



THE STEEPLE

Fayetteville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
1720 Huntsville Highway – Fayetteville, TN 37334

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FEBRUARY 2018

Bryan Bult – Pastor



THE VIEW FROM THE STEEPLE -

*A man makes his plans;
But the Lord determines his steps.*

Dear Friends,

After months of prayerful consideration I have concluded that the Lord is calling me back to South Carolina. First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC has called me to be their associate pastor to the aging. I believe this position suits my gifts well and allows me to focus my energies in an area where I have some strengths. They have called me to be part of a ministry team, assisting them in an area in which my strongest gifts seem to fit their particular needs.

Because of our deep appreciation for you, this has been an agonizing decision—the most difficult of my ministry years. I didn't seek out this position. It came to me quite unexpectedly. I was content to minister here with you until retirement, if the Lord so willed. After a lot of prayer-saturated thought and discussion with Michelle, the Lord's call away seemed undeniable.

Moving to Columbia also gives my family the opportunity to live closer to our extended families. The Lord calls us to honor our parents. That looks different than it did when we were children, but more than ever it remains our responsibility. We need and want to help our parents with the needs they will have in the years to come. We want our kids to be more a part of their lives. Our heart's desire is to be closer to them, see them more often, and better fulfill our responsibility to them.

I plan to begin my ministry in Columbia on April 4. Until that time I want to be as helpful to you as possible as you prepare for a transition. We hope you will understand my reasons for this decision. We dearly love this congregation. I thoroughly enjoy serving with all of you. You have been a home for us and everything a church family should be and more. You have helped me through

challenges in my own life in ways I will never be able to adequately thank you for. I cherish and am thankful for our times of worship and fellowship together.

We will have time to say goodbye in the next couple of months, but for now please know that part of our hearts will always be with this congregation.

I have loved being your pastor!

Bryan



FEBRUARY FLOWER COMMITTEE -

Ann Gracy – Chairwoman

Lance Gracy, Cheryl Sumners, Diane Sumners,
Donna Sumners, Lora Whitmore, Marge Whitmore

BIG NEWS FROM WOMEN OF THE WAY OF TN !!!

Beth Moore is coming to Huntsville on Sept, 15, 2018!! Many of you have been involved in Beth Moore Bible studies so you know how inspirational she is! On September 15th, *Living Proof Live* with Beth Moore and worship by Travis Cottrell will be presented at Von Braun Propst Arena. The first session begins at 9:30 and the event concludes at 4:15.

If you are interested in serving or volunteering for the event, join me for The Leadership Gathering on March 1, 2018 from 11:30-1:00 at Willowbrook Baptist Church. At this luncheon, you can get information about serving opportunities, get connected with other leaders in the area, and pray for the event. Every table of 8 that is filled with 3 or more churches or ministries can get 2 free tickets to the September event!

So, you've got 2 options:

- 1) Join the Women of the Way table by replying to womenofthewaytn@gmail.com
or
- 2) Register your own table at <http://bit.ly/LPLHuntsvilleLG>





MUSICAL NOTES -

(Joe Stephenson)

It seems like yesterday that we were talking about Advent, and yet here we are already facing the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent begins this year on February 14 and ends on March 29th. To mark the Easter season, our adult choir will again present the Easter portion of Handel's *Messiah*. I was inspired by the words of Mark D. Roberts as found in his article: Christ, Church and the Culture on www.patheos.com. I would like to share some of his thoughts with you here.

Most of us associate *Messiah* with Christmas. But Handel did not write the work as a piece of Christmas music. If you pay attention to the words of the piece, you see that only the first part of the composition has to do with the birth of Jesus. The second two parts focus on HIS death, resurrection, Pentecost and the final resurrection of all believers. In fact, the first performance of the *Messiah* occurred not during Advent as you would suppose, but during the Easter season. Handel uniquely tells the story of the suffering and risen Christ, not solely through the New Testament but primarily through prophetic passages in the Old Testament. But he finishes with the glorious words from Revelation 5 "Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto HIM that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.

Taken as a whole, Handel's composition mirrors the history of salvation, in which the death and resurrection of Christ are the very center of time, the place in which God defeats the power of sin and death.

We invite all who are interested in joining with our adult choir for this performance. Rehearsals begin February 11th at 6:30.



SEEN AND HEARD -

Anabeth Sumners was inducted into the Junior Beta Club at Ralph Askins School. She was also chosen Reporter and Student Ambassador.

Sierra Moon was named to the High Honor Roll at Riverside Christian Academy. She also received an Excellence in Science Award as well as an Excellence in English Award.



Ann and Robert Gracy celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last month. Married in Knoxville, TN in 1953, Ann and Robert have been a vital part of our congregation for many years. We congratulate them on reaching this milestone.





HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Our congregation has added several new members over the last few weeks.

We welcome into full fellowship Maddox and Mitchell Sutton as well as Jake, Pati and Sierra Moon.



TITUS 2 TRAVELS –

(Rebecca Parker)

Ladies!

Don't miss this one!!!

On Tuesday, February 6th we will travel to Murfreesboro to see the exhibit: Wedding Dresses through the Decades.

Our own Judy Purinton has her wedding dress (which was also her mother's) in the exhibit. From there we will go for lunch at Demos' Restaurant. We will meet at the church and take the bus at 8:15 A.M. We will be back by 2:30.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED! The cost to see the exhibit is at a group rate of \$7.00 a person. We must have 10 signed up to get this special rate so respond to this email or call/text Rebecca at 931-607-1238, to make your reservation.

Mark your calendar for our March meeting on Tuesday, March 6th. We will pack and deliver lunches to those in our church who need our attention. Let Rebecca know if you can bring a jello/fruit salad, rolls or dessert. We will eat together in the Fellowship Hall after we make our deliveries.

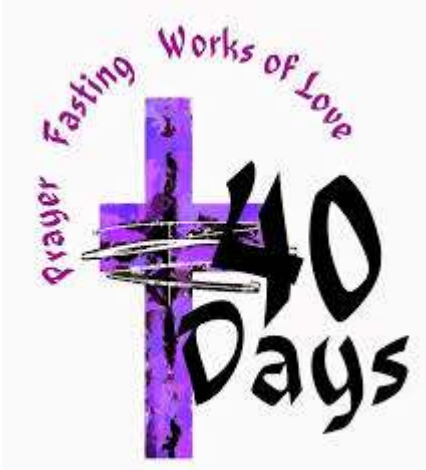
Both of these scheduled events are great opportunities to serve one another and to further develop Christian friendships!

Sure hope you can attend both!



WHAT IS LENT?

The earliest mention of Lent in the history of the Church comes from the council of Nicaea in 325 AD. It is the first time this period of preparation for Easter is stated as lasting 40 days, the length of time adopted in imitation of the forty



days that Jesus spent in the desert at the beginning of his public ministry. *(Matthew 4:1-2 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights and afterwards he was famished.)*

Lent is a time of prayer, repentance and recommitment leading up to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, and culminating 40 days later, Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for the most important religious holiday for believers. Sundays are not included in the observance of Lent as Sundays are supposed to be holy days of celebrating the

resurrection for all Christians.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are put on believers' foreheads as a sign of repentance, an ancient sign of mourning that was often done at sorrowful occasions. The ashes represent sorrow over our sins and the pain and death caused by sin. They urge us to meditate on the great cost of our salvation, to turn from our sins and recommit ourselves to holiness. The Lenten season calls us to focus less on our physical appetites and more on our spiritual needs. Perhaps such meditation would lead us to appreciate anew the cost of grace and the victory of the empty tomb.

SAVE THE DATE –

(Gail Fowler)

These will be here before you know it! Mark them down now. More information to follow,

VBS – May 29 – June 1

Quest Conference- June 11-16

Horizon Conference – June 18 – 23

Appalachia Mission Trip – June 30 – July 6



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS:

Children’s Church Volunteers:

- 4 – Michelle Bult
- 11 – Abby Underwood
- 18 – Ginny Golden
- 258 – Camille Hester

Toddler Class Volunteers:

- 4 – Stephany Wingard
- 11 – Sarah and Matt Thelen
- 18 – Roberta Kidd & Peggy Wright
- 25 – Gail Fowler

We GLOW Snack Volunteers:

- 7 – Pam Crabtree
- 14 – LeeAnn Smith
- 21 – Camille Hester
- 28 – Cheryl Sumners

Youth Meal Volunteers:

- 4 – No Sunday Night Activities
- 11 – Bult Family
- 18 –
- 25 – LeeAnn Smith

Thanks to all that have already volunteered and to those that will in the future. This is a vital part of the Youth Ministry of our church!!

**If you would like to volunteer in any of these ministries, please contact Gail Fowler 433-5205 or fayarp@gmail.com.



A NEW COVENANT CHILD!

On January 17th, Catherine and Chanse Bartlett welcomed their new son, Walter Lee Bartlett. Weighing just over 8 pounds and measuring 20 inches long, Walt is their first child. He is the grandson of Sherry Bartlett and the late Steve Bartlett and Dexter and Cary Sullivan.

We rejoice with this family over this sweet blessing from God.



JUST FOR THE LADIES!

Don't let the opportunity for a great weekend of fellowship and spiritual encouragement slip by you! Join with ladies from across our Presbyterial at Knotting Hill Inn (formerly the Lodge at Gunter Hollow) on February 16 and 17. The speaker for the event, Suzanne Matthews, has been with us for past retreats and brings a powerful message tailored just for the ladies. The topic is Unlocking Beliefs: Answering Questions Jesus Asks. Registration starts at 5 pm on the 16th. If you have questions concerning this event, please contact Becky Hall at 931-937-6951 or text her at 931-752-8527.

SOLID GOLD LUNCHEON –

(Teresa Brown)

Every year in late January, the youth start planning a luncheon to honor our church members over 70 years young. The youth meet with adults to plan a spectacular luncheon. It never disappoints. The menu is chosen by our youth. The meal is cooked by our youth with adult supervision. The decorations are made by our youth. Last, the youth choose the entertainment. There will be skits, comedy routines, singing, playing the piano, riding the hover board, and a very special game thought up by Eli Hester. There is still time to let Gail Fowler know that you would like to attend. If you are 70 or older, these youth would like to get to know you. Nobody has to beg our youth to participate. It truly IS fun for all ages!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY REMINDERS –

(Becky Hall)

Thanks to all who assisted with the Jubilee Birthday luncheon.

Maggie Kidd Circle meets on February 14 –

Fellowship Hall at 1pm

















Joy Circle meets on February 21 –

at the home of Debbie McAlister at 6:30

Rachel Powelson will be coming home in February for an extended visit – Please pray for her to have a safe trip home.

If you have information that you would like to see included in the newsletter, please email Deborah O'Connor at gigi37334@yahoo.com

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Will Hester, Bd	2 Caroline Templeton, Bd. 	3 Christie Boaz, Bd.
4 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Joshua Underwood, Bd. 	5 Dustin Kennemer, Bd. Hudson Cowley, Bd. 	6 Trip to Mufreesboro. Meet at the church at 8:15am. 	7 Diaconate Meeting @ 7:00pm	8  BOY SCOUT DAY 	9 Max Raby, Bd.	10 Chris O'Connor, Bd. 
11 Soldi Gold Senior Luncheon 	12 Lincoln's Birthday Rhett Winsett, Bd. Bob Hamilton, Jr., Bd.	13 Michelle Bult, Bd. Meredith Taylor, Bd. Carson Templeton, Bd. Rebecca Parker, Bd. 	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Valentine's Day Maggie Kidd Circle 1pm Feeman Bult, Bd. Mary Drew Bult, Bd. Billy Wiley, Bd. Jim Craig, Bd. Session Meeting @ 7:00pm 	15	16 Allen Elliott, Bd. John & Sandra Curtis, An. Kelsey Elliott, Bd. 	17
18 Joint SS with MT3 Missionary Sam Cotten Mike & Karen Bennett, An.	19 Ruth Manning, Bd. President's Day 	20 	21 Ben Patrick, Bd. Lee Wright, Bd. Tommy Eslick, Bd. Joy Circle @ 6:30pm	22 Washington's Birthday Olivia Eslick, Bd.	23 Marshall Smith, Bd. 	24 Pam Crabtree, Bd. Grant Pethel, Bd.
25 Louis & Peggy Thompson, An.	26	27 Ryan Towry, Bd. 	28 Kalista Holdmeyer, Bd. Wild Game Supper	