



Faith Presbyterian Church Happenings!

November 5, 2018



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MONDAY, November 5

Church Office – Peggy Reich and Sue Cole

9:00-4:00 Session Retreat at the Craddock Center

TUESDAY, November 6

Church Office: Janice Cary

9:00-12:00 Session Retreat at the Craddock Center

WEDNESDAY, November 7

Church Office: Sylvia Goodyear

5:30 Cantata Practice and Choir Practice

THURSDAY, November 8

Church Office: Lynn Hayes

10:00 Pastor Personnel Review

Faith Serves at Food Pantry

10-12 Elaine and Jim Whitley

1-3 Bob and Fidelia Salley

2:00 Faith Group

5:45 Study Group



FRIDAY, November 9

Church Office: Treva Wheatley

10:30-12:30 Angel Ornament Workshop

5:30 Jewish Congregation Service

SATURDAY, November 10

Merry Maids: Jim and Peggy Reich

9:00 Trout Unlimited

SUNDAY, November 11

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

10:30 Worship Service – Second Sunday Lunch

MONDAY, November 12

Church Office: Peggy Reich and Elaine Whitley

Worship Attendance November 4: 106

(Faith / Jewish Community Remembrance saw 96 in attendance)

November Head Usher: Nancy Goodson



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Worship Information at Faith

Presbyterian Church

**This Sunday November 11, 2018... The Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
DAY BY DAY.... Faithfully Forward 5. Where Sacrifice counts for Most**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 or 1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 127 or Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

Scripture Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Mark 12:38-44

Sermon Title: "Not a mite would I withhold"



— November 11--meat provided please bring sides, salads and desserts.

**The Sunday after next...November 18, 2018...The Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
DAY BY DAY.... Faithfully Forward 6. Where no expense is spared**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 or Daniel 12:1-3 I Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 16 Heb. 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

Scripture Readings: Psalm 16 and Mark 14:1-11

Sermon Title: "Outpouring"

Our guest preacher will be Michael Gable.

Our next **Discovery Class** is scheduled for this Sunday, **Sunday, December 9, 2018**. If you would like to discover more about the life of Faith Presbyterian Church, or are ready to be



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welcomed as a member, please contact Pastor Jim Simpson Jim.Simpson@tds.net and plan to attend the Discovery Class, a one Sunday introduction and welcome to Faith Presbyterian Church, including a welcome to the congregation during the 10:30 a.m. Service of Worship.

From yesterday's sermon: "Sited to be sighted"

".... both Dunkin Donuts and Weightwatchers announced they were changing their names.

Weightwatchers now goes by the "slimmed down" name: WW!

Dunkin Donuts is now Dunkin! As with IHOP's name change the internet went crazy!

- "Dunkin donuts changing its name to international house of donuts, what a disgrace"

- "I'm from New England & I don't think they should be able to do this without putting it on the ballot."

- "What is it exactly that one is Dunkin', if not a Donut?"

- Likely from Georgia: "To be fair, the only reasonable thing to call "Dunkin Donuts" is "You Know, the Place We Have to Go to Because There Isn't a Krispy Kreme Near Here.""

I offer you all of this talk about names because I want to suggest that in relation to today's Gospel Reading in Mark 10:46-52, the healing of blind Bartimaeus in Jericho, we need to pay attention to the inclusion in the text of the name of the blind man and to the city named as the setting for this incident. These seemingly fleeting details can help us get to the fullest and deepest meaning. The comments of Scott Hozzee pointed me in this direction. Bartimaeus and Jericho, a person with a name and Jericho, a city, with a history, pathways to help us take hold of this story or better yet be grasped ourselves by the story.

Only in the Gospel of Mark are we given the name of the blind man: Bartimaeus. Throughout all the four Gospels the vast majority, indeed almost all of the people healed by Jesus are unnamed, anonymous. In Matthew and Luke's record of this story, the blind man is nameless. That we know here in Mark that this man is Bartimaeus is significant.

Bartimaeus' memory is preserved for us, from his name we even gain knowledge of his father's name! It was this real person, this flesh-and-blood individual, this actual, real human being, that Jesus stopped to help and heal. The people to whom Jesus responded are in the first place actual people, in this case a blind person, a blind beggar, sitting on his own mat, calling out in a loud voice asking Jesus to have mercy on him. Yes by implication we can rejoice in Jesus' care for any and all such persons, but let's never overlook the real person with whom Jesus engages. Quite obviously, blind beggars sitting by the roadside dependent on a coin or two or a crumb or two, were low down the social ladder in Jesus' day. Bartimaeus' number was not on the speed-dial list of any of the rich and powerful citizens of Jericho. No surprise then that when he calls



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out, shouts out, screams out for help, that his totally-sighted neighbors urge his silence. To put it quite crudely and rudely, because that is what happened to him, Bartimaeus is told, “shut your face.” “Do be quiet Bartimaeus, don’t spoil the moment – don’t spoil our moment, our Jesus moment!”

I think it was Alfred Doolittle who told Professor Higgins that only middle-class folks who can afford morality and manners. Blind Bartimaeus has neither, all he knows is his need, and so he keeps on yelling, and yelling, while those around him seek to hush him up.

Bartimaeus is not dissuaded by the rebukes of those around him whom he and we would assume are more able and who presume to speak on behalf of him. Bartimaeus’ persistence draws Jesus to him, he persists until his shouts are recognized. Bartimaeus’ persistence and Jesus’ willingness to approach him release grace and mercy and blessing and change. Bartimaeus having called out to Jesus for mercy, hears Jesus call for him. Then those closest to Jesus echo that call telling Bartimaeus that Jesus wishes to be with him. This ripple of mercy spreads because now those who had previously been telling Bartimaeus to hush, and not bother Jesus are now transformed, their words to the blind man are no longer angry! Their words and their attitude are changed – they say confidently to the one they were just criticizing: Take heart! Be Glad! Stand up! Get up on your feet! Bartimaeus come on, Jesus is calling you!

Now together with Bartimaeus, Jesus gets close, real close and asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” Last week this was the same question Jesus asked of James and John when they came asking for advancement. In response the blind man exclaims “I want to see!” It is the blind man who recognizes who Jesus really is.

- Bartimaeus, the blind man, who did not have a ticket for the Synagogue library where anyone could read the holy books and learn there who Jesus was;
- Bartimaeus, the blind man, who because of his infirmity would have had no opportunity to reflect on faith and meaning with Scribes and Pharisees in the Temple, he is the one who gets it;
- Bartimaeus, the blind man, who wasn’t ever invited to anyone’s FaithGroup, is the one with the truth.
- Bartimaeus, the blind man, was the one able to see what nobody else could see in Jesus, and in that moment Bartimaeus’ full and complete sight was restored, and he set about following Jesus.

The individuals and families whom we seek to serve in our community, some of whom are poor, impoverished and disadvantaged, are people, real people, with names and stories, experiences and feelings. They belong within their family and within their family history. Those we seek to love and serve and to whom we look to respond in





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the name of Jesus are real people made like us in the image of God. Our faith building upon the foundation of the Jewish tradition is terribly clear that Jesus calls all of this world's lowly, disenfranchised, marginalized, and invisible people to him. It is our calling as the Church of this Jesus to express Jesus' welcome. There is never any debate concerning Jesus' welcome towards the little people. Our response to the least and the last is seriously and fully obvious. All this, I submit, is underlined for us again today in the presence of Bartimaeus' name in this story. More briefly we can also gain something to consider from the location of this incident, in Jericho. The encounter with Bartimaeus is the only time in the gospels when Jericho is mentioned. The Gospel of Luke includes the Zacchaeus incident but both things occur during the one visit of Jesus to Jericho.

In today's reading we heard that Jesus was departing Jericho and Bartimaeus shouted. There is the scene, Jesus is outside of Jericho, outside of the city walls with a large crowd in tow, and there is a lot of shouting going on. And the last time Scripture had us in this location, well, the walls came tumbling down! "Hurray!" we might shout, forgetting or ignoring the aftermath - a scene of terror and destruction, a massacre in which men, women, children, and animals are killed, seemingly at YHWH's direction and intention.

The supposed "holy wars" described for us in our Old Testament present difficulties in our understanding of God. Rightly most of us fail to see any merit in killing done upon Yahweh's direct orders. And so I suggest that in this incident we are seeing a gospel reversal of all this terror. Jesus is the new Joshua, Joshua and Jesus being the same name, one in the Hebrew language, the other in Greek. Jesus, the new Joshua, is outside the walls of Jericho with a large crowd and shouts are heard, and on this occasion this shouting leads to a crumbling of a different set of walls. This time the social walls, between the well and the ill, between the well-to-do and the down-and-out, between the sighted and the blinded, between the doubters and the believers come tumbling down and love and care and mercy spread instead of hatred, violence and murder. With Jesus the result of all the shouting is not a massacre but the restoration of peace. Not destruction and loss but "Shalom" and salvation intrude as the result of the shouts. Sited to be sighted, Bartimaeus is healed, there is hope for all!

In the hymn, "Lead On, O King Eternal," which we sang last week, one verse says:

"For not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums, [but] with deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly kingdom comes."

To be as true to Jesus as we can, the church must stand well apart from any sense of God or God's people engaging in anything like a holy war against those who are different or from far away or seeking refuge or help.

Mark 10 in movie terms is Jericho – The Sequel, or Jericho II. This sequel carries and offers an altogether different message than the original. The meaning, the point, the purpose, the outcome is rooted not in enmity but in love; not in suspicion but hope; expressed not by death but life. In



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the place, Jericho, previously the venue for carnage, a man with a real name, Bartimaeus, is touched by the power of God, by Jesus, God's Christ and Gospel happens, Good News breaks out.....”

Faith Presbyterian Church / Jewish Community of Blue Ridge Remembrance



Two of the sections of the meaningful program yesterday afternoon were as follows:

O God, This Day We Grieve

(This hymn was written last Saturday, October 27, 2018 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.)

1. O God, this day we grieve your children who were lost,
and we, as one, are horrified by hatred's cost.
For people loved by you— your children, called and blest—
were murdered on their Sabbath Day of prayer and rest.
2. We grieve for those who died, for families left behind,
for those who wonder if this world can still be kind.
So many lives were changed, so many dreams were crushed.
There's so much hatred! God, what has become of us?
3. We thank you, God, for ones who bravely entered in,
to serve and to protect, so hatred would not win—
and for the ones who lead, we offer you this prayer:
May they be good examples of respect and care.
4. God, teach us all to love— and may we understand



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that hatred cannot have a place in this good land,
and guns cannot secure the peace we pray will be.
May we, together, build a true community.

5. O God, unite us all, no matter how we pray,
and may we work together for a better day—
where all may safely live and have no cause for fear.
May we together seek your peace and justice here.

El Malei Rachamim

Fully compassionate God on high:

To our loved ones who have entered eternity,
Grant them clear and certain rest with You
in the lofty heights of the sacred and pure,
whose brightness shines like the very glow of heaven.

Source of mercy:

Forever enfold them in the embrace of Your wings;
secure their soul in eternity.

Adonai: they are Yours.

May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

Stewardship Response: Week Two Update. . .

As of today, 62 pledges totaling \$197,020 have been received from members and friends of Faith for financial support in 2019. There are another 11 giving units who pledged in 2018 who have yet to make their commitment for 2019. While nothing is certain until a pledge is received, we look forward to their support. Assuming those 11 pledges were at the same level as 2018, we would anticipate another \$23,900 to be pledged bringing the total to \$220,920.

It may be of interest to note-

- that of the 51 pledges received from families who also pledged in 2018, twenty were at a level greater than last year (an average of 11.1% higher)
- Eleven pledges were received from families who did not pledge in 2018

This message of sustained and even greater support of the church by its current membership and friends is extremely important to outside parties such as the provider of our new building loan. It also says we understand an expanded church facility will have increased costs of operation.

Thank you to all who have and will make a pledge for 2019. For those who have yet to communicate their commitment to the church for 2019, we look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Goodyear, Financial Secretary

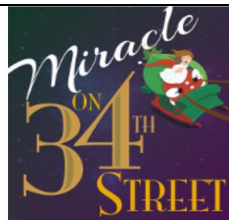


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Our November 11 Second Sunday Lunch will be a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and hosted by the Session. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring a favorite Thanksgiving main dish, side dish, vegetable, or dessert to share. All are always welcome at Faith.



Miracle on 34th Street

Save the Date!
Sunday, December 2
2 p.m. Matinee

Outing to see this classic Christmas play at Blue Ridge Community Theater. Tickets have been ordered and a signup sheet will be in the Gathering Room this week.



Northeast Georgia Dancing with the Stars for CASA: Congratulations go out to our own Lynn Hayes and her dance partner Pat for winning second runner up this past Saturday. Around \$60,000 was raised for CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. These are specially trained volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children.



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Habitat for Humanity



Faith enjoyed serving dinner to Habitat volunteers from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church of Duluth, Georgia. They helped frame the new Habitat home-in-progress in McCaysville.



Geocaching has come to Faith Presbyterian Church!!

We now are an official geocache site located at Blue Bird Lane. If you want to find it, go to geocache.com and join the site. The site name is for Faith is "Blue Bird". If we tell you where it is, you'll lose out on the fun of finding it! If you find it, please sign and date the log. If you take an item from the box, replace an item. It was found 3 times the first day it became an official site!!! This is great free advertising for Faith!

For more information on geocaching talk to Bud Wheatley.



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Halloween—this year Faith participated in Blue Ridge and McCaysville activities.





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Mission and Outreach

We need you! Opportunities abound for members and friends to represent Faith and support our community!

Good Samaritan Community Thanksgiving Dinner: November 22. Volunteer opportunities and Pie donations. Faith traditionally donates **pumpkin, apple, and pecan pies** to this dinner that is held at Fannin County High School each year. Sign up in the gathering room to bring a pie. If you cannot bring the pie to the church the day before Thanksgiving, you may bring one to church the Sunday before and place it in our freezer.



Christmas Parade Opportunities:

Light Up Blue Ridge Parade November 24 5:30pm.

Looking for interested persons to light-up (decorate) our float, people to ride on the float and “walkers” to hand out candy along the route.

In addition, our Music Director, Kathy Cardwell will be leading the **Christmas Caroling in Downtown Blue Ridge** this year, and she invites you to join in. You do not need to be in the church choir to do this! Details have not been set yet, except that it's the evening of the Friday after Thanksgiving. Details to follow.



Kiwanis Christmas Parade McCaysville/Copperhill

December 1 at 2:00pm

Theme: Christmas Around the World. If you cannot make the Blue Ridge parade, please consider participating in this one.



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Family Connection Opportunity--Food Bank volunteers: For all community-minded folks! For everyone interested in volunteering, there is a food handling class which new volunteers will be given later on. You may work before you receive the training. Registration is now online at signupgenius.com but I have been using the church signup sheets and registering Faith Presbyterian. If you need to get in touch, my contact information is **Hilda Giles** hjthebb@gmail.com 770-605-0040. The food bank is located just off Ada Road on Fannin Industrial (about 5 minutes

from church).

Children's Church Schedule for November

November 11: Debbie Peterson and Ann Rand

November 18: Patty Morris

November 25: Doris Riggs and Treva Wheatley



[Click to get to the Faith Facebook page](#)

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KNITTED HAT UPDATE: My vision was to put a warm hat in every Snack in a Backpack bag going home for Christmas. We are 124 hats away from reaching our goal of 429 hats. Holiday bags will be packed on December 12th so have your

hats to me by Sunday, December 9th. There is yarn in the tub in the narthex (it's thin so it will need to be doubled). GOD bless to those who are helping me knit & to those who have donated yarn.

Kim King (king1285@bellsouth.net)





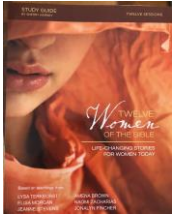
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This week! **TARTAN ANGEL ORNAMENT WORKSHOP**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 10:30-12:30PM!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR SCISSORS!!



Women of Faith Meets Monday, November 26th: The 2018/2019 study, Twelve Women of the Bible, started, August 27 and will proceed the 4th Monday of each month through November 26, then January 28 through May 20. Books for the new study are available for \$5 from the church office, Frances Young, or Patty Morris.

FaithGroups and Study Group for Fall 2018

Thursday Faith Group – Unshakable Hope from October 11 – November 15 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Facilitator is Sylvia Goodyear. Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado. In a trembling, unsteady world, how do you gain stability, find peace, and learn to trust God? Through scripture and lessons, we will be building our lives on the promises of God. The study continues for six weeks, ending on November 15th. You do NOT have to make each week to participate.

Thursday Evening Study Group – Leader is Janice Simpson. Will meet at the church at 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. Study – *The Ten Commandments from the Backside* (Part 2).
September 13 – November 15

Elders, Patty Morris, pattymorris1029@gmail.com and Frances Young femyoung26@aol.com will be happy to provide any further information. Sign Up Clipboards are in the Gathering Room.



Scotland Trip: Scotland Trip –

PLEASE NOTE: Following the passing of our initial deadline new, completed Registrations received will be waitlisted. Interested in getting more information?

Contact Connie Griggs: 334-790-0876 or griggs.connie@gmail.com



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Online Church Directory (Please note the church is transitioning to a new database to handle membership and contact information. In this period the online church directory will no longer be updated. Stay tuned for updates. If you have any experience using the database, Microsoft Access, we would love to hear from you, email Bob Goodyear rgoodyear@mindspring.com) The most up to date version of the Directory is found online. Access the Directory at any time online – <http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org/> Click Publications. Click DIRECTORY TAB on home page – Put in password: **Faith**

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Would you like to sing in the Faith Christmas Cantata to be held on Sunday, December 16th? “The Glory of Christmas,” this year’s music, will be practiced at the beginning of each choir practice. You are welcome to stay for the first part or all.



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Interested in singing in the choir? Just call or email Kathy Cardwell at kathycmac@gmail.com or at 828-361-0007 for more details. Kathy Cardwell, our Music Director, is also able to offer private piano and voice lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Church.

Contact Kathy to discuss further.

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The New Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee continue their work. Members of the committees are:

Reverend Simpson serves, ex-officio, both committees.

New Building Committee (NBC)	Capital Campaign Committee (CCC)
Bruce Burn	Janeese Glascock
Candy Frank	Bill Green
Tim Huffstetler	Tom Barrentine
Jim Reich	Grace Thomas
Carl Riggs	Rick Borden
Barbara Schmus	Carl Riggs
Bill Young	
Catherine Branch	
Rita Oberle	

New Building Committee... Asks for your continuing prayers for wisdom and guidance as it enters the “value engineering” phase of its work, reviewing the initial and alternate pricing, and working to ensure that we get the best value and most sensible options.





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Day by Day, Faithfully Forward Some highlights and ways to be involved.

November Faith Groups	Thursday Faith Group 2:00 pm 11/8, 11/15 Thursday Evening Study 5:45 pm 11/8, 11/15
November 9	10:30-12:30 Craft Day—Tartan Angels
November 11	Second Sunday Lunch-- Bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert. Ham and turkey is provided.
November 22	Thanksgiving—Good Samaritan meal at Fannin County High School
November 24	Saturday, Light Up Blue Ridge, Caroling
November 26	Monday, 1:00 Women of Faith, 3:00 Chrismon Tree setup

****Church Newsletter:** Email articles and photos for the newsletter to faithpcbueridge@gmail.com by 10 AM on Monday for publishing in that day's Faith Happenings.

Prayer Requests: During office hours (M-F, 9-1), please call the church office or at other times, please email or call Candy Frank at cmwfrank@aol.com (706) 632-5920. Prayer requests for immediate needs relating to persons directly connected to members and friends of Faith are circulated via email and others are included and published weekly in the Prayer List circulated via the Newsletter.

Name	Requestor	Reason	From
Janis and Jack Burel	Judy Evans	Please pray for Judy's sister, Janis and for Janis' husband Jack Burel. Jack will begin his second course of chemotherapy on November 7 th for diffuse liver cancer.	5-Nov-18
Maggie March		Maggie asks for prayers that the doctors will soon discover the reason for her frequent seizures that she has been having in the last month. They are Grande Mal seizures and she is losing consciousness and blacking out for hours at a time with no warning. On Nov. 7 Maggie goes back to the thoracic surgeon to discover what the treatment will be for the spot on her lower left wedge of her lung that is remaining. Maggie asks for prayers for these conditions and healing. She sends praise and thanks for healing of her blood clots and resolution of internal bleeding from coumadin.	5-Nov-18



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Tom Barrentine	Pat Barrentine	PRAISE UPDATE: Tom Barrentine's recent heart procedure at Northside Hospital in Canton went well; our prayers are appreciated..	5-Nov-18
Wayne Sutton	Frances Thompson	Wayne Sutton, (friend of the Thompsons) Methodist minister in North Carolina, died of cancer recently. Please pray for his wife, Pat, and family.	29-Oct-18
Alice Carlson		Alice died on October 19 at Fannin Regional Hospital. Her daughter, Janice Glascock was with her, having spent the night at the hospital. Please continue your prayers for all of Alice's family and give thanks to God for Alice's life and the ways that she inspired our living even in the brief time that many of us knew her most directly. In her 94 years of life she exemplified so much of what our Savior asks of us all.	19-Oct-18
Allie Willis	Sally Crawford	Please pray for healing for Allie Willis as she undergoes tests and medical procedures for her legs.	15-Oct-18
Victims of Hurricane Michael		Our prayers are needed for all those affected by Hurricane Michael, and for all the workers providing aid and restoring services to impacted areas. Please keep them all in your prayers.	15-Oct-18
Patrick Masson	Sonya Burleson	Please pray for Sonya's grandson, Patrick Masson, who recently had a virus and is now experiencing heart problems. Prayers for healing are greatly appreciated.	7-Oct-18
Peggy Zinsli		Prayers for Peggy for ongoing pain management and health issues. Through her doctors may they find the right levels of medication to ease pain without migraines and regulate thyroid. She has a November appointment with a neurosurgeon.	30-Sep-18
Nance Huish		Our continued prayers for Nance's numerous health issues are appreciated.	10-Jun-18
Virginia McPhee		Please continue prayers for Virginia as she deals with various health issues. Virginia very much values all the prayers of her Faith Church family.	13-Jun-18
"Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Legacy" Faith's Capital Building Campaign		Let us pray for the response to our Capital Campaign as we plan for our future building: Our Loving God, by your love and grace, may we run, and not be weary. May we rise up on the wings of eagles. May we know that You, our everlasting God, are always with us! Amen.	



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Faith Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement:

By God's love and grace, we are Called, Committed and Led.

Vision Statement:

Called by God to be Faith Presbyterian Church of the North Georgia Mountains, we welcome all to join together to worship God. Committed to following Jesus' example, we joyfully share God's love, grace and gifts with all in our church family and community. Led by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to grow spiritually in this community of Faith.

Priorities for Faith Presbyterian Church for 2018:

- Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community
- Be a viable, spiritual place of worship by the sharing of our time, talent and treasure.
- Equip and encourage all to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to show God's love, grace and care.
- Develop effective church leaders
- Develop effective communication to include appropriate use of technology
- Secure congregation-approved financing and start construction of our new church facility
- Prepare for the transition to our new church facility