



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

January 2019



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



Staff of First Presbyterian Church

The staff of First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and Holiday season and thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2018. We look forward to supporting the ministry of this church in the new year to come. I have been impressed with the care and professionalism these employees have shown in carrying out their responsibilities. They are all assets to the ministry of this church. Over the next few months, I would like to introduce you to the staff that some of you may have had little contact with. First on the list is **Mary Hilliard**.



Mary is our *Nursery Assistant* and in charge of keeping our youngest children safe during Sunday School and the worship service. Mary was first hired in 2007 and is dedicated to serving our church families through this ministry of caring. If you see Mary, be sure to tell her how much we appreciate her service and kindness with the children of this 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: Michael Smith *Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:* Charity Lodge *Nursery Assistant:* Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship

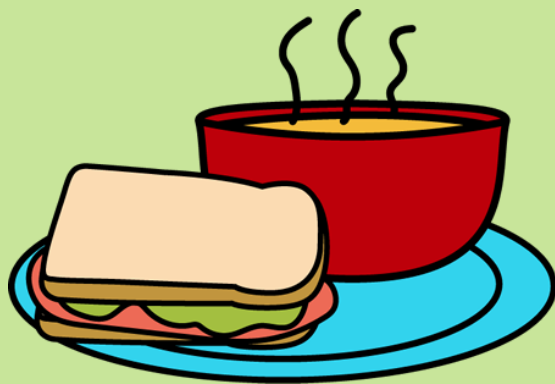
...with First Presbyterian!



BROWN BAG Bible Study

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

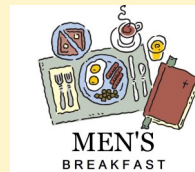
noted. All are welcome to bring a lunch and join in for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!



Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

January 13, 2019
immediately after worship

The Outreach Committee would like to invite one and all to a "Soup and Sandwich" lunch after church on Sunday, January 13. Please join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship in Lacy Hall.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship is taking a break for now and we will notify you when/if it resumes.



Lunch Bunch

Monday, January 14 at noon
Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy baked spaghetti, garlic bread, salad 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!

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. *Activities will resume January 9, 2019!*

MAKES CENTS

Happy New Year! 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 November, 2018	
Month – to – date	\$ 32,934.56
Year – to – date	\$ 592,606.96

Expenses through November, 2018	
Month – to – date	\$ 59,259.00
Year – to – date	\$ 552,632.63



We welcome and appreciate your 2019 pledge! Pledge packets were mailed in November. Please complete a pledge card and put in the offering plate or drop it by or mail it to the church. As a reminder, prior year pledges are not assumed to continue so please submit a pledge card to continue giving.

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

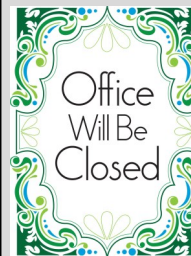


The Session met on December 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the home of Laura and Winslow Rogers for a meal and meeting. The Session took the following action:

- We approved a draw from the Brewer Endowment for the benefit of capital repairs;
- And a draw from the special gifts monies designated to property for the additional repairs necessary for the organ.
- Clif toasted the outgoing elders and welcomed the new elders and we all shared a delicious meal at the Rogers' home.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



The church office will be closed the following dates:

January 1, 2019
January 21, 2019

Check out the decals for our new church van!



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



During the month of December, the children and youth had the opportunity to participate in worship by acolyting, singing and playing music, and reading the liturgy and lighting the candles on the advent wreath. As we pass through the Christmas season and into Epiphany, we take the light of Christ's love, of God made flesh, into the world, knowing that hope, joy and peace are ours in Christ Jesus.

"Love Drawn Here," Sarah Are

I know love's real,
for I have felt it in my bones
the way the cold air finds my lungs
and music finds my memories—
Certainly and entirely.

And I know winter is real,
for I have worn grief like a blanket—
A blanket of what once was,
covering my bony elbows
and forgotten smile lines.

Somewhere in between
those certain realities,
I find myself wishing on shooting stars
and wondering if they were the same ones
that Jesus slept under.
I find myself whistling,
"O come, O come, Emmanuel,"
Followed shortly by, "All is calm, all is bright."

It's the melodic rotation I live in—
Joy and doubt.
Light and night.
Love and grief.
You alone and you with me.

So I'll never stop waiting for Christmas.
Every day I'll rise with the sun
and pray that today it will be Christmas again,
that today will be a day when you are here,
when you are near me,
when the blanket is ripped away to reveal the light
and my smile lines have reason to bow again.

Then the stars fall,
the sun rises,
and in my heart of hearts,
I know it is.
For ever since that day
so many moons ago,
nothing has been able to separate us from your love.

And so I say—
I know love's real,
for I have felt it in my bones.
All is calm. All is bright.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DATES FOR JANUARY

Please note:

- ◆ No Sunday School or Youth Group on Sunday, January 6
- ◆ No Breakfast with Lee this month because of the ski trip
- ◆ No Youth Group on Sunday, January 20 because of MLK holiday



January 9: Parents' Afternoon Out, 4:30 p.m.

January 23: Parents' Afternoon Out, 4:30 p.m.

January 11-13: Ski trip to Wintergreen, VA

January 27: Youth Group at church. Middle School meets at 4:45, joint dinner at 5:30, and the High School meets at 6:00 p.m.



Please check out these scholarship opportunities!

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 May 6. Questions can be directed to Sydney Phillips at sydphillips@msn.com.



Children and Youth engaged in the Christmas Spirit!





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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.



Covenant Homes

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, knick-knacks, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, word search books, crossword puzzles, hand lotions, shampoo, anything useful.

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



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

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, January 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the
home of Frances Guerry.



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



TROOP 7 NEWS



What a busy year for the troop! We had six scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout this year. Starting from the left, we had Owen Lord, Chandler Gazaway, Ethan Everett, Paul Larimer, Edward Barnhill IV and Ben Melnyk. Projects completed helped Peacemakers, YMCA afterschool program, Covenant Homes, Bryant T. Aldridge Rehabilitation Center, First United Methodist Church and St. Andrews Episcopal Church. All together these young men raised over \$35,000 and had over 2,000 man hours in completion of their projects! Troop 7 has been very good to our community. Our church can be very proud of the work these young men have done and how it reflects on our church.



TROOPS 434 AND 55 NEWS



Both Girl Scout troops enjoyed Christmas parties at Ichiban. Cookies have been ordered and we are excited about the upcoming sale in January!



**Welcome
Our New
Member**

We would like to introduce you to our newest church member who joined December 16, 2018, Dianne Davis. Dianne has been a long time devoted attendee of our church worship services and Sunday School classes with her friend Patsy Manning. Dianne was born and raised in Bertie County/Windsor, NC. She has lived in Eastern NC all her life but moved to Rocky Mount in 2004. She was her father's caregiver until his passing. She previously worked for the Department of Agriculture in the Cooperative Grading Service of Peanuts. Dianne has 2 sisters and 1 brother, and grandnieces and nephews who live in the Windsor/Edenton areas. She has a beloved rescue cat names "Bettie Davis" because of her bright green eyes. Ironically she was named before she made her new home with Dianne Davis! Dianne is so glad to be a part of the First Presbyterian Church family.

Presbyterian Women Update

This past year we celebrated the 30th anniversary of PW. Of course, church women have been active, and faithful for generations. In fact, the first Presbyterian women's organization began in the early 19th century. Bible Study and "hands on mission work", plus women's leadership roles as Deacons, Elders, and Ministers highlighted the fact that women are the highest financial support of the PCUSA Mission Budget.

PW are mindful that we are never alone on our faith journey. Maintaining and preserving the history of the PW congregations, Presbytery, Synods, and National levels is a meaningful task for leadership at all levels of PW. (There is that connectional reminder.)

PW Historians in congregations send in annual reports to the PW of New Hope, (PWP), and the Historical Society, the PWP historian sends her report to the PWS, her report then goes to the Churchwide historian, all done as good Presbyterians say, "decent and in order".

Frances Guerry is historian for FPC. She has been busy collecting info all year and will submit her report to the PWP Historian in January. We celebrate our past and look forward to the future with your participation, prayers, and support.

In January, Circle of Friends will welcome our new circle moderator, Myra Richardson. Myra has been a long time member and attending the Circle of Friends for several years.

- ◆ PW Coordinating Team: Monday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the History Room.
- ◆ Circle of Friends: Monday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Glover,. Laura Durham will lead the Bible Study.
- ◆ Circle of J.O.Y.: Tuesday, January 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the Session Room at the church with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick leading the Bible Study.

2018-19 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator

Diane Dixon, Vice-Moderator

Tempie Fuller, Secretary

Frances Guerry, Historian

Sylvia Phillips, Together in Service

Myra Richardson, Circle of Friends Leader

Martha Tesoro, Treasurer

Laura Durham, Spiritual Nurture

Edie Reeves, Together in Service

Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader



Logan Neal Sharpe, son of Jay and Elizabeth Sharpe, was baptized on December 2, 2018. He is the grandson of Walt and Cleve Wiggins, and nephew of Katherine and Mike Fisher.



Georgia Anne Cahoon, daughter of Jodie and Liz Cahoon, was baptized on December 16, 2018. She is the granddaughter of Nancy Richardson.



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*



January 6, 2019

****Officer Installation and Communion served by trays****

Head Usher: Greg Hutchins

Ushers: Carol Hutchins, David Dudley, Laura Dudley, Walt Wiggins

Greeter: Katherine Fisher

Liturgist: Tim Smith

Children's Sermon: Mary Scott

Nursery Helper: staff

Communion Preparers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Laura Durham

Communion Servers: Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Joe Brown, Laura Durham, Sonny Foster, Roslyn Gragg, Greg Hutchins, Catherine Lilley, Lisa Rowe, Steve Rowe

January 13, 2019

Head Usher: Greg Hutchins

Ushers: Carol Hutchins, David Dudley, Laura Dudley, Walt Wiggins

Greeter: Katherine Fisher

Liturgist: Anne Mosley

Children's Sermon: Scott Solether

January 20, 2019

Head Usher: Mike Gaynor,

Ushers: Anna Brooks Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer

Greeter: Sarah Bailey

Liturgist: David Farris

Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

January 27, 2019

Head Usher: Mike Gaynor,

Ushers: Anna Brooks Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer

Greeter: Sarah Bailey

Liturgist: Russell Proctor

Children's Sermon: Jim Lilley

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 to help take down the decorations in the sanctuary and chapel starting at 10:30 a.m.



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.



Dear First Presbyterian,
I want to thank the congregation for all the support and acts of kindness shown to me and my family during my daughter, Katherine Fountain Belk's, sickness and death. You have supported us in many ways with your thoughts and prayers, calls, and many cards expressing your condolences. Katherine was born and raised in this church and she always had great love for this congregation. You are a great, loving and caring congregation, and we thank you for all that you do in support of your members.

Fondly,
Richard (Dick) Fountain

It was my pleasure to receive a meal for Thanksgiving from your church. Thank you so much. It was enjoyed and appreciated.

My thanks,
Doreen Gibson

Dear Handcraft Ministry,
Thank you all for the beautiful blanket to celebrate the birth of our daughter, Quinn Davis. We greatly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Blessings,
Anna and Will Davis

First Presbyterian,
Your prayers have sustained us and brought us peace through a challenging few weeks. Scott and Preston were there praying with us. We are so thankful for them. We have read and reread your cards and their messages which were so uplifting. Laura Dudley arrived at Bryant Aldridge with the most beautiful flowers arranged by Georgia Mixon which brought joy to us and others there. Then the centerpiece of our Christmas has been the fantastic Gingerbread House made by Maddie and delivered by Sylvia Phillips. Our church is filled with love and compassion and we are grateful for you and are blessed to be part of this church family.

With love in Christ,
Lloyd and Sarah Bailey



Dear FPC,
Thank you for the sweet treats and wishes during our final exams. Your package was a delightful surprise during such a busy time!

Thanks again,
Anna and Emily Gold

Dear Church Family,
Jim and I are so fortunate to be members of a church that has enveloped our boys and us in so many loving and thoughtful ways. We were so happy to receive the lovely church flowers when Thomas was born. We have all enjoyed bundling Thomas in the soft blue crocheted blanket and hat that our church gave us! We are so grateful for all of the kindnesses show to us! John at 26 months of age thinks that we had Thomas just for him and calls him "my Baby Thomas." We are so blessed to raise our children in such a wonderful church family.

Love,
Liz and Jim Woodard

Dear Friends,
Thank you to everyone for the hugs, cards, call and the love from the congregation since the death of my sister, Rebecca. We were fortunate to have her for 93 years. This is a loving, caring congregation and I am fortunate to be a part of it.

Love,
Mary Watson

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for the flowers. They brightened my day. I am so grateful for such a caring church and I thank you for thinking of me.

Hannah Diedrick



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:

January 13
January 20
January 27



- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Dick Fountain upon the death of his daughter, Katherine Fountain Belk, on December 1, 2018.



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
Lloyd Bailey
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
Richard Joyner (friend of the church)
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

*tidings
OF
COMFORT
AND
JOY*



“But the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’” Luke 2:10-11