



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

May 2019

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



Fifty Days of Easter

No, Easter is not over yet. We often think of Easter as one day in the Christian Calendar, but actually it is a season that lasts 50 days. Beginning with the Easter Vigil on the Saturday before Easter and lasting until Pentecost, “Eastertide” is the longest season of the Christian year. Pentecost means 50 days and was originally a harvest festival in the Jewish calendar and was celebrated 50 days after Passover. Celebrating Easter for fifty days is not duplicating Easter Sunday fifty times over, either. Rather, it’s taking time to reflect upon and delight in the truth of Easter and its implications for our lives. The basic truth of Easter is simple. In the classic litany of the church, it’s this: *Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!* On Easter Sunday, we celebrate this good news, rediscovering for ourselves what the earliest followers of Jesus realized on that first Easter Sunday. Yet the implications of the resurrection are more than we can adequately ponder on one day. It takes a season to think about all the things this great event has brought to us. But even that is not enough. Every Sunday can be thought of as an Easter Sunday and we could spend our lives thinking about the meaning of the resurrection.

So, happy Eastertide. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

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!

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:

May 1—Mark Stuart—What Is a Presbyterian, part 1

May 8— Mark Stuart—What Is a Presbyterian, part 2

May 15—Guest Speaker—TBA

May 22—Richard Joyner

May 22 will conclude the covered dish gatherings at the church until fall. For the remainder of the summer, make plans to gather at different locations for a meal together on Wednesday evenings:

May 29—6:00 p.m. Meet at the home of Gene and Sue Jackson with co-host Marie Kem.



**Monday, May 20 at noon
Church Parlor**

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy fried chicken and all the fixings. 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!

PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE

Outstanding Older Adult Recognition Service

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019
3:00 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church
Rocky Mount, NC

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 March 2019	
Month – to – date	\$ 29,041.67
Year – to – date	\$ 217,618.37
Expenses through March 2019	
Month – to – date	\$ 45,767.93
Year – to – date	\$ 150,618.66



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, April 16, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- Approval of a gift policy related to staff members and members of the congregation
- Approval of the renewal of Scott Solesher's contract for an additional 6 month period. The contract may be terminated by the session with 60 days' notice or by Scott with 30 days' notice.
- Approval of moving the worship time from 11:00 to 10:00 a.m. from May 26, 2019 through September 1, 2019

The session also discussed reconvening the committee who planned our 5th Sunday worship so that we may continue to discover ways to tell our story and explore all of the great things that we offer at First Presbyterian Church and to have other 5th Sunday services.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



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

As the church year draws to a close, the children and youth ministries would like to thank all of our volunteers. Each person was an essential piece in the puzzle!

Thank you to our elementary Sunday school teachers: Winnie Gaynor, Ann Dill, Cindy Feagans, Tricia Vestal and Dionne Seale.

Thank you to our middle school Sunday school teachers: Anne Mosley, Elizabeth Rose, and Christie Sondergard.

Thank you to our high school Sunday school teachers: Katherine Fisher, Mike Gaynor and John Turnage.

Thank you to our Parents' Afternoon Out volunteer, Diane Dixon.

Thank you to our children's choir directors: Brenda Crocker and Julia Brown.

Thank you to our Time with Children volunteers: Jim Lilley, Mary Scott, and Randy Adams.

Thank you to our youth mentors: Jim Lilley, JR Parks, Anne Mosley, Catherine Lilley, Beth Steed, Sally Adams, Lee Proctor, Laura Durham, Melanie Marshall Park, and Valerie Roberson.

Thank you to our youth advisors: Christie Sondergard, Martha Chesnutt, Taylor Phillips and Lee Proctor.

First Presbyterian Church's children and youth are nurtured by, learn from, and grow in their faith because of all of those named and the countless others who help in the nursery, provide meals, and volunteer at VBS and other children and youth programs. You are each an essential piece in our puzzle and we are grateful for you!

The children and youth had a wonderful time hunting eggs with our friends from Conetoe Missionary Baptist Church on April 14. The kids had so much fun hunting eggs on the playground and the youth did an excellent job leading the games and hosting the egg hunt. Thank you to all of the children, youth, and adults who helped!



At Parents' Afternoon Out on April 10, children heard the story of the Last Supper and learned about taking communion in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Welcome to the Table, Margaret, Elizabeth, Philip, and Cameron!

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DATES FOR MAY



May 8: Final Parents' Afternoon Out of the school year at 4:30 p.m.

May 3: HS Breakfast with Lee @ Highway Diner, 6:15 a.m.

May 5: Youth Group @FPC, 4:45 Middle School, dinner at 5:30, 6:00 High School; Youth Sunday planning.

May 11: High School Youth end of year trip to the Sondergards' at Lake Gaston—more info to come!

May 12: Youth Sunday



May 17: Middle School Youth End of Year Celebration—Cookie Class at Alimentaire Bakery. Meet at the church at 4:00 to carpool in the van and return around 6:30 p.m.

May 19: Graduates' Breakfast during Sunday School and presentation of Senior Bibles during worship.



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.



Join us for VBS!

June 10-14, 2019

8:45-12:00 daily

First Presbyterian Church

Ages 3 through completed 5th grade

Registration fee \$15 per child, max \$30 per family; scholarships available

Now through April 15, early bird registration for members of the sponsoring churches: Church of the Good Shepherd, First Presbyterian, Lakeside Baptist, St. Andrew's Episcopal, and West Haven Presbyterian. Open to the community April 15-May 30. Teachers, assistants and youth helpers needed!

Register at:

www.goodshepherdmt.org/vbs-registration/



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The following donations for the Agape Village Orphanage and School in Zambia would be greatly appreciated and can be placed in the blue shipping barrel in the narthex:

- Hardcover books for readers in grades 1-7. (They do not need any more younger children's books or board books, at this time.)
- Warm children's fleece jackets, sweatshirts, or sweaters for Zambian winter months of May and June
- Children's crew socks for school - White for girls and black for boys
- Children's underwear, ages 3-16. Colors are preferred over white
- Carolina blue polo shirts for boys and girls, short or long sleeves. (Children's xs, small, medium and large)
- Navy blue pants for boys, and navy blue uniform jumpers for girls
- Dry erase pens and dry erase board cleaner
- Bath towels and wash cloths



The Peacemakers Freedom School will begin June 17. We will be collecting snacks in the Volunteer office to help this ministry from now until the end of May. During the summer, they feed 240 children 2 snacks every day (plus breakfast and lunch) – that's almost 16,000 snacks over the seven-week program! Any individually wrapped snack item works and healthy items are especially welcomed!



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. **The students at Tar River Academy can really use drawstring backpacks. Donated backpacks can be placed in either the TRA bin in the narthex vestibule or the volunteer office.**

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.



FPC is in need of a volunteer to cover the red route on the 4th Tuesday each month.

We are also in need of subs! Please contact Kate Tharin at 904-6123 if able to assist! Just a reminder to First Presbyterian Meals on Wheels Volunteers: our delivery dates are the 4th Monday and the 4th Tuesday each month.



Girl Scout Troop 55 News

Troop 55 enjoyed delivering leftover cookies to the Bassett Center, United Community Ministries soup kitchen, Peacemakers, and the Boys' and Girls' Club. We are embarking on our Silver Award and will be working on that in Conetoe.

Troop 434 is in the beginning stages of starting work on Gold Awards. Please contact us if you know of places that could benefit from our projects. We enjoyed making cupcakes with leftover Girl Scout s'mores (see below)!



The Handcraft Ministry

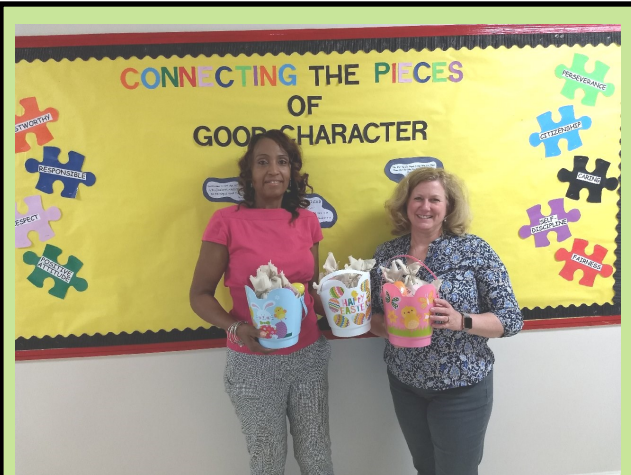
will meet on
Wednesday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the home
of Frances Guerry.



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



At left, Cooper Guerry received a pet blanket from the Handcraft Ministry following his recent leg injury.



Easter goodies were delivered to the staff and our friends at Tar River Academy as part of our continued Outreach efforts.

Presbyterian Women Update

As our circles complete our Bible Study, **God's Promise: I Am with You**, we wish to thank each of you who have presented and shared your knowledge and love of Bible Study. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will present our year end review during our Annual Meeting, May 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate another positive year. Our circles have averaged good attendance. The Circle of Friends even had perfect attendance at our February meeting. We have been mission minded in our projects, both locally and around the globe. As usual, our annual meeting (5/21) we will have the election of leaders, installation and rededications. We will honor one of our outstanding women with our Birthday Celebration. The circles will not meet during the summer months, but know that P.W. is always involved in activities in our connectional Church.

- ◆ **PW Coordinating Team:** Monday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the History Room.
- ◆ **Circle of Friends:** Monday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Mary Watson. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will be leading the Bible Study.
- ◆ **Circle of J.O.Y.:** Tuesday, May 14, 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

Welcome to our newest member!



Deborah Coffee joined the church on April 14, 2019 and was sponsored by Nancy Richardson.

Deborah recently retired from over 16 years of working in the food distribution industry in both logistics and finance. She moved to Rocky Mount from Swedesboro, New Jersey where she attended Southwood

Baptist Church in West Deptford, NJ. Her daughter lives in Yardley, PA with her husband and two daughters, and her son and his wife live in Phoenix, AZ. Having lived in many states while growing up and raising a family, she is glad to call North Carolina home at last.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PW Birthday Brunch

MAY 21, 2019
11:00 A.M.

SESSION ROOM

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE, FRUIT,
MUFFINS, SAUSAGE BALLS, AND OF
COURSE - BIRTHDAY CAKE!

Please sign up on the PW bulletin board or
let the church office know to count you in!



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*

May 5, 2019

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Laura Durham, David Dudley, Laura Dudley

Greeter: Besty McLean

Liturgist: Randy Adams

Time with Children: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Jay Gardner

May 12, 2019

****Youth Sunday****

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: FPC Youth

Greeters: FPC Youth

Liturgist: FPC Youth

Time with Children: FPC Youth

May 19, 2019

Head Usher: Russell Proctor

Ushers: Dionne Seale, Linda Amerson, Wicky Thorpe, Edie Reeves

Greeter: Sylvia Phillips

Liturgist: Russell Proctor

Time with Children: Mary Scott

May 26, 2019

****10:00 a.m.****

Head Usher: Tim Hathaway

Ushers: John Etheredge, Janice Smith, Diane Dixon, Tempie Fuller

Greeter: Hassell and Bobbi Weeks

Liturgist: David Farris

Time with Children: Scott Solether

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



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 Family,

Hodge and I are so grateful for the love, prayers, and kindness shown to us when we lost our home. It has all been such a shock to have this happen, but we know it was not a coincidence that I woke up just in time for us to have gotten out alive. Our dear neighbors the Rogers were right there to support us, feed us, and loan us clothes. Our home was demolished last week, and we are looking forward to rebuilding. Please know that through the grace of God we are and will be fine.

Love,
Jean and Hodge Kitchin

I would like to thank everyone for stepping out and helping me pay my rent.

Sincerely,
Dun-Tasia White
TRA Student who recently
received assistance

Dear Church Family,

For my 91st birthday, I had the best hamburger ever devised made by Hannah Diedrick. What she can do with her imagination and talent is beyond belief! An extra treat was a visit with Beth and Larry High when they delivered it. We First Presbyterian seniors are BLESSED to be celebrated in this way.

With love in Christ,
Lloyd Bailey



Dear Women of the Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the lovely message that I received from you.

I think that I am improving each day. I have had loving care from my family, friends and church so I know that the Lord has a plan for me.

Thank you for your prayers. I am greatly blessed.

Sincerely,
Polly Rowlett
(mother of Leigh Skeen)

To First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for supporting the students and staff at Tar River Academy.

Sincerely,
Jannis Jenkins
School Counselor



Flowers for the Sanctuary

Honor someone or mark a special occasion in the coming year by signing 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. Not only do we enjoy these flowers during worship, but they are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to those in need of cheer the following day. The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

May 5, 12, 26
All Sundays in June and July



- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Wilda Jenkins upon her death on March 30, 2019.
- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is also extended to Evelyn Reese upon the death of her brother, Bill Reese, on April 9, 2019.
- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is also extended to Gene Jackson upon the death of his brother in law, Clyde Patton of Manassas, Virginia, on April 10, 2019.
- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is also extended to Dianne Davis upon the death of her brother in law, Billy Dale, on April 11, 2019.
- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is also extended to the family of Liz Cole, who died on April 16, 2019 in Burlington, NC.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE— Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- ▶ Dick Fountain

HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Jim Blanchard
 Mayo & Jean Boddie
 Mike Braswell
 Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)
 Augusta Daniel
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
 Bettie Kirkpatrick
 Jean and Hodge Kitchin
 John McInnis (Jack Perry's brother-in-law)
 Georgia Mixon
 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)
 Maida Sessoms
 Sandy Thorpe
 Susan Yenney

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON & MUSIC

Join us immediately following worship for a meal catered by Hunter Hill Cafe and a concert of Broadway show tunes by our ECU choral scholars and Jennie Vance.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

Notify the church office at 446-9121, ext. 21 no later than May 8 if able to attend.

Menu: choice of pork chops, baked spaghetti, green beans, tossed salad, bread and dessert.

A definitive headcount is needed!



**Summer
Worship
Times**

Don't forget: We begin 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, May 26, 2019!



**PASTOR
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

Update: The PNC continues to work prayerfully and diligently on its search. The Committee has met personally with a few candidates and is in the process of scheduling additional visits.

The In-Betweens Fellowship Group gathered on April 13, 2019 in the home of Chris and Gerald Fenno, and were co-hosted by Kay Wester. Lots of good fellowship and great food was enjoyed by all!

