FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

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

March 2018

FROM THE PASTOR Three months have passed since I have joined you as your interim minster. I want to thank you for your gracious welcome of my family and me. Though I am still in the process of learning and remembering names, I feel that I have gotten to know many of you well. I am now in the process of setting up visits with congregational members to hear from you about your dreams for this church and your hopes for leadership.

Questions have been asked about where we are in the process of finding a new Senior Pastor. First let me explain the interim ministry process. There are five developmental tasks that I need to "check off" with you before a new minister is installed. These don't need to be accomplished sequentially, but must be addressed during my time with you. The first is helping the church deal with the past. There may be feelings of loss, confusion, anger, or mistrust that remain among members after the leaving of the last pastor, but the church needs to also celebrate its ministry and history. The second task is to discern a new congregational identity and mission. This is where a mission study is undertaken or, in your case, probably reviewed and updated. Third is to facilitate needed shifts in its leadership. Both the staff and the committee structure need to be examined to see if they are appropriate for the stated ministry of the church. The fourth is to make sure the church is connected through our denominational linkages. And finally to commit to new leadership and ministry.

The Call process itself has already begun by the formation of your congregational nominating committee. In their work they will not only begin thinking about elders and deacons for next year but this is the group that will nominate the Pastoral Nominating Committee to begin the search for a new pastor. Normally a Study Committee is formed first and a self-study process begun. But because your last self study is recent, the Committee On Ministry can waive the requirement of doing a new self-study. Once COM gives permission for the PNC to be formed, a congregational meeting will be called to elect the members. When in place, the PNC will review the self-study and facilitate a dialogue with the congregation in determining what characteristics and ministry skills are needed. A Ministry Information Form (MIF) is then generated to be published, matched with prospective candidates, and given to those who apply for the position. The COM then again gives permission to begin the active search and the PNC can start interviewing ministers for the position.

My involvement with the process will diminish as the PNC gets closer to the search, and the interim minister is not to have any input into the evaluation of individual minister candidates when that time comes. Though interims can be employed up to two years and for some churches the process may take longer, I do not believe that will be the case with this church. If all goes well, I believe that the PNC will be fully engaged in the search sometime this Fall. I hope this answers most of the questions you might have about the process and where we are. I will try to keep you informed and up to date as often as I can, but if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.



Scott

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Scott SoletherParish Associate:The Rev. Dr. Preston SmithChildren and Youth Ministry Coordinator: Lydia Wingo KaneChurch Ministry Coordinator: Dionne SealeFinancial Secretary: Jeanne T. ShannonDirector of Music: Jim SmithOrganist: Virginia VanceSexton: J. J. JeffriesAssistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant: Charity LodgeNursery Assistant: Mary Hilliard





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!



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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS March 7: "Coffee with a Cop"—join us for a discussion on church safety with local police officers.

March 14: Report on Union Seminary



Men's Breakfast Fellowship Tuesday March 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.



Monday, March 19 at noon Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread ! We will enjoy "Mixed Up" March Madness and the menu will include BBQ, slaw, baked beans, fruit, hushpuppies, and dessert bars. 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!



Sunday, March 11 following worship

Join us for an early spring luncheon as we celebrate the return of daylight saving time, the arrival of spring and Easter. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall right after worship. The menu will include ham, potato salad, green bean casseroles, and many different types of pies. Please RSVP to Dionne Seale in the church office by Thursday, March 8. **A presentation will be made during the luncheon regarding the results of the Special Gifts Survey.**

2



From the February 20, 2018 Session Meeting:

- *Clif Hayworth reported that the Nominating Committee would be meeting on Thursday to begin the process of selecting officers for the class of 2021 and for selecting the Pastor Search Committee. The session and committee ask for your continued prayers through this process.
- *The Special Gifts Committee will make a presentation to the congregation to discuss the process for allocation of the gifts and bequeaths that the church has received over the past several years. This presentation will be on Sunday March 11 after worship and during the luncheon hosted by the "church ladies". Please join us for a delicious lunch and an informative presentation regarding the session's decision on how these gifts can both help the church now and for many years to come.
- *Beth Turnage brought a recommendation from the Worship Committee to allow the youth to serve communion during worship on Youth Sunday on April 22, 2018. One of the focuses of the youth program this year has been on communion and the session unanimously approved this recommendation. Please mark your calendars for Youth Sunday as our youth will have the opportunity to share with the congregation at that time.
- *Gordon Vestal brought a recommendation from the Property Committee to reimburse Lydia \$25 monthly for her cell phone use.
- *Scott reported that he would be attending a church staffing conference in Montreat in April and discussed with the session the process as we begin to search for our new minister.
- *Mary Perry was elected as the commissioner to the New Hope Presbytery meeting on Feb 24.

Please continue to pray for your session and your church. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please reach out to any member of the session.

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 January, 2018 Month – to – date \$ 177,183.69 Year – to – date \$ 177,183.69

Expenses through January, 2018	
Month – to – date	\$ 113
Year – to – date	\$ 113

\$ 113,067.07 \$ 113,067.07

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.



Our Heritage, Our Mission Capital Campaign Update

TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE: \$1,184,095.11 FUNDS RECEIVED (through 1/31/18): \$1,106,051.99



SPRING FORWARD! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 11 so be sure move your clocks ahead an hour that Saturday night!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



One of my favorite activities our church has each year is the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. The food is delicious but the opportunity for children, youth, and adults to come together for fellowship is really what I love the most. There is something about the richness and joy of that celebration that really does prepare our hearts and minds for the somber 40 days that we are in now by reminding us that even greater joy is just ahead of us on Easter morning! During the parade on Shrove Tuesday, the children waved ribbons that said "Alleluia" and at the end of the parade we hid them away in tomb-shaped boxes that will remind us throughout these days that we must wait for Easter to say alleluia again, when we finally see that the tomb is empty.

The youth and children will have another opportunity to be a part of a fun and exciting event this month as we prepare for and host an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on March 25 for our own children as well as guests from the Bassett Center. The youth will practice the hospitality we have been discussing in youth group as we look at what communion means to us by helping plan and lead the Egg Hunt.

Also this month two of our youth will begin the confirmation process. Please pray for Walker Rose and Abbey Lewis as they learn more about our Presbyterian faith and plan to support them by being in worship on April 22, Youth Sunday, when they are confirmed.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

Children's Ministry Activities in March

- 14 Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30
- 25 Easter Egg Hunt with Bassett Center after worship until 1:00
- 29 Maundy Thursday Communion Workshop

Youth Ministry Activities in March



combined dinner at 5:30. We will stuff Easter eggs and plan the egg hunt that will take place on March 25. The youth are asked to save that date to help host our own children and the families from the Bassett center at the egg hunt after worship!

11 Youth group at the church 4:30 Middle School and 6:00 High School with combined dinner at 5:30. We will discuss communion in the light of extending hospitality to others and begin Youth Sunday planning.

16 High school youth, mark your calendar for "Friday Night Fancy Dinner". We will be traveling to On the Square to share a meal together.

18 Middle school youth, we will have lunch together after worship.

25 Easter Egg Hunt after worship! The youth will help set up and lead the egg hunt. Please plan to participate in this fun and meaningful service opportunity.





Senior High "Souper" Bowl Service Project!







Stephen Ministry Update for 2018

Stephen Ministry is a caring ministry which is used by congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one,

Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, physical illness, and other life difficulties. The Stephen Ministry website: <u>www.stephenministries.org</u> provides additional information on this helping ministry.

Stephen Ministry is based in St. Louis, Missouri. It was founded by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist. Since 1997, when Pat Mauldin and Lee Anderson commissioned the first class of thirteen Stephen Ministers, many hours of volunteer service have been accumulated by committed Stephen Ministers!

It has been a privilege to serve as a Stephen Minister Leader. However, with additional responsibilities that I need to honor, I find it necessary to resign from my position as Stephen Minister Leader. A list of four Leadership Trainings provided by Stephen Ministry are included here:

April 8-14, 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. June 10-16, 2018 in Orlando, Florida, at the Double Tree Universal Hotel. July 15-21, 2018 in Dallas, Texas, at the Westin Park Central (Hotel).

August 5-11, 2018 in Pittsburgh, Pa. at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Hotel.

The cost of transportation, and the cost of the week long Leadership Training has - in the past - been over \$1,000.00. Historically, First Presbyterian Church has paid the cost of training a Stephen Minister Leader. Anyone interested in the training may contact Scott Solether, (scott.solether@fpcrm.org), or Christine Feno (<u>cfeno42@gmail.com</u>). The four books on *Journeying through Grief*, published by Stephen Ministries are still available upon request, as are other books published by Stephen Ministries.

Submitted by Chris Feno



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.kl2.nc.us and fill out the application part. When finished, email Brenda at bpcollins@nrms.kl2.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:

<u>Tar River Academy</u>

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.



Conetoe Family Life Center

Stay tuned for more opportunities to

volunteer and paint beehives at the Church of the Good Shepherd! We will alert you in the weekly emails and Sunday bulletins!





outing News



TROOP 55 AND TROOP 434 (Girl Scouts)

Cookie sales wrap up on March 10. We appreciate everyone's support of our sale. Troop 55 finished an art badge by painting bowls and delivering those along with soup to the homeless shelter. Troop 434 has focused on a journey badge that deals with topics of friendship: bullying, cliques, trustworthiness, and peer pressure.

TROOP 7 NEWS (Boy Scouts)

Looking back at our scout year since our last Scout Sunday made me proud to think of all the service projects we were able to accomplish. Through "*Cheerful Service*" to others our scouts manned two kettle bell stations at Harris Teeter raising over \$352, repaired a hiking trail at one our State Parks, painted parts for the Bee Hive project, baked cookies for cadets at the Merchant Marine Academy, collected over 1,500 pounds of food for the local shelters, completed Eagle projects at Rocky Mount Senior High, a local nursing home and My Sister's House. All told, the troop contributed over 548 man hours to our community while donating over \$8,500 to projects! Not bad for a bunch of teenage scouts!!

We had 3 scouts obtain the rank of Eagle in 2017, while we currently have 4 Life scouts beginning work on their projects for 2018.

This is all made possible by the support of our church. Thank you for the donations, use of the bus, putting up with a few skid marks on the hall floors and especially for your prayers.



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, March 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will meet on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Linda Amerson, with Cora Lee Gold co-hosting.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, March 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead the lesson, "In Community with the Hope of the Future".



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator Diane Dixon, Vice-Moderat Tempie Fuller, Secretary Martha Tesoro Frances Guerry, Historian Leigh Skeen, Sp Bobbi Weeks, Together in Service Linda Amerson Roslyn Gragg, Circle of Friends Leader Nancy Richard

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

The Handcraft Ministry will meet on Thursday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Joan Radford, 4685 Tharrington Road.



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



Make plans to attend a performance in our sanctuary of Parts II and III of Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, April 15th, at 4:00. Our Chancel Choir and the Rocky Mount Chamber Choir will form the core of a choir of 50 - 60 voices

that will include singers from other churches and from the community.

"Messiah" traces in music the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Most people are familiar with Part I of "Messiah," the so-called Christmas portion, but many have never heard the rest of this wonderful work. There are fourteen choruses in Parts II and III, including of course the "Hallelujah" chorus and the finale of the work, the incredible "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain." Scheduled for the second Sunday after Easter, it is my hope that this performance will be a meaningful experience for all who hear it.

If you are interested in singing in the chorus, please let Jim Smith know. Rehearsals will take place on the following Thursdays at 7:00 - 9:00: March 1, 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12. The chorus/orchestra rehearsal is scheduled for 10 a.m.-12:30 on Saturday, April 14.



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

 March 4, 2018

 Communion will be served by intinction

 Head Usher:
 Andy Warner

 Ushers:
 Kevin Schrimper, Ryan Schrimper, Richard Hunt, Lynn Warner

 <u>Greeter:</u>
 Amy Hunt

 Liturgist:
 John Etheredge

 <u>Children's Sermon</u>:
 Randy Adams

 <u>Acolytes</u>:
 Mari Robin Tharin and TBA

 <u>Nursery Helper:</u>
 Laura Dudley

 <u>Communion Preparers</u>:
 Mary Sue Smith, Tim Smith, Wicky Thorpe

March 11, 2018

<u>Head Usher</u>: Andy Warner <u>Ushers</u>: Kevin Schrimper, Ryan Schrimper, Richard Hunt, Lynn Warner <u>Greeter</u>: Amy Hunt <u>Liturgist</u>: Preston Smith <u>Children's Sermon</u>: Lydia Wingo Kane <u>Acolytes</u>: Mari Robin Tharin and TBA <u>Nursery Helper</u>: Lydia Wingo Kane

March 18, 2018

<u>Head Usher</u>: John Turnage <u>Ushers</u>: Graham Turnage, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer <u>Greeter</u>: Beth Turnage <u>Liturgist</u>: Anne Mosley <u>Children's Sermon</u>: Scott Solether <u>Acolytes</u>: Virginia Feagans and TBA <u>Nursery Helper</u>: Christy Outlaw

March 25, 2018

<u>Head Usher</u>: John Turnage <u>Ushers</u>: Graham Turnage, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer <u>Greeter</u>: Beth Turnage <u>Liturgist</u>: Mike Gaynor <u>Children's Sermon</u>: Lydia Wingo Kane <u>Acolytes</u>: Virginia Feagans and Carley Outlaw <u>Nursery Helper</u>: Chrissy Barnhill

March 29, 2018

Maundy Thursday Service at 5:30 p.m. <u>Communion Preparers</u>: Linda Amerson, Ike Amerson <u>Communion Servers</u>: Linda Amerson, Ike Amerson, Anne Kinnaird, Clevie Wiggins





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:

March 11 April 1, 8, 22, 29



- The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick upon the death of her husband, Michael Kopach, on February 10, 2018.
- Our condolences are also extended to Sonny and Pell Foster upon the death of Sonny's brother, Charles Foster, of Bay Town, Texas on February 10, 2018.

Congratulations!

- Best wishes to Diane and Phil Dixon on the birth of their granddaughter, Margaret Lace Dixon, on January 30, 2018. Her parents are John and Amy Dixon of Raleigh.
- Jim and Pat Blanchard are excited to share news of the arrival of their great-granddaughter, Joan Walden Barnhardt. She was born on February 20, 2018 to Hunter and Schay Barnhardt of Chatham, Virginia. Former members Dick and Claire Barnhardt of Charlotte are also proud great-grandparents.



Maida Sessoms

Nancy Smith (mother of Jeannie Lane)

Alice Watson (daughter-in-law of Mary Watson)

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



March 25 <u>Palm Sunday</u> (Holy Week begins); Youth and Children Easter Egg Hunt following worship with guests from the Bassett Center

March 29 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> Service at 5:30; Maundy Thursday Communion Workshop for children at 5:30

March 30 <u>Good Friday</u> Service—noon at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church (614 Goldleaf Street)

April 1 <u>Easter Sunday</u>—One Great Hour of Sharing special offering collected during worship **no Sunday School for children and youth**

Shrove Tuesday Fun!

February 13, 2018



And a special thank you to Troop 7 Boy Scouts and Leaders!