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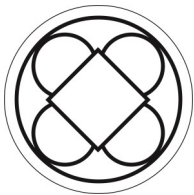
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M A R C H



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ICHTHUS

March 2020

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church



Presbyterian Youth Connection—Oyster Roast Fundraiser 2020

“And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”
—Mark 1:12-13

“The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer. Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Ash Wednesday Liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer PCUSA

Our youth hosted recently our community for an oyster roast fundraiser to support their activities but also to support the local Smithfield food closet. As young disciples I see them maturing spiritually and growing as ever more responsible members of the church. As I reflect on their commitment I see the three areas of our church's mission objectives being realized simultaneously: Christian formation of youth, community outreach, and personal discipleship and communication. Time, resources, and circumstance contribute influences as well to these ministries. The group photo (above) becomes in turn an icon or 'window into heaven' to see the Kingdom of God on earth. The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity a time to pause, reflect and to be fully present to the Kingdom of Heaven breaking in around us. Our regular Lenten observance begins annually with a community worship service with our neighbors at St Paul's Episcopal Church on Ash Wednesday and will continue until Easter Morning, celebrated on April 12 this year.

How do you plan to pause, reflect, and be present to God this season?

A Pharisee or New Testament scribe or lawyer might respond to the question with a list of do's and don't's. Their answer may be a possible starting point but I believe the greater consideration for each of us is how do we live our lives of 'do this and don't do that' in a way that is transformative for us personally and has the power to transfigure and strengthen our relationships with one another in more merciful and loving ways. Through active transformation we begin to learn to glorify and enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. Scripture relates to us that Jesus went i.e. he is 'driven' out into the wilderness to begin a life that reflects the coming of the Kingdom of God immediately. And the righteousness of this newly inaugurated kingdom is more than simply following the rules, it requires of us total and unconditional surrender to God's will and amazingly his mercy and providence. I invite you to share not only the journey but to the experience of renewal and transformation this season brings us as we pause, reflect, and are present to the glory of God in our midst.

Peace and grace be with you,
Pastor Joe



Prayerful Support for
 Eleanor Bell at Barbour Court
 John MacFadyen at Brookdale, Raleigh
 Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
 Virginia Williams in Laurinburg
 Lucy Worley at Bellarose Nursing and Rehab, Garner

Ruth Daniel
 Wayne Dockery
 Dot Ellmore
 Walker Flint
 Tom Harder
 Freddy Johnson
 Tom Johnson
 Sandra Lester
 Bill Leist
 Miriam Lore
 Earl Maret
 Jill Merrick
 Benny Pope
 Ann Ragland
 Chap Ragland
 Peter Russell
 Nelson Vaughn
 Betty Welch
 Linda Wells
 William Wells
 Bryan Jones, Nan Jones' father
 Harold Lee, Nan Jones' stepfather

Christian sympathy to the family of Bernice Johnson who died on February 6, 2020.

memorials & gifts **Memorials for** Bernice Johnson, Rebecca Ziady, Marie Gafford Atkins
Honorarium for Jane Shipman
Donors: Maxine McFadyen, Rich and Ann Huckenbeck, Frank and Betsy Olive, Emma Gemmell, Jo James, Beth Daniel, Tom and Sandra Johnson, Eve Creech, John and Shirley Booker, Jackie Gross, Georgia Booth, Linda Koss, Lucy Worley, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Dot Ellmore

We Welcome Jane Shipman

Jane Shipman is originally from Virginia and became a teacher of many subjects before she decided to be an English teacher. She taught in three different states. Three years ago, when she retired, she moved to Smithfield to be near her daughter and grandsons. She also has a son in Raleigh and he and his wife have one daughter and will have a son who is expected to be born in March.



Jane enjoys hobbies, crafts, traveling, hiking and being with friends and grandchildren. She hopes to soon find a new home to buy in Smithfield. She has already made many friends with the members of First Presbyterian. Jane has a terrific sense of humor and is a great asset to our church!



—Hubert Schmidt

HIGHLIGHTS of February Session

- Received new member, Jane Shipman, by Reaffirmation of Faith on January 26, 2020.
- Elected Hubert Schmidt to serve as Elder Commissioner to the New Hope Presbytery meeting on February 22, 2020. Elder Jaime Beasley will serve as back-up, if needed.
- Approved the budget with the addition that the position of Youth Coordinator remains unfilled for 2020.
- Approved the Sacrament of Baptism for Emma Kay Schwartz, granddaughter of Glenn and Kay Taylor on February 9, 2020.
- Approved a request by the Presbyterian Men to serve breakfast on Easter Sunday for the congregation.
- Approved calling a congregational meeting for February 23, 2020, to present the 2020 budget and approve the pastor's Terms of Call for 2020. The Presbyterian Men will serve lunch following worship that day.
- Elected the officers for the Corporation for 2020 as follows: President: Sandy Perkinson, Vice-President: Troy Lester, Secretary: Debbie Jacobs, and Treasurer: Beth Daniel.
- Approved the 2020 Communion Schedule: January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5 (Maundy Thursday), April 9, May 3, June 7, July 5, July 17 (Youth-Montreat), August 2, September 7, October 4, November 8, December 6
- Approved the following officers as Quadrant Chairs for 2020: Educational Development-Nichole Booker, Mission and Outreach-Hubert Schmidt, Spirituality-Sandy Perkinson, Stewardship-Jaime Beasley.
- Approved the examination, ordination, and installation of the new officers for the Class of 2022: Elders Jaime Beasley, John Booker II, Wayne Dockery and Deacons: Pam Hailey, Jenny Ham, Jo James, Troy Lester, Jake Jacobs (Class of 2020) and David Rice (Class of 2021).

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

—Debbie Jacobs



OYSTER ROAST 2020 COOKS

A Look at Our Children's Music Program

Our Children's Music Ministry began five years ago. The children, teachers, grandparents, and parents are still coming! I have enjoyed every year, but the years when Judy Lee began helping me have been the most enjoyable. We both love working with this age child and our ideas for the program are enriched by our working together.

Of course, each year is different. On Tuesdays we never know how many we'll have or how old they'll be. Mothers and caretakers stay and participate, so we have children under age two up to four years of age.

On Wednesdays First Baptist Church brings their three-year-olds, and their teacher and aide stay and participate.

We've had as many as fifteen children and as few as four. Since the program is free, the participants come when they can. They especially love coming on sunny days for that after

class they can enjoy our wonderful playground.

Children come from all over the county as they hear about us. We have some from Clayton, Benson, McGee's

Crossroads, Selma, and Pine Level.

We feel blessed to be able to introduce these children to music and the stories of the Bible. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

—Camille Boone



Oyster Roast 2020

This year's Oyster Roast was sold out by 6:30 p.m.! The youth raised \$1414.37 to be divided between the Youth Ministry Fund (\$849.33) and the Emergency Discretionary Fund. (\$565.00).

It takes a large number of people to make an event like this successful: youth leaders, parents, supporters, and our generous congregation. Many thanks to all who assisted, donated food, and supported us.

Your feedback is always appreciated, so let the youth leaders know how we can make this event better in the future.

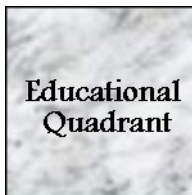


Confirmation Program

There will be an information session on March 1 for all interested parents, youth, and families regarding our confirmation program for youth 6th grade and up for Spring 2020.

The information session will begin immediately following the Relay for Life Lunch in the Community Room upstairs.

—Joseph Hester



First Presbyterian Church Operating Results: January 2020

	Jan 2020 Actual	Jan 2020 Budget
Revenue		
General Offering	16,183	12,846
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	1,322	2,613
Mission Outreach Quadrant	8,182	1,323
Spirituality Quadrant	16,464	13,570
Stewardship Quadrant	9,153	10,075
Total Disbursements	35,120	27,582
Net Income/(Deficit)	(18,937)	(14,736)

—Jaime Beasley

Communications and Technology Updates

The Fellowship Hall is now equipped with an HDMI connection that will allow our current projection system to work with newer laptops that no longer have VGA connections. This is a huge step in allowing us to upgrade the computer system that is currently being used. We have also begun to post the Sunday bulletin on our Facebook page so that those viewing from home may read along with the congregation during worship. Let us know if there are other needs in the church that our team can assist with.

COMMUNICATION & 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.

—Debbie Jacobs

New Doors!

Within the next week or two, we are expecting replacements doors for the Great Hall entry and the doors to the courtyard. We also will soon see repairs on the red front doors of the sanctuary entrance. Say thanks to Hubert Schmidt and the other Property Team members for finding the company to make and repair the entryways into our church.



Stewardship
Quadrant



Elders 2020
Evans Horne, Stan Coats, Jaime Beasley, Patrick Templeton, Wayne Dockery, Joseph Hester, Pastor Debbie Jacobs, Clerk

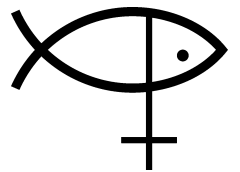
MOTHER: A Tribute to Bernice Johnson

- M — Muse :** Always our inspiration to reach higher and to strive to be the best person we can be
- O — Oracle:** “If you do that you are going to get hurt.” , And we did, but she was always there to help patch us up
- T — Teacher:** Taught us how to be kind and caring individuals as well as how to make cornbread , pork roast, not to mention pound cake – has anyone mastered the pecan pie yet ?
- H — Heart:** Helped us to learn to love and care with our heart – she was always the constant heartbeat in our lives
- E — Empathizer:** Willing to listen without judgement, but also willing to be 100% honest with us at the same time
- R — Real:** She was always real. You never had to wonder or guess what was on her mind.

Our mother, Bernice Johnson, was a truly great person and someone we will always look up to and cherish.

Mom : “Be sweet and we will always love you!”

—Wayne Johnson



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 2020

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

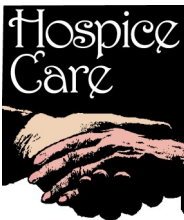
First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

Hospice Meals

The Mission and Outreach Quadrant thanks Betsy Olive and Eve Creech for providing dessert on January 29 and on March 7 at the SECU Hospice House.

Our next meal will be dinner on Sunday, March 22. If you would like to volunteer to help with this meal, please watch for the sign up sheet in the vestibule.

Thank you for your continued support of this caring mission.
—Greg and Joyce Knoll



JOY and Gardeners

The speaker for the March meeting of JOY Connection is Valerie Little from Master Gardeners. She will speak to us about backyard birds, attracting, feeding, and protecting them.



JOY CONNECTION

Another delicious meal will be served. As always, you are invited to bring a dessert.
See you March 5 at noon!

—Sandy Perkinson

Relay Team #37 News

Survivor Sunday and Chili Lunch is on March 1st. We still need people to sign up to bring soups, chilis, cornbreads, and desserts.

Your Relay Team has now raised over \$7,000 this year after a very successful Big Heart Bingo Party. The team consists of Betsy Olive, Pam Pope, Pam Schall, Joy Barbour, Meredith Worsham, Helen Best, Judy Schmidt, and Dorothy Ellmore, and your Captains, Martha Taylor and Debbie Jacobs. We would always welcome new members!



Next on our agenda will be having people purchase luminaries and display the items that will be raffled off by our team at Relay on May 15 from 5-12 p.m. at SSS High School. This should happen in April.

We are so proud of Joy Barbour for winning the Pat Penny Relay Spirit Award for 2019! She has been chairing the Luminaria Leadership for many years plus being indispensable to our team!



Joy Barbour of Benson, left, recipient of the Pat Penny Relay Spirit Award for 2019, stands with the award's namesake.

The Parrish team raised \$11,298 of the \$126,890 that 394 participants provided through 46 teams. Ms. Penny, herself the No. 2a fundraiser with \$6,950, said every-

We can't thank you enough for all the support you have given us this year!

—Martha Taylor and Debbie Jacobs

FPC's Generous SAM Food Closet Contributions

Our church members couldn't seem to give up Christmas shopping this year! The Yes We Can contributions for January were 152 items!! That may be a record high. For the month of February, our church game another 150 items! We have a dear member who goes to discount houses each month and brings back a load of groceries. She is now called the Food Lady.



Speaking of sharing and giving, the congregation gave \$65 in coins, bills, and checks to the children's Pennies for Hunger collection in February.

Your support for the SAM Food Closet is overwhelming and appreciated by so many. Thank you.

—Hubert Schmidt

**World Day of Prayer Service
Praying for Zimbabwe**

Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.
Whitley Memorial Baptist Church,
Smithfield
FPC Participants: Janet Lassiter,
Lee Johnson, Mary Miller



Mission
Outreach
Quadrant



**Midweek
Lenten Services**

**Wednesdays at Noon
Our Sanctuary**

**March 4: Beth Burton Williams
First Christian Church**

**March 11: Jim Melnyk
St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**March 18
Megan Matthews
Centenary United Method Church**

**March 25
Addie Rawls
New Generation Christian Church**

Sanctuary Flowers

The following Sundays are still untaken: May 31, August 2, August 30, October 4, October 11, and November 29. If you are interested in taking one of these dates, please contact the church office at 919-934-0988.



Spirituality
Quadrant

DEACON CARE GROUPS 2020

Troy Lester 919-302-8885
 Burke, Dina 919-746-9101
 Capps, Rick 919-934-2015
 Daniels, Judy 919-934-5744
 Gorman, Paul & Abby 919-616-6221
 James, Jo 919-934-7368
 Jones, Nan 919-634-7455
 Maggie and Will
 Lester, Tony & Sandra 919-965-8991
 Pearce, Julie & Jeremy 704-450-9950
 Pope, Benny & Pam 919-971-2969
 Rice, David & Kathy 919-300-3950
 Stanley, Debbie
 & Carey, Richie 919-202-1895
 Withrow, Pam 405-834-7671
 Wood, Johanna 919-896-1477

Nan Jones 919-634-7455
 Backner, Rhonda 919-437-1774
 Brown, Jane Kate 919-965-9785
 Crowder, Linda 919-631-0101
 Ellmore, Dot 919-300-0140
 Kimball, Bill & Brigitt 919-934-9396
 Lee, Nancy 919-934-6242
 Lester, Troy 919-302-8885
 Liverman, Tony & Anita 919-934-2004
 Pollard, Lane & Cheri 919-917-2882
 Roberson, Hank 919-880-4793
 Sytniak, Ina and Jim 919-656-3214
 Taylor, John & Martha 919-264-0587

Pam Withrow 405-834-7671
 Adams, Ellen 919-963-3064
 Barnes, Paul & Sandy 919-219-7421
 or 910-624-5305
 Daniel, Beth 919-630-3654
 Dockery, Wayne & Diane 919-553-0461
 Evans, Tim & Debbie 919-202-1045
 Foy, Eddie & Jennifer 919-934-1736
 or 919-202-3123
 Foy, Phil 919-464-5591
 Gemmell, Emma & Andy 919-934-6672
 Hailey, Ross and Pam 919-631-6665
 Henderson, Jim 919-934-6933
 Johnson, Jimmy 919-894-3196
 Lassiter, Tres 919-631-5489
 Snyder, Cindy 717-917-4638
 & Rick
 Taylor, Kay & Glenn 919-550-8588

Pam Hailey 919-631-6665
 Allen, Crystal & Andy 919-412-8527
 Allen, Harold & Cathy 919-275-4303
 Baker, Brad & Corey
 C_coop@hotmail.com 919-628-6419
 Booker, Jackson & Erin 919-934-3009
 Booker, John & Shirley
 Duncan, Kenny & Julie 919-710-7414
 Huckenbeck, Ann 937-552-9589
 Johnson, Jeff & Wilma 919-934-2446
 Johnson, Pandora & Wes 919-207-7057
 Knoll, Greg & Joyce 919-631-1903
 or 919-607-7134
 Lore, Miriam 919-934-8591
 McFadyen, Maxine 919-915-3223
 Perkinson, Josh & Kelly 919-880-4457
 Rogers, Ellen

Teron Sloan 252-809-2100
 Barwick, Tom & Sharon 919-740-4962
 Bryant, Steve and Rose 919-989-1172
 Hartman, Kathy and Ed 919-934-8487
 Horne, Evans and Trish 919-938-0391
 Johnson, Freddy and Judy 919-934-8025
 Lee, David and Joyce 919-934-3170
 Parker, Nikki and Tory 919-703-3435
 Sloan, Teron 252-809-2100
 Taylor, Matthew & Rebecca 919-417-4643
 Vaughn, Nelson 919-464-6828
 Wells, Linda 919-995-7086
 Worley, Lucy 919-934-4840
 Ziady, Phil 919-989-7550

Jenny Ham 919-631-1027
 Arthur, Bob and Debbie 919-936-2124
 Barbour, Joy
 and Meredith Worsham 919-464-8904
 Best, Rodney 919-631-3543
 Blackman, Nina 919-934-3572
 Cox, Bobby and Cathy 919-965-4651
 Creech, Paul 803-760-5832
 Duncan, Billy 919-553-1495
 Harrell, Jane 919-553-8595
 Holzshu, Scott and Brand 919-359-2191
 McFadyen, John 919-334-2503
 Schmidt, Hubert and Judy 919-879-8143
 Shipman, Jane 252-423-0954
 Wallace, Myra 919-934-5322

Anita Liverman 919-464-5809
 Adams, Nathan and Jane 919-934-5598
 Allen, Ken and Jane 919-934-9921
 Daniel, Ruth 919-934-8213
 Chance, Steve & Margaret 919-553-2477
 Churchill, Frances 919-934-8683
 Coats, Stan and Kelly 919-989-9763
 Deans, Frank Jr and Lisa 919-205-1693
 Hartman, David and Bobbie 919-300-4090
 Horne, Roger and Eleanor 919-550-8844
 Lassiter, Janet 919-631-2254
 Roberts, Brandon
 and Stephanie 919-915-3165
 Worsham, Al 919-631-8237
 Wynne, Vic and JP Williams 919-553-5074

Pam Schall 919-989-8449
 Anaruma, Paul and Emilia 919-820-2377
 Best, Helen 919-934-3772
 Booker, Brent and Nichole 919-630-3504
 Craig, Elizabeth and Rick 919-796-5483
 Harder, Steve and Amy 919-553-9710
 Hess, Robert and Barbar 919-631-7254
 Lee, Judy 919-934-7629
 Marett, Earl and Etta 919-934-6954
 Merrick, Jill 910-726-9447
 Sharek, Bill and Shirley 919-631-2333
 Stanley, Zach (text) 919-812-2796
 Vaughn, Laura 919-631-2416
 Worley, Paul and Tonya 919-989-8355

Jake Jacobs 919-631-0617
 Beasley Jaime 919-395-2435
 & George
 Boone, Tommy 919-464-6055
 & Camille
 Buffkin, Tony 704-488-2329
 & Ginger
 Ham, Jenny & Dennis 919-631-1027
 Hepner, Brooke 919-631-1756
 Johnson, Lee & Paul 919-934-0214
 Marett, Scott 919-394-6170
 Naylor, Brittany 919-464-0390
 & Jayson
 Olive, Frank & Betsy 919-934-2207
 Stephenson, John 919-815-2637
 & Kathy
 Vinson, Jay 919-631-3104
 Wilson, Rodney 919-631-9798
 & Alice
 Worsham, Bob 919-744-8333

Emilia Anaruma 919-820-2377
 Jacobs, Jake 919-631-9471
 & Debbie
 Johnson, Tom 919-934-2161
 & Sandra
 Miller, Gene & Mary 919-934-1383
 Pate, Ricky & Sarah 252-432-3037
 Perkinson, Tyler 919-930-5265
 & Lauren 919-736-4951
 Poust, Mabel 919-550-7665
 Smith, Cindy 919-938-8720
 Stephenson, J.A.
 & Linda
 Wefald, Vicky Cards Only
 Welch, Betty 919-934-8631
 Worley, Jean 919-934-8353

David Rice 919-300-3950
 Booker, John & Sue 919-320-4467
 or 919-934-2275
 Chellew, Brenda 919-359-2960
 Ferebee, Sam 919-437-5823
 Harder, Tom & Diane 919-351-4045
 Henderson, Starr 919-585-2792
 & Steve
 Hester, Joe 919-820-1304
 Lampe, John & Janet 919-300-1284
 Langdon, Harold 919-934-1960
 & Karen
 McCrae, Thad 919-631-7933
 Miller, Judy 919-631-9436
 Moody, Mary 919-989-8319
 Ragland, Chap & Ann 919-938-2083
 or 919-915-6975
 Russell, Peter & Linda 919-938-3734

Jo James 919-934-7368
 Bell, Greg 704-640-5529
 Creech, Eve 919-934-3939
 Heuser, Nancy 919-934-3787
 & Robert
 Lesko, Tina & John 919-750-4202
 Pendry, Daryl 919-422-9180
 & Carolyn
 Perkinson, Sandy 919-631-5969
 Roberts, Chris 919-631-0529
 & Shelley
 Roberts, Tom 919-333-5758
 Schall, Pam 919-989-8449
 Templeton, Patrick & Jennifer 919-630-0906
 Watson, Neil & Lucy 919-934-6548



← DEACONS 2020

**Emilia Anaruma, Jenny Ham,
 Jo James, Pam Schall, Jake Jacobs
 David Rice, Pam Hailey, Teron Sloan**