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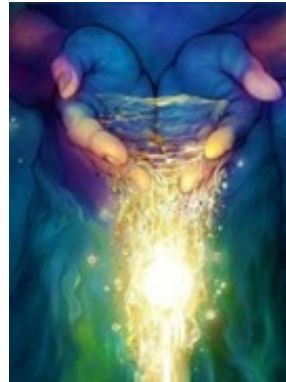


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The ICHTHUS

November 2019

REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER



“By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.”

—Ephesians 3:4

“You might recall what it's like to be with someone who has grieved deeply. The person has no layer of protection, nothing left to defend. The mystery is looking out through that person's eyes. In the groundless openness of sorrow, there is a wholeness of presence and a deep natural wisdom.”

— Tara Brach

It's been awhile since I've written to you. The words that follow are intimately personal and for the moment timely. November is time of completion for the church—a time of harvest and consecration, a time to reflect on the legacy of the saints who have gone before us, a time to complete the lectionary and liturgical cycle of scripture culminating in the proclamation of the Reign of Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives.

Since August I've learned a good many things about myself during a brief but necessary wellness medical leave. I've endeavored to speak directly and openly about what I learned during my month at Structure House in Durham. My time apart from you was essentially to help reset my system: physically, mentally, and spiritually. I am thankful I could begin that journey with your support. I benefitted not only physically from healthy meals and a regular program of activity and exercise, but especially from therapeutic counseling for professional self-examination with qualified professionals. I believe seeing a counselor or therapist or psychiatrist should be as normal an act of self-care as going to the doctor's office for the flu or a sprained ankle. Many times over the past thirty years, I have met with church members who would benefit from solid therapy and care, and by my own actions, I hope in some small way to remove any fear or stigma associated with it. I have definitely returned renewed, refreshed, and spiritually reinvigorated and eager to re-engage with ministry now. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to step back and assess my own needs in order to serve others more effectively.

One of those specific needs to step back was to give myself time to grieve many of the deaths of loved ones we have experienced as a church over the past twelve years of my pastorate. Over time, that pent up grief has taken a great physical toll. Like many clergy, I learned in August I had a lot of unresolved grief as well as even frustration and anger that comes with losing people you care about. Another way of saying this is that being a pastor really is more than just a job. You invite me as your pastor into the sacred moments of illness, loss, and grief, and truthfully, while seminary trains a person in the theoretical practice, I've learned it is being present over many years that becomes the true teacher. And most recently you have been present to me. My mother Janet and I are especially grateful for your presence in our lives in recent weeks at the time of my father's death in September as well as long before that during his illness over the past three and a half years. We've kept and continue reading through the many cards, notes, calls, and memorials, and we remember meals and many acts of kind Christian compassion we've received from each of you. In our deep grief there is also a well of gratitude.

My father was a person with an abiding quiet but deep faith that he imparted to me. In the past month I have tried to be especially conscious of my actions, feelings, words, and interaction with others amid my own grief. I hope to learn from my own experience what is most beneficial for others in times of loss as well as joy. The journey that I began this summer continues as I learn to be open to the living experiences of grief and joy and the lessons that grief and gratitude have to offer.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Joe

Prayer Concerns



Add to
your
prayer
list

Marie Atkins at Smithfield Manor
Eleanor Bell at Barbour Court
Bernice Johnson, Autumn Care of Nash
John MacFadyen at Brookdale, Raleigh
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Linda Wells in Mt. Olive
Virginia Williams in Laurinburg
Lucy Worley at BellaRose Nursing and
Rehab, Garner
Ruth Daniel

Wayne Dockery
Dennis Ham
Jenny Ham
Freddy Johnson
Tom Johnson
Sandra Lester
Bill Leist
Miriam Lore
Earl Marett
Jill Merrick
Mary Miller
Benny Pope
Chap Ragland
Peter Russell
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
William Wells
Ralph Mosley, brother of Dot Ellmore
Gerald Coley, Judy Miller's brother
Bryan Jones, Nan Jones' father
Harold Lee, Nan Jones' stepfather

We celebrate the birth of **Brynleigh Hope Naylor**, daughter of Jayson and Brittany Naylor, sister of Buckley and Brantley Naylor, and granddaughter of Jake and Debbie Jacobs, on October 19, 2019, and the birth of **Anna Evans Pearce**, daughter of Jeremy and Julie Peace and sister of Caroline Pearce, on October 24, 2019.

Memorials for Joseph L. Hester, Sr., Susan Hill, Shannon Kimball, Billy Best, Ann Hobgood,
Honorariums for Andy Booker, Delaney James Perkinson,
Donors: Rhonda Backner, Judy Daniels, Beth Daniel, Dot Ellmore, Jim Henderson, Jo James, Tom and Sandra Johnson, Frank and Betsy Olive, Cindy Smith, Neil and Lucy Watson, Pamela Withrow, Mrs. William E. Tew, Jr., Maxine McFadyen, Sandy Perkinson, Eve Creech, Virginia Williams, Hubert and Judy Schmidt, Chap and Ann Ragland, J.A. and Linda Stephenson, Jeff and Mary Barnhill

King of King and Lord of Lords

In the Bible, no one is called "Lord of lords" but God and Christ. Although a couple of Old Testament earthly kings, Artaxerxes and Nebuchadnezzar, are referred to as king of kings, but only in reference to Christ is the term capitalized: King of Kings.

Earthly rulers can claim supremacy, but we celebrate Christ the King Sunday as the culmination of the liturgical year to testify that our Lord is Ruler of All.

In the words of the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*: he is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords; and he shall reign for ever and ever!"



FROM ALL OF US

The members of First Presbyterian Church Smithfield thank Judy Miller and Debbie Jacobs for the hours of planning that contributed to a very successful New Hope Presbytery Meeting Saturday. Their work combined with all of the area leaders and workers let the membership of the New Hope Presbytery have a very well organized and rewarding meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS

of October Session

- Approved a "welcome back" covered-dish luncheon for the pastor on September 29, 2019.
- Approved the offering from the New Hope Presbytery meeting to be designated for the SAM Food closet on October 26, 2019.
- Approved a request to appropriate up to \$500.00 to cover the costs of the New Hope Presbytery meeting on October 26, 2019.
- Approved the transfer of membership of Becky Peele to Westfield Baptist Church in Dunn, NC.
- Elected Tom Barwick to serve as our Elder Commissioner to the New Hope Presbytery Meeting on October 26, 2019.
- Approved a Cookie Walk hosted by our Relay for Life Team on Sunday, December 15, 2019 prior to worship. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.
- Approved designating Sunday, March 1, 2020, as Survivor Sunday.
- Approved a Chili Lunch in conjunction with Survivor Sunday hosted by the Relay for Life Team.

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

—Debbie Jacobs



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 3

Remember to set your clocks back an hour!



Happy Thanksgiving

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday

Dear Church Family,

The leaves are absolutely gorgeous in the mountains right now! I make it a point to drive the parkway every few days to take full advantage of living here! We have loved hiking in this cool weather and exploring new areas. Once a week I hike to a spot on the parkway to do my homework. We've survived midterms and are getting into final projects, presentations, and papers before finals the first week of December. The cheer team is getting ready for basketball season. We have really grown our squad and will be competing in March.

My trip to Haiti has been changed. Due to some recent uprisings in Haiti, my professors felt like it was not safe to take us there. Instead we are heading to Ecuador to do a similar project. We will be working in a children's home and with children in the community. The cost of the trip is still \$3,000 and will still take place March 8-14 of 2020. Please be keeping our group in prayer as we prepare for this trip. We are all in a class together right now to learn about the culture, to make plans, and to understand how we can be most effective while we're there.

I look forward to seeing you all when I come home for Christmas!

Love and prayers,

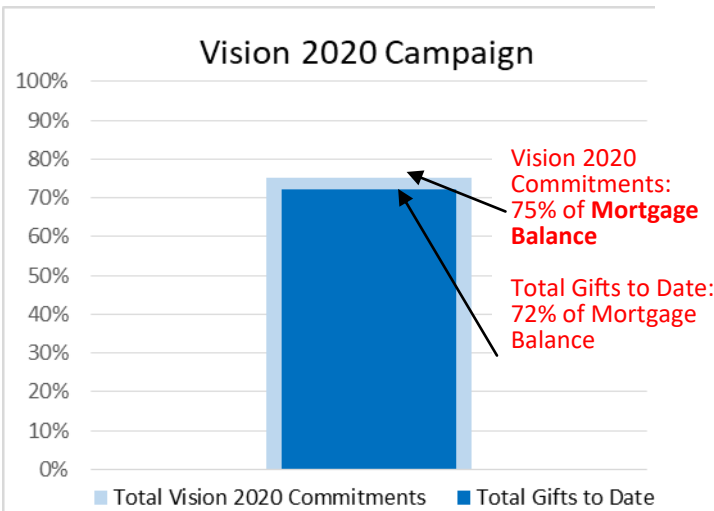
Madeline Horne

**First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results—January – September
Actual vs. Budgeted**

	Actual	Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	177,146.00	127,239.00
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	28,212.00	23,519.00
Mission Outreach Quad.	2,428.00	12,412.00
Spirituality Quadrant	108,430.00	117,429.00
Stewardship Quadrant	109,016.00	88,421.00
Total Disbursements	248,086.00	241,782.00
Net Income/(Deficit)	(70,940.00)	(144,543.00)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 9/30/2019

Pledge Gifts	427,116.00
Memorials/Honorariums	32,114.00
Other Gifts	61,952.00
Total Gifts	521,182.00
Total VISION 2020 Commitments	540,786.00
Mortgage Balance	720,850.00



—Jaime Beasley

Season of Stewardship

As each has received a gift, let us use it to serve one another.
—1 Peter 4:10

This year I'm one of those people. I'm about 90% finished with my Christmas shopping, have every name and corresponding gift item typed in a document, AND I know where I hid everything until I can get it all wrapped. It's a Christmas miracle! How? I hit after-Christmas sales and watched for bargains throughout the year, list in hand. I had a chance to visit a few really special places this year to buy unusual gifts. And I have Amazon at my fingertips.

When I hear someone say "I really need..." I just *Swipe to place order*. All it took was *thinking and planning and timing and listening and money*.

The same can be said for our financial commitment to the church. The gifts we give to our church and her many and varied ministries require the same commitment: thinking and planning and timing and listening and money. We consider our income. We consider our goals. We consider the goals of our church. We think about the joy our gifts bring: to those with illness who receive prayer shawls; to those tired family members who enjoy a good meal at SECU Hospice house; to those bereft who receive food and dry goods at SAM or housing and clothing assistance from our other benevolent missions; to those who meet at our church and enjoy the heat and air conditioning and light (both visual and spiritual); to our children old and young at Trunk or Treat (what fun we had!), at the Easter egg hunt, at the Advent workshop, at the 4th of July celebration; at the covered dish and other joyful fellowship opportunities where we laugh and chat and hug and eat! We do so much with so little for so many. We are good stewards. We are generous. We share what we have. We give the gift of love in all that we do.

On Sunday, November 17, you will have a chance to offer your gifts once again. Take these next few weeks and consider the gifts you wish to give for the work of First Presbyterian Church. Think of the times you have helped plan, been a part of, or witnessed a moment of joy and celebration and how "opening that gift" has spread light and love to others and brought light and love to you. Give the gift of love in the name of him who first loved us.

—Sandy Perkinson



**Stewardship Commitment
Sunday
November 17, 2019
Covered-dish Lunch
follows worship**

The Property Box



If you need to borrow something from the kitchen supply closet, please check first with the office, and then make sure you return it ASAP.

The cold water handle on the kitchen sink must be pushed behind the spray nozzle in order for the water to be shut off completely. Please remember to give it that extra nudge.

Office supplies in our workroom **are not to be removed from the workroom**. If you need to use our supplies such as the paper cutter, we are glad for you to use it, but we prefer you use it in place. If you must take it to another room in the building, please let staff know. If you feel you must take an item home, please notify the office. Office personnel and the custodian spend a great deal of time tracking down supplies.

Thank you.
The Property Team

Communications and Technology News



FPC Smithfield has gone LIVE on Facebook! Each Sunday, our worship service will be streamed LIVE on Facebook. It is very simple to access. Simply sign into your Facebook account, LIKE the FPC Smithfield page (the one

COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY



with the profile picture of the red front doors), and set a notification to let you know any time there is a live telecast. Many thanks to Evans Horne, Bill Sharek, and Greg Bell for their hard work to get this outreach technology available. If you can not be a 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 and will be updated quarterly. Please check the latest update to ensure we have your correct contact information.

—Debbie Jacobs

**Stewardship
Quadrant**



All Saints Sunday

First Presbyterian Church

November 3, 2019

Remembering those we love.

Mary Alice Thomas
February 22, 1931–December 1, 2018

Joseph Ransom Kluttz, Jr.
May 21, 1938—December 31, 2018

Billy Ray Best
October 2, 1945—January 16, 2019

Susan Eason Hill
November 25, 1939—February 3, 2019

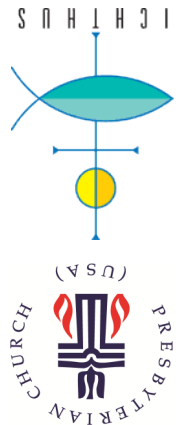
Shannon Coble Kimball
September 25, 1931—March 27, 2019

Alice Welch Narron
November 6, 1954—June 18, 2019

Roann Carlyle Hobgood
May 1, 1946—August 7, 2019

Rachel Mitchell Evans
June 11, 1927—August 22, 2019

Joseph Louis Hester, Sr.
March 30, 1937—September 18, 2019



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2019

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

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

Advent Workshop

The Education Quadrant invites you to participate in the annual Advent Workshop in the fellowship hall on the first Sunday of Advent.

This year we're trying something new! We're holding the workshop immediately following worship beginning with a luncheon. Soup and grilled cheese sandwiches will be served. Then we will get down to the business of Advent wreaths and a variety of other crafts for all ages. We are also inviting church members to contribute their musical talents and provide live, seasonal music during the workshop.

We are asking for donations of soups, desserts, and live greenery. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets! 'Tis almost the season!

—Jennifer Templeton



**Sunday, December 1
following worship**

DECORATING WITH NANCY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
to Move Decorations
from Upstairs Storage
to Sanctuary
following worship
Sunday, December 1.
Please stay to give
us a hand!



VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED

to Decorate the Sanctuary, the Great Hall,
the Fellowship Hall, and All Other
Areas of the Church on
Monday, December 2 and
Tuesday, December 3, 9:30 a.m.
Look for a Sign-up Sheet
in the Vestibule

Living in the Slow Lane

Not only did God model rest — specifically Sabbath rest — during the Creation process, but he also showed the value of under-commitment, even working under his potential.

“God modeled for us to choose one or two things to focus on each day,” writes Monica Wilkinson in Slow Lane. “if he wanted to, he could have spoken the entire world into existence in less than a fraction of a blink of an eye.” Instead, God “went about it methodically, slowly, with balance and moderation.” What a contrast to modern-day multitasking craze.

“God was not looking to maximize every productive, waking moment of every single day,” Wilkinson adds. “He chose to focus on one or two things, do them well and with excellence, and then enjoy the accomplishment and reflection of a job well done.”



**Spirituality
Quadrant**



JOY CONNECTION

The November JOY Connection will feature a Thanksgiving meal furnished by Shirley Booker and Joyce Lee—turkey, dressing, and all the fixings! The program will be by Barney Hale of the Kirk of Kildaire who will tell of their Fair Trade Guatemalan Scarf Project.

The festivities begin at noon. Come and bring a friend!



2019 *Thank Offering* of PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Then when you call upon me and
come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me, you will find
me, if you seek me with all your heart.*

—Jeremiah 29:12-13

Angel Tree 2019

The Mission Outreach Quadrant has again partnered with Smithfield Rescue Mission to help the needy with an Angel Tree. Angel cards will be available Sunday, November 17, through Sunday, December 15. There will be cards for 15 children, women, and men and 15 for general Rescue Mission supplies.

Select an Angel Card and remove it from the tree.

Locate your Angel Card number on the Master List on the table by the tree and write your name beside it.

Bring the UNWRAPPED gifts to church by Sunday, December 15, with the Angel Card attached so the recipient can be identified and place near the Angel Tree. Please use the labels attached to the card to identify additional bags or gifts for that individual. Four labels are provided.

Gift bags and wrapping paper are always appreciated.

If you have questions, contact Dot Ellmore.

—Dot Ellmore



Care Packages

It's time to send Care Packages to our college students and members in the military. The Spiritual Nurture Committee of the Presbyterian Women appreciate your donation to this worthy project. See Mary Miller or Martha Taylor by the end of the second week in November. We will be sending packages to five college students and gift cards to three members in the military.

Your generosity is appreciated!

—Mary Miller



Cookie Walk Preparations

Your Relay Team will meet October 30 at 5:30 at church for a dinner meeting to plan our Cookie Walk.

We are always looking for new member who are willing to help us in this fight against cancer! Join us on the 30th.

In November we will be putting out the sign-up for the Cookie Walk. Last year we ran out of cookies, so we really need your help! We request six dozen of a kind, but we will accept ALL donations! Any that are left over get donated to Christmas in a Barn.

—Martha Taylor and Debbie Jacobs



**Mission
Outreach
Quadrant**

SECU Hospice House Updates

First Presbyterian Church will be providing dinner for patients' 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.



The Mission Outreach Quadrant is also providing our church with the opportunity to stock the pantry at Hospice House during the month of November again this year. The pantry items are used by families of the patients at Hospice and are deeply appreciated by those struggling during a difficult time.

Individually wrapped items such as cookies, crackers, nabs, pudding, applesauce, fruit cups, cereal bars, microwave popcorn, kitchen, bottled water, canned soft drinks/juices, beverages for children, coffee and coffee filters, Keurig cups, instant macaroni and cheese, grits, oatmeal, and soups—all these would be greatly appreciated.

A collection box will be located each Sunday in November in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to participate, please place individually wrapped items in the labeled box. The donations will be delivered to hospice each week.

Thank you for your continued support of this caring outreach ministry.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll

Mission and Outreach Supports SECU Food Closet

You, the congregation, have supported the Yes We Can program with much generosity. For the month of October we collected 128 food items. As usual, the food pantry and many needy people in Johnston County have had help in feeding their families and themselves.



In doing some research, I found that **one in seven (14%) people in North Carolina live below the poverty line and are food insecure; 15% of the population in Johnston County live below the poverty line and are food insecure. One in five children (20%) in the county struggle with hunger, and 46% of the students in the public schools in Johnston County are on free lunches.** Could this mean without government programs and the community's help, children might be getting only one balanced meal per day?



Pennies for Hunger

Thank you for your contributions to Yes We Can and Pennies for Hunger..

—Hubert Schmidt

New Mentor Program

We have launched our Visitor Mentor Program, which aims to connect frequent visitors with an existing member to answer questions and be another familiar face. If you have an interest in mentoring a new visitor or if you know of a visitor in need of a mentor, please contact Julie Pearce or Hubert Schmidt. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to mentor!

You'll notice two new welcome signs along Third Street. We've also added a guest parking sign to help our new visitors feel even more welcomed.



—Julie Pearce

Scouting News

In September, Troop 95 continued planning our activities for the new year. We're looking forward to camping trips, flag retirements, and working on merit badges. We also began the Basketry Merit Badge, the rarest of all merit badges.



If you know of any middle or high school students interested in scouting, please ask them to contact me our Evans Horne, Scoutmaster.

—Davis Bell



Youth Sunday

November 10, 2019

Please come and support our youth!

PYC Pleased with New Meeting Time

This fall for the first time, PYC is meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The results are impressive. There is a much larger attendance at the meetings. And the youth are able to do some first quality volunteering during worship. They sit together in the sanctuary. Or they may be found handing our bulletins, collecting the offering, or greeting members and guests. Both the youth and the congregation are enjoying their participation.



Veterans' Day, November 11, 2019