This coming Sunday is Reformation Sunday as we remember the faith tradition in which we stand. Particularly in 2017, we are recognizing the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s defiant act of nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. His protest was against the practices of a church hierarchy that had become more concerned with its grand building programs than with the poor of this earth. This Sunday we will look at some of the major theological convictions of Martin Luther and his fellow Reformers as we, too, seek to keep reforming how we live as faithful people of God.

Alan and I attended the meeting of Savannah Presbytery this past Tuesday as we gathered in Darien, Georgia, for a good meeting and for renewed friendship with elders and ministers from the churches in our district. It helped me remember how Presbyterians govern themselves. Presbyterian congregations trust the elected elders and the called pastors of their church to make good and faithful decisions, even very major decisions, on our behalf. If we were episcopal in our government, we would trust a bishop or an individual appointed by the bishop to make decisions for us. If we were congregational in our government, we would insist that all decisions reflect a majority consensus of the members. Presbyterians are those who trust and support the decisions of a Session even if there are many different opinions or objections from individual members. The Session has been elected by the congregation and empowered by the congregation to make the best decisions that they can, empowered by prayer and seeking God’s will. Presbyterians trust Sessions. We give them authority, and we trust them to lead us toward Jesus Christ.

This coming Sunday we also celebrate All Saints’ Sunday, and we will toll the bell for all our church members who have died in the past year. It is a time to remember their love, and to thank God for life together in the faith.

Love,

Bob
Come and join us for a fun day of museum touring in Savannah! After caravanning down to Savannah together, we will spend the morning touring the Owens-Thomas House and the Jepson Center for the Arts followed by lunch at Wilkes Boarding House. We will then head to the Telfair Museum for a special exhibit of Auguste Rodin's sculptures in honor of the centennial of his death. This is a "Try Something New" event and we hope you will be a part of it with us! Space is limited so sign up today to guarantee your spot!

Tuesday, November 7th
$40/person

Deadline to register is Oct 31st!
Only 6 spots available!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP!

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, October 29th following 11A worship

Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, Oct. 29 following the 11A worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect church officer nominees, elect an Associate Pastor Search Committee, and approve the pastor's terms of call for 2018. Church officer nominations submitted to the congregation by this year's Nominating Committee can be found below.

NOMINEES:
Deacon, Elder, Associate Pastor Search
For the past several months, a group of church members and staff have been meeting regularly to explore the possibility of creating an outdoor labyrinth at St. Simons Presbyterian. After meeting with Chuck Hunner, a labyrinth consultant/builder/facilitator, we learned much that will inform the numerous decisions to help make a labyrinth at SSPC a reality. We look forward to sharing a detailed plan with the Session and more broadly with the congregation soon.

This is the fifth installment of six in which we are sharing a summary of 12 Reasons to Have a Church Labyrinth (two each week) written by Robert Ferre, an internationally recognized labyrinth resource person. I will offer additional comments. If you would like a copy of the article please let me know. - Rev. Jann Briscoe

- **Reason 9: Outdoor Labyrinths Add Another Dimension**

  "Labyrinths help us to think outside the box (sanctuary)... Walking the labyrinth outdoors, one experiences a range of circumstances and weather, from hot to cold, dry or rainy, day or night. It has great variety, just like life." Walking an outdoor labyrinth can symbolize our connection as human beings together with nature as belonging to the whole of God's created order. Practically speaking, outdoor labyrinths can be available 24 hours a day, even when the church building is not open. This broad access can enhance the ministry of the labyrinth within the larger community.

- **Reason 10: Labyrinths Build Community**
The labyrinth can be walked alone or with others. Some persons have been surprised by how (the) group energy helped to create a space which enhanced each individual experience. When the members of a CROSS Mission Trip walked the labyrinth together, many said it was the highlight of the entire trip. Ask Nat to tell you the story, if you have not already heard it.

Robert Ferre writes, "There is only one problem in the world, expressed in many variations: separation from God and each other. The only solution is to join together, to move from one to One. ... One of the most common observations during the sharing time after a labyrinth walk is the realization that we are all on the same path, even if it looks like people are all going in many different directions. The people in the paths adjacent to the walker may be walking in the opposite direction. Even on a given path, some people are going in while others are coming out. Yet everyone is pursuing the same journey. Even then, there's room within unity for a considerable amount of diversity."

This truth is reinforced by Donna Schaper: "The labyrinth lets people walk together and separately without agreeing on anything. The very ancient nature of the labyrinth combined with the archetypal metaphor of its design draws us to absolutes that transcend any human constructs that have separated humanity into arbitrary religious categories for centuries. That is why labyrinths are so welcome today: they allow each of us to find our own center in our own way."

**The Week Ahead**

**Sunday, October 29**
- 8:30 am  -  Chapel Service  -  Sanctuary
- 9:00 am  -  Coffee Hour  -  Social Hall
- 9:30 am  -  Sunday School  -  Various Locations
- 11:00 am  -  Traditional Service  -  Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm  -  Youth Ensemble  -  Music Attic
- 5:00 pm  -  Youth Supper & Fellowship  -  Youth Suite

**Monday, October 30**
- 10:00 am  -  Instrumental Ensemble  -  Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm  -  Men's Noonday Bible Study  -  Britt Room
- 8:00 pm  -  Al-Anon Meeting  -  John Law Room
- 8:00 pm  -  AA Meeting  -  Britt Room

**Tuesday, October 31**
- 7:00 am  -  Youth Breakfast Devotion  -  SSI Chick-fil-a

**Wednesday, November 1**
- 10:30 am  -  Ladies Video Bible Study  -  Youth Suite
- 4:00 pm  -  KidZ Crew & Choir  -  Playground Veranda
- 5:00 pm  -  Confirmation Class  -  Chapel
- 6:00 pm  -  WOW Supper  -  Social Hall
- 6:30 pm  -  Chancel Ringers  -  Bell Room
- 7:00 pm  -  Chancel Choir  -  Sanctuary

**Thursday, November 2**
7:15 am   -   Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Britt Room
10:00 am   -   Ladies Bible Study - Upper Room
4:00 pm   -   Free Flow Yoga - Youth Suite
8:00 pm   -   Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room
8:00 pm   -   AA Meeting - Britt Room

Friday, November 3
10:00 am   -   Book Discussion & Prayer - Jann's Office

Click for More Information About Upcoming Events

Prayers and Thanksgivings
Click here for the Weekly Prayer & Meditation

Congratulations Trey!
We share in congratulating our former youth intern, Trey Haddon, upon his ordination this Sunday, October 29 at First Presbyterian Church in Brunswick at 6 PM. Trey recently graduated from Austin Theological Seminary in Austin, TX and has received a call from a church there.

Christian Sympathy
We extend Christian sympathy to Rev. Alan Dyer upon the passing of his grandfather, Joseph Busken Jr. who entered into rest last week in Cincinnati, OH.

Great-fall gathering? More like "Greatest"-fall gathering! We had such a blast yesterday celebrating each other in fellowship and fun! Thank you to all who helped us put together this event. We hope that you enjoy the photos and please follow the link below to
Worship This Sunday
Reformation Sunday & All Saints' Day

Scripture: Psalm 34: 1-10 Matthew 5:1-12

CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE PHOTOS!
Musical Notes

This Sunday is the beginning of the celebration of the 500th year of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. Highlights of the reformers with their pictures are posted on the Music and Worship bulletin board for your educational interest. The end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century was the time of the birth of the great reformers - Martin Luther, Huldrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and John Knox. We are also recognizing All Saints’ Day by reading aloud the names of those members that have died since last All Saints’ and tolling a bell for each. Last year’s paper white bulbs were so appreciated that we are providing them again this year. Honor your saint by attending, meditating, and receiving the bulb to plant. Hymns for this Sunday: 275 A Mighty Fortress; 326 For All the Saints. The Chancel Choir will be singing an Andrae Crouch spiritual, Soon and Very Soon.

Here’s an interesting blurb from the Reformation 2017 website:
You can read the Bible on your phone because of Luther. We love and treasure the Word of God. The Scriptures are our sole source for doctrine and practice. The Scriptures deliver Christ to us, and for this we rejoice. Luther desired that every person have access to the Word of God. He translated the Bible into German so that every person could read it. A result of Luther's translation was the proliferation of Bible translations, and today, the multiplicity of media through which God's Word is freely available.

For more information on the early reformers, check out the Music and Worship Bulletin Board in the Ashantilly hallway.

Love, Faith, & Gratitude,

Rhonda
P. S. I am so inspired by our children because of last week's leadership in worship. It is exciting to see the future of our church.