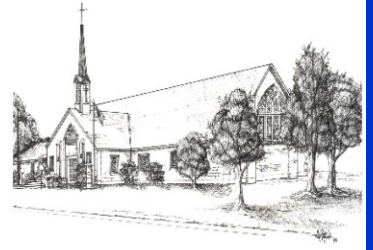




First Press

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April 2022

From the Pastor's Desk



Natalie Sleeth gave us words of rejoicing in the hope of newness of life in her "Hymn of Promise": "In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree; in cocoons a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free!" The hymn makes great sermon fodder when all else fails in the life of a desperate preacher. I hope I am never at that point, "LOL." We seem to be running fast toward Easter with thoughts of baskets of delicacies such as jelly beans and marshmallow chicks, tables bursting with roasted lamb, turkey or ham surrounded by family and friends, egg hunts on the lawn for the littles and the fun times we share together as a blessed community of the followers of Jesus...yes, we forgot Jesus in that listing of the good things of Easter.

Forgetting to place Jesus first is easy enough to do with so many chores to accomplish

(continued on page 2)



Pastor's Desk (cont.)

even in the life of the church. As a smaller congregation we may feel we lack the resources to do big things for God. Finances continue to be an issue for all congregations as well as the effect of losses due to moving and natural attrition rates. Income-wise we are a very bit short but we can catch up and the Session will keep updating the church in this newsletter. The "business side" of the church is a little like the stock market with highs and lows especially with inflation taking a toll on our personal finances. Simultaneously, the congregation and our ministries continue to increase along with enthusiasm and energy. The new chime set was fully funded and the chime choir played an inaugural anthem on Communion Sunday, April 3. The choral choir boasts many new voices. Movie Night featuring *The Chosen* series about the life of Jesus is increasing in attendance. The Thursday Lenten Bible study was well-attended with tremendous discussions gifting attendees with cross pollination of insights from the Gospel of John. I picked up *The Temple Telegram* newspaper one Sunday to find our Little Library and member, Julie, on the front page. The Helping Hands Lenten gifts of hygiene products and clothing have been phenomenal.

This congregation manages to rise above the issues experienced by a small congregation of mostly retirees (some of the younger of us still work!) I believe that is because **we do not forget** to place Jesus first. Like emergent butterflies, our friends here at FPCB remind us each week in worship that hope and rejoicing is abundant even in the dark days of "winter." Many thanks to all who make the ongoing work and support of the church in this place a possibility- God is doing big things through us!

Thanks be to God for the Risen Lord amongst us- we butterflies are just learning to

fly—come fly with us as we continue through this joyous month of April, enjoying the songs and sounds of Easter this Sunday with another amazing guest musician and our own choirs, the preaching (hopefully not desperate) of God's Word, the giving of hygiene and clothing items to Helping Hands ministry...and more. For- He is risen.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Kathy E. Vineyard, H.R.

FINANCIAL DATA JAN - Apr 10

Total Income	\$20,671.43
Total Expense	\$23,202.34
Net Income	--\$2,530.91



Tuesday April 22 6:00 pm *THE CHOSEN*

We will be hosting this Event!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN GRACE PRESBYTERY



Spring Workshops

May 21, 2022

Let all that you do
be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)

*Things
We
Did
During
Lent*



New Chimes



New Member





POSTPONED

