

January 2018
Volume 56, Issue 1

The COLUMNS



First Presbyterian Church
Waynesboro, VA

First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:45 AM—Communion Worship Service
Barksdale Room

11:00 AM—Traditional Worship Service; Sanctuary

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30

Thursday - 8:00 - 4:30

Friday - Closed

One of the lingering questions from our recent Bible Study on the Book of Acts was “What ever happened to the Apostle Paul?” Popular folklore maintains that both Peter and Paul became swept up in a persecution of Christians in Rome, instigated by then-Emperor Nero, after a fire devastated much of the city in 64^{AD}. The Roman historian Tacitus would claim that Nero used the unpopular Christian community as a scapegoat to deflect suspicion from himself. Nevertheless, many Christian leaders and believers were rounded up and executed by a variety of methods including crucifixion, immolation (burning) or “damnatio ad bestias” (condemnation by beasts) in the arena. According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside-down and Paul, being a citizen of Rome, was executed by beheading. (Membership has its privileges, I guess...)

However, the fact of the matter is, we do not know with certainty what ever happened to Paul. The Book of Acts ends, not with Paul's death, but with Paul proclaiming the gospel of salvation to the people of Rome. Much of the narrative in the concluding chapters of Acts involves Paul's journey to Rome from Palestine in order to fulfill a divine mandate given to Paul, by which the apostle “must stand before the emperor.” [Acts 27:24] Yet, even in this we are left hanging, as this meeting does not occur before the story ends, although Luke (the author of Acts) strongly implies that such a meeting would eventually take place. (The case being, for one, it was Paul's legal right as a citizen and, more importantly, it was God's will!) Even though Paul is a major figure in the early Christian movement, he, like Peter before him, merely fades away from the pages of scripture.

We do not know why Luke leaves us with more questions than answers. Some scholars claim that (assuming Lukan authorship to be genuine) as a contemporary of Paul, Luke never got around to writing a third volume of his gospel because those events had not occurred yet, or perhaps Luke himself was martyred before he could complete his story. (Acts' frequent use of the first-person would seem to support this.) Others surmise that Luke ends his gospel this way on purpose. It may be argued that Luke felt the need to omit the deaths of Peter and Paul in order to maintain theological focus on Christ as the sole martyr for our redemption. Another theory could suggest that Luke purposefully left the story open-ended so that subsequent generations of Christian apostles could assume responsibility for writing their own chapter in this ongoing story of the Good News!

The majority of ancient witnesses indeed claim that Paul was beheaded by Emperor Nero, although the date given for this is not specific. Many scholars claim that Paul was executed in the wake of the Great Fire, although others claim a later date, perhaps around 68^{AD}, the last year of Nero's reign. Writings by early church fathers - Clement of Alexandria (c.35-99^{AD}), Ignatius of Antioch (c.35-107^{AD}) and Tertullian (c.155-240^{AD}) - all mention that Paul was martyred, although they do not describe how, where or when. In the 2nd century apocryphal story, the Acts of Peter, when Peter is crucified in Rome, Paul is depicted as still alive and free. In Paul's Letter to the Romans, Paul makes two references to a planned mission to Spain [Rom. 15:24,28]. Some scholars suggest that Paul survived Nero's persecution and indeed travelled in Western Europe, possibly being martyred there, or returning to Rome to be martyred years later. Still others believe that Paul was able to continue his apostolic journeys unhindered (although there is little historical or literary evidence to support this claim).

One of the most famous accounts of Paul's death comes from another noncanonical work, the Acts of Paul, written sometime around the year 160^{AD}. The narrative picks up where the Acts of the Apostles leaves off, describing how Paul rents a farm outside Rome from which to continue his ministry. Paul begins to draw large numbers of converts from the city, including many from Nero's own household. When Nero's cupbearer, Patroclus, falls to his death while trying to listen to Paul from a window-sill, Paul has the gathered assembly pray to Jesus, and Patroclus is resurrected. Word quickly gets back to Emperor Nero about Patroclus' death and, as he grieves, he becomes shocked to discover Patroclus waiting back at his station! Summoning his courage Nero then interrogates Patroclus, asking who revived him, to which Patroclus responds, "Christ Jesus, the King of the Ages." Threatened, Nero then demands to know who else has become a servant of this king, as many others in his inner circle step forward also to confess their allegiance to Christ. In a fit of rage, Nero then issues a decree ordering the Christians of Rome to be arrested and imprisoned.

In the course of these events Paul also becomes arrested and, along with many others, he is brought before the emperor. Yet Nero, sensing Paul's authority, begins mocking him, demanding to know why Paul thought he could steal the emperor's soldiers, to which Paul replies, "Not only from Rome, but from the whole world!" Enraged again, Nero then begins executing Christians to the extent that the people of Rome rise up in protest. The emperor relents but remains intent on executing Paul, but not before Paul converts two Roman centurions, Longus and Sextus. Shortly thereafter Paul is led out and beheaded. Later that day Paul's spirit makes an appearance before the emperor and his court proclaiming, "Behold Caesar; I, Paul, the soldier of God, am not dead, but live with my God. But many evils and great punishment shall soon befall you, wretched man, because you have unjustly shed the blood of the righteous." Frightened, Nero then sets the remaining Christian prisoners free. The story concludes with Longus and Sextus following Paul's command to seek out Timothy and Luke, and when they come upon the apostles by Paul's grave, the resurrected Paul appears alongside them.

Another legend maintains that Paul was led out to the outskirts of Rome where he was beheaded, and in the places where his head bounced before coming to rest, three springs of water percolated up from the ground. A Roman Catholic basilica was erected on the spot, San Paolo alle Tre Fontane (Italian for "Saint Paul of the Three Fountains"), although use of these springs predates the arrival of Christianity in Rome. Another Catholic shrine, Basilica Papale di San Paolo fuori le Mura ("Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls"), purports to have been built upon the site where Paul was martyred. Although Paul was buried miles from the grounds, it is claimed that his remains were placed in a sarcophagus and moved to the location by the emperor Constantine in the 4th century. In 2006 archeologists confirmed the presence of the sarcophagus at the site, which bears the Latin inscription Paolo Apostolo Mart ("Paul the Apostle and Martyr"). Although the sarcophagus was not opened, the human remains inside were examined by means of a probe and radiocarbon-dated to sometime within the 1st or 2nd centuries.

Paul's influence on the development of Christianity is undeniable. Although there were many apostles in Paul's day, one may easily consider him "first and foremost among the theologians", with his words being revered as scripture—the inspired Word of God! Many of the ideas expressed in Paul's letters continue to be the subject of inspiration as well as debate. But in spite of any outstanding controversy, the example of Paul shows what every Christian apostle should aspire be: courageous, intelligent and articulate, with a sublime passion for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul's true strength was an innate ability to meet people on their own terms, so that he could show how the Lord was making God's presence known in their lives and in the world. After all, things like redemption and forgiveness were not abstract concepts for Paul; rather, he experienced such things first-hand! Therefore, Paul earnestly believed it was his sacred duty to share this Good News with the entire world.

May we all be so bold...

"He [Paul] lived there for two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." –Acts 28:30-31

Grace & Peace,

George



January Music Notes

2017 Review, 2018 Preview

As the year turns, let us rejoice and be thankful for the gift of music! Let us also take a look back upon some of the music we shared and look forward to some of our plans for the coming year.

2017 proved to be quite the musical year at First Presbyterian Church! The year began with the preschool children meeting weekly with Roger and Kimberlea in the Sanctuary. We spoke with them about the nature and purpose of singing to God and began rehearsing songs to sing in worship on Sunday mornings. We also identified features within the church and demonstrated the organ, piano and harpsichord.

In February the church hosted *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza* in coordination with the American Guild of Organists. The event introduced children from Waynesboro to Lexington to the music and inner workings of the organ. February also included our resident barbershop quartet offering a lovely rendition of *Thank You, Dear Lord, For Music*. March brought the internationally renowned American Boychoir to our Sanctuary for a spectacular concert on the 10th. On the 21st members of the Charlottesville/Albemarle chapter of the American Guild of Organists celebrated Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday by playing a recital of his music on our Woodberry and Harris pipe organ.

In April our fabulous choir sang works by Mozart, Fauré and Handel during Lent and Easter. We also held the first of our Hymn Sings on the 30th. (Other Hymn Sings occurred on July 30 and December 31.) The Waynesboro Symphony String School presented a student recital in May, assisted by accompaniments played by Roger. The preschool children graduated in May, and they sang from the balcony prior to the service on May 21.

The Waynesboro Symphony String School held their Summer Academy at First Presbyterian Church. They rehearsed on Wednesdays and played for services on selected Sunday mornings throughout the summer. Our barbershop quartet enhanced our worship service in August. That month also brought Dr. Paolo Steinberg to our Sanctuary for a piano recital. The Brazilian native played music from his homeland and showed slides of the wide variety of cultures and their associated musical styles in the largest country in South America.

Roger inaugurated the *First Fridays Organ Recital* in October. The series continued in November, and the appreciative audience enjoyed both the music and the luncheon, generously provided by Joyce Tipton. Dr. Steinberg returned to First Pres on Sunday November 12 providing very spirited Brazilian piano pieces!

In December the church opened its doors to the community prior to the Christmas Parade. Roger played carols and many parade goers drank cider (provided by the Bellamys and Joyce Tipton) and sang carols. On the 17th the choir presented our annual Lessons and Carols service. Music faculty from JMU, Bridgewater College and the Waynesboro Symphony joined our choir for a *Magnificat* by Pachelbel. It was a glorious morning of music.

Roger provided Fishburne Military School with music for ceremonies throughout the year including the Blessing of the Colors, National Honor Society Induction, Wreaths Across America and their graduation. He looks forward to continuing the relationship in 2018.

And speaking of 2018, our dynamic 1893 Woodberry and Harris organ turns 125! We will celebrate with programs throughout the year. Roger will continue his *First Fridays Lunchtime Organ Recitals* beginning in February and held on various Fridays throughout the year.

On Tuesday, March 20, internationally renowned concert organist Stephen Tharp will present a program. Mr. Tharp is considered among the finest organists in the world and is a consensus star among audiences and colleagues alike.

The Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra will play Saint-Saens' *Organ Symphony* on April 29, and Roger will pull out all the stops for an exciting performance!

The Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival will open their 21st season on June 9 with a concert in our Sanctuary. Roger has been asked to play a piece to help celebrate the organ's birthday.

Our esteemed former Director of Music, Dr. R. Edward Zimmerman, will return to First Pres to play a program on Sunday, October 21. Dr. Zimmerman has taught at Wheaton College in Illinois for over 25 years, and, as many of you know, was responsible for acquiring the mighty Woodberry and Harris organ for the rebuilt Sanctuary wing of First Presbyterian Church. Our Organ series will conclude the Sunday after Thanksgiving with a recital by Mark Robson. He resided in Waynesboro and was a young sensation here. The accomplished composer, pianist, organist, and vocal coach received his Bachelor of Music from Oberlin Conservatory and has lived in Los Angeles since receiving his Master of Music from the University of Southern California.

Other programs that we can look forward to include the Handbell Choir from the Presbyterian Church in Morristown, New Jersey, which will play a program in late June. We also hope to bring banjo player and fiddler, Paul Brown, to First Pres in late spring/early summer for a *Bluegrass and BBQ* program. And the Waynesboro Symphony String School will bring their Summer Academy back to First Pres, so we will hear some of their young musicians play during church occasionally over the summer.

Finally, we express our deepest gratitude to the choir for their incredible dedication to the music program. They volunteer twice a week to rehearse and sing on Sunday mornings. Their commitment to enhance the worship experience with their musical gifts is extraordinary, and we are continually grateful for their time and talent. What a pleasure it is to make music with them!

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberlea and Roger

A TIME TO REFLECT and A TIME TO BE GRATEFUL

As you remember the events of the past year and count your blessings, please include our exceptional worship services. We are blessed with an outstanding choir and two exceptional musical directors in Roger and Kimberlea Daggy. The music is the heartbeat of the service and had been carefully coordinated by Roger and George who work to provide a beautiful meaningful service each Sunday.

George's ability to teach using his depth of knowledge of scripture, his delivery of the word, and his dedication to the truth in his sermons is a blessing to all of us who hear him.

This is a time to count blessings and say thank you to George, Roger, Kimberlea, and every member of the choir.

PRESCHOOL NEWS



Happy New Year!

I am so excited for 2018. FPCP ended 2017 on such a high note! We held our Christmas performance in December and it went glowingly. 'Mr. George' narrated and the kids sang a huge variety of Christmas songs they'd been working on for weeks. What an amazing job everyone did! The Fellowship Hall was packed and it was wonderful to see the kids so well supported. Many thanks to those who attended to cheer them on - as well as those who helped provide refreshments. We are so grateful! Thanks also to George for narrating, Michael Griffith and 'Mr. Cary' (Bennett) for helping set up, Craig Cavanaugh for setting up the audio system and Mr. Cary for running sound during the performance. We could not have done this without you all! And to Ms. Lynda (3-year-old teacher): Words can't express how thankful we are for all of the hours you dedicated to preparing, practicing and leading our kids in this performance. You are a gem and we are so lucky to have you!

Kids left for the winter break with their bags full of projects and ornaments made in class. All the classes celebrated with parties and we ended the year with quite the happy hoorah. :)

As we head into 2018, we'll hit the ground running as the kids return to school on January 2. Amidst all the learning activities, chapel, story times, play times and more, we'll be incorporating non-performance-based music time and art into the curriculum. We're working on ways to become more active with the church (and vice versa), so if you have any ideas or are interested in sharing your talents with our preschoolers, please let me know!

Peace and blessings to everyone as we journey into the next calendar year.

Miss Jen



My apologies this did not make last month's Columns

CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER A FESTIVE SUCCESS

Folks gathered around the beautifully decorated round tables in the Fellowship Hall on November 15 to share in the bounty of our traditional Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and ham were augmented by a myriad of delicious and varied accompaniments - so hard to choose what to put on one's plate. The hubbub of joyous conversation filled the hall. Thanks to all who participated, especially those behind the scenes.

But one of the best parts of the celebration, in my mind, were the leftovers. I'm not talking about the bones for turkey soup. I'm not talking about the pea soup I made with the ham bone. I'm talking about the leftovers enjoyed by the clients at the Food Bank the following day.

It was a treat to watch the Styrofoam containers being filled buffet style - a little of this, a little of that - about 30 complete dinners and 40 sides and desserts. But then, isn't giving thanks and sharing our gratitude what Thanksgiving is all about?
~Betsy Ruehl

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Meeting on December 12, 2017.

Steve Doherty reported on the Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting on November 28. The Rev. Bronwell Boswell was installed as General Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Items of note: 1) Description of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville; 2) Opioid problems; 3) Description by Church World Service official of the current immigration and refugee resettlement program in Harrisonburg; 4) Future of Camp Paddy Run; 4) Dismissal of Windy Cove PC to ECO (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians). (Details of the meeting appear on the Presbytery website www.shenpres.org.)

Session approved 1% raise, effective January 1, 2018, for A/V Technician, Custodian, Director of Music, Financial Secretary, Maintenance Technician and Music Associate.

Session approved an adjustment for 2015 Pastor's Salary for inflation and a 1% raise, effective January 1, 2018.

Session approved the 2018 Terms of Call for the Pastor which will be voted upon at the Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28.

Session approved the 2018 asking pledge to Shenandoah Presbytery (the same amount as last year).

Session approved a Concert by a Handbell Touring Group either June 22 or 29.

Wednesday night Potluck dinners are scheduled for January 24 and February 28.

(See separate article for Mission activities.)

Cary Bennett was thanked for all his efforts with the Preschool.

All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

Pastor's Terms of Call, Election of Church Nominating Committee,
Reports from Sessional Committees and Trustees

NEWS FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

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At the Waynesboro School Boarding meeting on December 12, First Presbyterian Church and a few other local organizations received official appreciation for tutoring at William Perry Elementary School this fall. On the second floor bulletin board is a newspaper clipping and a list of the twelve people from this church who participated. We welcome anyone who wishes to tutor during the February 5-April 12 session to join us for the daytime or after-school programs.

On December 11 we delivered your generous donations of body wash to Second Presbyterian Church for their Disciples' Kitchen Christmas party on December 21. The body wash will be included with other necessities in packages for every guest, welcome gifts for some people having to make difficult financial choices.

On December 14 five of us served homemade soup, cookies and a variety of sandwiches to those spending the night at WARM at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We apologize for missing the Preschool program and will choose our night more carefully next year!

We are still providing magazines for the Share with Others table at Springdale and thank you for your continuing supply.

In January we will again deliver Meals on Wheels on Mondays through Thursdays to routes C and D. Pairs pick up meals at the Senior Center between 10:30 and 10:45 and return the cases there in less than an hour. The schedule of volunteers is full. However, substitutes are always needed, so do contact Betty Dixon (949-4193) if you might be available to fill in.

You have provided MANY HOMEMADE COOKIES for the Fishburne cadets during their January exams the last few years. With 120 hungry cadets studying tirelessly (right?) and fighting the stress of the tests, can we bake for them again? Exams are January 9-11. Cadets will pick up our individual bags of cookies and deliver them to campus on the 10th. Cookies are due at the church by Sunday, January 7. Last year we received a nice note from a cadet on behalf of the student body and another from Captain Black, Superintendent of Fishburne, applauding our "labor of love" and "devoted support."

Our congregation responds tirelessly to mission efforts. Your time, your prayers and your generosity make it possible for First Pres to reach to our community and our world. Thank you!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet at Summit Square on January 9 at 10:30 for Bible Study with George and lunch to follow at 11:30.

The study this month is "*Traditions of the Past*". Lunch menu: Italian Wedding Soup, finger sandwiches, deviled egg, fresh fruit, Apple muffin, Apple turnover ala mode.

Please notify Ruth Kelley (540) 337-2665 no later than January 2 if you plan to attend and if you are staying for lunch. We need both counts!!!

FAITH & FICTION BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will not meet in January. A decision was made to select just ten books a year instead of twelve. The club will not meet in January or June.

The February book is *Miller's Valley* by Anne Quindlen. Contact Anne Johnson (942-3222) if you would like more information about this group.



Jan 2 Bill Bare
Jan 6 Anne Epes
Michael Griffith
Jan 8 Bruce Bosselman
Barbara Bombassaro
Jan 11 Jeanne Hashagen
Jan 14 Jim Templeman
Jan 18 Buddy Bear
Jan 21 Mark Droughman
Jan 24 Mary Jane Trimble
Jan 28 Celia Daggy
Jan 29 Myra Chapman
Jan 31 Randy Hypes

Please Have Cookies for Fishburne at Church on or before Sunday January 7

JANUARY FOOD BANK NEEDS

CANNED SOUPS AND STEWS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Once again, I would like to thank the faithful people of First Presbyterian Church for your generous support of the mission and ministry of our congregation this past year. You were wonderful. Without your support we could not have accomplished all that we did. (Look forward to our Annual Report in January for details). We did a great many things in Christ's name over this past year; yet we would always hope to do more. Maybe this can be that year!

Presently we are in the process of finalizing the Church Budget for 2018. It is a difficult task for which we must rely upon your help and support once more. To help us in our work (if you have not so already), please consider completing or submitting your pledge for the coming year as soon as you are able. These pledges help support our weekly worship, our wonderful music program, and educational and fellowship opportunities as well as missions in our community and around the world. In addition to these worthy ends, there are also expenses which arise in the day-to-day operation of the church, including repairs and improvements to our church facilities. We mailed over 100 letters with pledge cards this past month. If you did not receive a pledge card, or have misplaced yours, please call Colleen or Barbara (949-8366) and they will send you one.

Although one may continue to support the church without pledging, please know how important these pledges are to the continued ministry of First Presbyterian Church. To ensure your privacy, individual pledges remain secret and confidential. Only our Financial Secretary has access to those records. Pledges help us understand what we will have to work with for the coming year, so that we can effectively plan which missions receive funding. When pledges fall short, hard decisions must be made. One may assume that First Presbyterian Church has considerable resources in our endowment, which is true, but most of these funds are designated for particular purposes. We are restricted in their use. The act of pledging provides our leadership with the flexibility necessary so that we may effectively respond to where God is calling us next!

Regardless of the type of organization you are talking about, be it religious, civic, government or educational, the budget is a reflection of an organization's priorities. As you contemplate your pledge for the coming year, please consider First Presbyterian's priorities and how our gifts may best be used to serve God's needs in the church, our community and the world!

I welcome your suggestions. Please send me an email at poppibare@gmail.com, or call (540) 949-8767.

In the Love of Christ,

Bill Bare
Chair, Budget & Finance Committee

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2017 giving/pledge fulfillments must be received in the office by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, January 2, 2018. All money received by mail that day or afterwards will be posted in 2018.

Thank you all for your extreme generosity to this Church in terms of both financial and time given. God Bless you all.

~Barbara Bombassaro

**2018 Pledge Cards may be deposited in the box in the narthex
or sent to the church office**

January Calendar

Sunday, January 7

8:45 AM Early Communion Service Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 9

10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Bible Study Summit Square
2:30 PM Session Meeting

Thursday, January 11

2-4 PM Food Bank

Sunday, January 14

8:45 AM Early Communion Service Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary

Monday, January 15

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 17

6:00 PM Bible Study Room 212
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Thursday, January 18

No Book Club

Sunday, January 21

9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 24

5:30 PM Potluck Dinner

Thursday, January 25

2-4 PM Food Bank

Sunday, January 28

9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Barksdale Room
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Room 204
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary
12:00 PM Congregational Meeting

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Church Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday

8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Pastor

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Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

Nursery Attendant

Miss Sarah Watson

Custodian

Mrs. Caroleia Strandburg