

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church www.fpclly.org

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Dear John,

Some scholars describe the Reformation as a revolt against the bureaucratization that had occurred in the church. For instance, prior to the Reformation in Geneva there was a total of nearly one thousand persons attached to the church: priests, members of religious orders and cathedral staff, and secular employees of the seven parishes there. This number was radically reduced by the Protestant revolution.

In fact, under Calvin the number of Protestant ministers ranged from a minimum of nine to a maximum of twenty-two. The revolt came to be viewed as arising in opposition to a church hierarchy and bureaucracy that lived oppressively off of the offerings and the fees that were collected from the citizenry.

Additionally, the church seemed to neglect the local congregation. The bulk of the revenue from the local parishes was appropriated, not for the upkeep of the local parish, but for the maintenance of the church's larger institutions. As you might expect, such siphoning off and diverting of funds could be tolerated for a while, but eventually the ministry of local parishes deteriorated under the financial burdens they bore.

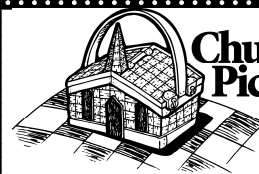
It seems to me that there's a lesson here. A bureaucracy may be necessary for an effective organization, yet it ought not disregard its constituency. This is why Calvin and later Presbyterians developed their polity as they did. They opposed congregationalism because the people in general lack the wisdom and constructive experience. They opposed episcopal governments because no one person is good enough or wise enough to wield that much power. Calvin advocated, in civil as well as in church government, a democracy tempered by *aristocracy*, that is, "the qualified." Presbyterian governance relies on elected

officers who are qualified and truly representative of the people.

Effective church leadership from congregation, to presbytery, to synod, to General Assembly should emerge from the authentic life of local congregations. Seldom is the church well served when power becomes vested in bureaucracies out of touch with the grass roots. John Calvin taught us that!

Grant, Almighty God, that a proof of that favor that you have so remarkably exhibited toward your ancient people may shine upon us, so that your Church may be raised up, true religion may flourish, and your name be glorified; and may we daily solicit you in our prayers, and never doubt that under the government of your Christ you can again gather together the whole world, when Christ evidently shall exercise the power given him for our salvation and for that of the world. Amen. [John Calvin]

Your friend, Gus



Church Picnic

**Church Picnic
on May 24th**

Our annual picnic will occur on May 24th following the first summer service of the season. The always popular Silver Pig Barbeque is catering our event. We would like to offset the price of the meal by suggesting a free will donation. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall where your contributions will be received. Please sign up in the entry at the church so we can have an accurate count and therefore be ready for you and your family. What a great way to kick off the summer!

Church Photo
Directory



Pictorial Directories

Please stop by and pick up a copy of our latest pictorial directory. We have a copy for every family, even those not photographed. You'll find them located in the foyer over the next few weeks. A few months ago we expressed our gratitude to those who helped with making appointments and who worked at the photo sessions. Now we must thank those who provided photographs for our 'Christian Life' section and for the 'Those Unavailable' section of the book. Special thanks to our ace photographers Tracy Baker and Bob Glenn. Wonderful pictures were contributed by Susan Foster, Laura Crumbley, Russ Hovda, Bill Perkins, Alan Pettigrew, Meggan Farwell, Gene Campbell, and Devon Weidner. Judie Cleland and Bill Clarkson ably helped with layout and editing. Finally, Sharon Hovda gets the biggest thanks of all for design and format. She truly did yeoman's duty. If anyone has been overlooked, please forgive us. It was purely unintentional. The directory looks great. Get your copy today!



Sunday School News

The youth Sunday school classes were joined by the Pastor's Class and the Family Matters class in supporting our **Mission to Malawi** during the month of April. These classes gave their offerings in the amount of \$241.80. Our gift will provide tuition, room, and board for students who cannot afford to pay for their secondary school education. The schools are often located a good distance from student homes necessitating boarding. Secondary education is vital to preparing these young people for getting jobs or going on to college.

Youth Sunday school offerings for the month of May will go to the

Jubilee Family Development Center

in support of their programs:

Jubilee was founded in 1999 in response to the community's overwhelming need for a program that would target at-risk youth, leading them away from lives of crime and drugs, and instead offer them programs and services to help develop their academic and social skills.

Visit www.fpcly.org Today!

Next time you want to know what's happening at church you can find out fast at our new web site www.fpcly.org! This dynamic tool gives us a modern way to communicate our many opportunities for worship, service and fellowship. It features a monthly calendar, a photo gallery, bulletins, sermons in audio, a Q&A for visitors and new members and much more. The web site will continue to evolve over time and your suggestions and input are welcome. Please send your comments, latest committee news, announcements and digital photographs to our webmaster, Greg Pierpoint, at Greg@fpcly.org. Generally, information received by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday will be posted by Monday. Visit www.fpcly.org today to find out what's happening at church!

The Single Adult Fellowship will get together for lunch on **Sunday, May 17 (Note change—3rd Sunday instead of 2nd Sunday)**. We will meet at **Famous Anthony's (Rt. 221 - 2631 Lakeside Drive, opposite Sheetz)**. Meet at the restaurant by 12:30 P.M.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS are performed after the first service and before and after the 11:00 A.M. service in the **Parish Nurse's Office, Room 102**.

Next screening - Second Sunday, May 10



Summer Choir begins June 7th!

All high school, college, and adult singers are invited to lead worship by participating in the Summer Choir any Sunday from June through September. Singers will meet in the choir loft every Sunday at 9:15 A.M. to prepare an easy anthem for that day's service. No evening rehearsals, no auditions, no long-term commitment, no robes, no procession: just drop in as your schedule permits--no reservations required--and experience the joy of praising God through music with members of the Chancel Choir. It's easier than you think! If your hectic schedule prevented you from being in choir, or you just wanted to "try it out", now you can do so easily. Come join us starting June 7th.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Horizon Circle will meet on **Monday, May 11, at 9:45 A.M. for light refreshments in the Officer Room.**

The Book Circle will meet on **Monday, May 11, at 11:00 A.M. at Jeanne Buhler's house—3124 Sedgewick Dr., Lynchburg.** The book to be discussed will be Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore.

The Evening Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 12, at 7:30 P.M.**, at the home of Beth Williams, 1619 Cove Creek Farm Road, Coleman Falls.

Birthday Offering in May.



THREE WEEKS OF SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning Sunday morning, May 31st at 9:00 A.M., the Christian Education Committee will sponsor three Sundays of book reviews. The first week (May 31st), Meggan will lead a discussion about The Shack, by William P. Young. On June 7th, Tom Carrico will be our leader guiding us through the controversial topic of the death penalty. A Saint on Death Row: the Story of Dominique Green, by Thomas Cahill is a recently published book (hardback only). Two copies will be available for check-out from Janie's office. Our last discussion on June 14th will be led by Jim Price. He will tackle the well-known book, The DaVinci Code, by Dan Brown.



Easter Breakfasts and Breakfast in May

**Meet
for
Breakfast**

Our Easter breakfasts were so much fun! The day was absolutely beautiful. After a glorious but chilly sunrise service, we warmed up with coffee and pastries. Then, after the first service, we ate again with a bountiful display provided by you. The food was delicious and spirits were high. Thanks to all the wonderful and generous cooks of First Presbyterian who contributed food and who helped out in the kitchen.

For the month of May, we are trying something a bit different. We'll offer a light continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall starting at 9:30 A.M. This will happen each Sunday until we have our picnic on May 24th. We encourage you to linger over a cup of coffee, glass of juice and some coffee cake, and to enjoy the fellowship of your church family. If you are coming to Sunday School and then to the 11:00 A.M. service, build in a few extra minutes to get to church early and get in a visit with your church friends. It's a great time to catch up!

A Minute for Community Missions...

“Give us this day our daily bread”

Lynchburg Daily Bread, a non-profit organization providing free, nutritious meals and shelter to those in need, originated as an outreach ministry of First Presbyterian Church in 1982. Located first in Nichols Tavern on Fifth Street, Daily Bread moved to the present location at Eighth & Clay Streets in 1989. In 2001, the facility also started offering day shelter from 1-5 P.M. with phone service and snacks provided. It is a place to socialize, make doctors' appointments, seek employment, contact family and find shelter from bad weather.

First Presbyterian Church continues to provide funds and volunteers as an outreach of the Community Missions Committee.

Who Is Served?

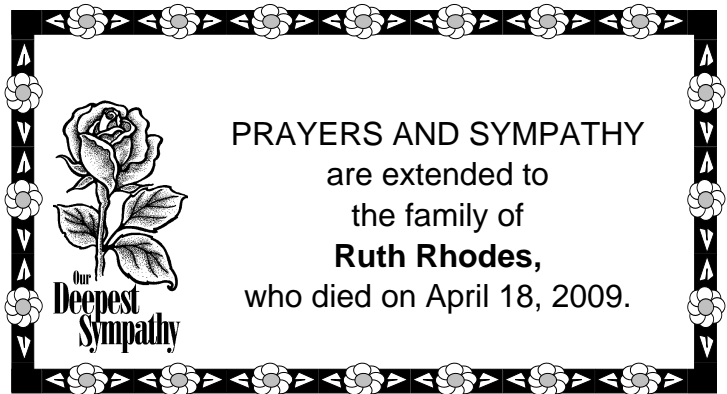
- All who come. Patrons are often homeless, low income, needy, recently or temporarily unemployed, disabled, elderly or alone.
- Some patrons are family units. Some are single parents who have small children/babies.
- Daily Bread **provides in excess of 40,000 meals each year and provides day shelter for 25-40 homeless or displaced persons each day.**

How Does It Work?

- Patrons are served at their tables by over 200 volunteers from the community and staff members 7 days a week, 365 days a year. As they leave, patrons are also offered small items of food, mostly dated baked goods to take with them.
- Kitchen help consists of volunteers and a few paid part-time employees.
- Most supplies and food are donated and are supplemented by purchases with the operating budget. Major donors are Kroger, Food Lion, Westover Dairy, local colleges, restaurants and other food service establishments..

Generally, 60-70% of funds come from contributions from individuals, companies, churches and other local charities. The balance is raised by fundraisers such as the annual Westover Golf Tournament and the Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tour.

Inquiries concerning donations or volunteer opportunities can be made by calling 845-5703. Church member Doug Brockman who is on the Daily Bread Board will also be happy to answer any questions.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

First Presbyterian Church will take its turn in the Rivermont area churches Red Cross blood drive rotation on **Tuesday, May 12th from 12 noon to 6:00 P.M.** The blood drive will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact the blood drive coordinator, Tracy Baker (sweet2ths@comcast.net or 384-2683) to schedule your blood donation or to volunteer during the blood drive.



LOOKING AHEAD

- **Summer Schedule begins on May 24. Worship at 10:00 A.M. Adult Sunday School at 9:00 A.M. (May 31, June 7, and June 14)**
- **Church-wide Picnic on May 24 following the 10:00 A.M. worship service**
- **Installation of Officers on May 31 during the 10:00 A.M. worship service.**

“Young Adult” Christian Fellowship

A joint ministry of First Presbyterian Church & Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church

A time for fellowship and fun with other “Young Adults.” Feel free to invite a friend or two!

Saturday, May 30th - 9:00 A.M.
Breakfast and Coffee at **White Hart Café** (1208 Main St. – across from the Community Market)
RSVP by Thursday, **May 28th.**

By responding by the dates listed we will know how many people to expect and how many tables to reserve. You may RSVP to Meggan Farwell 239-5439, meggan@fpcly.org or to Jenn Perry 845-7541, jlp9@mac.com

Vacation Bible School

GET YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS IN NOW – Vacation Bible School will take place June 15th – June 19th!!!



Registration forms are available on the table outside of the mailbox room. Just look for the black bear and pine tree.

There is a \$15 registration fee which covers all materials.

Invite your children’s friends, neighbors, grandchildren, etc. The more the merrier.

If you would like to sign up to help in any way with VBS please contact **Betsy Rhodes** 384-4577, betsyrhodes75@aol.com, **Nancy Weaver** 386-0344 nancysweaver@verizon.net, or **Meggan Farwell** 384-6231, meggan@fpcly.org.

Don’t miss “**Camp E.D.G.E**” where kids will Experience and Discover **God Everywhere!**

College Care Packages

Thank you to all who donated money, shoe boxes, and items for the college care packages. 27 care packages were mailed to students as they finished their last weeks of the semester. I am sure the goodies and toys made their day and reminded them of the love and support they have from their home church.

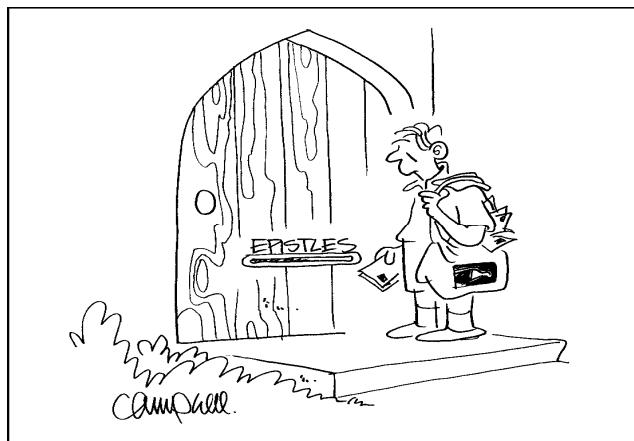
This project wouldn’t have been successful without the generosity of many and the hard work of the high school youth group that put the packages together.

We look forward to doing it again next year!

**MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS
IN MAY**
Carolyn & Richard Sparks - 384-7236
Ellen Wiley - 384-7676

Martin-Gifford Class Participates in the 2009 Alan Feinstejn Campaign to Fight Hunger

In April the Martin-Gifford class donated \$500 to the Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry and by doing so took part in the Feinstejn Challenge. This year, for the 12th straight year, The Feinstejn Foundation offered a One Million Dollar Challenge which will add additional funds to monetary donations collected by hunger fighting agencies nationwide during March and April.



First Presbyterian Church

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"Lending Closet" Revisited

Recently, members of the Care and Nurture Committee, Gail Kowalski and Marilyn Hartman, along with David Hartman, cleaned out and organized the church's "Lending Closet," donating all overflow items to the Free Clinic. The newly organized closet, which is located on the third floor of the church, contains crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, bathtub seats and portable commode chairs that may be borrowed when special needs arise. If you are in need of any of these items, simply call the church office to make arrangements. Also, wheelchairs previously stored in the "Lending Closet" are now available at the side entrance of the church as well as in the vestibule for members who may need one while attending church. Thank you to Gail, Marilyn and David for your hard work, and please do not hesitate to call the church if any of the available items would be useful to you.

Next Newsletter: May 21, 2009

DEADLINE: Thursday, May 14, 2009



Friends and Family,

Thank you all so much for your prayerful support of Abbey and me for the past three years as I have completed my studies at Columbia Theological Seminary. For an update, after graduation, Abbey and I will stay in Atlanta for the summer until we move to Paris, France, this August. Abbey will continue to work towards her PhD in France, sifting through and studying many, many French books in several different archives. She also plans to teach English in Créteil (right outside of Paris). I have been accepted to a MA program in Middle East and Islamic Studies at the American University of Paris and am looking forward to continuing my education. The past three years have been amazing for Abbey and me and we could not have done it without the constant support of our family and friends. We look forward to keeping in touch with all of you as we head across the pond!

Thank you again,

First Presbyterian Church
1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

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