

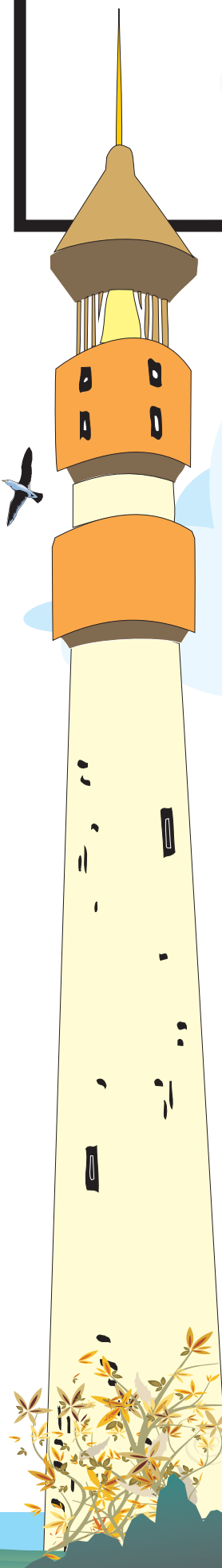
The Lighthouse

October 2023

REFORMATION DAY (OCTOBER 31st)

Rev. Shannon Philio, Assistant Pastor

At the end of this month, on October 31st, many Protestants will celebrate Reformation Day which recognizes and celebrates German theologian and pastor Martin Luther's posting his *Ninety-Five Theses* to the Wittenberg Castle church doors on October 31, 1517, which started the Protestant Reformation lasting until 1648, the date for the Treaty of Westphalia that concluded the Thirty Years' War fought between Roman Catholics and Protestants in Europe. The name of the castle church is All Saints' Church, or Schlosskirche (Castle Church). At the time of the posting, Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic priest and a professor of moral or sacred theology at the University of Wittenberg in Germany. The *Ninety-Five Theses* was a call for reform in the Catholic Church regarding corrupt practices and theology, similar to when our denomination, the PCA, was formed in December 1973, separating from the PCUS because of corrupt practices and theology. One of the main grievances Luther had with the Catholic Church was the selling of indulgences. One could give the Catholic Church money and be absolved from sin, a "get out of sin free card," if you will. Dominican friar Johann Tetzel was the main priest in Germany selling indulgences. He is attributed with the jingle, albeit not proven, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." Protestants do not believe in purgatory, a place where sinners must suffer or be purified before going to Heaven. Protestants believe Christians go straight to Heaven when they die. Martin Luther did not believe one could buy God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness is offered when one truly



repents of sin and places his or her faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Roman Catholic Church did not want to listen to Martin Luther's complaints about indulgences and justification by faith. Luther was soon excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church in January 1521. Luther died in 1546. His body was laid to rest in All Saints' Church about eight feet below the pulpit. Many Protestant churches will not participate in Halloween on October 31st. Instead, churches will hold Reformation parties to celebrate the Protestant Reformation and to mark the birth of Protestantism.

Last October, I wrote an article entitled "Semper Reformanda," one of the battle cries of the Protestant Reformation, which means "always reforming." In fact, French theologian and pastor John Calvin, who was a pastor in Geneva, Switzerland during the Protestant Reformation, in his 1544 treatise, The Necessity for Reforming the Church, said the Protestant Reformation was all about reforming the church. Theodore Beza, Calvin's friend and successor in Geneva, called Calvin's book the most powerful work of his time. This book is a call to church reformation, particularly in the areas of worship, justification by faith, the sacraments, and church government and pastorate. Calvin fans, I highly recommend the book if you have not read it. John Calvin was never a Catholic priest. He broke ties with the Catholic Church around 1530. In 1536, Calvin wrote his Institutes of Christian Religion. John Calvin was a key figure in the Protestant Reformation.

Reformation Day is an important time for us as reformed believers to explore our rich heritage perhaps by reading some of the works listed above or by watching a movie or documentary on Martin Luther or other Reformers. Reformation Day is an important time to ask the questions, "Wherein do I need to reform my Christian beliefs, worship, or living?" As we draw near to Reformation Day, may we always hold tightly to the five "solas" of the Protestant Reformation: sola scriptura (Scripture alone), sola Christus (Christ alone), sola fide (faith alone), sola gratia (grace alone), and sola Deo gloria (glory to God alone) and join Martin Luther in declaring, "Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen."

Tragedy in West Africa

Our missionaries in Burkina Faso sent the following:

Dear Friends and Family,

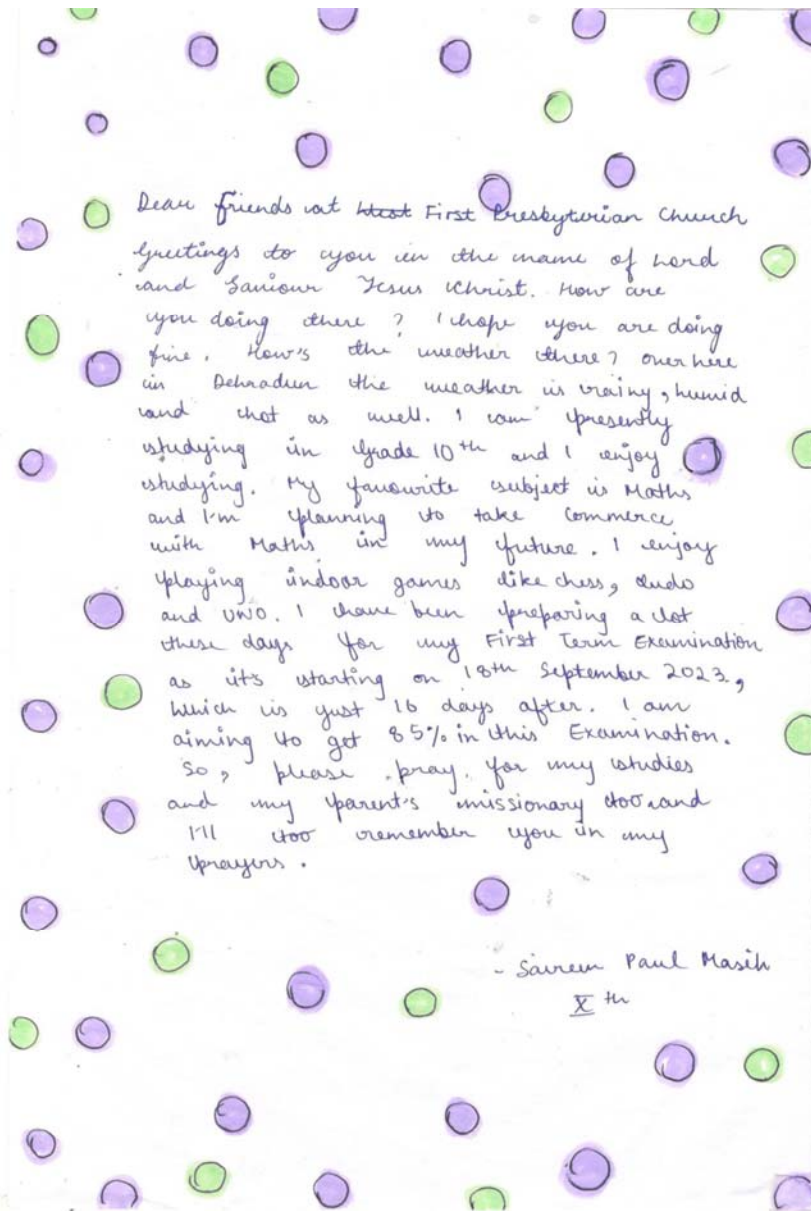
We have an urgent prayer request to ask of you. A dear friend and colleague, Antoine Sawadogo, was in a motorcycle accident on Tuesday, and died from injuries on Saturday night. For the past several years, we have been working closely with Antoine and his church which is about an hour south of Ouagadougou. We have worked extensively with him through our pastor training courses and with the Foundations for Farming trainings. We had nearly finished the process of having Antoine ordained as a pastor in our presbytery.

Antoine leaves behind a widow, Salamata, and four children. We ask now that you pray for this family and for the church family he leaves behind. We are struggling to understand how and why this could have happened at such a time, but we are attempting to trust our sovereign Lord.

Thank you for your prayers. They are greatly appreciated.
Evan, Bonnie, Charlotte, Lucas, and Aidan

With so much sorrow and horror going on in the world right now, especially in Israel and Ukraine, this may seem comparatively small. But we serve an infinite God who is deeply concerned for and cares about all his children. Please join us in praying for this young widow, Salamata Sawadogo, her four children, and the church family now bereft of a pastor. Please also pray for Evan and Bonnie as they seek to show God's love and providence in such trying circumstances.

Here is a letter from the student we support at Grace Academy in Dehradun, India.



The text of the letter reads

Dear friends at First Presbyterian Church
Greetings to you in the name of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How are you doing there? I hope you are doing fine. How's the weather there? Over here in Dehradun the weather is rainy, humid and hot as well. I am presently studying in Grade 10th and I enjoy studying. My favorite subject is Maths and I'm planning to take Commerce with Maths in my future. I enjoy playing indoor games like chess, ludo, and UNO. I have been preparing a lot these days for my First Term Examination as it's starting on 18th September 2023, which is just 10 days after. I am aiming to get 85% in this Examination. So, please pray for my studies and my parent's missionary too and I'll too remember you in my prayers.

-Saireen Paul Masih

Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

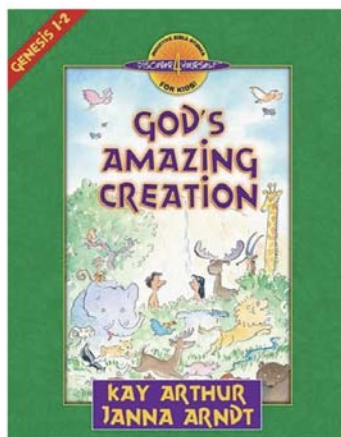
September 21, 2023



Praise and Prayers

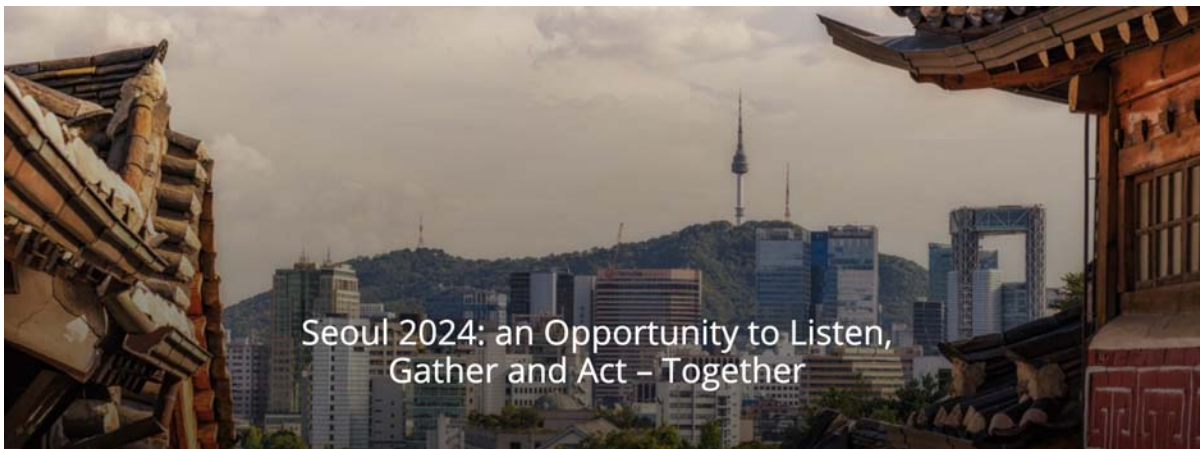
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13, ESV)

This has been a quieter month, but there are still many reasons to give praise.



1. Our online children's Bible study just finished Esther. Now we will be studying Genesis, using [God's Amazing Creation](#). Thank God for the beauty of his creation! We also are putting together a study for younger kids. So let me know if any of your children or teens would like to join us.

2. Praise God also for our two Zihuatanejo Bible studies with children (and parents and grandparents). Pray that they may become followers of Christ. Thanks for your prayers for Isaías.
3. I gave a YouTube interview with [The Generational Awakening](#). It is not eloquent but gives a good overview of our ministries.
4. Please pray for our Global CHE Network service team. Pray for all our travels and trainings with community health evangelism, as well as the work that is done behind the scenes.
5. Pray also for the many teams doing CHE and Children's CHE in Africa and around the world. Pray especially for one team that is experiencing persecution. Please pray for the persecuted church. We are trying to write some materials to help children who have been stressed by persecution.
6. Praise God for how He is working through stories and games to reach children and their families.
7. I am enjoying learning more painting skills with [The Digital Painting Academy](#).
8. Pray for progress on the cabin.
9. I recently received an email, "You Have Been Selected for Lausanne's Seoul 2024 Virtual Experience!" So no, I won't be going to South Korea. But praise God for this opportunity in 2024. As David Bennett writes, "You will have the opportunity to engage online with others from around the world beginning in mid-October 2023 with a curated year-long pre-congress programme, culminating in a virtual congress experience taking place from 22-28 September 2024."



Many thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and support! How can I be praying for you?

With love,
Jody



BIRTHDAYS for OCTOBER

Ashley Pizzari 9th

Sally Ann Jones 13th

Harvel Jackson 17th

Ann Pringle 19th

Tricia Gauthier 20th

Frank Genzer 24th

Dates to Remember for October

- October 1 Communion
- October 3 Ladies Circle at 9:30am
- October 3 Ladies Leadership meeting at 5:30pm
- October 6 Crusin the Coast Picnic at 5:00pm
- October 7 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am
- October 8 Monthly Luncheon, after morning service, please bring a dish to share
- October 16 Deacon's meeting at 5:30pm
- October 24 Session meeting at 6:00pm

You are invited to the Pennell's Annual "Happy Fall Ya'll" Get Together on October 28th. Please feel free to bring a guest. All food and beverages will be provided. Hope to see everyone !!!!

454 Channel Mark Drive
Biloxi
678 - 360 - 2999 - Pat's cell





**1340 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
228.374.6880
firstpresbiloxi.org**

First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. To learn more about the PCA, log on to pcanet.org

Elders

David Allen	228-547-1007	david.allen@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ben Bowden	228-596-5007	ben.bowden@firstpresbiloxi.org
John Chaney	228-238-4379	john.chaney@firstpresbiloxi.org
Mike Clark	228- 326-3213	mike.clark@firstpresbiloxi.org
Jeff Harrison	228-596-6600	jeff.harrison@firstpresbiloxi.org
Scott Malthaner	830-320-1070	scott.malthaner@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ken Pennell	601-674-1637	ken.pennell@firstpresbiloxi.org
Aaron Smith	601-214-0918	aaron.smith@firstpresbiloxi.org
Charles Pringle (Em.)	228-388-2517	charles.pringle@firstpresbiloxi.org
Tim Horn (Pastor)	662-313-8445	tim.horn@firstpresbiloxi.org
Shannon Philio (Assistant Pastor)	228-327-3875	shannon.philio@firstpresbiloxi.org

Deacons

Andy Bagby	228-547-5334	andy.bagby@firstpresbiloxi.org
Phil Harding	410-310-2389	phil.harding@firstpresbiloxi.org
Steve Lustig	608-719-9372	steve.lustig@firstpresbilox.org
Steve VanderKooy	228-990-1933	steve.vanderkooy@firstpresbilox.org

Church Musicians

Jeff Harrison	Music Director	jeff.harrison@firstpresbiloxi.org
Melba Sipriano	Pianist/Organist	melba.sipriano@firstpresbiloxi.org

Church Secretary

Kim Clark	228-374-6880	info@firstpresbiloxi.org
------------------	--------------	--------------------------