



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

April 2020

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

AN ABRIDGED APRIL NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who helped make Easter so special this year. I thank Jim, Jennie, and the choral scholars for the music; Partha for the Easter flower arrangement; all who helped procure and deliver lilies to people; and the many people who watched the service and sent kind notes to us. I know we all want to gather together and share hugs, stories, and laughter again; thank you for the ways that you are respecting the need for social distancing during this time.

Things around the church are far too quiet. We miss the energy and noise from “Kiddos in the Kirk” and the fellowship of Brown Bag, Wednesday Nights, and unexpected drop-ins. Mostly, we miss you. You are the church! I hope that you are finding ways to be the church in action during our time apart from one another. I pray that there are meaningful moments for you to encounter God and God’s work among us.

You are all in my prayers during this season of rest and unrest, and as always- please reach out if I can be of support to you or your family.



With Love and thanks,
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

STAY INFORMED

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WHEN TO SEEK CARE



STAY HOME

If you are experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19 and think you have been exposed, **please stay home**.

Going to a hospital or doctor's office could potentially spread illness to others.



CALL FOR ADVICE

At home, call your health care provider or the State Health Department 24/7 hotline to discuss your symptoms. From there, medical experts will determine appropriate next steps.

1-866-462-3821

If you are sick and feel you have an emergency, call your health care provider or seek emergency medical care. **Please call your provider's office or the hospital before you go**, especially if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and believe you have been exposed.

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.

The church office is temporarily closed. However, Jeanne is still processing mail including contributions and paying church bills. If you normally put your check or tithe envelope in the offering plate, please consider mailing to the church until we can gather together again.

Pledges and Loose Offering through February 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 26,535.33
Year – to – date	\$ 166,744.15

Expenses through February 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 39,988.44
Year – to – date	\$ 106,257.61



Need to get reimbursed for a church expense? Please complete the reimbursement form found in the office mail slots. If you don't know the expense code you need, explain what the expense is on the form. Be sure to attach receipts to the back of the form and leave in Jeanne Shannon's box. Questions? Contact Jeanne in the church office.

Church office phone	252.446.9121, option 5
Jeanne's email	jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org
Jeanne's office hours are	Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30 p.m.

GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP

Adult Volunteers Needed!

July 13—17, 2020

Gatekeepers Workcamp is a ministry of a consortium of churches in Rocky Mount, NC with work “headquartered” at Lakeside Baptist. The Mission of Gatekeepers Workcamp is to provide hands-on, Christian mission experience for youth in grades 6-12 in an ecumenical setting and to provide free home repairs for homeowners who are unable to maintain their homes because of financial or physical limitations. Adult volunteers are needed to assist with this mission. If able to commit to all or even part of this week as an adult volunteer, please contact Jeanne Shannon at jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org or 252-446-9121, option 5. Volunteers are needed to help with the daily lunches provided at Church of the Good Shepherd as well as skilled labor in the homes while supervising the youth.

**PLEASE NOTE—ALL DATES
ON THIS PAGE ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

you're **INVITED!**



Vacation Bible School

June 1-5, 2020

Lakeside Baptist Church

8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon daily

Ages 3- completed Grade 5

A suggested donation of \$15 per child is requested, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Scholarships are available.

Register online at <http://lakesidechurchrmt.org/ministries/vbs-student-registration>

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.



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:

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7, 28



*The Community Partners Committee has been hard at work!
Please take a look at how God's love is being spread by First
Presbyterian...*

Covenant Homes: Nancy Richardson is keeping FPC connected with Covenant Homes during this Stay-at-Home time due to the coronavirus. Physical distancing is definitely in place and the cafeteria is currently closed. Community Partners used \$150 from Undesignated Funds to provide them with a meal. A bag lunch, including chips, sandwich donated by Chic-Fil-A, cookies and fruit, was put together by the two staff members and delivered to each apartment. On April 21, we will provide a turkey sub, chips and cookies. FPC has also provided afternoon snacks and several Presbyterian Women are calling the residents each week to chat and make sure they are doing okay. They are very grateful to be remembered by us. The Easter Bunny surprised everyone by giving out Bingo prizes from Circle of Joy and Circle of Friends.

Peacemakers: The facility is closed to the public during this time, but they still need food or money donations to fill food boxes for neighborhood families. Community Partners made a \$300 donation from Undesignated Funds for these food boxes. Their March Book Party was cancelled.

TRA: Tempie Fuller and Laura Dudley delivered requested teacher supplies the day schools closed with great teacher surprise and delight at that difficult time. Unfortunately the planned St. Patrick's Day party for students, the end of month birthday celebration party and Easter party for the staff were cancelled.

Handcraft Ministry: Cloth Easter bunnies made by Frances Guerry and Laura Dudley for TRA could not be used so they were given to Peacemakers for their Easter packet for food basket delivery. Candy was placed in each bunny. Laura and Frances are also making face masks for the hospital (Amy Winham's request), Boice-Willis Clinic (Martha Chesnutt's request) and home health care workers who have called. They are having trouble getting supplies but will continue making them when supplies ordered come in.

Meals on Wheels
has suspended
activity for the
month of April.



They will advise if we will resume
our schedules in May. Thank you!

AN UPDATE FROM JOHN ETHEREDGE CHURCH MEMBER AND LONG-TERM VOLUNTEER IN GHANA

WORK IN GHANA

Since my last newsletter I have been very busy learning the Ghana/African culture. Things like: You do not greet or give someone something with your left hand. You do not give a hug to a married woman. Especially children are taught to honor anyone older than them. Men do not remove their hats in church. I was in the doctor's waiting room when two mothers starting feeding their little one and did not cover their breasts. Girls are required to cut their hair short the same as boys until they are in eight grade. Girls are taught not to kiss a boy until they are engaged to be married.

My work includes: Nenyo Harbor, a project aimed to educate primary and middle school youth who dropped out of formal school. I serve as a mentor and tutor to the children. The Shepard Centre of Ageing is a church-based social center that engages older adults who live alone in the community. I serve as an informal counselor and companion to those who come to the center for nurture, care, and for social and faith activities. I also work at the EP Church Activity Center making repairs to desks, chairs and tables as needed

Each Sunday there are four worship services for the 3,500 member church. I attend the 7:00 AM older adult worship and the 9:00 AM children church. There is a contemporary service at 7:00 AM and a traditional service at 9:00 AM. I spend a minimum of five hours in church each Sunday. I preach every third Sunday in the older adults service. I will start preaching at the children church service next quarter.

I cannot say enough about how kind the people are here, both inside and outside the church. However, there is no place like home. Continue to pray for me in my work here and support me financially for my second year. Don't forget you can follow my progress by logging into john.etheredge@pcusa.org.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

John



Children gathering for an afterschool get together at the Nenyo Harbor Center



Worship Service at the Shepherd Center of Ageing

John's Address: Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana; PO Box HP 18; Ho, V/R Ghana

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.

Dear Presbyterian Family,

In this time of uncertainty, I did not expect my wonderful birthday surprise when Beth and Larry High delivered another amazing masterpiece by Hannah Diedrick. Waiting and enjoying its beauty, I didn't want to destroy a work of art but I know Hannah's culinary talents and they had to be enjoyed. At 92, I am blessed by you, our caring church family.

With love in Christ,
Lloyd Bailey



Dear Ladies,

Thank you so very much for my blanket. I chose the tan dog blanket and absolutely love it. My best friend I adore is Henry. I rescued him from the Franklin County Pound. He is mixed Pit bull & Great Dane. He is my safe place after a hard day at school with these challenging youngins'. Thank you for caring about us!

Sincerely,
Lori Jones
Science Teacher—Tar River Academy

Dear Church Family,
We cannot thank you enough for the beautiful flowers delivered by Linda Amerson from the church and all the sweet cards and concern after the death of Brad. Your thoughtfulness means so much to us during this sad time. What a blessing Matt and Liz and all of you are to us!

Again, many thanks—

Love,
Tom and Beth Steed

Thank you for your generous donation to North Carolina Wesleyan College. It is donors like you who make a difference in the lives of our students and help to transform Wesleyan to be the best College it can be.

Thank you for your support to help establish our "professional closet" for our students.

En 2.2W

Dear Outreach Committee,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for the delicious lunch you sent to us today at Covenant Homes. I thank God for my very special and caring church.

Love,
Evelyn Reese



*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

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Betsy Boddie

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Margaret Barnes

Jim Blanchard

Jean Boddie

Mike Braswell

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Nancy Lipfert (now home in RMT)

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)

Peggy Rogers (mother 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

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



Our love and sympathy is extended to Jean Boddie and family upon the death of her husband and longtime church member, Benjamin "Mayo" Boddie on March 31, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Rose Hill.

BABY NEWS

- Congratulations to Larry and Beth High on the birth of their granddaughter, Harper Elizabeth Reid, on March 2, 2020. Her parents are Robbie and Britnee Reid.
- Congratulations to Russell and Nancy Proctor on the birth of their granddaughter, Lucy Marie Mullen, on March 17, 2020. Her parents are Amanda and Kai Mullen, and proud big sister, Blair.
- Congratulations to Mary & Lee Scott and Vince Durham on the birth of their grandson! Samuel Thomas Renbarger was born March 21, 2020, to Catherine and Brian Renbarger and big brother William.
- Congratulations to Greg and Carol Hutchins on the birth of their granddaughter, Ella Taylor Hutchins, on April 2, 2020. She is the daughter of Mark and Sarah Hutchins. Her twin big sisters are Helen and Isabel.
- Congratulations to Janice Smith on the birth of her great-grandson, Charles Wesley Smith, Jr. on April 2, 2020. He weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces, 22 inches long and has red hair and blue eyes. All in his family are doing well!

Until the medical community deems it safe for us to gather in-person again, we leave you with this scripture and some pictures of our church members in action—blessing the lives of others. Continue to view recorded worship services via the church website! Continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world! Continue to be the church!

THE LORD
BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD
MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE
UPON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD
LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE
UPON YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.
NUMBERS 6:24-26, ESV



Above left, Circle of JOY collected bingo prizes for Covenant Homes. At right, they donated \$100 towards the Peacemakers Golf Tournament Fundraiser.



Above, Circle of Friends collected pillow cases for the Bassett Center and assembled collected bingo prizes for Covenant Homes. Items were give to the residents as Easter gifts!



105 bag lunches were taken to the residents of Covenant Homes on April 7. Bill Lehnies of Chick-Fil-A donated chicken sandwiches and our Community Partners Committee funded chips, cookies and an orange for each bag. An April 21st turkey sub meal is also being planned.

Our Handcraft Ministry has made masks for local health care Providers and, below, blankets for teachers at Tar River Academy.

