

February, 2019

Church Chatter



Every February 14th across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from? According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor’s daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Whatever its origins, while romantic love is celebrated on Valentine’s Day, it has evolved into a day of showing love to all the special people in our lives. Kids take flowers for their school teachers, grandkids send special cards for their grandparents. And even ladies get together to celebrate their friendships on “galentines.”

However you choose to spend this day, remember that God calls us to share our lives and love with others. May the love of God surround you this Valentine’s Day and always!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Olive



Anna Harland
May 29, 1955 - January 21, 2019

Our sister in Christ, Anna Harland passed away January 21, 2019. Though she had been in the hospital for several days, her passing came as a shock to most of us. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro since August 2007. Her Memorial Service was held January 29, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro.

In Remembrance of Anna

The following is the eulogy delivered by Cyndi Smith who spoke as Anna's friend and fellow church member.

Anna Harland was my friend. That is not to say we didn't have our share of conflicts. She was a complicated, intelligent, and passionate woman.

Much credit is given to Anna for our "Backpack Ministry". On a church mission trip several years ago, Anna, Betty Bush, and Jane Luetkemeyer heard about this ministry for impoverished children. It involved packing healthy food in a bag for children in need to take home in their backpacks. The bag contained several meals to sustain them over the weekend. Though our whole church jumped on the bandwagon, Anna spearheaded this mission and made it her baby. She was passionate about this mission and, more often than not, had to be reined in before she committed our church to taking on every single child at Suder Elementary. She tirelessly worked the concession stand at each performance of The Front Porch Players (a local theatre group that holds 3-4 performances a year in our Family Life Center.) The proceeds from the concession sales go to this mission project. She diligently called on others to bring baked goods or drinks. She could usually be found in the church pantry, taking stock of the groceries these proceeds bought for the children. Even after her vision failed, she continued this work. Yes, Anna was passionate about this mission.

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The Rummage Sale was another passion of Anna's. This was our church's biggest fundraiser for our mission projects. But, it too was, more often than not, a source of conflict... from its name (rummage sale is definitely not a Southern term) to what to keep and how to arrange the rooms. No one can deny that Anna thought her methods were best! But, we also cannot deny it generated thousands of dollars for our mission funds. It was another one of her passions, one she took very seriously.

Anna was passionate about her grandchildren. She grieved deeply at the loss of Heather and Eddie's baby boy, Parker. She confessed many times her anger at God for taking this innocent child from his loving parents. Oh, but how she rejoiced when her sweet Gavin was born about a year later. She loved Alex, Gavin, and Jonah and seemed to be her happiest when she was with those boys, especially Gavin. She was passionate about them, and their well being.

But happiness, for the most part, eluded Anna. She was the product of her parent's troubled marriage, had a troubled and neglectful childhood, and it seemed her quest for true happiness was always just beyond her reach. This often wreaked havoc with her relationships. She loved fiercely but, too often, in a way that caused conflict with the recipients of that love. But Anna was my friend. A friend that was always ready to help me forgive and forgave me when I needed forgiveness. Anna was passionate about her friends.

In preparing for today, I found this poem that I wanted to share with you and with all those who are struggling with the loss of Anna. It is by Victor Hugo.

Have courage for the great sorrows in life,
and patience for the small ones;
and when you have laboriously accomplished
your daily tasks,
go to sleep in peace.
God is awake.

Anna, I pray you have, at long last, found your happiness. Rest In Peace, my friend. I will miss you.

Happy Birthday!



February Birthdays

- 2/03 - Eloise Bell Isle
- 2/05 - Melissa Ham
- 2/05 - Cyndi Smith
- 2/18 - Mona May
- 2/18 - Helen Phillips
- 2/22 - Susan Baggarly



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February Anniversary

- 2/09 - Mona & Stan May

BOOK CLUB

The book we will discuss is *Major Pettigrew 's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. The date is still Thursday, February 21 at 5:30. Nancy Parkhouse will lead our discussion.



The Men of the Church invite
all members of the
Congregation to celebrate
Valentine's Day at the Olive Garden on
Jonesboro Road in McDonough, GA
at 6:30 PM, Monday, February 11th, 2019.
Unaccompanied Ladies' meal will be
covered.



ATTENTION!

SECURITY CHANGE IN CHURCH KEY POLICY

Do you have a key to the Family Life Center? The locks are going to be re-keyed in the near future. For security purposes, outside doors and offices will have different locks. The new keys are not to be duplicated or shared by anyone receiving one, except under special circumstances and with permission. If you will need a new key (or keys), please let Laura Wigington know as soon as possible. We will be keeping a list and when you are given the new key(s), you will be checked off as such. Thank you!

Buildings and Grounds

THANK YOU!

An indoor workday was held on Saturday, January 12th to clean up (and out) some of the rooms of the Family Life Center. Several trips to Goodwill were made, along with a trip to the recycling center and the Clayton County dump. The kitchen table was also recovered and the remainder of the Christmas decorations were removed. A big thank you to those who did all the work: Carol Abdo, Alan Bergmann, Mike and Rhonda Fox, Jane Luetkemeyer, Jack and Cyndi Smith, Gwen Taylor,

ENJOYING OUR NEW PLAYGROUND!

At our last congregational meeting, the Christian Ed committee was asked how our members can enjoy our new playground. When the playground was being designed, the Ad Hoc committee established several rules to make sure the safety of our children was a top priority. The rules are posted on the fence next to one of the gates and are typical of a safe playground. However, there is one change to the posted rules. We expect all children regardless of their age to be accompanied by an adult member of our congregation. In addition, there are combination locks on both gates. Our church secretary, Toni Wilkerson, will be able to give you the combination. Pull down on the lock if you have trouble getting them open.

A big thank you to Kevin Taylor and the Building and Grounds committee for installing a new security light for the playground and doing a maintenance check. Please report any safety issues, damage, or wear and tear that could become a problem to the church secretary, Laura Wigington, or Carol Abdo.



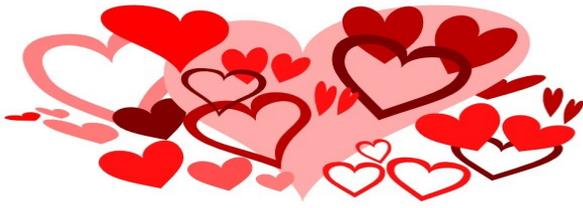
The Presbyterian Women's' Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Eloise Belle Isle's home and will be followed by an outing for lunch. The Evening Circle will not meet during February as in keeping with tradition, the Men of the Church will be taking all ladies to dinner for Valentine's Day. We hope to see all the Women of the Church at the Morning Circle for Bible Study and fellowship!

February Bunco will be on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 11:30 AM. Please bring your own sandwich or salad for lunch - drinks and dessert will be provided. This month, rather than donating the Bunco winnings to one of our supported missions, we thought it would be nice to honor Anna Harland in some way. For some time now, we have been talking about giving our kitchen a "face lift" and since Anna spent LOTS of time in the kitchen, we couldn't think of a better place or need! So if you are able, please bring \$5 which will be donated in Anna's memory to spruce up the kitchen with a new coat of paint and curtains and maybe some new dishcloths or towels as well. Also, if able, please bring a bottle of low dose Aspirin for the Good Shepherd Clinic. Please let Jane Luetkemeyer or Julie Hancock know you're coming by Saturday, February 9, 2019.



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY**

We will be collecting Valentine's Day cards for Vets until Sunday, February 10, 2019. Each year we have been asked, "How should we sign the cards?" You can sign your name, include a short note or simply "A Friend at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro." It's up to you; just a kind gesture to brighten a Veteran's day! A box is located in the Family Life Center for the cards. Thanks for your support!



The Front Porch Players

The Front Porch Players will partner with Renegade Theatre Ensemble (Co-founder, McKenzie McCart, whom you may remember as Lily in our production of *The Secret Garden* in 2018) to present a delightful experience for Valentine's on Sunday evening, February 10, at 7 p.m. Singers from both Renegade and TFPP will present a number of Broadway standards, songs about love, loss, and relationships. Season ticket holders' admission is \$10, or \$13 for VIP tickets (these include coffee and cake served at intermission); regular admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students with student ID. Please call 770-897-1404 (Front Porch Players) or go to bit.ly/lovestruckcabaret_tickets and fill in the form to RESERVE your seats; but all payment is cash at the door on February 10.

Concessions will also be available. Make your reservations soon, as we are limiting the audience to 100. This promises to be an elegant evening with tablecloths and candle light and you!

Production of *The Music Man* is well on its way! This may be the largest cast we've ever put on our stage: at least 40 people from all over the south side of Atlanta. Music, dance, and story promise to be enchanting and very entertaining. So, if you don't have season tickets, get in touch (770-897-1404) to arrange for them or to make reservations for just this show. Tickets should be live on our website by the time you read this. The cost for VIP tickets for non FPP season ticket holders will be \$15.

The FPP thank The First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro for providing us a home; we look forward to this new season together.

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	2 FPP FLC 9 am-2 pm
3 Holy Communion	4 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	5 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	6 Breakfast Club 9 am Chick Fil A Choir 7 pm	7 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	8	9
10 FPP Valentine's Presentation 7 pm	11 Men of the Church Valentine Dinner 6:30 pm Olive Garden	12 PW Morning Cir- cle 10 am E.Belle Isle's Home FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	13 Choir 7 pm	14  FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	15	16 PW Bunco 11:30 am FPP FLC 9:30 am-2 pm
17	18 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	19 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	20 Choir 7 pm	21 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	22 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	23 FPP FLC 9:30 am-2 pm
24 Baptism @ Worship Women's Retreat Balance Due	25 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	26 FPP FLC 6:30 pm-9 pm	27 Choir 7 pm	28		

Church Prayer List

Raymond and Susan Baggary, Ferri Blackmon, Sara Corley, Sandra Ellard, Pat Goggin, Libby Graham, Carol Hatfield, Nancy Hendrix, Nikki Holcomb, Dot Howell, Eloise Belle Isle, Charles Kelley, Robert Kelley, Chris Lizama, Mary Lou Manausa, Stan and Mona May, Scott McHenry, Shawn O'Neill, Lauren Parker, Ryan Patterson, Mike Pickett, Bill and Barbara Rhinehart, Brittany Voltner, Francine Walker, Rick White, Karen Farrell-White, Lee White, Richard Whittton, Susan Williams. Please pray for the family and friends of Anna Harland. Please pray for Nicole and Chloe', daughter and granddaughter of Ronnie and Elaine Piper.

Military Prayer List

Jason Ali-Talha, John Ham, Philip Ham, Josh Hamby, Chris Harvill, Daniel Hudalla, Kyle Hudalla, Austin Kobus, Logan May, Paul Weathers.

Extended Prayer List

Church Member

Sue Alford
Raymond and Susan Baggary
Eloise Belle Isle
Betty Bush
Carolyn Fox DuPree
Mike and Ronda Fox
Carol Francis
Melissa Ham
Mike and Julie Hancock

David Harland
Carol Hatfield
Mary Huie-Jolly
Stan and Mona May

Ronnie and Elan Piper
Bill and Barbara Rhinehart
Keith and Jennifer Taylor

Walt and Gwen Taylor

Brian and Deanie Turner
Alex Westervelt
James and Traci White
Ruby White
Pat Wood
Debbie Woodard

Pray For:

Richard Baldwin
Rodney Mitchell, Kim Farmer
Stacey Luedtke, Simone Luedtke, Colton Jones
Marilyn Vaughan
Spencer Cagle, Randy Bradley
Stephen Mitchell
Francine Walker
Richard Meck and Family, Sharon Grindle Family
Pat Hunt-Nelson, Henry Hancock, Eli Bryant,
Jim Stone
Jen Adorno, Pat Melarango
Ryan Patterson
Lucie Huie
Karen Pearce, Tony May, Damon Wallace,
Greta Weyant, Paul Carrington-May
Luke Gilman, Linda Harris
Rocky Boulware
Bruce Andrews, Cheryl Denny, Roger Moore,
Scott Betsil, Lauren Hutchinson, Barbara Lacey,
Barry Smith, Sandy Hawkins
Dewey Ellenburg, Betty Levon, Sarah Corley,
Mike Pickett, Nancy Hendrix, Laura Etheridge, May Etheridge
Parker Johnson, Glenn Adams
Kyley Hoover
Shawn O'Neill, Brenda Henson and Family
Dorothy Kobus
Randy Clokey, Bob and Charlotte Roach
Sandra Ellard

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

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Committee Chairpersons

Administration	Julie Hancock
Building & Grounds	Laura Wigington
Christian Education	Carol Abdo
Congregational Care	Jane Luetkemeyer
Outreach	Melissa Ham
Stewardship & Finance	Brian Turner
Endowment	Keith Parkhouse
Worship	Debbie Woodward
Treasurer	James White

Cyndi Smith — Clerk

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir
pastorfpcj@gmail.com

Music Director/Organist

Blakely Hardy
BlakelyHardy@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Toni Wilkerson
secretaryfpcj@gmail.com

SESSION

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir
Moderator
Carol Abdo
Julie Hancock
Jane Luetkemeyer
Brian Turner
Laura Wigington
Debbie Woodward

At First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,

we believe Jesus calls us to **love wholly, connect fully, and serve abundantly** each and every day; spreading the Good News of God's redeeming love by act, word, and deed.