



In This Issue
From Our Pastor
From the Director of
Youth Ministries

Prayer Concerns

Avera Scholarship
 Children's Music
 Communications and
 Technology Updates
 Cross Mission Trip
 Easter Egg Hunt
 Easter Sunday Activities
 Exterior Lights
 Financial Report
 Habitat Faith Build
 Highlights of Session
 Hospice Meal
 Hunger Sunday
 JOY Connection
 Memorials
 Midweek Lenten Services
 Montreat Deposit
 New Hope Presbytery
 Youth Council
 One Great Hour of Sharing
 Property Box
 Presbyterian Women's
 Spring Gathering
 Relay for Life Team 37
 Scouting News
 Thanks
 VBS 2019
 Youth Updates

April Calendar

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



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

ICHTHUS

April 2019

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, North Carolina

Reflections in the Water:

A Lenten Meditation: Ready for Either



²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"^[a] They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶ It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

—Matthew 20:28

James and John make a wish. According to this passage from Matthew, the request is delivered by their mama and according to Mark it comes directly from them—either way, they want to reign in power with Christ. We might commend their faith for believing Christ may bestow this gift to them. The other ten disciples react with jealousy and anger, but Jesus responds to them with the truth: "You do not know what you are asking."

Their wish doesn't align with the choice or the "cup" being offered. As Reformed commentator William Barclay shares: "the Cup [offered] is not necessarily a short and bitter" life as it was for James who was martyred in Jerusalem. Or as Barclay counters, it may be simply living a long life of daily routine and Christian discipline with its heartbreaks and disappointments while continuing to be faithful and reliant upon Christ for the road that leads to life. The 1814 seal of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (above) recalls an ancient Roman coin that depicted an ox between an altar and the plow. The coin's inscription reads *Ready for Either*. For the Christian disciple, the cup offers sacrifice and/or service as the only path to follow. Jesus calls the disciples to serve, not to reign. If Christ is indeed the King of Glory as described in Psalm 24, he expresses the majesty of a new covenant as a slave to slaves or, even more succinctly, as God with Us.

We find our Messiah leaning against the prison bars from the inside of the cell with other prisoners. He sits uncovered in the open air among the beggars and homeless and the refugee. Wherever there is sickness or grief or despair, Jesus is present and shares our suffering. When there was a crowd of 5000 tired, hungry people, he fed them. If you're looking for Christ, then look among the least of our kindred, and there you will find the Son of God. The instructions to his disciples are straightforward, but it the cost will be self. James and John boldly place their faith in Christ, but their expectations are misguided and not in proportion to the gift being offered. The cup proffered is sacrifice and service; the gift is the eternal blessing of salvation with everlasting life.

In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to come,
 Pastor Joe



Add to
your
prayer
list

Prayerful Concern for

Eleanor Bell at Barbour Court
Bernice Johnson, Autumn Care of Nash
John MacFadyen at Brookdale, Raleigh
Alice Narron at Smithfield Manor
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Virginia Williams in Laurenburg
Lucy Worley at Bellarose Nursing and Rehab,

Garner
Marie Atkins at Smithfield Manor
Tom Barwick
John Booker
Shirley Booker
Beth Daniel
Ruth Daniel
Tom Harder
Trish Horne
Freddy Johnson
Tom Johnson
Shannon Kimball
David Lee
Nancy Lee
Sandra Lester
Tony Lester
Bill Leist
Miriam Lore
Earl Marett
Jill Merrick
Becky Peele
Benny Pope
Ann Ragland
Chap Ragland
Peter Russell
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Linda Wells in Mt. Olive
William Wells
Joseph Hester, Sr.
Graham Davis, brother of Eleanor Horne
Joyce Loy, mother of Tonya Worley

HIGHLIGHTS

of March Session

- Approved our hosting of the Midweek Lenten Services in our sanctuary on Wednesdays beginning March 13-April 17, 2019, at noon.
- Approved an Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Educational Development Quadrant on April 14, 2019, following worship.
- Approved a Prayer Vigil beginning at noon on April 15, 2019, through noon on April 16, 2019.
- Approved a Sacred Arts Pilgrimage in the Fellowship hall for April 15-17, 2019.
- Approved a Prayer Retreat from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on April 16, 2019.
- Approved a fellowship dinner followed by Maundy Thursday worship service and communion on April 18, 2019.
- Approved our participation in the Stations of the Cross service on April 19, 2019. The service begins at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at noon and concludes at First Presbyterian Church.
- Approved our participation in a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday morning, April 21, 2019. Following Easter service at 11:00 a.m., members will place flowers on the cross on the front lawn.
- Approved the 2018 Church Statistical Report.
- Approved Jaime Beasley as the church's Disbursing Treasurer and approved her access to records and reports in ACS to perform her duties.
- Approved Patrick Templeton as the church's interim Director of Music.

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

—Debbie Jacobs



Honorarium: Helen Best
Memorials: Billy Best, Mary Alice Thomas
Donors: Eddie and Jennifer Foy, Kathryn, Darren, and Charlotte Frank, Benny and Pam Pope



Our children sang the anthem, *Little Lamb*, on April 24. This photo was taken during rehearsal. Camille Boone is directing, Kathy Rice is on piano, and Patrick Templeton is on flute. The singers are Ruth Templeton, Emily Harder, and Addison Coats. During worship Tony Anaruma and Mac Booker joined them. They received spontaneous applause for their performance. Job well done!!

Dear Church Family,

I have had an amazing first half of the spring semester. Midterms and classes went very well. Then I enjoyed a nice Spring Break, spending half of the week in Cocoa Beach, FL, and the other half home with family. The cheer season has come to a close. We made a lot of progress this year, and will continue to practice and workout throughout these last few weeks, but we don't have any more games to cheer at. I am working with my advisor to plan out my last few semesters here at Lees-McRae.



This summer I will be working at Holston Presbyterian Camp as the Day Camp Director. I am very excited to grow and learn in this position. This camp is located in Banner Elk, NC, and I will be living at the camp this summer. I have about three weeks that I'll be home between classes ending and when I have to be at camp, so I look forward to seeing y'all then!

Love and prayers,

Madeline Horne

Hunger Sunday

First Presbyterian Church members did a great job of shopping and sharing food for the Food Pantry drive in March. If we're going for an "item per member," members who brought one food item a piece to share, we must have had 155 people (actually, it was 88), because we did have 155 items. Let's plan for this generous donation to continue for the month of April.



Our church recently received a letter from the Board of Directors of the Smithfield Area Ministries. They are the directors of assistance in the collection of food items for families in need of help. The letter reports that during 2018, 800 bags of food were given to assist 1300 people which equates to 500 families. Volunteers at the collection site (Centenary Methodist Church) gave 900 hours of services. Our church is a major contributor to this needed program.



If you would like to be a part of the Mission and Outreach Quadrant, please contact Hubert Schmidt. The existing members will be very appreciative of your input and help.

—Hubert Schmidt

Meals for Hospice

The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers and staff at SECU Hospice House in Smithfield eight times a year to provide an opportunity for our congregation to share our support and care to the families with loved ones there by preparing and serving a meal for them.



Special thanks to Dot Ellmore, Rhonda Backner, Eleanor Horne, Diane Dockery, Hubert and Judy Schmidt, Eve Creech, and Betsy Olive for their help with the meal on Sunday, March 10.

We also thank our congregation for its continued support of this caring mission.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

Habitat for Humanity Build

Work has resumed on the S. Webb Street location in Selma. Due to all the rain December through February, work had been delayed, but its again underway at the Webb house and will soon begin at a second home at 208 Sharpe Street. Work is scheduled Thursday, Fridays, and Saturdays.



We are looking for a group of volunteers from FPC to work at the site on a Saturday. Both Saturday May 18 and June 1 are being considered.

If you would like to be a part of an FPC group, please contact Greg Knoll at 9190607-7134 or at gknoll841@gmail.com.

Volunteers are also needed on Thursdays and Fridays. Individuals or groups can register to work at the Habitat Volunteer Hub: <http://vhub.at/johnstoncountycoalition>.

If you previously have registered on the Hub for the Clayton build, you will not have to register again. Just sign up to work at the new site.

Church groups and individuals are also needed to provide lunch each Saturday. If you can help with this, contact Betsy Olive.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

The Presbyterian Women of Spring Hill

Presbyterian Church in Lucama are looking forward to welcoming you to the

2019 New Hope Presbytery

Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women.

April 13, 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker:

Maren Sonstegard-Spray
Associate Pastor, New Bern FPC
Contact Janet Lassiter for more information.



Relay for Life

We thank you all for your participation in the Chili Lunch. We also thank those who participated in our Survivor Service. Thanks also to those church members who contributed food to the Chili Lunch!

We raised almost \$1,000 at the Chili Lunch and are closing in on raising \$6,000. We are now a Gold Team! We will be selling luminaria, including the pretty lanterns, until May 1.

We encourage our survivors to attend the Survivor Dinner on Sunday, April 7, 5:00 p.m., at the Benson American Legion, 605 N. Wall Street. Let Martha Taylor know if you can attend, so we can notify the Dinner Chairman.

Relay will be held at SSS High School on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m.—10:00 p.m.. There will be a Survivor Walk at 11:00 a.m. and another at 5:00p.m.. The Luminaria Ceremony will be at 9:00 p.m. followed by a Silent Lap and more entertainment. The Closing Ceremony will follow.

Come join our team out at Relay. We will be selling water and auctioning off an afghan made by Becky Peele and a gas card.

See you there!!!

—Martha Taylor and Debbie Jacobs



JOY Connection: Beekeeper, Honey, and Fried Chicken

The April JOY Connection will feature beekeeper Beverly Keen, a friend of the Barwick family. She will tell us about bees, their hives, their importance, and how we can help them. She is also bringing along some honey for us to taste.



JOY CONNECTION

The meal will be hosted by Helen Best and Sandy Perkinson and will feature fried chicken and veggies. As always, feel free to bring a dessert to share.

See you on April 4 at noon!

—Sandy Perkinson

Easter Egg Hunt

Hippity Hop! Easter is on its way! We will host our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch immediately following worship on Palm Sunday, April 14th. Following lunch we will offer games, crafts, the Bunny Hop (like a Cake Walk) and of course....finding eggs!! If you are willing to provide "child sized" items for the Bunny Hop, please sign up in the vestibule! We look forward to a fun afternoon and hope you will join us!!



—Debbie Jacobs

Troop 95 News

In March Troop 95 completed the Law Merit Badge and had a fun orienteering trip during which we completed two trails in just over two hours. Next we will have a biking Campout the first weekend of April.

If you know of any middle of high schoolers interested in scouting, please send them to Scribe Davis Bell or Scoutmaster Evans Horne.

As always we send our thanks to First Presbyterian Church for their continued support of Troop 95.

—Davis Bell, Scribe





SPECIAL OFFERINGS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

Art Pilgrimage
April 15-17, 10 a.m. –7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Sunrise Service
Sunset Memorial Park
7:00 a.m.



Easter Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m.



Easter Worship Service
11:00 a.m.



Flowering the Cross
following worship

Midweek Lenten Services
First Presbyterian Church
Wednesdays at Noon

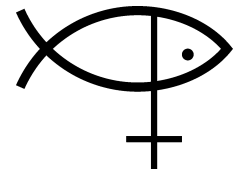
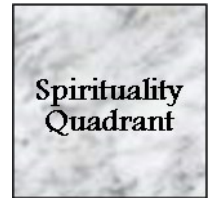
April 3
Meagan Matthews
Centenary United Methodist Church

April 10
Lee Colbert
First Baptist Church

April 17
Jim Melnyk
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Midweek
Lenten Services



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2019

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

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

Communications and Technology Updates

An appeal for volunteers to serve as Sunday Shepherds for 2019 is now being made. A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. This volunteer remains at the Reception Desk during worship to monitor the front door and hallways. Please contact Debbie Jacobs if more information is needed.

COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY



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! An updated directory is now available through the eNews and will be updated quarterly. Please check the latest update to ensure we have your contact information correctly!

—Debbie Jacobs

FPC Is No Longer in the Dark!



Dot Ellmore commented, "Last Monday night as I was leaving the Bible Study at First Baptist to go to my car in our parking lot, I was fiddling around in my bag to find the flashlight I always use, when I discovered to my surprise, I didn't need it!" Have you ever had trouble finding the curb as you left the building after dark? Thanks to the generous gift of an anonymous donor, you will no longer have that problem.

Kenny Duncan of the Property Team, with the help of an electrician, installed the three new exterior lights, two of which are pictured above. Here's a photo of him working on the wiring Kenny-style.



First Presbyterian Church Operating Results January—February 2019

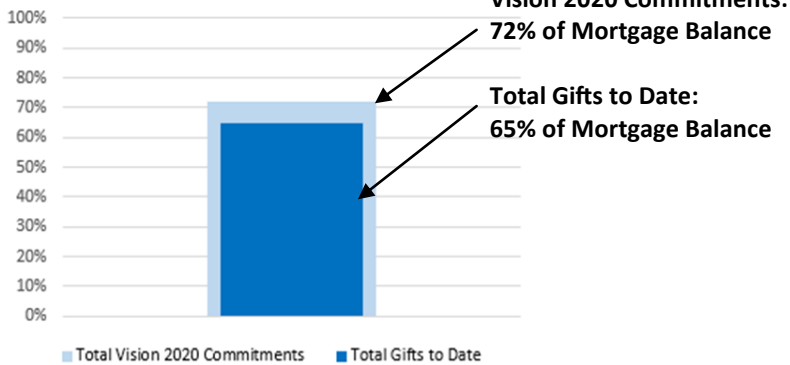
	Actual	Budget
Revenue		
General Offering	30,190	28,275
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	4,239	5,227
Mission Outreach Quadrant	1,182	2,758
Spirituality Quadrant	23,033	26,095
Stewardship Quadrant	17,607	19,649
Total Disbursements	46,016	53,729
Net Income/(Deficit)	(15,871)	(25,454)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 2/28/2019

Pledge Gifts	393,051
Memorials/Honorariums	28,324
Other Gifts	61,232
Total Gifts	482,606

Total VISION 202 Commitments	537,386
Mortgage Balance	744,999

Vision 2020 Campaign



—Jaime Beasley

The Property Box



- ◆ Before you borrow anything to take home from the church, please clear it with the church office.
- ◆ If you received a church key for a position you no longer hold, please return it to the church office. Someone else needs it now.
- ◆ If you are the chair of a meeting, it is your responsibility to make sure the building is locked up tight before you leave.

Thank you,
Your Property Team



An Easter Carol

Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger,
Stronger than the dark, the light.
Stronger than the wrong, the right,
Faith and Hope triumphant say
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

—Phillips Brooks



Stewardship
Quadrant

PYC Cross Mission Trip April 26-28

The PYC are heading to Myer's Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte to be immersed in urban ministries through Myer's Park's CROSS MISSION program. We will be staying in the church's gymnasium and will return on Sunday after worshipping with the church in their early morning service.



Montreat Youth Conference Deposit Deadline: May 1

Excitement is already building for this summer's trip to Montreat! As an incentive to commit earlier, a non-refundable \$100 deposit will lock in your student. Other than travel meals, the camp offering, and snacks/souvenirs, all other expenses will be generously covered by our budgeted youth conference funds. After May 1, we are increasing the non-refundable deposit to \$250 if you add a student after that date, so please let Todd know soon if your student will be participating. However, if you have any extenuating circumstances concerning making a deposit by May 1, please contact Todd Higginson. Montreat Youth Conference is open to all high school youth who will begin 9th grade this fall through students who complete 12th grade this year. We also expect for all youth participants to actively help with fundraising efforts throughout the year.

—Todd Higginson

"Rise and Shine"

...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

— Matthew 5:16b (NRSV)

When I was in grade school, computer games were primitive, but I was still excited about the possibilities. For those slightly more senior than me, you can fondly recall making tedious art projects in your typing classes... Well, the educational computer games were pretty terrible in the early 1980s, but kids were still happy to go to the computer lab to stare at green screens. These were depressing times when disks were big and floppy and we were left with less than exciting gaming options like "Fraction Munchers" where the object was: try not to be "killed" by the Troggle monsters. Another glib option was to experience "The Oregon Trail" game, where your goal was to make it out west without dying. There are no Troggles on the Oregon Trail, but I typically died of dysentery before reaching the goal. At least they allowed you to type your own epitaph for your tombstone...



In my other role as a hospice chaplain, I spend much of my time with people at the end stages of their lives. Regardless of whether one lives to be 109 or 9 years old, life is brief—and people typically do not want to be remembered for a disease, disability, or disorder. During the Lenten season, we reflect on Jesus' death and great sacrifice for our behalf...but we are not called to remain there. Easter is much more than a day for feast and celebration—a day of chocolate and pageantry and pastels. Resurrection changes everything and it offers us opportunities to shine throughout the year as Easter people.

Resurrection offers us a daily opportunity to celebrate life with hope; it encourages us to pause to make the most of this fleeting, remarkable life. We will soon proclaim together, "Alleluia! He is risen!" May we rise and shine to reflect the light of Christ into the darkest places we travel. May we hold tight to resurrection hope and serve boldly in the light that Christ provides.

Many blessings,
Todd Higginson



**VBS 2019
One-Day Event
Saturday, June 22
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

Howdy Partners!
Saddle up for a trailblazing Saturday of fun! Kids and adults will kick up their heels at FPC as they

stampede through the wild frontier and celebrate the greatest truth of all — God is good!

If you are interested in helping in any way, contact Nichole Booker, Kelly Coats, Shelley Roberts, or Jennifer Templeton.

The Evelyn Southerland Avera Scholarship

It is time to apply for the Evelyn Southerland Avera Scholarship. 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. It is open to any student who is currently enrolled in college. Download an application from our website and return it by June 15, 2019, to Debbie Jacobs.

—Debbie Jacobs



New Hope Presbytery Youth Council Applications Due April 30, 2019

Our high school youth are encouraged to apply to serve on New Hope Presbytery's Youth Council! As a member of the youth council, youth will actively prepare and lead middle and high school retreats. This is a rich opportunity for personal and spiritual growth—as well as something that will serve you well on future college, scholarship, and job applications! Go to <http://nhpresbytery.org/committees/youth-leadership> for more information and to download the application. Contact Todd if you have any questions. Applications and references must be postmarked and mailed to New Hope Presbytery by April 30, 2019.

—Todd Higginson



*Hippity, hoppity,
Happy
Easter
Day!*

