

# THE FIRST POST

*Pentecost | May 2023*



## IN THIS EDITION:

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A Message from  
Stephen Williams - 1&2

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Upcoming Events &  
Announcements - 3-10

---

Christian Education - 11-  
12

---

Birthdays - 13

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS

BY STEPHEN WILLIAMS

This month we dedicate the children on the Cradle Roll on May 14 and hold a Service of Confirmation on May 28 so I want to reflect how parents fulfill the baptismal vow they have made to bring up their children in “the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Your children are growing up in a world full of complicated problems and dazzling choices. Stability and confidence and serenity of spirit are rare. Those qualities find their roots in the young years of family life. This is an appeal for you to take seriously the things that matter most in raising your children.

One of the things that matters most is teaching your children the things of God. A child responds to God as a flower turns to the sun. Foundations are laid in character that time and temptation can never shake as, night by night, you lead your child in prayer. The stories of the Bible become steel girders of the soul as they are taught by parents’ lips. Are you taking your child to

Sunday school and church where the Holy Spirit forms the young life in the likeness of Christ? You are careful to do all that is necessary to make your child physically strong. When our daughters were young, I remember our garage was packed with soccer balls, baseball mitts, bicycles, and tennis rackets. But if you emphasize the physical and neglect the spiritual, your child will simply possess plenty of energy to put into the wrong channels. You are careful to train your child to avoid physical dangers. Are you as careful to warn your child of the perils of loving self rather than God? The social graces are important, but when temptation comes, as it surely will, only the grace of God will keep your child safe.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS

*Continued*

It is also very important how you are living. You say you want your child to be good, unselfish and useful. It is not easy in this day of long workdays and busy schedules to set a clear example for your child, but it is necessary if you are to lead your child in the right path. When I see young families spending an hour or two packing bags of weekend food for hungry children, I am cheered. Such shared activities do more than simply words to demonstrate a life pleasing to God. The church stands ready to offer plenty of ideas how to focus your family life on the things that matter most.

You have been given a precious gift of children. Give God a chance with them. Give your children the chance God meant for them to have. By your instruction and example, lead them in the things that matter most. When they are older they will not depart from them. You will be sending into the world strong women and men who will rise up and call you blessed. --SCW

## ODDS & ENDS...



Thank you to the Foote Series Committee chaired by Peter Foley and including Colin McRae, Linda and Rich Wittish, for arrangements with the speaker on April 30, Shavon Starling-Louis, co-moderator of the General Assembly. Her topic was "Becoming a Matthew 25 Church." Also, sincere thanks to Phyllis and Gay Mayfield and Jenell Griffith for their gracious hospitality. Check out the church's Facebook page for more!

# APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 | 12PM STEWART HALL

For about twenty years, First has hosted an end-of-the-year luncheon for the faculty and staff of our neighboring school, the Savannah Arts Academy. The luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 24 at Noon in Stewart Hall and the speaker will be Ron Newsom offering words of appreciation for the high calling of teachers. It has been quipped that “Presbyterians and teachers belong together like peanut butter and jelly.” And it is true that one of the marks of Reformed faith is the life of the mind in the service of God. The menu will not be peanut butter and jelly but we do need volunteers to set the tables for about 90 people, prepare and serve the food, and make table arrangements. If you can help for an hour or two please email [mallory@savannahfpc.org](mailto:mallory@savannahfpc.org).

## DON'T MISS AN EXCITING ART EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

MAY 15 - MAY 25  
STEWART HALL

Art students from the Savannah Arts Academy will display drawings of the church—architectural features and ecclesial objects—in Stewart Hall, May 15 – May 25. A reception to view the art and meet some of the young artists will be held on Sunday, May 21, following the service of worship.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

Founder's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4. Don't sit on the sidelines when we celebrate our annual Founders' Day which recalls the day in 1827 when the church was organized by a vote of Presbytery. There will be a bagpipe procession, hymns by charter member Lowell Mason, and an all-church photograph on the plaza following worship. A reception on the lawn may include a rumored visit by David Porter who was our minister from 1855-1872. During worship we will also sing Porter's hymn, "Praise Jehovah, Praise Jehovah!" which was written on the occasion of the dedication of the sanctuary on Monterey Square. Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship will be the topic for the annual Butler/First adult study during the month of June. To be a Presbyterian is to join a way of life informed by a particular rhythm—God calls us in grace and love and we respond in gratitude. The series, produced by the Synod of Mid America, will introduce a particular topic with a 10-minute video and follow with a 45-minute small group and general discussion. Join us for as many class sessions as your schedule permits.

Sunday, June 4 at Butler

"A People of Grace"

Sunday, June 11 at First

"Wicked Bad: The Problem of Sin"

Sunday, June 18 at Butler

"Jesus as Our Lord and Savior"

Sunday, June 25 at First

"Blessed to be a Blessing"

Class sessions alternate between Butler and First and meet at 9:30 a.m. The concluding session will include a fellowship breakfast served at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$5/person; \$2/child under 12.

JUST CELEBRATION will be held at First on Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall. JUST, is an interfaith justice advocacy group comprising 23 houses of worship including 20 churches, 1 mosque and 2 synagogues in Savannah. Plan on attending this free event that caps off a year-long cycle. At the Nehemiah Action on April 24, JUST members presented to public officials proposals to reform education and expand affordable housing. Count on lots of food, music and storytelling as JUST celebrates this year's achievements.



# VARIETY SHOW & AUCTION

## YOUTH FUNDRAISER

MAY 7 AT 12:00 PM  
STEWART HALL

JOIN US FOR LUNCH, A VARIETY SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION  
TICKETS: \$10 ADULTS, \$5 CHILDREN

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT YOUTH ATTENDING OUR  
SUMMER MISSION TRIP WITH FRONTERA DE CRISTO.



# ATTEND THE UPCOMING INQUIRER'S CLASS

SUNDAYS, MAY 7, 14, 21 | ROOM 207

Considering church membership? An Inquirer's Class is set for the Sundays, May 7, 14, and 21 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 207 where Jim Baker will provide an introduction to the ministries of First, Review church history and polity as well as discuss distinctives of Presbyterian theology. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 a.m. Please email [mallory@savannahfpc.org](mailto:mallory@savannahfpc.org) to express interest in the class.



JOIN US FOR THE

## Cradle Roll Dedication



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO  
HAVE NOT YET CELEBRATED THEIR  
THIRD BIRTHDAY



Mother's Day  
14 May



# CRADLE ROLL DEDICATION

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Cradle Roll Sunday, May 14 is a wonderful tradition at First. Families with children who have not yet celebrated their third birthday are invited to the front of the sanctuary where prayers are offered and a blessing is given to each child. The Cradle Roll blessing is early in the service and Extended Session care for small children is available for the rest of the hour. The Cradle Roll blessing is a vivid reminder how children are a gift from God and the important role the church takes in caring for children and families. Families with a child who has not yet celebrated their third birthday is invited to participate. And bring older siblings along where they will also receive a blessing!

# SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, MAY 28 - PENTECOST



Celebrate the power and might of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost when this year's five confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, May 28. The class of sixth graders have been meeting weekly since mid-February learning about church history, doctrine and practice and reflecting on their own faith. They will meet with the Session on Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Stewart Hall. A key feature of the confirmation course has been each confirmand has met at least three times with an elder-mentor where a variety of faith issues have been discussed. An old tradition on Pentecost is to wear something red on this festive day!

## FIRST LADIES LUNCH

THURSDAY, MAY 11 | 11:30AM AT FINCHES IN THUNDERBOLT



All women at First and friends are invited to join us for fellowship time. Contact Allison Shearouse to make a reservation.

**Address:** 2600 Mechanics Ave,  
Thunderbolt, GA 31404

# BREAKFAST WITH THE MEN OF BUTLER AND FIRST

SATURDAY, MAY 6 | 8-9AM IN STEWART HALL



Longstanding ties with Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church, a historic African American congregation, find expression with the annual men's breakfast on Saturday, May 6, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in Stewart Hall. This year, First is the host and the speaker will be Walter Evans, a retired physician and art patron. His topic will be about his private collection, "The Papers of Frederick Douglass." The cost is \$5.00/person.

## NOTES FROM THE ORGANIST

Many thanks to the Chancel Choir, First Ringers, guest musicians, staff and volunteers for making Holy Week so incredibly powerful and moving. Your tireless gifts of time and talent show and you are an inspiration to those who hear you. You are what makes First great!

As the Chancel Choir moves into the summer months, we are changing the Wednesday rehearsal time to 6:30pm for the month of May. We always welcome new members!

The Chancel Choir will then switch gears for the summer months. We will not rehearse on Wednesday evenings, but will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. Several in our congregation who sing have not been able to commit to regular Wednesday rehearsals. I want to invite you to consider joining the Summer Choir beginning in June. No robes and easy music we can put together quickly. I will warn you that you might find it fun! Feel free to talk with me about it when you see me on Sundays or email me at [jeff@savannahfpc.org](mailto:jeff@savannahfpc.org). I'll be happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

Jeff Lewis  
Director of Music and Organist



# ANNUAL PW CHAT 'N CHILL

THURSDAY, JUNE 8 | 5PM @ DUTCH ISLAND POOL



Bring your own dinner and libation, avoiding glass containers. If you have something to share, that's good, but don't worry-just chill! Please RSVP to Ellen Tate ([emtate1950@gmail.com](mailto:emtate1950@gmail.com)) so she can call in a gate pass for you.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY GATHERING

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM @ IMLAY HOUSE



Judith Crawford will be our gracious hostess overseeing the gathering. All circles are invited as there will be a service to welcome the new officers of the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team for the next 2 years and the Honorary Lifetime Pin for 2023 will be given. Bring an appetizer/finger food or bottle of wine to share. We will have a beautiful birthday cake for dessert. If you are interested in childcare for this event, please reply to Allison Johnson at [ajsellssavannah@gmail.com](mailto:ajsellssavannah@gmail.com) and let her know how many children and their ages.

# YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAYS IN MAY



**May 7 5:30 -7:30 pm**

- Dinner & Mission Project
- Backpack Buddies needs our help packing summer bags for children at Pulaski Elementary.

**May 21 5:30-7:30 pm**

- End of Year Celebration

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
**CHANCEMAKERS  
LAB**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAVANNAH  
MONDAY, JULY 10-THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
AGES 3-RISING 5TH GRADE

CONTACT ALLISON SHEAROUSE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 10-13

It's time to sign up for this year's VBS. Use this form to register:  
<https://forms.gle/QP5VqFKHLjZKeAP88>

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDY MORNINGS AT FIRST



**Fidelis-Covenant Class** (Room 115) with Bob Morgan studying Hope by MaryAnn McKibben Dana

**Sojourners** (Room 209) with Howard Crawford and Peter Foley will use *FaithLens*

**Timothy Class** (Imlay House) with Eric McManus uses FaithLens to guide their Bible study and discussion

## Honor Sabbath

MULTIAGE CHILDREN AGES 6-10



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS AT FIRST

*Follow Me "Honor Sabbath" curriculum*

**Babies to Age 3-** Nursery

**3's-Kindergarten-** Room 8

**1st & 2nd Grades-** Room 202

**3rd-5th Grades-** Room 221

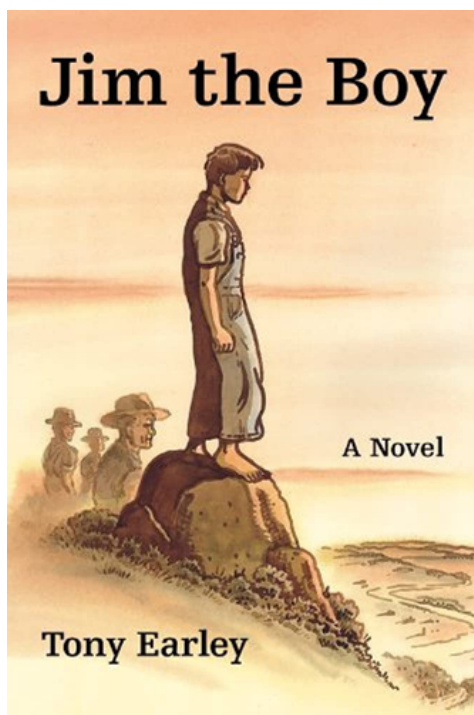
**6th-12th Grades-** Room 212

# MEN'S BREAKFAST AND STUDY

MONDAY, MAY 15 | 7:30AM



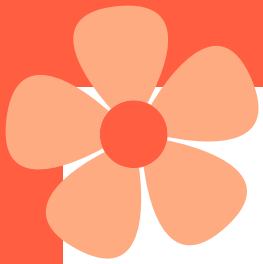
Men of First and friends will meet on Monday, May 15 at 7:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall for bagels and coffee. Jim Taylor will lead the study. Come enjoy a good conversation and a continental breakfast – all are welcome.



## MEN'S BOOK STUDY

TUESDAY, MAY 23 AT 5:30 PM

Meet on Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 115. The double doors on 45th Street near the meeting room will be open. Peter Foley will lead a discussion of the book, Jim the Boy by Tony Earley. All are welcome.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

**1st Sherril (Sher) Claus, Paige Harris**

**2nd Grace Binda, Emily Daly, Will Snipes**

**3rd Claudia Mills, Jack von Trapp**

**4th Michael Johnson**

**5th Susan Bolinger**

**6th James Hagerty, Robert Hill**

**7th Ard James, Nina Massey, Belinda Walters**

**9th Colin McRae**

**11th Ben Price, Joshua Smith, Lisa J. Snipes, Doris Treptow Kovacs**

**12th William Turbiville**

**13th Summer Freeman, AnMei Nance**

**14th Marilyn Borst, Claire Williams**

**15th Howard Crawford**

**16th Sam Thios**

**17th Kirk Blaine, George Milmine**

**18th Finn Clark**

**21th Molly Gignilliat**

**22th Joel Wittkamp**

**23th Beth Baronian, Brianna Goldman**

**25th Lillian Blaine**

**27th Mark Borst, Jerry Stuber**

**28th Jay Peteranetz**

**29th Harper Nelsen**

**31th Millie Grace Longley, Chloe Stuber**

