

October 2016



FIRST PRESS NEWS

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

CARING FOR ALL

As we enter Stewardship Season, we are embracing the theme “Caring for All”. This has been inspired in three ways:

- ◆ **Our Mission Statement:** “To be a congregation of believers carrying out the Word of God and joyfully bringing the community to the church and the church to the community.”
- ◆ **Our Vision Statement:** “A nurturing growing church living the Gospel by caring for all of the community.”
- ◆ **Key Bible Verse:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 23** as we gather at **5:00 p.m.** for a Stewardship Dinner Pig Pickin'! Our menu will include pulled pork right off the cooker, fried chicken, slaw, potatoes, string beans, hush puppies and dessert. Jim Smith and the Chancel Choir will be providing the entertainment. The Stewardship Committee invites you to prayerfully be considering not only your financial gifts, but also ways that you can give of your time and talents in the years to come! A new and improved “Time and Talent Ministry Inventory” will be unveiled at this year’s Stewardship Dinner. We are asking for folks to complete one that will be kept on file to assist the various committees of the church with updating their lists. This will serve as a “baseline” time and talent inventory and you can simply notify the office in the future if you wish to be added to or removed from an activity.

Let us know you are coming to the meal by either calling the church office or emailing dionne.seale@fpcrm.org by Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi

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

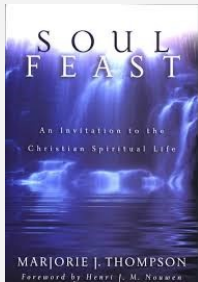
Children’s Ministry Coordinator: Lydia Wingo Kane *Church Ministry Coordinator:* Dionne Seale *Financial Secretary:* Jeanne T. Shannon

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!



“Soul Feast: An Introduction to the Christian Spiritual Life” Book Study

This group meets Mondays at noon in the Session Room. Bring your lunch and join

Chris Berardi for a time of discussion. Books are still available through the church office for \$10. A Facebook group has also been created where weekly online discussions can occur. Contact the church office for more details.

Monthly Men’s Breakfast

October 11, 2016 at 7:00 a.m.



Start your day off on the right foot and gather at the Hardee’s on Sunset Avenue for a time of good food, fellowship and a brief devotional with Chris Berardi.



**In-Betweens
Christmas Dinner
December 6, 2016
Benvenue Country Club
More info to come!**

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall, and at 6:45 p.m. for a time of discussion in the Session Room.

Upcoming topics and speakers in October will include:

- October 5 Vann Joines—Beal Street Apartments
- October 12 Mark Mangum—United Community Ministries
- October 19 TBA
- October 26 Chris Berardi and Richard Joyner—Food, Faith, and Sustainable Relationships



**LUNCH BUNCH
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17
NOON IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Join us for some good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch enjoys a fall themed time of fellowship on October 17. We will enjoy tomato basil soup, ham & cheese flatbread sandwiches, crackers, fruit, and iced pumpkin bread 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!



Stewardship season is upon us! Each pledge is a great blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for paying your pledge:

- Envelopes – these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card
- Bank draft – The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25th of each month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. If want to start a bank draft, simply attach a voided check to your pledge card.
- Online giving – Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit www.fpcrm.org using the ‘Ministries’ link and ‘Donate Now’ to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.
- Sale of stock – If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon to request a stock donor letter or have your broker contact Jeanne in the church office at (252)446-9121.
- Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon’s mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the ‘memo’ line

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rocky Mount

We are excited to share your new church logo! In anticipation of upgrades to the church website in the near future, we have a new logo that captures not only the steeple but also local downtown landmarks. Be sure to pick up one of the color-changing logo cups on the welcome table in the narthex!

Makes \$ "Cents"

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

Month – to – date	\$ 61,536.67
Year – to – date	\$ 440,182.28

Expenses through August 31, 2016

Month – to – date	\$ 40,878.26
Year – to – date	\$ 414,770.75



Our Heritage, Our Mission

Capital
Campaign
Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,158,866.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 8/31/16):

\$1,032,677.71



If you have not signed up yet for an appointment, please do so today! We **highly encourage** your participation as these

photo directories are a great way for folks to put names with faces in the church family! There is no obligation to purchase any thing, and you can receive a free directory and 8x10 portrait just by participating. Also, if you bring a canned food item to your portrait session, Lifetouch will give you a \$5 discount off any portrait orders placed. There are still appointments open October 12-16, 2016. Sign up sheets are located outside the church office or call 446-9121. Notify Christie Sondergard if you can volunteer to check folks in! Pictures can also be submitted to the church office if those dates do not work for you!



The first Sunday in October we celebrate World Communion Sunday. At Parents' Afternoon Out last Wednesday, we talked about remembering Jesus through communion. The children built and colored churches from Iceland and Russia that look so different from our church, but the people who worship there remember Jesus through communion in the same way we do. We also set our communion table and ate painted bread and drank grape juice boxes to share a meal together.

Of course communion is a practice rich with symbolism and connections to everything important to our practice as Christians, no matter what age we are and no matter in what part of the world we live. This is the prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson that we used to remember other children around the world before we ate together:

"It is very nice to think
the world is full of meat and drink
with little children saying grace
in every Christian kind of place.
Amen



At home this month, find a time to pray with your children, maybe at meal time but any time that works best for your family. Talk about how we remember Jesus when we share meals together and pray to remember what we have in common with Christians all around the world.

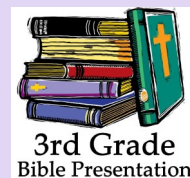
In the upcoming months your children's Sunday School teachers will start spending some time each week teaching different age groups the Doxology, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. These prayers all express something different when we use them in worship, but they have in common that they are used by Christians all over the world and have been for many many years.

My hope this month is that we remember that Jesus is the bread of life and that all our Christian brothers and sisters around the world are fed by his Word whenever we come together.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane

In recognition of moving up to the 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class and in anticipation of their ability to more fully grasp the written word, the following 3rd graders received a new Bible during worship on Sunday, September 11:

- Ellen Feagans
- Ann Cleveland Fisher
- Walt Fisher
- Britt Gaynor



Sunday School Fun!





Senior Highs

10/2 **Mosaic of Prayers**

Remember the prayers we wrote on that piece of plywood at Youth Group Kick-off?
We will be turning them into a beautiful mosaic with a Christian symbol.

10/9 **Labyrinth Walk**

We will journey over to Lakeside Baptist to walk the labyrinth.
Come and enjoy this time of contemplative prayer with your Youth Group!

10/16 **YouTube Night**

Let's catch up on some amazing Youtube videos together!
We'll laugh, ponder, and talk about our faith in Jesus Christ.

10/23 **Congregational Stewardship Dinner**

Come and enjoy a pig pickin' as we exercise what it means to be a church
and enjoy fellowship with members of all ages!

10/30 **Home Gathering - Relevant Night**

We will gather at Suzanna Mosley's for a time of food, fellowship,
and a devotion from the popular website and magazine, Relevant.

Middle School

10/2 **Field Trip - Grafted in Christ**

We will board the church bus to visit the Brown's pecan farm near the church.
There we will enjoy the beauty of God's creation and talk about what it means to be grafted into Christ.

10/16 **YouTube Night**

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10/30 **Devo at Dunkin**

Meet at the Dunkin Donuts on Sunset Ave. from 4:00-5:00 pm with your friends from youth group for a devotion and
fellowship. Please bring money for a treat!

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

Sr. High - 5:30-7:00 p.m.



At left, we had a great turn out for the Youth Group Kick-Off Gathering for youth and parents on September 18!



- ◆ 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.

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

Paper products and #10 size cans (preferred) of either vegetables or canned fruit are especially appreciated.



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



Volunteers who can substitute are always welcome!

Contact Kara Cox for more information at 252-446-4336.

Save the date!

*3rd Annual Beans and Brews
Chili and Craft Beer Tasting
Benefiting*

Meals on Wheels of Rocky Mount

November 15, 2016

6:00-9:00 p.m.

at the Rocky Mount Brewmill

Tickets available online, by invitation, or by inquiring in the kitchen during MOW hours. Call 446-4336 if any questions.



Troop 7 Spends Night Aboard Historic USS Yorktown

Troop 7 recently walked in the steps of our country's heroes while participating in the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum's camping program aboard the historic World War II aircraft carrier USS Yorktown on Charleston Harbor. During the trip, scouts became "shipmates" while touring the museum's three 70 year old warships: the USS Yorktown, World War II destroyer USS Laffey, and Cold War submarine USS Clamagore. The group also learned about the Vietnam War in the museum's new, interactive, Vietnam Experience. The landside exhibit is a 2.5 acre recreation of a Brown Water Naval Support Base and Marine Fire Artillery base.

At right, Troop 7 held a church service at sunrise on the bow of the Yorktown and the message was about sacrifice for others.



Girl Scout Update



At left, our Girl Scout Troop had a fabulous weekend at Figure Eight Island. We toured the USS Battleship in Wilmington, visited the Sea Turtle Hospital in Topsail, and learned all about marine life at the beach. We started our new year on Monday, September 19. Below right, the Cadette troop went to Archdale in August and conquered the Kersey Valley high ropes course and an "Escape the Room" adventure. We are now embarking on our Silver award. We will be

creating an art room at the Boys' and Girls' Club. If anyone has any gently used art supplies such as easels, etc. we would love to take them off your hands.



Letters of appreciation for an anonymous donation given to the Girl Scouts...

Thank you for the gift. We very much appreciate it! Thank you for supporting our troop! We are planning to use our gift for our service project at Christmas. We think your gift is very generous. Thanks again!

*Love,
Girl Scout Troop 55*

*To our Anonymous Scout Donor,
Many, many thanks for your very kind donation to our Girl Scout Troop! We were so surprised to receive such a generous gift and so touched by your thoughtfulness, kindness, and generosity. It will be so very helpful this Holiday Season when our troop adopts a family to provide with Christmas gifts. They will be just as appreciative then as we are now. Thank you so very much for supporting the scouting program at First Prez!*

Girl Scout Troop 1969 (Emily, Grace, Maxwell, and Suzanna)

Hi, these are the members of Girl Scout Troop 434, and we just wanted to say how thankful we are for the contribution you made to our troop. This dramatically helped us with our silver award (an art room for the Boys' and Girls' Club). We are very thankful for the amount of money you gave us. Since we now have this money, we will now be able to make the beautiful Art Room for these Children. They will be so happy when they see the fun, new room. Thank you so much!!!!

Girl Scout Troop 434



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, October 3, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.

The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Sylvia Phillips.

The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead our Bible study on Lesson 2: "Who is Jesus— According to Matthew".

Presbyterian Women: Mark Your Calendars!



Saturday, October 8, 2016
10:00-12:00 p.m.

Unity Presbyterian Church
11551 NC HWY 50 S, Newton Grove, NC

Registration 9:30-10:00 a.m.

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on
Tuesday, October 25, 2016
at 1:30 p.m. in the home of
Joan Radford



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

FPC MUSIC NOTES

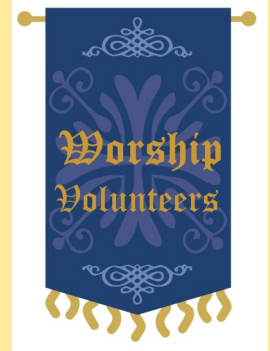
Top Ten Reasons to Join the Chancel Choir

10. Choir members share fifty percent of the tip money earned by the accompanist at her more lucrative job as substitute organist at the Hurricanes' games.
9. Rehearsals provide a relaxing hour and a half away from the grumpy spouse and wild children.
8. You say you can sing the melody loudly but can't read music? Two words -- soprano section!
7. Let's face it -- you might as well volunteer to sing since nobody's ever going to pay you to do so.
6. It's exactly like singing in the shower, except you're not naked and people are actually listening.
5. Since you never became a pharmacist, you'll finally get to put to good use all those years of studying Latin in high school.
4. You don't have to dress up -- the choir robe hides a lot.
3. The ushers never pass the collection plate in the choir loft.
2. You get to enjoy the fun and fellowship of singing with other choir members.
1. You have a guaranteed seat on Christmas Eve!

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

- 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir & Alleluia Singers rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Handbells rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

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



October 2, 2016 *Communion will be served by trays*

Head Usher: Rob Barnhill

Ushers: Darin Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Lee Scott, Edie Reeves (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Chrissy, Edward, Bea, Nan, and Margaret Barnhill

Liturgist: Mike Gaynor

Children's Sermon: Joe Callaway

Nursery Helpers: Stephen Chesnutt, Martha Chesnutt

Communion Preparers: John Turnage, Nancy Richardson

Communion Servers: Lige Daughtridge, Laura Dudley, Sonny Foster, Mike Gaynor, Roslyn Gragg, Greg Hutchins, Anne Mosley, Mike Mosley, Melanie Marshall Park, Nancy Richardson, Ben Roberson

October 9, 2016

Head Usher: Rob Barnhill

Ushers: Darin Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Randy Evans, Linda Evans (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Chrissy, Edward, Bea, Nan, and Margaret Barnhill

Liturgist: Catherine Lilley

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Kate Tharin

October 16, 2016

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: Jep Rose, Laura Durham, Mike Mosley, Karen Thompson (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Tommy, Kate, Shelton and Thomas Honey

Liturgist: John Etheredge

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Caroline Berardi

October 23, 2016

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: Jep Rose, Laura Durham, Mike Mosley, Karen Thompson (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Tommy, Kate, Shelton and Thomas Honey

Liturgist: Bill Buchanan

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Kim Sutton

October 30, 2016

Head Usher: Joe Brewer

Ushers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Richard Hunt, Edie Reeves (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Katherine Fisher

Liturgist: Dee Whitley

Children's Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Winnie Gaynor

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



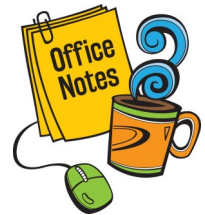
@FPC_RockyMount



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!



To my Church Family,

Thanks to all of you for your many expressions of concern....the food, flowers, cards, visits, prayers and other gifts. I appreciate everything!

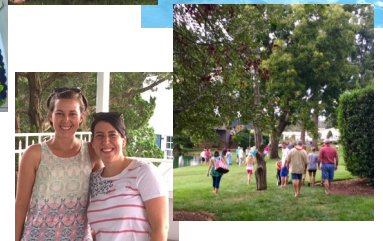
With love and many thanks,
Augusta Daniel

Dear Church Family,

Getting old is not so bad when you receive beautiful flowers that graced your church on Sunday, a call from Mary Kathleen, and a visit from Beth High bringing a fantastic cake made by Hannah. I made a picture of it and shared it with my email friends. I am so grateful for my church family, and I thank God for it every day.

Love,
Evelyn Reese

Rally Day Fun on September 11, 2016



Carol and I want to thank First Presbyterian Church for the kindness and blessings received from our church family regarding the birth of our granddaughters, Isabel and Helen.

Sunday, Mary Kathleen presented us with two baby blankets lovingly made by our handcraft ministry. They are absolutely beautiful. Both Carol and I can visualize our babies not only wrapped in the blankets but also in God's hands.

Then yesterday, Laura Dudley brought a bouquet arranged by John Etheredge from Sunday's flowers from our worship service. That is also a very special treat. They bring great joy to both of us, again, as a reminder of our two little miracles. Thank you for thinking of us and all of your prayers.

Greg and Carol Hutchins

Thanks to all our church friends who are praying for Gene's mother, Nora Davis. I know she is feeling the love being sent her way. The flowers delivered to Gene from the church were beautiful and greatly appreciated. It is great to be members of such a caring congregation.

Sue and Gene Jackson



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

- Janice Smith upon the death of her sister, Pauline “Polly” Savage, a resident of the Albemarle in Tarboro, on September 15, 2016.
- Jay Quinan upon the death of his mother, Shirley Quinan on September 22, 2016.

Please continue to keep these 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:

October 16
October 30
November 20



We are excited to share that Jim and Liz Woodard are the proud parents of a new son, John Rodman Woodard. John was born on September 18. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20.5 inches at birth.



THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

AUTUMN CARE Nashville

- ▶ Virginia Campbell

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Linda Amerson
 Augusta Daniel
 Nora David (mother of Gene Jackson)
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
 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 (friend of the church)
 Stacey Norman (Sydney Phillips’ sister)
 Susie Park (Fred Park’s Mother)
 Anne Parkerson
 Anne Podesta
 Blanche Robinson
 Evelyn Reese
 Maida Sessoms
 Charlotte Wheeler (mother of Amy Hunt)



Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership

Mary Perry was surprised with a PW Honorary Life Membership on Sunday, September 11 during worship. She also received a silver pin with the PW Honorary Life symbol below. This recognition is given to individuals in order to show appreciation for their faithful service in various areas of church work. Mary has faithfully served this congregation in many capacities. While she may be a retired educator, she stays on the go as a loving wife, sister, mother, grandparent and friend. We are grateful for the time and talent she has shared with so many.



STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING

On Sunday, October 30, 2016, Sarah Bailey, Georgia Mixon, and Sylvia Phillips will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Commissioning comes after a long period of study (more than 6 months)! Among many topics, they have studied about Christian caregiving; the art of listening; being assertive; what it means to be confidential; and how important it is to have healthy boundaries with the people who are served.

Our three new Stephen Ministers have over forty predecessors who have - through the years - been part of the Stephen Ministry Program at First Presbyterian Church. The following people have been active Stephen Ministers: Linda Amerson, Pat Blanchard, John Daniel, Carolyn Kulynych, Young Lee, Thelma Lundy, Karen Miller, Skipper Parker, Ann Parkerson, Marlene Payne, Evelyn Phillips, Kay Ratchford, Josephine Ward, Russell Byrd, Fran Heller, Leigh Skeen, Stan Herndon, Phyllis Parker, Jack Perry, Anne Podesta, Barbara Griggs, Phyllis Goodwin, Laura Dudley, Nancy Richardson, Lila Michael, Lisa Rowe, and Anne Etheredge. The Stephen Ministry Leaders in the past were: Pat Mauldin, and Lee Anderson; Linda Evans, and David Farris; Winslow Rogers, Carolyn Kulynych, and Chris Feno; Betty Jones, and Kathy Lawson.

Stephen Ministers personally benefit from the life skills they learn in their training—the listening skills, the use of reflective questions, and attentiveness to someone else’s needs. Learning those skills helps our Stephen Ministers in so many areas of life, and they really grasp the idea that when we serve “the least of these”—our brothers and sisters who may be suffering—we’re serving Jesus. This gives them a practical, tangible way to express their faith as they connect with others in a caring relationship.

Further information about Stephen Ministry can be found on the website: www.stephenministries.org There are six Leader’s Training Course Opportunities offered in 2017, in different areas of the country. Training takes place for one week – the exact weeks that are scheduled are listed on the website. In January the locations are – Orlando, Florida, and Anaheim, California; in April – St. Louis, Missouri; in June – Orlando, Florida; in July – Dallas, Texas; and in July – Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Please call the church if interested in this special training. The contact person for Stephen Ministry is Chris Feno.