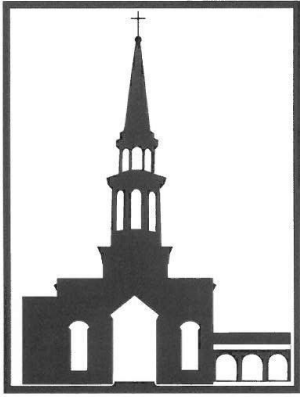


September 2016



FIRST PRESS NEWS

First Presbyterian Church
153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.fpcrm.org
252-446-9121



Rally Day 2016

Join your friends at First Presbyterian on Sunday, September 11 as we mark the end of summer with a luau themed day of fun!

9:30 a.m. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and learn about the 2016-2017 Christian Education opportunities.

11:00 a.m. Worship (don't forget UCM donations—see inside for more information!)

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. End of Summer Luau & Church-wide Picnic at Rose Hill Plantation and Conference Center. Dress luau casual and enjoy food & fellowship. Kids (and adults) can swim or fish, play games, and have fun. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. BBQ chicken and beverages will be provided, please bring lots of side dishes or desserts to share since we are expecting guests from our NC Wesleyan Bishop Buddies Partnership (International Students that can benefit from some local hospitality).



Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi

Associate Pastor for Congregational Life: The Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Lydia Wingo Kane *Church Ministry Coordinator:* Dionne Seale *Financial Secretary:* Jeanne T. Shannon

Director of Music: Jim Smith *Organist:* Virginia Vance

Sexton: J. J. Jeffries *Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:* Charity Lodge *Nursery Assistant:* Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship

...with First Presbyterian!



Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon (except on Lunch Bunch dates) in the Session room. This fall, we will be studying the book Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson (see page 7 for more details).



Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who staffed our Lemonade on the Lawn time of fellowship during the summer months! We especially appreciate the baking talents of Betsy McLean and Hannah Diedrick, and thank J.J. Jeffries for helping set-up and clean up the table and serving pieces each Sunday.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

Wednesday Night Fellowship resumes on September 14. Chris will be leading a study on a number of different topics, and we will welcome in a number of special speakers from the community to talk about current projects and ministries in the Twin Counties and beyond. Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall, and at 6:45 p.m. for the study. All are welcome!



**LUNCH BUNCH
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
NOON IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Join us for some good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch kicks off a new season of fellowship meals! We will enjoy a delicious tailgate themed menu that includes: Fried Chicken Strips, Broccoli Salad, Pineapple Casserole, Potato Chips and Brownies for dessert. Notify the church office if you can attend or write Lunch Bunch by your name in the Friendship Pad on Sunday mornings. Faithful volunteers prepare and serve the food, and a basket is passed for contributions to offset the cost of the meals. While geared towards retirement age folks, all are welcome!

*From the
Pastor*



My heart is glad as I write this article from the comfort of my sofa this particular evening, watching my first NFL preseason game of the year. Football is back. Which means college football is back, which means that

Georgia football is back!

Many of us are also back from various trips, vacations, and visits with family near and far. September 11 is our Rally Day, and the day we resume our 11:00 worship schedule. There's much to look forward to: new Sunday school classes, our annual picnic at Rose Hill, special music in worship. We will be beginning a six week sermon series on the Great Ends of the Church, a mission statement of sorts that has been part of Presbyterian history and polity for over a century. It will also be the first Sunday for our new Children's Ministry Coordinator, Lydia Wingo Kane. You can read more about her in this newsletter.

With Lydia's arrival, Dionne will be transitioning to a full administrative role, though she will certainly remain in many ways involved with our different ministries. Dionne began working here in 2008, after serving as a volunteer coordinator for our children's ministry. Just this past month was her 8 year work anniversary. She has worked tirelessly to serve our children and our congregation. Her excitement is contagious; and her love for our children is unmistakable. I know that you will join me in thanking Dionne for her many years of service to FPC, even while we look forward to many more years of service in her new role!

Faithfully,
Chris
Chris

Makes \$ "Cents"

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for July. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office if you have any questions at jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.

Pledges and Loose Offerings received through July 31, 2016

Month - to - date	\$ 28,248.84
Year - to - date	\$ 381,045.61

Expenses through July 31, 2016

Month - to - date	\$ 58,670.45
Year - to - date	\$ 373,892.49



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital
Campaign
Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,158,866.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 7/31/16):

\$1,025,845.71



Church Photo Directory

It is time to update our church photo directory! First Presbyterian is partnering with Lifetouch to photograph all church members who are willing and able to schedule appointments between October 11—14, 2016. We are also exploring a makeup date if that is not a good week for

you or your family. Volunteers will be needed to help check in our church members to their photography session here at the church. If you are willing to assist, please come to an information meeting on September 6 at 4:00 p.m. in the Session Room or notify Christie Sondergard.



Meet our new Children's Ministry Coordinator, Lydia Wingo Kane!



We are thrilled to announce that Lydia Wingo Kane has been hired to serve as the new Children's Ministry Coordinator. She will have an opportunity to meet the elementary Sunday School teachers during a Meet & Greet on September 7 in the Session Room at 5:30 p.m. and will be available to meet even more of the congregation on Rally Day. Lydia lives in Tarboro with her husband Ben and their two young daughters, Margot and Phoebe. She and her husband met at Vanderbilt Divinity School where she received a Master of Theological Studies. She also has a Master of Special Education from Vanderbilt with a concentration in low incidence/severe disabilities. Lydia is coming to us from a teaching job at Martin Millennium Academy in Tarboro where she served as the Exceptional Education teacher and served students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. She also serves on the Christian Education Committee at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church where her husband Ben is the senior pastor. She has experience with planning and teaching Sunday School classes, coordinating the training and scheduling of paid and volunteer nursery workers, and has been a regular volunteer for leading children's church during worship. Some fun facts to share about Lydia include: she loves to run, she loves food of all kinds (especially desserts), and she loves travel! Some of her favorite places to visit have been Spain, Italy and Guatemala. She has always been interested in history and theology, but became interested in combining her studies of Christianity with education while working with a child with Down syndrome during her time at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Lydia loves working with children and teaching about our faith, and she is especially passionate about including people with disabilities in religious life and education. Lydia is looking forward to getting to know each family in the coming months.

Youth Suite Spruce Up!

Over the last few weeks of August and first few weeks of September, our youth suite will be getting a spruce up in the form of fresh paint, new sofa cushions covers, pictures, clean carpet, and some new accents. This project was made possible due to a generous bequest given many years ago to our youth ministry program. Next time you are around the church, be sure to run upstairs and take a look in person!





Senior Highs

9/11

Church-wide Picnic at Rose Hill

Swimming, fishing, eating, laughing...Join us for this fun, yearly gathering of our church family!
The fun begins at 4:00 pm and ends at 7:00 pm.

9/28

Youth Group Kick-Off

We will gather at the church from 5:00-6:30 for a meeting to kick-off our year in youth group.
Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Door prizes for all

Friends welcome!

9/25

Olympic Recap

Several amazing stories came out of the Olympic Games in Rio this summer. Almost a month later, come and explore these stories through the lens of Christian faith!

Middle School

9/11

Church-wide Picnic at Rose Hill

Swimming, fishing, eating, laughing...Join us for this fun, yearly gathering of our church family!
The fun begins at 4:00 pm and ends at 7:00 pm. It is always more fun with our youth there!

9/18

Youth Group Kick-Off

We will gather at the church from 5:00-6:30 for a meeting to kick-off our year in youth group.
Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Door Prizes for all

Friends welcome!

9/25

Olympic Recap

Many of us enjoyed the Olympics from the comfort of our couches this summer. Let's get up and move with some Olympic-inspired activities in the youth suite!

Meeting times for Youth Group @ church

Middle School - 4:30-5:30 pm

Joint Youth Dinner - 5:30-6:00 pm

Sr. High - 6:00-7:00 pm

Meeting times for Home Gatherings

Middle School - 4:00-5:30 pm

Sr. High - 5:30-7:00 pm



- ◆ Please continue to drop off children's books, and men's and women's clothing for Peacemakers! You may leave books and clothes in the Volunteer office beside the church office sitting room.
- ◆ You can also contact Peacemakers at 252-443-0213 to schedule a pick up of items to donate from your home!

*For more information, visit
www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.*



Meals on Wheels
We deliver smiles™

Volunteers who can substitute are always welcome!
Contact Kara Cox for more information at 252-908-4749.



*Harris Teeter Shoppers:
Be sure to link your VIC card to #5443 to benefit the Children's Hope Alliance (formerly Barium Springs & Grandfather Home for Children).*

First Sunday of the Month



The following items can be brought to the narthex area of the church on the first Sunday of each month or drop off anytime in the volunteer office beside the church office entrance:

Tar River Academy

Be sure to check out the wish list for Tar River Academy on the bulletin board outside the church office describing school supplies, food, hygiene items, and baby supplies needs and non-perishable food items. **The following school supplies are useful: notebook paper, spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, colored pencils, markers and crayons. The following non-perishable food items are appreciated: canned fruits, canned meats (chicken, tuna, etc.), canned ravioli, peanut butter, cereal bars, Mac & Cheese (box or cups), Pop Tarts, Nabs/crackers.**

United Community Ministries

#10 size cans (preferred) of either vegetables or canned fruit.

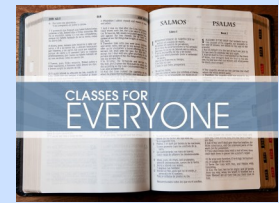
First Presbyterian has volunteered to sponsor the ministry of UCM shelters in the month of September. This effort is in addition to our regular monthly collection of food. The list of requested items includes:

- 55 gal. and 13 gallon trash bags
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet tissue
- Paper towels
- 8 oz. foam cups
- 12 oz. foam bowls
- Disposable dinner size plates
- Bleach
- Napkins
- Dish detergent

Items will be collected in the narthex area on Rally Day, September 11, 2016.



Fall 2016 Christian Education Opportunities



Sunday Mornings

Preschool and Kindergarten – this class meets in room 110 downstairs and will be learning about the faith using the new “God Loves Me” storybooks curriculum.

Elementary – our two elementary classes meet upstairs and will be diving deep into God’s word using the Deep Blue lessons again this year. Grades 1-2 meet in Room 201 and Grades 3-5 meet in Room 203

Middle School – the Middle School Youth will be throwing it back to Biblical times by studying the characters of the Bible using the “Ancestors in the Faith” study. This class meets in the upstairs Youth Suite.

Sr. High – our Sr. Highs will be talking about faith using the Nooma videos that serve as a conversation starter from the perspective of Jesus. Once a month during Sunday this class will enjoy the quiet simplicity of prayer stations. This class also meets upstairs in the Youth Suite.

Adult Present Word Class – this classic class explores God’s word using the tried and true PC (USA) curriculum, “The Present Word”. The Present Word class meets upstairs in Room 205.

Adult PEP Class – our “Presbyterians Educating Presbyterians” group will again explore issues of faith using the “Wired Word” current events curriculum. Teasers will be handed out the Sunday before and emailed out mid-week. The PEP class meets upstairs in Room 207.

During the Week

“Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life” book study with the Rev. Chris Berardi – Beginning September 12, join Chris Berardi as he leads us in a 10 week introduction to spiritual disciplines. Using Marjorie Thompson's book "Soul Feast," participants will learn about and be invited to practice such disciplines as spiritual reading, worship, prayer, fasting, sabbath keeping, hospitality, and others. The book may be purchased at the church for \$10, or ordered online (it is also available as an ebook). There will be two opportunities each week to discuss each chapter. A group will gather at noon every Monday for lunch and discussion. There will also be a Facebook group created where questions will be posted each week and anyone in the group can engage in the discussion online, rather than in person.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study – a favorite offering returns this year with the Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan and Catherine Lilley as co-leaders. Beginning Wednesday, September 28th at 10:00 a.m., we will embark upon a 7 week study of the book of Job. Sign up by calling the church office or check your weekly email for more information. Members and friends are welcome!

Wednesday Night Fellowship – join this wonderful group for a covered dish supper in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm, followed by a time of study led by Chris Berardi and various community leaders!

FPC MUSIC NOTES

- We welcomed back our ECU choral scholars on August 28: Noli Araya, Graham Leonard, Mikaela Schifter, and Rebekah Shamberger.
- The Music Committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. on September 7 in the church library.
- Rehearsals for the Cherub Choir (age 3 through 1st grade) and the Alleluia Singers (2nd through 5th grade) will resume on Wednesday, September 14th at 5:30.
- Rehearsals for the Handbell Choir (high school through adult) will resume on Wednesday, September 14th, at 6:30.

New singers and ringers for all groups are always welcome. The Handbell Choir in particular needs two new participants to come and enjoy our newly refurbished, tuned, and polished handbells.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee will meet Monday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Session Room. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Frances Guerry.



This wonderful ministry provides prayer shawls, blankets, etc. to those in need of God's warmth!



Due to Labor Day being on our regularly scheduled meeting time, the church being closed on this day, and no urgent business to take care of at this time, the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will not meet in September. The next meeting will be held October 3, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.

The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Linda Amerson.

The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead our Bible Study: "Who is Jesus According to Mark".



stephen MINISTRY.

CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE,
THROUGH PEOPLE

The Stephen Ministry training sessions ended on August 31, and we look forward to scheduling a commissioning date for our newest Stephen Ministers in the near future. Stephen Ministry congregations "equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting".



“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”
1 Peter 4:10

September 4, 2016 **Communion will be served by intinction**

Head Usher: Steve Rowe

Ushers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, John Etheredge, Lisa Rowe (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Lloyd and Sarah Bailey

Children’s Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helpers: Linda Amerson, Laura Dudley

Communion Preparers & Servers: Laura Durham, Joe Brown

September 11, 2016 **Rally Day**

Head Usher: Steve Rowe

Ushers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, John Etheredge, Lisa Rowe (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Lloyd and Sarah Bailey

Children’s Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Christie Sondergard

September 18, 2016

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Lee Scott, Larry Gragg, Roslyn Gragg (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

Children’s Sermon: Jim Lilley

Nursery Helper: Chrissy Barnhill

September 25, 2016

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Lee Scott, Larry Gragg, Roslyn Gragg (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

Children’s Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Christy Outlaw

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



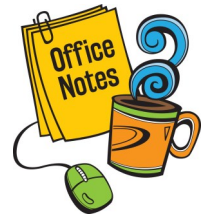
@FPC_RockyMount



fpc_rockymount

First Presbyterian Church's office hours are Monday—Thursday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building at other times.

Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date!



Dear Church Family:

I was so thrilled to receive the nice cake from the church! What a lovely gesture! I shared it, but am still enjoying it for my dessert, as I think of my wonderful church!

We are so fortunate to have such a GOOD church, that inspires us, encloses us, and give us cake-remembrance on birthdays!! Wonderful!

Thank you, thank you, one and all for such a thoughtful treat!

In Christian love,
Ida Stanley

Dear Members,

Thank you all so much for your recent gift to My Sister's House. As you are aware, the need in our area is great...both for the direct victim and for their children. Thank you for helping us serve.

Best,
Cynthia Kornegay
Executive Director
My Sister's House

Dear Church family,

Thank you for all your cards, flowers, and well wishes. Most of all, thank you for your prayers.

Please keep praying.

It is wonderful to be part of such a caring and loving church family. I am blessed.

Love,
Lila Michael

Thank you to the First Presbyterian Church family and Bobbi Weeks for delivering the flowers from the church service in sympathy of our recent loss. Though we missed Bobbi's visit, the flowers were still fresh and the message was much appreciated. In addition, thank you Mary Kathleen for your kind words of support and encouragement to our family.

With thanks,
The Goodings



Our love and sympathy is extended to the following members and families:

- Taylor Phillips and family upon the passing of his aunt, Mary Phillips, on August 2, 2016 in Tampa, Florida.
- David Gooding and family upon the passing of his father, Tom Gooding, on August 6, 2016 in High Point, NC.

Please continue to keep these members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



If you would like to honor someone or mark a special occasion in the coming year, please sign up by the date you prefer on the flower chart that is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

September 18

September 25

October 2

October 16



We celebrated with joy the baptism of Theodore James Duncan on Sunday, August 21. Teddy is the son of David and Mary Kathleen Duncan, and brother of Mary Eliza Duncan.



THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

AUTUMN CARE Nashville

- ▶ Virginia Campbell

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Linda Amerson

Jean Boddie

Jean and Frank Edge

Anne Etheredge

Si Fuller

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Betty Hodges

David Jones (friend of the church)

Nancy & Bailey Liipfert

Jacob McCabe (Mary Watson's grandson)

John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)

Lila Michael

Gerry Niece

Stacey Norman (Sydney Phillips' sister)

Susie Park (Fred Park's Mother)

Anne Parkerson

Fred Payne

Anne Podesta

Shirley Quinan (Jay Quinan's mother)

Blanche Robinson

Evelyn Reese

Maida Sessoms

Bobbi Weeks

Youth Sunday
August 28,
2016

