



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

March 2019

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

“And now for something different.” (From *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*) The Session recently voted to initiate a *Fifth Sunday Worship* experience on Sunday, March 31st. What is it? It is an opportunity to experience worship in a different way. The plans for that Sunday are still in the works, but it will look something like this: We will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 AM on that Sunday; it will begin with fellowship for all including brunch; worship will take place at the tables; we will sing, pray, hear God’s word and discuss what we can do and be to become an *Inviting Church* as well as a *Welcoming Church*. You are invited to come in casual dress for the day and bring your ideas on reaching out. The message will be presented in the form of feedback based on Scripture in which you will be encouraged to discuss the right questions about transformation.

An example of the wrong question is this: “How do we do things like the Baptists and the charismatic churches who are growing?” But rather: “How do we as a Presbyterian congregation become more open and inclusive in our worship, mission, and church life that others might be drawn into our worshipping community?” “That, detective, is the right question.” (From the movie, *I Robot*)

We hope to plan future Fifth Sunday Worship services during the year. These may or may not be in the sanctuary. They may follow closely with our regular service or

be a little different. “*Don’t Panic!*” (From *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*)

This is not an attempt to get rid of or replace the traditional service of this church with a “contemporary” one. I hope you come with an open mind, excitement about your church, and a desire for sharing the good news of God’s gracious love to a hurting world. You should be expecting a call in the near future from an Elder or Deacon personally inviting you to attend!

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!



March 17, 2019

immediately after worship

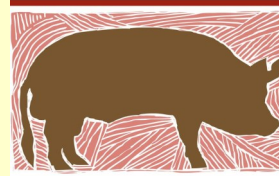
The Outreach Committee would like to invite one and all to a luncheon after church on Sunday, March 17. The menu will include fried chicken, corn, butter beans, potato salad, deviled eggs, rolls and sheet cake. Please join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship in Lacy Hall. Our guest speakers will include Jackie and Mickey Bailey and they will give us an update on Agape Village Orphanage and School. **Please notify the church office if you plan to attend!** There will be a bucket brigade during worship to collect loose change (and cash) to support this ministry.

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. Upcoming programs include:
 March 6—will not meet due to Ash Wednesday Service
 March 13—Love Does Bible Study*
 March 20—Love Does Bible Study*
 March 27—Love Does Bible Study*
 *It is not necessary to purchase Love Does for the study.

Lunch



Bunch

**Monday, March 18 at noon
Church Parlor**

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy bbq, slaw, baked beans, hush puppies 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!

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 January, 2019	
Month – to – date	\$ 157,643.03
Year – to – date	\$ 157,643.03

Expenses through January, 2019	
Month – to – date	\$ 48,695.18
Year – to – date	\$ 48,695.18



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, February 19, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- The property committee is working with our insurance carrier and the city regarding a fire alarm system for the church. This is an extensive project the insurance carrier will require.
- Janice Smith and Dee Whitley will represent the church at the Presbytery Meeting on February 23, 2019 at Kirk of Kildaire in Cary, NC.
- Mike Gaynor was elected to serve as Clerk for 2019 and Julia Brown was elected to serve as Treasurer for 2019.
- The session voted to approve a brainstorming gathering on Sunday March 31, 2019 from 10 AM to Noon. We will meet in Lacy Hall to discuss the future of First Presbyterian Church. You will receive more information in the near future but please be thinking about and praying about the things that the church does well and the things that the church needs to improve on. We are trying to look at ways that we can keep our current members engaged and ways to attract new members. This will be an informal meeting where you may come as you are with open minds and open mouths. We welcome all feedback. We will worship informally and brunch will be served. Please mark this on your calendar as an important date in the life of the church and make every effort to attend.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



SPRING FORWARD!
Daylight Saving Time
begins on Sunday,
March 10 so be sure
to move your clocks

ahead an hour before going to bed
Saturday the 9th.



**Ash Wednesday
Service
March 6, 2019
5:30 p.m. in the
Chapel**

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

The youth and children will be active in service and worship this Lenten season. The children will bury their alleluias after the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner and wait for the buried alleluia seeds to sprout for Easter. They will also be helping to place a bee box from Conetoe Family Life Center on the roof of the church. Be sure to look out the window when you are passing through the second story hallway of the Christian Education building!

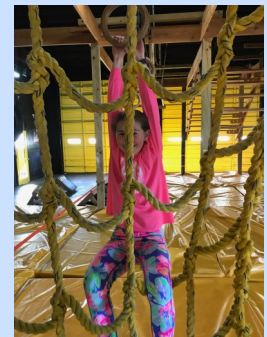


Our youth will begin this Lent with a full day of Mission as Worship. We will welcome Linda Harding from Raleigh Youth Mission to FPC on March 3 to lead us in a day of active worship. The youth have adopted a spot for the Keep America Beautiful Program, which will be the center of our worship on this day. We will also continue our active worship through planning the Easter Egg Hunt (coming up on Palm Sunday) and beginning to plan for Youth Sunday in May.

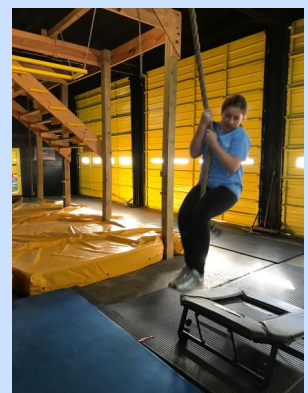
Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



UBW



The Middle School youth had a blast at Ultimate Backyard Warriors on Sunday, February 24!



UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DATES FOR MARCH



March 5: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Parade, 6:00 p.m.

March 20: Parents' Afternoon Out at the church (Flowers and Bees), 4:30 p.m.

March 3: Raleigh Youth Mission @FPC, 9:45-3:00 (Linda from RYM will lead middle and high school youth in a program called "Mission as Worship")



March 8: HS Breakfast with Lee @ Highway Diner, 6:15 a.m.

March 10: Devo @Dunkin, 3:30 Middle School, 4:30 High School

March 17: Luncheon at church—Agape Village

March 24: Youth Group @FPC, 4:45 Middle School, dinner at 5:30, 6:00 High School

March 24: Youth Group @FPC, 4:45 Middle School, dinner at 5:30, 6:00 High School



Parents' Afternoon Out kids spread God's love and cheer with Covenant Homes at their Valentine's Party on February 13!



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 sydphillips@msn.com.



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. **Learn more about this ministry at the Outreach luncheon on March 17!**

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 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.**

The Handcraft Ministry

will meet on
Wednesday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the
home of Pam Gragg.



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



TROOP 7 NEWS

“Cheerful Service”. This is Scoutmaster Lane’s mantra to our scouts. We teach them that giving back to community is what we should do and when you do, it needs to be with a cheerful heart. Troop and Cub Scout Pack 7 have been a good examples of service this past year. During our recent “Scouting for Food” weekend, combined the Troop and Pack collected over 1,900 pounds of food that was donated to local shelters. The young cubs also collected supplies for the hurricane victims on the coast. In addition, they have been cleaning around the church grounds, playground and even cleaned and sanitized the nurse toys.

Troop 7 Eagle scouts raised over \$34,000 and contributed 975 man hours to various projects for our community. Projects helped Covenant Homes, Peacemakers, YMCA after school program, Bryant T. Aldridge Rehabilitation Center, 1st United Methodist Church Preschool and Saint Andrews Episcopal Church.

Hopefully as these young scouts become adults they will remember to continue to help their community with “Cheerful Service”.

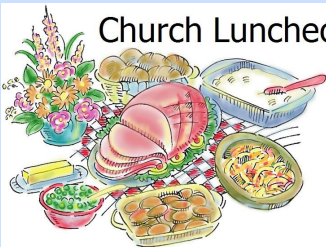


Girl Scout Troops 434 and 55 News

Cookie sales are ending March 4, and we appreciate the support of the congregation. Both troops are helping with the decorations for Vacation Bible School and are excited about that project. Scout Sunday was a success, and we enjoyed being a part of it!



Church Luncheon



Outreach Luncheon February 24, 2019

Seventy-five people from our congregation and Conetoe Family Life Center gathered in Lacy Hall after church for great food and fellowship. The Rev. Richard Joyner gave us an update on the fabulous things taking place in Conetoe and Rocky Mount. The Outreach Committee thanks all those involved in making this time together so special.



Presbyterian Women Update

Most of you are familiar with the PW Birthday offering in the spring and the Thank Offering in the fall, but do you know that at each circle meeting we bring our “Least Coin Offering”? The “Least Coin” is first and foremost a prayer movement of women from more than 80 countries. We set aside the least coin (yes, our pennies) of our country, for support of women and children. Funds are collected regionally, but the total income from each area is not publicized. Grants are distributed through the International Committee for the Least Coin. This fund is used for ministries of mercy on every continent, for Christian Communities across national, racial, economic and denominational lines to work for justice and peace throughout the world.

Despite the cold, wind, rain and snow, our Circles are enjoying the warm fellowship of Bible Study with “God’s Promise, I am with You.”

- ◆ PW Coordinating Team: Monday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the History Room.
- ◆ Circle of Friends: Monday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Mary Lou Fountain and Bridget Hathaway at Mary Lou’s home along with co-host Myra Richardson leading the Bible Study.
- ◆ Circle of J.O.Y.: Tuesday, March 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



The Circle of Friends made sock kits for the homeless containing new socks, a bottle of water, hard candy and crackers or breakfast bars. We had fun putting the kits together. Thanks to all the members of First Presbyterian who contributed to our project.



These gentlemen helped carry in the kits to the United Community Ministries.



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*

March 3, 2019

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

Head Usher: Tim Lane

Ushers: Jeannie Lane, Randy Evans, John Etheredge, Laura Rogers

Greeter: Linda Evans

Liturgist: Catherine Lilley

Time with Children: Mary Scott

Nursery Helper: Linda Amerson

Communion Preparers: Marianne Farris, John Etheredge

Communion Servers: Suzanne Buchanan, Bill Buchanan, Marianne Farris, John Etheredge

March 10, 2019

****Daylight Saving Time Begins– so Spring Forward an hour!****

Head Usher: Tim Lane

Ushers: Jeannie Lane, Randy Evans, John Etheredge, Dionne Seale

Greeter: Linda Evans

Liturgist: Mike Gaynor

Time with Children: Scott Solether

March 17, 2019

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Michael Mosley, Anne Mosley, Jim Woodard

Greeter: Liz Woodard

Time with Children: Randy Adams

March 24, 2019

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Michael Mosley, Anne Mosley, Winslow Rogers

Greeter: Laura Rogers

Liturgist: Tim Smith

Time with Children: Lydia Wingo Kane

March 31, 2019

10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Church-wide Fifth Sunday Worship Experience
with brunch served in the Fellowship Hall

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 were updated and distributed February 17. Extra copies are available in either the church office or on the Welcome Table in the narthex.

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.

What a nice surprise Sarah and I received when Frances Guerry came for a visit. Her visit was doubly special when she gave me a beautiful lap robe made by a member of our church Handcraft Ministry. Not only is it exceptionally done, but it is also warm. I began enjoying it while she was here and have been doing so since. First Presbyterian is a blessing to Sarah and me. I am grateful to be back in church and have been thankful for prayers, cards and delicious meals.

With love in Christ,
Lloyd Bailey

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your warm welcome to the church, Your gifts of phone calls, flowers, and love made my day! You are my new family!

Love,
Judy Smith

Dear Friends at First
Presbyterian,

I loved the beautiful and cheerful flowers that you sent me from the Sanctuary! They were such a bright spot in my recovery. I am getting better all the time, and your love and concern is priceless!

Warmly,
Jean Kitchin

Erma Jones
Dorothy Daughan
Mary Phillip
Verle Moore thank Love for all.
Evelyn Jarratt
Lucy Taylor
Cobie Letourneau
Evelyn Warren
Dixie Bass
Char Mathes
Evelyn Reese
Ernestine W. Barnes

Members of 1st Presbyterian Church,

Thank You to everyone
who has contributed Bingo
prizes for the residents
at Covenant Homes

Covenant Homes Staff
and Residents



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:

March 31

April 7

April 28



- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Steve Rowe and family upon the death of his uncle, John O. Morell, Jr. of Sterling, Virginia on January 29, 2019.



Donate towards a lily to celebrate a special loved one and/or special people in your life. The Presbyterian Women will place Easter lilies in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21. Donation envelopes will be available beginning March 17 from the welcome table in the narthex or the church office.

All proceeds will go to the Littrell/Thorpe Scholarship Fund which provides college financial assistance for youth in our church. A donation of \$18.00 or more per lily is appreciated. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with "Easter Lily" in the memo line. Completed envelopes with checks/cash enclosed can either be placed in the offering plate or in Dionne Seale's church box no later than April 14. You will also be asked to designate whether you plan to pick up your lily on Easter Sunday or allow it to be taken to one of our homebound members.



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

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 and Hodge 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

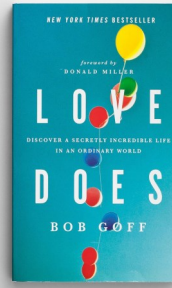
**Mark your calendars for our annual
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!**



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

**Volunteers are still needed to bring fresh
fruit salads and breakfast casseroles!
Please contact the church office if able to
bring one or both.**

All ages are invited!



NEW BIBLE STUDY
Join us for a five-week
Lenten Bible Study based
on the book Love Does by
Bob Goff!

This DVD and discussion based study will be offered on Wednesdays beginning March 13 and ending April 10 at either noon for the Ladies Bible Study or at 6:45 p.m. as part of the Wednesday Night Fellowship programming. Reading the book is optional, and you can either purchase it on your own or place an order with the facilitator, Dionne Seale, in the church office by March 3. The cost is \$13.50 made payable to First Presbyterian and can be paid when you pick up the book.



**PASTOR
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

The following are members of your Pastor Nominating Committee: Randy Adams, John Turnage, Annie Daughtridge, John Feagans, Anne Mosley, L. M. Barnes, Nancy Richardson, and Laura Durham.

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work! They are currently prayerfully conducting Skype interviews with candidates and continue to welcome your prayers for their committee work.



**SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019
10:00—12:00 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**PLEASE MAKE PLANS FOR ALL AGES TO
ATTEND THIS FIFTH SUNDAY GATHERING AND
ENJOY BRUNCH PRIOR TO SHARING A TIME OF
INFORMAL WORSHIP AS WE
DISCUSS THE FUTURE MINISTRY OF OUR
CHURCH.**

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED

**Beginning March 4, we will be emailing
daily prayers leading up to this gathering in
order to help our hearts and minds prepare.
Hard copies of these prayers will be available in
the narthex on Sundays for those
without email.**