

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

Pastor:  
Rev. Kerry Knox Westerwick

# FIRST PRES

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May, 2011

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## KERRY-GRAM

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

The joyous noise of Easter Sunday, our record-breaking crowd of 154 (I know FPC used to have many more, but this was awesome, right?), the beautiful, flowered cross, the 22 children...I could go on, but you get the picture.

So now what? Now that the Big Easter is over, what next? For one thing, the season of Easter – called Eastertide – lasts for seven more weeks. So, for all of the season we will be hearing readings from the Acts of the Apostles and from Peter's first letter. I've never done a "sermon series" before, but after reading through 1 Peter with the Monday study group it's clear that Peter has a good word for the church.

Peter wrote to the churches in Asia Minor who were experiencing trouble; as Christians, they were considered outsiders in their own land. How could they *be church* when everyone despised them so? Peter's letter is more than a pep talk; he calls the believers back to their roots, reminds them to remember their baptism and be faithful. May we never grow tired of hearing this reminder.

So, for Eastertide:

5/1	1Peter 1:3-9	Grace+Faith+Trial=Joy
5/8	1Peter 1:17-23	Heir to a Different Estate
5/15	1Peter 2:19-25	Suffering Is Hard, But...
5/22	1Peter 2:2-10	Once, We Were Not
5/29	1Peter 3:13-22	Come to Jesus
6/5	1Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	With All the Saints

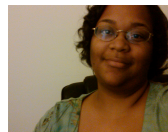


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## BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

The Monday noon Bible Study continues. Bring your lunch and Bible every Monday at 12:15 for an informal study of scripture. Beginning Monday, May 2, is a reading of the prophet Zechariah.

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## GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Hello! My name is Pauline (Linnie) Young. I was born and raised in Glen Allen, VA (now living in Portsmouth, VA) and have obtained my Associates Degree from ECPI in 2000. I am currently working towards my Bachelors Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix (graduation date set for March 2012), after which point I will go for my Master's and perhaps my Doctorate (that is still up in the air at the moment however). I have also run a successful company from home in the graphic design/business planning environment.

I have been in the business field my entire life and have found that as well as working within a smaller environment to be my comfort zone.

On the personal side: I have a 6 year old son who keeps me very much on my toes.

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**LOVE SOMEONE  
NOT BECAUSE HE IS CHRISTIAN  
BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE**

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### OASIS

**NOTE TO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH OASIS:** In case you didn't know it, the Oasis center has moved! The new center is called the Oasis Opportunity Center and it's located at 1420 Chestnut Street (behind Social Services).

Serving a hot and nutritious breakfasts at Oasis is an important ministry of our church. Different church groups take turns performing this service on a continuing, rotating schedule. If you wish to participate in this ministry, please 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.

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### MEALS ON WHEELS

First Presbyterian, Portsmouth helps provide this important mission to our community. It requires a few hours each month. Meals are delivered by volunteers from our church family on the third Thursday. The food and the visits mean a lot to the recipients of the meals, as some of them don't get any other outside contact. The ones who deliver the meals can attest that it means a lot to them, as well. The Meals on Wheels program is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

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### STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

PEGGY REINHOLD sends greetings and reports that new churches and individuals are sending stamps in support of this important program. This makes possible the sending of money to the Presbyterian Seminary in the Congo, as well as providing scholarships, and the printing of Bible lessons and other Christian Education materials.

The stamps currently being issued by the USPS are very much in demand, so please use them when mailing letters and parcels. First day covers, foreign stamps, and commemoratives are valued, as well. She suggests businesses, duplicates from stamp clubs, and folks who

are retiring or downsizing as possible sources of collectible stamps.

Mrs. Reinhold sends her thanks and blessings, and solicits our PRAYERS for the people in the Congo.

She also recommends for our reading a story from the Mission Yearbook about a young Congolese woman who graduated from the Seminary there. That story is reprinted on page 3 of this newsletter.

Lanier & Norma HALTERMAN are the coordinators for the Stamp program in our church, and will be happy to answer questions or take stamps that our members wish to donate. There's a specific way in which stamps are donated, so you should ask the Haltermans about that before donating.

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### FALL FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

This fall, we will have a Festival of Learning. Exact dates and times will be advertised as the event gets closer, but now is your opportunity to provide input as to subjects and speakers. Suggestions from the congregation are welcome.

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NURSERY

We need volunteers to attend to our littlest disciples. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Laura McRary at 484-7607.

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### LEARNING THE PRACTICE OF WORSHIP

Children 7 years old and above are encouraged to remain in worship for the entire service. The development of young people as Christians includes active experience and familiarity, as well as participation in the worship service. They learn the practice of worship and become familiar and comfortable with the worship experience. Thus, they and the church benefit from their presence. Children 6 and younger will continue to be welcome in the nursery.

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### STORY FROM CONGO

When she heard God's call to enter the ministry, Jacqueline Ntumba had never met a woman pastor. Confidant that God would help her surmount the obstacles in her path, and with the support of her husband, Emanuel, Jacky packed up her three children and headed to Kananga to attend college and seminary. For the next five years, Jacky studied and took care of the children while Emanuel stayed home, supporting the family as an accountant in Bulape. Despite strong pressure from Emanuel's family for him to leave Jacky for a wife with more traditional values, the couple persevered, and Jacky earned a master's degree in theology from the Sheppard and Lapsley Presbyterian University of Congo (UPRECO).

Following graduation, she was asked to pastor a church in Bulape. The joy of homecoming and pasturing her first church was dampened when, in protest at being given a woman pastor, over half of the congregation left the church. Undaunted, Jacky did what God had called her to do—she preached, prayed, and cared for her congregation. After six months, church membership surpassed the numbers it had been before her arrival.

Jacky supplements her meager income by teaching in a Presbyterian high school—the first woman in the area to do so. A number of young women who had dropped out of school to marry have been inspired to return to school because they see what an educated woman can accomplish.

Jacky hopes one day to preach on the radio. But for now she feels privileged to serve God through her ministry and teaching while the family saves money so Emanuel can attend college to earn a business degree.

**Written by Gwenda Fletcher, PC(USA) mission co-worker in 2011 Mission Yearbook**

## World Missions



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### GIVE/GET A RIDE

This program exists for members who need a ride or who are available to give a ride.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE, whether it's to the church, or to a medical appointment, please call the church office, or call Agnes McFadden at 399-3190.

They will need 2 days' advance notice to make arrangements.

IF YOU CAN GIVE A RIDE TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ONE, please call to let the ministry organizers know of your willingness and availability.

ALSO, PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS PROGRAM and all those who participate in it.

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### MUSING: THE FIVE W's OF WORSHIP

THE FIVE W's in this case are: Whom, When, Where, What, and Why.

WHOM do we worship? We worship God, the eternal Creator of the universe, who always has been and always will be; who is above all and rules over all. We worship God our Provider; God, our Strength and Protector; God our Fortress and Refuge. We worship the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We worship the only true and living God, the Source and Giver of life itself. God is Truth. God is the Giver of all good things, the Source of all our blessings. God is love, compassion, salvation. God alone is worthy to be worshipped.

WHEN do we worship? Sundays traditionally are set aside for corporate worship, but other days also may be designated. Besides such "officially" scheduled days and times for corporate worship, we can set aside our own times for private, personal worship. Also, we can worship whenever we are feeling especially close to God – or when we are not.

WHERE do we worship? On Sundays, we worship together with other believers, usually in a church. This 'corporate' worship (meaning bodily – as the gathered church forms the Body of Christ) is the most important worship we do; it is an essential part of the Christian life. By this, we have the experience of worshipping God in fellowship with other believers. Of course, we can – and

(MUSING-cont.)

limited value and must never be seen as a substitute for corporate worship. And, by the way, the furniture in the sanctuary is just that – furniture – and while it should be treated with respect because of its function and location, it must not be revered for itself.

WHAT do we do when we worship? We give God our praise and thanks. How each of us expresses thanks and praise may take many forms and no form of worship is better or more “appropriate” than another – so long as it is sincerely, deeply felt. We sing Psalms and other hymns and anthems. We offer God our prayers and other offerings. We confess our sins and seek pardon. We read and hear selections from the Scriptures and then pay attention – at least it is hoped that we do – as they are explained and illuminated for us, so that we may apply them to our daily lives as children of God.

WHY do we worship? We worship God because he is great and is worthy of our worship. We worship God because we believe in him and love him. Without God, we would not even exist. Beyond that, his mercy, love, and grace sustain our lives and have freed us from our inherent slavery to sin. We worship God because he wants us to and because God has commanded it; but worldly entities also make demands on us, some of which we choose to ignore. We could choose to ignore God – plenty of folks do – but we don’t. Why? The reasons are both personal and cosmic. Each of us, for many different reasons, chooses to worship the One and Only Living God, who created the world.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD worship is important, too. It reflects our attitude toward God. Humility, respect, reverence, and solemnity must be balanced with gratitude, joy, happiness, and love. Reverence must be balanced with enthusiasm. Our worship should be active rather than passive, and responsive rather than silent. It should engage us rather than leaving us untouched. It must have real impact on our lives rather than being set apart from them. Most of all, worship must be focused on God, and not on the distractions of daily life or on the burdens and thoughts and attitudes we bring with us into worship.

Lane Pittman

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### **DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER**

Articles or information to be published in the newsletter must be submitted to the Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Submissions should be sent to Lane Pittman:

Postal Mail: 614 Chandler Harper Drive  
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Email: [slp4149@aol.com](mailto:slp4149@aol.com)

Phone: 757-405-3554

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### **APRIL ATTENDANCE and OFFERINGS**

Date	Early Wor.	Sun Sch.	1100 Wor.	Offerings
4/3	11	37	81	\$3844.65
4/10	13	39	98	\$3113.50
4/17	12	45	94	\$5418.00
4/24	NA	NA	154	2737.76

Total attendance – worship: 463 [Early +1100]

Average attendance – worship: 116 [Early +1100]

Total attendance – Sunday School: 121

Average attendance – Sunday School: 40

Total offerings: \$15,113.91

Monthly needs: \$18,000.00



*Worship*

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**SESSION ACTIONS****MARCH 21, 2011**

*The meeting was held in the Mary Rice Conference Room with the Rev. Kerry Knox Westerwick moderating. Also attending was Diaconate Representative Claudia Laughlin. The moderator declared a quorum and called the meeting to order and additions to the meeting agenda were submitted. The Moderator led a call to prayer and a reading of grace, followed by an opening prayer and a Bible study on Nehemiah was continued using Chapter 2 as the subject for discussion. This was followed by singing of Kyrie Eleison, assurance of pardon, and sharing the Peace of Christ.*

**Business Agenda**

Approved the minutes of the February 14, 2011, meeting.

Approved receiving of Breena Ray by letter of transfer from Holland Patent (N.Y.) Presbyterian Church.

Approved motion to contract with TFC Recycling to recycle waste materials, at \$45 per quarter.

Approved motion of the Worship Ministry that the Easter Worship Service begin at 10 AM and be followed by an egg hunt and reception. There will be no early service or Sunday School that day. Congregational Care/Christian Formation will coordinate the egg hunt and reception. Additionally, congregants will be encouraged to bring fresh flowers to decorate the cross during the worship service.

Library Catalogue Kelly Kerr has purchased and donated library cataloging software and will begin to organize our collection.

Presbytery Meeting Diane Turner will be the Elder representative to the April 21 Presbytery meeting at Makemie Woods.

**Reports**

Worship Ministry: Diane Griffin gave a report on the focus and direction of the Worship Ministry. She

stated that the most pressing issue for this ministry will be a careful examination and possible re-configuring of the Early Service. Griffin also reported that a survey of the Bibles in the pews determined that about a dozen more are needed to fully supply the sanctuary. Also working on standardizing the Lay Reader protocol for those who will be leading worship. Serving the Worship Ministry with Griffin are Jennifer Patgorski, Scott Taylor, Mike Taylor and Rose Council.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses in February were large as a one-time expense for Congo Mission, salary payout, maintenance on the boiler and repairs to the men's room all were paid in February.

**Old Business**

Clarification regarding financial support for youth attending camps this summer: The church will pay one half of the cost for each camper, inclusive of food and lodging. That amount will include any fundraising the youth undertake to help underwrite their expenses.

**New Business**

There was no new business

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting was adjourned with prayer for the special needs of the congregation and with the singing of the *Gloria Patri*.

The minutes of this meeting were approved on April 18, 2011.

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**TRIP TO SCOTLAND**

Rev. Keith Curran and his wife, Debbie, of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Suffolk, are hosting a Presbyterian Heritage Tour of Scotland, July 6-15, 2011. See Diane Griffin for brochure and information, or go to [www.standrewpres.net](http://www.standrewpres.net) and click on *church trips* or email [kcurran100@aol.com](mailto:kcurran100@aol.com). This is a great enrichment opportunity and wonderful time to travel.

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP**

Diane & David Turner are the coordinators of the Youth Group in our church. There are two age groups: one for 7 to 9 years; one for 10 to 17. The older group might need to be divided further for some gatherings, depending on future growth of that group. Volunteers are needed and will be sought among anyone who would enjoy spending time with young people.

A set curriculum and a calendar of yearly events are planned. The groups will be named and goals will be established in consultation with the youth.

The plan for meetings is as follows:

Both groups meet at the church once a month, starting at 7pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

The first hour will include ice-breaker games, food, and fellowship, followed by

Biblical lesson

At 8:30pm, the younger group will leave, and

The older group will stay at the church for further activities.

The youth groups will be involved in outreach programs such as:

Collecting canned goods for the church food closet

Helping at Oasis

Grounds maintenance around the church

Visitation of shut-ins

Church dinner preparation

Other programs will be added as time goes on.

Our youth will be encouraged to bring friends to all events, unless announced otherwise.

**Fellowship**

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**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

1	Polly Moore
Polly is a VERY YOUNG 95 years old!	
2	Sue Parker
8	David Culpepper
11	Clara Spanos
13	Christopher Powell
15	Joyce Wright
18	Hunter Webb, III
	Elizabeth Turner
21	Bob Graupmann
23	Kelly Kerr
26	Glenn Council
	Diana Taylor
30	Scott Taylor

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**ATTENDANCE AT EARLY SERVICE**

Attendance at the early service, "A Moment Apart," has fallen in recent weeks. To help the pastor and Worship Ministry discern what, if any, changes to make, please consider the following questions and send your responses to [preacherkerry@gmail.com](mailto:preacherkerry@gmail.com) or drop them off at the office.

- If you regularly attend the early service, what *specifically* would help make this service meaningful for you?
- If you do not typically attend, what *specifically* would inspire you to come?

Thanks!

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NOTES**

**Presbyterian W Spring Gathering** was held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at Calvin Presbyterian. Anne Porter attended. **PW of the Synod Conference** is June 9 – 12, 2011 at Massanetta Springs.

**Health Care Kits for CWS** Disaster Relief were put together at the April meeting by Circle #2. \$2 accompanied each kit for shipping. 18 kits and \$36.00 were delivered by Anne Porter.

On Saturday May 14, starting with a short business meeting at 1030 am, PW will host their **Spring Meeting and Luncheon** for ALL WOMEN of the church.

At 1100 the program begins. Burma Smith will present memorials meditations for Elizabeth Stephenson, Mary Rice, and Cathran Harrell. Then, Barbara Newman and Diane Chay from Green Acres Presbyterian will give a report on their visit with the Congo women last summer. A luncheon of salads and birthday cake follows!

On Sunday, May 15th in the 11:00 AM service, the **Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering** will be collected, there will be bulletin inserts (also envelopes) about the 3 recipients, Pat Sparks will give a "Minute for Mission" to highlight this offering AND the PW Officers for the coming year will be installed.

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**CHURCH SCHEDULE for MAY 2011**

Wednesday, May 4	7pm	Choir
Sunday, May 8	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Monday, May 9	12:15	Bible Study
Wednesday, May 11	6pm	Church Dinner
	6:30	"Why Remember our Baptism"
	7pm	Choir
Saturday, May 14	10am	PW Spring Mtg. & Lunch

Sunday, May 15	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship [PW B'day Offrg]
Monday, May 16	7pm	Session Meeting
Tuesday, May 17	7pm	Diaconate Meeting
Wednesday, May 18	7pm	Choir
Sunday, May 22	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Wednesday, May 25	6pm	Church Dinner
	6:30	Bread for the World
	7pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, May 29	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Tuesday, May 31 – Thursday, June 2		Pastor Kerry on Study Leave

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**EASTER MUSIC**

A warm thank you goes to our Music Director, Edna Broadhurst and to our choir and the guest musicians for once again making our Lent and Easter season even more beautiful with their special talents. They provided inspiring and wonderful music as both background and focus of our worship. We heard anthems and musical offerings that enhanced our worship experience and lifted our spirits. Thanks and may God bless you all.

**Music Ministry**

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY: CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS**

Please take note of the following, or just save this page:

**COUNCIL, PAULINE**

Phone: 484-6032

**DELLER, CINDY**

123 Tyler Cres West Apt 1  
Portsmouth, VA 23707  
Phone: [757-292-5526](tel:757-292-5526)

**DRAY, DOTTY**

1 Warwick Street  
Portsmouth, VA23707  
Home phone: 337-0960  
Cell Phone : 377-1044

**BAIN, BEVERLY**

901 Enterprise Way  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
399-2588

**BARTLETT, BETTY & CHARLES**

4706 Westmoreland Ter.  
Portsmouth, VA 23707  
393-1555  
[bettybartlett@cox.net](mailto:bettybartlett@cox.net)

**GRIFFIN, DIANE & EARL**

4100 Faigle Rd.  
Portsmouth, VA 23707  
(h)484-4965 (c, Diane)753-3401(w, Diane)397-1776  
(c, Earl)285-4100 (w, Earl)399-6381  
[dipomgrif@hotmail.com](mailto:dipomgrif@hotmail.com)

**LEITNER, DORIS**

429 Johnson Point Road  
Hallieford, VA 23068  
399-5487

**McFADDEN, AGNES**

**Rebecca Lynn Tannen**  
230 Swimming Point Way Unit-C2  
Portsmouth, VA 23701  
399-3190

**WINKLER, PHIL & PATRICE**

Mason, Riley, Makayla  
317 Robin Rd.  
Portsmouth, VA 23701  
488-7789

**GOLDEN LIVING**

900 London Blvd.  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
393-6864



*Worship the Son*