



# *First Pres News*

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

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

**September 2019**

Greetings,

Words cannot adequately express my thanks for the warm welcome that you have extended to my family and me. We are so excited to be here in Rocky Mount, and I am especially pleased to begin serving the church this month. I have many ideas that I am eager to refine and adapt as I listen and learn about the rich history, hopes, and concerns for First Presbyterian Church.

September brings the hope of cooler fall weather, the wonder of empty school notebooks with future journal entries and notes, and the excitement of Rally Day! The new beginning in the air is not just for the Baker family and the school year. Rather, this Rally Day is a great chance to recommit to the church, the Sunday morning ritual, and the risen Christ. As the new pastor, I don't know who has been an every Sunday attender and who has just come back to the church after some time away. This September can mark a new beginning for anyone and everyone who wishes to redefine their commitment to the church. It is my hope that the warm welcome and excitement that have been extended to my family would also be extended to folks who are using this autumnal transition as a time to rejoin the community of faith at FPCRM.

I am beyond impressed by the commitment and skill of the church staff. I am indebted to the PNC for their graciousness in the call process. I can feel the excitement and hope surrounding the church session. There is so much to commend and celebrate; it is evident that the Spirit of God is working in wonderful ways all around this church and this community. I am thrilled to walk alongside you, lead you, learn from you, and follow in the footsteps of our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

In Christ,  
**Matt**

*Pastor:* The Rev. Matthew Baker

*Parish Associate:* The Rev. Dr. Preston Smith

*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, Sept. 4 (6:00 p.m.) Covered dish meal at home of Sylvia Phillips, no response needed.
- Wednesday, Sept. 11 (6:00 p.m.) Homemade ice cream and sandwiches at home of David and Laura Dudley. Let them know you can attend!
- Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal and Programs resume on September 18! Covered dish meal at 6:00 followed by program in Session Room at 6:45 p.m.



## Monday, September 16 at noon Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy chicken salad croissants, broccoli salad, fresh fruit, chips, and cupcakes. 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!



### 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!*



**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.

### RALLY DAY PICNIC

The annual Rally Day picnic at beautiful Rose Hill Conference Center will be held the **following Sunday, September 15** from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please make plans to join us for food, fun and fellowship. Come ready to fish, swim (lifeguard will be on duty) and reconnect with your church family! Don't forget to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share—bbq chicken and beverages will be provided.

## 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 July 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 51,154.01
Year – to – date	\$ 425,188.23

### Expenses through July 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 62,291.86
Year – to – date	\$ 356,651.19



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, August 20, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- Session approved \$12,135 to be allocated from Mission Tithe to Covenant Homes for roof repair. This covers insurance deductibles.
- Session approved request from Charlie Warner to advertise and fundraise for his Eagle Scout Project at the Church. Charlie is a member of Troop 7.
- Session approved upgrading license to allow us to livestream our worship services at a cost of \$100 annually.
- Session accepted the report from the Nominating Committee and called a congregational meeting for September 8 to approve the recommendation of the committee for officers for the class of 2022.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk



A congregational meeting has been called for September 8, 2019 following worship with the purpose of electing new officers for the Class of 2022. *Please see newsletter insert for slate of nominees.* Remember that nominations may be made from the floor for officers, but be sure that nominees are consulted before the meeting and consent to be nominated.



The church office will be closed Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day holiday.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Rally Day is Sunday, September 8th. We will meet in Lacy Hall at 9:30 for a light breakfast before we head off to our Sunday School classes to begin the new year. We look forward to having you all there!

*Betsy McLean, Christian Education Committee*

## DATES FOR SEPTEMBER:

- ♦ **Sunday, September 8:** (5:00 p.m.) Pizza night for Middle and High School youth at the home of Matt and Liz Baker. Come meet our new pastor and his family!
- ♦ **Sunday, September 15:** (4:00 p.m.) Rally Day picnic and fun at Rose Hill Conference Center
- ♦ **Sunday, September 22:** Youth Group at the Church! (4:30—Middle School; 5:30 Joint meal; 6:00 High School). Youth group will be led by Matt Baker and the meal will be provided by the Seale family.
- ♦ **Sunday, September 29:** Youth Group at the Church! (4:30—Middle School; 5:30 Joint meal; 6:00 High School). Youth group will be led by Matt Baker and the meal will be provided by the Rose family.



*Several of our youth led us in worship on August 25th and shared how much VBS, Gatekeepers, Montreat, Summer Mission Trips, and Camp Albemarle meant to them! We are grateful for the support FPC gives these ministries and our youth!*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

## Find a Sunday School class for you!

**Elementary** – Deep Blue “Loving God, Loving Neighbor”; **Teachers:** Winnie Gaynor, Ann Dill, Kate Tharin, Chrissy Barnhill (Meet upstairs in Room 203)

**Middle School** – Youth Cartel “Viva”, two Sunday classes with Catherine Lilley on U2 and Religion; **Teachers:** Anne Mosley, Dionne Seale, Christie Sondergard (Meet in Youth Suite)

**Sr. High** – Youth Cartel “Viva”, two Sunday classes with Catherine Lilley on U2 and Religion; **Teachers:** Katherine Fisher, Mike Gaynor, John Turnage (Meet in Youth Suite)

**P.E.P. (Presbyterians Educating Presbyterians)** – “More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers”; **Teachers:** Laura Durham, Bettie Kirkpatrick (Meet in church parlor)

**Present Word** – “The Present Word”; **Teachers:** Mary Lou Fountain, Mary Watson, Winslow Rogers (meet upstairs in Room 205)

## 10 REASONS to bring your child to Sunday School

While sleeping late can be nice, have you considered the benefits of Sunday School attendance for your child. Here are 10 reasons to make it a priority in your family.

1. **Age Targeted Teaching:** Where else can your kids get Biblical instruction that's focused toward their developmental abilities?
2. **Friends:** In Sunday School, your child will build positive friendships with their peers by discovering God's Word together.
3. **It's Fun:** Sunday School is not Disney Land, but our teachers do work hard to teach the Bible in ways that are relevant and fun for kids.
4. **Spiritual Mentors:** A dedicated teacher can be a Christian role model who supports you and helps inspire the faith of your child.
5. **Systematic Bible Learning:** Our curriculum is designed to give a broad foundation, so children will understand how all the parts of Scripture point to Christ.
6. **Praying Teachers:** Our teachers consistently pray for your child's faith to grow. Coming to Sunday School gives another occasion for God to answer those requests.
7. **Big Reward For a Small Investment:** If you're already coming to church, just come a little earlier. That one change will equal over 800 hours of additional Christian teaching before your child graduates.
8. **Send the Right Message:** Making Sunday School a priority shows your kids that God's Word really does matter more than pillow-time.
9. **Adult Bible Fellowship:** While the children enjoy their class, you can fellowship with other adults in your own Bible study group.
10. **You'll Be On Time:** Families who come to Sunday School always get to worship on time. It's the easiest way to avoid being late.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The **Handcraft Ministry** will meet on the third Wednesday of 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.



### 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.



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](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/john-etheredge).*



Mark your calendars for the annual Hope Banquet to be held October 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Englewood Baptist Church.





Scouting News

**Girl Scout Troops 434 and 55 are excited to start up another year in September! Troop 55 will be finishing their Silver award by building raised planter boxes for the gardens at Conetoe. These boxes will contain flowers that attract the bees used for the Conetoe honey. We will also plant some fruit trees in their garden.**

**Troop 434 girls are embarking on their Gold Awards, the equivalent of the boys' Eagle Scout awards. They will have 12 individual projects all benefitting Nash or Edgecombe County. These projects will take them a couple of years to complete. Please keep these girls in your thoughts as they begin these worthy projects!**



1. **Covenant Homes** is in need of bingo prizes again this year, especially snack items. The Outreach Committee would like to make this an ongoing project. Please see the container in the narthex vestibule for a list of suggested prizes.
2. **Members of our church** along with community friends are considering sponsoring a Christmas Gift Project for the 104 residents of Covenant Homes. Each resident will make a Christmas Wish List, not to exceed \$20, that will be placed on the back of a Christmas ornament. Those who would like to make a Christmas wish come true for someone at Covenant Homes can either get an ornament and buy a gift from the list, or make a donation. If interested in supporting this project, please notify Frances Guerry at 252-382-0776 by Sept. 15 with the number of ornaments you would sponsor.

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

My name is Charlie Warner, and I'm a rising Junior at Rocky Mount High School currently working on my Eagle Scout Project. The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the BSA organization. In order for me to complete the project, I need to raise money to purchase supplies for the project I will be leading.

My project is building beds for the organization, **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, which is a nationwide organization with a chapter in Rocky Mount. Their motto is, "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town," and after talking to local officials, it is not unusual to come across a couple of children sleeping on the floor under one blanket. Many people are aware of the homeless problem in our community, but some kids have a home but no bed to sleep in. My hope is that awareness will be raised about this problem while providing beds for kids to call their own. The cost for 1 bed is around \$100, including a frame, mattress, sheets, and a pillow. My goal is to raise \$1,500, which will get 15 kids off of the floor.

I'm selling Krispy Kreme certificates for \$8. One certificate entitles you to 1 dozen donuts. If interested, there will be forms available in my dad's (Andy Warner) church mailbox near the church office. Make checks payable to Charlie Warner and write Eagle Scout Project in the memo box. Any amount of money donated or fundraised is greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me through my email or by calling my home phone. Thank you for the support!

Sincerely,  
**Charlie Warner**



## Presbyterian Women Update

### Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh New Look at the Ten Commandments!

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do, but instead, as a letter from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments, author Eugenia Gamble suggests, “may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities. Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principal behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community”.

A very special thanks to the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick for giving us a very enlightening overview and enticing us to “dig in” and get started.

A BIG THANK YOU to each of you who helped to make our Bible study introduction/luncheon a big success.

- PWCT will meet Sept. 9 in the History room at 10:00 a.m.
- Circle of FRIENDS will begin on Sept. 9 at 7:00 p.m. with Janice Smith hosting the meeting and Mary Lou Fountain leading the Bible lesson.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on Sept. 10 at the church at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead the lesson. You are invited to attend either circle that fits your schedule.

### 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



### *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.

## FPC MUSIC NOTES

Our Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Handbells resume rehearsals on September 11 at 6:40 p.m. in the choir room.

*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*



### September 1, 2019 (10:00 AM Worship)

Head Usher: Joe Brown

Ushers: Julia Brown, Gordon Vestal, Tricia Vestal, David Farris

Greeter: Marianne Farris

Liturgist: Preston Smith

Time with Children: Matt Baker

### September 8, 2019 (11:00 AM worship resumes)

**\*Communion served by intinction and congregational meeting at end of worship\***

Head Usher: Dee Whitley

Ushers: Diane Dixon, Katherine Fisher, Randy Evans, Linda Evans

Greeter: Nancy Richardson

Liturgist: Richard Hunt

Time with Children: Matt Baker

Communion Preparers: Julian Parks, Nancy Proctor

Communion Servers: Becky Parks, Julian Parks, Nancy Proctor, Russell Proctor

### September 15, 2019

Head Usher: Dee Whitley

Ushers: Diane Dixon, Katherine Fisher, Randy Evans, Linda Evans

Greeter: Nancy Richardson

Liturgist: Andy Warner

Time with Children: Matt Baker

### September 22, 2019

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Clif Hayworth, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

Liturgist: Lige Daughtridg

Time with Children: Matt Baker

### September 29, 2019

**\*\*Stewardship Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall\*\***

Head Usher: Ben Roberson

Ushers: Valerie Roberson, Clif Hayworth, Paul Outlaw, Zoey Outlaw

Greeters: Christy and Carley Outlaw

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

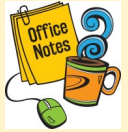


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.**

*Many thanks for the beautiful church flowers delivered to me by Linda Amerson. They certainly cheered me up after losing two brothers in such a short time.*

*Sincerely,  
Evelyn Reese*

*Dear Friends,  
We are so fortunate to have wonderful neighbors, Bobbi and a young (94) Hassell Weeks. Hassell brought us flowers last week—probably the most beautiful flowers ever—and wonderful chicken dinners today. Thank you so much for thinking of us. We pray that going to Indiana will bring good health to our (Interim) Minister.*

*Love to all of you,  
Earl and Phyllis Goodwin*

*Thanks for the delicious breakfast this morning and for all your support of Tar River Academy.*

*God Bless,  
John Scheipers*



### 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:

September 15, 29  
October 6, 27  
November 3, 10, 17, 24



"Hello. I'm here to install the new pastor."

## 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
- ▶ Jim and Pat Blanchard

### CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- ▶ Dick Fountain

### HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

### BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Betsy Boddie

### ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Jim Blanchard

Mayo & Jean Boddie

Mike Braswell

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Jean and Hodge Kitchin

Bobbie Lambeth

John McInnis (Jack Perry's brother-in-law)

Char Mather

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

Scott Solether

Bobbi and Hassell Weeks

Susan Yenney



## Stewardship Sunday 2019



*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2*

**September 29, 2019**

**9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**Breakfast will be served and stewardship packets will be distributed.**

*Farewell Luncheon  
honoring Scott Solether  
and family  
August 18, 2019*

