



THE UPDATE

August 2022

The Pastor's Pen



I was very saddened to open the paper last Friday to see that my Food Lion friend Tommy Brown had died. The last couple times I had been to the store I noticed that Tommy was not there, but I thought to myself he was probably on vacation. I was wrong. Tommy did not come to work one day, which was not like him, and a Food Lion employee and Ricky Daniels went up to his apartment, kicked the door in, and found him lifeless in the bed.

I went to the Davie Ave. store after reading his obituary and you could feel the aura of sadness in the building, and you could see it on the faces of his co-workers. They were shell shocked. It was then that I became acutely aware of how much life, joy, and kindness his life brought to everyone in that store.

My son, Parker, worked in that store for about six years and he loved Tommy and Tommy loved Parker. When I would come in there, he would always brag on Parker and tell me how good a job he did and how blessed I was to have a boy like him. He was right but that knife cuts both ways. I say, how blessed Parker was to have a friend like Tommy.

In his previous career, Tommy was a successful golfer at Statesville High and he then got a golf scholarship to Gardner-Webb; and then after college, he worked in the golf industry for several years as a pro. I did not know him then, but it seems that it was after he started working at Food Lion that he really blossomed into sharing his gift of friendship with everybody who walked through that door. He was a rock on Davie Avenue, someone everyone could count on.

I know from personal conversations with Tommy that he had some struggles in his life, but he was a man of Christian faith and we talked about the gospel on many occasions. I went to the funeral home to pay my respects to him and what a wonderful set up his children did for him to honor his life. Tommy loved to fish and camp with his kids and grandson. He wrote handwritten letters to his children, telling them how much he loved them and how proud he was of them.

If you shopped the store on Davie and went to the produce section then you know how kind, loving, and friendly this man was to all who came in his path. I don't think Tommy had a lot of earthly wealth but I do think that he had a lot of treasure in heaven and his greatest treasure was love. There in the store, on the display table honoring his life, you will find his pocket Bible where he highlighted all of I Corinthians 13. **"In the end, these three remain, faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."** - I Cor. 13:13

I am so glad I got to know Tommy Brown, and I would like to encourage you to get to know people as well. You will be encouraged by them and plus you can share the gospel with them, when the time is right. Most people will give a listen if you are kind and genuine. Life is short so **“let your light shine before all men, so that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.”** - Matt. 5:16

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

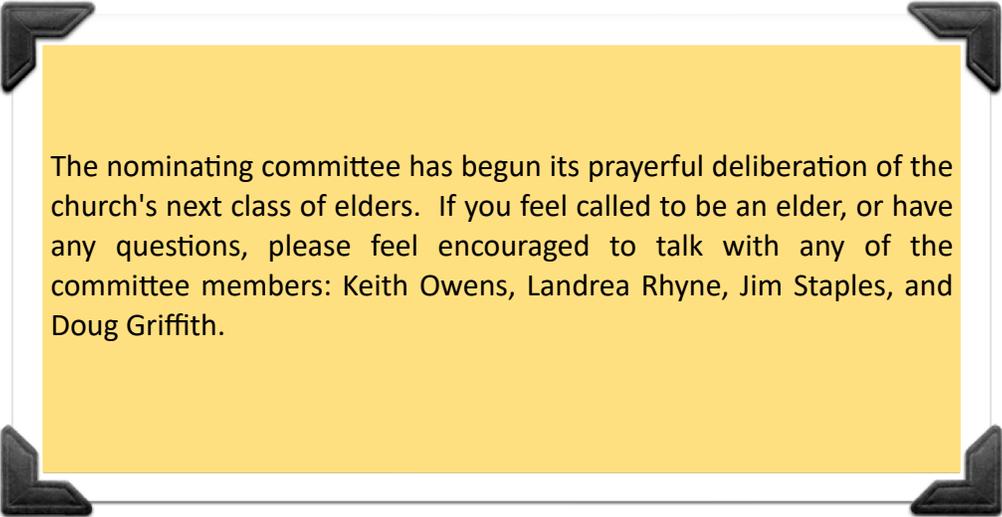
AUGUST PREACHING SCHEDULE: A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

August 7 - “If My People Who are Called by My Name” II Chronicles 7: 11 - 22

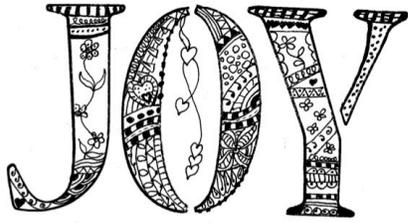
August 14 - “For Your Comfort and Salvation” II Corinthians 1 : 1 - 11

August 21 - “Rebuilding the Temple of the Lord” Ezra 3: 10 - 13; 6: 3 - 5; 13 - 18

August 28 - “Make it Clear and Give the Meaning” Nehemiah 8: 1 - 8



The nominating committee has begun its prayerful deliberation of the church's next class of elders. If you feel called to be an elder, or have any questions, please feel encouraged to talk with any of the committee members: Keith Owens, Landrea Rhyne, Jim Staples, and Doug Griffith.



The JOY fellowship met on July 20. Following lunch, we celebrated National Ice Cream month with dessert of ice cream with various toppings. We then enjoyed a time of singing our favorite hymns. This was very ably led by Brad Rashley, who sang and played and made our singing experience a joyful one. Jim Brendle contributed his

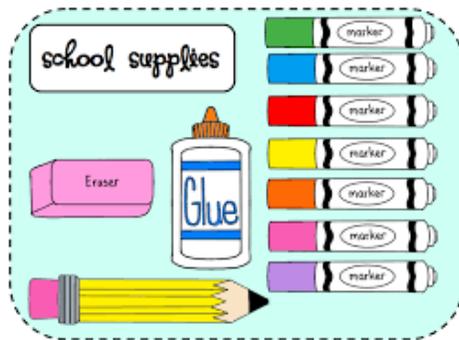
“whistling” talent to each hymn we sang! This time was truly inspirational. Looking forward to our next fellowship together. The next JOY luncheon will be August 17 at noon. Musical entertainment will be provided by Pastor Scott.

Online

<https://www.forestparkpres.org> Check it out! Forest Park Presbyterian Church website. Up to date information online. Links to past Sunday sermons and Weekly Word of Encouragement. This online mission is a work in progress!

Forest Park Presbyterian Church channel on youtube.com Our Sunday services are available to see online and live streaming. They are archived and you can go back to watch our services at your convenience. You can also subscribe to the channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ6HozKk70sDOhIjSMJg14g/featured>

July/August Mission Focus



Time to start gathering school supplies for Cloverleaf Elementary School! We will have a table in the narthex ready for collection during July and August.

- book bags (without wheels)
- facial tissues
- hand sanitizer
- pencils (#2 lead)
- markers
- glue sticks
- paper

July Church Dinner Success What a great turnout for hamburgers and hotdogs and all the trimmings and, oh yes, Pastor Scott’s “world famous chili”. Chef Rick Rhyne was busy at the grill while the ladies made ready the serving tables and dessert bar. Thanks from Care Team 1 for the good attendance and fellowship.

The CE (Christian Education) committee met on June 28. Discussion followed regarding planning for a potential Sunday School class for children, obtaining teacher, and availability of nursery for Sunday School hour and worship service.

- Kathy Hoover will be the nursery coordinator for Sunday school and Worship.
- Judy Kennedy will be teaching the middle/high school class.
- Beth Lail will be teaching the young adult class.

Further discussion included Kids Club activity and obtaining youth advisors for youth program. Anyone wishing to teach the children's class or volunteer for other CE programs should call Nan Weatherman at 704-872-2954.

Information for Sponsor letters from Mwandu school staff

Don't forget the impact you are making when you pour your heart and soul into a letter. Sometimes you may receive a disappointing response. It's natural to feel discouraged or wonder if your support is even making a difference. While the letters you receive back may not always be what you hope for never forget the impact your letters and support are having on both your sponsored child and their family and indeed the wider community. If you would like to write to your sponsored child please put your letter into an envelope and even add some stickers or postcard or photos. Keep it flat. Please do not use any of your details – just your name. Please give your letters to Kathy Hoover to be mailed with all the others.



Mark your calendars! What better way to reach out to our neighbors than an evening of music, games and food. Let's give a Forest Park welcome to our neighbors and enjoy the fellowship.

AUG
13



**PUT THIS
on YOUR
CALENDAR!**

FOREST PARK NEIGHBOR NIGHT

You're Invited!
Forest Park Presbyterian Church
5pm - 7pm

Please join us for live music, free food
(while it lasts), games and fellowship!

June Session In Brief

The Session congratulated Dan and Sherry Winslow on the birth of their grandson, Ian Eugene Artz, son of Avery and Michael Artz.

There was no financial report. The treasurer will provide Session with quarterly reports.

Scott reported that he and his family enjoyed their trip to Olive Hill, Kentucky, to visit Kathy's son, Bruce. He also shared some communications from the church. He expressed concern that church attendance has declined 53 percent in the past 20 years.

There was some discussion about providing more services to encourage young families to attend FPPC. The Christian Ed. committee will meet this week, and the Session will revisit the topic.

Property Report (Johnny Hoover): Alarm South is adding two cameras, one in the front of the sanctuary and one in the narthex, in response to the break-in that occurred several months ago. We will be adding several solar cameras outside as well. Parlier Heating and Air will replace the AC unit. Painting in the fellowship hall has been completed, and a mini-AC unit has been put in the kitchen area.

Nominating Report (Keith Owens): The Nominating Committee is meeting to develop a slate of officers for next year. Anyone who would like to volunteer for consideration can contact him.

Mission/Outreach (Laurel Andrews): Laurel, Doug, and J.D. Dotson met to learn more about livestreaming. More people now know how to run the technology in case Tommy can't be at church. Laurel and Tommy met with Jason Martin, who said it is simple to do point-to-point from the sanctuary dish to the fellowship hall. There will be a one-time cost for the satellite, and we might also need a booster for the Wi-Fi. Laurel will send a text and an email with a link to the newsletter.

