



# ***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

**November 2019**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome that you extended to my family on Installation Sunday! October 6th was a glorious day with incredible music in both services, moments of laughter, and a feeling of hope. I am so delighted to be working alongside you in ministry, and I know that God has a lot in store for our many years together.

I want to offer a special thanks to Preston for his service to this church. Preston has maintained a high level of pastoral care and calm during this time of transition. His door has been open to members, staff, and myself for care, guidance, and support. It is incredibly tough for pastors to release control, but Preston has handed the roles of visioning, planning, and leading to me with grace and love. Our church is better place because of Rev. Dr. Preston Smith.

I want to echo something that Preston has been sharing with me. As our church plans, works, and assesses- we cannot forget the spiritual element. Jesus is at work in this church and this community by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our responsibility is not to force fit our agenda onto God's plan. Rather, our responsibility is to discover together what amazing things God has in store. I am excited to join in that mission with you!

God bless you this month as the weather (hopefully) continues to cool and the preparations for the holidays commence.

Grace and Peace,  
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.*



### 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!*



## Tuesday, December 3, 2019 First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

Social Time 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Catered by "Something Different" of Wilson, NC

**Menu:** Honey Dijon Chicken and Beef Tips, Red-skin Boiled Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Seven Layer Salad, Yeast Rolls, choice of carrot cake or mini cheesecakes for dessert, Tea, Coffee and water.

**Cost:** \$24.00 per person

**Respond** by November 27 to either Marie Kem or Sue Jackson and also let them know of any dietary restrictions.

***Please bring a small can of fruit or vegetables for Covenant Homes.***



## Monday, November 18 at noon Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy turkey and dressing with gravy, sweet potato casserole, frozen cranberry salad, asparagus and a holiday dessert. 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 September 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 29,451.92
Year – to – date	\$ 481,909.56

### Expenses through September 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 40,808.12
Year – to – date	\$ 438,181.41



Stewardship season is upon us! Each pledge is a blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for making your contribution:

- Bank draft – This is a safe and steady way to consistently support First Presbyterian Church. It can be selected on your pledge card and attaching a voided check. The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the 25<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, it is drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. The draft for your 2020 contribution would begin January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019. If you choose the bank draft, you can also stop it by contacting Jeanne Shannon in the church office 2 weeks before the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Envelopes – these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card
- Sale of stock – If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon to request a stock donor letter or have your broker contact Jeanne in the church office. **The stock sale process should begin in early November due to the length of time for the process and to make the 12/31 deadline due to holidays.**
- Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line.
- Online giving – Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit [www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org) using the 'Online Payment' link in the top right corner to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

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.



*Daylight saving time ends—  
don't forget to fall back an  
hour before worship on  
November 3, 2019!*

*The church office will be closed  
for the Thanksgiving holiday on  
Wednesday, November 27 and  
Thursday, November 28. Have  
a wonderful Thanksgiving!*

**Thanksgiving  
Holiday**



### NEW TABLE LINENS

Have you noticed our new tablecloths recently? Many thanks to the Property Committee for purchasing new tablecloths to spruce up our fellowship gatherings.



The new tablecloths are 100% polyester, can be laundered at home and do NOT need to be dry cleaned. They are in separate bins by color and shape (round or rectangular) and we have enough for all of our tables. Please use the new 'TABLECLOTH SIGN OUT/IN SHEET' located on the pantry wall if any are taken home to launder. Please sign out and sign them back in when returned. Thanks to all volunteers who launder these for us.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



## DATES FOR NOVEMBER:

- ♦ **Sunday, November 3:** 5:00 p.m. Evensong Service; meal afterwards provided by the Gaynor family
- ♦ **Friday, November 8:** 6:15 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast with Lee Proctor at Highway Diner
- ♦ **Sunday, November 10:** 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group; 5:30 Meal provided by Jami Barnhill; 6:00 Sr. High Youth Group
- ♦ **Sunday, November 17:** 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group; 5:30 Meal provided by Daughtridge family; 6:00 Sr. High Youth Group
- ♦ **Sunday, November 24:** 5:00—7:00 p.m. Jingle Mingle at the YMCA, Bring \$5.00 to cover meal and supplies cost.



Wednesday

November 20, 2019

4:30 p.m.

Snacks, music, crafts and  
FUN with Pastor Matt for  
ages Pre-K through 5th  
Grade!

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

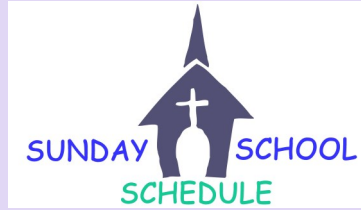
# JINGLE MINGLE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | 5-7 P.M.  
HARRISON FAMILY YMCA  
(1000 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE)

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH  
FOOD | GAMES | SERVICE | FELLOWSHIP

Don't forget \$5 participation fee!





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>Nov. 3</b>	Tharin	Sondergard <i>Viva 4 Flawed</i>	Fisher <i>Viva 4 Greed</i>
<b>Nov. 10</b>	TBA	Seale <i>Viva 1 Feeding the 5000</i>	Turnage <i>Viva 1 Anxiety</i>
<b>Nov. 17</b>	Dill	Mosley <i>Viva 2 Feeding the 5000</i>	TBA <i>Viva 2 Anxiety</i>
<b>Nov. 24</b>	Advent Workshop— Fellowship hall	Catherine Lilley U2 and Spirituality	Catherine Lilley U2 and Spirituality

## First Presbyterian Happenings



The Rev. Matthew K. Baker was installed as our head pastor on 10/6/19



Deborah Coffee assisting with crafts at Covenant Homes on 10/2/19



Rock the Mount at NCWC on 8/27/19



Kiddos in the Kirk  
10/16/19



Sr. High Youth Group on 10/20/19



Middle School youth enjoyed pickleball in the fellowship hall on 10/20/19



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

***The Outreach Committee wants to be more intentional about collecting for special causes. Rather than having multiple ongoing collections, we will focus on one special collection per month. The focus of November is Peacemakers and looking ahead, the focus in December will be on Tar River Academy (with more info to come)!***



The Handcraft Ministry will meet on the third Wednesday (November 20) 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.



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).

## November Outreach Collection Project

# CHRISTMAS TOY STORE

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> 2019



Benefits families and individuals in the Nash/Edgecombe counties by giving them an opportunity to purchase items at significantly reduced prices rather than receive hand-outs during the holidays.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Host a Toy Drive

Share the Info

Financial Donations

Toy Donations

### FOR MORE INFO:

[www.rockymountpeacemakers.org/toystore](http://www.rockymountpeacemakers.org/toystore)

Peacemakers of Rocky Mount

1725 Davis Street | Rocky Mount, NC 27803

[www.rockymountpeacemakers.org](http://www.rockymountpeacemakers.org) | 252.212.5044

**PEACE  
MAKERS**  
COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

We will be collecting toys for the Peacemakers Christmas Toy Store from November 1–November 30 here at FPC. Toys can be brought to either the narthex or the designated spot in the fellowship hall. After Nov. 30, items can be dropped off directly at the Davis Street location from Dec. 2–5th. Be sure to look for Sign up sheets for Volunteers who will be needed as the date gets closer!





Scouting News

**Girl Scout Troop 55** will be earning our patriotism badge in the next couple of months. As part of completing this badge, we will be learning how to properly dispose of the American flag. If anyone has flags that are worn out, please consider donating them to us. Thanks so much!

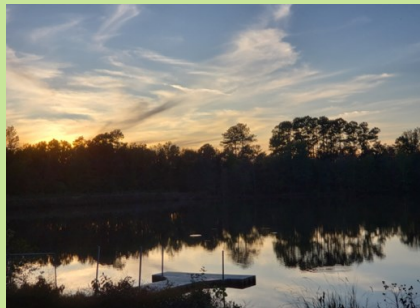
### Boy Scout Troop 7 News from September:

September school is back in session and so is Troop 7. While it was still warm, we decided to make our first campout be a beach adventure. We camped at Oregon Inlet National Seashore. Mosquitoes let us know they were there first when we arrived but the ocean breeze saved us the rest of the trip. We were able to tour the Coast Guard Station and had a great visit! (Mr. Lane took along a retired "Coastie" officer so that might have helped!) The scouts were able to observe the radio room, watch tower and climb all over the different patrol and rescue boats. Mr. Lane enjoyed the demonstration of how they use rope and "Samson" post to tow distressed boats. The weekend was warm enough for a last swim for the season. The scouts "accidentally" cooked all of our reserve food for dinner so Scoutmaster Lane splurged and we went out for shrimp burgers (Hey we were at the beach. Plenty of campouts remaining to have spaghetti dinners!) We also got to observe the Space Station on the beach as it flew over our location. It was a great way to start our camping season!



### Boy Scout Troop 7 News from October: *Calm before the storm*

Troop 7 spent a night at Camp Charles in Bailey this October. Due to the impending storm coming in on Sunday we elected to pack up Saturday night and forgo packing up in 3 inches of rain. Friday night got down in the upper 30's which had the coyotes howling! I mean I have never heard so many!!! (Have to admit I had a hard time sleeping with one eye open all night). Saturday started out cool but warmed up enough for canoeing and fishing in the lake. We ended the day with a game of football which the scoutmasters won **again**. (Yes.... that is out of bounds...scoutmaster rules).



## Presbyterian Women Update

There is a lot of good work happening thanks to the wonderful women in our congregation. The Presbyterian Women's groups study the Bible together. They faithfully volunteer and readily support Outreach missions as well as programs within our congregation. This month the focus is Thanksgiving meals for Covenant Homes and their upcoming Christmas Gift Project. And plans are in place for the annual Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea.

The women of FPC truly live the faith.....prayerfully, joyfully, and generously. And sometimes with tea and cookies!

Find your place of service with the wonderful women at FPC:

- PWCT will meet November 4 in the History room at 10:00 a.m.
- Circle of Friends will meet November 11 at 7:00 p.m. with Laura Dudley. Myra Richardson will lead the Bible Study.
- The Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on November 12 in the Session Room at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead the Bible Study lesson.

### 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



*The following remarks were made by Laura Durham, along with Nancy Richardson and Janice Smith, as they announced Evelyn Reese as a recipient of the PW Honorary Life Membership on October 13, 2019:*

An active member since 1955, our recipient has participated and contributed to almost every aspect of church life. She is attentive to detail. As Clerk of Session, she recorded discussion regarding a dead boxwood in front of the

church - indicating a plea for its replacement would be made to the congregation and Wardlaw Lamar and Wicky Thorpe would do the digging! She has been community minded and globally concerned. Along with Laura Dudley and Phil Gladden, she headed up the 1985 Crop Walk. She has been recognized by PW for her dedicated service. In 2002, Janie Lassiter presented our recipient with the annual Birthday Cake honor. She means business when it is time for business to be accomplished. Nancy Richardson recalled a time when she and another Circle member got tickled and couldn't stop laughing—our recipient banished them to the kitchen to prepare the evening's refreshments so the meeting could continue. She has served as a Deacon, Elder, Sunday School teacher and faithful participant in class. Through the years, she has volunteered in the office and has made countless gestures of care and concern for her church family members. Most recently, she was recognized by this Church as the recipient of our Older Adult Award. And while she takes her seat in the very back pew, our recipient is definitely a front row participant. We are honored to present this Honorary Life Membership to **Evelyn Reese!**



All women of the church are  
invited to the  
Presbyterian Women  
Christmas Tea

Thursday,  
December 5, 2019

Stop in between 11:00-1:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church parlor





## 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*



**November 3, 2019**

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Wicky Thorpe, Julian Parks, Anne Mosley

Greeter: Cora Lee Gold

Liturgist: Jean Kitchin

Time with Children: Jim Lilley

**November 10, 2019**

Head Usher: David Dudley

Ushers: Laura Dudley, Wicky Thorpe, Julian Parks, Anne Mosley

Greeter: Annie Daughtridge

Liturgist: Janice Smith

Time with Children: Mary Scott

**November 17, 2019**

Head Usher: Darin Scott

Ushers: Elizabeth Scott, Lee Scott, Linda Evans, Randy Evans

Greeter: Jami Barnhill

Liturgist: David Farris

Time with Children: Randy Adams

**November 24, 2019**

Head Usher: Darin Scott

Ushers: Elizabeth Scott, Lee Scott, Linda Evans, Randy Evans

Greeter: Jami Barnhill

Liturgist: Tim Smith

Time with Children: Matt Baker



**Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 5—the**  
*Worship Committee invites all who wish to help*  
*decorate the church for the Christmas season to come*  
*to the sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.***

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

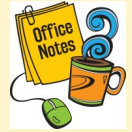


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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 Church Family,  
You continue to show your love and caring in so many ways which is most supportive and appreciated. I thank Laura Dudley for delivering the beautiful flowers that were in Church last Sunday. They have been brightening each day this week. Also, I would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, cards, telephone calls, and most of all your prayers. Aging and rheumatoid arthritis have their challenges so please keep the praying going.  
Love and Blessings,  
Margaret Barnes

Dear Handcraft Ministry,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket. It's already been put to good use. May the good Lord bless each one of you. With love and best wishes,  
Rosalie Clark

I am still enjoying the lovely flowers from the church that Laura Durham brought me. Thank you so much. I hope and pray that I will soon be able to return to church. I miss everyone.  
Love,  
Evelyn Reese

Dearest Handcraft Ministry,  
I am the Rehab Supervisor at the Bryant T. Aldridge Rehab Center. We have been the lucky recipients of some of your amazing blankets. Our patients are so thankful to have something so personal and needed to use during their stay and take home with them when they leave. They are all so bright and beautiful and have been such a blessing to all of us. We are in awe of your talent and generosity!  
Thank you again!  
Emily Deans and the BTAR Staff

God really blessed me when he placed me in First Presbyterian Church—Rocky Mount. I would never have been able to recover if it had not been for my church family. Your prayers, and other support, flowers, cards and visits along with the love of my Christian family have meant so much. I hope to be back in church real soon.  
God bless all of you,  
Char Mather

Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, calls and visits after my little fall. I'm doing just fine and hope to be back in church very soon.  
I feel so lucky to be a part of such a caring and giving group. Thanks again for everything.  
Love,  
Genevieve Batchelor



We decorate our Sanctuary during Advent with beautiful poinsettias which are made available by your donations to honor and remember special friends and/or loved ones. Envelopes will be available beginning **November 17** in the Narthex or from the church office for you to pick up and enclose payment along with the name(s) of those you wish to honor. You can either place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or return to Dionne Seale's church mailbox. A donation of \$18 per poinsettia is appreciated. A special bulletin remembers the honorees on Christmas Eve and the deadline to donate is **December 15, 2019**.



Our love and sympathy is extended to the Rev. Matthew K. Baker and family upon the passing of his grandmother, Marlene Baker, of Akron, Ohio on September 28, 2019.



*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

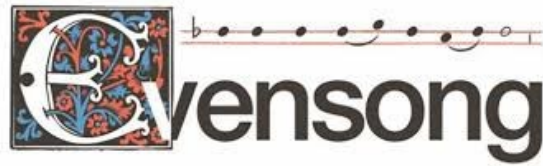
Susan Yenney





### **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)*



### **Evensong Worship Service**

*"A very strong wind tore through the mountains. After the wind, there was an earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But! The Lord wasn't in the strong wind, the earthquake or the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. A voice."* 1 Kings 19:11-13 adapted

Come join us on November 3rd at 5:00 p.m. for a candlelit service of scripture, music, quiet, communion, and remembrance. We welcome you to sit in stillness and listen for the sound. Thin. Quiet. A voice.



The Session met on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- The Outreach and Finance Committees are sending letters to the recipients of our benevolences to insure that we are being good stewards of our benevolent gifts. This will be a process that takes some time.
- Matt presented his proposed committee structure which will focus on our three identified core values of Worship, Outreach and Hospitality. The structure will take our current committees and make processes more streamlined and efficient as we prepare to call our new Community pastor. The session is looking forward to working under this structure.
- The session discussed the success of our recent 5th Sunday focused on being good stewards of our resources at First Presbyterian. After discussion, Matt requested to write a letter to the congregation to include our budget and further explanation of the ongoing assessment of our Outreach benevolent giving.
- There was a recommendation from Admin to allocate the remaining approximately \$30,000 from the Mission Tithe to Covenant Homes to be disbursed to them as capital needs arise. The session believes that this mission of FPC is reaching many needy people in our area with 104 housing units for low income residents and is a good use of the balance of the Mission Tithe. The recommendation carried unanimously.
- The Christian Ed committee is working on a middle school lock-in and project to benefit Peacemakers. Details will follow.
- Scott Solether was removed as president of the corporation and Matt Baker was elected president of the corporation.
- The session considered a gift of real property located on Branch Street in Rocky Mount which the Session ultimately voting not to accept the gift. Mike Gaynor consulted with a real estate professional to determine an estimated value and it was determined it would possibly cost more to acquire it than it could be sold for. Also, the session was worried about liability and the cost of carrying liability insurance until it was sold.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

*-Submitted by Mike Gaynor, Clerk*