



First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

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

February 2020



Dear Friends,

Every pastor throughout history has lied to him or herself concerning the “Myth of January.” We think that the busyness of the Christmas season will ebb into a winter lull of rest, reading, and planning in January. One would think that we might have learned that this myth has no basis in reality, but we persist in believing it none-the-less.

It has been a remarkably productive January around our church. There is fresh exterior paint and sealant around the exterior of the building and multiple adjusted doors and items around the offices. We’ve upgraded a computer, laid carpet, renovated a bathroom, and installed more drinking water.

We’ve held events for the youth and children as well as the annual ski trip. We are planning for Lenten and Holy Week services. We trained officers for ordination and installation on February 2nd. The APNC is reviewing possible candidates for the Community Pastor. All of this and more helps us fulfill our mission in God’s kingdom.

I celebrate the wonderful work that we have been a part of during this past month, and I’m glad that this season has been full of energy and activity. I’m also hoping that this year will be the year when the “Myth of February” finally brings rest, reading, and planning. We’ll see!

As we look forward, I am eager to see us band together more and more to help our church proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. There are several places around our church that need your participation. We always have an open choir seat, quilt to sew, or committee to join. Thank you all for how you love and support our church and know that you are in my prayers.

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!



Monday, February 17 at noon
Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy baked spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and 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. A suggested donation of \$10 per meal is appreciated for this event. While geared towards retirement age folks, all are welcome!



In-Betweens Meal

Saturday, February 22, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The In-Betweens fellowship group will gather at the home of Sue and Gene Jackson for good food and fellowship. Please contact the hosts—either Sue Jackson or Marie Kem and let them know what you want to bring.

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 December, 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 81,396.70
Year – to – date	\$ 693,711.85

Expenses through December, 2019

Month – to – date	\$ 45,211.25
Year – to – date	\$ 595,670.87



We welcome and appreciate your 2020 pledge! Pledge packets were mailed in November. Please complete a pledge card and put in the offering plate or drop it by or mail it to the church. As a reminder, prior year pledges are not assumed to continue so please submit a pledge card to continue giving.

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office by phone at 252.446.9121 or by email at Jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org. Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30.



The Session met Tuesday, January 21, and conducted the following business:

- The Fellowship Committee will arrange for hot chocolate and Girl Scout cookies to be served in the Fellowship Hall following Scout Sunday worship on February 9;
- The Property Committee is working on a list of building and grounds priorities for the coming year;
- Diane Dixon, Chair of the Community Partners Committee, reported that the Covenant Homes Christmas party was a huge success and that Jack Perry makes for a wonderful Santa Claus;
- The APNC (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee) is hard at work reviewing Candidate credentials;
- Matt will be attending the Association Of Presbyterian Christian Educators meeting from January 27-February 1.

If you have any questions regarding any of these matters, please reach out to a member of the Session for more information.

We welcome your input on this and all other matters.

-Submitted by Randy Adams, Clerk

**Mark your calendars for our
annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Supper!**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020
6:00 p.m.**



**Volunteers are needed to bring
fresh fruit salads and breakfast
casseroles.**

**Please sign up on the bulletin
board across from the Session
Room.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



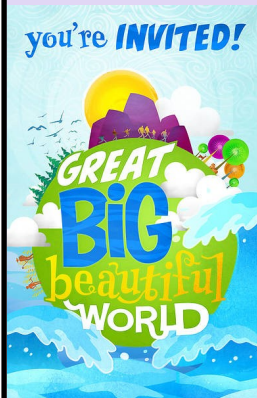
DATES FOR FEBRUARY :

- ♦ **Sunday, February 2:** 9:45 a.m. Sr. High Youth Group—Biscuits with Baker & Middle School—Sunday School; 12:15 Middle School Youth Group—Pizza with Preacher
- ♦ **Sunday, February 9:** No Youth Group (Scout Sunday)
- ♦ **Friday, February 14:** 6:15 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast with Lee Proctor at Highway Diner
- ♦ **Sunday, February 16:** 9:45 a.m. Sr. High Youth Group—Biscuits with Baker & Middle School—Sunday School; 12:15 Middle School Youth Group —Pizza with Preacher
- ♦ **Sunday, February 23:** Focus on Fellowship—Middle School YG (Honey family—activity TBA); High School YG (Daughtridge family—Holy Guacamole Lunch at El Jimador after worship)



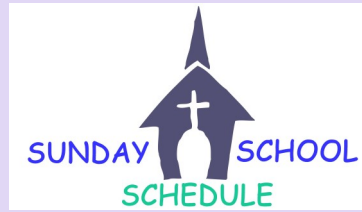
Wednesday,
February 12, 2020
4:30 p.m.

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



Mark your calendars!

Our community Vacation Bible School will be held June 1-5, 2020 at Lakeside Baptist Church from 8:45-noon daily. This year's theme is "Great Big Beautiful World" and participants ages 3 through completed 5th grade are invited to attend. Registration info will be announced soon. Youth helpers and adult volunteers from our church will also be needed so be on the lookout for more info!



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

Present Word Class meets downstairs in the History Room and uses “The Present Word” Bible Study.

	ELEMENTARY (Grades 2-5; Room 203)	MIDDLE SCHOOL Youth Suite	HIGH SCHOOL Youth Suite
2/2/2020	Dill	Sondergard	Biscuits with Baker
2/9/2020	Gaynor	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
2/16/2020	TBA	Seale	Biscuits with Baker
2/23/2020	Tharin	No Sunday School	No Sunday School

Biscuit Providers: February 2—Cox; February 16—Fisher

First Presbyterian Happenings



Herman Ferguson celebrated his 103rd birthday on December 28th! At left, Herman and his daughters, Rebecca and Suzanne. Above, his cake made by the talented Hannah Diedrick.

Below, FPC Fabulous Friday Friends Fellowship recently celebrated some birthdays.



Youth Ski Trip 2020!



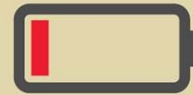
Community Partners

The Community Partners 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.



Our Community Partners Collection focus for February will be collecting after school snacks for Peacemakers. Beginning February 2, there will be a collection bin in the volunteer office and the narthex vestibule where items such as individually packaged granola bars, vanilla wafers, graham crackers, cereal bars, pop tarts, fruit roll ups, veggie straws, pretzels, etc. can be dropped off. Please do not donate snacks containing peanuts butter.

Just like your phone needs constant recharging, so does the blood supply. Right now, blood donations are going to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. In January, severe winter weather and seasonal illnesses can make it difficult for the American Red Cross to maintain a sufficient blood supply. Schedule now and be the lifeline patients need.. Give now and help overcome a #BloodEmergency!



You wouldn't let this happen to your phone.

Why would you let it happen to the blood supply?



American Red Cross

#BloodEmergency Give Now.

First Presbyterian Church

Rocky Mount

Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 18th

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross.

Pre-register online at www.redcross.org, www.fpcrm.org or contact Diane Dixon, Community Partners Chairperson.



The Handcraft Ministry will meet on February 19th 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.



GIRL SCOUT TROOPS 434 AND 55 NEWS

Both Troops 434 and 55 are in the midst of cookie season. Please contact us if you are in need of cookies! We appreciate all of the church's support. We are also looking forward to participating in Scout Sunday (February 9th).



Troop 7 News

Troop 7 recently attended "Freeze-O-Ree" held locally at the West Edgecombe Ruritan Club over the MLK weekend. There were over 268 scouts in attendance working on a variety of Merit Badges. Troop 7 scouts worked on Eagle required merit badges in addition to others such as "Architecture, Geology, Medicine and Chess". One of our scouts was born in Scotland which we learned the time zone is 5 hours ahead. Since he was born at midnight on the 19th we celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on the 18th our time. (I think that math works out). Weather was 27 degrees on the first morning and 55 the next. Heavy rain on Saturday night but we all stayed dry....(except for the scouts playing football in the rain in the dark!)



Bacon, egg and cheese casserole breakfast. No better way to start a cold morning.



Birthday boy.



Troop 7 Scouts

Mark your calendars for Scout Sunday—February 9, 2020!

Presbyterian Women Update

The Presbyterian Women continue to nurture their faith through prayer, Bible study, and service. The attendance for both Circles continues to be strong and participation in the PW projects is outstanding. This month the PW will focus on the upcoming Women's Day service in April (April 19).

There is nothing more beautiful than those who go out of their way to make life beautiful for others. Find your place of fellowship and service with the caring community of women at FPC—where all is done in response to the glory and goodness of God.

- PWCT will meet February 3 in the History room at 10:00 a.m.
- Circle of Friends will meet February 10 at 7:00 p.m. with hostess Mary Lou Fountain.
- Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on February 11 in the Session Room at 10:30 a.m. and 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

First Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Women 2019 Year Overview

What a year we have had! We purchased a new van in January. Started the 5th Sunday service which included wonderful fellowship and discussions about the direction of the church. These special services continue with varying objectives. We have said good bye to our interim minister, the Rev. Dr. Scott Solether and his family, and welcomed our new Pastor, Rev. Matthew Baker and his family to First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount. We are truly blessed to have Matt, Liz, Elly Mae and Sally with us. The church has helped send John Etheredge to Ghana for a 2 year mission trip. He will be greatly missed. We continue to remember and celebrate our members with flowers and blankets for those with sickness. We have made available scholarships to our students.

Outreach is also an important part of our lives working with many wonderful organizations such as:

- Tar River Academy teachers and staff to help the students succeed with donations of school supplies, snacks, hygiene kits, food bags for Christmas, along with goodies for the teachers and supplies for their classrooms, also a place for their graduation celebration.
- Nash County Hospital helping give patients and their families comfort and support through our fleece blankets and fidget blankets.
- Peacemakers by providing snacks for after school and summer programs, helping with their Christmas toy drive and toy store, and helping to prepare for their move to a new facility.
- The Veterans with our fleece blankets.
- Wesleyan College foreign students with a graduation dinner, American Red Cross with a blood drive and many other wonderful organizations.
- Covenant Homes with building repairs, crafts for residents, and a Christmas party with gifts.
- United Community Ministries with food and supplies for the soup kitchen, handmade washcloths, and clothing.

This just lists a few of the organizations in the community we have helped.

Submitted by Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount, NC



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*



February 2, 2020

Head Usher: Mike Gaynor

Ushers: Anna Brooks Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor, Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer

Greeters: Sarah & Lloyd Bailey

Liturgist: Matt Baker

Children's Sermon: Randy Adams

Communion Preparers: Diane Dixon, Tim Smith

Communion Servers: Tim Smith, Mary Sue Smith, Diane Dixon, Joe Brown

February 9, 2020

Scout Sunday

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Scouts

Greeters: Scouts

Liturgist: Scouts

Children's Sermon: Scouts

February 16, 2020

Head Usher: John Feagans

Ushers: Virginia Feagans, Tim Hathaway, Bridget Hathaway, Heather Gardner

Greeter: Patsy Manning

Liturgist: Laura Durham

Children's Sermon: Jim Lilley

February 23, 2020

Head Usher: Steve Rowe

Ushers: Lisa Rowe, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Winslow Rogers

Greeter: Laura Rogers

Liturgist: Dee Whitley

Children's Sermon: Matt Baker

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

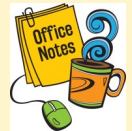


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc_rockymount

Contact Information Updates: Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org 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,
Thank you for all your prayers and support during Keith's time in the hospital and while he was recovering at home. Keith is doing great, however he is still taking it easy, but is able to go about his normal day to day activities. Prayer is certainly powerful! All the food and casseroles were such a tremendous help as well as delicious. We are grateful for all of you.

Love,
The Sutton Family

I have never felt so much love and support from my Presbyterian family after the loss of my wonderful man, Hassell Howard Weeks, Jr. I am now blessed with 34 years of treasured memories. God is good. Your cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and sweet hugs have meant everything to me and my family.

Bless you all,
Bobbi Weeks



Again this Christmas, I was the proud recipient of a Gingerbread house made by a youth. My hat is off to the one who created it. You did a terrific job! Thank you so much. I am still enjoying it.

Evelyn Reese

I received some cards and a care package on January 22. I would like to thank my First Presbyterian Family for the beautiful Christmas cards I received from many of you. It made me feel so very special.

John Etheredge



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:

February 23
March 1, 15, 29



- Our love and sympathy is extended to Jennifer Schrimper and family upon the death of her father, Cornelius Cahill of Wilmington, NC on 1/3/2020.
- Our love and sympathy is also extended to Tom Steed and family upon the death of Tom's brother, Brad Steed, of Raleigh, NC on 1/17/2020.

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

Harriet Brock (sister of Myra Richardson)

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

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

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Ruth Munro (mother of Lynn Warner)

Gerry Niece (friend of the church)

Phyllis Parker

Anne Wilgus Podesta

Evelyn Reese

Robin Reeves (daughter of Edie and Ron Reeves)

Blanche Robinson

Dr. Harding Rogers (father of Winslow Rogers)

Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Preston Smith

Keith Sutton

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



Jesus teaches us that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Along with the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, our church needs willing and able people to offer some of the talents, which God has graciously bestowed upon us. We have 10 committees and are growing toward 13 committees. Each one has been tasked to do one thing really well. If God has gifted you with passion, ability, or a willingness to learn about some of the following, please contact the elder or moderator listed.

The **Administrative Committee** makes recommendations to session about the finances of the church.

Dee Whitley—moderator

The **Welcome Committee** is responsible for ushers and creating a safe and welcoming atmosphere for Sunday morning worship.

Andy Warner—moderator

The **Music Committee** provides music for our worship services and special events.

Katherine Fisher —moderator

The **Christian Education Committee** offers programs for the spiritual development of our church.

Betsy McLean—moderator

The **Decoration Committee** creates a welcoming and hospitable environment within the church.

Beth Turnage—moderator

The **Fellowship Committee** feeds and nourishes our church for special events.

Valerie Roberson—moderator

The **Property Committee** tends to the building and grounds.

Gordon Vestal—moderator

The **Community Partners Committee** partners with others in our community to help us join together in ministry.

Diane Dixon—moderator

The **Table to Table Committee** will help us take communion, flowers, and love from our worship- out to shut-ins and the community.

Marianne Farris—moderator

The **Congregational Care Committee** is made up of our **Deacons**, who will be praying for and tending to our members.

Throughout the year, we look forward to establishing a **Technology Committee** to help us in the digital age. We are also excited to see how we can support the new **Community Pastor**. Finally, we hope to reestablish **Stephen Ministries** or a comparable program.

If you can cook, pray, arrange flowers, or want to discover where your passion meets a need around our church- please feel free to talk to Matt or an elder.