



# JUNE

## newsletter

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SYLVA

“Our mission is to make disciples who love Jesus Christ, love the church, and love their neighbors as themselves. We invite you to join us for weekly worship and special events throughout the year.”

#### **Church Staff**

Rev. Blake Daniel,  
Pastor

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#### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday— Friday: 9am-3pm

[\*\*www.sylvapres.org\*\*](http://www.sylvapres.org)

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Friends,*

Do you have a morning devotional or quiet time? I hope so. This is one of the most challenging yet important callings of the Christian life: to center ourselves, at the start of each day, on the Lord. The Psalmist says it well: *“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”* (Psalm 143:8)

For over a year, my devotional time has been guided by Phyllis Tickle’s *Divine Hours* book series. There is a book for each season of the year – I am about to finish the “Prayers for Springtime” – and each page is full of Scripture readings and prayers to guide the day. One recent prayer caught my eye:

*Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be peaceably governed by your providence; and that your Church may joyfully serve you in confidence and serenity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

What struck me in this prayer was the reminder of God’s *providence*. Providence means God is in charge and, more so, that God is actively at work to guide the direction of our lives and our world for his good and pleasing purposes. This doesn’t mean we always know what God is up to! But it does mean that when our days begin, we are not in the driver’s seat, but *God* is – and our highest calling is to turn our faces towards him and to serve him “in confidence and serenity.”

This summer brings several changes and new beginnings for us as a church, which you can read about in the pages of this newsletter. For instance, I am starting a new sermon series this month based on “the fruit of the spirit” in Galatians 5:22-25.

*(continued on next page)*

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Vacation Bible School, which is a wonderful witness to Christian unity in the heart of Sylva, will soon take place from June 11-15 at Bridge Park. Our mission team is still praying for and preparing to visit Nicaragua at the end of the month. And (rejoice!) our Capital Needs Task Force has received Session approval to present their plan for renovations to the congregation in the near future.

Yet in all these things, the most important step is the first one: We must put our trust in God. Only when we do this at the start of each day and each season can we then step out in humility and confidence that he will lead us where we need to go.

*Yours in Christ, Blake*

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTING IN JUNE



## The Fruit of the Spirit

GALATIANS 5:22-25



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Nicaragua Update



*Sylva Nicaragua team,  
from left to right:  
Blake Daniel, James  
McManus, Judy  
McManus, Katie  
Hutchinson, Toni Knott,  
Jess Roughton,  
Laury Brown Gonzalez*

**Our Nicaragua mission trip is less than a month away!** We are still planning to travel down on June 23-30 to join with friends in ministry through Young Life/Vida Joven. We are, at the same time, keeping a close eye on the news regarding civil unrest in Nicaragua. In recent months the country has seen protests and political strife in response to the current government's leadership. We are praying this will not affect us, but if it does, we may have to postpone our trip. Please pray for wisdom for us and for our friends in Banner Elk who will be traveling with us, and pray for safety and peace for the citizens of Nicaragua living through this difficult time.

# CHURCH UPDATES

## **SESSION UPDATE**

The Session met on Monday, May 14. We welcomed Carvel Eyre as a new member. The session also unanimously approved the plan from the Capital Improvements Task Force (see separate article).

*Heidi Buchanan*

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## **CAPITAL NEEDS UPDATE**

The Capital Needs Task force presented their plan to the Session at the May 14 meeting, and it was unanimously approved. The improvements will include upgrades to the main building and an addition to the Mary Jay Patten Center. The plans offer plenty of space for Christian education, a youth group, a meeting room for the session and related committees, and administrative offices for church staff. A number of long-standing problems, such as a dark Church entry hall and a lack of bathroom for children on the second floor, will be addressed.

**So what's next?** The Task Force will be presenting the details of the plans--including floor plans and the budget--to the congregation Sunday, June 17 at 9:45am and Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30pm. We hope you can come to one of the sessions. Then, the fundraising will begin. If you are interested in serving with the fundraising group, please let Blake or me know.

Many thanks to our intrepid task force:

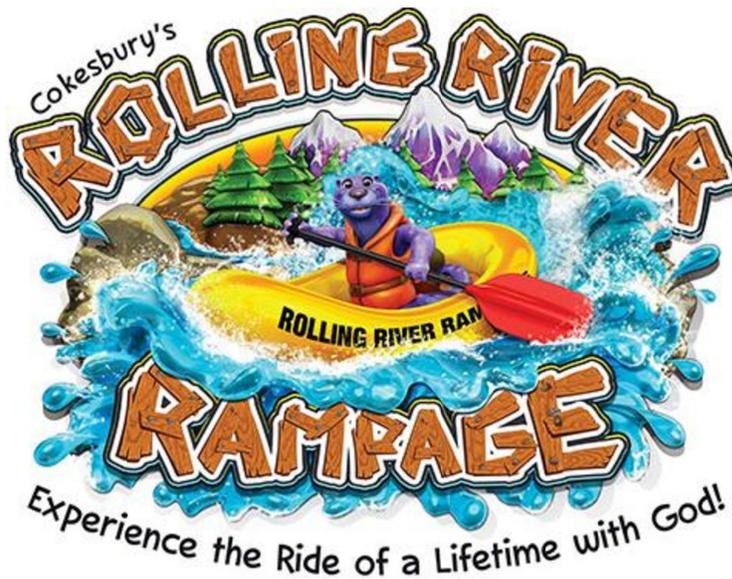
Frances Hess, Blair Yount, James McManus, Roger Murajda, Frank Royce,  
Heidi Buchanan, and Blake Daniel

# CHURCH UPDATES

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Summer is here! The kids are almost out of school and we have so many exciting things planned for the summer! Please join us for the following:

- **Monday June 11th-Friday June 15th — Community Vacation Bible School**  
9 AM-12 PM at Bridge Park, ages 3 to 18.



**Vacation Bible School**  
June 11-15, 2018 at Bridge Park  
Sign up here: [rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/downtownsylva](http://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/downtownsylva)

- **Sunday July 8th — Youth Service Project (exact project TBD)**  
4:00-6:00 PM, rising 6th grade-12th grade. We will have pizza!

*(continued on next page)*

# CHURCH UPDATES

- **Friday July 13th — Family Campfire Night**

6:00 PM, for parents and children. Join us for roasting marshmallows, hot dogs, and good ol' campfire songs!

- **Friday August 17th — Family Game Night**

6:00 PM, for parents and children. Join us for family friendly games and pizza!

We need volunteers for Vacation Bible School! If you can help with one day or all days, your service is needed. Here are some immediate needs that need to be filled:

- Nursery Workers — all days
- Preschool Helper — all days
- Bible Story Helper — all days

Please let me know if you can help!

Thank you for your service to our church! *Courtney Umphlett*

# CHURCH UPDATES

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPDATE**

The Birthday Offering by Presbyterian Women has been an annual event since 1922 with the purpose of supporting mission projects to make a difference in the lives of women and children. There is a need for commitment to funding mission projects like the selected ones for 2018: Cottage Village, A Tiny-House Community for Low-Income Residents on Oregon, Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, in Honduras, The Dwelling Place in Minnesota. We ask that you give as you have been blessed and as lead by the Holy Spirit.

The Presbyterian Women will host the fellowship time after Church on June 24th as a Celebration of the Birthday offering with Birthday Cake and punch. It will also be a time when we thank every one for support of the Mission Projects.

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## **UCM UPDATE**

United Christian Ministries needs

**toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, and tea.**

As always, we can we can use any type of nonperishable food, household or personal items such as detergent for dishes or laundry.

# CHURCH UPDATES

## **NEW DOOR!**

We recently replaced our front door. Many thanks to James McManus for installing it for us! Check it out!



## **TASK FORCE UPDATE**

The Capital Needs Task Force is excited to present their plan for improvements to our physical space. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates to learn more: Sunday, June 17 at 9:45am or Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30pm.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS  
PRESENTATIONS  
JUNE 17 AT 9:45AM  
JUNE 20 AT 6:30PM  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

# COMMUNITY INFO

## *In the Fall*

All ladies are invited!

Women's Community Bible Study will start a Fall Study on  
Wednesday, September 5.

**We will study Priscilla Schirer's "Armor of God."**

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you. The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. The Armor of God, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory. Join us for this 7-session Bible study!

Women's Community Bible Study is a non-denominational Bible Study open to all ladies. Childcare is provided. We meet from 9am – 10:30am at First Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact Joyce Pope at [joyce\\_pope@hotmail.com](mailto:joyce_pope@hotmail.com) or 828-631-9496.

*Mark your calendars and plan to join us in the fall!*

# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 3p Pilates	2 *Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary reserved for an event."
3 8:45a Diaconate 9a Christian Ed. 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service	4	5 9a Garden Club 9:30a Watercolor 3p Pilates	6 2p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Family Night Supper	7 8a Men's Breakfast 7p Choir	8 3p Pilates	9 9:30a Session Record Review
10 8:45a Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service 12:15p Finance Comm. Mtg.	11 VBS 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson 6p Session	12 VBS 9:30a Watercolor 3p Pilates 7p Soaking Prayer	13 VBS 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson	14 VBS 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson 7p Choir	15 VBS *Office Closed* 3p Pilates	16
17 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Capital Needs Present. 11a Worship Service	18 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson	19 9:30a Watercolor 9:30a-12p Courtney – Music Lesson 3p Pilates	20 10a Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson 6:30p Capital Needs Present.	21 8a Men's Breakfast 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson 7p Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle 7p Choir	22 3p Pilates	23
24 8:45a Mission Comm. Mtg. 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship	25 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson	26 9:30a Watercolor 9:30a-12p Courtney – Music Lesson 3p Pilates	27 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson	28 11a-6p Courtney – Music Lesson 7p Jackson County Golf Club 7p Choir	29	30

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *call to worship*

**6/3** Cyndie Royce

**6/10** Pat Mikula

**6/17** Donna Mason

**6/24**

## *prayer of illumination /*

## *scripture reading*

**6/17** Bob Porter

## *coffee fellowship*

**6/3** Children & Youth

**6/10** Adam & Mary Gelbaugh

**6/17** Steve & Beth Baxley

**6/24** Presbyterian Women

## *flowers*

**6/3** Doug Oxford

**6/10** Donna Mason

**6/17** Steve & Beth Baxley

**6/24** Tom & Melanie Tabor

## *ashers <sup>AND</sup> greeters*

**6/3** Frank Royce, Nancy Zachmann, Besan Nash

**6/10** Frank Royce, Jenny Porter, Robin Porter

**6/17** Lambert & Joy Hooper, Jim & Sylvia Smythe

**6/24** Janet Downs, Frances Hess, Sarah Thompson

## *family night supper*

**6/6** Donna Mason and Cyndie Royce

**If you can serve in any of the open spaces, please email or call the church office! Also, please be sure to sign-up for the next month!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **June Birthdays**

- 6/2 – Doris Cody  
6/3 -- Heather Monar  
6/3 – Adam Gelbaugh  
6/5 – Tommy Thompson  
6/6 – Charles Hess  
6/9 – Betty Painter  
6/10 – Diane Herring  
6/11 – Donna Mason  
6/13 – Jake Buchanan  
6/15 – Nancy Zachmann  
6/16 – Luke Bauknecht

## **June Anniversaries**

- 6/4 – Sam & Margaret Hale  
6/4 – Roger & Amanda Murajda  
6/14 – Steve & Marlies Owens  
6/16 – Charlie & Betty Foti  
6/21-- Lambert & Joy Hooper

*If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in future newsletters, please send the information to Emily in the church office.*