

# ***THE WINDOW***

***First Presbyterian Church***

***Hendersonville, TN***

***September 2023***



Dear Friends,

Fear is all around. I have a friend who was running for Metropolitan Nashville Council. During his campaigning, he encountered all kinds of fear. Some fears were legitimate and some imagined. If he was elected, people wanted him to resolve their fear-issues. Everything from dangerous roads to protection from criminals that may or may not even exist. Fear. Fear. Fear.

Chris Pritchett writes about Henri Nouwen in one of his devotionals titled “God, Discovering the Divine.” Many people live in the “house of fear.” It has become their residence. It is more than an emotion. It has become the filter they use to see the world and their lives. “Fear has become an obvious dwelling place, an acceptable basis on which to make our decisions and plan our lives.” Often, we cannot reason our fear away. Fear must be forced out by love. Only God can fill us with the love that breaks fear’s hold on us. *Perfect love casts out fear* (1 John 4:18). “There is no fear that is stronger than God and there is no love that is greater than the Lord’s.”

Let’s take a boat ride with Jesus and his disciples. It seemed like a pleasant evening when they sailed to the other side (Mark 4:35-41). Jesus gets comfortable and falls asleep. Suddenly, a fierce storm attacks the boat, waves are beating against the boat, and wind creates a furious force tossing the boat around like a toy. The disciples panic and wake Jesus up, asking if he cares if they drown. Jesus commands the wind to be still and hushes the waves to nothing. He asks fishermen why they are afraid and where is their faith. The disciples are terrified. Who is this who can control the weather?

I am intrigued with this passage. From fear to fear. First afraid of the destructive storm. Then, afraid of Jesus’ power to force the wind and waves to obey him. What would you be thinking, if you were in the boat? What would faith look like in this boat tossed around and filling with water? What was Jesus expecting? Furthermore, how did he sleep through the storm?

In this story, fear changes. The motive or cause of fear moves from wind and waves to Jesus. The first fear describes danger, uncontrolled power, and lack of security. The second fear describes a fear that is powerful but also safe. The first fear causes you to scream. The second fear describes worship and a deep respect. The disciples exchange their fear for the storm for a fear in Jesus. Phillips Brooks once said, “If you do not fear the God above, you will fear everything around you.”

The One in the boat is the One who created the world. God created the water and wind. No matter what storm we are facing, Jesus Christ is with us. The Lord is always more powerful than you can imagine. No matter how much we know about God, there is more to learn. Imagine Jesus sitting next to you in your boat. He has the power to push your fears out of the boat into the water. His love fills you and helps you through the storms of life.

Love and Prayers,

*Michael*

## The Theology of Hymns

*Standing on the Promises of Christ My King* is a wonderful hymn written by Russell Kelso Carter. He was an athlete, educator, rancher, preacher, and physician. In 1879 his heart condition brought him to his knees, giving his life to Jesus Christ. The second stanza captures his experience. "Standing on the promises that cannot fail. When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God." Standing on the promises means trusting the promises of Christ. We trust Jesus Christ more than our resources or abilities. We do not rely on other people to do what only Christ can do. What are the promises of Christ you need to stand on today?

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**Reading Through the Bible in a Year:** This year there will be daily Bible readings in each monthly newsletter. By this time next year, you will have read through the whole Bible. There will be 4-6 readings each day, except for the weekends. The weekends can be used to catch up or reflect on what was read the previous week. The Old Testament readings are chronological.

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| September 1 Amos 7-9; Matthew 15                     | September 17 Reflection                              |
| September 2 Reflection                               | September 18 Isaiah 7-10; Psalm 22; Matthew 26       |
| September 3 Reflection                               | September 19 Isaiah 11-13; Psalm 118; Matthew 27     |
| September 4 Hosea 1-3; Matthew 16                    | September 20 Isaiah 14-16; Matthew 28                |
| September 5 Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matthew 17          | September 21 Isaiah 17-19; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 1 |
| September 6 Hosea 7-10; Matthew 18                   | September 22 Isaiah 20-22; 1 Corinthians 2           |
| September 7 Hosea 11-13; Matthew 19                  | September 23 Reflection                              |
| September 8 Hosea 14; 2 Chr 26-27; Psalm 61; Matt 20 | September 24 Reflection                              |
| September 9 Reflection                               | September 25 Isaiah 23-25; 1 Corinthians 3           |
| September 10 Reflection                              | September 26 Isaiah 26-29; Psalm 65; 1 Corinthians 4 |
| September 11 2 Kings 15-16; Matthew 21               | September 27 Isaiah 30-32; 1 Corinthians 5           |
| September 12 Isaiah 1-3; Psalm 9; Matthew 22         | September 28 Isaiah 33-35; 1 Corinthians 6           |
| September 13 Isaiah 4-6; Matthew 23                  | September 29 2 Chr 28; 2 Kings 17; Psalm 66; 1 Cor 7 |
| September 14 Micah 1-4; Psalm 10; Matthew 24         | September 30 Reflection                              |
| September 15 Micah 5-7; Matthew 25                   |  |
| September 16 Reflection                              |  |

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Jim and Mary Perry would like to recognize their son, James III, who just retired after 30 years in the Army as a Special Forces officer (Col). In addition, their grandson, Connor, was just promoted to Captain in the Army and was married on August 19.

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**Thru July 2023**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 154,300.89</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ <u>201,547.43</u></b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ -47,246.54</b>



# Introducing Our Newest Members



Welcome **Ruth Woodworth** who is the mother of MariKay Burke. She is a grandmother of five kids, great grandmother of twelve and great, great grandmother of two. She was recently married to Julian Avery where they live at Clarendale. Her favorite times are with family and she enjoys reading. She also participates in Sunshine Ministry and Presbyterian Women. She has spent most of her adult life in Pennsylvania until moving to Tennessee in 2011.

Joining with Ruth is her great grandson **Josh Reeves**. He is also the grandson of Brian and Marikay Burke and son of Leslie Hardcastle. He is the oldest of five children. As a sophomore at Gallatin High School, he is a member of the varsity bowling team and chorus. He enjoys singing in the choir at First Presbyterian Church. He assists with the streaming on Sundays and participates in the youth group. Josh also enjoys riding dirt bikes.

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In July, Sunshine Ministry members and guests were treated to a piano recital by **Linda Shipley**. Linda is a professor of music at Welch College. There is a video of the recital on the church YouTube channel.

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Guys and Gals, we invite you to the first gathering of something new called "First Wednesday Coffee Talk". Join us for coffee (and if you are not a coffee drinker, how about tea?). The first coffee will be in the church library on September 6 at 10:00 a.m. Meet new friends, catch up with old friends, and / or bring a friend. We will have some stimulating conversation, exchange ideas, and catch up on what is happening. It will be fun. You can drop in with no reservation, and may come to any First Wednesday or every First Wednesday. A lot of great things start with a cup of coffee and with friends to share it.....there will be cookies, too!!! For more information, you may contact Freda Blackwell (615-390-5788) or June Still (615-275-5973).



# Team 1

# Appalachia Se



Team 1 standing on finished kitchen floor



Ethan & Parker



Dylan & Ethan working with several supervisors

Last month a team of 12 men, women, and children worked on two houses. Team One worked on repairing the floor, and putting down a new laminate floor, replacing the insulation, subfloor, and repaired the sink and toilet. With extra time they also worked on a deck. The theme for this year's ASP is Good Samaritan. Thank you to Robert and Carrie and Luke Batey, Toby Parrotta, Ethan Lloyd, and Michael.



Luke working on the wall



Dylan and one of the nine kittens



A late evening meal



# Service Project

## Team 2



Griffin measuring bathroom floor



Tom and Toby insulating the bathroom floor

Youth headed to Harlan, Kentucky to work on repairing a wall, laying kitchen subfloor, level-nate floor. Team Two repaired a bathroom and putting down a new floor. They also re- they worked at a third home adding steps. P trip was "Loving Strong" based on the and Carter Wells, Barbara and Dylan Joines, an Minor, Tom Rouse, Griffin and Parker



Team 2 with Jimmy



time of cards



Toby sawing with several supervisors



Carter working on the bathroom floor





# Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care ministry unit is responsible for the physical, emotional, and spiritual care of the congregation, plus fostering fellowship within the congregation. Because this ministry encompasses several types of needs, we have divided ourselves into three basic categories—Fellowship Meals, Visitation Ministry, and Celebration of Life Family-Funeral Meals.

Throughout the year, we have had several well-attended Fellowship meal events, with more to come. On October 1, we will enjoy worship and a picnic meal at Shelter #8 in Sanders Ferry Park. The Praise Band will lead the music for worship, and we will share Communion together.

On the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, we will have our first “Nativity Sunday.” Members of the congregation will be encouraged to bring a Nativity set—with a short history about it—and we will display them all in Martin Hall—ready to be viewed after the worship service that Sunday. There might be a cookie treat, and coffee or hot chocolate for those who come to see the display. We will leave it there for two Sundays in order for everyone to see it.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, we will have our annual Holiday meal after worship, providing the opportunity for our church family and friends to celebrate the season together. Reservations will be requested. The congregation will provide sides, salads and desserts. The church will provide the main entrée, bread, and drinks.

Sunshine Ministry, under the leadership of June Still, meets monthly. At each meeting there is a program by an interesting speaker, followed by a meal. The average attendance of Sunshine Ministry has increased from 10-12 to 30-40. It has been a blessing to watch the fellowship grow within this group.

The Visitation Unit, under the leadership of Pastor Michael and Janet Covington, has made (to date) 58 home visits, 26 nursing home visits, and served communion to 61 of our homebound/shut-in members. Others who regularly help with this ministry include Terry Wright, Richard Roche, Paulette Farnham, Betty Ingram, Linda Ballenger, and Brenda Hubbell. This is an important ministry, and we are always looking for volunteers. Our homebound friends need their church family connection.

We have had two Celebration of Life services. Brenda Hubbell coordinated both of those.

We had a farewell celebration for Bill and Sandy Keene, longtime church members and friends who moved out of the area. And we provided send-off breakfast snacks and prayers as the ASP team left for their mission trip to Appalachia.

The most exciting element of this ministry is watching the Holy Spirit working through the fellowship of our congregation. When two or more of us are gathered together, we know He is with us. His love flows through us, and we see it in the smiles, the laughter, the tears, and as we share meals together.

There are a few official members of this committee. Janet Covington, Jackie Decker, Brenda Hubbell, Betty Ingram, Karen Baylor, Mary Lou Settle, plus Jerry Klym. These are the backbone of the committee, but we could never accomplish all that needs to be done without the many regular volunteers, including Brian and Marikay Burke, Earl, Morgan, and Avery Linn, Margaret Ewald, Mitzi Head, and many more who get called and will serve at the last minute. However, we are always looking for more volunteers.

It’s a big job. To those who have been given much, much is expected. Let me know how soon we can count on you to join our efforts!

Prayerfully submitted, PHYLLIS KLYM—Congregational Committee Chairman

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**For the next several months, Michael will be preaching a series on the Book of Philippians.  
The Thursday Zoom Bible study will also be on Philippians.**

## SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Affirmed our faith using the session statement of faith
- Heard a report from Personnel on Michael's Sabbatical
  - ◊ Approved the Sabbatical dates for May 1 – July 31
- Approved minutes from May 15, May 21, June 24
- Discussed *I Am A Church Member*
- Approved ministry unit reports
- Heard verbal report from Congregational Care
- Moved several inactive people to the Affiliate status
- Heard pastor's report

## SERMON SCHEDULE

- September 3** – Your Personal Trainer,  
Philippians 2:12-18  
(Communion)
- September 10** – My Trophies,  
Philippians 3:1-11
- September 17** – Warner Durnell,  
Guest Preacher  
(Michael on study leave)
- September 24** – Goal-oriented,  
Philippians 3:12-16



Several years ago, I attended the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina. That year, Dr. Christopher Aspaas was the director of the large choir. In a conversation that we had during the conference, he stated, "In a choir, everyone is important". The more I thought about that comment I thought about the scripture in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 where Paul compares the human body to the church and states that every part of both bodies are important. In this passage, Paul states that every part of the human body is important just as every member of the church is important.

The more I think about this, the more I realize how much this applies to the choir. Dr. Aspaas is right, "In a choir, everyone is important". Every person in a choir is important. Every voice is important, from the bigger voice to the smaller voice. Every person is important. Every voice is important. The beauty of a choir sound is hearing all the different voices blending together as one. As I write this article, I remember when I started graduate school at The University of Michigan, I had to audition for a choir. The choices were the large University Choir open to all music students or the smaller Chamber Choir, which was usually reserved for voice majors or those who have had extensive study in voice. I knew that I didn't fit the latter, so I added University Choir to my schedule and attended the rehearsals. A week later, I passed the conductor of the Chamber Choir in the hallway. He asked me where I had been and why I hadn't been to any rehearsals. I told him that I was in University Choir as I was an organ major and didn't think I was good enough for the Chamber Choir. His next statement shocked me. He said, "You have a nice, light tenor voice. I need that in the Chamber Choir". I still to this day can't believe I made the Chamber Choir as I was the only organist in the group. I will say, it was a great experience, and I learned a lot.

Paul's comparison of the human body to the church does apply to the choir. Every member is important. This certainly is true in our Adult Choir. When someone is missing, everyone in the choir notices. I also think the morale drops a little when someone is missing. There is a void when someone is missing. The members of the choir take care of each other. They look out for each other throughout the week and enjoy each other's company and the fellowship in our rehearsals. When we resumed rehearsals in August, after our break in July, everyone was excited about being together. One member said that they missed being with everyone and couldn't wait for rehearsals to begin. In a sense, the choir is a Connection Group. Our Adult Choir is a great group of people who work hard to prepare the music for Sunday but have a lot of fun in the process. If you walk by the choir room on Wednesday evening, you will hear singing but also lots of laughter. I think people leave rehearsal energized. I know I do.

Now I'm going to make an appeal for people to consider joining the choir. There is plenty of room in the choir room and in the sanctuary. Often in the past, when I have approached people about joining the choir, I usually get a response like "You don't want my voice in the choir". My response to that is "Yes I do". Everyone is important. Every voice is important. So let me encourage you to join the choir. If you're not sure of a long term commitment, why not try it through Christmas. In the next few weeks, we will begin rehearsing Advent and Christmas music. That will give you a chance to try it for a short term and if you like it, you are welcome to stay. You don't have to be able to read music. Some in the choir read music and some do not. If you can read music, that's great, but not a requirement. The only requirement is the desire to sing, have fun and laugh. You will be with a great group of people. And, of course, every voice is important. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Give it a try. I think you'll love it. And again, every voice is important. I'll see you on Wednesday evening. - Tony Williams

## **CHURCH STAFF**

**Michael Davis, *Pastor***

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**Dr. Anthony Williams, *Organist/Choir Director***

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**Linda Agee, *Church Administrator***

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**Sara Webne, *Nursery Attendant***

**Carolyn McCoy, *P.D.S. Director***

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**Sunday School—9:00 a.m.**

**Worship Service—10:00 a.m.**



- 3 - Susan Garrett  
Jerry Klym
- 5 - Nita Anderson  
Paul Decker
- 9 - Janna Willis
- 10 - Wayne Huddleston
- 16 - Allison Williams
- 17 - Sandy Keene  
Laurie Dishman  
Marikay Burke
- 18 - Jennifer Frazier  
Mary Leah Venable
- 20 - Ben Batey  
Sherry Tarbutton
- 21 - Jackson Reeves
- 23 - Evelyn Kemp
- 24 - Jo McCrary
- 25 - Carter Wells
- 26 - Earl Linn
- 27 - Stan Campbell  
Sandy Scott
- 29 - Barry Ingram