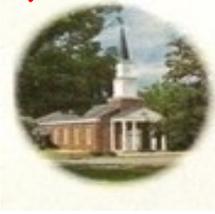


September 2020

Spreading the Good News

editor Daisy Wilson



First Presbyterian Church
Douglas, GA.



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Surrounded by Angels

Compassion and courage were all it took to rescue a family caught in a deadly rip current a couple years ago in Panama City Beach, Florida. Nothing else was available, and it turns out, those qualities were more than enough.

Instead of the fun swim they had planned, a family comprised of Roberta, Albert, and their children, ages 8, 11 and 18, plus a nephew and Roberta's mother, became trapped in a powerful rip tide. Roberta first realized her young sons were in trouble when she got to shore ahead of them, and they begin screaming they couldn't follow. The mom hurried to help her kids and was quickly followed by other family members. The current snaring the youngsters was inescapably fierce, and soon all were in danger of drowning, while the eight-year-old daughter watched helplessly on the sand.

Another couple enjoying the ocean after an unplanned beachside supper heard the screams and realized what was happening. Jessica Simmons picked up a discarded boogie board and dashed into the water toward the family stranded nearly 100 yards from shore. Her husband Derek marshalled bystanders to grab arms to form a human rope across the waves. One by one, people joined the arms-length chain. Those who couldn't swim stayed near shore while others went to the front of the line in water up to their necks and then deeper. Eventually nearly 80 people were linked in the string of hands.

Derek was at the farthest point of the line, and it was still a few feet short of the drowning swimmers. With the help of the boogie board, Jessica and Derek shuttled the struggling family to the outstretched hands of the human chain. Starting with the young boys, then Roberta's mom who was suffering a heart attack from the ordeal, every person was transported along the chain to safety.

In media interviews since their rescue, Roberta has called the chain-forming beachgoers her "angels," especially the Simmons who spearheaded the effort. Angels, indeed. No lifeguards were on duty at the time, and law enforcement personnel were waiting for rescue boats.

Sometimes life sucks you under and you can't escape. The swirling waters break over your head. There is no foothold and exhaustion whispers you'll never survive. People you might expect to help aren't there or won't venture into the churning deep.

And sometimes, an “angel” stretches out a hand. Perhaps regular people pause when they hear your cry and realize that a hand is what you need most, especially when other assistance is lacking. Maybe they join forces with others - folks probably different from themselves and strangers at that - and together they form an unexpected chain of compassion.

It takes compassion to care about someone else's distress and courage to attempt aid. It takes courage to follow a bold example into waters over your head. It maybe takes more courage to call out for help, to grasp the outstretched hand of a stranger, and to allow yourself to be passed along a chain of compassionate “angels.”

*Either way, you are not alone.
Compassionate and courageous “angels” surround you!*



September Birthdays

Allison Camp...September 04

Langston Camp...September 04

Rick Reed...September 06

Bristol Camp...September 12

Janice Chambers...September 12

Lori Hennesy...September 12

Duane Tony...September 17

Jon Lewis...September 17

Jackie fussell...September 18

Judy Davis...September 22

John McLean...September 23

Holly Hennesy...September 24

Mia Pearce...September 24

T C Griffin September 30

Millie Pitts...September 30

Guidelines for reopening of the Sunday Morning Services at 11 AM on September 13th

- 1) No Sunday School**
- 2) Services will still be available virtually on Facebook or on the website**
- 3) Touchless temperature check at front door... Entrance**
- 4) Exit side door**
- 5) Masks required**
- 6) Touchless hand sanitizer in Narthex**
- 7) Practice social distancing**
- 8) Spacing in pews**
- 9) Offering plate at Exit (side entrance)**
- 10) Photo will be taken of congregation while seated in pews for contract tracing (if needed)**
- 11) Church will be disinfected after each service**



Congratulations to Eric & Gigi Nwawel!!!

Expecting a baby boy in September...



Sue has written another beautiful Poem.

It may be my favorite yet!!!

Hope you enjoy it as well.

I'VE BEEN TOLD

I don't know but I've been told,
The streets in heaven are paved with gold.

I don't know but I've been told,
The devil himself is mighty bold.

I don't know but I've been told,
Methuselah lived to be mighty old.

I don't know but I've been told,
That angels sang the joy foretold.

I don't know but I've been told,
That Hell is not the least bit cold.
I don't know but I've been told,
We should all be part of Jesus's fold.

I don't know but I've been told,
That God's voice sounds like thunder rolled.
But there's one thing that I truly do know,
Jesus died on the cross to save my soul.

Sue Knox Dedmond

August 20, 2020



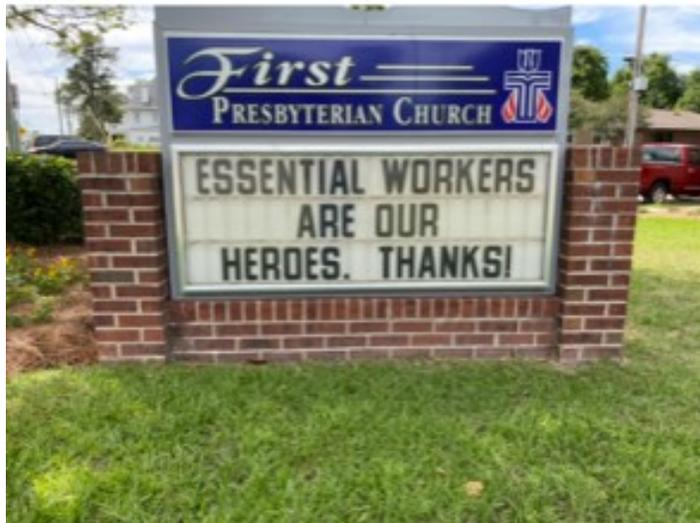
JOIN US FOR
A DROP OFF SHOWER
ERIC AND GISELAINE NWAWEL
ARE WELCOMING A NEW SON

JAY AYDEN

DROP OFF ANYTIME BETWEEN NOW AND SEPT 5
DROP OFF AT LYLE TYRE'S, 602 FOREST CIRCLE, DOUGLAS

NURSERY NEEDS INCLUDE:
DIAPERS (3 MONTHS AND UP)
WIPES
CHANGING PAD
BABY CREEP BOMBER AND CREEP COVER
AFTERNOON LOTION AND SOAP

GIVEN BY FPC WOMEN OF THE CHURCH



Continue to keep all our essential workers in your prayers especially those who have dedicated themselves to working the Covid-19 unit at CRMC.

**The Will of God never takes you to where the
Grace of God will not protect you.**



Remember when... Elders

Lewis found this photo(1964) of the steeple of the church before it was installed to its current position. Maybe you have some treasured photos that would bring back pleasant memories for all of us. If so, please send them to me at bwison41@windstream.net

An update from Frances Ayers.

1 Original Problem

At the end of July, Ed had severe kidney stone pain. While in the emergency room, they found 5 kidney stones in the left kidney and 1 huge one in the right. They treated him for the pain and set up an appointment with his regular urologist. A few days later they called to say he needed to get to the emergency room because his blood test numbers were extremely bad.



On July 29, I took him to the ER where they told us he was in complete renal failure. The 5 stones had “clustered” together to block the left kidney. The huge stone had now moved to block the right kidney. They put in nephrostomy tubes – one in each kidney - to drain the kidneys and in preparation for dialysis if necessary. He then went into ICU and was there for 10 days. The first 4 or 5 days were extremely difficult as heart attack, stroke and/or death were strong possibilities due to the kidney failure. After 10 days in ICU and constant treatment things slowly began to correct themselves and Ed was able to come home.

After a week at home I took him back to the hospital for a surgical procedure to remove all stones. That was successful, a stent was put into each kidney and he came home again. Approximately one week later a second procedure was done to remove the stents and the nephrostomy tubes. All was successful and he came home to begin recovery.

During the process, Ed lost almost 20 pounds and was as weak as I have ever seen him. The doctors said that because of all that his body had been through it could take 2 months or more to really regain his strength, energy and stamina.

2 **Latest Update:** Yesterday, Thursday, August 28, Ed had a follow up visit with the urologist. A blood test was done to make sure things were on the right path. All vitals and bodily functions are doing well and exactly on target. The results of the blood test were that all blood levels are excellent and the areas which were the deepest concerns are “pretty near perfect now.” Thanks be to God, doctors and the prayers of dear friends!

A very important part of this is that God has been in this process in some powerful and amazing ways even from the beginning in the first emergency room visits. There is much too much to share here but many things we can only classify in the “miracle” category. Ed is now on the road to recovery. While progress is daily and positive it is – of course – much too slow for him! Still, we are praying and trusting God’s healing and Ed is praying fervently for **patience**.

Thanks to all the dear folk in Douglas for their cards, notes, encouragement and prayers. We, in turn, have been and will remain in prayer for all of you: thankful for the wonderful days in Douglas and prayers for God’s future there and for reopening under the capable leadership of your new pastor.

God bless you all!
Frances



Peace begins with a smile. Mother Teresa