



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

OCTOBER 2017



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

Rev. Jeri Fields, Pastor for Interim Ministry
Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit, Parish Associate

Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Co-Directors
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbells Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Kim Parker, Office Manager
Justin Streletz, Accompanist
Dana Van Slyke, Choir Director
(Vacancy), Little Hands Preschool Director

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI



STEWARDSHIP. Stewardship is a word that too often causes fear accompanied by a desire to run in the opposite direction. Why? Because the word conjures up the notion that *“It’s that time of year again when the church requests pledges to its budget.”*

Stewardship is meant to be a year round discussion, not just a discussion nervously held as we approach Dedication Sunday on November 5th. In all actuality, stewardship is mentioned every Sunday as we talk about caring, and sharing and helping God’s people. We just don’t use the “S” word.

“We Are an Offering”

We lift our voices. We lift our hands. We lift our lives up to You. We are an offering.

Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands. Lord use our lives. They are Yours. We are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You. We give to You.

We lift our voices. We lift our hands. We lift our lives up to You. We are an offering. We are an offering.

“All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You. We give to You.” These are really powerful words – words in which we offer ourselves: our time, our talents, and our treasures (*our financial resources*) to God through the church to do God’s redeeming work to bring about healing and wholeness in His name by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Each and every day is a gift from God. Each and every day each of us is called to be a good steward of all God has given us. Each and every day each of us is called to keep Christ as the focal point of our lives. And when we do, life is so very different and increasingly meaningful. When we slow down enough to sense God’s presence, we oftentimes experience a glimpse of the Kingdom of God here on earth and rejoice with a grateful heart.

My challenge to you is this: If you have never made an intentional commitment of your time, your talents, and/or your treasures for Christ’s church, do so this year. If you have, then I challenge you to increase your giving in at least one of the areas of your time, talent, and treasures. After you do so, begin to observe how your priorities change. Begin to notice joy replacing other emotions. Begin to experience God in a new way. Discover a sense of excitement and growing attitude of gratitude.

God bless you!
Pastor Jeri

*Passion for Christ—Compassion for Others
Loving God—Loving Others
Connect—Grow—Serve*



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

CONCERT TO BENEFIT HURRICANE VICTIMS

A recital of sacred works and other standard literature

Featuring

Justin Streletz - piano

Chris Anderson - voice

Rebecca Anderson - clarinet

Veronica Sharpe - violin

Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 PM

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Free-will offering to be collected for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



Session Report

At the September 12th Session meeting, the Session decided to combine the Stewardship and Time & Talent committees with one Elder chair. Session is discerning what emphasis of the "open" Elder position might be.

We learned that a new telephone system has been installed and that an Audio and Video Usage policy is being developed.

The third annual Blessing of the Church is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Session's annual budget development meeting is scheduled for October 14th. Budget items will be prioritized and the amounts funded will depend upon the results of the amount pledged in the stewardship campaign.

Dan Green and Clator Butler will be leading a God and Family class for 4th and 5th graders this fall at the 9:45 AM education hour. This is open to all youth, but especially Girl and Boy Scouts.

A free-will offering concert is scheduled for October 22nd from 3 to 4 PM to support Presbyterian Disaster Relief. Music will be both religious and secular. Light refreshments will be provided afterward.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Report

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency response and refugee program of the PC USA. It is committed to the long-term journey of recovery of communities adversely affected by a crisis or catastrophic event. Through the generosity of this congregation we were able to send \$2050 designated for those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

ACTS—Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanksgiving in OCTOBER? Yes, you read that correctly. This year ACTS is asking for all Thanksgiving food items to be donated by **October 13th**. Please consider bringing in Thanksgiving food items (listed below is what ACTS is requesting) to fill the ACTS pantry located in the coat closet.

Canned Sweet Potatoes (15 oz.)

Boxed Stuffing mix (6 oz.)

Canned Cranberry Sauce (14 oz.)

Boxed Pie Crust Mix (9 oz.)

Pie Filling

Boxed Corn Muffin Mix (Jiffy-8oz.)

Gravy Mixes (packets only please)

Instant Mashed Potatoes (13.75 oz.)

Canned Pumpkin Pie Mix (15 oz.)

Evaporated Milk (12 oz.)

And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.”

-Luke 3:10-11 KJV

Acts of Love

Acts of LOVE....in November the Mission & Outreach Committee will be inviting all families and friends to join in the *Acts of Love* event. Acts of Love is a moment of your time to share a Blessing with someone else. The event is for all ages (with the parent's approval) and no cost but your time and giving heart. Acts of Love are as simple as opening a door for someone, calling a shut-in just to chat (or better yet listen), carrying groceries to a car or into the house. You can be as creative as you want, better yet let your heart guide you. You will be asked to share what you did or what you received from someone. The act will be posted in the Narthex. More information will be provided late October or if you are really curious, ask one of the members of the Mission & Outreach Committee.

Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesday Night Alive is an opportunity to come together and share a meal and fellowship with each other. Dinner is served from 6:00-6:45 PM. Chancel Choir rehearsal and bible study taught by Pastor Jeri starts at 7 PM. The first Wednesday of each month is a potluck and the following weeks is a prepared meal with salad, drink, and dessert. A donation is taken to cover the cost of the food for those weeks.

The upcoming menu is:

October 4—Potluck theme “Oktoberfest (German Food)”

October 11—Sweet and Sour Glazed Chicken

October 18—Pepper Lime Chicken

October 25—Corn Stuffed Pork Chops

November 1—Potluck theme “Comfort Foods”

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat: Please join the Board of Deacons on October 29th from 3:30—5 PM for our annual Trunk or Treat Event. This will be held in our parking lot and will allow children to “trick or treat” by going car to car and collecting candy. To participate, please join us around 3 PM and decorate the trunk of your car and be prepared to hand out candy to about 100 children. You can even wear a costume if you want!

Please keep your decorations and costumes family friendly and not scary!. This is a fun event for all and a great community outreach event! Contact Gaylene Guest (703-491-4006) or Ruth Washburg (703-407-3976) for more information or questions.



Banner Committee

Thanks to all the people who helped with cleaning of the banner closet. It is so great to clean those spaces. All banners were taken out of the closet and organized according to season. A photo album was made to keep up with new additions and old favorites. It is so grand to sweep out the dust bunnies and organize our space. It took two days and as Grandma said ..."Many hands make light the work!"



*Thanks to all who
helped....*

Bob Albrecht

Claudia Cunningham

Kathy McNeely

Sara Porter

Charlotte Stultz

Pam Emert

Jeanette Gregory

Linda Wolstenholme



Bless this House

Peter and I recently attended our first annual Blessing of the Church. As we gathered in the sanctuary and then went in groups to each room of the church to pray, I was amazed by all the many ways in which our church is used: to worship, to teach, to learn, to help, to heal, to pray, to break bread together, to gather in fellowship, to sing, to play, to love and to serve. The experience left me with a sense of gratitude for my church family and the realization of how abundantly blessed we are as a church. Thanks to our Thursday Prayer and Praise Group for providing an opportunity to realize these blessings.

A few days after the Blessing of the Church, this hymn from my childhood came to mind:

Bless this house, O Lord we pray,
Make it safe by night and day. . .

Bless these walls so firm and stout,
Keeping want and trouble out. . .

Bless the roof and chimneys tall,
Let thy peace lie over all. . .

Bless this door that it may prove,
Ever open, to joy and love. . .

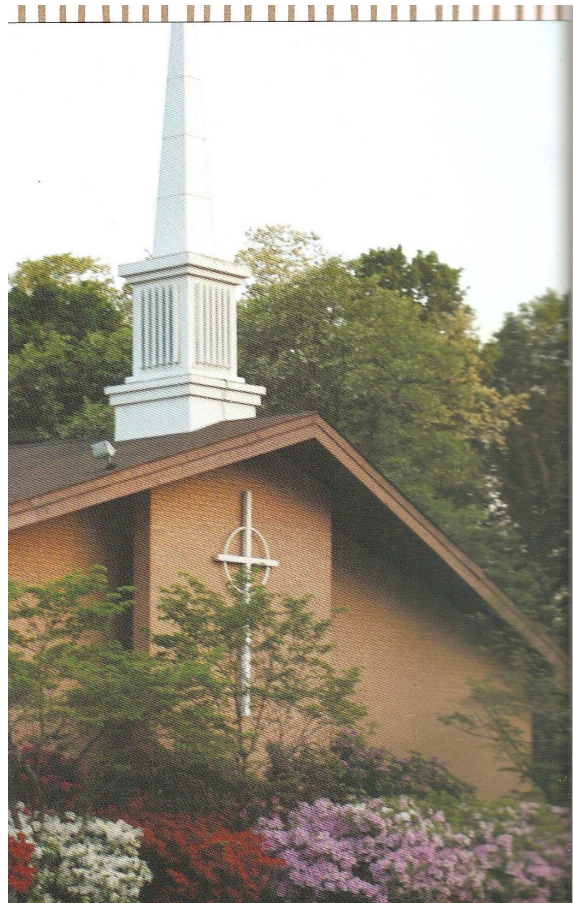
Bless these windows shining bright,
Letting in God's heavenly light,

Bless the hearth, ablazing there,
With smoke ascending like a prayer!

Bless the people here within,
Keep them pure and free from sin. . .

Bless us all that we may be,
Fit O Lord to dwell with thee. . .

Bless us all that one day we may dwell,
O Lord! With Thee!



*Words and Music by Helen Taylor
and May H. Morgan (a.k.a. Brahe), 1927*

Adult Ministry

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." Proverbs 16:9

Many thanks to Sue Johnson and the Prayer and Praise team for leading the third annual "Blessing of the Church". Once again it was an honor and a privilege to be part of this special time to give thanks and praise to God for His many blessings and to ask Him to continue to lead and bless our congregation.

Save the Date: Join us on Sunday, October 29th, as we acknowledge the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation at 9:45AM in the Triple Room.

Growing in Love, Faith, and Joy through Bible Study and Fellowship

Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM:

† **"Our Church, Our Reformation, Our Future":** Join Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter in the Triple Room this fall to learn how God worked through the choices and efforts of flawed humans to spark the Protestant Reformation, the formation of the Presbyterian denomination, and our own FUPCDC. How will your choices today impact the church of the future?

During the week:

† **Daytime Monthly Women's Bible Study** meets the second Monday in Room 22 at 9:30 AM. Join with other women of the church as Sue Porter leads this study of the book of Hebrews.

† **Evening Weekly Women's Bible Study** meets Mondays at 7:00 PM, at Betty Matthews home (703-791-4829, bettysmatthews1@verizon.net). Join with them to study "Bad Girls of the Bible".

Growing in Discipleship through Small Groups:

† **Prayer and Praise Team** meets for prayer and praise at **3 PM every Thursday**. Led by Sue Johnson in the Church Library.

† **Devotional Fitness** meets **Saturdays at 8:30 AM** in the Sanctuary, free of charge. You are invited to love and worship the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30) during weekly devotional fitness classes (stretching and strengthening while focusing on scripture and prayer). Bring your mat and a water bottle. Led by Nancy Hummer, nanhummer@gmail.com.

† **Spreading the Warmth** meets monthly on the **third Monday at 7 PM** in the Church Library to knit and crochet items to share with those in need. Led by Elizabeth Glycer.

Submitted by: Nancy Hummer, Adult Ministry Elder



Youth Ministry



Many thanks to Mike, Ruth and Becca Washburg who prepared a delicious lunch for our Youth Fall Kick-off. Teens, parents and siblings enjoyed a time of fellowship while talking about upcoming mission activities. The guys received copies of *3-Minute Devotions for Guys* and the girls received *3-Minute Devotions for Teen Girls* with a challenge to take 3 minutes each day for spiritual inspiration.

Teens are invited to participate in Trunk or Treat and the Fall Carnival (October 29, 2017, at 2 PM in the FUPCDC Parking Lot) . Dress up if you want to and help Amy Greenslit decorate her car and hand out candy for a fun afternoon. Trunk or Treat is a mission to reach out to the children in the neighborhoods surrounding our church with the love of Christ.

Two fundraisers for the Summer Youth Mission Trip will be coming in early November:

- 1. Election Day Bake Sale (Tuesday, November 7th, from 5:30 AM - 7: 30 PM)** - Please donate baked goods including gluten and nut free items for this bake sale to voters on Election Day!
- 2. Fall Pie Sale (Sundays, November 5th and 12th)** - Our popular fall pies will be back in time for your Thanksgiving gatherings. Youth, parents and youth leaders will sell pies in the Narthex before and after each service. Pies can be picked up at the church on **November 15th**.

Submitted by Amy Greenslit, Youth Elder

Children's Ministry

During the 9:45 AM Kidz Church Education hour, the children took a journey through Psalms as they learned that God will never leave them no matter what. We hope to finish up by mid-October. Our October curriculum is still in the works.

During the 11 AM Kidz Church Education hour, we have been following the journey of early Christians as recorded in the New Testament. During October, we will continue discovering our Christian heritage! We will be working our way through the letters Paul wrote, and discerning the message for Christians today that the Scripture holds. We also are taking on another aspect of our learning!

We wish to be Bible literate! This is a message we must learn at a young age! We will be working on familiarizing ourselves with the Old and New Testaments: where they are and how to find the books they contain. This is a project the Kindergarteners through 5th graders are taking on this month!

Submitted by Becky George, Children's Ministry Elder

Child Protection Policy Training

This training is mandatory for all people who volunteer in Children's Ministry, Summer Drama Camp, Vacation Bible School or any events involving children/youth. The purpose of the training is to go over basic guidelines and safeguards to ensure that FUPCDC provides a safe environment for our children/youth. Anyone who interacts with children/youth must attend a training session. Training sessions are scheduled from 10:00 am—12:00 pm on the following Saturdays: October 21st and October 28th. You need to only attend one session. Please let Becky George, Children's Ministry Elder know which session you will attend. Questions? Please see Becky George.