



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

October 2017

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



FROM THE PASTOR



October brings a mixed bag of emotions for me. I am mostly a warm weather person but I also like the fall. Cool mornings that turn into comfortable days, changing leaves from green to gold, yellow and red, people gathering for tailgate parties, and kids getting off of the school bus laughing and shouting to one another as they walk away in different directions. There is something about fall that feels, smells and looks celebratory. Maybe it's for parents when children go back to school, maybe it's the beginning of football season—ECU, UNC, NC State, Duke, Wake Forest or whichever school you hail from.

October 31, 1517 is another reason to celebrate fall of 2017. This date is pivotal to what we know as the Protestant Reformation. Just imagine what it may have been like prior to this time. If you “sinned” you could only be forgiven if you presented yourself to the priest and paid penance. If the priest, bishop or even the pope wanted to achieve a certain goal they could sell indulgences as a way to be reimbursed. The religious structure was such that members were subservient to the authorities. “I scratch your back, you scratch mine.” Are we not sure this isn't Washington, DC?

Maybe I am over simplifying this important historical event in church history. What I am not simplifying is the importance this event in 1517 had on us as Protestants. Martin Luther didn't intend nor could he have imagined the impact his personal struggle would have on church history. He wanted to bring reform from within the Catholic Church but instead he became the lightning rod for a simmering discontent. No doubt there were many priests and parishioners who wondered why they couldn't talk directly to God and ask for forgiveness. For us it seems talking with God and certainly asking for forgiveness has always been there. In fact, we may take this concept for granted that absolution becomes a rote response. How often have we read the prayer of forgiveness in worship and then heard the absolution proclaimed without an internal reflection? I confess I have—now I am looking for absolution—how much is it going to cost me?

During the month of October you may hear much more about Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Some of the Wednesday evening studies in October will include viewing a DVD on Luther and a Sunday school class or two will discuss this topic. Sunday October 29 we will celebrate Reformation Sunday in worship.

Presbyterians are celebrating the 500th anniversary of reform. Our motto is “reform and being reformed.” What this means is that we are never complete but always in process. God continues to forgive and to claim us through his grace. Thank you FPCRM for who you are and for what you will continue to become.

Peace and blessings,
Preston

Bridge Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Preston Smith

Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator: Lydia Wingo Kane

Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale

Financial Secretary: Jeanne T. Shannon

Director of Music: Jim Smith

Organist: Virginia Vance

Sexton: J. J. Jeffries

Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant: Charity Lodge

Nursery Assistant: Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship

...with First Presbyterian!



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!



Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Tuesday
October 10, 2017
7:00 a.m.

Start your day off on the right foot and gather at the church for breakfast and to learn more about a new mentorship opportunity at a local elementary school!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

All are welcome for a covered dish meal in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. followed by a program in the Session Room at 6:45 p.m.



ALL SAINTS'
DAY LUNCHEON

We will enjoy "Sliders and Salads" after church on **Sunday, October 22!** Please RSVP to **Dionne Seale** in the church office by **Wednesday, October 18** if able to attend.



In-Betweens Meal

Saturday, October 28
6:00 p.m.

The In-Betweens Fellowship Group is invited to gather at the home of Martha Tesoro, along with co-host Diane Dixon for a time of good food and fellowship. Please reply to Martha if able to attend (212-5525), and she will let you know what to bring for the meal.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch
Monday, October 16 at noon
FPC Session Room

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy delicious pulled pork sandwiches, citrus cole slaw, green bean casserole, and ice cream sundaes for dessert. If you are not already on the "permanent list", please notify the church office if you can attend. Faithful volunteers prepare and serve the food, and a basket is passed for contributions to offset the cost of the meal. While geared towards retirement age folks, all are welcome!



*Our Heritage,
Our Mission*
Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE:

\$1,184,095.11

FUNDS RECEIVED (through 8/31/17):

\$1,097,951.99

Session
UPDATE

From the September 19, 2017 Session Meeting:

-Clif Hayworth and L.M. Barnes gave a report to the Session from the special gifts committee. They have compiled the data from the survey and asked the session to review the data so that the Session can vote on how to best use the funds for today and to help continue the legacy of the church.

-The Administrative Committee gave a report and notified the session that Preston Smith's contract had expired but that they were happy to report that the committee had met with Preston and he had graciously agreed to continue his service to our church until a permanent interim was secured. They also reported that Preston and Judy would be taking a planned (and much needed) vacation. Bettie Kirkpatrick, Richard Joyner and Art Ross will be filling the pulpit in his absence.

-Christian Ed reported that Rally Day was a success and that the beginning of the Sunday School year and Youth Group are off to a great start with a lot of energy.

-Outreach reported that the sandwich lunch was a success with over 80 members in attendance and that the committee is planning an all saints lunch after worship in October. Also it was reported that the church is supporting the Peacemakers Annual Fundraiser and thanked Betsy Mclean for her service to the Tar River Academy project and the Handcraft Ministry for all that they do for members of the church and the community.

-Stewardship reported that they are preparing for Stewardship Sunday on November 12, 2017. The Rev. Ted Churn will be with us that day and a lunch will follow worship.

-Worship reported that they are preparing for the Advent and Christmas season.

-Preston notified the Session of a generous gift to the church from Ida and Bill Stanley. The session recognized Ida and Bill's dedication and service to FPCRM and expressed its gratitude that their legacy will continue for years to come.

Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk of the Session

MAKES CENTS



Please review the below church income and expense data for August. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions.

Pledges and Loose Offering through August, 2017

Month - to - date \$ 48,836.19
Year - to - date \$ 435,898.33

Expenses through August, 2017

Month - to - date \$ 43,984.64
Year - to - date \$ 381,511.55

Stewardship season is upon us! Each pledge is a great blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for paying your contribution:

Bank draft - This is a safe and steady way to consistently support First Presbyterian Church. It can be selected by marking this option on your pledge card and attaching a voided check. The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25th of each month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. The draft for your 2018 contribution would begin January 25th 2018. If you choose the bank draft, you can also stop it by emailing Jeanne Shannon in the church office 1-2 weeks before the 25th.

Envelopes - these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card

Sale of stock - If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon to request a stock donor letter or have your broker contact Jeanne in the church office. Stock sale process should begin in early November to make the 12/31 deadline due to holidays and the length of time for the process.

Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line

Online giving - Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit www.fpcrm.org using the 'Online Payment' link in the top right corner to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office, by phone at 252.446.9121 or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

Preparing to present this year's 3rd grade Bible made me think of my first Bible. It was a light pink children's Bible, and best of all, my parents had my name engraved in gold shiny letters in the bottom corner of the front cover. Receiving a gift so personal and so appealing to my 3rd grade sense of self made me feel like I was special and was being trusted with the mysterious task of discovering what all of the Bible might mean to me.

I don't remember my baptism since it happened when I was an infant and I really don't remember being confirmed, although I took the classes so it must have happened, but I do remember feeling the Holy Spirit's presence during communion. I grew up a Methodist preacher's kid and we moved around quite a bit, but communion was the same everywhere we went. Most of the time we had table communion, where we came forward, knelt, and opened our cupped hands to receive the bread and then drink from the cup. When I was a young child I remember going forward with my mom and being served by my dad, and when I was a teenager I remember going forward on my own and realizing how special it was to share that time and moment with people of all ages who knelt beside me and prayed.

These are two of my faith stories and they are important to me because I look back and see how my faith was nurtured by my family and by each congregation I was a part of. On Sunday evening, October 8, I encourage us all, but especially families of children and youth, to set aside a few minutes to share a story about your faith. Here is a guide for your time together.



Open with Prayer

Holy and Living God, Make us present to each other. Clear our minds and prepare our hearts so that we may hear these stories and see your faithfulness in our family's life. Amen.

Scripture Reading

You may choose a reading that is special to your family or use one or more of these. Be sure to use a real Bible to read the verses.

Deuteronomy 32:47 our faith story

Matthew 28:19-20 baptism

1 Corinthians 10:17 communion

Family Faith Stories

You may share stories about anything you'd like, but here are a few suggestions for story starters. This is also a perfect opportunity to tell about family faith objects, like a baptism candle, a family Bible, pictures from special events, or special notes or gifts that have been received over the years.

What is your earliest memory of faith? Who was or is one of the most influential people in your faith life?

What does participating in the Lord's Supper mean to you? When were you baptized and who was there?

Close with Prayer

God, thank you for our shared stories. By remembering these stories, we remember you. Be with us always. Amen.

I would love to see or hear how your family's faith storytelling experience went. Please send pictures or send me a note about what your family shared with each other.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

Children's Ministry Activities in October



- 18 Parents' Afternoon Out—Prepare for Children's Sabbath
- 25 Parents' Afternoon Out—Reformation & All Saints

Youth Ministry Activities in October



- 1 Combined Youth Group Cookout at Farris' House at 5:30
- 8 No Youth Group—Family Faith Storytelling at home
- 15 Combined Youth Group Prayer Labyrinth at Lakeside 5:00
- 22 Combined Youth Group Raking Service Project
- 29 Combined Youth Group Vespers at the Albemarle 3:30
- 29 Parent book discussion on Untangled during Sunday School



FPC Children and Youth having fun! Middle School lake trip, Parents' Afternoon Out, and Rally Day 2017...





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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.



Volunteers are needed to serve as substitutes on occasion!

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

Save the date!

4th Annual Beans and Brews

Chili and Craft Beer Tasting

Benefiting

Meals on Wheels of Rocky Mount

October 24, 2017

6:00-9:00 p.m.

at the Rocky Mount Brewmill

Tickets available online at

www.mowrmt.org, by invitation, or by

inquiring in the kitchen during MOW

hours. Call 446-4336 if any questions.



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 such as peanut butter, crackers, nabs, Vienna sausages, cereal bars, granola bars, canned ravioli or spaghetti, ramen noodles, and canned soup.

United Community Ministries

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

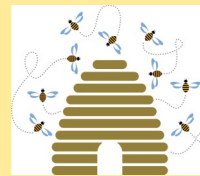


Harris Teeter

Shoppers: Be sure to re-link your VIC card to #5443 to benefit the

Children's Hope Alliance (formerly Barium Springs & Grandfather Home for Children).

Conetoe Family Life Center



The 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.goodshepherdrmt.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.

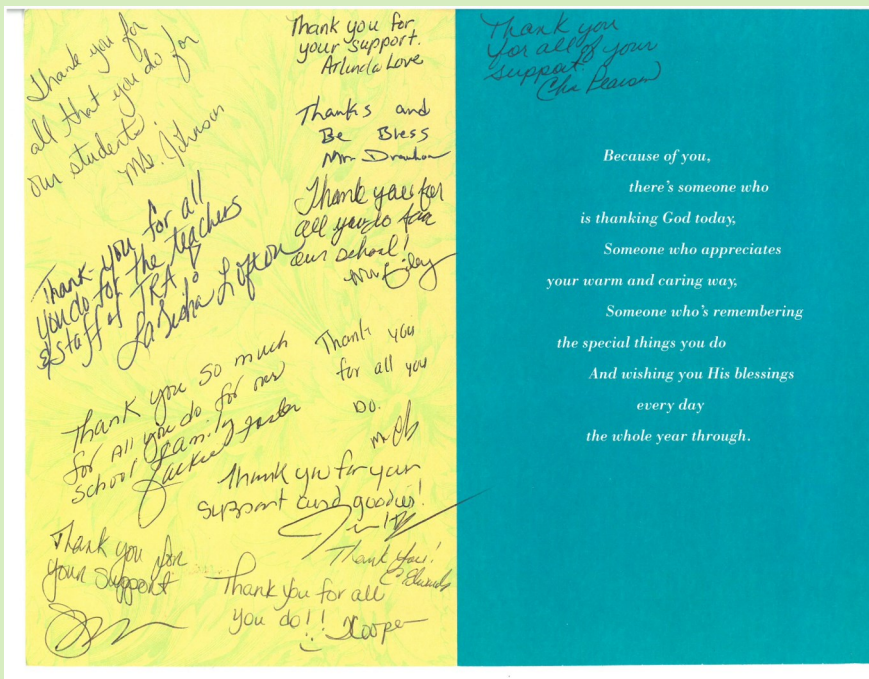
Troops 434 and 55 are glad to be back in the swing of things after a fun summer. Troop 55 has created a time capsule to be opened during the next solar eclipse which will be on April 8, 2024.

We are looking forward to organizing Covenant Homes' library this fall.

Troop 434 is nearing completion of our Silver Award. We will finish our work at the Wright Center this fall and hope to have our award by Christmas.



Submitted by Kate Tharin, Troop leader



Because of you,
there's someone who
is thanking God today,
Someone who appreciates
your warm and caring way,
Someone who's remembering
the special things you do
And wishing you His blessings
every day
the whole year through.



At left, thank you note from Tar River Academy in gratitude for the support of First Presbyterian Church.

Community
REFORMATION
Worship Service



Sunday, October 29

3:00 p.m.

Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church
(433 S. Winstead Ave. Rocky Mount)

The congregation is invited to share in a Community Reformation Worship Service that will include shared leadership from local clergy. The theme for this event is *Reconciliation—The Love of Christ Compels Us* using liturgy prepared for use in the global 2017 Service of Prayer for Christian Unity. The central scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, and we hope you are able to attend.

Presbyterian Women Update



- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, October 2 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will meet on Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Janice Smith, with Myra Richardson co-hosting. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead the lesson on Hebrews.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick as she leads Lesson 2, "In Community with the Living God" of the Hebrews study.

Over 50 Presbyterian Women from Areas 4, 5, and 6 attended the Fall Gathering of the Presbytery of New Hope at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 24. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick led the Bible study on Hebrews. Renee Overton spoke on Church World Services. Special thanks to all the local churches for helping and to Janice Smith, Area 6 Representative, for organizing this event. What a wonderful afternoon of study, learning, and enjoying the fellowship of our many PW friends!



PRES-



BYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator
 Diane Dixon, Vice-Moderator
 Martha Tesoro, Treasurer
 Leigh Skeen, Spiritual Nurture
 Linda Amerson, Together in Service
 Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader

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

MUSIC NOTES

Wednesday Night Music Rehearsals:

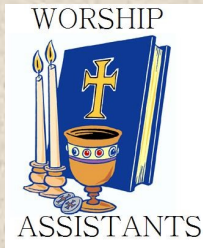
5:30 Alleluia Singers children's choir
 6:40 Handbell Choir
 7:30 Chancel Choir

- Please note that Jim Smith and Jennie Vance will not be with us during worship on October 8 since they will be at First Presbyterian Church in New Bern with the Rocky Mount Chamber Choir. The group will be presenting a 3:00 p.m. concert as part of that church's yearlong bicentennial celebration. Jim's dad, Murphy Smith, served for 28 years as the church's senior pastor. Murphy also served this church as its interim pastor from 1980-81.

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Tuesday, October 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Frances Guerry.



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



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

October 1, 2017

Communion will be served by trays

Head Usher: Randy Adams

Ushers: Ike Amerson, Tempie Fuller, Greg Hutchins, Carol Hutchins

Greeter: Margaret Barnes

Liturgist: Jean Kitchin

Children’s Sermon: Tim Lane

Nursery Helpers: Stephen Chesnutt, Liz Woodard,

Communion Preparers: Nancy Richardson, Winslow Rogers, Melanie Marshall Park

Communion Servers: Lige Daughtridge, Marianne Farris, Kate Tharin, Kim Sutton, Nancy Richardson, Ben Roberson, Greg Hutchins, John Turnage, Winslow Rogers, Anne Mosley, Mike Mosley, Melanie Marshall Park

October 8, 2017

Head Usher: Jep Rose

Ushers: Mary Sue Smith, Tim Smith, Greg Hutchins, Carol Hutchins

Greeters: Suzanne and Bill Buchanan

Liturgist: David Farris

Children’s Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Kate Tharin

October 15, 2017

Head Usher: Dee Whitley

Ushers: Tommy Dill, Marie Kem, Clif Hayworth, Betsy McLean

Greeters: Ann and Thomas Dill

Liturgist: Tim Lane

Children’s Sermon: Jim Lilley

Nursery Helper: Martha Chesnutt

October 22, 2017

Head Usher: Dee Whitley

Ushers: Tommy Dill, Marie Kem, Clif Hayworth, Betsy McLean

Greeters: Ann and Thomas Dill

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Jay Gardner

October 29, 2017

Head Usher: James Tharin

Ushers: Mari Robin Tharin, Frances Tharin, Randy Evans, Linda Evans

Greeter: Kate Tharin

Liturgist: Mike Gaynor

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Winnie Gaynor

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



@FPC_RockyMount

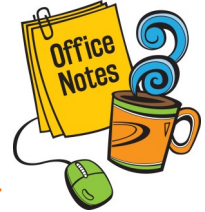


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Contact Information Updates: Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date.

Our regular 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 during non-office hours.

Our Interim Bridge Pastor, Preston Smith, has office hours Monday—Thursday between 9-12:00 p.m. and can be reached by cell phone at 252-813-1219.



You revealed your true love for the Lord in the way you cared for the Etheredge family during Anne's illness and home going celebration. I'm proud to be a part of this family.

John Etheredge

It is worth getting old when you receive a beautiful birthday cake made and delivered by Hannah Diedrick. Thank you so much Hannah. You made my day.

Love,
Evelyn Reese

What a lovely surprise when Beth and Larry High delivered a beautiful birthday cake made by Hannah Diedrick. I enjoyed the High's visit so much. The cake was just too pretty to cut, but hard to resist, and was so good.

Thanks to all-
Fred Payne

FPC Handcraft Ministry,
Thank you so much for the precious baby blanket that was knitted for my sweet baby boy. That was so special!

With love,
The Duncan Family
(Julian & Becky Parks family)

I would like to thank all of the wonderful ladies of all ages who helped prepared the delicious food and desserts for the Back to School: Make Your Own Sandwich Luncheon! We served over 80 members of our church. I would also like to thank the table decorators, and the set-up and clean-up ladies. Some of our leftovers helped feed the people in the homeless shelter, PW Fall Luncheon attendees, and the In-Betweens fellowship group. Thanks again to all that helped.

Nancy Richardson

I would like to thank the church for your thoughts and prayers. The flowers you sent were very beautiful and fragrant. I especially thank everyone who stayed to help in the foyer after the church service last Sunday. I have great appreciation for Laura Dudley, Dr. Chesnutt, and Reverend Preston Smith. All of you gave freely of your time and assistance. It is nice to say the hospital determined my problem and I am beginning to feel much better. The treatments I have received seem to be going well. Thank all of you again.

Richard Gragg

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you for all of the love and support that you have showered our family with during the loss of my Mom. We are so appreciative of the cards, calls, memorial gifts and most importantly your words of faith and God's promise to us all. The flowers that were delivered to our home this week after church were beautiful. We feel so blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family.

Love,
Jim Lilley and the Lilley Family

Dear Presbyterian Women,

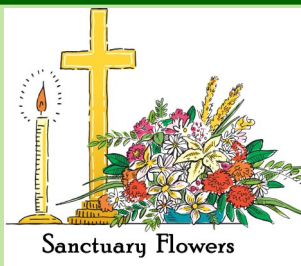
You have been such a help in so many ways. Bailey and I love our warm "wrap arounds" and warm they are—and especially your thoughts for such a long time. We will always remember you.

Love,
Nancy Liipfert



Congratulations

Randy and Linda Evans are excited to share news of the birth of their granddaughter, Henrietta Harris Evans. "Etta" was born on September 9, 2017 to Tripp and Caroline Evans of Charleston, SC.



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 or notify the church office. The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

October 15
October 22
October 29

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 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

SPRING ARBOR—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Gerry Gardner

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)
 Si Fuller
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
 Wilda Jenkins
 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
 Alice Watson (daughter-in-law of Mary Watson)
 Bobbi Weeks

First Presbyterian Staffing Updates



The Christian Education Committee, along with the session, is pleased to announce that Lydia Wingo Kane's role has been expanded to include Youth Ministry coordination. Her new title is Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator. Lydia has been helping with the youth since March, in addition to her role as children's ministry coordinator. Lydia has a Master of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School as well as a Master of Special Education from Vanderbilt University. Lydia has teaching experience with grades K-12. We are so fortunate to have Lydia on board full time now and look forward to working with her in this role. Please take the time to get to know Lydia if you have not already.



The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) has been hard at work the past few weeks studying Pastor Information Forms from pastors all over the country. It's been so exciting to see pastors from North Carolina to California show so much interest in coming to First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount to be our interim minister. We have interviewed in person and by Skype several very qualified and special pastors. We hope to make an announcement very soon as to who our new interim pastor will be.



First Presbyterian is so grateful for the hospitality of Rose Hill Conference Center, the host site of our annual Rally Day church-wide picnic.