

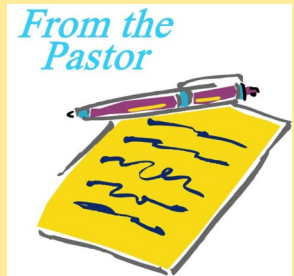
May 2017



# FIRST PRES NEWS

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

May marks a number of transitions and special events in the life of our congregation. On May 7, our youth will lead worship, and some of our seniors will preach. It's one of my favorite Sundays of the year. That same Sunday is also the last day our choral scholars will be with us until the fall. Noli, Mikaela, and James will be returning, but we will be saying goodbye to Rebekah, who is graduating. I hope you will join me in thanking her for being a part of First Pres this last few years and wishing her well as she moves on to what's next for her.



The next Sunday, May 14, we will take up the annual Presbyterian Women Birthday offering, which goes toward projects involving health, education, economic development, and the needs of women and children. On May 21, we will hear from Mickey Bailey, who will share an update about the AGAPE Village Orphanage in Zambia. We will also have our annual bucket brigade, to collect funds to help ship supplies to the orphanage.

Finally, Memorial Day Weekend marks the beginning of our shift to 10:00 worship for the summer. There are lots of wonderful opportunities for worship and mission this month, and I hope that you will join us on Sundays and during our weekly activities as we continue to strive "to be a congregation of believers carrying out the Word of God and joyfully bringing the community to the church and the church to the community."

Gratefully,

Chris

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi

Children's Ministry Coordinator & Interim Youth 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.*

Wednesday Night Fellowship at the church will conclude May 24, 2017.

We will announce dates for our summer dining out schedule in the June newsletter.



**Tuesday**  
**May 9, 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 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!*



*Monday, May 15, 2017*  
*Noon in the parlor*

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers on May 15! We will enjoy fried chicken and all the fixins! 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!



*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:**

**\$1,184,095.11**

**FUNDS RECEIVED (through 3/31/17):**

**\$1,086,188.98**



April 25, 2017

- Beth Steed was officially installed to fill the open session seat. Beth will co-chair the Worship committee. We welcome Beth to the session.
- The recommendation from the Administrative committee that the remainder of the Bobbitt bequest be transferred into the FPC endowment was unanimously approved.
- The recommendation from the Worship committee that an American Flag be obtained and placed in our sanctuary was unanimously approved.
- The Christian Education committee reported that the youth have a busy month with Youth Sunday on May 7, an excursion to Defy Gravity and with the youth volunteering at the Sunday Supper at the Mill benefiting the Tar River United Way, on May 21. (Please join us as we support our youth in their support of our community. You may find more information or purchase tickets at [www.unitedwaytrr.org](http://www.unitedwaytrr.org))

*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 March. 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 March 31, 2017

Month - to - date	\$ 31,754.05
Year - to - date	\$ 194,187.13

Expenses through March 31, 2017

Month - to - date	\$ 66,175.03
Year - to - date	\$ 153,347.55

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



The Church Photo Directory is being updated! Pictures will be taken outdoors on the church property on the following dates: May 7 (12:30-6:10 p.m.); May 8 (1:00-7:10 p.m.); and May 9 (1:00-7:10 p.m.) You can find the link to register for a photography session in the weekly emails or on the church website (on the Upcoming Events/ Congregation Information page). If you do not have internet access, contact the church office for Assistance at 446-9121.



Please note that we switch from 11:00 a.m. worship to 10:00 a.m. worship beginning Sunday, May 28, 2017!





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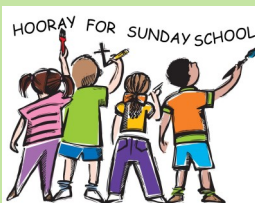


As the outside world greens all around us, I have been reflecting on the growth I have seen happening in the children and youth at FPCRM over the course of this school year. With my new interim responsibilities as the youth coordinator, I have had the opportunity to get to know the youth, their teachers and advisors, and to become familiar with all of the wonderful things they are doing and learning together. All through this winter and spring, parents of children and youth and I have been reading and discussing the book **100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation**. Kirkpatrick, the author, uses the metaphor of planting a seed that is then nurtured into mature faith to describe how parents and the church family work together in the life of a young person. Together, we have all nurtured the seeds in our care throughout this year, and I want to say thank you to everyone who is involved in this important work of the church.

Thank you to all of the parents, Sunday School teachers, youth advisors, Parents' Afternoon Out volunteers, and nursery volunteers. Thank you to each member of the church staff, the choir volunteers, and the children's sermon volunteers. Thank you to all of the confirmation mentors. Thank you to the Christian Education committee. Thank you to every member of our church family who makes our young people feel welcome, wanted, and nurtured when we are together as the church.

On May 21 during the Sunday School hour, we will have a breakfast to say thank you to our youth and children's ministry Sunday School teachers and advisors. We hope you can all join us for this time of fellowship.

*Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children's Ministry Coordinator & Interim Youth Coordinator*



## Children's Ministry May Happenings



### May 21

- 9:45 a.m. Final Sunday School class before the summer break
- 9:45 a.m. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in the Session Room

### May 24

- 4:30 p.m. Parents' Afternoon Out

# Youth Ministry Schedule

- May 7 Youth Sunday during worship (no Youth Group that evening)
- May 14 3:00 p.m. Devo at Dunkin with Olivia Roberson (Middle School and Sr. High combined)
- May 20 Defy Gravity Trip—look for details in the Weekly Youth Update
- May 21 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Youth Advisor Appreciation Breakfast
- May 21 3:00-7:00 p.m.—Volunteer for United Way Sunday Supper at the Mills (visit [www.unitedwaytrr.org](http://www.unitedwaytrr.org) for more info!)



## 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\***

## Montreat Youth Conference

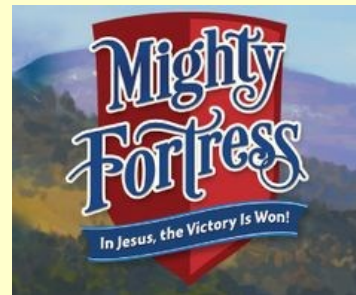
**July 16-23**

**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\***

**Total cost for both trips is due by July 2 to Jeanne Shannon in the church office and the Gatekeeper participant form is due to Jeanne Shannon by May 25. Look for the form via mail and email.**



## 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

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. A VBS Volunteer Orientation will be held May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Lakeside Baptist. If you are interested, contact Lydia by email or phone at [lydia.wingokane@fpcrm.org](mailto:lydia.wingokane@fpcrm.org) or (615)686-1548.





## 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 summer routes due to vacation schedules. Substitutes are always welcome too!  
Contact Kara Cox for more information at 252-446-4336.



**April 12-May 13, 2017**  
The Prom Closet opened this year on 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.



Donations for the Agape Village orphanage in Zambia are now being collected in the blue barrel located in the narthex. **Items needed include:** clothing (leggings, long pants, jumpers, sweaters, sweatshirts, skirts), black socks, black lace-up tennis or athletic shoes, undergarments (size XS-Large), toothpaste, deodorant, clotrimazole (Desitin or anti-fungal medications).



First Sunday  
Donations Needed

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

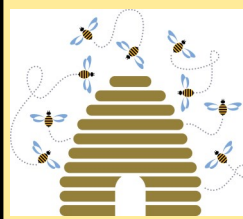
Be sure to check out the wish list for Tar River Academy on the bulletin board outside the church office describing school supplies, food, hygiene items, and baby supplies needs and non-perishable food items.

### IMMEDIATE GRADUATION CLOTHING NEEDS:

Boys: black pants, shoes, white shirts, ties  
Girls: black dresses and shoes

### United Community Ministries

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



### Conetoe Family Life Center

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.goodshepherdmt.org](http://www.goodshepherdmt.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.

Be sure to check out pictures of the new hives on the Community Outreach Bulletin Board.



## TROOP 7 NEWS

Several of our scouts recently attended a merit badge day camp at North Carolina Wesleyan College. The scouts worked on merit badges ranging from *Automotive Mechanics* to *Personal Fitness*. Merit badges are classes that expose the scout to a potential hobby or career in some cases.

Also this month we held troop elections. Newly elected patrol leaders will be responsible for their patrols while our new Senior Patrol Leader and his assistant are responsible for the total troop. We will be camping later this month with our new leadership in place. They will be in charge for all camp operations. Scoutmaster Lane just has to stay out of the way and drink coffee (Ok not really but a man can dream!) Leadership is a big component of the Scouting program. They may stumble along the way but this is how we learn. Should be a fun campout!!



*Submitted by Tim Lane, Scoutmaster*



Troop 434 has recently finished a mural at the Wright Center. We used residents' hands as leaves to complete our tree at the end of April. Troop 55 has completed the art badge and will start on gardening now that springtime is here!

*Submitted by Kate Tharin, Girl Scout Leader*



Cub Scout Pack 7 is wrapping up the year. We held our Pinewood Derby in March and in April we had our annual end of year banquet and advancement ceremonies. Pastor Berardi blessed the meal for us. We used the occasion to host a canned food drive. The scouts collected over 360 cans which we delivered to United Community Ministries. All 26 scouts received their new rank. Five of those scouts earned their Arrows of Light, the highest award a Cub Scout can earn and the only Cub Scout rank badge a scout can wear on his Boy Scout uniform. These five scouts also "crossed over" and joined Boy Scout troops, three of them joining Troop 7. Our plans for the rest of the year include attending Cub Scout Camporee at Camp Boddie, going to a Mudcats game, and building and launching model rockets.

*Submitted by Ted Lord, Cubmaster, Pack 7*



## BISHOP BUDDIES EXAM GOODY BAGS

*At left, several volunteers helped stuff over 85 goody bags on April 18 in order to provide our NC Wesleyan College Bishop Buddies with exam study break treats!*



## 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, May 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will gather on Monday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Sylvia Phillips with Leigh Skeen co-hosting. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will be leading Lesson 9.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick leading our study on Lesson 9: "Who is Jesus According to the Contemporary Cultural Interpretations".
- The Annual PW Birthday Luncheon will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16 in the Ladies Parlor with Brenda Brown serving as the guest speaker.

### 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, May 23, 2017  
at 1:30 p.m. in the home of  
Lila Michael, 1150 Rosedale Ave.



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

*You are invited...*

*Presbyterian  
Women*

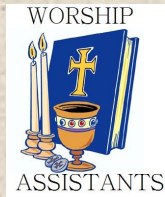
*Annual Birthday  
Luncheon*

Tuesday, May 16, 2017  
11:00 a.m.

Ladies Parlor

Guest Speaker: Brenda Brown





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

**May 7, 2017**

*Youth Sunday \*Communion will be served by intinction\**

Head Usher: James Tharin

Ushers: FPC Youth

Greeters: FPC Youth

Liturgist: FPC Youth

Children’s Sermon: FPC Youth

Nursery Helpers: Kate Honey, Laura Dudley

Communion Preparers: Melanie Marshall Park, Jep Rose

Communion Servers: Amy Hunt, Richard Hunt, Melanie Marshall Park, Jep Rose

**May 14, 2017**

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Virginia Feagans, Michael Mosley, Suzanna Mosley, Anne Mosley

Greeters: Anne and Suzanna Mosley

Liturgist: Russell Proctor

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Tricia Vestal

**May 21, 2017**

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Virginia Feagans, Michael Mosley, Suzanna Mosley, Anne Mosley

Greeters: Anne and Suzanna Mosley

Liturgist: Laura Durham

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridge

**May 28, 2017**

Head Usher: James Tharin

Ushers: Mari Robin Tharin, Taylor Phillips, Sam Phillips, Sydney Phillips

Greeters: Kate and Frances Tharin

Children’s Sermon: Chris Berardi

Nursery Helper: Chrissy Barnhill

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



@FPC\_RockyMount

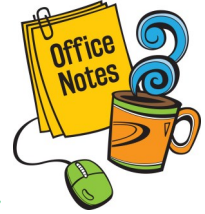


fpc\_rockymount

**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 available in the narthex or from the church office. They can also be emailed to you directly in a PDF format upon request.*

*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.*



To the members of the Handcraft Ministry and the Flower Ministry,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful arrangement of flowers and the very, very pretty hand knitted blanket upon the arrival of our precious little grandson. We so enjoyed the flowers for an entire week after their arrival, brightening our home with such happy thoughts of the blessing of a new baby in our lives. And, our precious little Carleton has been wrapped so warmly and so dearly in that beautiful blue and white blanket, feeling the love and care from the church where his father was raised. His mother and father were both very touched by this gift.

With love,  
The Mosleys

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the meal of salad, pasta, bread and macaroni. The prepared meal and support were helpful during this difficult time.

Best wishes,  
Stephen Ladwig, Jason, Juliana and Elizabeth

Dear Friends,

I don't think we have ever received such beautiful flowers as the ones Hassell and Bobbi Weeks brought to us from the Easter Sunday service. We thank all of you for your calls, cards and funny cartoons and spiritual notes from Janice Smith. We hope to see all of you soon.

With love,  
Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Dear "You All",

My birthday cake centerpiece is beautiful! Thanks so much.

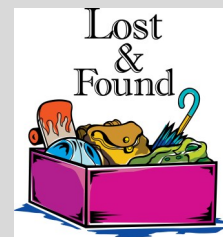
When I am asked what church I belong to, I am so proud to say First Presbyterian.

Love,  
Cora Lee Gold

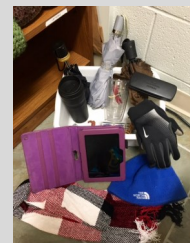
Dear Church Friends,  
Recently I heard a knock at my kitchen door and what a special surprise it was to welcome Beth High. Beth was delivering a beautifully decorated cake to help me celebrate my birthday.

I am sincerely grateful for this expression of church family love.

In Christian Love,  
Miley "Mike" Braswell



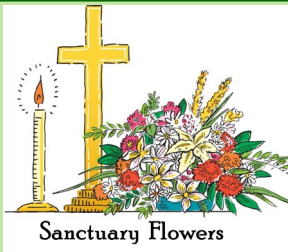
We have several unclaimed items that have accumulated over the past year in both the kitchen and the Volunteer Office. Please stop by to see if any of these items belong to you - otherwise we will be donating them to Peacemakers by May 8.





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

- *Lloyd and Sarah Bailey upon the death of their sister-in-law, Anne Neal Bailey, on April 2, 2017.*
- *Crystal Whitley upon the death of her father, Kenneth Ritchie, of Salisbury, NC on April 5, 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:

**May 7**  
**May 21**  
**May 28**

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!



*Our thoughts and prayers are with...*

### THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

### TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

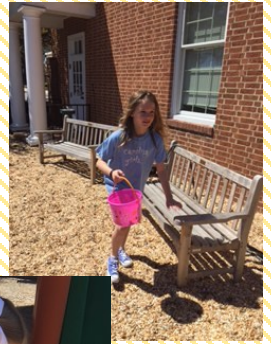
- ▶ Liz Cole

### *ADDITIONAL CONCERNS*

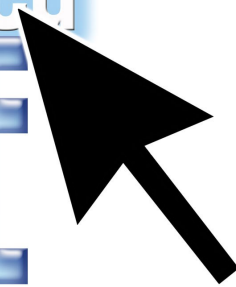
Linda Amerson  
Jean Boddie  
Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)  
Augusta Daniel  
Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)  
Jean and Frank Edge  
Anne Etheredge  
Si Fuller  
Earl and Phyllis Goodwin  
Nancy & Bailey Liipfert  
Jacob McCabe (Mary Watson's grandson)  
John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)  
Lila Michael  
Gerry Niece (friend of the church)  
Carol Patterson  
Anne Podesta  
Ben Rayford (Dionne Seale's grandfather)  
Evelyn Reese  
Edie Reeves  
Blanche Robinson  
Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)  
Maida Sessoms



*First Presbyterian  
Easter Egg Hunt & Fun!  
April 9, 2017*



**New-and-Improved  
WEBSITE**



*Our church website, [www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org), will be changing in May to a new format with an updated look! Be on the lookout in the weekly emails for the rollout date! The new format will hopefully be easier to navigate and better access from your mobile devices as well. We look forward to your constructive feedback on the website and ways we can continue to improve communication among the various platforms you find useful!*