



First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

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

February 2019



Charity Lodge



I would like to continue introducing the staff of First Presbyterian Church. Charity Lodge is our housekeeper and nursery attendant. Unless you have children in the nursery or show up at the church early in the morning during the week, you might not have run into Charity. She does her work long before most of us arrive at church. If you do have contact with her, you will be met by a very cheerful greeting and a smiling face. Charity is always quick to help and thorough in her work. It is very evident that she cares about people and takes her job seriously. Charity is the longest serving member of our staff and will celebrate 35 years with us soon. Or, better yet, WE are thankful for her many years of faithful service to this church and to the families that she has so lovingly cared for. If you do run into Charity some early morning or on Sunday near the nursery, thank her for being a part of First Presbyterian Church and for her faithfulness to us.

Scott



<i>Interim Pastor:</i> The Rev. Dr. Scott Solether		<i>Parish Associate:</i> The Rev. Dr. Preston Smith
<i>Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator:</i> Lydia Wingo Kane		<i>Church Ministry Coordinator:</i> Dionne Seale
<i>Financial Secretary:</i> Jeanne T. Shannon	<i>Director of Music:</i> Jim Smith	
<i>Sexton:</i> Michael Smith	<i>Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:</i> Charity Lodge	<i>Organist:</i> Virginia Vance
		<i>Nursery Assistant:</i> Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship

...with First Presbyterian!



BROWN BAG Bible Study

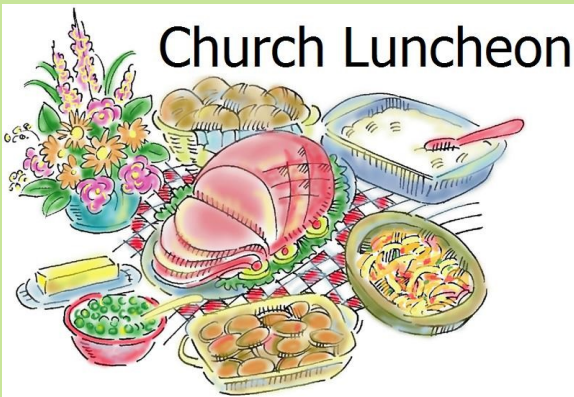
Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in the Session room unless otherwise

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.



Church Luncheon

*February 24, 2019
immediately after worship*

The Outreach Committee would like to invite one and all to a luncheon after church on Sunday, February 24. The menu will include ham, potato salad, broccoli casserole, sweet potato casserole, deviled eggs, rolls and pie. Our Please join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship in Lacy Hall. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Richard Joyner, will give us an update on the Conetoe Family Life Center.



The In-Betweens will gather at the home of Martha Tesoro on Saturday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. with Sylvia Phillips co-hosting. The menu is chili and sausage-potato soup. Call Martha and let her know what you will add to the menu by Wednesday, February 20.



Monday, February 11 at noon Church Parlor

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

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 December, 2018

Month – to – date \$ 93,526.00

Year – to – date \$ 686,132.96

Expenses through December, 2018

Month – to – date \$ 52,102.71

Year – to – date \$ 604,735.34



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 Tuesday, January 16, 2019 and welcomed the newly installed elders.

- Communion schedule was approved for 2019
- Gordon Vestal reported that the organ repairs are on schedule
- Diane Dixon reported that Peacemakers will be hosting a Book party on Feb 16 and needs volunteers
- Sydney Phillips reported that the Christian Education committee needs new members
- Winslow Rogers reported that the Stewardship campaign was successful but that there are still 25 outstanding pledges. Please get your pledges in to Jeanne Shannon if you have not done so
- There will be a congregational meeting on February 17 to present the church's annual report and elect the nominating committee. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, please contact the church office.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk

COMMITTEE CHAIR TRAINING EVENT

All First Presbyterian Church officers and committee chairpersons should have received an invitation to attend an important training event on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Session Room (if not please notify Dionne Seale.) Please designate a substitute from your committee to attend if unable to come. The goal of the training will be to inform you on best practices to better:

PLAN COMMUNICATE FOLLOW THROUGH

Important information will be shared regarding planning for the year, understanding your budget, and revising policies for your committee in the church manual that may need updating.

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

Children

"When he saw all the people, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless—they seemed to Jesus like sheep without a shepherd." Matthew 9:36

In this new year, the focus for the children's ministry will continue to be prayer in action. We will continue to meet together in Sunday school and Parents' Afternoon Out with the intent of helping our children grow into a spiritual world of their own rich with stories, religious language, and models of prayer. We are setting the stage for deepening spirituality. We will focus on the actions of our faith in this half of our church year by learning about compassion and using Jesus as our model.

Parents, these are the Bible stories that will carry us through this season of ordinary time, through Lent, and into the Easter season. Please read them and talk about them with your children at home. Also make prayer a family habit. Pray at meals, pray at bedtime, or pray any time you remember! The most important part of modeling prayer in action for your children is to do this spiritual practice together.

Matthew 9:35-38 Christ is our shepherd and takes time to have compassion by noticing us.

Mark 10:17-27 God has compassion for us even when we struggle to follow God's will for us.

Luke 7:11-17 We can practice empathy in interacting with others, just like Jesus.

John 5:1-9 We are called to compassion, even if others say it's the wrong thing to do. God's voice guides us above all others.

Youth

Last fall at youth group, we began to learn about keeping God's time and about Sabbath rest. We looked at "God's time" by exploring the Christian calendar and comparing it to the youth's busy calendars that include school, sports and extracurriculars, studying, work and more. We asked the questions, "How many calendars do you keep?" and next, "How do we bring God's promised future into our present?" We all agreed worship is our opportunity to bring God's kingdom into reality each week. Next we talked about the meaning of Sabbath and took the time to practice Sabbath rest. We tried to answer this question: "How do you think that practicing Sabbath rest might challenge the way we currently live our lives?" This winter, the Christian Education Committee would like to invite you to examine your family's calendars. We would like to challenge you to make God's time your family's priority. This will look different for different families, but we do hope that prioritizing God's time and making Sabbath rest a family habit will bring you back to the place where we experience God's kingdom each week when we gather to worship. We challenge you to sit down with your youth and choose at least two dates each month that he or she, or your whole family, can attend worship or another youth group event.

Here is a prayer for your family to use when you sit down to look at your calendars together:

"O God, giver of all good gifts, we give you thanks for the gift of time. Though you are beyond time, you blessed and fulfilled time by entering into it through none other than our Lord Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, help me to live as if time belongs to you alone and to receive each day with gratitude and hopeful expectation." Amen. (*Holy Things for Youth Ministry*, Hardesty-Crouch & Edie).

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DATES FOR FEBRUARY



February 13: Parents' Afternoon Out Valentine's Party at Covenant Homes, 4:00 p.m.

February 27: Parents' Afternoon Out at the church, 4:30 p.m.

February 3: Devo @ Dunkin, Middle School 3:30 p.m. and High School 4:30 p.m.

February 8: HS Breakfast @ Highway Diner, 6:15 a.m.

February 10: Youth will shop to collect supplies for the Covenant Homes Valentine's party. More details to come!

February 17: No Youth Group, Presidents' Day Holiday

February 24: HS YMCA event with Wesleyan Students, 3:30-5:30 p.m. MS @ Rocky Mount Event Center Indoor Adventure, 4:00-5:00 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 of the above are in the church office and the deadline is May 6. Questions can be directed to Sydney Phillips at sydpillips@msn.com.

PWP Scholarship: The Presbyterian Women of New Hope Presbytery scholarship application for 2019 is available from the church office or contact Dionne Seale to have one emailed to you. Applicants must live in the Presbytery and be a member of a church in the Presbytery. Completed application are due Regina Wade with the PWP by March 1, 2019.



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.



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 useful prizes include:** small containers of clothing or dish detergent, dryer sheets, food items—cookies, candy, crackers, bars, etc.

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

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.**



First Presbyterian Church is helping Peacemakers with their Book Party on **February 16** from 10:00—1:30. We need a few more people to help set up, help children pick out books to take home, play games, and to serve pizza. Both adults and high school youth volunteers can join the fun. A volunteer application needs to be filled out and returned by **February 7**. Adult volunteers also need to provide a copy of their driver's license. These applications are in Diane Dixon's church mailbox and should be returned to her mailbox no later than February 7.



TROOP 7 NEWS

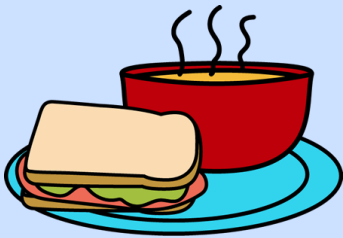
A lot happens during a weekend campout. Troop 7 recently camped at Camp Charles in Bailey, North Carolina. During the course of the weekend we "retired" a bunch of US flags given to us from church members and the community. After the flags are burned, the ashes are given a proper burial. We chose a place overlooking the lake. In addition, the scouts learned wilderness survival skills such as fire building, the steps to follow if lost and emergency shelter building. We also knew a storm was coming so all scouts inspected their tents which was a good thing. We had 50 mile per hour gusts and heavy rains. The only scout to get wet was, you guessed it, Scoutmaster Lane! (Practice what you preach).



Girl Scout Troops 434 and 55 News

It's cookie time! Please contact the Girl Scouts if you are interested in buying cookies. We use our profits for causes such as stocking food bags, helping our friends in Conetoe, and completing our badges. We have eight types of cookies, and they are all \$4 per box.

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon January 13, 2019



A cold and rain Sunday found 38 friends enjoying soup and sandwiches in the fellowship hall. Lunches were fixed and delivered to 19 shut-ins. Thanks to all the cooks for preparing such a delicious winter lunch!



Presbyterian Women Update

Presbyterian Women in the congregation elects its own leadership, the Coordinating Team (PWCT), usually at our May Annual/Birthday meeting. The PWCT plans and implements a yearly program and has its own budget.

We meet in two circles and maintain ongoing activities such as Bible Study, celebration giving, and special ministries to the congregation and community.

We support the mission of the PCUSA worldwide through education and financial & material gifts.

We develop and encourage the leadership abilities of women. We maintain connections with PW at other levels of our connectional church, such as the PW Presbytery Spring and Fall Gatherings, as well as the Synod Summer Gathering and church wide gatherings.

There is a need and a place at the table for everyone and everyone is welcome.

- ◆ PW Coordinating Team: Monday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the History Room.
- ◆ Circle of Friends: Monday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Kay Wester and Chris Feno at Kay's home. Judy Glover will lead the lesson.
- ◆ Circle of J.O.Y.: Tuesday, February 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the Session Room at the church with the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick leading the lesson.

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

SOCK DRIVE



FOR THE
HOMELESS

The Circle of Friends have a "Socks for the Homeless" project going on through February 10. They are asking for donations of new dark colored tube socks. Please place socks in either the basket in the narthex vestibule or the bin in the church volunteer office.

The Handcraft Ministry

will meet on

Wednesday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Laura Dudley.



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



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*



February 3, 2019

****Communion served by intinction****

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Virginia Feagans, Tim Hathaway, Bridget Hathaway, Heather Gardner

Greeter: Patsy Manning

Liturgist: Lige Daughtridge

Children's Sermon: Scott Solether

Nursery Helper: Laura Dudley

Communion Preparer: Marianne Farris

Communion Servers: Linda Amerson, Joe Brown, Marianne Farris, Andy Warner

February 10, 2019

****Scout Sunday****

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Scouts

Greeters: Scouts

Children's Sermon: Scouts

February 17, 2019

Head Usher: Steve Rowe

Ushers: Lisa Rowe, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Winslow Rogers

Greeter: Dionne Seale

Liturgist: Richard Hunt

Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

February 24, 2019

Head Usher: Greg Hutchins

Ushers: Carol Hutchins, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Jim Woodard

Greeter: Liz Woodard

Liturgist: Dee Whitley

Children's Sermon: Lydia Wingo Kane

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, ext. 21 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date.



CONTACT DIRECTORIES ARE BEING UPDATED and will be distributed after the February 17 congregational meeting. If you do not have email or did not receive the email instructions on how to verify your contact info, please call or stop by the church office by Feb. 7 to verify your information with Dionne Seale!

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 Church Family,

I am so grateful for the many times you have sent your love and well wishes over the past few weeks. Preston's visit was delightful, as well as, Annie's delivery of a beautiful vase of flowers on a cold winter day! All of your wonderful cards and prayers have certainly cheered me on towards a speedy recovery. Thank you for your genuine care and concern. It has been such a blessing and is truly appreciated.

Fondly,
Mary Scott

Dear Presbyterian Women,
You are so supportive of all of us who aren't able to participate in the many activities the church offers.

Surely you must know how much you are loved and appreciated!

Thank you for the delivered Thanksgiving meal, brought by Sylvia. It was delicious! The many cards you sent me reminded me of the love you share with me and many more inactive members.

Sending me the First Pres Newsletter keeps me up to date. Thanks so much!

Hopefully, I will be able to attend worship services in the near future.

Much love,
Sandra Luther

Dear FPC,

Thank you for the Thanksgiving meal, the gifts of Christmas, brought to me. I am so very thankful for everything the ladies and gents of the Presbyterian Church provided for me—for all of us! We are so lucky to live in such a nice, well kept place, to also have a "crackerjack" administrator! Love her!

With Christian love and thanks,
Carolyn D. Parker
Covenant Homes resident

Dear FPCRM,

Thank you so much for thinking of me over Finals and the start of the Christmas season! It was such a great surprise to get a package from you that had so many of my favorite candies—my friends thank you, too! I can't think of other churches that offer this kind of support to their away-at-college- members. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much, again.

Grace Warner



**Welcome
Our New
Member**

We would like to introduce you to our newest church member who joined January 20, 2019, Judy N. Smith. Judy has been attending FPC for almost 2 years. Judy joins FPC via transfer of letter from Falkland Presbyterian Church where she was an active member of the choir and the Care Committee. Judy comes from Lenoir County near the little town of Deep Run. She was a farm girl who attended ECU and became an educator. Judy taught in several school systems from Carteret to Wake County. Judy is now retired and hangs out with Preston Smith on their motorcycles and she likes to travel. She also enjoys playing bridge with some of the FPC ladies.

Judy is married to Preston (Parish Associate and retired hospital chaplain) and the mother of three children and 5 grandchildren. Judy and Preston have been residents of Rocky Mount since 1981. We welcome Judy to the FPC family and look forward to her getting involved with the ministry of this congregation.



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:

February 3, February 10 (Scout Sunday),
February 17, February 24

We have a secret!

I think you know that Scott (Interim Pastor) and I (Parish Associate) are here to be a pastoral and spiritual guide for all members of First Presbyterian Church. When we know of your need, we respond via a visit, telephone call, text or email. Even with our best intention we sometimes miss connecting with you in a timely manner.

It is my belief that all members are important and deserve to be thought of and prayed for with or without a life crisis.

As a Presbyterian Church, we are organized with leaders who are called by God through the voice of the congregation. Elders and Deacons fulfill this role. They are both managers of our resources and spiritual supporters of the congregation. FPC families are grouped into 12 units and each Deacon has agreed to add another layer of support to the people on their "Kinship" list. As volunteers they will not camp out on your doorsteps but sincerely want to get to know you and demonstrate the meaning of being a family. They simply want to know and care for you as a sister or brother.

Now for our well kept secret! Did you know you had a Deacon? Who is your Deacon? **Check the Kinship insert in this bulletin.** I invite you to also reach out to your Deacon and let them know you want to help support and strengthen the church family by knowing them.

I like the song by Sister Sledge "We are family, I got all my sisters (and brothers) with me, we are family get up ev'rybody and sing..." I invite us all to sing the importance of being a member of the FPC family as well as God's family!

Peace and blessing,

Preston Smith



*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

Mike Braswell

Ted Churn (Executive Presbyter)

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Augusta Daniel

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Wilda Jenkins

Jean Kitchin

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

Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)

Mary Scott

Maida Sessoms

Clevie Wiggins

Susan Yenney



Youth Ski Trip Fun!
January 11-13, 2019



**PASTOR
 NOMINATING
 COMMITTEE**

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been actively reviewing Pastor Information Forms (PIF's) for the past month. Over 100 PIF's have been submitted in response to our Ministry Information Form. Several candidates have emerged from this process. Our next step is to conduct personal interviews with those candidates that appear to be the "best fit" for our church. We will continue to accept applicants until we have made a selection. The PNC has worked closely with our Presbytery (Ted Churn) and Scott has provide invaluable advice through the process in an effort to identify the best possible minister for our church's future.

***Mark your calendars for our annual
 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!***

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019
 6:00 p.m.**



***Volunteers are needed to bring fresh fruit
 salads and breakfast casseroles!***

**Please sign up on the bulletin board across
 from the Session Room.**