



# ICHTHUS

January 2020

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## Reflections in the Water: Standing on the Threshold



Presbyterian Youth Connection Lock-in, December 2019

“The spirit of the Roaring Twenties was marked by a general feeling of novelty associated with modernity and a break with tradition. Everything seemed to be feasible through modern technology.” —Mark D. Barthelmy

Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. —II Timothy 1:13-14

In the 2019 January ICHTHUS, I used a picture from the December Youth Lock-in to illustrate one of the ministry areas our church serves. A similar group photo taken this past December with new faces showed clearly that our youth program continues to evolve and grow—a good sign for our congregation. As I reflect on this particular image, I begin to imagine what an exciting future of possibilities our century’s version of the Roaring Twenties may hold in store for each of these young people.

I know, technically speaking, the start of a new decade is year off- one of those small details that bugs me as a student of history. Yet whether I approve or not, we are entering culturally a new decade and I need to prepare myself for the changes coming our way. It’s no longer the turn of the century- a new generation has emerged since the year 2000. Thanks to vigilant software engineers, the specter of Y2K never materialized, the prophesied Mayan Apocalypse came and went, US children have come of age in a nation that has been at war for all of their lives, and information technology is no longer a novelty in the hands of a few but is an essential way of life today—again, whether I approve or not. Change is the constant. Together we stand on the threshold of a new decade that presents us with personal and corporate opportunities to reflect upon the hopes we’ve realized and our dreams that fell short. Yet more importantly, we also have the opportunity to dream anew and experience new visions.

Ten years ago this congregation realized a building project appropriately designated *God’s Vision Our Mission*, and then five years later, embarked upon a successive campaign to meet our building project’s financial obligations with a capital campaign called Vision 2020 which will conclude this year with your support. Much has changed for us all in the past ten years. There are many new faces including a number of infants who are now growing in our midst. The Presbyterian Church USA has experienced its own growth pangs. As a local church and congregation we too will change and become a new reality. I give thanks that many of our hopes have been realized in the past ten years. Sometimes it feels like the pace of change in the church moves at glacial speeds but in time we know a glacier will carve great valleys, overcome mountains and create great bodies of life-giving freshwater. So our common faith also makes great spiritual inroads into the world around us.

If there’s one expression of encouragement for a new decade I would offer as we enter our own Roaring Twenties decade, I charge you to **keep the faith** and trust that the Spirit will continue to be present in the Church and to those who remain open to receiving it.

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 McFadyen at Brookdale, Raleigh  
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh  
Virginia Williams in Laurinburg  
Lucy Worley at BellaRose Nursing and

Rehab, Garner  
Linda Wells in Mt. Olive

Ruth Daniel  
Wayne Dockery  
Freddy Johnson  
Tom Johnson  
Sandra Lester  
Bill Leist  
Miriam Lore  
Earl Maret  
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

**Christian sympathy to** Phil Ziady, John Stewart, Jr., and James (Jay) Stewart, on the death of **Rebecca Monroe Ziady** on December 13, 2019, and to the family of **Marie Gafford Atkins** who died on December 15, 2019.



**Donors:** Nancy Lee, Nan Jones, Curtis and Paulette Whitenurst, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Dorothy Ellmore, David and Elizabeth Johnson, Maxine McFadyen, Carrie Purnell and family, Helen Best, Steve and Gayle Godwin, Cape Fear Chapter 346 of Eastern Star  
**Honorariums for** Tom and Sandra Johnson, Bobby Co  
**Memorials for** Joseph L. Hester, Sr., Hazel Whitehurst, Rebecca Ziady, Marie Gafford Atkins, Judy Avera



**Nancy Lee** for once again heading up the decorating of our church for Advent and Christmas

**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

**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, Debbie Jacobs** and all others who helped make the Relay for Life Cookie Walk a success.

**Betsy Olive** for faithfully changing the paraments for each season of the church year.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### of December Session

- Approved a PYC Lock-in for December 13-14, 2019.
- Approved the 2019 Nominating Committee: Nichole Booker, Elder Co-Chair; Sandy Perkinson, Elder Co-Chair; Pam Withrow, Board of Deacons Representative; Helen Best, Presbyterian Women Representative; Tom Barwick, Presbyterian Men Representative; Davis Bell, Presbyterian Youth Representative; Jim Henderson, At-Large Member
- Approved a Bingo Night hosted by the Relay for Life Team #37 on January 26, 2020.
- Approved continuing our lease with the Xerox Corporation for five years.

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

—Debbie Jacobs



**On December 15 during worship, Kathy Rice, Handbell Director, presented this beautiful Jesus Loves the Little Children quilt which she made to Camille Boone in appreciation for all her volunteer work with FPC and community children in instrumental and choral music.**

**Camille sends her heartfelt thanks to Kathy and to all the parents who share their children with her. She loves them all!**

Dear Church Family,

I have finished another semester at Lees-McRae, with only one more to go! I took seven classes this semester and stayed busy working four jobs and being active in Order of the Tower, as a resident assistant, and on the cheer team. I survived the craziness of finals week and ended up finishing the semester with a GPA of 3.9! I am spending the break before next semester living with and nannying for my cheer coach at her house in Beech Mountain, NC. She has a 6-month-old baby girl and has really taken me in as a part of her family, for which I am unbelievably grateful.

The education department has decided to cancel our trip to Haiti. Haiti was becoming a dangerous option, so our professors decided to make some changes and take us to Ecuador instead, thinking it would be a safer option. However, Ecuador quickly turned dangerous too, and keeping our best interest in mind, our professors decided it was best to cancel the trip. While I am disappointed, I have been presented with other service opportunities for Spring Break that are a little closer to home and will be looking into those options. I was recently selected along with one other student to travel to New Mexico this month to attend a conference for school ambassadors. We received a grant to fund our trip and will be working together to present what we've learned to our board when we get back. Not only is this my first trip away from the East coast, but this will actually be my first time flying, so I am very excited for this opportunity.

As I begin this last semester, I ask for your prayers. I have a lot of decisions to make about graduate school, careers, interning, traveling and while it can seem overwhelming, know that it will all work out with God's timing.

Love and prayers to all,

Madeline Horne



# Undecorating with Nancy

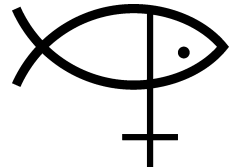


## What goes up, must come down . . .

including our Advent and Christmas decorations. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6, and , if necessary, again on Tuesday, January 7, to help us take down and put away all the trees, wreaths, bows, candles, and other decorations.

## Coming up:

Be on the look out for a date to give the church a good cleaning and polishing.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2020

Smithfield, NC 27577

PO Box 1159

First Presbyterian Church

PERMIT #93

SMITHFIELD, NC 27577

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NON-PROFIT STD MAIL



### January JOY

**JOY CONNECTION**

Where can one get a delicious meal, a professional vocalist's Christmas repertoire, and great company all for free? Why, at First Presbyterian Church's JOY Connection! The fellowship. The fellowship hall was festive with Christmas greenery and two beautifully decorated trees, and the food was wonderful! But the music was the highlight of the event. Shelley Maddox sang carols and Christmas songs with her amazing voice. Three of the numbers were arranged specifically for her by her talented husband, Dr. Dwight Dockery. And to top it off, we were treated to piano accompaniment by Casey Whaley Childers!

On January 2, we hope you'll bring that whatnot or thingamabob that Aunt Alice passed down and have it appraised by Mrs. Jewel Ryals, antiques appraiser from Fuquay Varina. She will give us some history and background of our treasures.

As always, JOY Connection begins at noon. Helen Best and Pam Shall are the January chefs! Bring a dessert and a friend and join us for this event!

—Sandy Perkinson

### Angel Tree 2019

And once again, First Presbyterians came through and made Christmas special for so many in our community.

A picture speaks a thousand words! Your Christmas gifts for children, women and men and general supplies and food items surround our Angel Tree for the Smithfield Rescue Mission. The Mission & Outreach Quadrant team thank each of you for your generosity in helping make Christmas brighter for those served by the Smithfield Rescue Mission! Ben Olsen, their director, gives his sincere thanks to all of you for always wholeheartedly supporting this project.



sisters of mine, you did for me." —Dot Ellmore

Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

### Hospice Care

The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the staff and volunteers 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 providing and serving a hot meal. Lisa and Frank Deans are coordinating our next meal on Sunday, January 12, 2020. If you would like to participate in this meal, please check out the signup sheet in the vestibule.

Thank you for your continued support of this important and caring mission.

—Greg and Joyce Knoll



### Troop 95 News

In December Troop 95 began planning for the new year. We will be very busy!

We apologize to all of you who ordered poinsettias from us. The nursery we have used for years was unable to fill our order. We hope we didn't inconvenience you too badly, and that you will order from us again next year.!

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



### Relay Team #37 Hard at It!!

Once again our Relay for Life Cookie Walk was a success! Thanks to you and the wonderful Relay for Life Team, we raised over \$1,200.00!



**Cookie Walk**

We are looking forward to our Bingo Party January 26, 1:00—4:00 p.m., at the Hinnant Family Vineyards. Remember that you have to purchase tickets by December 30.

We are asking for donations from businesses for Bingo prizes. If you are willing to provide a gift basket, a gift card, or tickets (depending on your business), we would be extremely grateful. Last year this event raised over \$2500 for cancer research. We thank you ahead of time for your generosity. Our Federal Tax ID Number (EIN) is 13-



Third Annual  
**Big Heart Bingo**  
January 26, 1:00 —4:00 p.m.  
Hinnant Family  
Vineyards

1788491. The American Cancer Society is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization.

### Oh, Yes We Can!

We, First Presbyterian Church, have proven to ourselves that we really can, especially at this season, give plenty to help the homeless, the hungry, the poor and the vulnerable people in our community. Our members brought in 138 food items to Yes We Can for our December contribution to the Food Bank (which Gene and Mary Miller so graciously take to The Food Pantry at Centenary Methodist Church each month).

Here are a couple of quotes that expresses the carrying for those who are in need:

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."  
—Mother Teresa

"Hunger is not a problem. It is an obscenity. How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."  
—Anne Frank

Let's continue our giving to those in need with generosity and carrying through out 2020. "God bless us every one."

—Your Mission and Outreach Quadrant



## 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 available through the eNews. Please check the latest update to ensure we have your correct contact information.

COMMUNICATION &  
TECHNOLOGY



—Debbie Jacobs

Stewardship  
Quadrant



Christmas in a Barn  
2019



## 2020 Flower Calendar

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

### December: Advent & Christmas flowers and greenery

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



—Nancy Lee

Spirituality  
Quadrant

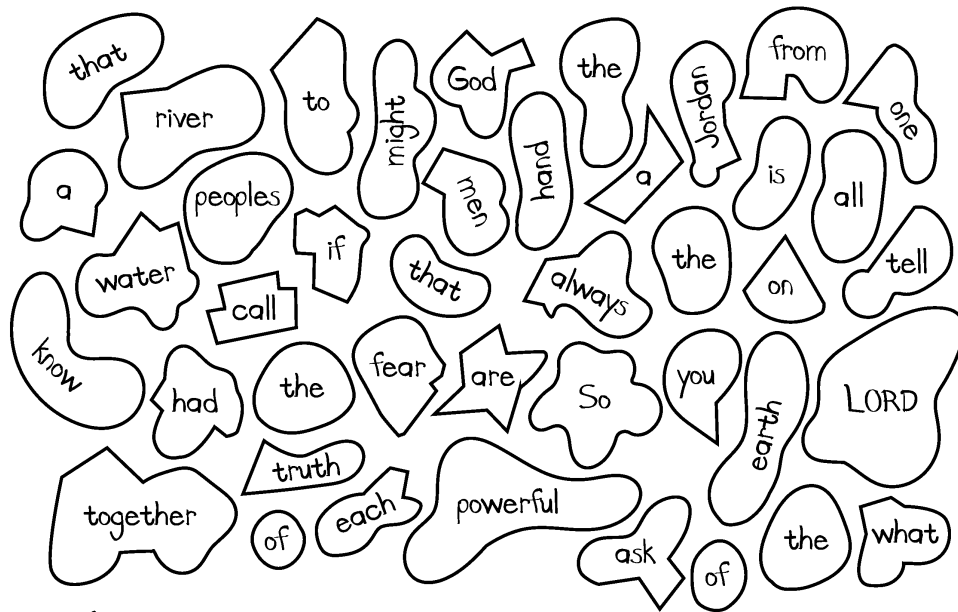
# Kids Page – Happy New Year!



## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*

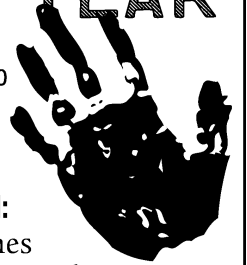


So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

## “STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.



### What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

### What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV