



First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

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

November 2017

FROM THE PASTOR



As many of you know, Judy and I were on vacation the first part of October. Last spring, we made our schedule to visit family in San Diego and then spend a week attending concerts and touring the surrounding areas of Las Vegas. Little did we know someone was going to create a tragedy by shooting from the Mandalay Bay Hotel into a crowd who were enjoying an open air concert? Thankfully, our visit didn't coincide with that national tragedy.

I admit we were curious to see the place where it happened. As we entered the city, we saw on the grassy median flowers, cards and a variety of memorials for the people. The display extended about two blocks and was fenced in to make it safe for people entering and leaving. At the end of the makeshift memorial were two small tents for people to visit where someone would pray with them. Seeing this created a somber feeling for us. This memorial was always crowded with visitors as well as creating a traffic jam.

As I interacted with workers, they were open in telling us how difficult this terrible incident was for them. It was a surreal experience to be in an environment where people were mourning and yet, continuing to celebrate the city of Las Vegas. The people were determined not to let this incident define them. As a way to support the victims, they were selling T-shirts, caps, sweatshirts and other things with the slogan "Vegas-Strong." One hundred percent of the proceeds went to a victims' fund. Needless to say I was impressed! Yes, we came home with several of them.

As a church, you have been and continue to experience transitions. While your transition isn't like the one in Las Vegas, you still have feelings which need to be supported. I think we need to pay attention to the dynamics of change. "Change" whether it's chosen or imposed, creates the opportunity to either grow or regress. What I experienced with you is a strong commitment to "keep on keeping on." Because of what I have discovered about you, I firmly believe you will also embrace the ministry of Scott as you work and prepare for your next installed pastor. I have seen your determination to acknowledge your loss and still maintain excitement about your future. You are "FPC-Strong!"

On a personal note; I am deeply appreciative of the support and love you have shown to Judy and me. As we change roles, I am thankful for the opportunity to be your bridge pastor. I give my love and grace to all of you here at FPC.

FPC-Strong!
Preston



Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Scott Solether *Parish Associate:* 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!

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.



Benvenue Country Club
December 5, 2017
5:30 p.m.
\$33 per person

- * 5:30-6:00 p.m. Social time with punch and bar snacks provided; cash bar available
- * 6:00 p.m. Dinner served with a menu including chicken crepes, dinner salad, fresh fruit, asparagus, yeast roll, brownie wedge à la mode, and coffee, tea or water.
- * This event is hosted by the In-Betweens but all are invited!
- * Please bring a canned food item for the Covenant Homes food pantry.

Respond by Friday, November 24 and make checks payable to either Sylvia Phillips or Sue Jackson. Also let them know if a special menu is needed.



Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Tuesday
November 14, 2017
7:00 a.m.

Start your day off on the right foot and gather for breakfast and thoughtful discussion. This month's location will be the Hardee's on Sunset Avenue.



Lunch Bunch
Monday, November 13 at noon
Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy turkey and dressing, sweet potato casserole, frozen cranberry salad, asparagus, and chocolate pecan pie. 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 9/30/17):

\$1,100,451.99

Session
UPDATE

From the October 17, 2017 Session Meeting:

- Randy Adams came and gave a report from the Endowment Committee and discussed the three endowments (FPC Endowment, Lucy Boddie Brewer, A.P. Thorpe). The session passed new guidelines for the A.P. Thorpe endowment which will begin to provide scholarships to students.
- The Session voted to allocate the balance of the special gifts as follows: 25% to Outreach, 25% to Property and 50% to a Savings Fund. These funds will be distributed at the discretion of the session to provide for the needs of the church hopefully for many years to come. The Special Gifts Committee will host a meeting answer any questions from the congregation in the near future.
- IPNC came to the meeting and introduced us to Rev Dr. Scott Solether and the session dissolved the committee with thanks. Scott will begin work as our interim on November 1, 2017.
- Stephen Ministry cards will be placed in the pews to promote the ministry.
- Admin presented the 2018 proposed Budget to the session.

Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk of the Session

**Don't forget to change your
clocks back an hour on
Saturday, November 4!**

**The church office
will be closed November 23 and
24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**



MAKES CENTS

Please review the below church income and expense data for September. 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 September, 2017
 Month – to – date \$ 58,344.00
 Year – to – date \$ 494,242.33

Expenses through September, 2017
 Month – to – date \$ 64,159.18
 Year – to – date \$ 445,327.26

The year is quickly winding down and the third quarter statements have been mailed. If you have questions on your 2017 pledge or your Capital Campaign pledge, contact Jeanne in the church office.

If you plan to sell stock for your 2017 pledge or your Capital Campaign pledge, please notify Jeanne Shannon. This process take 2-3 weeks from the stock trade to depositing the check.

Due to church and bank office days/hours, contributions to your pledge must be received on or before December 28th to count towards your 2017 pledge.

Church office phone (252)446-9121
 Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org.



Thank you to the members of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee for your tireless work during our recent search and selection of the Rev. Dr. Scott Solether as our new Interim Pastor. Members of the committee include: Beth Steed, Joe Brown, Sylvia Phillips, Betsy McLean, and Tim Hathaway, and they are pictured above with Preston Smith and Scott Solether.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

FPCRM's Children have been having fun and learning together all fall in Sunday School and at Parents' Afternoon Out. We have been experiencing God's word and learning about being the body of Christ through painting bread to celebrate World Communion, writing poems about God to celebrate Children's Sabbath, and making blessings mix bags to share in preparation for All Saints' Day. The fun and learning will continue in November as we enjoy the end of this season of Ordinary Time at church and prepare for Advent with the Advent Workshop. This year during Advent we will focus on where Jesus' story begins, looking at Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist and Jesus through each week of Advent.

Children's Ministry Activities in November



- 8 Parents' Afternoon Out—4:30 p.m. (Peacemakers Toy Store shopping)**
- 29 Advent Workshop—4:30 p.m.**

The Youth also have a lot to look forward to in November! Please pray for safe travels and a God-filled weekend of new experiences and fellowship as the Middle School Youth, Martha Chesnutt, and I travel to Raleigh Youth Ministry November 3-5. Along with our regular youth group opportunities, the youth are joining once again with other area churches for an ecumenical Advent celebration on November 26. We will share a meal, play games, and participate in a mission project.

Youth Ministry Activities in November



- 3-5 Raleigh Youth Mission with Middle School Youth/**
- No youth group on Sunday, Nov. 5**
- 10 Youth Breakfast at Highway Diner at 6:15 a.m.**
- 12 Youth Group at Church (MS 4:30; HS 6:00; Dinner @ 5:30)**
- 19 Storytelling Home meetings (MS 4:30 @ the Roses'; HS 5:30 @ the Sondergards')**
- 26 Jingle Mingle Ecumenical Youth Gathering @ Lakeside Baptist, 5:00-7:00**

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



untangled

GUIDING TEENAGE GIRLS
THROUGH THE
SEVEN TRANSITIONS
INTO ADULTHOOD

Lisa Damour, Ph.D.

"For years people have been asking me for the 'girl equivalent of Raising Cain', and I haven't known exactly what to recommend. Now I do."
—MICHAEL THOMPSON, Ph.D., author of RAISING CAIN

Parents: Join Lydia for a Parent book discussion on Untangled during Sunday School hour on November 26 in the Session Room.

SOME FIRST PRESBYTERIAN HAPPENINGS IN OCTOBER....



Sliders and Salads for an All Saints Luncheon on October 22, 2017.



Parents' Afternoon Out on October 25, 2017





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- ◆ We will again be supporting the Peacemakers Toy Store by asking folks to drop off new, unwrapped toys here at the church (on the stage of the Fellowship Hall) no later than **December 1**. There is a list of suggested items on the Community Outreach Board. Parents with limited resources are able to purchase these items at heavily discounted prices on **December 8 & 9** for their children and the revenue produced goes back into Peacemakers programming.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed for the Toy Store. Simply contact Peacemakers at 252-212-5044 or email donna@rockymountpeacemakers.org if able to help.



For more information, visit www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.

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.



Volunteers are needed to serve as substitutes on occasion!

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



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.

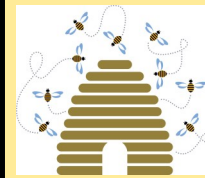


Harris Teeter

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.

TROOP 7 NEWS

Scoutmaster Lane likes to cook while camping. I figure if I have to sleep on the cold (or hot) ground at least I can do is have a good meal. Now this was Mr. Lane's and the assistant Scoutmaster's meal. The scouts elected to go simple with pancakes and bacon. But they cook their meals and I cook for the leaders. They also are taught sanitation while cooking, serving and cleaning.



In September, we camped near the beach and spent the day at Fort Macon Beach, went to the Maritime Museum in Beaufort and just hung out and played games in camp. This was our first campout of the season so we took it easy. At our next campouts, we will be doing more scout skills while camping... and more cooking!



Breakfast Egg Bowls with Smoky Cream Sauce



Breakfast Cook Crew—sorry but you have to get up early!



Hanging out (literally)

TROOP 55 NEWS

Troop 55 enjoyed alphabetizing the library at Covenant Homes. This was a big task, but the girls were happy to help out and are proud of their hard work.



TROOP 434 NEWS

Troop 434 continues to work to complete the Silver Award. The girls will be organizing the recreation and games closet at The Wright Center.

Presbyterian Women Update



- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, November 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will meet on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Laura Dudley. Betsy Newton will lead the lesson on Hebrews.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick as she leads Lesson 3, "In Community with the Living Word" of the Hebrews bible study.

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



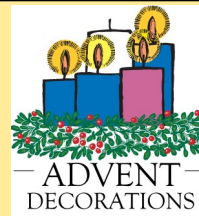
Wednesday Night Music Rehearsals:

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

Upcoming Special Performances for Advent and Christmas 2017:

- Joy Gift program—Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11:00 a.m. (Rehearsal—Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10:00 a.m.)
- Christmas Concert—Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4:00 p.m. (Rehearsals—Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7:00; Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7:00; Saturday, Dec. 16 at 10:00 a.m. with orchestra)
- Christmas Eve Service—Sunday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. with pre-service music at 5:10 p.m. (Rehearsal with chorus only—Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m.; Rehearsal with chorus and orchestra—Friday, Dec. 22 at 4:00 p.m.)

No choir rehearsals on Wednesday, Nov. 22
and Wednesday, December 20



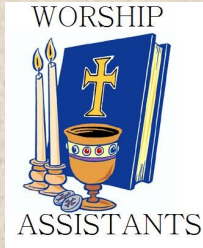
Advent season is fast approaching! The Worship Committee will be decorating the sanctuary, vestibule and chapel on Thursday, December 7, 2017

at 9:00 a.m. If you can help on that day, please contact Annie Daughtridge or Beth Steed.

The **Handcraft Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, November 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Chris Feno.



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*

November 5, 2017

Communion will be served by trays

Head Usher: James Tharin

Ushers: Mari Robin Tharin, Frances Tharin, Winslow Rogers, Laura Rogers

Greeter: Kate Tharin

Liturgist: Preston Smith

Children's Sermon: Tim Lane

Nursery Helper: Kate Honey

Communion Preparers: Laura Durham, John Turnage, Janice Smith

Communion Servers: Laura Dudley, Laura Durham, Vince Durham, Kate Tharin, Steve Rowe, Janice Smith, Mary Sue Smith, Tim Smith, Jep Rose, Beth Steed, John Turnage, Taylor Phillips

November 12, 2017

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Virginia Feagans, Michael Mosley, Jim Woodard, Anne Mosley

Greeters: Suzanne and Bill Buchanan

Liturgist: David Farris

Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Laura Durham

November 19, 2017

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Virginia Feagans, Michael Mosley, Jim Woodard, Anne Mosley

Greeter: Margaret Barnes

Liturgist: Tim Smith

Children's Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridge

November 26, 2017

Head Usher: Tim Lane

Ushers: Jeannie Lane, Edie Reeves, Tom Steed, Beth Steed

Greeter: Mary Lou Fountain

Liturgist: Bill Buchanan

Children's Sermon: Jim Lilley

Nursery Helper: Chrissy Barnhill

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



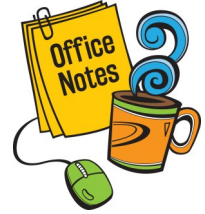
@FPC_RockyMount



fpc_rockymount

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

Unless otherwise posted, 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 during non-office hours.



Your well wishes, prayers, phone calls, cards and beautiful flowers that graced our alter are helping me each day get back on my feet. Thank you all and bless you all.

Bobbi Weeks

Thanks to all who helped with the set-up, preparing the luncheon and clean-up of the All Saints Day luncheon! The food and desserts were delicious! Over 80 members were served including some of our shut-ins. What a fun time was had by all!

Thanks again,
Sylvia and Nancy

To Our Church:

My family deeply appreciates all your expressions of sympathy, kindness, prayers, meals, support, and comfort you provided in our time of sorrow. We are thankful for such good faithful friends.

Etheredge Family

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Thank you so much for the lovely flowers from recent services. We are enjoying their fall colors. I do so hope to be back among you soon.

Very best regards,

Jim Blanchard

P.S. Thank each one of you for serving!

Presbyterian Women,

I just want to thank you for the contribution you gave First Presbyterian Church in memory of mom for the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship Fund. Thank you for all your kindness.

Charlene Joyner

Presbyterian Women of FPC,
Thank you for the gift in honor of our mom, Jean B. Edge to the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship Fund.

Sincerely,
Frank, Walker & Renee, Lisa

Dear Presbyterian Women,
My family and I thank you for the wonderful contribution to First Presbyterian Church in memory of our mother. My mother was a lifelong member of this church and she loved it dearly. She would have been so pleased that you remembered her with this wonderful gift. Thank you for this tribute to her memory.

Love,
Harriet Thorpe
The Dill Family

The family of Virginia Campbell wishes to thank the Presbyterian Women of First Pres for honoring her with a contribution to the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship Fund. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Stan Campbell

Dear Friends,

My grandmother (Ida Stanley) would certainly be pleased with your kind donation to the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship Fund in her memory as we are. Thank you so much. Helping others was a very large part of who she was, and I know that this scholarship has made education easier for many.

She enjoyed friendships with all of you and had fond memories of her years of being so active in circles. We very much appreciate your support and love as we adjust to life without her.

Love,
Kate



We decorate our Sanctuary during Advent with beautiful poinsettias which are made available by your donations to honor and remember special friends and/or loved ones. Envelopes will be available beginning **November 19** in the Narthex or from the church office for you to pick up and enclose payment along with the name(s) of those you wish to honor. You can either place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or return to Dionne Seale's church mailbox. A donation of \$18 per poinsettia is appreciated. A special bulletin remembers the honorees on Christmas Eve and the deadline to donate is **December 17, 2017**.

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)
 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

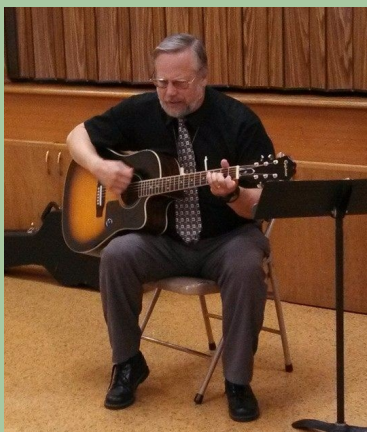
YOUR LOVE OF GOD IS EXPRESSED AS GENEROSITY TO OTHERS



Stewardship Sunday is November 12 and the Rev. Ted Churn will be with us for worship. Join us after worship on Sunday, November 12, for our annual Stewardship Dinner in the fellowship hall. The meal will be fried chicken and all the fixings from Gardner's BBQ. Please notify the church office by November 9 if you plan to attend. Musical entertainment will be provided by Jennie Vance and our ECU choral scholars, who will perform several selections from Broadway musicals.

You are invited to bring in your pledge cards during worship on Dedication Sunday, November 26, 2017.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN!



We are excited to welcome the Rev. Dr. Scott Solether to First Presbyterian Church as our Interim Pastor beginning November 1. "Pastor Scott", as he is accustomed to being called, is a lifelong Presbyterian, a native of Ohio, and has come to Rocky Mount from Great Bend, Kansas where he was the senior pastor and head of staff of First Presbyterian Church of Great Bend. He and his wife have three grown children, and a brand new granddaughter.

He hopes to retire in the next ten years and live in South Carolina in order to be closer to family, so he is excited about the next chapter of his career leading him into Interim Ministry. We will be hosting a **Meet and Greet** with Scott on Wednesday November 1 in the fellowship hall at 6:45 p.m., and his first Sunday in the pulpit will be on November 5.