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sapctucker.org

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From the Pastor

On Monday, August 21st my family and I headed up north before the crack of dawn. We were eager to get a parking spot at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Arriving well before the gates opened at 7:00 AM we got one of the last few spots before the park rangers closed the gates. Once the thrill of getting a parking spot wore off I began to wonder about the wisdom of waking up at 4:30 a.m. and taking our kids out of school just to be in the path of totality. Would it really be worth it? Would it be that different from 98% back in the comfort of home in Atlanta?

Yes. The answer is YES. It was worth it.

First of all, Tallulah Gorge is amazing. It was my first time there. The falls are gorgeous. The next morning my legs reminded me just how many stairs I had to climb back up after descending to the bottom of the gorge. It was fun to explore with my family and to watch others take in the beauty of creation. We packed lunches and the eclipse cookies (sugar cookies with yellow and chocolate icing to show the progress of the moon) we made to eat as we watched. We got in some great people and dog watching. We read books as we waited (and waited), kicked a soccer ball around, and played games to pass the times. The park

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Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated to DR000169-Harvey.

To give online [click here](#).

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone.

was full and bustling for hours.

Then around 1:00 PM people began to still. We repositioned our camp chairs and periodically stepped out of the shade of our tailgating tent to check the status of the sun. Folks began to tell their neighbors, "it's happening!" There was a lot of "look! Look!" and "oh wow!" as we looked up and watched what looked like someone taking a bite out of the sun. Before long someone noticed the crescent-shaped shadows on the ground as the sun shone through the leaves of the trees above. Word was passed around and we all were fascinated by the shadows. By 2:34 PM everyone around us was standing in the open space looking up at the sky. The air was turning noticeably cooler, but it was still bright. Minutes later it happened-the total eclipse of the sun. We all took off our protective glasses as applause erupted. We were in awe.

Words are inadequate to describe what we saw. I heard the words of the ancient psalmists:

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

How great is God's love for all who worship him? Greater than the distance between heaven and earth! (Psalm 103:11 CEV)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights! ... Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! (Psalm 148:1, 3)

I am grateful for the opportunity to experience the wonder of God's creation in the eclipse. These days it feels like there's not much "wonder" left in the world. But I am even more grateful for what happened on the ground than what happened in the sky that afternoon. In our confessions we speak of living in a "broken and fearful world." Unfortunately we've been all too aware of that lately. I think it was grace, a gift, that I felt in that collective experience of regarding the beauty and wonder of God's created order. I experienced awe and reverence. It left me feeling hopeful. We all stopped for just a few minutes and stood in awe-pointing out the wonder and beauty around us as it was revealed, and joining in praise as we looked heavenward with open, uncovered eyes. Rev. Joy Fisher reflected on her experience of the eclipse: "Whether others would call it so or not, I believe the experience of awe and wonder and reverence we felt...is worship... Thousands of us across the country made time to go outside, to celebrate the movement of the sun and the moon. We came together and shared joy and peace, recognizing ourselves as small beings in a vast universe. There is healing and community when we open ourselves to

For updates, please go to pda.pcusa.org.

Or text "PDA" to 20222 to give \$10 to the General Relief account.

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of the storm.

Rally Day

Join us for an old-fashioned Rally Day at 9:00 AM on Sunday, September 10th.



We'll all gather together for a continental breakfast and time of fellowship. Our children and youth will meet their teachers, and go off to their classes. Our adults will stay to find out about the various adult education opportunities planned the fall. Please join us and bring your favorite breakfast finger food to share.

Fall Barbecue, October 1

experiences with God's beautiful creation." I agree. It was worth it. And I pray that we, as a congregation, a community, a nation, and a world, have this opportunity for healing and hope far more frequently than we get to witness a total solar eclipse. In fact, we're invited each week to pause and praise God in Worship. No need to wait until 2024.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camille".

Camille

P.S. I wrote this before Hurricane Harvey hit land. That is a whole other side of creation we witnessed. Still, I stand in awe and pause to give thanks and praise for the good we have seen from God's beloved children in the rescue and recovery efforts in Texas and beyond. If you'd like to help relief efforts, see the information about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in this newsletter.

From the Treasurer

In August, our income was \$30,692.69, and our expenses totaled \$41,177.25. The year-to-date figures are \$278,062.72 income and \$276,253.44 expenses. The July income included a special gift of \$6000 for Music. In August, we moved the \$6000 into a designated account. This is effectively an expense in August, offsetting the extra income in July. In any event, we have a year-to-date surplus of \$1,809.28, which is good for this time of the year (i.e., summer). For comparison, a year ago at this time, we had a deficit of \$6,785.

Currently we have a mortgage balance of \$435,932.66. We have \$113,438.87 in our mortgage fund, and a monthly payment of \$4,111. Thus, we have funds on hand to cover over 27 months of payments.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Al Smith, Treasurer

An Invitation from The 39ers

For any who might not know, the 39ers is a group of folks who like to meet, eat and have fellowship



It's an annual St. Andrews tradition...a shared meal of delicious pork and chicken, prepared by SAPC grill masters in our own barbecue pit. Join your church family around the table in Heffner Hall after the 10 AM service for fellowship and great food. Bring your favorite dessert or cook-out side to share. If you'd like to volunteer to help, click here to contact [Paige McKay Kubik](#).

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1st Adrienne Morse
Evelyn Morse
- 3rd Edward Forrester
- 6th Nancy Davenport
Merle Westbrook
- 10th Ray Jarvis
George Komi
- 12th Molly Darnell
Katey Johnston
- 15th Teedum Komi
- 18th Micah Nelson
- 19th Dennis Buchanan
Linda Johnson
- 20th Paul Burns, Lynn Kozlosky
- 21st Verome Johnston
Barbara Mattheis
- 24th Leesi Komi, Parker Wood
- 26th Earl Meeks
- 27th Scott Williams

Anniversaries

- 8th Carole & Jim Barnhart
 - 15th Erin & Verome Johnston
 - 28th Tambre & Ross Phillips
-

together. This fall we will begin on Monday, September 11 with a new idea. In the past, we have met in Heffner Hall and had a catered lunch and sometimes a program. This year we will be lunching at local restaurants. 'Folks at Northlake is the first one chosen for this year. We will meet there at Noon and would welcome any and all who would like to join us. We will carpool from the office side of the church, if that is more convenient. The carpool will leave at 11:45. Future meetings are planned for the First Monday of the month. Please contact Charles Mills 678-654-6828 or Sarah Slusher 770-939-9546 with any questions.

N.E.T. Food Pantry Report

St. Andrews staffed the N.E.T. Food Pantry in June. 62 needy families were given a 3-day supply of food. In my 30 years with the N.E.T. Food Pantry, I have never experienced a more hectic month. For the first two weeks of June, early voting for the 6th district was held in the Tucker Recreation Center where our pantry is located. Since it was a very contentious election, our hallway was mobbed with early voters. Parking was difficult. To add to the confusion, Tucker Rec's summer camps were in full swing. Many thanks to Nancy Mills, Ramona Creagh, Lettie Hudson, Diane MacFarland, Pat Creasman and Allen Smith, who served in the Pantry.

- Klara Smith

Thank you from the family of Ellen Halvorson

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayer for Ellen. I am convinced that your thoughts and prayers along with her deep faith allowed me to have extra time with her. Ellen loved St. Andrews and considered everyone part of her religious family. Again, thank you.

Warren Halvorson

Thank you from the Family of Margaret Mueller

Margaret Mueller loved her Lord and the wonderful people of St. Andrew's Presbyterian. Working in the church office as a volunteer for several years was

Upcoming Events

Rally Day - September 10
Fall BBQ - October 1
Ministry Fair - October 15
Kirking of the Tartans - October 29

Please click here see [our calendar](#) for all our upcoming events.

Donate to St. Andrews just by 'Smiling'

If you are like most people, you do some shopping on Amazon. Now, when you shop at AmazonSmile, a portion of the purchase price will be donated to St Andrews. [Smile.amazon.com](#) is the exact same thing as Amazon.com - you use the same Amazon account that you currently have and everything else stays the same. On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](#) you will to select a charitable organization that will receive donations from eligible purchases, before you begin shopping. Then, every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](#) will result in a donation to St. Andrews. Giving is that easy!

such a blessing to her. Many of you picked her up and brought her to church when she gave up driving. Many of you visited her at her home when she could no longer get to church. Many also visited her at Coventry Place in Decatur. She cherished each and every visit. In addition to the visits, the cards, the phone calls, and contributions made in her memory to the church, I'd like to say thank you for the wonderful women who organized and served the delightful reception for her memorial service! Her friends and family were able to visit and talk about Margaret and her delightful sense of humor, while enjoying your hospitality and goodies! On behalf of my sisters, Janice, Jean and Sharon, I thank you all!

Most Sincerely,
Diane MuellerWarren

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is currently in the process of identifying and nominating a slate of elder and deacon candidates to present to the congregation later this fall. Members of the congregation who wish to suggest someone (either one's self or another member) for these positions should share these names with any member of the Nominating Committee for consideration, or complete the Nominating Committee Suggestion Card found in the pews and return it in the offering plate, or [click here](#) for a printable version. Nominating Committee members are Paul Burns, Debbie Brilling, Molly Darnell, Jeff Nelson, and Bret Moore.

Library News

Hearts of Fire Compiled by Voice of the Martyrs

We in the free world tend to take our freedom of religion completely for granted. In some parts of the world, especially in Muslim countries, being Christian is not so easy. Christians are persecuted and even killed. Hearts of Fire consists of stories of eight modern Christian women who paid a heavy price for their faith in Christ.

There is the story of Tara, a Muslim teenager in Pakistan, who was beaten and left for dead by her father and brother because she dared to study the Christian faith.

There is the story of Adel on the Indonesian Island of Dodi. In 2000, her Christian village was burned down by men in a neighboring Muslim village. They

killed most of the men and kidnapped the women. Adel was forced to marry a Muslim man by whom she had a child. 1½ years later, she escaped.

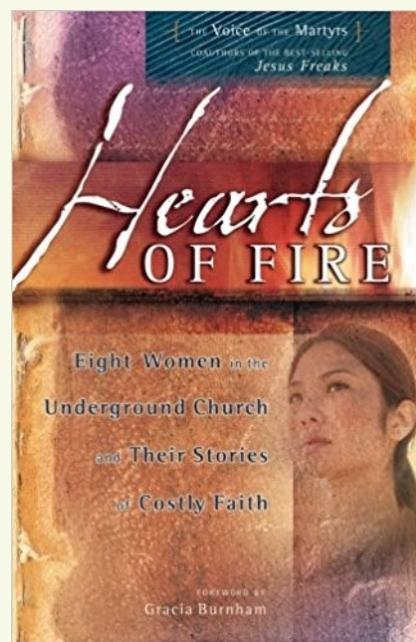
Throughout her ordeal, she bravely spoke up for Jesus.

The saddest part is that the governments were unwilling or unable to protect these Christian women.

They were completely on their own in preserving their faith.

Check out this book and read about these compelling stories along with six others.

- Klara Smith



Youth News

Thanks go out to the Burns Family for hosting our pool party last month. A good time was had by all!

Join us in Worship on September 10th to hear a report from our youth mission trip team that went to Mobile, AL this Summer!

On September 10th from 6-7:30p, will be the youth kick off for youth and their parents in Heffner Hall. We are going to be playing a game of trivia and will have a category of St. Andrews Trivia. If you know any fun trivia about our church or its history, email Steve Sankey before the 10th.

If you can't join us on September 10th, we invite individuals and groups from the church to bring a meal for youth group one night during the year. These are the dates available to bring a meal to youth group. [Here](#) is the link to sign-up.

News from Building Families

The Two best Statements You Can Teach Your Children for Better Communication

Do your children struggle to express themselves

without hurting another's feelings? Many children (and adults too!) have a difficult time communicating respectfully. They often place blame on others for "making" them feel a certain way, but can't express exactly how they are feeling. If you've noticed this in your children (or yourself), it is a good opportunity to introduce I-messages and You-messages to your family! The purpose of an I-message is to express how you are feeling and what you need in a respectful way. You-messages are statements given in response to I-messages. They help show the person who gave the I-message that you heard what they said and express how you can help. Even younger children can use this communication tool. Best of all, these statements can be used with your significant others, co-workers, family... any relationship where you may have uncomfortable feelings and want to express them in a respectful way! Please click [here](#) to continue reading this article.

Say Spencer, LCSW
Thornwell Building Families Program
s.spencer@thornwell.org
404-550-3149

News from St. Andrews School

Greetings,

The 2017-2018 school year has gotten off to a great start. The children appear to be adjusting very well to their schedules, and interacting with their peers. We are anticipating an exciting school year.

We would like to thank Doug and Pasty Cannon for displaying the student's artwork in the main hallway of the school. Parents, students and staff are truly enjoying the beautiful paintings.

Please stop by Hudson's Grill in Tucker, for Community Night on Wednesday, September 13th. This event will mark our first fundraiser for the school. Ten percent of the proceeds from the entire day will benefit St. Andrews School.

During the week of September 25th - 29th the school will host a Scholastic Book Fair. The school's Open House and Family Picnic will be held on September 28th 5:30pm - 7:00pm. With Christmas just around the corner, a good book would be a great stocking stuffer.

We appreciate our extended St. Andrews Presbyterian

Church family, and the support that so many members extend to the school. May God bless you for all that you do for us.

In Christ,

Ann McKinney, Director
