



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us in person (and why not invite a friend!) for our worship service this Sunday, the Fifteen Sunday after Pentecost. Our Scripture readings will be Jeremiah 8:18-9:2 and Luke 16:1-13, and the title of the sermon is "Dishonest Wealth." A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be

found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/09-18-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

The dear saints of FPC heard their pastor's complaints about what an awkward, unbalanced number "31" was when that was the number of butterflies on our Campaign Tree representing the number of pledges we had received through last week in our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. I am so happy to report that as of the date of this Newsletter, we have now received **34** pledge cards. To God be the glory!

This means that more than one-half of the folks who received our letter announcing the 2023 Stewardship Campaign have responded by returning their completed pledge card! Because the Session's focus is first on maximizing the congregation's participation in our pledge drive, and secondarily on encouraging the generosity of the pledges we receive, our emphasis right now is to report on the number of pledges we are receiving. The higher the number, the more excited and encouraged all of us can be about the commitment of the members of FPC to give not only of their treasure, but also of their time and talent in service to the Lord.

When our Stewardship Campaign concludes on September 30, 2022, we will total up the amount of all the pledges we have received and then

“reveal” that number during the potluck luncheon we will have following our worship service on Sunday, October 2, 2023.

In a coincidence that surely must be pleasing to God, October 2, 2022 marks (to the day!) the passage of 182 years since the eight charter members of the First Presbyterian Church of Victoria signed the organizational document by which our church was founded. Look how far we have come! Be excited about how much more there must be that God has in store for us!

Please plan to join us on October 2nd for worship followed by a celebration of fellowship, gratitude, and thanksgiving. It is then that we will joyfully announce the total of the financial commitments we have received, in the form of pledges, to continue *Our Journey Forward* into 2023 and beyond.

P.S.: Your pastor does not want to seem greedy or ungrateful. “34” is a respectable number (at least it is not a prime number), but I still maintain that “36” is a much better number. Not only is it a square number (6x6), it is also evenly divisible by 7 different integers other than 1 (2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 18)! We are only two pledges away from that beautiful goal. Again, therefore, if you are among the folks who have not yet turned your pledge card in, we are praying for at least two more! Can you help us reach that goal?



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS!
HAPPY GRANDCHILDREN!

What a joy it was to welcome the PDS young disciples, their teachers, their parents, and *especially* their grandparents to our worship service last Sunday, September 11th, on National Grandparents Day! Grandparents,

accompanied by their grandchildren, from our own congregation were seen in the pews as well.

Sparing you thousands of words, we simply want to show you the pictures below of the joy that was ours last Sunday. A special thanks to Melissa Samudio and all the PDS teachers who so caringly contributed to the success of this celebration.





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
MARTHA TARKINGTON!
MANY HAPPY RETURNS!**

And speaking of celebrations, on Saturday, September 10th, our Fellowship Hall was alive with the sound of happy chatter and well wishes for Martha Tarkington on the occasion of her 90th birthday! Organized by Martha's daughter, Ginny, and aided by Martha's many friends in this church, the celebration was a great success. You pastor is aware of several folks who drove in from Houston just to be with Martha and to catch up with friends with whom they grew up in Victoria-- some of whom even attend PDS together!

Thank you, Martha, for allowing us to celebrate your birthday in such a happy fashion. Thank you for all you do for our church and our community. You are such a wonderful blessing among us!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER!

By way of reminder:

- Dawn Neel continues to lead our Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class in a course entitled, "We Are Called." The class meets in the Parlor prior to our Sunday worship service, starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding promptly at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't already, please join Dawn and other members of our congregation as we resume the happy (and educational!) discipline of Sunday morning study and fellowship.
 - On Wednesday, September 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Jim Stokes will lead the first class of a six- to eight-week study of the Book of Genesis. This class will also meet in the Parlor. No need to sign-up or otherwise to announce your attendance in advance. Just show up and be prepared to listen, participate, learn, and enjoy!
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ONE GREAT HOUR OF CARING

Our next regular, biweekly "One Great Hour of Caring" will be this **Friday, September 16, 2022**. This time we will be working mostly in the Sanctuary.

If you haven't yet pitched in to help us keep our church spick and span while also helping us to save money, I sincerely want to invite you to join us for an hour that really goes by quickly. For those of us who have been doing this for a while, we have discovered that our time together makes this more of a

fellowship event than a “work party.” The work is easy, it only lasts an hour, and the time flies!

Join us if you can; you won't regret it!

Here are the future dates for our One Great Hour of Caring (all of the listed dates are on a Friday):

Sept. 30 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall

Oct. 14 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms

Oct. 28 @ 10am: Office Spaces & Halls

Nov. 11 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall

Nov. 25 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms (may change)

Dec. 9 @ 10am: Office Spaces & Halls

Dec. 23 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall (may change)

Any questions? If so, please contact Dawn Neel (361.652.3925).



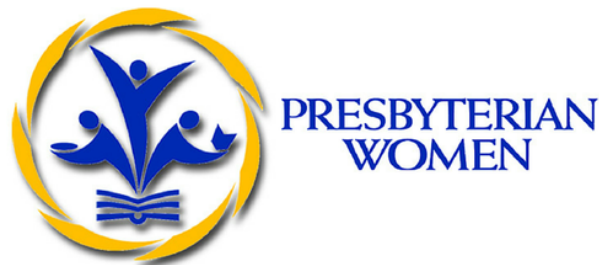
**TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO BUY YOUR TICKETS
FOR THE
VCAM ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**

This is the last reminder we will be publishing in the Newsletter about this year's annual Raffle Fundraiser for the Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM). The drawing will be held at noon, Saturday, September 24th, as part of VCAM's Open House festivities from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. You need not be present to win.

As a practical matter, this means that next Sunday, September 18th, will be your last opportunity to get your tickets directly from Becky Richter (our church's representative who is a member of the VCAM Board) before or after our worship service.

Tickets are \$5 apiece or six for \$25, and 100% of the proceeds will go to VCAM's mission of providing food, clothing, and services to those less fortunate in Victoria County. The Grand Prize is a \$1,000 HEB gift card, in addition to 28 more cash and gift card prizes valued from \$50-\$750.

You can't win if you don't buy a ticket! Please seek out Becky next Sunday to buy the winning ticket for the Grand Prize! Or, if you prefer, you are invited to email Becky at becky202richter@gmail.com. You can also leave a message for Becky at the First Presbyterian Church of Victoria office, (361) 575-2441.



Throughout September the PW mission project will be to support Christ's Kitchen. Can you help? This is a list of much needed supplies used by the faithful volunteers at Christ's Kitchen:

Food storage bags with slider closure. Sizes: quart, gallon, and 2 1/2 gallon.

Scissors

Sharpie markers (NOT ultra fine)

Nitrile gloves

Post-It Notes

Cloth dish towels

Ink pens: blue and black

Baby wipes and adult size wipes (these items are shared with

those whom Christ Kitchen serves).

Please deliver your donations to the church office, and we will make sure they are delivered to PW as a sign of our congregation's support of PW and those whom they serve so faithfully and generously.



A Service of Witness to the Resurrection in Celebration of the Life of Robert D. Oakley (1934-2022), beloved husband of Mary Ann Oakley, was held in our Sanctuary this afternoon, September 14th, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Cindy Myers, from the Tivoli Presbyterian Church, presided, and friends met to comfort and console the family and one another at a reception in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We offer our prayers of healing and comfort to Bob's family, asking God to be with them in love, hope, and blessed assurance as they mourn the loss of husband, father, brother, friend. Rest in peace, Bob, rest in peace.

*In life and in death,
we belong to Jesus Christ.*

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim