



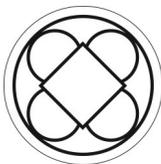
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A Publication of
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ICHTHUS August 2017

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield

Reflections in the Water: The Hidden Power of God



Mary Great with Child
from the triptych fresco
The Mystery of Faith
by Ben Long
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Glendale Springs, NC

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. —Colossians 1:13-16

On Monday, August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will cast its shadow from the west coast to the east coast of the continental United States. The moment is a rare opportunity to witness the great heavenly bodies that have synchronized our existence from our beginning to align in a manner visible to anyone. As the moon covers the face of the sun, broad daylight will suddenly be swallowed up in darkness. The winter constellations will appear in a nighttime sky at the height of summer. A breeze will rise and the temperature will drop and crickets will begin their evensong cued by the onset of a false twilight. And just as we are adjusting to the environmental change, the elusive night will quickly dissipate as the moon continues in its steady orbit and the solar disc is revealed once again in its brilliant glory.

I've always heard that our ancestors dreaded an eclipse as a omen of ill fortune and plague because they could and would not fully grasp the apparently fearful powers at work: powers that keep our very lives in motion. I can remember vividly nearly half a century ago during another solar eclipse being warned not to look directly toward the dark sun for fear of being blinded. I still recall the expectant mood and excitement that joined with the warnings and fear in that fleeting childhood moment.

The Church is likewise charged to be vigilant as it waits expectantly with hope and faith for the return of Christ and the Day of the Lord. In the Church's liturgical calendar for the year, I am reminded on the occasion of this year's rare eclipse that Jesus' mother Mary would be nearly five months pregnant liturgically speaking on the day of the August eclipse. No doubt she would appear much like the image in Ben Long's fresco. Here Mary, the Mother of God, is depicted as a young woman standing under the shadow of a total solar eclipse. The painting expresses a sense of great mystery and a feeling of wonder. Even fear itself seems palpable before the hidden glory of God — a glory yet to be revealed. For Mary and for us who dwell under the shadows of these days we perceive there is visible and invisible power at work here among us and also deep within us. I suspect the world we perceive as our reality is too often a sly con artist who seduces, panders, and tempts us with base illusions and cheap tricks to make us believe that this artificial construct we call the global economy is indeed all there is. Yet under the shadow of a new moon eclipsing the sun, we may be reminded for just a moment that the full power of the Creator is yet to be revealed. When that time comes and it is, the darkness and fear, we have known and yes even embraced, will be a rapidly dispelled memory supplanted by the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven made fully known to us in Jesus Christ

Grace and peace be with you,
Pastor Joe



Add to your prayer list

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
Debbie Jacobs
Tom Johnson
Nancy Lee
Bill Leist
Sandra Lester
Tony Lester
Miriam Lore
Marie Maddox
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 Teron Sloan on the death of his father, Charles H. Sloan, on June 29, 2017, and to **Ruth Daniel** on the death of her sister, Margaret Weleska Pegram Morrison, on July 19, 2017.

Welcome to George Beasley who joined us by Reaffirmation of Faith on July 2, 2017. George is the husband of Jaime Henderson Beasley and the son-in-law of Jim and Debbie Henderson.



Honorariums for Ruth Daniel, Myra Wallace, Chap and Ann Ragland, Betsy Olive, John and Shirley Booker, Virginia Williams, Linda Crowder

Memorials for Hazel Whitehurst, Myde Eason, Sharon Van Velzen, Charles Sloan, Curtis C. Ray, Sr., Margaret Weleska Morrison, Eddie Perkinson, Charlotte Wallace, Devon and Phyllis Pollard, Grover Miller

Donors: Beth Daniel, Emily Wallace, Huser and Linda Lee, Eleanor and Roger Horne, Betsy Olive, John and Janet Lampe, Eve Creech, Brazzie Ray, Tom and Sandra Johnson, Jean Worley, Robbie Little, Myra Wallace, Josh Perkinson, Anonymous, Lucy and Neil Watson, Chap and Ann Ragland, John and Maxine McFadyen

George Beasley Receives Recognition

Tramway Elementary School Fifth Grade Teacher George Beasley is the Sanford Spectrum Teacher of the Week. Mr. Beasley hold a B.S. in Elementary Education from East Carolina University, as well as a certification in K-12 reading instruction. This past May, Mr. Beasley was recognized as Tramway Elementary's 2016-17 *Teacher of the Year*.



Mr. Beasley earns a great deal of credit for the enthusiastic approach he takes to teaching. His colleagues cite the efforts he makes to create personal connections with each child he's teaching, right from the beginning of the year.

Mr. Beasley also earns kudos for the commitment he makes to shine the spotlight on his students and their achievements. His recognition from the school district noted that "most interactions with administration involve Mr. Beasley asking them to speak to a student, not to reprimand or discipline, but to brag on them or recognize the student for an accomplishment. He often will pull a child over to a principal and say things like 'you will not believe what my student is doing,' giving the child an opportunity to shine in the presence of two adults. (Sanford Spectrum, July 25, 2017)

Congratulations to our newest member!



of July Session

- Approved Mission and Outreach to host a carnival in conjunction with the Fourth of July cookout. Proceeds will go to the General Fund.
- Approved changing the time of the August Stated Session meeting from immediately following worship to 5:00 pm to accommodate the schedule of our Commission on Ministry liaison who will be visiting with us.
- Approved changing the pastor's requested annual leave from August 1-7, 2017 to August 20-24, 2017. Dr. Roger Horne will preach on Sunday, August 20, 2017.
- Approved the membership of George Beasley, husband of Jaime Henderson Beasley, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Received the resignation of Linda Crowder as Youth Coordinator effective July 30, 2017.
- Approved collecting an offering during Vacation Bible School. Receipts will go to the SAM Food closet on behalf of First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, and Wilsons Mills Christian Church.
- Approved a light reception following worship on July 30, 2017 to honor Linda Crowder and thank her for her service as our Youth Coordinator.
- Approved a request by Mission and Outreach to invite PCUSA Mission Co-Worker (retired), the Rev. Doug Baker of Northern Ireland to speak and for lunch on Monday October 2, 2017. Other area PCUSA churches will be invited to this luncheon forum.
- Approved a request from Mission and Outreach to participate in the JoCo Habitat Project beginning in January 2018 with other area churches and faith communities. A suggested pledge target (not a commitment) would be \$2000.00 for our congregation. A \$500.00 amount has already been pledged.
- Approved a request from Mission and Outreach to designate the profits from the Fireworks Fellowship meal to the JoCo Habitat Project.
- Approved the outline of plans to celebrate our 125th Anniversary and Homecoming on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

If you have items you wish to have brought before Session, please contact Debbie Jacobs, clerk, or an elder.

—Debbie Jacobs



**Final Three Performances of the Summer . . .
And What a Summer It's Been!!**

Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m., Our Sanctuary

**August 2
Clayton Youth Theatre**

**August 9
Neuse Little Theatre**

**August 16
The Golden Girls**



**The Johnston County Arts Council thanks
First Presbyterian Church for once again
hosting Music for the Lunch Bunch
and Hank Roberson for providing flowers
for each performance.**



Thanks to Hospice and Hospice Volunteers

The Mission Outreach Quadrant would like to thank Lisa Anne Deans, Rhonda Backner, Debbie Henderson, Judy Schmidt, Pam Pope, Dot Ellmore, and Betsy Olive for signing up to provide the July 23 meal for the families with loved ones at Hospice House and the staff and volunteers. The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers at Hospice House in Smithfield several times a year to provide an opportunity for our congregation to share our support for the valuable work SECU Hospice extends to our community.



—Joyce Knoll

**Give a Hand, Lend a Hand
SAM Food Closet Needs New Coordinator**

Smithfield's Food Closet provides valuable resources to the needy in the Smithfield area by providing wholesome and nourishing food to individuals and families who demonstrate a need. Sponsored by the Smithfield Area Ministries, the Food Closet is located in Centenary Methodist Church. For years Dee Howell served as a tireless volunteer led headed up this important ministry. As is often the case, great workers eventually need to step down, and Dee tendered her resignation. Ben Grimes stepped in to take her place, but has now also resigned. Thus, the Food Closet needs a new coordinator.



First Presbyterian Church has been a leader in this local mission and one of its largest contributors of food and money. Now the food closet needs our backs and hands. The pantry is open weekdays from 10:00-12:30 and 2:00-4:30 Monday - Thursday. If you would like to participate in this outreach, either as coordinator or as a volunteer to distribute, sort, and package food, contact Joseph Hester or Dee Howell.



Let's applaud the efforts of Dee and Ben, but let's also lend a hand to the SAM Food Closet and continue to lead by volunteering our time to this worthwhile mission.

Thank you for your support and for remembering our Hunger Missions: Yes We Can and Pennies for Hunger.

—Tom Barwick

FPC Donated 80 items to the SAM Food Closet in July!

Refugee Forum Held at FPC

On Saturday, July 8, Church World Service representatives Jourdi Bosley and Sajal Nasralla presented a Community Forum in in our fellowship hall to explain the refugee resettlement process to individuals from our church and community. Jourdi shared information regarding the numbers and locations of refugees worldwide; Sajal explained the intense vetting process of refugees for entry into the United States, noting that it takes years for a person or family to complete this process. Both spoke of the transition Church World Service, as well as all resettlement agencies, are facing at this time.



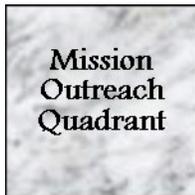
One of the goals of the meeting was to provide information to people in our local community who are interested in helping with refugee resettlement in the triangle area. We would like to meet quarterly to discuss ways we can help.

Please watch for updates in the ICHTHUS and weekly e-news if you are interested in joining this group to learn more.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll
Hubert and Judy Schmidt

Emergency Discretionary Fund

This has been a long, hot summer, and there have been many requests for help from the EDF for electric bills, medical expenses, and other critical needs, both for church members and community members. A donation to this important outreach of the church will be appreciated.

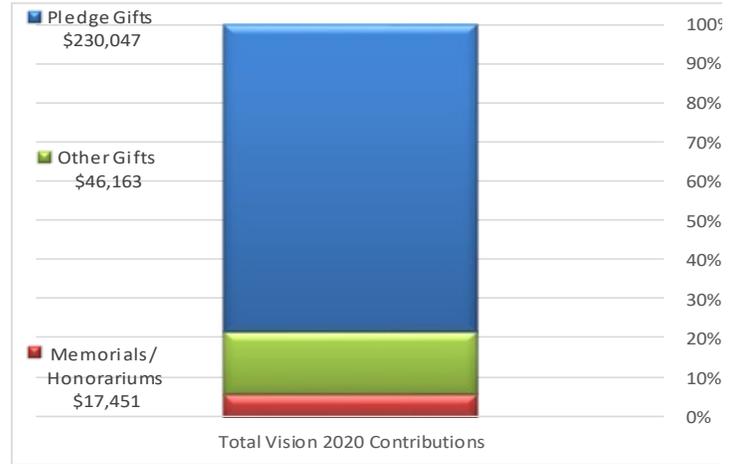


**First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results, January—June 2017
Actual vs. Budgeted**

	Jan—June 2017 Actual	Jan—June 2017 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering*	128,501.42	136,411.50
(*Includes \$6,501 for Special Gifts in Honor of 125th Anniversary)		
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	10,556.03	15,549.96
Mission Outreach Quad.	6,885.37	8,174.94
Spirituality Quadrant	77,980.69	78,161.52
Stewardship Quadrant	50,033.64	54,486.54
Total Disbursements	145,455.73	156,372.96
Net Income/(Deficit)	(16,954.31)	(19,961.46)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 6/30/2017

- \$ 230,047 Pledge Gifts
- \$ 17,451 Memorials/Honorariums
- \$ 46,163 Other Gifts
- \$ 293,661 Total VISION 2020 Contributions
- \$ 559,626 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
- \$ 917,151 Mortgage Balance



The Property Box

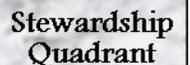


Recently, Clancy and Thayes sent a crew to address the issue of leaks at the doors in the Great Hall. They removed several rows of bricks, installed drainage and flashing, and then replaced the bricks. Finally, no leaks!

The Team sends a huge shout-out to Kenny Duncan who filled in for Stan Coats as chair of the Property Team for a few months. Job well done!

Building Officers are asked to check the church calendar each month to remind themselves when it's their turn to open and close the church on Sundays. These officers are very faithful in fulfilling duties each month in a very important task that most take for granted. They unlock the doors, check the thermostats, turn on lights, make coffee, and then clean up and lock up after each worship service.

Thank you.
Your Property Team



Church History: Joseph Lansinger

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. He served from 1943 until 1969.

Mr. Lansinger came to Smithfield in 1943 after graduating from Union Theological Seminary. For a few years he served not only Smithfield, but also the Oakland and Progressive Churches.

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.

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. Before coming to us, he had directed the Asheboro High School Band.

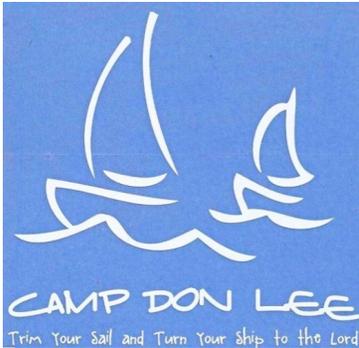
In January 1962 Mr. Lansinger received the first Distinguished Citizen Award presented by the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce. In the words of *The Smithfield Herald*, he "was awarded the honor for his achievements and contributions to the community and because of his qualities as an individual."

Joe 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 "For one brief moment at the close of the memorial service for Joe Lansinger midafternoon last Tuesday, the large oak door of the Presbyterian Church refused to open to permit Joe's coffin to leave (despite the struggle of friends). It was as if the holy place itself was not willing to give up this quiet and good man who had built it years before and served it well as its only pastor.. But the door did finally open and he was gone.. Rest you well, Joe Lansinger. May God hold you ever in the follow of His hand."

Joseph Lansinger left behind 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.

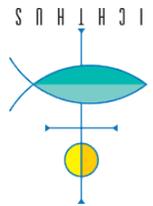
—Ann Huckenbeck



Middle School Youth will attend
Camp Don Lee
October 6-8



Welcome Back to Youth
SSS Football Game,
Lock-in, and
Dining Out
Friday, September 8
Put it on your calendar



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2017

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

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



Another successful VBS.
 A great time for everyone!
 60+ children and 100+ average attendance!
 Cost: \$1654.00 shared by FPC, Wilson's Mills Christian, and First Christian, Smithfield

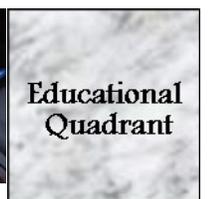


Children's Summer Music Camp
 Drumming and humming and having a ball!
 28 Children (10 from FPC) and Camille, Kathy, and Madeline, leaders, and Judy L., Etta, Starr, Grace, Iris, Emma, and Molly, volunteers.



Summer at FPC...
 THE place to be!!

Thanks Shelley R., Kathy R., Judy D., Debbie J., and all other volunteers!



If I had not accepted the position of Youth Coordinator, I would have missed two years' worth of opportunities and wonderful experiences getting to know an amazing youth group. If you, as a congregation, had not committed to strongly supporting our youth program, the youth would have missed realizing how important such staunch support is. If our youth had not felt your love and support, they may have missed learning some wonderful life lessons from you, their church family. Together we have given them our support and love, and isn't that why we are all in this church family? Every time we baptize a new baby and Joe walks down the center of the church and asks each of us if we pledge our support and love to this child, I think about our youth and know we have all done what we pledged to do. They are fine young people.

So I gratefully say thank you to all of you for allowing me to enjoy getting to know each of you in a completely new way. You made my two years so much more rewarding than it could have been otherwise.

To our youth I say, please remember our two years together, our many service projects, missions, and especially Montreat. Remember that every past experience is preparation for some future opportunity. We will all have tests ahead of us, some tough and some wonderful. These will all build character, develop natural gifts, and teach lessons that we may not have learned any other way.

One little **If** can change anything. One little **If** can change everything.

I leave this position feeling truly blessed.

Linda Crowder



**Kristen Duncan and Madeline Horne
Avera Scholarship Recipients**

Kristen Duncan and Madeline Horne are the 2017 recipients of the Evelyn Avera Scholarship. Kristen is the daughter of Kenny and Julie Duncan and the granddaughter of Billy Duncan, and Madeline is the daughter of Evans and Trish Horne and the granddaughter of Roger and Eleanor Horne. Kristen will attend Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Madeline will attend Lees McCrae College in Banner Elk, NC.

The purpose of this scholarship is to honor the Avera children's mother, her love of First Presbyterian Church, her spirit, and her strong belief in the value of education. This scholarship is designed for someone seeking a two- or four-year degree, has a financial need, has a connection to this church, and exhibits the characteristics of Evelyn Avera.

Congratulations to both of these fine young women and their families.



CROSS MISSIONS

A ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church



Serving God By Serving Others



Madeline Horne would love cards from home. Her college address is
Madeline Horne
Lees-McRae College
Campus PO Box 3472
Banner Elk, NC 28604

**Educational
Quadrant**