

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

**Church
Happenings**

**The church will
not be open for
in-person
worship
services
through
September**

**Church on
the Web!**

Service

**Sunday
mornings
starting
9 a.m.**

Website:

**www.fpcgburg
.org**

Facebook:

**@First
Presbyterian
Gburg**

Online Chats

**Monday
and
Wednesday
10 a.m.**

Sunday

**Conversations
Sunday 9:15 a.m.**



The Call

September Newsletter



www.fpcgburg.org

Wally Words

Signs of Grace

I have been amazed at the changes and challenges we have faced. None of us could have predicted the impact of this pandemic and the ways it has frayed and torn at our mental and physical health. We have all learned to do things differently and to be different. We have learned that a person who wears their mask is a sign of God's grace. We have learned that the technology of cameras and microphones and internet access is a sign of God's grace. We have learned that to love our neighbors, sometimes we have to go above and beyond the normal call to teach and feed and support. Sometimes we have to change or adapt so that others might have what they need as well.

Fred Rogers, ordained Presbyterian pastor and PBS star, once said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" That's something I have observed these past six months. We have seen God's grace in the health care providers who have shown up, some coming out of retirement at their own risk, so that those who were sick might have people to care for them. We have seen teachers do everything in their power to teach students who were no longer in their classroom. We have seen some of the lowest paid workers in our society - grocery store workers, fast food workers, and gas attendants - who continue to show up and make sure those of us that need groceries or gas or a meal are able to get what we need. All of these are signs of God's grace that sustains us and gives us hope.

Some of us are weary of our isolation and eager to reunite. Sometimes our emotions are frayed by anxiety so that our frustrations boil over, even at those we love. Some are tired of wearing masks and of keeping physical distance from one

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In the Church Library- Mike Gommel

From time to time, the church has been blessed to receive a bequest from the wills of church members. At least once, however, a legacy was denied to the church.

In the church archives are six copies of newspaper articles from *The Greensburg News*. The earliest article is dated October 13, 1905 , and the latest November 16, 1906. These articles detail a court case involving the will of William T. G——, with an estate valued at \$12,000. In his will, Mr. G—— made three bequests: \$150 to the Shiloh Methodist Church, \$500 to John R. G——, and the rest of the estate to the Greensburg Presbyterian Church.

The first article states that the family of Mr. G——, consisting of over 30 nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews, filed objections to the probate of the will on the grounds of unsound mind and other statutory complaints. The lawsuit involved thirteen attorneys from the firms of Ewing & Tremain, Bennet & Davidson, Ewing & Hamilton, Wickens & Osborn, and Tackett & Wilson. The church was represented by Goddard & Craig.

Among other things, the plaintiffs argued that the will had been probated by the clerk, not a judicial officer, and hence the act was void. Another argument was that the corporations of a religious character cannot take over \$5,000. Since the estate would have given the church \$11,000, the gift was void.

The arguments were apparently rejected, since a trial took place in November of 1906. Long story short, after deliberating a little over four hours, the jury found the late Mr. G—— to be of unsound mind, and the will was invalid.

It is to be hoped that the church was graceful in her defeat, but as we all know, the church is made up of human beings. I'm sure that there were a few humans within the church who must have giggled when a week after the trial a fourteenth lawyer appeared in court to represent John R. G——. Remember him? He was one of the three legatees of the will. Since he was not part of the lawsuit, nor was he represented by one of the thirteen lawyers involved, and did not appear in person as a party to the suit, the jury's verdict did not nullify his claim. He wanted his \$500 bucks.

There are a lot more details to this occasion than I have reported here, and looking it over, I cannot see any clear winner, at least in moral sense. I can, however, see one clear loser: the late William T. G——, who, whether justly or unjustly, was forever branded as being of unsound mind.

Wally Words continued from Page 1

another. To each of us, I want to say, keep strong and don't let the suffering of this moment overwhelm you. Show yourself a little grace. We have a God who redeems us.

In the meantime, may we have the courage to share God's grace with one another. Keep wearing your mask, even when everyone else has taken theirs off. Keep giving physical space, even when others are not keeping theirs. Keep finding ways to connect that are safe for both you and especially for your neighbor, for we are in this time together. May God bless us, every one!

Grace and Peace

Interim Pastor Wally Wilson

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765-278-3749

Prayer Focus for September**Worry or Not?**

All you have to do these days is worry:

Am I going to get the virus?

Am I going to give the virus to someone?

How are my friends and family?

Which city is going to have rioting this weekend?

How are the racial issues going to be solved?

Have you had enough? Turn on the television and get another dose. The other day I was in the chair at a dentist in Columbus. They asked me which television station I wanted to watch while I was getting a root canal. It was too late to select the cartoon channel because the drill was going.

I know we have to think about the troubles of the world, but there is plenty of that going on in the political parties. God says in Matthew that you cannot add a single hour to your life by worrying. The best antidote to worry is "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness . . ." So, let us seek them.

Polly Matlock, Care of Parish & Christian Ed Team

Happy Labor Day!

A special Thank You to:

**Our essential workers and our service people
who are keeping our country open and who are
committed to keeping us safe;**

**Those who have dedicated their lives to serve our
country and who are risking their lives for us.
Take a moment to say a prayer for our soldiers,
our essential workers, and our country.**



Thank You
to our service men



Thank You
to all essential workers



THE LIFE JOURNEY OF VIRGINIA (GINNY) GARVEY

Virginia Ann, who we call Ginny, was born on August 17, 1926, in Westport, Indiana. She was the youngest child of George and Zue Kelly and was raised and lived in Decatur County her whole life. When Ginny was in sixth grade, her father died in a car/train accident right before Christmas and was buried on December 26. She was sent to live with a strict Aunt and Uncle while her mother went back to school. When her mother finished her degree and became an elementary school teacher, Ginny returned home.

Ginny met her future husband, Richard (Dick) Garvey, when she was a sophomore in high school and he, the senior class president, walked into her classroom one day. Ginny graduated from Greensburg High School in 1944 and went on to Butler University, where Dick was already attending. She graduated in 1948 and was a proud member of Alpha Chi Omega.

While Richard had gone on to Law School, he and Ginny decided to get married. They wed on June 11, 1949. Although Ginny and her family never went to church growing up, Richard was a Catholic. They decided to raise their children as Catholics. Dick and Ginny returned to Greensburg where they embarked upon their careers and lovingly raised their three children: Greg, Brad, and Ann. Ginny taught physical education at all the Greensburg Community Schools for over 40 years. She also enjoyed coaching cheerleading and directing the Follies.

Richard Garvey passed away just four months after Ginny's retirement from teaching. She was so lost until her sister, Barbara Blare, invited her to come to the First

Presbyterian Church. The church helped her to get over her loss, and she continued to attend church. Ginny found acceptance and a church community with First Presbyterian where she became fully involved. She really appreciated it.

Ginny enjoyed cooking and started a cooking camp; she set up "Camp GG" for her grandkids where they did a lot of fun things like cooking, gardening, scrap booking, games, and explorations. She loved to watch her grandkids dance and perform. Ginny had four grandkids and one great-grandson. Her daughter Ann lives in Indiana, her son Brad lives in Texas, and Greg lives in South Carolina.

Ginny was a member of: The Historical Society, which was her passion; Retired Teachers Association; Garden Club; Delta Kappa Gamma; and Women Educators. She enjoyed collecting antiques and working in her garden, and she really loved spending time with her family and friends. Ginny was part of our Presbyterian Women's group and enjoyed the Friendship & Talent luncheons where she got the opportunity to visit with her friends. She also appreciated when former students would stop her on the street years later to say hello and reminisce about their time in her class. Her love of teaching touched many of her students. Ginny remained involved in the community until she couldn't due to her eyesight. Her death, on April 22, 2020, was such a loss to us all. We miss her so much.

When I asked about Ginny's favorite scripture in the Bible, her daughter Ann told me she loved the Lord's Prayer. She used to say it with her children. When Ann was little, Ginny got a kick out of hearing her daughter repeat the prayer. Ann would say, "Our father who art in heaven, how can that be your name?" It would amuse Ginny every time.

Written by Diana Blanford
with the help of Ginny's daughter Ann.

Members of Session 2020

Polly Matlock
 David Schlemmer
 David Narwold
 Mary Stradley
 Judy Rust
 Mike Gommel
 Terri Pleak
 Pastor– Rev. Wally Wilson
 Clerk– Darleen Fox

Session Committees

Trustees & Finance
 Care of Parish & Christian Education
 Worship & Music
 Mission, Outreach, & Marketing
 Personnel



Session News

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, IN met in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

- Clerk of Session, Darleen Fox requested a grant from the Smock Foundation. Request will be considered later this month.
- Jeff Lincourt has begun updating the technology in the church building.

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

- Water damage has been discovered in the stairwell going to the balcony. Estimates are being taken to repair the damage.
- Kiwanis Club has been given approval to hold their pancake breakfast fundraiser at the church on Sept. 26, following safety guidelines.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

- Prepackaged individual communion cups and wafers are now on hand at the church to enable a safe communion when we return to church.
- It was recommended that the church remain closed in September and Session approved.
- Our annual September Outdoor Worship Service has been cancelled.

MISSION, OUTREACH, & MARKETING

- Agape Center of Decatur County has requested additional support. Anyone wishing to donate to the Agape Center may mail it directly to Agape at PO Box 428, or to get credit for tax purposes, send it to the church and designate it for Agape.

PERSONNEL

- Committee recommended that the office continue to be closed on Fridays in September and Session approved.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- The Whitewater Valley Presbyterian Women's Organization has disbanded. The local chapter will remain as it is at this time.



**We sure do miss
these guys!**

**John and Charlotte's
First day of pre-school**



Cook-out!



You are invited to a cook-out in the
backyard of Ron and Marilyn Woods on
Wednesday, September 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Food will be served by Ron and Marilyn,
and you only need to bring a chair and a
mask. All safety measures will be observed.

Please call Ron or Marilyn for a head count if you
wish to attend, and they can give you directions to
their house.

812-663-6624

A huge THANK YOU to:

- Jeff and Cathy Lincourt, for all the work they are doing to make our online services possible.
- Judy Rust, for the beautiful tree roses out front.
- Mary and Steve Stradley, for re-sodding the grass at the church and looking after the roses out front.



First Presbyterian Church

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Our Mission Statement

We are a welcoming family of faith,
Celebrating Christ's presence
Worshiping God with joy,
Nurturing the life of each individual,
Carrying Christ's message to all the world, and
Seeking to live God's word by serving others.

Per Capita 2020

\$41.39 per person



Church services can be found on
Sunday mornings on our **facebook**
page and on our **website**.

FACEBOOK—
@FirstPresbyterianGburg

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**



**To all those
who are in need
of our prayers**