

November 2016



FIRST PRESS NEWS

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

2016 is one of those years where Advent starts in November, the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. Which means that the Christmas season is fast approaching! I confess that I'm one of those people who refuses to play Christmas music until after Thanksgiving, and who will frown upon businesses that start playing carols before then, as well.

There's much to look forward to in the life of our church before the Christmas season begins. On November 6 we will conclude our sermon series on the Great Ends of the Church, and will also have a time during worship to offer our 2017 estimate of giving cards to God.

This is the time of year when our lives become even busier than they already are. We drive around looking for the perfect Christmas gift, or for the right food for Thanksgiving dinner. In the midst of the chaos, we so often find ourselves tired, but refusing to rest. For the two Sundays before Advent, we'll talk about this in worship. More specifically, we'll talk about Sabbath. What does it mean? Does it really apply to us? How do we obey the commandment to honor the Sabbath?

Join us on November 13 and 20, and bring a friend.

Peace,

Chris

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi

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

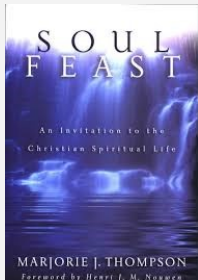
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Lydia Wingo Kane *Church Ministry Coordinator:* Dionne Seale *Financial Secretary:* Jeanne T. Shannon

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 and will conclude in December. Bring your lunch and join Chris Berardi for a time of discussion. A Facebook group has also been created where weekly online discussions can occur. Contact the church office for more details.

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 November will include:

November 2 Coffee With A Cop—all from the community are invited!

November 9 Jackie and Mickey Bailey will be speaking about AGAPE Village Orphanage in Zambia, one of the missions we support.

November 16 Our own Sydney Phillips will talk about the work being done in the community by the Down East Partnership for Children.

November 23 No Wednesday Programming—Happy Thanksgiving!

November 30 The Rev. Jordan Davis of Union Presbyterian Seminary will share how Union is preparing people for ministry and will talk about the future of theological education.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

November 8, 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.



Benvenue Country Club

December 6, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

- * 5:30-6:00 p.m. Social time with punch and bar snacks provided
- * 6:00 p.m. Dinner served with a menu including chicken crepes, fresh fruit, haricot verts (green beans), bread, garden salad, dessert of NY cheesecake with mixed berries and fresh whipped cream, and choice of coffee, tea or water.
- * Cash bar available

Please RSVP before Wednesday, November 23.

The price is \$31 and you can make checks payable to Sylvia Phillips or Sue Jackson. If someone has a dietary issue that should be addressed, please advise Sylvia or Sue as well.



LUNCH BUNCH

Monday, November 14
Noon in the parlor

Join us for some good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch enjoys time together on November 14. We will enjoy Chicken Divan, garden salad, rolls and 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 UPDATE



Stewardship packets that were not picked up were mailed to your home address. You are invited to bring your pledge card to church on Dedication Sunday, November 6 or mail it in to the Financial Secretary, Jeanne Shannon.

Don't forget there are several 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.
- ◇ 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 at 446-9121 or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.

Makes \$ "Cents"

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for September. 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 September 30, 2016

Month – to – date	\$ 29,743.45
Year – to – date	\$ 469,925.73

Expenses through September 30, 2016

Month – to – date	\$ 43,543.79
Year – to – date	\$ 458,223.82



Our Heritage, Our Mission

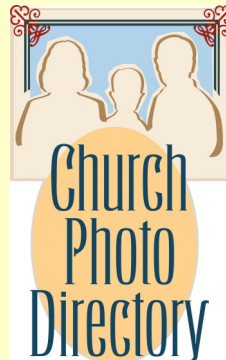
Capital
Campaign
Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,158,866.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 9/30/16):

\$1,034,209.71



We appreciate your understanding and patience as the Photo Directory Committee works to reschedule our photo sessions that were postponed the week after Hurricane Matthew. As soon as a new plan is in place, we will share it via the bulletin, weekly email and the newsletter!



Don't forget to change your clocks back an hour on Saturday, November 5!

The church office will be closed November 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.





If you are like I am, the past weeks have been trying times, filled with worry about my own home and family and my community. One sunny afternoon as I walked with my girls to see the swollen river, after the hurricane had passed and as we waited for the river to crest, I was doing my best to use my reason and faith to overcome the overwhelming feeling I was having of how could God let this happen. At that moment, my four-year-old daughter said, "Mom, why did God want it to storm and flood?" All I could manage as a response was, "I don't know. I was just wondering the same thing."

As Christians, the knowledge of a suffering world is not new to us. We know through the stories of Scripture and our own experiences of the world that suffering is a problem that is hard to explain and hard to wrap our minds around.

How timely, then, is our stewardship theme of caring for all. When we are faced with suffering in our community and in our own lives as we have been with the hurricane and the flood, we are called to respond using our gifts with the help of the Holy Spirit. How do we convey that to our children? We can talk about what happened and we can talk about God's presence with us.

Talking about what happened

- Answer questions and be direct, but don't give unnecessary details about the event.
- Ask your child what they know or what they have heard and respond to their information and concerns.
- When something bad has happened, children need to know they are safe and loved. Reassure your child that you are there for them and that other helpers are doing all they can to take care of everyone who needs help.

Talking about God's role when people and the world are hurting

- We know that God loves all people and that God is always with us, even when terrible things happen. Luke 12:1-7
- Let your child know how your family is helping. Show your child how you help by letting them participate and talk about how important it is to find opportunities to be a helper.

Being the Church

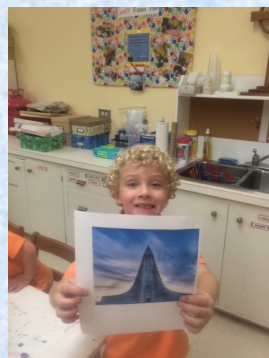
Opportunities to learn about God, be helpers, and just be together abound in this season!

- Wednesday, November 2 Pre-K Get Together at the church.
- Sunday, November 20 Advent Workshop for children and youth with breakfast
- Wednesday, November 30 Parents' Afternoon Out

Resources taken from FredRogers.org

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane

Images from the Parent's Afternoon Out gathering on September 26:



YOUTH

First Presbyterian Church Rocky Mount

Senior Highs

11/6

Movie Night #1

Come and watch part 1 of the movie, "The Good Lie" starring Reese Witherspoon. We will enjoy fellowship and discussing how this film interacts with our faith.

11/13

Practicing Sabbath

Enjoy a Sunday night at home with your family. Eat dinner together, take some time to be quiet and still, and do the brief devotion that will be emailed out to you by MK.

11/20

Movie Night #2

Come and watch part 2 of the movie, "The Good Lie" starring Reese Witherspoon. We will enjoy fellowship and discussing how this film interacts with our faith.

11/27

All Youth Gathering at Good Shepherd

Like we have done in years past, we will gather with our friends from other churches for an Advent gathering of food, fun, fellowship, and devotion!

Middle School

11/6

Prayer Blocks

Join us this night as we make prayer blocks to help us talk to God!

11/13

Practicing Sabbath

Enjoy a Sunday night at home with your family. Eat dinner together, take some time to be quiet and still, and do the brief devotion that will be emailed out to you by MK.

11/20

The Prodigal Parable

Come and explore Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son with your friends at youth group.

11/27

All Youth Gathering at Good Shepherd

Like we have done in years past, we will gather with our friends from other churches for an Advent gathering of food, fun, fellowship, and devotion!

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.

Images from the recent Middle School Raleigh Youth Mission Retreat (October 21-23)





The following items can be brought to the narthex area of the church on the first Sunday of each month or you are welcome to drop items 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.

United Community Ministries

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



- ◆ We will be again be supporting the Peacemakers Toy Store by asking folks to drop off new, unwrapped toys here at the church (on the stage of the Fellowship Hall) no later than **December 1**. There is a list of suggested items on the PW Bulletin Board. Parents with limited resources are able to purchase these items at heavily discounted prices on **December 9 & 10** for their children and the revenue produced goes back into Peacemakers programming.
- ◆ Books are still wanted, especially for the Peacemakers Book Party to be held from 11-1:00 p.m. on Saturday, **November 19**. for ages K-8th grade.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed for both events listed above. Simply contact Peacemakers at 252-443-0213 if able to help or to schedule a pick up of items to donate from your home for their thrift store.

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

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 at

*www.mowrmt.org, by invitation, or by
inquiring in the kitchen during MOW
hours. Call 446-4336 if any questions.*



There are still ways to assist those affected by the flooding and damage associated with Hurricane Matthew in October:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance— visit pda.pcusa.org and donate online to the disaster relief fund (DR000193) or pick up a form from the church narthex.
- United Way— you can drop off bath towels, diapers, socks, water, toiletries, animal supplies, children's toys, folding chairs (bagged), and school supplies at their location on Sunset Avenue.
- Red Cross—visit www.redcross.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS to make a donation.
- Salvation Army—they are accepting clothing and household items to assist flood victims.
- Conetoe— our friends at Conetoe were significantly impacted and monetary donations can be made to FPC (memo line: Conetoe assistance).



**Operation Christmas Child
Shoeboxes and Packing
Information Brochures will
be available for pick up in
the Fellowship Hall the**

**first two weeks of November. Filled shoeboxes
can be brought back to the church on November
13 for delivery to the local collection site. For
more information about this ministry, please
visit www.samaritanaspurse.org.**



Troop 7 Updates:

- ◆ Jared McCall successfully passed the Eagle Board last month. Jared is a Senior at Rocky Mount Academy and is applying to the Naval Academy as well as other military schools. Jared told the board that during his time in Troop 7 he learned leadership skills, organization and how to overcome adversity. These are all skills he will surely need at college. For his project, Jared built 3 handicap accessible planters for the Bryant T. Aldridge Rehabilitation Center. The planters are used by patients as part of their rehabilitation plan. Jared raised over \$1,800 to complete his project. Troop 7 currently has 5 other scouts working on their Eagle project, including two that are benefitting the playground of First Presbyterian! We look forward to sharing more information regarding those upon their completion.
- ◆ Christopher Jenkins was recently awarded the first annual "Dr. Walter 'Bo' Parrish Memorial Scholarship". Chris received \$1,000 towards his college degree. Chris was a former scout from Boy Scout Troop 7. Chris earned his Eagle Scout rank during his tenure as the troop's Senior Patrol Leader his senior year of high school. Chris is currently attending Tennessee State University located in Nashville, Tennessee. He is pursuing classes in pre-law. Chris is a member of Tennessee State student government and is founder of "The Dream Project" which helps Nashville TN area elementary students with academic and personal counseling. Dr. Parrish was an Eagle Scout from Troop 7. He went on to become a founding partner of Wake Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry located in Raleigh, N.C. Through a trust established by his former partners, Eagle Scouts from the Rocky Mount area will be eligible for college scholarships annually.



Girl Scout Troop 55 and Troop 434 (Cadettes) Updates:

- ◆ The Girl Scouts have finished their social butterfly badge and are now starting the practice with purpose badge.
- ◆ The Cadette troop is soliciting corporate donations and creating a list of expenses for the art room they are creating at the Boys' and Girls' Club. Thanks to those of you who have contributed art supplies.

Troop 1969 Updates:

- ◆ Suzanna Mosley and Grace Warner were recently recognized for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve, during worship at First Presbyterian on October 16.



Grace and her mom Lynn



Suzanna and her mom Anne



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, November 7 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.

The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Laura Dudley (1212 Drivers Circle) with the Rev. Chris Berardi providing the lesson.

The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. The Rev. Chris Berardi will lead our Bible study on Lesson 3: "Who is Jesus—According to Luke".

Mark your calendars for the Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea! It will be held Thursday, December 15 at the home of Stephanie Hayworth.

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Chris Fenno.



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

FPC MUSIC NOTES

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

Upcoming Chancel Choir Opportunities

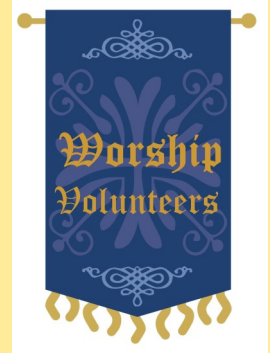
- **Joy Gift Program**—Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m. (rehearsal on Saturday Dec. 10 from 10-12:00 p.m.)
- **Christmas Concert**—Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. (rehearsals Dec. 1 and 15 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and December 17 from 10-12:30 p.m.)
- **Christmas Eve Service**—5:30 p.m.; pre-service music begins at 5:15 p.m. (rehearsals Dec. 20 from 7:00-9:00 and Dec. 22 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.)

Please notify Jim Smith if you plan to participate in the Christmas Concert or Christmas Eve Service so he can be sure to have enough copies of the music.



Advent season is fast approaching! The Worship Committee will be decorating the sanctuary, vestibule and chapel on Thursday, Dec. 1 and removing decorations on Thursday, Dec. 29. If you can help on either day, please contact Annie Daughtridge.

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



November 6, 2016 *Communion will be served by trays*

Head Usher: Joe Brewer

Ushers: Sonny Foster, Pell Foster, Stephen Chesnutt, Randy Evans (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Katherine Fisher

Liturgist: Joe Callaway

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helpers: David Duncan, Kate Honey

Communion Preparers: Amy Hunt, Richard Hunt, Catherine Lilley

Communion Servers: Vince Durham, David Gooding, Amy Hunt, Richard Hunt, Greg Hutchins, Catherine Lilley, Jep Rose, Mary Sue Smith, Tim Smith, Kate Tharin, Wicky Thorpe, John Turnage

November 13, 2016

Head Usher: Wicky Thorpe

Ushers: Brett Sondergard, Christie Sondergard, Owen Sondergard, Kay Wester (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Christy, Zoey and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Richard Hunt

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridge

November 20, 2016

Head Usher: Wicky Thorpe

Ushers: Brett Sondergard, Christie Sondergard, Owen Sondergard, Kay Wester (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Christy, Zoey and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Russell Proctor

Children's Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Dionne Seale

November 27, 2016

Head Usher: Tim Smith

Ushers: Mary Sue Smith, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal, Janice Smith (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Nancy Richardson

Liturgist: Lige Daughtridge

Children's Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Lydia Wingo Kane

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



@FPC_RockyMount

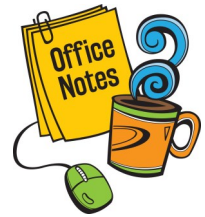


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First Presbyterian Church's office hours are Monday—Thursday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building at other times.

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!

If you know of other college student address changes, kindly notify the church office!



Dear Church Family,
I have been overwhelmed by all the expressions of kindness and support you have shown Ike and me. I appreciate all the cards, call, flowers, and especially the prayers offered on my behalf. I am truly blessed to be a member of First Presbyterian.

Thank you,
Linda Amerson

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for the beautiful baby blankets. They are lovely and the colors fit the girls personality. We can't wait to show them off in Rocky Mount.

Best,
Mark and Sarah Hutchins

My dear Church family,
Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and support you have shown me during the loss of my sister Pauline "Polly".

The flowers were beautiful and lifted my spirits tremendously.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers, especially her twin, Geraldine "Gerry", who has relocated to Somerset Assisted Living here in Rocky Mount.

Grace, peace and love,
Janice Smith

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
Jim and I have felt overcome by the many expressions of love that have been extended to us not only with the birth of our son, John, but also since we joined First Presbyterian. We are so very fortunate to have been welcomed into such an active, caring, and spiritual home.

The sweet angel cup you gave us is on our family room mantel—a constant reminder of how blessed we are. We were so excited to have a hospital visit from Mary Kathleen, and we enjoyed the sanctuary flowers for over a week. The blue baby blanket was certainly a labor of love and much appreciated.

Jim joins me in much love and thankfulness to you! We cannot wait for John to meet you!

Liz Woodard

To the members of the Handcraft Ministry,
My mother received a beautiful lap blanket at Nash General (3rd floor) on September 12, 2016. She was diagnosed with cancer with severe metastasis that day. The nurse on the floor gave it to us for our mother. It meant so much. She went home to Nashville that afternoon. She died the next morning at 5:50. What a shock. We are all believers in our family. While we will miss her, she is having a wonderful Homecoming! The lap blanket was with her at her death...so kind and appreciated.

In Christian Love,
The Marie Whichard Family

Church Handcraft Ministry Members,
Once again, we want to thank you for your donation of yarn and craft supplies to our Knitting and Crocheting Group.

Your thoughtfulness helps us make more hats and scarfs for those who need them most, our sick. The hospitals are very grateful and we are also grateful for your help.

Janice Dickerson
Jo Story Senior Center



Our love and sympathy is extended to the following:

- Charles and Frances Guerry upon the death of Charles' father, Chester Guerry, on October 12, 2016 in Columbia South Carolina.

Please continue to keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.



**ORDER YOUR
Poinsettias**

We decorate our Sanctuary during Advent with beautiful poinsettias which are made available by your donations to honor and remember special friends and/or loved ones. Envelopes will be available beginning **November 20** in the Narthex or from the church office for you to pick up and enclose payment along with the name(s) of those you wish to honor. You can either place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or return to Dionne Seale's church mailbox. A donation of \$18 per poinsettia is appreciated. A special bulletin remembers the honorees on Christmas Eve and the deadline to donate is **December 18, 2016**.



- ◇ Anne Wilgus Podesta is excited to share that her first great-grandchild, Caroline Elizabeth Conchetta Davis, was born on 9/26/16 in Falls Church, Virginia. Caroline's parents are Will and Anna Murray Davis. Anne's daughter Shelley is the mother of Anna.
- ◇ Suzanne and Bill Buchanan have a new grandson, and Herman Ferguson has a new great-grandson! Hall David Neblett was born on October 25 to Abby and Colin Neblett. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20.75 inches.



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
 Tempie 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)



ADVENT WORKSHOP

November 20th during the Sunday School hour

All youth and children's Sunday School classes will be suspended for this week as we gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast treats and Advent fun. Mark your calendars and be sure to come and prepare for the Advent season with us.

More Images of Fun from October...



Mosaic Mischief with the Senior Highs!



Middle School Youth at the Brown's Pecan Farm



Middle School Fun in Raleigh!



Parent's Afternoon Out Craftiness!