

THE FIRST POST

Helping Hands | September 2023



IN THIS EDITION:

A Message from
Stephen Williams - 1&2

Upcoming Events &
Announcements - 3-9

Birthdays - 10

THANKING GOD FOR THE CHURCH

BY STEPHEN WILLIAMS

The Reformer John Calvin regarded every service for the Lord's Day as a celebration of Christ's resurrection and certainly the Rally Day worship had the joy of Easter morning. On Rally Day the skirl of bagpipes called us to worship, the Children's Choir introit lifted our hearts in praise, the Chancel choir's anthem set our own prayers to music, and fifty-year members were recognized. The week before, we honored the impressive number of educators in the church. Many of us stayed to enjoy lunch in Stewart Hall where we learned from Roger Moss, the president of the Board of Education, about the leadership of the new superintendent, Denise Watts.

As we turn the page of the calendar to September, attendance has picked up and once empty pews are beginning to be filled again. Perhaps it is the fresh perspective that time and distance gives, but these first weeks back from vacation have impressed upon me what a lively and loving place this is—how this congregation tries to reflect the very grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THANKING GOD FOR THE CHURCH

Continued

It has been said before, but it cannot be said enough: do you realize, do you ever really realize the gift of this congregation to each of us? Glance around on Sunday morning at those who sit near you and appreciate how these people add so much to First. Consider all the committees that quietly work to lead us in mission, to educate us about the substance of the Christian faith, to reach out to newcomers, to visit the sick and aged, to maintain our building and grounds. Consider the elders listed each week on the bulletin whose labors have strengthened the ties that bind. Hold in your hearts and prayers all the children that fill classrooms and join us in worship.

As the days grow cooler—that is more wishful thinking than experience as the temperature stands today at 96 degrees!—and the days shorter, a new program year beckons. It is a wonderful time to rededicate ourselves to the service of God through this community of faith. Find a Sunday school class for your children and another one for yourself, join the choir or volunteer with the Extended Session children's program during worship, resolve to attend the Wonderful Wednesday dinners that begin on September 13, say "yes!" when someone calls asking you to teach or pack food for hungry children or prepare a meal for our homeless ministry.

When you match your interests with some opportunity at First, you'll end up making new friends and discovering new meaning. What an incredible, lively, remarkable gift this church is to all of us! I urge you to rejoice at what we do and are for each other. In gratitude to God for making all of it possible we can say:

*I love thy church, O God; her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye and graven on thy hand.*

--SCW



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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study will meet on Monday, September 18 at 7:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall led by Gay Mayfeld. No charge for bagels, cream cheese and coffee.

TIMOTHY CLASS

"Working Preacher/Faith Lens Lectionary Study" will be 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



NEW MEN'S GROUP

Are you interested in an evening Men's Bible Study?

Come as you are for a collaborative and informational meeting on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 PM in Imlay House. Pizza will be provided however we ask that you BYOB. There will be no set agenda, we are looking to gauge interest among the men in the congregation as well as the programing, opportunities to give back, etc. All that we ask for is feedback as we attempt to learn about each other, the Word, and become closer to God. For more information and to RSVP, we want to make sure we have enough pizza for everyone. Please contact Michael Johnson at 912.604.0797 or savannahhome4you@gmail.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATED SESSION MEETING

MEETING HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 21 | 7PM

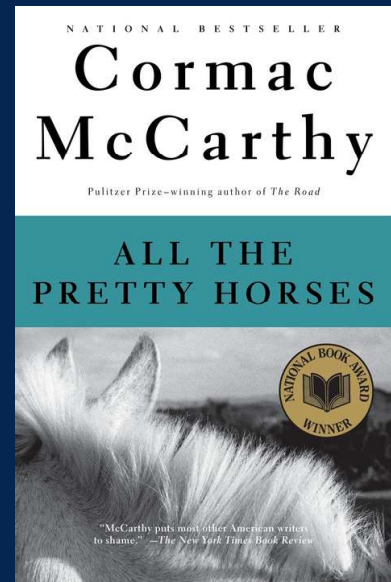
The Session meeting on Monday, August 21 began at 7:00 p.m. with a presentation, "The Organized Church and Pastoral Care," led by Myra Hill. The Session is using a chapter of a book by John Leith, "The Ethos of the Reformed Tradition," to structure its monthly study around nine distinctives for Presbyterians. John Tatum who chairs the Facilities Task Force gave an overview of its work to date and its plans to engage Felder and Associates, a local architectural firm with extensive experience working with churches. The Session allocated up to \$30,000 in reserve funds to pay for a building assessment including projected expenses related to addressing issues that are identified. Various committee reports included the upcoming Mission Emphasis that begins with World Communion Sunday on October 1. Victor Aloyo, the President of Columbia Theological Seminary was invited to lead the Session retreat on November 11 and to preach on Stewardship Commitment Sunday, November 12. The Finance Committee reported total operating income through July of \$448,932 against expenses of \$466,052. It was noted: 1. this is about \$20,000 ahead of income in 2022 and, 2. the deficit was largely due to replacing the Stewart Hall roof in June at a cost of \$36,000. The church is on track to have a balanced budget for 2023. The Session received the report of the CPAs who reviewed the financials for 2022 and found them in order. It was noted the annual congregational meeting will be on Wednesday, November 1 at 6:45 p.m. following a dinner at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:15 p.m.



MEN'S BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26 | 5:30PM

Men's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 26 at 5:30 p.m in Room 115. This month's book is All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy. Enjoy fellowship and lively discussion. Newcomers always welcome.



A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST: JEFF LEWIS

Many thanks to all who sang in the Summer Choir. Everyone who participated rose to the occasion and the results were amazing. I hope many of you, as well as others of you who wanted to but weren't able - will consider joining us as we begin our fall season. I am looking at options for those of you that would like to but have a conflict with the Wednesday evening schedule. I would value your input.

Lots of exciting things are happening at FPC. Our Children's music ministry has begun. We are always looking for handbell choir members. (Rehearsals are presently on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 110.) Plans for our Music With A Mission concert series are almost confirmed and the Task Force is making great strides in ensuring that our facility is ready for the next 50 years of ministry. Keep your church and those in leadership positions in your prayers. I believe that the best is yet to come!

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS

SPECIAL EVENT ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 | 6PM



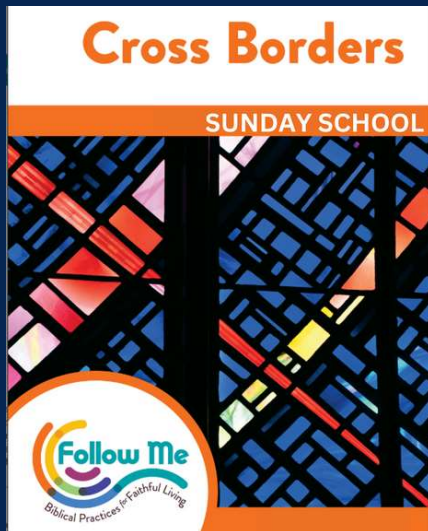
- Junior Lows (3rd-5th Grade)
- Junior Highs (6th-8th Grade)
- Senior Highs (9th-12th Grade)
- 5-6 pm Youth Music
- 6-6:30 pm Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 pm Recreation, Bible Study, Mission Projects & More.

Youth Group Special Event: September 10



CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS AT FIRST



Follow Me "Cross Borders" 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

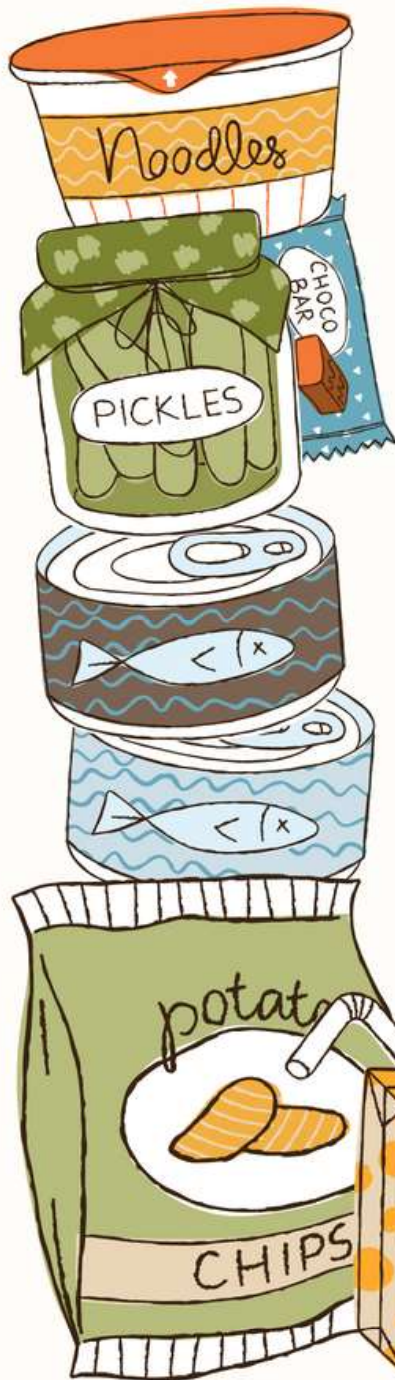
Stewart Hall

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

- Session 1: August 15 - September 26
- Session 2: October 3 - October 24
- Session 3: November 14 & 28

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY MISSION PROJECT

COLLECTING DONATIONS 9/3, 9/10, & 9/17



-FPC SAVANNAH -

P.A.C.K. Food Drive

SUNDAY SERVICE
SEPTEMBER
17TH, 2023
-11AM-

Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone.
Every donation of food helps.

Let's help provide continued weekend food for children at Pulaski Elementary.

P.A.C.K. needs the following non-perishable items: fruit cups, juice boxes, granola bars, individual cereal boxes, Cheez-its, crackers, and soups. Bring your items to the designated boxes in the narthex.





A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: TANNER KING

It is with great joy that I write to the congregation about the amazing events happening in the lives of our young people through our music department. We kicked off the calendar year with our first Music, Art, and Faith Day Camp that took place on August the 5th. As you were able to experience on Rally Day Sunday, our young people are very enthusiastic about sharing their gifts and talents in worship.

I would also like to introduce one of our members, Deanie Strength, as the Collaborative Pianist for our Youth Music Ministry at First. Together, Deanie and I are collaborating to enrich the lives of the next generation of our church.

The purpose of the Youth Music Ministry at First is to nurture and enrich the lives of your children through song and worship as they begin to form a foundation of service to the Lord. We want to instill in your children the importance of sharing Jesus with others through the gift of song and help produce joy in their lives as they learn to serve the Lord.

This past Tuesday, at Music, Art, and Faith, we broke into our small group with 3, 4, and 5 year olds.

We are working on a selection of music for our Children's Sabbath Service on October 15. The Selection is titled "A Child's Prayer" and speaks of Jesus hearing each and every prayer we pray. One of the youngest members of our church looked up at his mother, who accompanied him and said " Mom, does Jesus answer every child's prayer?" This is why Allison, Deanie, and I find such joy in helping shape the minds of our youth. If you would like to find a way that you can also be a part of our team of leaders by giving of your gifts and talents, feel free to email me to schedule a at Tanner@savannahfpc.org

Let's make the world a more beautiful place with our music!

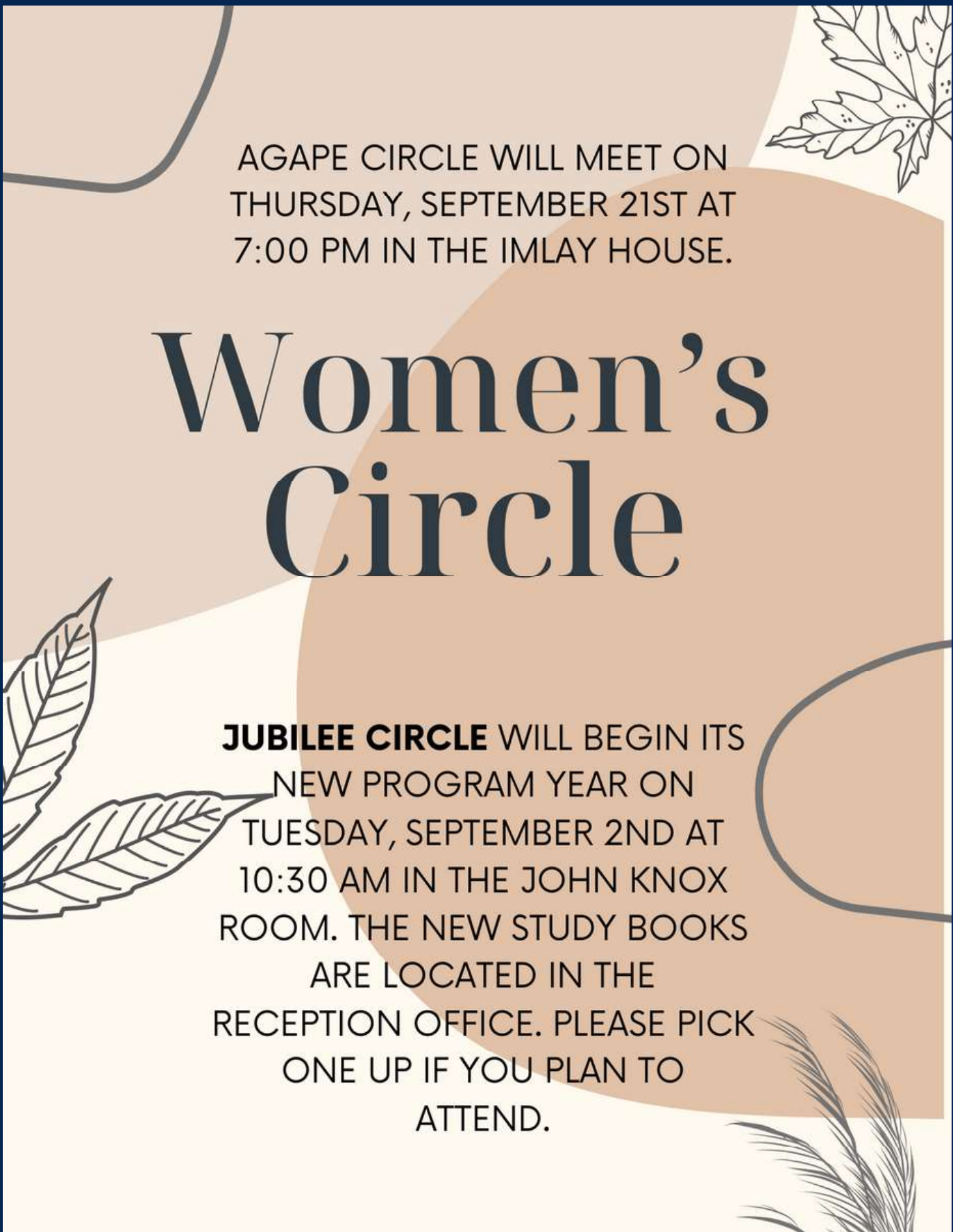
Tanner King - Associate Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church - Savannah GA.

AGE GROUPS:

(Children) 3 Years of Age - 5th Grade - Music, Art, & Faith Tuesdays @ 4:30pm-6:00pm

(Youth) 3rd Grade - 12th Grade - Sunday Nights 5:00pm-6:00pm

- If your young person would like to be involved in the music department of our church and can not make the listed times above work feel free to email me at Tanner@savannahfpc.org.



AGAPE CIRCLE WILL MEET ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST AT
7:00 PM IN THE IMLAY HOUSE.

Women's Circle

JUBILEE CIRCLE WILL BEGIN ITS
NEW PROGRAM YEAR ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND AT
10:30 AM IN THE JOHN KNOX
ROOM. THE NEW STUDY BOOKS
ARE LOCATED IN THE
RECEPTION OFFICE. PLEASE PICK
ONE UP IF YOU PLAN TO
ATTEND.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1st William Love

2nd Jim Baker

3rd Ranell Esame, Arthur Gignilliat

4th Caroline Szczecinski

5th Sara Harper Bennett, Patricia Leone, Judson Tate

7th Sherry McBeath

8th William Blaine, Stewart Bromley, Emily C. Salzer, Ellen Tate

9th Autumn Strength

10th Chris Walls

12th Steve Eagle

14th Maggie McManus, Tessa Parker 15th Melissa Lee, Susan

Weston 16th Trapper Griffith, Debby Taylor

17th George McRae, Stacy Prather, Peggy Linda Summers

18th Harley Ashbaugh, Neel Foster, Charlotte Keenoy, Aspen

Peteranetz, Stephen Williams

19th Debbie Baker, Bob Massey

21th Samuel Cargill, Claudia Esene

22th Luci Elizabeth Barre, Augusta Eswine

24th Ashley Barre, John, Jr. Barre, Daniel Walters 25th Natalie

Chase, Megan Odom, Woodie Williams 26th Francine F. Wright

27th Althea Barre 28th McKay Bennett 29th Peggy Wrenn

30th Rebecca Odom, Ezekiel Ross

