

The First
Presbyterian Church
16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV
25301-2487

EMAIL: [firstpresby@
firstpresby.com](mailto:firstpresby@firstpresby.com)
www.firstpresby.com

Bill McCoy
Pastor

Jim Roberts
Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care

Claire Butler
Associate Pastor for Youth

Richard Lamb
Parish Associate

Jim Buckalew
Fellowship, Recreation
and Property

Robin Harlow
Visitors/New Members

Barbara Hopta
Children's Ministry

Jackie Lilly
Business Administrator

Mary Odin
Music Director

Sarah Lynch
Director of Youth Music

Debbie Eads
Children's Choir

Ginna Taylor
Preschool Director

Sue Webster
Community Ministry

Kathy Bruner
Child Care Coordinator

Tom Daugherty
Librarian

Fred Gaul
Organist

FACILITY STAFF
Lee Richardson, Supervisor
Sherry Ball
Claude Churchwell
Richard Lamp
Kim Moles

SUPPORT STAFF
Ina Armstrong
June Mills
Jenny Pitchford
Marilyn Walbe

MISSION WORKERS
Bill Soldwisch-Mexico
Art & Sue Kinsler-Korea
Jolana & Stefan Nather
Slovak Republic
Matthew & Simone McKinnon
in Brazil
Presbyterian Fair Trade Project

**MINISTERIAL
CANDIDATES/INQUIRERS**
Leslie Clay
Kate Hopta
Robert Peterson

PASTORS EMERITI
Thornton W. Tucker
P. Douglas Heidt
A. D. Ellison

First Presby News

September 2009 • Volume XLII, Issue 9

First Presbyterian Church will strive to be a welcoming home, a beacon of Christ's light arising from inspiring worship and loving discipleship.

Sunday Worship starting Sept. 13: 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Radio Broadcast at 11:00 a.m. on 580 AM WCHS

Phone: (304) 343-8961 Fax: (304) 343-8970



From the Pastor:

Once again, for so many, summer has vanished in a flurry of activity and intermittent intense vacationing! As we approach the fall, energy levels and activity are increasing, people are back from summer trips, and all the pieces are coming together for an active fall at First Presby. I am grateful for all of you who are engaged in these vital ministries, and gratified seeing so many of our church family sharing their gifts, time, talent, and energy to advance the work of Christ throughout our church family, the community and the world.

This fall we begin with our church picnic on Sunday, September 6, at 3:00 p.m. at the Columbia Shelter. There will be great company, great food, music and games to celebrate the launching of our fall ministries.

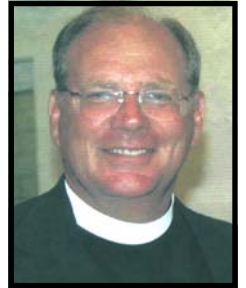
The following Sunday, September 13, is Rally Day when we begin all of our Sunday School classes, choirs, fellowship groups, and we resume worship at 8:30 and 11:00.

This past year has presented our culture and our world with many challenges and concerns. As such it is a time when Christ's followers have the opportunity to live out the love, grace, generosity, nurture and compassion we proclaim and value as essential to God's Kingdom and characteristic of His children.

May we find God's blessing as we seek His will and His ways to make a difference in challenging times, both individually and corporately. Get ready for a great church year ahead! God bless you.

See you in Church,

Bill



All-Church Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 6 • 3:00 p.m. • Coonskin Park
at the Columbia Shelter (by the soccer complex)

Bring a covered dish to share (fried chicken and drinks will be provided)

We'll have large inflatable fun for pre-K children and up.

Games will be provided, but bring some of your own for loads of fun!

We'll eat and play all day!

ARE YOU A VISITOR OR NEW CHURCH MEMBER?

All visitors and new members are warmly invited to join Robin Harlow for a tour of the church buildings on September 13, at 10:00 a.m. This tour is the first of a three-week series of informal get-togethers to help you learn about First Presby. We will meet in the Cablish Room at 9:50 a.m. and leave for the tour at 10:00 a.m. sharp. You will find the Cablish Room straight through the double wooden doors at the right front of the sanctuary, up three steps, on the left. Remember that we return to our fall worship schedule that day: Worship will be at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and Sunday School will start at 9:45 a.m. Children may stay in child care or Sunday School and are also welcome on the tour.

On September 20, you will not want to miss Bill McCoy's class regarding what it means to be a Christian and part of a church family. Then on September 27 Jim Roberts will discuss the history and beliefs of both Christianity and the Presbyterian Church. Bring your questions to Bill and Jim on those days. Both of these classes will meet in the Chapel which is next to the Cablish Room.

Questions? Call Robin at 304-343-8961, or email robin@firstpresby.com.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF
WEST VIRGINIA
AND
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVITE YOU TO A
SERVICE OF ORDINATION
OF
LESLIE STAUNTON CLAY
TO THE MINISTRY OF
WORD AND SACRAMENT
IN THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE
AFTERNOON
IN THE
CHURCH SANCTUARY**

SHEPHERD'S CENTER

On Thursday, September 24, at First Presby we'll check your blood pressure, 9:00-11:00; hear a program on osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, 10:30-11:15; enjoy a great spaghetti lunch, 11:45-12:30; and be entertained by the **Almost Heaven Dulcimer Club**, 12:30. Cost: \$7.00. Call Linda Rhodes at 304-545-1734, by September 21 for a lunch reservation. Make plans now to attend and have a terrific day with friends.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY!



Congratulations to Ruth Shepherd who will be celebrating her "90 and over" birthday on September 6.

Wednesday Connections starts up September 2nd.

Remember to make your 5:45 p.m. supper reservation.

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

Weekday Preschool classes began August 31. Currently, the program has about 120 students enrolled and has openings for children ages one and three. In addition, the program has two new exciting opportunities for weekday students in the early afternoon from noon to 2:00 p.m.: Art Class and Foreign Languages Class. These new classes will begin on September 28 and continue for nine weeks; they carry additional tuition fees. Call the Preschool Office, 304-343-8961, for additional information and to sign up.

The Preschool Committee is sponsoring two parent education classes coming soon:

- Preschool Curriculum and Assessment, September 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- CPR Infant/Toddler, October 2, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Childcare is available and must be reserved by calling the Preschool Office. All participants for the CPR class must register by calling the Preschool Office by noon on Wednesday, September 30.

If you know of a child ages one or three (as of September 1, 2009) who would benefit from weekday preschool classes, please encourage their families to inquire at the Preschool Office. Space is available for children of these ages.

FINANCE DIVISION REPORT

<u>Month of July 2009</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledge Offerings:	\$ 50,000	\$ 59,399	\$ 9,399
Trustee Funds:	5,180	16,680	11,500
Other Revenue:	5,135	4,412	(723)
Total Income:	60,315	80,491	20,176
Expenses:	125,661	143,369	17,708
Net Income:	\$ (65,346)	\$ (62,878)	\$ 2,468
<u>Year to date: 2009</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledge Offerings:	\$ 620,000	\$ 627,722	\$ 7,722
Trustee Funds:	170,810	183,829	13,019
Other Revenue:	115,422	106,630	(8,792)
Total Income:	906,232	918,181	11,949
Expenses:	972,590	962,568	(10,004)
Net Income:	\$ (66,358)	\$ (44,405)	\$ 21,953

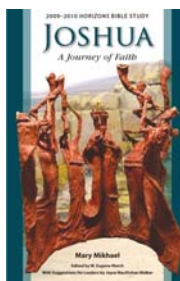
While many churches across the country are forced to reduce their ministries and mission, at First Presby through your continued support, we are able to continue our missions and programs by being vigilant in cutting expenses whenever possible. However, in order to meet our complete budget, we are in need of an additional \$52,000 over what has been pledged for 2009. We ask that you please be as generous as your family's budget will allow in support of Christ's work at First Presby.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2009 - 2010

This year's Bible study will be *Joshua, A Journey of Faith*.

We are beginning a new year with Joshua and the Israelites as they prepare to go into the Promised Land. In chapter one, God tells Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." God's promise to Joshua is as alive for us today as it was for Joshua, and we see the fulfillment of this promise in Jesus Christ and in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God does not leave us and He does not forsake us, and we are never alone. **Bible study groups, called Circles, meet at various times.** The chart below lists contacts, times and locations. Please consider joining one of the study groups. **A prayer group meets at 11:30 a.m. on the third Thursday preceding the monthly PW luncheon.** Our programs are varied this year, offering something for everyone. The luncheons are a time of fun and fellowship with new and old friends.

Come with us to the WV Fall Gathering which will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans on Saturday, September 19. Let us know you are going by September 14 so we can call in our reservation. Registration and coffee start at 8:45 a.m.; the Gathering will begin at 10:00 a.m. Cost, including lunch, is \$10. You'll be on your way home by 2:00 p.m. The special guest will be Mary McElroy, PW Synod Moderator. Mary will also lead a Bible study. Everyone can attend. Child care for infants—3-year-olds is available.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

A Program of Music

with Mary and Wayne Odin

Thursday, September 17, Noon
in the Church Dining Room

Call the church office, 304-343-8961,
by September 14 to make your lunch
reservation.

*Childcare is available if reserved by
calling 343-8961, ext. 122.*

DATE	NAME	CIRCLE CHAIR	PLACE	TIME
Sept. 10	Leah	Sally Slicer 346-1873	A-201	9:30 a.m.
Sept. 10	Mary	Betty Damewood 346-4417	Edgewood Summit	10:00 a.m.
Sept. 10	Miriam	Sarah McGriff 744-3751	Noami Krieg 2012 Northwood Rd.	9:45 a.m.
Sept. 10	Martha	Betsy Gorrell 727-7813 Jackie Taylor 346-6147	A-201, Bring a "brown bag" lunch.	Noon
Sept. 9	Rebecca (Dinner)	Jarve Currence 746-0615 Beth Ann Surber 342-7988	A-204-Call to make a dinner reservation.	5:45 p.m./ 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 17	Hannah	Nancy Martin 744-9456	A-204	10:30 a.m.
Sept. 17	Ruth	Betty Ann Morton 344-4507 Ruth Pitchford 346-8494	A-201	10:30 a.m.



DAILY BIBLE VERSES

- 9/1: Joshua 1:1-2, 5
- 9/2: Joshua 5:13-15
- 9/3: Joshua 6:21-23
- 9/4: Joshua 17:3b-4
- 9/5: Joshua 20:1-4
- 9/6: Judges 5:24
- 9/7: Judges 16:27-28
- 9/8: Romans 1:1, 7
- 9/9: Romans 7:15
- 9/10: Romans 8:26-27
- 9/11: Romans 8:35-39
- 9/12: Romans 8:22-23
- 9/13: 1 Samuel 3:2-9a
- 9/14: 1 Samuel 4:5-7, 10-11a
- 9/15: 1 Samuel 18:5-11
- 9/16: 1 Samuel 20:41-42a
- 9/17: 2 Samuel 12:1-7
- 9/18: 2 Samuel 18:33
- 9/19: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- 9/20: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 21, 27
- 9/21: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- 9/22: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 9/23: Philemon 9b-12, 15-16a
- 9/24: Ezekiel 1:26-28
- 9/25: Ezekiel 2:3-5
- 9/26: Ezekiel 7:19-20
- 9/27: Ezekiel 12:1-2
- 9/28: Ezekiel 13:8-10
- 9/29: Ezekiel 37:1-6
- 9/30: Amos 1:9-10

CHANGE IS COMING TO THE REBECCA CIRCLE

Yes, we Presbyterian Women can change, and the Rebecca Circle (formerly known as the Business Women's Circle) has new plans for the fall. Beginning September 9, we will meet on second Wednesday night of each month at 5:45, for supper in the Dining Room as a part of Wednesday Connections, and then reconvene at 6:30 in Room A-204 for our meeting which includes sharing, prayer, and a Bible lesson from the book of Joshua.

All ladies and gents of the church are welcome. Think about coming if you want to meet with others for a lively discussion and quite a few laughs. The only requirement is for you to make a reservation for Wednesday Connections; or you can just come for the meeting at 6:30. If you have questions please call Joan Steven at 304-346-6542.

The study of Joshua tells the history of the middle east from Abraham and Joshua. It pursues such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of "holy war" and outsiders becoming insiders. To get a good start, read the entire book of Joshua before the first circle meeting. It is fascinating and a good read!

These verses are from **Making Time for God**, a devotional resource for children and families to share, available in the CE Office or church library.

NEW BABIES!

Congratulations to Melissa and Nate Orders on the birth of son Matthew Harrison Orders born August 20. Matthew joins siblings Andrew, Catherine, and Elizabeth at home. Grandparents are Ann and Bob Orders, Jr. and great-grandparents are Jean and Bob Orders, Sr.

Gini Lucas announces the birth of her granddaughter Avery Elizabeth Lucas on July 29. Parents are Julie and Eric Lucas of Columbus, OH. Avery joins her sister Addison at home.

Donna and Les Hawker announce the birth of grandson Daniel Thomas Hawker on August 9. Parents Reagan and Tom live in Atlanta, GA. Elizabeth LaPlante is the new baby's aunt.

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

We pray for churches in our Presbytery and in the Presbytery of Nyeri in Kenya, Africa.

Sept. 6 — Beechwood Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg; Bradley PC; Centerville PC, Greenville; St. Cuthbert's PC, Kenya

Sept. 13 — Davis Memorial PC, Elkins; Fayetteville PC; Highlawn PC, Huntington; Thegenge Parish, Kenya

Sept. 20 — First Presbyterian, Kingwood; McLean PC, Ronceverte; Mount Hope PC; Gathuthi PC; Kenya

Sept. 27 — Parsons PC; Smithers PC; St. Mary's PC; Hubuini PC, Kenya

FIRST PRESBY CHOIRS START PRACTICING!

CHERUB AND CATHEDRAL CHOIRS

Our first rehearsals of the season will be Wednesday, September 9 from 5:15-6:00 p.m. If you are in kindergarten, first, or second grade, you'll meet for Cherub Choir downstairs in the Susie Early Room with Debbie Eads. If you are in third, fourth, or fifth grade, you'll meet for Cathedral Choir upstairs in Room E-305 with Mary Odin. Our children's choirs give musical offerings during worship every few weeks throughout the school year. Invite a friend to come sing with you!

GENEVA CHOIR

Geneva Choir for youth and adults will hold our first rehearsal for the '09-'10 worship season on **Thursday evening, September 3, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.** in the Choir Room. We provide special music for worship each week, primarily at 11:00 a.m. and occasionally at 8:45 a.m. To join the Geneva Choir, just come to one of our rehearsals where a new folder of music will be ready for you. You do not have to be a church member or an experienced musician to sing with us, but it helps to have a sense of humor. We have openings in all sections and robes to fit everyone, so come on September 3 and bring a friend along!

BELL CHOIR

Capella Bell Choir will hold our first rehearsal of the '09-'10 worship season on Thursday, September 10, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. The group gives musical offerings during worship every few weeks from September through May. If you'd like to ring with the Capella Bell Choir, email Sarah Lynch, sjlynch13@gmail.com, Bell Choir director. Experience with bells is helpful, but not required.

WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team provides musical leadership at worship services each week. This ensemble of vocalists and instrumentalists uses guitar, bass, piano, mandolin, banjo, and other instruments to accompany congregational song. If you'd like to play or sing with us, contact Mary Odin at 304-343-8961, ext. 137, or email Mary: modin@firstpresby.com.

FPC LYRES CLUB

After our summer on the road, the Lyres Club will return to our normal routine this month, working together on Tuesdays in the Susie Early Room from 5:30-6:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning to play the folk harp with us, contact Mary Odin at 304-343-8961, ext. 137, or email: modin@firstpresby.com. No previous musical experience is necessary; instruments and music are available through the church.



John Brallier, our "Lawn Ranger"

THANKS TO THE WORK ON SUMMER PROJECTS

Jack Hoblitzell first volunteered for lawn mowing, then **John Brallier** volunteered to mow every week the rest of the summer. **WOW!**

Special thanks to Sara Hoblitzell and the **Gardening Angels** for their tireless efforts to keep the grounds beautiful.

Many thanks to **Holley Price** on sharing her expertise for decorating classrooms and offices.

And to those who implemented the changes, a **BIG THANK YOU:** **Jim and Frankie McCain, Bob McEldowney, Drex Vealey.**

Thanks also for the enhancement to the Ruffner Room provided by **Bob and Jane McEldowney.**

Thanks to **Mike Abernethy** for his continued work in the Sanctuary in preparation of the new organ.

Our preschool entrance steps were repaired by "master construction guru" **Bob Orders, Jr.** Thanks, Bob.

Thanks to **GINNA Taylor, Heidi Marcinkowsky and Audrey Wright** for painting several preschool classrooms.

And thanks to our in-house work crew who do so much: Kim Moles, Sherry Ball, and Lee Richardson!



COMMUNITY MINISTRY

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

*Justice and peace shall kiss each other
Psalm 85:10*

Every year our congregation joins Christians around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday. Born in a time of international unrest as nations were about to enter another world war, World Communion Sunday's central focus is the Lord's Supper instituted by Christ and its unifying message for all who partake of it. We are one in Christ Jesus and not to be separated by the nations, ethnic groups or denominations we belong to, or for any other reason.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) also marks the day by a call to peacemaking, urging us to be followers of the Prince of Peace. One concrete way that we do this is by receiving the Peacemaking Offering. Through this special offering, we work together with others in our presbytery, our synod, and nationally through the General Assembly's Peacemaking Program to learn and live out the ways of peace. **Join us on October 4 to celebrate World Communion Sunday and to commit ourselves to working for the unity of the church and the peace of Christ. Come ready to give generously to the Peacemaking Offering.**

COVENANT HOUSE NEEDS

Spray deodorant
Razors; Shaving cream
Toothpaste
One pair of men's size 10.5 black shoes with skid resistant soles (for someone who just got a restaurant job)
Dry cereal; Canned meats
Socks and undies for men, women, children
Fall/Winter clothing
Pots/pans; Cleaning supplies
Vitamins

Coming in October . . .

A new experience in a Global Marketplace!



If you want to be in on the fun of planning, decorating or helping in any way, call Sue Webster at 304-343-8961, ext. 139.

NOTE OF THANKS

The generosity of First Presbyterian Church enabled the Mayan Families Organization to purchase child-sized tables, making it possible for them to open their very first preschool. Check out the wonderful pictures of the Guatemalan children on our international bulletin board!

Below is a note of thanks:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$500.00 made on June 15, 2009 to Mayan Families.

As you know, needy families and individuals in Guatemala go without proper food, education, shelter, and essential medical care every day. While the Indigenous Mayan Communities are susceptible to crippling poverty, single parent families, children and the elderly are at the most risk, and they make up the largest number of people we serve.

With the generous support of contributors like you, we will be able to help many of these children, families and individuals not only to meet essential daily needs, but to work toward a brighter future with programs in education, micro-loans, emergency medical assistance, family crisis intervention, and temporary housing to name but a few programs we have available. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Director Dwight Poage
MAYAN FAMILIES

KNITTING INTO THE MYSTERY

Knitting into the Mystery will begin again this fall on September 29 at 4:30 p.m. in Room E-406. Our knitting is a mystery because we never know where God will lead us, what we will make, or who will receive it. You are invited to come and be a part of this group, as we knit, pray, and share new patterns. You do not need to know how to knit to be a part of this group. We will teach you to knit or have you help sew our projects together. If you have questions please call Joan Steven at 304-346-6542.

THE STREAM: E-NEWS FOR WV PRESBYTERIANS

The Presbytery of WV has launched *The Stream*. Read it from their web site www.wvpresbytery.org or receive it via your email. Submit your email address and any articles or pictures to webmaster@wvpresbytery.org.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

- Major Todd Harrell**, Afghanistan, (father of Emily and Jonathan)
- Evan Chaney**, Afghanistan (friend of Charlie Moredock)
- 2nd Lt. Matthew M. Bruner, Army**, Ft. Benning, GA
- Ryan Scott Higginbotham**, back from Afghanistan (husband of Monica, son-in-law of Patti & Aaron Alexander)
- MM2 David A. Kaylor**, aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower (grandson of George and Thelma Frisch)
- Edwin Anderson** (cousin of Mary Odin)
- Airman First Class Caitlin Workman**, Omaha, NE (granddaughter of Pat Workman)
- Airman 1st Class Franz S. Workman IV**, Moody AFB, GA (grandson of Pat Workman)
- Warrant Officer David McDarmont**, OH (son of Liz O'Finan)
- Owen Brown**, Pensacola, FL (son of Earle Brown) US Navy
- David Rucker**, Germany (Barbara Brown's nephew)
- Donald Boylen**, VA (grandson of Dick and Becky Smith)

Please call the church office to keep this information current. Thank you.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God, you created us to live in families. We thank you for our families, our parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters. We thank you also for our larger families of neighbors, school friends, and church friends. Bless us as we try to live, remembering that all of creation is your family. Amen.

BLESSING FOR MEALS

For health and strength and daily food, we praise Thy name, O Lord!

BIBLE VERSE

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

(1 John 4:17)

Did You Know?

On October 4, churches around the world will celebrate World Communion Sunday, a day that Christians honor the truth that God's people around the world are one big family. On that day PC(USA) churches also receive the Peacemaking Offering, one of the four special offerings received by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Portions from **2009 Children's Mission Yearbook**. Copies are available in the CE Office.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBY? ABSOLUTELY!

Just as we include children at the family dinner table, we bring them to the sanctuary. Both are places where we hope that, given time, they will begin to feel a part of the family.

Children giggle, they poke, and they swing their legs simply because they are children. But they also learn to sing, pray, and give with us.

As adults, we can encourage them to learn:

- *that it's important to come to this place each Sunday;*
- *that they belong to this special company of people;*
- *that the sight and sound and feel of the sanctuary are good, though not always understandable;*
- *that something is expected of them in this place, and that they may respond in song, in prayer, and in offering.*

Find the updated version of **Guide to Worship For Our Young Worshipers** located in the hymnal rack of your pew this Sunday and share it with children near you. Presented in a child-friendly format, this is a tool that may prove useful to members and visitors alike.

"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Luke 9:48)

Barbara Hopta

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Kindergarten and first grade children and their parents are invited to a hands-on exploration that teaches the basics of Communion. We begin in Room A-201 on Sunday, September 27, at 2:00. Come and learn the symbols to paint on your stole, bake bread, and wonder with others about this Sacrament! Children will be invited to carry the Communion elements to the Lord's Table on Sunday, October 4, at 11:00 worship. The workshop concludes at 3:30.

Miss this as a first grader? Then come and join us! Contact the office for more information at 304-343-8961.

CHILDREN RETREAT TO BLUESTONE!

Who? Third—fifth grade children and parent chaperones

What? Presbytery's Elementary School Retreat

Where? Bluestone Conference Center

When? September 18-20

Why? A great weekend of learning and fun!

How? Register by the deadline (September 14) Fee: \$60

Complete the forms mailed to you or obtain more from the information table.

Need more information? Contact the Christian Ed office at 304-343-8961, or email bhopta@firstpresby.com.

BIBLES FOR CHILDREN

The Christian Education Division will present Bibles to first and third grade students on Rally Day, September 13 during 11:00 worship.

First graders will receive *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories*.

Third graders will receive the *Children's Illustrated Bible, Contemporary English Version*.

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN

All Cherub Choir, Cathedral Choir, and Covenant Kids will receive T-shirts on Rally Day, September 13. The shirts sport a beautiful logo designed by Janet Chambers. We will wear our new shirts on Rally Day at 11:00 when we sing in worship.

Throughout the year iron-on patches will be awarded as goals are reached. Choir membership, Sunday School attendance, Bible verse memory, Tableau participation, church basketball and skating – all of these activities (plus more) will qualify for patches.



YOUTH NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH KICK-OFF

September 13
at 7:00 p.m.

- All middle school and high school youth and their parents are invited to a party to get the year started off right!
- There will be pizza, basketball in the Gym, pool and ping-pong in the Game Room, Guitar Hero in the Youth Lounge, and karaoke and board games in the Recreation Room. A back-to-school worship service will complete the evening.
- Come out and discover the exciting plans that are in store for youth group this year!

Sunday School Starts!

**Youth Sunday School
begins Rally Day,
September 13
at 9:45 a.m.**

Sixth and Seventh Grade will meet with Mary McCoy in Room E-406.

Eighth Grade Confirmation Class will meet in Room E-405. For our first class, Kristen Harrison will take us on a tour of the church.

High School Youth will meet in the Youth Lounge, ground floor of the Activities Building.

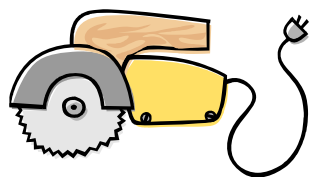
CONFIRMATION CLASS PICNIC

The Confirmation Class and their parents will have a picnic on September 21 at 1:00 p.m. Come to Coonskin Park, shelter #4.

This is our kick-off event for the Confirmation year. You'll find out what's going to happen during the year.

Meat and drinks will be provided. Going by the first letter of your last name, please bring a dish to share. (A-J: Bring a side dish. K-Z: Bring a dessert).

ALL-CHURCH EVENTS



MISSION 101: Basic Construction Skills

Saturday, September 26, is your opportunity to learn new construction skills. **We will be teaching various skills in the parking lot at several different work-stations, 10:00 a.m. — noon.** We're talking power nailing and more!

High school youth and adults are invited to learn new skills or brush up on existing skills. Call the church now if you will need child care.

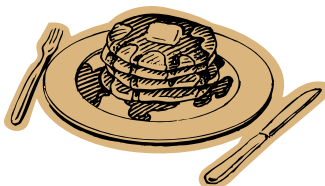
Start your day with a hearty breakfast! We will serve pancakes in the Dining Room from 9:00 — 10:00 a.m. The breakfast will be a fundraiser for next summer's mission trip to Nicaragua.

**ALL-CHURCH
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
September 26
in the Church Dining Room
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Delicious pancakes, sausage or bacon, and fried apples await you. **What a great way to start your Saturday!**

This breakfast will help us raise money for next summer's mission trip to Nicaragua.

The breakfast cost is: \$6/adult; \$3/child 12 and under; children under three eat free. (Family maximum: \$20.)



WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL?

The season is not far away.

To be eligible to play for First Presby, elementary, middle and high school youth must be in regular attendance at Sunday School and/or worship beginning September 6!

If you have questions, contact Jim Buckalew at 304-343-8961 ext. 144.



MUSIC AND CHOIR NEWS

FROM MARY ODIN

In the fall we are bombarded by programs and people asking us to make a commitment to them for a month, a semester, or a year. It's tempting to say, "I'll think about it" when we have no intention of thinking about it. We dislike the guilt we feel when we don't live up to a commitment. Even if guilt doesn't bother us, we like to keep our options open in case something better comes along. It's enough to make a person avoid commitment altogether.

But reluctance to commit is a decidedly un-Christian approach to life. Christ demands a full-time commitment from us with no reservations and no escape clauses. God demanded it of His people Israel after they came out of Egypt: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 KJV) Christ cautioned against divided commitment: "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other." (Mat 6:24 NRSV) Revelation offers us a graphic portrayal of the Spirit's attitude toward our wishy-washy ways: "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (Rev 3:15-16 NRSV)

I, for one, would prefer not to be spit out of the Spirit's mouth. But we're not perfect and we don't live up to every commitment perfectly. God's answer isn't for us to avoid making any commitments that we might break one day. Instead He offers us guidance and provides us with His own strength for the task, all with perfect understanding of our weakness: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him. For He knows how we were made; He remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:13-14 NRSV)

So go on and commit yourself fully! Pray and ask God to show you clearly where He needs you, and then sign your name to the roster of that work. Set other things aside in favor of the tasks He assigns, for they are the only things that have eternal value. God knows exactly the right priorities for your life and, with apologies to George Bernard Shaw and Pygmalion, He's willing to tell you, He's wanting to tell you, and He's waiting to tell you. Listen, and then do it.

ORGAN UPDATE

August was a busy month in our organ preparations. Mike Abernethy finalized the design for all the wiring that will run in the floor of the front gallery. He had to juggle the needs of the moveable organ console with all the power outlets and video in and out and still leave room for live musicians with all their chairs, tables, and music stands. When you see Mike, please thank him for his patience and dedication to this task.

Also in August, Randy Lynch, Kathy Lynch, Carole Carter, Sarah Lynch, and I (Mary Odin) went on a field trip to select the new solid hardwood flooring for the front gallery. Its color will blend beautifully with the rest of the wood in the sanctuary and it will be extremely durable. The flooring will go down after all the electrical conduits are piped in.

The organ itself continues to come together up in Canada. It will be completely assembled in the workshop, probably in late February or early March, and several of us will travel to Saint Hyacinthe, Québec to see and hear it. Our own Rev. Joe Marchio, a highly trained and skilled organist currently serving as Associate Pastor and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Chatham, MA, has offered to join us on this trip. After our visit to the Casavant workshop, any needed adjustments will be made and the organ will be disassembled and brought here for re-assembly in our front gallery. Its sound will be adjusted for the unique acoustics of our sanctuary, hopefully in time for Easter worship on April 4.

Our friend, Simon Couture, and three others from Casavant wrote a brief but excellent article entitled "Modest-Size Instruments: Successful Approaches" which was published in the March '09 issue of *The American Organist*. It describes exactly the type of instrument they are building for us, discusses their philosophy and tasteful approach, and features the Casavant instrument that Fred Gaul, Wayne, and I saw and played last fall in at Calvary Lutheran Church in Morganton, NC. You can find the article online: <http://www.casavant.ca>. Just click on "Published Articles" and it will be the first one listed.

MUSICAL MYSTERIES REVEALED:

And the little curvy lines mean what?

Often in our worship songs, each word or syllable is assigned just one note. Some notes are longer or shorter than others, but a one-to-one, word-to-note ratio is very common in music. Such as in "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Sometimes, though, a composer wants to assign more than one note to a particular word or syllable. To stretch out a word over more than one note, we use a little curvy line to connect noteheads together. It's called a slur, and it looks like a parenthesis mark turned on its side. A slur can look like a frown or a smiley face, but either one means the same thing to a singer: "You're about to sing more than one pitch before you get a new word or syllable!" The most familiar and extreme example of a slur is in the refrain of "Angels We Have Heard on High." Look it up in your hymnal (#23) and you'll see a big, long slur over the word "Glo" in "Gloria." That first syllable has so many notes in it, you might even have to stop to breathe before finishing the word. Start watching your yellow bulletin inserts for slurs. I try to put them all in accurately for you, so please let me know if you find one I missed!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School 2009, **Paul and the Underground Church**, was an all-age First Presby Christian Education event that reached beyond our doors to include residents from Oakwood Terrace and other neighbors. From the start, energy and enthusiasm helped transform our surroundings (special prop design by Janet Chambers) and transport us to Rome at the time the early Church was forming.

Throughout the week the Apostle Paul (Jim Roberts), under home confinement on the underground ladder in the vestibule, was chained to Brutus (Bill McCoy), Roman guard. In addition to visiting Paul and Brutus each day, family groups quietly stole away to the underground meeting place of the new Church, a place where followers of Christ, Lucia (Mary Jean Davis) and Marcus (K. Paul Davis), could meet in safe hiding without fear of arrest.

Family leaders (Donna Noland, Amy Isaac, Heather Peterson, Rob and Bekki St. Jean, Kim Percy, Chris and Tom Daugherty, Larry and Darlene Kerr, Diane Roberts, Chris and Miranda Klingler, Anna and Lauren and Dee Campbell, Sherry Swint, and Sue Webster) shepherded their groups each evening after supper (prepared by Kim Moles, Sherry Ball and Pam Kuyk) beginning with Extollo (music led by Sarah Lynch and accompanists Mary Odin, Bill McCoy, Andy Stewart, Brett Webster).

Families gathered dressed in costumes (Robin Harlow, seamstress) in huts designed by Randy Lynch and decorated by their leaders. Each hut's banner (designed by Hattie Alford and Donna Noland) designated one of the cities to which Paul traveled and preached.





Family time introduced daily biblical themes from the book of Romans: God's love is a gift; God's love changes us; God's love is always with us; God's love saves us; God's love is worth sharing.

The themes were creatively supported throughout each evening as groups traveled from Extollo, to the Playground (Mary McCoy, Maggie Graney, Lauren Percy, Maggie Field), to visit Paul and the Underground Church, and throughout the shops and drama in the Marketplace.



Directed by Carole Carter, dramas depicted life in Rome (Carole Carter, director; Bev Campbell, Jim Crockett, Tyler Harlow, Mary McCoy, Wayne Odin, Ron Reedy, Rick Vorhees) and Marketplace Shops (huts by Randy Lynch) provided new hands-on experiences for children and adults. Shops included Wreath Making, Weaving, Mosaics, Fish Prints, Herbs, Miller, Bakery, Metal Working, Scribe, and Story Teller.





Janet Chambers and Dawn Hawkins co-directed this wonderful week which will long be remembered by participants and volunteers.

Marketplace Shop leaders and van drivers included Kathy Lynch, Charles Chambers, Les Hawkins, Doug Chambers, Adam Patnoe, Kate Webster, Morgan Kreiger, Carol Gardner, Jane Francke, Georgie Francke, Nancy Martin, Claire Butler, Patty Wolfe, Steve Hopta, Jimmy Dale King, Barb Hopta, Robin Harlow, Ginna Taylor, Toni Clendenin, Joan Steven, Diane Harper, Betty Damewood, Julia Bolt, Nancy Malacek, and Anna Stilwell.

And we thank...those who donated food, helped with supplies, constructed and took down huts under Randy's careful guidance, prayed for VBS, and especially those who participated!

Other volunteers included Cindy Wilson, Bernie McNeely, Larrie Bartrug, Dick Smith, Jackie Lilly, Jack Hoblitzell, Emily Hopta, Tom Isaac, Jon and Mendy Stoecklin, Lee Bivens, Lew Hawker, Art Doumaux, Pat Bond, Sara Hoblitzell, Drew Woods, Mike and Alice Abernethy, Chip Urling, Bryson McCain, Morgan Vincent, Alec Vincent.



Young Children and Elementary Children will start Sunday School on Rally Day, September 14.

Infant - Nursery, Room E-108

Toddlers - Room E-114

Two- and Three-Year-Olds will meet on the second floor, Room E-216.

Four- and Five-Year-Olds will meet on the first floor, Room E-112.

Grades One through Five will gather in the Chapel for songs, prayer, offering, and a Bible memory verse. Workshops such as art, music, drama, and temple follow on the third floor of the Education Building. At 10:45 the children return to the Chapel to meet their parents.

**We urge you to attend on Rally Day and start a new year
of Sunday School - you and your family!**



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - FALL 2009

Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m., and everyone is welcome!

If you have a yearning to broaden your knowledge and deepen your faith, we have a variety of opportunities at First Presby. Find what feeds your soul below. Each class welcomes you to journey with them in the Faith.

Class details will be listed in our Fall Christian Education Brochure, which you will find displayed throughout the church buildings.

Trinity Bible Class welcomes you to join other "seniors" who study the Bible together using the *Uniform Lesson Series: The Present Word*. The study will be led by a different teacher each month. **Susie Early Room, Sanctuary Building.**

Sojourners is a diverse group of singles and couples, with a wide range of ages and interests. We welcome you to explore with us Philip Yancey's book, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* He will guide us in exploring such questions as: Is God listening? If God knows everything, what's the point of prayer? How can I make prayer more satisfying? **Room 411, Education Building.**

Foundations Class is a group of "still-young adults", roughly 30's - 50's, who enjoy the challenge of different topics relating to the Christian faith and living faithfully. We will be viewing and discussing Ken Bailey DVDs on understanding the Bible through Middle Eastern culture, discussing current events with *The Wired Word*, and enjoying Doug Heidt as a guest teacher. Come and join us in a casual atmosphere of study and fellowship. **Room 109, Activities Building.**

Seneca Class welcomes couples and singles in their 20's, 30's, and 40's to explore our faith, build lasting friendships, and to understand the role of the church in the community. This fall they will explore spirituality in several different ways, and look at Great Themes of the Bible. **Ruffner Room, Sanctuary Building.**

Ruffner Class, middle-aged to older adults, is concerned about applying the Christian faith to everyday life and current issues, with a focus on Bible study and the Bible's relevance. Examples for the fall are: Biblical Portraits of God, Presbyterian government and missions, and music in worship. Come join us! **Room 201, Activities Building.**

Koinonia Class invites married and single adults, mostly 40's and 50's, who enjoy studying daily spiritual applications, the church in the community, and understanding the Bible and the Christian faith. Examples for this fall are: studies of great theologians, such as, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Reinhold Niebuhr, Stress and Balance Within, To Everything a Season: Spirituality of Time. **Room 412, Education Building.**

Covenant Class welcomes you to come and learn as we study the Old Testament. This fall we will study Job and will begin studying the Minor Prophets, which we will conclude in the spring. **Room 403, Educational Building.**

Discovery Class seeks to bridge the life of work and family responsibilities with the need for spiritual nurture and growth. Examples of classes are: The Apostle Paul: Who is this guy?, Living Waters for the World,... Join us and enjoy brunch, fellowship, and challenging study. **Recreation Room, Activities Building.**

The Class welcomes adults of all ages to study the Bible and to consider social issues and spiritual formation. Examples for this fall are: Haiti Medical Mission, Spiritual Events of Your Life, a panel discussion of *The Shack*, Planning Your Advanced Directives. **Room 204, Activities Building.**

Rainbow Class, welcomes adults throughout the Charleston community who are mentally challenged. If you know of someone who would benefit from this class, please contact our church office. The teachers seek to guide individuals along their faith journey to the best of their abilities through basic Christian stories. **Room 214, Education Building.**

Two Special Adult Classes This Fall:

October 25:
Reformation Sunday Event

November 29:
First Sunday of Advent
(Advent Conspiracy and Living Waters for the World)

EXPLORING OUR PAST

Graduate students at Marshall University have created an exhibit, "Glenwood: A Window On the West Side." This exhibit will be in the Church Dining Room through September. Come and see it Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings.

Glenwood was one of several large farms overlooking what is now Charleston. The exhibit tells of the time of the Civil war during which First Presbyterian Church was growing. We think you will be interested. From September 20 through October 1, the exhibit will be open to the public and to groups. Call Betty Damewood at 304-550-5436 to reserve a time for your group to visit.

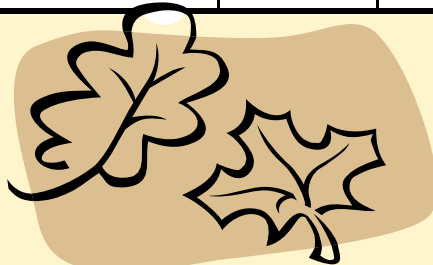
SEPTEMBER 2009

First Presbyterian Church

304-343-8961

16 Leon Sullivan Way

Charleston, WV 25301-2487

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	
August 30 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship On The Green	August 31 First day of Preschool for Students 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers	1 5:30 Lyres Club 7:15 Boy Scouts	2 Start of Children's Choir and Wednesday Suppers! 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 5:00 Volunteer Ministry Div. 5:00 Property Division 5:00 PYC Parents and Advisors 5:45 Wednesday Connections 6:45 Worship Division 6:45 Mission Division 6:45 Personnel Division 7:30 Contemplative Prayer 8:00 Worship Music Team	3 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 PW Coordinating Team 11:30 PW Bible Moderators 5:15 Coordinating Council 7:30 Geneva Choir	4 8:30 Aerobics	5	
6 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship On The Green 3:00 PICNIC at Coonskin Park	7 Labor Day Church buildings closed	8 5:30 Lyres Club 6:30 Deacons 7:15 Boy Scouts	9 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Finance Division 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:15 Children & Family Comm. 5:30 Rebecca Dinner Circle 5:45 Wednesday Connections 6:45 Session 7:30 Contemplative Prayer	10 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 9:30 PW Leah Circle 9:30 PW Mary Circle at Edgewood Summit 12:00 PW Martha Circle 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Seneca Basketball 7:30 Geneva Choir	11 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise	12	
13 Blood Pressure Check Rally Day 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Inquirers Class 11:00 Worship 4:00 Ordination of Leslie Clay 7:00 Youth Kick-Off Event	14 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple 7:00 Ballroom Dance	15 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Presbytery Meeting at Village Chapel 5:30 Lyres Club 7:00 Alzheimers Support Group 7:15 Boy Scouts	16 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:00 Visitors/New Members Div. 5:00 Fellowship/Recreation Div. 5:00 Stewardship Division 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:45 Wednesday Connections 7:00 Worship Music Team 7:30 Contemplative Prayer	17 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:30 PW Hannah Circle 10:30 PW Ruth Circle 11:30 PW Prayer Group 12:00 PW Luncheon 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Seneca Basketball 7:30 Geneva Choir	18 8:30 Aerobics 9:00 Dad's Group 2:00 Senior Exercise 8:00 start of Elementary Retreat at Bluestone	19 9:00-2:00 PW Fall Gathering in St. Albans	
20 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Inquirers Class 11:00 Worship 1:00 Confirmation Picnic at Coonskin Park 4:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Youth Supper 7:00 High School Youth	21 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple 7:00 Ballroom Dance	22 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Lyres Club 7:15 Boy Scouts	23 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:45 Wednesday Connections 7:00 Worship Music Team 7:30 Contemplative Prayer	24 7:30 Bible Study, Shoney's 8:30 Women's Bible Study 9:00 Shepherd's Center Activities 11:45 Shepherd's Center Luncheon 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Seneca Basketball 7:30 Geneva Choir	25 7:00 Men's Breakfast Group 8:30 Aerobics 9:00 Dad's Group 2:00 Senior Exercise	26 9:00 Pancake Breakfast Mission Fundraiser 10:00 Mission 101: Tools & Skills	
27 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Inquirers Class 11:00 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting 2:00 Preparation for Communion Workshop 4:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Youth Supper 7:00 High School Youth	28 8:30 Aerobics 12:00 Weight Watchers 2:00 Senior Exercise 6:00 Disciple 6:30 Preschool Parent Education 7:00 Ballroom Dance	29 9:30 Bible Study 4:30 Knitting Into the Mystery 5:30 Lyres Club 7:15 Boy Scouts	30 8:00 Wednesday Work Crew 8:30 Aerobics 2:00 Senior Exercise 5:15 Children's Choirs 5:45 Wednesday Connections 7:00 Worship Music Team 7:30 Contemplative Prayer				<p style="text-align: center;">Get your blood pressure checked by a parish nurse, Sunday, September 13, in the Church Library.</p>



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487

www.firstpresby.com

AUTHORIZED
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 918
Charleston, WV

In Memoriam

Stachia N. Andrews

August 25, 2009

James W. Conner

August 30, 2009

PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please minister through prayer,
cards, calls and visits.*

IN THE HOSPITAL:

MEMORIAL: Delores Woods,
grandmother of Drew Woods

SYMPATHY TO:

Mary Jo Krantz on the death of her
aunt.

CURRENT PRAYER CONCERNS:

Stachia Andrews; Julie and Eric Lucas
(family of Gini Lucas); Ruth Pitchford;
Bill Gregory (brother of Nancy
Struthers); Al Krantz; Eddie Burch;
Traci McVey (granddaughter of Ruth
Gates); Jackie Whitlock (sister of
Naomi Krieg); Jeanne Persinger (sister
of Truman chafin); Linda Buechler;
Fred Holt (friend of the Odin family);
Emily Hobbs (friend of Mary Odin);
Ann Yetter; George Hamrick; Carl
Mercer; Joe Holland; Lilas Kee; Jeff
Pratt (father of Heather Peterson).

EXTENDED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Pat Workman.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

Eleanor Scott; Edwin Scherr (father of
Jim Scherr); Andy Kessock; Helen
Burkard; Virginia Humrichouser
(mother of Nikki Moses); Laura Bulla
(daughter of Tom Bulla); Liz Nelson;
Imy Albright; Don Best, (friend of Pat
and Art Doumaux); Filomino Alicie;
Rick Flynn (friend of Bill McCoy);
Paula Bailey (friend of Steve Morris);
Vicki and Barry Blizzard (friends of
Jim Buckalew); Ed Vazquez (son-in-
law of Ruth Shepherd); Jack
Gastineau; Candy Galyean; Janet
and David Caruthers (brother-in-law
of Nancy Brallier); Ruth Shepherd;
Alex Earl (cousin of Chick Maddox);
Dr. James Maddox (uncle of Chick);
Joseph Sprouse; Charles Hendricks;
Louise Rosenbaum; Charlie Young.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS:

Theresa Padgett (daughter of George
Weissert); Rebecca Heath Francke
(daughter-in-law of Rick and Georgie
Francke); Ann Blair Brooks (daughter of
Blair Plott Johe); Heidi Bolt (daughter-
in-law of Margaret and John Bolt);
Kristen Bays (daughter of Amy Keller).

**Rev. Jim Roberts maintains the
prayer list. Please keep him
informed by calling 304-343-8961,
ext. 118.**

SICK, HOSPITALIZED, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER?

Let your church family know of any
needs you have. The church has a
telephone/e-mail prayer chain, a "pray
for" list in the newsletter, and prayers
during worship. Tell us your concerns
or ask a friend to inform us.

If you want to tell us about someone
else, a friend or family member, be
sure to respectfully ask their
permission first. You can also confide
in one of the pastors and request it be
kept confidential.