



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

**July 2019**

153 N. Church Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
[www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org)  
252-446-9121

## Preparing for New Leadership

As your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) draws closer to finding and presenting a candidate for your consideration, it is important to begin preparing for new leadership. There always seems to be some anxiety when an unknown is pending. If your committee truly reflects the makeup of the congregation, their reaction to the new pastor will be the same as the congregation. In other words, if the committee likes the candidate the congregation probably will as well. Trust the PNC.

Here are some words of advice to both the congregation and staff. First, be open to new ideas and new directions of leadership. Though comparisons will be made, do not expect the person to be like any other minister you have had, either positively or negatively. They will have their own style of ministry. Be open to that. Do not allow the "ghosts of pastors past" to influence how you evaluate the new minister.

Second, be careful of expectations for the pastor's family. Remember, you are calling the minister not the family. Be inviting, but let the minister's spouse and children decide how active they will be in the church and what roles they will play. Often, unreal expectations are placed on minister's families that are unhealthy.

Third, realize your role in ministry in this church and step up. Even if you are not able or willing to be an elder or deacon there is something you can contribute. The first is your regular attendance to all church functions as much as possible. This is your church, support it. Don't rely on the minister to do everything. God calls each of us to contribute to the ministry.

Remember that the success of a new call is a two way street. The minister has their responsibility and the congregation has theirs. I hope that you will support your new minister and commit yourself to the ministry of the 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!



- Tuesday, July 2—(6:00 p.m.)  
In-Betweens gathering at home of Bobbie Lambeth for a 4th of July Hot Dog Party. Call Bobbie to learn what you can bring.
- **Wednesday July 10** - (6:00 p.m.)  
Covered dish meal with Roz and Larry Gragg no response needed.
- **Wednesday, July 17** - (6:00 p.m.)  
Covered dish meal with Mary Watson, no response needed.
- **Wednesday, July 24** - Outing to Raleigh; Tour Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral and lunch at the Farmers Market. Respond to Sylvia Phillips or Sue Jackson by Friday, July 19. We will share the expense for bus fuel. Meet at the church to depart at 8:45 a.m.
- **Tuesday, July 30** - Movie followed by dinner at Prime Smokehouse. Please call Sue Jackson by Friday, July 26 if you plan to go to dinner. One may participate in either or both events. Movie title will be announced one week prior.



## 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!*



Join us for a  
Farewell Brunch  
honoring  
Lydia Wingo Kane

**Sunday, August 4, 2019**

Immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Please notify the church office if you can attend by July 30, 2019.

## 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 May 2019

Month – to – date \$ 64,193.50  
Year – to – date \$ 318,843.89

### Expenses through May 2019

Month – to – date \$ 52,384.25  
Year – to – date \$ 258,629.32



Church office phone 252.446.9121, ext. 23

Jeanne's email [jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org)

Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30.

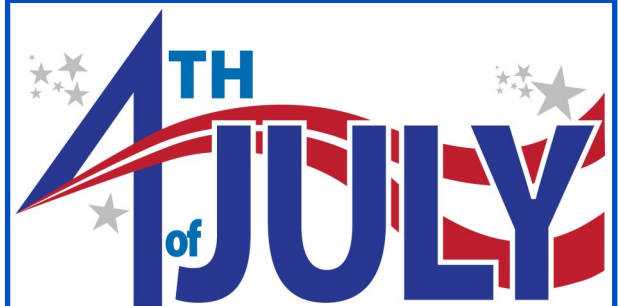


### The Session met on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- Lydia Wingo Kane's last Sunday with us will be August 4. The session approved a brunch to celebrate her and what she has done for our young Presbyterians following worship that day. Please mark your calendars to join us that day.
- Winslow Rogers discussed the Stewardship committee's plans for our next 5th Sunday gathering on September 29. We will have open discussion regarding how we can carry out our call to be good stewards of our money, time and talent and facilities along with a delicious meal. You will not want to miss this Sunday.
- John Etheredge joined us at the Session meeting to ask for additional support for his upcoming mission trip to Ghana. If you see John, please ask him about his trip and what you can do to help. Please also join the Session in praying for John's journey and in supporting this important ministry at FPC.
- The session elected Chris Feno to represent First Presbyterian Church at the Presbytery meeting on July 23, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Durham
- The Property committee recommended that the church sell the very old lawn mower and trimmer at the church to Michael Smith for \$20 for his use in his lawn business.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

*-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk*



*The church office will  
be closed on  
July 4, 2019.*

### Communications Deadlines

- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Wednesday.
- The church bulletin is printed on Thursday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Thursday.

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

I am grateful to look back on VBS in June and say that it was a huge success! The children learned about neighbors and loving like God, the youth helpers were incredible, and we had an amazing team of adult volunteers. It was wonderful to see children from five churches and the larger community worshiping, playing, and learning at FPC. We also collected offering money that will be given to the Bassett Center. VBS was a blessing to everyone involved!

Our youth look forward to the month of July every year! We are gearing up for Gatekeepers Work Camp and Montreat Youth Conference. In the spirit of preparing our hearts, minds, and bodies for doing God's work and learning together, I offer this prayer.

God, we are ready. We are prepared this month to be your servants. We all desperately want to please you. We enter these weeks looking to receive nothing in return. We expect nothing from those we'll serve. Your son taught us to love without condition. We will show the world that kind of love at Gatekeepers, Lord. We will work with each other side by side. We are energized, Lord. We can't wait to begin! We travel to Montreat as well looking to receive nothing in return except for that which you want us to receive. Open our minds to make room to let love lead, to let You lead, and to put you first. Amen.

Prayer adapted from **The Book of Uncommon Prayer**

*Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DATES FOR July



All children are invited to join me for children's church after the children's time in worship on July 28.

7 Gatekeepers Cookout at 5:00 at FPC—all participants are required to attend

8-12 Gatekeepers Work Camp

14-20 Montreat Youth Conference







June 10-14, 2019





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



merican  
Red Cross

**Without A, B and O,  
we can't save anybody.**

**Blood Drive@  
First Presbyterian  
Church-Rocky Mount**

*\*In the Fellowship Hall\**

**Tuesday, July 16, 2019  
1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800 RED CROSS  
(1-800-733-2767)

**Not enough people donate blood. Only you can fill the #MissingTypes.**  
Download the Blood Donor App | 1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org/MissingTypes](http://RedCrossBlood.org/MissingTypes)

© 2019 The American National Red Cross | 2200091

© 2019 The American National Red Cross | 2200091



**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 socks & men's and women's underwear and tennis shoes.**



FPC Meals on Wheels Volunteers:  
our delivery dates are the 4th  
Monday and the 4th Tuesday each  
month.

**The Handcraft Ministry**

will meet on

**Wednesday, July 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the home  
of Judy Glover,  
1316 Michael Scott Drive.**



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



*Dear First Presbyterian Family,*

*It is official, my move date is sometime in September. As you know, Anne and I had this call some 30 years ago. This is a big undertaking for me at this time of my life, but I feel it's something I have been called to do. The Holy Spirit moved me to take this step at this time of my life. Please pray for me as I plan to be in Africa a minimal of two years. The attached profile will give you a better understanding of what this call entails.*

*I need both your prayers and financial support. This call, as a Long Term Volunteer, is not funded by the Presbyterian Church (USA), which requires me to secure funding for the two years. It is estimated it will require about \$20,000.00 each year. Please pray about this matter and if you are so inclined to support me, send a check to:*

*Presbyterian Church (USA)  
P. O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA. 15264-3700  
Include in memo line:  
(John Etheredge E074871)*



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

*Talking about changing in "this time of my life," I plan to have a Facebook account, something I had always said I had no use for! I will also have a quarterly newsletter and will add the church to my list. I would love to hear from you and get your thoughts on this move. You can read more about World Mission Agency at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/john-etheredge](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/john-etheredge).*

*Much love,  
John Etheredge*

## Mid-Week Fellowship Summer Fun!



Outing to Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park  
and The Hen and the Hog on June 12



## Presbyterian Women Update

*God takes the voice of a meadowlark, the stubbornness of a mule, the curiosity of a cat, the spryness of a grasshopper and the strength of a pack horse to create a Presbyterian Woman.*

*She can be found anywhere—in the choir, the kitchen, the Sunday School room, on the Session, in the board room, behind a cash register, at the hospital, and certainly in her own home. She provides casseroles, she cleans up after a luncheon, she is a friend, she is hungry for the Word, armed with her Bible and the PW Study book.*

*A Presbyterian Woman is a dreamer and a worker, dreaming great dreams for her children, her church and her country, and she works to make those dreams come true. She is a link with the past, a powerful force in the present and in investment in the future.*

Author unknown



### 2019-20 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Vice-Moderator

Tempie Fuller, Secretary

Frances Guerry, Historian

Sylvia Phillips, Together in Service

Myra Richardson, Circle of Friends Leader

Becky Parks, Treasurer

Laura Durham, Spiritual Nurture

Edie Reeves, Together in Service

Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader



### Soap and Towel Collection

Both PW Circles (Circle of JOY and Circle of Friends) are sponsoring a towel and soap drive for the Bassett Center. The Bassett Center is part of United Community Ministries and shelters homeless families. Please bring wash cloths, towels and bar soap to the bin in either the narthex or the volunteer office between now and August 18.



Janice Smith (top right) assisting with the PW Spring Gathering in Lucama, NC



PW Officer Installation at the Birthday Brunch on May 21, 2019





## 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*



**July 7, 2019**

Head Usher: James Tharin

Ushers: Frances Tharin, Greg Hutchins, Carol Hutchins, Janice Smith

Greeter: Kate Tharin

Liturgist: Winslow Rogers

Time with Children: Scott Solether

Nursery Helper: Willette Williams

Lemonade on the Lawn Server: Pam Gragg

**July 14, 2019**

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Tempie Fuller, Tommy Dill, Mary Watson

Greeter: Mary Lou Fountain

Liturgist: Greg Hutchins

Time with Children: Randy Adams

Lemonade on the Lawn Server: Janice Smith

**July 21, 2019**

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Tempie Fuller, Tommy Dill, Mary Watson

Greeter: Mary Lou Fountain

Liturgist: Laura Durham

Time with Children: Dionne Seale

Lemonade on the Lawn Server: Jay Quinan

**July 28, 2019**

Head Usher: Tommy Honey

Ushers: Shelton Honey, Thomas Honey, Bobbie Lambeth, Jim Woodard

Greeter: Kate Honey

Liturgist: Janice Smith

Time with Children: Lydia Wingo Kane

Lemonade on the Lawn Server: Kay Wester

# 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](mailto: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 Church Family,  
Jim and I are so very fortunate to be members of such a loving church that has enveloped us as well as our two boys. We are so thankful for the many kindnesses that you showed Thomas during his day of baptism. It was such a special day for our family, and we greatly appreciate all that you did to make it such a memorable day. We are so blessed to raise our children in such a wonderful church family.  
Love,  
Liz and Jim

Thanks to all the Presbyterian Women who baked and bought all the goodies for the VBS teachers and youth helpers. I also appreciate all the volunteers who came to help with snacks throughout the week. Thanks to the Circle of Friends for their contribution to the funds to purchase snacks for the children! What a great week at First Pres.!!!  
Thanks again,  
Nancy Richardson

I want to once again thank everyone who helped me get here in some capacity; it has been nothing short of wonderful, and I can't believe how much I've learned in even a short week—I can't wait to see where I am by the end, and I certainly can't wait to come back and share what I've learned by making music in Rocky Mount again!  
All the best,  
Arianna Ford

Dear Church Family,  
I am still in shock from receiving the "Older Adult Award." It is a great honor, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love,  
Evelyn Reese

Dear Church Family,  
I do not know how to express adequately our family's appreciation for the love and support given to Mom and to us during Mom's illness and to us following her death. The words "thank you" seem wholly inadequate, but thank you.

Mom loved her church, and when I say "her church", that means all of you. She cherished her church family. She took great pride in the kindness of its members, the beauty of its sanctuary, and the joy brought by its music. Contributing her time and energy to the church was never viewed by her as work, but as pleasure as long as she was able physically to accomplish her tasks. Please know how much each of you meant to her and how much your generosity means to us as we continue to grieve the loss of my beautiful mother.

Much love,  
Katherine Fisher

Dear Staff,  
What a wonderful service on May 19th! I was honored and felt so blessed to be at your church. What an experience for me and my family. The reception was such a happy occasion—seeing familiar faces and meeting new folks.

Many thanks for hosting such a "special occasion."

Blessings,  
Alice McClure  
Washington, NC  
(Presbytery Older Adult Award Recipient)



Sunday afternoon I enjoyed receiving a beautiful display of flowers and a lovely visit from Laura Durham! Yes, First Presbyterian Church, I feel the love and prayers! Thank you.

Bobbi Weeks



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:

July 7, 21, 28  
August 11, 25



- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended Leigh Skeen upon the death of her brother, Dr. Pete Rowlett of New Bern, NC on May 27, 2019.

*To whom it may concern,  
Thank you so much for allowing us to use the fellowship hall for the senior banquet. You are truly a blessing to Tar River Academy.*

*Sincerely,  
TRA Staff*

*Dear First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you so much for the nice Study Bible that you gave me for graduation. I will enjoy reading it. I have enjoyed my time at First Prebyterian. I am looking forward to going to NC State next year. I know it will be a change but I am excited. Keep me in your prayers.*

*Sincerely,  
Owen Sondergard*



*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**

Ike Amerson  
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  
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)  
Mercer Rowe (son of Jean Kitchin)  
Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)  
Maida Sessoms  
Judy Smith  
Scott Solether  
Bobbi Weeks  
Susan Yenney



## 2019 Summer Community Worship Services



This year's theme is **Building God's Vision** and the focus text is Isaiah 25:6-10a. Each worship service will include communion and a time for fellowship will follow. The designated recipient of the offering is Peacemakers and donors are asked to make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. Worship will gather on Sunday, July 14, 21, 28, and August 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the following locations:

July 14: First Baptist Church, 200 South Church St. (Preacher: Rev. Raymond Privott)

July 21: Truth Tabernacle, 704 Arlington St. (Preacher: TBA)

July 28: Englewood United Methodist Church, 300 S. Circle Drive (Preacher: TBA)

August 4: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 305 S. Halifax Road (Preacher: Elizabeth Edwards)



### *"Chrismons in July!"*

*The Worship Committee will be accepting donations towards the purchase of new handmade Chrismon ornaments that can honor a loved one! A donation of \$60 per Chrismon is appreciated and please limit two per household.*

*Donation envelopes can be found in the narthex or church office after July 7, 2019 and can be turned into the church office or offering plate on Sundays.*

*Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, list Chrismon in the memo line.*