

February 2017



FIRST PRESS NEWS

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

*From the
Pastor*



This past Monday we resumed our Brown Bag Bible Study on Mondays at noon. Our format is changing again, this time looking much more like it has in years past. For now, we will be studying the scripture passages that will be used in worship on the following Sunday. Generally, whichever pastor is preaching will lead the discussion. My hope is that our time together will add depth, context, and understanding when we worship on Sundays. Selfishly, I'm also looking forward to hearing what you all have to say about the text so that I can share your insights with the congregation in my sermon!

I've found myself drawn toward the Sermon on the Mount recently, which is the lectionary gospel text for the coming weeks. Most likely we'll spend a good amount of time reading and exploring what Jesus had to say in these few chapters from Matthew's Gospel, and what he still has to say to us today. Whether you've read through the Bible cover to cover every year, or you only pick it up on occasion, I promise you'll have something to contribute and you'll have something to learn.

I hope that if you have Mondays at noon free, you will join us for fellowship, food, and study.

Blessings,

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

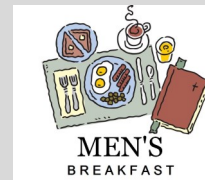
FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

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



*Monday, February 20, 2017
Noon in the parlor*

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers on February 20! We will enjoy baked spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and red velvet cake. We have folks listed on a "permanent list". Kindly notify the church office if you are unable to 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!



Tuesday
February 14, 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.



BROWN BAG Bible Study

Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in the Session room unless otherwise noted. All are welcome to bring a lunch and join one of our pastors for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!



Join us!

The In-Betweens fellowship group will gather on February 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Gene and Sue Jackson, with Bob McGarvy and Marie Kem also co-hosting. Please call Sue to see what you can bring!



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,158,866.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 12/31/16):

\$1,138,886.11



A new freezer has been delivered to the church kitchen! The freezer was donated by Laura and Danny McNeill in memory of Laura's parents, Anne and Ed Davenport. Meals on Wheels will primarily use the right side of the freezer and FPC will use the left side.



MAKES CENT\$

If you would like to give in 2017 and haven't sent in your card, please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office. Annual pledges are not automatically renewed each year, therefore we need this information. This can easily be done by mailing an estimate of giving card to the church or drop a card at the church. Another way is to call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with your estimate of giving. She is in the office Monday through Thursday from 8:30-2:30 p.m.

Annual contributions statements for 2016 will be mailed in late January. Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions at either 446-9121, ext. 23 or jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense date for December. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date.

Pledges and Loose Offering through December 31, 2016	
Month - to - date	\$ 69,750.67
Year - to - date	\$ 629,731.27
Expenses through December 31, 2016	
Month - to - date	\$ 68,510.33
Year - to - date	\$ 643,366.86



look forward to many more years of partnership together.

The Session voted in late 2016 to recognize the anniversaries of three of our Presbyterian sister congregations by gifting each church with a special print by artist and friend of the church Michael Podesta. Representatives from Morton Memorial Presbyterian (100 Years), Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church (125 Years), and Bethlehem Presbyterian (100 Years) received their framed prints at the January 25th Wednesday Night Fellowship gathering. We are grateful for the friendships we have with each church and



Welcome to the ordinary month of February! As your still somewhat new Children's Ministry Coordinator, I have been trying to orient myself to your church's practices and schedule by learning the calendar. Since September when I started with you all, I have been welcomed into so many wonderful traditions and practices that you all have in place for the children and the church: opportunities for fellowship and fun through Parents' Afternoon Out, Advent and Gingerbread Workshops, and Sunday School each week with dedicated, faithful volunteer teachers.

As we enter the month of February I am aware, as I experience all of your traditions for the first time, of how special even our ordinary season is in the church. In February we leave Epiphany behind and just for a brief few weeks live in Ordinary Time, knowing Lent is approaching quickly.

During this ordinary month the Children's Ministry will carry on with the old and also try something new. Along with Parents' Afternoon Out and the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, children in first through sixth grades are invited to join us for a new fellowship opportunity that we hope to offer once a month on a Sunday at 4:30 p.m. We will gather with the purpose of exploring God's word together and then join the youth group for dinner at 5:30. We hope everyone can join us for all of these ordinary, extraordinary events!



Lydia Wingo Kane

February Children's Ministry Events:

Sunday, February 12	Word and Table Children's Fellowship
Wednesday, February 22	Parents' Afternoon Out
Tuesday, February 28	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Sunday, February 26	100 Things Parent Discussion during Sunday School



There was a full house as Children's Ministry hosted a children's yoga class during the January 25th Parents' Afternoon Out gathering! Meredith Peters of Tarboro Pediatric Psychology worked with Lydia on a class that kept the kids moving and learning more about prayer.





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

2/5

Lunch out after worship

We will head to Chico's after worship for lunch and fellowship together! Please bring money for your meal.

2/12

Contemplative Worship in the Youth Suite

Meet at the church at our regular time for joint dinner, followed by time and space to unwind and spend time in God's presence.

2/19

Highland Games Competition

This evening we will gather from 5:00 – 6:30 for a fun night that includes all youth, grades 6th-12th. We will yet again compete in a variety of events, Highlands style, in the fellowship hall. Invite your friends and get your tartans ready!

2/26

Mission Night

Did you know that there are Presbyterian Missionaries all over the world?! Come and learn more about what it means to be a missionary and how you can get involved with God's mission in the world.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

2/5

Devo at Dunkin

Meet at the Dunkin on Sunset from 4:00-5:00 pm for one of our favorites activities! Bring money for a treat.

2/12

Sheep and Goats – A Parable Study

We'll continue our recent practice of exploring the parables of Jesus together. Come on down at our regular youth group time for a fun Bible Study!

2/19

Highland Games Competition

This evening we will gather from 5:00 – 6:30 for a fun night that includes all youth, grades 6th-12th. We will yet again compete in a variety of events, Highlands style, in the fellowship hall. Invite your friends and get your tartans ready!

2/26

The Lost Sheep – A Parable Study

The Bible talks about sheep a lot! Come learn something new when we study a parable where Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a sheep that gets lost.

con·fir·ma·tion **känfər' māSH(ə)n/** **noun**

- 1 the action of confirming something or the state of being confirmed.
- 2 (in the Christian Church) the rite at which a baptized person, especially one baptized as an infant, affirms Christian belief and is admitted as a full member of the church.

This winter we will be holding confirmation classes for our awesome 6th and 7th grade youth. Mary Kathleen Duncan will be the lead teacher and we have several wonderful church members serving as mentors. Please keep Bea Barnhill, Virginia Feagans, Anna Brooks Gaynor, Shelton Honey, Carley Outlaw, and Mari Robin Tharin in your prayers as they embark upon this journey. Classes will meet weekly starting February 5th during the Sunday School hour and these young women will be welcomed into membership on Sunday morning, March 26th.



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.

- On February 14th, Peacemakers will be holding a special *Valentine's Dinner for Seniors* at 5:30pm. If you can help with the planning of this event, please contact April Wade at april@rockymountpeacemakers.org, or call 252.212.5044.
- A new *Zumba Class* starts February 7th at Peacemakers. The class is free, and will be held every Tuesday night at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend!
- Peacemakers needs help with furniture pickups for the thrift store (truck provided) on Thursdays and Saturdays. If you can lift 50lbs and are willing to help, please contact April Wade at april@rockymountpeacemakers.org, or call 252.212.5044.

For more information, visit
www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.



Volunteers who can substitute are always welcome!

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



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

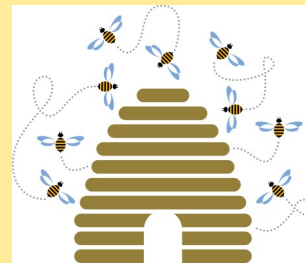
beside the church office entrance:

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.



The Conetoe Beehive Initiative needs your help! 140 of 200 Conetoe Family Life Center beehives were deemed contaminated following the torrential rains of Hurricane Matthew. Our Outreach Committee and Session are working to determine how we as a church can assist, but individual assistance is greatly welcome. A single hive with bees costs \$225 and donations of any amount are welcome.

Either visit www.goodshepherdrmt.org to make an online donation or send in your checks to Church of the Good Shepherd (memo line Conetoe Beehives) at 231 North Church Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

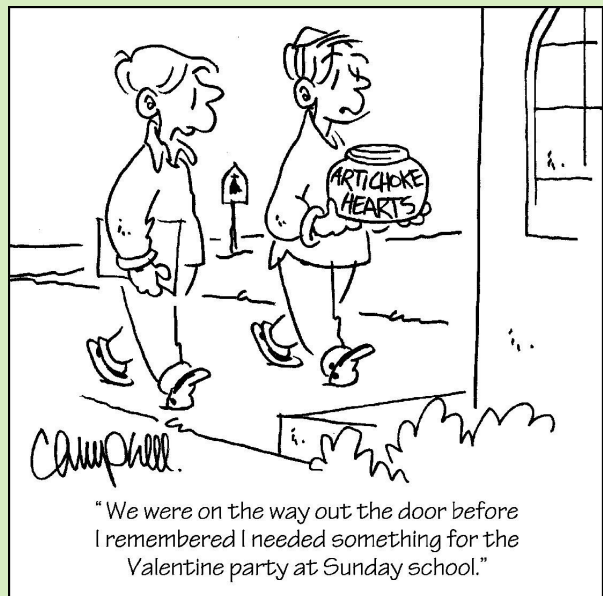


Troop 7

Assistant Scoutmaster Randy Vaughn received his “beads” and scarf for completion of the Wood Badge course. Wood Badge is the advanced leadership and team building training for adult leaders. The program is for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout and Venture leaders as well as council and district leaders. Wood Badge for the 21st Century focuses on leadership, not outdoor skills. After extensive training, Randy had to complete 5 “tickets” which are service projects for scouting. Among Randy’s tickets were, wiring cable for a new technology center at Camp Boddie, taking range master school for BB’s then running a BB range at Cub Scout Day camp, feeding 100 cubs at day camp and building a new bridge at Camp Charles Boy Scout camp. Well trained leaders is an important component of a successful troop. Please congratulate Randy on this great accomplishment.



Support our Girl Scouts by purchasing a box (or more) of cookies between now and March 5!





What is a "Circle"??

A PW Circle is: Where faith is nurtured through Bible Study, friendship and outreach; where women share love and friendship and are challenged to reach out to others, in their own neighborhood and around the world; where Christian faith is nurtured and sent forth by caring and sharing.

A Circle can provide a Christian community in which we can be strengthened and supported in our concerns, joy and sorrow as we pray for one another.

At First Presbyterian Church, we have two Circles. The "Circle of Friends" meets on the second Monday night in members' homes. The "Circle of J.O.Y." meets at the church on the second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Basic to Circle life is Bible Study, usually led by one of our ministers. Our meetings are very informal and you are always welcome.

UPCOMING PW EVENTS:

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.

The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Kay Wester, 1301 Green Tee Lane.

The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. Chris Feno will lead our Bible study on Lesson 6: "Who is Jesus—According to Hebrews."

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Pam Gragg (4216 Fairhaven Drive).



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

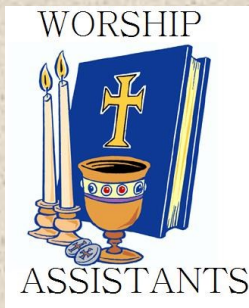
The Presbyterian Women would like to thank Stephanie Hayworth for opening up her lovely home for the recent PW Christmas Tea! A fun time was had by all.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS:



Applications for the Presbytery of New Hope Presbyterian Women Scholarship are now available for High School Seniors or College Students. Stop by the PW church box to pick up an application or check the weekly FPC update for the link to print one from home. Your completed applications are due by March 1, 2017.



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

February 5, 2017 **Communion will be served by intinction**

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Jep Rose, Sylvia Phillips, Lee Scott, Carol Hutchins (Welcome Table)

Greeter: Mike Braswell

Liturgist: Anne Mosley

Children’s Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridge, Christy Outlaw

Communion Preparers: Mary Perry, Mike Gaynor

Communion Servers: Joe Brown, Mike Gaynor, Mary Perry, Greg Hutchins

February 12, 2017 **Scout Sunday**

Head Usher: Lige Daughtridge

Ushers: Scouts (Welcome Table)

Greeters: Scouts

Liturgist: Scouts

Children’s Sermon: Scouts

Nursery Helper: Katherine Fisher

February 19, 2017

Head Usher: Stephen Chesnutt

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

Greeter: Sarah Bailey

Liturgist: Dee Whitley

Children’s Sermon: Staff

Nursery Helper: Ann Dill

February 26, 2017

Head Usher: Mike Gaynor

Ushers: Gaye Moore, Clif Hayworth, Richard Hunt, Suzanne Buchanan (Welcome Table)

Greeters: The Warner Family

Liturgist: Lydia Wingo Kane

Children’s Sermon: Tim Lane

Nursery Helper: Heather Gardner

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



@FPC_RockyMount

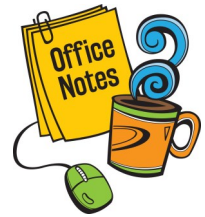


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First Presbyterian Church's office hours are Monday—Thursday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building at other times.

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!

- *Parents—please update the church office if your child's college address has changed.*



Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you so much for the children's Bible and wooden cross! I know that Jim and I will enjoy reading the Bible with John and teaching him all about God's word! The cross is beautifully displayed in John's nursery and will serve as a sweet reminder of his church family!

The day of John's baptism was such a special day for our family! We could definitely feel your love and support, and for that, we are very grateful! We are so fortunate to be a part of the First Presbyterian Church family! I know that you will all take such great care of John!

Thank you so much again for making John's baptism so special! Jim joins me in sending his love to you!

Liz Woodard

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to each of you who helped make my gingerbread house that Ike and I still continue to enjoy. What an unexpected surprise it was to be remembered by you. Thanks to the Barnhills for delivering to us. I have been blessed by so many acts of kindness from my church family.

God Bless all of you,
Linda Amerson

Dear Handcraft Ministry,

I want to thank you so much for the beautiful blue lap robe you made for me. It was such a wonderful surprise. It makes me feel so cared for by my church family. Thank you so much for thinking of me,

Love,
Charlene Joyner



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

- *Steve Rowe and family upon the death of Steve's father, Melvin Rowe, of Vienna, Virginia on January 3, 2017.*
- *Virginia Campbell passed away on January 15, 2017.*



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:

February 5
February 19
February 26

BULLETIN BOARD CHANGES

In case you have not noticed, we have made a few changes with some of the church bulletin boards that we hope you will find useful.

- *By the church offices:* this board will focus on church members "in the news", general correspondences, and church ministry listings of groups.
- *Across from the Session Room:* this board will focus on "Upcoming Events" in the life of the church.
- *Across from the Fellowship Hall:* this board will focus on community and Outreach partnerships.
- *Across from the Choir Room:* this board will share images of Congregational life and ways we are the body of Christ together!



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

HUNTER HILLS REHAB Rocky Mount

- ▶ Anne Parkerson

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Linda Amerson
 Betsy Boddie
 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
 Greg Wester (son of Kay Wester)



SHROVE TUESDAY

Our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held February 28, 2017 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.! Sign-up sheets for those willing to provide fresh fruit salads or egg/sausage casseroles can be found on the “Upcoming Events” bulletin board across from the Session Room. Wonderful Scouts will help cook pancakes, serve and clean up! An activity for children will also be provided that evening so come and enjoy the fun!

HELP END
Human Trafficking



We were pleased to have Moffett Churn of the Presbytery of New Hope Roundtable on Human Trafficking come to speak at the January 25th Wednesday Night Fellowship gathering. Folks from several area Presbyterian churches were also invited to attend in order to learn more about this growing issue.

