

First Presbyterian Church

307 Gates Avenue, Huntsville AL 35801

[website](#) [about](#) [worship](#) [ministries](#) [get involved](#) [preschool](#)



"A Return to Sunday School"

I recently read a great article about the benefits of Sunday school written by The Church Effectiveness Ministry. It asked the question "If Sunday School did not exist, would we reinvent it?". The answer was a resounding "Yes!". Here are some reasons why:

- Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's word. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's principles.
- Sunday school allows Bible teaching within specific age groups. It allows a wiggly four-year-old to discover great biblical truths by acting out a story, coloring a scripture based picture, or singing fun songs.
- Sunday school is convenient. For many members it is easier to come to church one hour earlier or leave one hour later on the same day as worship service. By having classes on Sunday the children can attend while the adults are learning in their own classes.
- Sunday school is discipleship and leads the church in prayer and relationships. It focuses on outreach to peers and friends.
- Sunday school allows the church to do all of these things with consistency. Sunday school is one of the most consistent programs in the church. It doesn't stop for the summer and rarely for holidays. It is an important ministry that helps unify the church.

First Presbyterian Church offers so many outstanding classes for children, youth, and adults and we encourage you to take part in this programming. Our Sunday school classes meet from 9:30am till 10:15am. Listed below are the classes for children at First Presbyterian and you can find out about our youth and adult classes (and Wednesday night program) on our website.

Peepers (2-3 year olds) and Lambs (4 year olds): meet in the Toddler Room located on the first floor of FPC. They have music time to start every class led by the amazing Tam Bevel and Mamie Jones. If you have never stopped by to listen to this joyous sound, I encourage you listen in one Sunday morning. It will truly lift your spirits. After music time the children split into two groups for an age appropriate bible lesson from the "Walk with Me" curriculum.

K-4th grade children: meet downstairs in the basement Sunday school rooms. This

fall we will be exploring the "Grace and Gratitude" curriculum where the children will meet in the large room for music time and then split into two groups for bible lessons.

5th-6th grade children: now have a class all their own. They will have "Club 56" time across the street in the attic of the GBH. This will be a great way for them to transition into the youth program when they reach 7th grade.

We start classes on September 11. I am so looking forward to seeing the bright and shining faces of our FPC children!

Angela Green * Director of Children's Ministries * (256) 536-3354, ext. 129
agreen@fpchsv.org

Holiday Closing

The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 5th** in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 6th with our normal business hours.



First Friends Preschool

The First Friends Preschool will be closed on **Monday, September 5th** in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 6th with our normal school hours.



Preschool News

Our September newsletter is available by clicking [here](#) .

Are You Registered?



Wed Nite Live is Bringing the Word!

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42).

What is Wed Nite Live? WNL is an intentional setting where God's children of all ages, from 2 years of age to adults, can learn about Christian relationships by gathering together.

What are the dates and times? Fall Semester: Wed. Sept. 14 through Wed. Nov. 30. 5-7 PM for children and youth. Adult studies 5:30-6:30 PM. Dinner service will begin at 6:20.

What is the cost for fall semester? 2, 3, 4 year olds: \$40/child
K-High School: \$50/child with a family maximum of \$125.
Adults: \$7 for dinner/session
Free nursery available for children under 2.

What will be studied?

2 year old through 6th grade: *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*.

7-8th graders will be preparing for Confirmation.

High school students will explore *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt*.

Young and Older Adults will have three tracts from which to choose:

Living the Questions, an opportunity to struggle with some tough theological issues and explore what's next for Christianity, led by Bert Moore and Barbara Bozeman.

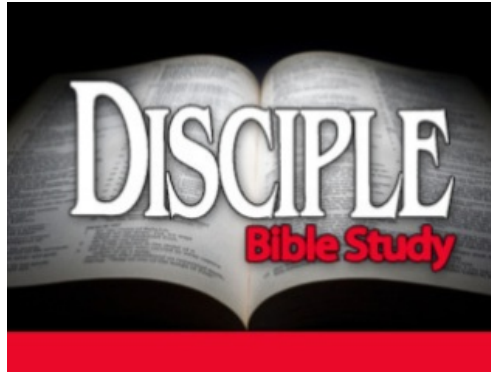
Old Testament Survey: an invitation to explore the general themes of the Old Testament, led by Rev. Richard Brooks, retired PC(USA).

Grief, Loss, and Spirituality, weekly explorations of various aspects of the grief process, from death to caretaking to self-esteem, led by Rev. Carl Malm, Exec Director, Huntsville Assoc. for Pastoral Care.

How do I register? You can register online by clicking [here](#) or contact Truett Fink at truettfink@gmail.com. Registration is required for children, youth, and adults; payment is due by Sept. 14.

More information can be found on the web site [here](#).

Classes Begin Next Week



Disciple is a program of disciplined Bible study that enriches lives by deepening comprehension of Scripture. It draws on the work of scholars, personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and lively group discussion to increase understanding. These Bible studies have enriched lives by helping participants become closer to God and learn the joys of living a life of discipleship.

Monday Evening Disciple Bible Study

Monday, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Tish Hammer, 256-468-3782, tishdhammer@gmail.com

This group will be studying Disciple's Invitation to John, a short-term Bible study. This eleven-week study includes a participant book outlining daily reading assignments for group preparations and a video component providing interpretation and context for biblical texts. The invitation of this study is to come and see Jesus - to hear him speak, to see his signs - and to consider anew what it means to be a follower.

Thursday Morning Disciple Bible Study

Thursday, 9:00 - 11:15 am, Library

Vicky Goodwin, 256-850-3102, goodwingoodwins@gmail.com

In Jesus and the Gospels, the study helps group members understand that Jesus is rooted in Judaism and the Scriptures of Judaism, and that Christianity and the New Testament are rooted in the Scriptures of Judaism-our Old Testament.

Thursday Evening Disciple I

5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Library

Karen Madison, 256-656-1677, karenmadison@comcast.net

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study provides a foundational overview of the Bible. It serves as the basis for all other studies in the series. Over 34 weeks, it covers the entire Bible, following the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem.

Friday Morning Disciple I

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Library

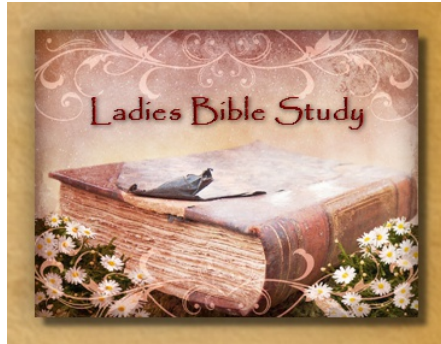
Elaine Stowe, 256-536-7308, jayelainestowe@bellsouth.net

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study provides a foundational overview of the Bible. It serves as the basis for all other studies in the series. Over 34 weeks, it covers the entire Bible, following the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem.

Sign up today at the bulletin board.

Vicky Goodwin* Moderator * (256) 850-3102
goodwingoodwins@gmail.com

Fall Bible Study



The Ladies Bible Study group will begin meeting on Monday, **September 26 at 10:00 a.m.** in the library. This year we will study "Making Sense of the Bible." All ages are welcome. Contact Janel Bates (256-539-5627) or Barbara Walker (256-536-9112) for more information.

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

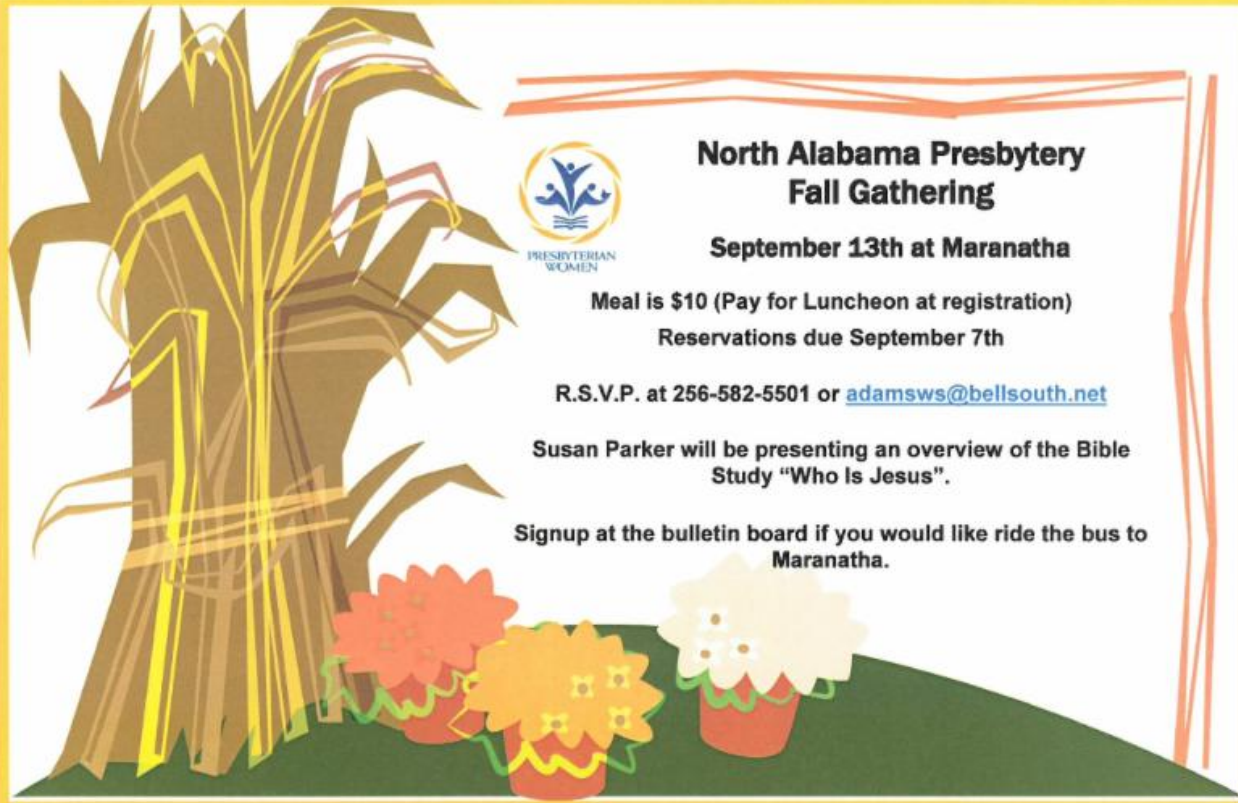


FPC Presbyterian Women will have their first gathering of the circle year Monday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A Coffee Time will be prepared by the out-going and in-coming officers. Following the installation of our officers and other business, Rev. Rosemary McMahan will introduce and cover the first lesson of our new study for the year, "Who Is Jesus" by Judy Yates Siker. Judy invites us to join her on "a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is-a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey we will take together." Judy invites us to be good conversation partners along the way, sharing with one another as we experience the various lenses through which Jesus is seen and how these perspectives impact our understanding Jesus.

ALL WOMEN are invited to join us for this kick-off of the new year, whether or not you are in a circle. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Harriet Bibb * PW Moderator * (256) 881-6650
hahobibb@aol.com

Presbytery Event



North Alabama Presbytery Fall Gathering

September 13th at Maranatha

Meal is \$10 (Pay for Luncheon at registration)

Reservations due September 7th

R.S.V.P. at 256-582-5501 or adamsws@bellsouth.net

Susan Parker will be presenting an overview of the Bible Study "Who Is Jesus".

Signup at the bulletin board if you would like ride the bus to Maranatha.

Music Ministry



Sunday, September 4

- **Choir rehearsal**, 10:00 a.m. in the choir room
- **Handbell rehearsal**, 11:30 a.m. in the bell room.

Dr. Patricia Hacker * Director of Music * (256) 536-3354, ext. 126
phacker@fpchsv.org

Children's Ministries



Sunday, September 4th

- **Children's Church** at 10:30 a.m.
- **Nursery provided** from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **No Sunday School**

Youth Ministries



Sunday, September 4th

- **Worship services**, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- **No Sunday School**
- **No PYC Connection on Sunday night**

Jim Williams * Interim Director of Youth Ministry * (256) 536-3354, 131
jwilliams@fpchsv.org

Flower Dedications



Flower Dedications are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones, or in honor of special occasions such as a birthday, wedding anniversary or a special person. A donation of \$50 will sponsor a flower arrangement arranged by the Flower Guild.

Flower Dedication cards/envelopes are located in the pew racks or can be picked up at the church office.

Upcoming available Sunday dates:
September 25; October 2; November 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Leslie Ecklund, Flower Guild
leslie.ecklund@huntsvilleal.gov

Worship This Week

Sunday, September 4th, 2016
16th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. (John Allan Hall)
10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Dr. Cary Speaker, Interim Pastor, preaching

"Growing in Faith"

Scripture texts: [Jeremiah 18: 1-11](#); [Luke 14: 25-33](#).

A worship bulletin for this Sunday is available online on Thursday afternoons [here](#).

The Sacrament of Holy Communion this Sunday at both service.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th for the Labor Day holiday.

Church Calendar



[View our Church Calendar Online](#)

Sermons



In keeping with Presbyterian tradition, the hearing of God's word in Scripture and preaching is central to each Sunday service of worship at First Presbyterian Church. For those who were unable to be with us-and for those who want to reflect further on a sermon or save it-you will find below the online text of the most recent sermons.

Scripture comments and texts of the sermons are available in the church literature racks, which are located in the church office across from the Pastor's Secretary office.

Audio-in MP3 and streaming formats-for the 10:30 worship service is also available below.

For a pdf of the Sunday worship bulletin, click on the service time at right.

Sunday, September 4, 2016

"Growing in Faith"
[a.m.](#)

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 and 10:30](#)

[Scripture comments](#)

Sunday, August 28, 2016

"Christ's Guest List"
[a.m.](#)

Rev. Rosemary McMahan

[8:30 and 10:30](#)

[Sermon text](#)

Sunday, August 21, 2016

"Suffering"
[a.m.](#)

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 and 10:30](#)

[Scripture comments](#)

[Sermon text](#)

[Audio Sermon](#)

Sunday, August 14, 2016

"Security"
[a.m.](#)

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 and 10:30](#)

[Scripture comments](#)

[Sermon comments](#)

[Audio Sermon](#)

Sunday, August 7, 2016

"What Are We Offering"
[a.m.](#)

Rev. Rosemary McMahan

[8:30 and 10:30](#)

[Sermon Text](#)

[Audio Sermon](#)

Prayer Request



Members: Anne Boles, John Clark, J. R. Howard, Cay Lambert, Lorinne Lilly, Sage Lyons, III, and Sanders Pair.

Friends & Relatives: Sharon Barnes - Cousin of Lacey Matthews; Shep Crigler - Former Pastor of FPC; Elizabeth Haynes - Mother of Sheila Fogle; Freya Huckstepp - Daughter of Dean and Emma Huckstepp (Friends of Bruce and Anne Peters); Gloria Hyatt - Mother of Jeff Hyatt; Gay LeJeune - Friend of Peggy and David Galloway; Tine Liegerot - Friend of Irmie and Roger Hammer;

Beverlee Leo - Mother of Lori Smith; Arleigh McClendon - Great niece of Karen and Doug Madison; Jay Mortimer - Neighbor of Serena Neely; Diana Rose - Mother of Serena Neely; J. D. Schrimsher - Friend of Everett Mosley; Patricia Smith - Mother of David Smith; Avery Grace Tincher (Daughter of Michael and Lindsey Beth Tincher, Granddaughter of Ann and Steve Tincher, and Great-granddaughter of Marlyn and Hoyt Harris); Tom Wilson - Father of Elaine Stowe.

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care: Annabell Aust (Regency Village); Lorinne Lilly (Magnolia Cottage); Darwin Perkins (Brookdale Place); Ernestine Roberson (Brookdale Place); Ray Rose (Diversicare of Big Springs); Virginia Rowe (Whitesburg Gardens); Marge Sharp (Brookdale Place); Phil Skidmore (Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home); Teensie Stroupe (Belmont Village - Memphis).

The Church: The Pastor Nominating Committee; First Presbyterian Church, the Session and the North Alabama Presbytery.


Military & International: All those serving in the armed forces.

Our Nation: President Obama and our representatives.

First Presbyterian Missions & Ministries: Appalachia Service Project (ASP); Good Samaritans; The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center; The Presbyterian Home for Children; Second Mile Preschool, and the CUP program.

If you are hospitalized or in need of a pastoral visit, please notify the Pastor's Secretary (256-536-3354, ext. 132). Please remember that area hospitals do not notify us about admissions.

First Presbyterian Church Staff and Leadership



Church Staff & Leadership

THE CHURCH STAFF

Office: 256-536-3354; Fax: 256-536-3038

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Cary Speaker, *Interim Pastor*; ext. 122; cspeaker@fpchsv.org

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, *Interim Associate Pastor*; ext. 127; rmcmahan@fpchsv.org

Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*; ext. 126; phacker@fpchsv.org

Dr. Frank Contreras, Organist

Angela Green, *Director of Children's Ministry*; ext. 129; agreen@fpchsv.org

Jim Williams, *Interim Youth Director*; ext. 131; jwilliams@fpchsv.org
Lacey Guthrie, *Director of First Friends Preschool*; ext. 128; ffdiretor@fpchsv.org
Cynde Tannehill, *Pastor's Secretary/Notary*; ext. 132; ctannehill@fpchsv.org
Mary Beth Taylor, *Receptionist/Secretary*, ext. 130; mtaylor@fpchsv.org
Sharon Austell, *Financial Assistant*, ext. 136; saustell@fpchsv.org
Johann Malan, *Facilities Coordinator*, ext. 121; jmalan@fpchsv.org
Quentin Fitzpatrick, *Sexton*

THE SESSION

Class of 2016: Patty Conley (Care); David Galloway (Sustain); Leslie Lockhart (Maintain); Jan McKemie (Worship); Jay Stowe (Grow); Nicole Schroer (Share); George Van Kirk (Gather).

Class of 2017: Harriet Bibb (Care); Bo Lundy (Gather); Houston Matthews (Maintain); Heidi Meadows (Share); Melissa Rowe (Grow); Andy Watson (Sustain); Charlotte Wessel (Worship)

Moderator:

Dr. Cary Speaker

Clerk of Session:

Lucinda Schreeder

Moving Clerk:

Bruce Williams

To view current session minutes, click [here](#).

SESSION
MINUTES

DIACONATE (DEACONS)

Class of 2016: David Goodwin, Chair (Care); Marshall Corlew (Sustain), Leslie Ecklund (Worship); Carlotta Gattis (Gather); Lennie Hartwell (Share); Michael Lastovic (Maintain); Amy Stucky (Grow).

Class of 2017: Gene Beam (Sustain), Libby Brown (Maintain), Karen Clayton (Gather); June Guynes (Share); Andi Gaskins (Care); Elaine Stowe (Grow); Sally Troy (Worship).

TRUSTEES

Class of 2016: Janice Fowler (Treasurer of Church) and Wayne Bonner

Class of 2017: Mac Martinson and Charles Bozeman (Treasurer of Trustees)

Class of 2018: Bill Johnson and Jay Stowe

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



FORWARD TO A FRIEND

