



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

May 2018

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



Just as Advent, Lent, and Easter are seasons of the church and not simply one day, Pentecost is also a season. The day of Pentecost (50 days after Passover) was the Jewish harvest festival. The word Pentecost (fiftieth), is found only in the New Testament (Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8). The festival is first spoken of in Exodus 23:16 as "the feast of harvest," and again in Exodus 34:22 as "the day of the first fruits" (Numbers 28:26). Besides the sacrifices prescribed for the occasion, everyone was to bring to the Lord his "tribute of a free-will offering" (Deuteronomy 16:9-11). The purpose of this feast was to commemorate the completion of the grain harvest. Its distinguishing feature was the offering of "two leavened loaves" made from the new corn of the completed harvest, which, with two lambs, were waved before the Lord as a thank offering.

The day of Pentecost is noted in the Christian Church as the day on which the Spirit descended upon the apostles, and on which, under Peter's preaching, so many thousands were converted in Jerusalem (Acts 2). It is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. But the Christian season of Pentecost goes from the day of Pentecost (May 20, 2018) all the way to Christ the King Sunday (November 25, 2018). In recent years there has been a move to de-emphasize this time as a season and transfer the designation as "Ordinary Time". The liturgical color for Pentecost is red but for Ordinary Time is green. Now red is only displayed on the Day of Pentecost.

For Christians this is the season of the Church. We celebrate the establishment of the church when Peter gave his speech to the crowd and thousands were added to the Church. But it is also the time we celebrate the life and work of the Church throughout history. As we enter this season, let us remember our own life and work in the church.

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
May 8, 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.

Beginning May 30, we will resume our summer schedule of gathering either for a potluck meal in a church member's home or at a local restaurant. Join us for a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. on May 30 in the home of Jack and Mary Perry.



Lunch Bunch

Monday, May 21 at noon
Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread. We will enjoy fried chicken and all the fixings! 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!



In-Betweens Meal

Friday, May 18
6:00 p.m.

Our next In-Betweens Fellowship Meal will be at 6:00 p.m. on May 18 at the home of Gene and Sue Jackson. Please call Sue at if you can come and tell her what you plan to bring for the meal.



The Session met on April 17, 2018 at 6:30 in the Session Room and took the following action:

- Confirmands, Abbey Lewis and Walker Rose were examined and accepted into the membership of FPC.
- Will Williams will begin handling our IT needs following Lee Scott's retirement.
- Worship will be at 10:00 a.m. from May 27 through and including September 2. We will resume 11:00 worship on Rally Day (September 9).

Please continue to pray for our church, the Session and the committees who serve the church. If you ever have any questions concerning any matters at church please feel free to ask an Elder and we will be happy to share more with you.

Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk

*Our Worship Time changes to
10:00 a.m. on Sunday,
May 27, 2018*

*Friendly
Reminders*

*The church office will be closed
Monday, May 28 for the
Memorial Day holiday.*

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.

March Data

Pledges and Loose Offering through March, 2018

Month – to – date \$ 31,986.22

Year – to – date \$ 247,904.65

Expenses through March, 2018

Month – to – date \$ 49,102.14

Year – to – date \$ 154,118.81

Church office phone: 252.446.9121

Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30

Out of the Office - Jeanne will be out of the office on April 30th, May 1st -3rd and May 7th. The collection for 4/29 and 5/6 will be held at the bank until 5/8 when it will be processed. She will respond to calls and emails when she return to the office on May 8th.



Your church staff is always looking for ways to help and still accomplish our daily tasks including answering the church phone. The Administrative Committee recently approved changing the way phone calls are received during office hours. Currently, the Church Ministry Coordinator, Dionne Seale, answers the phone and forwards calls to other staff members. This, in addition to other calls being received and answering the doors, means a slower connection to your desired staff person. Effective June 3rd, our phone system will be updated to a generic greeting that will then offer up to 4 options where phone calls can be disbursed during office hours. The four options include Pastor, Church Ministry Coordinator, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator and Financial Secretary. We appreciate your patience with this new process.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



Spring is finally here and we have so much to celebrate! We have had a wonderful year in the Children and Youth Ministries and we have our volunteers to thank. On Sunday, May 20, during worship we invite everyone who has been a Sunday School teacher, Parents' Afternoon Out volunteer, Youth Advisor, Confirmation Mentor, Children's Time Volunteer, Nursery Volunteer, or has helped with our children and youth in any way to attend and be recognized for your commitment to the young people of our congregation. We will also celebrate with cake after the service!

2018

On May 6 we invite our graduating seniors, Tucker Carrier, Thomas Griffin, and Lauren Seale, to attend breakfast with their families so that we can celebrate the next step in their lives and their accomplishments as graduates. I look forward to celebrating all of these wonderful people and events in the life of our church family with all of you this month!

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



April 22, 2018



Children's Ministry Activities in May



- 9 Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30
- 20 Sunday School Attendance Recognition and Teacher Appreciation during worship with a thank-you cake to celebrate our volunteers for the Children's Ministry after worship. This is also the last day for Sunday School until next fall.

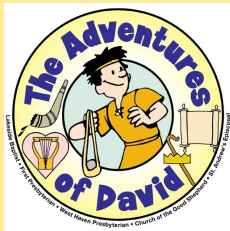
Youth Ministry Activities in May



- 6 Breakfast for Graduating Seniors at 9:45 a.m.; Youth Group at church (4:30 Middle School & 6:00 for High School with dinner for both groups at 5:30, provided by the Barnhills
- 13 Mother's Day—No Youth Group
- 18 Middle School Lock-in! Final Middle School event of the year
- 20 Teacher Appreciation during worship with a thank-you cake to celebrate our volunteers for Youth Ministry after worship. This is also the last day for Sunday School until next fall.

Important Upcoming date:

June 22 or 23 (TBD) High School Trip to King's Dominion



Vacation Bible School is June 11-15 at Church of the Good Shepherd this year. The theme is "The Adventures of David"! Children ages 3 (by June 11) through completed Grade 5 can register at

www.goodshepherdrmt.org/vbs-registration. Early Bird registration ended April 15 and the fee is \$15/child and maximum \$30/family. We are also looking for adult and youth volunteers! Youth and adult volunteers will also register on the Good Shepherd website. The youth registration deadline is May 21 and youth are required to attend a volunteer training in order to participate. If you would like to help, please contact Lydia.



Scholarships!

Fountain Scholarship: Richard T. Fountain, Jr. established a scholarship in loving memory of his wife Katherine B. "Kacky" Fountain. The purpose is to further the educational achievements of college bound applicants who have made a contribution to the life of First Presbyterian Church.

A.P. Thorpe Endowment Fund Scholarship: the purpose of this scholarship is to further the educational achievements of worthy young people in Nash and Edgecombe Counties.

Applications for both are in the church office and the deadline is June 1. Questions can be directed to Sydney Phillips at sydphillips@msn.com.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



www.rockymountpeacemakers.org.

FREEDOM SCHOOL SNACKS ARE BEING COLLECTED. PLEASE CHECK THE OUTREACH BULLETIN BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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.



The children at the Agape Village orphanage could really use books! Outreach will have a drop-off box in the narthex and volunteer office so that members of the congregation may drop off new or slightly used children's books for the children of Agape. Jackie Bailey requested books for ages Kindergarten to 7th grade. She would like to have fiction and nonfiction. What a wonderful way for us to reach out to the children of Agape Village!

Additionally, donations for the Agape Village orphanage in Zambia are being collected in the blue barrel located in the narthex vestibule. Items needed include: winter clothing (leggings, long pants, jeans, jumpers, sweaters, and sweatshirts), black socks, deodorant, black lace-up tennis or athletic shoes, skirts and dresses, undergarments (XS-large), toothpaste, clotrimazole (Desitin or anti-fungal medications).



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

As the students at Tar River Academy head into the last two full months of school, the following school supplies are needed: flashdrives, glue sticks, colored pencils, and new or gently used bookbags and drawstring bags. Seniors also need the following clothing items for graduation: Small, Medium, and Large black dresses (above the knee length), Small and Medium white dress shirts for boys, black pants and ties for boys, and black shoes for boys and girls. Clothing items may be placed in the blue tote labeled Tar River Academy found in the Narthex.

United Community Ministries

Paper products and #10 size cans (preferred) of either vegetables or canned fruit are especially appreciated. **They are especially in need of men's boxers & socks and men's and women's tennis shoes.

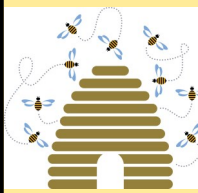


Volunteers are needed to serve as substitutes on occasion...

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

FPC delivery dates for May are Tuesday, May 22 & Monday, May 28

Conetoe Family Life Center



Help is needed to assemble beehives for Conetoe! Come to the basement of the Church of the Good Shepherd these dates anytime between 8:30-1:00: May 5 and 12.

CONETOE HONEY IS NOW FOR SALE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE! \$10/JAR



Troop 7 Honor Guard Citizen of the Year Banquet 2018

Troop 7 has been busy giving “*Cheerful Service*” this past month. In the picture above our older scouts served as the Honor Guard for the *Citizen of the Year* banquet held at Rose Hill Conference Center. This year’s honoree was Dr. Dewey Clark, President of Wesleyan College. The scouts presented colors to a packed house and lead the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Law for the audience.

Also Troop 7 cooked pancakes, egg casserole and bacon for the residents of Covenant Homes. Covenant Homes board and church member Jack Perry asked if the scouts would cook a meal for the residents as many do not have the opportunity to get out for dinner. The residents really enjoyed the meal and being waited on by the scouts. Over 80 residents and staff members were served.

Pack 7 Update

Pack 7 had its Blue and Gold Banquet on April 17. At the banquet, all of the scouts advanced in rank, with four Webelos II scouts earning their Arrows of Light. Those four scouts also crossed over to join Troop 7. Many of the cubs will be attending the East Carolina Council Spring Camporee at Pamlico Seabase on the weekend of April 27. The Pack will conclude its regular meetings for the year by building model rockets and launching them on May 15.



Above is a photo of Webelos II Den Leader Mike Jones and the four Webelos II Scouts that crossed over to Troop 7 on April 17. The Webelos II Scouts are in the front row and are, from left to right, Nicolas Dupont, Ethan Jones, Colin Agan, and Carson Keeter.



Troop 55 and Troop 434 Update

Troops 434 and 55 are in the process of donating \$1000 towards a defibrillator for Conetoe. We are happy and proud to be able to help out with this donation. After submitting 150 pages of paperwork, Troop 434 eagerly awaits the approval of our Silver Award project. Troop 55 has completed the friendship badge and will be sprucing up the garden on the playground at FPC later in April. Troop 55 also looks forward to a camp out at the Barnhill Farm on April 27.

Presbyterian Women Update



The Rocky Mount area PW hosted the Annual Spring Gathering for the Presbytery of New Hope at First Presbyterian, Rocky Mount on April 14, 2018. It was a beautiful day inside and out. The saying “it takes a village” was certainly true in order to make this 30th Annual Spring Gathering come together so successfully.



I cannot attempt to thank each of you personally, because I would surely omit a name and a special deed you did to make this event special. I will say thanks to the Youth Group who helped serve and clean up after the brunch, to the men helping with parking, those preparing the casseroles, beautiful table decorations, preparing and serving communion, ushering, registration, and just being there for support. I do need to thank J.J., he is a multi-talented, handy person and an electronic “guru”!



Congratulations to Lauren Seale! She was awarded a PWPNH scholarship, along with 9 other graduating seniors from New Hope Presbytery.

In May, we close out our circle year with our Annual Birthday Meeting on May 22 and a luncheon at 11:00 a.m. We will have our Bible Study review of Hebrews. We will also honor one of our own by presenting a small token of appreciation in the form of “our Birthday cake”. Wonder who it will be? Shhh! It is a secret, come and find out!! Lastly, new leaders will also be elected and installed during the business portion of the meeting.

Submitted by Janice Smith, PW Moderator

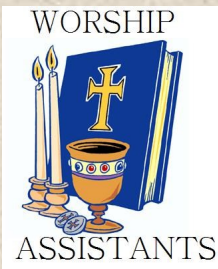
- The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, May 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room.
- The Circle of Friends will meet on Monday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Mary Watson with Janice Smith co-hosting. Mary Lou Fountain will help lead the lesson.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Tuesday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the History Room. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead our study, “In Community with All the Saints”.

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



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

May 6, 2018

Head Usher: Rob Barnhill

Ushers: Edward Barnhill, Bea Barnhill, Michael Mosley, Suzanna Mosley

Greeters: Chrissy, Nan and Margaret Barnhill

Liturgist: John Etheredge

Children’s Sermon: Jim Lilley

Nursery Helper: Winnie Gaynor

May 13, 2018

Head Usher: Stephen Chesnutt

Ushers: David Gooding, Suzanna Mosley, Mike Mosley, Anne Mosley

Greeters: Lloyd and Sarah Bailey

Liturgist: John Turnage

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Linda Amerson

May 20, 2018

Day of Pentecost

Communion will be served by intinction.

Head Usher: Stephen Chesnutt

Ushers: David Gooding, Winslow Rogers, Vivian Rogers, Laura Rogers

Greeters: Lloyd and Sarah Bailey

Liturgist: Hunter Nealey

Children’s Sermon: Randy Adams

Nursery Helper: Laura Durham

Communion Preparers: Melanie Marshall Park, Jep Rose

Communion Servers: Sally Adams, Randy Adams, Melanie Marshall Park, Jep Rose

May 27, 2018

Switch to 10:00 a.m. Worship Time

Head Usher: Tim Smith

Ushers: Mary Sue Smith, Diane Dixon, David Dudley, Laura Dudley

Greeter: Mary Perry

Liturgist: Janice Smith

Children’s Sermon: Scott Solether

Nursery Helper: Annie Daughtridge

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount

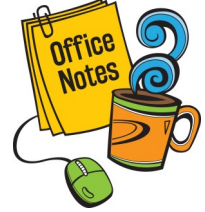


@FPC_RockyMount



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.

Dear Ms. Seale and the Rev. Dr. Preston Smith,

I want to extend my thanks and gratitude for the support that you, the Rev. Dr. Preston Smith and the FPC of Rocky Mount faith family gave to the mother and children who needed to stay in a hotel and avoid a greater level of homelessness.

The family has been able to secure stable housing and is doing well. Thank you again for helping to meet this need and your care for our community and families.

Sincerely,
Yvette Richardson
School Social Worker
Nash Rocky Mount Schools

To our Esteemed Youth Group,

I want to thank you for helping our Presbyterian Women with our Spring Gathering brunch on Saturday.

We were/are so proud of you!

We received many compliments on the excellent service our women enjoyed, and of course, the smiles are always welcomed.

Thank you for being a bright light for our church family!

Blessings,
Janice Smith
PWCT
FPC Moderator

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.

Thank you so much for the lovely arrangement of flowers that were a part of the Easter service! I greatly appreciate being remembered! I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Love,
Nancy Richardson

Self-Study Review Committee

Your Self Study Review Committee comprises of Randy Adams, Laura Durham, Annie Daughtridge, John Feagans, Anne Mosley, Taylor Phillips, John Turnage and Interim Pastor Scott Solether. We have been working on and reviewing our 2015 Self Study. The committee has determined that we needed a new self-study survey. If you have an email account, you should have received a link to the survey the week of May 1. Your thoughtful responses will give the Pastoral Nominating Committee the information they need to help guide the search for our next pastor. It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Thank you for your thoughtful responses. Hard copies are being mailed to church members without an email address. If you are a church member and did not receive either the email link or the hard copy, please notify the church office. Hard copies can either be mailed back to the church or placed in the designated Self-Study Committee church box. **Please complete this survey by May 14, 2018.**



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. Dionne Seale can place the order on your behalf at a cost of \$75 that will be billed to you or contact her for names of approved floral arrangers that you can contact and pay directly. The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

May 27
June 3, 10, 24
July 1, 8, 22, 29



- ◆ Our love and sympathy is extended to Walt Wiggins and family upon the death of his sister, Dorothy Wiggins Mozingo, on April 1, 2018 in Godsboro, NC.
- ◆ Our condolences are also extended to the family of Joanne Hagler upon her death on April 12, 2018 in Wilmington, NC.

The Handcraft Ministry
will meet on
Tuesday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the
home of Frances Guerry,
1204 Drivers Circle.



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



*Our thoughts and
prayers are with...*

**THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—
Tarboro**

- ▶ Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- ▶ Dick Fountain

**TWIN LAKES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY—
Burlington**

- ▶ Liz Cole

HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

BRADLEY CREEK—Wilmington

- ▶ Gerry Gardner

AUTUMN CARE—Nashville

- ▶ Lila Michael

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Logan Barnes
Mayo & Jean Boddie
Miley "Mike" Braswell
Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)
Augusta Daniel
Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
Amine Edwards
Si Fuller
Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
Richard Gragg
Wilda Jenkins
John McInnis (Mary Perry's brother)
Georgia Mixon
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)
Bobbi Weeks
Susan Yenney



We have a lot to be grateful for at First Presbyterian Church, especially our Music Ministry. Thank you to all who share God's love through the gift of music!



At left, the amazing April 15 Messiah performance! Thank you to Jim Smith and Jennie Vance for their dedication in directing and accompanying the singers and musicians!



Above and below, "elves" hard at work polishing those handbells!



Above and right, our youth sharing their talent during Youth Sunday.



Above, the Alleluia Singers made hearts happy on April 25 at their musical finale!



We had a wonderful turn-out for the Agape Village Luncheon that was held following Youth Sunday on April 22! Thank you to Mickey and Jackie Bailey for a wonderful presentation, and all the volunteers who prepared the delicious meal!

