First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

February 2018

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



Lent

The season of Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday. For protestants, Lent sometimes seems like an ancient "Catholic" tradition not relevant for anything outside of a Vatican mandate. However, Lent offers a real chance for all Christians to deepen their walk with God.

Traditionally in ancient times, new converts were baptized and taken into the church at Easter after a long period of study, examination, and preparation called the *catechumenate*. This might last years. The months before Easter became an intense time of prayer and fasting for these *catechumens* and many fellow Christians began to fast and pray along with these new sisters and brothers. It eventually became a practice of the whole church and a part of the liturgical year as a way for Christians to walk with Christ in remembrance through the 40 days in the wilderness. And just like Advent, it is a time for preparation and counting down to the holy time of Easter.

During the Reformation many Protestant churches abandoned the practice because of its association with Roman Catholicism. However, in the last 60 years or so, many Protestants have rediscovered Lent as a season of discipline and renewal of their Christian walk.

The practice of giving something up or only eating a certain type of food still is a tradition. On Shrove (from *shrive* meaning "absolve") Tuesday or Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), pancakes abound because they use up rich oil and butter not allowed during Lent. Though giving up things for a time or taking on certain personal disciplines can clear and focus our faith if we do them sincerely, many have recently taken on the tradition of doing something new, taking a service project, or finding someone to befriend.

As we move into this holy time of tradition and preparation, may our faith be renewed and our walk deepened in Christ.

Scott





BROWN BAG

Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in Bible Study the Session room unless otherwise

noted. All are welcome to bring a lunch and join in for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!



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 þ.m.



Monday, February 19 at noon **Church Parlor**

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy Wendy's chili, cornbread, salad, and Key Lime/ Lemon 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!



Men's Breakfast Fellowship Tuesday February 13, 2018 7:00 a.m.

Start your day off on the right foot and gather in the fellowship hall for breakfast and thoughtful discussion. Make plans to meet at the Hardee's restaurant on Sunset Ave.



In-Betweens Meal

February 17, 2018 6:00 p.m.

The next In-Betweens gathering will be hosted by Pat Mauldin. The main entrée will be western NC barbecued beef brisket. Please call co-host Pat Blanchard and let her know that you are attending and what you plan to bring to complete the meal.

Mark your calendars for our next Sunday lunch after worship: March 11, 2018

Menu will include ham, green bean casserole, potato salad, deviled eggs, rolls and pie!



Our Heritage, Our Mission Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE: \$1,184,095.11 FUNDS RECEIVED (through 12/31/17): \$1,105,051.99



From the January 16, 2018 Session Meeting:

- Dionne Seale, our Church Ministry Coordinator, met with the Session to discuss the roles each committee plays in the life of the church and updating the church manual. Each committee will meet this month and begin organizing for 2018 and reviewing and revising their portion of the church manual so that future transitions of committee members and leadership will be easier.
- Russell Proctor discussed the church budget for 2018 which will be presented to the congregation on January 28 at the congregational meeting. He reported that we had met our budget for 2017 and he and Winslow Rogers both reported that the Stewardship Campaign was very successful. Our Session expressed gratitude for the generosity of the congregation to help carry out the mission of our church.
- The Session approved the disbursement of the Christmas Eve offering to Filling in the Gaps (FIGS) which our congregation supports and it provides emergency assistance to those in need. We make many referrals to them each year and all believed this was a good place to donate that special offering.
- Scott discussed his goals and timeline for his service as our interim. He will begin making personal visits with the members to discuss with them their hopes and vision for FPC Rocky Mount.
- The Session voted to call a congregational meeting on January 28 for the purpose of presenting the budget to the congregation and for the purpose of electing a nominating committee for 2018. In addition to selecting the officers for the class of 2021, this committee will be responsible for selecting the members of the Pastor Search Committee.
- We always welcome insight, questions and comments. If you have any questions about what may be going on in the life of our church, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Session and we will be happy to discuss anything with you.

Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk

MAKES CENT\$



Please review the below church income and expense data for the month shown. 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 December, 2017 Month – to – date \$ 93,907.56 Year – to – date \$ 646,731.43

Expenses through December, 2017

Month – to – date \$ 69,599.78 Year – to – date \$ 624,647.87

Jeanne's church office phone: (252)446-9121, ext. 23 Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org. Jeanne's office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30-2:30 p.m.

To the congregation:

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the session, I would like to thank our congregation for its overwhelming support, as seen in the impressive rise in pledges for this year 2018! Congratulations! Our pledges are up a great deal which shows the abundant confidence of our congregation in the session's leadership of our church along its path, illuminated by Christ. For example: we have 38 members that increased their pledges from last year to equal an amount over \$75,000; along with our new members adding over \$25,000. As I said, these gifts are awesome, indeed!

The session views these assurances as momentum to take our church to new horizons, expressing gifts and further bringing our church to the community and the community to our church. Through your generosity, we have the gifts in place to continue our missions while growing our congregation and staff back to where we all desire.

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had." Romans 15:5 NIV

This is truly our church, and I want to thank each one of you for investing in our faith journeys together.

Respectfully,

Winslow Rogers, DDS MS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



The season of Lent lends itself to service and reflection on our Christian practices, and the beginning of this season is no different. This Lenten season and also throughout Easter, the youth and their advisors and I will be talking about the ordinary meals we share alongside the extraordinary meal we share when we participate in the sacrament of communion in worship. The children will also be learning about Lenten practices through participating in a service project and talking about the meals we share as well.

On the ski trip last month, we considered these words: In communion, we share in Christ's body and blood. That body and blood are found in the form of bread and wine. In the meal of the Lord's Supper, we all share food. The everyday food of bread and grapes becomes out of the ordinary when we share the Eucharistic meal.

Most of the time when we are together--on our ski trip, at Dunkin' Donuts, at youth group, at Parents' Afternoon Out--we share meals and time together. These ordinary experiences become extraordinary because we are together.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

Children's Ministry Activities in February



- 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner—each year the children participate in a fun activity and then lead a parade through the fellowship hall at the end of dinner.
- 21: Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30 p.m. the children will begin a Lenten service project.

Youth Ministry Activities in February

- 4: Soup-er Bowl Service project after worship (Middle School—
 meet in the youth suite for lunch and to make a dessert; Sr. High—meet in
 fellowship hall for lunch and to make soup; soup and desserts can be delivered
 to members on Congregational Care list.
- 9: Breakfast with Lee @Highway Diner, 6:15 a.m.
- 11: YG Game Night with Scott Solether! 4:30 Middle School; 5:30 Meal; 6:00 Sr. High
- 18: Devo @Dunkin (on Sunset Ave.) 3:00 Middle School; 4:00 Sr. High
- 24: High School etiquette practice (location and time TBD); Middle School ice skating—more details to come!



On January 24, 2018, the Parents' Afternoon Out kids were visited by representatives from the Red Cross in order to learn about emergency preparedness.









COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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 STILL NEEDED FOR WILLIFORD SCHOOL

Bridget Rogers has asked members of our church to join with First United Methodist Church in volunteering to help Kindergarteners and First Graders learn to read. This is once a week for one hour. You will work with one student for 30 min. and then 30 min. with another student. All material will be provided for you so you know exactly what to do.

Brenda Collins, director of Williford Family Resource Center, has asked that if you are interested to please go to www.nrms.k12.nc.us and fill out the application part. When finished, email Brenda at bpcollins@nrms.k12.nc.us.

If you decide to work with Kindergarteners the time of day to help is 12:30-1:30. The time of day for first graders is 1:15-2:15.

You may work Monday - Thursday. Just pick whatever day is best for you. You will need to let Brenda know what grade level and the day of the week you wish to work.

If you have any questions, please call Bridget Rogers (450-0860), Brenda Collins (462-2851) or Nancy Richardson (443-6464).



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, or ramen noodles, and canned soup. They are also in need of the following graduation clothing for their students: Boys—black pants, ties, and shoes, white shirts; Girls—black dresses and shoes

United Community Ministries

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



Volunteers are needed to serve as substitutes on occasion...

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



More dates are being scheduled to paint and assemble beehives for the Conetoe Beehive Initiative.

Proposed dates are Feb. 10 and 24 (painting) and March 3 and 17 (assembly). Details will be announced in the bulletin or weekly emails.

TROOP 55 and TROOP 434 NEWS



Troops 434 and 55 have plenty of cookies to sell! Please contact us if you are interested in purchasing. We have eight flavors—something for everyone! Our proceeds will continue to allow us to help people and places in Rocky Mount such as Covenant Homes, The Boys' and Girls' Club, and The Wright Center. Thank you for your support!

TROOP 7 NEWS



This month Troop 7 went camping at Camp Charles in Bailey, North Carolina. The weekend was a chance for 4 WEBELOS II Cub Scouts to join the troop for an outing in order for them to see what the transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts will be like. What a weekend for them to go! Friday night it was 60 degrees but with pouring rain and high winds due to an approaching cold front. Saturday saw temperatures starting in the upper 40's and falling during the day. Saturday night was brutal with temps at 19 to 20 degrees with a stiff 15 mile per hour wind off of the

lake for a 6 degree wind chill. The scouts did GREAT! We made sure the newbies were put into *two* sleeping bags and had dry clothes to sleep in for the night. Extra padding to insulate from Mother Earth was added. Now taking down tents Sunday morning was <u>NOT</u> fun but they have a story to tell.

For the weekend the older scouts worked on "Environmental Science" and "Emergency Prep" merit badges. The new WEBELOS were given training on knife, axe and saw safety, in addition to, fire safety (And who doesn't like to start a fire?!)



Learning to start a fire with one match...



Pretty view from camp overlooking the lake...not so great when the temps dropped and that wind was coming off the lake!



One of our classes by the fire.

Presbyterian Women Update

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a churchwide organization whose membership is open to all women of the PC (USA) who choose to participate in or be supportive of the organization in any way. PW intentionally seeks the membership of women from all racial ethnic groups so that the organization reflects a vision of the whole church as a community of mutual interdependence in which diversity contributes to wholeness. PW gives strong support to the mission of the PC(USA) and determines its own leadership, program and budget. PW is organized at all levels of the PC(USA) - in congregations, presbyteries and synods as well as General Assembly. This connectional system allows ideas and information to continually flow back and forth to strengthen the work of Presbyterian Women and the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, February 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will meet on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Judy Glover. Laura Durham will lead Lesson 6 of the Hebrews Bible Study.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, February 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick leading Lesson 6 of the Hebrews study, "In Community with the Reality of the Present".



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





Graduating High School Seniors! The Presbyterian Women of New Hope Presbytery are currently accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded for the 2018-19 school year. Applicants must live in the Presbytery and be a member of a New Hope Presbytery church. Deadline for submission of a complete application packet is March 1, 2018. Questions about the scholarship or application process can be directed to Karen Lovering at KRNC3@bellsouth.net. Also, please take note of the address for any hardcopy correspondence sent via USPS or Express Mail. Applications can be found either on the weekly email or by stopping by the church office.



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

February 4, 2018

Communion will be served by intinction

<u>Head Usher</u>: Lige Daughtridge <u>Ushers</u>: Ellis Daughtridge, Taylor Phillips, Sam Phillips, Sydney Phillips Greeters: Annie and Lillie Daughtridge

Liturgist: Preston Smith

Children's Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Laura Durham

Communion Preparers: Mary Perry, Andy Warner

Communion Servers: Joe Brown, Mary Perry, Kim Sutton, Andy Warner

February 11, 2018

Scout Sunday

Head Usher: Lige Daughtridge

<u>Ushers</u>: Scouts <u>Greeters</u>: Scouts

<u>Liturgist</u>: Scouts

Children's Sermon: Scouts

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridge

February 18, 2018

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

<u>Ushers</u>: Valerie Roberson, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, David Farris

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

<u>Liturgist</u>: Winslow Rogers

<u>Children's Sermon</u>: Lydia Wingo Kane Nursery Helper: Christie Sondergard

February 25, 2018

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, David Farris

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

Liturgist: Lydia Wingo Kane

<u>Children's Sermon</u>: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Ann Dill

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.

⇒ Please pick up a copy of the latest Contact Directory from the narthex or notify the church office if you want a PDF version.



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.

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

There really are not words adequate to tell you how grateful Jim and I are for all of your love and support during such a very sad time. We are so touched by your many kindnesses.

The lovely flower arrangement was beautifully displayed in our kitchen. It was a constant reminder of the love coming from our church family. We greatly appreciate you letting us use the pall for Daddy's service. Daddy was always so proud of Rocky Mount and even more proud of our church. I know that he would be so pleased to have a piece of Rocky Mount at his service.

We thank you again for all that you have done to keep us during such a difficult time. Jim joins me in sending love to you.

Liz Woodard

Thank you to all those who had a part in making the December 17th Christmas Concert successful. Not counting the 74 performers, there were nearly 400 in attendance (official count - 380). Based on feedback received from the director of the Nash Central High School Chorus, her students really enjoyed participating in the performance. She said they were still singing some of the songs when they returned from their Christmas break, and were asking when they might be able to do another concert like that again. Having the opportunity to welcome the students, and many of their parents who attended the concert, was a wonderful outreach by the church into the community.

A special thank you is also due to the folks who put together the wonderful reception in Lacy Hall, and of course thank you to the many people who contributed food for the reception.

Funding to support the performance came from the Music Fund of the church and from a grant by the DeLeon Carter Foundation. An offering received at the concert to support the United Community Ministries of Rocky Mount totaled in excess of \$1400.

Thank you, church family. Jim Smith

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.

Dear First Pres Friends.

When Bobbi and Hassell delivered the beautiful vase of sanctuary flowers, it made my day. But what meant even more was the big hug that Bobbi gave me. Thank you so much for all the loving care that you continue to send my way.

I remain yours in Christ, Sandra Luther Apt. #248 Covenant Homes Dear Friends,

Thank you all for the love and attention you continue to give me through cards, visits, flowers, cakes and prayers. It is wonderful to know Mayo and I have such a loving and caring church family. May God bless each of you!

Love, Jean Boddie Dear Dionne Seale, Please send a big hug to the person (Hannah Diedrick) who made the most beautifully decorated cake for me on my 85th Birthday!

It was a great surprise. I had a picture of me holding the cake and sent it to all my family. I felt very special!

Thank you so much.

Sincerely, Carol Patterson



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 Dionne Seale. The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

> February 11, 18, 25 March 11



Do you ever wonder what happens to the beautiful arrangements of fresh flowers that are displayed in the sanctuary on Sundays? We have talented volunteers in ministry the Flower Ministry who break down the large arrangement into smaller ones on

Monday morning and deliver them to home-bound and bereaved church members. It is the gift that keeps on giving. Many thanks to those who have provided flowers on Sunday and for the volunteers who share their time and talent

You can be part of this wonderful ministry:

- Sign up to provide flowers on Sundays to honor someone or a special occasion. The signup sheet is outside the church office, and it is cost-effective for friends and families to go in together.
- Volunteer for the Flower Ministry. We can use a sub or two and someone to help on the 4th Monday. Contact Pam Gragg with questions.
- Recycle your flower vases by dropping them off at the church.



Our best wishes are extended to Chris and Emily Watson upon the arrival of their daughter, Blakely Gray Watson, on January 28, 2018. Blakely was born at 1:26 p.m. weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 20 inches long.



our thoughts and prayers are with ...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

► Tom Dill

Cardinal @North Hills—Raleigh

▶ Dick Fountain

TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—Burlington

► Liz Cole

HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

► Nancy Liipfert

BRADLEY CREEK—Wilmington

► Gerry Gardner

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Mayo & Jean Boddie Miley "Mike" Braswell Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose) 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

Nancy Smith (mother of Jeannie Lane) Alice Watson (daughter-in-law of Mary Watson)

> Bobbi Weeks Susan Yenney



February 13, 2018 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Lent is a time of self-discipline and denial. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, people are called to fasting and prayer. But the week preceding Lent has become a time of merrymaking, culminating on Shrove Tuesday (also referred to as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday), the day before Lent begins. The name Shrove Tuesday comes from the custom of ringing the "shriving bell" to summon people to church to be "shriven;" that is, to confess their sins at the beginning of Lent. At that time, certain foods were given up for the duration of Lent. Those foods included eggs, milk meat and rich buttery dishes. On Shrove Tuesday, families ate up all the rich foods left in their pantries. One way they used up the eggs, milk, and fats in the house was to add flour to make special pancakes. Join your friends at First Presbyterian Church on February 13 as we enjoy pancakes, breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit and lots of fun for all ages! We are also grateful for the Scouts who help cook pancakes, serve and clean up for this annual event.

Volunteers are needed to provide breakfast casseroles and fresh fruit salads. Sign up on the Shrove Tuesday bulletin board across from the choir room or notify the church office.



Thanks to all who prepared, served and cleaned up at the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon after worship on January 14, 2018! Our next intergenerational lunch gathering will be after worship on March 11, 2018.





