

# The “Press”byterian – September 2021



## A Note from Pastor David

Dear First Friends,

The variant is on our minds. We are again sighing in COVID fatigue. When COVID-19 began weakening and we began “getting back out” again, we exclaimed to ourselves “Yea, we survived it. The veil has been lifted.” The masks came off. We reopened to public life together again. We could safely breathe the air again. Now, here we go again. Masks. Shut-downs. Fear. Hospital stats. ICU stats. Death stats. Spikes. All that ugly stuff has reared its head again. Our hope is that we can keep moving ahead and that the duration of this iteration of the coronavirus will prove to be much more short-lived than the former version. God will see us through yet again.

Our experience of this virus provides us an important insight into the nature of evil. It is helpful to use the corona virus as a model for the way evil works in our lives. As the virus does with our physical health, evil has the capacity to disperse itself in different ways to gain its greatest advantage over our spiritual health. As the virus variant is programmed to aim at different weakness in our immune systems, so evil keeps re-inventing itself so that it can hit another area of our spirituality that Satan has not attacked yet. Satan’s evil possesses untold numbers of variants that it can morph into to accommodate its passion to weaken our spiritual strength.

How, then, do we avoid Satan connecting with a spiritual vulnerability within us? God’s first provision for us as we battle the onslaughts of Satan is the **Bible**. As we read through the Bible, we learn a lot about God and His goodness. We also learn a lot about Satan and his evil. The writers of the Bible often point out facets of Satan’s devious ways. Satan’s ways are also illustrated in the history that is in the Bible. As God’s people work out the issues of their lives, God is doing His thing and Satan is doing His thing. When we study these pages of our holy book, we can identify many of the ways in which Satan cleverly disguises himself so that we can be aware of his assault patterns upon our spiritual welfare, preventing the damage that would have been inflicted on us if we didn’t know Satan so well through our study of the book that keeps describing him to us. So, studying the pages of scripture is our first line of defense against Satan’s constant variants.

**Prayer** is also important. In his New Testament letters, the Apostle Paul persistently appeals to us to pray to mount our protections from Satan’s efforts to do us in. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul instructs us— “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (6:18)

Another resource to help us avoid the threat of Satan’s anti-spiritual variants is **each other**. Yes, that’s right. We can help each other to be more alert to Satan’s evil variants. That is one of the reasons God instituted the church and called us together as support for each other.

So, remember, study the bible, pray, and strengthen each other. That’s the best way to frustrate Satan and all his variants.

May God bless you and all yours in every special way!

Pastor David

## Church Staff

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## Church Session/Elders

Ed Donn  
Jim Fraker  
Lamar Harrison  
Megan Little  
Doug Marvel  
Sharla Smith

## Church Deacons

Jo Beth Briner  
Carson Butler  
Jim & Joan Clark  
Tammy Foley  
Ronald Jackson  
Fran Johnson

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## Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm



### September Birthdays:

- 3 – Ken Greeson
- 4 – Tami Pass
- 4 – Sherry Burgess
- 4 – Judy Greeson
- 4 – Lamar Harrison
- 4 – Elaine McDonald
- 6 – Rebecca Foley
- 11 – Bo Burgess
- 16 – Cheryl Melis
- 21 – Pat Tatham



### September Anniversaries:

- 26 – Brad & Tami Pass (2009)
- 26 – Mikeal & Sharla Smith (1992)
- 27 – Seth & Andrea Smith (2014)
- 28 – John & Nancy McPhearson (2013)
- 29 – Randy & Melody Parker (1994)



- Adult Bible Study – Lamar Harrison
- Adult Sunday School – Retha Haddock
- Building & Grounds – Jim Clark & Ken Greeson
- Christian Education – Jim Fraker
- Lydia Circle – Gay Little
- Membership Team – Megan Little
- Men of the Church – Jim Clark
- Missions Team – Doug Marvel
- Personnel Team – Ed Donn
- Sanctuary Choir Director – Khim Nalzaró
- Stewardship & Finance – Lamar Harrison
- Ushers – Jim Clark
- Warriors of Christ Sunday School – Judy Greeson
- Water Walkers Sunday School – Tammy Foley
- Women of the Church – June Antony
- Worship – Sharla Smith



### Communion

We observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion and collect our Missions Offering on the first Sunday of the Month.

## MEN OF THE CHURCH

The MOC met on August 19 for our regular monthly meeting. We donated \$300 to "Save the Children" mission project in Haiti. We discussed plans to donate funds to help with the devastation in Haiti after the earthquake. We will explore which non-profit agency might provide the most direct support to the affected areas in Haiti and finalize plans in September.

We discussed the volunteer needs for the next three months:

- 1) Set up racks and tables for the fall Little Lambs sale set for Tuesday afternoon, September 21 @4:00
- 2) Annual MOC Yard Sale scheduled for October 1 & 2. The sale will end at 12:00 noon.
- 3) Annual auction scheduled for Saturday, October 23.
- 4) Mistletoe Market scheduled for November 20 & 21. MOC will have a booth.

Some or all of these events may be cancelled depending on the status of the COVID upsurge.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 16 @5:30. We hope to have a guest speaker in September to discuss a new mission project. All men are invited.

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## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

It seems that every group is picking up steam and a lot is happening around CFPC! The coming months will be even busier and the excitement builds and our hearts are made glad as we serve the Lord together.

Thanks to all who purchased bricks. This was a successful endeavor for us. The bricks will be here on September 7th and will be installed in the front garden soon afterwards.

Umbrellas are still available for \$20 in Fran's office. (Rain is forecast for next week so get yours before the drops begin!)

Women of the Church will provide lunch after the service for all on September 19 when Steve Pearson with Pearson Volunteer Missions will be with us. Make plans to join us.



## OUTREACH MISSIONS TEAM

On September 19th we will have Dr. Steven Pearson from "Pearson Volunteer Missions" as our guest. This will be our second Mission Sunday with lunch to follow provided by Women of the Church. Please make arrangements to come be part of this service and listen to updates that are currently going on in Malawi, Africa by Steve and his helpers.

A House For Letina

Construction on Letina's house should start tomorrow. Letina is the widow of Pastor Moffat Mwase of Malawi, Africa. After the death of her husband and three of her children she has been raising 6 grandchildren in a small, one room, shelter. Pearson Volunteer Missions made the decision to build Letina a house. After prayer we are convinced that it is the will of God, and the right thing to do.

We will also provide this sweet lady with some blankets and corn.

It is very difficult to make it in Malawi if you are a widow, especially if you have children to provide for. Please pray for Letina. And pray for our mission as we strive to serve the Savior and do His will.

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

Do good today.





Lamar's Bible Study is taking a summer break and will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 14 (new date).

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A box is located in the church lobby for needed items for the VAC food pantry. A list is above the box; any and all donations are appreciated. Thank you to everyone for your help.

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### **BUDGET NEWS MONTH OF AUGUST**

Budget Requirement \$ 11,957.92  
Budget Offering: \$ 15,456.41  
Other Designated: \$ 3,782.00  
Mortgage Balance: \$185,930.03

A breakdown of the monthly and year to date transactions will be on the table in the Narthex for your review. If you should have any questions, please contact one of the Stewardship & Finance Committee members.

Lamar Harrison (Chair)  
Mikeal Smith  
Ken Greeson  
Ed Donn  
Jim Clark  
Peggy Smith  
Doug Marvel  
Fran Johnson (Financials)



### **LYDIA CIRCLE**

Lydia Circle thanks our 2020/2021 officers for their dedication and leadership: Megan Little-President, Anne Judah-Vice President, Gloria Brown-Treasurer, Gay Little-Secretary.

We welcome our 2021/2022 officers: Gay Little-President, Anne Judah-Vice President, Retha Haddock-Treasurer, Trisha Nebel-Secretary. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 21 @6:00.

How exciting it is to see Little Lambs back in swing. We cannot wait to see our consignors and shoppers on September 24th and 25th. This is a wonderful ministry for our community. Please pass the word to everyone you know. It is not too late to sign up to be a consignor; we are accepting consignors up to Monday, September 20. Please connect anyone interested in consigning to Retha Haddock at [Little.Lambs@bellsouth.net](mailto:Little.Lambs@bellsouth.net).

Be on the lookout as we prepare for additional fall and winter events. God is good and we know by our faith He will continue to take care of us and allow us to spread His love, kindness and grace through our ministry here at CFPC.

#### **Interesting Thoughts:**

"Faith is like Wi-Fi, it's invisible but it has the power to connect you to what you need." ~ Unknown

"It's hard to get in shape spiritually if you only work out on Sunday." ~ Unknown

"Time is still the best answer, forgiveness is still the best pain-killer, and God is still the best healer." ~ Pearls of Wisdom

## Helping Hands for September

### Liturgists

Week of Sept 5 – Gay Little  
Week of Sept 12 – Bob Smith  
Week of Sept 19 – Kim Fraker  
Week of Sept 26 – June Antony

### Children's Church

Week of Sept 5 – Lexi Greeson (Fran Johnson)  
Week of Sept 12 – Carson Butler (Sharla Smith)  
Week of Sept 19 – Lexi Greeson (Judy Greeson)  
Week of Sept 26 – Carson Butler (Sharla Smith)

### Deacons of the Week

Week of Sept 5 – Fran Johnson  
Week of Sept 12 – Jo Beth Briner  
Week of Sept 19 – Jim & Joan Clark  
Week of Sept 26 – Ronald Jackson



**The weekly sermons are uploaded to the church's website!**

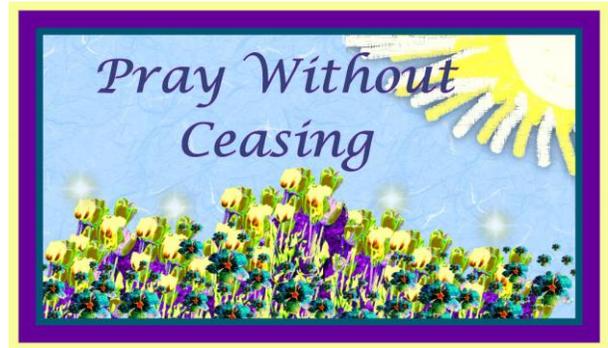
<http://www.Calhounfpc.org/>

In addition, recordings of the entire worship services are available on CD each week for your use. Please contact the church office if you would like one.

**“Press”byterian Newsletter articles are due the week of**

**Sunday, October 24!**

**Please submit your articles to  
Debbie Baue  
by email if possible.**



### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Emily Driscoll – Stress fracture to her left foot and having to wear a boot. There is a lot of walking to do at Berry College and it keeps her from running with the cross-country team for now.
- Teri Thomas – Ongoing dental issues
- Khim Nalzaró – Hospitalized with COVID pneumonia
- Cathy Harrison – Recovering from gall bladder surgery

### OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

- Susie Cameron (Jim Clark's cousin) – Massive heart attack / recovering
- George & Barbara Mann (Kim Fraker's parents) – Prayers for continued strength and peace as Barbara's health continues to decline due to dementia. She remains at home and comfortable with Hospice assistance.
- Gordon County Schools for continued health and safety of students and staff through the pandemic!
- Family of Lawrence Moss (friend of Ken Greeson) – Passed away
- Gene Ellis (brother of a friend of Debbie Huie and the Clarks) – Near death / terminal cancer
- George Chapman (Sherry Chapman's husband – occasional guest pianist) – Recovering from bladder cancer surgery
- US citizens and others residing in Afghanistan
- Our church leaders
- Our government leaders and our country