

First Presbyterian Church Gainesville

College Ministry Plan 2018-2019

Leadership Retreat – As the school year starts it's important for us to start off on the right foot together. This time is used to pray, reflect on the past, and plan the year before us.

Wednesday Night Trajectory – Wednesday night will continue to be a staple of who we are and what we are about. This will be a time where we will continue to come together, study God's word, and ask ourselves how we can apply God's Word to our daily life.

Tabling – Reaching out to students in the midst of where they live is a heart pounding experience. Some students come hungry, ready to receive the Word, while others are skeptical. Our hope is to be a light on the campus, so that when students are ready to engage in meaningful conversation, we are right there to listen, give them information about who we are, and offer whatever word of hope we can.

Tailgating – Football continues to be a heartbeat of Gainesville. Whether one enjoys the game or not, at some point everyone goes to a game. Our plan is to continue to put ourselves right in the middle of campus, fire up the grill, pass out hamburgers, hotdogs, and create an avenue where friends can bring friends and those who pass by will feel welcomed.

John Lennox – This year we will host Dr. John Lennox for an interactive forum on the campus of UF. Dr. Lennox will speak to the issues of science and faith, showing that they are not separate, but that they complement one another. In the past having Dr. Lennox has brought over a 1000 students and guests. We will also have him deliver our College Sunday sermon to college students and the congregation.

Special Meals – For as long as there are college students, there will be hungry college students. Meals have a special way of bringing out togetherness, conversation, and fellowship. Certain meals come with an emphasis of the seasons; our goal is to use these special times to draw students in and experience the warmth of home.

College Café – For many student's home is not exactly around the corner; for some it may be half way around the world. While we won't ever be able to compete with Ma Ma's home cooking, we can at least try to offer a taste of home. College café is

critical time for getting to know one another and expressing upcoming events throughout the year.

Christian Fraternity – Though the Greek life often looks polished, it can have many dark sides. This is an area we continue to try to reach. By allowing the Christian Fraternity Kappa Phi Epsilon to meet on our campus here at FPCG and meet with the officers every other week, it allows us to pour into them so that they can reach non-Christian fraternities.

Atlanta Passion – For many of my students this is a large highlight of the year. Students look forward to listening to some great worship and powerful messages as they prepare for the spring semester.

Keeter Lecture – This lecture series has been a powerful impact for this church for many years. This time is used to bring in outside speakers to address cultural issues of our day and time.

Hungry Week – Last year we launched Hungry Week through the help of the Ravi Zacharias International Team. The vision behind this week is to cover a multitude of topics for students to connect with. Through a series of 15+ different talks that included 10 lunches, we are able to give students and faculty a chance to hear various topics that might lead them to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Missions – Jesus reminds us of the Great Commission in Matthew 28, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.* We want to continue to be a group that grows beyond our own walls by reaching out to others both globally and locally. Whether this is serving our local food bank or continuing to travel to Estelí Nicaragua, we want to be the hands and feet God has called us to be. We pray that we will be able to return to Nicaragua next year as we continue our partnership with Shalom Presbyterian Church.

Rice Night – The Great Wedding Feast reminds us that every nation will gather at the Marriage Supper of Christ. Though this feast goes far beyond anything we can imagine, we also realize that we have a small window of what this looks like every Tuesday night. We are in a unique position knowing that the Nations come to Gainesville to study. May we continue to invite them every week to break bread and discuss the hope we have in Christ.

Men's and Women's Group – Though ministry is important to do collectively, it's also important to give men and women a safe avenue where they go and talk about certain topics alone in a comfortable setting.

Seasonal Events – Nearly every month there is a unique opportunity to use fellowship and events to point students to the Gospel. Whether it’s a Pumpkin carving contest, Thanksgiving dinner, or Christmas celebration, our desire is to use these seasonal moments to welcome new friends and share the hope of Christ.

Flowers – Some of our congregational members are growing in age and they are not able to get to church anymore. One of my students had the idea to take the left-over flowers from Sunday worship and deliver them to those who can’t always make it. We found so much joy in this we plan on doing it again throughout the course of the year.

Thornwell Orphanage – Our experience with Thornwell was so moving last spring, it is our desire to do it again next spring. Our hope this year is to go during a three-day weekend, so we can spend more time there helping out in any way possible.

State Outreach – It seems as though every year Florida is in need of able hands and feet. Whether it is hurricanes or flooding, there always seems to be a place where we can serve. Our hope is to be ready when we hear of certain needs. Due to hurricanes and heavy rainfall we have been able to lend our help in Pensacola, Jacksonville, and Gainesville. Though we don’t wish harm on any city, our desire is to be ready when disaster strikes.

First Presbyterian Church would like to thank stated clerk, Alexandra Hedrick, and the following members of the Coordinating Council and Relationship Coordination Committee: Paige Porter-Buhl; Kristie Hall; Joe Rigsby; and Patti Phillips for meeting with representatives of First Presbyterian Church’s College Ministry to discuss the future of the ministry. In response to discussions held at that meeting and the recommendation of the Coordinating Council that the Presbytery and First Gainesville Church explore ways that there may be more active collaboration with other Presbyterian churches in the area, First Presbyterian amends its College Ministry Plan for 2018-2019 to add the following:

In order to increase participation and collaboration by area churches with First Presbyterian Church in its College Ministry Program, First Presbyterian Church recommends that a written invitation be sent by a representative from Presbytery and First Presbyterian Church inviting interested churches to appoint up to two individuals each as liaisons to the college program at First Presbyterian Church. That shortly after appointment of liaisons, a meeting be held between those individuals and a representative of First Presbyterian Church to share with them the 2018-2019 College

Ministry Plan, provide details of the activities listed on that plan, to answer questions, and explore in dialogue with them opportunities for participation and collaboration. That additional meetings are held to build community and monthly communications are sent to each participating church through its liaison listing for them of upcoming College Ministry events. That in the Spring of 2019, representatives of interested churches and First Presbyterian church meet to discuss the 2019-2020 calendar including specific measures to increase participation of area churches in ways that will be included in the 2019-2020 plan. That outreach efforts on the University of Florida and Santa Fe campuses include providing information about PCUSA churches in Gainesville.