



First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

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

August 2019

This is a check list of the process in finding a new pastor. We will provide this as a way to keep you informed about where we are and what needs to be done next.

- ☒ July 2017 Bridge interim is hired and search for an interim begins.
- ☒ November 2017 Interim minister is hired and begins work.
- ☒ March 2018 Mission Study Review Committee is appointed and begins their work.
- ☒ July 2018 Mission Study report approved by Session.
- ☒ September 2018 Updated Mission Study is approved by Presbytery.
- ☒ September 2018 Pastor Nominating Committee is elected by congregation.
- ☒ November 2018 Ministry Information Form is circulated and search begins.
- ☒ July 2019 Candidate is found, and approved by Presbytery COM.
- ☒ July 21, 2019 Congregation votes on candidate.

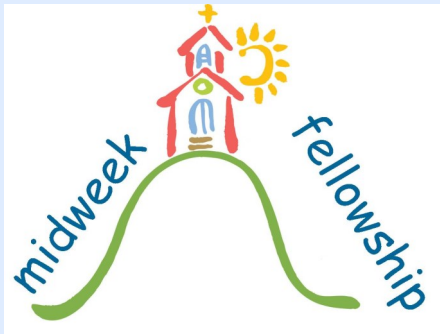
____September 1, 2019 The Rev. Matthew K. Baker will begin employment as Head Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount

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!



- **Wednesday, August 7**—(6:00 p.m.) covered dish meal at home of Kay Wester; no response needed
- **Wednesday, August 14** - (11:00 a.m.) lunch at NABS, 219 E. Main St. followed by Planetarium visit at The Imperial Center (1:00 Power House of Stars & 2:00 Why We Have Astronauts?) \$6.00 admission fee will be paid at Imperial Center. Respond to Sue Jackson by 8/12/19.
- **Tuesday, August 20** - (4:00 p.m.) movie followed by dinner at Pizza Inn. Call Sue Jackson at for dinner reservations by 8/16/19. One may choose either or both.
- **Wednesday, August 28** - Covenant Homes is hosting us with a spaghetti dinner at 6:00 p.m. Respond to Sue Jackson at by 8/23/19.



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! The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will facilitate Brown Bag during August and the focus will be on Amos.

First Presbyterian welcomes the Rev. Matthew K. Baker!



Our new minister will lead us in worship on Sunday, September 1 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Please extend a warm FPC welcome to him and his family!



Sally (age 4), Liz, Matt and Elly Mae Baker (almost 9).

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 June 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 55,190.33
Year – to – date	\$ 374,034.22

Expenses through June 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 38,142.28
Year – to – date	\$ 296,771.60



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

- Preston Smith moderated our meeting as Scott is on medical leave. Preston shared that he will be covering worship every Sunday until September 1 except July 21, which Bettie Kirkpatrick is covering and August 25 which will be an informal worship service in Lacy Hall. Should you need pastoral care assistance please reach out to Preston. He has cut his vacation plans short for us.
- Betsy McLean joined us as she is now chairing Christian Ed and reported that she has commitments from all of the Sunday School teachers for the fall and is working to finalize the youth advisors. She also reported that Rally Day planning is under way, the youth are currently at Montreat and Gatekeepers and VBS were great successes.
- The Session voted to allocate our 40% of the Pentecost offering to Covenant Homes.
- Gordon Vestal reported that the fire alarm system would be ready for inspection next Friday.
- Mark your calendars for an exciting Stewardship Sunday on September 29.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



The final gathering of the summer community worship services will occur at 6:00 p.m. on August 4, 2019 at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 305 S. Halifax Road with Elizabeth Edwards of Lakeside Baptist preaching.



Please make note that 11:00 a.m. worship resumes on Rally Day, September 8, 2019!

We will kick off the new Sunday School year in the fellowship hall that morning with a light breakfast and presentation at 9:30 a.m.

The Rally Day picnic at Rose Hill will be held the **following Sunday**, September 15 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. More info to come!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



Some messages come across loud and clear, and the message we heard this summer was all about love! We began in June at VBS learning about loving God and loving our neighbor. At Gatekeepers Workcamp in July, our theme was also love! As we worked for homeowners around Rocky Mount, we heard the words from Mark 12:29-31 with new ears, learning what it means to love whole-heartedly. Each morning's devotion was written by someone from a different nonprofit organization serving the

Rocky Mount community and gave us a new perspective on who our neighbor is and how we can love them. The following week, the high school youth journeyed to Montreat Youth Conference where our theme was "Let Love Lead." The youth will be sharing about their experiences this summer during worship on August 25. Please join us that Sunday to hear more about where love is leading our youth and how they experienced and shared God's love through mission, worship, fellowship, and service this summer.

Submitted by Lydia Wingo Kane, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



August 4: All children are invited to join Lydia for children's church after the children's time in worship on August 4.

August 25: Youth Sunday in the Fellowship hall with youth-led reflections on Gatekeepers, Montreat, and Camp Albemarle.



Christian Education will hold a meeting on Wednesday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for the parents of our middle and high school youth. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue planning this year's activities for our youth. With Lydia's departure, Christian Education will be relying on parent involvement with planning and executing an exciting year full of

fun and interesting activities! An email will be sent to you all at a later date as a reminder. The first activity planned will take place on **August 25th** during worship. Worship that Sunday will be in the fellowship hall. Our youth will be sharing memories from Montreat, Gatekeepers, and Camp Albemarle, so please plan to join us. A separate meeting for the parents of children 5th grade and younger will be scheduled for late August or September, and those parents will be alerted via email as well.



Above, several FPC youth and adult volunteers participated in Gatekeepers Workcamp the week of July 8-12, 2019. Left, Preston Smith and Ellis Daughtridge work on a home improvements for Gatekeepers.



Left, fifteen youth and 3 adult chaperones from FPC attended the Montreat Youth Conference. Right, our recently graduated seniors attended their final youth conference.



Below, Mary Watson of the Handcraft Ministry displays a baby blanket with a "spider" stitch pattern along with a copy of Very Busy Spider for Tar River Academy.



Right, members of the Handcraft Ministry deliver a blanket to a local disabled veteran at Rocky Mount Rehab.



Above, Scott Solether receives a blanket from the Handcraft Ministry during worship on July 14, 2019.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The **Handcraft Ministry** will meet on the third Wednesday of August, September, and October at 1:30 p.m. in the former computer lab room

upstairs next to the Craft Room here at the church. This wonderful ministry provides prayer shawls, blankets, etc. to those in need of God's warmth.

FIDGET BLANKET PROJECT

The Handcraft Ministry is now looking for supplies to make "Fidget Blankets" for dementia and autistic patients. The purpose of these blankets is to keep the patient's hands busy, which in turn seems to calm them. Please see the narthex collection box for a complete list of items that can be sewn on such as baby rattles, baby clothes, ties, zippers, Velcro, belts with buckles, hair clips, etc.



Peacemakers will be operating out of a new location as of September 3: 2221 W. Raleigh Blvd, Rocky Mount. Also, mark your calendars for the annual Hope Banquet—October 3, 7:00 p.m. at Englewood Baptist Church.



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.



Bassett Center 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.



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

You can support our own John Etheredge as he plans to serve for two years in Africa by sending donations to:

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

You can read more about World Mission Agency at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/john-etheredge.

AUGUST
24
Saturday

****Be Prepared for Disaster****
Lightning, Storms, Floods, Hurricanes, Fires

Disasters bring chaos to hundreds of thousands of lives every year and have lasting effects.

**A collaboration of
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and
Presbyterian Women**

**Help your family and your congregation
Prepare for a disaster before it happens
Learn ways to cope when disaster strikes
Learn what is needed in a "To Go" kit**

**BE PREPARED
FOR DISASTER**

Free Workshop for Presbyterian Women
New Hope Presbytery

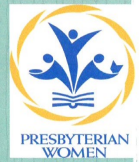
First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall
153 N. Church Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Registration & Hospitality 9 a.m.
Workshop 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Register with name, church and contact
information to sjehammer@att.net or
call 919-810-4081

Organized by PW of New Hope Presbytery



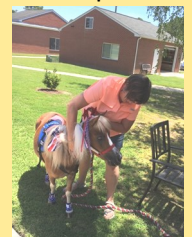
**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Covenant
Homes

♦ **BINGO PRIZES:** Covenant Homes is in need of bingo prizes again this year. The Outreach Committee would like to make this an ongoing project. There is a container in the volunteer office for drop-off and the following prizes are needed: snack items especially (Nabs, candy, cookies, microwaveable popcorn); hand/body lotion; mouthwash, soft soap for hands; paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent (liquid/pods); Kleenex (small packs); dish towels, change purses, pocketbook (used but in good shape).

- ♦ **HOT DOG DAY:** Covenant Homes Board Member and FPC church member Jack Perry reports that this is how you turn adversity into success. The residents of Covenant Homes had been promised a hot dog and ice cream lunch treat on Wednesday, June 26. Unfortunately, the hot dog vendor mixed up his days and thought the event was to be held on June 27. On top of that, the day was turning out to be one of the busiest days ever, especially with the HUD inspection to deal with. It was also one of the hottest days so far this summer. The Covenant Homes staff is used to dealing with crisis situations, so they did not panic and were determined to keep their word. In case you didn't know, they have a couple of angels working for them. They are Mr. Ed Joyner, Head of Maintenance, and his wife, Beverly. They did not hesitate to quickly shop for the necessary supplies, fire up the grill in the hot sun, and begin serving hot dogs to a very hungry crowd. The staff even arranged for the ice cream man to show up just in time. The hot dogs were tasty and the ice cream was a welcomed cool treat. But would you believe, there an even better surprise. A very special critter came to visit. It was none other than Freckles, the therapy pony. Now that was a real treat!



- ♦ **HUD INSPECTION REPORT:** Jack Perry also reports that the Board of Directors of Covenant Homes is proud to report that Covenant Homes passed with flying colors (Superior Rating) a thorough audit conducted by a state official on June 26, 2019. This is the first time they have received a Superior rating and the HUD rep told Jack that this is one of the finest and best run HUD facilities in the state. Congratulations to Debbie Morris and her staff and thank you to our church for its continuing support!!!

Presbyterian Women Update

Psalm 23 for Presbyterian Women

God is our agenda, we have no other. God makes us discern God's will by leading us to the calm spiritual center. God restores our soul. God leads us in the right paths as we surrender our will for God's work. Even though we may sometimes get discouraged because nothing seems to be happening after each PW meeting, we fear nothing, for God's presence is within us in every PW Gathering. God's love and spirit comfort us immensely. God shows us a clear vision for PW in times of confusion. God continues to show us with blessing upon blessing through believing women. Our cup of salvation is full always. Surely God's goodness and grace shall follow us in every work that PW is doing, and we shall be empowered by the blessed assurance that in God we are one, we are all beloved and none a stranger.

- PW Coordinating Team meets August 5, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the History Room
- Circles will resume meeting in September.



2019-20 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Vice-Moderator

Tempie Fuller, Secretary

Frances Guerry, Historian

Sylvia Phillips, Together in Service

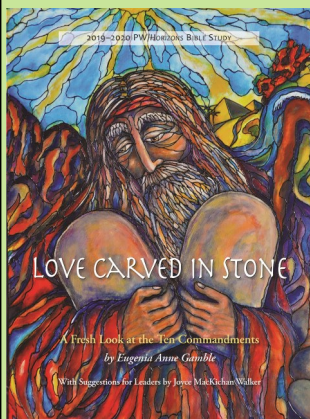
Myra Richardson, Circle of Friends Leader

Becky Parks, Treasurer

Laura Durham, Spiritual Nurture

Edie Reeves, Together in Service

Nancy Richardson, Circle of J.O.Y Leader



All PW are
invited!

PW Bible Study Luncheon

Thursday,
August 29, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Session Room

The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will introduce the 2019-20 Horizons Bible Study on "Love Carved in Stone—A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" Come enjoy good food and fellowship! Our PW Circles will resume meeting in September.

Sign up on the PW Bulletin Board today!

Top Ten Reasons Men Should Join the Church Choir:

10. Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening, which means that for an hour and a half, you will significantly reduce your risk of contracting tendinitis from nonstop operation of a television remote or computer mouse.
9. Since you wear a choir robe every Sunday, you are liberated from a task many men find quite challenging: selecting clothes that match properly.
8. From your special vantage point every Sunday in which you look out at the entire congregation from the choir loft, you will develop interesting new hobbies. Among these is a little guessing game called "Who's Praying, Who's Sleeping?"
7. If you think your singing in the shower sounds good now, just wait till you've been singing with us for a few weeks!
6. You're running out of clean clothes, and the choir robes save on laundry.
5. Singing in a choir is one of the few activities for men that does not require electronic equipment or expensive power tools. This could be good for the family budget.
4. For you fitness buffs, singing in the choir is not only heart healthy; it's also soul healthy. But there are no monthly membership fees, and it's a lot easier on the knees than jogging.
3. Choir rehearsals last half as long as a professional football game but are at least twice as satisfying. (But don't worry; rehearsals are on Wednesdays - not Monday nights.)
2. Increased satisfaction and joy in the service of God.
1. When people ask if you've been behaving yourself, you can say with the utmost sincerity, "Absolutely, I'm a choir boy!"

* The Chancel Choir will resume mid-week rehearsals on Wednesday, August 21, at 7:30 p.m.

* The Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:40 p.m.

New singers and ringers are always welcome!



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



August 4, 2019

Communion served by intinction

Head Usher: Tommy Honey

Ushers: Shelton Honey, Thomas Honey, Kay Wester, Tom Steed

Greeter: Kate Honey

Liturgist: Bill Buchanan

Time with Children: Lydia Wingo Kane

Nursery Helper: Willette Williams

Communion Preparers: Andy Warner, Richard Hunt

Communion Servers: Andy Warner, Laura Durham, Richard Hunt, Beth Steed

**Brunch after worship, no Lemonade on the Lawn*

August 11, 2019

Head Usher: Jep Rose

Ushers: Edie Reeves, Tom Steed, Janice Smith, Betsy McLean

Greeter: Mike Braswell

Liturgist: David Farris

Time with Children: Preston Smith

Lemonade on the Lawn Server: Diane Dixon

August 18, 2019

Head Usher: Jep Rose

Ushers: Edie Reeves, Jim Woodard, Janice Smith, Betsy McLean

Greeter: Mike Braswell

Liturgist: Preston Smith

Time with Children: Jim Lilley

**Luncheon after worship, no Lemonade on the Lawn*

August 25, 2019

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Gordon Vestal, Mary Watson, David Farris

Greeter: Marianne Farris

Time with Children: FPC Youth

**Worship in Fellowship Hall, no Lemonade on the Lawn*

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.**

Covenant Homes would like to thank the members of First Presbyterian that came together and helped a new resident that was moving into our facility. She had only her clothes with her and nothing to furnish her new apartment. I called 2 members of the church, and they made calls, and within one day the group came together and within two days the apartment was completely furnished even down to food supplies. When the new resident walked into the apartment she was beyond grateful. The difference the people made that were involved in this project will always be remembered, and their act of kindness was such an inspiration to us all. Thank you to all that help and support Covenant Homes. We are blessed from your kindness.

*Sincerely,
Debbie Morris
Administrator of Covenant Homes*

Covenant Homes would like to thank the ladies that brought fans over for residents to use during the hot weather.

*Sincerely,
Debbie Morris,
Administrator
Covenant Homes*

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

The ladies in the Circle of Joy and the Circle of Friends wish to say, "Thank you," to everyone for supporting our summer project for the Bassett Center. The recipients at the center were thrilled to receive our donations.

*Sincerely,
Presbyterian Women*

Dear Presbyterian Women,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Communities In Schools. The need to support and encourage our young people has never been greater and we are most appreciative of your commitment. Your contribution helps us to provide continuous integrated student support to the students we serve in Nash and Edgecombe Counties.

For 30 years, Communities In Schools of the Rocky Mount Region has championed the mission of "surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life." Because of your gift, we will continue to provide support and enrichment opportunities for the deserving students in the Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools System. These students aspire to have positive futures as contributing members of our community.

This letter serves as the receipt for your donation in the amount of \$100.00. Please know that we will be good stewards of your trust.

*Best regards,
Tanesha Cameron-Cole
Executive Director*



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:

August 11, 25
September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
October 6, 20, 27



- ◇ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended Evelyn Reese upon the death of her brother, Benjamin Wayne Reese of Naples, Florida on June 26, 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.



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
Jean and Hodge Kitchin
Bobbie Lambeth
Charity Lodge
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
Scott Solether
Bobbi Weeks
Susan Yenney



Join us for a
Farewell Brunch
honoring
Lydia Wingo Kane

Sunday, August 4, 2019

Immediately following worship in
the Fellowship Hall.



Join us for a
Farewell Luncheon
honoring
the Rev. Dr. Scott Solether

Sunday, August 18, 2019

Immediately following worship in
the Fellowship Hall. RSVP by
August 15, 2019



Sponsor a Chrismon!

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 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.

Dear All,

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you for the thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts given during my recovery. You continue to be a generous and caring congregation. If you offer the same kind of support to your next minister, I believe that it will be a blessed relationship for many years. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you as your interim minister.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Scott V. Solether