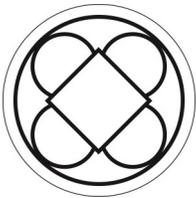




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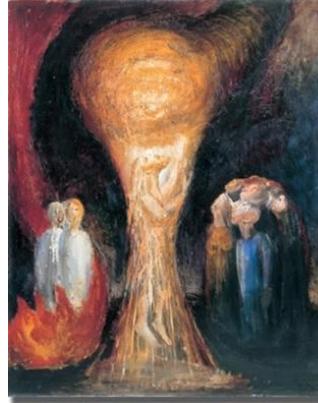


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# ICHTHUS

June 2017

## Reflections in the Water: Ascension



*The Ascension of Christ., 1963, Peter Rogers*

“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘**It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.” —Acts 1:6-9

“This is what the past is for! Every experience God gives us, every person he puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only he can see.”

—Corrie ten Boom in *The Hiding Place*.

Last month I extended an invitation to you to take part in a spiritual exercise for the next thirty days to connect with one another in the church in the days leading to Pentecost. It is my hope that your faithful focus and outreach to fellow church members contributed to a new awareness, understanding of your neighbor in the pew. It has also been my prayer for you that it gave you an opportunity to experience a sense of spiritual renewal as a disciple of Christ.

While we engaged in this spiritual discipline another significant moment in the life of the Church occurred with the observance of the Ascension of Christ or the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter. Missed it? Most Presbyterians I’ve encountered have no concept of the Ascension as a high holy day yet its message is central to understanding of our call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. On Ascension, the post-Easter Christ shares with his apostles final earthly words: “**You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth**” even as he ascends into the heavens and is glorified. The disciples see and believe and go to tell the story. Ten days later in Jerusalem they gather for the Day of Pentecost where they receive power to carry out this mission.

In the days that follow Ascension and our Pentecost observance on Sunday June 4, I once again invite each of you to continue participation in a phase two of **CONNECT with 30 people for 30 days** (one person each day). During this coming month, extend your efforts beyond the walls of our faith community and reach out to a neighbor, a friend or a stranger and become a witness for Christ.

Again, reach out to someone at the start of each new day: someone who is a neighbor or friend, a co-worker, a service provider, or even a stranger who crosses your path. Do not worry if you don’t know their name. Once again focus prayerfully on their well-being and pray for them while asking God how you may serve them as a good neighbor. Remember with grace and compassion to be obedient to God’s will for them — not mine but Thine. At the end of the day, pray for them intentionally and seek God’s guidance for their lives and how you might serve them.

And again I look forward to hearing what you have learned and how you have grown spiritually. I would like you to share your experiences with others.

Peace and grace be with you.

Pastor Joe



Add to  
your  
prayer  
list

### Prayerful Support for

Tom Barbour at Meadowview  
Nor Bell at Meadowview  
Bernice Johnson at Meadowview  
Alice Narron at Meadowview  
Shirley Williams at Meadowview  
Hazel Whitehurst at SECU Hospice House  
John Booker at Smithfield Manor Rehab

Marie Atkins  
Helen Best  
Ruth Daniel  
Debbie Henderson  
Tom Johnson  
Shannon Kimball  
Joe Kluttz  
Tony Lester  
Bill Leist  
Marie Maddox  
Benny Pope  
Chap Ragland  
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh  
Peter Russell  
Linda Stephenson  
Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte  
Nelson Vaughn  
Betty Welch  
Ted Wells  
William Wells  
Al Worsham  
Bob Worsham  
Hilda Worsham  
Rebecca Ziady  
Joseph Hester, Sr.  
Sharon Van Velzen, sister of Joyce Knoll

**Christian Sympathy** to the family of Grover Miller; Grover died on May 3, 2017; and to the family Myde Woodard Eason. Myde died on May 28, 2017.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### of Session for May:

- Approved Special Gift proposals from the Special Task Force
  - Approved the serving of communion to our youth at Montreat this summer
  - Approved the pastor's invitation to preach at Berea Presbyterian Church for their centennial service
  - Approved Continuing Education for the pastor from Sept. 13-21, 2017.
  - Approved vacation leave for the pastor for June 13-June 19, 2017, August 1-August 7, 2017, and November 13-19, 2017.
  - Approved Vacation Bible School, in conjunction with Wilsons Mills Christian Church, for Monday, July 17-Thursday, July 20, 2017. VBS will be held at FPC Smithfield and have classes for all ages, including adults, and will begin with kid-friendly, light meals at 5:30. VBS will end at 8:00 pm each evening. The approved curriculum is *Hero Central*.
  - Approved our middle school youth's participation at Camp Don Lee October 6-8, 2017.
  - Approved our youth's participation with the Raleigh Youth Mission project on October 14, 2017 and with a SAM Food Drive November 5-12, 2017.
  - Approved a "Welcome back" lock-in and cookout for our youth on September 8-9, 2017.
  - Approved designating Sunday, October 29, 2017, as the celebration date for our 125th anniversary. Judy Miller will chair this project. Ideas and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to contact Judy.
- If you have items you wish to bring before Session, please contact Debbie Jacobs, Clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs



**In Memory of** Grover Miller, Robert Backner, Flo and Art Weaver, Archie Crowder, Bob Ellmore, Richard Paige, Phillip Churchill, Eddie Perkinson,

Jane Bolin, Thomas Alexander McNeill, Jr., Tom and Janie Templeton,

**In Honor of** Joyce Lee, Eleanor and Roger Horne, Youth and Youth Leaders, Ruth Daniel, Joe Kluttz, Gregory Creighton Maret, Avery Elise Allen, Wyatt Mattison Morgan

**Donors:** Ted Eason Class, Dot Ellmore, Pam Withrow, Keeley Bidwel, Karla Withrow, and family, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Tony and Anita Liverman, Tom and Sandra Johnson, Jean Worley, Donnye and Gene Rooks, Ruth and Greg Bell, Addison Coats, Rhonda Backner, Lee Johnson, Linda Crowder, Frances Churchill, Sandy Perkinson, Davis Bell, Bill and Shirley Sharek, Betsy and Frank Olive, John and Janet Lampe, Tommy and Camille Boone, John and Martha Taylor, Beth Daniel, Meredith McGill, Jerry Slaymaker, Willa Dodd, Ann Mayes, John Michael Siau, Jerry and Mary Nell Ferguson, Martha Chapman, Liz Craig, Billy Duncan, Harold and Cathy Allen, Patrick and Jennifer Templeton, Tony and Sandra Lester, Maxine McFadyen

### Music for the Lunch Bunch 2017



June 14

**Bruce Johnson, baritone**

June 19

**Ella Ann Holding, piano**

June 28

**Dara Edwards and Students, piano**

July 12

**W. Franklin Graham, piano**

July 19

**Greg Honeycutt, Baritone**

July 26

**Casey Whaley and Timothy Price, organ and piano**

August 2

**Clayton Youth Theatre**

August 9

**Neuse Little Theatre**

August 16

**The Golden Girls**

Wednesdays, 12:15, Our Sanctuary

Music for the Lunch Bunch is grassroots funded by the Johnston County Arts Council and the NC Arts Council

*Dear Church Family,*

*My sincere thanks to all of you for the love shown to our family during my dear Grover's illness and death.*

*With love and appreciation,  
Judy Miller*

**Relay for Life, June 2, SSS Track**

Please come out and join your church team at Relay for Life on Friday, June 2nd from 5-12 at Triple S High School track. We will be selling popcorn, peanuts, soft drinks and water. We will also raffle off the beautiful quilt that Judy Schmidt made and Becky Peele's circus afghan and If I Ran the Circus book, and 2 gas cards. We enjoy socializing at our tent! See our Survivors walk in the Survivor Walk and the lighted Memorial Walk. Walk the track and see all the luminaries. See you there!  
—Martha Taylor, Captain Team #37



**More Hospice Meals**

First Presbyterian Church, through the Mission and Outreach Quadrant, partners with the volunteers and staff at SECU Hospice House in Smithfield to provide a warm meal four times a year for families who have loved ones there. Our congregation has been very supportive of this effort which helps families, volunteers, and staff at hospice house. The number of members of FPC willing to provide a portion of the meal has been impressive. We usually have more volunteers to provide a portion of the meal than we need. We are very thankful for the congregation's support.



There are many churches in the area that support the effort to provide one warm meal a week at Hospice House, but there remain some open weeks. Our Quadrant would like to expand FPC's support at Hospice House to eight times per year. We are looking for one or two volunteers to commit to coordinating and serving four additional meals. Greg and Joyce Knoll will continue to coordinate the other four meals. If you and a spouse or friend would like more information, please contact Greg or Joyce Knoll.  
—Greg and Joyce Knoll

**125th Anniversary Celebration, October 29 Planning Underway**

The Session invites members and friends who wish to help with the planning of our 125th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for Sunday October 29th 2017 should contact Judy Miller who is serving as chair as appointed by Session. Other questions may also be directed to Pastor Joe or Tom Barwick, Mission and Outreach Quadrant Chair. Thank you!  
—Judy Miller



**Harbor House Needs**

Our local Women's Shelter, Harbor House, needs supplies. Please bring toiletries, juice boxes, small toys and books, and nabs and other snacks. Place them in the Harbor basket in the fellowship hall.  
Thank you.  
—Janet Lampe



**Hunger: It's in Our Roots**

Hunger is in our church's roots. As our fledgling church began 125 years ago, we were on the doorstep of despair in our country and around the world from economic crisis and hunger. It may not have been apparent since the era preceding 1892 saw impressive economic growth in the United States – lending to speculations of all kinds. Despite the good economic times there were still areas of deprivation though with repeated droughts in new settled areas of Nebraska, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. Farmers there experienced crop failures and hunger in those areas was widening. Things changed dramatically for all Americans in a year with the Panic of 1893. The economic downturn was the worst financial crisis in America up to The Great Depression. The Panic was brought about by over-speculation, especially in railroads and mining. One source points to the failed wheat crop of Argentina brought on by drought as the precipitating factor. But as always it the less fortunate who bore the brunt of it.



As a result of the panic, stock prices declined. 500 banks closed, 15,000 businesses failed and numerous farms ceased operation. The unemployment rate hit 25% in Pennsylvania, 35% in New York, and 43% in Michigan. Soup kitchens were opened to help feed the destitute. Facing starvation, people chopped wood, broke rocks, and sewed by hand with needle and thread in exchange for food. In some cases, women resorted to prostitution to feed their families. To help the people of Detroit, Mayor Hazen Pingree started "Pingree's Potato Patch" which were community gardens for farming. Some scholars say this event led to the first community gardens in America. Community gardens were an effort to assuage rising urban hunger caused by the Panic. Johnston County saw the collapse of cotton, its principal economic staple. So no doubt the economic crisis was significant in our community as well.

The year 1892 saw the deepening of The Great Russian Famine of 1891-92. Grain was the staple of the Russian diet at the time. Russia had been a major grain exporter but with drought, crop failure and a poor distribution infrastructure Russia's reserves dissipated and famine ensued. Perhaps more than 400,000 Russians died of starvation during the famine. The United States formed the Russian Famine Relief Committee of the United States, which was funded mostly by donations. It shipped food resources to starving Russians valued at more than \$220,000,000 in today's currency.

Food crisis no doubt was on the minds of our founding church members in the early 1890s. We are often a year or months or less from a food catastrophe that could affect us all. The less fortunate are only weeks to days away. Please remember that the third Sunday is Hunger Sunday when we remember, and anticipate, the needs of those who experience a food crisis. It's in our roots.  
—Tom Barwick



**Graduate Recognition Breakfast**

**Sunday, June 4, 9:00 a.m. Graduates and Their Families**



**The parents of Timothy Allen and Madeline Horne invite you to a Home School Graduation Ceremony Sunday, June 11, 4:00 p.m. Our Sanctuary A reception in the fellowship hall will follow**



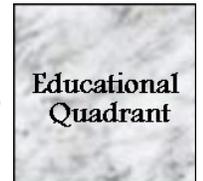
**Youth Sunday**

**June 11 — Don't Miss It**



**Vacation Bible School July 17—20 5:30—8:00 p.m.**

**We'll be partnering with First Christian Church and Wilson's Mills Christian Church in our facility. If you can volunteer, contact Courtney Scot or Jennifer Templeton. On-line Registration Coming Soon.**





**The Presbytery of New Hope  
 Older Adult Ministry Award Recipients  
 First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount  
 June 21, 2017  
 Congratulations, Jim Henderson!**

**First Presbyterian's Second Annual Music Camp—Preschool—Fifth Grade  
 July 24, 25, 26  
 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
 Church Member Registration Deadline: July 5  
 Non-Member Registration Opens July 10  
 Due to space limitations and for planning purposes, registration is required.  
 To register call Camille Boone at 919-464-6055.  
 Staff: Camille Boone, Kathy Rice, and Madeline Horne**

**Purpose: To develop singing, dancing, and the playing of instruments  
 using songs for our new hymnal.**

**Our older youth and are encouraged to volunteer to be helpers!**



**Summer Music Camp**



**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**June 2017**

**First Presbyterian Church  
 PO Box 1159  
 Smithfield, NC 27577**

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

## Give Choir a Try This Summer

I have great news for all of you who have wanted to sing in the choir but don't have Wednesday night open for rehearsals! Summer is your time! During the months of June, July, and August the choir takes some well-earned time off.

Most people don't realize the dedication and time it takes for your choir to lead worship each and every Sunday. One of my choir members said to me the other day, "I look forward all year to sitting with my wife during the summer." And he should have that pleasure. So during the summer months, members of the choir who wish to fill the loft will do so, and we invite others to join us!

June 4 is Pentecost and will be the last official Sunday for the church choir. June 11 will be Youth Sunday with wonderful music by the youth of our church. And on June 18, Father's Day, we invite any and all men who would like to sing to join us in the choir room at 10:30 a.m. Patrick Templeton will lead the men in the hymn/anthem, *Faith of Our Fathers*. The remaining summer Sundays through Labor Day will be open to all who would like to join us at 10:30 in the Choir Room for a quick rehearsal before church.

We would also welcome other special music, both instrumental and vocal. E-mail me at [fpcmarthachapman@gmail.com](mailto:fpcmarthachapman@gmail.com) if you are interested and let's find a time for all to assist in musical worship at First Presbyterian Church this summer!

—Martha Chapman



## Midweek Opportunities to Learn Bells This Summer

I always approach this time of year with a mixture of emotions ranging from pride in all we have accomplished as a handbell team, to anticipation of the upcoming Montreat Worship and Music Conference where there will be more ideas and opportunities than I'll ever be able to digest, to a bit of sadness and loss as I try to figure out what to do with my Wednesday evenings when the handbell choir doesn't meet.

I'm so proud to be associated with our handbell ministry, and I thank you Debbie, Courtney, Iris, Anita, Jane, Joy, Beth, Judy, Thomas, Tony, Patrick and Martha for all they do to make it happen. As we take the summer to reflect and think of ways to grow our handbell program, we welcome your feedback. Please share with me, or with members of the choir what you see as strengths, as well as things you'd like to see us add or change for the upcoming year. If we have played music or used techniques you particularly enjoyed, let us know so we can further enrich your worship experience.

We are excited about our new "Handbells 101" program which we will continue through the summer. Anyone is welcome to join Anita Liverman and me on Wednesdays from 11:15 a.m., to noon, conveniently right after Pastor Joe's Bible study. We'll be learning more about the bells, how to ring, how to read music and rhythm, and generally building confidence and having a good time. Whether you want to brush off some old music skills or build new ones, this is the place and we would love to have you!

I wishing you a refreshing, relaxing, safe summer.

—Kathy Rice

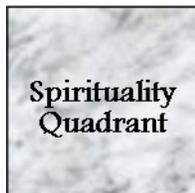


## Information for Parents of Acolytes and Trinity Ringers

You will find the schedule for acolytes and ringers on the back of the calendar in each month's ICHTHUS. Please check these lists when you receive your newsletter. If you realize there is a conflict on the day your child is scheduled, please try to switch Sundays with another child. Also, please call the Head Usher for the month and let him/her know of the change. The list of each month's ushers is also listed on the back of the calendar. Please help your child with his/her robe and then help him/her disrobe and hang the robes in the sacristy.

Thank you.

—Helen Best



**First Presbyterian Church**  
Serving Jesus Christ for 125 years . .  
Striving for another 125.

In gratitude for our church, this one-time gift,  
*which is above and beyond your pledge,*  
will go to the General Fund. This gift will be reflected  
on your end-of-year giving statement.

Select an envelope. Write your name on the back.  
Insert a check or cash in the amount on the front of the  
envelope (or more!), seal it, and  
place it in the collection box.

If you use a check, please write General Fund Special Gift  
on the memo line.

Thank you very much for this special donation  
to our General Fund.

You may designate your gift as a memorial or honorarium  
by using the slips of paper provided.

Make your gift at the bulletin board in the Great Hall.

## Communication and Technology

Over the next few months, our website presence is being revamped. Look in the eNews for a launch date and check it out! Please let a member of the team know your feelings!

If you are not receiving the eNews on Thursdays or Dial My Calls information, please contact Debbie so that your email and phone number can be corrected. If your information changes, please let her and the church office know of the changes so that you can stay in touch with what's happening at FPC.

—Debbie Jacobs



## The Property Box

The defibrillator is now in place in the corner by the main entrance to the Great Hall. Look for information regarding training to use this life-saving device.

We thank Helen Best for selecting the equipment and for conducting training sessions, and we thank Kenny Duncan for installing it.

If you have a church key but are no longer serving in a capacity the requires one, please return it to the church office.

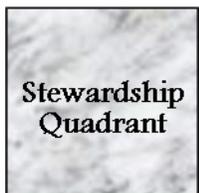
—Your Property Team



## Not Too Late for Giving Envelopes

Please feel free to use giving envelopes, even if you only use them once or twice a year. You may also get a box for your children to use. It's not too late to get them this year. Contact Beth Daniel or Cathy Allen to get some.

—Beth Daniel





Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

**What you need:**

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



**What you do:**

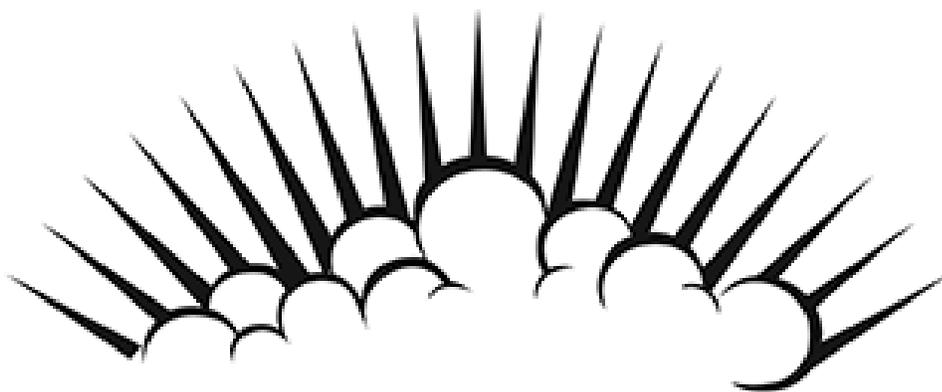
1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift – and a hug!



# Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

*Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.*



"H\_ w\_ll c\_ll \_ \_ t t\_ m\_

'Y\_ \_ \_ r\_ m\_ F\_th\_r, m\_

G\_d, th\_ R\_ck m\_ S\_v\_ \_r.'" "

Ps\_lm 89:26, N\_V

Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV