

January 2017



FIRST PRESS NEWS

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

Friends,

Happy New Year! My hope and prayer is that the Advent and Christmas seasons have been a blessing to each of you. This past month I have especially enjoyed gathering in homes, at the church, and around the community to celebrate Christmas, birthdays, and one another. I am thankful for the opportunity to partner with each of you in the work of ministry as we live out our callings as Christ's disciples.

It has been years since I've made any New Year's resolutions, but I do try to set goals each year for what I want to accomplish. In 2017, one of my goals is to strengthen relationships – with family, friends, and community. I hope that when you come by the church during the week, you'll pop by my study to say hello. Know, too, that I'm a phone call away should you want to talk. As part of this goal of mine, I'll be looking to spend more time gathering in folk's homes, in our Sunday School classes, and for a good meal or drink at the Mills.

May you and yours find abundant blessings in 2017!

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

Faith & Fellowship

...with First Presbyterian!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

Join us starting January 11 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.



January 10, 2017
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.



*Monday, January 23, 2017
Noon in the parlor*

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch kicks off the new year on January 23! We will enjoy chili, cornbread, salad and lemon pie. We have folks listed on a "permanent list". Notify the church office if you can not attend or if you wish to be added to the permanent list. 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!



BROWN BAG Bible Study

Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in the Session room and will resume gathering on January 9, 2017. All are welcome to bring a lunch and join one of our pastors for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!

NEW OFFICERS

The following were elected to serve as officers during the December 18, 2016 Congregational Meeting:

Elders (Class of 2019):

Chris Fenno Mike Gaynor

Winslow Rogers Kim Sutton

Deacons (Class of 2019):

Heather Gardner Frances Guerry

Jim Newton Lauren Seale
Youth Deacon

James Tharin

MAKES CENT\$



Happy New Year! Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office if you are interested in hearing more about bank drafts. Its each and one less check to write.

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for November. 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 or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

Pledges and Loose Offering through November 30, 2016	
Month – to – date	\$ 50,840.66
Year – to – date	\$ 554,980.60
Expenses through November 30, 2016	
Month – to – date	\$ 51,298.19
Year – to – date	\$ 574,856.53



The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2 and Monday, January 16, 2017.



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:
\$1,158,866.11
FUNDS RECEIVED (through 11/30/16):
\$1,037,633.71



Happy New Year! The Children's Ministry hopes to keep your body and mind active during these cold months of winter with some exciting opportunities! Please mark your calendar for January 25 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. At our first Parent's Afternoon Out of the new year, we will do yoga with Meredith Peters from Tarboro Pediatric Psychology. Meredith is certified in children's yoga and her classes are always fun! Meredith and I are working together to plan a great class that keeps the kids moving and also incorporates learning about prayer. All ages are welcome and please bring a friend!

Mary Kathleen and I are inviting all parents to join us for a series of discussions this winter using the book **100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation: A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders**. We plan to meet once a month during the Sunday School hour to talk about the book. This book is a great tool for parents to use to guide faith development at home, and for our church to use to guide what we teach our children. We are also hoping to have discussion about what our children's and youth ministries are doing well to nurture our young people in faith and knowledge and areas we need to strengthen. Parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and all interested in this topic are encouraged to attend. The first session will be Sunday, January 22, and books can be picked up in Lydia's office.

Scenes from the Gingerbread Workshop on December 11, 2016



Jingle Mingle 2016

All Youth Gathering of area youth groups at the Church of the Good Shepherd on November 27, 2016





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.

SENIOR HIGHS

1/1

Happy New Year! (No Youth Group)

A prayer for 2017, sung to the tune of
 “Auld Lang Syne”:

*His will be done, His kingdom come, On earth as is above
 Who is Himself our daily bread, Praise Him the Lord of love
 Let living water satisfy, The thirsty without price
 We'll take a cup of kindness yet, All glory be to Christ!
 All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
 His rule and reign will ever sing, All glory be to Christ!*

1/8

Relevant Night

We'll get together for our first youth group of the year
 at church and do a study based upon a recent post at
 relevant.com!

1/15

Burns Night Party at Sam Phillips'

We will gather at the home of Sam Phillips for a Burns
 Night Supper. This is a tradition in Scotland and many
 Scottish Presbyterian churches. It is an evening to
 celebrate Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, and
 to enjoy fellowship in the name of Christ.

1/22

Artwork and Hangout Night

Tonight we will finish up our mosaic and the Jenga
 blocks that we started in the fall. Come on out for
 some fellowship, tunes, and fun times creating!

1/27 - 29

Ski Trip to Wintergreen, VA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1/1

Happy New Year! (No Youth Group)

A prayer for 2017, sung to the tune of
 “Auld Lang Syne”:

*His will be done, His kingdom come, On earth as is above
 Who is Himself our daily bread, Praise Him the Lord of love
 Let living water satisfy, The thirsty without price
 We'll take a cup of kindness yet, All glory be to Christ!
 All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
 His rule and reign will ever sing, All glory be to Christ!*

1/8

Game Night

The Youth Suite will be turned into a game suite to-
 night – come down for lots of fun and some of your
 favorite games with youth group friends.

1/15

Into the Weeds – A Parable Study

Jesus often taught in parables – stories that illustrate a
 point and compare the kingdom of God to something
 in everyday life. Tonight we will study the parable of
 the weeds.

1/22

Home Gathering

We will meet at someone's home for an afternoon of
 fun and fellowship in the name of Christ.

1/27 - 29

Ski Trip to Wintergreen, VA



At left: Several of the First Presbyterian
 college youth gathered at the home of Mary
 Kathleen Duncan on December 22 for brunch.



If you have items to donate for the Peacemakers Thrift Store, simply contact Peacemakers at 252-212-5044 to schedule a pick up of items to donate.



Thank you to all who donated toys for the Peacemakers Christmas Toy Store!

For more information, visit www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.

- Volunteers who can substitute are always welcome! Contact Kara Cox for more information at 252-446-4336.



Several youth from Conetoe Family Life Center recently had the opportunity to visit and tour Washington, D.C. thanks to support from First Presbyterian and the community! They were able to give a presentation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and learn more about programs that encourage an increase in the number of minorities studying agriculture.



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. **TRA is in need of clothing for their January graduation. For the boys, they need white shirts, black pants, black ties, and black shoes. For the girls, they can use black dresses and black shoes.**



Several families of Tar River Academy students benefited from the Holiday Food Bags assembled by First Presbyterian! We also received two decorated thank you posters signed by the staff and students.

United Community Ministries

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

Girl Scout Troops 434 and 55



The Cadettes are very excited to have finished work on the mural for the art room at the Boys' and Girls' Club. The children in the after school program used their hands to make the leaves on the tree that the girls painted. We are looking forward to continuing to make the space great after the holidays!

The Girl Scouts have finished their cooking badge with the help



Girl Scout Troop 1969



At left, Troop 1969 shopped for a Tar River Academy family during Christmas and below they are pictured delivering the gifts.



Troop 7



Since September Troop 7 has had 5 scouts to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. Jared McCall in September, Guy Deyton in November and Rob Turnage, Ben Osterhout and Charlie Lane in December. Combined these scouts raised over \$18,299 and had 764 service hours.

Two of the projects were completed here at church. Ben Osterhout made a sitting area in the playground with two cedar benches. Rob Turnage completed a "cut garden" that will be used by the church flower guild to make arrangements.

Less than 4% of scouts obtain the rank of Eagle. We will be recognizing these young men later in February during our Scout Sunday service.



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.

The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Janice Smith with Myra Richardson co-hosting.

The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. The Rev. Caroline Berardi will lead our Bible study on Lesson 5: "Who is Jesus—According to Paul."

Presbyterian Women wrapped toys and clothes for their adopted family from My Sister's House. This year, our family consisted of a mother and her young son. Thanks to all Presbyterian Women who helped to make this possible.



The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Cindy Masters



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



Please join the Worship Committee in thanking the many talented individuals who donated materials, creativity and a tremendous amount of time to decorate our sanctuary, narthex and vestibule during November and December.

We are most grateful to:

Annie Daughtridge
 Anne Mosley
 Partha Daughtridge
 Beth Steed
 Brenda Crocker
 Frances Guerry
 Beth Turnage
 Marianne Farris
 Lige Daughtridge
 Kate Tharin
 Pat Mauldin
 Anne Kinnaird
 Nancy Proctor
 Sally Adams
 Harriet Thorpe
 Wicky Thorpe
 Anne Podesta
 Mary Sue Smith
 Dionne Seale
 JJ Jeffries
 Jack Perry
 Marie Kem

Employees of D.J. Rose & Son, Inc.



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

January 1, 2017 *No Sunday School; 11:00 a.m. worship service only*

Head Usher: David Farris

Ushers: Janice Smith, Diane Dixon, Marie Kem (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Marie Kem

Liturgist: none

Children’s Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Kim Sutton

January 8, 2017 *Communion will be served by trays*

Head Usher: Stephen Chesnutt

Ushers: Randy Adams, Julia Brown, Laura Dudley, Christie Sondergard (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Sarah Bailey

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Jim Lilley

Nursery Helper: Dionne Seale

Communion Preparers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Lisa Rowe

Communion Servers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Bill Buchanan, Suzanne Buchanan, Laura Durham, Catherine Lilley, David Gooding, Roslyn Gragg, Lisa Rowe, Steve Rowe

January 15, 2017

Head Usher: Taylor Phillips

Ushers: Martha Barnes, Andy Warner, Sam Phillips, Linda Evans (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Mike, Ann, and Suzanna Mosley

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Tricia Vestal

January 22, 2017

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Chrissy Barnhill, Laura Dudley, Randy Evans, Pell Foster (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Margaret Barnes

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Kate Honey

January 29, 2017

Head Usher: TBA

Ushers: Betsy McLean, Heather Gardner, Richard Hunt, Winnie Gaynor (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Catherine and Cate Lilley

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Pastor

Nursery Helper: Laura Durham

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



@FPC_RockyMount

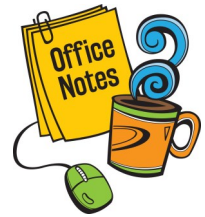


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First Presbyterian Church's office hours are Monday—Thursday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building at other times.

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!

- Charlene Joyner: mobile phone only
- Parents—please update the church office if your child's college address has changed.



Dear Church Family,
Who knew turning 85 could be so much fun?
All of your cards, calls, and the exquisite cake by Hannah and delivered by Beth High all served to make my birthday a very happy occasion! Gene and Sue Jackson even brought me a sack of sweet potatoes.

Beth and I had a delightful visit and I saved my cake to share with my family on Thanksgiving Day. It was too beautiful to cut, but, of course we did and enjoyed every delicious morsel.

Thank you for reminding me once again how blessed I am to be a part of such a loving congregation.

Mary Lou Fountain

Thanks for the fantastic Thanksgiving plate that you delivered. It was delicious.

Please know just much I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Prayers for all,
Cookie
(Resident of Covenant Homes who received a Thanksgiving meal from the Presbyterian Women)

Dear Friends at FPC Rocky Mount,
Merry Christmas! It continues to be a privilege for Larry and I to serve in Congo. Thank you for the financial support you have given us this year and for your prayers which help sustain us in Congo's challenging environment.

Through your support, the capacity of local health care providers has increased and many, many people have received better medical care in Congo this year. Thank you.

We pray for God's blessings on you and your loved ones this new year.

Love,
Inge and Larry Sthresley

We wish to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits and other expressions of sympathy on the death of Gene's mother, Nora Davis, on December 3. We also appreciate the gingerbread house delivered to Sue's mother, Opal Green. She loved it and wanted to thank those you made it and those who delivered it to our house. She has it in her room to enjoy during the holidays.

Sue and Gene Jackson

I am here today to say thank you for the place I live. I moved into Covenant Homes in March of this year and the phone call came just when I needed another place to live and they said come up and live with us. We would like to have you as a neighbor. Not really, but they did say we have a place if you would like to live in Covenant Homes. I would like to say right here that the staff at Covenant Homes was very kind to me and helped me in every way.

I didn't know anything about the history of how Covenant Homes got started when I moved in. I was amazed when I found out that the First Presbyterian Church was instrumental in having a place built to help the physically handicapped and the elderly. Back in 1976, I was not elderly but I am very glad that you, the church, made the decision to help, not only for me, but for many people—some of whom I have met and a lot that I didn't get to meet. I feel sure that they would agree with me and say to you about Covenant Homes, we appreciate the sacrifice that you made to help each one of us in finding a beautiful place to live.

I would also like to say that Jesus is the Lord of my life and I thank him for each one of you. I pray that He would Bless you abundantly for the generous love you showed in blessing other people.

Mary Jennings (Covenant Homes resident)

Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

Thanksgiving has passed and the Christmas season is here. The two are both devoted to giving thanks and sharing love.

The day before Thanksgiving, Janice Smith delivered a delicious meal to me with a smile and a hug. She represents the continuing generosity and friendship that you have shown me all these years.

Surely all of you will be blessed during this special time. Know that I wish joy and love to you, not only now, but in the New Year to come.

I remain yours in Christ,

Sandra Luther

Dear Friends,
Earl and I wish to thank Britt Gaynor for the beautiful gingerbread house she made and brought to us this past week. It is part of the centerpiece on our dining room table. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Love to all,
Earl and Phyllis Goodwin



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

- The family of Betty Hodges upon her death on December 2, 2016.
- Gene Jackson upon the death of his mother, Nora Davis, on December 3, 2016 in Loudendale, West Virginia.
- Steve Rowe upon the death of his father, Melvin Rowe, on January 3, 2017 in Vienna, Virginia.



We are excited to share the following birth announcements with the congregation:

- Addison Gray Archie was born to Charles and Meredith Daughtridge Archie on December 17, 2016. Her grandparents are Bill and Partha Daughtridge and her great-grandparents are Pat and Carol Patterson.
- Sawyer Mackenzie Callaway was born to Tripp and Erin Callaway on December 18, 2016. Her proud grandparents are Karen and Joe Callaway.



John Rodman Woodard was baptized at First Presbyterian on December 18, 2016. He is the son of Liz and Jim Woodard.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

AUTUMN CARE Nashville

- ▶ Virginia Campbell

HUNTER HILLS REHAB Rocky Mount

- ▶ Anne Parkerson

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Linda Amerson
 Bill Batchelor
 Augusta Daniel
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
 Jean and Frank Edge
 Anne Etheredge
 Si Fuller
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
 Opal Green (mother of Sue Jackson)
 Charlene Joyner
 Nancy & Bailey Liipfert
 Jacob McCabe (Mary Watson's grandson)
 John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)
 Lila Michael
 Gerry Niece (friend of the church)
 Anne Podesta
 Evelyn Reese
 Blanche Robinson
 Maida Sessoms

Christmas Joy! Images from the In-Betweens Christmas Gathering, Staff & Volunteer Luncheon, the December 18th Christmas Concert and Herman Ferguson's 100th Birthday Surprise Party....



HELP END Human Trafficking January is Human Trafficking Month. The New Hope Presbytery Roundtable on Human Trafficking would like to involve all Presbyterians in learning about this important issue. The following is "A Call to Action" to us from the roundtable.



We Presbyterians believe that each person on earth is a child of God and is, therefore, worthy - worthy to be free to be all that he or she can be or become.

However, by conservative estimates, 21 million people worldwide are now living and working in conditions of forced labor. They are not free: they have lost their future. **HUMAN TRAFFICKING** occurs when someone is forced to work without the freedom to leave.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, which includes both labor and sex trafficking, is right here where we live. North Carolina is among the top ten states in what is now recognized as the fastest growing criminal industry in the world.

For every story of a child sold to a trafficker by his heroin-addicted mother, there's also the story of a teen from a good home who was lured by the prospect of a modeling job or was drugged and raped at a sleepover. The internet, especially the dark web, gives traffickers the anonymity never possible before. The frightening thing is that most children and youth feel completely safe in cyberspace.

Our Christian teachings demand that we recognize and address this problem. Many groups in government, churches, and non-profits have organized to fight this mushrooming criminal activity. Members from churches in our presbytery have formed the New Hope Presbytery Roundtable on Human Trafficking.

The Roundtable has created a tab on the Presbytery website (nhpresbytery.org). Click on **HUMAN TRAFFICKING** to find an overview, brochure, suggestions for action, and links to a wide array of resources.

In the words of Hebrews 13:3: "Remember the prisoners-those who are mistreated-as if chained with them, since you yourselves are in the body also."

Each Sunday during January, we will include information in the bulletin to raise awareness of human trafficking.