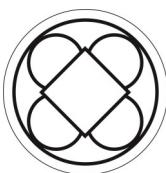


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 First Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 1159
 Smithfield, NC 27577
 919-934-0988
 fpcsmithfield@nc.rr.com
 fpcsmithfield.org

ICHTHUS

July 2016

Reflections in the Water: A Season of Time for Growth and Change

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

—Ecclesiastes 3:1

And these children that you spit on
 as they try to change their world
 are immune to your consultations
 They're quite aware of what they're going through.
 Change (turn and face the strange)
 Changes
 Don't tell them to grow up and out of it . . .
 Time may change me
 But I can't trace time. —David Bowie

Come gather 'round, people, wherever you roam
 And admit that the waters around you have grown
 And accept that soon you'll be drenched to the bone.
 If your time to you is worth saving'
 Then you better start swimming' or you'll sink like a stone
 For the times they are a changin'! —Bob Dylan

Four years ago the congregation moved into its new building and immediately held its first Vacation Bible School in new digs. As we begin another summer VBS program with the addition of new members and children present, I am mindful not to take the past's hard-earned accomplishments for granted. At this particular moment, I am more keenly aware of the many changes that have occurred at First Presbyterian Church than in previous years. One major change for us is our farewell to our Director of Music, Dwight Dockery, who has served us faithfully and helped us grow spiritually through nearly six years. I believe I have grown as a Christian because of my colleague's personal example, musical expertise, and friendship. I offer my personal gratitude to Shelley Maddox his wife, who has been the unpaid partner these many years with the position. She too has strengthened our worship and the gifts of the choir in so many quiet and generous ways. Other changes have included the many saints and pillars of the church I've said farewell to in memorial eulogies even as we welcomed the wonderful gifts and talents of new people who enrich our experience of what it means to be Church here and now. As I reflect, I consider that maybe it's the legacy of all these people, their faithful examples, that enable us to grow into our own future commitment as we the congregation prepare to enter our 125th Anniversary year in December.

As this school year ends for students and their families, I recognize many exciting new ministries have been created during the past twelve months. The Session has welcomed a significant number of new families and members making their affirmations of faith with First Presbyterian Church, including our confirmands Davis Bell, Mary Margaret Coats, Emma Horne, and Taylor Holzshu. We celebrated in the fall that the congregation has fulfilled nearly half our building fund obligation in just five years. We launched an exciting new unified campaign with *VISION 2020: Give Now and For the Future*, not only to fulfill our building promises, but also to renew our dedication to growing ministries with our youth. With initial special gifts from generous members, our church welcomed Linda Crowder last September as our Youth Coordinator. She has been instrumental in guiding our youth and their adult leaders to engage in increased mission participation, education, and youth conference activity, and she has provided team support as a member of our church staff. Also this year Camille Boone led a program of music inviting a diverse group of young children from our community. Grown Up Youth (or GUY) for new and young families began under the guidance of Jennifer and Patrick Templeton. And if you haven't seen them all yet, six *Vision 2020* videos are posted to our homepage with numerous statements of faith and testimony from a variety of members regarding their call and love for the ministry of this church. I confess I go back to these stories time and again and find inspiration and encouragement for the tasks before us.

Amid the many changes, First Presbyterian Church has become a byword for hospitality, community outreach, and faithful discipleship to the greater community. I encourage you amid the changes, the occasional losses, and steady achievements, to take a moment to thank and give glory to God for the blessing of Church. I recognize our faith progress is not always evident in the day to day events, but time has shown us that with prayerful planning and pruning the church's mission is bearing fruit, offering the opportunity of a new crop ever before us. I genuinely hope we can celebrate our past 125 with great thanksgiving while keeping an ever watchful eye out for what God has yet in store for his faithful. Consider how you are being called to continue to grow for the Kingdom of God.

Peace and grace,

Pastor Joe

About the Prayer Shawl Ministry



State and beyond. What a joy!

As you can imagine, that is lots of knitting and crocheting. That is also a lot of yarn. It takes approximately three skeins of yarn for each shawl at a cost of \$5.00 per skein. If you would like to donate money for yarn that would be a way you could encourage our group. We have found it is better to receive monetary donations so that we can try to find colors that blend with other yarns we have.

We are enjoying the fellowship of meeting each Monday at 1:00 in the Great Hall. We love our visiting. We are teaching each other new tricks of the craft. It seems those who crochet can get their shawls done much quicker, but we knitters are still working hard.

Come join us Monday afternoons at 1:00 p.m.

—Camille Boone

Waste Not, Want Not

Do you ever wonder why the unsold food from supermarkets and restaurants doesn't go to the hungry? Harrison Jacobs gives two reasons in his article, *Here's Why Wasted Food Doesn't Get To Poor People*: Every year, the US throws away one-third of all the food it produces—wasting 133 billion pounds of food. And 10% of that food is lost at the grocery stores, restaurants, and vendors that sell it..”

Patty Larson, the executive director of the "food rescue" group Food Finders explained to us why good food doesn't get to the hungry.

The first reason is liability. Many vendors mistakenly believe they'll get sued for providing food that gets somebody sick, even if they think that food is safe. The vendors may decide giving away their leftovers isn't worth the legal risk.

"What these vendors may not know (or fully understand) is that in 1996, Congress passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, thus protecting good faith food donors from civil and criminal liability. The law specifically protects individuals, corporations, wholesalers, caterers, farmers, restaurateurs, and others from liability for donating food in good faith.

“People are always so worried about someone getting sick, but its never been an issue for us,” said Larson.

The second issue is logistics. Stores often don't have the space to store leftover food while they are waiting for agencies to pick it up. And food banks may not have the capacity to transport or properly store the food if it's highly perishable. Even worse, many stores don't even know they should be donating their leftover food or where to donate it.” <http://www.businessinsider.com/why-dont-some-grocery-stores-donate-food-to-poor-people-2014-10>

We should not be afraid to donate, rather than waste, food. The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act was created to encourage food donation to nonprofit organizations by minimizing liability. Signed into United States law by President Bill Clinton, this law, named after Representative Bill Emerson (who encouraged the proposal but died before it was passed), makes it easier to donate 'apparently wholesome food' by excluding donor liability except in cases of gross negligence.

Logistics should not be the problem either. In Leviticus 19:9-10 the Lord gave us guidance. “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God.” So the poor are given a charge to go and glean what has been made available to them. It would be naive to believe we cannot distribute free food. It certainly seems illogical to waste so much food.

—Tom Barwick, Chair
Yes We Can



Appalachia Service Project Team Asks for Donations

Guyan Valley, West Virginia, is the destination, and our hardy group of nine from First Presbyterian is looking forward to participating in the Appalachia Service Project! We leave Sunday morning, July 24, and will return on July 30.

Appalachian Service Project has been in operation for 47 years. Families throughout Appalachia apply for various home repairs and must be selected by the ASP organization. Participating groups may do roofing, hanging sheet rock, hammering, plumbing and other handyman type work during the week. ASP is for all ages, but one of its focuses is building leadership skills in youth. We are excited that Timothy Allen and Madeline Horne are members of the mission team!

The members of our team are Jane Allen, Timothy Allen, Eleanor Horne, Madeline Horne, Roger Horne, Greg Knoll, Pam Pope, Teron Sloan and Joy Worsham. They are excited about participating in this worthy project. The cost for participating is \$325 per person. This covers housing, food and supplies for the worksite. We are also renting a 15 passenger van to get us there and back and around to the work site. Each participant is paying around \$500 to participate. They must also purchase work gloves, eye protection, hearing plugs, and other safety equipment required by the project.

If you would like to assist with a scholarship to help those participating in this program, your donation would be welcomed! Please make your check out to FPC and enter "For ASP Scholarship" in the memo line.

The group asks for your prayers for a safe and meaningful trip. We look forward to sharing our pictures and experiences with you when we get back!

—Pam Pope



Music for the Lunch Bunch
Wednesdays
12:15 p.m.

July 13
Tom Howerton and Company
Strings and Vocals

July 20
Thomas Howerton
Viola

July 27
Dara Edwards and Students
Piano

August 3
Zach Ross
Organ and Piano

August 10
Neuse Little Theatre
Songs of Irving Berlin

August 17
Duke Sanders
Show Tunes



Third of July Hotdogs and Fireworks on the Lawn

Mission Outreach is sponsoring the annual Fireworks and Food Fest on Sunday, July 3 at 6:30 p.m. This year we are raising money to purchase a defibrillator for the church, something all organizations should have on hand in case of emergencies. Dr. Tony Liverman gave us a special purchase price, and we ask all of you to participate and bring your friends and neighbors. All donations will be accepted.

There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule area of the church. The main course will be hot dogs and hamburgers. We ask members to supply condiments, potato chips, potato salad, and desserts. The desserts should be the hand-held type to eliminate using more paper and plastic products.

Once again, we thank Evans Horne and his family for coordinating this major production.

Please add your name to the list. Bring your lawn chairs, a celebratory attitude, and lots of folks as we celebrate our country's independence.

—Ann Huckenbeck

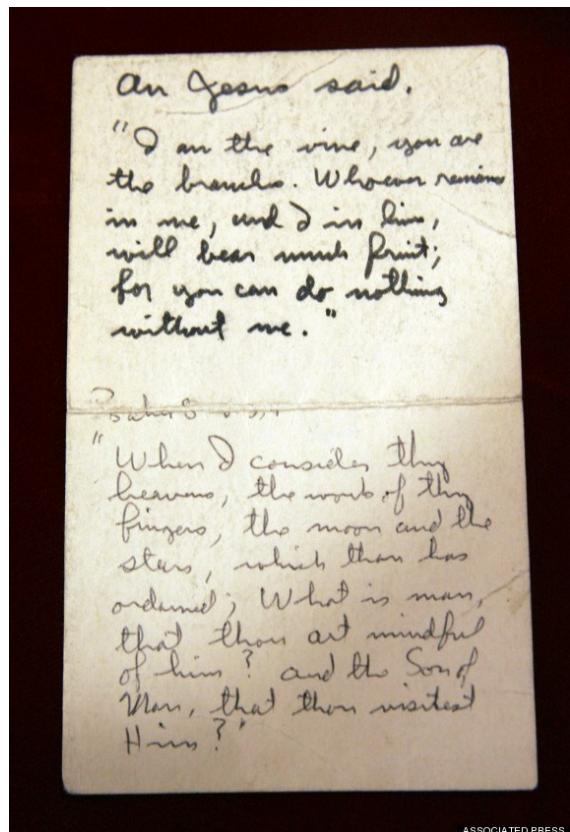
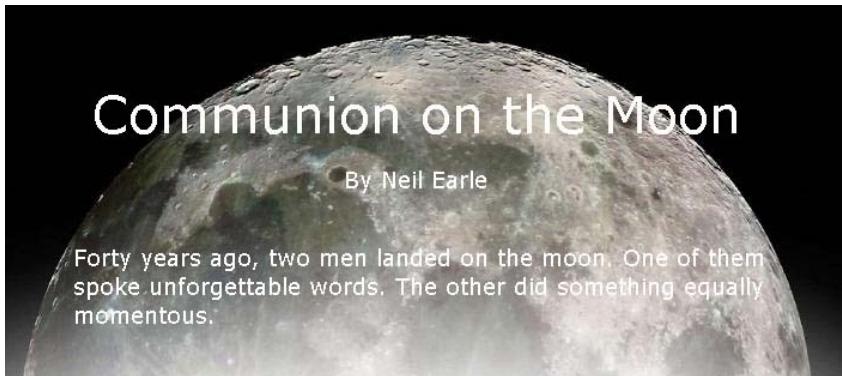
**Mission
Outreach
Quadrant**

Communing with God

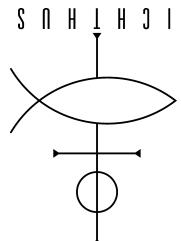
After Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, pilot Buzz Aldrin requested via radio that people pause to give thanks for the achievements in their own way. When his broadcast ended, Aldrin read a verse from the Gospel of John and took communion which the church had sent to space with him.

"It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food ever eaten there, were the communion elements," the astronaut said. "At the time, I could think of no better way to acknowledge the enormity of the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God."

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." John 15:5



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First Presbyterian Church

Greetings from the Director of Music

I bring you Montreat greetings as I am writing this from God's country. This theme of this week is about gratitude, a feeling that has been on my mind and heart recently as I approach the end of my tenure at First Presbyterian Church. I offer my sincere gratitude for the incredible hospitality, friendship, and support you have shown Shelley and me over the past five and a half years. Your kindness and Christian love have sustained us through the drive from Greenville many times. We are certainly better off having known you all. Therefore it is with bittersweet emotions that we leave this church at the end of July.



Our final Sunday is July 31. We hope you will be there, both for the worship service and for the recital by the two of us at 2:30 in the afternoon. The choir will also sing several anthems in worship that day, and they will put in an extra summer rehearsal on July 27.

As we leave, I hope that, at some point, the music we have offered has touched you, moved you, or inspired you. I hope this not because I wan accolades for doing a good job or even because I hope I've done a good job. Rather I hope this because I know the power of music in my own life and wish its power to touch you as well. I thank you for letter me share it with you.

—Dwight Dockery

Farewell Recital
by
Dwight Dockery and Shelley Maddox

July 31, 2:30 p.m.
in our sanctuary

followed by a
Farewell Reception
in their honor
in the Fellowship Hall

There will be a basket for cards and
remembrances.



Spirituality Quadrant



VBS 2016
Surf Shack
Kelly Coats,
Director

Don't
forget
to thank
the cooks!



Cutest kids ever!



Entry to the Surf Shack



We don't even know
what
to say
about
this . . .



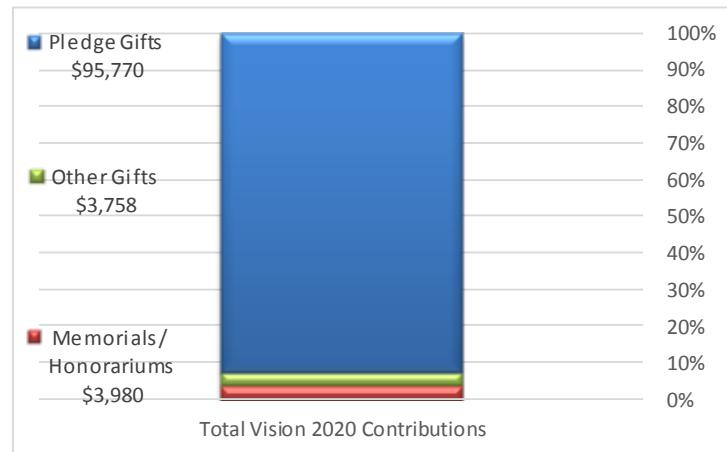
Educational
Quadrant

First Presbyterian Church Operating Results — Jan. - May 2016			
Actual vs. Budgeted			
	Jan - May 2016 Actual	Jan - May 2016 Budgeted	
Revenue			
General Offering	105,560.79	120,833.35	
Disbursements			
Education Quadrant	188.90	1,687.45	
Mission Outreach Quadrant	5,337.84	7,812.50	
Spirituality Quadrant	61,164.24	74,347.10	
Stewardship Quadrant	42,972.55	46,180.90	
Total Disbursements	109,663.53	130,027.95	
Net Income/(Deficit)	(4,102.74)	(9,194.60)	

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 5/31/2016

\$ 95,770 Pledge Gifts
\$ 3,980 Memorials/Honorariums
\$ 3,758 Other Gifts
\$ 103,507 Total VISION 2020 Contributions

\$ 559,626 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
\$ 1,116,780 Mortgage Balance



Total VISION 2020 Contributions 4Q 2015: \$55,690
1Q 2016: \$47,818

Property Box

We're Resurfacing the Parking Lots July 4-5, and Redrawing Parking Lines July 7-8

Our parking lot will be closed July 4 and 5 for resurfacing, so you are asked to park on the street or in the Baptist parking lot or in other public parking places. Technically it will be open for parking on July 6, but closed again July 7 and 8 for parking spaces to be repainted.

Please do not walk across the blacktop. Use the sidewalks to enter the church during weekdays the first week of July.

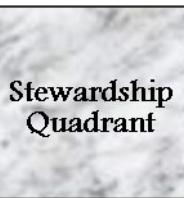
Thanks!
Your Property Team



New Pictorial Directory in the Works

The Communications and Technology Team will be working with Lifetouch Studios to complete a new church directory in the fall. Please mark **October 13-18** on your calendar to schedule your portrait session. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

—Debbie Jacobs



Helping Hospice Center

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee, under the umbrella of the Mission Outreach Quadrant, sponsored another meal for the volunteers and families of patients at the SECU Hospice House on June 12. Many thanks to Eleanor Horne, Lee Johnson, Hubert and Judy Schmidt, Rich and Ann Huckenbeck, Debbie Henderson, Jo James, Greg and Joyce Knoll, and Betsy Olive for helping supply this meal.

—Joyce Knoll



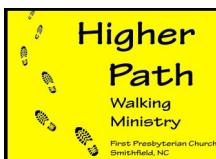
N&O Does Feature Article on Our Prayer Vigil and Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, June 19, First Presbyterian Church and Wilson's Mills Church of Christ held a service in memory of the slain in the Orlando shooting. Abbie Bennett of the News and Observer covered the event. Those gathered said prayers, sang hymns, and lit candles.

Bennett quoted Joseph Hester who said, "We come in good conscience; we come as a people of peace . . . We come as points of light in the darkness" Lea Slaton said, "We're here to pray and to worship because this is what people of faith do . . . In good times we come together to pray and to worship. And when times are hard and when our hearts are breaking, we come together to pray and worship. This is the place where we reach for light, for what endures."

Nancy Lee and Judy Daniels sang during the service. Many of those in attendance expressed their thanks to our church for providing the service.

New Walking Ministry at FPC



FPC's new Walking Ministry was dedicated during worship on June 26. If you think you want to be a part of this group that combines spirituality, fitness, and fellowship, contact its leader, Wayne Dockery.

—Wayne Dockery

Reception Desk Needs Volunteers

Due to illness, several of our front desk volunteers can no longer perform their duties. So we are asking for more volunteers to help with this important work for the church. We currently need someone to keep the desk on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon. The main duties are transferring calls, taking messages, and greeting guests. If you are interested in either taking on one afternoon a week, or if you just prefer to volunteer one afternoon a month, please contact front desk coordinator Jane Harrell at 919-553-8595.



—Jane Harrell

Prayer is where the action is.

—John Wesley