



# The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume ILVIV, Issue 11

November 2024

## Mark's Message

There's a great song from The Steve Miller Band called *Fly Like an Eagle* that has been on my mind lately because I cannot believe we are on the cusp of 2025. The song's oft-repeated hook, "time keeps on slipping, slipping, slipping into the future" seems to be not only accurate but also prophetic.

I've commented in the past that the older I am the faster the years seem to elapse, and to that end I find myself beginning the fifth year of ministry alongside each of you. I truly cannot believe it has been four years of great ministry here in St. Albans, but that time has certainly slipped into the future, which of course is now our present.

The concept of time is a unique thing, and I wonder how civilizations throughout history have viewed it. In our society, we used to base everything on seasonal changes but that really doesn't mark time for us as much as it once did. The truth that we intertwine our lives in the rhythm of seasons is probably more relatable for our grandparents and great-grandparents of a more agrarian culture who worked closely with the land and depended deeply upon the changing seasons. Nonetheless, it is evident that there is a rhythm to the day—sunrise and sunset, work and rest. There is a rhythm to the year—springtime and harvest. There is a rhythm to our lives—birth and death. In the church, this rhythm is interwoven in God's time.

The Church keeps time differently than our culture. For the church, the last Sunday of the year is the fifth Sunday before Christmas (November 24<sup>th</sup> this year) and the first Sunday of the year is the fourth Sunday before Christmas (December 1<sup>st</sup> this year). Like in many parts of the world, the changing of colors and the falling of leaves on a tree gives way to winter and the first snowfall, so also the last Sunday of the Church year gives way to the first Sunday of Advent and the Church begins a new year of keeping time.

As we roll into a new ecclesial year and shift from the paraments and vestment colors of green to purple with white briefly betwixt the two, from the season of Pentecost to the season of Advent, let us remember that the purpose of doing so is to tell the most important story of our lives. The purpose for keeping time according to a Church year is to tell the story of how a God beyond time acts within time to save and restore life.

This November, as we approach "year's end," let us boldly look forward to the new ecclesial year with hope, joy, peace, and love. Let us turn continually toward Christ and seek his will for our lives. Let us be the people who embrace love toward God and others, who share God's grace and hope, and who seek God's everlasting peace. The end of the ecclesial year means a leaning into the time when the church long-awaits the promised return of Christ. As we enter into Advent, we often are reminded of the first Christmas, but in truth, we should be focused on the triumphant return of Christ. That is the event in time for which we Christians are awaiting. So, let us look to the future of ministry together with one another while also eagerly awaiting the return of the King.

*Mark*

Congratulations to **Mark and Jamie Boyd** on the birth of their first grandchild, Beau David McGrogan on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Parents are Makenzie and Matt McGrogan of Apopka, Florida.

Matthew and Makenzie McGrogan  
2432 Deermeadow Drive  
Apopka, FL 32703

### November 3

#### Communion Set Up and Servers

- Valerie Wade, Set-up
- Holly Greathouse, Server
- Laurie Turley, Server

### December 1

#### Communion Set Up and Servers

- Holly Greathouse, Set-up
- Laurie Turley, Server
- Dave Harvey, Server

#### Liturgists

- November 3 Adam Greathouse
- 10 – Buck Ivey
- 17 – Mark Curtis
- 24 – Buck Ivey

### November Birthdays

- 1 Allycia Stennett, Tony Dayfield
- 5 – Ina Armstrong, Finn Allevato
- 9 – Mickey Swartz, Matt Jones
- 10 – Brian Slappe
- 11 – Steve Holstein
- 18 – Trinity Resler
- 19 – Jeanne Young, Elliot Malcomb
- 20 – Jacob Haught, JoBeth Mounts,
- 22 – Julie Wiles
- 23 – Adrianna Resler
- 26 – Aaron Peterson
- 30 – Ron Peterson

### November Anniversaries

- 7 -- Kathy and Jeff Maddy
- 8 -- Bill and Julie Hartman
- 11 -- Laurie Turley and Adolfo Torres
- 19 -- Buck and Connie Ivey
- 17 -- Mel and Abbie Burch
- 29 -- Brendon and Allycia Stennett

### Prayer Concerns

#### Congregation Members:

- Mike Clark
- Mark Curtis
- Sara Kell, recovering from a broken collarbone
- Kathy Harrah, recovering from back surgery

### Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt. 213, English Meadows, 5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Cel Jones, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room A-13  
2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311  
Phone 304 344-4268

### Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

- Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)
- Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware, Florida
- Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)
- William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney
- Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)
- Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)
- Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)
- Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)
- Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer
- Eloise Waugh, Florida
- Clyde Ellis (Valerie Wade's high school classmate)
- Bruce Kessler (recovering from surgery)
- Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)
- Darrin Grass (Laurie Turley) stomach cancer
- Keith Machado (Laurie Turley) diabetes complications

### Military

- Captain Allie Curtis**, US. Army (United States)
- Hunter Parsons** U.S. Navy (Virginia)
- Mickey Swartz**, Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon)
- Lieutenant Jack Wiles**, U.S. Air Force

# Spiritual Life Committee

Laurie Turley, Valerie Wade, Kristi Sutphin

Greetings to all this November!

Our committee and teams continue to pray for and nurture those needing care. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

“So, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit,

any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same minds, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” Philippians 2: 1-2

**It was with sadness, yet with honor that the** Bereavement Team prepared a wonderful meal for Laura Cottrill and her family after the service of death and witness to the resurrection for Eleanor Reeves. Thank you so much to all who prepared the dishes and those who set up and cleaned up.

**Wednesday nights are being well-attended!** We want to thank Raven, Matt, and Jack for their love and inspiration that they are giving to the youth who attend!

Also, Mark Boyd has been teaching an interesting class on Revelation.

We have great cooking teams! If you haven't joined us yet, plan to come at 5:45 for dinner and fellowship, followed by the Bible Study and Youth activities.

**October Happenings** started off with participation in the St. Albans Fall Y'all Chili Cookoff. Raven and Matt made chicken chili and Jennifer Burgess provided corn bread! Thanks to all who came out and voted for Raven and Matt and 1st Presby! It is always such a good time. It's wonderful to run into old friends as well as make new ones and invite them to join us at 1st Presby!

**It was an awesome time of fellowship at the house of Sara Kell for our annual Fall Festival.**

Everyone enjoyed Sara's dogs, Rex and Jake, but the center of attention was the new puppy, Pepper! Lexi also managed to get attention from the group! Glad that you brought her, Connie and Buck! Check our FB page for pics!

Thanks to Sara, Jack, and Kathleen for their help in setting up tables and chairs, and to Mike Merguc for grilling the hotdogs! There was lots of other good food as usual! There was also help after the bonfire from Buck and Connie and new attendees Andrew Reyes and Katie Bossie!

**The October Halloween party for the youth was so much fun!** Everyone dressed up including Matt, Raven, and Jack! There were lots of goodies made by Raven. Check FB for pics!

**They just finished up a series on Harry Potter.**

Some of the youth did not know anything about Harry Potter. As adults, some of us may not either. Matt and Raven are doing a great job blending contemporary themes with Christian values.

Upcoming in November, the youth will explore *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis. This book contains many morals that are scattered throughout, but three important ones stand out. The first is about forgiveness and compassion and that they must be practiced. It's also important to be courageous. Through the different characters, they can talk about ways to face their fears and how to handle situations when they feel hopeless. Lastly, the importance of working in unity, as a team or family is explored. I am so thankful to God that our youth have young adults who love the Lord and can relate these characters to teachings in the Bible and how they can use these lessons in their own daily lives.

**Please mark your calendars and come out and support the upcoming Winter Market to be held here at First Presby November 2 & 16, and December 7 & 14, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.**

Let's use this as a chance to welcome the community and invite them to attend Sunday and Wednesday services with us!

**Come and join us Sunday November 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Thanksgiving supper!** Invite your friends or neighbors to join us so we can all give thanks for our Maker!

Turkey, gravy, ham, bread, mashed potatoes will be provided. We would love for you to bring a covered dish to share. Laurie will be coordinating the meal. If you know if you are coming and also what you are planning on bringing, please contact her 304-610-4076. It will help to know as we get closer to the date how many places to set and how much meat will be needed.

Thank you to all and thanks be to God!

Sincerely,  
Laurie Turley, Spiritual Life Committee Chair

*More Spiritual Life continued on next page.*

## LITTLES' TEAM by Donna Merguc

Join the Littles' Team today! Read a book, prepare a craft or prepare a snack for the children as often as you want. Check out our pictures on Facebook and see how much fun we have. We've added Music to our class...we've been dancing with colorful scarves and the children love it. (Thank you Tara for introducing this exercise!) We're thinking about adding Science. If YOU have a simple Science project you could share with us one Friday, please let us know.

**TRICK OR TREAT...**Our Halloween Party and Parade was a BIG, Spooky success. Twenty-four children attended with their parents and grandparents. Taking down the wall in the nursery to acquire more space was well worth it!

### A Few Comments from the Children...

Van told his grandmother, "I liked the book Mrs. Donna read to us at Littles." The book was 5 More Sleeps to Halloween by Jimmy Fallon. The book was awesome and the pictures were so colorful. Van is 4-1/2 years old and Traletta, Van's grandmother said, "Thanks for making learning fun."

Jack now attends Preschool and misses Littles very much. Every Thursday he asks his grandmother, "Can I go to Littles tomorrow?" So, his grandmothers brought him to the Halloween Party; he had so much fun seeing his friends.

- Nov 1 Kirk King (B) Andi Pease (C) Abbie Burch (S)
- Nov 8 Sara Kell (B) Sara Kell (C) Regina Dayfield (S)
- Nov 15 Kathy Maddy (B) Deb Duvall (C) Kathy Leftwich (S)
- Nov 22 Raven Lanham (B) Donna Merguc (C) Kathleen J(S)
- Nov 29 NO Littles – Thanksgiving Holiday

## Wednesday Nights

**November 6, 13, 20**

**27 Thanksgiving break**

**Dinner 5:45 pm**

**Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm**

Rev. Boyd is leading an adult class on the book of Revelation.

**Children and Youth 6:30 pm**

Bible Study and Activities

Contact Laurie Turley at 304 610-4076 for more information. Donations for the meal are appreciated.

**St. Albans Ministry Alliance Festival Chorus**  
Jason Robbins, president of the St. Albans Ministry Alliance (SAMA), is excited to announce that rehearsals for the SAMA Festival Chorus are on **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary of **Highlawn Baptist Church** located at 2304 Jefferson Avenue. All singers in our community are welcome to participate. The SAMA Community Christmas Celebration will also be at Highlawn Baptist Church this year on **December 13, at 7:00 pm**. Please join with other singers from our St. Albans churches in making the upcoming worship celebration of Jesus Christ's birth a glorious event.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET PROGRAM 2024

Christmas is quickly approaching so it's the time of year that we make concerted efforts to give to our neighbors who are less fortunate. First Presbyterian has a notable history of being generous, and one of our favorite programs is the annual Christmas Food Basket Program.

We will provide baskets for 50 families as we have in past years. SAMA has recommended a standardized food list which they estimate to cost \$70 for small families and \$90 for larger ones. Donations toward the baskets can be dropped off in the Church office, mailed or placed in the offering plate. Please make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church with a notation that it is for the Christmas Food Basket Program. Cash can be placed in a pew envelope with the same notation. You can also send a donation through the donation portal on the Church's website (please make note that it is for the Food Basket Program).

We also need volunteers to help with picking up the items ordered in bulk, the basket assembly and especially for the delivery to those who cannot pick up their baskets. **This year's date for pickup/delivery is Saturday, December 21st.** Thank you in advance for your help and support in this very important program. It brings nourishment, festivity and cheer to people who otherwise may go hungry on Christmas Day. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Burgess at 304-421-3780 or [jenniferburgess54@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferburgess54@gmail.com).



**Two Cents a Meal** “Two Cents a Meal is one way families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international. The next offering will be collected Sunday, November 10, 2024. So, start to collect your 2 cents per meal each day. Please remember people who are less fortunate by donating to this project through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

• **Hezekiah House Open House** 🏠

**627 Rust St., St. Albans.** Sunday, November 17, 1:00 – 5:00 PM Come check it out as we give thanks to the Lord for bringing about the building’s completion ... but just the start of its ministry!

• **Riverlawn Presbyterian Church Fundraiser for Jericho House -- Sunday, November 17, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

Members of St. Andrew UMC will be joining the Riverlawn Choir. Megan Bailey will be on the keyboard and Aaron Sowards, flautist, will be sharing a solo. There will also be a string ensemble. As a part of the program that evening, they will be recognizing the work of Jericho House. Carla Kay Hoskins, director of Jericho House, will be sharing information about that ministry and monetary gifts will be accepted.

• **Jericho House Community Concert Series on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm.**

At Gateway Christian Church, 422 B Street, St. Albans. Featuring A Writer’s Round and A Variety of Music. A Love offering will be taken – All proceeds go to Jericho House. Sponsored by SAMA.

**Facilities/Worship Committee**

- Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – Workday for Nursery
- Nursery Carpet Repair and Cleaning following workday
- Getting bids for communion table glass top

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- July and August Income and Expense Statements were discussed and approved.
- Reviewed and approved Truist Trust accounts.
- Noted important Presbytery meeting November 21 in Fairmont
- Approved Ward 2 Neighborhood Watch meeting in building October 22.
- Approved Doll Club meeting once a month in Fellowship Hall
- Approved Peace Offering to support Hezekiah House
- Approved splitting job description for Administrative Assist. and Bookkeeper into two separate positions.
- Approved annual Stewardship letter.

**NEXT STATED SESSION MEETING IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 11:15 AM**





Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

- nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- support the mission of the church worldwide,
- work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

**Daytime Circle** meets Wednesday, November 13 at 12:30 pm. Bring a brown bag lunch for a time of in person fellowship. At 12:35 pm we begin the Bible study and conclude promptly at 1:30 pm.

**Evening Zoom Circle** meets on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm. The zoom will open at 6:45 for early birds to fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3Clr969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1>

Meeting ID: 858 6103 1680

Passcode: 406332

Mark your calendars for future PW Circle meetings:

**November 12 ~ Evening Zoom study**

November 13 ~ Daytime study

**December 10 ~ Evening Zoom study**

December 11 ~ Daytime study

**Anyone desiring to have articles, information, or announcements included in the December Presby Record will need to submit that information by November 25 . Thank you.**



**Youth Halloween Party**



**Fall Festival**



**SAVE THE DATE!!**



Thanksgiving is the perfect time to practice gratitude!

While we often associate Thanksgiving Day with turkey, pie, and football, at its core, Thanksgiving traces its roots to gratitude.

As Christians, we celebrate this holiday as a time to exemplify that gratitude, to pray and give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest.

We have many reasons to be thankful, and there's no better way to demonstrate our appreciation than to express our thanksgiving first and foremost to God, from whom all our blessings come.

**Trustees**

Class of 2024: John Jones  
Class of 2025: Buck Ivey  
Class of 2026: Mark Curtis

**Officers**

**Class of 2024**

Jack Rogers (1)  
Laurie Turley (1)  
Holly Greathouse (2)

**Class of 2025**

Dave Harvey (1)  
Adam Greathouse (1)  
Buck Ivey (1)

**Class of 2026**

Kathleen Jordan (2)  
Valerie Wade (2)  
Kristi Sutphin (1)

**Church Staff**

Ministers.....	Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor .....	Rev. Mark Boyd
Custodian .....	Mike Merguc
Musician.....	N. David Stern
Treasurer.....	Buck Ivey
Tech Team .....	Dave/Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Michael Clark

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