

A decorative banner with a light pink background and a red border. The text "February, 2020" and "Church Chatter" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The banner is decorated with several 3D-style hearts in red and white, some appearing to be attached to thin white vertical lines.

February, 2020

Church Chatter

On January 25th, we held our annual congregational meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro. During that meeting, we heard the reports of all we accomplished as a church in 2019. This brought great joy to our church community. However, while we rejoiced in these achievements, we recognize that the work continues, and there is still much to be done. It will take commitment, and all of us working together to making an even greater impact in 2020.

When Jesus first called the disciples in Matthew 4:12-23, they didn't understand the implications of his ministry, but they had a hunch that following him would be the way for them to achieve power, authority, glory and respect. They would soon realize that discipleship took on a completely different meaning than they thought. Likewise, the call of Jesus in our lives is completely counter-cultural; it goes completely against our expectations of what it should be, it turns our whole world on its head and following Jesus does not take us where we expect to go. Power and authority in the Christian life are never on the agenda. Of course, we all want to experience power and authority and be respected for who we are - but we will be taken the way of the cross instead and will be called to die in order to live.

Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will help you fish for people". As we enter another year of ministry here at FPCJ, how are we going to fulfil Jesus' call to fish for people? How can we bring people back to the fold, or bring new people into our church community? Are there neighbors and friends we can reach out to? Are there ways we can invite our community to be part of our church family? As we continue following Christ, may the Lord use each one of us for his glory and mission.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Olive

Remembering Stan and Mona May



Tribute to Stan May

By Russell Wood

I knew Stan a few months shy of 45 years. It's difficult to recall not knowing him. A couple of very vivid memories surfaced a few weeks ago when I took Stan to a doctor's appointment and afterwards to Krispy Kreme for a doughnut, coffee, and conversation.

When I was in high school, the legal drinking age was 18. When I was 16 and 17, there was one place we kids could go to buy beer. That was The Little General gas station on Jodeco Road which is now the BP station. One Friday, I was there, purchased some beer, turned to leave and there stood Stan. We both paused a second, exchanged hellos and I quickly left. When I got outside, Mona was in their car right beside mine. She giggled and said, "be careful".

As the years went by, almost every time we passed the place and greeted each other at church, Mona would shyly cover her mouth like a football coach who didn't want his next play lipread and she'd whisper "Little General" and squeal with a delighted giggle. Now, Stan never said anything about it.

When he and I arrived back at his place, I hugged him goodbye and like I did with my father, I kissed him on the head. He thanked me for the outing and with a wry smile, said I would always be "The Little General" to him. He waited 40 years to use that zinger and picked our last visit to use it.

During our Krispy Kreme talk, the subject of worrying came up. Stan said he was the worrier while Mona didn't brood on much at all. He mentioned that he and my father had spoken about what a waste of time worrying is and that my Dad had sent him a card with a little type written story inserted in it. Stan said he held on to that piece of paper for years and every time he would worry, he would re-read it to snap out of it. Somewhere amid all the confusion and turmoil since Mona's death, he lost the little treasure.

As luck or providence would have it, I had been going through my father's books, sermons, cuttings and clippings and I recalled reading what I thought was the missing story. I emailed it to Stan, and he thanked me for sending it, but said due to his bad vision, he couldn't read it well. So, I called him and read it to him. Afterwards, he said "Thanks Sport...That hit the spot". Which was another endearment because my dad called me "Sport".

This is how the "don't waste time on worry" story goes:

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Two students, Sender and Mendel, were discussing the rumors of war which threatened to engulf all Europe in July 1914. Mendel was terribly pessimistic about the future, but Sender tried to console him.

"If I were you, I would not worry yet," said Sender. "This entire affair may blow over, but even if there should be a war, you still have two possibilities: You may be sent to fight at the front or you may not be sent to fight at the front. If you are not sent to the front, you have nothing to worry about, but even if you should be sent to the front, there are still two possibilities. You will either be wounded, or you will not be wounded. If you are not wounded, you have nothing to worry about, but even if you are wounded, you still have two possibilities. You may be wounded slightly, or you may be wounded seriously. If you are wounded slightly, you have nothing to worry about, but if you are wounded seriously, you still have two possibilities. You may either die from your wounds or you may not die. If you do not die, you have nothing to worry about, but even if you do die, you still have two possibilities. You may either go to Heaven or go to Hell. If you go to Heaven, you have nothing to worry about, but if you go to Hell, you still have one possibility: War might not be declared; so, you still have nothing to worry about."

When my dad died, I listened to one particular song many times to help with the grief and possibly dry up the faucet of tears. After learning of Stan's death, I listened to that song again. The song is about the goodness of a father, his passing on wisdom and lessons, and the son who eventually learns the lesson. It's called "That's My Job," these are the words:

I woke up crying late at night when I was very young
I had dreamed my father had passed away and gone
My world revolved around him, I couldn't lie there anymore
So I made my way down the mirrored hall and tapped upon his door.

And I said, "Daddy, I'm so afraid!
How will I go on with you gone that way?
Don't wanna cry anymore so may I stay with you? "
He said, "That's my job, that's what I do
Everything I do is because of you, to keep you safe with me
That's my job, you see. "

Later we barely got along, this teenage boy and he
Most of the fights it seems were over different dreams we each held for me
He wanted knowledge and learning, I wanted to fly out west
I said, "I could make it out there, if I just had the fare
I got half, will you loan me the rest? "

Continued on page 5

And I said, "Daddy, I'm so afraid
There's no guarantee in the plans I've made
And if I should fail who will pay my way back home? "
And he said, "That's my job, that's what I do
Everything I do is because of you to keep you safe with me
That's my job, you see. "

Every person carves his spot and fills the hole with light
And I pray someday I might shine as bright as he.

I woke up early one bright fall day to spread the tragic news
After all my travels, I settled down within a mile or two
I make my living with words and rhymes and all this tragedy
Should go into my head and out instead as bits of poetry.

But I say, "Daddy I'm so afraid
How will I go on with you gone this way
How can I come up with a song to say, "I love you"?
"That's my job, that's what I do.
Everything I do is because of you to keep you safe with me
That's my job, you see. "

Goodbye Stan.

(This was read at Stan's funeral)

Tribute to Stan May

By Alan Bergmann

Stan's professional career was spent in the Chamber of Commerce field. The first part (18 years) was with the Clayton County Chamber. This was followed by 35 years as Publisher and Editor of a monthly newsletter for Chamber executives and staff members. During his years of managing the Clayton Chamber, he pursued studies in this field at several Universities including Georgia, Colorado, Santa Clara and completed Academy at Notre Dame University. Along the way, he was designated a Certified Chamber Executive (CCE).

During his last year of Academy at Notre Dame, one of the requirements was to answer several questions in preparation of a "Personal Funeral Plan." Here are a few of Stans answers from those questions some 50 years ago.

Favorite Color: red, orange and blue

Favorite Flower: a rose

Kinds of music enjoyed: Dixieland jazz, Big Bands and easy listening

Fondest Memory: The times together when my children were little

Accomplishment: providing for my family

Places on earth enjoyed the most: home and the beach

Activities enjoyed the most: creating ideas and seeing them fulfilled

Final thought I would like to leave family and friends: they are the most important thing in my life, and I love them

What attitude and behaviors will you carry to the grave: caring and concern for others and honesty with self and others.

What is the last thing you want to do before you die: hold my wife in my arms

Stan was there holding Mona when she passed, and now he has gone to be with her. His final wish has been fulfilled.

(This tribute was read at Stan's funeral)

Poem by Mona May

Stan and Mona were fortunate to spend 67 years together.
Several years ago, Mona wrote this poem to Stan on their anniversary.

He is my love, and I am his,
This has been true since we met,
My strength, my courage, my future he is,
Through laughter or tears he guides me yet.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow the same,
Love as beautiful and free as the sunset,
I give to him, and he give it back again,
The world is still ours, we must not forget.

Time has brought many changes,
Some have been good, a few I would rescind,
If I cannot understand, my mind re-arranges,
He is my love, and our love will never end.

Together we can feel life's sunshine,
Laugh at the rain and face the changing wind,
Blow might hurricane winds of time,
From east to west and back again

(Written by Armona Jay May)

(Read at Stan's funeral)



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 10:00 AM at Eloise Belle Isle's home and may be followed by an outing for lunch. The Morning Circle will continue with the new 2019/2020 *Horizons Bible Study – Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* and are on Lesson 5, "Words of Love: Don't Kill Each Other."

The Evening Circle will meet on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM for the annual Valentine's Dinner hosted by the Men of the Church. All single ladies will be treated to dinner by the Men of the Church. Location to be announced. The Evening Circle will resume bible study in March 2020.



We will be collecting Valentine's Day cards for Vets until Sunday, February 9, 2020. 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 in the Family Life Center for the cards.

Thanks for your support!

Thanks, so much ladies! Hope to see all of your smiling faces at one or ALL of our upcoming events!

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY
At First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro
Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 10:30 am
Theme: "Honoring Women's Spirituality, Struggle and Survival"
(Matthew 5:3)

Join us for an inspiring worship service led by the women of our church



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Join us at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro on Transfiguration Sunday, Feb 23, 2020 at 10:30am for worship and to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. In keeping with our tradition at FPCJ there will be no communion during the Lenten Season.



The Front Porch Players Proudly Presents

The Bridges of Madison County

Fridays, March 6 & 13, 2019 – 7:30 pm

Saturdays, March 7 & 14, 2019 – 7:30 pm

Sundays, March 8 & 15, 2019 – 2:30 pm

Tickets Available Now!

www.thefrontporchplayers.com / 770.897.1404

Auditions for *Walking Across Egypt* with The Front Porch Players

This is a beautiful Southern show about forgiveness and redemption. Please check the Front Porch Players website under “auditions” for full information.

They need a choir with four part harmony that sings the beloved hymns ‘Amazing Grace,’ ‘This Little Light of Mine,’ ‘Love Lifted Me,’ ‘Softly and Tenderly’ and the original hymn ‘Walking Across Egypt.’ There will be separate music rehearsals and the choir will only have to come to the last few weeks of rehearsal.

If you just want to be in the choir, please communicate with Kathryn. You do not have to audition!

Auditions are Saturday, March 7th @ 10:00am and Sunday, March 8th @ 5:30pm. Scripts are available if you would like to read the play. You will love it!!

Thank you all for your patronage and encouragement!

Kathryn Wood, 404-421-7743, momcatkc@gmail.com



Wednesday February 26, 2020

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. Here's what you need to know about this significant holiday.

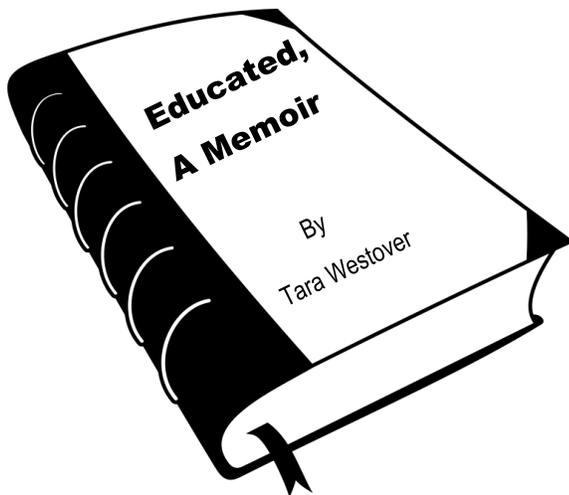
Join us at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro on Ash Wednesday Feb 26, at 5pm for a Spud Supper and then worship at 6pm.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return (Gen 3:19)

Pastor's Office Gets A Make-Over

Pastor Olive is enjoying her newly painted office space and would like to thank Jack and Cyndi Smith for their donation of paint for this project. Many thanks to Jack Smith for spending more than four days to get the painting done, Jack has many talents and he is always ready to help!





The book club will be reading *Educated , A Memoir* by Tara Westover. The discussion will be Thursday, February 13, 2020 in the church office at 5:00 PM. Jane Luetkemeyer will lead the discussion. We would love for you to join us. See Jane, Carol Hatfield or Ruby if you have a question.

Save the Date!

Life Line Screening March 19, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

By Appointment

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/
communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle), or text the word "circle" to 797979.

FEBRUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 FPP 3 pm
2 Communion Souper Bowl of Caring FPP 1-6:30	3	4	5 Breakfast Club 9 am Choir 7 pm	6 FPP 6:30 pm	7	8
9 FPP 6:30 pm	10	11	12 Choir 7 pm	13 Book Club 5 pm Office FPP 6:30 pm	14  HAPPY Valentine's DAY	15 11:30 am FLC PW Bunco
16 FPP 6:30 pm	17	18	19 Choir 7 pm	20 FPP 6:30 pm	21	22
23 FPP 6:30 pm	24	25 FPP 6:30 pm	26 Ash Wednesday Choir 7 pm	27 FPP 6:30 pm	28	29

Extended Prayer List

Church Member

Pray For:

Sue Alford	Richard and Carol Baldwin (parents)
Betty Bush	Marilyn Vaughan (sister)
Faye Callina	Pat Goggin (sister)
Carolyn Fox DuPree	Randy Bradley (nephew), Broward Clark (brother)
Mike and Ronda Fox	Stephen Mitchell (friend)
Carol Francis	Francine Walker (mother)
Mike and Julie Hancock	Henry Hancock (grandson), Donna Pratt (friend), Kenny Edmondson, (friend), Matt Guarnieri (brother), Skylar Guarnieri (niece), Alyssa Fowler (daughter)
Carol Hatfield	Ann (daughter), Dorothy and Amelia Patterson (granddaughters)
Julie Hester	Lauren Parker (daughter)
Mary Huie-Jolly	Lucie Huie (mother)
Jane Luetkemeyer	Bill Sosebee (brother)
Keith Parkhouse	Greg Parkhouse (brother)
Bill and Barbara Rhinehart	Rocky Boulware (friend)
Keith and Jennifer Taylor	Lauren Hutchinson, Barry Smith, Sandy Hawkins (friends)
Walt and Gwen Taylor	Dewey Ellenburg (brother-in-law), Betty Lovin (sister), Charles Kelley (brother), Mike Pickett and Nancy Hendrix (friends)
Brian and Deanie Turner	May Etheridge (sister)
Laura and Mike Wigington	Christopher Turner (nephew)
Karen Ferrell-White	John and Carol Abbott (parents)
Pat Wood	Lacy Rabanal (daughter)
	Randy Clokey (son-in-law), Charlotte Roach (sister)

Church Family With On-Going Concerns

John Anzalone, Susan Baggarly, Colton James, Eloise Belle Isle, Fred Kobus, Chris Lizama, Nick Luedtke, Elliot McElroy, Greg Parkhouse, Bill and Barbara Rhinehart, James White, Lee White., Rick White, Karen Ferrell White, Richard Whitton, Mike and Sue Williams.

Military Prayer List

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

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

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Committee Chairpersons

Administration	Julie Hancock
Building & Grounds	Laura Wigington
Christian Education	Nancy Parkhouse
Congregational Care	Raymond Baggary
Outreach	Melissa Ham
Stewardship & Finance	Brian Turner
Worship	Debbie Woodward
Treasurer	James White

Cyndi Smith — Clerk

Staff

SESSION

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir
Moderator
Raymond Baggary
Julie Hancock
Jane Luetkemeyer
Nancy Parkhouse
Brian Turner
Laura Wigington
Debbie Woodward

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir
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Music Director/Organist

Blakely Hardy
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Office Administrator

Toni Wilkerson
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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.