



First Light

Volume 27, Issue 5

May 2017

News from the Elders

At its April 18th meeting the elders met for a reflection on *God's glory* led by elder Brian Rozell and we did the following business:

- Barbara Page was elected as a Commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting in May.
- Decided that FPC be added to the Red Cross NSS (National Shelter System) database, and that we recruit a pool of volunteers who will partner with the Red Cross in a Tier 2 capacity".
- Decided to have three combined worship services this summer, on the first Sunday of June, July, and August.
- Discussed the topic of evangelism and discipleship at FPC and will continue this in coming meetings as we dream, strategize, pray and plan. According to our constitution in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church:



It is the primary mission of the local church to evangelize, making disciples by extending the gospel both at home and abroad, leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, providing for the nurture of that faith that all might worship the true God and grow in grace and in sanctification. It is to be remembered that good deeds in ministry and service to others, offering relief to those in need, is the fruit of the gospel. Without the clear evidence of such fruit, all else is brought into question. However, the Church must never confuse its primary mission of evangelism (the gospel) with the fruit of faith (good works). - Book of Order 4-3

Game Night! May 19, 5:30-10:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

The youth will be hosting another Game Night on Friday, May 19. Just to be clear, the youth group is **hosting**, but all are invited and encouraged to come! This is a low-key, fun way to invite outside friends to get to know us and our church a little better, especially if a friend is comfortable playing cards or Mario Kart, but maybe not comfortable with a Sunday Worship service just yet.

So invite neighbors, bring your favorite game, and challenge your family to a friendly board game challenge! We will be ordering pizza, so please join us by 6pm if you want to eat with us as well!

FPC Prayer Ministry Training Event #2: Tuesday, May 2 from 6:30-8:00pm

Our next prayer ministry training event will be held on **Tuesday, May 2**. The theme for this session is "**Praying for Forgiveness**". Often times those seeking prayer support are living in a state of unforgiveness, due to those who have offended or hurt us. Resentment, anger, bitterness and rage often accompany unforgiveness, too. Since all of these conditions can block our prayers and relationship with God, it is very beneficial for prayer ministers to understand the effects of unforgiveness for both for ourselves and those with whom we are praying. If you are interested in serving as a prayer minister in our church, please plan to attend this training session, **Tues. May 2 from 6:30 -8 pm** in the conference room. **Mark your calendar now** and plan to come learn how to help others be set free and experience healing when they choose to **forgive**.

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Saying Yes, You!

May...finally May is here! The light keeps increasing, warmth is rising, and the last remnants of snow are disappearing. In May plant life, insect life, everything living seems pregnant and ready to emerge. Life wants to burst forth in new buds, new grass, new blossoms, New Life! "Yes, a new You!" it says.

In this way May seems the best month for us to celebrate Easter's resurrection hope in the north. And May is the month for Easter. Because the season of Easter last 50 days, ending on Pentecost. Easter began April 16 and Pentecost is June 4. The liturgical colors are white and gold; white for the angels who announced the resurrection at the tomb and gold represents Christ's triumph over death.

On Pentecost the disciples were all gathered in the Upper Room waiting and praying for the promise of the Father, the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit for the empowerment of Christian life and witness (read Acts 1-2).

Those disciples were people in waiting like we can be in waiting. Are you waiting upon God and are you welcoming to God? The fact is, God is so much more than what you've yet known and experienced. God is always Bigger.

Is your heart and life open to the growing warmth and fire of what God wants to do in and through you? Only you can answer this question. Nobody can answer it for you. For me I am in waiting and eager anticipation of what I believe God will pour out into my life and into the life of our congregation. I've already seen God do much but there is more and like a little tree that reaches for the strengthening sun, I wait, I reach, and I stretch to receive and grow into what the Lord is depositing.

Sometimes it's not easy to say "yes" to God. Sometimes it's not easy to give God the time of day. I'm sure you've found that to be true to your experience. Let us join with all nature and open our hearts to God. Let us be like the shoots and buds that wait for the Son and open to all that God wants to pour into us. Let us say

A dear friend of mine wrote a poem I loved the first time I heard it. It's a poem that speaks to the fluctuations of our hearts as we express our love in words. Sometimes our love can feel listless and dead. While the poem is about love, it can also be about faith. Like love, sometimes our faith can feel lifeless. But God continues to come to us; shining upon us; drawing us outward; calling forth faith, hope and love. I share it with you in hopes that God will increasingly create in our hearts room for LIFE and room for FAITH to burst forth; room for the affirmation that says to God "Yes, You Lord!" Here it is:

Sometimes It's Not Easy

*Sometimes it's not easy To say the words of love,
Sometimes they lie On our tongues listless
As spawned out salmon Eyes blank, mouths gasping
Drifting painfully to sea.*

*But there are other times, Times after rest or reflection,
Or the inspiration of deep pools When they leap again and again*

*Saying "Yes!" saying, "You!"
Saying "Yes You!"*

(By Gene Ervine)

May God's life echo through the walls of your heart so that you cry out to God saying "Yes, You!"
In the Hope of Spring's New Life,

Pastor Andy

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Doing Justice In Today's Crazy World

April 23-May 28 (six sessions)

Daily we are bombarded by accounts of injustice from every corner of the world. Given all the situations and the often overwhelming odds faced by the oppressed, how do we respond to Micah's call for us to "do justice?"

We will explore these issues in a 6-session class generally based on *Slow Kingdom Coming*, a rather short book by Kent Annan. While the class will not be based on the assumption that all participants have read the book, we will be placing a group order for those who are interested. There is a kindle version for \$3.99, which you can purchase yourself. Or, the church will have hard copies available for \$11/each. Checks can be made out to the church.



1 Stephanie Brewer	15 Sarah Craft
1 Sally Devereaux	17 William VanHarper
2 Juliana Feist	18 Emma Moody
2 Jonah Brown	19 Christine Lundberg
3 Candy Setzer	19 Caden Davis
5 Ed Washburn	20 Holden Masterson
6 Casey Bullmer	20 John Prusak
6 Mary Ekblad	23 Liam Moody
7 Beth Emery	25 Logan Foster
7 Avelyn Marney	25 Deborah Sirevaag
9 Joel Gibson	26 Robert Boswell
13 Ashley Morris	27 Brandon VanHatten
14 Charles Gray	28 Denise Wallace
15 Nathanael Hull	29 Joe Parker

Please let the Deacons know if we have overlooked a birthday, or have the wrong date. Contact the church office or leave a note in their box in the church office.

First Light

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Of First Presbyterian Church

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th day of each month.

Submissions may be dropped off at the church office, mailed, faxed or emailed to Claire.

Easter Inspiration

Dear FPC Saints,

Easter tide 2017

If you would like to see proof that Jesus is risen and alive in the world today, I would point you to the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt. On Palm Sunday, two churches were bombed by ISIS. Three or four dozen men, women and children were killed and hundreds were injured— the response? Grief? Yes. Fear? Sure, but the overwhelming response? Forgiveness. Public forgiveness for the perpetrators and prayer for the perpetrators. If you or someone you know wonders if the tomb is really empty, if Jesus actually rose from the dead and is guiding, preserving and moving in his people, google this: “Coptic Christian response to Isis.” You’ll find Christianity Today, NY Times, CNN articles, posts and videos- links to Egyptian talk shows - wondering, in awe of the response. Here is [one link](https://www.eternitynews.com.au/world/interviewer-lost-for-words-as-terror-widow-forgives/), that if you watch nothing else, watch this and you’ll be inspired. If you have the paper version of the newsletter, here is the url <<https://www.eternitynews.com.au/world/interviewer-lost-for-words-as-terror-widow-forgives/>>

Red Cross

FPC is now a part of the National Shelter System of the Red Cross. What this means is that when a disaster (fire, flood- things like these) happen in our area, FPC will be on the list of possible temporary Red Cross shelters. This will all depend upon the nature of the disaster, the numbers of people displaced, etc... When we get the call, Red Cross staff/trained volunteers will come, set up and along with FPCer’s who volunteer, see that these refugees have their immediate needs met for shelter, clothing, food- perhaps a shower. You’ll hear more about volunteering to be ‘on call’ in the near future.

Slow Kingdom Coming

Paul Reichardt is teaching a six week class entitled “Slow Kingdom Coming.” This class is based on Micah 6.8, “He has told you, what is good and what the Lord requires of you. To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” This class promises to be the place where lively discussion, current events and the prophet Micah meet. The class runs from April 23 to May 28, 10am Sundays in the downstairs Fireside room.

Friends, these are opportunities we have to posture ourselves to grow more and more in Christ. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Grace and peace to you, in our risen Lord!

Pastor Dave



Most of you know that I have a cat named Precious. She is a multi-colored ball of fur and mischief. She is curious about everything and play attacks anything that moves, including my toes. God taught me a really big lesson through her when she was just a kitten.



CONTINUED...She was so little she would fall into her water dish when she drank because her head was so big. She could curl up and sleep in the palm of my hand. Her curiosity always got her in trouble. The biggest “game” we played was who was getting out the door first. Precious wasn’t allowed outside because she was so little and would not have been able to take care of herself. But, she thought she was big stuff and wanted to explore. So the game that took place when I left for work was this: I would take to her to the back bed room and run like mad to the front door before she could get out. When I came home, I could hear her bell ringing and her mewing as she ran to meet me at the door. She still does that. I had to put my purse in the doorway because—yes you guessed it! Precious would try to escape to the outside. I would catch her and put her back in the house. She would walk ahead of me down the hall vocalizing her irritation at being thwarted.

But one day, she did it! She ran out the door before I could catch her. She thought she was so tough and started attacking the mean monster (flower bush) outside my door. – UNTIL the bush fought back! O.k. it wasn’t fighting back, it was only blowing in the wind, but it scared the wits out of Precious! She jumped a mile straight up and came down with her feet moving as fast as they could —straight up my jeans! OUCH!! She then curled up under my chin and started purring—LOUDLY. After I got my laughing under control, I realized she felt safe because I was holding her and thus my secret identity as the “Mighty Kitty Defender” was revealed.

God started speaking to my heart. How many times I was just like Precious? I had planned on taking Precious outside to look around when she was a little bigger and able to handle herself. But, she thought she knew best and got a good scare for it. Thankfully she didn’t get hurt. How many times do we do things without praying and asking God?! We run ahead thinking we can do things that we really can’t and like Precious we get the wits scared out of us or we get hurt. We find out that we DON’T know what to do—because we are not ready for it yet. Just like Precious wasn’t ready for the great outdoors.

God is good! He loves us and wants to take care of us. His plan for us is to learn about the world around us under the shelter of His care. Sometimes we get in a hurry and we try to do things or be a certain way that God never intended for us to do or be.

NOW when the door opens Precious comes up to my feet and stretches up for me to pick her up. When she is perched in her favorite spot under my chin, her eyes are wide and wants to see everything. I get a kick out of showing her new things. Things that I think she will like and won’t hurt her. I think God is the same way. He wants to show us things. Things about ourselves, about other people and about Himself. When we try to do things without God, sooner or later we get into trouble and can get hurt.

Precious, as a tiny little kitty thought she was so big and able to handle stuff, but I knew she couldn’t. On the outside it looked like I was being mean and not letting her out, but I was protecting her. God does the same thing for us. We get mad at Him or even worse, we ignore Him when we don’t get our way. We don’t stop to think that maybe He is protecting us or has something better.

So the next time you are thinking about doing something, ask God and if He says no or not yet. Relax! When you are ready, HE will take you there or maybe has an even better situation that you would have missed if you had gone ahead without him. Our God enjoys us and desires to share His plans with us. Do yourself a favor and let Him.

- Miss Connie (aka: Mighty Kitty Defender!)



Upcoming Events

Mother Daughter Tea ~ May 13, 2017

VBS Volunteer Kick-Off— May 7

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 5 – 9, 2017

Cost \$10.00 per Child

Register today at the FPC website :

www.fairbanksfirstpres.com



FPC Baby Shower: ADDITIONAL NEWS!

Since we only have three new babies to honor at our May 6th Baby Shower Brunch, we will also have an extra basket available for the Care Net Pregnancy Center. *Please bring an extra gift item* and join us in this outreach to bless some other moms and babies in our community.



First Presbyterian Church Baby Shower Brunch Saturday May 6, 2017 • 10am – 12pm

*We currently have three babies (and their moms) to honor:

- ❖ Ashley Morris & baby girl: Sarah Michelle
- ❖ Lis Hayer & baby boy: Elijah
- ❖ Rosario Sheets & baby girl: Esmeralda

All three babies will be about 3 mos. old at the time of the shower.

*If you know any other mom attending FPC who is expecting or had a baby this past year and wasn't honored at our 2016 baby shower, please contact Diane Henry at 750-1859 or the church office ASAP.



*Please bring a gift for at least one of the babies,
a brunch dish to share and come celebrate with us!*



Spicy Mustard Youth News!

May is a great month to continue celebrating Easter! With graduations, beginning new chapters in life, and summer coming at us full speed we can see the Resurrection power of Christ at work in our lives! Please contact me at david.boohar@fpcfairbanks.com for more information on Youth Ministry at First Pres!

Graduate Recognition - Please help us celebrate our graduates on Sunday, May 14! Do you have an important person in your life at First Pres. who is graduating this summer? Please contact David with their info (Name, School, Future Plans, etc) by May 10!



Don't Wait for Fall to Start Hanging out With Spicy Mustard Youth! - If you are entering 7th grade in Fall 2017 or you just want a chance to jump back into youth group, we are having a KICK OFF for Youth Group, welcoming new 7th graders, and **celebrating the end of the school year on Sunday, May 21 at 1pm.**

Bring swimming clothes because we are playing KIDDIE POOL KICKBALL!

Youth Group doesn't take a break in the summer, in fact, we INTENSIFY! We gather every Sunday and Wednesday from 1-4pm. We tackle new service projects, and we have a lot of hikes, parties, and other events planned. The biggest one is...

Summer Mission 2017- This summer our week of mission will be in mid-July and will start with an outdoor adventure: Tangle Lakes! We will return to Fairbanks focused and ready to serve alongside many vital ministries including the Food Bank, Rescue Mission, Women's Shelter, The Door, and more! To be a part of this awesome week of Adventure and Mission please contact me ASAP!

Grace and Peace,
David McConnell-Boohar
david.boohar@fpcfairbanks.com

Daily Lectionary Readings for May 2017

www.pcusa.org/devotions/lectionary/lectionarylist.htm



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