

May 2024



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia

May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 2pm Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting (P)	3	4
5 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	6	7 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	8	9 11:30am Trinity Lunch	10	11
12 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	13	14 10am Bible Study (L) 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	15 10am Home Goods Pantry	16 Newsletter Deadline -May	17	18
19 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	20	21 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	22	23	24 Heidi- off	25
26 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	27 Memorial Day-Church Offices Closed Nickel Plate Brass Concert (S)	28 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal (S) Heidi-off	29 Heidi- off	30 Heidi- off	31 Heidi- off	

Letter from the Pastor

A New Phase: Dreaming

With the coming celebration of Pentecost, we are moving into a new phase of the interim journey. I have been serving as your interim pastor for nearly 10 months now. This first year has been a time for the congregation to find its footing again, recognizing that we are not in the same place as we started a year ago. Dare I say, we have made some great strides in such a short amount of time! Together, we have discerned the various Focus Points of interim ministry. We have strengthened relationships among church members and community partners. We have begun to dream again what God has in store for First Presbyterian.



This is the next step: dreaming. It's something that sounds rather childish at first, but maybe that's the lesson in all of this. As Jesus reminds us, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3-4)

(cont. on p. 2)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

A New Phase: Dreaming

What are your dreams for this congregation moving forward? What are your dreams for your family, and for you personally? Over the course of the next few months, Session and the congregation will be putting pen to paper when it comes to these dreams. We will envision what the future may hold for this congregation. We will dream dreams. We will share our hopes and desires. We will invite the Spirit to move among us as we celebrate the fire of Pentecost moving throughout our hearts and our lives.

As always, I invite your reflections. Let me know what dreams you have for this church moving forward. What bold ideas do you have for First Presbyterian in the days and years ahead?

And a personal note: THANK YOU for all of the congratulations and well wishes concerning my upcoming graduation with a doctorate degree May 19th (I'll be celebrating with you all in person at church) and my birthday this past month. I feel the love!

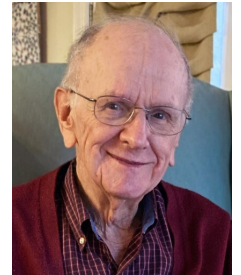
In Christ



Pastor Jeff

Church News

Dr. Rudolph Mardre Bell May 8, 1933-April 16, 2024



Dr. Rudolph Mardre Bell, 90, went to be with his Savior in Heaven on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

He is survived by his six children, Katharine Kammer (Will) of Wilmington, North Carolina; Rudolph M. Bell, Jr. (Venah) of Liberty, South Carolina; Sarah Meekhof (John) of Spokane, Washington; Dudley Bell (Julie) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Andrew Bell of Wilmington, North Carolina; and David Bell (Sanja) of Boise, Idaho. In addition, he is survived by fifteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His beloved wife, Caroline, predeceased him in 2017.

Dr. Bell was a general surgeon in Staunton for eighteen years, serving at one point as president of the medical staff at King's Daughters Hospital. In 1984, he embarked on a new career as a general practitioner and worked at urgent care clinics in Fredericksburg and Waynesboro, Virginia.

Following his retirement in 2005, Dr. Bell volunteered at the Augusta Regional Free Clinic in Fishersville. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and a United Way board member.

He proudly served his country twice - first as a surgeon for the U.S. Air Force, and later as an officer in the U.S. Army Medical Reserves.

For many years he was an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Staunton where he served on various committees, including one that provides meals for unhoused persons.

He was born Rudolph Mardre Bell in Thomasville, Georgia on May 8, 1933, the only child of Dr. Rudolph Bell, a prominent urologist, and Sarah Everett Mardre.

He spent his childhood in Georgia before moving to North Carolina to study biology at Davidson College. In 1954, he was admitted to the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta and there met Caroline Dudley, an Agnes Scott College student from North Carolina. The couple married in 1959. They eventually moved to Staunton and reared six children in a house they would occupy for more than 50 years. He is remembered for his quiet and faithful presence, his deep love for his family, his joy in caring for his patients, and his love of Jesus Christ and the Scriptures.

Church News

Trinity Lunch Volunteers Needed!

First Presbyterian needs folks to help to volunteer with Trinity Lunch every two months on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Please contact Heidi at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 if you can help. Thank you!

Happy Mother's Day!

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers. We hope you have a much-deserved wonderful day!



Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, May 15

Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, May 15. Financial and product donations are always welcomed.



Our pantry is undoubtedly fulfilling a need in our community, and demand is high. Due to this demand, donations are needed more than ever.

If you wish to donate items, there is a donation basket outside of the sanctuary for your convenience. Items needed include:

Paper towels (2-pack), toilet paper (6-pack), tissues (small pack), trash bags (15-20 count), dish soap (18-oz. bottle), liquid hand soap (small bottle), laundry detergent pods (12-pack), and disinfectant wipes (regular size).

Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Stonewall Brigade Band Concert at First Pres!

Please join us for an exciting performance by the Touring Ensemble of the Stonewall Brigade Band, the Brass Quintet, the Saxhorns, and the Flute Choir on Monday, May 27. More details will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

Church News

Session Highlights

- ◆ The Congregational Care Committee visited our VIPs in the lead-up to Easter and gifted each a cute handmade sheep. They are planning for a Fellowship Lunch and Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, April 28 following worship.
- ◆ The Property Committee is working with a contractor to replace the damaged slate roof on the Fraser Building.
- ◆ The Mission & Outreach Committee is planning for the next opening of the Home Goods Pantry. It has been very popular, reflecting the need in our community. They are still seeking donations of monetary support or in-kind donations. A list of needed items can be found on our website, or you can contact Susie Lendermon or Stephany Morgan. The committee will also be working with Heidi to create a handout on church activities that will be available to members and guests each Sunday in the narthex.
- ◆ Patrick Petitt from Shenandoah Presbytery's *Committee on Transitions and Pastoral Communications* gave a presentation.
- ◆ Session approved the Stonewall Brigade Band's request to hold a concert in the sanctuary in late May. The congregation will be provided with an exact date and time soon, so that we can all attend!

Pastor Jeff updated Session members on pastoral concerns and health issues with several members.



There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, May 14 at 5:15pm in the library.

Church News



May Birthdays

- 8 Nancy Rhea
Emily Kullman
Bill McIntyre, Jr.
- 9 Susan Lendermon
- 11 R. David Lowman
- 12 Ron Lowman
- 18 Sarah Kegley
- 20 Danny McAllister
- 21 Nancy Dod
- 23 Brooks Hollar
Ann McIntyre



Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be an Missions & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, May 2 at 2pm in the library.

Church Offices Closed Monday, May 27



The church offices will be closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. We hope everyone has a great holiday!

Heidi on Vacation Friday, May 24-Monday, June 3

Heidi will be on vacation Friday, May 24-Monday, June 3, returning Tuesday, June 4. Fay Knicley will be filling in during this time. Thank you!



Church News

Choir Rehearsals

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, May 7, 21, and 28 from 5:30-6:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Note: There will be no music rehearsals on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (when Session and other meetings occur). We hope you can join us!

Newsletter Deadline for June 2024

The deadline for submissions for the May issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, May 16**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women



PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00pm in the Library. We would appreciate a head count, so please respond to Alice Herbst if you can make it. And feel free to bring guests—all are welcome!

If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns, please to not hesitate to contact Alice.

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

Church Attendance for March-April 2024

(in person and online)

March 31	In person: 55	Online: 4
April 7	In person: 35	Online: 5
April 14	In person: 25	Online: 5
April 21	In person: 30	Online: 6

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 41