

# The Lighthouse

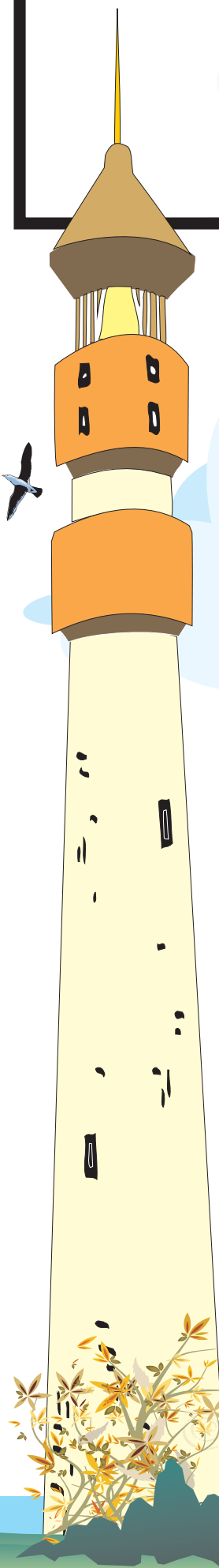
August 2023

## Return to Me, Sayeth the Lord of Hosts

Rev. Shannon Philio, Assistant to the Pastor

In the evening service, we have been marching through the Minor Prophets, the last twelve books of the Old Testament. And one of the main themes throughout all these books is a call to return to the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In fact, in Zechariah 1:3, one reads, "Thus sayeth the Lord of Host, 'Return to Me, and I will return to you.'" Hosea cries out in Hosea 6:1, "Come, let us return to the Lord." The Lord cries out in Joel 2:10, "Even now, return to Me with all your heart." But every day the undertow of Satan, the world, and the flesh, the three great enemies to the Christian faith, attempt to pull us away from God's presence. We get distracted, and we chase after the idols and concerns of this world and our own personal comforts and pleasures. In the hymn, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," we sing, "O to grace, how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above." Keep me, Lord, from wandering.

The Bible says God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). In Zechariah 1:14, the Lord says He is exceedingly jealous for you. God's jealousy however is not like man's sinful jealousy. Jealousy is a sin when man desires something that doesn't belong to him. However, man possesses nothing that God does not already own or have. What God is jealous of already belongs to Him. The Lord Yahweh will not share His glory, worship, and honor with anyone or anything. GotQuestions.org says, "Jealousy is a sin when it is a desire for something that does not belong to you. Worship, praise, honor, and adoration belong to God alone, for only He is truly worthy of it." Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." Psalm 105:4 says, "Look to the Lord and His strength; seek



His face always.” Every year, all of us need to renew our marriage vows to the Lord, to rededicate ourselves to His mission statement of gathering, growing, and going in Christ's Name. Each of us needs to fall in love all over again with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Only He truly satisfies (Psalm 103:5). We need to return to the heart of worship. We need to devote ourselves to the reading and studying of God's Word. We need to commit ourselves to the unity and fellowship of other believers. And we need to continue expressing our faith as “God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works which He has prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

More than ever before, we need a revival in the Lord's church. Rev. John Wesley of the 1700s once said, “Give me one hundred believers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth.” Rev. Billy Graham was once asked after one of his evangelism crusade events, “Is this a revival?” Rev. Graham answered, “No. When revival comes, I expect to see two things which we have not seen yet. First, a new sense of the holiness of God on the part of Christians, and second, a new sense of the sinfulness of sin on the part of Christians.” Rev. Dr. Paul Lee Tan, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Bible and Theology at Tyndale Theological Seminary, continues, “We might add a third and closely related indication of revival: a new working of the Holy Spirit in the local church. Why? For two big reasons, among others. First, because the Word of God calls for it; and second, because the world challenge calls for it.” Come, Holy Spirit!

Where are you in your spiritual walk with the Lord? Are these areas in your life that you need to return to the Lord more fully? Worship? Bible study? Fellowship? Expression? We will not gather, we will not grow, and we will not go in Christ unless we return fully to the Lord. “You who seek the Lord, let your hearts revive” (Psalm 69:32). “Revive Thy work, O Lord, create soul-thirst for Thee; and hungering for the Bread of Life, O may our spirits be.” “Hallelujah, Thine the glory! Hallelujah, amen! Hallelujah, Thine the glory! Revive us again.”

# John and Cathy Rug

## Mission to the World - Chile



Do you ever look at the calendar and are shocked to see that the weeks are flying by! That's been happening to me lately. It seems it was just March about two weeks ago. But here we are in July.

We are so thankful for generally good health, the joy of having our children and grandchildren near, a loving church family with an excellent church planting team that we partner with and so much more. God has blessed us beyond measure!

We are now in the dead of winter, but no blizzards, white outs or frozen pipes for us, thankfully. However, since we don't have central heat, houses can feel really cold! So yes...it's chilly in Chile...as we've been asked many times while on HMA!

Our church is growing, but is also suffering the financial struggles everyone is feeling because of the state of the economy. We will soon be receiving new members....the session meets with those who participated in the membership class individually this Saturday. Please pray for wisdom for the session as they talk with these new believers.

As you know, CEMIPRE not only sees to the physical needs of our clients, but also their emotional and spiritual needs as well. What a wonderful added bonus to see the Lord also working in the lives of the student interns he sends us. Recently Lisett prayed to accept the Lord after John shared the gospel with her. She is now participating in our church plant in Viña del Mar! God is so good!

We were blessed to have two young men come on a 3 week mission trip to support CEMIPRE. We are so thankful for Joel and Caden. They were a blessing to many!

Please pray for CEMIPRE. Though the ministry is doing well, we feel the enemy's attacks on many sides, most of which have been large financial hits. In general we are underfunded, The unexpected expenditures were NOT a welcome development. But, God is sovereign, we know He has it all covered, and the ultimate battle has been won!

We have been offered a matching fund challenge which would allow us to employ an executive director whose main focus would be to discover financial support locally so CEMIPRE can become self-sustaining. We are currently at 32% of the funds needed to meet that goal. Please consider giving a one-time gift to help us get those funds before the November deadline. Thank you all!



Earthquake drill at CEMIPRE



Short term missionaries Joel and Caden at their farewell dinner at CEMIPRE along with interns and staff.

*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.*

Donations Address: Mission  
to the World  
P.O. Box 744165  
Atlanta, GA 30374-4165  
John and Cathy Rug #16511

John's Chile phone: +56 99 243-7867  
Cathy's US phone: +56 99 549-9284  
Skype number (free call from US to Chile!) (636) 614-1411

John's email: [jrug.mtw@gmail.com](mailto:jrug.mtw@gmail.com)  
Cathy's email: [cathyrugf@gmail.com](mailto:cathyrugf@gmail.com)

# Shepherding List

<p><b>Aaron Smith/John Chaney</b> <b>Steve Vanderkooy</b></p>	<p><b>David Allen/Mike Clark</b> <b>Andy Bagby</b></p>
<p>Smith Family John Chaney Vanderkooy Family Nick &amp; Kayla Clark Freeman Family Pizzari Family Carol Roch Margaret Fore/Tammy Turney Marilyn Kooienga Phil Pennington</p>	<p>David Allen Mike &amp; Kim Clark Andy Bagby Norman &amp; Fran Bagby Melba Sipriano Frank Genzer/Jimmy Lynn Spinks Jim &amp; Elizabeth Mosely Kay Pringle Dandre Washington Glidewell Family Eloise Gryder Anky Delarie Shannon Philio</p>
<p><b>Regular Attenders</b></p>	<p><b>Regular Attenders</b></p>
<p>Dean &amp; Lynne Rydbeck</p>	<p>Libby Jordan Maria Smith Victor Allen</p>
<p><b>Scott Malthaner/Ken Pennell</b> <b>Phil Harding</b></p>	<p><b>Ben Bowden/Jeff Harrison</b> <b>Steve Lustig</b></p>
<p>Scott Malthaner Ken &amp; Pat Pennell Phil &amp; Vielsa Harding Jim &amp; Janet Misner Harvel &amp; Megan Jackson Chuch &amp; Ann Pringle Charlotte Rhett Rachel Roach Joan &amp; Tricia Gauthier Harriett O'Malley Horn Family</p>	<p>Ben &amp; Julia Bowden Diane Bowden Ken &amp; Joan Gosnell Jeff &amp; Katherine Harrison Nancy Marvar Tal Braddock Fran Handel Greg Mann Rosemary Bailey Steve &amp; Michelle Lustig Kathleen Edwards Kayleigh Clark</p>
<p><b>Regular Attenders</b></p>	<p><b>Regular Attenders</b></p>
<p>Johnny &amp; Maria Gonzalez Pat Shaw Barry Fancher</p>	<p>Glenn &amp; Susan Collins Manuel &amp; Ashley Diaz Family Sharon Parker</p>

Updated  
June 29, 2023

# 2023 Missions Budget

	Monthly	Annually
<b><u>Mission to the World</u></b>		
John & Cathy Rug (Concón, Chile)	\$ 400	\$ 4,800
Derek & Shannon Ebbers (Braşov, Romania)	\$ 150	\$ 1,800
Evan & Bonnie (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)	\$ 175	\$ 2,100
Brent Kooi (Sydney, Australia)	\$ 50	\$ 600
Grace Academy (Derah Dun, India – student Saireen Paul Masih)	\$ 75	\$ 900
<b>Mission to the World total</b>	\$ 850	\$ 10,200
 <b><u>Mission to North America</u></b>		
Hope Presbyterian Church Plant (Ocean Springs, MS)	\$ 300	\$ 3,600
Darin & Melanie Stone (Raleigh, NC)	\$ 100	\$ 1,200
<b>Mission to North America total</b>	\$ 400	\$ 4,800
 <b><u>Independent Missions</u></b>		
Jody Collinge (Global Che Network – Zihuatanejo, Mexico)	\$ 50	\$ 600
Jon & Karen Schmidt (Proclaim Aviation Ministries – Spokane, WA)	\$ 100	\$ 1,200
<b>Independent Missions total</b>	\$ 150	\$ 1,800
 <b><u>Local Missions</u></b>		
Grace Presbytery	\$ 25	\$ 300
Mid-South Church Planting Network	\$ 100	\$ 1,200
Reformed University Ministries	\$ 50	\$ 600
Seaman & Trucker's Center	\$ 50	\$ 600
Women's Resource Center	\$ 50	\$ 600
<b>Local Missions total</b>	\$ 275	\$ 3,300
 <b>Grand total</b>	 \$ 1,675	 \$ 20,100

# BIRTHDAYS for AUGUST



Shannon Philio 4th

Charlotte Rhett 11th

Ken Gosnell 29th

John Chaney 6th

Skipper Jones 19th



## Dates to Remember for August

August 5 Men's Breakfast at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

August 6 Communion at the morning worship service

August 13 Monthly luncheon after the worship service, please bring a dish to share

August 20 Communion at the evening worship service

August 21 Deacons Meeting at 5:30 pm

August 22 Session Meeting at 6:00 pm

Up coming event: Join us for a concert by Tanja Miric, Saturday August 19th at 3:30pm. She is a classical guitarist.

We are going to do something different this year for Operation Christmas Child. For the next several months we will be collecting different items for the boxes. In October we will have a packing party to fill the boxes with the items collected. For the month of August it will be clothes (socks, shirts, etc) Boxes are in the Narthex and hallway. We encourage you to do a box (es) on your own as well as donating. For more information contact Vielsa Harding or Kayleigh Clark.





**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](http://pcanet.org)**

### **Elders**

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

### **Deacons**

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

### **Church Musicians**

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

### **Church Secretary**

<b>Kim Clark</b>	228-374-6880	info@firstpresbiloxi.org
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