



THE TOWER



JANUARY 2019

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

A Message from Rev. Dr. Vaughan Smith

Dear New Church Family,

When I was growing up in the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville, I never thought God would call me to be a pastor, let alone the pastor of First Presbyterian Titusville. I am deeply grateful to God for this wonderful opportunity. As you know, the people of this church are wonderful. The building is beautiful. We as a congregation have enormous potential for serving, enjoying, and glorifying God!

I would much rather talk about Jesus than about myself and my family but sharing a little about us seems appropriate. Cathy and I were married in 1992 and we have one child, Cheyann, who is 17. Cathy and Chey have artistic and musical talents. I do not. We have 3 dogs who demonstrate the unconditional love, the trust, and the joy to which we aspire daily.

Cathy and Chey have never lived in PA, but we are eager to live in a place that has four distinct seasons, each of which has its own beauty. Our little family is excited about this new chapter in our life, and we look forward to getting to know the members of our new church family.

I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I enjoy nature, walking in the woods, target shooting, fishing, and reading good books. I especially enjoy reading *The Good Book* and books about *The Good Book*. When I was 12 years old, I felt powerfully moved to read the Bible from cover to cover. As my former teachers from Elm Street Elementary will attest, I was not a good reader. On top of that, the only Bible my family had at the time was a KJV. For reasons I can attribute only to God, I persevered and finished my first cover to cover reading of the Bible in a year and a half. There was a lot I didn't understand. Yet, during that first complete reading of the Bible I became completely certain that the Bible is a book like no other. I knew that it was uniquely inspired by God and that I would be studying it for the rest of my life. Years later as a first-year student at Princeton Theological Seminary, I read Calvin's *Institutes* and I learned the name

for what I had experienced during that first complete reading of the Bible. I had experienced the “inward testimony of the [Holy] Spirit” (*Institutes* 1.7.4-5) testifying that the Bible really is the Holy Spirit-inspired, written Word of God. When the Bible is interpreted to believers by the same Holy Spirit who inspired its writing, believers find the unique Self-revelation of God and God’s authoritative instruction for living new life in and for Jesus. I have served as a PC(USA) pastor since ordination in 1997, and for 10 years I also served as an adjunct professor of Old Testament, New Testament, and Church History. My Doctor of Ministry degree is in Reformed Christian Spirituality (Reformed Theology and Spiritual Formation), and I am passionate about helping people to deepen their relationships with God.

None of us knows what the future holds, but we do know Him who holds the future! I am confident that God has great plans for the First Presbyterian Titusville family. I am praying this prayer daily:

Holy, Triune God, please help us to experience more of your loving presence. Help us to abide in Jesus. Guide and empower us to live into your purpose, the unique purpose that you have for us as individuals and as a congregation. Live in us; rule in us and give us the wisdom and the courage we need to embody and to share your truth and love.

In those words or in your own, please join me in praying that each of us will experience more of God’s presence, purpose, and power and that all of us will be increasingly faithful and fruitful disciples of our Risen Lord!

Love, grace, and peace in Christ to you all!

Vaughan

Session News

Dr. Smith to be Installed January 13, 2019

On Sunday, January 13, 2019, at 3 p.m., Rev. Dr. Vaughan Smith will be installed in our sanctuary. This is a grand and glorious event in which all congregational members and friends should plan on attending. This is the first pastor to be installed in our church in almost 46 years!

Following the service, a reception will be held in Scheide Hall for everyone to enjoy.

So, plan to attend this very joyous occasion.

Session Meeting Highlights

Session did not meet in December, so highlights from the January meeting will be in the February issue of the Tower.

Nominating Committee Makes Recommendations

The congregational Nominating Committee would like to make the following recommendations to fill the open positions of Session, Deacons and the 2019 Nominating Committee.

Nominees for Ruling Elders of Session (Class of 2021)

Ellen Stover, James Pattison, Marcia Garrett, Michael Seefried

Nominees for Deacons (Class of 2021)

Charlene Eggleston, James McGinnis, Christy Snyder,
Penny Gustavson

At-Large Nominees (2019 Nominating Committee)

Arthur McIntyre, Richard Zimmerman, Lynne Stover

Annual Congregational Dinner/Meeting to be Held on January 23

The Annual Congregational Dinner/Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 23, at 5:30 p.m. in Scheide Hall. We will have a potluck supper coordinated by The Activities Committee where everyone is to bring either a casserole or a dessert to share. The meat, beverage, and table service will be supplied by the church.

Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 20 and at the meeting.

Stop in or call the church office to a make reservation. This way will know how many to setup for.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

All Meetings take place in the Conference Room unless indicated otherwise.

Mission – Thursday, January 10, at 12 noon

Spiritual Formation – Thursday, January 10, at 1 p.m.

Deacons – Thursday, January 10, at 7 p.m.

Finance – Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Session – Monday, January 21, at 7 p.m.

Annual Congregational Dinner/Meeting – Wednesday, January 23

Sunday School News

Sunday School

- Senior High, Middle School, and Adult Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. If you are coming to an adult class, please feel free to bring your children as they will be welcomed to our supervised young people's area located in the nursery to wait for you before church begins.
- All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade will meet for Sunday school during the church hour. Children will come to the sanctuary with their families; stay for a short portion of worship (about the first 15 minutes); then be excused to their Sunday school classroom.

Spiritual Formation

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study will not meet again until new leadership is developed.

Transformation Tuesdays

Transformation Tuesdays, our after-school program, for children in K-5 through 5th grades, meets each Tuesday, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Children will be escorted from Main Street Elementary to the church for snacks, Christian Education, crafts, games, and children's choir. We are always in need of volunteers; so, if you would like to help make this program a success, contact Gail Billig at 827-3122 or Jessica Decker at 827-9078.

Note: After-school Programs follow the School Calendar.

No School – No After-School Program

The Transformation Tuesdays group collected ? pounds of food for the Food Pantry. We would like to thank the congregation and kiddos for a job well done. Thank you for your generosity!

Men of First Breakfast Bible Study

MOF meets each Wednesday, at 7 a.m., in Scheide Hall. Men of the church and community come for a Bible Study, a delicious breakfast, good fellowship, and conversation on a passage of the Bible, leaving well-nourished and fulfilled.

If you would like to help prepare the morning breakfast, speak with Tom Newcombe.

This group will not meet on December 26 or January 2, but will meet on January 9, 2019.

Worship

Happy New Year to one and all! It is the hope of the Worship Committee that 2019 is filled with God's many blessings as First Presbyterian opens its arms to the many changes which are ahead (one of which, of course, is welcoming Pastor Smith to the pulpit). With changes coming up on Session, there will be a new Moderator of the Worship Committee, as well as new members. So, welcome to those who will be serving First Presbyterian over the next three years. I have been blessed in many ways over the last three years.

The next communion will be served by intinction on January 6.

January ushers are Barb Frye and Terry Davitt.

Sandy Smith,
Moderator, Worship Committee

Ushers

Barb Frye and Terry Davitt

College/Young Adult Fellowship

College/Young Adult Ministry

Come join the College/Young Adult Ministry which meets each Sunday evening at 6 p.m., in Scheide Hall. If this is your first time attending, contact Mr. Newcombe through text/cell (814) 547-1760 or at his home 827-6295 as some of the activities will take place at different times and days throughout the week.

Our hope is to achieve an atmosphere of spiritual growth, exploration, support, and fostering and to challenge young adults to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Note from the Director of Music

In the new year, it is a time to start or try new things that you perhaps always thought you might want to do or try. If that is the case for you, why not come and sing and be a part of the Chancel Choir.

The Worship Choir meets each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. We plan to try new songs, and hopefully with new voices and bodies in the choir, it will add an additional depth to our Sunday worship hour by making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

I Look forward to seeing you sometime in the new year.

Nathaniel F. Licht,
Director of Music

Fellowship News

Breaking Bread Together

This group will meet on Tuesday, January 8, at 12:30 p.m., Perkin's Restaurant.

To participate, we ask that you call or stop by the church office by Monday, January 7, 2019, before 5 p.m. to make your reservation(s). Children, college students, and the young at heart are all invited.

SAM's (Senior Adult Ministry)

All those 55+ are invited to participate in all SAM's Club events. If you have a suggestion for a movie/event, would like to make the soup for the day, or need a ride, call Tom Newcombe at 827-3665.

SAM's Weekly Programs

Each Wednesday, join the SAM's Club group at 1 p.m. for an afternoon of needlecrafting.

Each Thursday, join the SAM's Club group at 1 p.m. for an afternoon of card playing.

SAM's Club Lunch and a Movie

We will meet Friday, January 4, and January 18, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, first for lunch and then a movie. Invite a friend and come!!

Church Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church

A Christian community that welcomes all people and equips them to proclaim, witness, and teach the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and caring service.

Birthdays

Adam Schwab	2	Laura Scott	9	Robbie Herps	20
Tom Newcombe	2	Phil Cauvel	11	Bill Warren	20
Cassie Rago	2	Karen Sampson	12	Kathy Barker	23
Sean Clark	3	Debi Sutley	14	Jillian Nellis	23
Nadine Harrison	5	Ray Crawford	15	Matt Sutley	27
Haley Jamison	7	Sharon Evans	17	Kevin Harroun	30
Nancy Chappel	7	Patti Jo Young	17	Dean Chappel	31
Jack Samonsky	8	Bill Love	18		
Sandy Smith	9	Terry Warner	19		

If we have missed your birthday – please let us know.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary on any Sunday throughout the year, let Terry Davitt know at the church office (827-3665) by the Wednesday prior to them being in the sanctuary. This way, she can place the dedication in the bulletin.

Community

Faith and Finances

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 6 p.m. the first Faith and Finance Class will take place at the Love In the Name of Christ building located at 220 West Central Avenue. This class empowers low income people with practical money management skills and Biblical stewardship principles. Call to register at 827-4882 by Friday, January 11, 2019.

Alzheimer Caregiver's Support Group Meeting

An Alzheimer Caregiver's Support Group, led by Marcia Garrett and Carol Morgan, will meet only on January 15 at 2:30 p.m. in Emerson Parlor for January.

A difficult challenge to face alone, Marcia and Carol have participated in special training to equip them to lead the group. All those who live with or care for those afflicted with Alzheimer's or dementia of any kind are welcome to participate. If you have questions, call Marcia Garrett at 827-7404.

Boy Scout Troop

Boy Scout Troop #97 meets each Monday at 6 p.m. in Scheide Hall. All boys in grades Kindergarten -through 5th grade, if interested in joining a great club for boys, are invited to come and check it out. Any questions should be directed to Geri Whitney at (814)564-1179.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry needs our help. It is always collecting food items for its shelves. Gift cards (for personal hygiene items and toiletries) are always appreciated too.

Arts and Scraps Space

Are you crafty? Do you like to share and fellowship with other ladies over arts and crafts? Do you have a project that you need to spread out to complete? Are you a scrapbooker? Are you limited on space and time? Are you interested in organizing your photos or creating a keepsake? Do you have scrapbook supplies collecting dust? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Jessica Decker has just the thing...the Arts and Scraps Space, right here at First Presbyterian.

Jessica is using an underutilized classroom in the upstairs for her crafting and scrapbooking supplies. Jessica is at the church a few days during the week to work on her various crafts and tasks and loves company! So, come to “The Lair,” as she jokingly calls it, and check it out! You will find the space warm and welcoming.

The Arts and Scrap Space is located on the second floor between the “Worship Center” and the “Prayer Room.”

Please call Jessica at 814-827-9078 (home) or 814-449-4681 (cell) or text her at 449-4681 or e-mail her @ jessicadecker73@icloud.com.

Crisis Hotlines

Drug and Alcohol Crisis Line: (844)643-5766

Case manager available 24/7 to assist in seeking treatment and to get screenings/assessments and appointments made

Mental Health Crisis Line: (814) 724-2732 or (800) 315-5721

To access help in case of an emergency

Warm Line: (800)951-2055

When you need someone to talk to on a bad day.

Contact Us

First Presbyterian Church

216 North Franklin Street, Titusville, PA 16354

(814) 827-3665

Email: firstpresby216@verizon.net

Website: titusvillepresbyterian.com

Staff

Kai Baldwin, Accompanist

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

Terry Davitt, Administrative Assistant

Email: tdavitt.presby@gmail.com

Kelly Evans, Sexton

Laura Grazier, Nursery Attendant

Nathaniel Licht, Director of Music

Email: mistalicht@gmail.com

Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader

Email: newcombe.presby@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Vaughan Smith, Pastor

Email: vsmith@pts.edu