

FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

What's our spiritual routine? What are the practices or commitments we make in an effort to anchor the stuff of our daily lives to the reality of a living God? It seems a ripe time to ask these questions. For many of us, a couple of years of pandemic-driven uncertainty have undone old routines, interrupted important relationships, and left us with a sense that we need to begin again.

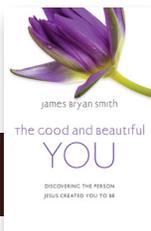
When we are making so many other decisions about our schedules,

WHERE IS THE SPACE WE WILL SET ASIDE FOR GOD?

Part of the job of our church is to help us answer this question.

Sunday, September 11th, marks our "kick-off" for the fall. We'll begin the day with a 10 AM congregational breakfast and one service at 11 AM. We'll introduce a fall focus in our preaching that builds on the book, *The Good and Beautiful You: Discovering the Person Jesus Created You to Be*, by James Bryan Smith. I'm looking forward to exploring it with you over the coming weeks. You can purchase a copy on Amazon or your favorite book seller.

The Good and Beautiful You
by James Bryan Smith



Wednesday evenings, we'll return to a midweek dinner and an adult Christian education oppor-

tunity. On September 14, I'll begin a series called "Being Christian in Public". We'll consider how we can live a public faith in our culturally divided times.

Current issues, scripture, and how Christians make moral decisions will all be part of the discussion. Childcare will be provided. Class sessions begin at 6:30 PM. Dinner begins at 5:30 and is open to all, whether or not you stay for the class.

I'm excited that both our children and youth programs will remain on Sunday evenings this fall and will include dinner. Please look in this newsletter and speak with Britany Spivey, our Director of Christian Education, or Pastor Matt Thorley for more details.

We will also be offering a variety of small group opportunities this fall. The time to sign-up is now! Please look in the newsletter and our social media for more information.

YOUR CHURCH WANTS TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL ROUTINE!

The times of prayer and devotion we spend in solitude with Jesus Christ are important. The times we gather to worship and learn with God's people are just as important. If we can be of help, don't hesitate to contact a member of the church staff. We are here for you!

Blessings,

CONNECT WITH US



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SMALL GROUPS LISTING

Thank you to everyone who gave their feedback and support for small groups during the past few months. This fall, we hope to highlight our existing small group ministries and bring to life new ones. We hope that small group ministry will help meet you where you are in your life with the schedule that you have and offer an opportunity to surround yourself with people who will encourage, support, and challenge you to grow in your relationship with Christ.

So many great ideas and potential leaders were identified that we can't fit it all in this fall! These ideas will help us in planning small groups for our first semester in 2023.



To register, you can drop off a completed form in one of the baskets outside of the Sanctuary or the Chapel.

To register online, scan the QR Code, or visit conta.cc/3ChmOVG

Basketball

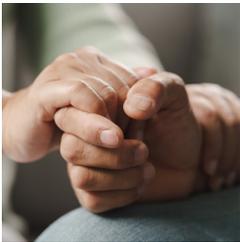
Calling all basketball players! Join in weekly pick-up games and devotion. Players meet once a week on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Coordinator: Brian Pearce and Alan Ray



Caregivers of Aging Persons (COAP) - Adults



When you are the primary caregiver or you are responsible for your loved ones well-being, personal support is essential. Along with various guest speakers on such subjects as elder law, managing medicines, and dementia, we offer an opportunity to share cares, concerns, and emotions (such as frustration, anger, and guilt) with others who are coping with the same problems.

Meeting the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.

Location: Zoom and in person to be announced.

Coordinator: Janice Luce

David's Mighty Men - Adult Men

Every meeting begins with dinner and is followed by a group discussion, devotion or study. By design, this ministry is 'less formal' than some of the more traditional men's ministries, with an emphasis on the fellowship and camaraderie built with thoughtful discussion and time spent in the Word. David's Mighty Men actively pursue community mission projects, assist with cookouts for the children's ministry, engage with the Wounded Warriors, Operation Inasmuch, and more!



Meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00pm.

Location: Activity Room

Coordinator: Terry Plummer

Dinner For Six-ish - Singles, Couples & Families

Dinner For Six-ish is a fun supper social dining program. The sessions run January through March, April through June and September through November. Volunteer hosts coordinate mutually agreeable dates and times for a dining out or in-home collaborative fellowship meal.

Meeting times and locations are determined by the hosts and coordinator.

Coordinator: Lou Brooks



First Friends - College and Young Professionals, Maximum participants - 12

Explore the sermon topic in a deeper way. Using the book *The Good and Beautiful You* by James Smith, we will discover how to be the person Jesus created us to be. Come out and join us for fun, fellowship, and to grow a deeper relationship with the One who created and calls us!

Once a week Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm Sept. 15 - Nov. 3

Location: To be announced.

Coordinator: Rev. Matt Thorley

MOPs & MOMSnext - Mothers

MOPs encourages and equips moms of preschoolers (MOPs) and school-age children (MOMSnext) to realize their potential as mothers, women, and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with our church. We discuss topics of all ranges in our walks of life. Free childcare and refreshments are provided. Our theme this year is "We Go Together". As mothers, although it may feel like a one woman tribe, you aren't alone!

Meetings are twice a month on Sundays from 4:30 - 6:30pm, August - May.

Location: Activity Room

Coordinator: Corbin Thorley



MOPS.ORG

Pastor's Lunch Bunch - Adults, Maximum participants - 12

We'll reflect on scripture, talk a bit about our lives as God's people, and pray together.

Once a week on Tuesdays from 12:00 - 1:00pm

September 13th - November 1st.

Location: To be announced.

Coordinator: Dr. Mike Garrett



Presbyterian Women (PW) - Adult Women

PW is a historical organization of the church helping with the flower ministry, visiting the sick and homebound, working with children's ministry - the list goes on. Circles are small gatherings of PW for Bible study, fellowship and service. The two Circles are:



•Hannah Circle

Meets in member's homes the second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm.

Location: To be announced.

Coordinator: Melanie Strickland

•Martha Circle

Meets on the second Tuesday of every month, at 10:00am.

Location: Parlor

Coordinators: Joann Pearce & Gillie Revelle

Scripture Explorers - Adults

This group will gather weekly for a year (or so) to read the Bible together. We will read, discuss and grow together in our understanding and knowledge of scripture.

Once the group is formed, they will decide on the day of the week, time and location that works best for the group.

Coordinators: Andrea Horosko & Britany Spivey



Seasoned Adults Learning Together (S.A.L.T.) - Adults

The S.A.L.T. group meets for a monthly breakfast and fellowship. S.A.L.T. members also enjoy a time of fellowship and travel to various locations and for different events throughout the year.

S.A.L.T. meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30am for fellowship breakfast.

Location: JK's Deli

Coordinator: Melanie Strickland



Stitch Buddies - Intergenerational, Maximum participants - 15

Stitch Buddies is a social knitting and crochet group for all ages and skill levels. It's a great opportunity to learn a new skill or practice your craft, while creating projects that will benefit local missions.

Meetings will be weekly on Sundays from 3:30 to 4:30pm October 2nd through November 20th.

Location: Room 413

Coordinators: Carol Short & Nichole Russ

Tapestry - Adult Women

Tapestry is a women's Bible study group. Our first study will be *From Garden to Glory* by Courtney Doctor. The Bible is a beautiful, epic and cohesive story. This study will take us through this amazing story,

Meetings will be weekly on Thursdays at 10:00am beginning, September 8th and ending in December.

Location: Activity Room

Coordinator: Ann Rowell



Christian Education Programs

Adult Sunday School

Calvin Class - Uniform Bible lesson. Meeting in fellowship, serving God, church and community.
Location: Rankin Building

Wired Word - In-person and Zoom class that offers a discussion and an analysis of current news topics from thewiredword.com. Email the church at info@firstprez.com for the Zoom link.
Location: Room 209

Pastors Class - This class considers the sermon text of the day in detail. Class participants have the opportunity to read, study, comment on and apply the sermon Scripture. Pastors will teach this class on a rotational basis.
Location: Room 413

G.I.F.T. - "Growing in Faith Together" is an active, multi-generational class that studies the Bible in detail. Prayer is a vital element of this class. Open discussion allows for all levels of participation.
Location: Activity Room

Children & Youth Sunday School

Nursery Ministry - *Birth to 2 years old.* The nursery is an intentional ministry with faith development resources, including mini lessons, faith development posters and music. Frolic Nursery is a curriculum based on early childhood best practices to help your little ones to take little steps to big faith - starting at birth. It helps equip leaders to nurture faith in many ways - through storytelling, prayers and music.
Location: Nursery



Preschool Sunday School - *Ages 3 to 5 years old.* Frolic Preschool allows preschoolers and kindergartners to explore faith concepts the way they know best - through play! It features age-appropriate play spaces, prayers, storytelling, music and rituals. "Bring faith concepts to life at their level."
Location: Nursery



Children Sunday School - *Kindergarten through 5th grade.* Children see God's grace in the biblical narrative and in our world today. They gather in God's grace, respond in gratitude, love and service. Age-appropriate opportunities allow for responses of gratitude through Claiming, Celebrating, Praying and Offering.
Location: Room 208



Youth Sunday School - *6th grade through 12th grade.* The youth will learn how to further their relationship with God, with each other, and with the world through Scripture lesson and mission. The youth will explore the stories in the Bible and apply them in their normal "day-to-day" world. As we gather, we will learn what it truly means to be a "24/7 Christian," living our faith Monday through Saturday, as well as Sunday.
Location: Middle & High School Room

Adult Christian Education Wednesday Class

"Being Christian In Public" with Dr. Garrett - We'll consider how we can live a public faith in our culturally divided times. Current issues, scripture, and how Christians make moral decisions will all be part of the discussion. Class begins at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided.
Location: Activity Room

Children & Youth Christian Education

First Prez Kingdom Kidz Bible - *Ages 3 to 5 years old.*
Children will use the same curriculum as Preschool Sunday School. See details above.

First Prez Kingdom Kidz Bible - *1st to 5th grade.* Using Old Testament stories about famous people from the past, we will explore how God wants us to live today. Some of our activities will include Legos, games, short videos and crafts.

Kingdom Kids Music - Handchimes, rhythm instruments and more! Musical instruction and games.

First Prez Kingdom Youth - *For 6th - 12th Graders.* A time of fellowship, friendship, food & fun! Explore what it means to look at the Bible in the 21st century as we answer the big question, "How can we apply the Bible to our lives today?"

Kingdom Youth Music - Handbell Ensemble if we have enough participants!
Contact Dr. Marcia Mervin for more information at marcia@firstprez.com

WELCOME, JASON "JAY" BERRY, METHODIST UNIVERSITY CHORAL SCHOLAR!

The new face you see in the bass section of the Celebration Choir is Jason (Jay) Berry. He is a junior at Methodist University, a member of the MU Chorale, and a music composition major. Jay plays guitar and has joined in the Cross Creek Worship Team several times already this year. You will also see him as part of that worship team on a regular basis.

A NOTE FROM JAY

Greetings y'all, my name is Jay Berry and I'll be serving at First Presbyterian as the newest choral scholar for the Celebration Choir. I'm originally from East Tennessee but have moved many times due to my mother's job as a United Methodist minister. Four years ago, I ended up in North Carolina and two years ago began a composition degree at Methodist University. I'm always excited for new musical opportunities and can't wait to work with the church.



PLEASE WELCOME JAY AS HE JOINS US IN LIFTING PRAISE TO OUR LORD IN WORSHIP MUSIC.

Music Ministry
is singing
& playing again!
Won't you join in the song?

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE -Fall 2022

Sundays (Beginning September 11)

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - **Canticle Ringers**

Five octave handbell choir. This group plays in worship every other month. Basic music reading skills required.

For 6th grade through adult.

2:45- 4:00 p.m. - **Celebration Choir Rehearsal.**

SATB choir, sings anthems every Sunday.

Mondays (Beginning September 26)

5 - 5:50 p.m. - **Women's Ensemble Rehearsal**, SSA music

Tuesdays (Beginning September 27)

5 - 5:50 p.m. - **Men of God Rehearsal**, TB music

Wednesdays (Ongoing)

5 - 6 p.m. - **Celebration Choir Rehearsal**, SATB choir

Saturdays

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - **Jubilate Deo**

Symphony Chorus Rehearsal - October 1, October 22, November 12. This group will sing with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra on Jan 21, 2023. Open to all area singers.

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Christmas Church Orchestra**

Rehearsal - December 17. The Christmas Church Orchestra will perform during worship on December 18.

**All singers must be fully vaccinated for COVID.*

"JUBILATE DEO" SYMPHONY CHORUS SINGERS NEEDED!

**Saturday Rehearsals: 10 a.m. to noon:
October 1, October 22, November 12**

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra is scheduled to perform Dan Forrest's "Jubilate Deo" here at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 21, 2023 for a 7:30 p.m. concert. This major work, published in 2016, is based on Psalm 100 "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord, All Ye Lands". Forrest depicts "All Ye Lands" by writing the lyrics in 7 different languages: Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Mandarin, Zulu, Spanish, and English. The music is lively and vibrant - **truly a worship experience.**

While the Celebration Choir presented this work in 2017 and 2018, the choir has changed quite a lot from what it was 5 years ago. And so, we are inviting all interested singers to join us in the song. **Won't you consider joining us?**

In order to prepare singers who are learning this music for the very first time as well as to refresh the memory of those who have sung it before, "Jubilate Deo" focused rehearsals will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on the following Saturdays: October 1, October 22, and November 12. Understandably, some may not be able to attend all rehearsals. The Saturdays rehearsals are offered to help singers prepare and are not "required". Parts prominent learning tracks and musical scores are available.

Please contact Dr. Marcia Mervin, marcia@firstprez.com if you have any questions and for more information.





Here are a few books that I've read or are currently reading. They range from "front porch and iced-tea" reading to a serious treatment of bigger issues.

Revival Season by Monica West

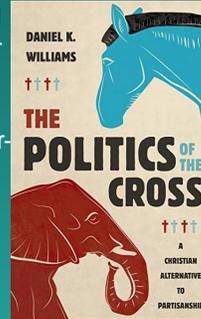


A coming of age novel about young girl with a powerful gift and a deeply flawed preacher father who refuses to recognize it. This is a faith friendly book that deals honestly with sincere devotion, religious hypocrisy, and figuring out what you believe. It's a short book, a page turner, and perfect if you don't have time to cruise through a longer novel.

The Politics of the Cross: A Christian Alternative To Partisanship

by Daniel K. Williams

This is the book on Christian faith and politics I wish I knew how to write. Williams is Professor of History at the University of West Georgia, a sincere Christian, and much published writer. He challenges us to consider a Christian understanding of politics not driven by the current choices offered by either major party. Williams looks at current issues and Christian ethics and invites us to think about them in light of both the mercy and justice of Jesus Christ. I'll be referring to Williams in my upcoming class "Being Christian In Public".

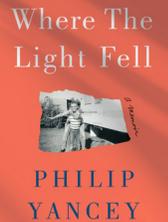


Where the Light Fell

by Philip Yancey

I haven't started this book yet, but it is next on the list. This is a personal memoir by one of the premier spiritual writers within protestant, conservative, Christianity. His books include *The Jesus I Never Knew* and *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

Yancey grew up in the deep south, and his heritage shapes his insight into faith and the challenges of our time. This would be a great book for reading group.



ALL IN FELLOWSHIP WEDNESDAY NIGHT POTLUCK MEALS

Beginning September 14th, enjoy food, family & friends on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., followed by an Adult Education Class with Dr. Garrett at 6:30 p.m. - "Being Christian In Public"

Nursery provided for young children. Study hall, followed by social time, provided for school-aged children.



Register for our first Wednesday Fellowship Meal by scanning the QR Code or by visiting conta.cc/3TfCQ8S
Please register by Monday, September 11th.

The Food Service Committee is so excited to be returning to Wednesday Together "All In Fellowship" Modified Potluck Meals this semester!

This is how it works: The church will provide the main entree. All you do is register to attend in advance, and sign up to bring a salad, side, dessert, or bread that will serve 8 to 10 people and fit your dietary needs. Only those who wish to cook will opt to do so; others can bring prepared foods or pay \$8.00 per adult (age 13+) meal and \$3.00 per kid (age 5-12) meal with a cap of \$20.00 per family. Individuals can pay online at registration, or via check or cash at the door or at the church office. Families who meet the \$20 cap need to pay at the door.

Always feel free to invite guests. God will provide!

If you're busy, you can even drop your food off prior to Wednesday night if you are pressed for time on Wednesday. We can accept dropped off food at the church office on Tuesday 9am - 2pm or on Wednesday 10am - 4:30 pm.

What better way to grow and strengthen our church than to dine together engaging in our "All In Fellowship" modified potluck bringing each other and God joy!

So please, sign up for the next four meals! It will greatly help us gauge our numbers so we can cease with registration after the first 4 weeks. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kellie Perkins at kperk16@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 John Burgess | 17 Chloe Hall |
| 1 Carolyn Butler | 17 Carrie McMahon |
| 1 Kim Hulon | 17 Marcia Mervin |
| 2 Janene Aul | 18 Mary Stiles |
| 3 Ron Darden | 18 Timothy Duhon |
| 3 Suzanne Clarke | 19 Betty Jo Wilkins |
| 4 Bucky Brown, Jr. | 19 Earl Vaughan, Sr. |
| 5 Mark Regensburger | 19 Gary Cooper |
| 5 Elizabeth Lee | 19 Eliza Williams |
| 5 Cole Spencer | 19 Eli Deaton |
| 6 Michael Brown | 20 Barbara Lepper |
| 6 Joyce Carlton | 20 Debbie Williams |
| 7 Ann Highsmith | 20 Glenn Blue |
| 7 Mary Knutson | 20 Diana Godwin |
| 7 Dan Perry, III | 22 Heraldo Navejas |
| 7 Rhonda Gooding | 23 Michael Idol |
| 7 Michael Dunn | 23 Laura Byrd |
| 7 Pat Gautier | 23 Susan Kirby |
| 9 Wanda Ussery | 24 Henrietta Jutson |
| 9 Joey Hall, Jr. | 24 Allyson Wherren |
| 9 Bristol Barnette | 24 Mark Atkinson |
| 10 John Carter McFadyen | 25 Kelli Howle |
| 10 Jewel Vann | 25 Cathy Clayton |
| 10 Bud Lafferty | 25 Emily George |
| 11 Kevin Read | 26 Madeleine Clarke |
| 12 Kaye McRaney | 27 Bill Boyette |
| 13 McQuillan Aul | 27 Ryan Aul |
| 14 Loretta Holmes | 27 Sebastian O'Keefe |
| 14 Malcolm McFadyen | 28 Devin Brown |
| 15 Carol Williams | 28 Kerri Napoli |
| 16 Debbie Cooper | 29 Lyn Hankins |
| 16 Ashton Megson | 30 Ramona Ray |
| 16 Colt Deaton | 30 Jack Noland |
| 17 Kay Gilbert | 30 Kay Smith |
| | 30 McBryde Grannis |

Memorials

Betty Lindsey

Ann Rowell

Mitchel Preston Watson

Eliza & Fred Williamson

Grace & Tommy Hall

Jesse Byrd

Rosemary & Smedes York



Sanctuary Flowers

Schedule a Sunday honorarium or memorial flower arrangement in October by contacting Debra Chestnutt (910) 818-9006 or Debra@Chestnutt.com

A LOOK AHEAD...

- September 8 • Lafayette Society Concert (ticketed event)
- Tapestry begins
- September 11 • Fall Kick Off - Rally Day
- MOPs Meeting
- Stephen Ministry Meeting
- Kingdom Kidz & Kingdom Youth
- September 14 • Wednesday Fellowship Meals begin
- Dr. Garrett's class begins
- September 18 • Junior Usher Training
- September 19 • S.A.L.T. Fall Kick Off Dinner
- September 27 • COAP Meeting
- September 28 • Cross Creek Worship Service
- October 1 • Jubilate Deo Rehearsal
- October 8 • Rise Against Hunger
- October 18 • S.A.L.T. Southern Supreme Fruitcake Tour
- October 19 • Cross Creek Worship Service
- October 23 • Trunk or Treat
- November 16 • Cross Creek Worship Service
- November 20 • Advent Family Event
- December 1 • S.A.L.T. Temple Theatre Trip
- December 4 • Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
- December 11 • Lessons & Carols Service



Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to **serve** Jesus Christ and **share** His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.

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PERIODICALS

Fall Kick Off - Rally Day

SEPTEMBER 11th

Celebrate the start to a new Christian Education year with a congregational breakfast and launch of classes and programs!

10 am Pancake & Potluck Breakfast
11 am Unified Worship Service

Join us for a
Pancake & Potluck Breakfast
 at 10am in Fellowship Hall!
 David's Mighty Men will cook pancakes and sausage for breakfast.

You can bring any breakfast item you'd like to share. (Fruit, donuts, hashbrowns, etc...)

Sign up online by scanning the QR code or by visiting the website bit.ly/3CBloWt



Scan the QR Code and stay up to date with the Children's Ministry's Calendar!



Scan the QR Code and get connected with Children's Ministry's private Facebook group!



Congregational Meeting - Sunday, September 18th following 11am Worship Service, Sanctuary. A Congregational meeting has been called by the Session of First Presbyterian Church (FPC) to elect 7 deacons and 7 elders, Class of 2025. A report and recommendations will be presented by the Officer Nominating Committee.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES WRAPPED UP THE SUMMER WITH BOWLING AND A POOL PARTY!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THESE EVENTS HAPPEN!





What is Club 543?

Club 543 is an exciting club for children in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. We meet during the school year, and events are packed with great activities. Christian fellowship, mission projects and discipleship are our goal! The club will also provide the children with an opportunity to get to know our pastors and lay leaders from special ministries that we offer here at First Presbyterian Church. Children are welcome to invite their friends!

Parents - an email and letter should be arriving soon with meeting dates. Please contact britany@firstprez.com if you would like to find out more.

CLUB
543





Children's Sunday School and Children's Church kids made back-to-school gifts for their teachers and for the teachers at Walker Spivey Elementary School. They did a wonderful job!



September 28th
at 6:45pm in the Chapel
Cross Creek Worship Service
featuring special guest,
Pete McReynolds



Pete McReynolds

Pete has been leading worship in local churches in Georgia since his teens. One of his greatest joys has been worshipping with believers around the world while helping lead short term mission trips to Europe and South America, including Brazil where he met his wife Renata in 2008. They have 2 sons, Daniel(9) and Aaron(5).

Pete enjoys all things sports, a good steak, and traveling with his family. When not behind a microphone he is active in the real estate industry.

JOIN US IN WELCOMING PETE FOR THIS SERVICE!

The Junior Usher program

gives 3rd through 5th Grade Students the opportunity to take ownership of being part of the church family. Junior Ushers serve as greeters and ushers prior to the 11:00 AM service.

These ushers greet all who come to worship, making them feel welcomed!

They distribute bulletins and children's worship bags.

Junior Usher Training

Sunday, September 18
 12-1:30pm in room 210
**part of Club 543*



4:30-6:30PM EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Pre-K 3's 4's and Kindergarten Schedule

- 4:30-5:10 PM - Preschool Bible - Nursery/Room 210
- 5:15-5:45 PM - Dinner
- 5:50-6:30 PM - Preschool Music - Room 123

1st - 5th Grade Schedule

- 4:30-5:10 PM - Elementary Music - Room 209
- 5:15-5:45 PM - Dinner
- 5:50-6:30 PM - Elementary Bible - Room 207

Youth Schedule - Meet in Youth Area upstairs

- 4:30-5:10 PM - Bible Study
- 5:15-5:45 PM - Dinner
- 5:50-6:30 PM - Games



A THOUGHT FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Let us encourage.

Has a kind word, a compliment, or something a person said to you in a validating way made you smile? It feels even more uplifting if it is said in a group of people.

We've all written that "note to self" to do more encouraging. Romans 12, verse 8 says, "...If it is encouraging, then let him encourage." Paul is saying this in the context of encouraging being a gift or a talent. We have seen the power and value of a kind word, and now we connect that action to scripture.

Have we ever considered encouraging as a tool of stewardship? If we think of encouragement in the context of "time, talent and treasure", it is clearly a talent. Best of all, encouraging costs nothing in terms of treasure. The return on this investment of talent can be priceless.

