Ye Fourth Creek Journal

First Presbyterian Church

February 2018

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Take Part in a Lenten Journey to Easter

Lent is upon us sooner than some of us would have thought possible. As after Christmas travel kept us away from awhile, Laurie and I tried to let that holiday linger longer than usual. After Epiphany the tree stayed up, but I keep the shutters of the window where the tree stands closed after the season's end. It seems as if we're still picking up needles. On our last road trip, we were still listening to Christmas music, but here comes Lent, this time of preparation for Easter.

Our observance will begin with worship on Ash Wednesday, February 14, a surprising juxtaposition of dates, but not a bad way to remember God's love for us that will never let us go. A study beginning on Tuesday, February 20, will give us opportunity to reflect on the life of the spirit as we express it through worship. Our hope is to provide training for volunteer worship leaders as well, so please consider taking part.

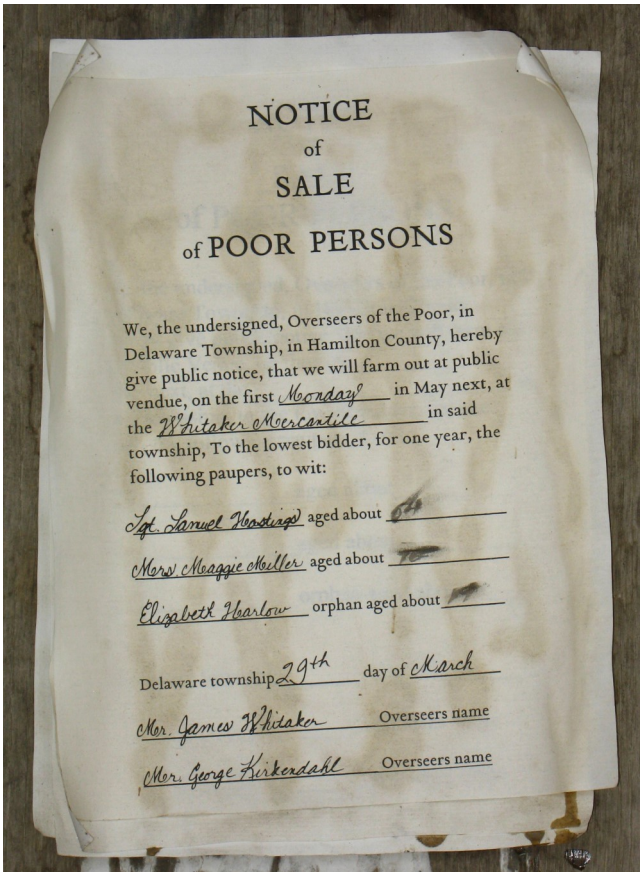
Looking farther down the calendar, we can count on extra effort from all who take part in our music ministry. We hope you'll let our observance of the season lead you to Easter and, indeed, lead you closer to Jesus Christ, whom we follow to Jerusalem during these forty days.

Grace and peace!
Steve

Preparation for Worship

February 4
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
Steve Scott Preaching
Sermon: "Discipleship and Challenge"
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

February 11
Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Steve Scott Preaching
Sermon: "Disruption and Transfiguration"



NOTICE
of
SALE
of POOR PERSONS

We, the undersigned, Overseers of the Poor, in Delaware Township, in Hamilton County, hereby give public notice, that we will farm out at public vendue, on the first Monday in May next, at the Whitaker Mercantile in said township, To the lowest bidder, for one year, the following paupers, to wit:

Lt. Samuel Hoadley aged about 64
Mrs. Maggie Meiller aged about 70
Elizabeth Harlow orphan aged about 7

Delaware township 29th day of March
Mr. James Whitaker Overseers name
Mr. George Kirkendahl Overseers name

Notice of Sale of Poor Persons

This notice of the sale of poor people takes us back to an earlier time in our country's history. During Lent, we remember the words of Isaiah: "Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless into your house . . . ? (Isaiah 58:6-7). This notice of sale is described: "Paupers would be sold at auction to the lowest bidder. Basically, a bidder would take out a contract to house, clothe, and feed the person and in return they would work for one year to pay the debt." From **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville.

February 14, 6:00 pm
Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6. 16-21

February 18
The First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
Wes Pitts Preaching
Sermon: "Covenantal Life"

February 25
The Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
Steve Scott Preaching
Sermon: "Call and Response"

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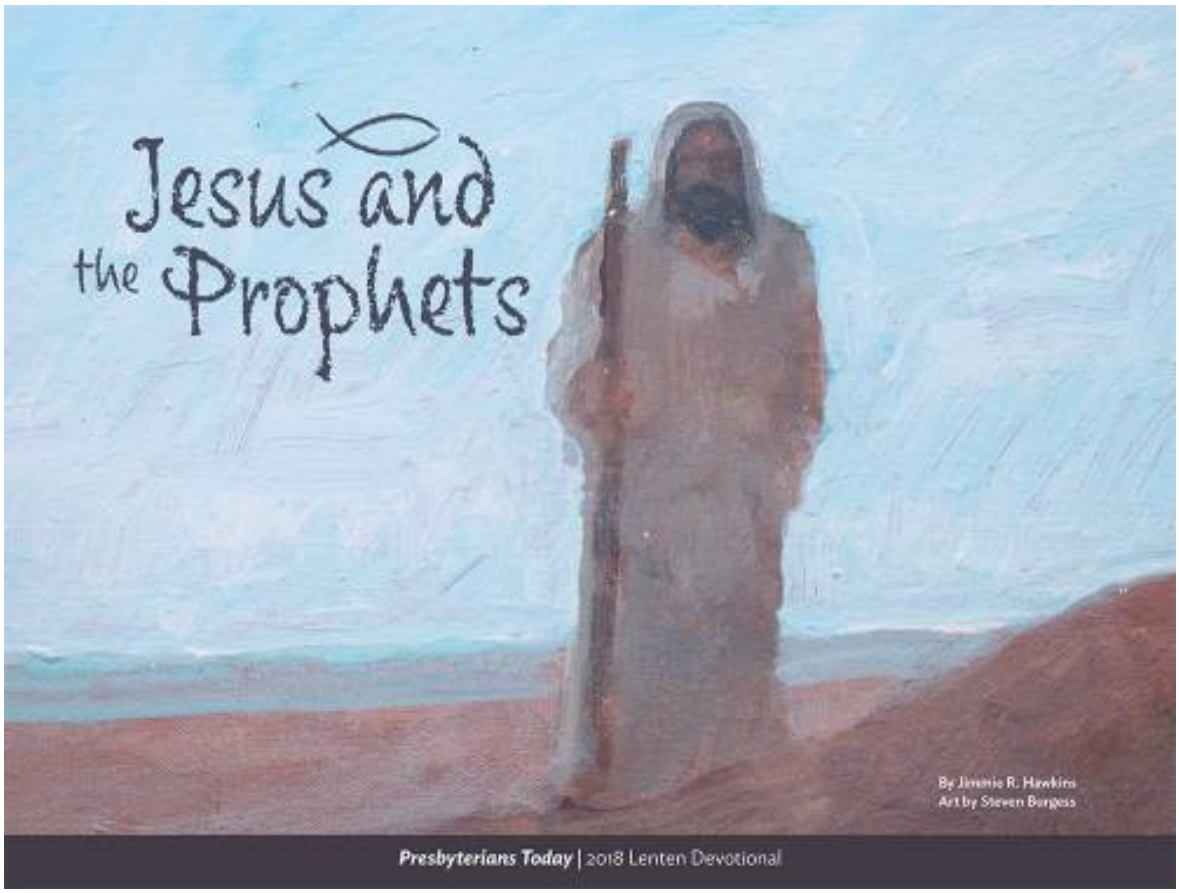
2018 Lenten Devotional — "Jesus and the Prophets"



The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and contemplation of the power and promise of the paschal mystery. Perhaps there are no better models of how to live Lent than the prophets.

There is a potent connection between Jesus and the prophets:

The prophets communicated the word of God;
Jesus is the Word of God.

The prophets predicted the coming of the prince of peace;
Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Not only did Jesus continue the prophetic ministry,
he is the fulfillment of the prophetic mission.

The 2018 Lenten Devotional, "Jesus and the Prophets,"
will be available beginning Sunday February 11.

Music Notes

Ash Wednesday Service, February 14: All choirs will sing and ring.

Cherub and Junior Choirs will sing in worship on February 18 and 25.

First Presbyterian Church will host the annual **Community Children's Choir Festival** on Sunday, March 4, at 3:0 p.m., in the sanctuary. Warm up rehearsal is at 1:30 p.m.

Cherub and Junior Choirs
The Cherub and Junior Choirs rehearse on Wednesdays:

4:00-4:30: Cherub Choir, beginner to second grade
4:30-5:30: Junior Choir, third–fifth grade

Youth Choir
Rehearsals on Sundays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Handbell Choir
Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Montreat Worship and Music Conference 2018 is June 24-29.

Water into Wine

February 5 and 16
6:30 p.m. at
Wine Maestro

Open to those interested in frank conversation about faith and public life.

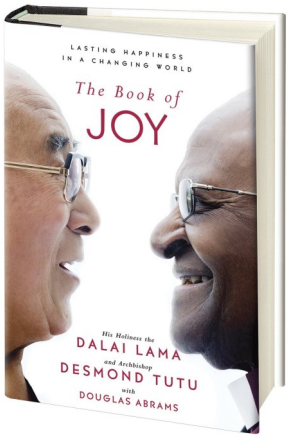
Facilitated by Wes Pitts, Carrilea Hall, and Justin Cox

Youth Ministry

2018 Lenten Study—"Finding Joy in Worship"

Tuesday Evenings at 6:00pm, February 20—March 27

On June 25, 2017 the Presbyterian Church (USA) adopted an amended *Directory for Worship*. Rather than being a fixed order of the way Presbyterian Worship must be done, the *Directory for Worship* "suggests possibilities, invites development, and encourages ongoing reform." During Lent this year we'll explore the *Directory for Worship* and it's provisions in the context of our own worship life together. In order to help us explore and find joy in life, and how that joy can translate to worship, we'll also read through *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.



Youth Ministry

February 4: Super Bowl Sunday—No youth activities, enjoy the Super Bowl with your family!

February 11: Regular youth schedule.

February 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper starts at 6:00 p.m. Please arrive at 4:00 p.m. to help set up and cook.

February 18: Dick and Jonna Sears will host the youth for dinner after choir!

February 24: Regular youth schedule.

Congregational News

Congratulations to Thomas and Cate Tuck on the birth of their daughter, Collins Grace Tuck, on January 19.

Clinkers

Clinkers will meet on February 15, at 6:30 p.m.

Look for details in the Sunday bulletin!

Session 2017-2018

Stephen W. Scott
Moderator
David Parker
Clerk of Session
John Gilbert, III
Advisory Council

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Toni Conger	John Childress	Harriet Gilbert
Sarah Davis	John Gilbert, III	David Parker
John Downs	Jane Lentz	Carole Pickett
Sloan Goforth	Bill Long	Susan Sharp
Sandra Milholland	Joan Scott	Jim Tarman
Dick Sears	Ann Speaks	Scott Zanotti

Nominations for Elder, Class of 2021

The Nominating Committee is readying to begin its charge of nominating a slate of members to serve as elder for the Class of 2021. Please provide candidate suggestions for the committee to consider. To assist the committee in its evaluation of candidates, please provide as much of the following information as possible. Members of the committee are Sarah Davis, John Downs, Sherry George, Paul Gilbert, Lauren Oliphant, Dick Sears, and Trish Wilson. Return this form to a member of the Nominating Committee or place it in the suggestion box outside the church office. Please fill out a separate sheet for each nominee (more copies may be found on the table outside the church office).

Name of person: _____

Please list all church activities in which this person has been involved: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Are there particular traits or characteristics that prompt you to suggest this person as a candidate for the office of Elder? _____

_____

_____

Family Movie Night

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

This is not the only Beatitude whose target audience is unclear: who, exactly, are the 'pure in heart?' It is relatively easy for us to identify those who mourn or those who are persecuted, even if we do not encounter them regularly; but we might not recognize as quickly those with pure hearts. This latter description seems to point towards something deep within a person rather than a trait which translates obviously into words or deeds. Purity of heart might suggest a person who is not stained by sin, someone saintly, at least according to a childlike understanding of sanctity which holds up saints as models of perfection. As children, putting saints on such a pedestal can give us something to aspire to; if we did that as adults, it would be disheartening to see just how far short of that pedestal we are. As our faith matures, we come to understand that holiness depends on our ability to recognize ourselves as sinners, rather than on being free from sin. So purity in heart must be about something else.

Who are these people who are so pure that they will 'see God?' Fr Gerry O'Mahony SJ wrote: 'This Beatitude is not particularly about the virtue of chastity, but more about singleness of purpose and desire.' This is a helpful way to start a conversation about this Beatitude with children, who tend to like talking about what they want! Encouraging children to engage with their desires and the behavior that is informed by them might help them to see, in ways they have not yet recognized, how they are in relationship with God. Disney's *Frozen* can be a springboard for such a discussion because it gives children a physical demonstration of the importance of discovering your heart's true desire and being led by it.

If you have managed to avoid the Frozen phenomenon, here's what you need to know: Princess Elsa has been afflicted since infancy with the power to freeze things around her, a power that she struggles to control. When she accidentally directs a shot of ice at her younger sister Anna's head during a childhood game, Anna is seriously injured but is healed by a troll. From then on, the sisters are kept apart in order to prevent a repeat incident, to the confusion of Anna, who has no knowledge or memory of Elsa's power. In later years, Elsa comes out of her seclusion to be crowned Queen of Arendelle; but when agitated by Anna's announcement of her engagement to the too-good-to-be-true Prince Hans, Elsa loses control of her powers and brings an eternal winter upon the kingdom, from which she then flees. Anna pursues her and in an ensuing struggle the childhood accident is repeated – only this time it is Anna's heart that is frozen, seemingly fatally. 'Only an act of true love can thaw a frozen heart,' we are told: is this act a kiss from the scheming Prince Hans, or from Anna's new companion, Kristoff? No, it is Anna's own decision to throw herself in the way of Hans's attempt to kill Elsa. Anna's heart is thawed by her true love for her sister.

The troll who heals the young Anna tells her parents that she can be saved because, 'The heart is not so easily changed; the head can be persuaded.' This gives us a way in, early on, to talking about the Beatitude. The troll's words speak to the difference between the fluctuating activity of our minds and the conviction of our hearts – although that is not to say that what happens in our heads doesn't matter. In fact it can be very useful, even essential, in helping us to discover and make sense of our heartfelt desires. According to St Ignatius, our deepest desire, properly understood, is for union with God, and so we need to pay careful attention to how our thoughts and feelings are helping us fulfill this desire – or not. This is known, in Ignatian terms, as discernment. Even the most mature adults can have difficulty in discernment, but beginning the habit as children can help lead to a mature faith which takes seriously the constant struggle to act with purity in heart in order that we may know God.

- Frances Murphy (This is an edited version of an article that appeared on www.thinkingfaith.org.)

Mission Ministry

Cooking at Fifth Street

Wanted: Anyone interested in cooking or serving dinner at Fifth Street Ministries on February 27. Cooks are asked to arrive by 3:00 p.m. and servers at 4:30 p.m. Please join us for an afternoon cooking and serving the community. Contact Susan Hollingsworth if interested (704-872-4689 or shollingsworth1948@hotmail.com).

Coming Soon...

Second Sunday Lunch

Second Sunday Lunch will be February 11, immediately after worship. Please join us for a Valentine's luncheon of sirloin tips, rice pilaf, green peas, strawberry pretzel salad, and lots of homemade chocolate desserts. The cost is $8.00 per person and $25.00 for a family.

Preschool News

2018-2019 Preschool Registration

It is almost that time again! FPC Preschool will begin registration for the 2018-2019 school year in January this year. We will open registration to current preschool families and church members first and then follow with open registration on January 16. We are excited that all our classes were full this year and are currently on a waitlist. We are expecting this to be the case again next year, so if you or someone you know is interested in registering for the 2018-2019 school year, please contact Falon Speaks (704.873.9054 or preschool@fpcstatesville.org) at your earliest convenience.

Registration will be online this year. Please visit our preschool webpage for more information.

Upcoming Field Trip

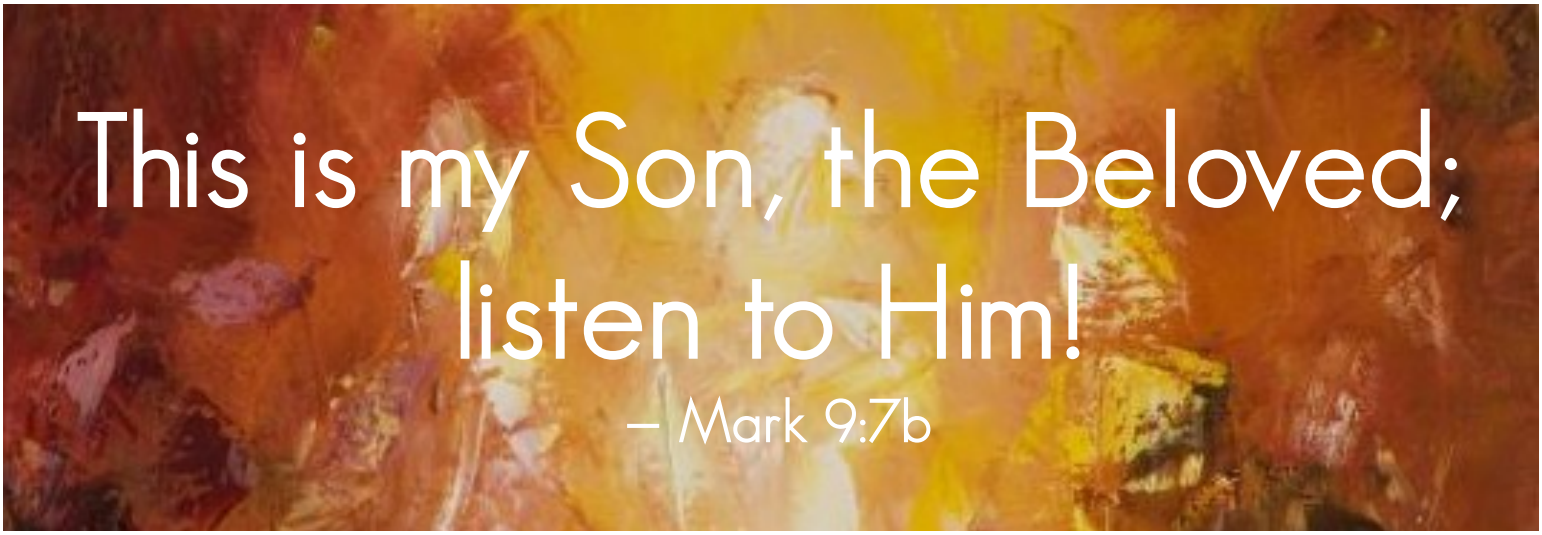
Our 4 year old classes will be taking a field trip on February 2 to Rescue Ranch here in Statesville. They will participate in the Winter Hibernation program which includes an art

Soccer Shots

FPC Preschool now offers Soccer Shots after school for three and four year old children. We are completing our winter season now and will begin our spring season on March 2. Children who register for Soccer Shots will have soccer on Fridays from 12:10-12:50. Our spring season will run March 2 to May 4 (**no soccer on: March 30 and April 6**). If you have a child at FPC Preschool or would like to find out more information about another Soccer Shots opportunity near you, please visit greatercharlotte.ssreg.org or call their office at 704.764.1575.

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	***2***	***3***
4 **9:45** Sunday School **10:40** Session **11:00** Worship **5:00** Youth Choir	***5*** **6:30** Water into Wine	***6***	***7*** **10:00** Staff/Prayers **12:00** The Gospels **4:00** Cherub Choir **4:45** Junior Choir **5:45** Handbell Choir **7:00** Sanctuary Choir	***8***	***9***	***10***
11 **9:45** Sunday School **11:00** Worship **12:00** Second Sunday Lunch **5:00** Youth Choir **6:00** Youth Dinner **6:30** Youth Group	***12*** **7:00** Advisory Council	***13*** **12:30** O.W.L.S. **6:00** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	***14*** **10:00** Staff/Prayers **12:00** The Gospels **4:00** Cherub Choir **4:45** Junior Choir **6:00** Ash Wednesday Service	***15*** **6:30** Clinkers	***16***	***17***
18 **9:45** Sunday School **11:00** Worship **5:00** Youth Choir **6:00** Youth Dinner **6:30** Youth Group	***19*** **6:30** Water into Wine	***20*** **6:00** Lenten Study **6:30** Circle 3	***21*** **10:00** Staff/Prayers **12:00** The Gospels **4:00** Cherub Choir **4:45** Junior Choir **5:45** Handbell Choir **6:00** Family Movie Night **7:00** Sanctuary Choir	***22*** ***FJC Deadline***	***23***	***24*** **9:00** Session Retreat
25 **9:45** Sunday School **11:00** Worship **5:00** Youth Choir **6:00** Youth Dinner **6:30** Youth Group	***26*** **6:00** Support Ministry **7:00** Session	***27*** **3:00** Fifth Street Team **6:00** Lenten Study	***28*** **10:00** Staff/Prayers **12:15** Grand Sweep **4:00** Cherub Choir **4:45** Junior Choir **5:45** Handbell Choir **7:00** Sanctuary Choir			



February Responsibilities

Sanctuary Guild:
Becky Johnson, Lynda Sloan

Open/Close the Church:
Tommy Kincaid

Ushers:

February 4	Roy Morrison, Hewitt Linyard, George Moody, Nate Neely, Libby Weaver, Lew Wilson, William Bush
February 11	Brian Long, Rudy Davis, Sarah Davis, Carey Parker, Rodger Speaks, Julian West, Will Spears
February 18	Jim Pickett, Reggie Brown, Beth Davidson, Steve Hartzog, David Rothwell, Scott Zanotti, Aiden Zanotti
February 25	Don Searcy, Calvin Alexander, Jeremy Kauffman, Katie Long, Will Long, Ryan Oliphant, Isaac Kauffman

Nursery:

February 4	Jill Gillis, Audrey Thomas
February 11	Janice Searcy, Lauren Oliphant
February 18	Sherry George, Melinda Childress
February 25	Falon Speaks, Annie Parker, Natasha Austin/Katie Long

February Birthdays

2	Falon Speaks
3	Sherry George
	John Gilbert III
4	Becky Kirkman
	Mary Odom
	Don Searcy
5	Lisa Bograd
	Jordan Gentry
	Sherry Harris
	Trish Wilson
6	Sybil Lackey
7	Addison Scott
9	Jim McJunkin
13	T.C. Spell
16	Donnie Haynes
17	Toni Conger
	Saddler Kappel
	Marianna Steele
18	Will Long
20	John Gilbert IV
21	Adam Foster
	Lisa McBane
	Sara Setzer
22	Sarah Davis
	Katie Long
	Ann Speaks
23	Kevin Aman
	Jon Nesbit
	Bill Sherrill
24	John Downs
	Preston Kappel
	John Steele
25	Billie Meeks
26	Jim Pickett
	Marian Steele
27	Thomas Slane
28	Davis King
29	Costi Kutteh

If you do not see your birthday listed above, be sure to let the office know the special day!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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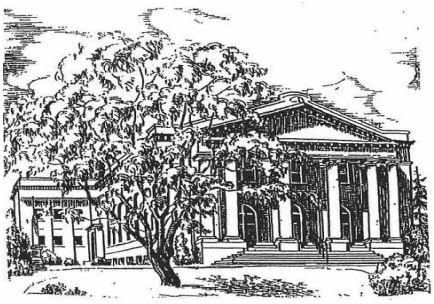

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