

# FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org)

Volume 28, Issue 10

June 4, 2009

Dear John,

One of the most fascinating lectures I've ever heard was presented by a Richmond physician, Dr. Charles L. Cooke. He spoke at a Colloquium on Calvin Studies held at Davidson College back in 1988. His talk was on "Calvin's Illnesses and Their Relation to Christian Vocation."

It is generally recognized that John Calvin was not a healthy man the second half of his life. Cooke suggested that the progression of Calvin's illnesses could be gleaned from his portraits. The young, relatively robust, and handsome Calvin, in a matter of only a decade or so, is pictured as white-bearded, emaciated, stooped, and physically decrepit.

Relying on Calvin's own writings and personal letters, as well as the biography by his contemporary Theodore Beza, much can be surmised about Calvin's physical condition. With shocking bluntness and directness, Calvin didn't hesitate to describe what ailed him. Cooke diagnoses many of Calvin's ailments: gout, chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, pleurisy, intestinal parasites, hemorrhoids, irritable bowel syndrome, kidney stones, and migraine headaches. These conditions may explain the description of Calvin's appearance later in life as "a skeleton covered by skin." Beza, his Geneva colleague, called him "a brave spirit [who] was the master of a feeble body."

Cooke was convinced that Calvin's health problems informed his anthropology as well as his theology. First, he noted that Calvin lived with a vivid awareness of the tenuousness and frailty of life. This may explain Calvin's own words in his **Institutes**: "Innumerable are the evils that beset human life; innumerable, too, the deaths that threaten it. We need not go beyond ourselves: since our body is the receptacle of a thousand diseases . . ."

Second, Calvin wrote of his illnesses, "When I consider the complaint, I feel there is still greater reason to be well content." He felt that illnesses could help to "purge us from [our] worldly affections" and help us to come to a clearer estimation of our needs and our wants.

Dr. Cooke concluded: "John Calvin had a goal, a purpose, and a power which enabled him to overcome his many physical impediments. The source of that remarkable strength still inspires us today."

Grant, Almighty God, that, being fortified by invincible faith against so many obstacles, we may persevere in true religion, and never at any time turn aside from the teaching of your word, until at length we are gathered to Christ our King, under whom, as our head, you have promised that we shall ever be safe, and until we attain that happy life which is laid up for us in heaven, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. [John Calvin]

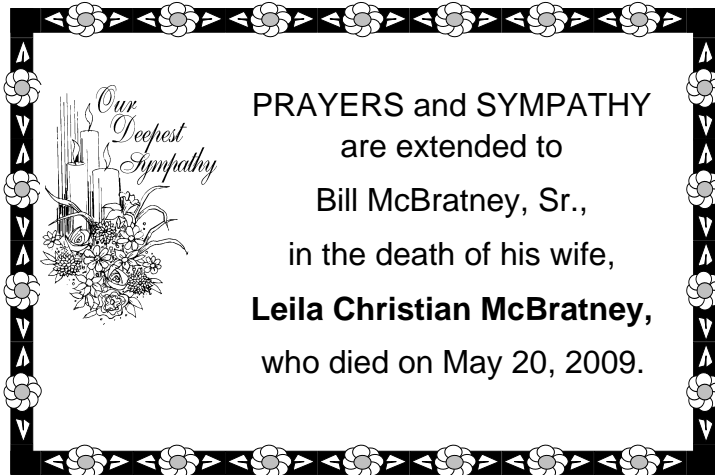
Your friend, Gus



**COMING EVENT!**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JUNE 15—19**



*Our Deepest Sympathy*

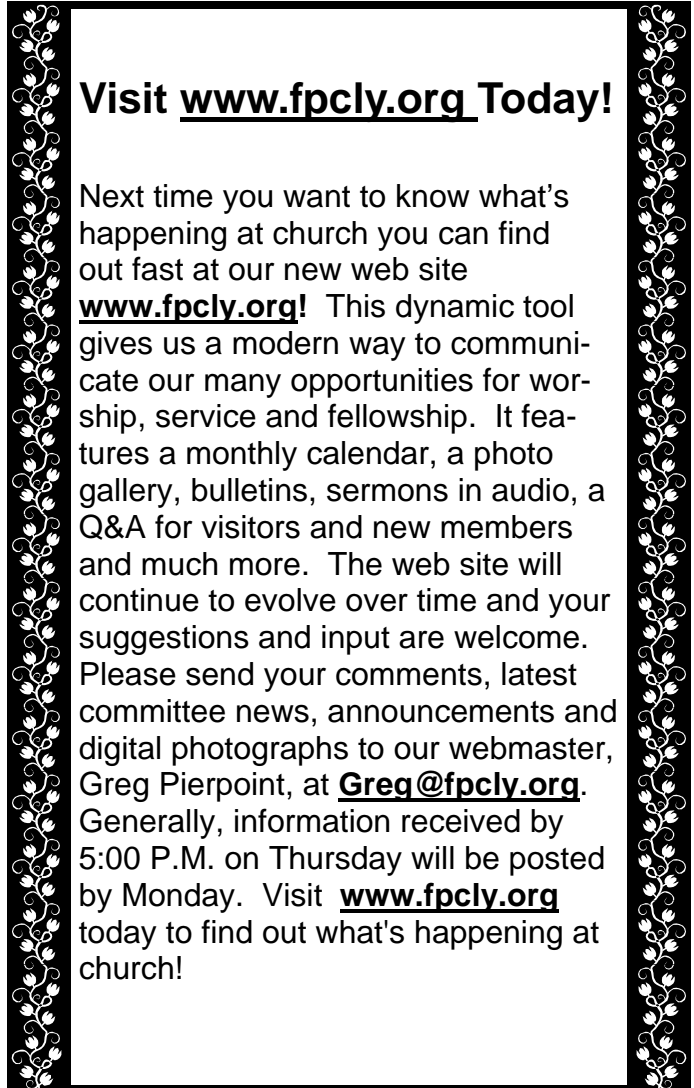
PRAYERS and SYMPATHY  
are extended to  
Bill McBratney, Sr.,  
in the death of his wife,  
**Leila Christian McBratney,**  
who died on May 20, 2009.



**PARISH NURSE  
GAIL MIDKIFF**

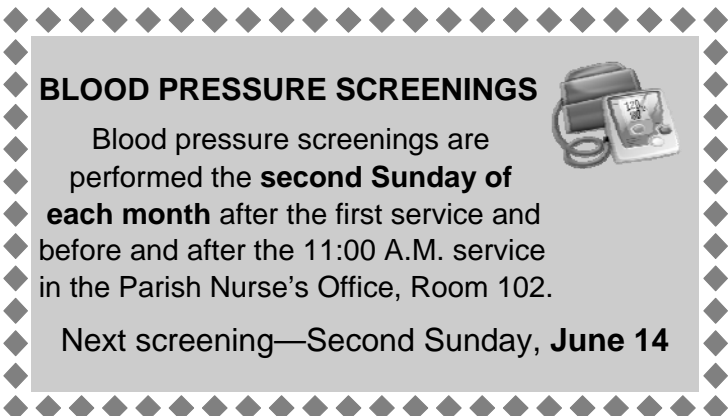
Gail Midkiff, our new Parish Nurse, will have office hours on Tuesday mornings. She will be on vacation from June 29 through July 21. Gail will be at the church on Wednesday, July 22, instead of her usual Tuesday and thereafter will resume Tuesday morning office hours.

Gail can be reached through the church office at 384-6231 or by email at her church web address: [gail@fpcly.org](mailto:gail@fpcly.org).




**Visit [www.fpcly.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:Greg@fpcly.org)**. Generally, information received by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday will be posted by Monday. Visit **[www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.org)** today to find out what's happening at church!



**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS**



Blood pressure screenings are performed the **second Sunday of each month** 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, **June 14**



Come, try out  
Summer Choir!

Choir rehearses every Sunday morning at 9:15 A.M. in the choir loft.



**THANK YOU!**

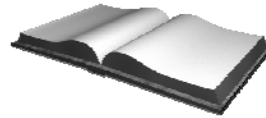
Many thanks to all who donated blood or volunteered their time or baking talents to the Red Cross blood drive hosted by First Presbyterian Church on May 12th. We are pleased to report that 41 units of blood were collected. This was just short of our goal of 45 units, but we'll hit it next year! Our tentative date is May 18, 2010.

## SICK? HOSPITALIZED?



Federal privacy laws have restricted the availability of patient information to the public. The local hospitals do not contact the church with admission information, and access to admitted patient lists is quite limited. Therefore, we are dependent upon our church family to let us now when they or someone they know is sick or hospitalized.

Your notifying the minister or the church office with any information will certainly help us in our ministry. Please do not presume we already know about it. We do not intentionally neglect members and friends.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL June 7, 2009

Book Discussion:

### *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* by Thomas Cahill

What is your opinion on capital punishment? For it? Against it? No firm opinion? Join us this Sunday, June 7, as Tom Carrico discusses this topic in the context of historian Thomas Cahill's new book. Whatever you think of capital punishment, you will reassess why you think the way you do after learning the tragic story of Dominique Green. We will also discuss Scott Turow's book *Ultimate Punishment* and that author's recent experience with the Illinois Commission to Study the Death Penalty. Come ready to state your opinion and defend it!

### The Single Adult

**Fellowship** will get together for lunch on **Sunday, June 14**. We will meet at the Red Lobster. Meet at the restaurant by 11:30 P.M.



## Spring Picnic

Our annual church picnic on Sunday, May 24, was a huge success. We had a great turnout, no rain, and of course, wonderful food provided by **The Silver Pig**. The Membership/Fellowship committee sincerely thanks Jim Moore for his generous donation of all the delicious food and all his hard work at the event. It was a terrific close to the spring season and a great opening for summer.

## PLEDGES and PROMISES!

The summer always takes its toll on the church budget. Our bills continue to arrive without fail, but our pledged offering sometimes takes a vacation. If you are behind in your annual pledge, we would be most grateful if you would ease our worries and help us to complete this fiscal year in the black.

**Thank you!**



## 2009 Malawi Trip

Our Malawi Mission team continues its work, although some members will be returning starting on June 8. Continue to keep the mission team in your thoughts and prayers. Also pray for our Malawi friends.

## A Minute for Community Missions . . . . .

### FREE CLINIC: THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

The Free Clinic of Central Virginia (FCCV) is one of the most outstanding Free Clinics in Virginia, if not in the United States. Bob Barlow has been the guide and Director for the past 7 years and through his capable leadership, it has been able to provide specialty care in an unprecedented number of specialty clinics. These include Dermatology, Orthopedic, Rheumatology, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Neurology, Gynecology, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, Podiatry, Minor Surgery, Hypertension and Chronic Kidney diseases plus a number of specialty nursing and dietary programs. FCCV is dedicated to those who are working but are uninsured or underinsured. Bob has utilized the ingenious approach of merging many systems, colleagues, schools, physicians, nurses, pharmacies, drug companies and health care networks to create a smooth running machine that is one of the 5 busiest Free Clinics in Virginia. Bob has shared the first quarter data: a major increase in the overall number of visits plus 20 NEW patients a week and 16 NEW dental patients a week. The numbers of **overall** visits for January through March alone are up from a total in 2008 of 224 to 402 in 2009, a **79.4% increase!** The Community Missions Committee has given an additional sum already because of the increase in medication needed for new patients recently out of work and in need of emergency medicine. Bob says his toughest problem now is the very large number of new dental patients and the fairly long wait. There are already 240 patients on the waiting list for June summer day schedule. More money is needed to help their ever expanding need as they are behind \$15-18,000 in donations from Thanksgiving into January of this year.

They receive about \$600,000 a year and with that are able to generate \$10,000,000 worth of health care in our community for the working poor and the uninsured who cannot afford health insurance.

Over 50 physicians and 50 dentists volunteer to work at the clinic, many on a regular basis. In 2007 they saw over 15,000 patients and wrote over 30,000 prescriptions. We believe in strongly supporting this worthy community effort. **For every ONE dollar taken in, it generates \$12.00** of care for the working poor and the uninsured who cannot afford health insurance. Indeed this clinic provides the most bang for your donated buck!

### JOHNSON HEALTH CENTER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This wonderful program is dedicated to help those who cannot afford medications and includes Medicaid and Medicare patients as well as those who are uninsured and are patients at Johnson Health. For Johnson Health Center (JHC), it is the most expensive part of their medical assistance in that there is no real coverage ahead of time for it. For example, if a patient has just lost his or her job and insurance, prescription medications often become too expensive to afford. If they are a JHC patient, they can see Robin Turner and she will be able to get prescription medications from the clinic or, if it is something the clinic does not have, then the medication will be purchased from Robertsons Drugs which is kind enough to help JHC by discounting the emergency medications to the clinic. Robertsons keeps a running tab for JHC monthly and JHC is responsible for coming up with the cash to pay this. This is their biggest expense as far as unanticipated major expenses that they cannot budget for. Johnson Health Center has a total number of 2,764 patients on the Medical Assistance Program. Approximately \$2,000.00 a month is spent on the Emergency Assistance Program. Johnson Health Center has seen a 18% increase since January 2009. Your Community Missions Committee supports this wonderful program and invites you to consider them in your gifting to local organizations.



**Offterdinger-Williamson Preaching Series  
November 8-9, 2009**

As previously announced, First Presbyterian is pleased to have Dr. Andrew Purves scheduled as our Offterdinger-Williamson Preacher. Purves, professor of Reformed Theology at Pittsburgh Seminary, is a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, with degrees from the University of Edinburgh and Duke Divinity School. He is a gifted and sought-after preacher, and speaks around the country on matters of theological and spiritual renewal.

The following letter was sent to Harold Riley

May 13, 2009

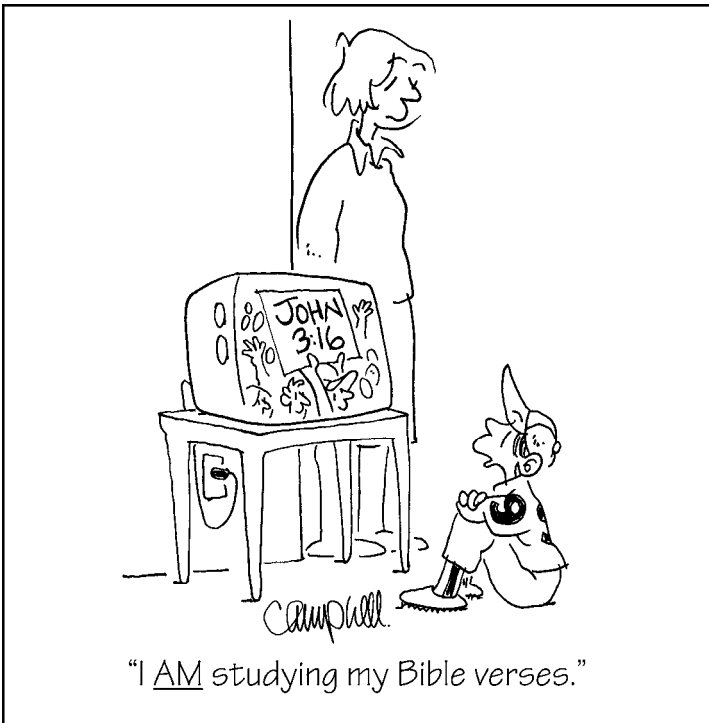
Dear Harold,

Greetings from Embangweni Hospital.

The Lord is good for he always works wonders through his people. We have received the timely remitted funds for the repair of our ambulance and now it is back on the road saving the lives of so many people. Embangweni is truly grateful for the donation. Please express our sincere gratitude to the congregation and all the people who contributed to it. May the Lord bless you all abundantly. Yes, our survival and the saving of many lives of Embangweni community and beyond depend on the generosity of friends and partners like you!

Best regards and God bless.

L. Kamanga  
Hospital Administrator



**DO YOU NEED A PRAYER?**

Cards are in the pew racks which may be used to request prayers. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please fill out a card or cards and place in the offering plate or drop in the Prayer Box in the foyer. Members of the First Presbyterian Prayer Chain receive these requests and will add their prayers to yours daily.

## Vacation Bible School

**Vacation Bible School will take place June 15 – June 19!!!**

**Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**



There are a lot of children signed up and a lot of volunteers who will be giving of their time to make VBS a success!

At “**Camp E.D.G.E**” the children will **E**xperience and **D**iscover **G**od **E**verywhere!

Please keep this week, the children, and the volunteers in your prayers as all involved seek to learn more about God and grow in their relationship with Christ.

It is bound to be a GREAT week with fun had by all!!!

## College Care Packages

Check out the “Youth Happenings” bulletin board to see some thank you notes from some of the students that received care packages! The care packages seemed to be sent at the perfect time – an extra boost during exam week.

## Youth Group

Be on the lookout for postcards in the mail about summer fellowship events. We hope to have at least one organized event each month in addition to our trips to Massanetta and Montreat.

If you have something you would really like to do, contact Meggan [meggan@fpcly.org](mailto:meggan@fpcly.org) or (w)384-6231 or (h)239-5439.

## Senior Sunday

Senior Sunday will take place during the 10:00 A.M. service on June 7. **Seniors remember to get to church by 9:30 A.M.** so that we can take note of who is present and sit together. Meet in the narthex area just outside of the sanctuary.

This should be a good day for all of you who are graduating from E.C. Glass because your baccalaureate service is the same afternoon!

Don't pass up an opportunity to be recognized for your achievements!

## Congratulations to all of our High School Graduates!

**Look where they will be going in the fall:**

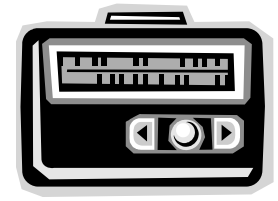
<b>Connor Bell</b>	Yale University
<b>Elizabeth Carrico</b>	Old Dominion University
<b>Hunter Carrington</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Carter Craddock</b>	Sewanee - University of the South
<b>Stuart Craighill</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Haden Cross</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Noah Gabeel</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Caleb Kidd</b>	Hampden-Sydney
<b>Kathleen Lifsey</b>	Presbyterian College
<b>Jake Link</b>	Undecided
<b>Caroline Moore</b>	Radford University
<b>Christian Paxton</b>	College of Charleston
<b>Christopher Richards</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Bennett Whitehouse</b>	Wofford College
<b>Burke Wombwell</b>	University of Georgia



**LOST AND FOUND**

A ground hog claw hammer  
was found in the church yard.

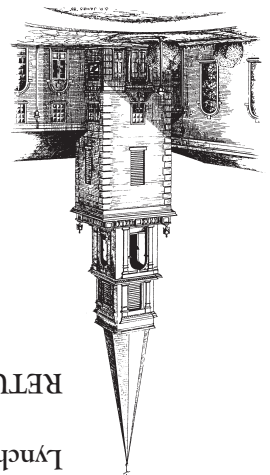
Check with the church (384-6231)



During our summer schedule, you  
may listen to a delayed broadcast  
of our Sunday service at **11:00  
A.M. on WLNI 105.9 FM.**  
Tell your friends!

**Next Newsletter: July 9, 2009**  
**DEADLINE: Wednesday, July 1, 2009**

Phone: 434-384-6231  
Fax: 434-384-9156  
Email: info@fpclcy.org



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