



The Belltower

A Monthly Publication of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church

August 2017

THOUGHTS AND WRITINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear members and other Friends,

August 9th is a very special day in my life. It is not my birthday or the day I was married or either Debbie or one of my children or grandchildren's birthdays. It is the day on which I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA.)

It was a special day at the Centre Presbyterian Church in Maxton, North Carolina. It was a hot and steamy day. I had yet to perfect the technique for chasing away the gnats from one's face by subtly blowing directed bursts of air from my mouth. I was still new, I sort of swatted at them without drawing too much attention to myself. Family had gathered from as far away as Texas and had increased the size of the congregation by 30% or so. I pretended they were all there for me, but it was really Anna Louise they had come to see as the cutest ever five-month-old.

This August 9th will be a special day. It will be forgotten by most, as it should be. I know one person not related to me that will remember that day and send me a card as she and her husband have for the last 20 years. There is no need to name names, because they know who they are, and as I said, I really don't expect anyone (other than myself and maybe my closest family) to even give it a thought. But I have been thinking about it a little bit more because it marks the 30th anniversary of speaking promises before a congregation and a Commission of Fayetteville Presbytery.

Thirty years-- many in this congregation were given an opportunity to retire with a pretty good pension; even a few of you received so-called "golden parachutes" a little before your 30th anniversary. I have friends who enlisted in the military who "retired" from the service 12 years ago and are well on their way to another 20-year retirement they will receive about the same time I retire. But the thirty-year mark of ordination has not been a catalyst to long to be retired, instead it has been an occasion for me to think about how much God still desires for me to do.

I will be in North Carolina on study leave when August 9th rolls around this year. My study focus is going to be upon looking at the future of Christianity in the western world, (especially the United States) and exploring what small part I may play in that saga. More specifically, I am going to be working on preparing some documents that may help us be organized as a congregation to deal with some dynamic shifts in culture that may come in the not so distant future. I will be using the resources of the seminary at Duke University and other area institutions to help me in my work, but most of my work will be simply to sit down and grind out some procedures that may help us move into our future more smoothly.

While I am on study leave I will also spend time in prayer- mostly prayers of thanksgiving for the gift that God gave me when I was ordained thirty years ago. I invite you to take some of your prayer time on August 9th (or the week of August 9th) and pray for our congregation, my ministry in your midst, for my family who share this thirty-year odyssey, and for yourselves as you contemplate the weeks, months, and years ahead of us and our ministry as Dunnellon Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Jeff

FAMILY DATA UPDATES 2017 - 2018

We will be printing an updated church directory at the end of August, so we are asking you to please contact the Church Office via phone or email if you have any changes to your Contact Information. Such as: Name, Address, Home phone numbers, Cell phone numbers, Emergency Contact Person and phone number(s).

We wish to serve and assist you better.

New Addresses

Update your current directory

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Phone: 352.489.2682

Email: dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net

Website: www.dunnellonpcusa.org



Find us on Facebook

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/dunnellonpresbyterian

Reminders about church events and inspirational information are posted often. And don't forget, if you have a Facebook account, "LIKE" and "SHARE" us with your friends.

ONLINE GIVING

 myEoffering
now available at

www.dunnellonpcusa.org

Call the church office if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

From the bottom of my heart!

God Bless Everyone!

Love, Helen T.

Thank You from Laurie S., DPC's Nursery Attendant, who recycles aluminum cans as a fundraiser to support the "Dogs for the Deaf" training center. Proceeds from January-June 2017 total \$72.54. Thank you for your support.



www.dogsforthe deaf.org

MUSIC

With the announcement that starting in September there will be one service held at 10:00 am approved by Session, we have been looking at the long-range goals of our music program. It is very clear to everyone that unexpected events have taken their toll on the choir over this past year, and it is my belief that by changing the rehearsal time from a weekday to Sunday mornings following the regular church service, it will give current choir members better opportunity to schedule their personal business and allow for church members who have wanted to participate but were unable to during the week to do so. We are planning on a "blended music" service. This means, the choir will sing an anthem on Communion Sundays, and special Sundays, while on other weeks they may act as hymn leaders only with no anthem that week. I plan on having time for quartets, solos, trios that will have a variety of music, from Sacred, Gospel to Contemporary on various Sundays. There will also be time for congregational participation on occasion; however, we need more singers to have a good program.

I hope that this change will encourage those of you who play instruments to also give us time for your talents. (If you can sing and play, that's even better!) The choir will not always have to rehearse every week once a monthly schedule is prepared and on most Sundays, we should be finished no later than 12:00 p.m. We can arrange for beverages and a snack available in the choir room for spouses or friends who can visit while the practices go on if this is something that is requested.

For those individuals who may not want to sit in the choir loft the entire Sunday, they can sit anywhere they wish, come up and join us for singing, then return to their seats. Some Sundays we will wear robes, sometimes we will not. However, I do expect those who want to sing to rehearse and be prepared. What is important, is that everyone can have the opportunity to be a choir member because we are already here for church, so why not??? We prayerfully ask you to consider joining the choir at our new rehearsal time, SUNDAYS, following a brief break after the regular service, beginning AUGUST 20th. Further developments of this new program will be announced. I will need to speak with any of you that are interested, so that I can

learn how we can place you in the voicing of the choir.

This is a new beginning to bring a joyous music program to DPC and we welcome you!

Sue K., Music Director
Office phone: 352-489-2682

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER STILL NEEDED FOR THE ELEMENTARY CLASS for September 2017 - May 2018 We need your help!!!

All Curriculum is provided and is very easy to use! All adults are welcome to apply for this volunteer position. Come take a look at the curriculum and see how easy it is to prepare & teach the lessons. Also, the students are eager learners so it is a **lot of fun** as well to share God's Word with these eager hearts!

Please contact Christian Education Coordinator,
Wayne C. at 352.489.2682
or email at [REDACTED]

MISSIONS



Annual School Supplies Donations for Romeo Elementary School

**The collection box
will be in the Narthex
on Sunday, August 13th.**

Most School Supplies are on sale now and you might wish to shop during the "Florida Tax-Free Weekend 2017", Friday, August 4th through Sunday, August 6th. Or you may make a monetary gift to DPC with the description of "School Supplies" on your envelope or check memo line, and we will shop for you.

CHURCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MOVIES WITH MEANING

August 5th at 2:00 pm

DPC's Movies With Meaning on August 5th will feature Hospice of Marion County's showing of *Being Mortal*, a 2015 PBS Frontline special.

FRONTLINE follows renowned *New Yorker* writer and Boston surgeon Atul Gawande as he explores the relationships doctors have with patients who are nearing the end of life. In conjunction with Gawande's book, *Being Mortal*, the film investigates the practice of caring for the dying, and shows how doctors — himself included — are often remarkably untrained, ill-suited and uncomfortable talking about chronic illness and death with their patients.

Dr. Gawande's experiences and reflections, as well as those of his patients and their families, should spark a vital discussion on what we find important in our lives, especially when reminded of our mortality. Different families have different priorities. This discussion will be led by a hospice representative.

As a reviewer said about Dr. Gawande's book, *Being Mortal* is "not just about dying and the limits of medicine but about living to the last with autonomy, dignity, and joy."

As usual, the film starts at 2 p.m., followed by discussion. Drinks and snacks will be provided, and you are encouraged to bring friends or neighbors.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden is looking good thanks to the volunteers who helped get it in shape. Come take a stroll and see how big the begonias and canna lilies from Easter have grown.

Anyone interested in helping to maintain the beauty of God's creation, please contact Jean K. at 489-2682.

The next step of maintaining the monuments, etc. has been ordered: monuments and benches will be cleaned and all engraving re-blacked as well as new engravings will be completed by Autumn. The garden will again be the beautiful garden it once was. All are welcome to come relax, meditate and pray in the solitude of this beautiful garden.

"Sloppy Joe" Supper

Wednesday, August 2nd at 6:30 pm

Sign up in the Narthex!

\$7.00 per person at the door.

Everyone is invited!

Come enjoy!

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

AUGUST MEN'S BREAKFAST

Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 8:00 am

The Men's Club will meet for breakfast, fellowship, prayer, and to discuss concerns of the Church at 8:00 am at the Purple Sage Café on August 17th.

The meeting will last 1 hour. \$2 in dues will be collected, as well as donations towards The Backpack Program.

Please call Don K. at 352-489-2682 by Monday, Aug. 14th, if you plan to attend.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW COORDINATING TEAM

August 16th at 10 am

PW CIRCLES

PW Circles begin September 6th:

1:00 pm Pat McDowell Circle #5

7:00 pm Lydia Circle #3

The Mary Martha Circle (morning) has voted unanimously to merge into either the Pat McDowell Circle (1:00 - afternoon) or the Lydia Circle (7:00 - evening) due to decreasing attendance during the past several years.

I am sure those members of Mary Martha Circle will become an asset to those Circles which they opt to join, and that they will be warmly welcomed to join with them as members of DPC Presbyterian Women's Organization.

We will be looking forward to joining with you in September.

Barbara C.

Mary Martha Circle Leader

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DUNNELLON FL 34430-1069
(352) 489-2682

STAMP

REV. JEFFREY W. WELCH, PASTOR

