

# Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

February 16, 2012

This past Monday, our inaugural Prayer Group met in the sanctuary for a time of focused and intentional prayer for the life of and lives within this congregation. As a pastor, I have become so accustomed to hearing myself pray that at times it can sound like a broken record. So, one of the joys of Monday, and secretly one of the motivations for starting this initiative, was to hear the voice of others in prayer...and it did not disappoint. It sounded rich, full, and honestly...more complete.

To start our time I prepared some thoughts about prayer, which I wanted to share with you now. First, from Romans 8:26-27:

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**”*

For Paul, prayer is a Spiritual event: one that is intimately connected to the Holy Spirit, who is, in turn, intimately connected to God. This same Spirit is also the One who intimately dwells in each of us. It is this Spirit, Paul says, who “intercedes” on our behalf, and this intercession is “according to the will of God.” So there is, in New Testament theology, a strong link not only between prayer and the Spirit but also between our prayers and God’s will.

Hear these words from First John 5: 13-15:

*“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. **And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.**”*

So you can see how strongly John viewed this connection between God’s will and our prayers: “*that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*” This is our confidence; this is our boldness.

Nowhere is this more evident, than in one of the prayers of the great Master of prayer Himself, Jesus Christ. From Luke 22:41-42, when Jesus and his disciples left the last supper to go out to the Mount of Olives just before his arrest, conviction, and crucifixion:

*“Then (Jesus) withdrew from (the Disciples) about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ‘**Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.**’”*

So, I prefer to think about prayer in this way: Prayer is where our requests (our needs, our wants, and even our desires) find connection with God’s will for our lives as individuals and our lives together as God’s people. So, prayer is not just about praying for “what we want,” it’s about discovering where “what we want” and “what God wants for us” meet together.

So, I offer these Scriptures to you in order to set a theological backdrop for why we pray. Yes, we can “ask anything” of God, as John so aptly points out, but the true hope of any outcome is to find God’s will for our lives in the process.

Grace and Peace - Richard

## CONCERNS

\*Thomas Yogerst (Laabs’ son-in-law) \*Dick Aycock  
\*Patsy Miller \*Bobby Harnage \*Sharon Harnage \*Frances Grimm  
\*Pat Dalton (J. Mercer’s sister) \*Lola Knox  
\*Trey Newsome (A. Griner’s grandson) \*Louvera Walden’s mother  
\*Charles Kilgore (A. McNair’s stepson)  
\*Karter Stinson \*Vera Stinson (M. Jenkin’s nephew and mom)  
\*Ray Fletcher (K. Jacob’s father)  
\*Phillip Rossman (Fred’s brother)  
\*Deryl Beadles’ granddaughter

*The flowers in the sanctuary on  
Sunday were given to the glory of  
God and in honor of  
my family, Diane, Mallory, &  
John Melvin Herndon  
by Lewis*

Greetings:

Thank you to Doug Hall, Dianne Klar, and Amy Grobe for filling in while I was involved with the musical!

And thank you to all who supported the musical! Your encouragement means so much!

Be blessed this week,  
Kathy

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### FEBRUARY

19 Carrie & Andy Norman

Mimi Bair & Garrett Moore

26 Laura Hall

Mallory Herndon & Christopher Blanton

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service following WATCH supper next Wednesday. 2nd grade and up are encouraged to attend with the adults in the Sanctuary.

## BACK PACKS OF HOPE

Don't forget to add a few items to your grocery list for the Back Packs. Lists are on the bulletin board.

**CELEBRATION OF FAITH  
MARCH 2-4  
REGISTER NOW!!!**

## YOUTH

Youth Fellowship Sunday 5-7 PM

NO Juice & Jesus Monday

**SIGN UP FOR CELEBRATION OF  
FAITH NOW!!**

Final opportunity to do so is Sunday!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday is the last opportunity to sign up for  
WALK THRU THE BIBLE

At Celebration of Faith March 2-4.

If you are planning to volunteer from 9-12 or 2-5 on that Saturday (3rd), please let Connie know by Sunday as well.

## YOUR MISSION FUNDS AT WORK

We are happy to announce that our missionary in a Mediterranean country will be visiting us on Sunday September 9, speaking at the men's breakfast, during the service, and later to the youth. Please save the date.

She reports that believing students invited non believing friends on their Noel Excursion and one later reported "From the trip I realized that it is possible for a [my nationality] to be a Christian, and I respect the [national] Christians I met." This may seem like a simple statement, but for many here this would be earth shaking! Please pray that these friendships continue to grow and that more is shared and understood deeply in the heart and that the student leaders grow in caring for each other and claim it as "their" group.

Pray for second semester conversation groups, and our newly created computer and music groups which are aimed at those who want to develop themselves further in either of these areas. Pray for the pastor and leaders of the Evangelical Church to be strengthened in faith and receive God's guidance and wisdom. Pray for an Active Parenting seminar to be held for three consecutive weekends 9 - 24 March: a way the church can serve the community and show the love of Christ. May God bring new people and touch hearts. (I am really excited about this!)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Session Meets

Sunday, February 19, 8:30 AM

### Office Closed

Monday, February 20, President's Day

### Congregational Care

Wednesday, February 22, 4:30 PM

### Strengthening of the Church

Sunday, February 26th 8:30 AM

## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

It is time again to register the pre-schoolers for the 2012-2013 school term. Please pick up your application in the church office or from any pre-school teacher.

## A BIG, BIG THANKS

The Presbyterian Women again mailed cookies to our twelve college students. Thank you to all who helped bake, package, and mail the cookies.

## ATTENTION

The Presbyterian Student Center at VSU is in desperate need of a new roof. They are asking congregations within the Presbytery for financial assistance. They need to raise \$5600. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by making a check payable to this church for the VSU Roofing fund.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Oct. 14, 2012

If you have interesting stories or information about our church, please contact Nancy Coleman or Ginger Horkan.

## RECIPES NEEDED

**DEADLINE:** Feb. 29, 2012

Send to [preswomen@gmail.com](mailto:preswomen@gmail.com) or place in box in Fellowship Hall

## CORNERSTONES

**DINNER AT BLACKBEARDS**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD**

**MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 5 PM.**

## PRAYER GROUP

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday from 12:15 – 12:45 pm  
In The Sanctuary

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27th**

The goal of this bi-weekly group is to foster a devotion to prayer, which lies at the very heart of our Spiritual lives found in Christ Jesus.

This group will offer the opportunity to pray in earnest for and with complete focus on the concerns of this congregation, its community, its country, its denomination, Christ's Church, and God's World.

Richard will lead the first few initial gatherings with the hope that the group will eventually find its own voice and way.

## **New in the Church Library,** **Faith Seeking Understanding** **by Daniel Migliore**

*Daniel Migliore's Faith Seeking Understanding (Eerdman's, 2004) has been a standard introduction to Christian theology for more than a decade. The book's presentation of traditional doctrine in freshly contemporary ways, its concern to hear and critically engage new voices in theology, and its creative and accessible style have kept it one of the most stimulating, balanced, and readable guides to theology available.*

This book is similar in some ways to Shirley Guthrie's Christian Doctrine. So if it's been awhile since you read a volume of systematic theology, here's your opportunity. Prof. Migliore is Professor Emeritus of Theology at Princeton Seminary. Faith Seeking Understanding is another new addition to our church library. Check it out.

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## FROM THE KITCHEN

We had a nice crowd at WATCH this week. We fed 197 but still had 14 who did not cancel or attend.

### **MENU for FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

REGULAR: Parmesan Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, English Pea Casserole, Pickled Beets, Rolls, Layered Salad, Salad Bar, Fruit

DIET: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar, Fruit

CHILDREN: Pizza, Chips

DESSERTS: Chocolate Turtle Cheesecake, Lemon Cheesecake, Vanilla Mousse Cheesecake, Cookies, Ice Cream

### **MENU for FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

REGULAR: Meat Loaf, Creamed Corn, Turnips, Apples and Carrot Casserole, Rolls/Cornbread, Watergate Salad, Salad Bar, Fruit

DIET: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar, Fruit

CHILDREN: Corn Dogs, Fries

DESSERTS: Cinnamon-Apple Cake, Cherry-Pineapple Cake, Cookies, Ice Cream

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The church is focusing on "time and talents". What does it mean to you, personally, to give generously to God's work? What blessings do you miss when you fail to give of your time, talents, and finances?

In Christ, Faye