



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

FEBRUARY 2018



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
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Justin Streletz, Accompanist
Dana Van Slyke, Choir Director

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on February 18th, immediately following one worship service at 10 AM. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Annual Report and to elect members to the 2018 Nominating Committee. There will be a Potluck Breakfast at 8:30 AM. Please bring a breakfast item to share during this time of fellowship.

How will you spend Valentine's Day, February 14th, this year?

Will it be with flowers, a special card and/or candy? A special night out on the town? Going to a favorite restaurant? A surprise of endearment? You can do this and more. I pray that you will consider attending the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM with the imposition of ashes and also the celebration of the Lord's Supper. What greater way to remember the depth of God's love for you!

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
~John 3:16-17



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

INTRODUCING TIFFANY RAMSEY LITTLE HANDS PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



My name is Tiffany Ramsey. I live in Prince William County with my husband and beagle, CoCo. I am so elated to serve those within the community. I have found this area to be full of kindhearted and caring people. I am the oldest of four siblings and in helping to take care of them; I recognized just how much I love children. I have fond memories growing up during summer break of teaching my siblings and grading their papers during my “summer school sessions.” I enjoy seeing children acquire new skills, making concrete connections to the world through play and the look of wonder that fills their eyes when they discover something.

I have dedicated my life to helping and learning different ways to support children, families and teachers. I have experience working as a: Before and After Care Assistant, Assistant Summer Camp Director, Substitute Teacher, Teacher’s Assistant, Preschool Teacher and a Before and After Care Director, and Home Child Caregiver for the better part of 18 years. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Minor in Special Education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. I have a Master of Science in Executive Leadership from Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont.

I currently volunteer in the community as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (C.A.S.A.) for Prince William County. In this capacity I help aid neglected and abused children and their families. I also volunteer with the Parent Education Program and help facilitate classes with families referred by the Department of Social Services. In these classes both children and their parents / guardians learn how to communicate better within the family dynamic.

Welcome

**JOIN
US
THIS**

Lent



ASH WEDNESDAY—THE BEGINNING OF LENT
Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Imposition of Ashes
February 14
7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES WITH COMMUNION:
February 21-28, March 7, 14, 21
7:00 -7:30 PM

Lenten Bible Studies

Immediately following Wednesday Night Alive and Lenten Worship Service
Thursday 6:00 to 7:00 PM in Room 3: Forgiveness (Cathy Smith)
Sunday morning 9:45 -10:45 AM: Breathe by Priscilla Shrier (Gaylene Guest)

REFLECTION

Looking for something to give up for Lent?
Give up resentment and become more forgiving.
Give up hatred and return good for evil.
Give up complaining and be more grateful.
Give up pessimism and become more hopeful.
Give up worry and become more trusting.
Give up anger and become more patient.
Give up pettiness and become more noble.
Give up gloom and become more joyful.
Give up doubt and turn to God.

**A Lenten Journey
TO EASTER**

Session Report - January

At the January meeting, the Session heard that we have received 103 pledges with an approximate total of \$387,000, a little over the amount needed for the projected 2018 budget. Thank you to all who have pledged and who give to meet our spending plan for carrying out the missions of this church.

The Session will have a half-day retreat on Saturday, February 17th to address safety and security concerns.

Sunday, February 18th will be a combined worship service at 10 AM, followed by the annual meeting of the congregation to elect the 2018 congregational nominating committee and hear reports from the Session and Deacons.

The congregation is invited to a Potluck Breakfast beginning at 8:30 AM on February 18th prior to the one worship service.

From January 22nd to February 4th, the youth are collecting cans of soup for ACTS. Place the cans in the boxes marked for the your favorite Super Bowl team (Eagles or Patriots). If one team has 250 or more cans, Pastor Jeri will donate \$250 to Acts and if both teams each have 250 or more cans, she will donate \$500 to ACTS. So support ACTS and your team by bringing in those cans of soup.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th, the Deacons will be providing "soup-to-go" after each worship service. There will be a variety of soups in take-away containers.

The treasurer has sent out 2017 financial statements. Please contact the church office or Gary Smith if you have questions or did not receive your statement.

Respectively submitted, Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesday Night Alive is an opportunity to connect and grow while enjoying a dinner each Wednesday night followed by Pastor's Bible Study and Chancel Choir rehearsal. The first Wednesday of each month is a potluck, and on the following Wednesdays enjoy a delicious homemade meal. Salad, drinks, and dessert are also provided each week. Each month, on the first Wednesday, we celebrate upcoming birthdays!

There is no charge for the dinner, just a donation to help cover the cost of the food. Please join us for FOOD, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

Feb. 7 Potluck Theme "Tailgating Foods"

Feb. 14 Wings

Feb. 21 Pasta

Feb. 28 Fried Rice (with ham)



Mission and Outreach

Spread the Bread Ministry

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to give a special thanks to all who have supported this ministry whether through the giving of their time, food donations, or financial support. Your cheerful giving enables us to provide a hot meal for our friends every Sunday afternoon!

We would also like to acknowledge those faithful saints who show up each week to load tables, food, supplies, and then serve our friends: Jon Guest, the Schwalm family, Lee Watenbaugh, Carol Miller, Kelsey Gibson, Gretchen Snyder, Al Pennick, and Linda Myers (Community Covenant Church). Thank you for your passion for Christ and compassion for others!

This ministry could not be accomplished without the outpouring of love and gifts from each and every one of you here at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. We truly appreciate your efforts and our friends remind us every week how much they appreciate you and all you do for them. If you are interested in getting involved with God's ministry, please contact Jon Guest at jon.a.guest@gmail.com or Pam Cox at imapoohfreak@yahoo.com.

Stewardship

Welcome 2018 from the Stewardship Committee. The committee is looking forward to everyone's continued support and involvement at the church. Thanks to each of you for all you do. As we enter into 2018, we would like to share the following friendly reminder. The Per Capita payment for 2018 for each church member is \$39.91. If you have not had the opportunity to submit your Per Capita payment, please consider doing so, as soon as possible. May each of you enjoy a blessed and safe 2018.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." ~1 Corinthians 15:58.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) continues to meet every week. To date we have reviewed more than 80 applications (known as Pastor Information Forms, or PIFs). We have contacted a number of these applicants for additional information, such as sample sermons, and have ranked the applicants based on the information we received. In addition, we have placed an advertisement in the publication, *Presbyterian Outlook* to broaden our pool of applicants. We have also developed a list of interview questions to ask candidates, and conducted a mock interview to practice our interviewing technique. In short: we are making progress, but much work remains.

We ask for your continued patience and understanding as we continue with the search process, but most of all, we ask for your prayers. Please pray for the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee, for the search process, and for our future pastor.

Adult Ministry

ACE Spring 2018 classes

Two exciting Lenten opportunities:

BREATHE

By Priscilla Shirer. One of the greatest challenges among women in our culture is taking time to stop and cease from all the activities and busyness and just breathe. We are in bondage to busyness. We constantly strive to complete the limitless to-do lists that hinder us from experiencing all that God has for us. We miss the moments because we rush ahead to the next thing. By neglecting time for tranquility, serenity, and repose, we limit our Christlikeness and miss out on some of God's greatest gifts. It is time for us to breathe and build margin into our lives for God. In the Old Testament, God instituted principles and laws that would transform the Israelites' mindset. He didn't just want them legally free; he wanted them to be able to walk in the freedom and enjoy it. So God gave them many gifts, including boundaries in which to enjoy those gifts. Sabbath was intended as a gift, and it is still a gift to us today. If you are weary, worn out, and exhausted the concept of Sabbath will change your life.

Please join Gaylene Guest, facilitator on **Sunday mornings** beginning **February 25th , 9:45 AM in Room 22. (February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, and March 25th)**

FORGIVENESS: A LENTEN STUDY

The Lenten period is a time to reflect on our Christian journey. It is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Marjorie J. Thompson, author of the bestselling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in an encouraging six week study. Thompson addresses such issues as the following:

- † Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or, are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- † Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- † Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
- † How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

Using Biblical examples and real life situations, Thompson illustrates each chapter's theme in an informative and engaging way. A study guide is also included at the back of the book that is appropriate for either individual reflection, or group discussion. With clarity, insight, and sensitivity, this book is the perfect resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

Please join Cathy Smith, facilitator on **Thursday evenings** beginning **February 22nd , 6-7:00 PM in Room 3. (February 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th)**

Submitted by Peter Glyer, Adult Ministry

Adult Ministry

Adult Mission Trip – Lumberton, North Carolina

LOCATION: Lumberton, NC (right off of I-95 – about 4 ½ hours away)

DATES: April 29th – May 5th

HOSTING CHURCH: Chestnut Street United Methodist Church - 200 East 8th St, Lumberton, NC

POINT OF CONTACT: Sam Parris - samjparris@aol.com or (703-946-7226)

First United Presbyterian Church is planning an adult mission trip to Lumberton, North Carolina to assist with Hurricane Matthew relief/rebuilding efforts. Hurricane Matthew hit Lumberton in October 2015. Lumberton got 10 inches of rain as Hurricane Matthew moved in and sat down, taking its time about turning back to the east and heading out to sea. Some areas within the Lumber River basin received more than 14 inches of rain. Forecasts had called for 5 to 8 inches.

On Oct. 10th, three days after Matthew's landfall, the Lumber River at downtown Lumberton peaked somewhere around 22 feet, 9 feet above flood stage.

The flooding went across the roads and highways, including I-95, first stranding motorists who drove into it, and then forcing the closure of the interstate and the circuitous detour of cars and tractor-trailers over miles of two-lane roads never meant to carry such heavy traffic. It covered up an electrical substation. It overtook the City of Lumberton's water treatment plant, leaving its nearly 22,600 people with no running water.

Four of the city's public housing developments were flooded, along with two of its Section 8 rent-assisted apartments, about 545 units total, housing about 1,470 people. That's nearly 7 percent of Lumberton's population, which is one of the state's most diverse: 40 percent white, 37 percent black and 13 percent Native American, mostly Lumbee Indian.

Before the hurricane, Robeson County already was consistently one of North Carolina's poorest, with a per capita income of \$15,321 and a third of its population in poverty.

Today they are still in great need of help. If you are interested in participating by attending, or contributing to this effort in any manner please contact Sam Parris (see above).



Children's Ministry

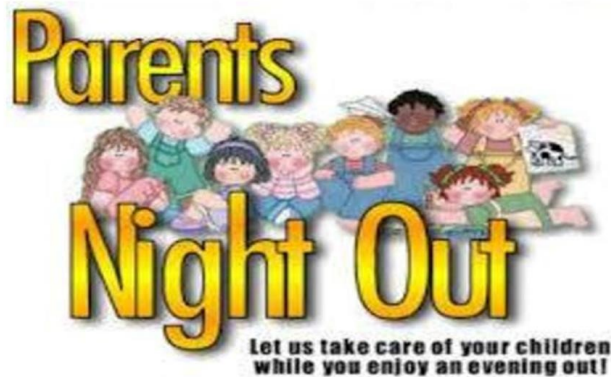
Please join us at 9:45 AM with Ms. Becky and at 11:00 AM with Ms. Cathy, Ms. Sue, Ms. Marlo, Ms. Nancy, and Mr. Mark.

At 11:00 AM Kidz Church, we begin our journey with Christ looking not only at the historical Jesus, but seeing him through the eyes of those around him as he goes through his life on Earth. We will be with him as he grows, and begins his ministry. But, we will be experiencing his Divinity through the eyes of others around him!

Our Nursery is available during the 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM worship services for infants and children up to early three's. Early three's are children who are not potty-trained and not quite ready for the 11:00 AM pre-school class.

Please note: There are no Kidz Church classes during the 8:30 AM worship hour. Children attend worship with parents. Worship bags are available in the Narthex.

Nursery is also available during the 9:45 AM education hour for infants and children up to age four.



Please join us for our 3rd annual Kidz Church Parent's Night Out!

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Drop-off: 5:45 pm

Pick-up: 8:15 pm

Dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

Menu: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes and a Veggie. (Gluten-Free)

There will be crafts and games for the kids to enjoy.

In order to properly prepare, children must be registered. Registration forms will be available Sunday, January 28th. Registration closes Sunday, February 11th.

Please see Becky George, Children's Ministry Elder for registration form and questions.

Submitted by Becky George, Children's Ministry Elder



Come PRAY with us...each Sunday during LENT

One of God's greatest gifts to us is the privilege of prayer—a privilege that is possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Thank God for the privilege of prayer to daily “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.

Jesus said, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Following each service during Lent we will have a room set aside for prayers and scripture on a specific “topic”. These sessions will be led by one of our church members. Let us all gather together 10 or 20 or more....

You will not be asked to pray aloud. God hears our prayers on all occasions, whether we're praying out loud or praying silently in our hearts and minds.

God even hears our prayers when we can't put them into words—times, for example, when our hearts are too burdened or confused even to speak. The Bible says, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express” (Romans 8:26). Your presence will be a blessing and is a calling to a deeper faith and stronger relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us each week or come as you are led to any of the sessions:

PRAYER TOPICS:

February 18th - **Draw Closer to God** — following the one worship service

February 25th - **Prayers for our Families and Friends** – following both services

March 4th - **Prayers for our Nation** – Government, Media, and Institutions (military, businesses and schools, etc.) following both services

March 11th - **Prayers for our Church** - following both services

March 18th - **Prayers of Offering** – Praise, Worship, Gratitude and Thanksgiving - following both services

How do I participate?

There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex

Or just show up to any of the sessions.

Prayer is a two-way conversation; it is our talking to God, and His talking to us. We have a heavenly Father who hears and answers prayer. Jesus said, “All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

Then understand that God now welcomes you into His presence and promises to hear you—and He cannot lie. The Bible says, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14). Trust His promises and learn to bring every concern to Him in prayer.

Prayer is possible because Jesus Christ has removed the barrier between us and God—a barrier caused by our sins. You see, sin separates us from God, and because of that we have no right to come before Him. But by His death on the cross, Christ paid the penalty for our sins and removed the barrier. God then gives us the privilege of coming into His presence when we commit our lives to Christ.

The Bible says, “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). If you have never done so, ask Christ to come into your life today.

Prayer is one of our greatest privileges as God’s children, and even if God doesn’t seem to answer your prayers at first, don’t stop praying. God loves you, and no prayer goes unanswered.

Jesus once told a story about a poor widow who repeatedly asked a corrupt judge to do what was right. (You can read it in Luke 18:1-8.) Repeatedly the judge refused—not because her request was wrong, but because he just didn’t care.

But because of her persistence, he eventually gave in and granted her what she deserved. In a far greater way, Jesus said, God (who is righteous and does care for us) hears the prayers of His people, and we must never give up.

But let me add two things. First, realize that sometimes God is actually answering our prayers when we don’t realize it—and the reason is because His answer may be “No” or “Wait.” Yes, we think we know what’s best for us—but God sees the whole picture, and sometimes He lovingly refuses to give us what we request, because He knows it isn’t according to His perfect plan.

Second, remember that we have the privilege of coming to God only because Jesus Christ died for our sins. Have you given your life to Him? If not, let your first prayer be one of confession and faith, asking Him to come into your life as your Lord and Savior.

Prayer is the most important spiritual exercise that a Christian can have. If you are to live a happy, yielded and victorious life, daily prayer is absolutely essential. The apostle said that we are to “pray without ceasing.” Here are a few facts on prayer that may be of help.

First, the place of prayer. It is not the place, but the spirit of prayer that is the all-important factor. Jacob found that desert stones can become an altar. Peter prayed in a storm tossed ship. Hagar cried to God in the heart of the desert. The Penitent Thief prayed from a cross.

Plane – bad thunderstorms –instinctive for man to pray in times of trouble...Jesus taught his disciples...through prayer.

Prayers answered...fervently prayed...

Submitted by: Sam Parris, Youth Elder



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

9311 Lee Avenue

Manassas, Virginia 20110

(703) 792-6070

FAX (703) 792-7485

Glendell Hill
Sheriff

January 10, 2018

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

The Prince William County Sheriff's Office would like to express our sincere appreciation for the First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City contribution to the Project Lifesaver Program. Your contribution will be used to purchase new equipment so that we may add additional clients to the program. Your generosity will surely be a great help for individuals suffering from Autism, Alzheimer's disease, Dementia and other related disorders. Thank you for assisting us in allowing this program to grow within our community.

Sincerely,

Glendell Hill,
Sheriff

A Virginia Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed food after the passing of Jim's mom last Friday. Friday. Special thanks to Gaylene and Jon Guest, and to Elizabeth Glycer for collecting and delivering the food to our home.

And, to the ladies who organized and served at the reception after the memorial service on Monday. A special thanks to Pastor Jeri for making such quick arrangements for the service, considering some of the grandchildren had to leave Monday evening. To everyone who helped, and all who attended the service, thank you so much! We felt your love and support. – The Engleright Family

Please accept my thanks for the generous outpouring of support that I have received since the death of my father. I was in no way prepared for how deeply his loss would affect me. It was comforting to know so many people were holding me up.
– Martin Andrews



FREE Group Fitness Classes

Stay Active and Independent!

Come experience our community outreach educational sessions and fun free group fitness classes designed to help keep aging adults moving and independent.

POISED will provide educational sessions with focus on information for staying active and independent, home safety and fitness program opportunities for individuals in the Prince William County.

FREE GROUP FITNESS SESSIONS will be offered 3 times per week for a period of 10 weeks to help improve strength, endurance, coordination, balance, and reaction time.

COME OUT, JOIN A GROUP, MOVE TO MUSIC AND HAVE FUN STAYING ACTIVE!

Where: First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22193

Assessment: February 5th, 2018 @ 12:00-3:00pm

Classes Begin: February 7th, 2018 @ 11am - 12pm

Fitness class session days:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 11a.m.-12 p.m.

STARTING ON: February 7th, 2018



To register for this FREE class series, contact Jodie Houser

(571)-494-5577 or JODIE@PMAHWEB.ORG



Potomac Health
Foundation





Potluck Breakfast

Sunday, February 18, 2018

at 8:30am

before single service at 10:00am





**Worship Service
(with the imposition of ashes)
at 7:00pm
Lenten Bible Study at 7:30pm**

Lenten Wednesday
SERVICES

A stylized green olive branch with several leaves, positioned to the right of the word "SERVICES".

**6pm—Wednesday Night Alive Dinner
7pm—Lenten Worship with
Holy Communion
7:30pm—Pastor Bible Study and
Choir Practice**

Little Hands Preschool

It was a **supercalifragilisticexpialidocious** day when the PreK-4 and PreK-5 staff introduced students to Mary Poppins. What fun!



BEACH DAY 2018

What a great time the children had on beach day.

So many smiles, Lots of laughter and learning at the same time!

