

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To Gather as God's People;
To Grow in Faith, Love and Service;
And to Go into the World as Disciples
Sharing God's Love.



*He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might
he increaseth strength.*

Isaiah 40:29



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From Tragedy to Grace: Magnolia Family Helps Build Medical Clinic in Cameroon

By: Steve Ford



God has a way of turning tragedy into grace. Take the story of Drs. Pierre and Martine Boumtje, professors at Southern Arkansas University. The Boumtjes are from Cameroon, but completed their postgraduate studies in the United States. The Boumtjes raised three sons in Magnolia, and their eldest went on to become an oral surgeon before his life was cut short by cancer at the age of 39. "Our firstborn was a medical doctor, a specialist in oral surgery," Pierre Boumtje said. "He had a disease we didn't know about—even he didn't know about it. It was hidden in his body and was discovered late. When it was discovered, it was too late." Guy Martial Njewel Ndega was an oral surgeon trained at UAMS, Columbia University (New York) and the University of Illinois in Chicago. At the time of his passing, he was a fellow at Northwestern University in Chicago. Guy was a fervent Christian and member of First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia. Before his going to be with the Lord, their son had begun developing a vision: a mobile clinic to serve remote communities in his native Cameroon, where access to medical care is often limited or nonexistent. "He used to take medical supplies and distribute medicine, but he wanted something more permanent—a mobile clinic," Boumtje said. "Even after he

went to be with the Lord, the project did not stop." What followed surprised even the Boumtje family. As they considered abandoning the effort, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Magnolia encouraged them to continue—and backed that encouragement with action. "To show you I'm serious, I have a sum of money I want to give," the church member told them. At the time, the family had no nonprofit structure to receive donations. But with the help of First Presbyterian Church, the project found a home—and momentum. "In less than a year, we saw an outpouring of love and support," Boumtje said. "People from the church, from the community, even outside Magnolia contributed." That support led to the construction of a 4,000-square-foot medical facility in Cameroon. The clinic, now standing, is designed to function as a small hospital, complete with a surgery room, labor and delivery room, dental room and consultation areas. "The facility is ready," Boumtje said. "Now we are raising funds for equipment." Progress has already been made. Funds have been secured to equip several key areas, including the surgical, dental and laboratory spaces. Infrastructure has also been a major focus. In a region without running water, a well was drilled to a depth of about 100 feet, providing a reliable source of potable water for both the clinic and nearby homes. A water tower is under construction, and a solar-powered system will soon pump and store water for daily use. A dedication ceremony for the clinic is tentatively scheduled for May 29. The Boumtjes plan to return to Cameroon for the event, which will include pastors, priests and government officials who will inspect the facility and authorize it to begin operations. For Boumtje, the project is deeply personal—and deeply spiritual. "I came from what I believe was one of the poorest families in that area, deep in the forest where there were no roads," he said. "Now there is a facility that will help people for miles around." He describes the journey as nothing short of miraculous. "People look for miracles—this is one," Boumtje said. "When I look at my life, I see a miracle. I never imagined I would come to the United States, raise a family here, and see my children educated without debt. God provided everything." The clinic is not the first international mission project supported by First Presbyterian Church. Previously, the congregation raised \$40,000 to build a church in another Cameroonian community connected to the Boumtje family. In addition, the church regularly sends clothing, school supplies and other aid, which the Boumtjes help distribute during visits. Boumtje sees the partnership as a living expe-

-ssion of faith in action. "God doesn't have feet—we are His feet," he said. "We go where He sends us. We are simply the link between our church here and the community in Cameroon." Contributions are still being accepted to help furnish the clinic and may be sent to First Presbyterian Church, 1417 North Jackson Street, Magnolia AR 71753. As the clinic nears completion, what began as a son's vision—and a family's loss—has become a lasting legacy of service, compassion and faith.

Guy Njewel Medical Center Dedication

Celebrate a Milestone in Mission

Planned for May 2026



Join us as we dedicate the clinic and give thanks for God's work.

Interested in going? See the Boumtjes for travel details.

Reminder

Committee Meetings

April 1

(Unless other arrangements have been made.
Dinner will be served at 5:30.
No Adult Bible Study the first Wednesday.)

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers to sign up to be liturgist and head usher/greeter in May! If you feel led to serve in one of these capacities, please sign up! Sign-up lists are located in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the church office!

	Usher Greeter	Liturgist	Children's Church
3/29	Susan Dees	Mike McNeill	Jodie Arnold
4/2 Maundy Thurs.	Martine Boumtje	Steve Ford	n/a
4/5	Sue Joyce	Doug Green	Sarah Hornor
4/12	Anita Moore	Linda Anders	Jennifer Bailey
4/19	Paula Boaz	Debbie Arnold	Jodie Arnold
4/26	Sue Joyce	Ashley Hagaman	Sarah Hornor

	Communion Servers	Communion Preparers
4/2 Maundy Thurs.	Sue Joyce	Sue Joyce, Cathy Downs, Martine Boumtje
4/5	Pierre & Martine	Travis Arnold, Sue Joyce, Paula Boaz, Steve Ford

Deacon on Duty: Drew Moore (870) 904-2372

	Lenten Readers
3/29	The Phillips Family
4/2 Maundy Thurs.	Mike McNeill



HE IS RISEN



Join us
Easter Breakfast
& Egg Hunt
April 5
9:30
Fellowship Hall



Please join us for
Ladies' Circle
APRIL 13TH - 2:00PM
FPC Library

Memorial Gifts

IN MEMORY OF: T.E. "Bubba" Smith

BY:

David & Linda Anders

Paula Boaz

Todd & Renee Connelly

Jacque Baker

Dana Parham & Skylar Scott

Blake Pierce

Jeremy & Lawton Jennings

IN MEMORY OF: Mike Morgan

BY:

Dana Parham & Skylar Scott

SPRING CONCERT

The Outreach Committee invites you to join them for a special night of worship and fellowship as we come together as a church family at the Micah Tyler concert. This will be a meaningful time to worship, connect, and be encouraged together. If you're interested in attending, please reach out to Travis or Yulissa. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 29.



New Service Opportunity

We have a wonderful opportunity to serve beginning in April. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare and deliver meals to our shut-in members on Wednesday evenings. Each week, there are typically 5 to 7 meals that need to be delivered to 3 to 4 locations. The church office will contact you by 1:00 pm on Wednesdays with that evening's meal count. Volunteers will be responsible for preparing and delivering the meals. Cooking is not required unless you would like to, and store bought or already prepared meals are absolutely welcome and appreciated. This is a meaningful way to care for members of our church family and share Christ's love.

If you feel led to serve, please stop by the narthex and sign up. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office.

Note of Thanks

Dear Presbyterian Members,

Thanks for the crackers, nutragrain bars and underwear. I appreciate the generous donations that has been made to my campus, MHS Freshman Academy. Anita Moore is so helpful and great!

 Sincerely, Laura Neill, School Nurse 

THE MISSION-EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The committee is collecting donations of cleaning supplies to donate to The Call this quarter. The Call supports foster families in Columbia and Lafayette counties. If you'd like to help with this effort, donation items may be placed in the baskets in the narthex or fellowship hall, or a monetary gift may be placed in the offering plate. Be sure to indicate on the memo line "The Call".



Prayer Meeting

Join us each Wednesday night at
5:30 pm in the FPC Library
for a time of Prayer.

Corporate prayer is vital for fostering
a sense of unity and shared purpose
as we seek God together as one
body. Come and join us!

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays - 6:00pm

Join us each Wednesday night at 6:00 pm for Bible Study. Each week, Pastor Ray will guide us through simple Bible stories and meaningful conversation. There's no pressure to be an expert and no expectation to have all the answers. Just an open Bible, open conversation, and a desire to grow together.

If you've ever wanted a clearer understanding of the story of the Bible, a refresher on its foundations, or simply a safe place to learn and ask questions, we would love for you to join us. Bring a friend!

(No Adult Bible Study on the First Wednesday Night.
Committees will meet instead.)

Happy birthday

May the abundance of the love of Christ
fill all the days of your life!

4/1	Dan Dykema	4/3	Brooke Bailey
4/4	Anna Trexler	4/8	David Anders
4/8	Georgia Newton	4/10	Dalene Baer
4/10	Doug Green	4/29	Todd Connelly



Undie Sunday

During the month of March, the Mission Committee is collecting donations of new socks, undershirts, and undies for Magnolia Junior Charity League. All donations will stay in Columbia County and benefit students here! Any donations may be placed in the laundry basket in the narthex.

Congratulations, Tenley!!

PLAYER OF
THE WEEK



Tenley was selected as Player of the week during the Lady Panthers first full week of play in March! That week she batted .500 with 3 singles, 2 doubles, and 1 triple. She also racked up 8 RBIs and stole 2 bases while on!

We are so proud of you Tenley!

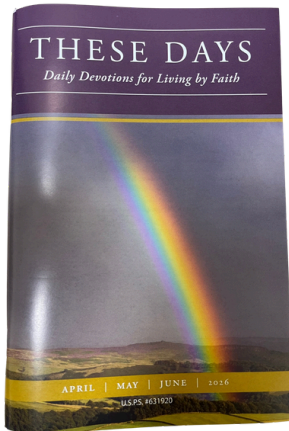
Resources for You!

Our church is blessed to be able to offer different helpful resources to support your spiritual growth at home throughout the week. Below are a couple of these resources.

We encourage you to take advantage of them!

These Days Devotional Booklets

The "These Days" devotional booklets for the 2nd quarter are here and available. You can pick up a copy in the narthex, church office, library, or fellowship hall.



RightNow Media Access

We also provide a church-wide membership to RightNow Media, an online platform providing 24/7 access to over 25,000 biblical videos for spiritual growth for all ages! It's like a Christian Netflix—completely free to you!

rightnow MEDIA

A Gift from
Our Church!



Free Access to +25,000
Bible Study Videos—Anytime,
Anywhere, from Any Device

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fpcmagnolia>

The One Year Bible

One-year Bibles are available in the fellowship hall and library to help guide you through your daily walk in God's Word in one year! It's never too late to start on your journey reading through the whole Bible! Pick up one today!!



*Congratulations,
Ashley!*



We are so excited to celebrate Ashley for being named Magnolia School District's Teacher of the Year and the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce's Educator of the Year! Ashley, we are incredibly proud of you and so thankful for the God given gift of teaching that you share so faithfully, both at our church and in the classroom. The love, care, and dedication you pour into your students each and every day truly make a lasting impact.

*Congratulations on these well
deserved honors!*

LENTEN SEASON

Special thanks to our Lenten Reader volunteers this year. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and help guide us into this season of reflection.



**First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia, Arkansas
The Minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m.**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia, Arkansas, met for its monthly Stated meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Call to order: Moderator Rev. Ray Durham called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 p.m. The Elder Martine Boumtje moved to approve the agenda, Elder Sue Joyce seconded, and Session approved unanimously approved the printed agenda. Elected Session members present were Jodie Arnold, Elder Travis Arnold, Elder and Clerk Paula Boaz, Elder Martine Boumtje, Elder Cathy Downs, Elder Steve Ford, and Elder Blake Pierce. Elected Elder Chris White was absent with notice. Also present was Treasurer Kathy Gean.

Devotional: Elder Martine Boumtje gave a devotional based on Hebrews, Chapter 10, verses 34 and 35. The message was about building a Christian Community, Jesus is the Cornerstone. It takes everyone and we should consider each person's talents and encourage each person.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kathy Gean reported that a CD had come due and she was able to secure a better rate. Discussion was held regarding the current coin offering and a decision was made to discontinue the coin offering and combine with the loose plate offering moving forward. Support is already currently given to the school from other resources outside of the coin offering and will continue.

Approval of December Minutes: Since there was no January Session meeting (due to severe weather) the Session reviewed the December minutes. Elder Martine Boumtje moved to approve the minutes, Elder Jodie Arnold seconded, and session approved.

Correspondence and Requests: Thank you letters and notes were received for financial donations given in December from Abilities Unlimited, Magnolia Specialized Services, Southern Christian Mission, The Stewpot, Tonya Daniels, Magnolia School District, Magnolia Boys and Girls Club, The Baileys and Jared and Abby Archer. [The Mission and Evangelism met in December and distributed the following donations to local non-profits: \$1,453 Southern Christian Mission (washer and dryer); \$3,000 Compassions Foundation; \$3,000 Boys and Girls Club; \$2,000 Cameroon Mission Medical Equipment; \$1,000 Abilities Unlimited; \$1,000 CCAPS (apply to Dr. Bryan's vet bill); \$1,000 Magnolia Specialized Services; \$1,000 Stewpot.] Updates and requests were received from Samaritan's Purse/Franklin Graham, Evergreen, The Archers, EPC World Outreach-Norberto and Marilyn Quesada.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative-Elder Blake Pierce reported that their committee (Blake Pierce, Chris White, and Ryan Phillips) have contracted with Bensberg (out of Camden) for a maintenance contract for the AV system. The contract is for services (\$595 annually) and not equipment. They also discontinued phone and internet services with Optimum are contracting with TCW, which will provide faster and more reliable phone and Fiber services for around \$70 less per month. Chris White has spoken twice with Custodian Darryl Witcher regarding poor cleaning services. Services remain unsatisfactory so his services have been discontinued. The committee is in the process of making new arrangements for custodial services.

Christian Education-Elder Jodie Arnold reported that the first Wednesday of each month continues to be Committee meetings and remaining Wednesdays will be snack meals, prayer time, and Bible study. Pierre Boumtje will lead prayer time. In February, Rev. Durham will lead the Wednesday Bible study group.

Fellowship-The group will be responsible for meals in June and December. This committee has a new member, Susannah Broome. The committee determined who will work at the Stewpot for January, February, and March.

Mission/Evangelism-Elder Paula Boaz reported that the committee fed the residents on their regular third Tuesday night in January. The menu was also planned for the February meal. Committee members Paula Boaz and Linda Anders shopped for the quarterly household supplies for and filled the Call baskets for Foster Families.

Worship-Elder Sue Joyce reported that their committee had the February meals. Plans were made for the Lenten season, including Ash Wednesday, Sunday Lenten candle readings, Maundy Thursday service, Palm Sunday (with palm branches), and Easter Sunday with appropriate flowers, including white lilies. Dr. Dykema provided information about special music planned for the next few months including a brass quintet on Feb. 8th and Easter on April 5th.

Young Adult Outreach-Elder Travis Arnold reported that his committee sponsored the "Christ in Christmas" award at the Community Christmas Parade. Their group covered the cost and shopped for 10 Angel tree names. The family movie night fellowship was a success with twenty in attendance. The committee will plan this fellowship again as it was well received by all.

Pastor Search Committee-Elder Travis Arnold reported that the committee is finalizing the church information form which will be posted on the EPC website very soon.

NEW BUSINESS: Sexton position – previously discussed under Administration. Elder Martine Boumtje announced that May 24 will be the dedication of the Cameroon Medical Clinic. There will be government and church officials there and everyone is invited. Pierre and Martine will travel to Cameroon in May. Please contact them if you are interested in going.

OLD BUSINESS: none

Adjournment and Prayer

There being no Further Business, Elder Sue Joyce recommended that Session close the meeting, Elder Martine Boumtje seconded, and Rev. Durham closed the meeting with Prayer at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dr. Paula Boaz, Clerk of Session; Rev. Ray Durham, Pastor

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.</i> Romans 12:12						
5 9:30am - Breakfast Fellowship Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am - Bible Classes 10:45am - Worship Service 11:00am - Children's Church Easter Sunday	6	7	8 5:30pm - Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study Children's Classes David Anders Georgia Newton	9	10 Brooke Bailey Dalene Baer Doug Taylor	11
12 9:30am - First Fellowship 9:45am - Bible Classes 10:45am - Worship Service 11:00am - Children's Church	13 Ladies' Circle 2:00 pm	14 Stewpot Ryan & Katherine Phillips	15 5:30pm - Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study Children's Classes	16	17	18
19 9:30am - First Fellowship 9:45am - Bible Classes 10:45am - Worship Service 11:00am - Children's Church	20	21 Southern Christian Mission	22 5:30pm - Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study Children's Classes	23	24 Micah Tyler Concert	25
26 9:30am - First Fellowship 9:45am - Bible Classes 10:45am - Worship Service 11:00am - Children's Church	27	28 Session Meeting 6:00 pm Marc & Mandy Headrick	29 5:30pm - Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study Children's Classes Todd Connelly	30		

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

*Sundays:*

9:30 am - FIRST FELLOWSHIP
 9:45 am - ADULT BIBLE CLASSES
 9:45 am - CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY STATIONS
 10:45 am - WORSHIP
 11:00 am - CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Wednesdays:

5:30 PM - PRAYER MEETING
 LIGHT MEAL FELLOWSHIP
 6:00 PM - ADULT BIBLE STUDY/COMMITTEE MTGS*
 CHILDREN'S CLASSES

*1ST WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PLACE OF ADULT BIBLE STUDY.



IN OUR

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

PLEASE EMAIL ANY UPDATES TO THE PRAYER LIST
 TO FPCMAGNOLIA@GMAIL.COM

Paul Ainsworth, Dalene Baer, Alice Bartushock, Gene Bentley, Mary Alice Boreing, David Chenoweth, Kim Cleveland, Katherine Connelly, Bill Dailey, Berkley Dearman, Ray Durham, Sharon Ford, Local Foster Families, John Allen Gean, Julie Townsend Gibbs, Nash Graham & Family, Tommy & Adele Green, Kristy Huffman, Mike Jones, Rochelle McMahan, Jeff Miller, Heather Moore, Georgia Newton, Cathy Sanders, Bubba Smith Family, Ella Lou Smith, Lindsey Spalding, Kalli Smith, Dudley Talbot, Brandon Taylor, Doug Taylor, Mike Teutsch, Anna Trexler, Daisy Uhrich, Caden Ware, Alicia Watson, Margo Weiser, Casanti Williams, Roger Wyrick.



**FIRST
 PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH**

1417 N Jackson
 Magnolia, AR 71753