



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

February 2022

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

Dear Friends,

I wish JOY for you.

When we opened the doors on Saturday, January 22nd, our girls and dog ran outside like it was Christmas morning. The girls plopped into the snow and started making snow angels. The dog ran to a clear area and made his own snow angels, rolling around and covering himself in snow. We had snowball fights, snowmen, and other fun activities. For a little while, there was joy unlike normal happiness.

We all have moments of happiness. We all experience times of frivolity. Joy can be harder to come by. Joy is when the weight of the world is lifted for a little while and you are fully present in the moment. There is nothing else, except the experience in front of you. There is only the look of children playing in the snow, the sight of a loved one not seen in awhile, the sound of pure laughter and delight. These moments of joy are blessings for this life, and I wish you many moments just like this.

In these pages are reflections of joy from the past month and opportunities to spread joy to others in the coming months. Perhaps your blood donation will be the source of joy for someone in need of a transfusion. Perhaps your gift was the one that lit up a child's eyes with the Peacemaker's Christmas event. Perhaps, your presence in worship was a source of joy for someone eager to see you and your family. You can be that source of joy for others, and I pray that you are able to find a way to do so.

So, in these cold, dark days of winter... I wish you moments of pure joy for you and yours.

With love, gratitude, and joy,

Matt

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker

Community Pastor: The Rev. Hannah Trawick

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 Attendant: Mary Hilliard

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR

The older I get, the more I question about my faith. Once upon a time I found myself threatened by these questions, desperate to silence them lest the answer I found tear everything apart. At one point, I thought if I could arm myself with knowledge about my faith, I could intellectualize myself around any obstacle that floated my way. I was holding onto it so tightly, with such desperation, that it started to hurt, and I wanted to let go completely.

That's when I settled on "God is love." That truth is the only certainty I need and the closest to certain I get with my faith. My call as someone who believes this, then, is to live it out as if it is true. If God is love, then wherever love shows itself in the world is God—loving our partners, children, friends; showing love to strangers in dignity and grace; loving the planet by picking up trash or appreciating the sunrise; accepting the love of others, of our pet; loving ourselves—believing that everyone we see is worthy of love as they are, that we are worthy of love as we are—no ifs, ands, or buts. This is as simple as it gets. It's simple, but it's so powerful.

The second part of my call as a person of faith, is to also ask the questions my heart wrestles with—to practice my spiritual curiosity, to respect scripture by interrogating with gentle intention, to voice my questions and sit in them, to break down the binary of black and white and sit in the gray area. My call is to hold on to my faith, to live it out, and to grow in it by exploring it. This is ultimately why I wanted to be a pastor!

As we prepare for the Lenten season, which is one of faithful intentionality, I'm curious to know what your core convictions of faith are—faith in its simplest, most profound, articulation (i.e. God is love). I'd also love to hear what questions, curiosities, or doubts are making your faith dance right now? If you're comfortable, shoot me an email—or maybe we could grab a cup of coffee.

In the meantime, know that I believe this: God is love and you are loved. There is nothing you can do or think or be that makes that any less true, and I pray that you are able to feel that in your bones, especially during these cold winter months when we need something to warm us after the sun sets.

Blessings on your February,
Hannah

Contact Hannah:
980-271-7851 (Call or Text)
hannah.trawick@fpcrm.org

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, 2021

Month – to – date \$ 103,508.92

Year – to – date \$ 590,950.57

Expenses through December, 2021

Month – to – date \$ 45,979.55

Year – to – date \$ 593,519.38

We welcome and appreciate your 2022 pledge!

Church office phone: 252.446.9121, press 5 for Financial Secretary

Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 1 at 6:00
p.m.

Mark your
calendars and
stay tuned for
volunteer
opportunities.

Congregational Meeting *Sunday, February 27, 2022*

At the end of worship, Session has called a Congregational Meeting in order to present the 2022 budget, approve the terms of call for our Pastors, and approve a Nominating Committee.

Covid-19 Update

Effective on January 4, 2022 by the guidance of the Session, masks are now required when in the church building and during worship. The decision was based on the metrics provided by the Nash County Health Department since the number of positive cases exceeded 200 and the hospitalizations at Nash UNC exceeded 20. We will continue to monitor the metrics and we look forward to removing masks as soon as possible.

2022 First Presbyterian Leadership Duties and Assignments

Session Duties and Assignments

Moderator: Rev. Matthew Baker (Rev. Hannah Trawick is designated moderator in Matt's absence)

Clerk of Session: Randy Adams

Elders: Randy Adams, Tommy Honey, Betsy McLean, Valerie Roberson, Sarah Bailey, Virginia Brewer, Annie Daughtridge, Jim Lilley, Bill Buchanan, Laura Durham, Winnie Gaynor

Administration Committee || Chaired by Jim Lilley

Purpose: To oversee, develop, and nurture the administrative aspects of our congregation's ministries, specifically: our salaried and volunteer personnel, our church office equipment, and the financial health and well being of the church.

Christian Education Committee || Chaired by Betsy McLean

Purpose: to oversee the spiritual formation of the congregation, from Pre-K through adulthood, so that the individuals at every age are unafraid to ask big questions and are equipped to live out their faith with intention.

Community Partners Committee || Chaired by Laura Durham

Purpose: to oversee the disbursement of our mission finances and organize responses for the hands-on needs that arise from the community.

Worship Committee || Chaired by TBD

Purpose: to facilitate and oversee church worship services and to decorate the church sanctuary for special seasons and services.

Community Engagement Committee || Chaired by Annie Daughtridge

Purpose: to use energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to brainstorm and enact ways of loving and welcoming others inside and outside our walls.

Music Committee || Chaired by Brenda Crocker, (Sarah Bailey, Session Liaison)

Purpose: To oversee the fulfillment and growth of FPC's cherished music program in partnership with the Music Director.

Property Committee || Chaired by Virginia Brewer

Purpose: To oversee the maintenance of our property so that we can be good stewards of our space, resources, and footprint.

Table, Font, and Pulpit Committee || Chaired by Valerie Roberson

Purpose: To oversee and prepare the holy sacraments of communion and baptism as called for in the life of the church.

Technology Committee || Chaired by TBD, (Bill Buchanan, Session Liaison)

Purpose: To form a committee that learns and oversees First Presbyterian Church's online streaming presence by documenting institutional knowledge of the process and filling in on the tech team as needed.

Diaconate Duties and Assignments

Moderator: Bridget Hathaway

Vice Moderator/Secretary: Meredith Cooper

Deacons: Tempie Fuller, Karen Miller, Dillon Rose, David Snow, Meredith Cooper, Bridget Hathaway, Martha Tesoro, Bobbi Weeks, Partha Daughtridge, Linda Evans, Olivia Turnage, Jim Woodard, Virginia Feagans, Mari Robin Tharin

Belonging Team || Members: Meredith Cooper, Virginia Feagans, Dillon Rose, Jim Woodard

Purpose: To intentionally welcome and greet members and guests with the love of Christ and ensure everyone feels like they belong to us and to God. (Don't forget our online people!)

Celebration Team || Members: Partha Daughtridge, Bridget Hathaway, Karen Miller, David Snow

Purpose: To ensure there are a number of congregational opportunities to celebrate our shared life together and find joy as a community of Christ.

Care Team || Members: Linda Evans, Tempie Fuller, Martha Tesoro, Mari Robin Tharin, Olivia Turnage, Bobbi Weeks

Purpose: To support members of the congregation through periods of joy, loneliness, and pain.

KIDDOS IN THE KIRK PROVIDES A TIME FOR OUR
YOUNGEST MEMBERS TO FORM MEANINGFUL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR PEERS AND PASTORS.

KIDS PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE ARE INVITED TO JOIN
THE PASTORS AT THE CHURCH FOR A TIME OF PLAY,
LEARNING ABOUT JESUS AND SERVING OTHERS, MUSIC
WITH MRS. CROCKER, AND SNACKS TO SHARE.

OUR NEXT GATHERINGS ARE FEBRUARY 7 AND FEBRUARY
21 FROM 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

February Youth Dates

- February 6 5:30 p.m. MS/HS Competition (Youth Suite)
- February 10 6:30 a.m. HS Breakfast at Waffle House
- February 13 9:45 a.m. MS Sunday School at church
2:00 p.m. HS Devo@Dunkin' (Sunset Ave.)
- February 20 No Youth events
- February 27 9:45 a.m. HS Sunday School (Youth Suite)
12:15 p.m. MS lunch (Youth Suite)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Peacemakers needs volunteers to help at book parties held every third Saturday from 10:00—1:00 p.m. or to assist the After School Program Teachers. Contact either Sean Dancy or Donna Clifton at 252-212-5044 if able to help!

PW of the Presbytery of New Hope Scholarship Opportunities

1- YOUTH CAMP - \$250

(GRADES 6-12)

2- COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(HS SENIORS)

DEADLINE FOR BOTH MARCH 1

**STOP BY THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR
AN APPLICATION**

Volunteers are asked to have one or two students at their home for a meal (or go out to eat) once a semester. The meal and time together should be simple and stress-free. Contact Suzanne Hening (252-985-5371) or shening@ncwc.edu or church member Jay Quinan for more information. A background check release is needed for all volunteers and forms can be found in the church office if needed.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 8
2:00—6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSINGS

Tom Dill 100th Birthday!

Tom is pictured here with an amazing cake from Hannah Diedrick to celebrate his 100th Birthday on January 19th. Thank you to all who sent him Happy Birthday wishes!

*Several church members and friends of **Herman Ferguson** were able to serenade him in his front yard on his 105th birthday, December 28th! He is pictured below with his two daughters, Suzanne Buchanan and Rebecca Azzone.*

Congratulations to Shelton Honey, above right, for recently being chosen by WRAL to receive the Tom Suiter Extra Effort Award.

Presbyterian Women Update

A Bible verse for Valentine's Day - John 4: 11-12

"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."

The Presbyterian Women continue to demonstrate their joyful hearts.....

This month the PW, along with the Community Partners Committee of FPC, are encouraging members to support Peacemakers by donating snacks and participating in the monthly Book Partners program. Several women continue to donate their time to assist with My Sister's House thrift store, A Second Season. Others are enjoying being pen pals with residents of Covenant Homes. In addition, the Team continues to support the Children's Hope Alliance with its annual monetary donation.

* PWCT will meet Mon. February 7th in the Session Room at 10:00 am

* A Joint Circle Meeting is scheduled for Tues. February 8th at 10:30 am; Session Room
Lesson 6 "Bathsheba"

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2021-22

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Sarah Gooding, *Historian*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*

Martha Tesoro, *Together in Service*

Myra Richardson, *Circle of Friends Leader*

Tempie Fuller, *Circle of J.O.Y. Leader*

2021 PW Annual Report

During 2021, The Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount continued to play a vital role in the life of the church. Circles met monthly with 35 women coming together to study in two Circle groups. Though meetings may have looked a little different at the start of the year, by year end, meetings returned to normal as most all church activities resumed. There was much success in finding various opportunities to participate and feel engaged. Zoom meetings, bible studies, and social gatherings continue to keep us involved and connected with one another. As Presbyterian Women we discovered renewed strength in our efforts to meet the needs of the church family and the community. Our priorities will continue to be the needs of our congregation, the residents of Covenant Homes, the students and staff of Tar River Academy, the children at Peace Makers, the women and families at My Sister's House, and the missions of the Agape Village.

Submitted by Sarah Gooding, PW Historian

WORSHIP HELPERS

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another
with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10*

Date	Ushers	Time with Children
Feb. 6	Lige Daughtridge, Annie Daughtridge, Joe Brown, Julia Brown	Hannah Trawick
Feb. 13	Meredith Cooper, Diane Dixon, Zach Vestal, Janice Smith	Randy Adams
Feb. 20	Randy Evans, Linda Evans, Ben Roberson, Valerie Roberson	Matt Baker
Feb. 27	Pat Mauldin, Laura Durham, John Turnage, Tricia Vestal	Hannah Trawick

A huge THANK YOU

to all those that helped to decorate and undecorate
our beautiful sanctuary this past holiday season!

"Many hands make light work." - ancient proverb

Our gratitude goes out to:

Pat Mauldin - for donating the tree

Lige Daughtridge - for putting up the tree

Matt Baker, Liz Baker, Elly Mae Baker, Sally Baker and the Baker chain saw - for removal of the tree

Michael Smith and Charity Lodge - for watering the tree & poinsettias

Decorating:

Sally Adams, Linda Amerson, Matt Baker, Annie Daughtridge, Partha Daughtridge, Carol Hutchins, Greg Hutchins, Marie Kim, Anne Kinnaird, Catherine Lilley, Anne Mosley, Nancy Proctor, Dillon Rose, Lucy Rose, Janice Smith, Michael Smith, Beth Steed, Kate Tharin, Beth Turnage, Tricia Vestal, Emily Watson

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. Church office hours are 9:00-4:00 PM Monday-Thursday.

Herman Ferguson & daughters

Dear First Presbyterian Church family-

Thank you so much for the outside drop in visit that the Church organized for dad's 105th birthday. It was just wonderful. So much imagination went into the planning—banners, balloons, a certificate from the city—and so many in-person good wishes. Dad truly enjoyed it. At one point he remarked to Becca and me that he wanted to “mingle.” And the weather was perfect for an outdoor visit—at the end of December no less. Thanks and love to one and all.

*Love,
Suzanne and Bill Buchanan
Rebecca and Ron Azzone*

Dear Church Family,

*Thanks to all who made my Christmas special:
the Carolers, gingerbread house, and the beautiful cards.*

Most of all your friendship and prayers.

May God bless each of you and keep you safe in 2022.

Char Mather

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 afternoons. The weekly email deadline is noon on Wednesday.

*our thoughts and
prayers are with...*

- ⇒ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Robert "Boot" Hardy upon his death on January 7, 2022.
- ⇒ The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Gerry Niece who died on January 22, 2022.

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 or celebration the following day.

Donations are also accepted to the flower fund so the church can provide flowers on dates that are not assigned.

These upcoming dates are currently available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

February 6, 13, 20, 27

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- ▶ Dick Fountain

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Betsy Boddie
- ▶ Mike Braswell
- ▶ Cora Lee Gold

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Margaret Barnes
 Augusta Daniel
 Mary Kathleen Duncan
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
 Herman Ferguson
 Tempie Fuller
 Phyllis Garriss (mother of Meredith Cooper)
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
 Tommy Honey
 Emily Kicklighter (friend of the church)
 Nancy Liipfert (staying with son in Winston-Salem)
 Patsy Manning
 Char Mather
 Georgia Mixon
 Phyllis Parker
 Jack Perry
 Anne Wilgus Podesta
 Mary Frank Poe (sister-in-law of Roz Gragg)
 Evelyn Reese
 Edie Reeves
 Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)
 Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)
 Maida Sessoms
 Preston Smith
 Scott Solether
 Phyllis Toler
 Mary Watson
 Willette Williams (daughter of Charity Lodge)
 Susan Yenney

Brown Bag Bible Study

JOIN THE PASTOR AT NOON ON MONDAYS IN THE SESSION ROOM FOR A TIME OF BIBLICAL DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP. YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR LUNCH AS WELL!

Tuesday@2

ZOOM MINDFULNESS GATHERING

JOIN FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME (OR YOUR OFFICE) FOR A 30 MINUTE BREAK FROM YOUR DAY!

WE BEGIN WITH MINDFUL CHRISTIAN READINGS THEN SPEND ROUGHLY 10 MINUTES ON A VIDEO LED TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION. PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED OF EXTRA CARE ARE ALSO LIFTED DURING THIS TIME TOGETHER VIRTUALLY. CONTACT DIONNE SEALE IF ANY QUESTIONS!

Sip & Chat Small Group

OUR SPRING STUDY WILL BE ON KATE BOWLER'S BOOK: **EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON AND OTHER LIES I'VE LOVED**. CHAPTERS 1-3 WILL BE DISCUSSED ON FEBRUARY 10 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE HOME OF MARIANNE FARRIS ** NEW LOCATION**. CONTACT PASTOR HANNAH IF ANY QUESTIONS!

Heretics Small Group

A SPACE TO WRESTLE WITH BIG QUESTIONS OF FAITH AND DOUBT AND SAY THE QUIET PARTS OUT LOUD TOGETHER, LIKE: IS THE BIBLE STILL RELEVANT? WHAT DOES OUR FAITH MEAN IN OUR MODERN RECKONINGS OF RACISM, SEXISM AND GENDER-IDENTITY? CAN I BE A CHRISTIAN IF I BELIEVE ____?

JOIN MATT AT GOAT ISLAND BOTTLE SHOP @RMT MILLS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 5:30 P.M.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

HARDEE'S ON SUNSET AVE.

JOIN YOUR FIRST PRES. FAMILY FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP FROM ROUGHLY 7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022.

THERE IS NO PROGRAM, NO NEED TO REGRET, JUST COME AS YOU ARE AND WHEN YOU CAN.

Presbyterian Women

PWCT MEETS FEBRUARY 7 AT 10:00 A.M. (SESSION ROOM)

A JOINT CIRCLE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE SESSION ROOM; LESSON 6 "BATHSHEBA"