



August 2017

New Vision

Senior High and college youth, Joanna Andrews, Madison Lewis, and Eddie Morgan, went to Montreat, NC in July for a week of faith building and peace making.

Deepening our Discipleship

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Rev. Rebecca Luter

The Day School is closed this week, and the hallways are quieter than usual. But there is much activity throughout the building. Teachers are preparing their classrooms for the first day of school. For some of the children who come next week, it will be their first day to experience functioning as part of a group of learners. For some children, it will be their last “first day of preschool” and this year they will sharpen their skills in focus and self-control, empathy and curiosity. We know that high-quality early childhood education experiences make a difference in life-long learning and social success.

Presbyterians have always had a strong commitment to educational advocacy. Rev. Heath Rada, the Moderator of the 221st General Assembly in 2014, reiterated our commitment saying, “In infant Baptism, the church acknowledges the beloved nature of children from their first days. Presbyterians in mission and ministry have a long tradition of serving all of God’s children with life’s blessings.” As a natural development of our commitment, the Presbyterian Mission Agency has as one of its major initiatives “Educate a Child, Transform the World.”

The Farmington Family is involved in educating children and transforming the world. This Sunday, August 6, we will dedicate school supplies that will be given Monday morning to children who arrive at school without the tools they need to do their work. We will also have a

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Blessing of the Backpacks. All children who are headed to school may bring their school bag or backpack and be a part of a special time of prayer for their new school year.

When the hallways of the church are filled with children, pause for a moment to give thanks for the ways God is allowing us to shape and influence the lives of children and youth. They are learning through every interaction and one of the most important things we can teach is how to connect with others. Be sure to make eye contact and greet each child with a smile and friendly hello. You never know when you will make a difference in a child's life!

Day School News

July has come and now is gone. We have ended Summer Camp season and are in full swing with Back to School! Farmington Presbyterian was definitely the place to be in July. The kids enjoyed swimming and water days, bowling, ice cream, pizza, ice skating, movies and music. The third week of July brought a fun theme of Memphis Made. The School Age kids had the chance to sign up for Stax Museum, the Pink Palace and a Backbeat Mojo Tour bus that took the kids around downtown/midtown areas of town and told the kids about the musicians and music that makes Memphis special. All the kids were able to enjoy locally owned Mempo popsicles. Magic Mr. Nick came and visited the last week of summer and you could hear all the kids laughing and cheering throughout the building. To show how much we appreciate and love our Farmington families we threw an End of Summer Celebration on the last day of camp. School of Rock- Germantown put on a live concert in the parking lot, Kona Ice snow cone truck came, Mr. Anthony grilled and served up 200 hotdogs and Freedom a local balloon artist came and made balloons for all the kids. With beach balls flying and feet dancing it was an awesome and fun way to end the summer!

The first week of August is In-Service for all the Farmington teaching staff. We will have annual training and setting up of the classrooms as we will welcome back the kids on August 7th. We

look forward to an amazing school year. As always, thanks to all that make Farmington Presbyterian Day School such a caring, fun and exciting place to learn and play!

Best Wishes to all our students on a blessed school year!

Gretchen Burch

Program Director





FPDS Connects

Farmington Presbyterian Day School is ready to launch the new school year 2017-18. Connect is the theme for our teacher In-Service training. We want to concentrate on connecting the child, parent, teacher, community, and church.

Connect the Child

Preparing children for kindergarten is important, but we are also preparing children for life. Our world is rapidly changing which is the catalyst for the need to change the way we teach preschool. We want to bring the world into the classroom by helping children learn about people in our community and how other people live in their community. Introducing children to other countries and cultures at an appropriate level for their learning will help prepare them for experiences in life. By broadening their awareness through pictures and stories, will be taking a step toward *connecting our children with the world*.

Connect the Parent

Beginning Thursday evening, August 3rd, at Parent Orientation, we will be building relationships with parents. We will communicate how honored we are that we have been chosen to share part of their child's day.

Each spring, we have a Parenting seminar on topics such as "Getting Ready for Kindergarten". Throughout the school year, parents attend programs to see what it happening during their child's day and by displaying pictures of the children on Facebook, we will *connect parents to their children's school day*.

Connect the Teacher

Teachers will continue to share positive communications with the parents concerning their children.

Professional Development trainings are available for our teachers to expand our knowledge of the latest research and best ways to help children develop socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and intellectually. By bonding with each child and parent, we are *connecting with the family*.

Connect the Community

Our goal is to have outreach programs for the children preschool and school age. This may include making cards and visiting an assisted living facility. We want to give children the opportunity to serve others. Through outreach and having speakers from the area visit the school to discuss their occupation or travels, we will *connect with the community*.

Connect the Church

Each week Mr. Doug presents a "singing and learning about Jesus" chapel for our preschoolers. We will be implementing the same Christian curriculum in the classroom. There will be a monthly memory verse and an activity based on the Bible story. *By connecting the classroom and chapel, we will help children develop spiritually*.

We are ready to Connect.

Linda Turner, Managing Director

CONNECT+

Christian Education



Every day at Montreat I sent our “stock holders” a report. Here are some excerpts from the trip:

DAY 2: Hannah Garrity is the summer artist in residence at Montreat and this morning during keynote, she explained the background to this weeks chancel (top picture on the right). It is all made from butcher paper and newspaper cut into the shape of doves in flight trapped behind a cage of newspaper with the word “Peace” cut from its pages. We explored the theme of grief. Everyone has experienced loss but peace is not the absence of sadness or conflict. We are shaping peace as the state of being that allows us to act with a level head in most circumstances. Peace is rooted in our trust that God’s love never fails and conquers all.

In small group we discussed the effect of stereotypes in contrast with peace. We began to look at the Road to Emmaus story and the way the disciples could not see it was Jesus that was walking with them. Later we discussed the other side of stereotypes. The person being pegged as churchy, drama queen, snob, geek, etc. may feel like the author of Psalm 69. Here grief is described as drowning with water up to your neck and no one to save you.

DAY 3: In worship tonight, we looked at Paul’s letter to the Philippians, particularly his command to “be known for your gentleness.” What does that look like? Isn’t that a paradox? Making noise makes the news. Gentleness hardly makes a ripple.

After worship there was a concert by our worship leader, Cameron Moore. He has been wonderful this week! At the end of this trip there will be a song list posted on the Montreat website. I hope to pull it and start learning some new songs for back home youth times.

DAY 4: Keynote this morning was about disruption. Divorce, war, illness, grief, disaster, etc. that require us to change our status quo. The scripture was on Joshua taking the lead after the death of Moses, but Paul, our keynoter, turned from that story to point out that the entire Bible is about disruption. God disrupts chaos, God disrupts Moses, God disrupts Mary, God disrupts the disciples. Every great journey begins with disruption that leads to a new normal.

DAY 5: We took some time this evening to recognize our seniors—well, everyone on the trip. Madison’s open and sometimes persistent invitations to worship, Joanna’s artistic creativity, Eddie’s devotion and spiritual confidence, Elizabeth’s connection with teens, and Rebecca’s love of music. Each one of them has a unique gift that we are returning to share with Farmington.

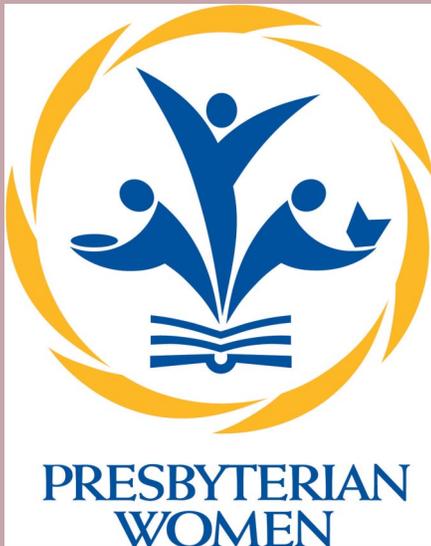
Worship ended tonight with candle light. we surrounded the lake with light and prayed over each other in groups: from staff to leaders, Freshmen to Graduated seniors. We sang together and closed the week out with a beautiful lakeside gathering by candle light.

- Doug Barr



Thank you to everyone who supported our journey to Montreat. It was a fantastic week of study, fellowship, community building and fun. Each day was so packed with adventure that it felt like a week. By the end, we felt like it had all sped by. These young people are excited about church; they feel like their voice matters and can make a difference in the world. Let's not disappoint them. Speak to them about their experience, hear their perspective, and be willing to have your eyes opened by Christ incarnate in them.

Donors Dinner will be Sunday, August 6 at 6pm. Youth will talk about their experience, share photos of the journey, and we will enjoy a taco dinner together.



Mark your calendar...

The Presbytery Women's Bible Study Kick off and Fall gathering will be a combined event this year. The event will take place at Pinecrest on Saturday, August 26. Details and registration form will be passed on as soon as it becomes available.

Bible Study Workbooks

Our Bible study theme for the 2017-2018 is **Cloud of Witnesses; The Community of Christ in Hebrews**. The author Melissa Bane Sevier wrote the study with approaching Hebrews through the lenses of peace, peacemaking, and hope. Each lesson will feature stories about women who have been witnesses to faith. There will be a sign up sheet on the women's bulletin board if you would like to purchase a workbook.

FPW Salad Luncheon

The Farmington Presbyterian Women Circle will kick off the new year and Bible study with a salad luncheon on Saturday, September 23 at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall.

Please bring your favorite salad to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Sign up sheet will be available September 1 on the women's bulletin board.



Preschool

God made the world and everything in it. And when we see what God has made, it reminds us what a BIG and creative God He is. But, God’s favorite creation isn’t a volcano, a supernova, or an otter—it’s people. The God who made all things good, is the God who made you.

Elementary

God is the all-powerful, Creator of the universe. There is no one else who has the position or power of God. We can’t help but respond to Him with respect.

When it comes to people, everyone is important for two reasons: God made them in His image and Jesus died for them. That’s why respect is also a reflection of the character of Christ in us. When we see people like Jesus sees them, we can show everyone they matter to God.



Youth

Beginning a series in our new curriculum!

Measure Up

A 3-week series designed to free us from the trap of trying to compare ourselves to those around us and instead teach us to look for our value in the ways God has uniquely gifted us.



Donors to the Youth Stock for Montreat and MYM are invited to a Taco Dinner to hear about the Youth Montreat Experience and Doug’s Experience with MYM. Dinner will include, entertainment, a slide show, and Q&A. Join us at 6pm in the Fellowship hall, Sunday August 6.

Thank you!



Upcoming Events



Summer Swim

August 4

Summer Pool Parties will be held at the Luter's home on the first Friday of each month: July 7 and August 4. Make plans to attend and bring your friends who might be looking for a church family. The address is 2605 Meadow Run (Germantown). We will gather @ 5:30 pm and grill hamburgers and hotdogs. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share, your camp chairs, towels, and pool toys!

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 6

Graduation is a special milestone in every student's life as they step into new responsibilities and move up the educational ladder. Promotion Sunday is when we celebrate the new classes being made and the students set to fill them. All children and youth Sunday School Classes will move up to their new grades August 6. Don't miss this special Sunday celebrating the ministry of our Christian Education to children and youth.



Retirement Party

Director of Music

Friday, August 18, 2017

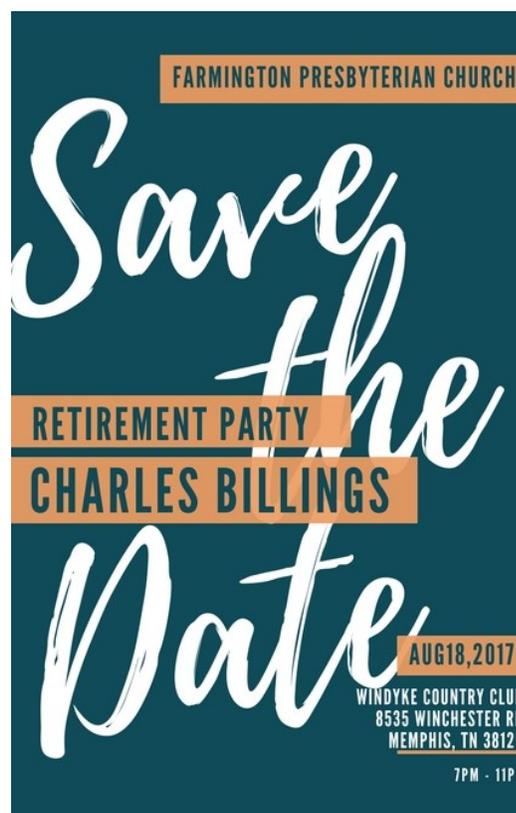
Please drop in between 7pm - 11pm for hors d'oeuvres, drinks and music.

Windyke Country Club
8535 Winchester Road
Memphis, TN 38125
No RSVP required

Contribute to the Charles Billings Trust Fund. Contact Paul King with any questions.

[901.233.9049](tel:901.233.9049),

nomonarch@comcast.net



Committee Meetings

Property and Grounds
7:00 am, Friday, August 11

Presbytery Meeting
9:30 am, Saturday, August 12

Evergreen Presbyterian

Congregational Care
10:00 am Monday, August 14

Session Meeting
6 pm, Monday, August 21

Administration
6 pm, Monday, August 28

Session Report

Leadership roles were established for the 2017-2018 Session year. Laurinda Ingram will be chairing a new subcommittee—Adult Discipleship. Organizationally it will be a subcommittee of Fellowship. If you are interested in choosing and developing learning opportunities and small group studies for the congregation, please let Laurinda know.

The Memorials Subcommittee of Administration has selected an artist to refurbish our outdoor nativity scene.

Other motions approved included: roof repair, new Middle/High School curriculum, and transferring our cleaning contract to GBS Cleaning Service.

A Congregational Meeting for July 30 was called to consider the Terms of Call for the Pastor.

August Birthdays

2	Patricia Sherman
14	Ellen Renfrow
22	Bonnie Blair
23	Autumn Borrego
24	Iris Lawing
24	Gwynne Gladden
29	Ray Bendall
31	Brenda Porter

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office to be added. We would like to celebrate with you.

Acolyte Schedule

August 6	Julia Lively
August 13	Jack Ritchey
August 20	Lorelie Phillips
August 27	Cole Ritchey
September 3	Elizabeth Luter



Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130
Cyndi Bevington, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 3131
Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136
Linda Turner, Managing Director of Day School, Ext. 3138
Gretchen Burch, Program Director of Day School, Ext. 3132
Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

Session Members

Administration – Kirsten King
Christian Education – Susan Bryant
Clerk – Melanie Oest
Congregational Care – Becky Hutchins
Fellowship – Mary Shelley Ritchey
Adult Discipleship—Laurinda Ingram
Property and Grounds – Jerry Hosier
School Board – Charlie Smithers
Service – Lance Palmer
Treasurer—Steve Demaree
Worship – Sandy Wann

If you have content for the September edition of New Vision, please email Doug Barr no later than August 21 at Doug@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church and Day School
8245 Farmington Blvd. Germantown, TN 38139
www.Farmingtonpres.org