



In This Issue:

Letter from Our Pastor
From the Handbell Director
From the Director of Youth
Ministries

Prayer Concerns
125th Anniversary
Celebration
Care Packages
Church History
Communications &
Technology
Finance Report
Harbor
Highlights of Session
Hospice House
Hunger Sunday
JOY Connection
Memorials
Middle School Retreat
Missionary from Northern
Ireland
Nominating Committee
Potato Bake Lunch
Peace & Global Witness
Presbyterian Women
Reformation Sunday
SAM Food Drive
Scouting News
Spaghetti Dinner
Stewardship Campaign
Thanks
Trunk or Treat
World Communion Sunday

October Calendar
Lectionary
Fellowship Time
Worship Nursery
Flowers
Birthdays
Anniversaries
Ushers
Lay Readers
Acolytes
Trinity Ringers
Building Officers



A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
215 S. Third Street
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-0988
fpcnwallace@gmail.com
www.fpcsmithfield.org



Quasiquicentennial of

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

ICHTHUS

OCTOBER 2017

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, NC

Reflections in the Water: Discipleship As Thanksgiving – Our 125th Anniversary

“But who am I and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

—David, King of Israel, I Chronicles 29:14

I hold and believe that I am God’s creature, that is, that he has given me and constantly sustains my body, soul, and life, my members great and small, all my senses, my reason and understanding, and the like; my food and drink, clothing, nourishment, spouse and children, servants, house and farm, etc. Besides, he makes all creation help provide the benefits and necessities of life—sun, moon, and stars in the heavens; day and night; air, fire, water, the earth and all that it yields and brings forth; birds, fish, animals, grain, and all sorts of produce. Moreover, he gives all physical and temporal blessings—good government, peace, security. Thus we learn from this article that none of us has life—or anything else that has been mentioned here or can be mentioned—from ourselves, nor can we by ourselves preserve any of them, however small and unimportant. All this is comprehended in the word “Creator.”

—Excerpts from Luther’s Large Catechism (1529)

The Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed

This month our congregation celebrates our 125th Anniversary Year with a Homecoming Celebration on Sunday October 29, 2017. In a season of thanksgiving and stewardship commitment, we come together to celebrate with joy the blessings God bestows upon us. In 1891 a small group, comprised primarily of foresighted women, organized First Presbyterian Church with the guidance of the local presbytery to begin ministry in Johnston County and Smithfield. One of the most courageous steps I believe in our history occurred on Sunday, December 7, 1941, in the wake of the Depression and the opening months of World War II. The congregation, after prayerful consideration, made a decision to pack up and relocate to a new location and embrace the emerging needs of their community. This life-altering decision for our congregation reflected a steadfast faith in God’s calling to risk our past to embrace God’s future.

The date of our jubilee celebration also coincides with the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation when the young German monk, Martin Luther, nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, initiating change in the greater Church. The legacy of Luther and the other Reformers might be summarized as providing a clearer understanding of what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as our savior and God as our Creator. The Reformed Church embraced the Holy Spirit with a new understanding of an individual disciple who is empowered to engage actively with the stories of our faith in scripture, to participate fully in the sacraments of communion and baptism, and to love and serve our neighbors as Jesus in generous and joyful thanksgiving to the gift of God’s grace. We follow not merely from a sense of duty or obligation, but out of complete and unconditional gratitude through which our discipleship is demonstrated.

As disciples, we respond fully through the commitment of our time and talents and tithes. In the past, in our present and for our future, we the members of First Presbyterian Church continue “to live in such a way that all we do and say is for the glory of God.”

With gratitude and thanks for your commitment to the life of the Church,
Pastor Joe



Add to
your
prayer
list

Prayerful Support for

Nor Bell at Barbour Court
Tom Barbour at Meadowview
Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Shirley Williams at Meadowview
Marie Atkins
John Booker
Ruth Daniel
Debbie Henderson

Debbie Jacobs
Tom Johnson
Shannon Kimball
Bill Leist
Sandra Lester
Tony Lester
Miriam Lore
Earl Marett at Vidant Medical Center, Greenville
John McFadyen
Benny Pope
Chap Ragland
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Martha Rogers in Richmond
Peter Russell
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 Dina, Isabelle, and Jason Burke on the death of Jeffrey Leroy Burke on September 8, 2017.



Memorials for Marie Maddox, Dr. Grover C. Miller, Hazel Whitehurst, Louisa Elaine Chapman, Jeffrey Burke

Donors: Ann and Rich Huckenbeck, Ruth and Greg Bell, Al and Debbie Warrick, David K. Whitehurst, Curtis Whitehurst, Benny and Pam Pope, Dot Ellmore, Maxine McFadyen, Judy Daniels

A Crucial Time in Our History

A major highlight of the church's history is the long tenure of the Rev. Joseph Hughes Lansinger for whom the church library is named.

Mr. Lansinger came to Smithfield in 1943 after graduating from Union Theological Seminary. He served not only Smithfield but also Oakland and Progressive Churches. He served the Smithfield church from 1943 until 1969.

It was during the Lansinger years that the church built its beautiful sanctuary and a manse; it also acquired adjoining land for future expansion. He was responsible for negotiating the design and cost of the magnificent stained glass windows that grace the chancel, the sides of the sanctuary, and the bell tower.

The Rev. Lansinger was an energetic man and a believer in community spirit and dedication. He was a charter member of the Rotary Club, a member of the Masonic Order (serving as lodge chaplain), president of Smithfield Ministerial Association, moderator of Granville Presbytery, director of youth conferences at Camp New Hope, active in both Boy Scouts and Little League activities, chaplain of the North Carolina National Guard unit in Smithfield, treasurer of Smithfield Emergency Welfare Fund, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Johnston County Public Library.

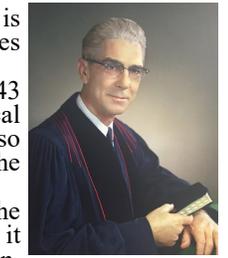
Joe Lansinger was also a talented musician. He "played a mean trombone" and would often play with his good friend Thomas Lassiter and other local musicians. Early in his career, he directed the Asheboro High School Band.

In January 1962 Mr. Lansinger received the first Distinguished Citizens Award presented by the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce. *The Smithfield Herald* reported, he "was awarded the honor for his achievements and contributions to the community and because of his qualities as an individual."

Joseph Lansinger died on September 7, 1969. His funeral was conducted by Dr. Ben R. Lacy, Jr., President Emeritus of Union Theological Seminary. Local citizen Wallace Ashley wrote a moving tribute in *The Herald*. The memorial noted that the front doors of the church initially refused to open when pallbearers attempted to remove the casket for burial. "It was if the beloved pastor did not want to leave his church behind."

What he did leave behind was a loving congregation and a community appreciative of his good works.

Note: Information from The Smithfield Herald, The History of First Presbyterian Church, and various church documents.



—Ann Huckenbeck



of September Session

- Approved a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Scout Troop 95 on October 3, 2017. Proceeds will go towards Scout activities.
- Approved a recommendation from the Personnel Team to extend an employment offer to the Rev. Todd Higginson to become our new Director of Youth Ministries.
- Approved a request from Camille Boone to work with interested youth, grades 2—12, on choral music during the Children's Corner Time on Sunday mornings.
- Approved the 2017 Nominating Committee: Kelly Coats, co-chair, Elder; Linda Crowder, co-chair, Elder; Bobby Cox, Deacon; Jake Jacobs, Presbyterian Men; Julie Duncan, Presbyterian Women; Mary Margaret Coats, Youth; and Ruth Bell, Member-at-Large. The proposed slate of representatives will be presented to the congregation for approval
- Approved hosting a visitation and a memorial service for Jeffrey Leroy Burke on September 18-19, 2017.

—Debbie Jacobs, Clerk

Nominating Committee Recommendations

The Session approved the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee for Church Officers:

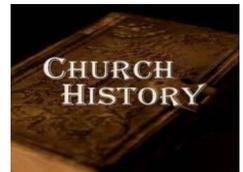
Co-Chairs: Kelly Coats and Linda Crowder
Presbyterian Women: Julie Duncan;
Presbyterian Men: Jake Jacobs
Deacons: Bobby Cox
At Large Member: Ruth Bell
Youth Representative: Emma Horne

Keep this group in your prayers as they seek new officers and replace vacancies.



COMING IN DECEMBER

In celebration of
our first 125 years . . .
A new, complete history of
First Presbyterian Church
Details to follow in November



Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your kind words, cards, food, flowers, and gifts following the death of my sister, Louisa Elaine Chapman, MD, MSPH.

This church has such a good heart, and I feel very blessed to be here. My sister died from the same disease that claimed Marie Maddox. I knew it was coming, but it's still hard to lose your sister.

Most sincerely,

Martha Chapman

Welcome to New Director of Youth Ministries

Todd Higginson is a native North Carolinian who has served congregations in NC and VA in associate pastor roles as well as senior pastor. Todd recently completed a year-long Clinical Pastoral Education residency at WakeMed Hospital in Raleigh as their Pediatric and Trauma Unit Chaplain. Previously, he completed a unit of CPE at UNC Hospitals. He is a graduate of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and Western Carolina University. Todd is married to Ashley, Lead Speech Therapist at UNC Wayne Hospital, and they both enjoy raising Kyle (8) and Natalie (5) with Todd's father, David, in Clayton. In his spare time, Todd enjoys playing the piano, camping, and cooking vegetarian fare.



Todd grew up Baptist and served in Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregations. The Higginson family are active members of Wilson's Mills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Todd is in good ministerial standing with the Christian Church (DOC) and is also an endorsed chaplain through the DOC.

Todd is excited to serve at First Presbyterian and looks forward to being part of its vibrant youth ministry as we all work together to serve God and neighbor.

Soli Deo gloria

In the spirit of "the most interesting man in the world" memes from the internet, "I don't always quote something in Latin, but when I do, I say something important."

Soli Deo gloria (Glory to God alone) is something that resonates within as I begin this new and wonderful adventure at First Presbyterian Church. I am both humbled and excited to serve as your Youth Director. I enter this role with a deep gratitude for the wonderful ways Linda Crowder has impacted our young people through her gifts (and her warm willingness to help me acclimate to the position!). I am thankful for the early evidence of dedicated lay leaders and youth parents. I am appreciative of this welcoming congregation that invests its resources and love into its youth.

As we together engage in this journey, I am especially eager to begin the process of getting to know the youth and their families as well as the greater FPC body. Bear with me as I learn your names and get to know your stories!

Without a doubt, this mutual venture will be both meaningful and fun. Thank you for this opportunity. Soli Deo gloria.

Blessings,
Todd Higginson

Todd's Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
and by appointment
Sunday evenings, 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Email
fpcthigginson@gmail.com

Middle School Girls Headed to Camp Don Lee Retreat

The girls from our Middle School Youth will attend the Middle School Retreat at Camp Don Lee. They will head out on Friday, October 6, and return on Sunday, October 8. Those attending are Grace Booker, Lauren Coats, and Mia Thompson. Nichole Booker will serve as chaperone. They will be commissioned on October 1 during worship.



Educational
Quadrant

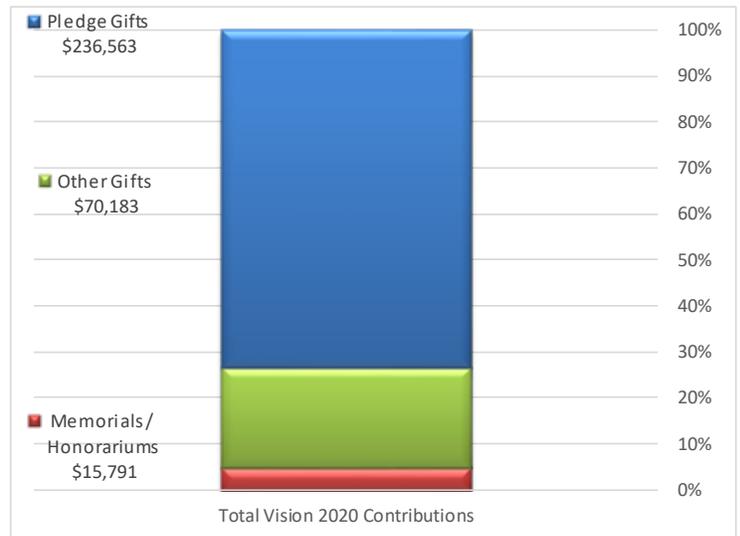
Stewardship
Quadrant

First Presbyterian Church Operating Results, January—August 2017 Actual vs. Budgeted

	Jan—Aug 2017 Actual	Jan—Aug 2017 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering*	212,433.10	181,882.00
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	15,901.10	20,733.28
Mission Outreach Quadrant	9,413.95	10,899.92
Spirituality Quadrant	101,326.62	104,215.36
Stewardship Quadrant	64,075.57	72,648.72
Total Disbursements	190,717.70	208,497.28
Net Income	21,715.40	(26,615.28)

*General Offering includes \$7,825.00 received from the Special Gift Fund in honor of the 125th Anniversary.

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 8/30/2017



\$ 236,563 Pledge Gifts
\$ 15,791 Memorials and Honorariums
\$ 322,537 Total VISION 2020 Contributions
\$ 561,406 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
\$ 879,230 Mortgage Balance

New Website and TV

The Communications and Technology Team has been busy. First, FPC's website has been updated! Please take a look and let us know your feelings. The address remains the same: fpcsmithfield.org.



Also, the church has recently purchased a new TV for the youth room and for use with large gatherings. Check it out.



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 updated. If your information changes, please let her and Myra Wallace know of the changes so that you can stay in touch with what's happening at First Presbyterian.

—Debbie Jacobs

SUPPORT TROOP 95 WITH OUR
SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3rd & CHURCH STREETS

CORNER OF
DOWNTOWN SMITHFIELD

Tuesday, October 3, from 5:30—7:30
Take Out or Eat In

\$7 per plate — Tickets Available in Advance
or at the Door
See a Scout Member for Tickets and Info



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2017

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

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

Stewardship Season

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

—Genesis 8:22

There are many variables in our lives: we move from one home to another, from one job to another; our family dynamics change as children age and elderly parents become more dependent; babies are born; loved ones die. The love of God never changes, though, and it is manifested in the love of our fellow Christians and in this church we have built with God’s help. One hundred and twenty-five years! What a milestone! What a testament to our faith! What a gift from God!

In a few weeks, we will have the opportunity to thank God by carefully considering the worth of those gifts—to ask the important questions: What would my life be like without this church? How has this church helped me to grow in my love of God? How has the love and support of this church helped my family and me? How changed would our community be were First Presbyterian unable to fulfill its ministry? How can I help this ministry to thrive?

Please join us on October 15 as we kick off our Stewardship campaign. Soon you will receive information about the theme of this year’s campaign as well as important dates. But now is the time to pray, to plan, to reflect, and to consider your family’s commitment to First Presbyterian Church so that its good works may continue for another century.

“How blest we are as children of a God so good and true
To understand his moving hand and love
for me and you.”

—Roger Williams, *Big River*



Stewardship
Quadrant

—Sandy Perkinson

125 Years: FPC’s Quasiquicentennial Anniversary

It’s hard to believe, but the time to celebrate our 125th Anniversary will soon be here. Judy Miller and Billy Duncan are chairing the event. We have lots of exciting things to look forward to. We have invited some past ministers to participate in the celebration that day and hope we will have several former members or members that may have moved away from the county to join us as well. 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 the announcements.

The celebration will begin with the dedication of a tree at 10:15 prior to worship, which includes special music, and conclude with a covered-dish meal and slideshow. Mark the event date of Sunday, October 29, 2017, on your calendar and plan to attend. A sign-up sheet for lunch has been placed in the vestibule.

If you have pictures to share, please give them to Wayne Dockery to be incorporated into the slideshow. He will return them to you.

We hope you will all join us.

—Debbie Jacobs

Celebrate with Us on Sunday, October 29, 2017



Quasiquicentennial of
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Scouts Up and Running!

In September, Troop 95 had a very fun and successful campout. We also had two Eagle Ceremonies for two of our scouts- Silas McClure and Kobie Langston. Both ceremonies were conducted at the church and went well.



This upcoming month we have our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser! It will take place on Tuesday, October 3, from 5:30-7:30 at the church. Tickets are \$7 and will be sold in advance and at the door. Please see our flyers around the church and/or Carson Horne, Davis Bell, or Evans Horne for tickets and more information. Thank you very much and I hope you can attend.

As always Troop 95 thanks First Presbyterian Church of Smithfield for their generous 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.

—Davis Bell, Troop 95 Senior Patrol Leader

Harbor Says Thanks

On behalf of our local women’s shelter, Harbor, Inc., thank you so much for the many items you donated for back to school. It took several trips to deliver everything you gave. What wonderful generosity, love, and support you have shown.



These supplies are greatly appreciated, both by Harbor and by the children who started their school year with new and plentiful supplies.

—Janet Lampe

Trick or Treating starts a little early this year in order not to conflict with our 125th Anniversary Celebration. Join us for



**Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 22
2:00—4:00 p.m., FPC Parking Lot**

More Help for SECU Hospice Staff and Families

The Mission Outreach Quadrant now partners with the volunteers at Hospice House in Smithfield eight times a year, up from four, to offer opportunities for our congregation to provide a meal to share our support and care to the families with loved ones at Hospice House and also with the dedicated staff and volunteers.

We send our thanks to Betsy Olive and Eve Creech for providing lunch at Hospice House on Saturday, August 26.

The Mission Outreach Quadrant would also like to thank Janet Lampe, Rhonda Backner, Debbie Henderson, Hubert and Judy Schmidt, Eve Creech, Jo James, and Betsy Olive for the September 24 meal that was provided.

We will offer meals in December and January. On December 16, Eve Creech and Betsy Olive will coordinate a light meal, and on January 14 Lisa and Frank Deans will coordinate dinner. Please contact either of these members if you want to help.

On behalf of the Mission Outreach Quadrant, we say thank you allowing our increased support of this caring outreach project.

The Mission Outreach Quadrant is providing our church with the opportunity to stock the pantry at Hospice House during the month of November again this year. The pantry items are used by families of the patients at Hospice and are very much appreciated during such a difficult time.

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 coffee cups, instant macaroni & cheese, grits, oatmeal, and soups would be very much appreciated.

You will see a collection box in the fellowship hall on Sundays in November. Placed your individually wrapped items in it. We will deliver these items throughout the month.

—Joyce Knoll



Mission
Outreach
Quadrant

From the Handbell Director

I'm not sure what happened to September, but as October approaches, handbells are in full swing for another season. We welcome our newest ringers – Sandy Perkinson, Emilia Anaruma, and Liz Craig – and we're looking forward to October 1, when we'll move our equipment to the sanctuary to play for worship.

The Wednesday morning handbell sessions continue for those who are interested in learning more about our bells and how to ring them or who just want to get more comfortable ringing in an ensemble. Please give Anita Liverman, Judy Daniels, or me a call if you'd like to try that out so we can be sure to be ready for you! If mornings don't work for you, I'll be glad to meet with you another time. We will find a place for you.



Handbell Director

Ring On!
Kathy Rice



Choral music is an important element in our worship services. The Chancel Choir invites you to join them on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. We need sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. You do not have to read music. Please consider making this contribution to the life of our church.

Add your voice

Choral music is an important element in our worship services. The Chancel Choir invites you to join them on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. We need sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. You do not have to read music. Please consider making this contribution to the life of our church.

Spirituality Quadrant

Dear Church Family,

I miss you all dearly, but I'm having a blast and wanted to share some of the things I've been doing. I've started going to the college youth group at the Presbyterian church here and have made a lot of new friends that way. We like to hike to overlooks and have devotions on top of mountains, which is my new favorite thing to do.

I have loved receiving your cards in the mail. It is such a joy and a blessing to know that so many people love and support me. I absolutely love the prayer shawl I received. When I get a little homesick, I get my prayers shawl and read my cards to remind me just how loved and blessed I really am.

I look forward to many more adventures here, and I can't wait to share them with you all.

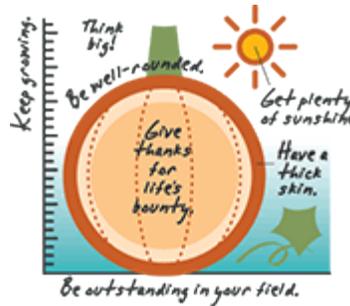
Love and hugs,
Madeline Horne



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

OCTOBER 1, 2017

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



Advice from a p Pumpkin

- Be well-rounded.
- Get plenty of sunshine.
- Give thanks for life's bounty.
- Have a thick skin.
- Keep growing.
- Be outstanding in your field.
- Think big!

—Ilan Shamir

Presbyterian Women Seek Donations

It's time again to send Care Packages to our college students and gift cards to our members in the military. This year we have nine students in college and five members in the military.

The Spiritual Nurture Committee of Presbyterian Women appreciates your donations each year. We will continue to collect them through the second week of November. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women with care pages on the memo line.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Miller or Martha Taylor.



—Mary Miller

October JOY Connection: Bill Leslie

Thursday, October 5, at noon will find Ellen Adams, Jane Harrell, and Judy Johnson serving as cooks and Bill Leslie giving us a musical program. We look forward to both.



JOY Connection is free to those age 55+ in the church and our community. Please sign up on the sheet at the reception desk in the Great Hall if you plan to attend. And don't forget that you are welcome to bring a dessert.

Hope to see you there.

—Sandy Perkinson and Helen Best



Douglas Baker
Missionary to Northern Ireland
Guest speaker
Monday, October 2,
11:00 a.m.
Community Room

Mission Outreach Quadrant

Reformation Milestone: Celebration and Repentance

October, 31, 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenburg, Germany. This would not have been considered an unusual act at the time. Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ, so there is no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest, or saint.

Initially, the reformers did not intend to leave the Catholic Church, but to reform it. However, those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides. Luther hurled insults with the best of them; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: "In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years."