



In This Issue:
Letter from Our Pastor
From the Director of Youth
Ministries
Prayer Concerns
Angel Tree
Christmas in a Barn
Church History
Communications and
Technology
Flower Calendar Openings
Hospice Volunteers
Habitat News
JOY Connection
MLK Birthday
Memorials and
Honorariums
New Officers
Presbyterian Women's
Scholarships
Circle News
Relay for Life Cookie Walk
Scout News
Session Highlights
Youth News

Thanks

December Calendar
Lectionary
Worship Nursery
Flowers
Birthdays
Anniversaries
Ushers
Lay Readers
Acolytes
Trinity Ringers
Building Officers
Time with Children
Sunday Shepherds



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ICHTHUS

January 2018

Reflections in the Water: Resolutions for Discipleship

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient

—The Christ Hymn from Philippians 2:3-8

A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps."

—Augustine of Hippo

The start of a new year provides the opportunity for self-examination. In the darkest moments of December the light of Christmas bursts into our lives with the promise of a new beginning. As daylight begins to increase once again, the Christmas season culminates liturgically with Epiphany on January 6 and the proclamation of Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah as the light of our salvation. Likewise, January is a communal moment as well as a temporal and cultural opportunity to hit the reset button on our lives and to embark upon new journeys.

The communal mission of First Presbyterian Church includes a commitment to personal discipleship. Our individual dedication includes self-examination through prayer, service to others, and stewardship of our time, talent, and resources. As I begin a new decade of pastoral service to the church, I know our ministry and service to God prospers when:

we work together in supportive harmony and speak the truth in love.

we maintain a healthy and positive attitude through our words and interactions

we exercise patience and forbearance and love with our shortcomings, both personal and with others.

we pursue worship of God that maintains its sacred nature and importance for our lives.

we seek to glorify God with all that we are.

In the past decade of service to the people of this particular congregation, I've witnessed and experienced as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament along with you much that has at times caused great grief and heartache and indeed personal hurt within the greater Church. Yet here at First Presbyterian Church, I am truly thankful to God for our abundant blessings, the rich and vibrant ministries that are created through your faithful discipleship as we grow daily and more fully into the healthy and holy Body of Christ.

Blessings to you all in this new year.

Pastor Joe



Add to
your
prayer
list

Prayerful Support for
Bernice Johnson at Barbour Court
Nor Bell at Barbour Court
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Shirley Williams at Meadowview (room 108)
Myde Eason at Brookdale Smithfield
Bill Leist in Colfax
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh

Martha Rogers in Richmond
Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte
Marie Atkins
Ruth Daniel
Debbie Henderson
Barbara Hess
Debbie Jacobs
Tom Johnson
Shannon Kimball
Miriam Lore
Earl Marett
Ricky Pate
Sarah Pate
Becky Peele
Benny Pope
Chap Ragland
Peter Russell
Linda Stephenson
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Linda Wells
Lucy Worley at Springbrook
Al Worsham
Bill Worsham
Hilda Worsham
Rebecca Ziady
Joseph Hester, Sr.

We welcome Pam Withrow to membership by Reaffirmation of Faith on December 3, 2017.

Christian Sympathy to the family of **John and Martha Taylor**. Martha's brother Peter Allan died December 21, 2017; to **Tom and Joy Howerton** on the death of Tom's brother Robert on December 26, 2017; and to the family of **Ted Wells**, our oldest member, who died December 27, 2017.



HIGHLIGHTS

of Session for December:

- Approved receiving Pamela Withrow as a new member by Reaffirmation of Faith on December 3, 2017.
- Approved a PYC Lock-in for December 15, 2017.
- Approved a 3% increase in salary for all staff members.
- Approved allowing Todd Higginson, Director of Youth Ministries, to designate his annual salary as Housing Allowance in accordance with IRS regulations for 2018.
- Approved a Called Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 31, 2017, to approve the pastor's terms of call for 2018 and to receive a report from the Nominating Committee.

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

—Debbie Jacobs

memorials & gifts In Honor of Nancy Earp, Ed and Kathy Hartman, Kevin and Anne Koebley, Myra Wallace, Tom and Sandra Johnson, Martha Chapman, Frances Churchill, Joseph Hester, Thad McCrae, FPC

Children, Youth, and Volunteers

In Memory of Jeff Burke, Judy Avera, Kody Duncan, Jane and Ned Cunningham, Ted Wells, Peter Allan, Robert Howerton

Donors: Betsy S. Olive, Emma Gemmell, Ann Huckenbeck, Ellen Adams, Carrie Dale Purnell, Todd Higginson, Delle Bount and Steve Wilson, Jo James, Dot Ellmore, Benny and Pam Pope



Christmas in a Barn

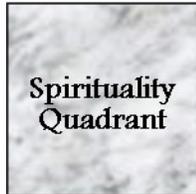
2017



**Volunteers Needed
Wednesday, January 3
9:00 a.m.**

Undecorating with Nancy

Come have fun with us!



Troop 95 News

In December, Troop 95 ended the calendar year with not one, but two Christmas parties. At our last meeting, Madeline Horne helped us with some games and treats to enjoy. On Saturday, December 16, we went to Defy Gravity, a trampoline park in Raleigh, and then enjoyed lunch.

A special thank you to all those who bought poinsettias from Carson Horne and me. We made hundreds of dollars for the troop through this fundraiser and hope to make even more next year!

As always, Troop 95 thanks FPC for its generous support. If you know of any middle or high schoolers who are interested in Scouting, please direct them to our Senior Patrol Leader, David Bell, or our Scoutmaster, Evans Horne.

—Davis Bell, Senior Patrol Leader



January JOY

Come fellowship with us on the first Thursday of the new year as we feast on a delicious meal coordinated by Jo James and then hear a program about Wheels for Hope, an organization that repairs donated automobiles and gives them to those in need, especially veterans.



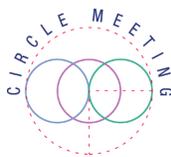
**JOY
CONNECTION**

The meal begins at noon. As always, you are welcome to bring a dessert and/or to make a donation to this outreach of our church.

—Sandy Perkinson

Circle News

The **Monday Afternoon Circle** will meet the second Monday in January as the church will be closed the first Monday for the New Year's holiday. The **Tuesday Morning Circle** will meet on its regular date.



Habitat for Humanity

FPC is joining with the Johnston County Faith Coalition (JCFC) and the State Employees Credit Union to build a home in Clayton. JCFC is made up of twenty churches in Johnston County including Centenary United Methodist, C3, First Baptist, Discovery Church, Horne United Methodist, St. Paul's Episcopal, and FPC. Most of the financing will be provided by SECU and will continue to finance one home in every NC county. The remaining cost will come from JCFC.

FPC has set a goal of \$2000 to contribute to the construction of the Clayton house. If you would like to contribute to this effort, place a check in the offering plate with the note Habitat on the memo line. Contact Betsy Olive or Greg Knoll with questions.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



Presbyterian Women Offer Scholarships

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of New Hope, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic present scholarships to college students each year. If you or your child is currently enrolled in college or will be enrolled next fall, you are welcome to apply. Complete application packets should be submitted after January 1, 2018, and received by March 1, 2018. Applicants must live in the presbytery and be a member of a church in the presbytery.

Please contact Judy Johnson, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, FPC Smithfield for an application or further information at 919-934-8025 or jjjohnson52@nc.rr.com, or Google PCUSA Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Scholarships.



Serving Hospice

The Mission Outreach Quadrant coordinates with the volunteers and staff at the SECU Hospice House here in Smithfield to provide an opportunity for our congregation to provide a meal for the families visiting patients at Hospice House eight times a year.

Thank you to Eve Creech and Betsy Olive for providing lunch on Saturday, December 16.

Our next meal will be coordinated by Lisa and Frank Deans on Sunday, January 14. A sign-up sheet is available in the Vestibule for anyone that would like to help with the meal.

Our congregation also stocked the pantry the month of November. Please see the thank you note received from Hospice House for stocking the pantry.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



Flower Calendar Openings for 2018

January 14, April 8, April 15, July 15, and September 30 are open dates on our flower calendar.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary on one of these dates, please contact Nancy Lee or the church office.

—Nancy Lee



Cookie Walk 2017 Another Success!

Your Relay for Life Team wants to thank all of you who baked for us and who bought our goodies! We were very pleased with the \$917 that we made at the Cookie Walk! It would not have been possible without your support!

—Martha Taylor, Team Captain



Angel Tree Helps Many

The Mission Outreach Quadrant would like to thank the congregation for your overwhelming support of the Smithfield Rescue Mission Angel Tree this year. Our partnership with the rescue mission for our Christmas supportive giving program included gifts and clothing for children as well as much needed general supplies for the mission. The numerous gifts, supplies and gift cards were very much appreciated and brightened the holidays for many. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ during this holiday season with your generous gifts.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



Your donation to our meal program and pantry helps those families who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives. We are very thankful that you chose the SECU Hospice House to give your time, money, and efforts.

Hospice Staff and Volunteers



Communications and Technology News

As we begin a new year, it is important for the church to have your correct contact information. If your phone, email, or mailing address has changed, please let Debbie Jacobs and the church office know so that we may keep our records current. There have been several changes in our membership's information since the publication of our latest directory. If you would like an updated contact list in January, please contact Debbie Jacobs and she will be happy to print/email one to you as soon as updates are completed.

If you are not receiving the eNews on Thursdays or Dial My Calls information, please contact Debbie Jacobs.

COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY



Elders

Class of 2020

Nichole Booker, Stan Coats, Evans Horne

Class of 2018

Tony Lester (completing an unexpired term)

Deacons

Class of 2020

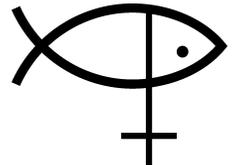
Emilia Anaruma, Nan Jones

Class of 2019

Judy Daniels (completing an unexpired term)

Class of 2018

Jake Jacobs (completing an unexpired term)



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2018

PERMIT #93

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Smithfield, NC 27577

PO Box 1159

First Presbyterian Church

From the Director of Youth Ministries

Happy New Year! As I look forward into 2018, I am excited about the shared ministries we will engage together. I am in the process of reviewing the completed surveys on our ministries to children and youth and will strongly incorporate your feedback into my planning process in the days ahead.

If you took time to complete the online or paper survey, thank you! I greatly appreciate your feedback and thoughts. **While the online survey has expired, I will continue to receive completed paper surveys until the end of this month.** Please take a few minutes to thoughtfully complete and return these! I am interested in responses throughout the adult congregation, but am especially eager to receive feedback from every parent or grandparent of FPC children!

As I plan this year, our church's mission structure also plays an important role. My hope is that all of our activities and events that engage our young people tie into at least one of the quadrants (educational development, mission and outreach, spirituality, and stewardship). Your loving support of our youth demonstrates how integral our young people are to the life of First Presbyterian, so our activities should reflect our church's mission.

As we enter a new calendar year together, may we embrace each new beginning along the way. I will conclude my thoughts by sharing the lyrics of a Brian Wren hymn that is one of my favorites, *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*.

This is a day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.
For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference,
As faith and hope are born again.
Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
Step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.
In faith we gather round the table
To taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.

Blessings,
Todd

Oyster Roast Youth Fundraiser Saturday, February 3 4:00-8:00

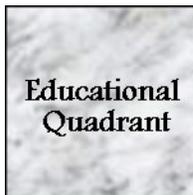
Our popular oyster roast will take place soon to follow your family's Groundhog Day celebrations! Our most recent fundraisers have been very successful, so the youth leaders and I have decided that ½ of our oyster roast proceeds will benefit a local charity of the PYC's choosing. More information to come.



Raleigh Youth Mission Saturday, February 17

This event is open to all current youth from grades 5 – 12. We will meet at the church at 8:15 and return late afternoon. We will cover the costs and lunch will be provided. (Let Todd know in advance of special dietary needs to share with Raleigh Youth Mission). In the morning, we will serve at the Oak City Outreach with RYM leadership to guide us and facilitate reflection afterwards. An urban walk will follow.

Contact Todd to sign up or if you are interested in chaperoning.



The Setting for the Establishment of First Presbyterian Church

In 1891, the town of Smithfield was undergoing a big rebuilding project. Fire had destroyed the majority of the downtown and its wood frame buildings in April 1889. The merchants for the most part had no insurance and had to rebuild slowly if at all. Total losses to the town were estimated to be over \$100,000 (\$2,540,881 in today's dollars). Local pharmacist T.R. Hood offered a free lot next to his establishment to any merchant who pledged to build a brick building. The Sanborn-Perris map of Smithfield in 1891 shows few business establishments in the Market/Second/Third Streets area that was decimated by the flames that were traced to Morgan's Carriage Shop. Even the trees that lined the streets had burned in the fire.

Smithfield had remained a quiet little town since its establishment in 1777. By the 1890's cotton was Johnston County's number one crop with corn a close second. Even though the farmers grew tobacco, it was not a major income producer. Most tobacco was either used locally or loaded on flat boats and shipped down the Neuse River to New Bern. Corn had become a small cash crop, but prices varied so much from year to year that production remained low and it did not become a profitable crop until about 1898. The textile industry did not start before 1890, but it spread quickly throughout the Southeast capitalizing on "King Cotton."

Some of the earlier organizations in the town began in the 1800's. The Masons chartered Fellowship Lodge #84 – Ancient and Free Accepted Masons in 1832; they built their lodge in 1843. First Baptist Church was organized in 1835, followed by Centenary Methodist Church four years later. In 1866, the First Missionary Baptist Church was formed, and in 1882, St. Mark's African Methodist Church (A.M.E.) was started.

In 1880, Smithfield had a population of about 550 residents. The town had received a little boost in economy and population when the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad completed a major line through Johnston County in 1886. About the same time, Selma became the junction of the North Carolina and Atlantic Coast Line Railways. These railroads helped farmers transport their harvested crops to market instead of using mule trains and wagons. And in 1889, John W. Byrd started a school for blacks at North Fourth Street that taught students in grades one through seven.

By 1890, Smithfield had not grown in population beyond the population of 1880. Residents of Johnston County discussed the need for public education beyond the basic instruction of simply reading, writing and arithmetic and establishing a school year limited to only four months in duration. Education in Smithfield had had little support or growth until 1886 when Smithfield Collegiate Institute, under the leadership of Professor Ira Turlington and John L. Davis, started a school that prepared young people for college. By 1891, the school had outgrown its building and moved to a new building on South Third Street and changed its name to Turlington Institute. This site later became the location of Smithfield Graded School. In 1913 this site was the chosen for the Smithfield High School building that remains in place.

It was in 1891 that Evangelist Alexander McKelway arrived in Smithfield to establish a Presbyterian Church. It was to be a part of the rebuilding and educational expansion within Johnston County.

Our Charter Members

Mrs. A.J. McKelway, née Lavinia Rutherford Smith, was the daughter of one of the professors who taught her husband Alexander at Union Theological Seminary. The McKelways were in Smithfield less than a year when he was called to a large church in Fayetteville. After the Reverend McKelway's death in 1918, Lavinia and the surviving five children returned to the home of her father in Richmond. There she oversaw a good education for her children, two of whom – St. Clair and Benjamin Mosby – followed in their father's footsteps by becoming writers.

Mrs. L.L. Sasser (Julia) was the wife of prominent local physician Dr. Louis Lafayette Sasser. She was a native of Smithfield and is buried beside her husband in Riverside Cemetery. Dr. Sasser was received into the church in March 1894 and was immediately elected as elder. The three Sasser sons were baptized in the church: Donald and Snead in April 1893 and Louis in February 1896.

—continued

Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Graves (Henry Lewis Graves, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Williamson) were the parents of three children. They were received as charter members in 1891 by letter of transfer from Second Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. Mary Graves was dismissed to Centenary Methodist Church at an undetermined time. Henry, son of a Confederate soldier, remained with First Presbyterian and served as elder from 1894-1920.

In 1917 the Smithfield Herald obituary for Mary Graves illustrates the flowery rhetoric of that period: "The deceased was a faithful member of the Methodist Church and was one of the best women of the town. She was a good neighbor and a kind and sympathetic friend. For several years she had been an invalid, and the for past year or two had been confined to her home where she bore her sufferings with great patience, calmly waiting for the hour of transition."

Mrs. James Pou (Annie Elizabeth Walker) was married to attorney James Hinton Pou at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh in 1889. Annie was received into Smithfield First Presbyterian by letter of transfer. The Pous had two children: Jim, Jr. an attorney and Edith who married the very prominent Josiah Daniels of Raleigh. (The Pou family now boasted three lawyers: father, son and son-in-law). The Pous moved to Raleigh in 1898 and transferred membership to First Presbyterian Church there. The Pous built one of the beautiful Victorian mansions that lined Blount Street in our capital at one time.

Mrs. William Sanders (Lillian Long Sanders) was educated at Peace College. She married William Marsh Sanders with whom she had nine children; she had 14 grandchildren. Her obituary states that she "...made her influence felt in the social, educational and religious life of the town. Her home was famed for its hospitality."

The death notice states that Williams was a charter member of First Presbyterian Church and "... gave the lot on which the present church is located." (Official church records say that the Sanders sold the lot to the church for \$100.) Lillian was president of the Betterment Association (forerunner of the Women's Club). She was a member and president of the Holt-Sanders chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. One of her major campaigns was the preservation of Bentonville Battlefield and the erection of an appropriate marker there.

William Marsh Sanders, her husband, was one of the most prominent citizens of Johnston County. He headed the corporation that founded Smithfield Cotton Mills, operated many farms and had a large mercantile business in Smithfield. Not only did he serve as president of Smithfield Cotton Mills but he also became president of Ivanhoe Manufacturing (forerunner of Burlington Mills). He spread his influence beyond the county as a member of the General Assembly.

"On Christ the solid rock I stand." Those hearty and forward-looking pilgrims believed in building a solid rock for the worship of the Lord. They contributed not only to the religious fabric of Smithfield but also to the educational, social and cultural betterment of the town. Let us be forever grateful to these founders of First Presbyterian Church.

—Ann Huckenbeck and Hubert Schmidt

A Penguin Parable

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.



In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and

strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world

Puzzle!

The 12 Old Testament books known as the Minor Prophets aren't unimportant — just short! Unscramble the names of these books. Then unscramble the circled letters to find a fruit of the Spirit.



Fruit: _____

LEJO _____

IHCAM _____

ABKUKKAH _____

DHAIABO _____

MUNAH _____

OAESH _____

AZAEHINPH _____

NJHAO _____

AGIAGH _____

OASM _____

AHRIZAHCE _____

IHCMALA _____

Answers: Joel, Micah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum, Hosea, Zephaniah, Jonah, Haggai, Amos, Zechariah, Malachi; Kindness

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, January 22 The Freedom of Forgiveness

Martin Luther King, Jr. Called forgiveness "a permanent attitude," as opposed to "an occasional act." Maintaining a forgiveness mindset leads to peace and freedom.

Author and pastor Max Anders experienced that freedom in seminary. After cheating on a Hebrew final, he was distraught and confessed his sin to God and his professor. "I felt deeply cleaned. Pure. Holy," Anders writes. "I wanted to laugh and cry at the same time. I wanted to run and jump and dance. The burden was lifted. I was free."



By contrast, he writes, "If we don't ask for forgiveness when we wrong someone, we lose our moral authority, the debris of sin begins to accumulate in our hearts, choking our conscience. Others know when we sin against them, and if we don't make it right, it hurts our reputation as well as God's.

Resolve to Be There

Let our New Year's Resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

—Gordon Persson