



*The Harvest is
plentiful, but the laborers
are few.....Matthew 9:37*

The Only Bible Some Folks See

(2 Tim. 3:16-17; Matt. 5:16; 1 John 2:6; Col. 4:5)

When God delivered the message,
To the Apostles for them to write.
The story of forgiveness and salvation,
For to read and learn wrong from the right.
Since we obeyed the gospel,
And put on Christ in the new birth.
We are to walk just as He walked,
As long as we live on earth.
Jesus said we must let our light shine,
So others can easily see.
The good things that we do for others,
So to give glory to God and not me.
So many do not know the story,
Of how Christ came and died on the cross.
They may never read the holy scriptures,
And in the end be eternally lost.
So the example we set as we live,
Acting as Christ-like as best we can be.
Our reputation is so very precious,
Because it may be the only bible some folks will see!

By Jay Launius
Maud, Texas

First Light Newsletter

Monthly Publication

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**Our *VISION* is to see
the world transformed
to love, worship and
serve Christ.
We do this through our
MISSION, which is to
welcome all people,
equip them for a deep
and living faith in Jesus
Christ, and send them
into the world to share
God's love.**



Getting to Know You— Part of the role of the Deacons is to help new members get connected, and to encourage all members to get to know each other better. In order to do that, your Deacons have decided to feature different households in our church family by sharing a little bit of information about them, so we can all learn a little more about each other. This month we are featuring The Henry, Repasky, and VanderLugt families. If you and your family are interested in being featured now, or on a particular month, please let one of our Deacons know. We are looking forward to getting to know you all a little bit better!

The Repasky Family



Meet Michael and Christy Repasky, their kids Henry (17) and George (15). Christy grew up in North Pole and met Michael in Cleveland, OH at Case Western Reserve University. They moved the family to Fairbanks from Jefferson, WI in 2014 to buy the business that was founded by Christy's dad. One thing they love about life in Fairbanks/Alaska is being near Christy's parents. Running Summit Logistics keeps them both very busy, but in their free time, they enjoy home renovation, reading, gardening, mountain biking and playing music. You may not know that George was born in Singapore when Michael was working there for Ecowater Systems. They have been members of First Pres for 9 years. Michael and Christy serve our FPC family on the worship team, former elder (Mike) and current deacon (Christy). One thing they really value about our FPC family is its commitment to children and youth. Be sure to reach out and say hi when you see them!

The Henry Family

Meet Dave and Diane Henry. Their story actually goes back to 1974 when they met at the Overseas Servicemen's Center in Subic Bay, Philippines. Dave was an aviation machinist mate in the Navy; Diane was a secretary and bookkeeper short-term missionary for Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society. In November of that year Dave stood as best man in Diane's Minnesota wedding; her husband was an usher in Dave's wedding the following month in California. The two families stayed connected throughout the years as their paths crisscrossed the U.S. In 1989 Dave took a job with Mark Air and moved his family to Fairbanks. Diane settled in New Hampshire when her marriage ended after 26 years. When Carol lost her battle with cancer, they renewed a friendship, which culminated in marriage December 31, 2010. Diane has three grown children and four grandchildren. Dave lost one son to cancer but has three remaining children. They are looking forward to Eirik and Jamie's wedding next June. Dave and Diane have enjoyed serving at FPC as Elder (Facilities), Deacon, women's small group leader, and choir members. Diane is retired; Dave is targeting his retirement for May 2025. They plan to spend some time traveling throughout the lower 48 visiting family & friends.



(continued on next page)



The VanderLugt Family

Russ and Rebekah VanderLugt have been members of First Presbyterian Church since 2002 when Russ was assigned to Fort Wainwright for his first duty assignment in the Army. Throughout military deployments overseas and moves from Alaska (to NY, AL, KS, and AZ – to name a few) they’ve been blessed to return to Fairbanks and FPC. Russ is from northern Minnesota and Rebekah is from upstate New York. They met at

Wheaton College, just celebrated their 24th anniversary, and have four kids: Benaiah (19), Autumn (17), Nathan (16) and Margaret (13). Russ continues to serve as an Army Aviation Officer and Rebekah is a stay-at-home mom and musician. Ben is attending UAF and studying Aviation Maintenance. He loves all things aviation as well as skiing and archery. Autumn is starting her freshman year at Wheaton College studying biochemistry. She loves ballet and contemporary-style dance. Nathan is a junior at West Valley and is a passionate cross-country skier and runner. Margaret is in 8th grade and enjoys aerial silks and archery. As a family, they enjoy adventuring in the outdoors in all types of ways and in all seasons. Both Russ and Rebekah love the Fairbanks community and have degrees from UAF. They have served as elders and worship leaders and the whole family has joined in as musicians, ushers, greeters, and other opportunities when needed. They love that FPC is truly a church family that enjoys being together and cares for each other while also seeking to share God’s love with others.



What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,

**All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!**

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee?

**Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield
thee,**

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?

**Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer**



Adult Sunday School
will resume Sunday, September 15 at 9am.
Come and join us as James Menaker teaches on The Secret of the Kingdom and the Parables of Matthew.

Fall Cleaning?

I was talking with our Young Adult Ministry Director, Nicole Matthews last week and discussing my plans to take time off work with my wife, Brenna to catch up on some projects around our property and on our dog trails before mushing season. She mentioned that someone else talked about similar work and that "Fall Cleaning" seems to be a common trend here in Fairbanks; so much so that it is far more common than the more ubiquitous idea of "Spring Cleaning." Perhaps that's one more way that we distinguish ourselves from our fellow Americans in The Lower 48?



The changing seasons and the urge to finish projects before winter can also be a prompting from The Holy Spirit. How is God calling you to reflect, pray, and look forward to the coming season? Do you have a spiritual discipline that has been neglected? This week is the best time to pick it back up and use that discipline to place Christ back in the center of your life! Are there important conversations

that you've been putting off for fear of how others will respond? The falling leaves are a reminder that the time we have in this mortal creation is finite. Today is the best time to take heart, ask God for courage, and reach out to that person you haven't spoken with in a while.

No matter what your spiritual to-do list looks like, God recognizes every effort we make to follow Jesus with our thoughts and actions, and The Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf when we cannot put exactly what we need into words. Don't be afraid to take on a discipline, a conversation, or even a prayer today, God will meet you where you're at, and encourage you forward, even when you don't know what to do next. Pastor David ~~

IT IS YOUR BIRTHDAY!!

4	Dan Wells
5	Mark Lawson
7	Josephine Papp
7	Shannon Riggs
10	Norman Klann
10	Ben Logan
10	Sarah Logan
11	Wanda Bowder
13	Sandy Hoak
14	Theodore Matthews
14	Rachel Perkins
15	Qulvaq Hoak
17	Scott Marney
18	Patty Greimann
18	Rick Stovarsky
18	Jason Riggs
19	Nancy Dreydoppel
20	Kil Whiteman
21	Anarrakaq Hoak
22	Adelaide Wietgreffe
26	Hannah Denton
28	Meredith Nava
29	Scottie Klann
29	Sage Gates
29	Lorena Sims

O COME TO THE ACTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

August was a time of getting back into the swing of things. School is in session for high school and college. I look forward to seeing how the school year builds our character.

It has been a joy to welcome our new Freshman into High School ministry! For the month of September and October we will be studying Mark's gospel. Check the events listed at the bottom of the article. We have a hockey game at the end of the month!

I'd like to ask you to be in prayer for our ministry. Our students are growing and I invite you to sign up as a prayer partner for our students on the sign-up sheets under the t.v. in the narthex. Once you've signed up I'll assign a student to you to pray over for the duration of the school year. At the end of the school year you will have the opportunity to reveal yourself to your student.

The ministry schedule is listed below:

High School - Sunday nights @ 6:00 p.m.

College - Sunday afternoon 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Career - Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. @ my house.

Ministries are broken down into the following ages:

High School - Freshman through Senior

College/Gap - Graduation Senior through College Senior

Career - Master's Students, Anyone out of college

If you'd like to serve with our Young Adult program we'd love to have you! Give me a call or text (205) 914 -6281, e-mail nicolefirstpresfbx@gmail.com

For the good and God,

-Nicole



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, September 1st- Young Adult Serve Day, 4 members to serve as Ushers and Greeters + 1 member to serve Call to Worship

Sunday, September 1st - WORSHIP NIGHT for all Young Adult Members, we'll meet downstairs in the Studio

September 27th - BLUE/GOLD Nanooks Hockey Scrimmage @ Paddy Ice Center @ 6:45 p.m. Bring \$20 for admission and snacks



CHILDREN'S
ministry



CHILDRENS MINISTRY KICK OFF MEETING

Let's Start it up!!
September 8

After church
in the Fellowship Hall

Celebrate Gods goodness
with some
Science Fun!

Share
lunch

Get info
on our
ministry year



**KICK OFF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8
1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 15 9 A.M.**

OUTREACH

THE WELL

Mission Statement: The Well provides an opportunity for our congregation to welcome members of the downtown Fairbanks community and to join them for an evening meal with a brief message or testimony about God's presence in our lives and a chance for prayer. Again this year from mid-September until the end of May, First Presbyterian Church will open its doors from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on every Wednesday to offer a meal to our church family and to the members of the local community. From past experience we know that this mixture of fellowship and outreach is much appreciated by many individuals outside our congregation, especially those who live downtown on the streets or by themselves. Each week we will be offering a warm meal, an opportunity for informal conversation, a brief testimony or devotion about God's work in the lives of his people, and an invitation to prayer.

2024 Gardening Class Begins September 30

Come to 1st Pres' Vegetable Gardening Class and bring a friend. The 8 week class, recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service, provides practical information on growing and preserving most vegetables in the Interior of Alaska. Taught by Terry Reichardt, it covers information on creating healthy soil, planning your garden, best varieties, starting and caring for plants, harvesting and storing crops, and preparing vegetables for the table including recipes. There will be opportunities to handle and taste some harvested and prepared vegetables. Come in, grab a cup of tea or coffee with a cookie and sit down among other long-time or would-be gardeners. For more information or to sign up contact Marta at the church office 452-2406.

Growing Veggies in Fairbanks
Mondays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
September 30 – November 18

Contact Us

547 7th Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office 907-452-2406
Fairbanksfirstpres.com

What Is the Church?

Dispelling Seven Myths About Our Christian Faith

Aug 18th ~ The Church Is Not a Country Club
{Matthew 9:9-13}

Aug 25th ~ The Church Is Not Perfect
{Revelation 2:1-7}

Sep 1st ~ The Church Is Not an Island
{Matthew 18:15-35}

Sep 8th ~ The Church Is Not an Institution
{Acts 1:6-11}

Sep 15th ~ The Church Is Not a Political Party
{Matthew 22:15-22}

Sep 22nd ~ The Pastor Is Not Special
{1 Peter 2:5-12}

Sep 29th ~ The Staff Does Not Do the Work
{1 Corinthians 12:12-31}