FIRST

First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

Scott

December 2018

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



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.

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|---|---|
| V | July 2017 Bridge interim is hired and search for an interim begins. |
| | November 2017 Interim minister is hired and begins work. |
| Minness and Min | March 2018 Mission Study Review Committee is appointed and begins their work. |
| $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ | July 2018 Mission Study report approved by Session. |
| | September 2018 Updated Mission Study is approved by Presbytery. |
| s s | eptember 2018 Pastor Nominating Committee is elected by congregation. |
| | November 2018 Ministry Information Form is circulated and search begins. |
| | Candidate is found, and approved by Presbytery. |

Congregation votes on candidate.

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





Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in Bible Study 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 December 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.



Tuesday, December 4, 2018 **First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall**

Social Time 5:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. Catered by "Something Different" of Wilson, NC

Menu: Honey Dijon Chicken and Beef Tips, Redskin Boiled Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Seven Layer Salad, Yeast Rolls, Strawberry Cake and NY Cheesecake, Tea, Coffee and Water.

Cost: \$22.00 per person

Responses were due by November 29 to either Sylvia Phillips or Sue Jackson and also any dietary restrictions.

Please bring a small can of fruit or vegetables for Covenant Homes.



Monday, December 17 at noon Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy quiche, hot fruit, broccoli casserole, ham rolls, and dessert. If you are not already on the "permanent list", please notify the church office if you can attend. Faithful volunteers prepare and serve the food, and a basket is passed for contributions to offset the cost of the meal. While geared towards retirement age folks, all are welcome!



FAITH, FOOD, FUN.

All are welcome for a covered dish meal in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. followed by a program in the Session Room at 6:45 p.m. We will not meet December 19 or 26.

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 October, 2018 Month – to – date \$32,375.96 Year – to – date \$559,672.40

Expenses through October, 2018

Month – to – date \$ 55,741.03 Year – to – date \$ 493,173.63



Stewardship season is upon us! Each pledge is a blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for making your contribution:

- Bank draft This is a safe and steady way to consistently support First Presbyterian Church. It can be selected by marking this option on your pledge card and attaching a voided check. The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25th of each month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. The draft for your 2019 contribution would begin January 25th 2019. If you choose the bank draft, you can also stop it by emailing Jeanne Shannon in the church office 2 weeks before the 25th.
- Envelopes these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card
- Sale of stock If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon to request a stock donor letter or have your broker contact Jeanne in the church office. The stock sale process should begin in early November to make the 12/31 dead-line due to holidays and the length of time for the process.
- Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line.
- Online giving Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit www.fperm.org using the 'Online Payment' link in the top right corner to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

Please contact Jeanne Shannon at the church office if you have any questions. Church office phone 252.446.9121, ext. 23 Jeanne's email jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org; Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30



All women of the church

are

invited to the Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Stop in between 11:00-1:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church parlor

New Officers for Unexpired Terms

On November 11, 2018, the congregation elected Laura Dudley to fill an open Deacon position and Marianne Farris to fill an open Elder position.

Laura Dudley

Laura Harrison Dudley moved to Rocky Mount in 1975 from Shelby, NC and married David Martin Dudley. She worked for Carolina Physical Therapy, Inc. for 43 years and retired in November 2017. She has served both on the Session and Diaconate and as a Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church. She presently serves on the First Monday for the Flower Ministry, is a member of the Presbyterian Women Circle of Friends, Bereavement Committee, and supports the Outreach Committee volunteering at Peacemakers. With husband David, they are full-time grandparents to Mason and Caden Dudley, sons of Harrison and Leigh-Ann Dudley of Kinston. Their daughter Anna Dudley is in Boone, NC in her final year of graduate school.

Marianne Farris

Marianne Farris is a lifetime Presbyterian and has been a member at First Prez since 1979. She has served on the Session, been active in Presbyterian Women and participates in the Handbell Choir. She and David enjoy sharing church activities with Kate and James and Mari Robin and Frances and feel privileged to do so.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 The Lord said: I made a wonderful promise to Israel and Judah, and the days are coming when I will keep it. I promise that the time will come when I will appoint a king from the family of David, a king who will be honest and rule with justice. In those days, Judah will be safe; Jerusalem will have peace and will be named, "The Lord Gives Justice."

John 14:27 I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid.

From Old Testament to New, promises of peace focus our vision throughout Advent as we wait for Christmas Day. This Advent Season, the children and youth will participate in bringing peace through giving and serving. As we learn about God's peace this season, we hope to offer peace to others through gingerbread houses, handwritten letters, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, donating and volunteering for Peacemakers, and being together as Christ's community of faith.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator







Above, Parents' Afternoon Out kids enjoyed a fun afternoon of science with Christine Braswell of Simply Science on November 14, 2018.

Upcoming Children and Youth dates for December:



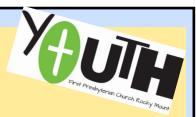
December 5: Gingerbread Workshop, 6:00—7:00 p.m.

The children will join with the rest of the church in sharing the Wednesday night meal. After we eat, members of the congregation will be invited to stay and begin decorating the church for Advent while the children (and those who are children at heart!) decorate the gingerbread houses.

December 15: Parents' Night Out, 5:00—8:00 p.m.

We will walk to see the live nativity at First Baptist and return to the church for dinner, games, and a Christmas movie.

December 2: Youth Group at church. Middle School meets at 4:45, joint dinner at 5:30, and the High School finishes at 6:45 p.m.



December 4: 3:40-5:00 p.m.; volunteer at Peacemakers Christmas Toy Store to help with pricing toys for their Toy Store Event to be held December 7 and 8, 2018.

December 8: Ring the Bell for Salvation Army at Sam's Club from 10-2:00 p.m. We will need at least two youth and one adult to sign up for these hour time slots. Be on the lookout for the Signup Genius email.

December 16: Christmas Parties for Middle and High School. High School youth will meet at 5:30 in the youth suite. Middle School location and time to be announced. Both groups will do a silly gift exchange this year.

Below, FPC Youth assisted with packing 100 food bags designated for families from Tar River Academy on November 17, 2018.







FPC's got a new ride!!! The Property Committee and Session approved selling the bus due to continual maintenance issues that are common with an older vehicle. To meet the needs of our congregation including youth and our scouts, it was approved to purchase a used 2017 Ford Transit van that can easily be serviced locally. The van seats 15 however, we have removed 2 rear seats for storage. Decals are being designed and adding a trailer hitch is being researched. The van will be parked in the PNC lot behind the church when not in use. This area is in the view of the PNC security camera from their drive-up teller and PNC has graciously offered to allow us to park in their lot.



AGAPE VILLAGE

foundation

We are no longer collecting books for Agape Village at this time. They have been abundantly blessed by donations and have shipped several barrels full of books to their new school in Zambia. However, they would be very grateful for either monetary donations toward expenses related to future shipping needs, teacher salaries at the new school or some clothing needs at this time. The orphanage can use girls' leggings in any sizes and blue jeans for boys. The school can use navy blue uniforms: navy jumper dresses for girls and navy pants for boys, light blue shirts (long or short sleeve) and black shoes for both boys and girls (especially black canvas). Your donations can be brought to the church volunteer office.



- The residents of Covenant Homes would greatly appreciate our help with their Bingo games. They don't have prizes when they win. If you would like to help them, there will be a container in the Volunteer office for drop-off. Some examples of prizes are: paper towels, toilet paper, snacks, puzzles, nick-nacks, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, word search books, crossword puzzles, hand lotions, shampoo, anything useful.
- The Congregation is invited to a Christmas Open House at Covenant Homes on December 13 from 3:00—5:00 p.m. The residents wish to thank the congregation with a time of light refreshments and fellowship.



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

With the school year back in full swing, Tar River Academy is in need of the following items: Pencils (always need lots), black pens, highlighters, spiral notebooks (single subject), colored pencils (12 or 24 packs), graph paper. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be left in the TRA bin in the narthex or the Volunteer room.

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, December 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Laura Dudley, 1212 Drivers Circle.



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

REMEMBER TO RE-LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD TO BARIUM SPRINGS HOME/CHILDRENS HOPE ALLIANCE #5443.



Troop 7 News

Troop 7 scouts recently camped at Lake Jordan. We used this weekend to introduce our scouts to backpacking. The scouts took a 5.4 mile hike with packs loaded with limited weight. No coolers. Dehydrated food and boiled eggs were the menu. Yum Yum. Scoutmaster Lane did sneak in a Dutch Oven Cobbler for dessert Saturday night. Sunday morning found the temperature to be 28 degrees. The scouts did great in the cold.



Girl Scout Troops 55 and 434 purchased 200 boxes of Jiffy cornbread mix to put in the bags for Tar River Academy's students. We are thankful for the support from our church this Thanksgiving!

At right, Troop 434 participated in a flag badge where we learned how to properly dispose of the American flag. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance 20 times while disposing ten American flags.







Presbyterian Women Update

PW at work! 21 Thanksgiving meals were delivered by our PWCT members to some of our Covenant Homes friends (and 1 to a church member at Mayfair apartments). We will be "adopting" a family from My Sister's House to help make their Christmas a little brighter.

- PW Coordinating Team: Monday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the History Room.
- Circle of Friends: Monday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Laura Durham. Chris Feno will present the Bible lesson and Roslyn Gragg will honor us with one of her annual Christmas readings.
- Circle of J.O.Y.: Tuesday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Session Room at the church with Chris Feno leading the Bible Study lesson.

PW Honorary Life Membership

The PWCT decided in early summer we would honor three (3) of our loyal, dedicated members in the fall. On October 28, Honorary Life Memberships were presented to Char Mather, Anne Wilgus Podesta, and posthumously to Lila Michael. Below are their introductions from that special day:



You might not guess that this recipient is quite the adventurous one, but knowing that she raised four children would lead you to believe that she has had to be flexible and spontaneous throughout her life! She is well travelled—having been to 48 states of the US, most of eastern Europe, the Panama Canal and the Bahamas—where she took flight parasailing as she approached the tender age of 70! Our recipient cares deeply for her family, her friends, and her Church. She sees God's hand in all her surroundings and appreciates the smallest details and beauty of His creation. Her generosity is well known and I've been told she plays a mean game of Hand & Foot! I am delighted to present *Char Mather* with an Honorary Lifetime Membership.



Her artistic abilities are well known, beautiful inside and out could give you a clue; "Chocoholic" might be a better description—as well as devoted to friends. Energetic in her work for the Lord; her family of utmost importance. Gracious and helpful to all. Interested in the world around her. Joyful in suffering and simply Kind—that was the wonderful person of *Lila Michael*, whom we honor today posthumously with this award.



This recipient has a rich history with First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount. She was one of the first females to be ordained as an Elder and soon after, was elected as a commissioner to the Presbytery. She has led and served by example—never fearful of casting the lone dissenting vote! She has a strong yet quiet faith and she raised her four children accordingly. Her frequent instruction through their disagreements was to say simply "Little children—love one another." While her faith may be quiet, her voice was heard weekly as she joyfully sang as a member of our choir for more years than most recall. Her strength, wisdom and skillful hospitality are just a few of her outstanding qualities. We are proud to honor *Anne Wilgus Podesta* today.

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



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



December 2, 2018

Head Usher: Andy Warner
Ushers: Lynn Warner, Charlie Warner,
Tim Smith, Marie Kem
Greeter: Mary Sue Smith
Liturgist: Anne Mosley
Children's Sermon: Mary Scott
Nursery Helper: Ann Dill
Acolytes: Virginia Feagans, Nan Barnhill
Advent Wreath: Middle School youth
Communion Preparers: Ben Roberson, John Turnage
Communion Servers: Ben Roberson, John Turnage,
Anne Mosley, Michael Mosley

December 9, 2018 11:00 a.m. Joy Gift Program

Head Usher: Stephen Chesnutt
Ushers: Steve Rowe, Lisa Rowe,
Richard Hunt, Janice Smith
Greeter: Frances Guerry
Acolytes: Mari Robin Tharin, Frances Tharin
Advent Wreath: FPC Children

December 16, 2018

Head Usher: Stephen Chesnutt
Ushers: Tim Smith, Mary Sue Smith,
Richard Hunt, Janice Smith
Greeter: Frances Guerry
Liturgist: Olivia Turnage
Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane
Acolytes: Jillian Schrimper, TBA
Advent Wreath: 9th and 10th Grade youth

December 23, 2018

Head Usher: Rob Barnhill
Ushers: Edward Barnhill, Bea Barnhill,
Dionne Seale, Jim Newton
Greeters: Chrissy, Nan and Margaret Barnhill
Liturgist: Lauren Seale
Children's Sermon: Scott Solether
Acolytes: Thomas Honey, TBA
Advent Wreath: 11th and 12th Grade youth

December 24, 2018

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

<u>Ushers</u>: Pat Mauldin, John Etheredge, Bill Buchanan, TBA

<u>Acolytes</u>: Thomas Honey, TBA

<u>Advent Wreath</u>: TBA

<u>Communion Preparers</u>: Nancy Richardson, Becky Parks,

John Turnage

<u>Communion Servers</u>: David Farris, Marianne Farris,

<u>Communion Servers:</u> David Farris, Marianne Farris, Jay Gardner, Mike Gaynor, Pat Mauldin, Anne Mosley, Becky Parks, Nancy Richardson, Ben Roberson, Winslow Rogers, Janice Smith, John Turnage

December 30, 2018

Head Usher: Rob Barnhill
Ushers: Edward Barnhill, Bea Barnhill,
Kim Sutton, Jim Newton
Greeters: Chrissy, Nan and Margaret Barnhill
Liturgist: Dee Whitley
Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

New (used) piano in Lacy Hall



In the October edition of the online Presbytery newsletter, there was an announcement about a piano being available to a church or organization. Jim Smith recognized the name of the person who placed the announcement and called. We are grateful that Dr. and Mrs. Robert Jeffers, members of White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, have donated their baby grand piano to our church. The piano produces a large sound and will be a wonderful addition to Lacy Hall after it is tuned.

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.

Regular church 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.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered by Laura Dudley. I also appreciate all the cards and calls from church members following my knee replacement. I am making steady improvement and hope to be back at church very soon.

Thank you, Ike Amerson Dear First Presbyterian,
Thank you for the birthday cake by
Hannah Diedrick and the flowers.
The phone calls have been
encouraging.
Very best regards,
Iim Blanchard

Ladies of First Presbyterian, Thank you so much for the wonderful lunch you prepared for our family and friends.

God Bless, Edge Family Dear Church Family,

L.M. and I appreciate Bobbi and Hassell bringing a lovely vase of fall flowers to our home Monday morning. It is such a joy and a comforting feeling worshipping in your midst. We deeply give thanks for your caring and for your continued prayers for our grandson Logan. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Warm regards, Margaret and L.M. Barnes



The church office will be closed the following dates:

December 25, 2018 December 26, 2018 January 1, 2019

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.



We decorate our Sanctuary during Advent beginning December 9 with beautiful poinsettias which are made available by your donations to honor and remember special friends and/or loved ones. Envelopes are available in the Narthex or from the church office for you to pick up and enclose payment along with the name(s) of those you wish to honor. You can either place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or return to Dionne Seale's church mailbox. A donation of \$18 per poinsettia is appreciated. A special bulletin remembers the honorees on Christmas Eve and the deadline to donate is December 16, 2018.



The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mary Watson upon the death of her sister, Rebecca Wilkerson, of Petersburg, Virginia on November 19, 2018.



Congratulations to Sara and Ben Duncan on the birth of their son, Owen Ross Duncan on November 12, 2018. He weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

He joins siblings Sage and Coy, and proud grandparents Becky and Julian Parks, and uncle JR Parks..



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

Ike Amerson

Logan Barnes

Lloyd Bailey

Katherine Belk (daughter of Dick Fountain)

Jim Blanchard

Mayo & Jean Boddie

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Augusta Daniel

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Clif Hayworth

Wilda Jenkins

John McInnis (Jack Perry's brother-in-law)

Georgia Mixon

Arrington Moore

Gerry Niece (friend of the church)

Anne Wilgus Podesta

Evelyn Reese

Blanche Robinson

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Clevie Wiggins

Susan Yenney



Christmas Services

All of our services are free and open to the public. Consider inviting friends and acquaintances to attend. Come reflect, pray together, and show support for one another as we enjoy the music of the season.

Joy Gift Program - Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Our talented musicians in the church will entertain us with songs and carols of the season, accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

<u>Christmas Concert and Reception</u> - Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Students from Nash Central High School will join our Chancel Choir and the Rocky Mount Chamber Choir in a concert of both sacred and secular Christmas music, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Selections include: portions of Vivaldi's well-known "Gloria", "The Little Drummer Boy", "Go, Tell It on the Mountain", and "Carol of the Bells". A free will offering will be received to support a local charity. A Christmas reception will be hosted by the Presbyterian Women and the Diaconate in Lacy Hall following the performance.

<u>Christmas Eve Service</u> - Monday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.; pre-service music begins at 5:15 p.m. Our Christmas Eve service will include scripture, carols, and communion. A 30-voice choir accompanied by a chamber orchestra will present arrangements of new and well-known Christmas carols.



The Session met on November 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Session Room and took the following action:

- The Session examined the officers for the Class of 2021.
- The moderator discussed the Session structure and assigned new officers to committees.
- Russell Proctor presented the budget for 2019 and it was approved unanimously as presented.
- The Welcome Committee which had previously been disbanded was re-organized as a subcommittee of the Outreach Committee.
- The Worship Committee reported that they would be decorating for Advent on December
 6.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



We have several opportunities for you to help us decorate for Christmas!

- Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.
 Come to the covered dish meal and stay to either decorate Gingerbread houses with the children or trim the tree in the Fellowship Hall.
- Thursday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m.
 Join members of the Worship
 Committee as they decorate the sanctuary and chapel. (They will take a refreshment break during the PW Christmas Tea!)