



Fall 2020

Our mission is to know Christ, to serve Him, and to make Him known.

## AVOID COVID BRAIN

Dear Church Family,

Last week, I was supposed to meet with five other ECO pastors. Our August date had floated a bit because some were away, etc. But we finally nailed down a time to meet. I had pushed to make a date and now I was primed and ready. The date came, and went. The host of the meeting sent us a nice email saying he had a good lunch with the ONE other guy who showed.

What happened? Covid brain. Maybe you have had some of it. You figure, "Why check my calendar? There's nothing on it anyway..." You go about your routines, maybe masking up for a daring trip to the grocery store, perhaps rethinking where you will put that stack of books that has piled up you were going to read. And then, that meeting or event comes and goes, and you missed it.

This fall, we are going to do our best to keep you on the growing edge of your faith. You will see in these pages class offerings for women. You will see a write up for my class. There will, of course, be Sunday morning class and worship. Resist Covid brain and get involved remotely or in person--knowing that we will be sure to maintain social distance. But please, dive in.

And, as for those guys, we have another meeting in September. This time, it is at our church. I figure I will REALLY be embarrassed if I forget that one! I don't plan to. Covid brain, be gone!

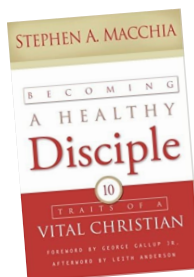
In Christ,

*Pastor Stuart*

### New Wednesday Night Offering

Becoming a Healthy Disciple: Ten Traits of a Vital Christian

Beginning September 9



Are you becoming a healthy disciple in a lifelong apprenticeship with the Master, Jesus Christ? He does not expect perfection; only heart and skill development. Over these weeks, we will outline ten traits that will help you grow as a Christian. The class is based on Stephen Macchia's book by the same name. I will be teaching in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. You are more than welcome to attend and be "live." It will help me to have some interaction. But you can also attend online. Hope to "see" you there!

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Amy and I had a busy and exciting summer. Amidst COVID-19 we were trained and commissioned to be full time missionaries to Germany. We went through rigorous training in Colorado for nine days

with Greater Europe Mission, our sending agency. For those of you who are not familiar with GEM, it is a sixty year old agency that targets every European nation to reach Europe and change the world. Their specific mission is to reach Europe by multiplying disciples and growing the church of Christ. Their vision is to expand His kingdom through all peoples of Europe to the world. We are so excited to join in this work. I hope to teach music at The Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany. While there I will have the opportunity to mentor, disciple, and train young missionary children while their parents serve as full time missionaries to Europe, Africa, Asia, and beyond. There are 50 nations represented at BFA. - *David Hamilton*

There is nothing more powerful than witnessing a spiritual conversion. As a children's pastor, God allowed me to witness many conversions and to disciple His young followers. In Germany, I hope to work with Child Evangelism Foundation to start Good News Clubs in public schools. In 2019 CEF shared the gospel with 57,000 students in Germany, but have not yet had representation in the Black Forest.--

We are excited for First Presbyterian Church Kannapolis to join us in this amazing opportunity to reach Germany and Europe for Christ.

We love you all so much and will miss everyone. We plan to leave next July. Please keep the Hamilton family in your prayers. - *Amy Hamilton*



As we begin another school year, please continue to remember students, educators and school staff in your prayers. And take time to send a note of encouragement to our college students, who are experiencing life away from home in a whole different way!



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Looking back at our spring issue of the Forecast, there were many activities planned that we had to cancel: mission trip to Southport, our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Missions meal & delivery of Law Enforcement Appreciation bags, our yard sale & craft booth at Jiggy with the Piggy to support OCC Shoeboxes among other things. But we have started a Habit Missions/Watchmen of the Streets in Kannapolis/Concord and we are starting to plan events again. We were also able to give some school supplies to Jackson Park & Forest Park Elementary that we had collected last year and we've sent funds to KBTA and Moscow Seminary.



The first event is making Law Enforcement Appreciation bags for the Kannapolis PD. There are 85 officers & 17 dispatchers. We are asking our members to make up 3-5 bags at home & leave them on the designated table in the Fellowship Hall by **Monday, September 21**. Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/Bmu2kcqyKKkZPgGr5> for the number/type of bag(s) you will provide. All members are then invited to participate in a car parade past the KP Department on **Wednesday, September 23 at 5 pm**.

Officer's Bags should include black or blue ink pens, small memo pad, travel size Kleenex, small hand sanitizer, chapstick, auto air freshener(s), hand wipes, small bottles of car upholstery and/or or glass cleaner, and individually-wrapped gum and hard candies.

Dispatcher bags should include: black or blue ink pens, travel size Kleenex, small hand sanitizer, chapstick, hand wipes, tea bags, honey sticks, gum, and candy.

The next event is providing and serving dinner for one week at the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter in Concord. Our week is September 27 – October 3. Terri is creating an online signup list with information on what is needed. Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/abSEmbrTK8kyHtVJA>

**IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!!!** In light of current conditions, the Missions Team is introducing the **Frances Milem Memorial Shoebox Challenge**. In honor and memory of Frances' love for children we are challenging our members to provide for at least 200 shoeboxes, with a bigger challenge of providing for the 400 boxes we usually send! There are 3 ways for you to participate in this challenge:

- Pack your own box(es) at home and bring to church by **Sunday November 15**. Please include a check for \$9 payable to Samaritan's Purse to cover shipping. If you

need ideas please use this link:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>.

- You can also build a box online through our Church Goal page (details to be posted soon in the bulletins). It costs \$25 and that covers shipping too.
- Donate money to our fund and we will build the boxes. Please send your donations, marked OCC Shoeboxes, to the church office by **October 31**.

In May, Heath Burchett met 3 of us at the church and we spent the evening searching in Kannapolis for homeless camps; after striking out at several locations we looked in Concord where Heath had heard of a couple of camps and we found two. At the first one we met a married couple (Dale & Trina), and saw one other tent but the owner wasn't there. We talked & prayed with them and left supplies. At the second camp we only found tents but still left some supplies. We have been going back every two weeks and the one camp in Concord has grown – there

are currently 5 that stay there regularly and 3 more that come & go. During this time Dale & Trina's camp caught fire and they lost most everything they had. They have since set up another camp in the same area, but a good distance away from the others, one they feel is safer & securer since the firemen said the fire was caused by a tossed cigarette butt. We returned to the other Concord camp two more times but never met anyone, so we have stopped going there. We have found two locations in Kannapolis though, and have been helping one couple and one older man named George who we often find reading his Bible. We also have



## Mission Opportunities

some leads for additional camps in Kannapolis that we plan to scout out when Heath is able to join us. We bring these people lots of supplies – tents, tarps, sleeping bags, pillows, batteries, water, food, etc; we are getting to know them and building relationships. Heath brought a load of stuff from the Habit Missions main storage unit in Cornelius & we've bought a lot of supplies (the individuals, not the church). We've also picked up fresh fruit & produce boxes from Second Presbyterian for 6 weeks. We store supplies in the church storage shed. Many of you make financial contributions to Habit Missions, but if you'd like to contribute to the local chapter, please feel free to leave supplies & let one of us know so we can move them to the shed (Mal or Deb McDaniel, Mark Goodnight, Emily Griggs). Winter will be upon us before we know it so we'll start collecting coats, gloves, hand warmers, blankets, etc – there are 3 women & 6 men regularly and they are all medium sized (one is tall so maybe large). We also solicit your prayers – for the homeless we meet and for those of us going out to the camps.

If you know of any other ways the Mission Team might serve our community please feel free to speak to a team member.





**Adult Sunday School** continues in the Sanctuary, beginning at 10a.m. Join us for socially-distanced learning, or tune in on our YouTube channel if you're worshipping at home! Speakers for September are:

- Sept. 6: David & Amy Hamilton, on their missionary calling
- Sept. 13: Vicki Dickerson, Volunteer Church Relations Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child
- Sept. 20: tbd
- Sept. 27: tbd

**Wednesday Night Life** will look a little different this year, but there will be opportunities for all ages to continue their spiritual growth beginning in September!

- **Preschoolers and Kindergarten**ers will follow Kids Quest Catechism at home, with Alpha Barger facilitating. Each week, your child will receive a mailing with the materials they need, as they learn the essential tenets of our faith.
- **Elementary-aged children** will join Michelle Walker each week online.
- **Middle and Senior High Youth** will be led by Raegan Swaringen. They will meet virtually once a week
- **Adults** wishing to participate in a live bible study can join Pastor Stuart each Wednesday Night at 6:00pm. The class, on **"Becoming a Healthy Disciple,"** will be live-streamed for those wishing to follow on YouTube

Please contact Michelle Walker if you have questions or need additional information on any of these classes.

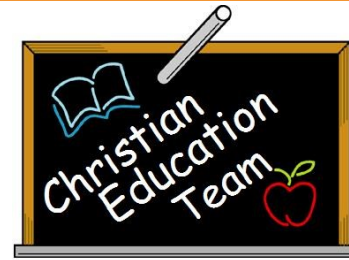


**Women's Ministries** have several offerings this fall:

- **Saltshakers Ladies' Bible Study registration is now in progress!** We will be studying "The Unchanging God" – a study of Minor Prophets. In this time of so much change in our world, it is our goal to safely provide a serious Bible study about our God who never changes! We will meet virtually on Monday evenings at 6:00pm from September 28, 2020 to April 2021. To register, please contact Judy Goodnight at (704) 938-4623 or register online by clicking the link in the weekly emails.
- **Women Without Reservations** will meet on Sunday afternoons, mostly online, beginning in September. They will follow the "Trustworthy" online bible study from Proverbs 31 Ministries. Please contact Raegan Swaringen or Michelle Walker for more information.
- Vickie Ellington will facilitate a **bible study based on Beth Moore's book, "Living Free: Learning to Pray God's Word."** Meeting times and locations are to be determined. Please contact Vickie for more information.
- The **"Bad Girls' Bible Study"** will meet at 10:30a.m. on Thursdays at the Church. Kay McAllister facilitates the study.
- **The Circle of Women** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00p.m. at the church starting in January of 2021. Contact Judy Goodnight or Sharon Cranford for more information.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

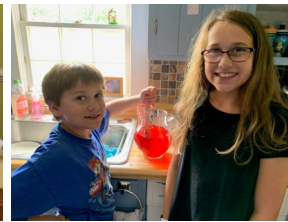


**Men's Fellowship resumes in September!** All men of the church are invited to gather on the second Saturday of each month from 8:30 - 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall - socially-distanced, of course! Pastor Stuart and Dave Argabrite will lead this time of devotions and prayer. Individually-wrapped breakfast sandwiches and drinks will be available, so let Pastor Stuart know if you will attend!

The CE Team has compiled a list of resources that may help you in your faith walk - you can find it on our new and improved website ([www.firstpresb.org](http://www.firstpresb.org)) under the "Grow" tab - look for the section on Christian Education Resources. One of those is "Right Now Media", which is offering **FREE** access to a limited library of their content through December 31, 2020. Check it out!



Virtual Bible School was held from Tuesday, August 11 - Friday, August 14. Each participant received a "Promised Land Adventures" guide, craft supplies, and snacks to make. During the day, we read scripture, watched a fun skit, listened to a song, and completed a craft. Then, we joined online at 7pm to share our snacks and creations, play some games and have virtual fun! The skits are on our YouTube channel if you'd like to watch. Here are some of our awesome creations!





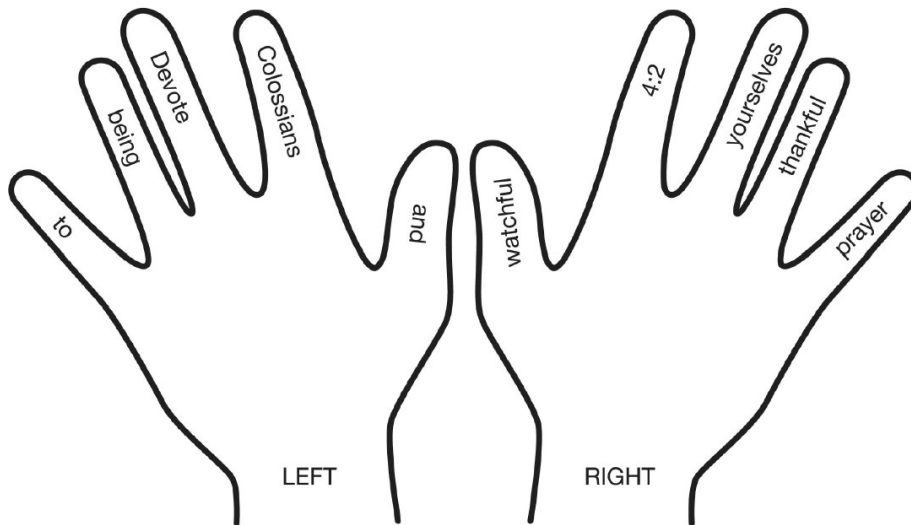
# Praying hands



One way to show our thankfulness is to bow our heads, fold our hands and pray to God.



*Directions: Complete Colossians 4:2 (NIV) by selecting one word on the left hand, then one on the right and so on. Go back and forth, using the word blanks as a guide.*



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W \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ NIV

Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.  
Colossians 4:2, NIV

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### September

1 - William & Debby Baker  
 4 - Mike & Carol Lowder  
 6 - Andrew & Jenna Baker  
 11 - Phi & Jill McLain  
 19 - Debra & James Dandro  
 26 - Chance & Jennifer Williams

### October

1 - George & Luanne Wiseman  
 5 - Donnie & Raegan Swaringen  
 6 - Mallory & Debbie McDaniel  
 15 - Doug & Amelia Goodnight  
 17 - Linda & Tom Grebler  
 19 - Sam & Kay McAllister  
 25 - Lindsay & Jason Leece

### November

6 - John & Brenda Gail Roberson  
 9 - Lynn & Shannon Sechler  
 20 - Mark & Jennifer Linn



### September

2 - Pat Hill  
 10 - Bill Hammond  
 15 - Dwight Goodnight  
     Linda Grebler  
     Susan Thomas  
 16 - Amias Hamilton  
 17 - Brenda Gail Roberson  
 19 - Rylan Craft  
 21 - Bonnie Goodnight  
 24 - Tony Sherrill  
 25 - Lynn Efird  
     Phil McLain  
     Tom Grebler  
 27 - Debbie McDaniel  
 28 - Betty Overcash  
     Donnie Swaringen  
 29 - Risa Little

### October

2 - Zack Martens  
 3 - Connie Rary  
 6 - Juanita Holt  
 9 - Mel Eaton  
 10 - Caylin Lowder  
 14 - Bobby Hallman  
     Ella Sechler  
 17 - Evie Sechler  
 23 - Amy Hamilton  
     Banagher Hamilton  
 25 - Carter Wiseman  
     David Grey  
     Keira Brady  
 27 - Amelia Goodnight

### November

1 - Frank Gibson  
 2 - Sharon Copeland  
 3 - Rylan Craft  
 4 - Luanne Wiseman  
 6 - Thomas Pless  
 7 - Doug Goodnight  
 9 - Sandy Eaton  
 15 - George Wiseman  
 16 - Chris Goodnight  
     Emma Sechler  
 19 - Richard Keasler  
 20 - Torrence Hallman  
 29 - Kendal Wiseman



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has met several times since being elected in early July. The PNC has completed our Church Information Form,

which is a document required by ECO to give an overview of our church and community. The Church Information Form also describes what we are looking for in a new pastor. The Church Information Form has been reviewed and approved by Session, and is now awaiting approval by the ECO Ministry Partnership

Team. Once we have approval from ECO, the PNC will post the open position and begin accepting applications.

The PNC is open to any feedback or questions that you have. As a reminder, the PNC consists of Jeff Barnhardt, Tracy Caskey, Carol Lowder, Lynn Sechler, Karen Pless, and Alpha Barger. Please see any PNC member if you have questions or feedback to share.

Budget to date as of July 2020	
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$148,494
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$148,767
July Income (for budgeted items)	\$20,868
July Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$17,640
If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.	

# Forecast

**First Presbyterian Church**  
201 Vance Street  
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