

July 2017



FIRST PRES NEWS

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

FROM THE PASTOR



Each day upon waking up, I have an expectation of what my day may be like. Breakfast, morning coffee with friends at a local watering hole, chores, hobbies, lunch and dinner with Judy, visiting grandchildren for ballgames and recitals, etc. You too, have your expected daily routine. Oops! Then life happens. A dreaded phone call telling you that a loved one has died, a health report stating you have a significant illness, a neighbor in trouble, job change, etc.

While I know life consists of unexpected events (positive and negative), I arise every morning not anticipating them today.

My plans for the summer and fall consisted of relearning how to fish (new boat), golfing, weekly motorcycle trips with friends, visiting grandchildren in Utah (and their parents) and traveling with Judy.

It was an unexpected life event the day FPCRM leaders called to ask if I would consider serving as bridge interim pastor while they searched for a full-time interim minister. FPC was not on my radar screen but it didn't take long before I realized this is what I was being called to do. You see, I have lived my life with the attitude, "Lord, guide me in ways to serve you." However, I expected to serve in smaller "bites," you know the kind that would match my retirement plans, a little bit here and a little bit there.

As each of you know quality of life is not in the content of what we do but in the attitude we have. One could play golf and it could be the worst experience or the best experience ever--attitude. Likewise, I would never have chosen my dad to have Alzheimer's disease. Many of you know how difficult it is to have loved ones live with this disease. When this happened, I learned to pray, "why not us, we are not any better than anyone else." When our son was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer we approached it the same way. Now that doesn't mean we didn't cry, hurt, and struggle. It meant we were not alone as we faced life challenges. Family, friends and our faith family were there to give us strength and support.

I have been blessed to be a part of the FPC family and I think it is in part to my being open to new possibilities (and certainly, the wonderful people I have met.) I have great appreciation for who you are. While there are many personalities and multitudes of life experiences in this family, it is my prayer to respect you as God has created you and not the way I think you should be. I invite you to join with me in living this prayer this summer—"Lord, help me to respect others for the way you have created them rather than the way I think they should be."

Peace and blessings,
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:

July 5—Mario's Restaurant, Westridge Shopping Center

July 12—Home of Roz & Larry Gragg

July 19—Home of Mary Watson

July 26—Home of Chris and Gerald Feno,



Tuesday
July 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.



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!

*** Brown Bag will not meet July 3 ***



The Presbyterian Friends Fellowship Group invites one and all to meet up on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. during the month of July at Rocky Mount Mills (TBC West picnic tables) for a time of fellowship!



**Join us for
Hot Dogs!**

Sunday, July 2

11:00 a.m. (after worship)

Fellowship Hall

Donations will be accepted that day to cover the cost of the meal



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,184,095.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 5/31/17):

\$1,095,115.50



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

The Session has called for there to be a congregational meeting at the end of worship on Sunday, July 9 for the sole purpose of electing our Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for nominating a slate of officers to serve as Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2020. Nominations may be made from the floor provided your nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

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.

MAKES CENT\$



Please review the below church income (pledges and loose offering) and expense data for May. 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 May, 2017
 Month - to - date \$ 52,115.25
 Year - to - date \$ 309,608.95

Expenses through May, 2017
 Month - to - date \$ 42,071.80
 Year - to - date \$ 238,299.86

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



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 is at the Table? Who is Missing?"

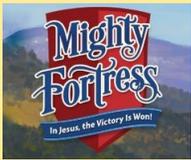
- ◆ July 16: Trinity Lutheran Church—Rev. Raymond Privott of Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian
- ◆ July 23: Foster Memorial Baptist Church—Rev. Jody Wright of Lakeside Baptist
- ◆ July 30: West Haven Presbyterian—Rev. Audrey McCarter-Hedgpeth of Greater Love Christian Community Church
- ◆ August 6: Morning Star Church of Christ—Rev. Richard Gurganus of Church on the Rise



&



Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:57



The children and youth of FPC sang, played, worshiped, and learned alongside our neighbors from four other area churches at Vacation Bible School last month. The theme this year was "Mighty Fortress" and each day we explored a different Bible story that showed us how God acted in the lives of the people of Israel and then through Jesus to give them victory. It was a wonderful week and I am so grateful for all of the children, parents, youth, and volunteers who made this experience possible for our community. Thanks be to God!



A special shout out to cousins, Ella Wood & Lucas Sharpe and Ann Cleveland & Walt Fisher who raised money for the VBS charity by selling lemonade and homemade goods at their grandparent's (Walt and Clevie Wiggins) house!



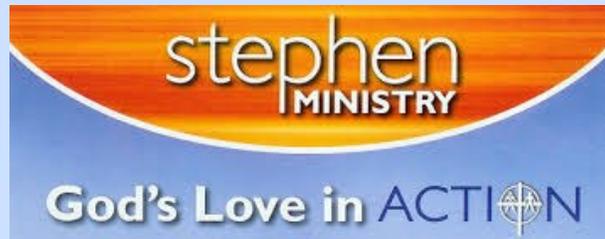
This month the youth of FPC will be very busy! We have 11 youth participating in Gatekeepers Work Camp and 21 who will be making the journey to Montreat the following week. Please pray for our youth and also the amazing volunteers, all of whom will be experiencing new things, giving back to our community, enjoying fellowship with each other, and, most importantly, growing closer to God.

Gatekeepers Work Camp

- **July 10-14, 2017**
- **\$100 Participant Fee balance due to Jeanne Shannon by July 2, 2017**

Montreat Youth Conference

- **July 16-23, 2017**
- **Balance due by July 2, 2017 to Jeanne Shannon**



News about Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry which is used by church congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, illness, loneliness, hospitalization, and other life difficulties. To learn more about this ministry, the website is: www.stephenministries.org and the telephone number is (314) 428-2600.

First Presbyterian Church has been a Stephen Ministry congregation since the year 1997. Stephen Ministers do a great job of walking alongside people going through tough times. They are trained to bring Christ's healing love to people. During difficult times, people often feel alone. Stephen Ministers visit each week and can keep in touch by telephone. They are good listeners. They do not repeat any information given to them but demonstrate kindness and compassion with those with whom they visit. Many pastors appreciate this ministry, which is described as the priesthood of all believers in action. With a long list of people in the congregation who require visits, Stephen Ministry gives congregations a way to equip the saints to be ministers of Christ. If you know of anyone who is interested in either becoming a Stephen Minister, or a Stephen Minister Leader, please contact First Presbyterian Church at 252-446-9121. Training to become a Stephen Minister will be offered starting in October, 2017.

Training to become a Stephen Ministry Leader is offered six times each calendar year: Recent trainings were: January 8-14, 2017 in Orlando, Florida; January 29-February 4, 2017 in Anaheim, California; April 23-29, 2017 in St. Louis, Missouri; June 11-17, 2017 in Orlando, Florida.

*July 9-15, 2017 in Dallas, Texas; and *July 30-August 5, 2017 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (* Dates still open for training).

Submitted by Christine Feno



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.

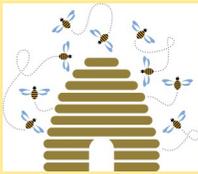
United Community Ministries

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 for Agape Village Orphanage! Thank you for your support!





Our Girl Scout troop recently visited New Bern and toured the Pepsi Center and Tryon Palace. We also took a pontoon river cruise down the Neuse River. We were proud to use our cookie money in this way.

Submitted by Kate Tharin, Girl Scout Leader



4/12/17

Eicya Kalonji said "the lady was very sweet and kind showing all of (her) Christianity toward us."



A sampling of comments made by folks who benefitted from the 2017 Prom Closet here at FPC...

5/3/17

My'Riah Shaw said, "These dresses are very nice. They are here for all people and I have found my special one. Thank you very much!"

4/26/17

Safiya Fletcher said, "Thank you. This is a great service, may God bless you all."

4/26/17

Veronica Evans (with Jalen Morris) said, "My experience was spectacular. The ladies were very kind and helpful. I really appreciate this opportunity."

4/19/17

Nicholas Strickland said, "They were awesome, and very knowledgeable ladies. Very helpful! 10/10"

4/19/17

Joy Blossom said, "I had a great experience. Enjoyed everything."

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, 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

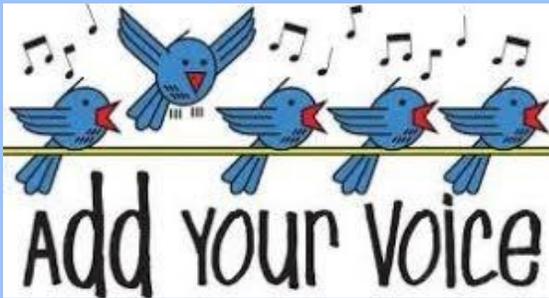
Roslyn Gragg, Circle of Friends Leader

Martha Tesoro, Treasurer

Leigh Skeen, Spiritual Nurture

Linda Amerson, Together in Service

Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader



Join the Chancel Choir!

Summer Rehearsal Schedule:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
(immediately prior to worship)

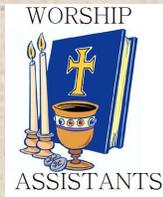
The Handcraft Ministry will meet on
Tuesday, July 25, 2017
at 1:30 p.m. in the home of
Cindy Masters



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



*Just a reminder that
the church office is
closed July 3 and 4!*



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

July 2, 2017

Communion will be served by intinction

Head Usher: Greg Hutchins

Ushers: Carol Hutchins, Janice Smith, Laura Durham, Kay Wester

Greeter: none needed

Liturgist: David Farris

Nursery Helper: Tricia Vestal

Communion Preparers: John Etheredge, Mary Perry

Communion Servers: John Etheredge, Sonny Foster, Mary Perry, Nancy Richardson

July 9, 2017

Head Usher: Darin Scott

Ushers: Elizabeth Scott, Lee Scott, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal

Greeter: Mary Watson

Liturgist: Lige Daughtridge

Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Heather Gardner

July 16, 2017

Head Usher: Darin Scott

Ushers: Elizabeth Scott, Lee Scott, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal

Greeter: Mary Watson

Liturgist: Partha Daughtridge

Children's Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Kim Sutton

July 23, 2017

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw, Karen Thompson

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: TBA

Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Dionne Seale

July 30, 2017

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw, Karen Thompson

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: TBA

Children's Sermon: Tim Lane

Nursery Helper: Laura Durham

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.

- Miley “Mike” Braswell—no longer has an email address, so please contact her by phone or mail only.



*Our office hours are Monday—Thursday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. ** THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JULY 3 AND 4** Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building at during non-office hours.*

Special thanks is extended to the Berardi brunch committee members for helping in the planning of Chris Berardi's farewell brunch. Thank you to all who set up, brought food, decorated and cleaned up.

Special thanks to Jack Perry for giving the blessing, Sonny Foster for his presentation of the Love Offering, Frances Guerry for the beautiful lap robe from Handcraft Ministry, Janice Smith and Sylvia Phillips for wind chimes from PW for Caroline Berardi, and Kim Sutton for a presentation to John Berardi from the Children's Ministry and from his church family.

Thank you to Diane Dixon for providing all the beautiful table arrangements.

Thank you Hannah Diedrick for all of the delicious and beautifully decorated cakes!

Thanks again to all who made this day special for Chris and his family!

Sincerely,
Brunch Committee Members

First Presbyterian,

Hannah outdid herself in baking my recent birthday cake. Her creativity is simply amazing. Having Beth High deliver it just added more frosting to the cake.

I enjoyed it immensely and cannot thank the Church and my Church family enough for remembering me in such a “sweet way.”

I'm hopefully looking forward to the next one.

Blessings,
Bill Batchelor

Dear Handcraft Ministry Members,

My name is Jessica Routh and I am Blanche Robinson's granddaughter. Thank you so much for the adorable baby blanket that you made for my son, Tanner. We cherish it so much and appreciate the love, prayer, and time that you put into making it. We are so blessed to have you a part of our extended Church family.

Sincerely,
Gregory, Jessica, Paisley, and Tanner Routh, II

Dear First Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers you brought me. They smelled so good and I have really enjoyed them. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Hannah Diedrick

Dear First Presbyterian Handcraft Ministry,

I really love the beautiful lap robe! I delivered one to Meredith Archie that you had made—I never thought or dreamed that I would get one.

Yellow is my favorite color. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love,
Carol Patterson

Dear Ladies Knitting Group,

Thank you for the beautiful green blanket! Charlie looks so cozy in it, and our daughter Annabel loves to wrap up her dolls in it, too! You have been so thoughtful to send a blanket to all three of my children, and we treasure them. They each have a little piece of Rocky Mount up here in New York City.

Thank you for thinking of our family during this exciting time.

Love,
Alyson (Evans) Beha



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

- *Pat Mauldin upon the death of Pat's mother-in-law, Hazel Mauldin on June 25, 2017. Hazel was also the grandmother of Beth Mauldin Turnage and great-grandmother of Olivia, Rob and Graham Turnage.*



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:

July 2
July 16
July 23
July 30

Congratulations!



Regular visitors, Chris and Emily Dwight, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Jack, who was born May 29, 2017.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill
- ▶ Anne Wilgus 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
 Father of Dr. John Kim
 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
 Bobbi Weeks



POWER *in the* blood

You can put the power of faith into action and help save a life!

Scholarship Blood Drive@ First Presbyterian Church Rocky Mount

In the Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, July 27, 2017
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

To schedule an appointment visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



© 2017 AMERICAN RED CROSS

Sponsored by the FPC Outreach Committee—
any questions can be directed to Youth Deacon &
Blood Drive Coordinator, Lauren Seale



Thank you for your patience as we continue to make great progress in updating the flooring in the Sanctuary, and we will continue to worship in the fellowship hall until further notice. We will let you know when we are able to move fully back into the sanctuary.



FAREWELL *Brunch*

Chris Berardi and family were honored on Sunday, June 11 with a farewell brunch on his last Sunday with us as Senior Pastor.

