Dear Friends,

I write this column as I approach the last of listening sessions. Approximately 100 people have shared impressions, hopes, and insights with me. Among the last of the listening groups was one reserved exclusively for youth. It was an inspiring hour. You should be proud and encouraged by their maturity and love for the church.

About ten days ago I began pulling together information from the various groups. I’ve created a framework for my report. Each time I meet with a group, I add to and refine the rough draft. My goal with this approach is to finalize the report as soon as possible after I meet with the last scheduled group. The committee authorized to seek a Designated Pastor wants the report in hand as they interview candidates. I hope to assist them by producing the final report as quickly as possible.

Once finished, I will share the report with the Leadership Team. Based on their input, I’ll make any necessary edits before submitting the report to the Session and soon thereafter, to the congregation as a whole. I intend to begin working with the Session immediately to organize a reporting and approval process. Watch for that information.

My Sunday duties with you draw to a close on September 3. You have been diligent listeners when I preach. I appreciate your thoughtful responses. I will miss worshiping with you.

With hope and prayers for the process ahead of us,

Joel

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**September 10**
Regular worship schedule resumes
9:00 Upper Room Worship
11:00 Sanctuary Worship

Sunday School resumes at 10:00am
See page 2 and 6 for details

**September 13**
Red Cross Blood Drive
3:00 - 8:00pm

**September 20**
Youth Fundraiser
Lasagna Dinner & Trivia Night
5:30pm
Fall 2017
Wednesday Night
Dinner 5:30pm
Programs 6:15pm

Menu’s
September 6 - Baked ham
September 13 - Pot roast
September 20 - Lasagna/Youth Fundraiser
September 27 - Oven roasted chicken

Meals are $7 for adults and children over 12, $3 for children 4-12 with a maximum of $20 for a family.
The meal includes an entrée, vegetable side dish, salad, bread, dessert and drink.

Program Calendar
Sept. 6 - Missions of FPCC led by Scott Panter
Sept. 13 - “The Savannah Connection” The Hymns of Lowell Mason & Charles Wesley Music program led by Pam Radford
Sept. 20 - Youth Lasagna dinner and Trivia Night fundraiser
Sept. 27 - “Meeting Jesus in the Feasts of the Bible” led by Deb Miller

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday School resumes for everyone on September 10 at 10 a.m.! FPCC offers an interesting and exciting variety of classes from which to choose--consider joining a class and bringing a friend!

- **Cornerstone Class**, led by Nannette Enloe: This class uses the weekly study series *The Wired Word*, which focus on Christian response and action to contemporary social and political events in our nation and the world. Sunday morning, 10 a.m. Cornerstone Room (next to Fellowship Hall)

- **The Seekers Class**, led by Sharon and Wes Sullins: This class will be viewing and discussing the 10-week video series, *Exploring Christianity's Ten Toughest Questions*. Sunday morning, 10 a.m. in Room 268.

- **The Ambassadors Class**, led by Phil Bridges: This class will resume the video and discussion series *Martin Luther and the Reformation* by Calvinist theologian, R.C. Sproul. When this study is complete, another 6-8 week video study from the same series will be chosen. Sunday morning, 10 a.m.

A brand new small group study, *Women of the Bible: A One-Year Devotional Study*, by Ann Spangler & Jean E. Syswerda, will begin on **Sunday, September 10, 5:30-6:30**, in the Cornerstone Room. This discussion-based study will be led by Jean Gilliland. ALL are welcome! Books may be purchased from Amazon for under $10.
From the Session

At the August 15 stated meeting moderated by Rev. Pete Paulsen, the session approved a motion to allow a grant source to help fund the combined Montreat Middle School Youth/Adult mission trip for 2018.

- Hands of Christ reports 186 students registered with 29 open slots, most of which will be filled after school starts. The Preschool Board reports 92 students registered and the leadership team has done well in training for the new year. Both the After School and Preschool programs will begin handling their own finances this year.

- Hospitality reports that Wednesday dinners began August 9 and the church BBQ is scheduled for October 1. Faith Development has programming scheduled through December for Wednesday Nights. Promotion Sunday is scheduled, and Adult Ed is recruiting teachers. The Mission Committee reports that the 2017 Friendship Table budget expectation was unrealistic and will be over for the year. They propose an increase for 2018.

- The session approved the Personnel Committee’s motion to hire Renee Shields on a trial basis through the end of the year to work with Hannah Salter in the youth program.

- A letter from the Presbytery’s Ministry Transitions Team was received and approved to be shared with the congregation. The Presbytery has provided the names of 3 potential Designated Pastors. The session elected Mike Ball, Jo Clark, Molly Collins, David Dundee (chair), and Rich Gaffoglio to serve on this committee, with Frank Weathersby serving in an advisory position.

Church Family

Doris Dockery has moved to be near her family after being released from Cartersville Medical Center. Her new contact information is 166 Beale Court, Blairsville, Georgia 30512, phone number 706-781-3167 and email yrekcoddj@gmail.com. You are welcome to send cards and visits in October will be welcomed.

If you would like to contribute to the FPC Worship Flower Fund that provides flowers throughout the year for our Sanctuary and Upper Room worship, note "flower fund" on your check. Call the church office or Faye Johnson at 770-606-1849 to dedicate flowers.

Mark your calendar for the next Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 3:00 - 8:00pm in the Café area Education Building. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Courtney Meckley at cfarnon@gmail.com
Rich and Beth, along with our Co-director, Lindsay Scoggins, and Assistant, April Paulk, opened the doors at First Presbyterian School with an outpouring of love and gratitude.

Many thanks to Becky and Angie, Mike Ball and Emma Johnson, Melissa Porter, Louise Panter and Lauren Pressley for helping us get ready. Guess who else showed up to work on a warm Saturday morning to haul wood chips and clean the playground?

* Sean Ireland, Meredith and Trey Gaines, Frank Weathersby
* Brac, Louise, Marion and John Panter, Megan, Ellie and Eliza Johnson
* Emma Johnson, Drew and Anne Tatum, Wes and Sharon Sullins, Wyley Steed, John Zierer, Bill Devine, and Patrick Gardner
* AND, Rich, who cut down dead trees and blew off debris on the sidewalks.

Welcome September and Back to School Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Preschool closed for Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Grandparents to read in classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Safety</td>
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<td>To Be Announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Studies</td>
<td>September 28 and 29</td>
<td>Field Trip to Pettit Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>PreK Classes</td>
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Registration for the 2017-18 school year is almost full. We are committed to keeping our teacher/student ratio at recommended levels.

**Classes offered**

- **Nursery**: 2, 3 and 5 days
- **2 year olds**: 2, 3 or 5 days
- **3 year olds**: 3 or 5 days
- **4 year olds**: 3 or 5 days

*Little Church and Spanish, Music and Science Classes are weekly specials.*
Counting our Blessings

Hands of Christ is thankful for our generous donors who fund this worthwhile community ministry. Their support allows us to run a quality program and contribute to the church budget.

- HOC contributes $28,000.00 per year to the church budget for the use of the facility, maintenance and utility costs.

- HOC also maintains all of the church buses and their necessary repairs so that our students can be transported safely. This is an additional $15,000.00 of support to the overall FPC budget.

- HOC contributed to the costs for the security system, the computer server, and the painting of the sanctuary. Over the past three years, Hands of Christ stepped up to help the church with $8,000.00 of these non-budgeted expenses.

- Additional grants from organizations such as the NWGA Community Foundation, the Collins Foundation, Cartersville Service League, and the Richard C. Munroe Foundation help fund special projects, field trips, or classroom supplies.

Open House was a “glowing” success on Aug. 21st. Our staff and students proudly wore our new HOC t-shirts.
Hello, September!

3rd— No Youth Group/Club 345
6th— Wednesday Night Activities
10th— Sunday School Kickoff
10th— Youth Group & Club 345 (4:30-6:30)
13th— Wednesday Night Activities
16th— Parents Night Out (5:00-8:00)
17th— Club 345 & Youth Group (4:30-6:30)
20th— Wednesday Night Activities/ Youth Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser & Trivia Night
24th— Youth Group (4:30-6:30)

Sunday School Kickoff!

Sunday School Kickoff is on September 10th! We are excited for the new curriculum Growing in Grace and Gratitude!

Pre-K and Kindergarten is being taught by: Kim Rentz
1st and 2nd Grade is being taught by: Jean Gilliland
3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade is being taught by: Cindy Tobin

Middle and High School Youth is doing a Sunday School Study on what is means to be a Presbyterian and comparing our beliefs to other denominations and religions. It is being taught by Hannah Salter, Louise Panter, TBD
Parents Night Out

When: September 16th, 2017
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Where: First Presbyterian Church of Cartersville
How much: $10 per child
What: Adults and Youth will have fun activities for your child(ren). Go have a date night and we will take care of the rest!
Talk to Hannah Salter or Renee Shields if you are interested! 770-235-6592 or 904-233-5900
hannahandrenneefpc@gmail.com

Promotional Sunday!

Come celebrate Promotional Sunday with us on September 10th, 2017! We will be recognizing the children in their Sunday School classes and the Sunday School teachers! This will be held during both the 9:00 service and the 11:00 service!
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE

THE

TRIVIA MASTER?

The Youth Group is hosting a Lasagna Dinner/Trivia Night Fundraiser!
When: September 20th, 2017!
Where: Fellowship Hall
Time: 5:30-7:15
By coming you are supporting your youth group! This fundraiser is to raise money for next summers Montreat Trips, Mission Trips, etc.
### September Birthdays

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<td>Ben Bridges</td>
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<td>Grey Olson</td>
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<td>Judd Bailey</td>
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<td>Kent Hughes</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sheilah Simons</td>
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### In September We Pray for Our Church:

**Staff:** Becky Ferguson, Wendy Murphy (ASP), Rosemary Purdy (ASP), Bates Laye (Preschool), Tonya Lutjens (Preschool)

**Officers:** Rich Gaffoglio (Session), Melinda Mauney (Diaconate)

**Ministries:** Properties Committee

**Families:** September 1-9: Jim Morris, John and Lisa Morrison (Thomas, Peter, Caroline), Linda Motuba (Sofia), Emmanuel and Linda Mukete (Rowan, James), Chris and Mary Mullinax (Katie, Brayden, Pearse)

**September 10-16:** Opal Munn, Sonny and Lisa Neal (Amanda), Tom and Jennifer Nebergall (Lee, Logan), Carey and Terry Nelson, Dorothy and Lonnie Nelson (Meleeza Hall),

**September 17-23:** Joe and Carolyn Noble, Billy and Sonya Noble (Will, Jake), Ellyn Olson (Grey, Eden) Peter Olson, Jon and Dot Oscher

**September 24-30:** Scott and Susan Panter, Brac and Louise Panter (Marion, John), Harold and Bettye Parker, Daniel and Tracy Parsons, Lauren Paul (Hannah, Conner, Harrison)
September Calendar

September 1
1:00pm - Bridge Group

September 4
Labor Day - Church office closed

September 5
6:30pm - Properties Committee

September 10
5:30pm - Women of the Bible Devotional Study

September 12
6:00pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting
7:00pm - Session Meeting

September 13
3:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive

September 14
6:15pm - Hospitality Committee Meeting

September 19
6:00pm - Worship Committee
6:30pm - Mission Committee

September 20
5:30pm - Lasagna Dinner/Youth Fundraiser

September 25
7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting