

August 2017



FIRST PRES NEWS

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Hot! Hot! Every day I hear something about the hot weather. I watch the weather forecast at least once and sometimes three times a day. “Everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it,” was contributed to Mark Twain. However, research indicates that Charles Dudley Warner, editor at the Hartford Courant, may have used it earlier than Mark Twain. Reference to Twain was in 1905 whereas Warner used it as early as 1889.

Regardless, we have weather all the time and we (humans) like to complain about things we have no control over.

That sounds like me! I remember those July and August hot days in the tobacco fields. One year, dad’s rows of tobacco seemed like they were 5 miles long. Actually, they were only about 6 blocks long. The flowers in the top were to be removed, called topping. In between each leaf another little tobacco plant grew which needed to be removed in order to produce quality tobacco. Of course, many of you know removing this little plant is called “suckering.”

As we began the task of topping and suckering (which I thought was crazy) it appeared we would never reach the other end of those long rows. Looking at the other end of the row and across the field was a daunting feeling—we will never get there, so I thought.

I have since discovered if I focus only on the outcome then I miss the importance of the journey. The journey may be difficult at times but necessary to have the desired outcome. For example, the weeks and months planning a vacation often brings more joy than the vacation itself.

As a church family, it’s important to remember the journey (living today) is where we find the meaning of life. A pastoral transition for churches creates anxiety and could lead to unhealthy shortcuts. I am convinced that if we do our work appropriately, we will have the right outcome.

I needed to be reminded how important the tedious work on each hill of tobacco was for quality outcome. Likewise, trusting the leadership of the Holy Spirit will guide us in our journey. I am thankful to be in journey with you at this time and place.

Shalom,
Preston

Bridge Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Preston Smith

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.

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:

August 2—Hing Ta restaurant
 August 9—Home of Sylvia Phillips
 August 16—Home of Kay Wester
 August 23—Home of Gene and Sue Jackson

 The Presbyterian Friends Fellowship Group invites one and all to meet up for our final Mill and Chill gathering for the summer on Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Rocky Mount Mills. Stop by the TBC West picnic tables for a time of fellowship!

Join us following worship for cookies and lemonade! The following Deacons are serving as August host/hostesses:

August 6—Jim Newton
 August—Sylvia Phillips
 August 21—Frances Guerry
 August 28—none due to "sandwich" fellowship meal



Tuesday
 August 8, 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!



In-Betweens Meal

The In-Betweens Fellowship Group invites you to the home of Bill and Suzanne Buchanan, for supper on Wednesday, July 30 at 6:00 p.m. Nancy Richardson is co-hosting, and they will be providing BBQ chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,184,095.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 6/30/17):

\$1,095,865.50

July Session Meeting Highlights

- Jack Perry and Ike Amerson along with two representatives from Covenant Homes came to discuss the many needs at Covenant Homes. They requested that the Church make a donation to Covenant Homes.
- The Mission Tithe Committee made a recommendation and the session voted unanimously to donate \$25,000 from the Mission Tithe portion of the capital campaign to Covenant Homes to use for updates to the property including new windows, heating and air upgrades, roofing repairs and renovations.
- The Nomination Committee met Sunday, July 23 at 3:00 to nominate church officers for the Diaconate and Session
- The Interim Pastor Search committee reported that they have met and are finalizing the paperwork to submit to the presbytery so that they may begin searching for a permanent interim pastor. The committee consists of Beth Steed, Joe Brown, Sylvia Phillips, Betsy McLean and Tim Hathaway.
- Further discussion was had regarding the special gifts committee and the best way to use those funds to further the mission of the church. Should you have any recommendations for the special gifts committee, please reach out to Clif Hayworth. If you have not completed your survey, you may do so online or pick up a hard copy from Dionne at the church office.
- The Property committee reported that the majority of the work being done to the sanctuary, narthex, vestibule and chapel is complete.

Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk of the Session



MAKES CENT\$

Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for June. 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 June, 2017
 Month – to – date \$ 24,846.00
 Year – to – date \$ 334,454.95

Expenses through June, 2017
 Month – to – date \$ 34,127.79
 Year – to – date \$ 297,273.65

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



is at the Table? Who is Missing?"

The Summer Community Worship Services will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the following Sundays: July 16, 23, 30, and August 6. This worship service series marks the celebration of the 10th anniversary of this event. Our theme this year is "Who

- August 6: Morning Star Church of Christ (225 Glendale Drive)—Rev. Richard Gurganus of Church on the Rise preaching

Special Gifts Committee Survey



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



Middle School Youth Kick-off Party
Saturday, August 26

High School Youth Kick-off Party
Wednesday, August 30

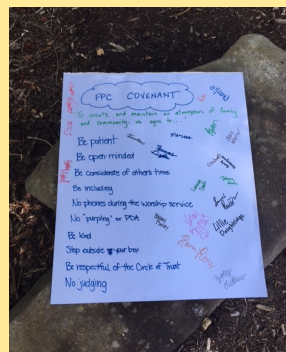
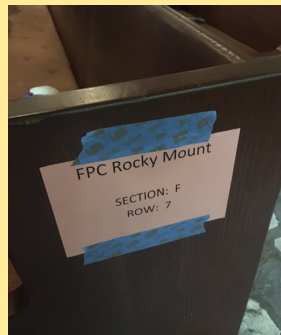
We have made it to August and my head is still spinning when I think about all of the places I have been since June--VBS, family vacations, at home, at work, and I can't even remember what else in between! Our youth and children have been many places this summer too. Gatekeepers and Montreat Youth Conference were both wonderful experiences, as they always are. Many of our children and youth spent time with new friends and old at camp. We have all been to many special places this summer. When I have found moments to sit still and be quiet, I have been met with timely words from scripture such as these from Genesis 28:16-17:

Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place--truly. And I didn't even know it...Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."

At Montreat, Gatekeepers, camp, and all of the other places we go during these summer months, God is with us, and it's incredible. As we all begin to return home and get back into our normal routines as a new school year begins, I look forward to kick-off parties and Rally Day, and hearing more from each of you about the places you have been and how God has been with you in each holy place.

July 16-22, 2017...

20 youth and 4 brave adult chaperones ventured to our happy place, Montreat! Old friendships were strengthened and new ones were formed as the youth bonded at the Montreat Youth Conference. Thank you First Presbyterian for supporting your youth with this amazing opportunity!





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Outreach Committee will continue to collect snacks for the students at Freedom School that is being held at Peacemakers. The drop-off box will be in the narthex or fellowship hall during July. You may also leave snacks in the volunteer office.

Outreach would like to thank you for all the snacks that have been brought in already for this worthy project of reaching out and helping children in our community.

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.



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.

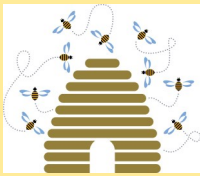
United Community Ministries

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 the MOW office for more information at
252-446-4336.



Conetoe Family Life Center

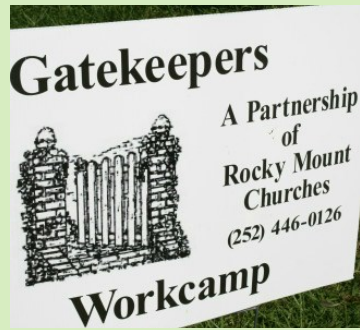
Conetoe Beehive Initiative is still accepting donations to cover the cost of interior frames (\$48.00 per hive). To make a donation you can either visit www.goodshepherdrrmt.org and click on the beehive icon for online donations or send in your checks to Church of the Good Shepherd (memo line Conetoe Beehives) at 231 North Church Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

AGAPE VILLAGE foundation



You can still add more donations to the barrel in the narthex for Agape Village Orphanage! Thank you for your support!





July 10-14, 2017

Thank you to all the youth and adults who gave so much of themselves to those in need at the Gatekeepers Workcamp!



Presbyterian Women Update



PW Circles and their Leadership

Presbyterian Women meet at the congregation level in "circles." No matter what the activities, as long as women meet to build community, support mission, nurture faith and/or work for justice and peace, those women are forming a "circle." No matter how many or how few activities a women's circle undertakes, if they do it on behalf of the PW Purpose, they are a PW circle. Leadership in single-circle groups at the congregational level ideally consists of a moderator (to provide leadership to the circle and ensure communication among the members and with the congregation and session); a secretary/historian to record the work of the circle; and a treasurer to maintain the financial records of the circle. But PW is flexible! Circles don't have to be called circles and a team can have leaders who "wear more than one [leadership] hat."

UPCOMING PW EVENTS:

- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- Back to School Shopping: Presbyterian Women will once again be collecting school supplies for Tar River Academy. As you are shopping, please pick up a few items to help the students.
- 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

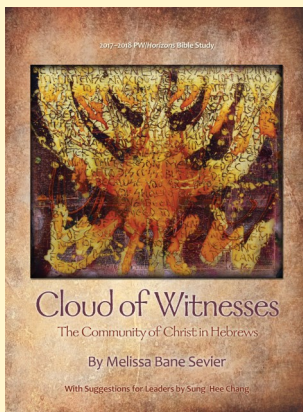
Roslyn Gragg, Circle of Friends Leader

Martha Tesoro, Treasurer

Leigh Skeen, Spiritual Nurture

Linda Amerson, Together in Service

Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader



All PW are invited!

PW Bible Study Brunch

Tuesday, August 29,
2017

11:00 a.m.

Church parlor

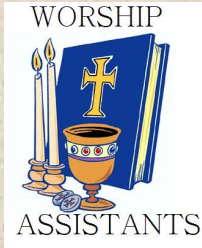
The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will introduce the 2017-18 Horizons Bible Study on Hebrews, "A Cloud of Witnesses". Come enjoy quiche, fruit, muffins, and dessert!

Sign up on the PW Bulletin Board today!

The **Handcraft Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, August 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Joan Radford.



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*

August 6, 2017

Communion will be served by intinction

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Edie Reeves, Tom Steed, Beth Steed

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

Liturgist: Dee Whitley

Children’s Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridg

Communion Preparers: Nancy Proctor, Russell Proctor

Communion Servers: Sally Adams, Randy Adams, Nancy Proctor, Russell Proctor

August 13, 2017

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Edie Reeves, Tom Steed, Beth Steed

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Jim Lilley

Nursery Helper: Katherine Fisher

August 20, 2017

Head Usher: Tim Lane

Ushers: Jeannie Lane, Tim Hathaway, Randy Adams, Sally Adams

Greeter: Mary Lou Fountain

Liturgist: Lige Daughtridg

Children’s Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Ann Dill

August 27, 2017

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Tim Hathaway, Randy Adams, Sally Adams

Greeter: Mary Lou Fountain

Liturgist: Mike Gaynor

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Kate Honey

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



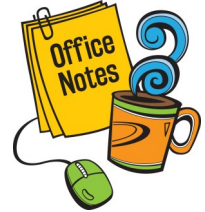
@FPC_RockyMount



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 during non-office hours.



WELCOME New Members

On Sunday, July 9, we warmly welcomed Jean Almand Kitchin as a returning church member, and Dillon and Lucy Rose as new members along with their children, Walker and Ward. We are grateful to have them be a part of our church family!

Dear Presbyterian Friends,

Our family joins me in thanking you for your prayers, friendship and kindness during our time in need. The cards, calls and flowers were so appreciated. We feel so fortunate in having such a caring church family.

Love,
Genevieve Batchelor

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers from last Sunday's service. They are a wonderful reminder of my return to my beloved church family at First Presbyterian!

Warmly,
Jean Almand Kitchin

Wanting to thank my First Presbyterian Church family for all the visits, love, prayers, and support that you have blessed me with over the past month while I was in the hospital and Bryant T. Aldridge Rehab Center. I am finally now home building up my strength for another surgery in 3 to 4 months that will get me back on my feet. Your continuing prayers and support are so important to me. Thank you.

Blessings to you all,
Bobbi Weeks

Hannah Diedrick has done it again. A state of the art birthday cake was brought to my home to celebrate my 92nd birthday. And unlike some others we know about, after taking a picture, we ate this delicious pound cake. I love dessert so thank you for making my day.

Hassell Weeks

COMMUNICATIONS DEADLINES

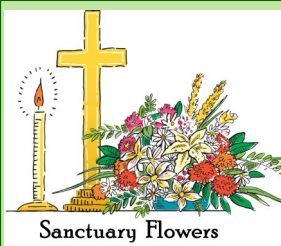
- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Wednesday. *
- The church bulletin is printed on Thursday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Thursday. *

*unless otherwise announced



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

- Frank Edge upon the death of his wife, Jean Brake Edge, on July 4, 2017.
- Genevieve Batchelor upon the death of her husband, Bill Batchelor, on July 12, 2017.
- Ida Stanley, mother of Marianne Farris, grandmother of Kate Tharin, and great-grandmother of Mari Robin and Frances Tharin, died on July 16, 2017.
- Ben Rayford, grandfather of Dionne Seale and great-grandfather of Lauren and Megan Seale, died July 26, 2017 in Snow Hill, NC.



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:

August 6, 13, 27



Congratulations to the following families:

- Becky and Julian Parks on the birth of their grandson, Timothy "Coy" Duncan, born on July 14, 2017. Ben and Sarah Duncan of Petersburg, Virginia are the proud parents.
- Laura and David Dudley on the birth of their grandson, Caden Jasper Dudley, born on July 22, 2017 to Harrison and Leigh Ann Dudley of Wendell, NC.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

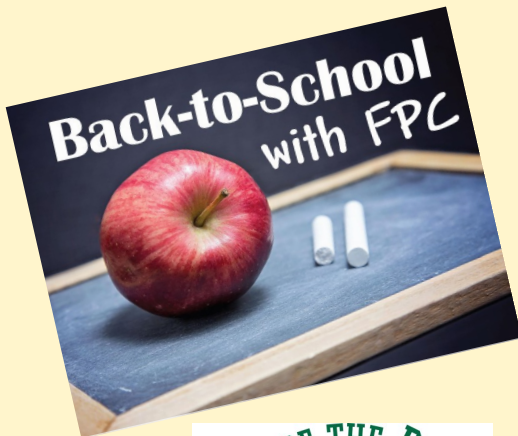
- ▶ Liz Cole

HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

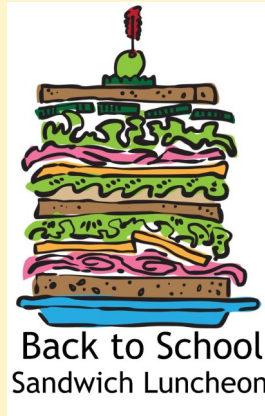
ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Margaret Barnes
 William Bobbitt, uncle of Karen Thompson
 Jean Boddie
 Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)
 Brenda Crocker
 Augusta Daniel
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
 Anne Etheredge
 Si Fuller
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
 Jacob McCabe (Mary Watson's grandson)
 John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)
 Lila Michael
 Gerry Niece (friend of the church)
 Carol Patterson
 Anne Wilgus Podesta
 Evelyn Reese
 Blanche Robinson
 Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)
 Maida Sessoms
 Bobbi Weeks



It is hard to believe school starts soon! We will celebrate the beginning of a new school year for all the children and youth by asking them to bring their school backpacks to worship on August 27. We will have a special "blessing" and pray for all to have a safe and successful school year. We will be especially prayerful that all teachers and school administrators from our congregation also have a great school year!

Make plans to be here on Sunday, August 27, 2017!



Following worship on the 27th, all ages are invited to a "make your own" sandwich luncheon with all the fixins' in the fellowship hall! You can also bring your school supplies for Tar River Academy at this time as well! Please let the church office know you are coming by August 20th.



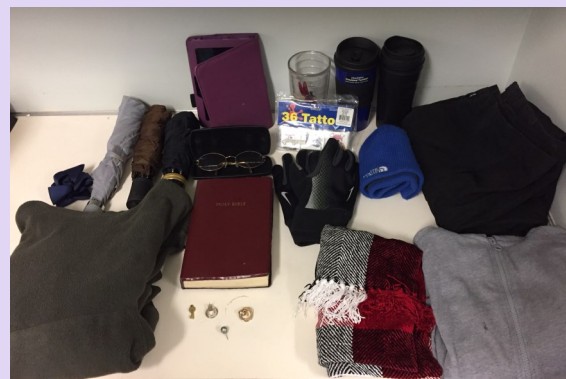
It's not too late to join the Chancel Choir for the summer!

Summer Rehearsal Schedule:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. through 8/20/17
(immediately prior to worship)

Also, following their summer hiatus from mid-week rehearsals, the Chancel Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals on August 23 at 7:30 p.m. The Alleluia Singers children's choir and the Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. respectively.

LOST & FOUND

If any of these items are yours, please stop by the church's volunteer office to claim your lost items by August 10. All items not claimed by that date will be donated to charity.



Two hoodies, Tervis tumbler, Black "Structure" all weather jacket, 3 umbrellas, Bible belonging to Alvin A., Electronic tablet in purple case, Prescription glasses, Navy blue hair bow, Nike gloves, North Face toboggan, Red, white and black scarf, 4 different earrings (no mates), a set of kid's pirate tattoos