



# First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Rocky Mount

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

August 2018



## Chart of Progress in the Pastoral Search

This is a check list of the process in finding a new pastor. We will provide this as a way to keep you informed about where we are and what needs to be done next.



July 2017 Bridge interim is hired and search for an interim begins.



November 2017 Interim minister is hired and begins work.



March 2018 Mission Study Review Committee is appointed and begins their work.



July 2018 Mission Study report approved by Session.

\_\_\_\_\_ Updated Mission Study is approved by Presbytery.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Nominating Committee is elected by congregation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ministry Information Form is circulated and search begins.

\_\_\_\_\_ Candidate is found, and approved by Presbytery.

\_\_\_\_\_ Congregation votes on candidate.

*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!*

## WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

We will gather for meals during the summer months at 6:00 p.m. in the following locations:

August 8 Covered dish meal at home of Laura and David Dudley

August 15 Covered dish meal at home of Gene and Sue Jackson

August 29 Covered dish meal at home of Kay Wester



Let us know if you can attend the Farewell/ Appreciation luncheon for JJ Jeffries on Sunday, August 12. See page 12 for more information!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast Fellowship  
Tuesday  
August 11, 2018  
7:00 a.m.

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



## In-Betweens Meal

Wednesday, August 22, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Home of Martha Tesoro

Please let Martha know if you can attend and what you can bring to share.



## Lemonade on the lawn!

### Lemonade on the Lawn Server Schedule

August 5 Chris Feno and Martha Tesoro  
August 12 None (Luncheon after worship)  
August 19 Frances Guerry  
August 26 Betsy McLean



The Session met on July 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Session Room and took the following action:

- The Mission Study Review Committee joined the Session to give an update and seek approval of the Mission Study Report which was unanimously approved. Once the Commission on Ministry with the Presbytery approves the report, they will allow us to hold a congregational meeting to elect the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- The Admin Committee reported that they were looking into options for investing designated funds to attempt to allow that money to grow. The committee also reported that we have a budget surplus for 2018 but we must remember that we are not fully staffed at the present time.
- Christian Ed reported that we had 11 youth participate in Gatekeepers and 17 youth attend Montreat. The committee is looking toward Rally Day and planning for next year.
- The Property Committee reported that the bus is in the shop again and that soon the Session will need to make a decision regarding the future of the bus. Property is waiting on final bids for an alarm system for the church.
- Approved the use of the church for the wedding rehearsal and wedding of Jessica Herndon and Kevin Johnson on August 9-10, 2019.
- Approved request by Rocky Mount Garden Club to use the fellowship hall for a yard sale on October 6, 2018 and setup on October 5, 2018.

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 June, 2018	
Month – to – date	\$ 76,519.71
Year – to – date	\$ 401,993.08

Expenses through June, 2018	
Month – to – date	\$ 39,139.73
Year – to – date	\$ 301,504.77

### Quarterly Contribution Statements

We began emailing quarterly statements in July with the second quarter of this year (April – June). The statement was sent to your preferred email that is used for the weekly email. Your annual contribution statement will be mailed in January. Members without an email address will continue to receive mailed quarterly statements by mail. No one outside of the church or organization has access to your records and only the financial secretary has access to your contribution records. Please contact Jeanne Shannon at the church office if you have any questions or if prefer that your email be sent to a different email address than your weekly email.

Church office phone 252.446.9121

Jeanne's email [jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org)

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

## 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

## *How We Worship*

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:11

July was truly a month of living the faith that we proclaim through worship for our children and youth. If our goal in worship is to glorify our living God, we surely did it in many places and ways! Many of our middle and high school youth, as well as some adults, participated in Gatekeepers Work Camp and shared our faith through improving and repairing homes around Rocky Mount and growing closer to God through daily devotionals, prayers, and building relationships with fellow crew members. At Montreat Youth Conference, fourteen of our high school youth and three adults began and ended our days with worship and learning. We also experienced our living God through play, recreation, and nature. We experienced God through the words of the preachers, the beautiful communal music, the new and old friends, the hikes to the top of Lookout Mountain, and affirming what we love and appreciate about each member of the FPC Youth Group. FPC had four children and youth who attended Camp Albemarle as well this summer: Thomas Dill, Anna Brooks and Britt Gaynor, and Mari Robin Tharin. We are grateful for the many different ways our children and youth experienced God’s amazing creation this summer and took their worship into the world.

This August, we will continue our worship as we come back together for the start of a new school year. Our last Summer Children’s Church will be August 26 when we will also bless backpacks. Our middle school youth group will welcome five upcoming sixth graders this fall too! Please be on the lookout for more information on children and youth schedules for the fall, as well as information for volunteers and Sunday school teachers. All of our wonderful volunteers will receive an email with information necessary to renew your Abuse Prevention training.

*Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator*

### *Upcoming dates:*



Sunday, August 26: Blessing of the Backpacks and Children’s Church with Lydia after the Children’s Sermon.



August 16 at 3:00 p.m.: Froyo at Pit Stop for upcoming 6th graders

Date TBA Middle School Kick-off party

Date TBA High School Kick-off party

### **VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND ADVISORS**

Abuse Prevention Forms are due back by September 9 (Rally Day)



**Gatekeepers Workcamp  
2018**

**Montreat Youth Conference  
2018**



*Summer Field Trip Fun!*



June 21: fellowship outing to Simply Natural Creamery in Ayden



August 1: lunch at Hen and the Hog after tour of Historic Halifax



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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

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



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.



Bring a new backpack to worship on Sunday, August 26 for the Down East Partnership for Children—see page 12 for more details!



## 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, August 15 at 1:30 p.m. in  
the home of Joan Radford.



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



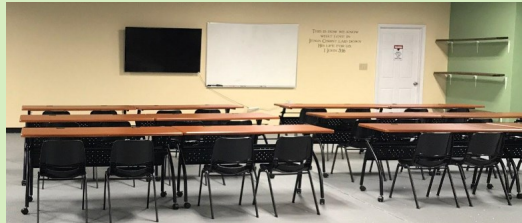
## Troop 7 Update

Summer. Time to take a break from scouts.....NOT! Yes, we are on break after summer camp but our scouts are still active this summer. Chandler Gazaway recently fed the church as part of his fundraiser to help with his Eagle project at Covenant Homes. Paul Larimer has been working at the Bryant T. Aldridge Rehabilitation Center. He is redoing the gardens that needed some tender care.

Ethan Everette dismantled and installed new fencing at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church. Edward Barnhill purchased a "gaga" pit and new furniture for Peacemakers' after school program. Mac Lord is also installing a "gaga" pit at the YMCA. And today I just approved a project to redo the outdoor meditation area for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. All told these projects are valued at over \$25,000!!!! And we still have more Life Scouts currently thinking about projects. Going to be a busy Fall!



*Chandler Gazaway feeds the church!*



*Above, new furniture for Peacemakers and below, Peacemakers gaga pit (think dodge ball below the knees)*



*BTAR garden renovations*

## Troops 434 and 55 Update

Girl Scout Troops 434 and 55 are headed to Conetoe on July 25 to tour the facilities and personally donate two defibrillators. We are excited to see the good things happening at Conetoe and to be able to make a small difference to them!



## Presbyterian Women Update

**WE GATHER:** Presbyterian Women is connectional. And that means we gather! This is such an important part of our shared journey of faith that coordinating teams at each level of the organization (congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide) are equally tasked with promoting “attendance at PW events at the presbytery, synod and churchwide levels.”

What happens at gatherings? Depends! Sometimes a business meeting is part of a presbytery or synod gathering; the business meeting deals with, well, the business of the group, which often includes the installation of new leadership. Gatherings are also the place to learn about the organization (and the organization’s resources such as Horizons magazine and Bible Study, which are promoted) and activities of the organization. Workshops, presentations, community projects, stewardship opportunities, Bible study and fellowship are important components of gatherings. Gatherings are serious business in the most joyful, PW purpose-full way!

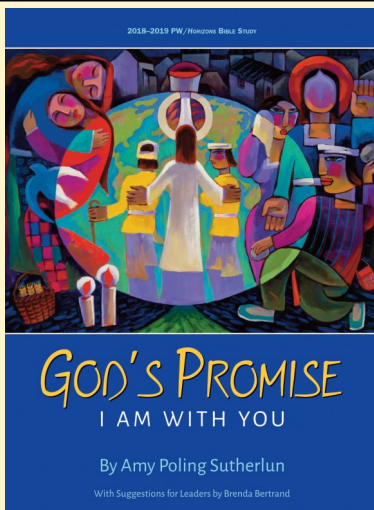
Stay connected with your PW circle so you can learn when our presbytery or synod plans to gather. At the national level, Presbyterian Women gather every three years. In 2018, Presbyterian Women will gather in Louisville from August 2-5, 2018. Visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org) for more information!

### 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



All PW are invited!

### PW Bible Study Luncheon

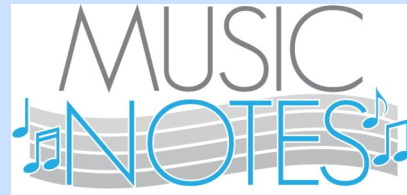
Tuesday, August 21,  
2018

11:00 a.m.

Church parlor

The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will introduce the 2018-19 Horizons Bible Study on “God’s Promise—I Am With You.” Come enjoy chicken salad, fruit salad, pasta salad, chips, cake and ice cream!

Sign up on the PW Bulletin Board today!



Following their summer hiatus from mid-week rehearsals, the Chancel Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals on August 22 at 7:30.

Rehearsals for the Alleluia Singers children’s choir and the adult Handbell Choir will begin on September 5 at 5:30 p.m. and 6:40 p.m. respectively.

New singers and ringers are always welcome!





## 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*



### August 5, 2018

**\*\*Communion will be served by intinction\*\***

Head Usher: Jep Rose

Ushers: Edie Reeves, Tom Steed, Janice Smith, Tommy Dill

Greeter: Mike Braswell

Liturgist: Richard Hunt

Communion Servers: Laura Dudley, Amy Hunt, Richard Hunt

Children’s Sermon: Scott Solether

Nursery Helper: Staff

### August 12, 2018

Head Usher: Jep Rose

Ushers: Edie Reeves, Tom Steed, Janice Smith, Betsy McLean

Greeter: Mike Braswell

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

### August 19, 2018

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal, David Farris

Greeter: Marianne Farris

Liturgist: Laura Durham

Children’s Sermon: Randy Adams

### August 26, 2018

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal, David Farris

Greeter: Marianne Farris

Liturgist: TBA

Children’s Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

*Thank You!*

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



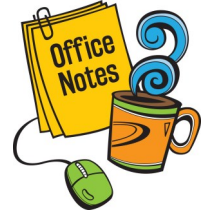
@FPC\_RockyMount



fpc\_rockymount

**Contact Information Updates:** Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121 or [dionne.seale@fpcrm.org](mailto: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.*



Dear Church family,

It is with a very overflowing heart that I am finally finding the words to express how much you have all meant to our family. Our lives were unexpectedly turned upside down last February 2nd; no one could ever prepare for that. Young people are not supposed to get cancer. We have struggled with "why" for so long. Logan is in his senior year at UNC, has always worked extremely hard in school and his job, and has always been such a good person. His whole life had to be put on hold, and it has been hard watching his friends graduate and move on. It has been an extremely scary, emotional, frustrating, and overwhelming journey so far; having a serious illness is a full time job. Our journey started with his diagnosis, then immediately moved to inpatient chemotherapy at Duke every 2 weeks. His tumor is in his pelvic bone and was not operable, and we were advised to explore proton radiation, which is not available in our state. We were able to live in Philadelphia for 7 weeks in an apartment donated by an incredible organization called Ella's Retreat. Our apartment was located in Center City between Love Park and "Logan" Square if you can believe. I believe that was a sign. Logan received radiation 5 days a week and still continued chemo while there; his bone marrow was hit hard by the combination, and he had 3 blood transfusions and 2 platelet infusions while there. We were extremely fortunate to be able to pull off this crucial treatment for Logan. He has been home a little over a month now, and is continuing at Duke with chemo, with 2 more admissions left, hopefully finishing in early September.

I have personally never experienced the love, kindness, generosity, and enormity of caring since this has happened to Logan. Honestly, I have struggled so long with how to put our gratitude into words. Right after he was diagnosed, a pumpkin pie appeared at our door just because Sydney remembered how much Logan loved pumpkin pie from Montreat many years before, and I had just been thinking about making him one five minutes earlier. Who remembers stuff like that? I will admit, I had to cry a little over that one. Since then, outpourings of cards, gift cards, food, prayers, and monetary donations have arrived at our house. Medical bills are enormous, and I have missed so much work that I have lost count. Please know that each and every single prayer and contribution has been cherished, appreciated, and put away for good use towards Logan's treatment and keeping our family afloat.

I have said this a lot recently, and it bears repeating again. With all of the bad things happening in this world, it is amazing to see the pure goodness in humanity when it pulls together. Thank you from the bottom of my heart First Presbyterian Church.

With enormous love and gratitude,  
Tiffany Barnes

What a nice surprise. A welcome gift to my new home at Covenant, beautiful flowers from the church that now grace my table for me to enjoy and thank God for all the love that the church gives.

Thanks,

Char Mather

First Presbyterian Church is filled with angels. Thanks to everyone for all your prayers, gifts, and cards. They have meant so very much. Deep thanks to the extra special angels who have been by Lila's side all along this crazy roller coaster ride that God has put her on. Don't know what we would do without your love, trips to doctor's offices, hospitals, and nursing facilities. God bless each of you.

Char Mather and Lila Michael

First Presbyterian Church family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and prayer shawl! It meant even more because I was in your thoughts and prayers!

Love you all,

Preston and Judy Smith

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that Laura Durham dropped off yesterday. Ann asked me what I had done to deserve such a lovely gift since my name was not on the sick list. I do not know what I did, but I sure do thank you. The flowers are so pretty and brighten up my room.

Thanks again,

Hannah Diedrick



- ◆ The family of Margaret D. Edwards upon her death on July 26, 2018 in Wilmington, NC.
- ◆ The family of Mary McInnis Perry upon her death on July 27, 2018.



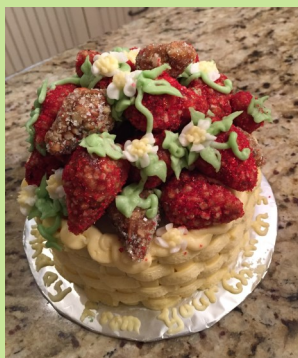
Flowers for the Sanctuary

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 2, 16, 23, 30**



*Getting older with birthdays has its advantages!  
Another beautiful birthday cake from my church family to celebrate my 93rd birthday! Thank you to all, especially to Hannah Diedrick!*

*Hassell Weeks*



*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  
 Judy Smith  
 Harriet Thorpe  
 Cleve Wiggins  
 Susan Yenney



*Join us for a farewell and appreciation luncheon for  
Joseph "JJ" Jeffries*

*Sunday, August 12, 2018*

*Immediately following worship in the fellowship hall*

*The menu will include fried chicken, hush puppies, green beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, fruit, assorted desserts, tea, water and lemonade.*

*There will be a table set aside to place optional gifts as well.*

*Please notify the church office that you can attend no later than  
August 8, 2018.*



**Sunday, August 26, 2018**

The children of First Presbyterian are collecting new backpacks to donate to the Down East Partnership for Children in order to help other children get their school year started off right! If you would like to help, please bring a new backpack to worship on Sunday, August 26 for the blessing of the backpacks. We will bless ALL of the backpacks together before we send the donated bags to DEPC.