



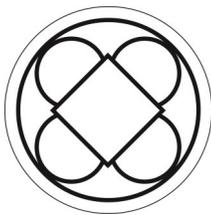
April

In This Issue

From the Pastor
From the Director of Music
From the Handbell Director

Prayer Concerns

Avera Birthday Party
Backpack Buddies
Communications and Technology Updates
Confirmation Class
Cookbooks
CROSS Mission News and Praise for Our Youth
Faith in 3D Live Auction Fundraiser
Financial Information: Operating Results
GUY
Highlights of Session
JOY Connection
Kid's Page
Memorials
Property Box
Relay for Life
Rescue Mission Door
Rug Donation
Spring Gathering of PW Stewardship
Thanks
Vacation Bible School
Yes We Can
Youth Sunday



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ICHTHUS

April 2016

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, North Carolina

Reflections in the Water: The Easter Moment — Our Higher Calling

The Ministry of Members (G-1.0304) Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

1. proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
2. taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
3. lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
4. studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
5. supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
6. demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
7. responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
8. living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
9. working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
10. participating in the governing responsibilities of the church
11. reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

—Book of Order, Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Amen.

—Matthew 28:19-20, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

During the season of Lent, four youth in our church attended classes, kept prayer/study journals, made field trips, engaged in mission service, and prepared statements of faith. In preparation for Easter, they sought membership within the congregation of First Presbyterian Church and affirmed their commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ. As part of their preparation, Emma, Davis, Mary Margaret, and Taylor have looked to us as examples. In my own self-examination as part of their process of learning, I considered the following: how bright, how strong, how visible is my own walk with Christ? One of the confirmand assignments included interviewing various members of the congregation and asking them how they understood the obligations of membership. I invite you to review the characteristics of Christian discipleship at the introduction of this article. Consider during this season of Easter how your own discipleship is creating new life for others as well as how God may be calling you into a new way of being this season.

As a congregation, we have identified our primary ministries to include faith development and opportunities for our children and youth and outreach to our community near and far. These areas of our faith life depend upon a life of discipleship that is regularly nurtured by the ministries of Word and Table. This nurture requires our regular, mutual engagement as we learn and reflect on our faith stories and our sacramental life together as sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and the Lord's Supper. When does our Resurrection or Easter life begin? If we are to make disciples, we must first be disciples in both word and deed. With this Easter season upon us, that I am confident that the time is and will always be right here and right now.

May God's peace and grace be with you all.

Pastor Joe



Add to your prayer list
 Nor Bell at Barbour Court
 Jane Bolin at Meadowview
 Tom Barbour at Meadowview
 Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
 Alice Narron at Meadowview
 Shirley Williams at Meadowview
 Eula Brown at Smithfield Manor
 Myde Eason at Brookdale Smithfield

Hazel Whitehurst at Johnston Health
 Marie Atkins
 Tom Avera
 Jane Cunningham in Wilmington
 Ruth Daniel
 Ross Hailey
 Tom Johnson
 Bill Kimball
 Shannon Kimball
 Charles Lee
 Nancy Lee
 Bill Leist
 Marie Maddox
 Chap Ragland
 Peter Russell
 Linda Stephenson
 Nelson Vaughn
 Betty Welch
 Ted Wells
 William Wells
 Al Worsham
 Hilda Worsham
 Joy Worsham
 Rebecca Ziady
 Sharon Van Velzen, sister of Joyce Knoll

We welcome Paul and Emilia Anaruma to membership by Reaffirmation of Faith on Sunday, March 21, 2016. They are the parents of Iris and Tony; **we welcome Steve Bryant** to membership by Transfer of Letter on March 21, 2016; **and we welcomed** two of our confirmands to membership on March 17: **Mary Margaret Coats and Taylor Holzshu**. **Christian sympathy to Joyce and David Lee** on the death of Joyce's brother, James Earl Falkner, on March 21, 2016; and to the family of **James Walker**. James, our former custodian, died on March 28, 2016.



Greg Bell for recording our Sunday worship services and for installing our new dvd copier.
Betsy Olive for changing the paraments.
Martha Taylor, Joy Worsham, and Betsy Olive for heading up the Relay for Life Chili Luncheon.

Linda Crowder for coordinating youth events.
Judy Schmidt for keeping the Member Bulletin Board updated.
Judy Johnson for keeping the Presbyterian Women's Bulletin Board up to date.
Judy Daniels and Jo James for providing the drapes for the Easter crosses.
Maxine McFadyen and Martha Taylor for heading up the Prayer Chain.
Harold Allen for continuing to upgrade our sanctuary lighting.
Courtney Scott and all the volunteers who made the Easter Egg Hunt a success.

HIGHLIGHTS of March Session:

- Approved the addition of Starr Henderson and Bobby Cox to the Communication and Technology Team (Stewardship Quadrant).
- Approved a Fellowship Breakfast hosted by the men of the church for Easter morning prior to worship.
- Approved the 2015 Church Statistical Report.
- Approved the addition of Shelley Roberts to the Educational Development Quadrant.
- Approved Vacation Bible School for Monday, June 20, 2016-Thursday, June 23, 2016 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Approved Kelly Coats and Shelley Roberts as VBS Directors.
- Approved moving responsibility for the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat projects from the Mission Outreach Quadrant to the Educational Development Quadrant/Special Programs Team.
- Approved the transfer of Caitlyn Dockery to First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone.
- Approved the reception of new members Paul and Emilia Anaruma and welcomed their children, Iris and Tony.

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

—Debbie Jacobs



Join
Tom Avera
 in Celebrating his
95th Birthday

Sunday, April 3, at the farm
1469 Cleveland Road, Smithfield
12:00 — 5:00 p.m.
Floating

Tom said, "Invite everyone!"

**Hosted by Sue, Emma Alice,
 Charles, and Tom, Jr.**

A handicap ramp is located in back under carport

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the support our family experienced during our recent hospitalizations. Your love shown through prayers, meals, calls, and visits were uplifting and greatly appreciated. We are on the mend and ready to get back to life's activities.

It is a most comforting feeling to know our church family is there when needed, and we appreciate it very much.

*Always,
 Joy Worsham*

memorials & gifts Memorials for: Roy Brown, Jr., Martha Howerton, Clem and Mikki Sharek, Norwood Worley
 Donors: Lisa and Frank Deans, Johnston County Arts Council, Kay and Terry Carroll, Jean Worley

Communications and Technology Updates

The Communications and Technology Team is working hard to make sure that you get all the news from FPC Smithfield! If you have items for the newsletter, please submit those to Myra Wallace. She sends an email each month to remind contributors of the deadline. If you have news you would like to see in the Thursday eNews, please submit that information to Debbie Jacobs by noon on Thursdays. Pictures are welcome in both publications.

Over the next month, your deacon will be collecting information concerning your preference in receiving the ICHTHUS and your financial information electronically or as hardcopies by mail. When your deacon contacts you, please confirm that he/she has your correct email, phone numbers, and address. Also, please notify Debbie Jacobs so that we can keep our database current as well.

We recently added a new Wi-Fi Hotspot at FPC, giving everyone wireless access throughout the church. The hotspot will show up in your settings as TWCWiFi, along with the spots preceded by FP. This addition was added at no cost to the church to ensure that all areas of the church have internet access. If you need assistance, please see Debbie Jacobs or a member of the Communications and Technology Team.

—Debbie Jacobs



OR



First Presbyterian Church Operating Results — Jan. - February 2016 Actual vs Budgeted

	Jan - Feb 2016 Actual	Jan - Feb 2016 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	44,265.11	48,333.34
Disbursements		
Educational Quad	43.96	674.98
Mission Outreach Quad.	2,319.30	3,125.00
Spirituality Quad.	20,691.79	29,738.84
Stewardship Quad.	16,207.01	18,372.36
Total Disbursements	<u>39,262.06</u>	<u>51,577.84</u>
Net Income/(Deficit)	5,003.05	(3,577.84)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 2/29/2016

- \$ 83,317 Pledge Gifts
- \$ 1,525 Memorials/Honorariums
- \$ 3,220 Other Gifts
- \$ 88,062 Total VISION 2020 Contributions**



\$ 559,626 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
\$1,132,499 Mortgage Balance

PROPERTY BOX

All permanent storage must be approved by the Property Administration Team. Please contact a team member if you need to store any items on a long-term basis.

Please *do not* adjust the plastic switch stops for overhead lights. Motion sensors have been installed for both the safety and security of our staff and members. When you turn off the switch, you turn off the motion sensor.

A changing table has been installed in the family restroom adjacent to the office suite.

Thank you.
Your Property Team



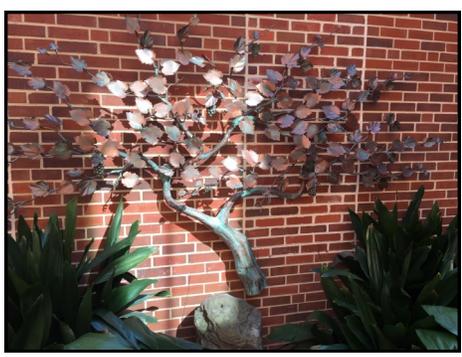
Commemorative Vine Installed

When you next walk into the Great Hall, look to your left in the courtyard and you will see this stunning piece.

Anita Liverman, Ellen Adams, and Billy Duncan found Stephen Zawistowski to bring our Commemorative Vine to life. In his studio, Stephen Z Metal Designs, Inc. on the coast of North Carolina, he utilizes modern and traditional techniques to forge steel into nature-inspired works of art. We are fortunate to have one of his pieces in our courtyard.

This piece was a part of the VISION 2020 Capital Campaign. You can purchase a leaf for \$10,000 in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Contact Joseph Hester or Anita Liverman if you have questions.



Rug Donated to FPC



Patricia George, a friend of the church, recently donated this beautiful oriental rug to us. Its new home is in our narthex. Please thank Pat when you see her.





Remember that the Lord is great
and awesome! — Nehemiah 4:14b



Snappy the Crab wants you to volunteer to teach, lead
crafts, play, lead music, prepare a meal, or
just be an all-around helper!!

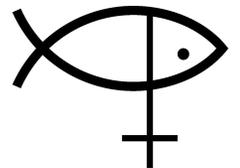
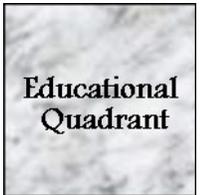
Vacation Bible School
June 20 - 24
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Contact Kelley Coats, Shelley Roberts,
or Linda Crowder if you can help.

Get ready to Watusi, Twist, or Surfer Stomp your way to a greater
understanding of God's amazing love as you catch the waves
at the Surf Shack!

Things we need: Beach and surfer themed items to decorate such as
shells, rafts, surf boards, etc. Please leave any items that need to be
returned with your name marked clearly. Also needed are items for
crafts such as shells, yarn, Popsicle sticks, wiggle eyes, red foam
sheets elastic string, Mod Podge. We welcome all donations of
items, gift cards or money to be used for VBS!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2016

NON-PROFIT STD MAIL
US POSTAGE
SMITHFIELD, NC 27577
PERMIT #93

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

Leftovers and Waste

When they were filled, He said to His disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.' So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

—John 6:12-13 (KJV)

The lowly leftover — it is holier than we think. I love leftovers. Many times some foods actually taste better to me when reheated, like beef stew, vegetable soup, and collards to name a few of my favorites. I loved my mother's leftover fried chicken almost always cooked for every Sunday meal and seemingly as delicious to me on Sunday evening as it was for our lunch. And like you, I do not like some leftovers, such as Chinese food or pizza. We all have our individual idiosyncrasies and notions when it comes to leftovers. Regardless, think about what lengths we undertake to preserve leftovers. The big refrigerator in our kitchen is just a start; we have the irascible plastic wraps, aluminum foil, ziplock bags, jars, bowls with lids, plastic containers, even vacuum packaging devices. Oh and don't forget the styrofoam boxes we frequently use to cart away leftovers from our favorite restaurants. Many products come ready to keep that leftover packaged up for you whether in its own resealable bag or a jar.

It is admirable not to waste food, as Christ taught us when he fed the 5000. However, the amount of wasted food worldwide is staggering. Every year almost 1/3 of all produce and vegetables produced are never consumed, 40% of school lunches wind up in the garbage. 133 billion pounds of food are tossed by U.S. consumers and retailers annually, for many sane and seemingly insane reasons. Such waste takes a staggering toll when you factor in the water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, labor and land needed to produce it. Wasted food drives up the costs of all foods we purchase. Discarded decaying food contributes significantly to greenhouse gases, combined they are in total number three behind China and the U.S. in total gases. They are a part of the overburden felt in our landfills. —National Geographic, March 2016.

With 800,000,000 humans worldwide suffering the effects of hunger, wasting food seems senseless. But what can we learn from this terrible waste? Conserve food, don't be a glutton, and remember that our food distribution system is not efficient or kind. You have to be an active participant in getting food to those who cannot afford to have food, especially qualitatively nutritious food. Jesus taught us to leave no one hungry, he also taught us that leftovers are important.

The feeding of the 5000 is the only miracle mentioned in all four of the Gospels, and the importance should not be lost on us. The leftovers from the miracle on that Galilean shore were the tangible grace of Jesus for all in his presence. Nothing could be a more powerful reminder that meager resources, touched with prayer, can meet the needs of others and so much more. Likewise, remember our hunger missions each third Sunday of the month: Pennies for Hunger, Yes We Can, and Smithfield Rescue Mission.

—Tom Barwick, Chair, Yes We Can



Rescue Mission Door Installed

The Mission Outreach Quadrant is pleased to report that the new emergency exit door has been installed at the Smithfield Rescue Mission. The funds for this outreach project were raised during the Fellowship Meal and hamburger/hotdog dinner cooked by the Presbyterian Men the evening of the town of Smithfield's Fifth of July fireworks display.

The staff at the Rescue Mission expressed their sincere thanks for our church's help in getting the emergency exit door installed, making their men's dorm a safer place. They really appreciate the many ways that our church has supported the mission and the blessing of this gift.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



Volunteers Needed

The Mission Outreach Quadrant is seeking volunteers to help in the following areas: recruiting new members, assisting at fellowship meals, and decorating tables for JOY Connection. Decorations are prepared and in storage — all you would have to do is place them on the tables.

—Ann Huckenbeck



April JOY Connection

Mark your calendars today. The next JOY Connection will be on the first Thursday in April. That would be April 7. Meet us in the fellowship hall at noon. There will be time to visit with friends, have lunch together and then be a part of a very informative program. Spaghetti, tossed salad and bread will be on the menu. Of course there will be delicious desserts brought by those of you who would like to share one with others.



After lunch, HealthQuest Fitness and Wellness Center representative Ashley Scott will talk to us about how to have a healthier lifestyle. We will likely learn about how not to fall, how to be more balanced, how to protect our backs, and much more. Be sure to sign up to attend at the reception desk or call the church at 919-934-0988 to reserve a space.

If you are interested in helping with JOY Connection in any way, please contact Ann Huckenbeck at 919-359-2760.

—Ann Ragland

Relay for Life Fund Raiser a Success!

First Presbyterian's Relay Team wants to thank the congregation for the great support for Survivor Sunday and our Chili Lunch. With your help, we raised \$1168.

We will be selling luminaria and chances on our quilt and afghan again in May. Relay will take place at SSS on Friday, June 3, from 5:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

—Martha Taylor, Captain, Team #37



Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women

The Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women will be held April 16, 2016, at First Presbyterian Raleigh. All women are invited. You do not have to be in a circle to attend. The meetings are always enjoyable and informative. The theme of this year's gathering is "Freeing the Captives." The Mission Project is providing toiletries for Interfaith Women's Prison Ministry.



The gathering starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at noon. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$8.00. Make checks payable to FPC PW. The registration deadline is April 8, 2016. Please contact Judy Johnson at 919-934-8025 or jjjohnson52@nc.rr.com. to register. We usually carpool and leave together from the church.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Judy Johnson.

—Judy Johnson

GUY's Next Meeting: April 8, 6:00 p.m.

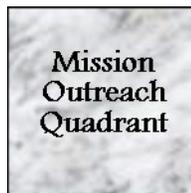
We're going out to dinner, either to Simple Twist or another restaurant of your choice. Childcare will be provided at the church by Frances Churchill. Donations towards childcare will be appreciated.

We will meet in the first Friday in May and in June for regular study and fellowship. Stay tuned!

—Jennifer Templeton



A Limited Number of FPC Cookbooks Available in the Church Office \$30.00 Make checks payable to FPC Building Fund



Confirmation Class Has Many Educational and Spiritual Experiences



Emma Horne and Davis Bell stand in front of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Raleigh



Church members, staff, friends, and confirmands enjoying celebrating Purim at Temple Israel in Wilmington, NC



Davis Bell proudly sporting a kippah which he got to keep!

On Sunday, March 27, Mary Margaret Coats and Taylor Holzshu were confirmed into membership at FPC. Davis Bell and Emma Horne will be confirmed at a later date. Please make sure to welcome these youth warmly and congratulate them on their achievement.

I had a lot of fun on the mission trip just as I did last year. It showed me that everyone, homeless or rich, young or old, loves to socialize and interact. It was fun playing Uno, Jenga, and Pig-pong with the people at Moore Place and seeing how happy the lady was when we cleaned her yard. I am glad our church let us have this experience, and I hope we can have an even better time next year.

—Davis Bell

CROSS Mission Participants:

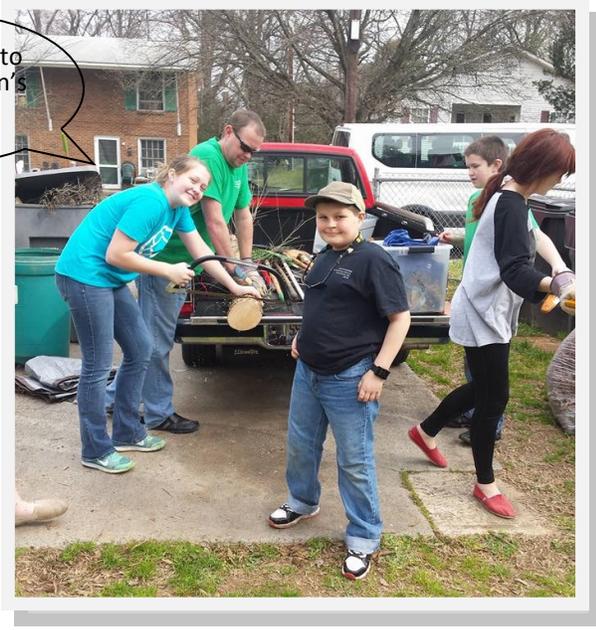
Madeline Horne, Nora McCarthy-Ragland, Evans Horne, Grace Booker, Mia Thompson, Emma Horne, Davis Bell, Carson Horne, and Patrick McCarthy-Ragland



Emma holding court!

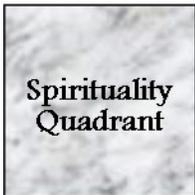


All pitching in to clean a woman's yard!



The CROSS mission trip was definitely a trip I won't forget! We made lots of great memories with the youth and our youth leaders. We met amazing people, and learned a lot about how we can show God's love through the simplest of things. You can ask any of the youth that went, and we will be glad to share more stories and memories of our trip! Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to go on this wonderful mission trip!

—Madeline Horne



Greetings from the Director of Music

Alleluia! Happy Easter to you all!

I am excited to write you that this month, on April 17th, during regular 11am worship, the choir will be presenting another hymn festival. Look for the reminders to come in the newsletter and announcements. This will be a celebration of Easter and of music, and I hope you will find it to be a joyous, exciting time.



In case you don't remember, the hymn festival is a time to celebrate through music and text, but in a different way than we normally do on Sunday mornings. We will segment a hymn text, commenting on each verse with readings and music. It provides a more reflective approach to the texts we sing at church. This will include choral music, congregational song, scripture, and poetry. I hope to see you all there!

The following Sunday, April 24, the Handbell Choir will present a concert of music at 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with First Baptist Church and Wilson's Mills Christian Church. I hope you can all attend that event as well. Kathy Rice and our Handbell Choir do such fantastic work. It is important that we support them in their efforts to reach out into the community.

—Dwight Dockery

FPC Handbells Host Community Handbell Concert

The handbell choir is very excited to extend an invitation to each of you to attend a community handbell concert to be held in our fellowship hall on Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 in the evening. This is not meant to be a formal event, but a time of fellowship and sharing through music. Our choir will play, and we will also have the opportunity to hear three other choirs – Wilson's Mills Christian Church, and the two handbell choirs from our next door neighbor, First Baptist Church!

Each choir was asked to share some of the things they have enjoyed playing over the last few years, either sacred or secular music. You'll hear a variety of bell techniques, as well as bell music that incorporates percussion and other instrumentalists.

Please, come out on the 24th to support our ringers and welcome our guests. Child care and refreshments will be provided.



Handbell Director

—Kathy Rice

Youth Project: Helping Children from Food-insecure Homes

The latest youth project is Backpack Buddies. The youth will be collecting food items to send home with children in need who rely on cafeteria meals for food. Weekends can be very bleak for these children. We are partnering with West Smithfield Elementary School which is 97% free and reduced lunches.

West Smithfield has the backpacks, so our youth are just collecting food. To fill one backpack for a weekends you need:

- Two breakfast items (pop tarts, instant grits, instant oatmeal, individual cereals)
- Four snacks (individual peanut butter cups, fruit roll-ups, cheese crackers, etc.)
- Four lunch items (Chef Boyardee cups, mac and cheese cups, fruit cups, applesauce cups)
- Four dinner items (see lunch item list)

There is a sign up sheet on the information table for those interested in donating items to this cause.

—Linda Crowder



CROSS Mission Director Brags on Our Youth:

Linda,

We had a tremendous weekend with FPC Smithfield. The leaders and students were inspiring, to say the least, and one of our partners, Moore Place, informed us that this group was the best group they've had for a VERY long time — that they knew how to engage their residents. Our time at Moore House had one of their best turnouts for game day in a very long time.

Thank you again for this partnership in ministry. We look forward to hosting FPC Smithfield once again in the future.

*Blessings,
Joel Tomkinson, Director*

Let our youth know how proud we are of them for representing us so well!!



June 5, 2016



Jennifer Templeton has volunteered to work with our youth in preparing for Youth Sunday. She will meet with the during regular meeting times beginning April 17 and continuing until the day of the service.

Save the Date!!

LOOKING AHEAD: Live Auction September 11

Begin thinking now what you can donate . . . Rugs, furniture, kitchenware, art, appliances, jewelry, Gift cards, Services, strollers, car seats . . . the sky's the limit. No clothes please.

Proceeds to help our youth attend Faith in 3D at Disney World, January 13 - 16, 2017. Read more about this event at faithin3d.org.



Spirituality Quadrant

