



The ICHTHUS November 2016

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

In This Issue:

From Our Pastor

Prayer Concerns

All Saints Sunday

Angel Tree

Christmas Joy Offering

Communications and

Technology

Daylight Saving Time

Defibrillator

Finance Report

GUY (Grown Up Youth)

Highlights of Session

Hospice

Hunger Sunday

JOY Connection

Memorials

Pastor's Medical Leave

Property Box

PYC and KICKS News

Relay for Life Cookie Sale

Silent and Live Auctions

Thanks

Tour of Tables

Trunk or Treat

Vision 2020/Consecration

Sunday

October Calendar

Lectionary

Fellowship Time

Worship Nursery

Flowers

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Ushers

Lay Readers

Acolytes

Trinity Ringers

Building Officers



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Reflections in the Water: Christ the King

“But as for you, man of God, . . . pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; . . . I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

—from *1 Timothy 6*

“If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that he commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it.”

— Stephen Colbert

“I think it is safe to say that while the South is hardly Christ-centered, it is most certainly Christ-haunted.”

— Flannery O'Connor

The sovereignty of God is an essential tenet of our faith and belief. As disciples and as One Church, we confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our life. We are called to remember this in times of joy and celebration. We remember and affirm no matter how dark and grim the outlook or strong and tight our literal and metaphorical chains and walls of our prisons. As Paul wrote to the Romans: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

With a major nation election year upon us the choices we make as citizens are also an expression of who we are living into God's kingdom. This year I've heard many expressions of apathy, distrust, anger and frustration. I've shared those feelings at time. At these low moments I find I am placing my confidence in the power and the gods of this world and have wandered from God's plan for me and creation given to me in the promise of Jesus Christ. Time and again, scripture calls us to remember our personal problems and worldly disagreements are passing. There is nothing, even death itself, that has not been and is not and will not be overcome by the sovereign creator and ruler of the universe and lord of life, Jesus Christ. This election year will come and go. The world's nations will rise and fall. Still we the faithful are called to live and serve others as citizens of a greater kingdom breaking into the world whose Lord is Jesus Christ, forever and ever.

Peace and grace,

Joe Hester



Helping Hospice



The Evangelism and Outreach Team, under the umbrella of the Mission Outreach Quadrant, is providing our congregation with the opportunity to stock the pantry at the Smithfield Hospice House during the month of November. Individually wrapped items such as cookies/crackers, nabs, pudding, applesauce, fruit cups, cereal bars, microwave popcorn, paper products for the kitchen, bottled water, canned soft drinks/juices, beverages for children, coffee/coffee filters, Keurig individual K-cups, instant macaroni & cheese, grits, oatmeal, and soups would be very much appreciated.

A collection box will be located in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday in November for donations.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

Angel Tree to Help Smithfield Rescue Mission

As part of our Session-approved partner ministry with the Smithfield Rescue Mission, the Mission Outreach Quadrant will be sharing an Angel Tree again this holiday season. Angel cards will be available Sunday, November 20, through Sunday, December 18.

- Select an Angel Card and remove it from the tree.
- Locate your Angel Card number on the Master List and write your name or group (with a contact) on the line next to the Angel Card number.
- Bring the UNWRAPPED gift(s) to church by Sunday, December 18, with the Angel Card (so the recipient can be identified) and place near the Angel Tree. Please use the labels attached to the Angel Card to identify additional bags or gifts purchased for that individual. Four (4) labels are provided.
- If you have any questions, please contact Greg or Joyce Knoll.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



JOY Connection to Hear WWII Veteran

November 3, 2016, is the date for our next JOY Connection. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on that first Thursday of November at noon for Christian fellowship, a delicious meal, homemade desserts, and a wonderful program.

We are honored to have as our speaker Mr. George Cattelona, a 92-year-old World War II veteran. George has a story to tell us. On March 8, 1943, George volunteered with the Marine Corp. He had never fired a rifle before his enlistment. He completed boot camp on Paris Island, SC, and then received artillery training at Quantico, Virginia, before being shipped to California for amphibious landing training. Later George learned that he would be a part of the assault on Iwo Jima in February 1945. That battle is remembered by so many by Joe Rosenthal's Associated Press photograph of the raising of the US flag on top of Mount Suribachi. George regularly speaks about his involvement in WW II, and we look forward to hearing him on November 3.

Please sign up on the sheet at the reception desk or call the church to reserve a space for this special event.

—Ann Ragland



JOY
CONNECTION

December 18, 2016

When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor the wondrous gift of Jesus by nurturing the faith we have in God

and one another. The Christmas Joy Offering supports the development of the future racial ethnic leadership of our church and aids church workers and their families in times of need, answering a faithful call to enrich lives and ease burdens.

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

A Season for Thanks

For the past three years, it has been my privilege to chair the Mission Outreach Quadrant of the church. And it has been my privilege to work with dedicated and responsible members of the congregation who have furthered the mission and outreach efforts of First Presbyterian. Many of these folks work "behind the scenes," but they make a great team when they pull together.

Let me highlight some of the efforts of the past three years:

1. Ann Ragland continues to be an outstanding leader of Joy Connection, one of the most popular missions of the church. We average over 60 attendees every month, and they enjoy a great meal and good entertainment – all orchestrated by Ann.
2. Hubert and Judy Schmidt work diligently on informing and attracting new members to our church. They have designed brochures and flyers, written to our visitors, maintained the *Meet the Members* board, designed the centerpieces for JOY Connection and always help out in the kitchen for both Joy Connection and Fellowship Meals.
3. Pastor Joe Hester and Liz Craig spent many hours visiting Duke, going to conferences and contacting professionals who might aid us in establishing a Cancer Support Group at the church. In addition, Liz can be counted on to help both set up and clean up for our meals and service functions.
4. Dot Ellmore keeps us informed of congregational needs and areas in which the church might be of help or support. She also works at all our Fellowship Meal functions and pitches in on any project where help is needed.
5. Tom Barwick has been a real champion of our *Yes We Can* food drives. It was Tom's suggestion that we combine *Pennies for Hunger* with *Yes We Can* and designate the drive as Hunger Sunday.
6. Greg Knoll has worked on many issues with Smithfield Rescue Mission and Hospice House. He and Joyce helped establish the Angel Tree project in which we participate on behalf of the Mission. Greg has also volunteered for several of the church mission projects.
7. Joyce Knoll has been our main liaison with Hospice House. She coordinates both our quarterly meals for patient families and the collection of snacks for families each November. Joyce has also been on mission trips of the church.
8. Helen Best is one of the newer members of the quadrant; she worked tirelessly to assure that we had the funds to purchase a defibrillator for the church. She also volunteers to oversee kitchen issues at the Joy Connection programs and works at all the meals that the quadrant sponsors.
9. Pam Pope is also new to the quadrant and comes with a wealth of experience and commitment. She coordinated the recent Appalachia Service Project in which several members participated. Pam is very dedicated to the missions of the church and has been another valuable resource.

I want to relay my personal thanks to all the dedicated members of the quadrant. They work on behalf of your church in an effort to both spread the word of the Lord and to invite others to join us in worship. Please relay your thanks in this Season of Thanksgiving.

—Ann Huckenbeck

Planning Underway for Christmas Cookie Sale

Your Frist Presbyterian Relay for Life team will have its first meeting of the year on November 17 at 6:30 p.m. to plan our annual cookie sale. We hope all interested people will join us. We need all the help we can get!

Our annual Cookie Sale will be held on Sunday, December 18, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Any left over cookies will be donated to Christmas in a Barn that evening.

We will post a sign-up sheet in early December.

Team 37 thanks you for your help.

—Martha Taylor



Mission
Outreach
Quadrant



November 6, 2016: Remembering those we love:

Helen Wall Godwin
October 1, 1924 — November 29, 2015

Peter Thomas Rogulski, Jr.
August 7, 1936 — January 19, 2016

Chad Jason Sanders
March 19, 2016 — June 29, 1972

Eula Lee Brown
October 31, 1921 — April 24, 2016

Frank Van Schaick
August 12, 1942 — May 24, 2016

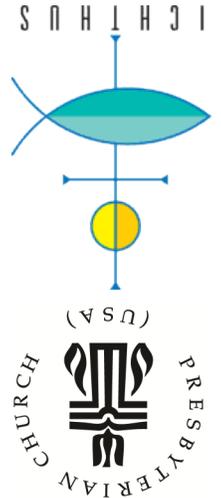
Samuel Thomas Avera
April 4, 1921 — June 21, 2016

Allen Stanfield Harper
May 1, 1932 — June 22, 2016

William Ross Kimball
February 11, 1929 — August 12, 2016

Jane Hartenstein Bolin
January 13, 1928 — September 21, 2016

Jane Austin Cunningham
August 20, 1925 — September 23, 2016



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2016

NON-PROFIT STD MAIL
US POSTAGE
SMITHFIELD, NC 27577
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First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

Talking Turkey

When we think of Thanksgiving we think TURKEY without a doubt. I dream of the golden brown bird stuffed with goodness and sitting on platter for carving, the center piece of a terrific meal to be celebrated with others. It's my favorite holiday.

Turkeys served at the first Thanksgiving feast may have been wild turkeys, but did you know that American Indians were domesticating turkeys before the birth of Christ? Turkeys apparently originated in Mexico. Scientists believe that tribes in Mexico had domesticated the bird as early as the 800's BC. They were not only used for meat and eggs, but also for their feathers which were used in ornamental dress and the bones which were made into pins, picks and other implements. Unfortunately for the turkeys, they were also used in ritual sacrifices.

The Spanish brought turkeys to Europe. The 16th-century English navigator William Strickland is generally credited with introducing the turkey into England. His family coat of arms — showing a turkey cock as the family crest — is among the earliest known European depictions of a turkey. English farmer Thomas Tusser notes the turkey being among farmer's fare at Christmas (they did not celebrate Thanksgiving) in 1573. And in an unusual twist the domestic turkey was sent from England to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608. A document written in 1584 lists supplies to be furnished to future colonies in the New World: "turkies, male and female."

Prior to the late 19th century, turkey was something of a luxury in England, with goose or beef a more common Christmas dinner among the working classes. In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (1843), Bob Cratchit had a goose before Scrooge bought him a turkey.

The Thanksgiving Turkey has come to symbolize plenty, accompanied by dressings, vegetables, sauces, puddings and desserts of all kinds and always in large quantities. Thanksgiving is about the bounty we have reaped and the blessings that God has bestowed on us throughout the year. We take delight in sharing our Thanksgiving feast with family and friends alike.

Likewise, we should be mindful in our bounty that there are those less fortunate and that hunger has no season. Please share your bounty and support the Food Closet of Smithfield Area Ministries and our Pennies For Hunger program during the Holiday season.

—Tom Barwick



Communications and Technology News

The Communications and Technology Team wishes to thank the entire congregation for their participation in our recent church directory photo sessions. The team is now compiling submitted photos for those unable to attend and to work on the activity pages that will enhance our directory.

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

Some of you have asked when the emails for the church staff will be changing. We have held this off to ensure a smooth transition with staff training. With the recent hurricane and directory project, this has been postponed. However, we will be making the transition soon! Watch the eNews or the ICHTHUS for more information.

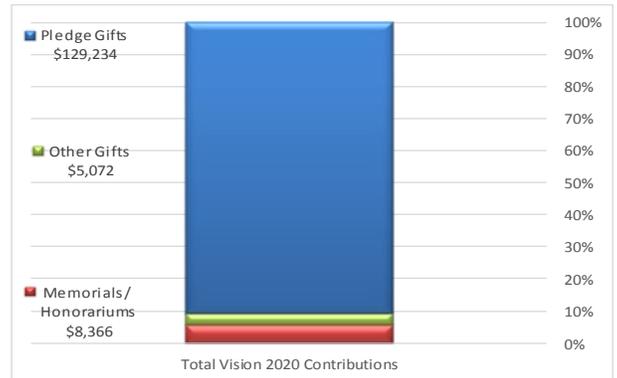
—Debbie Jacobs

First Presbyterian Church Operating Results — January - September 2016 Actual vs. Budgeted

	Jan - Sept 2016 Actual	Jan - Sept 2016 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	206,446.09	217,500.03
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	1,491.02	3,037.41
Mission Outreach Quad.	11,433.97	14,062.50
Spirituality Quadrant	111,799.88	133,824.78
Stewardship Quadrant	78,267.56	83,125.62
Total Disbursements	202,992.43	234,050.31
Net Income/(Deficit)	3,453.66	(16,550.28)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 9/30/2016

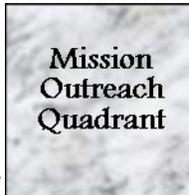
\$ 129,234	Pledge Gifts
\$ 8,366	Memorial/Honorariums
\$ 5,072	Other Gifts
\$ 142,672	Total VISION 2020 Contributions



\$ 559,626	Total VISION 2020 Commitments
\$ 1,096,100	Mortgage Balance

Defibrillator Is Here!

The Zoll Defibrillator has arrived. Property is in the process of deciding where it will be housed. Once that is done, staff, officers, and any interested member will undergo training which will be coordinated by Helen Best. If you are interested, contact her. A big thank you goes to the Mission Outreach Quadrant for obtaining this potentially life-saving piece of equipment for us.



Sunday, November 13
6:00 p.m.

Want to host a table or just enjoy the meal?
Contact Linda Crowder.
Tickets: \$40.00

Menu:
Pork Tenderloin Medallions, Potatoes Romanov,
Green Vegetable, Copper Penny Salad,
and Special Dessert.

Come early to look at all the tables
and enjoy an appetizer.

Property Box



In order to save on utilities and wear and tear on equipment or appliances, please make sure to turn things off before you leave the church. This includes things such as the dishwasher, coffee makers, dvd copiers, sound equipment, and hallway lights that are not on timers or motion sensors.

Also, help us to care for our building by cleaning up any areas you have used and discarding things appropriately.

Your Property Team

Stewardship
Quadrant

Live Auction and Silent Auction Fundraiser Huge Success!

Money raised for Faith in 3D: \$4784.50!

Youth give a huge shout-out of thanks to:

Linda Crowder for coordinating the Silent Auction and Live Auction.

Evans Horne, Kelly Coats, Sarah Pate, Shelley Roberts, Nichole Booker, Courtney Scott, Daniel Scott, Eleanor Horne, and Trish Horne for helping with the auctions.

All members and friends who made donations and bought items to make the Live Auction and Silent Auction successful.

Eddie Johnson for donating his services as auctioneer at our live auction.

All who helped with the Potato Bake



Kathy Rice will be teaching handbells to KICKS Kids in grades three through five in November and December!

Keep an ear open for them!



Members donated paintings, jams and jellies, hot plates, afghans, pen & ink Christmas cards, photographs, art, floral arrangements



Handmade items were a hit!



Everyone enjoyed the Potato Bake

The auctioneer was great!



Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.

come you these Lord if blessings you the accompany
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

I	J	T	Z	Z	L	M	X	N	W	C	I	Z	Y	H
X	V	U	B	M	O	O	O	V	I	O	L	T	R	T
N	L	V	L	I	R	A	D	S	L	M	R	H	A	T
B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
O	S	K	S	L	O	D	A	B	V	G	W	S	L	E
H	G	Y	S	L	R	A	W	E	Y	J	E	E	U	U
I	O	R	I	W	F	I	C	Y	O	U	R	L	R	T
Z	D	B	N	I	A	B	Y	C	V	M	R	X	C	E
G	K	D	G	Y	D	M	A	O	O	T	U	F	M	R
C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
F	S	X	F	R	T	L	P	M	F	B	L	A	A	O
Y	Y	Y	O	U	H	T	U	A	P	A	I	U	N	M
E	O	K	N	U	E	A	Z	U	F	E	F	B	D	Y
T	Q	U	Y	N	I	N	O	O	V	E	O	T	Z	I

“ All _____ .”

_____ 28:2, NIV

Answer: “All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV

