

Place
Stamp
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A publication of First Presbyterian Church Brownsville



Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

The Gospel of John tells us that on the evening of the first day of the week, the disciples were gathered in fear behind locked doors. "Fear of the Jews" is what it actually described; but since they are Jewish, it probably meant the Jewish leaders who had Jesus crucified. I am sure the disciples could have feared for their lives, certainly for their uncertain futures. Some commentators think they may have been afraid of Jesus, since in his own way each had betrayed him. And into all this fear, despite the locked doors, Jesus walked and stood in the middle of them. "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side, the wounds from the crucifixion, proving that this living person is the same one they watched die. But then he said, "As the Father sent me, so I send you." And he breathed on them the Holy Spirit.

When we are afraid, it is hard to move. We tend to want to hunker down and lock the door. Many churches today are doing just that, knowing they are faced with huge challenges in a culture that keeps pushing church outside of its awareness. We at First Presbyterian have faced our fears, acknowledged our challenges. And we have also heard Jesus say, "As the Father sent me, so I send you." We have received the Holy Spirit, the life-giving Advocate Jesus promised us.

We are ready to go! Like those first disciples we want to tell people how Jesus lived and ministered, how he was arrested, crucified under Pontius Pilate, and on the third day rose from the dead. We want to bring them the new life Jesus gives us, the life abundant and eternal. We want to show people how our whole perspective changed and transformed our lives.

We want to be a church sent into the community to share the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Jesus showed us how to live as servants, and we want to serve. In the weeks and months ahead we will be serving our community in new ways, and we want everyone involved. We also want to begin to invite people to join us as we serve, study, and worship. We want to see with new vision and become aware of the people we come across who really don't know about Jesus Christ or who don't know what church is. We want to walk with a new gait, becoming aware of how we can bring help and healing to others. We want to care with new hearts, showing the love of Christ to our neighbors.

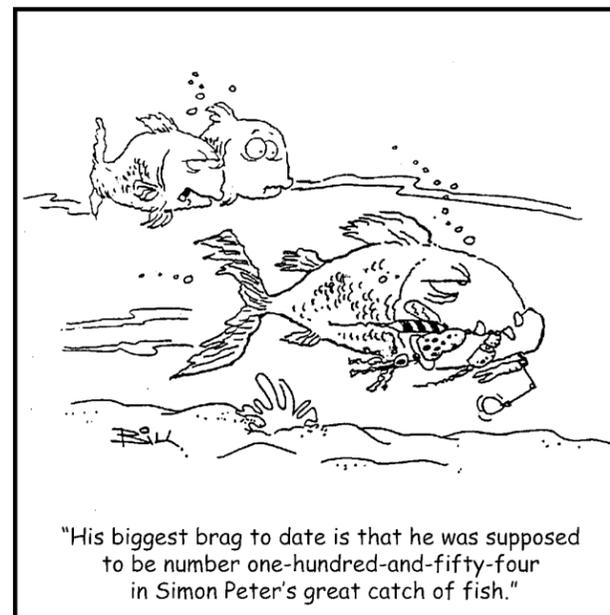
He lives! Alleluia!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne

April 2016

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30AM

Christ the Lord is
RISEN
 Today



BUDGET REPORT

Total Giving Year To Date for 2016:

\$41,890.78

Total Giving for the month of March 2016:

\$10,851.67



The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm, closed for Lunch from 12pm to 1pm.

Rev. Anne Emery will be in the office from 9am– 12pm Tuesday through Friday. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with the pastor please call 731-772-2893.

Istpresbville@kyn.twcbc.com

The Wednesday Morning Musicale Concert on April 17, 2016

There will be a concert on April 17, 2016 at 3:00pm that will feature world-renowned operatic soprano Kallen Esperian and keyboard artist Gary Beard, both from Memphis.

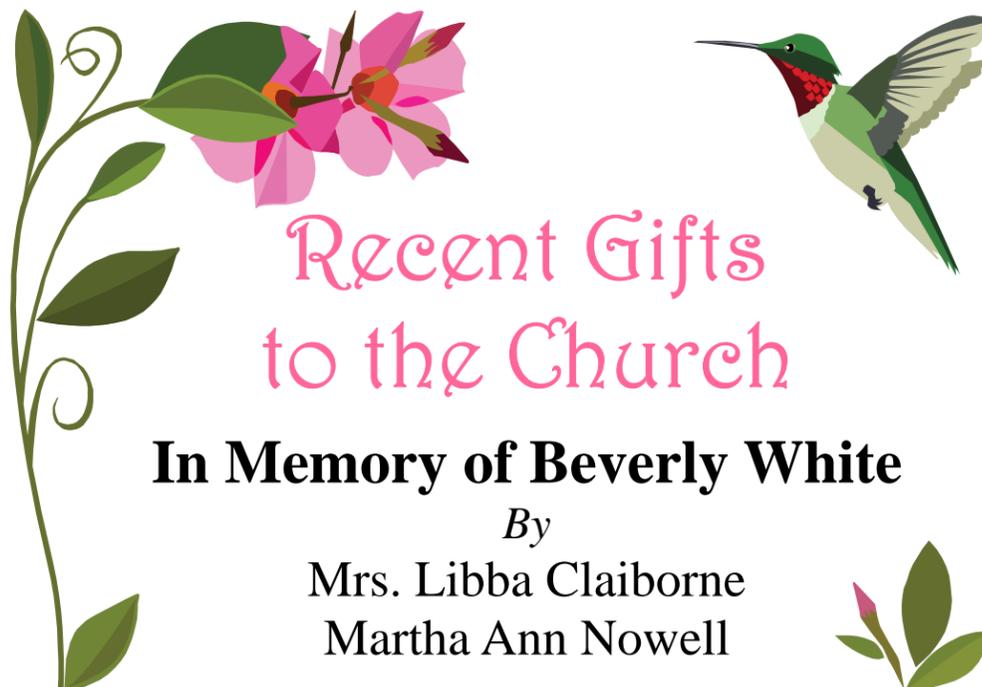
Admission at the door will be \$15.00 per concert.

Tickets are available at Livingston's or from any Club Member.



Kallen Esperian

Gary Beard



Recent Gifts to the Church

In Memory of Beverly White

By

Mrs. Libba Claiborne
Martha Ann Nowell

April 2016

					1	2
3 <i>Holy Communion</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Session Meeting at 6:30pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Historic Preservation Society at 5:30pm	20	21 Deacon's Meeting at 6pm	22	23
24 <i>Men's Great Banquet</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30

Please contact the church office with any events or birthdays that you would like to add to the calendar.



Sunday School Class
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Men's Study Lunch
Thursdays at Noon

For more information call the church office at 772-2893.



- 3 – Mac Williams
- 7 – Roy Maclin Bridgewater
- 9 – Lou Taylor
- 11 – Irene Ammons
- 14 – Rachel Rooks Phillips
- 14 – McKenzie Swiatnicki
- 16 – Ashley Jackson
- 17 – Will Clinton
- 17 – Payton Jarratt

- 18 – Mary Will King
- 18 – Don Spencer
- 19 – Harrison Stoots
- 25 – John Pearson
- 27 – Michael Raines
- 28 – Vicki Spencer
- 29 – Sheri Richards

Liturgist Schedule

April 3rd

Jamie Hopkins

April 10th

Claiborn Gillespie

April 17th Blended Service

April 24th

John King

May 1st

Mark Dyer

May 8th

Don Spencer

May 15th

Hannah Riley & Taylor Ann King

May 22nd Blended Service

Tom Bridgewater

May 29th

Bo Gillespie

Thank you for your commitment to our worship. If you are unable to serve as liturgist on the date you are scheduled, please call Marilyn Kipley at 731-432-0312 as soon as possible.

Lenten Lunch

March 24, 2016



Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016



Adult Christian Education



Join us for a study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians. We now have two adult classes on Sunday to foster greater participation. Galatians is a powerful testament to the world-shaking nature of the gospel. Paul takes to task a congregation that is at risk of leaving behind the "truth of the gospel" in favor of a more secure and traditional form of religiosity. His arguments take us to the heart of the human condition before God since the revelation of Jesus Christ. He addresses foundational questions about the way we shape our identities and order our relationships with each other. Although brief, Paul's letter is powerful. We hope you will make studying together a priority in your lives.

Connect Groups

Our three Connect Groups are well under way! Frank Chapman, Sheri Richards, and Mark Dyer are doing a wonderful job facilitating our discussions. *The Faith of a Mocking Bird*, written by Methodist minister Matt Rowle, is a small group study that allows us to explore our own faith while looking at the lives of four characters in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. We have almost half of our active members involved in one of these groups, and we have room for more. If you would like to join a Sunday night or Wednesday group, please let Rev. Anne know.





A Gathering to Celebrate Pentecost & the Presbytery of the Mid-South

Sunday, May 22 at Pinecrest
From 3pm-6pm

Our music will be led by the Steven Berger Band and that means bluegrass. Our scripture will be the Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20. Our worship service will incorporate many leaders from across our Presbytery including those serving Communion, ushers, and liturgists. Ray Jones, Associate Director of Evangelism for the PCUSA has agreed to preach.

Our offering during worship will support the good work we do at Pinecrest. But we are also asking you to collect items for hygiene kits in your congregation and bring them with you to our celebration or, even better, to Presbytery meeting on May 14.

Our church has been asked to collect Deodorant.

After worship adults and older youth will join one of four workshops: *story-telling*, *servant leadership*, *your spiritual autobiography*, or *the church's story*. The children will assemble hygiene kits. At 5:00 P.M. we will all gather for fellowship and a good Pinecrest meal.



Feed Haywood County

The deacons are leading an effort to collect canned goods and non-perishable food items for Feed Haywood County, a food bank that will eventually reach all of our county. It will begin in Stanton at City Hall and branch out from there. Linda Jones is spearheading this effort, on the model of Fayette County and Shelby County. We must demonstrate that we can collect the food for 3 months, after which the Memphis Food Bank will begin to supply the food for distribution once per month to families who need food and who qualify. Please join us in supporting this mission, which has the potential of ending a lot of the hunger in Haywood County. You will see the collection point in the Welcome Center.



Pinecrest Camp & Retreat Center

has lots of projects that need to get done before the camping season.

Can you join us on either (or both) May 5-6 to help?
We'll start around 9am and end each day at about 4pm.

Task:

- Build a human foosball court (picture above)
- Make a couple of supersized games (Yahtzee, Connect Four, etc.)
- Work on the Pray Ground—an interactive, outdoor spirituality center
 - Rebuild the horseshoe pits
 - Sand and repaint some rocking chairs