

THE FIRST POST

Community | October 2023



IN THIS EDITION:

A Message from
Stephen Williams - 1&2

Christian Education - 3 & 4

Announcements - 5 & 6

Youth News - 7 - 11

Upcoming Events - 12 - 21

Birthdays - 22

FROM GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAINS

BY STEPHEN WILLIAMS

First charter member Lowell Mason set to music those words of the stirring mission hymn in 1829. This next week we have the opportunity to learn about Presbyterian missions as we are led in a series of programs by Joshua Heikkila, a mission co-worker serving in Ghana who also is the Mission Agency's liaison with West Africa. In a region of the world that is struggles with economic poverty and political instability, he will help us think about the global church and in particular, our partnership with the church in Ghana. Did you know there are as many Presbyterians in Ghana as in the United States? The annual Mission Emphasis has become the centerpiece of our fall program. You will recall that last year, Mark Adams, who was home on furlough from the border ministry, Frontera de Cristo, challenged us to become even more involved in missions. Next summer, youth from the church will take part in a mission trip to Frontera de Cristo along the Arizona border with Mexico.

FROM GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAINS...

Continued

Mission Committee Chair Eric McManus and his committee have planned an action-packed series. Sunday, October 1, begins at 9:00 a.m. with what is billed as "Savannah's Best Breakfast" prepared by a crew of young men of First. Things continue with an All-Church Forum at 9:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall. It will be an exciting morning, with a talk by Rev. Heikilla. The coffee hour will feature breads from around the world. During worship, he will preach and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. In the evening, Rev. Heikilla will speak to the youth fellowship. On Monday evening, he will attend this month's dinner group which will meet at the 5-Spot Restaurant at Sandfly at 6:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. for a program and then stay for a lunch with Rev. Heikkila. Clergy from Savannah Presbytery will gather for lunch and a talk on Wednesday in Stewart Hall, and later he will speak at 6:45 p.m. in Stewart Hall with a buffet dinner served at 6:00 p.m. As the Mission Emphasis concludes, he will provide an exciting vision of the future of the church in Africa.

Albert Winn, a former General Assembly moderator and seminary president, wrote a thought-provoking book, *A Sense of Mission*. Winn declares:

"The experience that makes a person a Christian is the experience in which Christ sends that person, gives that person a mission. The great personal benefits of our own forgiveness and salvation are given us in order that we may open the eyes of others. And the commandments of Christ are issued us as our marching orders for mission. . . .Karl Barth says that where the creeds and confessions speak of the state of grace and salvation of the called, 'Scripture always speaks of the commissioning and sending of called people, and sees them set in a function to be exercised between God. . . .and the world.' In its exercise the salvation of those who are called is surely important. 'But the principle which controls the structure of this existence as those who are called is that God on the one side and the world. . . .on the other have become more important to them. . . .than they can be to themselves.' One thinks of David Livingstone when the pious lady inquired about his soul. 'Soul, madam? To tell the truth I've been so concerned about Africa I forgot I had a soul!'"

Mark your calendars and come prepared to consider your own commissioning and sending into a world God so dearly loves. A line from Lowell Mason's famous hymn concludes, "Salvation! Oh! Salvation! The joyful sound proclaim, Till earth's remotest nation has learned Messiah's name." --SCW

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 9:30 am

COVENANT CLASS

“The Mighty Acts of God” by A.B. Rhodes
Led by Bob Morgan in Room 115

TIMOTHY CLASS

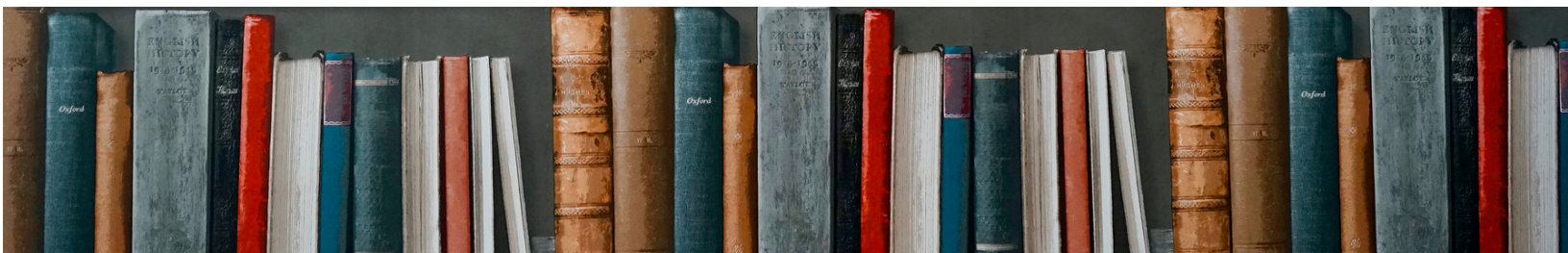
“Working Preacher/Faith Lens Lectionary Study.”
Led by Eric Mcmanus in Imlay House

SOJOURNERS CLASS

“Bible Stories for Grown-Ups” by Josh Scott
Led by Howard Crawford and Peter Foley in Room 209

INQUIRER’S CLASS

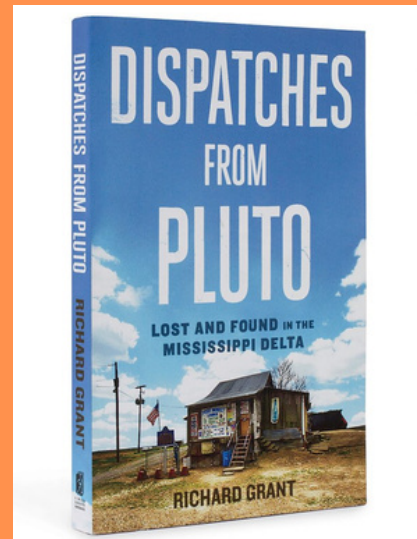
will be held on Sundays, October 22 and 29 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 207 led by Jim Baker. The class will explore Christian faith and practice and discuss the particular ministries and missions of First. New members will be welcomed during worship on October 29.



MEN'S BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 5:30 P.M. IN ROOM 115

Peter Foley will lead a discussion of the book *Dispatches from Pluto* by Richard Grant. It's an account of small-town life in Mississippi. Newcomers are always welcome. (Use the double doors on the 46th Street side of the Education/Office building.)



AN EXCERPT FROM A REFORMED CREED

We believe that God sends us to tell all nations that Christ calls everyone to repentance, faith, and obedience. We are to proclaim by word and deed that Christ gave himself to set people free from sin and self-hatred, from ignorance and disease, from all forms of oppression, and even from death. We are to offer them in Christ's name fulness of life now and forever. We must not distort the gospel by weakening its promises or demands, by identifying it with oppressive structures, by pointing to ourselves instead of Christ. We must not restrict our proclamation to persons like ourselves. We invite people everywhere to believe in Christ and become his followers. We urge them to join us in telling others the good news and in struggling for justice, compassion, and peace.

(from A Declaration of Faith, 1977)

LETTER FROM JOHN TATUM, CHAIR OF THE FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you on behalf of the Facilities Task Force, which, as you know was appointed by the Session at its April stated meeting (1) to prepare a comprehensive needs and condition assessment of our 40,000 square foot campus of buildings, furniture, fixtures, and equipment, (2) to prepare a master utilization plan as a guide for the future, and (3) to prepare a prioritized plan to address present deficiencies and future modifications.

At the time of this letter the FTF has met 9 times, while working between meetings, and plans to continue meeting biweekly. Here are the highlights.

Members of the FTF have met with and interviewed “stakeholders” of four “Mission Venues,” 1) Hospitality and Outreach, 2) Administration, Adult Education, and Campus Sharing, 3) Preschool, Youth Education and Recreation, and 4) Worship and Music. Appropriate additions have been made to our Needs Assessment based on Information gathered in these interviews. This Assessment includes some immediate needs such as repair of leaks.

We cannot accomplish the assigned tasks without the professional assistance of an architect. After submitting a Request for Qualifications to three selected architectural firms, we have engaged the services of Felder & Associates with the Session’s approval. Felder & Associates has completed 110 church projects of all sizes since 1996. Generally, the work will consist of an overall programmatic, material and systems assessment with recommendations for scheduled removal, change replacement and maintenance. To begin this work, we are arranging interviews for Felder with the Pastoral Leadership Group, Lay Leadership Group, New Member Group, and Long-term Member Group.

LETTER FROM JOHN TATUM, CHAIR OF THE FACILITIES TASK FORCE

At the FTF meeting on September 21 we divided the congregation into smaller focus groups that two FTF members will meet with in the coming weeks to elicit additional input. Those groups include staff, new members, the Session, Sojourners Class, Covenant Class, Timothy Class, choir, Agape, Jubilee and Grace & Joy Circles, Men's Breakfast Group, youth groups, and Wonderful Wednesday Group. Please note that the Wednesday Night Supper Group is open to the entire congregation. We will be in touch, in the meantime feel free to make any suggestions you wish to any FTF member.

Remembering that our church property is a gift from God for our use in God's service, your suggestions are welcomed and will be appreciated. So will your prayers. We will keep you posted as we go.

Task Force members are: Josh Brooks, Jordan Chase, Carter Eagle, Gay Mayfield, Eric McManus, Nan Taylor, and myself. Non-voting members are Stephen Williams, Sr. Pastor, Allison Shearouse, Director of Christian Education, and Jeff Lewis, Director of Music.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE SPONSORS FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 9:00 A.M. – NOON

There will be lots of chores for all skill levels, including painting, cleaning, trimming bushes, and spreading pine straw.



YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS



- Junior Lows (3rd-5th Grade)
- Junior Highs (6th-8th Grade)
- Senior Highs (9th-12th Grade)
- 5-6 pm Youth Music
- 6-6:30 pm Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 pm Recreation, Bible Study, Mission Projects & More.

You can access our weekly youth newsletter here: <https://www.savannahfpc.org/youth-group.html#/>

Sign up for hosting dinner or helping



We need your help with input for our mission trip week! Please share it here: <https://forms.gle/NJ8MRW3qYHeoVtzv6>

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS AT FIRST



Follow Me "Celebrate Communion" 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

MUSIC | ART | FAITH

TUESDAYS IN STEWART HALL



Program for Ages 3 years old to 5th grade

Tuesdays

4:30-6:00 pm

Stewart Hall

Children will be creating art and making music while exploring their faith.

- Session 2: October 3 - October 24
- Session 3: November 14 & 28

DON'T MISS THE VARIETY SHOW

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 6:00 PM IN STEWART HALL



MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

JUNE 2-8, 2024

Register on the presbytery website here: <https://www.savannahpresbytery.org/events/children-youth-events/montreat-youth-conference/montreat-youth-conference-registration-form/>



JUNE 2-8, 2024

Registration Open!

**NOW THROUGH
NOVEMBER 3RD**

Open to youth rising 9th grade through
graduated seniors (as of June 2024)

DEADLINES

November 3, 2023

Registration Form & \$300 deposit

March 1, 2023

\$315 balance



*Middle School Experience & Family week will be offered as well.
Contact Allison Shearouse if you are interested in one of these.*

CHILDREN'S SABBATH SERVICE:

OCTOBER 15, 2023 11AM SERVICE



Our Preschool and Elementary age children have an opportunity to lead the entire worship service on Sunday, October 15. During this service we will also present our 3rd graders with Bibles. If your child is willing to sing, play an instrument, read a prayer, participate in a skit, usher or serve as a greeter... all parts of the service are needed and welcome. Please contact Allison or Tanner to participate.

WORSHIP PREPARATION PART 2

OCTOBER 8-NOVEMBER 26 (EXCEPT OCT 15) | 7 SESSIONS

1st & 2nd-grade children are invited

Children will depart with leaders following Time with Children and then return during the Affirmation of Faith. The class will meet across the hall from Extended Session and be led by Allison Shearouse, Tanner King and parent volunteers.

During each session, we will explore the different parts of our worship service through art activities, faith questions and interactive prayers. These are the topics they will explore together:

Call to Worship, Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness, Illumination, Exploring Scripture, Proclaiming the Word, Affirmation of Faith and Offering our Gifts.

KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS SERVICE

REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 11:00 A.M.



The First Coast Highlander Pipe and Drum Corps will play at this service which celebrates the Scottish contribution to Presbyterian beliefs and polity. Invite your friends! Wear a favorite tartan tie or scarf as you enjoy a shortbread cookie at a tent reception which will follow the service.

WORSHIP AND DINNER WITH SAVANNAH KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 5:00 P.M. AT FIRST



A joint worship service will be held in our sanctuary—prayers, music and short meditations in Korean and English—with a covered dish dinner to follow in Stewart Hall. Bring a dish to share!

CONGREGATIONS IN SERVICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT 8:30 A.M. IN STEWART HALL

Volunteers from about ten houses of worship, including Christians, Bahais, Muslims, and Jews, will gather for a short service followed by a morning organizing the Inspiritus clothes closet, helping at the Humane Society, and sprucing up Daffin Park. A fellowship lunch will follow at noon at First Christian Church.

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 12:15 P.M. IN STEWART HALL.



All those who have joined the church in the past six months will gather for a luncheon hosted by the Evangelism committee. Please email Mallory@savannahfpc.org for reservations.

SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY PILGRIMAGE DAY TRIPS

There are 2 remaining trips this fall. Registration deadlines are September 27th and 29th. The purpose of these day trips is to learn and unpack the impact of local historical events in each of the Presbytery's three districts and how they impact our current time.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more information about each trip and to register.



IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE CHURCH OFFICERS!



Use the form to nominate a member of First to serve an elder on our session. All forms are needed by October 12 by mail, offering plate or to the church office.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS FEATURE DINNER

6:00 P.M. AND PROGRAM 6:45 – 7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 4

“Spotlight on the Church in West Africa,” by Josh Heikkila,
Mission Co-Worker

OCTOBER 11

“Variety of Talents Showcased by Children, Youth and Adults”

OCTOBER 18

“Why Endowments Matter?” by Terri O’Neil

OCTOBER 25

“Caring for Our Neighbors,” by Lindsay Melvin, Hospice
Savannah

UNION MISSION SECRET SANTA INITIATIVE



This is an opportunity in addition to the donations made to Swainsboro. If interested in providing gifts for this program that helps 15 disabled women, please reach out to Eliza Brooks, elizapbrooks@gmail.com

FIRST LADIES LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 11:30 AM



Cohen's Retreat (5715 Skidaway Rd, Savannah, GA 31406)
All ladies of First and friends are invited. RSVP to Allison Shearouse
(allison@savannahfpc.org).

ANNUAL MISSION EMPHASIS

ANNUAL MISSION EMPHASIS “SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHURCH IN WEST AFRICA”

Presented by

JOSHUA HEIKKILA, PCUSA MISSION COWORKER WHO SERVES ON THE MISSION FIELD IN GHANA AND ALSO HAS BEEN APPOINTED MISSION LIAISON FOR WEST AFRICA BY THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY.

WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 1

BREAKFAST AT 9:00 A.M.
FORUM AT 9:30 A.M.
SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT
11:00 A.M.

MONDAY,
OCTOBER 2

DINNER AND PROGRAM AT
5-SPOT RESTAURANT
SANDBLY AT 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 3

PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON
WITH PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN AT 11:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 4 AT
6:00 P.M.

DINNER AND PROGRAM



Music With A Mission



On behalf of First Presbyterian Church, the Music With A Mission Committee would like to introduce you to the 2023-2024 “Music with a Mission Concert Series”. All concerts are free and open to the public. An offering is received at each concert, with 100% of the donation being given to our mission partner : Union Mission.



Since its founding in 1937, Union Mission has grown from a small soup kitchen to a multi-facility organization serving the homeless population of the greater Savannah area. Today, Union Mission provides emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, behavioral health services, support for people living with HIV/AIDS, and employment and educational services. Through our programs, individuals and families acquire the tools they need to lift themselves out of homelessness and into a brighter future.

Homelessness has a variety of causes — job loss, eviction, family tragedy, addiction, domestic violence, a major health condition, and more. Union Mission strives to empower and coach people towards excellence. Through our programs, we seek to create an environment where individuals can thrive and lives can be rebuilt. Our goal is to encourage the growth of the individual and by doing so, permanently eliminate their homelessness.

All concert details are below.

*Music with a Mission
Concert Series
2023 - 2024*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2023

-7:00PM-

Justin Addington, Tanner King, & Friends
A Night of Musicals & Operas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2023

-6:00PM UNTIL 8:00PM-

Meet the Mission Partner
Come and Go Reception
Imlay House
(Southwest Corner of 46th St. & Paulsen St.)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024

-7:00PM-

SCAD - Savannah GA
HONEY BEES
Under the Direction of Mike Evariste

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2024

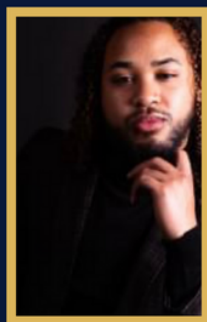
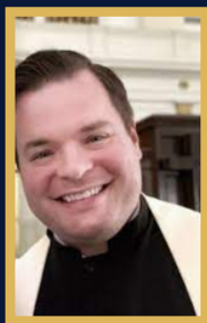
-7:00PM-

Spectra Treble Choir
Savannah GA
Under the Direction of Tegan Miller

MEET THE MUSIC WITH A MISSION GROUP



Justin, Tanner, & Friends



Justin Addington: Collaborative Pianist

Tanner King: Tenor

Grace Ashley: Soprano

Clinton Garrison: Baritone

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



AGAPE

will meet on Thursday, October 19th at 7 PM in Imlay House. Co-Leaders are Emily Salzer (615.579.0967, EmilySalzer@me.com) and Lisa Bennett (678.467.6867, LisaBennett98@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending or finding out more about this circle.



GRACE & JOY

will meet on Thursday, October 12th (new date!) at 6 PM at Judith Crawford's home 107 Egret Point Savannah, GA 31405 for fellowship, dinner and lesson 3 of the Bible study. Meet at the church at 5:15 PM to carpool. RSVP to Judith at 912.547.7984 or JudithCrawford1996@gmail.com. Ellen Tate (912.354.9270, EMTate1950@gmail.com) and Jenell Griffith (912.355.7370, Jenell.Griffith@comcast.net) are the co-leaders and will be happy to share more information about this circle.



JUBILEE

will meet on Tuesday, October 10th at 10:30 AM in the John Knox room. Jenell Griffith (912.355.7370, Jenell.Griffith@comcast.net) and Charlotte Keenoy (912.921.1633, JohnKeenoy@bellsouth.net) are the co-leaders of this circle and are available to share more information.



NEW CIRCLE

will meet on Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 PM in Imlay House. This circle is still in the early stages of determining what women want it to be. No dinner will be served at this meeting. Please participate in a conversation about providing another Bible study opportunity while enjoying the fellowship of friends. To make suggestions or ask questions, please contact Allison Johnson (912.308.3020, AJSellSavannah@gmail.com).

A GRACIOUS CHRISTMAS

The A Gracious Christmas planning committee is seeking sponsors for this year's event, set to take place on Thursday, December 7th.



*The ladies of
First Presbyterian Church
look forward to hosting the 14th annual
A Gracious Christmas event
on December 7, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.*

Our mission is twofold: to fellowship and enjoy the Christmas season, and to raise funds for a local non-profit benefiting women and children in our community. This year's deserving recipient is Tharros Place, an organization dedicated to providing sanctuary to the victims of human trafficking.

We believe our efforts will go further with your support as a sponsor of the event. We have three sponsorship levels available, detailed below. We will be happy to provide a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution. All sponsors will be recognized, by level of support, on all promotional materials leading up to the event, as well as on programs and signage at the event.

We truly appreciate your consideration of our request!

Sponsorship Levels:

Gold \$1,000

In addition to publicity mentioned above, a sponsor at this level will receive three tickets to the A Gracious Christmas event and five raffle tickets

Silver \$500

In addition to publicity mentioned above, a sponsor at this level will receive two tickets to the A Gracious Christmas event and three raffle tickets

Myrrh \$250

In addition to publicity mentioned above, a sponsor at this level will receive one ticket to the A Gracious Christmas event and five raffle tickets



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Noble Peteranetz

3rd Eli Ross, Robyn Sevier

6th Tim Buckeridge

7th Samuel Hensley, Collier McManus

8th Chris Howard, Debra Theodotou

10th Sherry Griffin, Forest Lanier, Isabel Lanier

11th Rebecca, Dr. Evans

12th Ben Eckwall

13th Stephen Rogers

14th Claire Lundy

15th Joshua Herrington, Bill McNair

16th Alice Mackenzie, Diane Ricks

17th Gabriel McGehee

19th Haley Hiltzheimer, Jessica Padgett

20th Gwen McKee, Lena Anne Smith

22th Tess Stuber

25th Chris Blaine

26th Claire Bennett, Ruth McManus

27th Myra Hill

29th Jordan Griffith

30th Emily Foley

31th Godlove Binda, Thomas (Tom) Hetherington, Morgan Howard

