Volume 89 *(2 week newsletter)* June 21, 2018

A favorite pastor/theologian of mine named Eugene Peterson wrote his first book in 1980 called A Long Obedience in the Same Direction. Forty years later it is still a classic. Peterson's basic premise is that in an age of quick success and instant gratification, the prescription for authentic Christian discipleship remains the same - a long obedience in the same direction.

As I looked at that title sitting on my desk this week, it occurred to me that we will be celebrating someone this Sunday whose life and ministry is the very image of "a long obedience in the same direction." For 40+ years, Bob Brearley has lived into and lived out the promises he made at his ordination by selflessly serving three different congregations with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. What a blessing - both for me personally and for St. Simons Presbyterian - to know and serve alongside someone so committed to showing others that the "best life possible" is the one found in a lifetime of obedient Christian discipleship.

Bob will be preaching at both worship services this Sunday, June 24. At the conclusion of the 10A service we will have a congregational meeting to formally say "thank you" to Bob and Mary Ann, present them with several special gifts from the church, and to bless Bob in his retirement. Following worship, you are invited to enjoy light refreshments and time with the Brearley's on the front lawn of the church.

Sunday will no doubt be a day full of both tears and laughter. But ultimately it will be a day of gratitude. Gratitude for our church. Gratitude for the Brearley Family. And most of all, gratitude to God for a person and a pastor who even now continues to show us how to follow our own callings to "a long obedience in the same direction." See you at church.

Peace,
Alan

LEMONADE on the lawn

Following the 10 AM worship this Sunday, you are invited to enjoy together light refreshments and time with the Brearley's on the front lawn of the church.

Welcome our New Associate Pastor

Annie Franklin Arvin

Annie Franklin Arvin was approved as our next Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission. Annie is a lifelong Presbyterian from Morganton, NC and recent graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Annie's deep faith, love of youth, and passion for ministry and mission alongside people of all ages make her an ideal fit for St. Simons Presbyterian.

CLICK HERE TO MEET ANNIE

Joint Summer Sunday School

Sundays @ 9 AM in the Social Hall

Breakfast & coffee served.

"Belonging to God"

Who are we as individual believers and as a community of faith? What do we believe, and what are we called to do in light of those beliefs? Come, and let us explore the answers together as part of a 4-week series in June taught by Rev. Dr. Joanna M.Adams, a PC(USA) pastor, St. Simons Island resident, and frequent worshipper in the pews of St. Simons Presbyterian!

June 24: "The Life of the Holy Spirit"

Rabbi Rachael Bregman will be teaching from July 22 - August 12.
Rev. Dave Hanson will be teaching from August 19 - 26.

Summer KidZ Camps!

Sign up today for these fun and spiritual camps.
Please contact Frieda Warner with any questions.

WORSHIP & ART CAMP

July 9-13
Rising 1st - 6th graders

Worship and Art Camp is a unique camp experience! It is amazing to watch how the children connect to God through worship time and then express themselves through different types of art.

SIGN UP HERE!

KIDZ CARE CAMP

July 23-27
Rising 4th - 6th graders

We are so excited to offer this new summer camp this year for our rising 4th - rising 6th graders! Each day will include hands on service opportunities in our community as well as learning how to care for our environment. Guest speakers and field trips!

SIGN UP HERE!

Explore Sapelo & the Backland Islands!

Adults & Youth (Grades 9-12)

$400 - adult | **$200** - youth

Fee covers equipment, housing, and food.

Marking it's sixteenth year, the Sapelo Kayak Adventure has become an annual tradition at St. Simons Presbyterian. It is a great experience for youth and adults alike to enjoy God's creation as we explore this beautiful barrier island on foot and by kayak under the careful eye and helpful guidance of trained staff from Southeast Adventure Outfitters. During our time we will kayak, hike, make sweetgrass baskets with internationally known artist Yvonne Grovener, visit and explore centuries old tabby ruins, go on turtle walks at night, play games, have a beach picnic, etc.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 24

Session has called a Congregational Meeting to happen at the conclusion of the 10 AM worship this Sunday, June 24. There are two items on the agenda of this meeting. First, to approve a congregational nominating committee for 2018-19 (names found below). The primary responsibility of the nominating committee is to nominate individuals to serve as deacons and ruling elders. The second purpose of the meeting is to concur with the Rev. Bob Brearley's request that the Savannah Presbytery dissolve his pastoral relationship with St. Simons Presbyterian Church effective June 30, 2018. At the meeting, we will also be presenting Bob and Mary Ann with special gifts as a sign of the church's love and deep appreciation for twenty years of faithful

ministry.

The names of those agreeing to serve on the nominating committee are:

- Fleming Martin
- Anna Henry
- Anne Nermoe
- Rich Goeldner
- Tom Baltzell
- Jerry Spencer
- Nancy Harper

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS in July

During the month of July on Wednesday nights we will enjoy food, fun, and fellowship together as a church family. Each week the church will provide the main course for the meal while participants are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. With all the fun we have planned, you will not want to miss a night! EVERYONE is invited and welcome to attend!

Wednesdays in July | 6 PM | Social Hall

Afternoon Tea Dance

Friday, July 13

4:00- 5:30 PM | Social Hall

Come and dance the afternoon away with us as we enjoy the big band era music of the Whitefield Academy Jazz Band! Tea and lemonade with snacks will be served. Bring your friends and your dancing shoes!
Click here to watch a video of the band.

Whitefield ACADEMY
JAZZ BAND

The Weeks Ahead (2 weeks)

calendar
2018

Sunday, June 24
8:30 am - Chapel Service - Sanctuary
9:00 am - Joint Sunday School w/ Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams- Social Hall
10:00 am - Traditional Service - Sanctuary

Monday, June 25
12:00 pm - Men's Noonday Bible Study - Britt Room *(Final before summer break)*
8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room
8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

Wednesday, June 27
6:00 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary *(Final before summer break)*

Thursday, June 28
7:15 am - Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Britt Room
10:00 am - Chancel Ensemble - Sanctuary
4:00 pm - Free Flow Yoga - Youth Suite
8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room
8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

Friday, June 29
10:00 am - Book Discussion & Prayer - Jann's Office

Sunday, July 1
8:30 am - Chapel Service - Sanctuary
9:00 am - Joint Sunday School - Social Hall
10:00 am - Traditional Service - Sanctuary

Monday, July 2
9:00 am - Manna House - 1408 G. Street Brunswick - All are welcome!
8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room
8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

Wednesday, July 4 // Church office closed.

Thursday, July 5
7:15 am - Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Britt Room
10:00 am - Chancel Ensemble - Sanctuary
4:00 pm - Free Flow Yoga - Youth Suite
8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room
8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

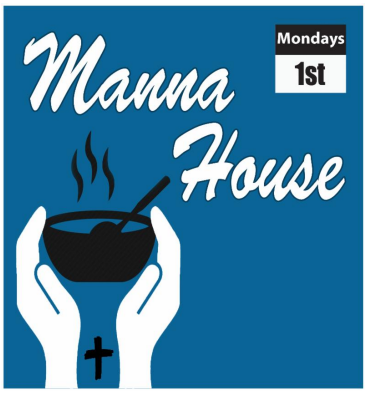
Friday, July 6
10:00 am - Book Discussion & Prayer - Jann's Office

Upcoming Dates:

June 24	|	Bob's last Sunday preaching!
July 9-13	|	Worship & Art Camp - Sign up here!

July 9-12		Sapelo Kayak Adventure - Sign up here!

Click for More Information About Events & Opportunities



Prayers and Thanksgivings

Click here for the Weekly Prayer & Meditation

Christian Celebration

We share in joy with Nancy and Bob Harper as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 22! We wish them many more years of happiness together!

Congratulations Bethany Leggett

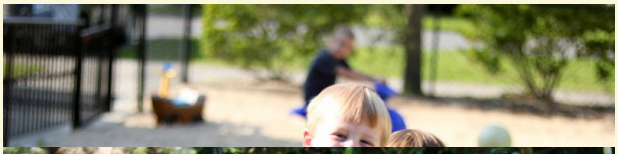
Church member, Bethany Leggett, is the editor of the Golden Isles Magazine which was named the best magazine in the state through the annual Georgia Press Association Better Magazines Contest! Way to go Bethany!

Thank you to all our VBS Volunteers!

Thank you so much to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talent to make VBS Babylon a wonderful event! Whether you prepared lunch, played a guitar, acted in the skit, decorated our Babylon village, held a baby in the nursery, organized crafts, shared a bible story, played games, greeted parents and children in the car line, took photos, prepared prayer journals, delivered donations, directed traffic, created name tags, led children throughout our Babylon village, or hugged a child, we thank you. It takes many hands to create a successful VBS! In August, we will begin our children and youth programs, and we will be calling on volunteers again. Let us know if you want to be part of our Children and Youth Ministry.

In Christ,
Frieda Warner

SEASIDE



Click Here to see all the photos from VBS.

Worship This Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 46 Mark 4:35-41

Hymn: 465 - What a Friend We Have in Cheeses
837 - What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Preacher: Rev. Bob Brearley

Financial performance as of May 30, 2018

Offerings Received YTD $499,886.61
Expenditures Paid YTD $456,355.71

Summer months bring for many a much welcomed slower pace of life. Summer at SSPC is full of many and varied activities such as VBS, Worship & Art Camps, BRIDGE Mission, and Cross mission trip for youth, just to name a few.

Congregational giving, historically, declines during the Summer, however the work of the Church is still in full swing. Your continued giving and faithfulness is greatly needed and appreciated, as the Church continues to carry out God's work.

CLICK HERE TO GIVE ONLINE

Giving online is easy! Just follow the link above to tithe and donate online. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (912) 638-2220.

Musical Notes

Along with other choir members, I'm at Montreat singing and learning new music and activities to share when we all return home. We have just gotten back from a lunch picnic provided by Mary Ann Brearley who is always so gracious to invite us to come up the mountain to a place we (and others) call Monkey Bottom. The picnic tables are located right next to a flowing creek full of rocks to hop. It was so relaxing to do that. It's a busy day schedule with classes from 8:00 until 5:30 and events or concerts at night, so a picnic in the middle of a beautiful, sunny day was just the thing to do.

I first met Bob and Mary Ann while they were in a meeting with the seller discussing buying a home here. (I was actually helping a business collect a debt from that seller!) Through the years, we would encounter one another at weddings, funerals, and other events due to the involvement in the community of all of us. Beginning in 2008, it was my pleasure to work with the Brearleys in this church. From the pulpit and many other places, Bob and Mary Ann have been a great support to the Music Ministry of this church. I include Mary Ann because she is Bob's "go to" about music and has been a strong support to his entire ministry. All of the volunteers (choir members) that form all of the choirs are grateful for their involvement and caring spirit throughout the ministry. It goes without saying that we will miss them very much.

All of the music selected for June 24 has a gospel/bluegrass theme with some favorites and the whole band has shown up! Faye Chu, Bass; Harlan Hambright, Mandolin; Bud Longley, Dobro; Crystal Murphy, Fiddle; Ann Nermoe, Guitar; and Ricky Ray, Banjo. Don't worry, they will be back in August to play again if they can get here! Hymns for that Sunday: 465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus; 837 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine.

As I was searching online for something new for the choir to do on July 1, I came across a piece that a composer was offering for free to anyone who wanted to use it. **Before the Lord We Bow** by Evan Mazunik exactly fit what I wanted for that Sunday. After copying and assembling the piece for the choir, I put it in their folders for rehearsal. When choir practice came around, Jean Sucher told me that Evan Mazunik was her nephew! What a great surprise! Here's some information about Evan: He is a composer and keyboardist raised in Iowa and currently based in Denver, Colorado. He plays music that blends the complexities of urban life with the openness of Midwestern fields. Mazunik directs his band ZAHA using Soundpainting, a sign language for live composition. He is also Director of Worship and Liturgy at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, Colorado. The Chancel Choir will end their singing season on July 1, singing the afore-mentioned piece and Wilhousky's **Battle Hymn of the Republic** at the end of the service.

Love & Gratitude,

Rhonda