



SEPTEMBER

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ICHTHUS

September 2017

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, NC

Reflections in the Water: Personal Discipleship



"...but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you..."
—1 Peter 3:15

"The trouble with deep belief is that it costs something And there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing that doesn't like the truth at all because it carries responsibility, and if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them. It is so, so cumbersome to believe anything. And it isn't cool."

— Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality*

In the spring of this year I extended a simple invitation during worship for our friends and members to spend thirty days praying for and reaching out to a different member of the congregation. The next month I invited everyone to pray for people beyond our walls in our community. These people included neighbors, friends as well as strangers. Intentionally I did not aggressively promote, publicize, or ask for a signed pledge on anyone's part. It was just a simple invitation to consider others in your own Christian discipleship. I now ask you another simple question: how well did you do with the task of caring for others on a daily basis?

In answer, one of our members came to me with a large notebook at the end of the two months and showed me how she had faithfully documented her own faith journey during this period with her prayers for each member, our church leadership, our congregational ministries and beyond. She recorded her daily search for opportunities to serve others. How reassuring it is for my own faith to discover this kind of love for others and faithful Christian discipleship within our midst. As we celebrate our 125th anniversary year, we have a unique opportunity to affirm our call through faithful servant ministry to our youth, our community outreach, and the pursuit of the path of our own personal discipleship.

What is Christian discipleship? A disciple is one who spreads the Good News of Jesus Christ through words and actions. Our discipleship is a process of growth inspired by the Holy Spirit dwelling with us and among us as Church or the Body of Christ. In Baptism we cease to be what we have been to become more fully the disciple and person God is creating us to be within the Kingdom. In the Presbyterian Church we understand our discipleship to be expressed through the following marks of membership [G 1.0304]:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support, studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church, responding to God's activity in the world through service to others
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church
- 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.

As we continue the jubilee celebration of our 125th anniversary, I invite you to incorporate these marks into your daily practice of discipleship in order to "live in such a way that all we do and say is for the Glory of God."

Peace be with you,

Pastor Joe



Prayerful Support for
 Nor Bell at Barbour Court
 Shannon Kimball
 Tom Barbour at Meadowview
 Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
 Alice Narron at Meadowview

Shirley Williams at Meadowview
 Marie Atkins
 Helen Best
 John Booker
 Ruth Daniel
 Debbie Henderson
 Tom Johnson
 Nancy Lee
 Bill Leist
 Sandra Lester
 Tony Lester
 Miriam Lore
 John McFadyen
 Benny Pope
 Chap Ragland
 Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
 Martha Rogers in Richmond
 Peter Russell
 Cindy Smith
 Linda Stephenson
 Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte
 Nelson Vaughan
 Betty Welch
 Ted Wells
 William Wells
 Al Worsham
 Bill Worsham
 Hilda Worsham
 Rebecca Ziady
 Joseph Hester, Sr.

Christian Sympathy to Dwight Dockery and Shelley Maddox on the death of Shelley's mother, Marie Maddox, on August 7, 2017. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on Saturday, August 26, at 3:00 p.m.



Memorials for Hazel Whitehurst, Marie Maddox
Donors: Andy and Patricia Williams, John and Shirley Booker, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Beth Daniel.



Hank Roberson for providing flowers for Music for the Lunch Bunch each week this summer.

Jane Harrell for continuing to coordinate volunteers at the reception desk.

Betsy Olive for quietly taking care of changing the paraments and keeping the sanctuary candles trimmed and filled.

Judy Miller and Billy Duncan for agreeing to be in charge of our 125th Anniversary Celebration in October.

Shirley Booker and Joyce Lee for agreeing to be in charge of the 125th Anniversary meal following worship.

Helen Best and Sandy Perkinson for accepting the role of coordinator of JOY Connection.

Ann Ragland for all her years of dedicated service to the JOY Connection.

Eve Creech for keeping the Worship Bags organized and filled.

The Women of the Prayer Shawl Ministry who have given 612 prayer shawls to people in need of comfort.



Monday, September 4, 2017
Church Office closed.
We hope you and your family
enjoy the holiday.

National Grandparents Day
Sunday, September 10
Let them know how much
they mean to you!

GRANDPARENTS
fill the world
with LOVE

HIGHLIGHTS of August Session

- Approved a memorial service for Marie Maddox on Saturday, August 26, 2017, 3:00 p.m., followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.
- Received a report from the July New Hope Presbytery Meeting.
- Approved the outline for the 125th Anniversary Celebration and approved developing a booklet on the history of the church for sale during the celebration.
- Acknowledged, with thanks, a gift of \$1500.00 from the Presbyterian Women to help offset the costs of the celebration.
- Reviewed and approved the revised Safe Haven policy.
- Approved the Personnel Team advertising for the vacancy position of Youth Coordinator.
- Approved Linda Crowder and Kelly Coats to chair the 2017 Nominating Committee.
- Approved continuing the reorganization of Sunday School and Wee Kirk for children through November.
- Approved the addition of Starr Henderson, Evans Horne, and David Rice to the Mission and Outreach Quadrant.
- Approved the 2017 Stewardship Campaign for October 15-November 12, 2017. Session approved Sandy Perkinson as the chair for this year's campaign.
- Acknowledged, with thanks, a gift of \$25,986.35 to the Building Fund. The gift will be applied directly to the principal.

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

—Debbie Jacobs

Dear Church Family,

I have successfully survived my first two weeks of college! I moved in Friday August 11, and we jumped right in starting classes on Monday the 14. It has been an adventurous two weeks to say the least! I have made many new friends, already written several papers, and I was actually asked to choreograph a clogging routine for us to perform later on in the year!

I have absolutely loved receiving notes from home! I can't tell you how happy that makes me when I open my mail box and have a sweet reminder that y'all are thinking of me and praying for me. Your support means so much to me and definitely helps on those nights when I'm feeling a little homesick. I love you and miss you all and can't wait to tell you about my next adventures.

Love always,

Madeline Horne

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church Smithfield,

Each week at our staff meeting we pray for a church in our presbytery. This past Monday the staff held your ministry in prayer. We pray that the good news of God's saving love may be known through your community outreach ministries in the community and beyond.

In Christ,

Ted Church, Executive Presbyter
 Christine Kelson, Officer Manager
 Andy James, Associate for Small Church
 Ministries and Technology
 Rene Baker, Administrative Assistant
 Terry Lamberson, Associate Presbyter



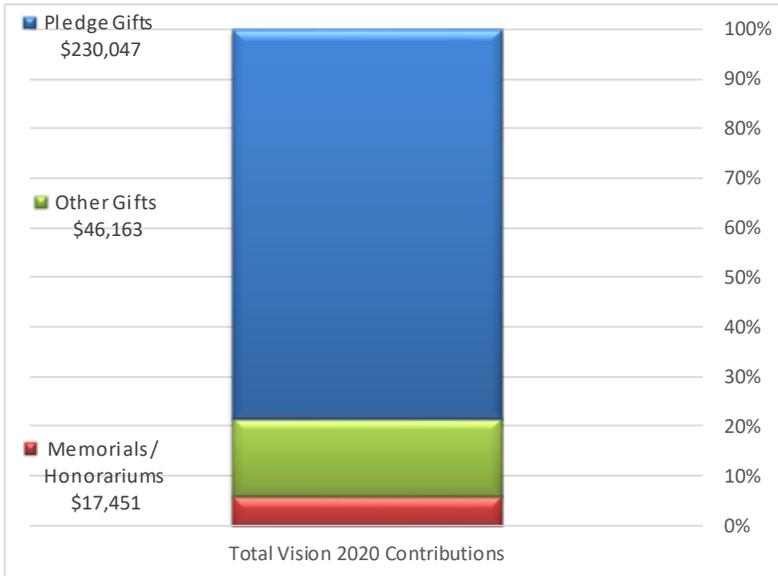
**First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results—January—July
Actual vs. Budgeted**

	Jan—July 2017 Actual	Jan—July 2017 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering*	181,163.82	159,146.75
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	11,747.38	18,141.62
Mission Outreach Quadrant	8,255.17	9,537.43
Spirituality Quadrant	87,859.56	91,188.44
Stewardship Quadrant	56,593.61	63,567.63
Total Disbursements	164,465.72	182,435.12
Net Income/(Deficit)	16,298.10	(23,288.37)

*General Offering includes \$7,825.00 received for Special Gift Fund for the 125th Anniversary.

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 7/31/2017

\$ 233,707 Pledge Gifts
\$ 18,121 Memorials/Honorariums
\$ 73,588 Other Gifts
\$ 325,416 Total VISION 2020 Contributions
\$ 559,626 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
\$ 911,209 Mortgage Balance



Communications and Technology News

Our website presence has been updated! Please take a look and let us know your comments. The address remains the same: fpcsmithfield.org.

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 know of the changes so that you can stay in touch with what's happening at First Presbyterian.

Also, remember to let Myra Wallace know in the church office if your address changes so that you can continue receiving the ICHTHUS.

—Debbie Jacobs

The Property Box



The Building Officers are reminded to make sure all lights are out and all electronic items are off, including the dishwasher and the CD copier in the workroom.

Thanks for the fine and reliable work you do.

Your Property Team

**Stewardship
Quadrant**



FPC Increases Help to SECU Hospice House

First Presbyterian Church through the Mission and Outreach Quadrant has partnered 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 at Hospice House. Our congregation has been very supportive of this effort which helps families, volunteers and staff at Hospice House.

Because our congregation has been so supportive, we reached out in the June and July ICHTHUS to see if anyone would like to volunteer to help expand the number of meals shared by FPC. We are happy to report that Lisa and Frank Deans and Eve Creech and Betsy Olive have volunteered to coordinate two additional meals for Hospice House each year, for a total of four additional meals. This will expand our support for the families with loved ones at Hospice House to eight times per year, in addition to stocking their pantry the month of November.

Please join us in thanking Lisa, Frank, Eve, and Betsy for helping expand this caring ministry, and watch for your opportunity to help provide a portion of a meal coming up soon.

The current schedule:

- Saturday, August 26, light meal will be coordinated by Eve Creech and Betsy Olive.
- Sunday, September 24, dinner will be coordinated by Greg and Joyce Knoll. If you would like to participate in this meal, please check out the sign-up sheet in the vestibule beginning August 27.
- During November FPC will stock the pantry at SECU Hospice House
- Sunday, January 14, dinner will be coordinated by Lisa and Frank Deans.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Greg or Joyce Knoll.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

SAM's Gets Organized for Building JoCo Habitat House Under Newly Formed JoCo Faith Coalition



Smithfield Area Ministers are developing a faith coalition in Johnston County to provide volunteer labor to construct the SECU Hospice House and for the balance of funding for the house, approximately \$25,000—\$30,000. The tentative start date is January 6, 2018, pending completion of securing the land (an offer has been accepted and the closing is scheduled for mid-August) and identifying a homebuyer.

Becoming a partner in the Johnston County Faith Coalition requires several things:

- The establishment of a Habitat for Humanity Coordinator in each participating congregation.
- Sending volunteers to build the house over a ten-week period on Saturdays.
- Providing financial support to underwrite the approximately \$25,000—\$30,000 balance of funding on the house.
- Providing lunch for 25 people at least one Saturday during the build.
- Participating in wall-raising and dedication ceremonies and clergy/staff work day.
- Establishing of a Coalition Coordinator who work with the Habitat Coordinators from each congregation to make sure that volunteers are participating.

Next Steps:

- Distributing home-buyer flyers in each congregation and in the community.
- Identifying a Habitat Coordinator for each congregations if not already done.
- Obtaining support for the Johnston County Faith Build 2018 form each congregation using Habitat for Humanity materials.
- Securing funding for the Johnston County 2018 Faith Build and confirming sponsorship amount with Johnny Glover. These funds are due January 6 if possible.
- Planning to send three-to-four volunteers on the exciting first day, tentatively set for January 6, of wall building and wall raising celebration at 3:30 p.m.
- Attending and bringing the Habitat Coordinator for your congregation to our next organizational meeting in September or October at which time we will confirm work dates.

—Rick Beech, VP, Faith Relations
Wake County Habitat for Humanity

**Mission
Outreach
Quadrant**

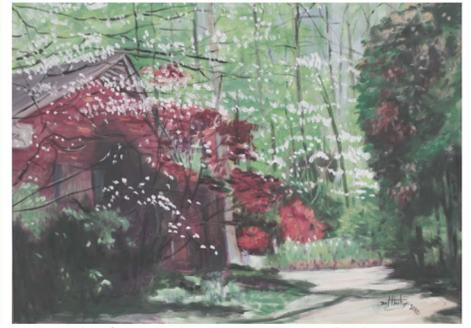
Curtis and David Whitehurst and the extended family greatly appreciate the many visits, prayers, memorial donations, and expressions of empathy and condolences, expressed in person and through cards, that the members of First Presbyterian have shared with them during the long struggle and recent passing of their mother. Your thoughts and actions have certainly uplifted their spirits and kept their focus on the promise of the Resurrection during the period of grieving and great loss.

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and concern during my recent accident. A special thank you to Pastor Joe and the prayer shawl committee. Your kindness and support makes this church so special and dear to my heart. Thank you again, for being there for me.

Cindy Smith

RECEPTION
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
10
3-5



Painting on loan from KS Bank

Dogwood in Bloom in Driveway

DOT HOOKS: An Artist's Life

Frank Creech Art Gallery

Johnston Community College • STEAM Building
Smithfield, NC

September 10—October 1, 2017

Gallery Hours:
Saturdays 10 am–3 pm
Sundays 1 pm–5pm



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2017

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

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

Supporters of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at FPC is alive and well! We have so many church members that support our ministry. We love having people asking for shawls for a loved one or neighbor who needs to feel the warmth and love of our Lord wrapped around them during difficult times.



Anita Liverman stops by periodically to take our shawls to the hospice house to be used by those patients. We mail shawls to those we know suffering in other parts of the country. Shawls have been sent to Oregon, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, and many more states. Prayer Shawl members include many from other churches. We have regular attendees from First Baptist, St. Paul's Episcopal, and Centenary Methodist. Our fellowship of crafters encourage each other with our day to day struggles. What a positive effect this has been. At last count we have given over 600 prayer shawls away since we began in 2009.

Just recently Mary and Gene Miller brought us enough donated yarn for many shawls (I can't begin to imagine how many can be made). They were donated by Gail White, a neighbor of Gene and Mary's who was moving to Ohio and downsizing. What a blessing. This isn't the first time Gene and Mary have brought us yarn.

Judy Daniels' friends found bags of yarn at a flea market. They kindly purchased the yarn and sent it to us.

Thank you so much for encouraging our mission!

—Camille Boone

Harbor Needs School Supplies

Harbor House needs school supplies, such as book bags, pencils, crayons, notebook paper, colored pencils, and anything else that might occur to you!. Please place your donations in the basket at the entrance to the Great Hall. Contact Janet Lampe if you have questions!

—Janet Lampe



JOY Connection Resumes September 7

It is with great JOY, that Helen Best and Perkinson assume the leadership of the Just Older Youth program at FPC. Although it will be a huge challenge to follow in the big footsteps of our beloved Ann Ragland, who has provided excellent programs, great meals, good planning, and an all 'round wonderful experience for several years, they hope to live up to the challenge. The September program is "Horsing Around" presented by Kelly Coats. She will speak on the exciting life she and her family lead as horse owners, trainers, riders, and care takers. Addison, Lauren, and Mary Margaret Coats have won a number of awards and events in horsemanship, and we will be eager to learn more about their efforts.



JOY Connection meets the first Wednesday of each month, is open to all adults, age 55+, who want to join us for camaraderie, a delicious meal, and an interesting and informative program, and it's all free! Join us September 7 at 12:00 for a little horsing around. Make sure to sign up on the list at the reception desk, and, as always, you are welcome to bring a dessert.

—Sandy Perkinson

Troop 95 Up and Running

Troop 95 is making plans for the new 2017-18 Scout Year including regular meetings every Tuesday and monthly campouts all starting this September. In August, we had two planning meetings where we planned monthly campouts until April.



As always Troop 95 thanks First Presbyterian Church of Smithfield for all of their support and is always looking for new boys. If you know of any Middle or High Schoolers who are interested in Scouting, please direct them to our Senior Patrol Leader, Davis Bell, or our Scoutmaster, Evans Horne.

Silas McClure and Kobie Langston will both receive their Eagle Awards in September. Congratulations to them!

—Davis Bell

Mission Outreach Quadrant

Lay Reader and Time with Children Opportunities

With Madeline Horne's departure for Lees McCrae and busy schedules for a few other worship leaders, our lay reader rotation has lost a few volunteers. The lay reader leads the congregation in the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession, the Assurance of Pardon, and reads the Old Testament scripture, all as printed in the Sunday bulletin. Pastor Joe sends out the scripture readings and sermon title well in advance so readers can practice ahead. You can Google the pronunciation of a word if you're unsure. In fact, there is a Bible app that pronounces the words aloud. Ah, technology!



Leading this part of worship is a pleasant task, and having different members of the congregation serve as lay reader helps us to get to know our fellow Christians better. I schedule the readers a month in advance, according to a set rotation, but if any lay reader has a conflict, we can easily reschedule. Myra Wallace just needs to know by Wednesday of the same week so that the bulletin will be accurate.

We also need volunteers to lead Time with Children. This gathering time is an important part of our worship and one that the children look forward to and enjoy. The Old and New Testament scriptures and the sermon title often provide ideas for a lesson, but the leader might also use hymns, familiar stories, children's books, life lessons, and other anecdotes as a jumping off spot. You can also Google ideas. Some of our youth have led Time with Children recently and have done an excellent job. Come young and old! Share in this meaningful part of worship.

If you are interested in helping out with either of these two opportunities, call Sandy Perkinson at (919) 631-5969.

—Sandy Perkinson



Chancel Choir Resumes
Wednesday, September 6
7:30 p.m.
Please come join us!

Come Ring with Us
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
We resume September 6



Preschool Music Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Camille Boone is once again opening the world of music for three- and four-year-olds in our church and community. In a Christian environment, she hopes to instill an awareness and appreciation for music in the preschool set that will enrich their lives for years to come.

Classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00-10:30 at First Presbyterian Church beginning September 27. Enrollment is free and will be limited to 10 students per class. For more information please call Camille at 919-404-6055 or email at labtotter@gmail.com.

—Camille Boone

Spirituality Quadrant

September Education Activities



Youth Lock-In and Cook Out
Friday, Sept. 8 — Saturday, Sept. 9



Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
September 10, 9:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Rally Day, September 10

Coming in October

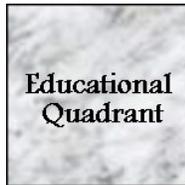
Camp Don Lee Middle School Retreat
October 6,7,8



Saturday Service Project
October 14



PYC Potato Bake
Sunday, October 15
following worship
Best Meal Deal in Town!



Cub Scout Pack 95 Needs Volunteers

Cub Scouts is a program with an amazing history and tradition at First Presbyterian Church. Becoming involved in Cub Scouting is a sure-fire way to get more involved with your son that puts the fun first. It is a year-round, family-oriented part of the Boy Scouts of America program designed for boys who are in first through fifth grades (or are 7, 8, 9, and 10 years of age). Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to achieve the 10 purposes of Cub Scouting: Character Development, Spiritual Growth, Good Citizenship, Sportsmanship, Fitness, Family, Understanding Respectful Relationships, Personal Achievement, Friendly Service, Fun, and Adventure, and Preparation for Boy Scouts.



Pack 95 began in 1998 and was organized and lead by Billy Kimball. To keep Pack 95 going we need volunteers. **We need a leader and Cub Scout Master.** This person will recruit, plan and lead meetings Adult leadership is critical to achieving the purposes and aims of Scouting. By example, organized presentations, and one-on-one coaching, the boy learns the value and importance of adult interaction. The Boy Scout Council will assist this new leader in getting the pack going and active.

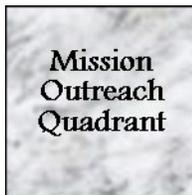
If you are interested in getting involved with Pack 95 please reach out to Ruth Bell, Evans Horne or Joseph Hester.

—Ruth Bell

Hunger Sunday
Every Third Sunday
Pennies for Hunger
Yes We Can



Remember to bring coins and cans so our church can continue to help feed the hungry in our community.



First Presbyterian Church to Celebrate
One Hundred Twenty Five Years
October 29, 2017

It's hard to believe, but the time to celebrate our 125th Anniversary will soon be here!! We have many exciting things in the works.

Judy Miller, with the help of Billy Duncan, will chair the event.

We hope to see past ministers and members.

Please let any former members that may have moved away know of the plans and direct their new contact information to Debbie Jacobs, who will be handling announcements.

The celebration will begin with the planting of a tree at 10:15 a.m. and will conclude with a covered dish meal and slideshow.

Mark October 29 on your calendar and plan to attend.

As the date approaches, a sign-up sheet for lunch will be placed in the vestibule. We hope you will all join us.



Timeline of Major Events

Dec. 20, 1891 – The Rev. A.J. McKelway, Evangelist of Albemarle Presbytery, organizes church with six members. Some of these members were names recognizable in the area today: Pou, Sanders and Sasser. Services were held on the third Sunday of the month in the Courthouse.

1893 – Mr. and Mrs. William Sanders deeded a lot for \$100 on which the congregation was to build “a neat frame structure 26 x 40 feet in dimension and it will cost \$900 without pulpit or pews.”

The Rev. John McMurray, the second pastor, actively solicited building funds from anyone, saying, “The need is pressing.”

Local masons laid the cornerstone in 1893 with the inscription: To God Be the Glory. Masons have laid the cornerstones on all subsequent church buildings.

1894 – First Session meeting at church. Professor Ira Turlington was elected first Clerk of Session.

1899 – Pastor’s salary climbs to \$100 a year!

Dec. 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor Day – Congregation voted to build new church with cost not to exceed \$12,000.

Jan. 1942 – Congregation voted to invest all building fund monies in U. S. Defense Savings Bonds.

1941 – The Rev. William Neill called into service as a Navy chaplain.

1943 – The Rev. Joseph Lansinger ordained and installed. Remained in office until his death in 1969.

1944 – Church purchased a corner lot at Third and Church Streets for \$4,000. Mr. Karl Hudson of Hudson Belk donated \$1,000 toward purchase.

1946 – Church sold frame church on Second Street to the Christian Church.

1949-19551 – Church met in Howell Theater. Sunday school was held in basement of Hotel Gabriel Johnston.

1950 – Approved plan for new church not to exceed \$56,000. This did not include pews, furnishings, paving or stained glass windows.

Feb. 1951 – Stained glass windows installed. Designed by Henry Willett of Philadelphia.

1972 – New education building added.

1976 – Acquired original bell from the frame church. Installed it in bell cote on present property.

1979 – Preschool established. Operated until 2013.

2012 – Large addition to church completed and dedicated.

Timeline compiled by Ann Huckenbeck