

First Presbyterian Church

307 Gates Avenue, Huntsville AL 35801

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Dear FPC Family,

I am genuinely overwhelmed with deep gratitude as I write this letter to you. The past few months have flown by, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here serving the youth and the congregation at large. I have nothing but love in my heart for all of you. My

experience here has been one that I will keep with me forever, truly.

It's not easy parting or saying "goodbye". I'll be leaving December 27th to relocate permanently to Silver Spring, MD. The focus of my stay there will be pursuing a full-time career in music - education and performance. It's a scary thought leaving Huntsville, but I think I'm ready and I'm trusting in God.

I can't make this letter all about me. Because of your faithful support, the youth program has maintained health and vibrancy, and has succeeded at meeting the need of many. Sunday School has flourished, and PYC has continued to be fun and meaningful. The youth programming of WNL has been relevant and thought-provoking for both the students and the teachers.

First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, AL truly is a gem of the South. You all are a special group of people with so many assets. This church has stood the test of time, and yet stands as a testimony of what God can do when we answer the call to lead and serve.

I encourage you to keep pouring into the youth program both financially and by offering your time as a volunteer. Now more than ever, the youth of the church need to see and feel the love you have for them. I know the church at large adores them, and I trust that you all will keep showing them that love. Our youth are not simply the future of the church - they are the current church. They add so much to the total church atmosphere, even when they feel as if they may go unnoticed. Cherish them,

keep supporting them, and pray for them as they navigate through one of the most challenging times of life.

Youth, thank you so much for welcoming me into your lives, and making me feel as if I've been here for a very long time. I love you all so much! I see you all as family. I have enjoyed being able to support you all outside of church, and I have loved working with you all during Sunday School, PYC, and WNL. Stay encouraged as you approach the spring semester! I'm here cheering you on, always. If I can do anything to help you in your academic, extracurricular, and spiritual lives, I will! I'm always available to listen and I will forever be praying for you.

My cell number is 256-529-7137, and my personal email is james.williams@oakwood.edu. Feel free to add me on Facebook - "Jim Williams". Keep me posted about special events, games, recitals, and birthdays. I expect graduation invitations from the seniors, and the 8th graders too!

I leave with you lyrics to one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite songs:

**"If I can help somebody, as I travel along
If I can help somebody, with a word or song
If I can help somebody, from doing wrong
No, my living shall not be in vain"**

With love in Christ,

James (Jim) Williams III
Interim Director of Youth Ministries

FPC Weekly E-Mail on Holiday Hiatus



The FPC Weekly E-Mail will send its last weekly publication for 2016 on Thursday, December 22, 2016. We will resume our regular weekly publication on Thursday, January 5, 2017. Breaking news will be posted to email subscribers and uploaded to Facebook and our website.

In Memoriam



Katherine Williams joined the church triumphant on November 13, 2016. Katherine was living with her daughter in Ohio at the time of her death. Funeral announcements are pending.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism this Sunday



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be observed during the 10:30 a.m. worship this Sunday. Lillian Cruse Matthews is the daughter of Sarah and Ben Matthews. Proud big brother is Luke Matthews. Grandparents are Mary and Eric Adams, and Kay and Richard Matthews.

Church Office Holiday Hours



CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES:

DECEMBER 22, 23, 26 - CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 30 AND JANUARY 2 - CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 28 AND 29 THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE LIGHTLY STAFFED AS WE GIVE STAFF MEMBERS TIME TO SPEND WITH THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS THERE BEFORE STOPPING BY THE OFFICE.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017.

End of Year Gifts



A Note from the Bookkeeper

Last Minute Contributions: Our sincere thanks to all who have given generously this year to the life and work of our church. If you plan to make an additional contribution before year's end that you wish to be counted as a 2016 tax deduction, please remember that it must be either postmarked or received at the church by December 31. Any contributions postmarked or received on or after January 1 regardless of the date written on the check will be considered a 2017 tax deduction and will appear on your 2017 Contribution Statement.

Stock Transfers: Please call the finance office Monday - Thursday between 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 p.m. for details. Please include your name on any stock check sent to the church office so that we can properly give you credit for your gift.

Pledge Cards for 2017: The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone that has completed and turned in a pledge card. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please drop it off at the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting the ministries and missions at FPC.

Giving in 2017: We have three pledged funds we would like you to consider supporting: our General Fund, our Capital Fund, and the 1818 Foundation. To help us with our accounting and to see that we apply your pledges correctly, we ask that you note your intentions on your offering envelope or on the memo line of the check.

Cary's Farewell Luncheon



Dr. Cary Speaker's Farewell Luncheon

Sunday, December 18, 2016

following the late service in the
Fellowship Hall.

Signup at the bulletin board.

Volunteers needed for Coffee Hour



Gather Cluster is looking for volunteers to help with the coffee and snacks prior to the 10:30 a.m. service. You can sign up for a week, a month or quarterly. This entails making coffee and putting out the supplied snacks. Contact Bo Lundy at jlundyjr@knology.net or signup at the bulletin board.

Advent/Christmas 2016



December 24, 3:00 and 5:00 pm
Lessons and Carols
Candlelight with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sanctuary

December 25, 10:30 am
Christmas Day worship

Nursery Schedule



Nursery

The nursery will be open on Christmas Eve for both services, but parents are welcome to keep their children in the sanctuary. The Lord's Supper will be served, and baptized children may receive as parents deem ready.

Only one service at 10:30 am on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The nursery will not be open on either day.

Wed Nite Live!



Wed Nite Live! Bringing the Word!

What is Wed Nite Live? WNL is an intentional setting where God's children of all ages, from 2 year olds to adults, can learn about Christian relationships by gathering together. Children and youth will engage in Bible study, Worship Skills,

and Fellowship (dinner and a game). Adults will have a choice of three study options, and everyone will eat together.

How is Wed Nite Live different from Sunday School? WNL is a complement to Sunday School and a great way to connect in between Sundays. The atmosphere is more relaxed, there is time for more fun, and all generations have the opportunity to mingle. Anyone is welcomed!

What are the dates and times? Winter Semester: Wed. Jan 11, 2017 through Wed. April 5, 2017, with a break for Spring Break. 5-7 PM for children and youth. Adult studies 5:30-6:30 PM. Dinner service will begin at 6:20 and the evening will end with a game by 7 PM.

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 for children.
Adults: \$50/person if paid in advance. \$7/meal if you pay as you go.

Free nursery for children under 2.
Payment is due with registration or on the first night of WNL.

What will be studied?

The Littlers (ages 2, 3, 4) will share a Bible story, craft, music, and play.

K-6th graders will be learning about "Superheroes of the Bible," leading up to the Resurrected Christ.

7-8th graders will use the "RE:form" Confirmation curriculum, to further strengthen their understanding of what it means to be a Christian and a Presbyterian.

High school students will continue their exploration of Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt, a fun look at why we believe what we believe.

Click [HERE](#) to register your CHILD or YOUTH.

Adults will have three tracts from which to choose:

Living the Questions, Part II, an opportunity to struggle with some tough theological issues and explore what's next for Christianity, led by Elders Bert Moore and Barbara Bozeman. ***Participants must have taken Part I to register for Part II.***

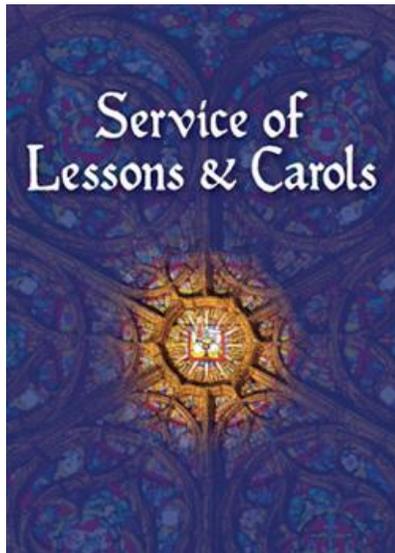
The Gospel of John, an invitation to explore several themes woven throughout this gospel, led by Rev. Richard Brooks, retired PC(USA).

Christian Parenting, an interactive dialogue of how to parent toddlers through high school students, focusing on relationships within the family and building relationship with Jesus Christ, by counselor Sarah Bengs of The Vine Pastoral Counseling Agency.

Click [HERE](#) to register as an adult.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS JANUARY 11.

Christmas Eve services



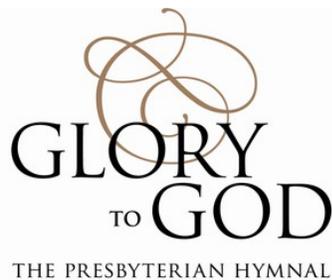
A Service of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 24, 2016
3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Sacrament of Holy Communion at both services.

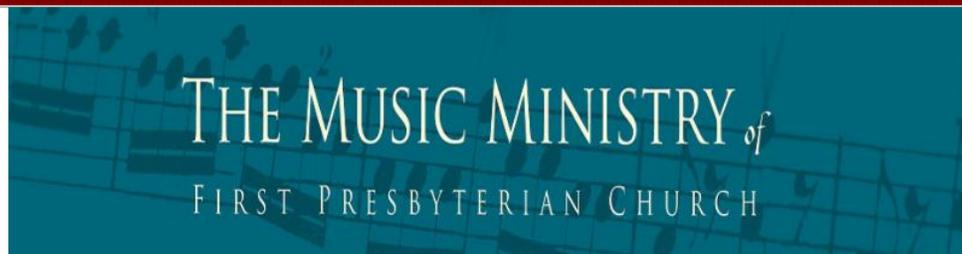
Hymnal Dedications



Give the gift of a Glory to God hymnal in honor of someone you love this Christmas season. The dedication is \$50 and forms are available in the church office, library, narthex, the Fellowship Hall, and the Gideon Blackburn House. They are also available for download on our website and in our weekly email. Download the form [here](#). Deadline is December 31,

2016.

Music Ministry



Sunday, December 18:

- **Choir rehearsal**, 10:00 a.m. in the choir room
- **Our music ministries** would like to invite you to join the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room.

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

phacker@fpchsv.org

Children's Ministries

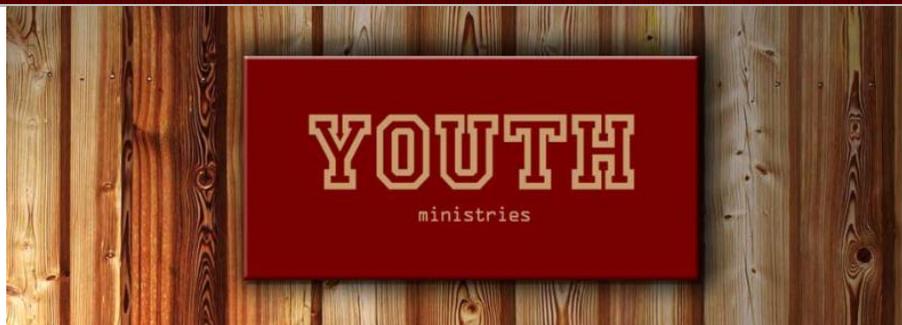


Sunday, December 18:

- **Children's Church** at 10:30 a.m.
- **Nursery provided** from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Youth Ministries



Sunday, December 11:

- **Worship service**, 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday School**, 9:30 a.m.
- **PYC**, 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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

Worship This Week

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dr. Cary Speaker, preaching
"Farewell"

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

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



The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken at both services on Christmas Eve, December 24.

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, December 18, 2016

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

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 a.m. and 10:30](#)

Sunday, December 11, 2016

[Scripture Text](#)

Sermon Text

Sunday, December 4, 2016

"A Baby" (Christmas Cantata)

Dr. Cary Speaker

[8:30 a.m. and 10:30](#)

[a.m.](#)

[Sermon Text](#)

Prayer Request



Members: Harriet Bibb, Anne Boles, John Clark, Charles Danner, J. R. Howard, Kara Howard, Tom Hudson, Cay Lambert, Lorinne Lilly, Sage Lyons, III, Glenda Miller, Bonnie Morris, Sanders Pair, and Janis Williams.

Friends & Relatives: Gloria Adamson - Sister of Betty Dunaway; Tina Beck - Friend of Leigh Brown; Sherry Carroll - Friend of Marilyn and Roy McCorkle; Doris Fuller - Mother of Vicky Goodwin; James and Margaret Goodlet - Friends of Austin Howard; Scott Gordon - Nephew of Pete, Beth and Steven Clapp; Johnny Hall - Friend of the Payne family; Lisa Heffington - Niece of Betty Dunaway; Peggy and Joe Jackson - Friend of Betty Dunaway; Betty and Larry Johnson - Friends of Betty Dunaway; Beverlee Leo - Mother of Lori Smith; Lois Lynch - Caregiver to the mother of Vicky Goodwin; Ricky McGuire - Friend of Houston Matthews; William and Carolyn Payne - Parents of Bill Payne; Diana Rose - Mother of Serena Neely; Patricia Smith - Mother of David Smith; Lindsay Taylor - Granddaughter of Betty Thompson; 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).

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; Kids to Love; 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



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

Bonnie Goolesby, *Receptionist/Secretary*, ext. 130; receptionist@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); Open (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

First Presbyterian Church
ctannehill@fpchsv.org | <http://www.fpchsv.org>