

First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs

300 Gum Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

(904) 284-9261

www.firstpresgcs.org · admin@firstpresgcs.org

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Worship Services

8:00 am and 10:30 am

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at the 8:00 am service and on the first Sunday of each month at the 10:30 am service
9:00 am Sunday School Classes for all ages



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Green Cove Springs



THE FLAME - MAY 2019

The Mission of our church is: To share the love of Jesus Christ with all people.

We will accomplish this through:

- ♦ Joyful worship ♦ Education for all ages ♦ Community outreach with a particular emphasis on children and the poor
- ♦ Providing an authentic sense of family in times of fellowship and crisis



The Tension Between Numbers & Mission

I hope this finds you getting in those activities that you can't do in summer, because, the heat of summer is coming! As most of you know, I was an un-ordained campus minister before I was called to church ministry. I wasn't involved with the organization I worked with prior to working for them, so there were several things I didn't know about them when I became employed. Many of these things were great, some, not so great. One of the not so great ones was their relationship with numbers, as in the number of students involved in their ministry. In ministry, it can be so easy to equate numbers alone with success. If a lot of people are attending, we must be doing most things right. If few are coming, we are doing nearly everything wrong. Both of these understandings are incorrect. Remember, Jesus had times when his words attracted large groups, and other times when his words caused lots of followers to leave him (see John 6:60-66).

My former employer was trying to avoid getting sucked into the viewpoint that numbers were the only criteria for success. But in attempting that, they backed themselves into a position where they didn't listen to numbers at all. That wasn't healthy either. Eventually, some of their top people came together to study scripture and talk about numbers. The communication they released to us said it clearly. "We care about numbers, because each of these numbers represents a soul." Because of that communication, many positive things happened, including using numbers as one part of our evaluation process.

As we continue to think about the mission of this church, we should think about the souls that make up this place and the souls that we could attract. The mission of this church must be strong so our souls can grow in our faith and be influenced in healthy ways. We care about what we are doing and how we make others aware of it. We don't make a difference if what we are doing here isn't partnering with Jesus as he makes himself known to the world around us. I do think more people in Clay and St. Johns counties could be positively influenced by what this church is doing. Are there things about the mission or outreach of this church I need to hear? I'm open to those conversations. Do you know anyone that would benefit from you taking a risk and inviting them to our church? We don't exist just to make our church known, we have a greater mission than that. But it's a blast to invite someone to church and see them respond to God's call on their life. Let's pay attention to both the mission and the outreach of this Church. God cares about both.

Joyfully,



Highlights from the *April* Session Meeting:

- The Session considered a proposal to participate in the Digital Disciples Ministry Pilot project, a privately run program made available through partnership with the Presbytery of St. Augustine. The program is designed to increase outreach to potential members through social media. After discussion, the Session referred the project to an ad hoc committee for further study.
- The Session agreed to assist our newest Scout troop with opening a checking account with VyStar Credit Union for use in handling troop revenues.
- The Session expressed its condolences to John and Sally Ragsdale upon the recent tragic loss of their son (John faithfully served our church as parish associate and then as interim pastor in past years). A letter of sympathy was signed by each Session member.
- The Session also heard reports from various committees regarding their work and plans on behalf of the Church.

Ed Kelly, Clerk



Monday May 13th at 7 pm

Meeting and monthly Bible Study.
All women of the church are invited
to participate.



Saturday May 18th at 8 am

for breakfast, fellowship and
a chance to share your gifts to aid
us in our Christian Mission!
All men invited to attend.

Presbyterian Women

PW thanks everyone who came and provided food for our annual Palm Sunday potluck luncheon. The food was delicious, and the fellowship was great. While attending, did you notice the new window treatments in the dining room? Jaci Mizeur ordered them for PW, and she, her husband, and her son installed them. Thank you, Jaci and family! PW is currently shopping for pictures for the walls to add more color to the room.

In May PW will be sponsoring the Women's Prayer Breakfast, and in June we will be having a Ladies' Night out in place of our regular meeting. Watch the June newsletter for details and mark your calendar. All women of the church are invited to attend. Our next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 13th, at 7 PM in Friendship Hall. Please join us.



Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:15 am on Thursday, May 16th at Sweet Sensations in Green Cove Springs. No reservations are needed and everyone is welcome to join the group for a good lunch and friendly conversation.



Work Day

BEFORE



AFTER



Richard Knoff and Dave Sprinkle worked to trim the palm trees on our work Saturday. Later Richard removed one of the palm trees under the street light at the driveway entrance to the parking lot to provide better lighting to our Parking area.

2018 Annual Attendance Averages

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr*	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
1st	41	42	33	34	31	45	31	30	32	32	28	33	34
2nd	88	96	88	90	77	92	86	89	81	90	88	82	87
Avg.	129	138	121	124	108	137	117	119	113	122	116	115	121

2019 Annual Attendance Averages

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr*	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
1st	34	34	31	38									34
2nd	78	93	86	98									89
Avg.	112	127	117	136									123

OUR STAFF:

Rev. Mark Hults	Pastor	mhults@gmail.com
Jacquelyn Mizeur	Administrative Assistant	admin@firstpresgcs.org
	Financial Secretary	financialsec@firstpresgcs.org
Sandra Royal	Director of Music	
Donna Jones	Pianist	
Patti Knoff	Nursery Attendant	

OUR MINISTRY LEADERS:

Clerk of Session	Ed Kelly	ekelly@rtlaw.com
Pastor/Moderator	Rev. Mark Hults	mhults@gmail.com office 284-9261 cell 524-1613
Buildings & Grounds	Richard Knoff, 2019	(904) 699-1072
Christian Ed/ Youth	Sandra Royal, 2021	SRoyal225@gmail.com
Fellowship	Sarah Peterson, 2020	reamax86@yahoo.com
Finance	Paul Deese, 2021	dianendpauldeese@gmail.com
Global Mission	Hannah Stansberry, 2021	hannahgrace24602@gmail.com
Local Mission	Doug Land, 2019	wlland@yahoo.com
Outreach	Roger Spann, 2019	rjspann@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship	David Sprinkle, 2020	david.sprinkle@att.net
Worship	Tracy Harris, 2020	rtharris1@aol.com

FINANCIAL REPORT YTD as of March 31, 2019

Donations:	\$74,751.79	Fund Balances:	
Disbursements:	<u>\$59,319.27</u>	Operating	\$15,530.60
Net Profit (Loss):	\$15,432.52	Reserve	\$8,823.76
		Designated/Memorial	\$0

The Designated/Memorial Account is a specific account from donations that are Designated Funds.