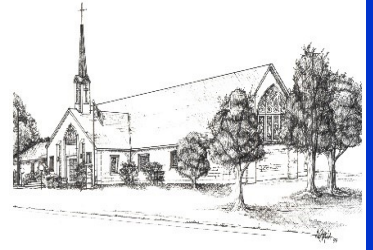




## First Press

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## August 2021

### From the Pastor's Desk

Consider Calvin's definition of Christian faith:



"Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (John Calvin, *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. from the 1559 Latin ed. by Ford Lewis Battles, 2 vols., in *Library of Christian Classics*, ed. John T. McNeill (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960), Book III, Chapter 2, Section 7).

At some point I subscribed to "Theology Matters", an e-news publication, though I do not remember why or when or how. Articles concerning randomly subscribing to various sites have recently caught my attention. Apparently, we should unsubscribe frequently, to free up computer space and limit "popups". "Theology Matters" is definitely (Continued on pg. 3)



### COLLEGE BOUND



**A Stated Meeting of the Session was held on July 14, 2021. Highlights include:**

**Clerk of Session**--Penny stated that the Treasurer's report continues to be positive for year-to date. The Session accepted Lynda Allmer's resignation as ruling elder for her current term. As there are many projects underway, the Moderator appointed Erin Sims to serve as interim chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. The Session also voted to cancel the cell phone subscription and return to the use of the landline phone in the office.

**Worship & Welcome**--Kay reported that attendance has declined a bit because our regular guests have gone back to their home churches, as they are now open for in-person worship. Zoom continues to allow worship by members and visitors who cannot come in person. There was discussion among several of the session and congregation members that next year we could begin to decorate for the patriotic season beginning at Memorial Day, adding more for Flag Day in June and culminating with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We will also commemorate Veterans in November. (Probably on Nov. 7 before the 11<sup>th</sup> on Thursday.) Kay also noted that our next special service will be Polka Sunday with Mike Middleton and that date is set for October 17th.

**Buildings & Grounds**--The Committee will be requesting additional bids for repairing/replacing the lighting in the building. Bruce Vineyard is completing work on the stained glass windows that have been rescued from the attic and have had the glass repaired.

**Mission and Community Care**--Robin is coordinating with representatives from the Mission agencies that we support to have them come and provide updates and information on what they are doing in our community. The first speaker scheduled to come and present minutes for mission is Natasha Roberts from Helping Hands.

**Media Resources & Curriculum**--Julie will create a Welcome bulletin board which can be seen as one enters from the parking lot. She is also planning to restart the Thursday lunch bunch..

Special thanks to Erin Sims for the wonderful College Bound Reception for Alyssa and Tyler. Also thanks to the folks who provided dinner for the Body of Christ Clinic Volunteers--Erin Sims, Penny Worley, Julie McPhail and Kay Atwood. Kudos to Bruce Vineyard for his window work.

**FINANCIAL DATA YTD - AUG 1**

Total Income	\$63,240.74
Total Expense	\$31,993.40
Net Income	\$31,247.34



**September 23, 2021**  
**Wildflower Country**  
**Club**  
**\$400 per team**  
**(Four Golfers)**  
**9:00am Shotgun Start**



**JOIN THE**  
**CHORAL OR CHIME OR BOTH**



## Pastor's Desk (cont.)

a keeper. John Calvin wrote a two volume treatise, "The Institutes" as we seminarians abbreviated the tomes, on his understanding of the emergent Reformed Tradition. The definition of faith presented as "a firm and certain knowledge" is all encompassing of what we believe about God and how God moves towards us in benevolence." "God loves us" is a shorthand way to capture the elegant language of Calvin's Institutes. 2021 language and experiences must be increasingly relational as COVID moves us apart again. God NEVER moves away from us-believe this and cherish time in God's Presence even as the outside world rages in pandemic and pandemonium.

As we move forward in the coming months I am sure anxiety will cause us to socially distance, wear masks and avoid large crowds. Sometimes anxiety is nature's way of getting our attention to make us aware of real and present dangers. I have no predictors of how serious the virus threat will become or what measures for personal safety we will need to put in place, if any. I do know this is our word too, from Paul's Letter to the church at Rome:

*<sup>27</sup>And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers....*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you for letting  
Me use the Church for my  
graduation party and for throwing  
a wonderful shower for me.

Thank you,  
Tyler

## If You Are Sew Inclined



**Love to sew, crochet, knit, cross stitch and do other crafty things? Touch base with Penny Worley about starting a sewing and crafting group at church. She has potential Mission projects in mind.**

Dear FPCB,

Every person in this church has been so supporting of me and my dreams. Thank you all for being my church family, for loving me since I was a little girl, Thank you for everything. I love you all!

- Alyssa Auten





CELEBRATION OF THE  
SACRAMENT OF  
*Baptism*

Jennica French  
July 18, 2021



**TULLOCH - VICK  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENT  
TYLER  
VANBEBER**





