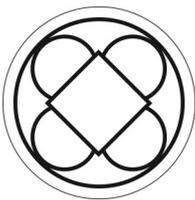




**In This Issue:**

From the Pastor  
From the Director of  
Youth Ministries

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- Ringers Information
- Avera Scholarship
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- New Hope Older Adult Award
- Relay for Life
- Stewardship
- Youth Sunday



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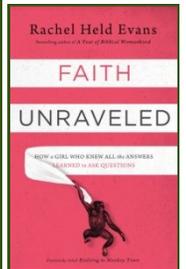
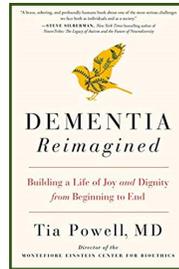
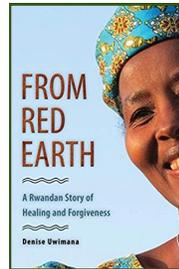
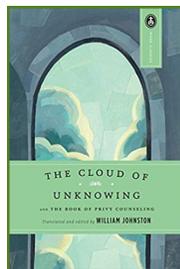
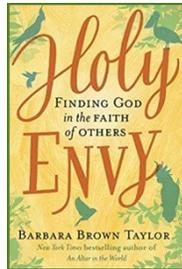
# ICHTHUS

## June 2019

### Reflections in the Water: Conversation and Coffee: A Summer Reading List

*“By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.”*  
—Ephesians 3:4

*“All the arts come from God and are to be respected as divine inventions”* — John Calvin



The Memorial Day weekend is now upon us as I write signaling the start of the summer season. Our energies are shifting from indoor work to outdoor plans for gardens, travel to beaches, mountains, and family occasions, as well as a respite from school and perhaps just catching up on to do lists. Every year I develop a summer reading list a habit from my school days. Kindle type devices, audiobooks, as well as a hardcover books provide opportunities to share the ideas of others, challenge our thinking and be transported to new realms from the comfort of our personal space.

Several years ago Oprah Winfrey began her monthly book club to encourage reading as well as community connections among people. In the same vein I've attempted here to select several books relevant to spiritual growth as well as reflecting on real world issues written by gifted authors. This year I invite you to join me in conversations over the summer about one or more of these books. Or simply come for good company and conversation over a cup of coffee or cold beverage. My recommendations here are varied real world issues but have in common a spiritual thread for personal reflection that includes the nature of prayer, grace, healing, forgiveness, compassion, and the sacredness of life.

*Our first coffee and conversation will be at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at Starbucks in Smithfield with the book **Holy Envy** by Barbara Brown Taylor. I've had the good fortune to attend several speaking engagements with Dr. Taylor. She is regarded by many mainline Protestant churches as one of the leading preachers and writers on 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Christianity, and she shares her most recent work to speak of living as a Christian in a multi-faith environment and what we share and can learn from others in this context while remaining true to our own confession. The book is written with humor, humility, and sensitivity to the presence of God moving within our lives through the presence of others.*

I hope to continue these gatherings over the summer as relaxing opportunities to share with other venues and times to be announced, discuss and think together without a formal structure, enjoy one another's company, and perhaps share a good book among friends.

Peace and grace,

Pastor Joe.



Add to  
your  
prayer  
list

### Prayerful Support for

Eleanor Bell at Barbour Court  
Bernice Johnson, Autumn Care of Nash  
John McFadyen at Brookdale, Raleigh  
Alice Narron at Smithfield Manor  
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh  
Virginia Williams in Laurinburg

Lucy Worley at BellaRose Nursing and Rehab, Garner  
Marie Atkins at Smithfield Manor  
Ann Hobgood, Savannah, GA  
Tom Barwick  
John Booker  
Shirley Booker  
Beth Daniel  
Ruth Daniel  
Jo James  
Freddy Johnson  
Tom Johnson  
Nancy Lee  
Sandra Lester  
Tony Lester  
Bill Leist  
Miriam Lore, Smithfield Manor Rehab  
Earl Maret  
Jill Merrick  
Becky Peele  
Benny Pope  
Chap Ragland  
Peter Russell  
Judy Schmidt  
Nelson Vaughn  
Betty Welch  
Linda Wells in Mt. Olive  
William Wells  
Joseph Hester, Sr.  
Graham Davis, brother of Eleanor Horne  
Ralph Mosley, brother of Dot Ellmore



### Music for the Lunch Bunch 2019 Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

June 19

**Dara Edwards and Students, piano**

June 26

**Ella Ann Holding, piano**

July 10

**Isaac Bruton and Jim Grant, piano and vocals**

July 17

**Dexter Ruffin, piano**

July 24

**Carolina Youth Theater  
Numbers from The Wizard of Oz**

July 31

**Smithfield Jazz Quartet, Ned Attayek, Virgil Early,  
Wingate Lassiter, and Jess Pittard**

August 7

**Golden Girls, vocals**

**August 14**

**at Benson Baptist Church**

**Todd Johnson, Donna Stephenson, and Will Massengill  
organ and vocals**

August 21

**Neuse Little Theatre  
at The Hut**

**Numbers celebrating August 21**



Music for the Lunch Bunch is  
grassroots funded by  
the Johnston County Arts Council  
and the NC Arts Council



Dear Church Family,

I am pleased to say that I have finished another round of classes and exams at Lees-McRae College. The semester went by so quickly! I was recently inducted into Alpha Chi, the National Collegiate Honor Society, and was able to serve as a marshal during graduation. I also received the Leadership Award for cheer, MVP for Residence Life, and was just voted Vice President of Order of the Tower (a presidential honor society on campus).



I enjoyed being home with you all for a few weeks and hope to visit again soon! Most of my summer will be spent taking summer courses and working as the day camp director for Holston Presbytery Camp located in Banner Elk. If you're ever in the area be sure to let me know!

I am looking forward to a wonderful summer, full of adventure and new opportunities. I can't wait to share camp stories with everyone.

Love and prayers,  
Madeline Horne

### HIGHLIGHTS of May Session

- Approved selecting Hubert Schmidt as our recipient of the New Hope Presbytery's Older Adult Ministry Award. Session will be meeting during the next couple of weeks with the deacons and other church leaders to review the results of the recent survey. Session will also be determining a way to share the data received with the entire congregation.

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

—Debbie Jacobs

**memorials & gifts** Memorials: Susan Hill, Shannon Kimball, Tim Broome, Jessie Stephenson  
Donors: Tommy and Camille Boone, Judith H. Traylor, Rob and Jamie Dreussi, Carolyn Williams, Emery and Kimberly Ashley, Otis and Linda Collier, Dr. and Mrs. William Smith



**JUNE 16, 2019**

## Yes We Can!

The contributed food items keep coming in for Yes We Can. FPC donated 55 items in May.

In a recent conversation with John Parrish, Chairman of the Smithfield Ministries Food Closet, I learned the following information about the Food Closet:



- Twenty-three organizations participate in the Food Closet. Twelve of those are churches.
- Three counties involved are Harnett, Lee and Johnston. Mr. Parrish said that maybe 10 requests from Lee and Harnett counties are made each month, but the majority of request by far are from Johnston County.
- Twenty-two volunteers assist the food closet each month. The suggested amount of time to volunteer is two-and-a-half hours per week. Some volunteer an hour a week and others, five hours a week. Mr. Parrish says volunteers are always welcome and can contact him at 919-280-6180 to arrange a time for training and developing a work schedule.
- Annually, a \$2,000 grant from the national Presbyterian Church (USA) is awarded to the Johnston County Food Bank.
- Monthly, 1800 people representing about 600 families receive groceries from the Food Closet.
- First Presbyterian is a major contributor to the local food bank that provides so much for so many people in need.

—Hubert Schmidt

## Our Missionaries in Niger, the McGills

Our missionaries, the McGills, recently had some of their major plans for the residents of Niamey, Niger changed. Jim had some major health problems, was flown to Paris for two surgeries, had some time to recuperate, and then was flown to Decatur, Georgia for healing at the Mission Haven/Headquarters. Last report was that Jim was to return to Niger at the end of April.



Jody, Jim's wife, stayed in Niger while Jim was recovering. She recently wrote a lengthy report on what is taking place in their mission area. Last October, Jim assisted in the completion of a structure (made from old train box cars) that houses a place for training and manufacturing various rope pumps, sanitation, slabs, water recharge, retention of water to reuse, and sanitation (latrines). All of these projects lead to "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" (WaSH) programs, partially sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Jody continues to get the new nursing school (approved by the Niger government) ready for training and to give advice to citizens. This is done with cooperation from surrounding colleges and agencies. These efforts are raising the living and health standard for the people of Niger.

Please keep the McGills, their staff, their patients, and all their efforts in your prayers for the improvement of the Nigerian population.

—Hubert Schmidt

## Mission and Outreach Quadrant

The Mission and Outreach Quadrant continues to promote the contribution of individual projects that are encouraged and sponsored by our church. Among those activities are fulfilling the missions of Joy Connections, Boy Scouts, PALS, SAM's Food Closet, Hospice, Habitat, outreach to our homebound members, Relay for Life, Missions and Missionaries, etc. All of these programs are supported by our membership and congregation.



Some areas we want to encourage implementation are:

- The development of inner faith programs that would strive for closer cooperation between different religious groups in the community.
- The improvement of communication and activities between youth programs and the total church.

Julie Pearce is heading the group in creating new ways to improve our attendance and membership. Julie and M & O have lots of ideas that will be shared with the session and congregation.

Again, if you are interested in being a part of the Mission and Outreach Quadrant, we would be enthusiastic about discussing your ideas and interests to further our mission in church and community.

—Hubert Schmidt

## Relay for Life

I want to thank everyone who was involved in this year's Relay for Life. The weather certainly added a challenge, causing us to end two and a half hours early. Nonetheless, we raised almost \$9,000. That certainly qualifies as another successful Relay event for Team 37.

Thank you!



—Martha Taylor

## Habitat for Humanity

One in four persons in Johnston and Wake Counties lack access to affordable housing. (The U.S. government regards housing costs at or below 30% of one's income to be affordable.) Habitat for Humanity is trying to address affordable housing in two ways. First, generate as many affordable housing units as possible. (The goal is to increase house production in Johnston County from one house to five houses per year.) Second, Habitat for Humanity calls attention to the issue so that a number of forces can address the whole situation.

The direct cost of a house usually is close to the appraised value. The home buyer purchases a house with sweat equity and a mortgage. The mortgage is for the appraised value of the house. Volunteer labor and financial donations to Habitat for Humanity make it possible for mortgage payments to be subsidized so that the payment is at or below 30% of the buyer's income. Financial donations and Restore donations also cover the cost of non-construction staff overhead.

This year, Habitat for Humanity is constructing 2 houses in Selma as part of the ramp up to 5 houses per year in Johnston County. One house is almost complete and a second house will begin construction June 1 with a wall raising on June 1 at 208 N. Sharpe Street in Selma. FPC is signed up to work on June 1.

Volunteers are needed for June 1 as well as on following Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays until the house is complete which is anticipated for August. If you would like to volunteer, register at <https://habitatwake.volunteerhub.com/lp/johnstoncountycoalition>. If you registered last year, you may have to confirm the information they have on hand. You can then sign up to work. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Knoll at [gjknoll841@gmail.com](mailto:gjknoll841@gmail.com) or at 919-607-7134.

First Presbyterian Church has set a goal of raising \$1000 for Habitat for Humanity this year. If you would like to contribute to Habitat for Humanity, you can write a check to First Presbyterian Church and writing "Habitat" in the memo line of the check. As of May 18, we have \$500 toward the goal. Please help make affordable housing available to those in need.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

## JOY Inspires

Our 2018-2019 JOY Connection season certainly went out on a high note! Thanks to a grant funded by the Johnston County Arts Council, we were treated to the incredible musical talent of Dexter Ruffin of Salem College. He performed several very difficult and incredibly beautiful pieces with apparent ease and humility, and several members of the audience remarked that his was the best program of the year.



JOY CONNECTION

Our meal was created by Debbie Jacobs, Lisa Deans, and Shirley Sharek and also received accolades. And the desserts! It seemed that everyone was in a baking mood. Homemade carrot cake, fudge pie, fresh pineapple cake, chocolate and lemon pound cakes, cobblers and apple pie made the perfect end to a perfect program and meal.

If you're a retiree, a stay-at-home grandmom or grandad, a widow or widower, have a long lunch break, or just want to get out of the house, plan to join us at First Presbyterian Church, the first Thursday in every month, September through May, for a delicious meal, an inspiring program, and delightful company. Hope to see you there!

—Sandy Perkinson

## Hospice Meals

Many thanks to Betsy Olive, Eve Creech and Pastor Joe for providing dinner at Hospice House on Sunday, May 12. Also thank you to Betsy and Eve for providing dessert on Wednesday, May 22.

First Presbyterian Church will also be providing dinner on Sunday, June 9. If you would like to participate, please check out the sign-up sheet in the Vestibule.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



Mission Outreach Quadrant



**Hubert Schmidt FPC's 2019 New Hope Older Adult Ministry Award Winner**

Hubert Conn Schmidt, Jr. is a blessing to First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield. We have come to rely on him for so many things during his seven years here. He and his wife came to us from Texas. A graduate of Weatherford College, Hubert had an impressive career as an educator, teaching first, second, seventh and eighth grades. He was a reading specialist as well as the diagnostician for and the coordinator of special education programs. He briefly served as a principal, but preferred the classroom. He and Judy have one daughter, Holly; a son-in-law, Kyle; and two grandsons, Harper and Asher.

Hubert currently serves as the chair of the Mission Outreach Quadrant. He has served as its secretary for two years and the Membership Chair for four years. Hubert is a very creative thinker. He and his committee have canvassed neighborhoods, leaving information about our church by their mailboxes. He has created bulletin boards that spotlight individual members of our church. Hubert is also a supporter of refugees and has volunteered with World Relief Durham.

An accomplished artist, Hubert's work has been displayed at the Clayton Center and the Clayton Steak House. He creates a new poster for our church each month to publicize our Yes We Can food drive for Smithfield Area Ministries' local food closet. Hubert also designs a Christmas card of our church each year for our PYC's Silent Auction. He created a bulletin board to keep our church informed of our work with Habitat for Humanity. He also helps to raise money for Habitat and volunteers for the Smithfield Rescue Mission. Hubert is a supporter of our program to provide meals for the local SECU Hospice House, regularly providing dishes for this outreach.

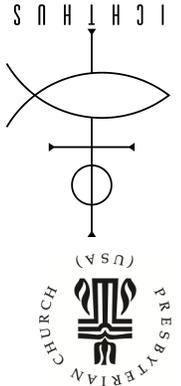
As outstanding gardener, Hubert has taken on the unpaid job of groundskeeper. Every Monday morning you can find him planting, pruning, fertilizing, trimming, watering, or mulching the lawn. He's a one-man crew. Hubert is an important part of our Property Committee and often serves as our handyman. One major accomplishment was helping a Scout receive his Eagle Award by transforming a leaky, useless storage area into a chapel. It became one of the loveliest and most spiritual rooms in our church.

Hubert attends weekly Bible study, and he and his wife provide coffee and refreshments for the group. He is also a member of the Henderson Sunday School Class.

Hubert is an Elder in the Class of 2021.

Besides all the tangible things Hubert Schmidt gives to First Presbyterian, Smithfield, he also shares his generous and loving spirit with all of us. Hubert is an encourager and a helper. There's a quote from another Presbyterian, Fred Rogers, which sums up Hubert Schmidt: "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

Hubert Schmidt is one of those people.



**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

June 2019

First Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 1159  
Smithfield, NC 27577

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



**MUSIC CAMP**  
 July 22—24  
 9:30 — 11:30 a.m.  
 First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield

**Registration Deadline: July 15**

Camille Boone, Jennifer Templeton, and Kathy Rice are presenting Music Camp for children ages four through fifth grade.

Their mission is to develop singing, dancing, and playing instruments.

Due to space limitations and for planning purposes, registration is required. Please call Camille at 919-464-6055 to register. Church members may bring children, grandchildren, or other relatives.



This camp is free to all participants.

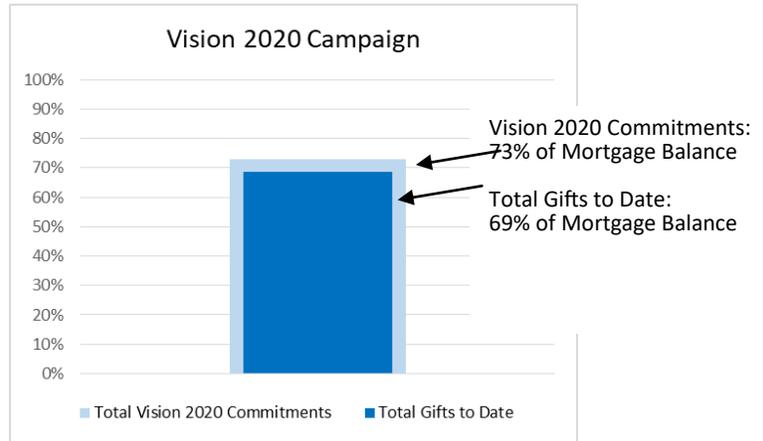


**First Presbyterian Church Operating Results**  
 January—April 2019

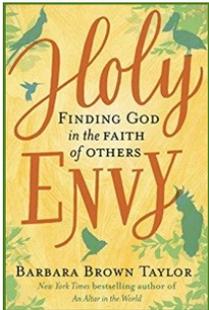
	Actual	Budgeted
<b>Revenue</b>		
General Offering	96,895	56,551
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Education Quadrant	9,034	19,453
Mission Outreach Quadrant	1,341	5,517
Spirituality Quadrant	46,726	52,191
Stewardship Quadrant	<u>43,441</u>	<u>39,298</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>100,542</b>	<b>107,459</b>
<b>Net Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(3,647)</b>	<b>(50,908)</b>

**VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 4/30/2019**

Pledge Gifts	413,499
Memorials/Honorariums	30,099
Other Gifts	<u>61,482</u>
<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>505,080</b>
<b>Total VISION 2020 Commitments</b>	<b>537,386</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>736,896</b>



—Jaime Beasley



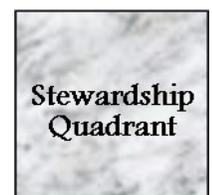
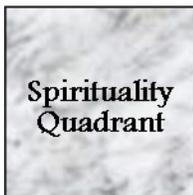
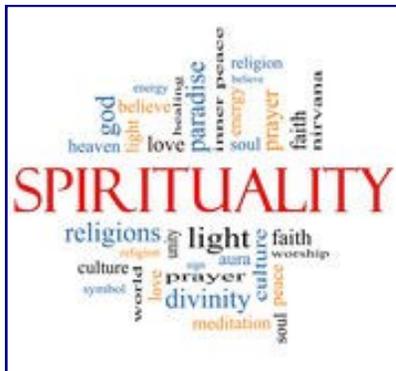
**Coffee and Conversation with the Pastor**  
 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
 Starbucks, Smithfield  
**Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor.**  
 Come Join Us!

**Communications and Technology News**

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



**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

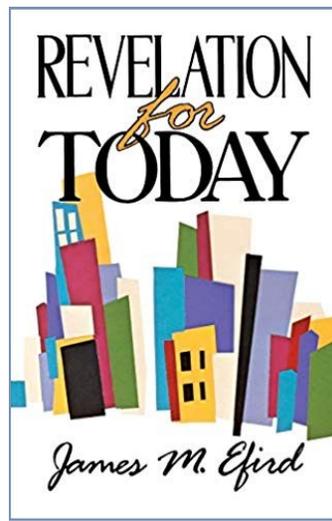
**Good Vibrations**

Such a strange decade, the 1960s... The Beach Boys came out with a hit song in 1966 titled, "Good Vibrations," featuring instruments one typically does not hear in pop music: cello, jaw harp, and an electronic Theremin. Even so, *Rolling Stone* magazine listed this at number 6 on its "500 Greatest Song List of All Time" (for what that is worth). It is a catchy, familiar song to many.

Such a strange place, the church. . . Here we are with our diversity of backgrounds, preferences, experiences, and generations. On Youth Sunday, we experienced center stage our PYC that we do not typically feature in worship as they led skits, graduate reflections, and as they shared about recent mission trip experiences. Sometimes we experience our youth as immature young people, but it was those young people who led us in worship and asked us to consider our hearts: Do we speak out for those who have a hard time speaking up for themselves? How do we honor God by lifting up our voices for others? Food for thought this summer.

It has been a privilege to serve with you again this academic year. Thank you for the opportunity! As a reminder, my role as your Director of Youth and Children's Ministries is predominately active 10 months of the year, with the youth conference week of Montreat serving as an exception. I do not keep office hours during most of the summer break until the end of the summer vacation nears. If you need to reach me for any reason, however, I am still accessible by email, phone, and text! Until our paths cross again, I will be sending you "good vibes" and will be remembering you in prayer. Have a wonderful summer!

Many blessings,  
Todd



June Bible Study  
Survey of the Book of  
Revelation

Based on Dr. Mickey Eford's  
Book, *Revelation for Today*

This study will endeavor to  
demystify this challenging  
scripture.

Wednesday, June 5, 19, 26  
10:00 a.m., Community Room



**PYC participates in  
Cross Mission 2019**



**Educational  
Quadrant**

**Summer Break for Troop 95**

In May, Troop 95 held its final meeting for the year. We also held our Court of Honor Ceremony during which we awarded 10 merit badges to our scouts.

We would like to congratulate Life Scouts Jude Reece and Davis Bell, both of whom are one rank away from their Eagle and have completed all the its required merit badges. They are now at work on their Eagle projects.

As we close another year we want to thank all of you for your support. We appreciate being able to keep Mr. Eddie Perkinson's troop alive for 23 years!

If you know someone interested in scouting, please contact Evans Horne or Davis Bell.

—Davis Bell



Harbor, Inc. needs summer supplies for kids: snacks, drinks, toys, and games. Place them in the basket in the great hall.

—Lee Johnson

