

Forecast



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

Fall 2021

CELEBRATING CHURCH FAMILY!

Frank & Peggy

Gibson were married on April 30, 1983 at First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN. Having each been married once before, they had 7 children between

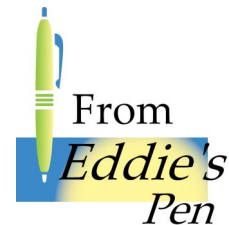
them. Though they were both Christians, neither of them had been very active in church as adults.

In June of 1983, worked moved them to NC. Frank worked in Salisbury and Peggy worked in Charlotte, so they split the difference and moved to Concord. However most weekends they traveled to visit Frank's mother in GA, Peggy's mother in FL, Frank's only sister in SC, or their children in TN. The travel placed a strain on their marriage and they had little time for church. One weekend in late 1985, Frank's mom and step-dad came to visit. On Saturday of that weekend, while shopping in Cannon Village, Frank's mom asked, "Where are we going to church tomorrow?" First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis loomed in the background, so they decided to visit there.

The people in the church were so friendly that the Gibsons decided to go back again, and again. They joined the church in January 1986 and began to feel like this was their church home.

Slowly they began to be involved in the life of the church. Frank was invited to be a part of "The Last Supper" and Peggy was invited to join Presbyterian Women. Frank was also asked to start a Sunday School class for single adults.

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Recently, a fellow pastor asked me my vision for the church. I shared I am working to know the people, past, heart, and culture of First Presbyterian Church. I do believe Christ has a vision for His church.

In chapter 6, Luke records Jesus' astonishing sermon. The multitudes were awestruck and mesmerized by Jesus' ministry, ready to crown Him Messiah. Instead of building on the ministry momentum that large crowds afford, Jesus seems to put His ministry in regress, not progress mode.

Following the sermon, Jesus resumes his itinerant ministry. He heals the unknown servant of a Roman centurion. Why pause to heal a man whose job entailed picking up the manure of the horse of a Roman soldier? Subsequently, Jesus ministered to an unnamed widow from Nain, grieving the loss of her son.

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Music Ministry



Summer 2021 was busy at our church. Summer Singing on the Steps was very popular and we had more than forty people come out and support our last concert, featuring Cabarrus Station. We plan to continue this tradition, but maybe at a different time of year.

I am excited about the fall season and the music ministry plans I have made. I have assembled 5 groups who will rotate and assist me in leading congregational worship between now and Christmas. This praise team is committed to honoring God in our corporate worship. Alleluia Ringers will begin rehearsal on Wednesday



September 15 at 7:30. I have missed ringing with this group and we also look forward to working towards our annual handbell festival in Salisbury in March. Choristers will begin rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for occasional special music. I have also discussed with Don Simmons at Kimball Lutheran the possibility of joining together in a

Christmas cantata to be presented at First Pres and at Kimball like we did in 2019. This was well received and a wonderful time for fellowship and interdenominational worship. *David Hamilton*

The
First Presbyterian Women's Council
cordially invites all women of the church to a

Fall Lunch Gathering

Saturday, October 2, 2021
12:00pm-2:00pm
Mrs. Roxanne Spencer, Guest Speaker

The favor of a reply is requested by Sunday, September 26th
to
Sharon Cranford (704) 796-5731
Michelle Walker (704) 222-1778

Fall Sermon Series: "Soul Prescription"

Following our Philippians 4 series, I am planning a new series for the Fall called "Soul Prescription." The series is based on several Psalms. The book of Psalms, centrally located in the Bible, is God's "prayer book." It contains 150 prayers, including prayers of praise, thanksgiving, supplication, and lament. Because of its passionate and poetic nature, the Psalms in ancient Israel, throughout church history and today have been sung.

How do we respond to painful realities and process accompanying feelings of grief, anger, sorrow, and doubt? The Psalms offer words to express when life's sorrow and pain leave us speechless.

Some have been taught to suppress, deny, and cover up feelings. "Be tough", "Don't cry", "Wear your emotions on your sleeve"; essentially, live superficially and call it courage. This approach is not biblical or emotionally healthy.

Today, a current word on emotions is "Embrace your feelings". How you feel, more than any other index in your life, is who you are. A husband leaves his wife because he feels unhappy in his marriage, and he deserves to be happy. "You must follow your feelings." This approach is unbiblical and personally and socially unhealthy. God's approach revealed in the Psalms, and particularly in the struggle and brokenness of the Psalmist, is to pray our pain in God's presence and seek Him and His soul healing. The book of Psalms offers us God's soul prescription.



Thank you to all who served and participated in **Treasured VBS!**



Children, youth and adults were blessed to learn more about how priceless they are to God!

Mark your calendars for Genesis Sunday on September 12th!

Adults and children are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am. The CE Team will introduce children and adults to their Sunday School classes for the 2021-2022 year before releasing everyone to their respective classrooms. There is something for everyone this year, so don't miss out!



Class Offerings

- **Drummond Class** - Ron Lisenby, Teacher; 2nd floor of Education Building
- **Disciples Class** - Frank Gibson, Teacher; 2nd floor of Education Building
- **Good News Class** - Eddie Spencer, Teacher; Mark & Renee Goodnight, Class Leaders; Session Room
- **Middle/Sr. High** - Donnie & Raegan Swaringen, Teachers; Choir Hallway
- **PreK/Elementary** - Choir Hallway
- **Nursery** - Irene Davis, Teacher; 2nd floor of Education Building



Wednesday Night Ministry is coming soon!

Mid-week Bible study will begin in October for children, youth, and adults. Our Operation Christmas Child packing party is set for November 10. Then

look for winter offerings like Christmas Caroling or Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing in Charlotte.

Get ready for fun and fellowship as we focus on the foundations of our faith!

Wednesday Night Schedule

- 6:00pm - Christmas Play practice In Sanctuary
- 6:30pm - Classes for All Ages:
Adult Bible Study with Pastor Eddie
Middle/Senior High: "The Case for Christ" Study with Donnie & Raegan Swaringen
Elementary: "The Case for Christ with Kids" Study with Michelle Walker
Preschool: Discovery Club with Alpha Barger & Linda Bost
- 7:30pm - Alleluia Ringers

Registration for Saltshakers Bible Study is open!

This fall's study is "The Superiority & Sufficiency of Jesus Christ: A study of the books of Hebrews and Galatians". Sign up [here](#) or contact Sharon Cranford or Judy Goodnight for more information. Meetings will be Monday evenings at 7:30pm via Zoom, beginning late September.

Fall Festival for Family and Friends is coming soon!



Mark your calendars for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship on Sunday, October 24th. Immediately following the worship service, the congregation is invited to gather on the front lawn and

enjoy food, fun and games for the entire family! Donations of whole cakes are also requested for a Cake Walk. Invite your friends and neighbors as we celebrate together this fall! See Michelle Walker for more information.

Mark your calendar for Fall Vespers on Sunday, November 14!

The Fellowship Team will provide dinner at 5:30pm, followed by entertainment at 6:30pm. Pastor Eddie will also share a time of devotion. Invite friends to come enjoy this special time of worship and fellowship. Please RSVP to Ryan Walker at (704) 223-5255 by Wednesday, November 10.

Mission Opportunities



Serve with First Pres at the Salvation Army Night Shelter!

Volunteers are needed to prepare meals for 20 people the nights of September 26th through October 2nd. Meals may be dropped off at the Shelter, or volunteers may stay and serve if they wish. A sign-up

sheet is in the Narthex. You may sign up for an entire meal or one portion of it (meat, side dish, dessert, drinks). See Debbie McDaniel for more information.

It's Shoebox time!!! This year, our goal is once again 400 boxes – 200 for girls aged 10-14 and 200 for boys aged 10-14.

There are three ways for you to pack an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox:



Build a Shoebox Online. Go to our church's [Goal Page](#) at, choose the items you want included in your shoebox, and pay for the boxes online! **Deadline is Sunday, November 14th.**



Pack Your Own Shoebox.

Pick up a pre-printed box from the Narthex and fill it with items prayerfully chosen by your family. A list of suggested items is available in the Narthex, along with a label for your box. Include a check made out to Samaritan's Purse

to cover the shipping cost of \$9.00 per box.

Return the boxes no later than Sunday, November 14th

Donate for Our Church's Packing Party.

Each month from August to November, we will focus on specific items needed to fill

our shoeboxes, which **we will pack on Wednesday, November 10th!** For the month of September, our focus will be personal care



items.

Please place donations of the following items in the bin in the Narthex:

- *Regular size bar soap
- *Thick washcloth
- *Boy's comb
- *Girl's hairbrush
- *Travel pack wet wipes
- *Regular size Lip Balm (solid)
- *Travel pack tissues
- *Nail clippers

You may also make a monetary donation – just mark your check or offering for “Shoeboxes”.

The Week of November 15-23, First Pres will also serve as a Drop-Off Collection Site for individuals and churches in the area.

Volunteers will be needed each day/night of the drop-off, so keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet! See Michelle

Walker or Irene Davis for more information.

Thank you for your faithful support of this special ministry!!



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Cabarrus County
CROP Hunger Walk

October 10, 2021

Concord, North Carolina

Time: 1:00 PM Registration/sign-in
2:00 PM Walk start

The Cabarrus County CROP Hunger Walk is planning an in-person event to continue the fight against hunger and poverty in our community as well as globally. However, since COVID is still impacting our communities, feel free to participate “virtually” if you prefer. For more information visit [Cabarrus County CROP Hunger Walk](#).

\$142,879



Your Missions Team is so grateful for your prayers and support. Here's what we've been up to:

- Supplies & funds for 21 pairs of shoes were shipped to Sole Hope, benefitting children in Uganda.



- Breakfast for Forest Park Elementary Staff was provided on August 18th.
- 30 hygiene kits were delivered to Forest Park Elementary School Nurse for students in need
- Funds given to Mill River Community Church Plant



A Testimony from David:

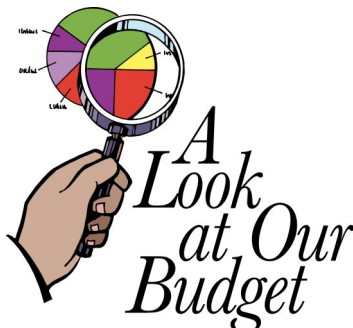
When I decided to work at Amazon for the summer I thought I was in for six weeks of mundane work until school started again. I was going to keep my head down and get the job done. I could not have imagined that God would have me work eight hours side by side for days with Sam. Sam is a young Sudanese American Muslim. Sam learned I was a Christian and we immediately struck up a friendship. He wanted to know about Christianity. He wanted to know how my faith was different from Islam. God opened his heart to hearing the gospel and I had the opportunity to not only witness to him, but to explain that Isa (Jesus in the Koran) is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. I could tell he was frustrated with Islam because he told me that he feels like a failure every day and he can't shake that feeling. I told him that Jesus is the answer. We exchanged numbers and I plan to pray for Sam. I ask that you would pray for his salvation too! It is so true that God is always working, even in the most mundane moments of our lives.

Missions Trek offerings & projects during VBS yielded:



- 28 homeless necessity bags packed for Habit Missions' Kannapolis/Concord Outreach and \$60 collected
- 29 cards for Meals on Wheels recipients and \$189.72 collected for 10cents-a-Meal

- 31 Classroom Kits packed for teachers at Forest Park Elementary School and \$130 collected for KCS Fund;
- \$65 collected for Shield a Badge with Prayer;
- \$160 collected for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



Budget to Date as of August 31, 2021	
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$163,291
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$161,335
	\$137,612

If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.

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And at the end of Luke 7, we have a bizarre scene where a prostitute interrupts a dinner party and anoints Jesus' feet with her perfume. Why subject Himself to wild innuendo? Jesus did not chastise her for her rudeness or her sexual immorality. He looked into her eyes with His great compassion, discerned her faith and repentance, and embraced her expression of devotion.

I suggest in Luke 6-7, we get a glimpse into Jesus' heart and vision for His church. Jesus leaves the awestruck multitudes resumes an itinerant ministry to the poor, forgotten and lost to teach us His heart is not to build mega-churches but churches, large and small, with mega-hearts. The kind of church whose people, hearing and believing the gospel of Jesus, cultivate a mega-heart to share Christ and be His presence to the poor, forgotten and lost; a church whose love is broad and wide and whose witness cuts across racial, socio-economic, educational, cultural, and national lines. A church whose people are growing a mega-heart for Christ and His kingdom come.

How Do We Pray in These Days?

How do we pray with poignancy and efficacy for a people whose suffering is too terrible for the human mind to comprehend? How do we pray for our country and world in these remarkably crazy days? I humbly offer two simple thoughts.

First, we must ask God to help us see the suffering of fellow believers as well as fellow human beings.

Jesus, when he told the story of the Good Samaritan, was very intentional with his use of words. All three men, the Priest, Levite, and Good Samaritan, as Jesus made crystal clear, "saw the man." The Priest and the Levite, "saw the man and passed by on the other side of the road." Sadly, this is how many of us view suffering. We *see* it, but what lasting impression does it really make? Ask God to impress upon us the reality of the pain and suffering that afflict so many others. Pray, using the words of the Apostle Paul, "I want to *know* Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death..." (Phil. 3:10).

Secondly, we must learn how to meditate on the Cross. Elie Wiesel, in his book, "Night" gives a painfully inspirational account of his boyhood experiences in the death camps of Buchenwald, Buna and Auschwitz. "Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night..."

When he arrived at Auschwitz, he was faced with a tortured and hanged young boy. The prisoners were forced to march past him and look at him full in the face. Wiesel recalled that he heard a voice say behind him, "Where is God? Where is God now?" And Wiesel in his spirit, declared, "Where is God," He is hanging on the gallows!"

"God is on the gallows!" This is the message of the Cross. God is not immune to human pain and suffering. He became a man, walked the way of sorrows, to the point of death, death on the Cross. As our Savior and high Priest, He has declared solidarity with us in our suffering.

As we pray for our world filled with such massive suffering, may we seek to move our gaze beyond our own pain and others, to that "lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross... plunged in God forsaken darkness." Meditate on, *"Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open his mouth"* (Is. 53:4,7).

The pain and confusion of suffering will not go away, but it will be more manageable considering divine suffering. And one day we can know, there will be no more suffering, sorrow, and earthquakes. "Thanks be to God. He has given us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord." (I Cor.15:57)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



September

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

October

4 - George & Luanne Wiseman
 5 - Donnie & Raegan Swaringen
 6 - Mallory & Debbie McDaniel
 17 - Linda & Tom Grebler
 19 - Sam & Kay McAllister
 25 - Jason & Lindsey Leece

November

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



September

2 - Pat Hill
 15 - Linda Grebler
 16 - Amias Hamilton
 17 - Brenda Gail Roberson
 19 - Ryan Craft
 21 - Bonnie Goodnight
 24 - Tony Sherrill
 25 - Lynn Efird
 - Phillip McLain
 27 - Debbie McDaniel
 28 - Betty Overcash
 - Donnie Swaringen

October

2 - Zack Martens
 9 - Mel Eaton
 10 - Caylin Lowder
 14 - Bobby Hallman
 - Ella Sechler
 17 - Evie Sechler
 20 - Sylvia Overcash
 23 - Banagher Hamilton
 25 - Carter Wiseman
 - David Grey
 - Keira Brady

November

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

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A visitor to the class worked at Piedmont Correctional Institution in Salisbury and asked the Gibsons to reach out to a troubled inmate. They met the Chaplain, who outlined his idea of a Prison Ministry. What followed was a 21-year prison ministry. The Gibsons have been honored to serve this church as elders, and privileged to represent this church in Mbandi, Zambia in 1992. The experience changed their lives forever and they are grateful.

The Gibsons hungered for God in their lives and He came through in a big way. They felt led to this church and thanked God for the ministry opportunities available to them. They grew in their faith in ways that likely would not have been available in a larger church.

For the last 35 years, First Presbyterian has been a huge part of their lives and they are excited to see what God has in store for our church. The church has survived troubled waters in the past and like Kannapolis, they see a bright future ahead. They thank God for those saints who were there for them and nurtured them. God had a plan and they were blessed to be a part of it.

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."



Show off your church with new First Presbyterian t-shirts! The Missions Team is taking orders for t-shirts featuring our church logo on the front and Mission Statement on the back. The shirts are silver in color, a 50/50 blend of cotton and polyester, and available in sizes Youth XS – XL or Adult S - 5X. All shirts are \$10.00. To order, please fill out the form below, include \$10.00 per shirt, and place in the offering plate or return to the church office. The deadline to order is Sunday, October 10th. See Michelle Walker for more information.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

No. of **Youth Shirts:** _____ XS _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL

No. of **Adult Shirts:** _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL

_____ 2X _____ 3X _____ 4X _____ 5X

Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$10.00 per shirt)



Forecast

First Presbyterian Church
201 Vance Street
Kannapolis, NC 28021-4383

