



ICHTHUS

January 2019

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Reflections in the Water: This Is Us



“When you’re a mom, you get a front row seat to the best show in town: watching your kids grow up.”
—Rebecca Pearson (program character), *This Is Us*, Season 2: Brothers

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” —Jeremiah 29:11

A current television show, *This Is Us*, has a plot formula different from many stories. In brief, it is the story of three siblings, one of whom is adopted and of a different race. The show jumps back and forth through their life of the family members showing differing perspectives from different moments in their individual lives. It’s a lot of plot to try to follow. I feel there is a similar storytelling within the life the Church in which I experience the life faith from a particular perspective within a/the moment of the Eternal Now or the big picture of creation that holds our past, present, and future together from the point of view of God.

The start of a new calendar year is also a time for communal and personal self-examination. We make new plans, budgets, undertake new resolutions in the hope that we may change the end result for the coming year for the better. In community the change is sometimes referred to as growth pangs because there always seems to be discomfort involved with new chapters. Within the Church, reformed and always reforming according to the Will of God, these changes can affect us at our deepest core of understanding of who we are. 2019 brings new things to our community of faith. With thanksgiving I recognize the faithful service of two individuals: Martha Chapman who has served as our Director of Music and Cathy Allen, our disbursing treasurer, both of whom have given generously and selflessly of their abundant talents to the life of this congregation in worship and stewardship of our resources in their respective roles. With the new year and also with thanksgiving, we welcome Jaime Henderson Beasley as our new Finance Team Chair and prayerfully continue our search for a new Director of Music and Disbursing Treasurer.

In the midst of change my faith in obedience to Christ is that there is a purpose and plan being worked out as the promises of God remain steadfast and faithful in regard to the Church. One particular thanksgiving and vision for hope in the midst of new year change was the recent post of a photo from our recent youth lock-in. I have stared at this group image of youth and its leadership in the waning weeks of December and it causes me to reflect back over the past decade with thanksgiving. I see in their faces God’s assured promise of a future and hope for the Church. I can envision a church that mirrors even more faithfully the community and neighbors who surround us. In the midst of change, God assuredly has plans for our welfare and for our future.

Peace and grace be with you,

Pastor Joe



Add to
your
prayer
list

Prayerful Support for
Eleanor Bell at Barbour Court
Bernice Johnson, Autumn Care of Nash
John MacFadyen at Springbrook Rehab
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Virginia Williams in Laurinburg
Marie Atkins at Springbrook Rehab

Billy Best
John Booker
Ruth Daniel
Dot Ellmore
Tom Harder
Susan Hill at Springbrook Rehab
Trish Horne
Freddy Johnson
Tom Johnson
Shannon Kimball
Joe Klutz
David Lee
Nancy Lee
Bill Leist
Sandra Lester
Tony Lester
Miriam Lore
Earl Marett
Jill Merrick
Becky Peele
Benny Pope
Ann Ragland
Chap Ragland
Peter Russell
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Linda Wells is in Mt. Olive
William Wells
Lucy Worley at Brian Center
Rebecca Ziady
Joseph Hester, Sr.

Christian sympathy to the family of Mary Alice Thomas who died December 1, 2018. A memorial service will be held in our church on January 26, 2019.

memorials
& gifts

Donors: Anonymous, David and Elizabeth Johnson, Wayne and Diane Dockery, John and Meg Scovil, Andy and Em Gemmell

Honorariums for Tom and Sandra Johnson, Myra Wallace, Camille Boone, Joseph Hester, Dot Ellmore, Maxine McFadyen, Ted Dockery, Eve Creech, Em and Andy Gemmell, Ann and Rich Huckenbeck, Betsy Olive, Linda Crowder, John and Janet Lampe, Jimmy Hooks, Phyllis Parrish, Benny and Pam Pope, Mary Banner, Kevin and Anne Koebley, Ed and Kathy Hartman, Nancy Earp, Don and Laure Lee, Smithfield Friends and Family

Memorials for Becky Baggett, Hunter Corbett, Frank Holding, Walton Parker, Tom Parrish, Ted Wells, Tom Barbour, Debbie Henderson, Hilda Worsham, Walt Lassiter, Shirley Williams, Martha Rogers, Ruth Bell, Mary Alice Thomas, Dan Banner



Julie Duncan for her work with Christmas in a Barn **Ragged Company** for their participation in Christmas in a Barn

Camille Boone for leading the music for Christmas in a Barn

All the members, parents, and children who came and/or participated in Christmas in a Barn

Martha Chapman for her time as our Director of Music. We will miss her.

All who participated in the Angel Tree and the **Knolls, Schmidts, and Dot Ellmore** who set it up and organized it.

Martha Taylor, Joy Worsham, Pam Bolin, and all others who helped make the Relay for Life Cookie Walk a success.

Cathy Allen for her years of service as Disbursing Treasurer and front desk volunteer. We will miss you!



HIGHLIGHTS

of December Session

- Approved approve a request to host a reception with light refreshments to thank Martha Chapman for her years as Director of Music
- Approved a recommendation from the Finance Team to name Bobby Cox as our Disbursing Treasurer and Jaime Beasley as Finance Team Chair for 2019.
- Approve a request for Continuing Education Leave for the pastor for January 17-24, 2019, and March 21-28, 2019.
If you have items you wish to bring before Session, contact Debbie Jacobs, Clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs



**Christmas
in a
Barn 2018**

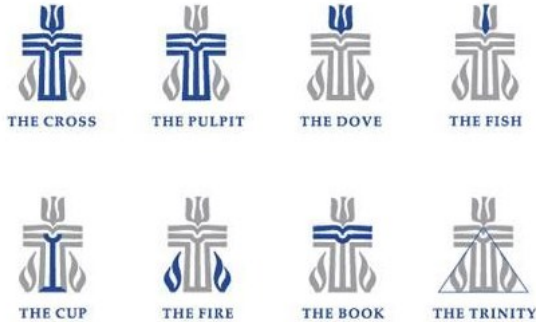


PC(USA) Logo

In the past few months, you may have noticed the new picture of the Presbyterian Church (USA) symbol that is hanging above the fireplace in the vestibule. It is a gift from Tony and Sandra Lester. The piece had hung in the Faith Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA, since 1965. This is the church in which Sandra was raised and where she and Tony were married. When the Newport News Church closed in 2015, the piece was given to the Lester family and they recently gave it to us. We appreciate their generosity.

The official seal of PC(USA) was adopted in 1985. The Celtic cross represents the incarnate love of God in Jesus Christ. The cross also represents the open book of the scriptures. At the top of the cross is the descending dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Beneath the book is the suggestion of a lectern used in the preaching of the Bible. The flames convey a double meaning: a symbol of the revelation of Moses witnessing the burning bush and the beginning of the Christian church when Christ manifested himself to his apostles at Pentecost, charging them to be messengers of the good news of God's love. The triangle is the traditional symbol of the Trinity and suggests the church's government is balance and order, dividing authority among the clergy, elders, and the church's governing body. The fish is in the shape of the descending dove, recalling the ministry of Christ to those who hunger. The lower central part of the image has a baptismal font or a communion chalice — both images of the sacraments are the ongoing sign of God's presence with us and working through us.

—Hubert Schmidt



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 \$785 that we made at the Cookie Walk! It would not have been possible without your support! We sold out, and therefore were not able to provide cookies for Christmas in a Barn. Our apologies to anyone we may have inconvenienced!

—Martha Taylor, Team Captain



Cookie Walk

Bingo for Relay

If you like to play Bingo and help raise money for a great cause, then mark your calendars for Sunday, January 27 from 1-4:00 p.m. at Hinnant Vineyards in Pine Level! The church's Relay for Life team is presenting Big Hearts Bingo with all proceeds going to Relay for Life and Team #37.

So how can you join in the fun? Around January 1, Hinnant Vineyards will post a link to buy tickets on their website. Tickets in advance are \$12. You will receive three Bingo cards and a ticket for a glass of wine upon check in on the 27th. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15 a person. A variety of vendors will be on site with prizes and items for purchase.

If you have any questions about tickets or the event, see Martha Taylor, team Captain, Pam Pope, or any member of the Relay team. See you there!

—Martha Taylor, Team Captain



Angel Tree Helps Many

The Mission Outreach Quadrant thanks the congregation for its generosity in participating in our Angel Tree Mission Project for the Smithfield Rescue Mission this Christmas season. A total of 30 angel cards were taken — 15 for women, men, and children, and 15 for general mission supplies. We made Christmas brighter for a lot of people.

—Dot Ellmore



January JOY

We heard an angel sing at JOY Connection on December 6. Shelley Maddox presented a lovely program of sacred and secular Christmas songs, including *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Before the Marvel of This Night* as special dedications to choir members. Casey Whaley Childers accompanied Shelly perfectly, and the crowd was charmed. We even stopped eating dessert to listen. Her final song was Silent Night which Shelley's husband and our former choir director Dwight Dockery was a perfect ending to her program.

To add to the splendid event, we enjoyed a fine meal of roast pork *a la* Jake Jacobs, roasted rosemary potatoes, green beans, and pineapple casserole. The tables were festive thanks to Anita Liverman.

Our January JOY will feature a representative from the Guardian Ad Litem Program. Hubert and Judy Schmidt and friends will provide our meal. Please sign up at the welcome desk or call the church to reserve your spot.

Happy New Year!

—Sandy Perkinson



SECU Hospice News

The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers and staff of SECU Hospice House, Smithfield, eight times a year to provide an opportunity for our congregation to share our support and care to the families with loved one there by providing and serving a meal for them. Special thanks to Betsy Olive, Eve Creech, and Judy Lee for providing desserts on Wednesday, December 12, and to Betsy Olive and Joe Hester for providing lunch on Saturday, December 11.

Lisa and Frank Deans are coordinating our next meal on Sunday, January 27, 2019. If you would like to participate, please check out the sign up sheet in the vestibule.

Thank you for your continued support of this caring mission.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



Troop 95 News

In December, Troop 95 had our Christmas party where we played games, ate pizza, and had a great time! On behalf of everyone from Troop 95, we would like to thank all of you who helped us in 2018 and we wish you all a very merry Christmas!!

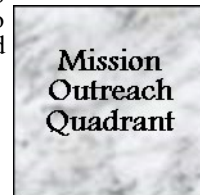
If you know of any Middle or High Schoolers who are interested in Scouting, please direct them to our Senior Patrol Leader Davis Bell or our Scoutmaster Evans Horne so they can partake in the new upcoming Scout Year.

—Davis Bell, Troop 95 Scribe



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Each year during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift to us by providing assistance to current and retired church workers and helping to develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related colleges in equipping communities of color.





Elders

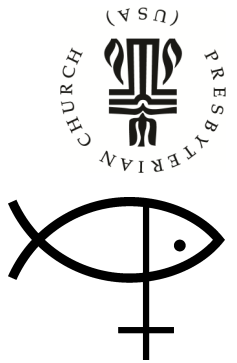
Class of 2021

Julie Pearce, Hubert Schmidt, Patrick Templeton

Class of 2021

Amy Harder, Anita Liverman, Pam Schall, Teron Sloan (two-year term), Pam Withrow

Election following worship on Sunday, January 1, 2019



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2019

Smithfield, NC 27577

PO Box 1159

First Presbyterian Church

PERMIT #93

SMITHFIELD, NC 27577

USPOSTAGE

NON-PROFIT STD MAIL

From the Director of Youth and Children's Ministries Happy New Boundaries!

*You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

*Before a word is on my tongue, you Lord, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
- Psalm 139:1-7 NIV*

My first inclination was to write a snarky newsletter article about resolutions. In my mind, it would have been titled something like, “#hashtagresolution” and I was going to rant a bit about my disdain for both hashtags and resolutions that stick like a politician’s promises on the night before election day. For those who are confused by hashtags, they are that annoying “pound key” found on your phone that you sometimes bang when you are trying to find a human customer service representative. Good luck with that!

On the internet, people use this symbol to create useless phrases that were intended to gather information. If a large number of people posted on Facebook and other social media sites things like, “#ilovepcsmithfield,” then our church may start to “trend.” That means that we would have half a second of the public’s short attention span. The hashtag, however, is usually misused by people, however. They just make up something at the end of their social media post. “#canigetaname?”

At this point, you may realize that half of my article has been dedicated to my first inclination...I have not digressed. Here comes the segue. Hashtags are dumb (hash browns are delicious). Resolutions are most often well-intentioned, but temporary. Healthy boundaries, however, are something worth reaching for in this new year.

We are all pulled in so many directions in our hectic lives. There are many worthwhile opportunities, but knowing when and how to say “no,” “not now,” or “not this time” can make one’s life much more balanced. As someone who frequently asks people for help, I would much prefer to hear one of those “no” variety responses versus a flimsy yes if that person is unable to fully commit. Sometimes we have to say “no” to very good things.

Seeking and maintaining healthy boundaries can become a spiritual discipline. I love the psalmist’s imagery, “you hem me in behind and before.” We are also reminded of God’s constant and comforting presence wherever we go. But by this point, you may be thinking, “Thanks, Todd for the *Just Say No* pass.” Wrong. This is where the spiritual discipline comes in—through prayer and discernment...and sometimes asking for some time to pause and think before immediately responding, we can say “yes” or “no” with more intentionality.

My hope is that with God’s help, we will allow more space for balance and grace in 2019! #wecandoit

Blessings,
Todd Higginson

Wee Kirk Developments and Updates

We have been blessed to have a healthy number of children participate in our Wee Kirk programming. At its heart, Wee Kirk teaches children about worship and the Bible and provides a safe place to ask questions as we educate and raise the next generation of Christ followers.

Education Quadrant leaders and I have been meeting and communicating on a regular basis and we have been continuing this important ministry since the untimely death of Ruth Bell. Under Ruth’s faithful and loving leadership, Wee Kirk was mostly led through Ruth’s tireless efforts. Since then, we have been securing various leaders each week, but we have been building some structures and themes for the New Year with hopes that we can create a sustainable model that builds up new leadership in the program.

Educational
Quadrant

Wee Kirk, continued

Each month in 2019, a Bible story will be featured each month. Every week will reinforce that particular passage in a different way and Wee Kirk will carry on teaching about worship roles, making worship more meaningful and participatory for our young people. The overall structure looks a little like this:



First Sunday (Communion): We will go through the full order of worship and introduce the Bible story.

Second Sunday: We will retell the Bible story and do a craft.

Third Sunday: We will retell the Bible story through a drama, game, or other activity, and then reflect.

Fourth Sunday: This Sunday each month is devoted to music with Miss Camille.

Fifth Sunday: Four times a year there is a Fifth Sunday. When this occurs, we will engage in a hands-on mission project.

We are working on creating a rotation of adult leaders willing to lead on various Sundays. Further, we are also assigning one youth helper each Sunday—this has been tested over the fall and has been successful so far. There are various ways you can help:

1. Please pray for our young people, our ministries, and our leaders!
2. We could always use snack supplies for the kids (goldfish crackers, gummy fruit snack pouches, paper bathroom cups)
3. Are you willing to serve as a Wee Kirk adult leader or helper? We will provide the resources, training, and support! Contact Todd Higginson, Jennifer Templeton, or Debbie Jacobs for more information.

—Todd Higginson

KIDZ Making Music

Kathy Rice and I have just completed nine weeks of working with children in grades two through five, teaching them about choir chimes, handbells, African drums, and Orff instruments. We have had such fun! Iris Anaruma and Brace Booker have been our faithful assistants. Davis Bell and Molly Harder helped us on several occasions. And I hope I haven’t left out any other names. Rodney Sawrey from Centenary UMC has been our faithful adult go-to person, making sure our hallways and children are well supervised. She was there to see that children left the building only when parents were ready to pick up them.



Most Wednesday afternoons we have ten students. They were divided according to age, and each group had 45 minutes in the two classes. Kathy and I are amazed at how much the children learned and how much they enjoyed all we did. They sang and played instruments in November for a worship service. They were prepared to participate in the service on December 9, but the weather caused that service to be cancelled.

Kathy, Rodney, and I are going to spend some time in January planning a spring session. We feel that we can accommodate more children and hope that you will spread the word.

—Camille Boone

This is a time to be born.
So we turn to you, God of our life,
God of all our years,
God of our beginning . . .
We dare pray that you will do for us
And among us and through us
What is needful for our newness.
Give us the power to be receptive,
To take the newness you give.
There is a time to be born, and it is now.
We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.
Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen

—Walter Brueggemann

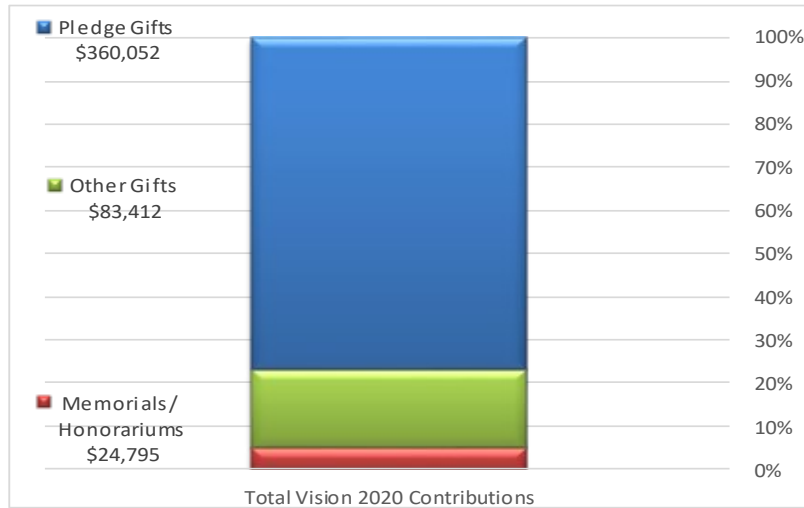


First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results: January—November 2018

	<u>Jan—Nov 2018 Actual</u>	<u>Jan—Nov 018 Budget</u>
Revenue		
General Offering	245,405.94	155,514.37
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	33,468.35	28,929.01
Mission Outreach Quadrant	13,050.23	14,987.39
Spirituality Quadrant	145,893.03	149,245.14
Stewardship Quadrant	99,778.08	102,349.39
Total Disbursements	<u>292,189.69</u>	<u>295,510.93</u>
Net Income/(Deficit)	(46,783.75)	(139,996.56)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 11/30/2018

\$ 360,052	Pledge Gifts
\$ 24,795	Memorials/Honorariums
\$ 83,412	Other Gifts
\$ 468,259	Total Gifts
\$ 537,386	Total VISION 2020 Commitments
\$ 763,528	Mortgage Balance



—Cathy Allen

Communications and 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!

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.

—Debbie Jacobs

**COMMUNICATION &
TECHNOLOGY**



Reception Desk

**Stewardship
Quadrant**



**Undecorating
with Nancy**

**Volunteers Needed
Monday, January 7
9:00 a.m.**

Come have fun with us!

2019 Flower Calendar

January 6	Eve Creech
January 13	
January 20	Judy Miller
January 27	Joy Worsham
February 3	Betsy Olive
February 10	Hope Wells
February 17	
February 24	
March 3	Pam Pope
March 10	
March 17	Sandy Perkinson
March 24	
March 31	
April 7	John Shallcross family
April 14	Nancy Lee — Palm Sunday
April 21	Hank Roberson
April 28	Hope Wells
May 5	Jo James
May 12	John Shallcross family
May 19	Hank Roberson
May 26	Debbie Jacobs
June 2	Em Gemmell
June 9	Rebecca Ziady
June 16	Bob Worsham
June 23	Hank Roberson
June 30	
July 7	Sandra Johnson
July 14	Ellen Adams
July 21	Shirley Booker
July 28	Hank Roberson
August 4	Steve Chance
August 11	Eleanor Horne
August 18	Betsy Olive
August 25	Beth Daniel
September 1	Jim Henderson
September 8	Camille Boone
September 15	
September 22	Lisa Deans
September 29	Judy Schmidt
October 6	
October 13	Amy Feinberg
October 20	Shirley Booker
October 27	Pam Pope
November 3	Billy Duncan
November 10	Hank Roberson
November 17	Ruth Daniel
November 24	Judy Lee

**December: Advent & Christmas
flowers and greenery**

If you are interested in claiming one of the untaken Sundays, please contact the church office.

**Spirituality
Quadrant**