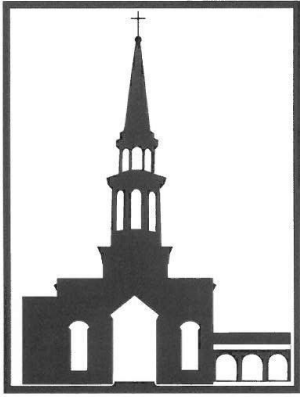


July 2016



FIRST PRESS NEWS

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

*From the
Pastor*



This July and August, Mary Kathleen and I will be preaching a series on prayer. More specifically, we'll be looking at the Lord's Prayer. Both the gospels of Matthew and Luke record Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray, and we'll be going back and forth between both texts. They can be found in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. In Luke's account, the disciples actually ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Apparently, they're a bit jealous that John the Baptist taught this to his disciples, but Jesus had yet to do that for them.

Prayer can take on a variety of appearances. It can be a simple few words of grace before a meal, or an elaborate display of poetry before sharing the Lord's Supper. We pray in times of grief, and we pray in times of joy. We pray at funerals and we pray at baptisms. We pray silently to ourselves and we pray corporately out loud.

As we explore the Lord's Prayer together, I hope you will examine the meaning of prayer in your own life, and perhaps find new ways to pray. For the Berardi Family, our meals have become a way for John to learn new prayers. From the very simple, "God is great and God is good..." to singing the doxology, we have been discovering new ways to converse with God.

But prayer is more than speaking. It is also listening. Prayer can be silent. Not just silent in the sense of talking to God in your head rather than out loud, but silencing the voices inside of us to make space for the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

I hope you will join us each week as we explore prayer together; but if you are away, don't forget that you can always listen to our sermons during the week online. You can find them by visiting our website, clicking on the link we provide each week on Facebook and Twitter, or by finding us on iTunes.

Grace and Peace,

Chris

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi
Associate Pastor for Congregational Life: The Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan
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

Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon (except on Lunch Bunch dates) in the Session room. All are welcome to bring a lunch and join one of our pastors for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!



Lemonade on the lawn!

Join us for lemonade and delicious treats in the courtyard outside the columbarium each Sunday immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship!

Members of the Diaconate and congregation will be assisting with this fun time of fellowship! If you would like to assist with serving, please contact the church office for more information on how to sign up.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

Wednesday Night Fellowship switched to the home or restaurant meal only gathering schedule and will not resume the meal/program meeting in the Fellowship Hall until this fall. Here is the July schedule:

6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

- July 6 K & W Cafeteria
- July 13 Home of Sue and Gene Jackson
- July 20 The Prime Smokehouse
- July 27 Home of Sylvia Phillips

All home meals are covered dish and all are invited to come and enjoy!



All are invited to share in the 10th Annual
Summer Community Worship Services!

The host schedule follows:

July 17—Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

July 24—First United Methodist Church

July 31—St. Mark AME Church

August 7—Church on the Rise

All worship services begin at 6:00 p.m. The offering this year will support Communities in Schools and the theme is "Being God's Peace". Information about preachers will be in the Sunday bulletins.

Makes \$ "Cents"

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for May. 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
May 31, 2016

Month - to - date	\$ 56,517.87
Year - to - date	\$ 291,586.51

Expenses through May 31, 2016

Month - to - date	\$ 40,436.97
Year - to - date	\$ 253,683.83



Attention all past and
present Gatekeeper
Volunteers...

CELEBRATE WITH US!

The 25th Anniversary of
Gatekeepers Workcamp

Sunday, July 17, 2016

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Lakeside Baptist Church

Rsvp 252-446-0126

Join us as we remember our beginnings, celebrate the work that has been accomplished, and look forward to the future of our ministry.



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*

Capital
Campaign
Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,158,866.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 5/31/16):

\$1,012,635.20

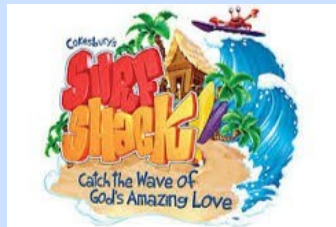
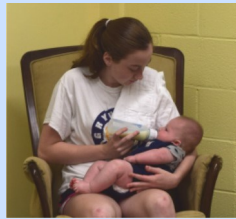


Our summer worship time is 10:00 a.m. *Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11:00 a.m. resumes on September 11, 2016.* **The church office will be closed Monday, July 4, 2016 for Independence Day.**



“Surf Shack” Community Vacation Bible School was held at First Presbyterian June 13-17, 2016 for kids in Pre-K 3’s through 5th grade.

We are grateful for the support of the congregation and our fellow church sponsors: Lakeside Baptist, Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal, West Haven Presbyterian, and St. Andrew’s Episcopal. Over 100 children made new friends, enjoyed Bible stories, played games, sang, ate yummy food, and made our hearts happy as they caught “the wave of God’s amazing love”! Eighteen children from our church participated and too many amazing volunteers to count from First Presbyterian stepped up to make this week possible! Thank you to all of you who planned, taught, decorated, assisted in the classroom, ushered, facilitated morning worship, sent in drinks and snacks, supervised refreshments, sang, led storytelling, assisted with recreation, served in the nursery, and especially those who helped us clean up! :) The halls were filled with happy noise and for that we feel blessed!



**Kids and Parents: Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 24!
11:00—1:00 p.m.**

**Kids can stay after worship for Sunday Funday in the Fellowship Hall!
Lunch, Games, Crafts, and Fun for ages Kindergarten—5th grade
Sign up with Dionne Seale in the church office at 446-9121 or via email
at dionne.seale@fpcrm.org by July 22 so we can properly plan!**



Gatekeepers Work Camp

This is the 25th anniversary of Gatekeepers and we have a great group of youth and adults from our congregation participating this year. This week of Christian service kicks off with a cookout at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 10th and continues each day of the following week.



Keep our Youth Group in your prayers as we travel to Montreat, North Carolina for the 2016 Youth Conference. We will depart at 9:00 am on Sunday, July 17th and return mid-afternoon on Saturday, July 23rd. Youth and youth families – keep an eye out for more detailed information headed your way via snail mail and email.

Here is an update on some of our recent college graduates:



- ⇒ Robert Kincheloe Barnes recently received his Masters of Accounting from UNC-Chapel Hill
- ⇒ Nicholas Mosley graduated from Emory with an MBA on May 9th in Atlanta, Georgia
- ⇒ Arrington Moore received her Masters in Public Administration from NC State University on May 7. and is now living in Morehead City.
- ⇒ Emma Park graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill on May 8 with a BA in Economics and Global Studies and Minors in Entrepreneurship & Information Systems; Phi Beta Kappa. After teaching at Shanti Bhavan in India and volunteering at Awamaki in Peru, she will head to Boston in March to begin working for The Bridgespan Group.
- ⇒ Peyton Brown graduated in May from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia with a BA in History and a minor in Museum Studies. She will start working in July in the library of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond.
- ⇒ Olivia Roberson graduated May 7 from NC State University with a degree in Brand Management and Marketing from the College of Textiles along with a minor in Business Administration.
- ⇒ J.R. Parks graduated in May from the University of South Carolina, and has moved to Atlanta where he will be working for IBM.
- ⇒ Emily Rowe graduated from UNC-Wilmington and Allen Rowe graduated from UNC School of Law, both on May 14.
- ⇒ Jonathan Cedric Smith, son of our Director of Music Jim Smith and wife Mary George, graduated from Appalachian State University with a BS in Business Management on May 14.



- ◆ 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 wooden cabinet located in the Volunteer office.
- ◆ Donations are being accepted at Peacemakers to offset part of the cost of the playground not covered by a grant.

For more information, visit www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.

First Sunday of the Month



The following items are most appreciated and can be brought to the church on the first Sunday of each month or 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. They are especially in need of hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, washcloths, soap, deodorant, and feminine hygiene supplies.

United Community Ministries

#10 size cans (preferred) of either vegetables or canned fruit, and paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper.

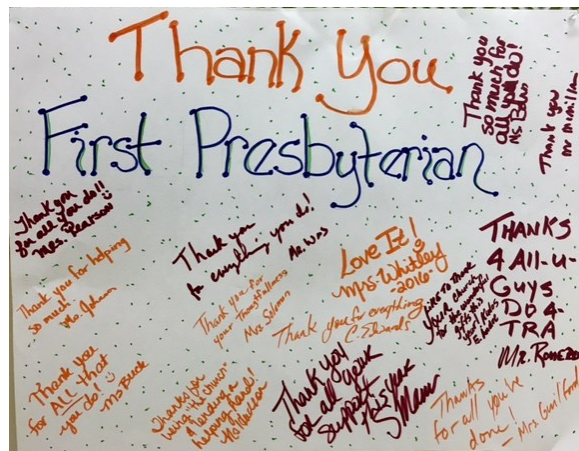


Summer subs are greatly needed for several routes!

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).



Above is a thank you poster from Tar River Academy in appreciation for the use of the Fellowship Hall for their Graduate Banquet on June 8, 2016

BRIDGING CEREMONY



On Friday, June 4, both troops 55 and 434 participated in the local Girl Scout bridging ceremony at Englewood Methodist Church. Our seven Brownies bridged up to Junior Girl Scouts, and our twelve Junior Girl Scouts bridged up to Cadettes.



Fun times with the In-Betweens Fellowship Group at the home of Kay Wester on June 17, 2016...





Summer Choir

Come sing with us this summer.

- No Wednesday evening rehearsals.
- Meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings to rehearse an anthem for worship.
- Music is easy to learn.
- All are welcome!



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet July 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room in order to plan for Fall Kick-Off.



The Handcraft Ministry will meet on
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
at 1:30 p.m. in the home of
Pam Gragg



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



Ushers and greeters are an integral part of the worship service each Sunday. All current ushers and greeters should have received an email with instructions on how to sign up for a summer date online. If you did not receive that email, or are not currently on the Usher/Greeter list and would like to be added, please contact Dionne Seale in the church office for more information! Again, we are trying out a new system that allows folks to sign up for dates that suit their schedules during the summer months rather than be assigned, and would love to add you to the list! Dionne Seale can be reached during office hours at 252-446-9121 or by email at dionne.seale@fpcrm.org.

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



This is not a complete list of ushers as of printing—as ushers and greeters sign up online during the summer months, their names will be added to the weekly emails as a reminder.

July 3, 2016 *Communion will be served by intinction*

Head Usher: Linda Amerson

Ushers: Ike Amerson, David Farris, Walt Wiggins

Greeter: Clevie Wiggins

Children's Sermon: Chris Berardi

Nursery Helpers: Kim Sutton, David Duncan

Communion Preparers: Sonny Foster, Mary Perry

Communion Servers: John Etheredge, Sonny Foster, Mary Perry, Laura Dudley

July 10, 2016

Head Usher: One needed

Ushers: Ann Dill, two more ushers needed

Greeter: one needed

Children's Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Kate Honey

July 17, 2016

Head Usher: James Tharin

Ushers: Christie Sondergard, two more ushers needed

Greeter: Kate Tharin

Children's Sermon: Chris Berardi

Nursery Helper: Tricia Vestal

July 24, 2016

Head Usher: one needed

Ushers: Roger Seale, two more ushers needed

Greeter: Janice Smith

Children's Sermon: Joe Callaway

Nursery Helper: Dionne Seale

July 31, 2016

Head Usher: one needed

Ushers: three ushers needed

Greeter: one needed

Children's Sermon: Chris Berardi

Nursery Helper: Laura Durham

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



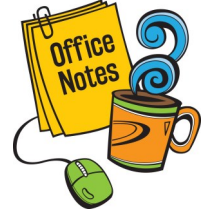
@FPC_RockyMount



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!



First Presbyterian Church,

I wish to thank my church family for all the deeds of kindness show to me during my recent knee replacements. I continue to improve daily and am now on a cane; hoping to soon be permitted to drive again and actively at church. The beautiful flowers, phone calls, visits, cards, food, overnight assistants, and transportation to therapy have been so appreciated. Above all, I wish to thank you for the many prayers that have come from you. I truly feel they have been answered.

Again, thank you to my special church family at First Presbyterian, and I ask for your continued prayers for a full recovery.

Sylvia Phillips

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for making our birthdays so special. Hannah, your cake s were beautiful and enjoyed by all our family. Thanks to Beth High for delivering them and her visit was most enjoyable. Thanks again for being so thoughtful. We are so blessed to have such a caring group.

Fondly,
Genevieve and Bill Batchelor

Dear Handcraft Ministry,

Thanks to all of you who made the prayer shawl that was delivered to me by Frances and Lila. I feel the many hours of love and prayer that went into knitting it when I wrap up for a nap. I am so fortunate to be a member of such a caring congregation.

Fondly,
Linda Amerson

Dear Friends,

Jean Boddie asked me to send you all a note of thanks for the flowers, cards, telephone calls, prayers and other acts of kindness you have shown towards her during her illness. Jean is at home now regaining her strength so she can join you once again at Sunday worship!

Please continue to pray for her health and strength to be completely restored.

With kindest regards,
Pam Larimer

Dear First Presbyterian Church Members,

My family and I were overwhelmed with all the kindnesses you showed us after mother's death. We appreciated your helping set up Lacy Hall for the meal and for making all those delicious desserts. Mother loved the church as her family. She was always happy to be involved with all aspects of church life. We will always remember your loving care and concern.

Love,
Harriet and Wicky
The Dill Family

To my Pastor Chris and my Church Family,

I just want to thank all of you for the beautiful birthday cards, phone call and your prayers. I am not there in person but my heart and my prayers are constantly with you. Thank you Dionne (and Clevie) for my weekly bulletins.

Love to you all,
Maida Sessoms (from Florida)

Thank you all very much for the beautiful quilt for Harper. It is such a thoughtful gift and will be a wonderful keepsake as well.

Love,
Brian, Megan, Madison and Harper Thornes
(Harper is the granddaughter of Bobbi & Hassell Weeks)



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

- ◆ Family of Tom Maude upon his passing on 5/31/16.
- ◆ Tom Dill and family upon the passing of his wife, Ann Fountain Dill, on 6/2/16.
- ◆ Margaret Edwards and family upon the passing of her husband, Ryland Edwards, on 6/3/16.

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. **All Sundays in July are currently available.**



- Frye and Lea Gessaman Wernick announce the birth of their son, Jonathan Asher Wernick, on June 13, 2016. "Jon" weighed 9 lbs., 12 oz. and was 21.5 long. Verna Gessaman is his proud grandmother.
- Blair Sullivan Mullen was born on June 27, 2016 weighing 7 lbs, 2 oz. Her parents are Kai and Amanda Proctor Mullen, and her proud grandparents are Russell and Nancy Proctor. Uncle Lee Proctor is excited too!



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
- Bobbie Lambeth
- 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
- Anne Podesta
- Shirley Quinan (Jay Quinan's mother)
- Blanche Robinson
- Evelyn Reese
- Maida Sessoms
- Phyllis Toler
- Hassell Weeks

More images from our week of Surf Shack Vacation Bible School...

