

First Presbyterian Church *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2017

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SPIRITUAL SUBMARINES

Author Steve Farrar encourages Christian fathers to be spiritual submarines under the surface of their children's lives. "Through your prayers you have the ability to affect situations where you are not physically present," he writes in *Standing Tall*. "You may be undetected, but that does not mean that you are ineffective."



Consider yourselves
dead to sin

and

ALIVE
to **GOD** in
CHRIST
JESUS

ROMANS 6:11

A man who puts on the armor of God and goes to war on his knees for his children is a force to be reckoned with, Farrar adds. "When it comes to battle ... understand that you have been given awesomely powerful weapons."



LIVE IT OUT

The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.

—Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

Church Events

- Jun 4th - Communion Service; Pentecost Special Offering
- Jun 7th - Worship Meeting 10 a.m.
- Jun 8th - Evangelism Meeting 3:30 p.m.; Session Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- Jun 11th - Fellowship Luncheon after the Service
- Jun 12th - PW Circle 1:30 p.m., Classroom #1 in FH
- Jun 18th - Father's Day; Deacons and Evangelism Meetings, both after the Service in Fellowship Hall
- Jun 24th - Men's Breakfast Meeting 8:30am



Mission Committee



Thanks for such a great outpouring for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering: \$720. Our next one is set for June 4th, which is the Pentecost offering: 40% of your donations will remain local, and the rest is sent to PC(USA) for use by young adult volunteers, youth ministry programs, and Presbyterian work with children at risk. We have not participated in

this in the past few years, but if you feel called to do so, make a notation on your check or envelope for "Pentecost offering."

As of this writing, we have awarded 7 scholarships for campers attending **Cho-Yeh**. We do have some funding left, thus if you have someone who registers and might want some financial assistance, contact the

office or Chuck Davidson.

The Mission team will not be meeting in June, but we request all who might travel this summer to consider picking up personal hygiene items for use in the fall when we will attempt to fill 25 shoeboxes for **seamen** at the Port of Houston. We also will be collecting small items for children in the fall to fill 25 boxes for **Samaritan's Purse**.

August will again feature the church luncheon focused on

Kids Free Clothing Exchange, so 'tis time to think about picking up shoes and socks for this event.

We thank you for your continued support in donating non-perishable food items for the **Center of Hope**, eyeglasses for **Lions International** usage, along with craft items for the **Head-Start program** at the Alabama-Coushatta reservation.

Chuck Davidson,
Mission Chair

The Best Father

Unlike an earthly prince, God didn't take a high-and-mighty title, notes 17th-century British preacher Thomas Watson. Instead, God calls himself Father to encourage us to pray to him. But God isn't just any father. Watson offers these reasons why God is "the best Father":

- He is the most ancient (Daniel 7:9).
- He is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- He is the wisest (Romans 16:27).
- He is the most loving (Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:16).
- He has unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).
- He can reform his children (Acts 9:11).
- He never dies (1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:8).

THE LORD
STANDS BESIDE ME
LIKE A GREAT

WARRIOR.

JEREMIAH 20:11, NLT



"I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

* * *

"It is a wise father that knows his own child."

—William Shakespeare

* * *

"We realize the importance of light when we see darkness."

—Malala Yousafzai

* * *

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty."

—Mahatma Gandhi

FROM THE PASTOR



“--- keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this we are never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary- we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives by the Holy Spirit” -Romans 5:4 MSG.

There is a phrase that I often hear and I've used it myself. It is almost one of the most depressing and sad statements that can come out of our mouths. It usually follows the question from someone else that goes like this: "How are you and what is happening in your life?" The sad and frustrating reply we often hear is: "Same old, same old," or, "nothing new really," or, "not a lot." We have all been guilty, but what it really signals is that we are stuck in the status quo. As one man has put it, come weal or woe my status will remain quo.

The above verse is a promise of just the opposite. It really implies that regardless of what life was yesterday, we can live in a sense of expectation of what God wants to pour into our lives. He desires that we pray that He will give us expectation of great things He wants to do. How about waking up and saying, "I can expect great things to happen today," and, in fact, to tell the Father that you are an expectant child. Have you ever watched children who had positive expectations about Christmas, or going to Disney World, or just going on a weekend camping trip? Imagine the smiles on their faces, the energy they exude, the excitement that leaps out of them. That is exactly what God wants us to feel, because every day He has so much to pour into our lives that there are not enough containers to hold it. Expect great things from God!

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Lord Give Me Patience

by Tommy Fluker

Lord give me patience it's not an easy thing I know
Traveling down a narrow highway behind someone
driving slow

They never give a signal - a cell phone in their ear
I always grit my teeth and think of someone dear
When I'm at Walmart and baskets block the aisle

Lord give me patience to turn around and smile
Ahead of me at check out someone's got coupons by the
score

Then they send a boy to price check at the far end of the
store

I rush to the doctors office so as never to be late
Only to pass the time away reading magazines out of date
At last in an exam room I'm happy as can be
Just to find I wait some more - Doc's got a lot of folks to
see

Lord give me patience as I sit and watch TV
I can't keep up with movies for all the commercials I must
see

There's countless pills I'm told to ask my doctor should I
take
Someone has the real thing - the competition is a fake

Lord give me patience I promise not to swear
When a passing boom box is more than I can bear
Their music choice will change I hope as they start to age
To something with a melody not one that's filled with
rage

So I say don't get angry and call someone a liar
Won't do any good just make your blood pressure higher
I'm trying harder now - I know I'm getting stronger
Lord give me patience - I'll live a whole lot longer.



Worship Committee



At our last meeting on Wednesday, May 3, the Worship Committee spent the majority of the time planning for special Sunday worship services: Mother's Day, May 14; Memorial Day, May 28; and Father's Day, June 18. As all of you now know, all of our mothers and grandmothers received beautiful red carnations. Dads, do not fret – you will be

receiving meaningful gifts on your day next month.

There is a good chance that Pastor Joe will be leading a memorial service for his nephew on Saturday, June 24. Should this turn out to be the case, our own Glenn Drumm has agreed to deliver the message on Sunday, June 25. Thank you Glenn!

Following the all music Sunday on May 28, the choir will be "on vacation" until Sunday, August 20. Karlene will be selecting some of your favorite hymns to be sung during the summer Sunday worship services.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, June 7, at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Jay Walrath,
Worship Chair

The "Trinitarian formula" occurs only once in the Bible. In which New Testament book do we read "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and who said these words?



- A. Romans; Paul
- B. 1 Peter; Simon Peter
- C. The Acts of the Apostles; Luke
- D. Matthew; Jesus

"Summer Flowers"

Behold the flowers of June!
How fair and bright their buds appear,
as, opening to the summer air,
our eyes and hearts they cheer!

Who would have thought there could abound
such beauty and delight
beneath the cold and wintry ground
that hid those flowers from sight?

That power which made and governs all —
the mighty power of God —
alone could life and beauty call
out of the lifeless sod.

And he, who from the winter's gloom
can summer thus disclose,
shall one day make the desert bloom,
and blossom as the rose.

—Anonymous



NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME MUSICIANS



The choir will be taking a well-deserved break during the months of June-July-August. There are plenty of Sundays for "Not Ready for Prime Time Musicians" to use their talents.

Summer is a great time for the members of our church who cannot make a long-term commitment to the choir to participate in the worship experience. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your whole family sing their favorite hymn (mom / dad/ children/ grandchildren / grandma / grandpa).

Remember, you don't just have to "sing" a

favorite hymn or Christian song. You could: play a musical instrument, perform a piano or organ solo, read a poem, perform sign language or praise skits, or any other worshipful way you would like to enhance our worship service.

A simple call to the church (327-8381) or me (239-6959) will find you a spot on the calendar. Just give me a date and we'll see you in church!

Rejoice
Always,
Karlene
Barker
Music Director



Property Committee

Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you. He won't leave you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the Lord's house is finished. -1 Chronicles 28:20

The flower bed along the east wall of the Activity Building has been cleaned out and replaced with mulch. The committee will be planting new flowers in this bed in the near future.

Also, one of the wooden sections on the east wall had the rotten wood removed and replaced with new wood and painted.

The bad spot in the parking lot by the Reserved Parking has been reworked and concreted in.

On Sunday, May 14th, a presentation was given to the congregation concerning the Sanctuary pews and the cost of replacing them. Information requested by some of the congregation, a cost of approximately \$23,000.

David Sessums is working on the 190 property, clearing out the brush around the trees.

"We are responsible for what service God is able to do through us." - Lunn

Glenn Drumm, Property Chair



Don't forget to drop by the library and check out books by your favorite authors. To name a few, Max Lucado, Mark Batterson, Janet Oake and many others.

We are currently preparing an inventory of the books, and arranging the books alphabetically. It's going to take some time to complete but it will be easier to find your books when the project is completed.

Drop by anytime. You are your own librarian. Just sign the checkout sheet and return the book to the desk when you have read it.

Jo Ann Hogg, Christian Education Director

Evangelism Committee

Pens with our church's name on them are now ready, and will again be distributed through our Deacons (Thank you!) and through their flocks. With your 4 pens, plans are for you to keep one and give the other three away. Pencils with our name have also been ordered and will be used for advertising for First Presbyterian Church so we will no longer be "the best kept secret in Livingston," as one of our church members described us.

T-shirt ordering started May 21st and will go through June and until July 23rd, after which the shirts will be ordered with arrival in early August. Forms are available for you to fill out, and payment may be in cash (exact amounts, please) or check made out to First Presbyterian Church, and given to Nina Dobyns, Evangelism Committee, or church office. All shirts are hunter green with white lettering. T-shirts are \$7.50 and are all cotton. Polo-golf shirts are \$15.00 and are cotton-polyester with a collar. On the front is the Presbyterian logo, along with our name. Printed on the back is, "Loving God and Loving People," and our church name and location. Some music, youth and possibly other groups will be paying for and ordering shirts and wearing them for church events. Our music ministry is making plans to perform in nursing homes, at CARE, at Montessori and whenever possible at anyplace we are invited. We have many different musical groups and music is an effective evangelism tool.

Our hopes are to share our wonderful Lord, our small but mighty church, our hard working pastor, elders, deacons, staff, Sunday School, youth, women's and men's, and mission groups, numerous committees, our entire congregation and the love that exists here. Tentative Evangelism Committee meetings for June are Thursday, June 8th, at 3:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall, and after church on Sunday, June 18th. We have possibilities for resource guest speakers, and if we can schedule, I will let you know ASAP. You are welcome at any meeting and have given us so much encouragement, ideas, words of wisdom, donations, and especially prayers. God bless you every one!

The most effective evangelism is one person inviting another. Be brave and invite a friend to one of our services, SS, Saturday Night Life, one of our many mission events, our Women's, Men's or Youth Ministries. Our Lord has blessed us so much. Let's share.

Nina Dobyns, Evangelism Chair

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Our June Anniversaries are:

- Tom & Ruth Dominy, 6/3
- Jere & Sarah Hamilton, 6/8
- Ervin & Patricia Herrmann, 6/13
- Ron & Audrey Ammons, 6/15
- Glenn & Georgina Drumm, 6/15
- David & Robin Sessums, 6/16
- Lou & Vi Huneycutt 6/23
- Harry & Judy Bristol, 6/27

Our June Birthdays are:

- Jamie Nixon, 6/1
- David Hancock, 6/3
- Jere Hamilton, 6/7
- Karlene Barker, 6/8
- Betty Baker, 6/9
- Sarah Hamilton, 6/13
- Sally Harrop, 6/17
- Carole Green, 6/18
- Shona Heredia, 6/22
- Patricia Herrmann, 6/23
- Jo Ann Hogg, 6/25
- Liz Shields, 6/26
- June Moore, 6/27
- Jay Walrath, 6/27



June Luncheon

This month's luncheon will be on June 11th, after the service. Please join us as we celebrate Father's Day!

Fellowship always needs help on our team. If you are interested in joining a fun group, watch the calendar and come to our meetings. The luncheons will be added back for the remainder of the year. Lots of fun times ahead; keep watching our article for menus and fun surprises!!

—Karen Palmer, Fellowship Chair

Our Sunday Services

Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.

Worship -10:00 a.m.

Children's Celebration

(for kids ages 5 & older) 10:00 a.m.

Nursery for children up to age 4

