimes

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F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H



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