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OCTOBER 2019

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The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, NC

REFORMATION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 27

One Christ, Many Confessions

Reformed Theology from Geneva to Belhar



Three hundred years ago, William Dunlop, a professor of church history at the University of Edinburgh, published two volumes of confessions that had enjoyed “public authority” in Scotland since the Reformation. While the Westminster Standards filled the first volume, more than ten earlier confessional documents — including the Geneva Catechism (1541), the Scots Confession (1560), and the Heidelberg Catechism (1563) — filled the second. By placing Westminster in the broader tradition of Reformed (Calvinist) theology,

Dunlop honored a distinctly Reformed custom: he compiled a book of confession.

The Reformation produced many catechisms and confessions. Reformed churches did not try to formulate one universal creed. They held to an earlier tradition that each faith community — be it in Zurich, Geneva, or Edinburgh — should draft a statement unique to its time and place. Communities declared their solidarity with each other, not by adopting the same words, but by affirming that they heard in different words the same witness to Christ.

Reformed theologians believed that a kind reader could hear the voice of Christ speaking in each confession, and that this would provide the unity that any one confession lacked. And they allowed that the need for new confessions would not end, as the Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934), the Confession of 1967, and the Confession of Belhar (1986) — adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 2016 — richly demonstrate.

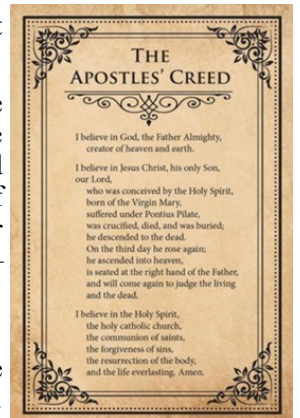
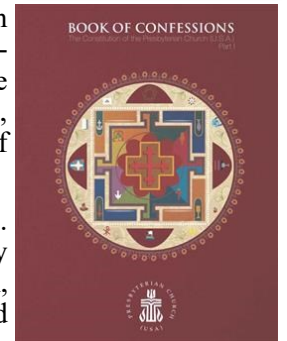
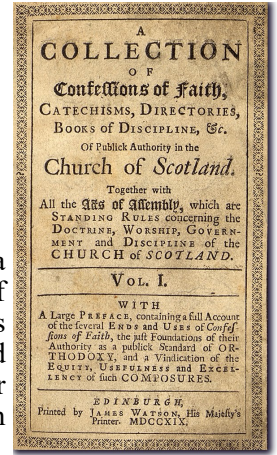
Here at First Presbyterian, Smithfield, we generally use The Apostles’ Creed and The Nicene Creed. During Joseph Hester’s absence, we also used portions of A Declaration of Faith on two occasions. Whatever the creed, we carry on the tradition of the Church past, back to William Dunlop, and as kind readers, we hear the voice of Christ in our confessions.

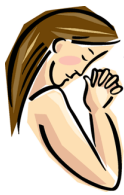


MARTIN LUTHER
 Father of The Reformation

For several years I have read the Bible through twice in 12 months. It is a great and powerful tree, each word of which is a mighty branch. Each of these branches have I well shaken, so desirous was I to know what each one bore and the shaking of them has never disappointed me.

—Martin Luther





Add to
your
prayer
list

Prayerful Concern for

Eleanor Bell at Barbour Court
Bernice Johnson, Autumn Care of Nash
John MacFadyen at Brookdale, Raleigh
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Virginia Williams in Laurinburg
Lucy Worley at BellaRose Nursing and Rehab,
Garner

Marie Atkins at Smithfield Manor

John Booker
Beth Daniel
Ruth Daniel
Wayne Dockery
Dot Ellmore
Dennis Ham
Jenny Ham
Evans Horne
Jo James
Freddy Johnson
Tom Johnson
Sandra Lester
Tony Lester
Troy Lester
Bill Leist
Miriam Lore
Earl Marett
Jill Merrick
Mary Miller
Becky Peele
Benny Pope
Chap Ragland
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Linda Wells in Mt. Olive
William Wells
Joseph Hester, Jr.
Ralph Mosley, brother of Dot Ellmore
Gerald Coley, Judy Miller's brother
Bryan Jones, Nan Jones' father
Harold Lee, Nan Jones' stepfather

Christian Sympathy to Joe and Janet Hester on the death of Joseph Louis Hester, Sr., on September 18, 2019.

Hank Roberson who so generously provides us with flowers on our special occasions.

Presbyterian Women for your work with bereavement meals.

Betsy Olive for helping to make our memorial service run smoothly and reverently.

Chancel Choir members who sit in the chancel during memorial services to lead hymns.

Brent Booker, Kenny Duncan, Evans Horne, Lee Johnson, and Jeremy Pearce for faithfully serving as building officers by opening and closing our building on Sundays and making coffee for Fellowship Time, and to **Benny Pope** who served in that capacity for many years.

Gene and Mary Miller for transporting our food donations the Food Closet at Centenary United Methodist Church.

Hubert Schmidt who makes our Hunger Sunday posters.

Eve Creech for taking care of the Worship Bags, making sure their contents are seasonal, creative, and interesting.

Presbyterian Disaster Relief

New Hope Presbytery is working in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, our congregations, and community and governmental organizations to respond to the effects of Hurricane Dorian.

Visit New Hope Presbytery or PCUSA Disaster Relief online to make your donations.



HIGHLIGHTS of September Session:

- Approved a Back-to-School Fellowship Meal sponsored by the Educational Development Quadrant open to all church members. This will be a light lunch followed by a homemade ice cream contest and will include an information presentation about upcoming/future events of the quadrant following worship on Sunday, September 15, 2019.
- Approved the curriculum for the PreKirk classes on Sunday mornings. The name of the curriculum is *Read Aloud Bible Stories* by Ella K. Lindvall. The curriculum will be supplemented with crafts and other activities. The curriculum for all other Sunday morning classes will remain the same as last year.
- Approved Trunk or Treat on October 20, 2019. This event will see a return of "trunks" and include a costume contest and hot dog meal. The event is scheduled for 4-6 pm.
- Approved an Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 1, 2019, immediately following worship and includes a soup and sandwich lunch and crafts for all ages (including adults).
- Approved a PYC Lock-in on November 8-9, 2019.
- Approved a Youth Sunday on November 10, 2019.
- Approved an additional week of leave for the pastor. The pastor will return to the pulpit on September 29, 2019. The Rev. Lynn Stall will lead worship on September 22, 2019.
If you have items you wish to bring before Session, please contact Debbie Jacobs, clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs



Memorials: Joseph L. Hester, Sr.
Donors: John and Shirley Booker;
Jay Vinson

Good Friends at First Presbyterian,

Many of you know that I was struck by a car that ran through a stop sign as I was leaving a department store on July 8. I have been in a wheelchair for a little over two months and am slowly progressing to a walker. The recovery has been slow and painful; husband Rich has been a wonderful nurse and caregiver. His sense of humor has saved me from complete depression!

I would like to thank those of you who have sent me cards or cheered me up with your phone calls. They have meant a lot to me and have assured me that we have not been forgotten in Smithfield.

Blessings to you all,

Ann Huckenbeck

Beyond the Building

The Christian does not go to the temple to worship. The Christian takes the temple with him or her. Jesus lifts us beyond the building and pay the human body the highest compliment by making it his dwelling place, the place where he meets with us.

—Ravi Zacharias

October JOY

We were disappointed not to be able to “go to Italy with Bill and Shirley Sharek” at the September JOY. That old Hurricane Dorian was unpredictable at best, but we erred on the side of caution. Our Italian meal will come around again before the 2019-2020 JOY season is over!



JOY CONNECTION

Our October JOY is one from which we all may benefit! Samantha Barbour of Health Quest Fitness and Wellness will talk to us about movement to keep our joints limber, about balance, and other health issues for our over 55 crowd. We will enjoy a meal of baked spaghetti, salad, bread, and our usual scrumptious desserts. Join us October 3 at noon in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church. It's FREE! Bring a friend! All are welcomed.

—Sandy Perkinson

Family Mission Day

**Yam Jam
October 12
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**



After farm machinery collects sweet potatoes from local fields, you would be surprised by how much produce remains. Farmers let volunteers to glean the left behind sweet potatoes and those are donated to local food banks and delivered to agencies, individuals, and shelters.

The Society of St. Andrew (www.endhunger.org) coordinates the effort and we just show up ready to get our hands dirty. This is a great event for families because children love to play in the dirt. If you cannot stay the entire time, you may leave early—or you may continue to glean beyond 11:30.

If you are interested in gleaning, let Evans, Emilia, or Shelley know. Since harvesting depends on weather conditions, we will have short notice for field location, but it will be located in either Johnston, Harnett, or Wake county.

Bring gloves, wear sunscreen/bug repellent, a hat, and water. Bags are provided.

We hope to see your entire family there!



October 6, 2019



October 6, 2019



Advice from a Pumpkin

Be well-rounded
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!

—Ilan Shamir

RELAY FOR LIFE 2020

We are always looking for new team members, so if working to help fight cancer is important to you, please join us! Contact Martha Taylor or Debbie Jacobs.

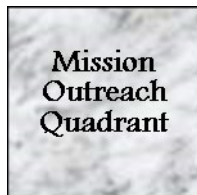


Just Plant It



As the church year wraps up, many Bible readings address the end times and Jesus' return at an unknown date (unknown to all but God the Father, that is). Specific beliefs about the Second Coming vary throughout Christendom, but our attitude about that momentous event affects how we live right now.

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,” Martin Luther reportedly said, “I would still plant my apple tree.” Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors, planting seeds of life and hope in the process.



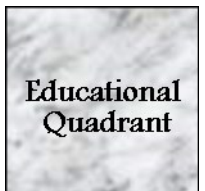
PYC Changes Meeting Time

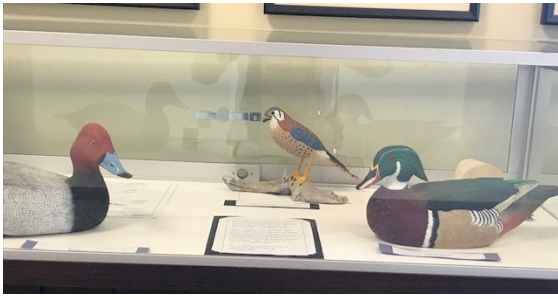
In an effort to boost attendance at PYC, leaders decided to change the meeting time to 9:30 Sunday morning. So far, it's been mostly a success. The added bonus to this time is that the group then comes downstairs and sits together during worship. Many from the congregation has expressed their delight to see the youth among them. The youth are also assisting during worship, helping the deacons with various tasks.

Let these young people know how much we appreciate their being actively involved in the life of FPC.



**Sunday, October 20
4:00—6:00 p.m.
Trick or Treat at the Trunks
Costume Contest and
Hot Dog Meal**





Robert Hess, Decoy Carver

The work of Robert Hess is on display at the Public Library of Smithfield and Johnston County. All items are carved from basswood and detailed with acrylic paint or stain. He has been carving and painting wooden decoys for decades after retiring from a career in graphic arts. His work is available for sale by contacting Molly Hess at 919-989-7968.

Robert and his wife, Barbara, lived a full-time RV lifestyle for many years, but recently relocated to Smithfield to be near their two sons and their families. They have attended FPC for many years, and we are proud to call them a part of our church family.

Take a few minutes to drop by the library and see this works of art up close. The photos do not do them justice as they were taken through display glass.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2019

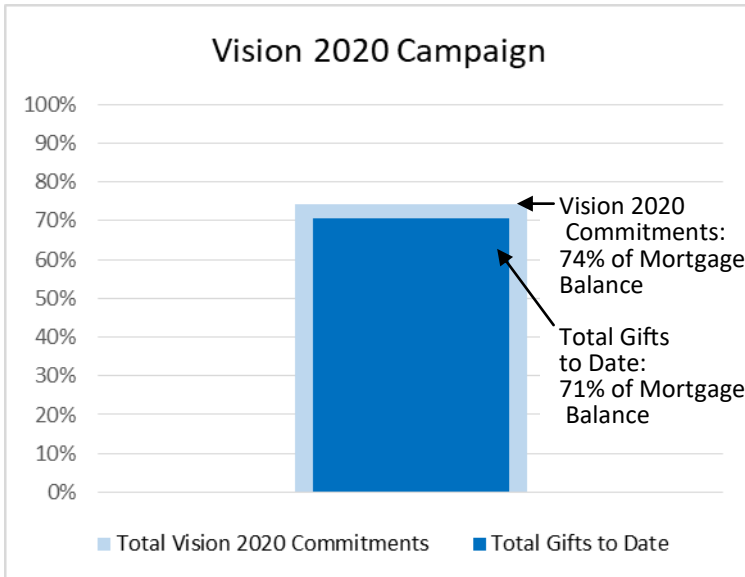
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**First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results
January—August 2019**

	Jan—Aug 2019 Actual	Jan—Aug 2019 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	157,510.00	113,101.00
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	27,805.00	20,906.00
Mission Outreach Quadrant	2,428.00	11,033.00
Spirituality Quadrant	96,472.00	104,381.00
Stewardship Quadrant	87,864.00	78,597.00
Total Disbursements	214,569.00	214,917.17
Net Income/(Deficit)	(57,049.00)	(101,816.00)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 8/31/2019
 \$ 424,711.00 Pledge Gifts
 \$ 30,989.00 Memorial/Honorariums
 \$ 61,457.00 Other Gifts
 \$ 517,457.00 Total VISION 2020 Contributions
 \$ 537,386.00 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
 \$ 724,842.00 Mortgage Balance



—Jaime Beasley

Communications and Technology News for September:

FPC Smithfield has gone LIVE on Facebook! Each Sunday, our worship service will be streamed LIVE on Facebook! If you cannot be at church, you can still be there through this new technology. If you have any questions or help getting set up, please contact Evans, Greg, or Debbie Jacobs. Please comment to let us know how you like it. We will also be tracking virtual attendees. Feel free to share the page and video with your other Facebook friends.

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. Please check the latest update to ensure we have your contact information correct.

—Debbie Jacobs

**Stewardship
Quadrant**



WHAT'S COOKING?

"Cooking for Crowds"

Do you or your organization participate in food fundraisers, church potlucks, or feeding large groups of people? "Cooking for Crowds" is for you! This is a FREE workshop offered by N.C. Cooperative Extension to teach you the latest best practices for food safety.

This 2-3 hour workshop will give you an understanding of who is most at risk for getting food-borne illness (food poisoning), causes of food-borne illnesses, control of common food allergens, prevention of cross-contamination, planning for a safe event, implementation of food safety strategies, purchasing and preparation of foods, and most importantly, time and temperature controls for food safety. Annually, 48 million Americans experience food-borne illness. Don't let your event be the next food-borne illness outbreak!

**WHERE? White Memorial Presbyterian Church
1459 White Memorial Church Rd, Willow Spring, NC**

WHEN? Choose from two sessions

Friday, October 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m.

All are welcome. There is no registration required for this training. If you'd like further information, please call 919-639-9973.

Hospice Meals

Mission and Outreach would like to give a special thank you to Lisa and Frank Deans for coordinating several Sunday meals at Hospice as well as Betsy Olive and Eve Creech for providing lunches and desserts throughout the year. With their continued support, as well as participation from the congregation, we have been able to expand this mission program.



Our church will be providing dinner for the patient families, staff and volunteers at Hospice House on Sunday, November 10. If you would like to provide part of this meal, please watch for the sign-up sheet in the Vestibule or contact Joyce Knoll. Thank you for your continued support of this caring outreach ministry.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

As we served about 20 folks at the SECU Hospice House on September 25, we found them to be so appreciative of the meal and desserts. It let us see first-hand how much these gestures of kindness during a difficult time mean to the families and staff.

—Frank and Lisa Deans

Presbyterian Women Seek Donations

It's time again to send Care Packages to our college students and gift cards to our members in the military.

The Spiritual Nurture Committee of Presbyterian Women appreciates your donations each year. We will continue to collect them through the second week of November. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women with care pages on the memo line.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Miller or Martha Taylor.



—Mary Miller

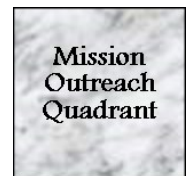
Scout News

In September Troop 95 held its first meeting of the year. We have planned an amazing year, and we couldn't do any of it without your support. We will keep you up-to-date as we have a great time!

If you know of any middle or high schoolers who are interested in Scouting, please direct them to our Scribe, Davis Bell, or our Scoutmaster, Evans Horne.

As always, on behalf of Troop 95, we thank you for your continued support.

—Davis Bell, Scribe





PUZZLE

Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.



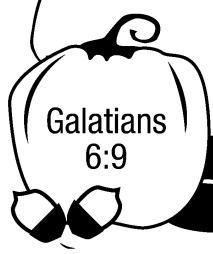
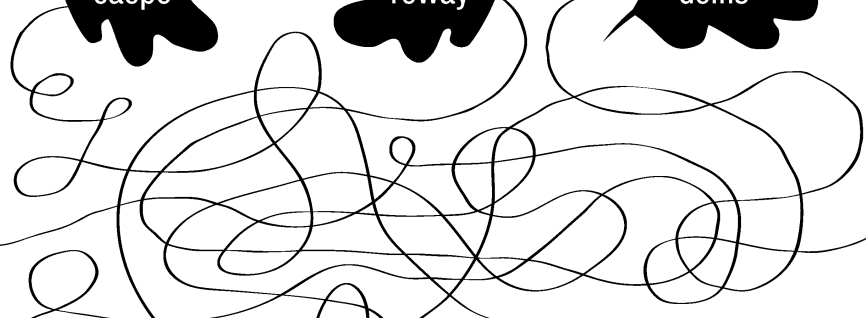
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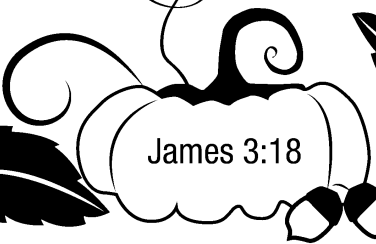
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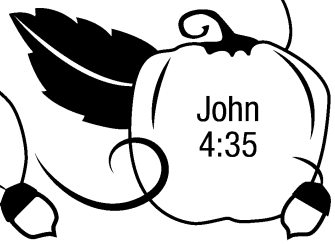
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Galatians
6:9



James 3:18



John
4:35

Peacemakers who sow in _____ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _____!
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

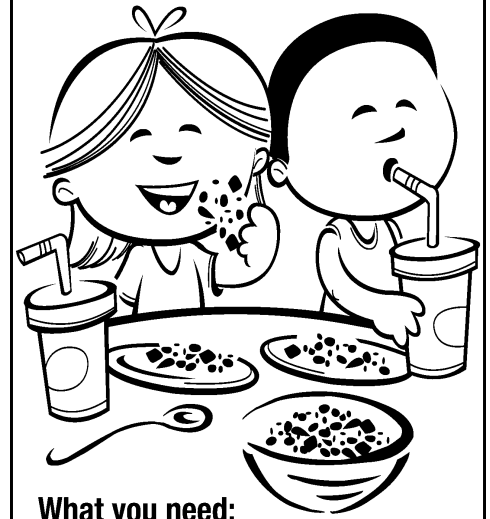
Answer: peace, weary, fields



HARVEST

Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.