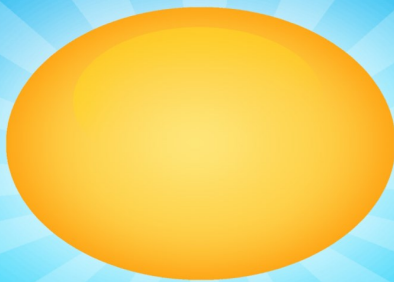


June 2017



FIRST PRES NEWS

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



At the recent Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Lydia Wingo Kane, delivered a beautiful blessing and with her permission, a portion of it is being shared with you below. No matter where you may find yourself during the summer months, whether near or far, facing new beginnings or endings, you can rest assured that God is with you.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Blessings,
Dionne Seale
Church Ministry Coordinator

"God of Beginnings and Endings,

...God, it feels like we are constantly coming to forks in the road of life. Any way that change happens, God, it's hard. Goodbyes are never easy, and we have experience with these forks in the road. We have made both easy and hard decisions, and we have seen where the road leads. Let us take that experience and make decisions that sustain your church, nurture our children and youth, and further your kingdom. We will pray. We will listen. Help us, God... Amen."

**Lydia Wingo Kane
May 21, 2017**

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Christopher M. Berardi
Children's Ministry Coordinator & Interim Youth Coordinator: Lydia Wingo Kane
Financial Secretary: Jeanne T. Shannon
Sexton: J. J. Jeffries
Director of Music: Jim Smith
Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant: Charity Lodge
Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale
Organist: Virginia Vance
Nursery Assistant: Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship

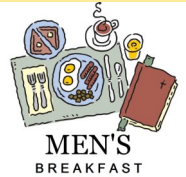
...with First Presbyterian!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

During the summer months, we will not have a Wednesday Night Fellowship Program, however folks are still invited to gather for food and fellowship with one another at 6:00 p.m. at the following locations:

June 7—Home of Sylvia Phillips
 June 14—Prime Smokehouse (Respond to Sylvia Phillips)
 June 21—Home of Gene & Sue Jackson
 June 28—Home of Bobbie Lambeth



Tuesday
 June 13, 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.



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 in for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!

LUNCH BUNCH

We have been so blessed by the wonderful Lunch Bunch volunteers who lovingly prepare and serve delicious meals monthly from September through May! Thank you to Mary Scott, Nancy Proctor, Beth Turnage, Sally Adams, Beth Steed, Linda Evans, Beth High, Mary Sue Smith, Harriet Thorpe, Anne Kinnaird, and Annie Daughtridge. Here is the group enjoying a wonderful fried chicken meal in the courtyard on May 15....





*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,184,095.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 4/30/17):

\$1,088,265.50



*Worship is now at
10:00 a.m.*

*The Chancel Choir rehearses Sundays at
9:30 a.m.—summer voices are welcome!*



MAKES CENT\$

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for April. 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 April, 2017
Month – to – date \$ 63,306.57
Year – to – date \$ 257,493.70

Expenses through April, 2017
Month – to – date \$ 42,680.51
Year – to – date \$ 196,228.06

Jeanne Shannon can be reached at 446-9121, ext. 23
or jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.

**New-and-Improved
WEBSITE**



Be sure to check out the new improved website! We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to further improve it as well. Thanks for your patience as the Church Ministry Coordinator continues to learn how to navigate updates to the new website.

www.fpcrm.org



*You are cordially invited to a brunch on
June 11, 2017 immediately
following worship in the fellowship hall
to honor the Rev. Christopher M.
Berardi and family on his last Sunday
with us here at First Presbyterian
Church.*

Special Gifts Committee Survey



Don't forget to complete the Special Gifts Allocation survey as requested by the First Presbyterian Special Gifts Committee! Surveys can either be accessed online in the weekly email or via hard copy (extras are located in the narthex). Completed hard copy surveys can be turned in to the church office or placed in Dionne Seale's church mailbox.

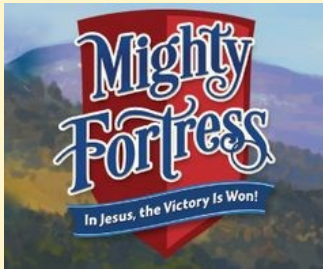


&



June marks the end of the school year but not necessarily a change in pace! We trade school work and activities for summer activities, vacations, and a different kind of busy. We have many big events for our children and youth coming up in June and July.

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is Mighty Fortress. Our youth and adult volunteers will help our children learn that in Jesus, the victory is won!



Community VBS 2017

June 12-16, 2017

Lakeside Baptist Church

8:45 a.m. — noon daily

Ages 3 through completed Grade 5

Contact Lydia Wingo Kane for more information!

Gatekeepers and Montreat Youth Conference are right around the corner in July. Middle and High School Youth work together along with other churches in the community to serve Rocky Mount at Gatekeepers and the High School Youth have the always wonderful opportunity to experience Montreat while growing closer to each other and God during their week away. As we start our summer, please pray for our children, youth, and all of our volunteers as they experience God in many different ways.

Gatekeepers Work Camp

- **July 10-14, 2017**
- **Deadline to participate was in May so we are no longer accepting registrations**
- **\$100 Participant Fee balance due to Jeanne Shannon by July 2, 2017**

Montreat Youth Conference

- **July 16-23, 2017**
- **Open to all rising 9th through completed 12th graders**
- **Total cost = \$400 **pay any amount to get signed up & balance due by July 2, 2017 to Jeanne Shannon**

A Benediction for the End of the School Year

As you go forth into your summer, remember that God will be with you at the pool, at camp, at home, even at summer school, and wherever you go. Have fun and be a good disciple.

As you go forth into your summer, enjoy your change of pace. Learn something new for the future. And, remember that God is with you, watching over you and guiding you both in the classroom and out of it.

As you go forth into a summer of new schedules and different activities for your children, there will be lots of juggling. As you juggle, remember to love and enjoy your children. And, know that God loves you and your children always.

Hang in there. It is easy to feel that everyone else is on vacation or doing interesting new things while you "keep at it." Remember that God is with you in the ongoing, everydayness of life.

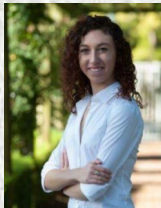
No matter where you are going this summer or what you will be doing, remember that God is with you always and in all places. God loves you and watches over you. So, go in peace.

Worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com



We are so proud of our high school graduates! They will be honored at a Graduate Breakfast on Sunday, June 4 at 8:45 a.m. If any of you have recent college graduates, we would love to update the congregation on their lives as well! Please notify Dionne Seale in the church office of any college graduate updates.

Gracie Marie Cox



Gracie is the daughter of Kevin Cox and Kara Cox. She graduated May 26 from Rocky Mount Academy and will attend American University in Washington DC in the fall. She has been accepted into the School of Public Affairs.

Catherine Alexander Lilley



Cate is the daughter of Jim and Catherine Lilley. She will graduate on June 10, 2017 from Rocky Mount High School. She plans to babysit this summer, spend some time at Nags Head and attend Montreat with the youth. This fall, Cate will attend NC State University.

Suzanna Arrington Mosley



Suzanna is the daughter of Anne and Michael Mosley. She graduated May 26, 2017 from Rocky Mount Academy and plans to work with the Rocky Mount Academy Child Care this summer. This fall, she will attend High Point University and her college major is currently undecided.

Scarlett Ashlyn Schrimper



Scarlett Schrimper is the daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Schrimper and will graduate on June 10, 2017 from Rocky Mount High School. This summer she plans to work as a Counselor and lifeguard at Camp Don Lee in Arapahoe, NC for 5 weeks, attend Montreat, then lifeguard at the YMCA when she returns from Montreat. This fall, Scarlett will attend UNC Chapel Hill and is interested in a possible Biology major.

Joshua Robert Turnage



Rob is the son of John and Beth Turnage. He graduated May 26 from Rocky Mount Academy and will work as a cart boy at the Benvenue Golf Course this summer. In the fall he will attend UNC Charlotte. At this time he is interested in business and psychology.

Grace Munro Warner



Grace Munro Warner is the daughter of Lynn and Andy Warner and she will be graduating from Rocky Mount High School on June 10, 2017. This summer she plans to lifeguard, attend Montreat, and enjoy some family trips before attending UNC- Chapel Hill in the fall. She is planning to focus on Global Studies and/or Journalism while in college.

We also send our warmest wishes to Marelle Cooper, Julian Fenner, and Emily Gold upon their respective High School graduations. The seniors who participated in Youth Sunday on May 7 are pictured at right:

*Back row—Rob Turnage, Cate Lilley, Emily Gold;
Front row—Grace Warner, Suzanna Mosley, and Scarlett Schrimper*





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Peacemakers will need approximately 13,000 snack items in order to feed Freedom School children this summer! They are collecting donations of shelf-stable snack items (granola bars, cracker packs, goldfish, pudding cups, etc.) The Outreach Committee would greatly appreciate your help for this worthwhile project on Sunday, June 4 and Sunday, June 11. Please bring your snack items and leave in the designated box in the narthex. You may also leave the snacks in the volunteer office at other times.

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

For more information, visit
www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.



The Prom Closet is very grateful for all of the wonderful folks who donated prom attire and especially those tireless volunteers who signed up to work various shifts assisting young people with their choices!



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 vestibule:

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. *At this time, they are especially in need of food for their "backpack" program. Items such as peanut butter, Beanie Weenies, canned ravioli and Vienna sausages would be very much appreciated.*

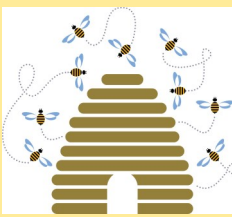
United Community Ministries

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



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.



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 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.



At left, Troop 55 enjoyed wrapping up our year with the gardening badge. We visited the Down East Partnership for Children and helped them make plant markers, reorganize their gardening closet, and picked up trash and weeds in the garden. Troop 434 (Cadette Troop) ended our year with a campout at Carley Outlaw's house. They canoed, put up their own tents, and roasted hot dogs and s'mores.

Submitted by Kate Tharin, Girl Scout Leader



2017 Outstanding Older Adult Award Recipient Mary Lou Fountain



Mary Lou Fountain has been a member of First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount for sixty-two years. She is a committed disciple of Christ, who has quietly volunteered her time to teach, and to serve the Lord. She is an inspiration and role model for people of all ages, in the church and in the community at large. She has a loving spirit, and is committed to serving others.

During worship services, Mary Lou has served as both a greeter, and an usher. She has delivered meals to home bound members of the church and to people who are sick, or bereaved. She delivers meals for the Meals On Wheels program. Mary Lou has been active in the many programs of the Women of the Church, and has hosted numerous circle meetings, as well as insightfully taught the Bible Study lesson for the Circle of Friends.

When the Reverend Bettie Kirkpatrick formed the Spiritual Nurture Group at the church, Mary Lou was one of the group's original members. Always an encourager in the faith, Mary Lou is an outstanding teacher, and has taught for the Adult Sunday School program for many wonderful years. She is a committed Christian who is constant in her desire to understand and interpret the word of God. Always prepared, always willing to give someone a hand, she inspires those who know her!

As recipient of this honor from First Presbyterian, Mary Lou was also recognized along with all the honorees from our Presbytery at the Presbytery of New Hope's Outstanding Older Adult Service held on May 21, 2017 here at First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount.

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, July 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends and the Circle of J.O.Y. will resume their gatherings in September. More information to come!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator

Diane Dixon, 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

Presbyterian Women Birthday Cake Honoree



Sylvia Phillips was honored during worship on Sunday, May 14 with a beautiful cake made by Hannah Diedrick in appreciation for her dedicated service to several ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Sylvia has truly been the epitome of a "Presbyterian Woman" and we are grateful for her hard work, generosity, time and talent.

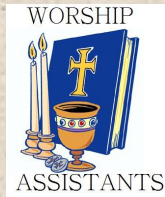


Outgoing PW moderator, Sylvia Phillips and incoming PW moderator, Janice Smith surround Brenda Brown, Blanche Robinson's daughter, who summarized this year's Bible study, "Who is Jesus?" at the PW Birthday Luncheon on May 16, 2017.

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on
Tuesday, June 20, 2017
at 1:30 p.m. in the home of
Chris Feno, 616 Short Spoon Circle.



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



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

June 4, 2017

Communion will be served by intinction

Head Usher: James Tharin

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

Greeters: Kate and Frances Tharin

Liturgist: Lydia Wingo Kane

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helpers: Christie Sondergard, Jeannie Lane

Communion Preparers: Anne Kinnaird, Wicky Thorpe

Communion Servers: Anne Kinnaird, Clif Hayworth, Jay Gardner, Wicky Thorpe

June 11, 2017

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: Brett Sondergard, Owen Sondergard, Laura Durham, Bobbie Lambeth

Greeters: Christie and Emily Sondergard

Liturgist: Deky Hall

Children’s Sermon: Chris Berardi

Nursery Helper: Katherine Fisher

June 18, 2017

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: Brett Sondergard, Owen Sondergard, Laura Durham, Bobbie Lambeth

Greeters: Christie and Emily Sondergard

Liturgist: Mike Gaynor

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Ann Dill

June 25, 2017

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Janice Smith, Laura Durham, Kay Wester

Greeters: Bobbi and Hassell Weeks

Liturgist: Janice Smith

Children’s Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Heather Gardner

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount

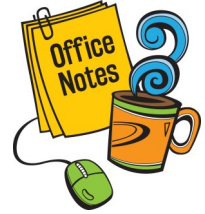


@FPC_RockyMount



fpc_rockymount

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



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 FPC Family,

Sonny and I appreciate your kindness and your prayers during the unexpected loss of his mother. The flowers from church which were delivered by Laura Durham were absolutely beautiful. His mother loved flowers and would often speak of the lady from her church who shared her summer flowers with church members each summer Sunday! Food, plants, flowers, calls, e-mails, visits, and memorials to our church and to her church have helped us in adjusting to this phase of our lives. Also, we thank Bobbi and Hassell Weeks for delivering a beautiful bouquet made from the Mother's Day flower arrangement given in memory of Mrs. Foster and in honor of Pell by the Danny Miller Family. We have shared your loving spirits with his brothers, especially John, her loving caregiver.

Our best regards to you,

Pell and Sonny Foster

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Dee and I deeply appreciate the kind support offered by our church family at the time of my dad's passing. Your cards, words of comfort, and the beautiful bouquet from our altar flowers have meant so much to us during this difficult time. It is comforting to know that we can count on the support of our friends at First Presbyterian. Again, thank you so much for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. Your expressions of sympathy, kindness, and friendship will always be remembered.

Sincerely,
Crystal Whitley

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful and delicious birthday cake. Hannah—you are the best. We enjoyed Beth High's visit so much.

I feel so fortunate to have such a thoughtful And caring church family.

Love,
Genevieve Batchelor

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for the prayers, phone calls, flowers, food and the beautiful blue prayer blanket. I would especially like to thank the six ladies that came to visit—what a lovely time we had. I am blessed to belong to such a loving and caring church family.

With Christian Love,
Edie Reeves

Dear Members of First Presbyterian, I will be forever grateful for all the heart warming cards, thoughtful words, and the beautiful flowers you have shared with me following my mom's death. Having such a nurturing church family has truly made a difference. I have felt the love and caring from so many of you, and it has been such a blessing for me and my family. Many thanks to a special Presbyterian church for sharing God's love so beautifully at this time of need and each and every other day of the year as well!

Fondly,
Mary Scott



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

- Mary Scott, on the death of her mother, Dorothy Swain Meares, on May 13, 2017.



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:

June 4
June 18
July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

Congratulations!



Blanche Robinson is pleased to announce the birth of her new great-grandson, Tanner Gregory Routh, on May 4, 2017. He is the grandson of Carson and Mary Ellen Robinson.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill
- ▶ Anne Podesta

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

- ▶ Liz Cole

HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

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
 Bailey Liipfert
 Jacob McCabe (Mary Watson's grandson)
 John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)
 Lila Michael
 Gerry Niece (friend of the church)
 Carol Patterson
 Ben Rayford (Dionne Seale's grandfather)
 Evelyn Reese
 Blanche Robinson
 Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)
 Maida Sessoms

This is your church family! A living, breathing body of Christ...worshiping together, supporting one another through life's challenges, celebrating joyful moments, helping others in the community, and breaking bread in fellowship.



*Youth Sunday Participants
May 7, 2017*



*Youth Defy Gravity Trip
May 20, 2017*



*Youth Volunteers—United Way Sunday
Supper at the Mill—May 21, 2017*



*Parents' Afternoon Out
April 26, 2017*



*In-Betweens Fellowship Gathering
May 19, 2017*