Diagram

Description automatically generatedDiagram

Description automatically generated

THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**September 2025, Volume 63, Issue 9**

*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.*

*15  Toward evening the disciples approached him. “We’re out in the country and it’s getting*

*late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.”*

*16  But Jesus said, “There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.”*

*17  “All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish,” they said.*

*18-21  Jesus said, “Bring them here.” Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the*

*five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the*

*bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate*

*their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.*

*Matthew 14:15-21*

*When in doubt, always quote scripture. This is not one of the rules I have painstakingly collected over the years,*

*but perhaps it should be. Last month, we began with insights into basketball; for May, we are diving back into*

*the New Testament for illumination.*

*We are conditioned, I think, to look at the miraculous as magical, the theological equivalent of alchemy. Just as*

*the medieval alchemist sought to turn lead into gold, and thus enrich themselves without labor, we look at*

*miracles at least in part, as labor-saving plot devices: healing without the effort of treatment; gifts that eliminate*

*the need for impossible choices; rescue that makes of us passive recipients of grace. But, in the words of yet*

*another of my rules, God is not a magician; what we call miracles are signs of God at work in our midst - and*

*God hates to work alone.*

*In the feeding of the multitude, the disciples recognize a need - the crowd is getting hungry and the day is*

*mostly gone. This is a real problem, they know, but the best they can come up with is to send the crowds*

*back to town, where they might find some supper. But Jesus has something else in mind; not just pushing*

*the problem down the road, but actually doing something about the hunger of the people. He asks what*

*food is available, and is told, 5 rolls and 2 cooked fish - the lunch of a well-prepared young man. Jesus*

*then does the miraculous, but the miracle isn&#39;t magic- Jesus does not make everyone feel full, or have*

*manna fall from the heavens. The miracle happens through the work of the disciples. It is the disciples*

*who organize the people, getting them to sit down in an orderly fashion; they who oversee the distribution*

*of the loaves and fishes, making sure everyone is fed; even making sure the leftovers are collected. And*

*that, friends, leads us to Rule #10:*

As summer turns into fall – in our stores, at our schools, in our yards, in our conversations about Halloween costumes – I am hopeful and confident that God continuously gives us vision for the seasons ahead.

I recently shared the prayer below with our food bank volunteers, during a particularly hard week for our congregation and our world. This autumn may God give you vision in the valleys: those places where you feel deep hunger and thirst for the Incarnate One.

-Samantha

The Valley of Vision (from ‘Puritan Prayers & Devotions’)

*Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly,*

*Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory.*

*Let me learn by paradox*

*that the way down is the way up,*

*that to be low is to be high,*

*That the broken heart is the healed heart,*

*That the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,*

*That the repenting soul is the victorious soul,*

*That to have nothing is to possess all,*

*That to bear the cross is to wear the crown,*

*That to give is to receive,*

*That the valley is the place of vision.*

*Lord, in the daytime, stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter the stars shine.*

*Let me find*

*thy light in my darkness,*

*thy life in my death,*

*thy joy in my sorrow,*

*thy grace in my sin,*

*thy riches in my poverty,*

*thy glory in my valley.*



*Amen*.



SEPTEMBER MUSIC NOTES

We’re in the throes of September – when summer retreats and regular schedules resume. We are thrilled that the choir returns to the loft on the first Sunday of the month. Our faithful singers have had a much-deserved respite during the past few months, when musicians from within our congregation and without provided music during the worship service.

This summer, First Presbyterian Church welcomed singers from our own choir, including Jean Hashagen, Patrick Fitzgibbon, Terry Crickenberger, Joe Earhart and Maximilian Daggy. Pianists Sarah Braverman and Charles Simpkins also played this summer, as did violist Celia Daggy. Patrick Fitzgibbon pulled double duty, also playing guitar! And musicians from the Heifetz International Music Institute played music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Cesar Franck. We are so fortunate to experience a cornucopia of musical excellence to enhance our worship experience!

During the month of September, the choir will sing two anthems by Lt. Colonel (ret.) Dwayne Milburn. When Roger served as Parish Organist at St. Matthew’s in Pacific Palisades, CA, he worked with Milburn for many years while the Composer-in-Residence was completing his Ph.D. in Music Composition at UCLA. Milburn joined the Army in 1993, serving as Associate Bandmaster of the US Army Band “Pershing’s Own.” He was Director of the US Army Europe Soldier’s Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany and Commander and Conductor of the Army Ground Forces Band at Fort McPherson, Georgia. He retired as Commander and Conductor of the US Army Europe Band and Chorus in Sembach, Germany and was awarded the Legion of Merit “for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.” Milburn is now Director of Music at St. Matthew’s, Music Director of the St. Matthew’s Chamber Orchestra and teaches composition, orchestration and conducting and at UCLA.

Milburn (b. 1963) composed a Mass for St. Matthew’s while serving as composer-in-residence at the church while Roger was Parish Organist. This month, the choir will sing two anthems from Milburn’s mass. The anthem for the first Sunday of September will be a communion anthem, *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*. On September 21st, the choir will Praise the Lord with Milburn’s *Alleluia.*

With gratitude –

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

****

**FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERTS**

**October 3, 2025**

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on August 19.

* Roger and Kimberlea Daggy proposed the 2025-2026 Organ Concert series: October 3, November 7, February 6, March 6, May 1 and June 5 followed by a light lunch in the Barksdale Room.
* The *Presbyterians Better Together* Pulpit Exchange will take place August 31 – Rev. Coggins at Westminster and Rev. Amy Fetterman from 2nd at 1st.
* Preschool: Fully staffed when everybody is well enough to attend! In January Preschool is scheduled to be at capacity, with a waiting list. Participating in a Spirit Night Fundraiser tonight at Chick-fil-A.
* A Memorial Service will be held on September 20 at 2:00 for Joyce Neufeld.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* Publication of the September newsletter will be delayed a week due to editor’s vacation.
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be September 9.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session



**MISSION/OUTREACH JULY 2025**

· Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank July 8 and 22. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.

· Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.

· Food Bank held July 3, 10, 17 and 24.

· Purchased bread and margarine for Food Bank weekly

· Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.

· Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 70 individuals and 34 households.

· Weekly cleaned all surfaces; vacuumed and mopped floors.

· Delivered donations to Waynesboro High School.

· Collected school supplies for June.

· Room air conditioner in the main pantry needs to be replaced. Refrigerator was unable to be repaired; purchased

replacement from Lowe’s for about $800.

· Will meet with Westminster PC re Food Bank on September 28.

· Annual CROP Walk will be held September 21.

--Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR FOOD BANK**

Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant & Toothpaste

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

**Healthy snacks like granola bars and grab-and-go items**

**Preschool News!!**

It’s so hard to believe we are already a whole month into school!!! We have had so much fun spending time with our friends and getting to know all our new classmates. There have been so many exciting things we have gotten to do in our classrooms since we have begun the new year.

Our new younger 3-year-old classroom is off to a wonderful start and thriving fabulously! Ms. Hannah has started with the class working on their shapes and colors as well as the start of the alphabet. We have gotten to learn all about ourselves and our friends in our classrooms and we made books/posters with information about who we are to share with each other and our families. In Ms. Rennie’s room the children have been learning their parents’ names, addresses and phone numbers in case of emergencies. The children have enjoyed this so much!! Mrs. Lynda’s class has been getting to know one another while learning about outer space and transportation. These have been some of their favorite themes for the month by far!

The preschool had their first ever spirit night at Chick-Fil-A and did a great job! Thank you to everyone that came out to support our children!

Two kids playing with toys on a carpet

AI-generated content may be incorrect. We are excited for the upcoming Fall season; there are so many fun activities planned for our children!! Next on our calendar will be the pumpkin patch!!! We can’t wait!

A child drinking from a straw

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A child holding a drawing

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of people sitting at tables in a restaurant

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**IN MEMORIUM**





Joyce Neufeld

March 18, 1946 – July 22, 2025

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**A service of Witness to the Resurrection & Celebration of Life for Joyce Neufeld will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, September 20, at 2:00 p.m., followed by a Reception in the Barksdale Room.**

**Anyone wishing to contribute food or help with set-up and clean-up should sign up with Colleen (c**[**cash@firstpresway.com**](mailto:cash@firstpresway.com)**) or (540) 949-8366.**

A drawing of a book with a cross and a sun

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**LITURGISTS**

7- Betsy Ruehl

14 – Patrick Fitzgibbon

21 -

28 - Cynthia Hoover



**BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

**10- Ruth Kelley 14 - Mike & Cathy Cunningham**

**11 -Danny Leech**

**14 - Polly Bare**

**29 - Joann Pannill**

**Joe Earhart**  **CHURCH OFFICERS:**

**Treasurer – Colleen Cash**

**Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl**

**Cynthia Hoover, Bob Miller and Nancy Hypes.**

***“BETTER TOGETHER”* BIBLE STUDY RESUMES**

**11:00 a.m. Mondays beginning September 8**

**Led by Westminster Presbyterian Church’s DCE John Tindall, the “*Better Together”* Bible Study begins its second year on September 8. An innovative and challenging leader, John guides interested parties through thought-provoking passages in the Old Testament. Meetings rotate on Mondays at five churches: First – First Pres; 2nd – Second Pres; 3rd – Hermitage; 4th - Finley Memorial; 5th – Smyrna.**

**Old timers – welcome back! New folks – give us a try and perhaps learn something new! We’re in and out in about an hour and there are usually tasty refreshments!**

**NEW BOOK STUDY TO BEGIN**

**Wednesday, October 1, 10:00 a.m. in the Barksdale Room**

**The weekly Book Study group, spearheaded by pastor Coggins, concluded its discussion of Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead* on September 3. Ten weeks of sharing, thoughtful insights, and meaningful interpretations have proved to be only the beginning of something great!**

**More information on the new book and its availability will be forthcoming.**

**Any interested parties – male or female, members of First Pres or not – are welcome to attend the Bible Study. Just show up!**

****

**50th Anniversary of the Waynesboro-East Augusta CROP HUNGER WALK**

**2:00 on Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**New location – Start in North Park and walk the Greenway out and back**

**Across the country walkers gather to take steps and raise funds to provide meals for those who need them in our own communities and to support programs that create greater food security in communities around the world.**

**75% of the money collected goes to Church World Service. CWS focuses on global hunger, humanitarian aid and disaster response programs.**

**25% of the money collected stays locally and supports the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Disciples’ Kitchen and VPAS Meals on Wheels.**

**Checks made be made out to CWS/CROP and taken to the Church Office. If you would like to walk, please contact Cynthia Hoover.**

**Please support this local event generously. Together we can make a difference**

**LABOR DAY HAS COME & GONE; HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE HOLIDAY**

**It means many different things to different people!**

**Labor Day is a federal holiday, celebrated on the first Monday of September, to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers in the development and achievements in the United States. In the late 19th C Labor Day was promoted by the Central Labor Union and Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York city. By the time it became an official federal holiday in 1894, thirty states in the U.S. officially celebrated Labor Day.**

**Labor Day is called the “official end of summer” because it marks the end of the U.S. culture’s nominal summer season. Many people take vacations ending Labor Day weekend. In fashion, Labor Day is (or was) considered the last day acceptable to wear white or seersucker and straw hats. The source of this tradition lies in part with the migration of wealthy 19th C New Yorkers back from their summer home Newport Mansions and accompanying change back from summer clothes. In the 2020s, some people have approved of wearing white year-round!**

**Numerous events and activities are organized in major cities. New York offers the Labor Day carnival and fireworks over Coney Island. In Washington, one popular event is the Labor Day Concert at the U.S. Capital featuring the National Symphony Orchestra with free attendance.**

**Labor Day weekend marks the beginning of many fall sports. NCAA teams usually play their first games that weekend and the NFL traditionally play their kickoff games the Thursday following Labor Day. The Southern 500 NASCAR auto race has been held Labor Day weekend at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, S.C. from 1950 to 203 and since 2015. Labor Day is the middle point between weeks one and two of the U.S. Open tennis championships held in Flushing Meadows, NY.**

**And let us not forget that Labor Day has become an important weekend for discounts and allowances by many retailers, especially for back-to-school sales, taking advantage of large numbers of potential customers with time to shop.**

****

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Baja Mum Fundraiser**

**Support the 2026 Baja Mission Trip (July 12–18) by purchasing a beautiful fall mum!**

* **Cost: $25 each**
* **These mums are large, vibrant, and long-lasting.**
* **All proceeds go toward building homes during next year’s Baja mission trip.**

**Bring the colors of fall to your home while helping us bring hope to families in Baja! Cash or check payments (Westminster Presbyterian Church) accepted.**

**Please call Colleen at 540-949-8366 if you have any questions.**

**A trailer full of flowers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

****

