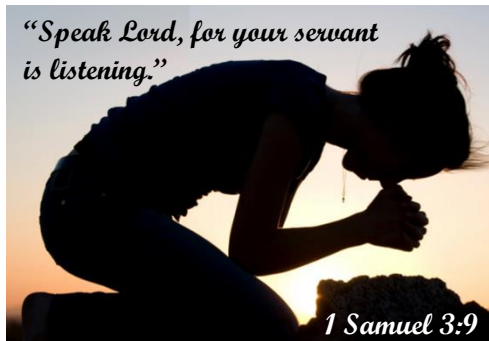


Women in Ministry Newsletter ~ May 2021



1 Samuel 3:9 tells the story of young Samuel's encounter with God. The priest Eli instructed the boy to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." This is valuable advice for us as well. Before you open your Bible, consider praying those simple words; then ask God to help you understand His message and apply it to your life. God's word is an amazing gift. It comforts the mourner, strengthens the weary, convicts the sinner, gives peace to the repentant, and brings joy to those who read and obey it. Let Him speak into your life today. He is worthy of our undivided attention. Jesus promised that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would be satisfied. (Matt. 5:6). Rest assured that whosoever listens to God's word with an open heart and alert mind will receive from Him.

There is **POWER** in the **WORD** of **GOD!!**

The Bible has an incredible wisdom to it that is timeless and applies to all of us in all times. The word of God has the ability to speak into our lives and touch our souls. It says a great deal about the nature of God, but it also reveals a great deal about our human condition. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing the soul and spirit, joints, and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Dr. Frances Collins was quoted in "Reliable Truth" by Richard Simmons III saying, "If we don't have a great love for the truth, we most certainly will never find it." The truth is found in the word of God.

William Wilberforce stated, "There is no shortcut to holiness, it must be the business of our lives."

Jesus Himself told us in John 15:4... "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." We are called to remain and abide in Jesus, and the way we remain in Him is through Scripture. See for yourself, go outside and cut a limb off a tree or branch off a shrub and see how long it lives!

A. W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." That means we should do everything we can to have our view of God tethered to God's word and not our own imagination. We must remember that the Bible is God's divine revelation to His creation. It is how He speaks to us. It is how He teaches us about who He is. Which means, if our goal is to have a real, personal connection with God, then it is by immersing ourselves in His very words that we will grow in our understanding of who He is. **The Power of God's word has:**

- **Power to Reveal: Genesis 1-2** The power of God is revealed and experienced in His word. To know His word is to know and experience His power. It has the power to reveal to us certain things that we could not know in any other way. For example, how and when the world was created, the reason man is the way he is- sin, the true nature of God, and what happens to us after we die.
- **Power to Refute: 2 Timothy 3:16** God's word is a standard which all philosophies, ideas and proposed solution for the human condition can be measured for accuracy. If God's word approves it, we can run with it, if the Word rejects it, nothing we can do will make it work. **2 Corinthians 10:5** "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
- **Power to Reproduce: Luke 8:11** Jesus said that the word of God was like a seed. The word has the power to grow or cause growth to happen. The word planted in an honest and obedient heart can produce physical acts which can be seen and felt. The only actual thing we hand down from generation to generation is God's word contained in the Bible.
- **Power to Re-direct: 1 Peter 2:25** Peter "For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and guardian of your soul." **Ephesians 4:22-24** "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on a new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." **Romans 12:2** "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will." This comes by reading and saturating ourselves in His word.
- **Power to Revive: Psalm 138:7** "In the midst of trouble, you will revive me." **Psalm 19:7** "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." The word is able to bring comfort and hope, as well as strength and encouragement to those who are in sorrow and are suffering. It is interesting to note that hospital patients, grieving widows, and the lonely rarely request Darwin's Theory of Evolution or the TV guide to be read to them in time of pain and sorrow. God's word is what they ask for and read.
- **Power to Reward: Hebrews 11:6** "For he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." The word reveals who God is, what He desires, and what He is preparing to give to those who believe and obey Him. God's word is the bonding mechanism that bonds us to Himself and His people. It is our greatest and most precious reward. **Isaiah 49:23** "Those who hope in Me will not be disappointed."
- **Power to Get Us Ready: Luke 12:40** "You too, be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when ye think not."... The word of God is the only source of information that can help us prepare for this sure event in our lives. Also, He prepares us to a different kind of living, one that does not embrace the world. We see our need to change the way we live, the need for repentance and forgiveness, and the need for a relationship with Jesus.

Saturate Yourself in HIS WORD!!

We encourage and challenge you to look up each scripture, meditate on them and ask God to open the eyes of your heart.



The Word of God:

- Guides our steps: Psalm 119:105
- Directs us to wisdom: Psalm 119:30
- It lifts our burdens: Psalm 119:28
- Brings joy: Psalm 16:11
- Gives us peace: John 16:33; John 14:27
- Is infallible: 2 Timothy 3:16
- It is complete: Matthew 5:18
- Totally Authoritative: Psalm 119:89
- Sufficient for all of our needs: Philippians 4:19
- Our greatest protection. It is a shield: Hebrews 4:12
- Accomplishes what it promises and doesn't return void: Isaiah 55:11

We Welcome Our New Members that Joined During “Covid 2020”

Alison Giddens- We started visiting First Pres on Wednesday nights when our kids joined the youth activities. We enjoyed the people, the fellowship and felt at home quickly. The classes and sermons were sound scriptural teaching which was most important to us. We have 3 boys, 17, 15 and 12 that attend Unity Christian. My husband Jeff and I are both Physical Therapists. I like reading and hanging out with the dog. I love the ladies I know at FPC and hope to get to walk with the group soon, jump in on a Bible study and get to know others as we seek to know Him more. Oh yes big UGA fans...Go Dawgs!



Sheri Hillesheim- Sheri came to us from Columbus Ohio. She and her husband Paul and their two children, Abigail, 11 and Brianna, 8 have been in Rome for 2 ½ years. They joined our church because of its reformed theology, biblical preaching of the gospel and our strong children's program. Sheri is busy as a stay-at-home mom. Prior to children she had a career as a Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist. Her hobbies include crafting, photography, hiking, and learning to garden. She loves connecting with other women in small groups. She has the gift of service and listening.

Millie Matthews- Millie is from Rome and her husband Jay from Moultrie, Ga. They have three grown children. Jim and wife Natalie are expecting their first child, Hampton, in August. Will and wife Kara live in Rome and have 14-month-old Makenna. Their youngest Becky lives in Atlanta. Millie is blessed to be able to keep Makenna several days a week and loves being “MIMI”. She is an evangelical Christian, and they joined our church because of the seriousness of purpose and joy in truthful teaching from scripture. Her hobbies are her family, following sports and reading. She has a heart for the unborn and was thrilled that our church supports this through involvement with Haven Health.

Mandy McInturff- Mandy is not new to the church. She and her family have been regular attenders since 2016. Mandy has served in leadership for our MOPS group for the last 5 years. She and her husband, John, and their two girls, ages 3 and 5, decided that First Pres was the church they wanted to call home. Mandy was a Unit Marketing Director of Chick-fil-A in Chattanooga before God called her and her husband to serve in the Winshape Foundation. Although Mandy's primary job is now homeschooling her girls, John continues to serve Winshape as Director of Sales. Mandy enjoys spending time with her family, exploring nature with her girls and reading in her free time. As her girls grow older, Mandy would love to be more involved in Women's Ministry, possibly as a mentor to young women.

Rebecca Johnson- Rebecca decided to join First Pres after her son, Bob and his wife moved back to Rome. She was a member of a neighboring church but thought it would be nice to worship with her family. She is Ross Johnson's aunt and sister-in-law of Billy Johnson. She previously played the violin in the Rome Symphony and enjoys her home and her garden.

Lynn Beaver- Lynn is a native Roman. She joined FPC after many active years at First Baptist. She is the mother of Bill Pardue, so no need to explain why she came to FPC. Lynn has another son, Jim, who with his wife Lila and their two children, live in Nashville. She is blessed with 6 grandchildren with one on the way. Lynn came to serve, immediately jumping right in and teaching 4-year-olds in Sunday School and also on Wednesday night. Her love for children is reflected from having taught kindergarten for 35 years. She works part-time at a children's boutique, but in her spare time she loves reading, spending time with her grandchildren and working with flowers.

New Members Continued...

Kattera Cochran- Kattera and her husband, Garrett and children live in the Rosedale Community just north of Rome. She has four children, ages 9, 8, 7, 5. Kattera is a homeschooling mom, who finds great joy in teaching her children. Though her free time is sparse, she loves being outside. One of her favorite things to do is mowing the lawn, being able to see the fruits of her labor right away.

Cathy Gartman - Cathy and her husband, Todd moved to Rome from Tampa, Florida. They have lived in Colorado, Greenville, South Carolina and Birmingham, Al. They moved to Rome to be near family in Georgia and Alabama. Cathy and Todd have two grown daughters. She is an Interior Designer and loves art and all things creative.

Bethany Johnson- Bethany and her husband, Jonathan moved to Rome from Sharpsburg, Georgia, near Newnan. They have 5 children. Her son Emery is married to Emily Katherine who sings with our Praise Team on Sundays. The other 4 children are either attending or have graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky. Bethany has one special grandchild. She loves walking, staying fit and reading in her spare time.

Lauren Walker- Lauren is a graduate of Shorter University. She and her husband, Joel, have two children ages 6 and 4. The Walkers were drawn to FPC because of the Bible based teaching and preaching and the love they were shown from our congregation. Lauren works at Georgia Highlands College. In her free time she enjoys hiking, walking and reading.

Stacey Pardue- Stacey was born and raised just south of Birmingham, Alabama. She graduated from Troy University with a degree in Nursing and was a NICU nurse for 8 years. She was widowed 3 ½ years ago. Her late husband had a rare form of sarcoma. They had two children together, Nola 7 and Grey 6. In God's providence she married Bill Pardue a year ago and together they have 4 children, Lizzy, 15 and Sam, 13, and one sweet baby girl on the way. She has loved moving to Rome. She remarked that she is so thankful to be a part of our FPC and knows God has great things in store for our church.

Juanita Harris – Juanita and her husband John joined March 8, 2020.

Ministry accomplishments during Covid

God was not surprised by this pandemic. He told us in his word that He did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power, love and of self-control. Nothing stops God and nothing should stop His people.

- We continued to serve many meals to the Ruth and Naomi House, our local Women's shelter.
- Amanda Davidson continued her bible studies in person and on zoom and we added a study of Ruth.
- We enjoyed using Facebook/Instagram (Thank you Natalie) for outreach through teachings, devotionals, and women sharing their favorite ornaments to inspire others. We walked together in our "Walking Ministry", told of our favorite books or thoughts on our "storyteller series and had two live events with speakers Karon Schabert and Stacey Pardue.
- We were able to decorate our church with poinsettias and wreaths for our Christmas celebration even though we watched the services on Facebook.
- The Women's council started a "Covid Connection" group so we could reach every women in the church during this time of isolation. We delivered coffee mugs, sent out Valentines, emails and made phone calls.
- Out of this period of isolation came the monthly newsletter so we could share the word of God with you when we couldn't gather together.

May Birthdays

May 1 – Kelly Wilson
May 3 – Andrea Sartorato
May 5 – Peggy Cowan
May 6 – Joyce Van Leuven
May 7– Tammy Richardson
May 9 – Patti Causey, Elizabeth Wilkes
May 11 – Joni Pittman
May 12– Mary Grace Davis
May 13 – Jennifer Edwards
May 14 – Leslie Finley
May 23 – Angie Stegall
May 24 – Marie Carlisle
May 25 – Barbara Brewster, Emily Barrett, Annaliese Clevenger
May 27 – Patti Ledbetter
May 28 – Phyllis Hancock
May 29 – Mary Taylor
May 31 – Mary Holcomb

Thank you!

We want to thank our Women's Ministry leaders and council for the great job they did keeping us connected during the Pandemic.

Our Leaders: Holly Shadday and Natalie Stegall.

Council members: Jenny Bojo, Margaret Crego, Frances Edwards, Kelly Espy, Karen Johnson, Susi Manning, Julie Mooring, Chris Morgan, Virginia Saunders, Katey Temple, Sally Johnson, Pam Morgan, Nan Marie Cash, Kelly Gates and Angie Stegall.



First Presbyterian

ROME

101 E. Third Ave
Rome, GA 30161