



The First Press

From the Pastor:

Prayer, Bible reading, and Christian relationships are the three most important ingredients to a healthy Christian Life. I'll be writing about prayer and Christian relationships in the months to come.

Last Year I invited you to join me in reading through the Bible in a year, I'm not sure how many accepted the invitation, but for those that did I hope you found it to be a positive experience.

You may be asking, "Jim, why the entire Bible? Why not just the New Testament? As Christians our focus is on Jesus, so why bother with the whole thing?"

God gave us the entire Bible, and we should pay attention to everything God has given us.

This past year in reading through the entire Bible I was reminded that much of Jesus' teaching is a furthering of Old Testament teaching. There is a fullness in reading the New Testament when we are familiar with the Old Testament.

Okay, so you've read through the Bible, you may be thinking, "Glad that's over and I don't have to do that again." I hope that is not your thinking.

I invite you to join me again in reading through the Bible in 2017. Why? Actually it has never been more important for Christians to be daily in God's word than it is these days. Our society is becoming decreasingly Biblically literate. In the past there was a societal Biblical literacy, you could acquire a modest level of familiarity with what is in the Bible because our culture had a corporate

familiarity with the Bible. That is no longer the case.

When there is a category on Jeopardy that has something to do the Bible, it used to be one of the first categories chosen, now it tends to be one of the last, and it seems to me the questions are getting easier.

I use the YouVersion app on my phone, it has a variety of reading plans, seems to be user friendly, and is free. I encourage you to use it or another reading plan to be in God's word daily.

Jim

We are hoping to put together a team of volunteers to take turns locking up the church at night. If you would be interested in being a part of this team, please contact Jim King at jking@first-presby.org

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Esther Shields



January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Noël Curtis, Marjorie Gill, Sharon Kribbs, | 13 - Ryan Graver | na DeCosmo, Morgan Dame |
| 2 - Caroline Campagna, Grace Van Patter | 15 - Rhiannon Dame, Alex Sabo | 25 - Corey Jusko |
| 5 - Mindy Lind, Wendy McTammany | 17 - Mary Shaffer | 27 - Kyle Guissanie, Michael Fox |
| 7 - John Mutschler | 18 - Christina Han | 28 - Judy Miller, Clint Shurtliffe, Robert Han, Gabriel Halteman |
| 9 - Roger Curran, Ken Jusko | 21 - Peggy Starkey | 30 - Seth Young |
| 12 - Kath Schwieger | 22 - Karen Graber | 31 - Giselle Taylor |
| | 23 - Jim Zaiser, Matt Reinhart | |
| | 24 - Andrew King, Sere- | |

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 - Dave & Judy Miller celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary
- 9 - David & April Shrom celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary
- 11 - Ken & Jean Lepley celebrating their 14th wedding anniversary

Mark your 2017 calendar for the All Church Winter Retreat. New this year: just one night, running from Saturday Feb. 4 - Sunday the 5th. Fun for all ages and interests. Sign up below and drop in the offering plate.

A New Look for the Winter Retreat... This is an all church, families encouraged winter retreat. There will be no separate youth lodging this year.

A time for fellowship, recreation, entertainment and spiritual renewal at Camp Susque in Trout Run PA **February 4-5**.

Scheduling is very relaxed. Come for the food, come for the fun, come for the fellowship! All are welcome! Cost for the retreat (Sat. 10:00 a.m. to Sun. noon) lodging and meals, is \$50.00 per adult, 12 to 5 year olds - \$35.00, and children 4 and under - free. Register by Jan. 8th.

	Number	Amount
Entire retreat at \$50.00 per adult	_____	_____
Entire retreat at \$35.00 per child	_____	_____
Total:	_____	_____

Names of those attending:

Please complete and return to the church office with payment by 1/8



“Coming Out of the Cold: A Rescue Operation”

Twentieth-century British poet Stevie Smith writes movingly about a “poor chap” who, unbeknownst to those around him, has lived a life quite different from the public image he has cast as a care-free adventurer. Alternating points of view between the drowned man and his observers on the beach, Smith describes a swimmer wandering out too far, perhaps suffering hypothermia, and drowning as a metaphor for a man who looks back from the dead, declaring that life, not water, has always been “too cold” and concluding, “I was much too far out all my life / And not waving but drowning.”

Whether society or the swimmer is at fault here is not clear. What is clear is that isolation is not what God intends for him or for any of us. The life-long chill of isolation that ultimately claims the heart is the outgrowth of sin. In a culture such as ours, we can

become isolated in self-centeredness. Any time that you and I put ourselves where God deserves to be—in some high place of authority or noteworthiness—we sin. We say, in effect, “I don’t need you. I don’t need to follow your commands. I will not listen to you. I will call the shots.” When we attach our love to *something* or *somebody* other than God, we have lost our first love, the perfect source of all love. Deprived of that love, we lose the ability to connect with and minister to our “neighbors” in need. In short, we create the conditions for a life of bone-chilling isolation, a life lived far out from shore.

How does this love theme play out in the church? As a collection of sinners, the church may be thought of as a shoreline of swimmers ranging from smooth, powerful stokers to frantic thrashers. The reality is that in our church and community we are surrounded

by people who are “not waving but drowning”—people who, for a variety of reasons, have lived “much too far out all [their] lives.” Do these words describe someone close to you? Or are you that person?

The life-saving news of Christmas, so long promised through the prophets, is realized in Zechariah’s song, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.” Into the frigid waters of sin, God has extended his strong, warm hand, pulled us into the boat, and rowed us to shore. How can we do less than to grasp that hand? How can we not, in turn, reach out to those thrashing beside us? As we move away from the cradle and toward the Cross, we would do well as a fellowship to focus on expressing God’s life-saving, heart-warming love toward one another.

— Bob Kribbs

Zechariah’s Song
“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.”

-Luke 1 68-69 NIV

Not Waving, but Drowning

Nobody heard him, the dead man,
But still he lay moaning:
I was much further out than you thought
And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking*
And now he’s dead
It must have been too cold for him
his heart gave way, They said.

On, no no no, it was too cold always
(Still the dead one lay moaning)
I was much too far out all my life
And not waving but drowning.
Stevie Smith (1902-71)

*carefree adventuring



2017 Calendar of Events and Committees

Coffee Team		
Caroline Campagna	Rob + Lisa Black	Lamar & Lorri Bruckhart
Steve & Alesia Foster	John & Bonnie Troxell	Bart & Linda Shaffer
Connie Moore	Wayne & Pat Samuelson	Mark & Liz Speake
Bill + Beth Shutt	Don & Glen Dobbs	Matt & Wendy McTammany
Nina Leshar	Dave & Marsha Thomas	Mark & Amie Reif
Dave + Ruth McCord	Ed & Rhiannon Dame	Sean & Natalie Van Fleet
	Mark & Leslie Temple	Dave Reid

Strawberry Fest 6/11
Eric & Barb Schmidt
Han Family (Sukey-Christina)
Seth & Judith Ziegler
Ann Miller
Bill + Beth Shutt
Rusty + Karen Graber
Jacqueline Wottrich
Nina Leshar
Ryan & Laura Graver
Ken + Jeannie Lepley
Janette Campbell
Mark + Kathy Davies
Carol Crago
Dave + April Shrom

Susque 2/4-5	Easter 4/16	Cong. Picnic 5/28
Ed & Rhiannon Dame	Rob + Lisa Black	Cavanagh Family
Lorri Bruckhart	Bill & Lisa Bernard	Mark + Jess Heid
Office Staff	Bob & Christena Harder	Lori Barth
	Seth & Vickie Ziegler	Tom + Avis Hans
		Mast Family
		Pat + Keith Ringkamp
		Mark & Leslie Temple

Knoebels Picnic 7/16	Rally Day Picnic 9/10	Bike Hike 10/21	Fall mtg. OCC fundraiser 11/12
Steve & Alesia Foster	Cavanagh Family	Ed & Rhiannon Dames	Ann Miller
Jon Walz	Mark + Jess Heid	Dave & April Shrom	Dave and Ruth McCord
Ed & Rhiannon Dame	Ryan & Laura Graver		Lisa Bernard
	Mast Family		Lamar +Lorri Bruckhart
	Kim + Dan Wagner		

Hanging of Greens 11/26	Christmas Dinner & Program 12/3	Taking down the greens 12/27
Mark + Jess Heid + family	Clint + Karen Shurtliffe	Vanessa + Josh Beck
Taylor Family	Ann Roll	Taylor Family
Ann Roll	Mast Family	Jack + Rebecca Mignot
Jack + Rebecca Mignot	David + Mary Ruth Campbell (host)	Richard Erdley
Marilyn Gaver	Dave + Marcia Thomas (host and Clean-up)	Alice Marquart
Peg Erdley	Jessie Walsh	Kathy Gathman
Alice Marquart		
Marsha + Paul Tarves		
Leslie Temple		

January First Presby Kids 2017

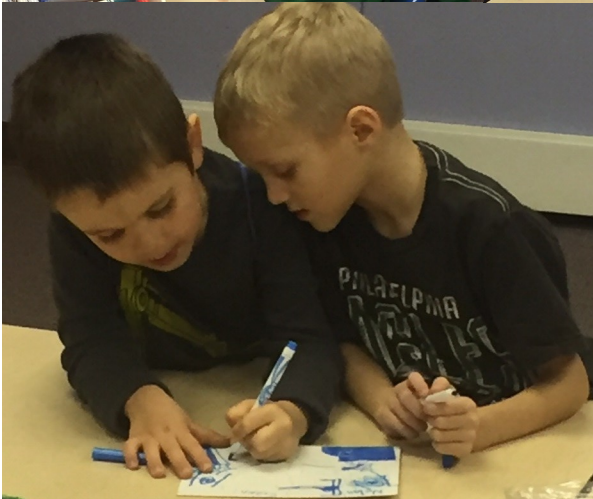
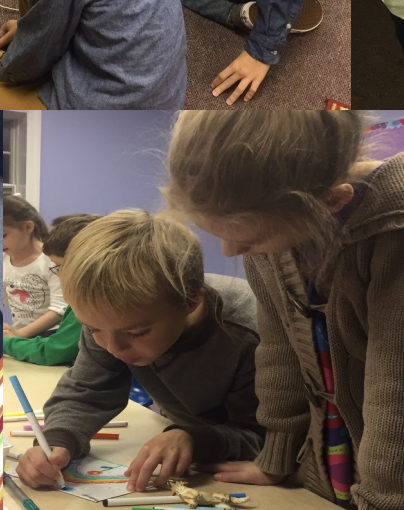
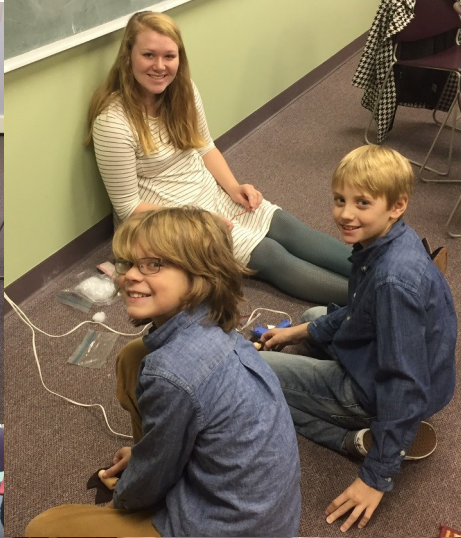
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm	Rejoicing Spirits 6pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm			
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30						All Church Winter Retreat



REMINDER OF OUR WEATHER POLICY:

The church (and the youth programs), follow the Lewisburg school district weather policy. Listen to the radio or tv: If there is an early dismissal or cancellation of school, we will not have after school and evening programs. If there is a morning delay, there will not be youth breakfast. We will always maintain our Sunday morning schedule. Safe Travels; use your discretion when thinking about whether you should come to church or not.






January First Presby Youth 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm	College Coffee	Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm Rejoicing Spirits 6:30		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm	College Coffee	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		
29	30	31				
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm				



January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 Worship 2:00 NA	2 7:30 Missions	3 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA	4 6:30 Youth Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 12:00 NA 5:00 Chimes 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	5 6:00 DBR 3:00 Guy Games 7:30 NA	6 12:00 NA 7:00 NA	7 7:00 NA
8 8:30 Prayer Time 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	9 9:15 Trainers	10 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA	11 6:30 Youth Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 12:00 NA 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	12 6:00 DBR 3:00 Guy Games 7:30 NA	13 12:00 NA 7:00 NA	14 7:00 NA
15 8:30 Prayer Time 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	16 Office Closed 7:00 Session, Trustees and Deacons	17 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA	18 6:30 Youth Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 12:00 NA 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	19 6:00 DBR 3:00 Guy Games 7:30 NA	20 12:00 NA 7:00 NA	21 7-9 Adult Bowling 7:00 NA
22 8:30 Prayer Time 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	23 9:15 Trainers	24 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA	25 6:30 Youth Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 12:00 NA 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	26 6:00 DBR 3:00 Guy Games 7:30 NA	27 12:00 NA 7:00 NA	28 7:00 NA
29 8:30 Prayer Time 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	30 9:15 Trainers	31 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA	<p>First Presbyterian would like to effectively communicate with all of our worshippers! Go to this link and sign up for what interests you! https://new.flocknote.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch2</p> 			



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'Living fully in Christ,
 through His Word,
 community and mission'

Volunteers for January:

Pulpit Assistant:

Ushers: Eric Schmidt, Richard Erdley, Mark Davies, Mark Reif and Brad Zimmerman

Nursery

1
 8 Foster, Heid
 15
 22 Sign up with Lauren to
 29 serve in the nursery

Coffee

No Coffee Social
 Mark & Leslie Temple
 Don & Glen Dobbs
 Dave & Marcia Thomas
 Ed & Rhiannon Dame

Greeters

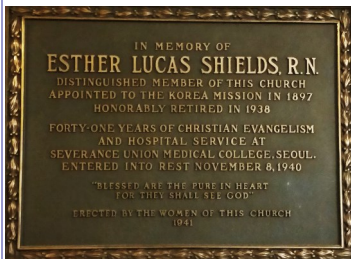
Haltemans
 Papsons
 Temple boys
 McCords
 McTammanys

DBR 5: Bruce/Ishii/Ringkamp (Shaffer) **12:** Shady Grove Mennonite (Gathman) **19:** Zellmann (Kribbs) **26:** Shaffer (Troxell)



What is God calling you to do?

Miss Esther Lucas Shields was a member of the Buffalo Church (Presbyterian) located near Mazeppa, PA. She grew up on a rural farm in Kelly Township and went to school at the Oakland one-roomed schoolhouse located on Col. John Kelly Road (adjacent to the back entrance to the Lewisburg Prison). Esther went to school there until she was 17, going on to the Nurses' Training School of the Philadelphia General Hospital. After working as a nurse in the states for several years in private duty, she was influenced by her pastor Rev. E.A. Snook to serve as a missionary. In 1897 she was appointed to Korea and worked on the mission field there for 41 years.



In 1918 the Buffalo church was dissolving, so Esther and her sisters transferred their membership to the First Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg. ← This plaque is on our wall of the narthex.

Hyoung W. Park, MD, Professor of the Department of Anatomy and Medical History at Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul Korea visited our church in May to collect information on Ms. Shields. God used Esther in amazing ways! Esther, from little Kelly Township PA was a pioneer nurse and began a Nursing College in Korea that is still in existence today. Her life was a shining example to many people in Korea where she was known as "the Angel of Korea". Dr. Park recently published a book about Esther. The book is translated in both Korean and English and is available in the Himmelreich Christian Resource Library.

What is God calling you to do? Where are you letting your light shine?