



# *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

**October 2019**



Friends,

There is a cautious optimism that surrounds a new pastor. Can they preach? Can they lead? Will they try to change everything? Will they have an open door and easy personality? Are they relatable? Are they coming in with an agenda on their mind? I hope that many of your initial questions have been answered, and I pray that the tense period of transition is slowly ebbing away.

As I hit the ground running, I saw who this church is at her core, and I could not be more impressed. The leadership on every level has a heart for God and a commitment to the church. The staff are brilliant. The worship is powerful. The facilities are welcoming. The commitment to the community is a beautiful expression of love. You, the church, are wonderful people whom I already love.

Here is my excitement for what is next. Jim, Jennie and I are planning an Evensong Worship Service. The youth have a lot of energy for youth group and trips. We are assessing and expanding our digital presence. The staff and I are working together to create systems to free our time for more ministry. The APNC will begin meeting soon to see who the next person to join the team will be. It is a busy and exciting time at First Presbyterian!

Let's nestle into the new groove around the church as we worship together, show hospitality, and reach out into the community.

Blessings,

**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 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.



### 90 Fabulous Years!

The family of Mary Watson requests the honor of your presence as they celebrate her birthday in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church.  
**Sunday, November 3, 2019**  
**2:00—4:00 p.m. (floating)**



### 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!*



**Monday, October 21 at noon**  
**Church Parlor**

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy barbeque, buns, slaw, green bean casserole, and ice cream sundaes. 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

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 August 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 27,269.41
Year – to – date	\$ 452,457.64

### Expenses through August 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 38,722.10
Year – to – date	\$ 397,373.29



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, September 17, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- The Session welcomed Matt to his first meeting as moderator and he shared his strategic vision for the church. He plans to focus on our core values of Worshipping God, Hospitality and Outreach. There was a very productive discussion surrounding this vision.
- The Worship committee discussed upcoming preparations for Advent and Christmas as well as updating and finalizing wedding and funeral policies at the church.
- The Outreach committee shared that there would be a community Christmas celebration at Covenant Homes that many groups in the church would be participating in.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

*-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk*



We are so grateful for the faithful volunteers who helped with Lemonade on the Lawn from May 26 through September 1, and especially Hannah Diedrick for her delightful and delicious sweets!

## Committee Meetings

October 1: 4:30 Christian Education;  
5:30 Deacons  
October 7: 10:00 PW Coordinating  
Team, 12:00 Administrative;  
1:00 Outreach  
October 8: 1:00 Welcome; 5:30 APNC  
(Associate Pastor Nominating  
Committee)  
October 15: 6:30 Session

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



## DATES FOR OCTOBER:

- ♦ **Sunday, October 6:** (4:00 p.m.) Both Middle School and High School youth are invited to attend the Installation of the Rev. Matthew K. Baker and afterwards the Honey family will feed the youth a meal in the fellowship hall.
- ♦ **Friday, October 11:** (6:15 a.m.) Sr. High Breakfast with Lee Proctor at Highway Diner
- ♦ **Sunday, October 13:** (4:00 p.m.) All youth are encouraged to attend the Rocky Mount Chamber Choir Concert here at FPC
- ♦ **Sunday, October 20:** (4:30 p.m.) Middle School youth will gather for an activity and meal at the home of Rob and Chrissy Barnhill. (5:30 p.m.) High School youth will gather for a meal and activity at the home of Beth and John Turnage.
- ♦ **Sunday, October 27:** 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 Fisher family.



P. E. P. (Presbyterians Educating Presbyterians) Class meets in the church parlor—currently studying “More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers”.

Present Word Class meets upstairs in room 205 and uses “The Present Word” Bible Study.

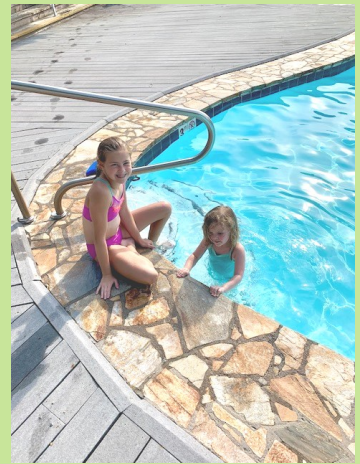
	<b>ELEMENTARY</b> (Grades 2-5; Room 203)	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> Youth Suite	<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> Youth Suite
<b>October 6</b>	Barnhill	Seale <i>Viva 4 One Another</i>	Turnage <i>Viva 4 One Another</i>
<b>October 13</b>	Dill	Sondergard <i>Viva 1 Flawed</i>	M. Gaynor <i>Viva 1 Greed</i>
<b>October 20</b>	Vestal	Mosley <i>Viva 2 Flawed</i>	McLean <i>Viva 2 Greed</i>
<b>October 27</b>	W. Gaynor	Sondergard <i>Viva 3 Flawed</i>	M. Gaynor <i>Viva 3 Greed</i>



# First Presbyterian Happenings



3rd Grade Bible  
recipients & Rally Day  
(9/8/19)



Church-wide Picnic at  
Rose Hill (9/15/19)



Lunch Bunch (9/16/19)







### COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The **Handcraft Ministry** will meet on the third Wednesday (October 16) 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).*



- The annual Hope Banquet will be held October 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Englewood Baptist Church.
- Volunteers (must be over the age of 10) are needed to help with demolition/renovations of the new location (2221 W. Raleigh Blvd.) on Saturday, October 5 from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. It would be helpful if you bring any of the following: sledge hammers, sawzaws, pry bars, work gloves, goggles, hammers and screw drivers/drills.



**Girl Scout Troop 55 is constructing planter boxes to hold flowers that are attractive to bees for the gardens in Conetoe. Both troops, 55 and 434, look forward to contributing towards the Covenant Homes holiday project. We have taken on 25 wish lists per troop for the residents there.**



*You can still support Charlie Warner, member of FPC and Troop 7, as he raises funds to purchase supplies for his Eagle Scout Project benefiting the Sleep in Heavenly*

*Peace organization. This organization builds beds for kids who have a home but no bed to call their own. Charlie's goal is to raise \$1500 (which will provide 15 beds). Krispy Kreme certificates for a dozen donuts can be purchased for \$8 and forms are located in his dad (Andy Warner's) church box. Donations are also accepted & checks can be made out to Charlie Warner, listing Eagle Scout Project in the memo line.*



**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.

## ROCKY MOUNT

### *Chamber Choir*

The Rocky Mount Chamber Choir kicks off their fifth concert season with a performance in our sanctuary on **Sunday, October 13 at 4:00 p.m.** The program will begin with arrangements of American hymn tunes, including "How Can I Keep from Singing?" and "Down to the River to Pray". The latter pays homage to the uniquely American tradition of shape-note singing. In addition to a couple of spirituals—"Ain't Got Time to Die" and "Cornerstone"—the singers will offer Norwegian composer Kim Anesen's beautiful "Flight Song" with lyrics by the Scottish poet Euan Tait. The concert will conclude with a group of American folk songs, including "Old Joe Clark" and "Scraping Up Sand in the Bottom of the Sea". The performance is free and open to the public.

## Presbyterian Women Update

The Circles have reconvened. The women are happy to be back together and are busy making plans for the upcoming year.

Thanks to all who supported the summer service project. The soap and towel collection for the Bassett Center was a success and truly appreciated. The fall service projects are now underway. Both Circles are sponsoring a drive for basic school supplies for the Tar River Academy. Items can be dropped off anytime in the Volunteer office located beside the Church office. In addition to contributing bingo prizes to the Covenant Homes, the Circles will also support their Thanksgiving meal and Christmas Gift project.

And finally—mark your calendars ladies! The annual Christmas Tea will be December 5, 11:00—1:00 p.m. in the church parlor (behind the kitchen).

It's never too late to join a Circle—we cordially invite ALL women to join us each month as we gather together to glorify God through fellowship and to study God's word.

- PWCT will meet October 7 in the History room at 10:00 a.m.
- Circle of Friends will meet October 14 at 7:00 p.m. with Janice Smith hosting the meeting.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on October 8 at the church at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead the lesson for both Circles this month.



### 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 & Martha Tesoro, Circle of J.O.Y Co-Leaders



*Our Presbyterian Women hosted a Bible study kickoff luncheon for PW from our church along with our sister churches (West Haven, Mount Pisgah, Bethlehem, and Morton Presbyterian) on August 29, 2019.*

## FPC MUSIC NOTES

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

Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays 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*



October 6, 2019

**\*Communion served by trays\***

Head Usher: David Farris

Ushers: Christie Sondergard, Emily Sondergard, Nancy Richardson, Jim Newton

Greeter: Ann Dill

Liturgist: Winslow Rogers

Time with Children: Jim Lilley

Communion Preparers: Mike Gaynor, Ben Roberson, Janice Smith

Communion Servers: Mike Gaynor, Ben Roberson, Janice Smith, Catherine Lilley, Steve Rowe, Lisa Rowe, Vince Durham, Melanie Park, Clif Hayworth, Wicky Thorpe, Greg Hutchins

October 13, 2019

Head Usher: David Farris

Ushers: Christie Sondergard, Emily Sondergard, Nancy Richardson, Jim Newton

Greeter: Ann Dill

Liturgist: Catherine Lilley

Time with Children: Mary Scott

October 20, 2019

Head Usher: Lige Daughtridge

Ushers: Ellis Daughtridge, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Kay Wester

Greeter: Annie Daughtridge

Liturgist: Bill Buchanan

Time with Children: Randy Adams

October 27, 2019

Head Usher: Lige Daughtridge

Ushers: Ellis Daughtridge, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Kay Wester

Greeter: Annie Daughtridge

Liturgist: Laura Durham

Time with Children: Matt Baker

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

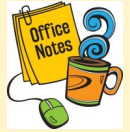


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.**

*Jean and I appreciate very much the cards we receive almost weekly from our church family. First Presbyterian has been such a huge part of our lives and it is nice to still be remembered. Jean also loved the beautiful birthday cake Hannah Diedrick made for her 89th birthday... it was a true work of art.*

*We pray the good Lord will bless each of you and continue to bless our church with such thoughtful, loving people.*

Mayo Boddie

Below is a picture of Captain Preston Smith and 2nd Lt. Judy Smith at her promotion in the Civil Air Patrol!



To you all at First Presbyterian Church,

*"Somehow, just saying thank you doesn't seem like enough. But I hope you know how much your kindness has meant to me."*

*For the visits, the flowers, the cards, the food, the blanket, the hugs, the prayers, the love and the support you have given me. I am so blessed to have friends like you.*

*Thanks again...*

Love,  
Charity Lodge

Dear Church Family,

*Please accept my deepest appreciation for the overwhelming outpouring of love, visits, phone calls, and cards after my unfortunate snake bite. I am grateful for your care and support as I continue to recover.*

Love,  
Chris Feno





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:

**October 27**  
**November 10, 17, 24**



Our love and sympathy is extended to Partha Daughtridge and family (children—Meredith and Gray; mother—Carol Patterson, and aunt—Margaret Barnes) upon the passing of her husband, William “Bill” Gray Daughtridge, Jr., on September 2, 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
- ▶ 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)

Chris Feno

Herman Ferguson

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Jean and Hodge Kitchin

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



You are cordially invited to the  
*Service for Installation*  
 by the Presbytery of New Hope  
 for  
**Matthew Kenneth Baker**  
**October 6, 2019**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Rocky Mount, NC**



### OPEN TO ALL!

Join us for a special day trip to Smithfield on Saturday, October 26! We will depart from the church at 9:00 a.m. , travel to shop and eat lunch at the Carolina Premium Outlets, then end the day at First Presbyterian Church of Smithfield as our new pastor, the Rev. Matt Baker is received into the Presbytery of New Hope at the Presbytery Gathering. To reserve your spot on the van, please contact Sylvia Phillips or feel free to caravan and follow us there!



## Stewardship 2020

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

Hebrews 13:2

Hospitality

Worship

Outreach

Stewardship packets that were not picked up on September 29th will be mailed on October 14. We invite you to dedicate your stewardship pledge during worship on Sunday, October 27, 2019.