

ICHTHUS

July 2013

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, North Carolina

Reflections in the Water: "Here and Be Heard"

"...Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way..."

— I Kings 19:11-15

There is a kind of listening with half an ear that presumes already to know what the other person has to say. It is an impatient, inattentive listening, that despises the brother and is only waiting for a chance to speak and thus get rid of the other person. This is no fulfillment of our obligation, and it is certain that here too our attitude toward our brother only reflects our relationship to God. It is little wonder that we are no longer capable of the greatest service of listening that God has committed to us, that of hearing our brother's confession, if we refuse to give ear to our brother on lesser subjects. Secular education today is aware that often a person can be helped merely by having someone who will listen to him seriously, and upon this insight it has constructed its own soul therapy, which has attracted great numbers of people, including Christians. But Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by Him who is Himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*

Our youth have returned from another safe and successful week of spiritual renewal at Montreat, our Presbyterian Conference Center in the mountains of North Carolina. This year the theme of the summer conference communicated the necessity of being present and listening to others, i.e., Here and Be Heard expressed as part of our service to others and to one another. During the course of the week, we had an opportunity to work at the Veterans Restorative Quarters, a housing facility that helps initiate a new beginning for homeless men and veterans in partnership with the Asheville Youth Mission. This short mission trip has become as important to our youth as the Montreat experience itself. Sometimes our work consists of meal preparation and serving or engaging in recreational games with the residents in the afternoon, but above all, we are always encouraged to simply engage in conversation with the veterans and hear their stories.

Toward the end of our visit I was deeply moved as I looked across the large courtyard lawn of the facility to see the young men in our group deeply engaged in conversation and laughter, sitting and listening intently to the stories these men, these strangers, had to share. I am aware that too often, perhaps because we know what someone will say or do beforehand, we may become too familiar and indifferent to each other in the important and healing conversations we really need to have with one another. Too often we are only half listening to one another, eager to have our own say and express our own opinion. I know it happens at work and in our families. I know it happens in Session and Deacons' meetings, in our committees, our classrooms and, yes, even in our worship of God on Sunday morning. Watching our teenagers on a sunny afternoon at Montreat engaged deep in conversation with the homeless, the hurting, and in some cases the lost, revealed to me an image of the Kingdom of God breaking into the world we should strive to build among ourselves with God's help. But for this Kingdom to be visible among us, we must first be able to sit and to listen and to pray carefully in the 'sheer silence' lest we miss the Word of God that comes to us through the 'storms, earthquakes, and fires' of our own personal needs and desires and fears.

May the Lord be with you,
Pastor Joe

In This Issue:

Letter from the Pastor

Prayer Concerns

Construction Anniversary
Celebration

Bible Study

Finance Committee

JOY Connection

Highlights of the Session

Holy Land Pilgrimage and Tour

Memorials and Honorariums

Mission Opportunities

Music for the Lunch Bunch

Presbyterian Women

Relay for Life

Stained Glass Widows, pts iv, v

Vacation Bible School

Thanks

July Calendar

Lectionary

Worship Nursery

Flowers

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ushers

Lay Readers

Trinity Ringers

Building Officers

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Prayerful Support for



Martha Rogers who is in Norfolk, VA.
Clara Scouten who is in Durham.
Mary Alice Thomas who is in Charlotte.
Hazel Whitehurst who is at Carolina House.
Nor Bell and Marie Gupton who are at

Barbour Court.

Jane Cunningham who is in Wilmington.

Evelyn Ray who is at home.

Mabel Surles who is in Fayetteville.

Devon Pollard who is at home.

Eula Brown who is at home.

Marie Atkins who is at home.

Thad McCrae who is at home.

Benny Pope who is at home.

Christian Sympathy to

Tom Howerton on the death of his father, Thomas Royster Howerton, on April 30, 2013.

Judy Johnson on the death of her mother, Vera Parker, on June 13, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS of June Stated Session Meeting

- Approved using *Around the World in Five Days* as the curriculum for this summer's children's classes. The curriculum was previously purchased and approved for use during the building transition but was not used then.
- Tabled a discussion on new curriculum for the preschool until Ruth Bell, FPC Preschool Board Chair, could be present to answer questions.
- Approved cancelling the July Stated Session Meeting.
- Elected Shirley Sharek as elder commissioner for the July 23, 2013, presbytery meeting at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh.
- Received a report from the Finance Committee concerning the availability of online giving.

If you have items you wish to bring before Session, please contact Debbie Jacobs, Clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs

THANK YOU! Ken Allen, Camille Boone, Tom Howerton, Rob Irvine and Kathy Rice for a Sunday of gospel music.

Camille Boone, Judy Daniels, Caitlyn Dockery, Diane Dockery, Maxine McFadyen, Becky Peele, Virginia Williams and other members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for gifting over 150 prayer shawls during the last four years.

to all who prepared and delivered meals to Benny Pope and Thad McCrae.

Nan Jones for overseeing PYC Potato Bakes the past year and for continuing to be in charge of PYC Sunday evening meals.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee for feeding the JoCo Mission Project participants and for providing meals and desserts to the SECU Hospice House.

Christian Education Committee for hosting the Graduate Breakfast.

Patrick and Jennifer Templeton for serving as chaperones at the Montreat Youth Conference.



Access your contributions online

In response to your request, we now have an option for you to view your contributions, track your contributions, and even give online – all from one location.

Sign up and find out more about online contributions. It's easy, secure and confidential! Here's how:

First – To link your existing giving information to your online giving, make sure we have your email address. Send an email to clerkofsession@fpcsmithfield.org to confirm we have your current email address. Upon confirmation, Debbie Jacobs, Clerk of Session, will send you a reply email with instructions for logging in to access your personal contribution information. All email addresses and membership details are securely protected and separate from the contribution data.

Then – Go online to www.fpcsmithfield.org, click the "Committees" tab, select "Finance" page and click on "Online Giving". If you are not a current contributor, you may register as a "Guest".

Next – Privately and securely view your contributions, set up online giving, and even receive your official tax statement from one location online.

Questions – Contact Beth Osborne, Treasurer, at 919-630-3654 or obdo@aol.com, or Shirley Sharek, Finance Chair, at 919-631-2333 or shirleysharek@nc.rr.com.



Weekday
Bible Studies

Join Joe
on the first three
Wednesday mornings
in July at 10:00
for a Bible study
by
Walter Brueggeman

Our Stained Glass Windows, part iv

The middle window on the right side of the sanctuary is dedicated to Hortense Rose Turlington, 1866-1935. Hortense was the wife of Ira Thomas Turlington, founder of Turlington Institute. She was also the daughter of Dr. J. G. Rose, a respected physician and former mayor of Smithfield.

Hortense was well-educated and “taught English with enthusiasm and flair.” She was attuned to the finer things in life and taught piano lessons in addition to English. “Her gifts in the area of music and the arts left an indelible mark on the young people of Smithfield.”

One of Mrs. Turlington’s piano pupils was Stella Kirkman who studied with her around 1900. Stella, who married C.V. Johnson, served as organist and choir director at Centenary Methodist Church for 40 years.

Hortense was received as a member of First Presbyterian Church in 1898 by letter of transfer from Centenary Methodist Church.

Smithfield owes much gratitude to Ira and Hortense Rose Turlington who nurtured an atmosphere of respect and enthusiasm for life-long learning in this town and county.

—Ann Huckenbeck

(Note: This history of Hortense Turlington is taken from *A History of Smithfield High School 1903-1969* by Julia Allen McCullers.)

Our Stained Glass Windows, part v

The third window on the right side of the sanctuary is dedicated to the memory of Katie Estelle Woodall Lore, 1888-1916, daughter of Willis Lester and Bettie Hood Woodall. She was received into the church on the profession of her faith on June 9, 1907.

Kate married Edwin Payne Lore in June, 1916, and died later that year as a result of pregnancy; she was only 28. The window was given in her memory by her brothers, Hubert C. Woodall and Ed L. Woodall, and her sister, Mrs. Ina Aycock.

The Lore family has been a vital part of First Presbyterian since 1916. Currently Miriam Lore is active as a teacher of the Myatt/Henderson Class and in Presbyterian Women. She is also a newsletter volunteer.

—Ann Huckenbeck

Dear Church Family,

I can't begin to express my gratitude to each of you for all the prayers, calls, cards and visits that you bestowed upon me during my illness. You have no idea how much this has meant to me. It hasn't been easy dealing with things lately, but knowing I have such a support system within my church family definitely helps.

As I enter the rest of my treatment journey, I will need your continued prayers and support.

With all my warmest regards,
Bonnie Hooks

Music for the Lunch Bunch 2013

All programs begin at 12:15

July 3

Mary Ann Nillson, piano

July 10

Thomas Howerton, viola

July 17

Nate Leyland and Lisa Ferebee, cello

July 24

Tori Howell, flute

July 31

Rachel Harmatuk Pino, violin

August 7

Julie Stewart, vocalist

August 14

Shelley Maddox, vocalist

Funded by the Johnston County Arts Council and the North Carolina Arts Council. There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted and appreciated.



Honorarium for Jennifer Foy’s birthday
Memorials for Beulah Creech, Shirley Wooten, Thomas Royster Howerton, and David Arnn.
Donors: Dot Ellmore, John and Meg Scovil, Johnston County Arts Council, Woody Biggs, Carrie Dale Avera Purnell, Brandy Avera Vannoy, Jack Wooten, and Frances Theodorakis.



July 14—18
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Dinner, crafts, lessons, music and fun!
Come join us!
You may register in the Great Hall or online at www.fpcsmithfield.org

Congratulations to our team
for receiving a
Bronze Award
for their efforts this year,
raising \$4,199.34.





Opportunities to Serve . . .

In June the Evangelism and Outreach Committee solicited help to serve a meal for the JoCo Mission Project. We fed over 70 youth and leaders, and we're doing it again on July 11. Those who participated in June felt a great deal of satisfaction after helping with a mission that helps local families. If you want to help, please contact Nichole Booker.

Also in June, the E&O Committee prepared meals and desserts for the SECU Hospice House in Smithfield. We're doing this one again, too, so contact Nichole Booker to get involved.



Resuming in August . . . JOY Connection

After a break in July, JOY Connection cranks up again in August. This time we're having our own Antiques Roadshow of sorts. Jewel Ryals, an antiques appraiser, will be on hand to tell you the value of your cherished items. So bring along a treasure and an appetite and join us at noon on the first Thursday in August for some more JOY!



July 28, 4:00 p.m., Anniversary Celebration Ice Cream Social and Program

Bring your favorite homemade ice cream as we celebrate our first year in our expanded and new facility with some special program events!

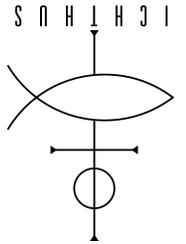


**January 25 – February 8, 2014
Pilgrimage and Educational Tour**
to the HOLY LAND, including Israel and Jordan,
led by the Rev. Joe Hester

INFORMATION SESSION
on
Wednesday evening, July 10, at 7:00 p.m.
and
Sunday afternoon, July 14, at 4:30 p.m.

THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL SEATS AVAILABLE!

Travel arrangements by Carmichael Travel and Y'alla Tours.
(Carmichael Travel of Atlanta provides travel itineraries and support for groups and individuals of Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.)



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 2013

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