

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

September 2018

www.pcanet.org
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From the Pastor

H.B. Charles, the pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL writes, "All that we do in the name of Christ is to be fueled by prayer. Much prayer, much power; little prayer, littler power; no prayer, no power!" (*A Biblical Answer for Racial Unity*, 28-9). The late Scottish pastor James Philip is even more to the point, "If it is through prayer that the Spirit of God comes upon the Church in tongues of fire, and that Satan falls as lightning to the ground, then prayer must be the unquestioned and unassailable first priority in our lives and in our fellowship" (*Serving the Word of God* ed's David Wright & David Stay, 67). The Lord works in his church through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit largely works in response to the prayers of the saints. From Genesis to Revelation we read how God works in the lives of his people and the ministry of his church through prayer.

And when it comes to the life of the church, the Lord especially works as his people pray together. In a day when the church's weekly "prayer meeting" is largely written off as a relic of the past, there could not be a greater need for its revival. In his excellent article "The Prayer Meeting" (*Tabletalk*, 4/18, 57) Derek Thomas notes how the book of Acts is a case study in the power of corporate prayer. First of all, the church was conceived in prayer. Jesus had instructed his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. As they waited they prayed (1:14). Luke writes, "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers" (ESV). The phrase "with one accord" (one word in Greek) suggests that there was a unity, as well as a corporate nature, to their prayer life. The word "devoted" tells us that they persisted in prayer. Rather than a one-night prayer vigil (which is not a bad thing), it was a way of life. So when they needed an apostle to replace Judas, what did they do? They prayed and the Lord made his will known (1:24). And in response to the prayers of the saints the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and 3000 souls were saved. This only strengthened their resolve to pray. Immediately after Pentecost we read that the newly formed church was still devoting itself to, among other things, "the prayers" (2:42). Throughout Acts we see that the church was gathering regularly for prayer.

The church in the United States is in dire need of power. If we want to see the power of the Holy Spirit unleashed among us, we will give ourselves not just to prayer but to corporate prayer, prayer services, even "prayer meetings." And there is no better time to pray together than at the close of the Lord's Day. Gathering together for Word and prayer at the close of the Lord's day provides a helpful reminder that the whole day belongs to God. There is no better way to be built up in the faith and prepared for the week ahead than to close the day together with God.

That said, beginning Sunday, September 16th we will be closing each Lord's Day (except the first Sunday of each month) with a prayer service including a devotion from scripture and a season of corporate prayer. Our season of prayer will include adoration, confession, and thanksgiving, as well as a substantial time for supplication and intercession. We will pray a bit more specifically (though not inappropriately so) than in the morning, including prayers for our missionaries and ministries, those who are sick among us and the salvation of the lost, for the preached Word and persecuted believers. And we can rest assured that the Lord will answer. Please join us starting September 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. As Sinclair Ferguson puts it, "Nothing builds fellowship quite like a prayer meeting."

Homecoming is Sunday, September 9

Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service 11:00
Covered dish meal
following the worship
service.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Layton



Circle News

Circle II met on Tuesday, August 28 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall after their Summer break. Donna White served members a good meal and Kim Yates presented lesson four from our study in the *Fruit of the Spirit – Peace* entitled “Feeling Safe in God’s Care” based on Psalm 91. “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust” (vs 1-2). Psalm 91 promises God’s protection for those who trust in Him.”

Circle II will be hosting our Homecoming lunch on September 9th following the worship service. Plans were tentatively made for our next Movie Night for September 28th at 7 pm (pending Session approval). Plans are to show the movie, I Can Only Imagine. Initial plans are being made for our Fall Festival as well – be on the lookout for more information to be included in our bulletin and newsletter! Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 25th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite any lady not currently involved in Circle to join us. Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

Circle III met Thursday, August 2 at 6:30 pm for a fish fry provided by the Stivers with Mark Tyson assisting with the cooking. The business meeting followed the meal. The project for August is to collect school supplies for the local Ellerbe schools. Everyone is invited to participate. Boxes are placed in the vestibule and the fellowship hall. Supplies will be collected through Sunday, September 14.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 4 at 1:00 pm and Jeanine Wall will the lesson titled “Why We Shouldn’t Worry” in the new study book *Fruit of the Spirit*. Please join us!

Jan Stivers, *Secretary*



WIC Update

The ongoing collection of items for the Richmond County Hospice Haven continues and the wish list was published in the last newsletter and also weekly in the bulletin. Thanks to all who are participating in this project. I have made two deliveries to the location and our collection was appreciated. Individually wrapped snacks are in great demand.

Thanks to Circle II for hosting the upcoming Homecoming on Sunday, September 9.

Beth Bryant, *WIC President*

Church Transportation

The Session is desirous of providing transportation for anyone wanting to worship but needs transportation. If you are willing to drive others to worship or know of anyone needing transportation to worship, please let a Session member know.

Deacon Nominations

Nominations for the office of Deacon are being received through noon on September 16. Forms are available in the vestibule. Communing members may submit the name(s) of any male communing member(s) who meet the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Current Deacons are listed at the bottom of this page

Special Fund

The Session has set up a fund to help defray Timm Dazey’s seminary costs. Persons wishing to contribute to this fund should designate so on their checks.

Church Officers:

Ruling Elders

- Austin Bryant
- Bill Carter
- Tim Clark
- Timm Dazey
- Rickie DeWitt
- Robert Mabe
- Richard Smith
- Jimmy Wagers
- Tony Yates

Deacons

- Chris Meacham (class of 2019)
- Buck Smith (class of 2018)
- Tommy White (class of 2019)

WIC Officers

- Beth Bryant, President
- Mollie Snyder, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Jane Carriker, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Effie Meacham, Mission to the World Chair
- Victoria Smith, Mission to North America Chair
- Lori Clark & Patricia McCormick, Christian Growth Co-Chairs

Greeters

- 2 Mollie Snyder
- 9 M/M Jimmy Greene & Family
- 16 Susan DeWitt
- 23 Mike Poplin
- 30 M/M Tony Yates

Anniversaries

- 16 M/M Brandon Smith
- 22 M/M James Meacham
- 24 M/M Rickie DeWitt
- 24 M/M Tommy White



Happy Birthday
September

- 1 Ted Carter
- 6 Evan Dazey
- 6 Madison Dazey
- 8 Mary Ellen Carter
- 9 Victoria Smith
- 10 Jane Smith
- 12 Becky Henderson
- 16 Kim Yates
- 16 Damon Bryant
- 20 Alex Wagers
- 21 Rickie DeWitt
- 23 Ben Monroe
- 24 Jamie Lambeth
- 25 Patrick Bryant
- 26 Kellie Craven
- 27 Taylor Bowman
- 29 Alex Clark
- 30 Savannah DeWitt



Prayer List: Armed Forces and Families, Our President and national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Peace and Unity in our country, Dan Allen, Ethel Allen, Steve Allen, Jack Berry, Joyce Britt, Austin Bryant, Andrew Brunson, Steve and Brenda Campbell, Tommy Childers, A.T. Covington, Margie Cox, Evon Craven, Kevin Craven, Barbara Davis, Sharon DeWitt, Steve DeWitt, Mark Futrell, Keith Hayden, Becky Henderson, Doris Hill, Frances Hill, Ken Hill, Sandra Hudson, Dolly Ingram, Patrick Kelly, Tommy Kinney, Theresa Long, Bradley Mabe, Gayle Mabe, Jameson McAnanny, Meredith McBride, Robert McCormick, Mike McFayden, Dan McInnis, Elvin Monroe, Mary Murdock, Jane North, Larry Parsons, Cassie Patrick, The Potterfields, Sami Poore, Waleed Raja, Charles Rhyne, Archie Robinson, Earl Rose, Cozette Rush, Carolyn Sellers, Mark Sellers, Adam Shepherd, Buck Smith, Mollie Snyder, Kourtney Stover, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Stanley Tolbert, Regina Uribe, Denise Vernon, Katie White, Betty Wilson, Jack Yates, Unspoken Requests.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September			Every Sunday: 9:15 – 9:45 am—Prayer season, conference room. 10:00 am—Sunday School opening in sanctuary followed by classrooms. 11:00 am—Worship service			
2 3:00 pm Ark & Creation Museum trip in Kentucky meeting, old fellowship hall	3 Labor Day	4 1:00 pm Circle 3, fellowship hall	5 6:00 pm Meal and Bible Study 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting	6	7	8
9 Homecoming Covered dish lunch following the worship service 5:00 pm Joint Youth Group Meeting	10	11	12 6:00 pm Meal and Bible Study 7:00 pm Session Meeting	13	14	15
16 6:00 pm Prayer Service in sanctuary	17	18	19 6:00 pm Meal and Bible Study	20	21	22
23 6:00 pm Prayer Service in sanctuary	24	25 6:30 pm Circle 2 fellowship hall	26 6:00 pm Meal /Bible Study 7:00 pm Session Shepherding Meeting	27	28 7:00 pm Movie Night (tentative)	29
30 6:00 pm Prayer Service in sanctuary						