



Newsletter ~ November 2017



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 5, 2017

On Sunday, November 5th, there will be a congregational meeting after the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- ✓ To hear a report from the Nominations Committee and elect Ruling Elders for the Class of 2020.
- ✓ To act upon any proposed changes in the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2018.
- ✓ To elect congregational representatives to the Nominations Committee for 2017-18.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this important meeting!



Sunday, November 12th, will be Alyse and Robert Hokamp's last Sunday with us as they are moving to California. There will be a reception after worship in Tyler Hall to wish them well on their new adventure!



Rev. Hare will be on vacation from November 13th through November 19th. In case of emergency, contact Matt Chalmers, Clerk of Session, or the church office.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Our annual Thanksgiving luncheon is planned for Sunday, November 19th, immediately following worship. The Fellowship committee is providing the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, rolls and drinks. Please bring your favorite side dish of vegetable, salad or dessert to compliment the meal.

*** Plan to join us as we
gather around the table
with friends & family. ***



The Fellowship Committee needs a
little assistance!

If anyone could help provide refreshments on November 5th or November 26th, please contact June Sherrill. Thanks!



Sunday, November 5, 2017



XYZ Game Day will be Thursday, November 16th from 11:30am-1:30-ish pm. Each person BYOL (bring your own lunch, including

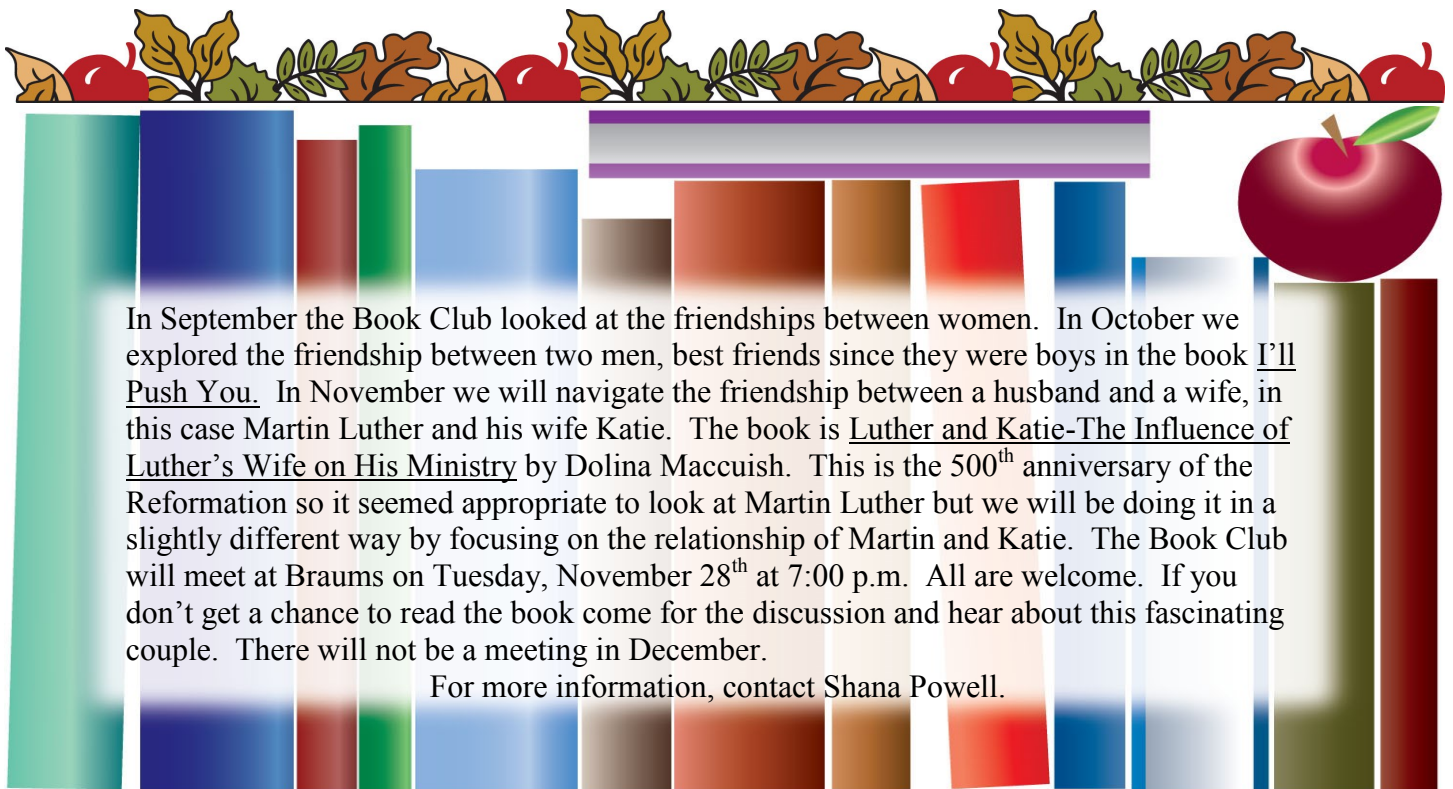
dessert & drink) and TYOT (take your own trash) when we leave.

If you have a favorite game you want to play, bring it. We have WAHOO, Yahtzee, decks of cards, Boggle, Backgammon, and more.

Remember: ALL ages are welcome.

Hope to see you there.

We will have game day on the newsletter calendar on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Y'all come!



In September the Book Club looked at the friendships between women. In October we explored the friendship between two men, best friends since they were boys in the book I'll Push You. In November we will navigate the friendship between a husband and a wife, in this case Martin Luther and his wife Katie. The book is Luther and Katie-The Influence of Luther's Wife on His Ministry by Dolina Maccuish. This is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation so it seemed appropriate to look at Martin Luther but we will be doing it in a slightly different way by focusing on the relationship of Martin and Katie. The Book Club will meet at Braums on Tuesday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. If you don't get a chance to read the book come for the discussion and hear about this fascinating couple. There will not be a meeting in December.

For more information, contact Shana Powell.



Annual Stewardship Drive

With the coming of the holiday season also comes that time of year when the Stewardship Ministry Committee begins its work to prepare our church's budget for 2018. An important part of that planning is our annual stewardship drive during which the members and friends of our church are asked to estimate their giving for next year.

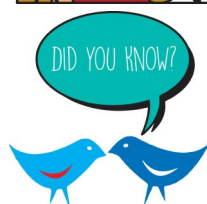
On Tuesday, November 14th, the committee will be mailing out a letter thanking you for your past support for the church's ministry and a 2018 pledge card. Please prayerfully consider this important means of thanking God for all the blessings you have received.

"Over There"

In April 1917, under the leadership of President Woodrow Wilson, the United States entered World War I. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that historic event. President Wilson, a Presbyterian, hoped that if the U.S. joined the war effort, it could help to make it the last major war the world would ever face. Unfortunately, things did not work out exactly as he hoped. The war impacted the entire country including Cooke County and members of this congregation.

To honor the sacrifices and efforts of the soldiers and civilians who were apart of this congregation, a table-top exhibit will be on display in Tyler Hall throughout the month of November. If you would like to add anything to the display, please contact Shana Powell at 612-9269 or shanapowell97@yahoo.com.





- That Corie Autry and Matt Chalmers did a great job as October's pulpit assistants?
- That Barbara Brady will be serving as our Interim Choir Director and Organist for a while?
- That Carla and Charlie Waters appreciate your prayers?
- That our recent "Walk Through The New Testament" seminar was a great experience?
- That plans to follow up on our "Faith In Action" contacts with the DASH recipients is under way?
- That Rev. Hare appreciated all the birthday well-wishes that came his way?
- That the church office will be closed on November 23rd and 24th in honor of Thanksgiving?
- That planning has already begun for several special Christmas projects for our church?
- That Halloween's "Ghouls, Goblins, and Groceries" was a big success – and that the VISTO staff who came out were really "spicy?" And a "Special Thank You" to the congregation for candy donations and volunteering!
- That Corie & Jan Autry will be celebrating 25 years of Wedded Bliss on November 14th?



GIFT
Girls In Fun Together
Thursday, November 2, 2017
5:30 pm @ El Tapatio, I-35 Service Road



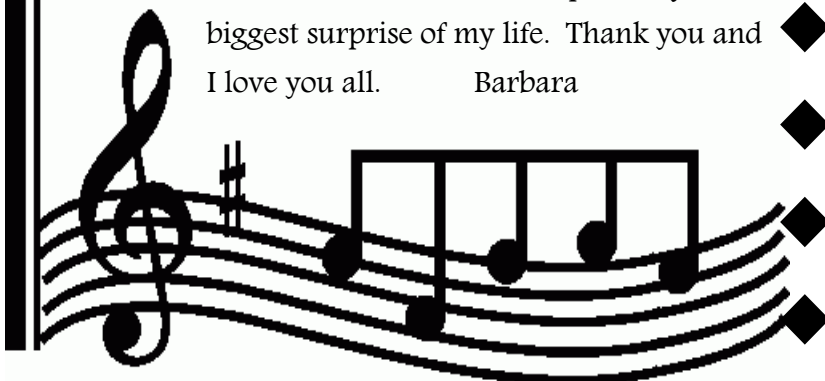
Rev. Hare's Sunday sermons are available on the church webpage! Just go to www.fpcgainesville.net – click on the "Sermons" link at the top of the page – then click on the dropdown tap – and you're there!

To My Beloved Church Family.

How can I thank you enough for the wonderful honor you gave me during the organ dedication. It is very much appreciated. However, I consider it the congregation's honor. Your contributions and support are what caused it to become reality. In a church our size it is a real privilege to have such a fine instrument.

I'm amazed the secret was kept by so many for so long! As I look back on some of the conversations prior to the dedication some of them make me wonder if you were looking for suspicious reaction whether I knew about it. You all are the best. That was probably the

biggest surprise of my life. Thank you and I love you all. Barbara



The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, November 28th 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 regular meeting of the Session will be held on Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30 PM in the Seekers' Classroom. This is a new meeting time for November due to the holiday dinner set for November 19th. All written committee reports are due in the office by Thursday, November 16th.



The Process Continues!

The New Life Leadership Team hard at work as our church seeks God's vision for the future of our church. Thanks to the congregation's feedback to our recent historical survey, the team has identified three "core values" that represent what is really important to our lives together as a congregation. They are:

- We believe in demonstrating our faith in and through our actions in the community, both as a congregation and as individuals.
- We believe that our worship provides us an opportunity as a congregation to experience God's presence in our lives.
- We value our relationships as God's "family," and we love and support each other in our lives together.

The team is currently asking members to complete and return a "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" that will help our church identify what skills, gifts and resources are available in our church. If you have not completed this inventory or would like to take one, contact one of the team members or the church office.

The team is also working through Grace Presbytery to have a demographic study done of the area around the church to determine who our neighbors are, what areas of ministry might be available to us, and to identify portions of our county's population we might better serve.

What is God's vision for our church? That is the question we're striving to answer! Pray that God gives us the answer – and that we have the ears to hear and the courage to respond!



Women of Faith
IN SERVICE

WOMEN
OF FAITH
IN SERVICE
AWARD
LUNCHEON 2017

Celebrating
Ecumenical Service
in Cooke County

You and your friends of all faiths
are invited to the
2017 Annual Award Luncheon

November 3, 2017
12 Noon NO CHARGE

Temple Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
1811 E. California St., Gainesville

Spirit-Moving and Heart-Swelling
Gospel Singing, Too!



We started the year with technology and we will end the year with technology.

From the Minutes of Regular Meeting of Session April 12, 1992:

"The new elevator will be delivered in about 6 weeks. Have not received plans for the shaft and are waiting on one other bid for the exterior work. The elevator will be installed in 2 months."

Casting Call!!

The best way to get into the holiday spirit is to be a part of the Live Nativity. This is the casting call for Saturday, December 9th. There are two casts: Cast I performs at 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00pm and Cast II performs at 6:30, 7:30, & 8:30pm. All cast members are to arrive 30 minutes prior to their first shift. You, your family and extended family, friends, neighbors and co-workers are invited to be cast members.

Sign-up sheets for Saturday night performance will be on the bulletin board soon!

*We are in need for two volunteers to work with the costumes during this year's nativity scene.

These volunteers will get the costumes ready for the performance as well as work with the cast members. Contact Amanda Warren to volunteer.



There's an amusement park in Holland that features a very interesting method of keeping the grounds clean. The children who visit the park do all the work. Here's how it works:

Scattered around the park are larger than life-size figures – a clown, a fish, a baker, and so on. Each figure has an open mouth about the size of a fist and speaks constantly, "Paper Here! Paper Here!" The children in the park run around the park picking up every scrap of paper that can find – and when they put the paper into the figures' mouths, a vacuum whisks it away and the figure immediately responds with a recorded message: "Thank you very much!"

The scraps of paper are offerings the children make – and willingly make – for the fun of it. They aren't asked to pick up the paper in the park out of a sense of duty or because their parents told them to. All offerings in life should be as enjoyable – especially our offerings to God!

Peace, John



The other day I read a story about someone who took the blame and the punishment for something they did not do in order to save a friend from the consequences. If you were that friend, how would you think about that? What would you say to that friend who took a punishment that was rightfully yours? Would you be thankful?

It's not just a moral question, you know. It's also a spiritual and a stewardship question!

Happy Thanksgiving

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First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Coffee

Saturday, December 2, 2017

9:30 AM

It's time for our annual Presbyterian Women's Christmas Coffee. We'll have some good eats, chat, catch up with friends and help spread some holiday cheer. All women are invited. Bring a friend!

Bring a favorite Christmas goodie to share plus extra for our goodie plates we put together for our special members who have to stay home bound and our very special church staff. (Items to bring: finger foods like cookies, muffins, brownies, specialty bars, hard candy, etc.)