

Gathering



Sharing



Growing



Serving



ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 12, 2019

Today's blurb is being written from Gate B41 at JFK International in New York. My mind is tired but my belly is full, compliments of the Shake Shack restaurant across the way. I will be home by the time you read this – maybe we will even have crossed paths and had a chance to catchup. Have you ever had an experience though where you have so much to say that you don't know where to begin? That's a little how I feel right now, so Gate B41 seems like as good a place to start as any.

It has been a little over two weeks since our group of forty-four set off for an interfaith pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our purpose was to not only visit the Biblical sites of modern-day Israel and Jordan, but to also hear and learn the stories of those people seeking to love and live and believe in such a conflicted corner of the world. It was equal parts crash course in the major religions of the world (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity) as well as an unequivocal call to reclaim the common bond that all of our traditions share: to be peacemakers.

To that end, we were led by two guides during our time in Israel – one a Jewish-Israeli and the other a Palestinian-Muslim. We joined an orthodox family for a Friday evening Shabbat meal. We gathered for Sunday worship at a Lutheran Church in the heart of Old City Jerusalem. We met with an imam from the al-Asqaba Mosque located on the Temple Mount – one of the most holy places on earth to both Muslim and Jewish believers. We wandered Nazareth after nightfall as families and neighbors poured into the streets to eat sweets and celebrate the start of Eid. We visited with the grandson of a Holocaust survivor and heard the testimony of two fathers who have lost children on account of terror on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

There was so much coming at us each day that I began to keep a list of the "key takeaways" that began to emerge. Here are my top three:

1. Interfaith dialogue does not involve giving up your own beliefs. We may not always agree with one another, but we must always respect one another.
2. Breaking down stereotypes can only happen when we meet one-on-one. It is only through personal relationships and face-to-face conversations that we can put "cracks in the wall" of prejudice and hatred. One of the most powerful encounters of the trip was being in the

same room with two people who had every reason in the world to hate one another but instead genuinely *loved* one another solely because their personal relationship had cracked the wall of all their preconceived notions.

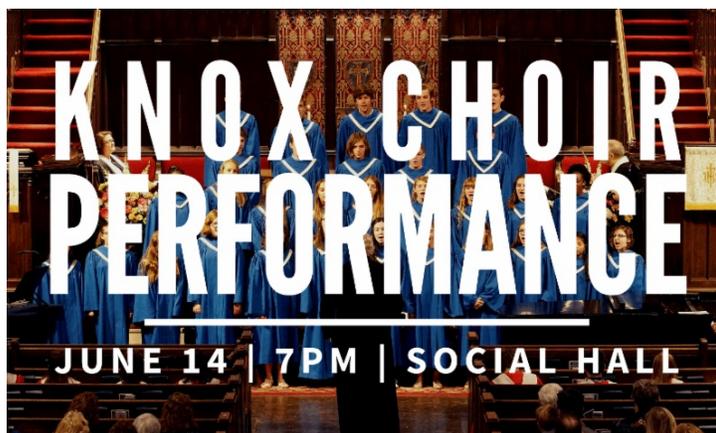
3. Too many people go to the Holy Land to only see the places Jesus may have once been, and, in the process, lose sight of the all-important words at the heart of the Christian faith: the tomb is empty, he is risen. I assure you, there are plenty of old stones to visit in the Holy Land, but if we ignore the “living stones” – the people and places of Israel, Palestine, and for that matter our own community where the love and peace of Jesus Christ are at work *right now*– then we risk missing the whole point.

You will no doubt be hearing many of those “living stone” stories both from me and from the other pilgrims in the coming weeks, months, and years. In the meantime, thank you for your prayers – they were felt and sustained us through both the good and the challenging.

Much is happening the life of SSPC these days. VBS is in full swing. Mark your calendars for a free concert this Friday evening at 7PM of my home church youth choir (of which, yours truly is an alumni!) from Westminster Presbyterian in Dayton, OH. We also begin a new summer sermon series this Sunday. Details below. See you soon.

Peace,
Alan

This Friday



Knox Choir Performance June 14 at 7 PM Social Hall

The Knox Choir is comprised of youth in grades 7 through 12 and is one of seven choirs of Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Dayton, Ohio. This summer the group is embarking on a seven-day concert tour of the South. In addition to presenting concerts in churches, the group will be exploring local points of interest in Nashville, Memphis, Birmingham, Macon, St. Simons Island and Greensboro. A wide variety of music will be sung, including works by Boyce and Rutter, as well as music from the gospel tradition, and songs from around the globe. The Knox Ringers will also present three pieces. Since 2007 this choir has completed eight tours, including three Presbyterian Heritage Tours of Scotland.

Service Opportunities

Hygiene Product Drive

The Community Missions Ministry team invites you to help us keep Glynn County teens confident in school by ensuring access to essential hygiene products.

Items Needed:

Feminine hygiene protection, soap/bodywash, shampoo + conditioner, deodorant, oral hygiene products, shaving products, personal care wipes, laundry sink packs, and stain sticks.

Donations may be dropped off in the community missions box in the back hallway from now through July 31.

hygiene
product
drive



• PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN • *Pillowcase Project*

OUR PW CIRCLES ARE COLLECTING BLANK PILLOWCASES TO PERSONALIZE AND DISTRIBUTE THROUGHOUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE MARIA IN PUERTO RICO.

• NEED 100% WHITE COTTON PILLOWCASES •
**MEETING JUNE 18 AT 10AM
IN THE BRITT ROOM**

VBS Food Donations

During Vacation Bible School, children learn



SPARROW'S NEST

SSPRES will be collecting food donations for Sparrow's Nest through June 13. The following items can be dropped off in the back hallway!

- Spaghettios
- Ravioli
- Vienna Sausages
- Tuna
- Soup (Esp Chicken Noodle)
- Mac & Cheese
- Cereal
- Jelly
- Green Beans/Peas/Corn
- Toiletries
- Canned Fruit

about God's love and ways to share that gift with others. Every year participants are asked to help collect items for a local charity. This year we will be gathering food donations for our beloved Sparrow's Nest. A list of items *most needed* can be

found above. You can also check out their [facebook page](#) for regular updates. We will be collecting donations from now until June 13. Items may be dropped off in the back hallway.

Summer at SSPC

SUMMER SERMON SERIES
GOD'S VOCABULARY
11 Words Every Christian Should Know
 BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 16

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
GODSPEED
 THE PACE OF BEING KNOWN
 Beginning May 26
 CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

To live at Godspeed means to be present to where we are, and present to who surrounds us. This Summer Series begins the hard work of unearthing holiness right where we are, with the people in our midst. We will consider the ordinary ingredients of

our everyday lives--- the ingredients we often overlook for our spiritual

growth. Hear from the experiences of Matt and Julie Canlis in Methlick, Scotland, and from the interviews with Eugene Peterson, N.T. Wright and Father Giles. Together, we will explore the Pace of Being Known.

We will begin with the film, GODSPEED, followed by seven shorter videos on every other Sunday. The second Sunday following the video, we will explore the theme in Scripture.

June 16 ~ Presence: Here I am!

June 23 ~ Exodus 3:3

- **When: Sundays, May 26 – September 1**
- **Time: 9am**
- **Where: Social Hall**
- **Who: All are Welcome!**



Kids Camps

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL SUMMER FUN 2019



Week 1
June 17-21:
Nature



Week 2
June 24-28:
Creative Arts



Week 3
July 8-12:
It's a Small World



Week 4
July 15-19:
Super Spy

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO & TO SIGN UP!](#)

KidZ WORSHIP & ART CAMP

CREATED TO BE CREATIVE

July 15-19 from 9am-1pm

Rising 1st – 6th graders

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

KidZ Worship & Art Camp

Children will Worship and Create using the theme Be Thou My Vision. This hymn is a prayer based on an old Irish poem... a prayer where Christ is our

vision, our best thought and our light all day and night. Worship & Art Camp provides your child with a spiritual atmosphere to deepen their relationship with God through forms of creative art. The daily schedule will include Play/Recreation, Worship, Art, Snack & Lunch (please bring a lunch).

KidZ Care Camp

KidZ Care Camp provides children with opportunities to care for others and care for creation! Our days will include a boat excursion and field trips where we will explore our unique

coastal environment as well as serve others in our community. This is a great way to prepare your child for future mission trips!

KidZ CARE CAMP

Caring for Others & Creation

July 22-26 from 9am-1pm

Rising 3rd-6th grade

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

Worship This Sunday

MUSICAL NOTES

It's choir tour season for youth choirs. St. Simons Island is a great destination. I remember coming here on a youth choir tour and getting very sunburned on Jekyll Island. We are very fortunate to have two groups visiting us this weekend. **At 7:00 pm in the social hall on Friday evening, the Knox Choir will present a program.** The Knox Choir is comprised of youth in grades 7 through 12 and is one of seven choirs of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio. This summer the group is embarking on a seven-day concert tour of the South. In addition to presenting concerts in churches, the group will be exploring local points of interest in Nashville, Memphis, Birmingham, Macon, St. Simons Island, and Greensboro. Why visit these cities? Because the churches they will visit are pastored by former members of the Youth Choir. Yes, Alan Dyer grew up in this church, singing in choirs from 4th through 12th grade (as reported by one of the directors). A wide variety of music will be sung, including works by Boyce and Rutter, as well as music from the gospel tradition, and songs from around the globe. The Knox Ringers will also present three pieces. Since 2007 this choir has completed eight tours, including three Presbyterian Heritage Tours of Scotland. If there is anyone wishing to help me set up, serve, and clean up dinner for this group, please call me or email. They arrive at 4:30 to set up, eat dinner around 5:30, and the concert is at 7:00 pm. There are 30 youth and 10 adults in the group. Members of our Youth Ensemble will be there to help serve.

On Sunday, June 16th, the choir loft will be filled with the youth of Roswell Presbyterian Church. The choir's name is 96:ONE, which refers to Psalm 96:1 - "Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth." The name is fitting for this group as they strive to bring a new song with vibrant, youth voices to participate in worship services, serve the community through mission, and travel on an annual Choir/Mission tour in June. The group consists of youth grades 6-12, members of the Roswell Presbyterian Church and visitors as well, representing students from all different schools around the Atlanta area. Their co-directors, Betsy Homer and John Perry, along with accompanist, Stan Homer are looking forward to leading us in worship.

God willing, Nat and Jamie Scott and I will be leaving for the Montreat Conference Center on Sunday, June 16th after worship. A larger group from the choir will come up on June 22 and stay for another week. My talented husband, Harlan, will direct the choir on the 23rd in my absence. The Chancel Choir will sing K. Lee Scott's Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me. Here are words to the anthem by Thomas T. Lynch for your meditation.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be; Help me now thy grace to see,
I would be like thee; And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, For Christ, my Savior, speak.
Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; Help me now thy truth to see,

I would be like thee; And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
and, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee; Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, and whatever I can be give Him who gave me thee. Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be; help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee; 'gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield; Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory. Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee. – Thomas T. Lynch 1818-1871

Love & Gratitude,
Rhonda

Hymns:

11 am Service Hymns:

- Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty! - 1
- Go to the World! - 295

Preacher: Rev. Alan Dyer
God's Vocabulary: Faith

The Weeks Ahead

Sunday, June 16th

All Day - **TSN Montreat Worship & Music** - Montreat, NC

8:30 am - **Chapel Service** - Sanctuary

9:00 am - **Coffee Hour & Breakfast** - Social Hall

9:00 am - **Sunday School** - Various Locations

10:00 am - **Traditional Service** - Sanctuary

11:15 am - **Membership Ministry Team Meeting** - Upper Room

3:30 pm - **Magnolia Manor Worship** - Magnolia Manor

7:00 pm - **BRIDGE Missions (Cornelia Pres)** - Youth Suite

Monday, June 17th

All Day - **TSN Montreat Worship & Music** - Montreat, NC

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (Cornelia Pres)** - Youth Suite

5:30 pm - **Deacons Meeting** - Upper Room

8:00pm - **AA Meeting** - Britt Room

8:00pm - **Al Anon** - John Law

Tuesday, June 18th

All Day - **TSN Montreat Worship & Music** - Montreat, NC

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (Cornelia Pres)** - Youth Suite

9:30 am - **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room

9:30 am - **Yoga Class** - Chapel

10:00 am - **PW Project** - Social Hall

2:00 pm - **Marsh's Edge Coffee** - Marsh's Edge

4:00 pm - **Session Meeting** - Britt Room

Wednesday, June 19th

All Day - **TSN Montreat Worship & Music** - Montreat, NC
All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (Cornelia Pres)** - Youth Suite
12:00 pm - **Men's Noonday Bible Study** - John Law
6:00 pm - **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, June 20th

All Day - **TSN Montreat Worship & Music** - Montreat, NC
All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (Cornelia Pres)** - Youth Suite
7:15 am - **Men's Bible Study** - Britt Room
4:00 pm - **Yoga Class** - Youth Suite
6:30 pm - **Stephen Ministry** - Parlor
8:00 pm - **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
8:00 pm - **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

Friday, June 21st

All Day - **TSN Montreat Worship & Music** - Montreat, NC
All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (Cornelia Pres)** - Youth Suite
10:00 am - **Book Study and Prayer** - Jann's Office

Sunday, June 23rd

8:30 am - **Chapel Service** - Sanctuary
9:00 am - **Coffee Hour & Breakfast** - Social Hall
9:00 am - **Sunday School** - Various Locations
10:00 am - **Traditional Service** - Sanctuary
7:00 pm - **BRIDGE Missions (N. Decatur Pres)** - Youth Suite

Monday, June 24th

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (N. Decatur Pres)** - Youth Suite
8:00pm - **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
8:00pm - **Al Anon** - John Law

Tuesday, June 25th

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (N. Decatur Pres)** - Youth Suite
9:00 am - **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
9:30 am - **Yoga Class** - Chapel

Wednesday, June 26th

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (N. Decatur Pres)** - Youth Suite
12:00 pm - **Men's Noonday Bible Study** - John Law
7:00 pm - **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, June 27th

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (N. Decatur Pres)** - Youth Suite
7:15 am - **Men's Bible Study** - Britt Room
4:00 pm - **Yoga Class** - Youth Suite
8:00 pm - **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
8:00 pm - **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

Friday, June 28th

All Day - **BRIDGE Missions (N. Decatur Pres)** - Youth Suite
10:00 am - **Book Study and Prayer** - Jann's Office



Get Involved

SHARE GOD'S
LOVE AT
**MAGNOLIA
MANOR**

3RD SUNDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
3:30 PM

LOOKING FOR A
WAY TO GIVE BACK?
VOLUNTEER YOUR
TIME & VISIT WITH
US AT MAGNOLIA
MANOR AS WE
WORSHIP
TOGETHER AND
SHARE GOD'S LOVE
IN THIS
COMMUNITY.



Manna House Volunteers

Thank you to the following volunteers who gave of their time and service helping those in need within our community: Chris Pippart, Gail Wolflick, Nora Sue Spencer, Joe Wills, Jack Hartman, Mike Aspinwall, Matt Hodgdon, Bill & Charlotte Lueckel, Lynda Bisher, Linda & Phil Massie, David Keen, Tate & Terri Simpson, Ginny Connors, Frances McCrary, & Mike &

Nardis Kellar. Thanks to your help we fed 171 people!



Join the Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Team serves others by:

- Cooking and delivering meals
- Making visits and phone calls to check-in with those in need
- Providing transportation to appointments
- Delivering flowers from Sunday worship to the homebound
- Writing hand-written notes to those facing major life events

The Congregational Care Team consists of over 20 church members and friends who seek to show care and concern for others. Please click the image above to get in touch with the team to indicate your willingness to serve.

Joy & Concerns



Christian Sympathy

Together, we extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Patti Jordan, who entered into rest on Sunday, May 26. A service of witness to the resurrection will be held this Wednesday, June 12, at 4 PM in the Sanctuary.

Christian Celebration

We share in celebration with Eric and Catie Stewart as they welcome their first son, Redding Lanier Stewart, into the world. Redding was born on June 1, 2019. Welcome to the world, sweet Redding!



Looking Back



Pentecost Sunday

At the conclusion of worship on Pentecost Sunday, the acolyte carried the flame representing the Holy Spirit of Pentecost outside where it was used to light the palm branches from this past Palm Sunday. The palms that were waved in celebration at the beginning of Holy Week will become the ashes that are used to mark our foreheads on Ash Wednesday at the start of the next Lenten season.



Sapelo Island





Holy Land





Giving Opportunities



Click Here to Give Online

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



Stay connected with the Church
TEXT: SSPRES
TO: 555888

We will provide occasional updates on church activities, event/meal RSVP reminders, and other timely information.

[912-638-2220] [ada@sspres.org] [sspres.org]

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