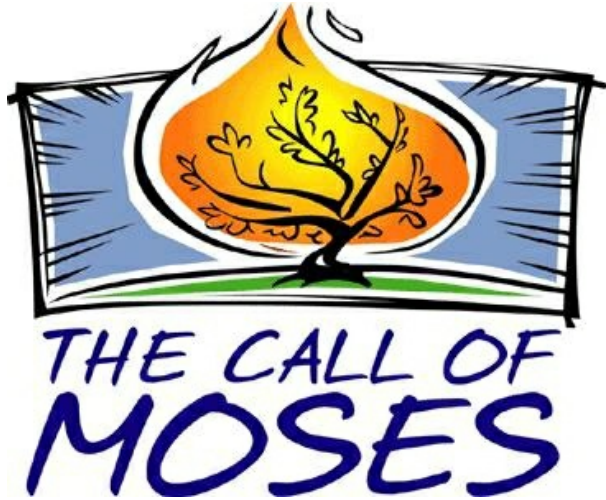




# THE WEEKLY FIRST



On Sundays we have started a new teaching series, “The Moses Story.” This week I urge you to read Exodus 3, as we will consider Moses’ calling. The big idea we will explore is how God spiritually calls and grows us in a similar pattern as He did Moses.

Last week from Exodus 1-2, I offered an overview of the birth and miraculous preservation of Moses as well as the two days in his life at age 40 that would set a trajectory for his next 40 years. Moses’ first 40 years were extraordinary. While he was raised by his Hebrew parents in his formative years of development (birth-8 years old), from boyhood to manhood, he enjoyed all the privileges of Egyptian royalty. At age 40 however, Moses decided to become a defender of his people, the Jews. The New Testament book of Hebrews explains, “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.” (Hebrews 11:24-25)

At age 40, Moses wanted to be a leader of his people. The God of the Hebrews did not concur. Moses had a passion for the Jews’ cause, but he was proud, angry and impulsive. He had the heart of a Hebrew, but the habits of an entitled Egyptian prince. Moses needed God’s spiritual preparation. For the next 40 years, God readied Moses to do His work, in His way, by His strength.

**Moses learned spiritual humility.** On Sunday, Frank Gibson reminded me what D.L. Moody said of the life of Moses: “Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody; 40 years learning he was nobody; and 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody.” Spiritual humility is learning to live with a conscious awareness of our need for and dependence upon God.

**Moses learned servanthood** (Exodus 3:5). Moses learned many things from his privileged education in Pharaoh’s palace; servanthood was not one of them. He learned to be a servant in the wilderness tending sheep. Spiritual character is not necessarily developed in the big achievements others see and celebrate, but in the life we live and the people we serve when no one sees, knows or celebrates. “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26)

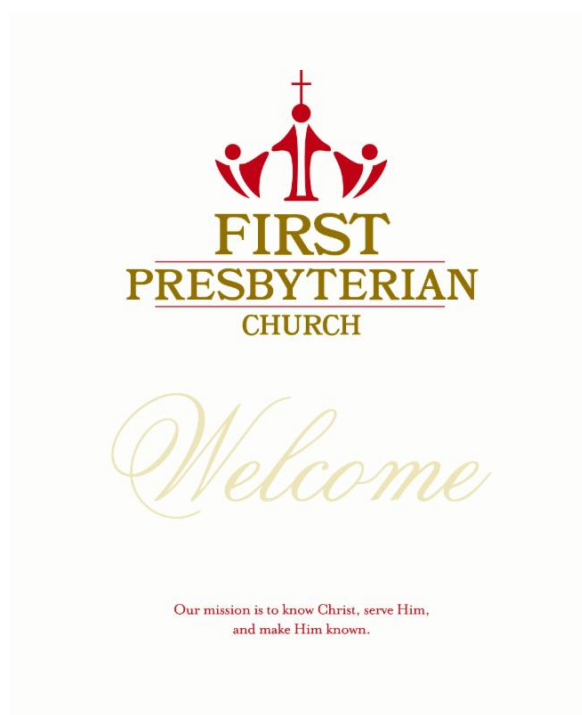
**Moses learned to trust God more deeply.** Moses was a gifted leader who needed to learn to depend on God instead of his own natural abilities. He needed to learn to rely on God’s spiritual

strength to sustain his life and lead God's people. Moses had to learn his life was no longer about him but God. You can't convince people God is great and you are great at the same time. Early in his post-wilderness calling, Moses would witness awesome and miraculous works of God. He would enjoy unprecedented access to God. But in many of the 40 years leading God's people, there would be long periods when Moses would not see the sights and sounds of great works. Instead, he would have to live and lead by faith in who God had revealed Himself to be. Remember, Moses led a loosely knit group of people who had known nothing but Egyptian slavery to become a new nation with the freedom to live under the rule of God's Covenant and law. God prepared Moses through his Hebrew upbringing, his privileged education and training as Egyptian royalty, and the way he learned to trust God more deeply after 40 years in the wilderness. At age 80, Moses was ready to hear God's calling upon his life.

I am excited for the beginning of our "Wednesdays in the Word" Ministry on September 25. The adult study will be follow-up and applications from "The Moses Story" sermon series. There are many more truths to teach and apply than we can cover on Sunday mornings. For example, in Exodus 1-2, we learn that Moses and many other baby Hebrew boys were saved from Pharaoh's evil edict of infanticide because of civil disobedience. The Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah (Exodus 1:15) as well as Moses' mother and sister directly disobeyed the order of a king/Pharaoh. What is civil disobedience? As Christians are we called to practice civil disobedience? When? What does it mean that Christians are called to submit to the government in Romans 13? These are the types of topics from Exodus and the life of Moses that we will discuss on Wednesday evenings.

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## [Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



We are continuing our Operation Christmas Child collection in September, having set our goal to once again pack 400 shoeboxes - 200 for girls aged 2-4, and 200 for girls aged 10-14.

**For September our collection will focus on personal care items!** We need:

- 400 hairbrushes
- 220 washcloths
- 382 regular sized bars of soap
- 398 packs of hair accessories (like clips, pins, or small bows)
- 362 toothbrushes

We would also like to give small water bottles to the older girls (we still need 120) and a dinnerware set for the younger girls (we will order - approx. \$2.83 each on Amazon).

If you would like to contribute towards these items or the cost of shipping our boxes (\$10/box) you can do so online; or mark your donation "Shoebboxes" and place it in the offering plate.

If you would like to pack your own shoebox, shoeboxes are now available in the Narthex, also instruction guides. Return your packaged box with the \$10 shipping cost inside, by Sunday, November 10.

If you would like to Build a Shoebox online, go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/).



**OCC Workshop Coming soon!** If you are interested in learning more about Operation Christmas Child or how you can be involved in our church's collection, Samaritan's Purse is hosting a Project Leader Workshop THIS Saturday, Sept 21 at Pitts Baptist, from 10:30am-12. A shoebox recipient will also share his testimony. **Please contact Sue Maiocchi or Michelle Walker for more information.**



### LOOKING FOR A SEASONAL JOB WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE?

Help process Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for children around the world in Jesus' Name!

Scan this QR code to apply or go to [samaritanspurse.org/occseasonaljobs](http://samaritanspurse.org/occseasonaljobs)



Samaritan's Purse

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**REIMINDER: TONIGHT, September 19 is the Men's Fellowship Dinner at 6pm.** Pastor Jim Harris of Calvary Baptist Church, Kannapolis, will be our guest speaker. Suggested donation is \$12.00 per person.



## "Christmas" Themed Bridal Shower

**First Presbyterian's Women of the Church are hosting a "Christmas" themed Bridal Shower honoring Elizabeth Sechler!** All women of the church are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall **THIS SUNDAY, September 22** between 3:00pm and 5:00pm to bless Elizabeth. Elizabeth and her fiancé, Quenten Jordan, are registered at Target and Amazon.



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**First Presbyterian will host a booth at Kannapolis' National Night Out!**

We will set up in Veterans' Park on Tuesday, October 1 from 5pm-7pm to provide information on our church, pass out First Pres coffee mugs, and give away cotton candy and water! **If you would like to help staff the booth, please see Michelle as soon as possible!**

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**Women of the Church are invited to an *Afternoon Tea* on Saturday, October 5th at 2:00pm.**

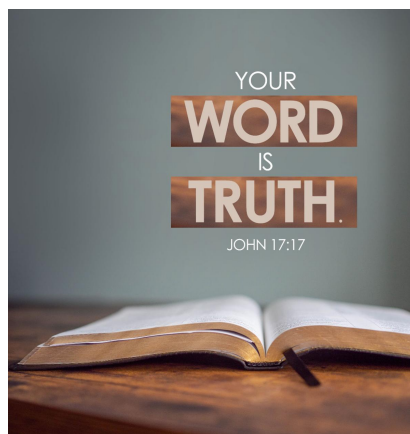
We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a beautifully decorated tea party, complete with refreshments from local vendors. Guest speaker, Josephine

Haynes will lead us in a time of devotion.

**Please sign up in the Narthex or on our website**

**([www.firstpresb.org](http://www.firstpresb.org)) by NEXT Sunday, September 29!**

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**Wednesdays in the Word resume September 25.** Pastor Eddie will begin our time together with a 5-week adult class on the life of Moses. Children and Youth will meet as well. For the remaining weeks, we will enjoy fall festivities and OCC Shoebox activities. Beginning Wednesday, October 16, the Chancel Choir will also rehearse at 6:30pm. The schedule for Wednesday nights will be as follows:

5:30pm - Dinner for Youth and their families

6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal

6:30pm - Adult and Youth classes & Chancel Choir Rehearsal (beginning 10/16)

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**You are invited to Celebrate Community - A Night to Remember - on Saturday, September 28!** This evangelical event to celebrate the children and youth in our community will be held at the Cannon Ballers' stadium 7pm and end with fireworks. There are even opportunities to join a community choir for kids and adults. For more information see Michelle Walker!  
**If you would like to go with a First Pres group, please sign up in the Narthex!**

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**First Presbyterian will host the ECO NC Presbytery Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 12!** Elders and ECO representatives will be on our campus from 8:30am -1pm to enjoy a time of worship, fellowship, and

inspiration. The meeting will build on the theme of *Metanoia* introduced at the National Gathering this year. If you are interested in greeting, serving lunch, or being part of the clean-up crew, please see Cookie Hamilton!

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**Thank you to all who have donated to the First Pres Blessing Fence!**

So many items have been gifted to our community through this ministry.

**Current needs:**

Small (travel size) empty sealable plastic containers (to hold shampoo and conditioner)

Ziplock bags: 1 & 2 gallon

First Aid items: band aids, wipes, vaseline

Clean/gently used socks, hats, gloves and scarves

Handwarmers

Small bottles of water.

**Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!**

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**Linda's Closet is holding a coat giveaway and soup luncheon on Saturday, October 26.** Volunteers are needed to help staff the giveaway, prepare and serve the soup lunch, and

bring desserts. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help!

We also need new or gently-used winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves! We can also use grocery bags. Please drop them in the Linda's Closet receptacle across from the church office. At this time, due to the enormity of donations, we are not accepting other clothing items. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry!

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### **Prayer Concerns**

**Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates.  
Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.**

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**CHURCH FAMILY**

- John Hammond - heart concerns
- Barbara Boucher - health concerns
- Debra Dandro - continuing treatments and recovery from surgery
- Cecil Cress - health concerns
- Shirley Faust - recovering from surgery and has returned to Accordius

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY**

- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - recovery from surgery
- Jillian Goodwin (Cindy DeVoe's daughter) - recovery from surgery
- Justin Wallace (Melba's grandson) - waiting for heart & kidney transplant (in ICU with pneumonia)
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - treatment for brain tumor
- Jessica Brown (Lisenby's granddaughter) - treatment for liver issues
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Hunter) - on dialysis and waiting for a kidney
- Sheena Allen (Wren Philpot's daughter-in-law) - radiation treatments
- Jennifer Watson (Frank Gibson's daughter) - battling cancer
- Buddy Troutman (friend of Hammonds) - under hospice care
- Jim Mike Ward (friend of Argabrites) - has ALS
- Gloria Covington (Thomas' friend) - battling cancer

### **HOMEBOUND**

- Bob Faust - Accordius
- Linda Bost - Best of Care
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks

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## **This Week@FIRST PRESB**

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### **Sunday, September 22**

#### **10 Cents-A-Meal**

9:30am - Morning Coffee

- GraceFull Movements

Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

3:00-5pm - Bridal Shower honoring  
Elizabeth Sechler

### **Tuesday, September 24**

11:00am - 2:00pm - Linda's Closet

12:00pm - NA

### **Wednesday, September 25**

5:30pm - Journey Youth Dinner

6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal

6:30pm - Wednesday in the Word for all  
ages!

### **Thursday, September 26**

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

### **Friday, September 27**

5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist

**Saturday, September 28**

7:00pm - A Night to Remember - Cannon Baller's Stadium

**Next Sunday, September 29**

9:30am - Morning Coffee

- GraceFull Movements

Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

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## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Cookie Hamilton

**Children's Message:** Michelle Walker

**Children's Message Next Week:** Acting Out Drama Ministry

**Children's Church:** Roxanne Spencer & Michelle Walker

**Children's Church Next Week:** Andrew & Jenna Baker

**Acolytes:** Noah Walker & Landon Walker

**Acolytes next week:** Caylin & Camryn Lowder

**Nursery:** Chariti Lowder

**Nursery next week:** Megan Quigg

**Ushers:** Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, Amy Hurst, Tony Hunter

**Ushers next week:** Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister

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### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen Dave Ellington Lynn Sechler

Cookie Hamilton Chris Lowder Ken Sparks

Sue Maiocchi Phil McLain

Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator

Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk



**Want to have access to all of our members anytime you need it?  
Need to know someone's birthday or anniversary  
so you can send a card?**

Then sign up for our **Online Member's Directory**. All information current and updated whenever you need it! And you know what? There is also an app for your phone!

Create your secure password today and don't miss out! Click the link below to get started!

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>



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