

February 2018



Valentines for VISTO Luncheon

Sunday, February 11, 2018

11:30 am ~ Tyler Hall

The Fellowship Committee will be furnishing the meal after worship on February 11th. You don't have to bring a thing for the luncheon.

**We ask that you bring your most favorite homemade desserts for our auction with all the proceeds going to VISTO (our local food bank.) Please have your desserts with their description here *before* worship so that we may get them placed and arranged for the auction. This year we will be having a "Silent Auction". We hope we will be able to do as well as we have in the past. If you're not wanting to bake an item you can still contribute with a donation to VISTO. Please make your checks payable to the church and memo to VISTO.

**To add to this "Love Bird's" day, we ask that couples bring a small photo of their wedding day or when they started dating. Prizes are in store for the couple married the longest, the shortest, etc.

GIFT

Girls In Fun Together

February 1, 2018

5:30 pm

The Wolfe Den



ASH WEDNESDAY
Service @ 6:00pm

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting our traditional "Ash Wednesday" worship

service on Wednesday, February 14th, at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. This service will include the imposition of ashes as well as special music. Everyone is invited as we begin the Season of Lent, and start to make our way to the cross.



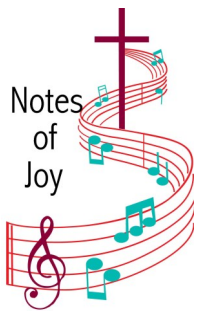
Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, February 4th, there will be a congregational meeting after worship to receive the Session's 2017 Annual Report. This report, which is required by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.'s constitution, will be a summary of each Session committee's activities for 2017, and will include reports from our congregation's "Presbyterian Women," information about the approved 2018 budget, and a report from our church's "Trust Fund Committee."



The Cooke County Ministerial Alliance is once again hosting its annual "Lenten Luncheon" series which will begin on Wednesday, February 21st, and will run every Wednesday through March 21st. This year's luncheons will be held at First Christian Church, and will begin at noon. Donations to these luncheons will be used to support the Alliance's ministries in Cooke County.

FYI – Our church will be providing the meal and the devotion on Wednesday, February 28th. To help with that meal contact Pam Cooper or June Sherrill.



I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation to Pastor John Hare, and the staff and congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville for your kind attention and warm welcome as I begin my music ministry here. This is a chosen field for me, as I have always been passionate about both church and music. I hope to serve you for many years.

As time passes, we will get to know each other very well. But as we get started, I want to make my first appeal to you. One objective that I have is to grow our choir. It is a special phenomenon these days to have a church choir. So many churches have decided to use Praise Teams instead of a choir, thinking that it takes less time and energy to go in that direction. I have been in many churches, and I can attest to the fact that praise teams, if they are of quality, take a lot more money, time and effort than choirs.

Choirs are a good thing. The singing brings more oxygen to your body, and many muscles are brought into play, which help you to maintain, strengthen and even improve your physical health. There is a psychological benefit as well, because singing feeds the pleasure center in your brain, and stimulates the production of endorphins. Singing in a choir provides a good place to connect deeply with other people, which is always a benefit in a church family.

Well, many maintain that they cannot sing. It is true that there are those who genuinely cannot. That, however, is not the norm. There is one vocal instrument in the body. It serves for both speech and song.

Often, a person simply needs training and experience. I am here to provide training, and experience comes with doing. Also, since it is a group experience, you don't have to worry about being singled out before the public. So, before you make a decision that says you cannot sing, grab a buddy and come see me. Bring yourself and an inquisitive, adventuresome attitude, and we can determine together what your capabilities might be. When a choir loft is filled with a vital, functioning choir, it is amazing how the life of the church is revitalized.

Our rehearsals are Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30. Why don't you give it a try?

Thank you, you're such a dear!

Joy Hague

Joy's info: Cell—210 557 8688

Email—musicforjoy@earthlink.net

The Fellowship Committee NEEDS
your help!

If you could help furnish and serve
Fellowship refreshments after church
on one of these dates, please contact
June Sherrill.

February 4, 18, or 25
September 2, 9, 16, 23, or 30
October 7, 14, 21, or 28
December 2, 9, 16, 23, or 30

Thank You!

**May I Have Your
Attention Please**



DUE to Ash Wednesday
service the following
Committees will move



their monthly meetings to
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

**Stewardship
Worship & Music**



Did you KNOW?

- That Corie Autry did a great job as January's pulpit assistant?
- That every Session committee is looking for folks who want to use their spiritual gifts?
- That Carla and Charlie Waters appreciate your prayers?
- That Carol McBride, Tommie Newman and Mary Estill have been officially installed as Ruling Elders?
- That the "New Life" Leadership Team appreciates your prayers as they continue to seek God's vision for our church?
- That there have been a lot of folks under the weather lately?
- That John and Amanda Warren – and Claire and Sam – have a new home?
- That Tim Turbeville looks good wearing a sling?
- That our "Angel Box" ministry can always use new folks to paint boxes?
- That, for some folks, the "Star Word" they picked was a real affirmation?
- That our church's "Tai Chi" class just might be what you're looking for?



*A Note
from
John*

Way back in the 1940's, there was a popular song that went something like this: "You have to accentuate the positive, Eliminate the negative, Latch on to the affirmative, And don't mess with Mr. In-Between."

Have you noticed that a lot of us are messing with "Mr. In-Between?" We're in that maybe-so, maybe-not middle ground where we – on one hand – will say something positive or uplifting about something or someone – and then turn right around and say something negative about that very same thing. Too often we say something good about something or someone – and then we just walk all over it by saying negative.

Why do we do that? Why can't we just say something nice about someone and leave it at that? Why do we feel the need to lift someone up – and then turn around and knock them down – all at the same time? It seems to me that we should be building each other up – encouraging each other – accentuating the positive and latching onto the affirmative – more often than we are.

It's not a case of ignoring what's wrong! It's more of a case of highlighting what's right!

Peace, John



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

What is it that keeps churches from growing – from being the church God wants them to be? Well – the answer might surprise you.

You see, being sincere about your beliefs doesn't guarantee growth. Being theologically accurate doesn't guarantee growth. Having a well-educated minister or a young minister doesn't guarantee growth. Having a beautiful and modern facility doesn't guarantee growth. Doing demographic studies and need studies doesn't guarantee growth. Lots of churches have all of those things but they're not growing.

So – what keeps churches from growing - from being the church God wants them to be? Indecision! Churches have to say, "God wants us be all we can be – and so do we!"

Welcome Class of 2020



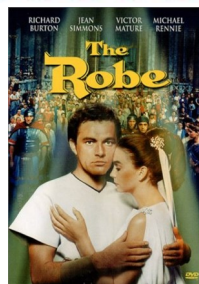
"After discussion relative to decoration of the church for Sunday services, on motion of A. Baker it was voted that the Ladies Missionary Society be asked to take responsibility for suitable flowers for the church each Sunday and that a letter making such request by the Session be written to the president of the Ladies Missionary Society." From Session Minutes Nov. 11, 1938.

They're
Back!

Its 2018 - so the "Star Words" are back! So – if you haven't already picked up a star to use as a devotional word in 2018 from that basket in the sanctuary window – now's your chance! Every star word is different – so just reach in there and pick one! Remember – no showing around! Just pick and go!



The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, February 27th, at 8:00 AM at the Fried Pie on the square! All the men of the church are encouraged to come and enjoy a great time of food and for solving all the world's problems!



"The Robe"

Will be showing in Tyler Hall on Tuesday, February 6th @ 5:00pm. If you have any questions, contact Reynolds Ansley.



A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H

“ _____ ”

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T

_____ , _____

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O

_____ ”

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34, NIV



heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



Rev. Hare's Sunday sermons are available on the church webpage! Just go to www.fpcgainesville.net – click on the “Sermons” link at the top of the page – then click on the dropdown tap – and you're there!

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First Presbyterian Church



Most of us have had to sign some kind of contract or other legal document at some time in our lives. Every time we borrow money, rent an apartment, or buy a car, we're asked to sign on the dotted line. Contracts are designed to protect ourselves from fraud and liability, and to make sure that the other folks keep their end of the bargain. In other words, we sign contracts because we're not sure we can fully trust each other.

But that's not the case in our relationship with God. God has given everything – including God's Son, Jesus Christ - to be with us and God not only keeps his promises but ours as well in what we call a "covenant."

What does it mean to have a "covenant" agreement with God? What promises has God has given us – and what promises have we made in return? Those are the questions we will try to answer in Rev. Hare's Lenten six-week sermon series entitled, "Covenant," which will begin on Sunday, February 18th. We will explore the depth and height of God's grace from that rainbow in the sky to Jesus on the cross, and discover once again just how much God loves us.