



# First Presbyterian Church of Athens

*In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!*

January 23, 2022  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

## GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone.*

*In observance of the Athens-Clarke County indoor mask ordinance, please wear a mask. If you need a mask, please consult an usher.*

### Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

### Prelude

*Whither Shall I Flee*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### \*Song of Gathering

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;  
thou light of life, light's living spring, true day, all days illumining.**

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).*

### Call to Worship

Let us gather for worship,  
for this day is holy to the Lord.

**The joy of the Lord is our strength and salvation,  
and we gather to offer our praise.**

In singing and in silence,  
in Word and in prayer,

**let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Let us come and worship God.**

### \*Hymn 485

*To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we have wandered from your light. We follow paths of self-indulgence, instead of focusing on our need of you. We passively accept the suffering of the world, expecting others to stand up and work for the change we would like to see. Lord, in your strength, renew us that we may work to pursue your justice and mercy for all people, sharing your light in ways great and small.**

The American gospel hymn *To God Be the Glory* became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the 20th century with the Billy Graham revivals.

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

**\*Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**\*The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson** Isaiah 46:3-4

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Roland E. Martin

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! O, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.  
Here I find my greatest treasure, hither, by thy help, I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.  
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.

**Second Lesson** John 3:1-21

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Nicodemus*

Dr. Carol Strickland

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 492** *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The anthem is a setting of a well-known hymn, quoting Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 in the accompaniment. It was arranged by contemporary American composer Roland E. Martin, a member of the music faculty of The Buffalo Seminary, Daemen College, and the University at Buffalo.

Each stanza of *Baptized in Water* begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set to a Gaelic tune.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*Bunessan*

Robert J. Powell

**\*Doxology**

Hymn 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 275**

*God of Our Life*

SANDON

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response**

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**To God the Father, God the Son,  
and Holy Spirit, three in one,  
may every tongue and nation raise  
an endless song of thankful praise.**

**Postlude**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Emma Lou Diemer

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*God of Our Life* was written for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, by its pastor. He wrote the words especially for this tune.

**A special word of welcome to our guests:** thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the Fellowship Pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

**Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger**, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

**Children, ages 4 years old – 5th Grade, are invited to Children's Church** downstairs in the Children's Ministry Suite during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. **To pick up your child after the service**, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children's Ministry Suite.

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**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Next Sunday, January 30, 12:15 p.m.**

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, **January 30**. We will receive the Annual Report and review the pastors' terms of call.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*  
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

### Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Kitty Donnan

### USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson, Michelle Clendenen-Shaw  
11:00 a.m. Larry Jones, Kitty Donnan

### GREETER

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

### AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of CPL Evan Andrew Marshall, a member of First Presbyterian Church, who was killed in action on January 28, 2008, in Mosul, Iraq, while serving our country.

### TO AID IN WORSHIP

**If you need to leave the sanctuary** during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook and YouTube.

### Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**Prayer requests** can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website ([firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join Dr. Carol Strickland for the Josephine Paine Bible Study on 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The group will study the scripture which will be the preacher's text for the upcoming Sunday. Class will be conducted on Zoom for now. Go to [zoom.com](https://zoom.com), click "Join a Meeting," follow prompts and enter 706 543 4338 for meeting ID. Scripture for 1/27 meeting will be John 4:1-42. Everyone welcome!

### CHAIR YOGA

**Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom**  
**Zoom ID: 558-324-3907 (PW: 6136)**

Join Mel Berzack for a Yoga practice via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. You will need a practical chair (preferably no arm rests or side restrictions) and (if you have one) a mat for a small amount of standing poses. The practice will be around one hour-long. All are welcome.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal life. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. Talk with one of our Stephen Leaders for more information:

Margaret Davis: [margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org),  
706-206-9896

Bob Frisch: [rpfrisch@aol.com](mailto:rpfrisch@aol.com),  
914-262-1078

Dawn Frisch: [dawnmfrisch@aol.com](mailto:dawnmfrisch@aol.com),  
914-255-3447

Lisa Oelke: [lisakoelke@gmail.com](mailto:lisakoelke@gmail.com),  
706-540-4251

Carol Strickland: [cstrickland@firstpresathens.org](mailto:cstrickland@firstpresathens.org),  
706-765-7671

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, January 23**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Sunday rehearsal

### **Monday, January 24**

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite

### **Tuesday, January 25**

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Minister Meeting via Zoom

### **Thursday, January 27**

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom (*ID: 706-543-4338*)

### **Sunday, January 30 - Youth Sunday**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday Services
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group

## LOOKING AHEAD

**February 13 - Red Cross Blood Drive**

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### **Red Cross Blood Drive Sunday, February 13, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office. If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer ([jbneighbors@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbneighbors@bellsouth.net)).

## EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

### SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

*Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop*

*Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines*

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

*\*For the safety of our children, we will continue Covid precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

**Nursery**, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

**Godly Play**, 9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

**Children's Church**, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Children are invited to Children's Church during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. During Children's Church, children will continue to worship together and experience the many ways we worship God with our families in the sanctuary – by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God, and giving to God. On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, children are invited to remain in the sanctuary to worship and participate in communion with their families.

### SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

*Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness*

*Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne*

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

**Sunday School** 9:45 – 10:40 a.m.

This fall, youth will serve as leaders in Children's Ministry for Kids in the Courtyard. They will help with storytelling, feasting, and sharing love with our younger church members.

### Youth Group

Taking advantage of the space outside the PIT and the lower parking garage, youth group will meet outside this Fall. Evenings will be filled with opportunities for fellowship and fun as we build our youth community. Using the Narrative Lectionary, we'll explore what it means to be an active, Christian teen in today's changing world.

#### **Middle School Youth Group**

5:00–6:00 p.m.

#### **High School Youth Group**

6:00–7:30 p.m. (dinner provided)

*For more information on youth ministry, visit our website*  
**www.fpcathenspit.com**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

#### IN PERSON ONLY

**Inquirers** • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

*Facilitators: Carl Bergmann (cberg@ccrc.uga.edu), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)*

**Parents in the PIT** • The Pit

This new class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support. **Will not meet today.**

*Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)*

HYBRID (*in person and over Zoom*)

**Del Dunn Christian Issues** • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles. Zoom and in-person.

*Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)*

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

**New Voices** • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles.

*Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)*

Zoom ID: 870 1906 3194, PW: 305215

**Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class**

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

*Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jitscanlon@yahoo.com)*

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

**Women's Bible Class** • Room 301

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

*Contact: Wanda Wilcox (wwilcox@uga.edu)*

Zoom ID: 813 2290 3374, PW: 459718

ON HOLD (*stay tuned...*)

**W. D. Hooper** • Room 309

The “oldest” Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. **The class will resume on a date to be announced.**

*Led by: Jerris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)*

## To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with refrain

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875

William Howard Doane, 1875

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done!  
2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

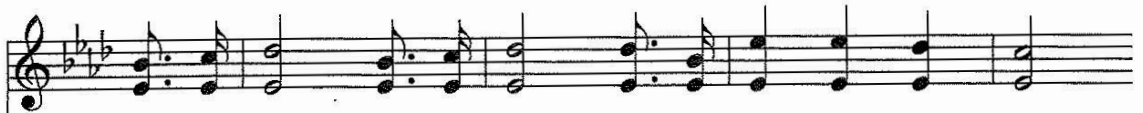
Who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,



And give Him the glo - ry: great things He hath done!





# Baptized in Water

492

BUNESSAN 5.5.8.5.5.9

Michael A. Saward, 1981

Gaelic melody  
Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

C Am Dm G F G C

1. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Cleansed by the  
2. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Dead in the  
3. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the

Em Am Em G C Am F C/G

blood of Christ, our King; Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust-ing the  
tomb with Christ, our King; One with His ris - ing, Freed and for -  
sign of Christ, our King; Born of the Spir - it, We are God's

Am G C G/B Am G7 C

prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
chil - dren, Joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

# God of Our Life

275

SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928

Charles Henry Purday, 1860  
Harm. John Weaver, 1986

1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;  
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.  
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known We fol - low Thee;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be Thou our guide.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
With Thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,  
Be Thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

We own Thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.  
And faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator    Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session  
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

### CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg  
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw  
Kitty Donnan  
Rob Haire  
Larry Jones  
Andy Jordan  
Jimbo LaBoon  
Tom Landrum  
Beverly Phares  
Smith Wilson

### CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan  
Judy Burch  
Kent Burel  
Rod Canfield  
Melinda DeMaria  
Jim Dove  
Mark Hopkins  
Matt Jones  
Robyn McDonald  
Keith Oelke

### CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks  
Phyllis Crowell  
Kemp Gaskill  
Denise Horton  
Paul Lee  
Sharon Logan  
Bruce Middendorf  
Randy Riner  
Chuck Toney

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* ([ryan@firstpresathens.org](mailto:ryan@firstpresathens.org))  
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* ([cstrickland@firstpresathens.org](mailto:cstrickland@firstpresathens.org))  
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* ([margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org))  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* ([jcoble@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jcoble@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* ([kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* ([natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* ([elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto:elaine@firstpresathens.org))  
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* ([rburbage@firstpresathens.org](mailto:rburbage@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* ([lbell@firstpresathens.org](mailto:lbell@firstpresathens.org))  
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* ([paulo@firstpresathens.org](mailto:paulo@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* ([frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accountant* ([angie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:angie@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* ([wds@firstpresathens.org](mailto:wds@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*  
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* ([charlotteposs@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteposs@gmail.com))  
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*

## Meet our Newest Members - January 2022

### ***Susan Baldwin***

joins FPC by transfer of letter from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. She is a Project manager for Southern Company Services/Southern Power Company. Susan grew up at FPC. Her parents, Jinx and Skeets Baldwin, were long time members of FPC. Susan enjoys playing tennis and walking.

### ***Paithan Campbell***

joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith. He is an apprentice plumber and enjoys writing, reading, board games and rugby. He is engaged to Katie Payne who is also joining our church. .

### ***Melisha Gilreath***

joins FPC by transfer of letter from Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Sandy Springs, Ga. She is a retired school psychologist. Her husband Ron is a retired PCUSA minister. Melisha enjoys travelling, reading and being a grandmother.

### ***Alan and Lynn Merrill***

join FPC by transfer of letter from Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. Alan and Lynn are both retired. Alan was in corporate management with Kimberly-Clark in addition to being a professional remodeling carpenter. Lynn was a registered nurse and in nonprofit management. They both enjoy volunteering! Alan enjoys carpentry and watching sports. Lynn enjoys reading and gardening.

### ***Katie Payne***

joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith. She is a law student at UGA and engaged to Paithan Campbell who is also joining our church. Katie enjoys running and reading.

### ***John and Julie Webster***

join by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. John is in investment management and Julie is Director of Piedmont Healthcare. They have three adult children. They both enjoy playing tennis. John also enjoys playing golf and Julie enjoys travelling.