



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

September 2018

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



11:00 a.m. Worship
RETURNS SEPTEMBER 9



Coming To Worship

Scriptures tell us that we were created to worship and that our relationship with our awesome God is central to faith and life. We are not just a personal religion that can be practiced in secret and without interaction with fellow believers. We are the Church, the body of Christ, and individually members of the whole. Each Sunday we gather to build the body and to worship our gracious God. In worship, God is the focus, Christ is the message and the Holy Spirit is the power. It is important that before worship we prepare ourselves both as individuals and as a community of faith.

Each Monday at noon, the Brown Bag Bible study meets and focuses on the Scripture for the message on Sunday. This helps me as a preacher and those who are gathered to prepare for the next Sunday's worship.

In September, Sunday School begins again. This is also a way to prepare for worship. Often the Sunday school lesson follows the lectionary and theme for worship and gives an opportunity to discuss the topic of the day with fellow worshippers. It is also a time to get to know some folks that you share this ministry with.

As we gather for worship, it is important to "build the body" by catching up on news of your friends and welcoming visitors. Sunday morning may be the only time that some are able to interact with one another. Come a little early and gather in the narthex or in the pews and visit. And the friendliness of a church (or the lack of it) is the greatest determination of whether a visitor will return the next Sunday.

But worship begins not with announcements or the welcome by the pastor. When the prelude begins all conversation should stop and all attention should be drawn to the presence of our magnificent God. It is not "dinner music" to accompany your continued conversation. Or worse yet, an impediment to your speech so you have to talk LOUDER to be heard.

It is not simply rude to whoever is offering that part of worship, but a misunderstanding of the important role the prelude plays in gathering our attention to the one we worship. Visit, welcome new people, but also be a model for true worship. Be inspired not only by the Scripture reading and message but the wonderful music that is not there for entertainment but to draw attention to our awesome God.

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: Michael Smith *Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:* Charity Lodge *Nursery Assistant:* Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship ...with First Presbyterian!



BROWN BAG Bible Study

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

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

All are welcome for a covered dish meal in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. followed by a program in the Session Room at 6:45 p.m. This will kick off Wednesday, September 12 so make plans to attend!



Monday, September 17 at noon
Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy chicken salad croissants, broccoli salad, fresh fruit, chips, and cupcakes. 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
September 11, 2018
7:00 a.m.

Start your day off on the right foot and make plans to meet at the Hardee's restaurant on Sunset Ave. for a time of food and fellowship.

Rally Day picnic!



It is time for the annual Rally Day church-wide picnic to celebrate the start of another Sunday School year and the return of 11:00 a.m. worship! Join us at beautiful Rose Hill Conference Center from 4:00-7:00 p.m. for food, fun and fellowship. Come ready to fish, swim and reconnect with your church family! Don't forget to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share—bbq chicken and beverages will be provided.



The church office will be closed
Monday, September 3 for the
Labor Day holiday.



A congregational meeting has been called for September 16 following worship with the purpose of electing new officers for 2019 and to elect members to the Pastor Nominating Committee. Remember that nominations may be made from the floor for officers and for the PNC, but be sure that nominees are consulted before the meeting and consent to be nominated.



The Session met on August 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Session Room and took the following action:

- The Session discussed further the 3 year goals for the Church.
 - There was a great deal of discussion regarding the delay in the approval of the mission study report and Scott reported that he would be speaking with Ted Churn to express the belief that the church is ready to move into the next phase of the search for our new minister.
 - There was also discussion regarding increasing opportunities for fellowship both within our church family and outside the church family. The discussions focused on meeting with members outside of the church and brainstorming on ways to reach people in the Rocky Mount community who are not a part of our church. Preston and Scott recommended that the Session work with the Diaconate to begin implementation of these ideas.
- Other matters of business discussed were as follows:
- Katherine Fisher reported that Michael Smith had been offered and accepted the position of Sexton.
 - Kate Tharin made a recommendation from the Christian Education Committee to accept the slate of Sunday School Teachers and youth mentors for the 2018-2019 year.
 - The Session affirmed the vote to accept the resignation of Kim Sutton as Elder and the Nominating Committee will nominate someone to fill her unexpired term.
 - The Session approved the baptism of Blakely Gray Watson, daughter of Chris and Emily Watson on September 23, 2018 during worship.

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

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 July, 2018

Month – to – date	\$ 49,292.60
Year – to – date	\$ 451,285.68

Expenses through July, 2018

Month – to – date	\$ 60,073.15
Year – to – date	\$ 361,182.90

Please contact Jeanne Shannon at the church office if you have any questions.

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

NEW SEXTON



We welcome our new sexton, Michael Smith. Michael is not a stranger to many of you. He returns to our church and this position that he loves after seven years. He began his full-time schedule August 27 working during the weekly office hours, on Wednesday evenings, and on Sunday mornings. Make sure you introduce yourself and welcome him to the ministry of this church.

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



At Rally Day, **September 9**, the children and youth will kick off our year in Christian Education with the theme "**Welcome, Give, Serve, Listen, Love.**" We invite everyone to join us for breakfast in the fellowship hall at 9:45 and then the children and youth will go to Sunday school. During the Sunday school hour, parents are asked to stay in the fellowship hall for a meeting to receive

information and fill out forms for the upcoming year.

Throughout the fall the children's ministry will focus on prayer in action. At Parents' Afternoon Out, in Sunday school, and in worship, we will learn about and practice different types of prayer and learn about the prayer traditions of the Old and New Testaments. Over a year ago, the parents read a book together and we identified several areas we thought our children and youth



knew a lot about and other areas that we thought they could know more. Prayer was one of those areas, and is also an important part of our spiritual formation. As Karen Marie Yust puts it in her book on children's faith development, "The spiritual world that we create for our children to inhabit, with its content of religious stories, language, and prayer, enables our children to think spiritually. It sets the stage for the cultivation of spiritual awareness."

Knowing that our goal is to foster spiritual awareness and nurture a deep faith, our youth will focus on God's time and God's word this fall. As we learn about how to be aware of God's time both on Sundays and throughout our entire week, we will also connect with each other and our community through youth group, Sunday school, service projects, and a lot of meals together! The youth will also take part in a new mentor program beginning this fall. Some members of the congregation have been grouped with a few youth so that throughout the year, these adults can connect with these individual youth through messages, conversations at church, and attending some of their extracurricular activities. This is just one more way that our youth will experience meaningful, faithful relationships through church.

On **Sunday, September 23**, the youth will participate in worship and share with the congregation about their summer experiences, especially at Montreat. I am looking forward to welcoming, giving, serving, listening, and loving along side of all of our children, youth, and parents this year!

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND ADVISORS: Abuse Prevention Forms are due back by September 9 (Rally Day).

Upcoming Children and Youth dates for September:



- 9: Rally Day
- 12: Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30 p.m.—Rosh Hashanah
- 23: 3rd Graders receive Bibles in Worship
- 26: Parents' Afternoon Out at 4:30 p.m.—Agape Village Book Drive



- 9: Rally Day
- 15: Middle School and High School Lake Trips
- 23: (2:00 p.m. depart FPC) Youth participate in Worship & Ice Cream Social at the Albemarle in Tarboro with Howard Memorial Presbyterian Youth
- 30: Youth Group at church (4:45 Middle School; 5:30 High School)



Parents! A postcard was recently mailed asking for your help and only three parents have responded thus far! Please help us keep our records updated by notifying the church office of your college student's mailing address and/or email so they can stay connected! We hope to send exam care packages this coming year, so this information is vital!

Email: dionne.seale@fpcrm.org or call 446-9121, ext. 21



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



We will continue collecting books for the children of Agape Village. The books needed are both fiction and nonfiction for grades K-7. A collection box will be in the volunteer office.



The Peacemakers Hope Banquet will be Thursday, October 4 at Englewood Baptist Church. The Rev.

Van R. Ellison, President and Chief Executive Office of St. Matthew's House in Naples, Florida will be the keynote speaker. He is widely known for his outreach experience addressing issues related hunger, homelessness, human trafficking, and drug addiction. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 7:00 p.m..



There is a new resident at Covenant Homes in need of the following furniture items: table and chairs, a chest or dresser. If you have item(s) you are willing to donate, please contact Debbie Morris with Covenant Homes at 252-443-2323.



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

The following supplies are appreciated: school supplies, non-perishable food items, hygiene items, and baby supplies. Donations can 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.

The Handcraft Ministry

will meet on

Wednesday, September 12 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!



Troops 434 and 55 Update

Girl Scout Troop 434 is gearing up for our trip to Savannah at the end of August. We will be visiting the home of Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Lowe.

Troop 55 will begin our Silver project in the fall.



Meals on Wheels Church Coordinator Needed

We have a great group of volunteers who do an excellent job for the church and Meals on Wheels. Mary Watson not only works for Meals on Wheels but also has volunteered as our church coordinator. She has decided it is time to hand off the church coordinator role at the end of September, so a replacement is needed by October 1. Per Mary, “as coordinator, there is not actually much work involved because all of our volunteers are very dependable and most of them find their own substitutes when they need to be out. The coordinator would sometimes need to help find substitutes or in rare cases may need to help deliver a route. The Meals on Wheels staff will help with substitutes, but should not be expected to do so on a regular basis. The coordinator would also be responsible for keeping the church office updated on holidays or changes in the schedule. Dionne will include the dates on the monthly calendar, the weekly update, and the newsletter if asked to do so.” Mary usually tries to send a letter to everyone at the beginning of the year with the delivery dates for the upcoming year.

If interested in serving in this role, please contact either Mary Watson or our Outreach Chairperson Nancy Richardson.

Presbyterian Women Update

September, PWCT and PW Circles are back in action!

The Circle of Friends meets on the second Monday night in members' homes at 7:00 p.m. and the Circle of J.O.Y. meets on the second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Please feel free to visit/join either one that fits your schedule.

As the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick has already given us our introduction, we are looking forward to delving into "God's Promise: I Am with You"! A journey through scripture, the study does not delve deeply into manifestations of HIS presence—the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, manna, the temple, pillars of cloud and fire, but on God's actual promise. We will see anew that God offered these words of comfort and commitment from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets, from judges to kings; before, during and after exile into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of age.

- ◆ PW Coordinating Team: Monday, September 10 at 10:30 in the History Room at the church
- ◆ Circle of Friends: Monday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Janice Smith with Mary Lou Fountain leading the Bible Study.
- ◆ Circle of J.O.Y.: Tuesday, September 11, 10:30 a.m. in the Session Room at the church with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick leading us in the Bible Study of Lesson 1, "God is with Us Wherever We Are."

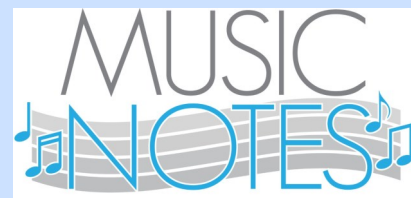
2018-19 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator
Diane Dixon, Vice-Moderator

Tempie Fuller, Secretary
Frances Guerry, Historian
Sylvia Phillips, Together in Service
TBA, Circle of Friends Leader

Martha Tesoro, Treasurer
Laura Durham, Spiritual Nurture
Edie Reeves, Together in Service
Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader

The PW Bible Study Kickoff luncheon on August 22 was a huge success. Not only did attendees enjoy a delicious lunch, but they also learned more about the 2018-19 Horizons Bible Study, "God's Promise—I Am with You" with help from the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick.



Following their summer break, the Alleluia Singers and the Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 12.

Alleluia Singers is for children aged kindergarten through 5th grade and meets from 5:30—6:00 p.m.

Handbell choir is for high school students and adults and meets from 6:40-7:30 p.m.



Sunday Volunteer Schedule

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

1 Peter 4:10



September 2, 2018

Head Usher: Dee Whitley

Ushers: Diane Dixon, Katherine Fisher, Linda Amerson, Ike Amerson

Greeters: James, Kate, Mari Robin, and Frances Tharin

Liturgist: Randy Adams

Children’s Sermon: Scott Solether

Nursery Helper: Staff

September 9, 2018

*****11:00 Worship resumes & Communion will be served by intinction*****

Head Usher: Dee Whitley

Ushers: Diane Dixon, Katherine Fisher, Randy Evans, Linda Evans

Greeter: Nancy Richardson

Liturgist: Mike Gaynor

Communion Preparers: Nancy Proctor, Russell Proctor

Communion Servers: Anne Mosley, Michael Mosley, Nancy Proctor, Russell Proctor

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

September 16, 2018

*****Congregational Meeting will be held following worship in order to elect the new officers for 2019 and members of the Pastor Nominating Committee.*****

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Clif Hayworth, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Janice Smith

Children’s Sermon: Scott Solether

September 23, 2018

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Clif Hayworth, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Youth (TBA)

Children’s Sermon: Youth (TBA)

September 30, 2018

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: Christie Sondergard, Emily Sondergard, Wicky Thorpe, Gaye Moore

Greeter: Pat Mauldin

Liturgist: Lige Daughtridge

Children’s Sermon: Mary Scott

Thank You!

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount

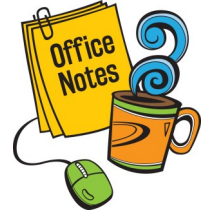


@FPC_RockyMount



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 8:30-4:30 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building during non-office hours.

To the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church,
I am at a loss to express just how much our family appreciates the prayers, the caring support and warmth we felt from the entire congregation over the loss of our Mary.

We truly felt God's love through your responses, your kindness and support.

With grateful hearts from our family and Mary,

Thank you all!!

Jack, John, Laura, Tony, Caroline and Christopher

Dear Church Friends,

I want to thank you for your kindness shown to me during my recent hip surgery and recovery.

I appreciated the prayers, cards, visits and flowers so much. Again, many thanks.

Love,
Amine Edwards

Thanks to all who helped make JJ's luncheon so special! The food was delicious and enjoyed by all. Hannah's "motherboard cake" was so cute! The set-up and clean-up group was wonderful! The flower committee did an outstanding job too. Thanks Judy and Preston for allowing us to use the sanctuary flowers! We all enjoyed wishing JJ well in his new job in Raleigh! JJ was with us for almost seven years and will be greatly missed.

Nancy Richardson

What a pleasant surprise to have Bobbi and Hassell Weeks pay me a visit and bring me lovely church flowers. I am so grateful for such a wonderful church family who takes such good care of me.

Love,
Evelyn Reese

Dear Flower Delivery Person,

Thank you so much. What a treat to arrive home and have flowers waiting! I enjoyed them for over a week until the last bloom fell off!!

Thanks so much,
Bobbie Lambeth

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers over the last 6 months. The cards, flowers and phone calls brightened my day!

Richard Gragg

The family of Lila Michael would like to offer their humble gratitude to everyone for their love, kindness, cards, support and many prayers.

Frank Edge would like to express his gratitude to the Flower Ministry for the beautiful bouquet of flowers that were delivered to his home recently.



- ◆ The family of Gerry Gardner upon his death on August 2, 2018.
- ◆ The family of Lila Michael upon her death on August 2, 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:

September 30
October 14, 21



John Thomas Richardson, Jr. was born on August 8, 2018 to John and Shellie Richardson of Raleigh, NC. He weighed 7.4 lbs and measured 20 inches. Nancy Richardson is the proud grandmother.



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

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Logan Barnes

Katherine Belk (daughter of Dick Fountain)

Mayo & Jean Boddie

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)

Georgia Mixon

Gerry Niece (friend of the church)

Anne Wilgus Podesta

Evelyn Reese

Blanche Robinson

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Judy Smith

Harriet Thorpe

Clevie Wiggins

Susan Yenney

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:45 a.m. Gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast. After breakfast, all Sunday School participants will go to their Sunday School classroom. Parents of children and youth participants are asked to remain in the fellowship hall for a meeting and complete forms for the upcoming year.

11:00 a.m. Worship (and listen for the bagpipes!)

4:00—7:00 p.m. Annual Church-wide picnic at Rose Hill Conference Center. Don't forget to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share! BBQ chicken and beverages will be provided. Come prepared to fish, swim, eat and reconnect with your church family!



JJ Jeffries was honored on his last Sunday with us at a farewell luncheon on August 12. We truly appreciate his nearly 7 years of service!

