

# THE FIRST POST

*A month to Rally | August 2023*



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## A NEW PROGRAM YEAR BECKONS FOR THE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY

BY STEPHEN WILLIAMS

We all know about material poverty. Our hearts ache to see it in our city and beyond. But what about spiritual poverty? Even if Jesus did not tell us that we do not live by bread alone we would know that we need more than food to sustain our souls.

Spiritual poverty is evident in the turmoil and unrest of so many people. Rich and poor, young and old struggle with the life of spirit. We see people are unhappy with themselves and with one another. The Christian faith begins with the conviction that you and I cannot find in ourselves the answer to our spiritual needs. We cannot find peace within us or with others by any mere human effort.

Augustine's insight is that we are restless until our hearts rest in God. We are made so that we must have the presence of God working in us and through us. In Jesus Christ, we discover God's will and intention for us. We begin to live larger, more authentic lives as we learn to trust God. Faith is the human response to the divine offer to dwell in our hearts and give us resources for living that will truly satisfy our hungry hearts.

We receive God's power by the act of faith. Faith is not a human work but yet another gift of God. Our receiving it depends on our willingness to put ourselves where it is available. On the eve of Rally Day, let me provide three suggestions for those who are seeking faith as a way to spiritual strength.

## A NEW PROGRAM YEAR BECKONS FOR THE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY

*Continued*

- A regular, systematic reading of the Bible is necessary. Here is the knowledge of God every one of us needs. God has come to those who do this in too many instances to doubt that reading the Bible is a channel of God's power.
- Regular worship with God's people is another must. God is active where people gather to worship—consistently, expectantly and joyfully.
- Sacrificial giving of our money to the work of God is a vital dimension of discipleship. Money blocks spiritual growth in more people than anything else. About half of Jesus' parables deal with how we relate to our material possessions.

This church is the place where you can practice these disciplines and discover a richer and more vibrant spiritual life. I can't promise that your involvement here will solve all your problems but I can say that I have found the Spirit moving in this place. I can say to you that time and again at First I have seen the primacy of love and have had my own convictions renewed. I can say that time and again my own thirsty soul has found living water in this place. I can say that I am looking forward to Rally Day on August 20 and a new program year for our church. And I hope the same is true of all of you. -SCW



**Everything you  
need to know  
about First this  
month**

# CIRCLE UPDATES

## Agape Circle

Agape Circle will host a social on Thursday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. Meet at Delegal Creek Marina, The Landings 1 Marina Drive. Bring a dish and/or drink to share! Are you interested in joining the group this year? Please contact Lisa Bennett or Emily Salzer for more information.

## Grace and Joy

resumes with fellowship, dinner and Bible study on Thursday, August 3 at 6 p.m.. Ellen Tate will host in her home at 129 Radick Drive on Dutch Island. Belinda Walters will co-host and Linda Barnes will present Lesson 1 from "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts." The study books are available in the receptionist's office on the counter. The cost is \$10 which can be paid in cash or check and placed in the envelope in the box labeled "Study Books/Grace and Joy." No worries if you don't pick up a copy since they will be available at the meeting. Email Ellen at [emtate1950@gmail.com](mailto:emtate1950@gmail.com) so she can call in a gate pass. All are welcome!

## Jubilee Circle

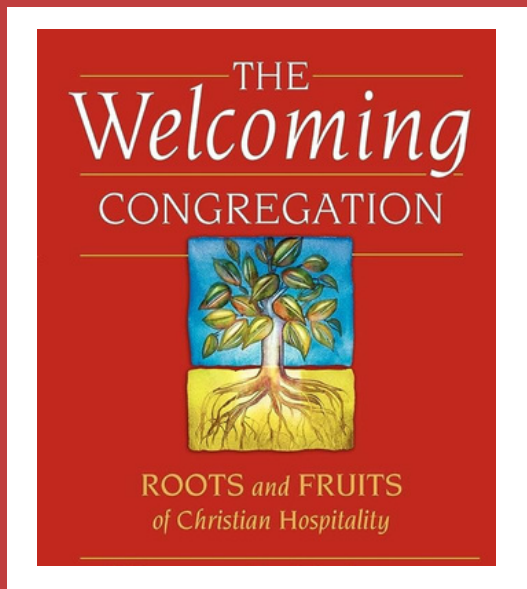
will meet on Thursday, August 24 at 11:30 am. at The 5 Spot in Sandfly. All are invited! Bible Study will resume in September.

## New Circle Gathering

on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Imlay House. All are welcome! Allison Johnson will provide dinner. Please rsvp to her at [AJSellsSavannah@gmail.com](mailto:AJSellsSavannah@gmail.com) so she knows how many to expect. There has been an interest expressed in adding another Circle. The thought is that this Circle will appeal to those women who are working during the day or evenings are a more convenient meeting time. At this first meeting and maybe the first couple, those who attend will discuss the format for the Circle. There is lots to decide: will there be dinner provided or meet after dinner? Will the the group use the Horizons study guide or book club style where a book related to the Bible is selected? Will there be an outreach component? What do we call the Circle? It can be anything the group wants it to be! There is no rule that you can only be a member of one Circle. We already have some women who attend more than one Circle and would love to have more participation wherever schedules permit.

# PLAN TO ATTEND DINNER AND PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23 | 6:45PM



As the church stands at the starting blocks of a new program year, attend dinner and program on Wednesday, August 23 in Stewart Hall. Chef Roberto will be commanding the kitchen and producing a delicious meal and church members will provide a review of the "Summer Read." The book was, *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*, by Henry Brinton, a Presbyterian minister in Virginia. The dinner line opens at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. \$8/adult; \$4/child under 4; \$25 family maximum.

## SALUTE TO EDUCATORS

SUNDAY, AUG. 13

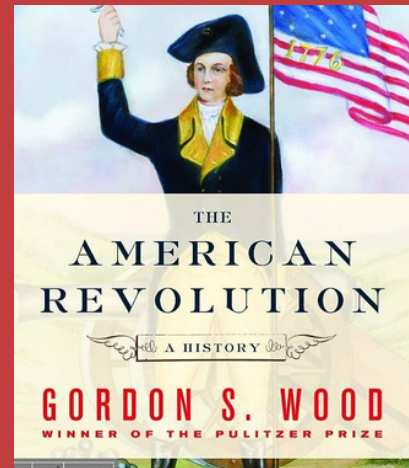
School bells are ringing and on Sunday, August 13 we will recognize the high calling of teaching by listing all the public and private teachers and administrators who are members of our congregation. It is a long and impressive roster of active and retired folks—nearly seventy of our members are educators. As children and youth return to the classroom after their summer vacation, we take time to thank these people who have responded to God's call to offer their energy, intelligence, imagination and love in service to the high calling of teaching. At a luncheon that will follow worship, Roger Moss, the president of the Board of Education, will speak on "The ABCs of the Chatham-Savannah Public School System." Join us for a tasty meal and informative program! \$8/adult; \$4/child under 4; \$25 family maximum.



# MEN'S BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, AUG 29 | 5:30PM

will meet Tuesday, August 29 @ 5:30 p.m. to discuss American Revolution by Gordon Woods in Room 115. Newcomers are always welcome.



## FALL MUSIC PROGRAM TO BEGIN

Many thanks to those who have participated in the Summer Choir. We have a few weeks remaining, so the invitation is still open. We rehearse at 10:15am on Sundays and would love to have you.

The Chancel Choir will begin its fall rehearsal schedule on Wednesday, August 16th, at 7:30pm in time to make final preparations for Rally Sunday. I am contemplating an additional rehearsal for those who have an ongoing conflict with the Wednesday time. I would value your input and ideas!

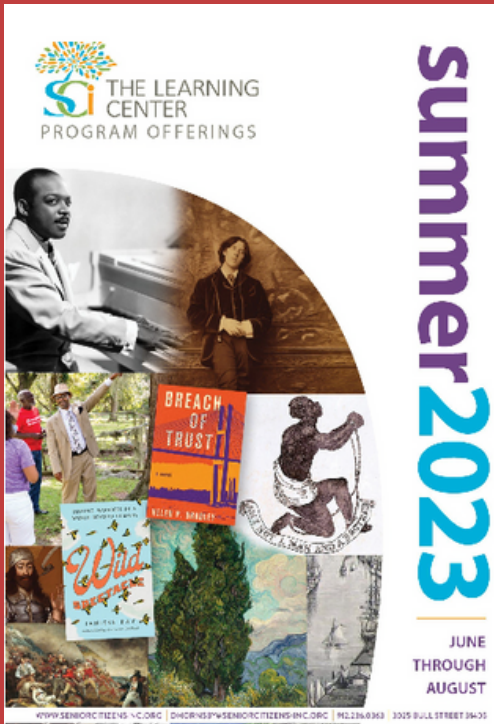
The First Ringers will begin on Sunday mornings at 9:15am, beginning on Rally Day, August 20th. We are always looking for new ringers! (We actually have some of the largest bells that are currently not being played. Those require strong arms!)

You will begin to hear about our 2023-2024 Music With A Mission series very soon.

Information on our upcoming fall children's music program is found in a separate article in the Newsletter.

- Jeff Lewis

# THE LEARNING CENTER



Features programs with ties to First. Becky Rowden leads another film series, "Spies, Lies and Whistleblowers," on Fridays, July 21-August 25, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Tanner King along with Justin Addington will offer a musical performance, "Broadway by Brown: Stage Selections by Jason Robert Brown," on Wednesday, August 23, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Learn more about TLC's schedule on the Senior Citizens, Inc. website.

## CONDOLENCES

- to the family of Lewis Miles whose mother, Jean Miles, died on June 30 in Baltimore, Maryland.
- to the family of Brian Childs on the death of his mother, Shirley Childs Pritchard, who died on July 21 in Annapolis, Maryland.



# CHILDREN - SUN MORNINGS

All children 5th grade and under are invited to join us during Extended Session time as a part of 11:00 a.m. worship for our Summer program, "An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation".

## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

SUNDAY, AUG. 16



It's time to return to school and we want to pray for all of the students, teachers, administrators and school staff as they begin a new school year. Bring your backpacks and work bags with you for a Back to School Blessing during 11:00 a.m. worship.

# YOUTH KICK OFF

SUNDAY, AUG. 20 | 5:30 = 7:30 PM



Join us for a mystery off campus gathering to kick off our year. Check your email soon for clues to our destination.



## SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 at 11:00 A.M.**

SERMON: "An Expansive Gospel: The Day Jesus Changed His Mind"

TEXTS: Genesis 45:1-15 and Matthew 15:21-28  
Stephen Williams, preaching

Bagpipe Fanfare, Recognition of 50-year members, Commissioning  
of Teachers



# FIRST LADIES LUNCH

THURSDAY, AUG. 31 | 11:30AM

All ladies at First and friends are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship. Contact Allison Shearouse if you would like to attend.

*Location: Erica Davis Low Country Restaurant*



# SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY DAY TRIP

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9



Join us on Saturday, September 9 as we spend the day engaged in learning and fellowship in District 1 with a tour of the Owens Thomas House and Slave Quarters and the King-Tisdell Cottage. There will be reflection activities and a meal to share. The registration deadline is Thursday, August 3 and the cost is \$125 per person. Please email [mallory@savannahfpc.org](mailto:mallory@savannahfpc.org) for more details.

# MUSIC ART FAITH

TUESDAYS | 4:30-6PM



Children 3 years old - 5th grade are invited to join us each week for rotations in creating art, making music, and exploring our faith together.

They will be preparing a special music piece for worship on August 20 (Rally Day).

A hand-drawn poster on a white sheet of paper, set against a background of art supplies including watercolor palettes and brushes. The text is written in a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts. The main title is "Music Art Faith Camp". Below it, the date and time are "Saturday, August 5 9am-12pm". A quote at the bottom reads "What a Beautiful Name" and an invitation follows: "All 3-year olds through 5th grade and friends are invited to join us in making music, creating art and exploring our faith together."

**Music Art  
Faith Camp**

Saturday, August 5  
9am-12pm

"What a Beautiful Name"  
All 3-year olds through 5th grade and friends are invited to join us in making music, creating art and exploring our faith together.



# HOORAY FOR RALLY DAY

*"An Expansive Gospel: The Day Jesus Changed His  
Mind"*

*Genesis 45: 1-15 and Matthew 15:21-28*

**AUGUST 20**

Stephen Williams, preaching

Launch a new program year with your friends at First!

Sunday School Assembly, Bagpiper, and  
Recognition of 50-year members

9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Breakfast

\$5/adults; \$2/child under 12

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School Assembly for All Ages

10:00 a.m.

New Semester of Classes Convene

11:00 a.m.

Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

Children offering a special music piece

Lemonade-on-the-Lawn Reception will follow

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**1st Christina Fenstermaker, Tommy Johnson**

**2nd David Adams, Pam Daly, Frederick Hodge, Grayson Pinson**

**3rd Mikayla Nielson**

**4th Ira (Jim) Ryan**

**5th Max Mills, William (Bill) Ricks**

**6th Katia Kovacs, Katia Kovacs, Jackson Walls**

**7th Mark Glendenning, Anne Pappas**

**8th Mary\_Margaret Brooks, Benjamin L. (Ben) Parker**

**10th Summer Roberts**

**13th Elizabeth (Beth) Longley, Lindsay Norman**

**15th Billy McKee, Cynthia Szczecinski, Ann Tatum**

**16th Elizabeth (Eliza) Brooks, Dorothy (Dot) McKay, Carolyn**

**Neely, Nick Thios**

**19th Annie Adams, Jane Lattimore Sparks**

**22th Sandy Cooper, Hank Gloss, Sandy Shirley**

**24th Joseph McArthur**

**25th Datie (Deodata) Rogers**

**26th Jane Coslick, Phyllis Mayfield**

**29th Talley Kirkland, Louisa Laird**

**30th Peter Foley, Jenell Griffith, Gabe Ross**

