

Faith Speaks

Here we are in October again, which means it's Reformation Month! In honor of Reformation Month, I want to share with you a little bit about my favorite reformer – John Knox.

John Knox was born around 1514 in Scotland. He is well known for being one of the founders of the Presbyterian branch of the reformed faith. But he is best known for his zealous and bold preaching, even in the face of tyranny and certain death.

Knox started his ministry career as a bodyguard for a Reformation preacher named George Wishart. Knox would follow Wishart around carrying a large two-handed Scottish claymore on his shoulders, should anyone try and attack the preacher. In 1547, French troops invaded Scotland and took many people prisoner, including Knox. He was forced to be a galley slave for over a year. After this, he was exiled to England. While in England, Knox helped Thomas Cranmer to write the Book of Common Prayer. His giftedness as a pastor and preacher was evident to everyone, even King George the 6th, who appointed him as his personal chaplain.

When King George died, the infamous Mary

Tudor “Bloody Mary” rose to power. Mary detested the protestant reformers and sought after Knox’s head, which caused him to flee to Geneva in Switzerland, where he teamed up with John Calvin and other reformers to help write the Geneva Bible, the very first study Bible. But Knox’s heart was always being pulled back to Scotland. He is quoted as saying: “I feel a sob and a groan, wanting that Jesus should be openly preached in my native country, even if it should be at the loss of my own life.” And there is his even more famous prayer, “Lord, give me Scotland or I die!”

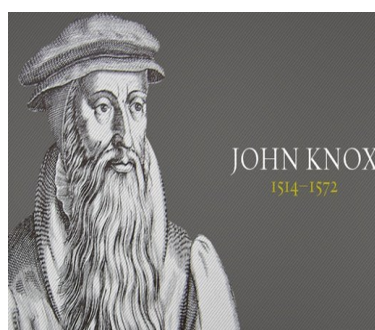
When Knox finally did return to Scotland, he was a wildfire! He preached the gospel with boldness and zeal. His passion was that people would denounce their idols, bishops, and popes, and they would see the free grace of God offered in Jesus Christ.

He was also known for his passionate prayers. Mary Queen of Scots (another Queen Mary who wanted Knox dead) said, “I fear the prayers of John Knox more

than all the assembled armies of Europe.”

Despite the pushback of Mary Queen of Scots, French forces, and the Roman Catholic church, Knox, through his preaching and the help of the Holy Spirit, was able to help establish Protestantism as the official religion of Scotland. The whole world at times seemed against him, but Knox would say, “A man alone with God is always in the majority.”

Despite his passion and preaching success, Knox was reluctant to enter the pulpit. He was a man of short stature, not wealthy, not well-educated. The first time someone asked him to preach, he burst into tears and fled the room. You will sometimes hear people say, “God will never give you more than you can handle.” Tell that to the Apostle Paul. Tell that to Peter. Tell that to John Knox. (continued on page 2)



Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. John Cleveland

Church Administrator

Melinda Hawkins

Music Director

Nancy Lowry

Financial Secretary

Brooke Echols

Treasurer

Ronnie Burch

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2023

Session Members

John Cleveland
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Dan Patterson
Mark Watts

Deacons

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian

Pray that the Lord will bless the preaching and teaching ministry of the church to gather and build up the saints, that God's word will grow and multiply, and that our witness, love, and holiness will increase by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask the Lord to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit for counsel, wisdom, understanding, and the fear of the Lord, that we may share in our Savior's life and grace.

For the following, pray for health, comfort and fellowship with God during a period of sickness, that the Lord will give them faith, patience, joy and submission to his will.

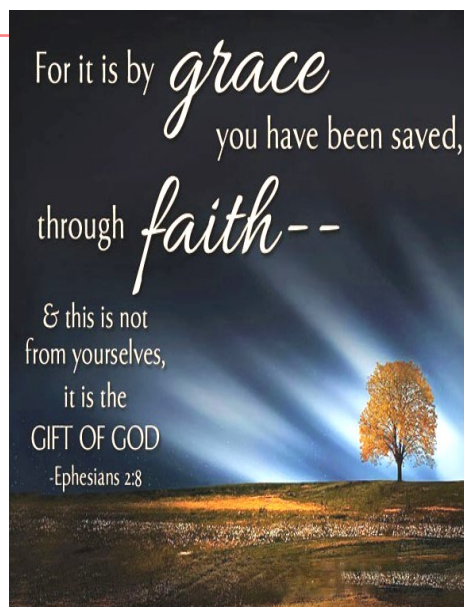
- ♦ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ♦ **Miles Pass:** 5y/o with leukemia
- ♦ **Jordan Israel:** speedy recovery from brain surgery
- ♦ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ♦ **Donna Criger:** Corticobasal Degeneration
- ♦ **Jimmy Brock:** upcoming biopsy
- ♦ **Wylene Eason:** recovering from injury
- ♦ **Mark Gredler:** recovering from injury
- ♦ **Teresa Harvey:** moving to England 10/31
- ♦ **Wilson Station EPC in Tennessee**
- ♦ **Children in Foster Care**
- ♦ **Our Shut-Ins**
- ♦ **The Lost**
- ♦ **Our Elders and Deacons**
- ♦ **President Biden and Congress**
- ♦ **Supreme Court**
- ♦ **Persons serving in our Military**
- ♦ **Law Enforcement Officers**
- ♦ **Emergency Responders**
- ♦ **Our Nation**

Praise:

- ♦ **Myra Echols** PET scan came back clear
- ♦ **Jordan Israel's** surgery went well: all tumor removed

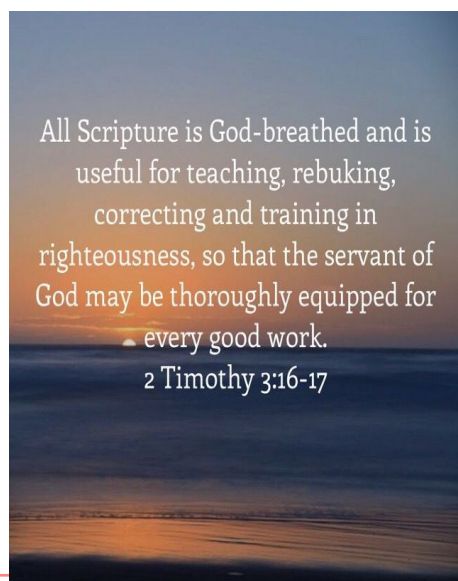
Please pray for our missionaries:

- ♦ **Phil and Diane Thrash**
- ♦ **Gary and Jackie Burnett**
- ♦ **Santosh John**
- ♦ **Keith and Rachel Keller**
- ♦ **Jeff & Veronique Kim**
- ♦ **Jenny Coon**
- ♦ **Mike Rasmussen**



If you have a prayer request or a praise report that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please email them to: faithepcrus@gmail.com by Monday, October 31st.

This would include any **NEW** or **OLD** requests that you would like to have included. This section is renewed monthly.



(Continued from page 1)

The truth is God often gives us more than we can handle. Why? So that we can depend on him in faith for everything. John Knox did not do great things for God because he was sufficient, but because his God was sufficient. To quote the man one more time, "No man is so regenerate, that he does not continually have need of the means which Christ Jesus has appointed to be used in his kirk (his church)." Happy Reformation Month!

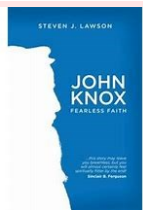
God bless!
Pastor John

I have never once feared the devil, but I tremble every time I enter the pulpit.

No one else holds or has held the place in the heart of the world which Jesus holds. Other gods have been as devoutly worshipped; no other man has been so devoutly loved.

John Knox

From the Pastor's Shelf...



"John Knox: Fearless Faith"
– Steven J. Lawson

So, let me confess, this one isn't yet on my shelf, but I have ordered it for my shelf. Lawson has written many great biographies on famous preachers, like Martin Lloyd Jones, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, John Calvin, and others. Lawson's books are never too long but are packed with gripping detail. I'm looking forward to this one!



"The Prince's Poison Cup"
– R.C. Sproul

Parents, if you're looking for a children's book for your kids this Christmas, this might be the one. Sproul presents an enchanting fantasy story with a powerful gospel message. This book would be suitable for kids ages 5 to 10. We will have some copies in our Church bookstore soon!

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

"The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:17

the Hangout

Are you a 4th to 12th grader?

You don't want to miss out on the fun and excitement of our hangouts!

Our next hangout
October 14th
at 6:00 pm
Bring a friend!

Fellowship News

Girlfriends in Faith

We will have our first meeting at the new start time of 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, October 21st. Ladies attending are asked to bring a brunch-type dish to share. A 20 minute Women of the Bible DVD will also be presented. All ladies of Faith are invited to attend to enjoy the food, the fellowship, and an encouraging Bible study DVD.

Men's Book Study

Our Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. We are studying 1 Corinthians. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. Contact Mark Watts for more information.

Ladies Bible Study

Our Ladies Bible study is taking a short break. Stay tuned for our next upcoming study. Contact Sara Cleveland if you have any questions.

BOOK NOOK

Check out the bookshelf in the Narthex. We have excellent books available for your Christian growth.

The September regular Session Meeting was held on Thursday, September 3rd, at the church.

The Session discussed the reading of chapters 13 through 16 of "Gentle and Lowly."

The Session discussed and set dates for the following activities:

- GA Football Game Day
Saturday, September 30th
- Men's cookout
Saturday, October 21st
- Biscuit Giveaway Day
Friday, October 27th
- Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, November 19th
- Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24th

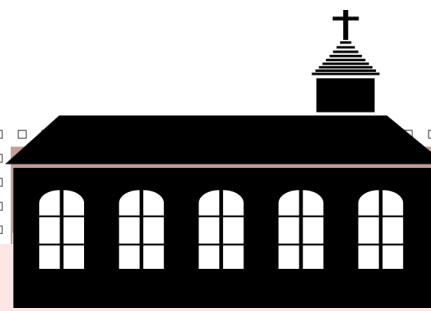
There was a discussion of the next Presbytery meeting to be held in Knoxville, TN, on October 6th and 7th at Community Evangelistic Church.

The 2024 missionaries were reviewed for existing and potential new missionaries.

The Session discussed the attendance list, the prayer needs of the congregation, and potential new Deacon candidates.

The next Session meeting will be October 5th at 5:30 PM.

John Cleveland, Moderator
Dan Patterson, Clerk
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Mark Watts



Calendar

- ♦ October 1 The Lord's Day
- ♦ October 1 Communion
- ♦ October 5 Men's Study
- ♦ October 8 The Lord's Day
- ♦ October 8 Pastor Appreciation
- ♦ October 12 Men's Study
- ♦ October 14 Youth Hangout
- ♦ October 15 The Lord's Day
- ♦ October 19 Men's Study
- ♦ October 21 Ladies Meeting
- ♦ October 21 Men's Cookout
- ♦ October 22 The Lord's Day
- ♦ October 26 Men's Study
- ♦ October 27 Biscuit Giveaway
- ♦ October 29 The Lord's Day

September 2023

Financial News

Donations:

\$24,814.00

Expenses:

\$27,192.27

P.O.P. Fund:

\$750.00

Mortgage Principal:

\$782,056.23



**We are having a
Big Biscuit
Giveaway!**

Friday, October 27th

7:00 am—9:00 am

**We will need volunteers!
People to help hand out
biscuits and people that
will serve in the
prayer tent.**

**Please be at the church
at 6:30 am if you can
volunteer!**

Financial Information January through September 2023

**General Fund income
\$249,002.03**

Expenses \$247,779.57

**Playground expenses not included in above expense number
\$21,489.96 (there were dedicated funds for the playground)**

**Building Loan balance
\$782,056.23**

**Building Loan Principal
reduction contributions
\$17,300.00**

**Bank account current balance
\$196,862.38.**

Outreach News

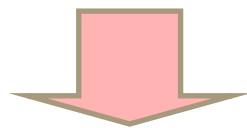
If you have a need that arises, or know of anyone that is in need, please reach out to our Deacons for assistance. They have the ability to reach out to the congregation on your behalf as well as physically meet your needs, or they can point you in the right direction for help.

Deacons of Faith

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian

Children's Sunday School

We have Sunday School classes for all ages!
We are in need of teachers!
Contact Susan Jones if you are interested in serving the children of Faith!



October Mission of the Month

Operation Christmas Child

www.samaritanspurse.org

Needs

You can find the list of approved donations on the table in the back of the sanctuary or make a monetary donation. We will gather gifts to fill our shoeboxes on November 4th.

Please place your items in the mission box in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for always giving so generously to those in need!



Volunteers Needed For Fellowship Time!

If you would like to provide refreshments, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Speak to a Deacon if you have any questions!

Thank You

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY
We appreciate your faithful service.

Sunday, October 8:
Pastor Appreciation
Sunday

The Girlfriends of Faith will provide special refreshments at fellowship time and there will be two baskets for John and Nancy for anyone who would like to bring a note, card, etc.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

COME JOIN US FOR A



SATURDAY | OCT. 21 | 4 PM

1185 EAST LAKE RD • www.FaithMcDonough.com

UPDATE FROM THE KELLER'S

We are thankful for your support, prayers, and encouragement!

This past weekend Rachel and I attended the funeral of a long time supporter. When we send email updates she was always quick to respond with encouragement and assurance of her prayers for us. I'm aware as I send this email I will miss her response as she has joined the great cloud of witnesses.

Becoming emotionally and spiritually healthy is a process that cannot be taken alone. To be spiritual formed means to be relationally formed. And, it takes relationships, community to be spiritual formed.

On one trip we sat in a circle of about 15 missionaries who had gathered around a task as a team. The relational tensions were palatable. We asked them, how many of you would say that you have unresolved anger toward someone else in this circle? Every hand went up. We were not surprised. We see this over and over again. Can I tell you, I've lived it too. The work that God had to do in my own heart was a long, slow process (still is) that took a beautiful group of people willing to fight hard for one another's hearts day in and day out over several years.

Rachel and I will be eternally grateful for the community God brought us in Prague who brought their own challenges and struggles, and also brought grace and courage to journey with us and call us to something more in our relationship with God and one another.

This is why we feel so honored to work with other teams and invite them into our ongoing process in the same places where we have struggled and continue to battle.

Thank you for your role in sending us with the gospel to some of the hardest places where evil attacks the strongest - to missionary teams!

Two trips coming up to pray for:

September 25th – 30th
Counselors from Charlotte

This team of 8 licensed counselors are in phase 3 of our process, called Redemption of our Stories. This is an intense week of looking at how our stories impact ways that we relate.

October 22nd – 31st
Missionaries and ministry leaders from Edinburgh, Scotland
This team is also in phase 3. We have been in relationship with this team for many years and I'm excited to go deeper with them.

Ways to pray:

Pray that hearts will be open to rest in the gospel in areas where there are still hurts and hang ups.

Pray for heart change that will impact the way they relate to their teammates and those they serve alongside.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for our team (Dale, Esther, and Keith) as we listen to stories of harm and engage their hearts with compassion and curiosity.

Pray for our ability to stay connected to the Father's heart as we battle evil.

Family News:

Eli had completed all of his pilot licensing including all of his instructor licensing! He's been struggling to find a job with a flight school in our area. Please pray that a flight instructor job will open up for him! He needs a lot of hours of flying before an airline will pick him up. Not being hired yet has been discouraging. In the meantime he got a little fishing in up in Virginia.



though we do get to enjoy frequent calls online. He was enjoying being a part of the worship team at church, but with his

new schedule he's not able to do that. Pray that he'll be able to stay connected to good community. Reading too many Calvin and Hobbes books growing up means he has to make a face when the camera is near.



Luke has started his freshman year. He's close enough to spend the weekends with us, but he has a

full work schedule during the weekends so we don't see him much. He's already made lots of friends as we knew he would. Pray that he stays connected to Christian community!

Rachel has started a full time online job with Georgia Cyber Academy. She's working with students who need extra help due to medical reasons or other factors that keep them from attending classes. The extra income will be a help in this economy.



Rachel and I had the privilege of joining the students from our church at beach camp this

summer. I enjoyed speaking to students again and she enjoyed being able to serve. AND... it was the exact location of where we used to do beach camp with students during our beloved Tomball days! It was crazy to be in the same place that holds so many great memories for us.

We continue to raise financial support through Paraclete in order to serve ministry leaders where they live overseas. Your support helps fund the travel cost and allows us to be in person with missionaries and ministry leaders in ways that they would not be able to afford otherwise.

We are deeply thankful for you and your prayers! It is an incredible honor to continue to serve overseas workers who are dear to our hearts by strengthening their souls in the Lord.

With much love,
The Kellers



To the glory of God,
Faith Presbyterian Church
has been called together to
faithfully proclaim the
Gospel, to make and equip
disciples for Christ, and to
advance God's Kingdom
in our families, community,
and world.



Faith Presbyterian Church is a
congregation of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
(www.epc.org)
and the Presbytery of the Southeast
(www.epcsoutheast.org).

Our Church Website:
www.FaithMcDonough.com

Church Email:
faithepcrus@gmail.com

Church Phone Number:
770-648-5288

Mailing Address:
Faith Presbyterian Church EPC
1185 East Lake Road
McDonough, GA 30252

Semper Reformanda

According to the Word
of God

*For I am not
ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of
God for salvation to
everyone who believes,
to the Jew first
and also to the
Greek. For in it the
righteousness of God
is revealed from faith
for faith, as it is
written,
"The righteous shall live
by faith."*

Romans 1:16-17

CHOIR NEWS

If you would like to join
our choir, contact Nancy Lowry!
We would love for you to join us!

If you are interested in joining Faith Presbyterian Church (EPC), you may do so
by a profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, by a re-affirmation of your faith,
or by a transfer of your membership from another church.
Please speak with the an Elder if you have any questions about joining.

**HAPPY
OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS!**



NA Higginbotham	10/07
BJ Newton	10/07
Connie Donehoo	10/08
Beverly Echols	10/08
Lloyd Hunt	10/10
Les Glinski	10/11
Kynlee McClendon	10/15
Emily Hubbard	10/19
Marcia Daniel	10/19
Kay Horvath	10/23
Ralph Uecker	10/30
Peggy Campbell	10/31



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

October 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Communion
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship

2

3

4

5

7:00 Men's Bible
Study

6

7

8
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship
Pastor
Appreciation
Sunday

9

10

11

12

7:00 Men's Bible
Study

13

14

Youth Hangout
6:00 pm

15
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship

16

17

18

19

7:00 Men's Bible
Study

20

21

Ladies Meeting
11:00 am

Men's Cookout
4:00 pm

22
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship

23

24

25

26

7:00 Men's Bible
Study

27

*Biscuit
Giveaway*
7:00-9:00 am

28

29
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship

30

31