

First Presbyterian Church
515 Court St.
Portsmouth, VA 23704-3605

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Knox Westerwick

FIRST PRES

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June, 2010

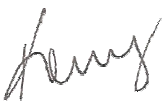
Kerry-Gram

I've been giving a great deal of thought to intercessory prayer lately. With the advent of our newly revamped early prayer service, it is a challenge to come up with new, timely prayers each week. There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of resources on the internet. The issue with these is adapting them for our own use – not terribly difficult, but not always fruitful. Each denomination provides a variety of such prayers published in worship books. With these books, the issue is timeliness – are current concerns addressed?

I have found a wonderful online resource from the worldinprayer.org that described different components of intercessory prayers:

- Observations of the state of the world – are there earthquakes, fires, famines, etc.?
- Prayers for victims
- For enemies
- For heroes
- For grace
- For leaders
- For the ordinary, everyday things
- For “gaps” – like the relief effort in Haiti that has faded from the news
- For matching God's heart and service
- For unity with all who love the Lord

I've written my first prayer using this model. It's a discipline that will take some practice but I find I'm looking forward to it. Are you feeling encouraged to write a prayer? May God bless your efforts and answer your prayers.



Follow Pastor Kerry's blog on the Web at:
revkerry.blogspot.com

SERVING COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Our pastor invites all elders and deacons – especially those who are actively serving now – to attend a refresher course in serving the Lord's Supper at church and to the homebound. This gathering will include a brief overview of the Scriptural mandate, our theology of the Supper, what is constitutionally necessary to serve communion, and the current procedures in place at First Pres. Please plan on attending after worship on June 13th. The refresher should take approximately 30 minutes.

OASIS

Serving a hot and nutritious breakfast to the folks at Oasis is one of the very important ministries of our church. Various church groups are scheduled to take turns performing this service.

If you wish to take part, you can volunteer by calling the church office or by making it known next time your Sunday School class or other group is scheduled to serve. Also, please remember this ministry in your prayers.

THE TRINITY of GRACE

Created by the Father -
Saved by the Son -
Sustained by the Holy Spirit -
Loved by a Triune GOD

THREE IN ONE

NEW CUSTODIAN

DeShawn Harris is our new custodian. Praise be to God for sending us such a kind man. The FPC job is DeShawn's second – he works much of the week as a night auditor at a hotel on the Peninsula. Please make sure to introduce yourself to him. His hours are Monday and Tuesday, 9:00-11:00; Thursday and Friday, 9:00-2:00; and Sundays 8:00-1:00. There is some flexibility with these hours, so if you are planning a church event that needs DeShawn's attention, please let him *and* the pastor know.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 23, we celebrated Pentecost in a new – and newly visible, way. As worshipers gathered for the 11:00 service and curious folks walked past our church on Court St., they were greeted by red and yellow streamers tied on the iron fence to represent the visitation of the Holy Spirit as he came down as flame on each of the followers and inspired them [Acts 2:1-21]. The theme of the visitation and presence of the Holy Spirit was continued in music and symbols throughout the service. Pastor Kerry introduced the occasion as the "Birthday of the Christian Church" and the occasion was made even more meaningful as the sacrament of Baptism was performed with Elizabeth Turner, one of our youth, being baptized.

(A photo of the decorated fence appears below.)



COURTYARD CONCERTS

2010 marks the fifth year of our summer Courtyard Concerts. Each summer, the Music Ministries presents a series of eclectic performances in the Friendship Courtyard located on Court Street that are open to the public. While the performers are screened to eliminate inappropriate material, the performances are not necessarily religious in nature.



Each concert is preceded by a dinner in the church Social Hall for which reservations are required. If you would like to join us for dinner, please contact us at Secretary@FPCPorts.org or 757-397-3622 at least three days prior to the concert so we can prepare enough food for everyone. All dinners start at 6:00 PM. The concerts start at 7:00 PM and last about an hour.



This year's schedule includes:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| June 23 | Tidewater Pipes and Drums |
| July 7 | The Top Hats big band |
| July 24 | String Ties bluegrass |
| August 4 | 2 for Fun, Beach Music |
| August 12 | Swing Time traditional jazz
with Sandra Strenga |

MUSING – EVIDENCE OF FAITH

THE BOOK OF JAMES, in Chapter 2, verses 14-26, tells us that our deeds are evidence of our faith. What we do is evidence of what we believe. Good works come from having – and living – faith. Not only does our faith lead us to want to do good works, but those good works also JUSTIFY us by showing that we have faith. James says that faith alone is useless, empty, and dead.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, GOOD DEEDS by themselves can't save us. We must have faith in Christ as well. How often have we heard people say that someone is going to heaven because he or she is a "good" person who does good, loving, kind deeds? Sad as it may seem to say it, this notion is mistaken. Unless that person also has faith in Jesus Christ and has confessed and repented of sins, that person may not enter heaven. This is what we believe. Good deeds do not guarantee salvation.

RECENTLY, I HEARD SOMEONE SAY, "The God I believe in wouldn't be so mean as to send somebody to hell just because they hadn't accepted Jesus." Of course, the judgment as to whether someone goes to heaven or hell is not ours to make in the first place. Beyond that, this attitude reflects a misunderstanding of God and of the gospel. God is not some kindly old magician in a fantasy story. The gospel offers hope to a lost world. God is not mean. It is the LOVE of God that the gospel – indeed, the entire Bible – is about. It is the story of our sinful natures and God's plan to bring us back to him because we are his children and he loves us. It's no fairy tale, but it is better than magic – it's miraculous.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF GOD is essential for Christian life. However, there may be more to discover in these verses. James says that a person is justified by what he has done and not by faith alone – that faith and good deeds work together.

THAT IS THE IDEA, but what if they don't work together? What if our deeds don't give evidence of faith? What if they are evidence of something else – deceit or selfishness, for instance? Our "deeds" are the things we do and say – little things as well as big – and they are seen by others (as well as by God). What if our works don't tell others that faith in Christ is central in our lives? What message does that send?

FAITH INSPIRES GOOD WORKS. Good works show faith. Faith brings hope. Hope is all we have. Our only hope is in God's grace and mercy; nothing else is sufficient to save us. That is the basis for our faith.

LIKE GRACE AND MERCY, faith is not something we achieve for ourselves; it is a gift from God. Let us give thanks for the gift of faith by doing good works that are evidence of God's love and providence.

Lane Pittman

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER

Articles or information to be published in the newsletter must be submitted to the Newsletter Editor no later than the 25th of the month before the item is to appear. Submissions may be made by U.S. Mail, telephone, or email.

Mailing address: Lane Pittman
614 Chandler Harper Drive
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Telephone: 757-405-3554

Email: slp4149@aol.com

Your cooperation on this will be greatly appreciated.

MEALS ON WHEELS

This important mission to our community requires just a few hours each month. Meals are delivered by volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church family on the third Thursday. It means a lot both to the recipients of the meals and to the ones who deliver the meals. The Meals on Wheels program is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

MISSIONARIES VISIT

Don't forget: on Tuesday, June 15, at 6pm, a dinner will be held at the church to honor Daniel and Carol Chou Adams. Dan and Carol are retiring after serving as missionaries for over thirty years. Come and say "Thank You!" for their service. the Witness Committee will provide the meat and dessert. Please bring a summer vegetable to add to the spread.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA
ENDOWMENT POLICY

**(As Revised by the Committee and
 Adopted by the Session on April 19, 2010)**

[Background: The Endowment Fund of First Presbyterian Church is a permanent fund from which the principle is never to be spent. Any contribution made to the endowment fund, whether through memorials or honoraria or by bequest in a will or trust, will be held in perpetuity for use by First Presbyterian Church. The Endowment Fund recently has been used for the general operations of the church. While none of the principle was spent, the funds were in our general operating accounts in order to allow those funds to be used to pay utility and other bills when funds from pledges are insufficient because pledges have not been kept up to date. By being in the checking/savings account, the Endowment funds have not been invested for several years and therefore have not been used for their intended purposes.]

In addition to regular cash gifts through memorials or donations, members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to consider adding the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary to a will or trust or a life insurance policy. Gift of shares of appreciated stock, mutual funds or real estate may also be made. In this way, the giver can avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of those assets.

The balance of the Endowment Fund (as of March 31, 2010) was \$242,341 of which \$75,862 was on loan to the church – interest-free – to pay the Friendship Courtyard construction costs. [That is just about half of what it cost to construct the courtyard. We raised half, and so we needed to raise the other half to pay off the loan from the endowment.

The Endowment Fund Committee has recently revamped and clarified the Endowment Fund guidelines for both investment policy and distribution calculations. As finances improve for our church – and they will – the Endowment Fund will again become a long-term investment portfolio that can supplement our programs and outreach and help our church grow in downtown Portsmouth. This newly revamped and clarified endowment program policy is printed here. If you would like to discuss the Endowment Program, please see Michael Broadhurst, Chair. You may also reach him at Michael@FCVA.net

We have the opportunity to assure the long term success of First Presbyterian Church's outreach programs by growing the Endowment Fund into the large source of funding it could be. With a little or a lot, we all can help.

First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, VA
Endowment Fund (Update 2010)

Members (Current Committee)

Class of 2010 — Elizabeth Fitzwater

Class of 2011 — George (Bunky) Joyner

Class of 2012 — Hunter Webb

Class of 2013 — Michael Broadhurst, chair

Treasurer — John Hackworth

The current Committee acknowledges and respects the work done by previous committees to create and maintain the Endowment Fund (the Fund). Indeed, the awards from the Fund have helped many throughout the years. This Committee further recognizes that any future Session may completely change the guidelines for this endowment fund to meet its current needs and wishes.

It is the intent of this committee to further improve the existing Fund by:

- reaffirming the previous guidelines,
- suggesting committee composition,
- suggesting a formula for calculating distributions, and
- discussing investment philosophy and guidance.

Reaffirming and expanding prior guidelines:

This committee recommends that the previous documents dated 1987 and 1990 be reaffirmed with emphasis on two existing points:

- It is of paramount importance that past, current and future contributors know that their contributions to the Fund corpus will remain in the Fund – as long as the Fund exists.
- The Fund should be maintained and invested separately from other funds of the church; there should be no co-mingling of funds. Further, we recommend that when contributions are received, they should be deposited into the Fund account within 30 days of receipt.

Committee composition:

In addition to the existing method of committee selection and rotation, we suggest that proposed committee members be well versed in institutional style investing and understand the differences between that and personal investing. The previous guidelines make no mention of whether persons may serve successive terms. We

encourage the Session to consider this when appointing members of the Committee. While we do not intend that the committee become an exclusive “club” or “fiefdom,” we do see advantage to certain knowledgeable persons serving successive terms.

Distribution formula:

While the previous documents offer some guidance to the Fund regarding how to and how much to offer for distribution each year, we hope to offer a more precise and predictable distribution offering scheme.

Rather than investing strictly for income generation, a perpetual endowment fund is expected to grow so that future generations can benefit from the work of predecessors. It is a recognized fact that when a fund such as this is properly invested, that is, when it is invested for future growth, there may not be a large component of traditional income that can be identified as “spendable.” This may be a foreign concept to those not familiar with endowment investing but is the norm in professional institutional investing.

The current distribution scheme consists of waiting until the end of the calendar year to ascertain how much spendable income has been generated so that a portion of it can be offered for distribution.

It is our recommendation that the amount available for distribution each year be 4.00% of the account balance averaged over the previous three years.

As an example, the balance of the endowment fund as of 12/31/2009 was approximately \$259,910, 12/31/2008 was \$249,279 and 12/31/2007 was \$267,175. Using the perpetual distribution percentage of 4% of the corpus, the amount available for distribution in 2010 would be \$10,352. $((\$259,910 + \$249,279 + \$267,175) / 3) * .04 = \$10,352$.

By averaging the account balance over three years, the amount of endowment monies to be made available will be more predictable and consistent from year to year making fiscal planning easier.

The suggested distribution percentage of 4% per year of the corpus is based on many decades of institutional and endowment experience. It is a level of distribution that can be maintained in perpetuity from a well-diversified investment portfolio.

Investment Philosophy:

We affirm the original guidelines that state the Session delegates to the Endowment Committee the responsibility to create and enforce investment policies that an investment advisor must follow.

It is the intent of this committee to establish precise guidelines for investing the funds of the endowment for long-term growth accepting moderate risk and with the intent to distribute an annual amount equivalent to 4% of the 3-year average balance of the corpus.

We recommend that the investment advisor use a balanced approach to designing the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund portfolio. We encourage the advisor to use domestic and foreign securities, fixed income and equity assets and alternative investments as appropriate.

Specific Guidelines are as follows:

Fixed Income including Cash and Equivalents:

- Cash and equivalents: 6% to 25%; enough to fund 15% of the current year’s offered distribution plus expenses
- Bonds or equivalent: 10% to 70%; domestic and foreign, sovereign and corporate, inflation protected
- Stocks: 10% to 70%; domestic and foreign, large and small, developed and emerging
- Real Assets: 0% to 25%; real estate, commodities
- Alternative Investments: 5% to 50%; precious metals, special sectors, alternative strategies.

These suggested variable category limits should allow a knowledgeable advisor the latitude to construct and manage a portfolio for any economic situation.

The Committee should require reports from the advisor on a regular basis and has authority to require explanations for specific recommendations.

As the Committee solicits and evaluates different advisors’ recommendations, it is strongly suggested that the Committee consider hiring an uninterested consultant to help choose an appropriate advisor.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**Birthdays**

3	Elizabeth Stephenson
9	Doris Leitner
10	Matthew McRary
12	Pete Brown
14	Trudy Webb
15	Chris Joyner
16	Bobby Lawrence
17	Gabrielle Furman
18	Frances Hardy
20	Diane Fletcher
25	Mason Winkler
26	Mackenzie Forbes Taylor
28	Barbara Livingston
29	Nan Jennings
	Liz James

Anniversaries

17	Leon & Burma Smith
21	Robert & Peggy Norfleet
29	David & Diane Turner

PEVA NOTES AND EVENTS**Notes**

General Presbyter Richard Short is at home with a new knee and is receiving physical therapy.

Events in June

June 4-6.....	Single Parent Family Getaway @ Makemie Woods
June 7	PEVA Presbyterian Women Gathering @ Makemie Woods
June 10-13.....	PW Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering @ Massanetta

June 11-13..... Mid-Atlantic Administrators Conference

June 13..... Makemie Woods Summer Camp Open House

June 18..... Calvin Pres. Ch. Concert – New Journey Trio

Future Events

July 18-25 Chiapas, Mexico Mission Trip

August 1-6 Church Music Conference @ Massanetta Springs

CHURCH SCHEDULE for JUNE 2010

Sunday, May 30	9am	First Fellowship
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Monday, May 31		Mem Day-Church Office Closed
Saturday, June 5	9am	Session Retreat
Sunday, June 6	9am	First Fellowship
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Sunday, June 13	9am	First Fellowship
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Tuesday, June 15	6pm	Missionaries Dinner
	7pm	Diaconate Mtg.
Saturday, June 19	9am	Session Retreat
Sunday, June 20	9am	First Fellowship
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Monday, June 21	7pm	Session Mtg.
Wednesday, June 23	6pm	Dinner
	7pm	Courtyard Concert – Tidewater Pipes and Drums
Sunday, June 28	9am	First Fellowship
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship

First Presbyterian Church
515 Court St. in Historic Olde Towne

Wednesdays this Summer
7:00 PM in the Courtyard



Tidewater Pipes and Drums

- June 23..... Tidewater Pipes & Drums
- July 7..... The Top Hats
- July 21..... String Ties
- August 4..... 2 For Fun
- August 18.... Swing Time

Courtyard Concerts