

April 2017



# ***FIRST PRESS NEWS***

**First Presbyterian Church  
153 N. Church Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
[www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org)  
252-446-9121**

The last Sunday of March marked a significant transition for First Presbyterian Church. We said farewell to the Duncan family and marked the end of Mary Kathleen's nearly six years of ministry with us. So many wonderful people helped make the celebration possible, from preparing flower arrangements to cooking food, to presenting gifts, and more. To all of you, I offer my thanks and gratitude.

With this transition, as with any transition, there is a sense of uncertainty. The good news is that we have a terrific group of staff and volunteers who are working to ensure our youth programming continues. We've already shared that Olivia Roberson will be here Sunday nights to lead youth group, and Lydia Wingo Kane has taken on some of the administrative responsibilities of the youth program.

That same Sunday in March, we also welcomed six of our youth into membership in the church. Our confirmands, Bea Barnhill, Virginia Feagans, Shelton Honey, Anna Brooks Gaynor, Carley Outlaw, and Mari Robin Tharin, met with the session to share their statements of faith, and then during worship affirmed the vows given at their baptisms. If you did not get to congratulate them yet, I encourage you to do so.

Times of change can be difficult, and losing Mary Kathleen and the Duncan Family is a great loss for this church. But, with six new church members, a growing children's ministry, and a thriving youth program, we have much to be excited about! Later this month we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, and claim once again the promise that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love and God's calling for us to serve him and to serve one another. Spring is a season of rebirth, of growth, and of hope. That is a great description of our congregation's current season of life, and I'm looking forward to walking through it with you.

May you find hope, joy, gratitude, and love in this holy time of year.

Grace and Peace,

Chris



*Senior Pastor:* The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi

*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!

## WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

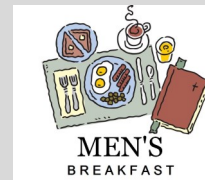
FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

*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, April 24, 2017  
Noon in the parlor*

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers on April 24! We will enjoy chicken salad, pasta salad, pimiento cheese sandwiches, and pineapple upside down cake for dessert! 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**  
**April 11, 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 our pastor for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!*



**Mark your calendars! The In-Betweens fellowship group will gather on Friday, May 19 at the home of Pat Mauldin with Jim and Pat Blanchard co-hosting. Contact Pat Blanchard to see what you can bring.**



*Our Heritage,  
Our Mission*  
Capital Campaign Update

**TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:**

**\$1,155,886.11**

**FUNDS RECEIVED (through 2/28/17):**

**\$1,078,468.98**



- ◇ The Session joyfully welcomed the following confirmands as new members of First Presbyterian Church: Bea Barnhill, Virginia Feagans, Anna Brooks Gaynor, Shelton Honey, Carley Outlaw and Mari Robin Tharin.
- ◇ James Tharin was installed as a Deacon
- ◇ Representatives from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance came to discuss the possibility of our church being a place to house people participating in disaster relief efforts. The session agreed to form a committee to look at the possibility of making this a reality.
- ◇ Discussions were held regarding providing information to the church on recent bequests to the church and to provide information about those who so generously remembered our church in their wills.
- ◇ The Christian Education Committee reported that beginning Monday March 27, Lydia Kane's hours would increase from 15 hours per week to 20 hours per week to assist with the administrative duties associated with the youth of our church. Also, Olivia Roberson, will be assisting our youth program by leading our youth groups on Sunday nights as well as participating in youth extra curricular activities. She will be working approximately 5 hours a week.

*If you have any questions about these or any other matters, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Session who will be happy to discuss them with you.*

**MAKES CENT\$**



Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for February. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office if you have any questions.

Pledges and Loose Offering through February 28, 2017

Month - to - date	\$ 40,920.60
Year - to - date	\$ 162,583.08

Expenses through February 28, 2017

Month - to - date	\$ 45,095.43
Year - to - date	\$ 87,172.52

Jeanne can be reached at 446-9121, ext. 23 or [jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org).



**HOLY WEEK  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday, April 9:** Worship at 11:00 a.m.

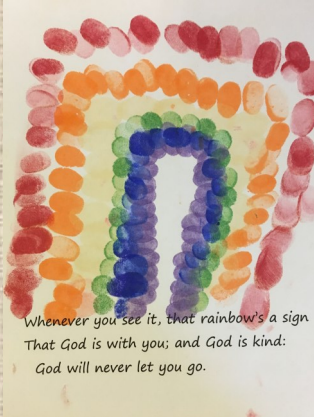
**Maundy Thursday, April 13:** Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

**Good Friday, April 14:** Rocky Mount Presbyterian Churches Tenebrae Service hosted by First Presbyterian Church at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary

**Resurrection (Easter) Sunday, April 16:** Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Bring flowers to "flower the cross"; no Sunday School on this day



What a full season this Lent has been! Although we began and will end with celebrations, with Shrove Tuesday and Easter Sunday, what has come in between has made our days seem long and our hearts full. As we followed Jesus to the cross throughout this season, we also began to prepare for the transition of the Duncan family leaving.



The children and I have been focusing on God's promises as witnessed through the sacraments in March and April. At our Word and Table Fellowship in March, we read the story of God's promise to Noah in Genesis 9. We made a special gift of a thumbprint rainbow for Teddy and Mary Eliza to take with them to their new home and gave them the book *Water, Come Down!* to help them learn about the special days they were baptized. We talked about how much we will miss them but how our promise to them at their baptisms will always connect us.

On Maundy Thursday, the children are invited to join me for a communion class during the worship service. Once again, we will remember God's promise of forgiveness as we talk about what it means to take communion and how we participate in the practice.

*Scenes from Parents' Afternoon Out on March 22 held at the Sondergard family home:*



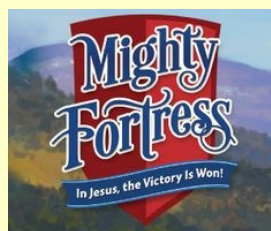
## Children's Ministry April Happenings

Sunday, April 9: Easter Egg Hunt after church

Thursday, April 13: Maundy Thursday service with kids' communion gathering during worship at 5:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 26: Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 30: "100 Things" Parent Discussion at 9:45 a.m.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Community VBS 2017**

**June 12-16, 2017**

**Lakeside Baptist Church**

**8:45 a.m. — noon daily**

**Ages 3 through completed Grade 5**

Postcards have been mailed and you can register online at:

[www.myvbs.org/rockymountcommunityvbs2017](http://www.myvbs.org/rockymountcommunityvbs2017)

Please consider volunteering! We are in need of youth helpers, teaching assistants, and leaders for both crafts and recreation. If you are interested, contact Lydia by phone or email at (615)686-1548 or [lydia.wingokane@fpcrm.org](mailto:lydia.wingokane@fpcrm.org).



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*

4/2

#### Youth Suite Hang Out Night

Show up for regular youth group and greet our own Olivia Roberson and Lydia Wingo Kane, who will be leading youth group in this time of transition. Enjoy getting to know them, filling them in on our traditions, and hearing what's in store for the future of @FPCRM Youth!

4/9

#### Youth Sunday Planning, Part 1

We need all Sr. Highs present as we gather to choose a theme, Scripture texts, and begin brainstorming prayers for Youth Sunday. See you in the Youth Suite!

4/30

#### Youth Sunday Planning, Part 2

We'll gather in the youth suite for final Youth Sunday plans and to catch up after Spring Break and proms.

### *MIDDLE SCHOOL*

4/2

#### Game Night

Hope you'll join your friends at youth group for some fun games! You'll also get to meet and chat with Olivia Roberson and Lydia Wingo Kane who will be coordinating and leading youth group in the time of transition.

4/9

#### Youth Sunday Planning, Part 1

We need all of our Middle School Youth to make Youth Sunday great! Come and give your input tonight as we make initial plans.

4/30

#### Youth Sunday Planning, Part 2

Come on down to the youth suite to enjoy fellowship after Spring Break and to make final Youth Sunday plans.

## Summer Sign-Ups!

### Montreat Youth Conference

**July 16-23**

**Open to all rising 9<sup>th</sup> through completed 12<sup>th</sup> graders**

**Total cost = \$400 \*pay any amount to get signed up\***

### Gatekeepers Work Camp

**July 10-14**

**Open to all rising 7<sup>th</sup> through completed 12<sup>th</sup> graders**

**Total cost = \$100 \*pay any amount to get signed up\***

**Total cost for both trips is due by July 2—all money should be turned in to Jeanne Shannon in the church office.**



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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.

For more information, visit  
[www.rockymountpeacemakers.org](http://www.rockymountpeacemakers.org).



Volunteers are needed for some new routes. Substitute are always welcome too!

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



**April 12-May 13, 2017**  
The Prom Closet will open this year on Wednesday, April 12 and is now located upstairs in the room beside the Craft

Room. The hours of operation will be on Wednesdays from 3:30 -6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 - 12:00 p.m. through May 13. We are in need of volunteers to be on hand to welcome and assist the students. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board with Presbyterian Women information across from the elevator. Please help by signing up for one of the time slots. We are still accepting donations of formal attire and are especially in need of clothes for men.



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

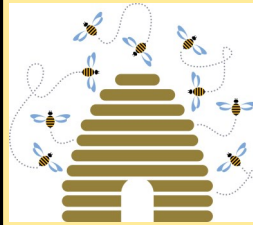
beside the church office entrance:

### 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.



### Update on Conetoe Family Life Center

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped prime and assemble the replacement beehives in

March! Conetoe Beehive Initiative is still accepting donations to cover the cost of interior frames (\$48.00 per hive). To make a donation you can either visit [www.goodshepherdrrmt.org](http://www.goodshepherdrrmt.org) and click on the beehive icon for online donations 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 Conservation Corps

Troop 7 recently camped at Merchant's Millpond. The forecast was for cold temps and snow for this event, but a little weather did not stop us from having a great time. The scouts hiked, canoed the swamp and carried out conservation projects for the state park. We also came home with great stories. Two of our scouts turned over their canoe in the swamp with alligators located nearby. Mr. Lane hurt his shoulder trying to wake up teenagers so the scouts were able to give real first aid... and a roll of paper towels caught fire near the camp stove lighting up the camp quite nicely. Yes, a good time was had by all!!!



## Girl Scouts Update



Cookie season has officially ended, and we are grateful for so much support from our church and our community! The Girl Scouts were excited to deliver some leftover "thanks a lot" cookies to our local firemen and women, and policemen and women.

Troop 434 continues to work on our Silver Award.



Jennie Vance will play an organ recital at First Presbyterian on Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature a variety of repertoire chosen to showcase the many beautiful sounds of our Richards and Fowkes organ. Jennie will play the same recital on May 21 at Kernersville Moravian Church, as a part of the celebration of that church's 150th anniversary. The concert will last approximately one hour, and Jennie hopes that you will come and bring friends!

## Presbyterian Women Update



### Who are we?

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an independent organization within the Presbyterian Church (USA) of more than 300,000 women. The programming and resource options for the organization offer a variety of ways for women to live out their faith in an inclusive, caring community. PW groups can choose to support the PW Purpose in any way, so PW groups may look very different from one synod to the next...or even one circle to the next within the same congregation!

### UPCOMING PW EVENTS:

- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Cora Lee Gold, with Mary Perry co-hosting. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will be leading lesson 8.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick leading our study on Lesson 8: "Who is Jesus: According to the Other Abrahamic Faiths."



The Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan was honored during worship on Sunday, March 26, 2017 with a Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership. This honor is conferred upon a man or woman in recognition of faithful service in any area of the church's work. She received a beautiful sterling silver honorary life membership pin as well in gratitude for all of her service to First Presbyterian.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Sylvia Phillips, Moderator  
Janice Smith, Vice-Moderator

Tempie Fuller, Secretary  
Frances Guerry, Historian  
Bobbi Weeks, Together in Service  
Roslyn Gragg, Circle of Friends Leader

Martha Tesoro, Treasurer  
Leigh Skeen, Spiritual Nurture  
Linda Amerson, Together in Service  
Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017  
at 1:30 p.m. in the home of  
Frances Guerry.



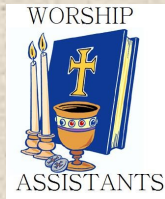
*This wonderful ministry provides  
prayer shawls, blankets, etc. to those  
in need of God's warmth!*

## Support Youth Scholarships!



You are invited to donate towards a lily to celebrate a special loved one and/or special people in your life. The Presbyterian Women will place Easter lilies in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16. Donation envelopes can be found in the narthex outside the sanctuary. All proceeds will go to the Littrell/Thorpe Scholarship Fund which provides college financial assistance for youth in our church. A donation of \$18.00 or more per lily is appreciated. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with "Easter Lily" in the memo line. Completed envelopes with checks/cash enclosed can be placed in the offering plate or placed in Dionne Seale's church box no later than April 11. We want to ensure that all recognitions are recorded properly so Easter lily payments will be deposited shortly after Easter.





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

**April 2, 2017 *\*Communion will be served by intinction\****

Head Usher: Jep Rose  
Ushers: Ike Amerson, Tempie Fuller, Sonny Foster, Pell Foster  
Greeter: Suzanne Buchanan  
Liturgist: Bill Buchanan  
Children’s Sermon: Jim Lilley  
Nursery Helper: Martha Chesnutt  
Acolytes: Edward Barnhill and Graham Turnage  
Communion Preparers: Bill and Suzanne Buchanan  
Communion Servers: Bill Buchanan, Suzanne Buchanan, Anne Mosley, Michael Mosley

**April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday**

Head Usher: Jep Rose  
Ushers: Ike Amerson, Tempie Fuller, Greg Hutchins, Carol Hutchins  
Greeters: Bill and Suzanne Buchanan  
Liturgist: Tim Smith  
Children’s Sermon: Staff  
Nursery Helper: Kate Tharin  
Acolytes: Anna Brooks Gaynor and Hunter Nealey

**April 16, 2017 Easter Sunday *\*Communion will be served by trays\****

Head Usher: Dee Whitley  
Ushers: Tommy Dill, Marie Kem, Clif Hayworth, Betsy McLean  
Greeters: Ann and Thomas Dill  
Children’s Sermon: Staff  
Acolytes: Virginia Feagans and Mari Robin Tharin  
Communion Preparers: Marianne Farris, Kate Tharin, and Clif Hayworth  
Communion Servers: Linda and Ike Amerson, Lige Daughtrige, Marianne and David Farris, Mike Gaynor, Clif Hayworth, Greg Hutchins, Joe Brown, Nancy Richardson, Kate Tharin, Cleve Wiggins

**April 23, 2017**

Head Usher: Dee Whitley  
Ushers: Tommy Dill, Marie Kem, Clif Hayworth, Betsy McLean  
Greeters: Ann and Thomas Dill  
Liturgist: John Etheredge  
Children’s Sermon: Marianne Farris  
Nursery Helpers: Winnie Gaynor, Kim Sutton

**April 30, 2017**

Head Usher: James Tharin  
Ushers: Mari Robin Tharin, Frances Tharin, Walt Wiggins, Cleve Wiggins  
Greeter: Kate Tharin  
Liturgist: Lige Daughtrige  
Children’s Sermon: Staff  
Nursery Helper: Dionne Seale

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount

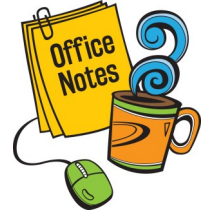


@FPC\_RockyMount



fpc\_rockymount

**Contact Information Updates:** Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121 or [dionne.seale@fpcrm.org](mailto:dionne.seale@fpcrm.org) of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date.



*Printed Contact Information Directories are now available in the narthex or from the church office.*

*Our 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.*

Dear Friends,  
How can anyone survive without a Church Family? You have meant the world to me since I joined First Presbyterian Church in 1966. Over the years, you have supported me in my every need. Most recently, I thank you for the many prayers that saw me through my surgery, for the many cards and telephone calls that cheered me, for the wonderful food that nourished my body, for the beautiful Afghan that is keeping me warm and for the lovely flowers that brightened my day.

Thank you for the comfort you bring me in knowing you are always with me.

With love to each of you,  
Clevie Wiggins

Gene and I would like to thank all those who supported us while my Mom, Opal, was in the Rehab Center, from visiting her to relieve us on occasion, taking her candy, presenting her with a crochet blanket, and then upon her death, sending cards and emails with condolences. Mom really enjoyed all the people who spent time with her and I am glad that some of you got to know my mother and the special person she was.

Sue Jackson

Dear Handcraft Ministry,

Thank you all very much for the beautiful blanket for our daughter Caroline. It is exquisite. We are very grateful for your kindness and generosity at this time.

Thank you,  
Will, Anna, and Caroline Davis  
(Anne Wilgus' granddaughter)

Dear Church Family,

During worship on March 5, I had no idea why I could possibly be called forward by Chris and Mary Kathleen during the announcements. To say I was honored and surprised by the beautiful painting created by Judy Glover would be an understatement! I am so grateful that the Christian Education Committee commissioned such a thoughtful gift. The beauty depicted by Judy's rendering of our familiar worship space, especially with the focus on the baptismal font, has made my heart so happy. It is I who should be thanking you for the privilege of working with and for the children of First Presbyterian from 2008-2016. Thank you also for the framing gift certificate. I look forward to having the print framed soon and will surely look upon it with fondness in the years to come.

May God continue to bless each of you and your families,  
Dionne Seale

Dear Ladies of the Handcraft Ministry,

I wanted to thank you so much on behalf of all our family for the pocket prayer cloth and the green fleece with crocheted edging afghan.

My father, Willard Jackson "Ping" Ellis of Pinetops and a resident of Spring Arbor Cottage Care in Rocky Mount, passed away on February 27 after a 12 day stay at Nash General. My father lay underneath your wonderful fleece afghan the entire time he was at Nash General.

My brother and sister-in-law are Dr. Jack Ellis (a dentist) and Brenda Ellis (retired elementary school teacher). They still live in Rocky Mount.

I used to be Kay Ellis Kendall years ago and married Tom Gelo. We lived in Rocky Mount since the early 70's, but moved to Wake Forest in 2014.

One of my best friends is Katherine Fountain Belk. I know she grew up in your church. She and her family are wonderful.

I just wanted you to know how much your Handcraft Ministry blessed Daddy and us while he was in Nash General.

Thank you all and God Bless You.

In Christ,  
Dr. Kay Ellis (Kendall) Gelo



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

- Sue and Gene Jackson upon the death of Sue's mother, Opal Green, on March 5, 2017.
- Charlene Joyner upon the death of her mother, Anne Parkerson, on March 11, 2017.
- Jennie Vance upon the death of her brother-in-law, Roger Goza, of Kernersville, NC on March 14, 2017.
- Choral Scholar Rebekah Shamberger upon the death of her mother, Vicky McIntyre Shamberger, of Aberdeen, NC on March 14, 2017.
- Stephen Ladwig upon the death of his wife, Linda, on March 19, 2017.
- Sonny and Pell Foster upon the death of Sonny's mother, Katherine Foster, of Columbus, Mississippi on March 22, 2017.



- ◆ Carleton Everhart Mosley, son of Nicholas and Katie Mosley, was born on March 14, 2017 in Charlotte, NC. Carleton's Rocky Mount family includes proud grandparents Anne and Mike Mosley, aunt Suzanna, and great-grandmother Betsy Boddie.
- ◆ Charles "Charlie" Sutton Beha, son of Alyson and Jim Beha, was born on March 15, 2017 in New York. His proud grandparents are Randy and Linda Evans.



Sanctuary Flowers

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:

**April 2**  
**April 9**  
**April 30**



*Our thoughts and prayers are with...*

### THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

### TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

### ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Linda Amerson  
 Betsy Boddie  
 Joe Brown  
 Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)  
 Augusta Daniel  
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)  
 Jean and Frank Edge  
 Anne Etheredge  
 Si Fuller  
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin  
 Wilda Jenkins  
 Samuel Lane  
 Tim Lane  
 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  
 Ben Rayford (Dionne Seale's grandfather)  
 Evelyn Reese  
 Edie Reeves  
 Blanche Robinson  
 Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)  
 Maida Sessoms  
 Cleve Wiggins

On March 26, we celebrated our confirmands and the ministry of the Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan! Following worship, a farewell luncheon was held in Lacy Hall to celebrate the Duncan family and wish them all the best for their new beginnings in Greenville, SC...



Above, our 2017 Confirmands: Carley Outlaw, Mari Robin Tharin, Bea Barnhill, the Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan, Shelton Honey, Anna Brooks Gaynor, and Virginia Feagans

