



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

January 2018

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



New Beginnings

The New Year brings new beginnings. Renewal is a basic theme of our Christian faith. We are given a chance to start all over and get it right. This is a time of hope and change full of energy and resolve and, if we stick with it, we can see an improvement in our situation in life. But this is a process that may bring some hard choices.

Giving up things may be the first step in positive change. Creative destruction clears the way to a new opportunity in life. Old decaying structures may need to be pulled down and removed before a new, energy efficient, earthquake resistant, and beautiful building can be erected. Sometimes we need to get rid of the bad habits before they can be replaced by good ones.

Sticking with the change is probably the hardest part. How many New Year's resolutions have come and gone unfulfilled because we couldn't keep up the new good habit? Perseverance was one of those things that Paul often wrote about- running the race, keeping your eye on the prize, and finishing with integrity.

Besides the same old resolutions of weight loss, better money management, and stronger relationships, how about your spiritual life? What realistic positive changes can you make in this upcoming year to draw closer to God and your sisters and brothers in the faith?

Scott

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!



Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Tuesday
January 9, 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.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

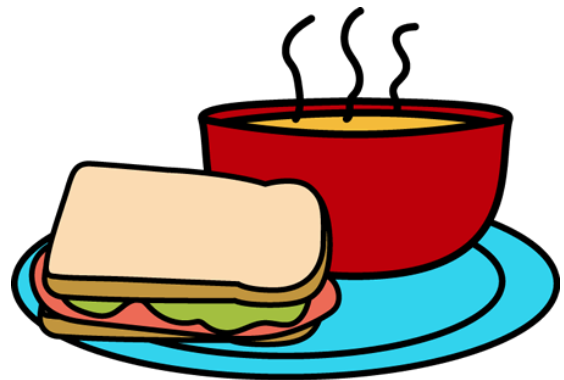
FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

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. We will resume these gatherings on January 10, 2018.



Monday, January 22 at noon
Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy baked spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and 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!



Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

January 14
immediately after worship

The Presbyterian Women would like to invite one and all to a "Soup and Sandwich" lunch after church on Sunday, January 14. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 11 to Dionne Seale in the church office. Please join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship in Lacy Hall.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:**January 1****(New Year's Day)****January 15****(Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday)**

From the November 14, 2017 Session Meeting:

- The Officers elect for the class of 2020 were welcomed to the meeting, examined by the Session and the approved unanimously. The installation/ordination service will take place during worship on January 7, 2018.
- Tim Hathaway discussed church security and there was a motion to form an ad hoc committee to look into this further.
- Christian Ed reported that the plans for the youth ski trip had been finalized and that Lydia and Ben Kane and Lee Proctor and Katie Eagles would be chaperoning.
- Outreach reported that they are busy with service projects for Peacemakers, Conetoe Family Life Center, Covenant Homes and Tar River Academy
- Property reported that there were needed repairs to the kitchen, the chapel roof and the narthex window. A recommendation was made to draw the funds from the Brewer endowment which was established for the purpose of maintaining our facility.
- Stewardship reported that Stewardship Sunday was a success
- Worship discussed moving the usher duties back to the Diaconate to relieve some of the duties from the Worship committee as that committee can become overwhelmed especially during certain times of the year.
- Scott Solether was elected president of the corporation.
- Haven Ross was appointed to serve on the Christian Education committee and Lillie Daughtride was appointed to serve on the Outreach committee.

Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



*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****MAKES CENTS**

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 November, 2017

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Month – to – date | \$ 32,396.23 |
| Year – to – date | \$ 552,823.87 |

Expenses through November, 2017

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Month – to – date | \$ 64,061.21 |
| Year – to – date | \$ 555,048.09 |

We welcome and appreciate your 2018 pledge! Pledge packets were mailed in November. Please complete a pledge card and either put in the offering plate, drop it by or mail it to the church. As a reminder, prior year pledges are not assumed to continue, so please submit a pledge card to continue giving.

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'" Matthew 2:1-2

During Advent the children and youth had many opportunities for fellowship, fun, service and learning. Some highlights were the Advent and Gingerbread House Workshops and the Youth Christmas parties. All of these activities help us to journey together through Advent toward the manger and the promise of Christmas. This January we will continue to re-tell the good news of Christ's story during the season of Epiphany.

The children are invited to come have some fun at Parents' Afternoon Out on January 10 where we, like the magi, will seek the baby Jesus with an epiphany scavenger hunt and round of sardines. We will meet again on January 24 for a program with the Red Cross where we will learn about safety.

The youth will have opportunities to consider what it means that Christ is revealed to us as a human being in Jesus through youth group and devotional time this month, as well as plenty of time for fun and fellowship. The youth group ski trip to Wintergreen, VA is January 19-21. Please send your prayers with us as we travel and have fun together.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

Children's Ministry Activities in January



- 10: Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30 p.m. (Epiphany scavenger hunt and game of sardines)
- 24: Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30 p.m. (Program with the Red Cross)

Youth Ministry Activities in January



- 7: MS & HS Devo @Dunkin (Times TBD)
- 12: Breakfast with Lee @Highway Diner, 6:15 a.m.
- 14: No YG (MLK Holiday)
- 19-21: Ski Trip to Wintergreen, VA
- 28: MS YG at 4:30 ; joint dinner at 5:30 p.m.; HS YG at 6:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS 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).



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.



Outreach would like to thank all of you for all the toys and bikes that you brought for the Peacemaker's Toy Shop. We would also like to thank you for volunteering at the toy pricing event and the toy store sale.



The residents of Covenant Homes were so excited to receive our canned goods in their Christmas boxes! Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause!



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. 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.

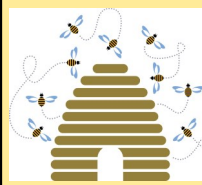
United Community Ministries

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.



Outreach would also like to thank those who volunteered at the Church of the Good Shepherd by helping to paint the Conetoe Bee Hive boxes on December 2!

TROOP 55 and TROOP 434 NEWS



Both Troop 55 (left) and Troop 434 (below right) recently celebrated the season during their recent Christmas parties at Ichiban Japanese restaurant.



Troop 7 News

Troop 7 has been very active the past couple of months. In October we went to Hanging Rock State Park. For 4 years I have wanted to make the difficult hike up to the observation tower at Hanging Rock. It is higher than Hanging Rock, is a straight up climb for over a mile and a half and not many folks take this route. Get there and the top of the tower is invested with wasps!!!! We could not go to the top. BUMMER! But the weather was perfect and the food great!

In November, we camped locally at the Barnhill Family Farm. We used this weekend to finish up some advancement items needed for rank. The scouts worked on compass navigation, fire safety, knife / axe and saw safety and some first aid items. It was COLD with the temperature in the low 30's and with high winds giving a wind chill in the 20's. By having some indoor heat at the farm the scouts were able to have a place to have a warm meal or hangout.

December has been our month to serve. We manned two kettle bells for 4 hours at Harris Teeter. In addition, the scouts painted Bee Hives for the Conetoe Family Life Center. The scouts were so efficient that they ran out of space for parts to dry! See thank you from Ted Sherburne the event coordinator.



Hanging Rock Observation Tower



Not all work—we had time to get in some fishing at the Barnhill farm



Mr. Barnhill gave instructions on shooting clay pigeons



Hi Tim,

Your Scouts and their dads were Great!!! Did a great job, well organized, in fact came up with a new system that could be the design for future events to speed things along! We didn't quite finish, not because we ran out of time but we ran out of space for drying the hive parts!

Thanks again for your help, if there is anything that I can do to assist your program, let me know!

Ted

Presbyterian Women Update

An Invitation to you....

As a **Christian**, committed to the call of Christ to be his disciple... As a **Presbyterian**, who finds meaning in the fellowship and ministry of the Church... As a **person**, whose life is filled with responsibilities and obligations to others... As a **woman** who tries to juggle house duties, job demands and community service, yet often feels overburdened, lonely and her gifts unappreciated and undeveloped... As **one** who acknowledges the gifts of grace God has given her, and wants to respond in gratitude for these gifts, and use them for God's purposes....

- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will meet on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Linda Amerson with Cora Lee Gold co-hosting. Mary Perry will lead Lesson 5 of the Hebrews Bible Study.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room and the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead Lesson 5 of the Hebrews 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

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on

Thursday, January 18 at 1:30 p.m.
in the home of Cindy Masters,
1721 Benvenue Forest Road.



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

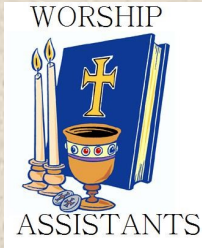


The Presbyterian Women delivered
Thanksgiving meals from K & W
restaurant to 25 residents at
Covenant Homes on Wednesday, November 22.



All choir rehearsals resume
January 10, 2018!

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Singers
6:40 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir



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

January 7, 2018

Communion will be served by trays

Head Usher: Darin Scott

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

Greeter: Mary Watson

Liturgist: Laura Durham

Children’s Sermon: Scott Solether

Nursery Helper: Kim Sutton

Communion Preparers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Lisa Rowe

Communion Servers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Joe Brown, Laura Dudley, Laura Durham, Roslyn Gragg, Catherine Lilley, Lisa Rowe (two more TBA)

January 14, 2018

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: Liz Woodard

January 21, 2018

*We will welcome Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the PC(USA)
to worship on this Sunday.*

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw, Tim Hathaway

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Scott Solether

Children’s Sermon: Marianne Farris

Nursery Helper: Tricia Vestal

January 28, 2018

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw, Tim Hathaway

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Randy Adams

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Dionne Seale

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount

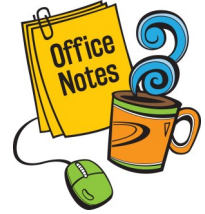


@FPC_RockyMount



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.



The church office will be closed January 1 and January 15. 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 Family,
We are deeply grateful for your abundant caring through prayers, visits, beautiful flowers, cards, delicious food and most recently, the perfect Gingerbread house. You have comforted and sustained us in challenging times and we are now appreciative of our recoveries. Bless you for blessing our hearts.

Sarah and Lloyd Bailey

Church Staff Members,
Please accept my gratitude for sharing lunch with you and other church friends at Lou Reda's.

It was special receiving a gift bag filled with cheese straws and mulling spices.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you.

Miley Braswell

Ladies,
Thank you so much for bringing Thanksgiving to our residents. Your group is such a blessing to Covenant Homes.

Debbie Morris
Director, Covenant Homes

Dear Church Family,
If I weren't already a Presbyterian, I certainly would become one at age 85, if only to be the recipient of one of Hannah's delicious, exquisitely decorated birthday cakes delivered by Beth High.

What a joy to be a part of such a caring, supportive church family. Thank you once again for your continuing thoughtful concern.

Love,
Mary Lou Fountain

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

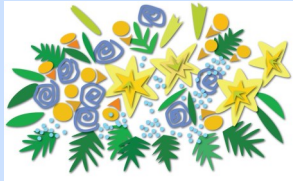
Dear First Pres Women,
You are the church, it's not the place, but it is the people in it. When you literally moved me into Covenant Homes, over 12 years ago, you continued to be concerned for my welfare. Your cards and phone calls over the years have meant so much to me.

Covenant Homes, I have seen you embrace and enhance our property here. The Thanksgiving tree that your Garden Club decorated stands in our reception area for all to see and appreciate.

We all appreciate your attention and efforts. This is my Thanksgiving letter to all of you for your love and fellowship. The Thanksgiving dinner that Nancy Richardson delivered to me was delicious!

May the Christmas season be joyous and the New Year bring you many blessings.

I remain yours in Christ,
Sandra Luther, Unit #248, Covenant Homes



Flowers for the Sanctuary

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:

January 14
January 28
February 4



The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the following members and families:

- Karen Thompson upon the death of her uncle, William N. Bobbitt on December 9, 2017.
- The family of Dr. Fred Payne, who died on December 16, 2017.



Congratulations to Andy and Tammy Watson on the adoption of their son, Ethan, the week of December 11, 2017. Mary Watson is his proud grandmother.



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

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 Yenny



spreading
Christmas
CHEER

