

FIRST PRESS

Volume 30, Issue 3

March 2011

First Presbyterian Church www.fpclly.org

Dear John:

While preparing for a recent Sunday school lesson, I wasn't prepared for what I learned about Herod Agrippa. It's right there in Acts 12:23, "Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, **because he did not give God the glory.**" Yikes!

Now Herod Agrippa was not a nice guy to start with – he killed James the brother of John and imprisoned Peter. But no one could deny he was important. He was the grandson of Herod the Great. He ruled over the land of Judea. He was a friend of emperors. When he sat on his throne and delivered a stirring ovation, he basked in the warm approbation of the crowds, who would shout, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" He delighted in the glory his subjects accorded him. Who wouldn't, I suppose? We humans all have a little bit of Herod Agrippa in our hearts. We all love the fame of our name more than the Lord's.

So how do we glorify God more? Here are several suggestions:

Worship God as the one God (Rom. 1:12).

Live a life of noticeable piety (Matt. 5:16; James 1:27; 1 Peter 2:12).

Ask God for things in Jesus' name (John 14:13).

Love your life less than God (John 21:19; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:16).

Live a pure and generous life (1 Cor. 6:20; 2 Cor. 9:13).

Live a life of gratitude (Psalm 50:23; 2 Cor. 4:15).

Seek the good of others (1 Cor. 10:24).

Extend grace to sinners (2 Cor. 8:19).

Be a part of a local church (2 Cor. 8:23; Eph. 3:20-21).

Obey God (Lev. 10:3; Mal. 2:2).

On our journey to Easter it behooves us to remember what Herod Agrippa forgot: the world does not exist to make our dreams come true. The church does not exist for our benefit. And God does not exist to make much over us. That would certainly explain why the psalmist wrote as he did: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory."

Your humbled friend, Gus



LOOKING TOWARD EASTER

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 8 | Pancake Celebration (6:00 P.M.) |
| March 20 | "Spring Fling" Breakfast (9:30 A.M.) |
| March 25 | American Boychoir Concert (7:30 P.M.) |
| April 3 | Lenten Choral Concert (4:00 P.M.) |
| April 6 | Talent Show |
| April 17 | Palm Sunday |
| April 21 | Maundy Thursday
Communion Service (7:30 P.M.) |
| April 22 | Good Friday Service (12:30 P.M.) |
| April 24 | Easter Sunrise Service (at sunrise) |
| April 24 | Easter Morning Breakfast
(following sunrise service) |
| April 24 | Easter Worship Services
(8:45 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.)
Sunday School (10:00 A.M.) |

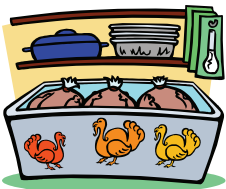
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Celebration



The Christian Explorations Sunday School Class will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Celebration on **March 8 at 6:00 P.M.** The food will be great, the fellowship warm, and the activities fun for all ages. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for this event to make sure that we have enough pancakes for everyone! We will ask for donations that evening to cover the cost of the food (the labor is free!).

The word *shrove* is the past tense of the English verb *shrive*, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confessing and doing penance. Shrove Tuesday precedes Ash Wednesday and the commencement of Lent which is a period of liturgical fasting when the plainest foods were generally eaten. Pancakes are heavily associated with Shrove Tuesday because the rich ingredients, such as eggs, milk, and sugar had to be used before Lent in order not to spoil foods during that time. Pancakes and doughnuts were a very efficient way to deplete the perishable foods as well as to provide a celebratory feast prior to the feast itself.

So come to the fellowship hall **March 8 at 6:00 P.M.** and celebrate with us! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lifsey at 384-8280.



MAKING CASSEROLES March 23 - Fellowship Hall 2:00 P.M.

Come join us! The Care & Nurture Committee will provide all of the ingredients for casseroles. Pay \$10.00 and help stock the church freezer. Take a casserole home for your dinner. If you are interested, please contact Motsy Hanna at 386-9271.

Parish Nurse Office Hours

Gail Midkiff, our Parish Nurse, will have walk-in office hours on **Tuesday mornings from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.**

She can be reached through the church office at 384-6231 or by e-mail at her church website address: gail@fpcl.org.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our meetings for the 2010 – 2011 season will be the **second Wednesday of the month.**

Mar. 9, 2011 Joe Freeman, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Lynchburg College. He served on Lynchburg City Council from 1976 to 1992 and has authored two books and numerous articles.
Topic: Immigration

Apr. 13, 2011 Michael Knapp
Topic: Understanding Islam and Its Extremists

Schedule: 6:00-6:30 P.M., Social
6:30-7:15 P.M., Dinner
7:15-8:15 P.M., Speaker

Good programs, good food, and good fellowship—all for only \$10.00.

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER



The cancellation of FPC worship services and programs due to bad weather will be reported to WSLs (Channel 10), WSET (Channel 13), and our website www.fpcl.org



ANGEL OF THE MONTH

Angels cover a lot of territory. Our angel this month is spreading her Christian love in Charlotte, NC, where she attends Queens University. Christina Cosby has always been active in our youth groups at First Presbyterian Church, both as a participant as well as a leader. Now as a young adult, she shares her talents and love for Christ on and around her college campus.

We miss her smiling face here in Lynchburg, but we are so proud of her and her campus ministry. Congratulations, Christina!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On **Monday, March 7, 2011**, the Coordinating Team will meet at **10:00 A.M.** in the library.

The Young and Not So Young Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 1 at 9:30 A.M.** in the library.

The Horizons Circle will meet on **Monday, March 14 at 10:00 A.M.** in the officer room.

The Book Circle will meet **at 10:00 A.M.** in the library. The book to be discussed will be *Standing in the Rainbow* by Fannie Flagg.

Presbyterian Women General Meeting PROGRAM

"The Circle You Missed"

Monday, March 14, 11:15 A.M.
(after Horizons and Book circle meetings)

A luncheon hosted by the Book Circle will follow the program.

Come and join in the fun. We've adapted a skit put on by a circle member's mother some 30 years ago. Not much has changed. All women in our church are invited to attend.

The Evening Circle will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be **March 8, 7:30 P.M.** at the home of Jeannette Strunk, 200 St. James Place, Lynchburg.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING. . .
As of January 31, 2011:



Income Actual to date:	\$159,167
Expenses Actual to date:	\$ 91,795

In January, our actual income exceeded our actual expenses, resulting in a surplus of \$67,372. We appreciate the faithful giving from our members and friends.

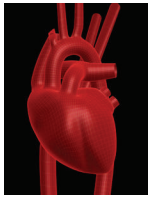


The Weekday School is currently accepting applications. Please contact the school office at 384-0652 to schedule a tour and/or to begin the registration process. We always love new smiling faces.

The Single Adult Fellowship

will get together for lunch on **Sunday, March 13**. We will meet at **King's Island** restaurant on Old Forest Road. Meet by 12:30 P.M.





A Healthy Heart

The Bible mentions the heart many times and in many contexts. In biblical times, the heart, not the brain, was thought to be the center of thoughts and emotions. For example, Solomon prayed for “a discerning heart.” We are told in 1 Peter to “love each other deeply, from the heart.” Jesus told us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart.” We in modern times still often think of the heart in these terms. For example, when making decisions, we might decide to “follow our hearts,” or a person might be said to “speak from the heart” or hold a value or a loved one “close to the heart.”

Although we now know more about the brain as the center of emotions and thinking, the heart is obviously critical to life. It is therefore our responsibility to care for our hearts. Care for the heart is relatively simple and requires mostly common-sense actions: maintain a healthy weight and blood pressure; exercise at least thirty minutes a day; eat a diet that is low in fat and sugar and includes lots of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains; do not smoke; if you are diabetic, keep your blood sugar under good management; if you use alcohol, do so only in moderation; learn healthy ways to reduce emotional stress.

Proverbs 4:23 says it best: “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.” I think we can read this as an admonition to care for both our physical and our spiritual hearts.

Gail Midkiff

Caregivers' Support Group

At the January 30 program on *The Stresses and Blessings of Caregiving*, several people expressed the need for a support group for caregivers. If you are interested, please contact Gail Midkiff, Parish Nurse.

Rivermont Area Churches Rotation Red Cross Blood Drives

A blood drive is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 22 at Peakland United Methodist Church**, 4434 Boonsboro Road, from 12:00 noon-6:00 P.M. To schedule a donation, contact M.J. Pearson at mjlp55@gmail.com or 434-841-9688.

CONGRATULATIONS To the New Officers elected Sunday, February 6, 2011

Elders (2014)

Courtney Alford, Susan Arthur, Herb Bennett, Leighton Dodd, Peter Houck. Sally Leslie, Gary Williams, and Jimbo Moore (Youth Elder).

Deacons (2014)

Jim Cleland, Fred Gallagher, Blair Moseley, Saxton Moss, Donnie Ore, Sue Thornton, and Kirk Todd

Nominating Committee At Large:

Maureen Bendall, Teresa Burton, Sue Ford, Emmett Lifsey, and Preston Willson.

Coffee With The Parish Nurse every fourth Tuesday of the month.



The next coffee with the Parish Nurse will be **Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 9:30 A.M.** Sip a cup of hot First Pres coffee and discuss health topics that interest you!

First Presbyterian Women will host the PW Cluster 4, 5 & 6 meeting on **Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 P.M.** in the chapel at FPC.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Sparks, Dick | 11 Adams, Chris | 18 Green, Rogers | 24 Dendy, Lucas |
| 2 Barrett, Jennifer | Landes, Jason | Palmer, Helen | Gallaher, Matthew |
| Barrett, Sarah | 12 Craighill, Laura | Pettigrew, Alan | 25 Harrington, Elizabeth |
| 3 Basten, Katy | Lee, Danise | Tweedy, Mary Frances | 26 Haskins, Ali |
| 4 Stein, Norma | Varner, Julia | Wallace, Diana | McDonald, Madeleine |
| Leslie, Anne | 13 Clower, Devin | 19 Howerton, Julia | Milam, Berkley |
| Nexsen, Gray | Creasy, Carson | Sellick, Jack | 27 Clark, Catherine |
| Richards, Alex | Oertle, Ruth Ann | 20 Capps, Cece | Ebert, Betty |
| 6 Adams, Terry | 14 Craddock, John | Craighill, Rob | Selzler, Catherine |
| Richards, Dunn | 15 Mayo, Susan | Ford, Lauren | Ware, Bob |
| 7 Claiborne, Julia | 16 Adams, Budd | Kirkpatrick, Teresa | 29 Beuchert, Anna |
| Hatcher, Pete | Cleland, Hunter | Porter, Shannon | Wiley, David |
| Riordan, Caroline | Cobb, Macon | Williams, Rachel | 30 Bruce, David |
| 8 Nelligan, Wistar | Craighill, Anne | 21 Barauskas, Eva | Ramsey, John |
| Todd, Kirk | Moore, Jimmy | Claiborne, Shane | Warsing, Dan |
| 9 Bennett, Herb | 17 Hare, Katherine | Dennis, Eleanor | 31 Agnew, Annie |
| Jenks, Eylia | Meriwether, Lisa | Mibus, Marcel | Bass, Kitty |
| Sorenson, Robert | Mibus, Manfred | 22 Laughon, Tance | Burger, Wilbur |
| 10 Clark, Hewett | Sigler, Ellery | 23 Burr, Tom | Eskridge, Elizabeth |
| Stump, Phil | Tiller, Craig | Richards, Lib | |

If your name is not here but should be, please call the church at 384-6231

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS IN MARCH

Persis Tinsley - 384 - 1547
Eleanor Dennis - 386 - 5714

Thanks to Katy Nunn and
Becky O'Brian for serving in February.

REMINDER!!

**Various Community Events are
posted on the bulletin board
opposite the pastor's office.**

Stop by to read about upcoming events.



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

are extended to

friends of

Alfred Morrison Bell,
who died on January 24, 2011,

Tommy Capps
in the death of his mother,
Sally Clark Jones Capps,
who died on January 31, 2011,

and to

Warren and Norma Light
on the death of his daughter,
Nancy Saltz,
who died on February 11, 2011,

and to

Janet Clement
on the death of her husband,
Robert Ray Clement,
who died on February 13, 2011,

and to

Mitchell Mays
on the death of his wife,
Kathryn Mays,
who died on February 18, 2011.



Are You an E-MAIL Fan?

If so, we want you to be aware of some new services being offered at our church:

We will be e-mailing periodic reminders or announcements of events and happenings in the life of the church. Be sure to look out for e-mail from FPCHappenings@fpclcy.org! Please add us to your approved Contacts List. You won't want to miss out because we went to "junk mail."

Another new feature is the option to receive contribution statements through e-mail. For those who are interested, we will e-mail quarterly contribution statements, saving paper and postage! We will still mail a final statement at year end for tax purposes.

In order to participate in any of the above services, please give us your current e-mail address. *Fill out one for each member of the family!*

Name

e-mail address

Check this box if you want to receive your Contribution Statements by e-mail

As a reminder, the church also offers the ability to make contributions electronically through our website at www.fpclcy.org. Alternatively, you may complete an application form and send it to the church office. If you would like more information about electronic banking, contact Lori Wright in the church office or check the box below. Information will be mailed to you about this convenient program.

Check this box if you would like to receive a brochure/application for our electronic banking program.

Complete this form and drop it in the offering plate. You may also mail or drop it by the business office.



American Boychoir coming in March

Mark your calendars now for a rare appearance of the American Boychoir in the Lynchburg area. **On Friday, March 25, this outstanding choir will present a concert here at 7:30 PM.** Based in Princeton, New Jersey, this choir of thirty selected boys will present a varied program of musical selections. Plan to attend and invite your friends, neighbors, and bring your young singers. You will not want to miss this outstanding group!



**“Spring Fling”
Breakfast on March 20**

We've titled this event “Spring Fling” because we hope to include our members who are in the springtime of their lives in the preparation and serving of our breakfast endeavor. In other words, we are enlisting the help of our youth. Please call Sally Leslie at 384-9062 or e-mail her at cicver@msn.com to volunteer or to offer food. We're thinking young and foolish this time. If you have an idea for a fun breakfast, we want to hear from you! On March 20, no doubt we'll all be springing around the church after experiencing the energy of our young members.

TALENT SHOW

Sign up to be a First Star and Shine in our **Talent Show on Wednesday, April 6**. Open to children from rising kindergarten through high school. **Deadline to sign up is March 16**. Contact Caroline Moore for details at 610-5676.

**THE FPC COFFEE CAFÉ
IS OFF TO A GREAT START**



**OPEN 9:30-10:00, EVERY SUNDAY EXCEPT
BREAKFAST DAYS**

FELLOWSHIP HALL

**COFFEE, TEA, HOT CHOCOLATE,
JUICE, AND PASTRIES**

**March dates: March 6, 13, and 27.
Volunteers needed to help set up and clean up.**

**Call Connie Messerschmidt at
384-2571, or e-mail at
messerschmidt.c@lynchburg.edu**

MEMBERSHIP/FELLOWSHIP THANKS

Thanks to all of the church officers for contributing to a great Chili Supper in February! We welcomed a large crowd of hungry folks and everyone seemed to enjoy a wonderful evening of good food and even better fellowship.

We thank Kitty Bass, Janice Berkley, and Gail Kowalski for our first Valentine’s Day Cookie Special. Kitty made hundreds of cookies, and she and her helpers served lunch to a happy group of children and their parents. After lunch the children decorated cookies in a frenzy of frosting and sprinkles. The afternoon produced a fellowship hall full of smiles and laughter from both kids and their grownups!



**ALAN FEINSTEIN 2011 CAMPAIGN
TO FIGHT HUNGER**

All March and April monetary donations to the Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry will qualify for additional funds as part of the Feinstein Challenge, which will add money to all the gifts received by the end of April. The Feinstein Foundation was founded in 1991 and is dedicated to endeavors focusing on the alleviation of hunger. Every year, Mr. Feinstein offers a new One Million Dollar Challenge giveaway. This is the fourteenth straight year that amount will be divided among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide. Get an extra bang for the buck by making a Food Pantry contribution between March 1 and April 30. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Vacation Bible School 2011

**SAVE THE DATE!!!! June 13 – June 17,
900 A.M. - 12:00 Noon**

The curriculum has been ordered and this summer's theme is: "Inside Out & Upside Down" on Main Street, and it looks like a lot of fun!

Directors are needed! Deedy Cleland has agreed to help direct again this year, but she is looking for a helper or two.

If we don't get one or two more people to help Deedy, VBS won't happen this summer!

Don't delay – contact Meggan Farwell or Deedy Cleland if you can help direct.

F.A.I.T.H. Mountain Sunday School

We are in need of a **teacher** for the **discovery rotation** in **March** and the **art rotation** in **April**. Please contact Meggan Farwell meggan@fpcl.org if you are interested in teaching. Thanks and remember the children need you!

Thanks to our **February teachers**: Pete Hatcher, Ken Kowalski, Bill and Carter Paxton, and Amy Thompson.

We look forward to another great month with our **teachers for March**: Chip Holston, Judy Stowers, Art and Jeannette Strunk, and ? – maybe you!

Youth News

Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, March 6, during the 11:00 A.M. service. Don't miss it!

Youth Group

**Sunday, March 6 – 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Rock Climbing at Rise Up Climbing – Middle School/High School/Families**

We will meet at Rise Up Climbing (1225 Church Street across from the city armory and next to the YMCA) and try our luck at indoor climbing. We must have our count into Rise Up by March 1. You must fill out the waiver from their website http://riseupclimbing.com/images/ru_uploads/riseup-waiver.pdf and turn it into Meggan Farwell's mailbox by March 1 if you haven't done so already. **We are limited to twenty people so sign up now! The cost is \$20.00. Bring money on the day of event – drop-off and pick up will be at Rise Up.**

Sunday, March 13 – 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Dodge Ball against St. John's Middle School Youth – Come join us in defeating the St. John's middle school youth at the Presbyterian Home Gym. This will be our third annual battle. We need all of you (boys and girls) to bring home a win! **Bring \$3.00 for dinner and meet at Presbyterian Home.**

Sunday March 20 - 4:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Service Project at Camp Kum Ba Yah – Meet at 4:30 P.M. at Camp Kum Ba Yah (4415 Boonsboro Road) so that we can help them get their camp up and running for the summer. Wear clothes that can get dirty and **bring \$3.00 for dinner.**

Sunday, March 27 – 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. Dodge Ball against St. John's High School Youth –

Come join us in defeating the St. John's high school youth at the Presbyterian Home Gym. This will be our fourth annual battle, and we have had the trophy for three years running! We need all of you (boys and girls) to bring home another win! **Bring \$3.00 for dinner and meet at Presbyterian Home.**

First Presbyterian Church

FINAL 2011 BUDGET

INCOME

Current Pledges	\$746,853
Previous Year Pledge	2,500
Loose Plate	7,500
Unpledged	40,000
Sunday School	1,700
Misc. Admin.	4,500
GF Checking	3,600
Endowment Distrib.	29,058
Operating Reserve	18,000
From Other Funds	38,496
Income Total	\$892,207

EXPENSE

Presbytery/Synod/Gen. Assembly	\$40,000
Presbyterian Cemetery	1,000
Community Mission	40,250
National and World	40,250
Worship and Music	22,000
Christian Education	10,000
Membership/Fellowship	2,500
Witness, Outreach & Stewardship	2,500
Care & Nurture Committee	700
Leadership Training	250
Personnel-Min/Staff/Misc. Pers.	503,096
Office Administration	37,000
Building Maint/Utilities	170,161
Grounds	20,000
Other	2,500
Expense Total	\$892,207



CONGRATULATIONS!

Barkley Morgan Cleland,
daughter of Rob and Deedy Cleland, and
granddaughter of Jimmy and Judie Cleland.
February 4, 2011

**Mens' Fellowship Dinner
April 13, Ladies' Night,
Fellowship Hall**

Speaker: **Michael Knapp**

**UNDERSTANDING ISLAM
AND ITS EXTREMISTS**

Clearly in today's world and with innumerable reports popping up from emerging centers of Al Qaeda and Islamic extremist camps, what do we know? What is going on in the United States regarding radical elements and cells of Islamic extremists? Is Islam a violent or peaceful faith? Is it a threat to the United States? What about the recent events in the many Islamic countries? These fascinating topics will be addressed in the Men's Fellowship Dinner in April by Michael Knapp, currently **Middle East Analyst**, US Army National Ground Intelligence Center, Charlottesville, VA, a position in which he has served from September 1997 to the present.

Michael has had over 25 years of experience in civilian US Government intelligence research and analysis and is incredibly qualified to bring to us a wealth of information that he has gathered over the years. He is by need constantly updated and is in the business of updating our troops in the understanding of peaceful mainstream Islam and the extremist elements before they leave for combat in the Middle East. In 2010, Michael received the **Commander's Civilian Award** for service. This is a high level award for his service. He has given over 100 supportive civilian briefings.

Please invite friends and neighbors for this exciting and timely topic by Michael Knapp.

REMEMBER!!



MARCH 13, 2011





Heartfelt Thanks

The Membership-Fellowship Committee thanks the members of the Pastor's Sunday school class for the wonderful help and food provided at our February

Heart-Healthy Breakfast. Who knew healthy food could be so delicious? Thanks to all of those who signed up to help and to those who didn't but helped anyway. Special thanks to Bill and Elizabeth Clarkson who took the lead in soliciting workers and food contributions. And more special thanks must be given to dishwasher extraordinaire Dennis Howard. It was hot in the kitchen, and he worked the industrial dishwasher tirelessly!

Next Newsletter: April 2011

DEADLINE: Thursday, March 17, 2011

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2010 - 2011

Diaconate Chair - Amy Heppner

Clerk of Session - Lee Perry

Budget/Finance	-	Preston Willson
Building	-	Caskie Giles
Care & Nurture	-	Motsy Hanna
Christian Ed.	-	Matt Foster
Community		
Mission	-	Emmett Lifsey
Grounds	-	Johnny Alford
Membership/	-	Connie
Fellowship		Messerschmidt
National/World	-	Joe Clark
Personnel	-	Bobby O'Brian
Ushering/Offering	-	Mary Burger
Witness/Outreach/		
Stewardship	-	Kathy Pumphrey
Worship & Music	-	Judie Cleland

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