



CALVIN CHATTER

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia
Serving Christ & Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester since 1800

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September 2011

www.firstchurch-winchester.org

Rally Day and Opportunity Fair September 11, 2011

Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, for Rally Day. Music. Drama. Information about learning opportunities for children, youth, and adults. After the rally, children and youth will be dismissed to their classes to meet their teachers. Adults will want to browse the Opportunity Fair to discover more about the many ministries and missions of the congregation. Adult Sunday School begins September 18.



Introducing the Bowmans

Hi! My name is **Amy Bowman** and I will be the new music director for New Stone. I am originally from Harrisonburg and moved to Winchester after high school to attend Shenandoah University, where I studied piano performance. During the week I teach piano lessons as well as teach music at the Weekday School. In my free time I enjoy running, scrapbooking, and spending time with our family. I am excited to begin serving here and continue to combine my love for God with my love for music. I look forward to getting to know the members of our new church family!

Hi! My name is **Todd Bowman** and I am excited to begin as the director of children's ministry. I grew up in Hagerstown and first came to Winchester to attend Shenandoah University as a criminal justice, religion, and sociology major. After graduating from SU in 2006, I worked at Timber Ridge School and then spent the past



Amy and Todd Bowman with their son, Kyle

three and a half years serving as the director of youth and children's ministries at Market Street United Methodist Church. I also will continue working part time as a staff with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes here in the Winchester area.

I have a passion for working with young people and their families, and I am eager for the opportunity to serve here at First Presbyterian Church.

The Amy and I met at Shenandoah University, and married in 2007. In May we welcomed our son, **Kyle David Bowman**, into the world.

Summer Worship Schedule

Through September 4

- ✝ 7:30 a.m. Boyd Chapel
- ✝ 8:30 a.m. New Stone Gathering
in Fellowship Hall
- ✝ No Sunday School
- ✝ 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

*The regular worship schedule and Sunday
School will resume on **September 11***



Children's Sunday School

We are excited to kick off our Sunday school program as we begin another school year. The two-year-old class continues to lay the foundation for spiritual development of God's precious little ones through Bible stories and related activities. The 3s and 4s will both continue to use the Godly Play curriculum to "introduce young children to the wonder of worship through lessons that cater to all of a child's senses... ." Godly Play is an important part of our ministry program at First Presbyterian and seeks not to simply tell children who God is, but allows children to discover who God is through imaginative and spiritualized play. The students in K-4th grade use the Workshop Rotation Model (WRM) to learn major Bible stories and concepts through workshops like art, drama, music, games, puppets, dance, storytelling, cooking, and science. The curriculum's philosophy is to use multi-modal learning and repetition to help children develop a lasting memory and understanding of content. Our first rotation this fall is entitled "My So Called Family: Jacob and Esau."



Calling all musicians!

We are always looking for new people who like to make a joyful noise! If you are interested in sharing your talent as part of the New Stone Gathering on a regular basis or as an occasional soloist please contact **Amy Bowman** at amy@firstchurch-winchester.org.



Youth Sunday School and Fellowship

Youth Sunday school classes begin September 11. We have a great group of teachers and shepherds for 5th-12th grade students. Youth Fellowships begin September 11th at a *new time, 5-6:30pm*. Youth Fellowships are for 7th-12th grade students and involve music, drama, discussions, food and games.



*Allegra Zamore, Lauren Logan
and Allie Hoffman*

Adult Christian education offerings

Adult Sunday School begins September 18

Sunday mornings
9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Monday Connections

Fellowship Hall

Shared leadership

Monday Connections provides a small-group opportunity for persons to discuss among friends, new and old, the joys and challenges in following Jesus Christ and to grow in faith by not only learning, but by playing and serving with other Christians as well.

New Members Class

Graham Room

Beth Kane and Bob Lizer, leaders

An eight-week exploration of being Christian in a Presbyterian way in and through the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Topics include Bible study, beliefs, history, and missions.

Sycamore Class

Donegal House South

Marge Toxopeus, Cindia Stewart, and Charlie Leeper, leaders

This class selects books of the Bible for close reading and discussion. The book for study this fall is Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Telling Our Story

Loudoun Hall West

Rich Reifsnnyder, leader

This twelve-week class will read and discuss Lillian Daniel's book on Christian testimony *Telling It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony*.

Thoughtful Christian

Donegal House North

Dan McCoig, leader

This ten-week class will read and discuss Mike Yankowki's book *Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America*. Shannon Brannon, our congregation's Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter [WATTS] lead volunteer, will lead the class. Yankowski and a friend traveled and lived as homeless men for five months from D.C. to San Diego. First Church will host WATTS the week of January 30.

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Mid-Week Offerings

Under the Tree of Life

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Begins September 13

Donegal House North

Rich Reifsnnyder, leader

NEW to First Church: Under the Tree of Life, a 32-week Disciple Bible Study, concentrates on the writings in the Old Testament – Ruth, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and Daniel. The New Testament Scriptures are the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; James; Jude; and Revelation. *[Please pre-register through the church office by September 12]*

Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture

Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 14 through October 12

Donegal House North

Dan McCoig, leader

Christians read and study the same Bible. So often, however, our understandings differ. This five-week study will read and discuss the Presbyterian Church's position paper entitled *Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture: Authority and Interpretation*. A copy of the 43-page paper is available for download on the church's website at www.firstchurch-winchester.org

**Coming soon: Milestone Ministry Sundays.
Stay tuned.**

Book studies at First Church

Men's Studies

Weekly Bible Study

Fridays at 6:30 a.m.

Graham Room

Group reads and discusses a selected book of the Bible.

Women's Study

Weekly Book Study

Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m.

Graham Room

Begins September 14

Group will read and discuss Richard Stearns' *The Hole in Our Gospel: The Answer that Changed My Life and Might Just Change the World*.

[Contact Maren Sonsegard-Spray:

maren@firstchurch-winchester.org]

Faith Stretchers

Monthly Book Study

Fourth Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Homes of members

Begins September 26

Group reads and discusses a book selected by the group.

[Contact Rich Reifsnnyder:

rich@firstchurch-winchester.org]



Deriters Sets 2011-2012

Activities Calendar

First Church's Older, or perhaps more aptly put Better, Adult Fellowship Ministry—the Deriters (that's retired spelled backward)—gathers monthly. Here is what the group is up to in 2011-2012. Mark your calendar now and plan on joining the fun.

- Tuesday, September 20: **Picnic at the home of Dickie and Donna Dick**. Time to be determined.
- Tuesday, October 18: **Lunch at Michie Tavern followed by a tour of James Monroe's Ashlawn-Highland**. Depart from the church at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 14 and Tuesday, November 15: **Overnight excursion to Washington, D.C.** to include tour of Folger Library's exhibit "Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible." Depart and return times to be determined.
- Tuesday, December 20, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall: **Luke's Christmas Story in the King James Bible and English Carols** with Dan McCoig and Pat Byers.
- Tuesday, January 17, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall: **A Church of Scotland Yesterday and Today** with Dan McCoig.
- Friday, February 24 at 2:30 p.m.: "Smoke on the Water" at **Wayside Theatre**. Depart from the church at 1:30 p.m. or meet at the theater.
- Tuesday, March 20 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall: The **WATTS** [Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter] ministry with David Witt, vice-president of the WATTS Board.
- Tuesday, April 17: **Guided tour of the Feltner Museum**. Time to be determined.
- Tuesday, May 15: **Guided tour of the Glass Collection** at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley with lunch in the MSV Tea Room. Time to be determined.
- Tuesday, June 19, 11:00 a.m. in Donegal House North: **Planning** for the 2012-2013 program year.





***CCAP Sunday
3rd Sunday
of each month***

September 18

"Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent.'"

John 6:29

***Four Cents-A-Meal
Hunger Offering
4th Sunday
of each month***

September 25



Making Connections at the Weekday School

By Lara Davis

“Connections on the outside with others form neural connections on the inside” is one brain smart principle taught in Conscious Discipline®. Our connections are how we wire our brains for impulse control, goal setting, and goal achievement. Connections are the key to all change.



We are all on this journey together.

As we begin our 2011-2012 school year, we focus on nurturing the school family. The bulletin board in the main hallway highlights our Weekday School family. Each classroom also has a friends and family display. The displays help to remind our children as well as our adults that we are all on this journey together. They are a concrete way for children to begin to understand their relationships with others. The children learn that they are connected not only to their families at home, but also to their families at school, at church, in the community, and ultimately, to the family called humanity. These relationships that we form with others are the motivation and cradle of all learning.

Becky Bailey reminds us that:

“If you accentuate children’s strengths, you teach them about their abilities.

If you encourage their contributions, you teach them how important it is to share their gifts.

Encouragement reminds us to connect people with each other and their accomplishments. Through joining, children learn that we are all connected.”

(p. 133 Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline by Becky Bailey)

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under
heaven . . .*

-- *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Sermon theme for 2011-2012

During worship this year, Rich, Dan, and Maren will be addressing the seasons and times of life from birth to death from a biblical perspective.

The lessons and sermon titles for September are:

September 11

Romans 6:1-11

Beginning with Baptism

Maren Spray, Chapel and New Stone

Rich Reifsnnyder, Sanctuary

September 18

Mark 1:16-28

Shaping New Disciples

Rich Reifsnnyder, Chapel and New Stone

Dan McCoig, Sanctuary

September 25

Romans 12

The Big Squeeze

Dan McCoig, Chapel and New Stone

Maren Spray, Sanctuary



Challenge gift

Benefiting CCAP and WATTS

An anonymous donor from our congregation will match gifts given to WATTS [Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter] up to a total of \$2500 with a corresponding gift to CCAP [Congregational Community Action Program]. This is a great opportunity to make our charitable giving go twice as far in assisting neighbors impacted by the challenging economy. For example, \$25 to WATTS results in \$25 to CCAP. Let's ensure that \$2500 goes to WATTS so that \$2500 can go to CCAP.

Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please write WATTS in the memo. A progress report on the challenge will appear in the October *Chatter*.



Stay connected with ministries, missions, and events of First Presbyterian Church

Subscribe to **eNotices**. Each Friday, Beth Kane, our Ministry of Welcome Coordinator, posts announcements about the life of First Church for the upcoming week. To subscribe, post an email message to Beth at bethkane@firstchurch-winchester.org Please type eNotices in the subject line of the message.

Visit the church's **website**:

www.firstchurch-winchester.org

Join the First Presbyterian Church **Facebook**

™ Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/176495292585/>

And, *coming soon* a First Presbyterian Church **smartphone app**. Stay tuned for details.



Observance of 10th anniversary of 9/11

On Sunday, September 11, First Presbyterian Church will join its sister downtown congregations in tolling its steeple bell at 8:46 a.m. [North Tower], 9:03 a.m. [South Tower], 9:47 a.m. [Pentagon], and 10:17 a.m. [Shanksville, PA]. The 10th anniversary of 9/11 will also be observed through liturgy and song in worship.

Births

- Aug 13 William Edwin Bridgeforth, V, "Quent," son of Eddie & Molly McCoig Bridgeforth, grandson of Dan & Lisa McCoig
- Aug 16 Audrey Alexis Maliner, daughter of Matt & Kristen Maliner

In Memoriam, with Christian sympathy to the families

- Jul 24 Wallace Wiener, brother-in-law of Pete Shull & Adolene Long
- Jul 31 Annie D. Fisher, mother of John "Buddy" Fisher
- Aug 6 Patricia Hickey, former member
- Aug 15 Norman "Stoney" Jackson, father of Vicki Laird
- Aug 22 Darwin Clem, father of Susan Nyberg
- Aug 24 Mike Hutzler
- Nellie Shaw

DEADLINE FOR THE October CALVIN CHATTER is September 12.

Send submissions to calvin.chatter@verizon.net.

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Founded July 16, 1788; Organized September 7, 1800

Sunday Worship Services 7:30 a.m. (Boyd Chapel), 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Stone Gathering (Fellowship Hall), 8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Cookies 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Reifsnnyder

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Dan M. McCoig, Jr.

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Parish Associate: The Reverend Elizabeth Lewis

Director of Children's Ministry: Todd Bowman

Minister of Music: Roger Callis

Director of Adult Handbell Choirs: Lynn Reifsnnyder

Organist: Pat Byers

Music Leader for New Stone Gathering: Amy Bowman