REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER

The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. — Psalm 24:1

The selection of our stewardship theme originates with words first penned by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in 1797 in The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and expanded on in the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful” published in Hymns for Little Children by Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848. “All Things Great and Small” draws us to the confessional words of the Nicene Creed: “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible.” All that we are, according to our affirmation of faith, is indeed the work of God. Christian theologians through the centuries have understood the hand of God at work in everything around us as well as within us.

Sometimes I remark to others when an unusual event occurs, "Is this coincidence or providence?" November heralds a season of significant events for us, including Thanksgiving and Election Day. It is also a time of remembrance with our All Saints and Veterans Day observances. Our stewardship theme this year brings to mind a youthful ordeal I once shared with longtime friend and elder of this church, Ruth Horne Bell. During her recent memorial service, I shared with many of you how Ruth and I first met in eighth grade. Due to the strict alphabetical seating chart of our English and Social Studies teacher, we found ourselves sitting next to one another during the entire school year. As I look back over four decades of the friendship that grew out of the year, I ponder the meaning of our chance meeting as coincidence and/or the hand of providence. I consider how God provides for us in the people we encounter daily and especially with those who stay with us for the longer journey.

Our stewardship theme All Things Great and Small reminds me, too, that it was this same authoritarian teacher who provided us with the grueling opportunity to memorize a very long passage from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, an opportunity over which Ruth and I bonded and which remained etched (scarred) upon our friendship with joyous laughter through many years as we would recite portions that included, “He prayeth best who loveth best all things both great and small. For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all.” When I remember the beginnings of this friendship, I also recall her great love of this Church and everyone in it, and especially her heart for the youth of our congregation. I also remember with joy and affection the others who have departed this year who gave so much of themselves as faithful stewards to our community of faith: Ted Wells, Tom Barbour, Debbie Henderson, Hilda Worsham, Walt Lassiter, Shirley Williams and Martha Rogers. And I confess with a great certainty that it is the act of generous providence that has brought us all together. It is these blessings, things both great and small, that I will consider as I prepare myself for Consecration Sunday on November 11. I invite you to reflect with me upon the Providence of God that demonstrates an abundance of love and generosity for us through the people and gifts now present in our lives, both great and small.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Joe
Christian Sympathy to Ann Hobgood on the death of her brother, Johnny Gill Hobgood, on October 27, 2018, in Rockledge, FL.

Memorials for Ruth Bell, Martha Rogers, Elaine Luper Stancil, Debbie Henderson, Lacy Pearson

Honorarium for Camille Boone

Donors: Hubert and Judy Schmidt, Frank and Betsy Olive, Carl and Peggy Currie, Sandy Perkinsion, Tom and Sandra Johnson, John and Shirley Booker, Jim Henderson, James and Esther Wester, Jim Henderson, John and Susan Weester, Janet Lassiter, the Ruxworth Family, Harold and Cathy Allen, Jay and Susie Hotchkiss, Chap and Ann Ragland, Benny and Pam Pope, Tonya and Paul Worley, Maxine McFadyen, Jane Harrell, Jean Worley, Earl and Etta Marett, Billy Duncan, Timothy and Cathy Kinlaw, Exams Work Group in care of Sandra Hartigan, Ellen Adams, John and Margaret Causey, Marion C. Tew, Jerry and Mary Owens, Revenue Solutions, Ricky and Sarah Pate, Cape Fear Presbyterian Church, Charles and Carolyn Smith, Nathan and Mable Johnson, Wilbur and Judy Davis, Rich and Ann Huckenbeck, Carolyn Evans, Elton and Alice Thomas, Glen Martin, Tommy and Camille Boone, Myra Wallace

Happy Thanksgiving

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday

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!!

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 4
Remember to set your clocks back an hour!
First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results—January – September
Actual vs. Budgeted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan—Sept 2018</th>
<th>Jan—Sept 2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Offering*</td>
<td>213,555.96</td>
<td>241,782.41</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disbursements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Quadrant</td>
<td>27,939.35</td>
<td>23,669.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Outreach Quad.</td>
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<td>12,262.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirituality Quadrant</td>
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<td>122,109.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship Quadrant</td>
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<td>75,666.93</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Disbursements</strong></td>
<td>244,170.35</td>
<td>233,708.19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income/(Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>(30,614.39)</td>
<td>8,074.22</td>
</tr>
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</table>

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 9/30/2017

- **Pledge Gifts**: $356,467
- **Memorials/Honorariums**: $21,565
- **Other Gifts**: $79,627
- **Total VISION 2020 Contributions**: $457,659
- **Total VISION 2020 Commitments**: $537,386
- **Mortgage Balance**: $778,058

Stewardship: All Things Great and Small

We all have talents and gifts. If you’re like me, sometimes it is hard to think about what those talents may be (I can’t sing or dance and I am not an artist), but if I dig deep enough, I realize that God has indeed blessed me with abundant gifts, just as he has blessed each and every one of you. We all bring something different to the table, and what a wonderful table we have at First Presbyterian Church! No matter your talent, you can be a part of our ministry! You can sing in the choir, work with the children and young people, volunteer to provide meals at the SECU Hospice House… even grill a hot dog at the July 4th celebration. The opportunities to give back truly are endless.

I Peter 4:10 says, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” It is our Christian responsibility to use our gifts and talents to serve others. This Stewardship season, please take a moment to reflect on the ways that you can magnify your talents and gifts. Let us all prayerfully consider how we can thank God for the abundant life he has provided us. On November 11, pledge to give back, to sustain, to support and to share all of the joy First Presbyterian Church has to offer.

—Jaime Henderson Beasley
Stewardship Chair

Communications and Technology Team
In the weekly eNews, the People Directory has been recently updated. 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; it will continue to be updated quarterly.

—Debbie Jacobs

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

Stewardship Commitment
Sunday
November 11, 2018
Covered-dish Lunch follows worship

Memorials / Honorariums
Other Gifts
Pledge Gifts
Total Vision 2020 Contributions

Stewardship: All Things Great and Small

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your calls, visits, cards, meals, and most of all, your prayers during my surgery and hospital stay.

We are so thankful to be a part of such a loving and caring church.

Freddy and Judy Johnson

—Cathy Allen
All Saints Sunday  
November 4, 2018  
Remembering those we love.

Carson Theodore (Ted) Wells  
October 13, 1921—December 27, 2017

Thomas Oscar Barbour  
September 15, 1930—February 16, 2018

Deborah Exum Henderson  
June 23, 1954—February 18, 2018

Hilda Blackmon Worsham  
January 16, 1926—April 22, 2018

Walter Gaston Lassiter, Jr.  
February 27, 1955—May 6, 2018

Shirley Lee Williams  
December 16, 1920—May 27, 2018

Martha Pridgen Rogers  
June 9, 1914—July 28, 2018

Ruth Horne Bell  
October 18, 1964—September 22, 2018
Hospice House

The Mission Outreach Quadrant is providing our congregation with the opportunity to stock the pantry at the SECU Hospice House in Smithfield during the month of November. The pantry items are available for friends and family members when they are visiting their loved ones at Hospice House. Individually wrapped items such as cookies/crackers, nabs, pudding, applesauce, fruit cups, cereal bars, microwave popcorn, paper products for the kitchen, bottled water, canned soft drinks/juices, beverages for children, coffee/coffee filters, Keurig individual pods, instant macaroni & cheese, grits, oatmeal, and soups would be very much appreciated. A collection box will be located in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday in November for donations.

The Mission Outreach Quadrant also partners with the volunteers at Hospice House eight times a year to provide opportunities for our congregation to provide a meal to share our support and care to the families with loved ones at Hospice House and also the dedicated staff and volunteers.

Our next meal will be on Sunday, November 11. Please check out the sign-up sheet on the table in the Vestibule if you would like to participate.

Thank you for all your support of these caring missions.

—Joyce Knoll
November JOY

If you missed JOY in October, you missed a real star-studded experience! Patrick Templeton turned the wall of the fellowship hall into a galaxy far, far away and taught us about nebula, galaxies, constellations, and other magic of the night skies. One of the best parts of his presentation, besides Ruth’s art work, was his explanation of the basic inexpensive equipment he uses to star gaze...AND he extended an open invitation to all to join him and his family and neighbors for a nighttime adventure! Another star of the event was the delicious meal. Judy Daniels, Dot Ellmore, Maxine McFadyen, Nancy Lee, and Jo James cooked baked spaghetti that was DELICIOUS! Salad, warm garlic bread, and desserts galore made a lovely meal.

November 1 JOY brings us the Golden Girls and a traditional Thanksgiving meal by Joyce Lee and Shirley Booker! Join us for the fun, bring a dessert and a friend, and sing along if you like! Hope to see you there!

—Sandy Perkinson

Time to Decorate!

Our “fire brigade” for retrieving the Advent decor from storage upstairs worked well last years that we’d like to do it again! On November 25, Christ the King Sunday, we would appreciate your assistance after worship to form a line and bring down boxes, crates, and bags! No one will have to carry heavy things or climb stairs if that’s tough for you, but many hands make light work. Last year, we had everything down in less than 30 minutes! Then the fun part will begin on November 29 and 30 when we will deck the halls, set up and decorate the Chrismon trees, place the wreaths inside and out, and decorate the great hall. In order to do this efficiently, we need some tall and strong folks to help get the three trees put together and lit before the 29th. Can you help? I’ll provide music and snacks!

—Judy Daniels and Your Worship Team

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.

—Mary Miller

Paint Party and Cookie Exchange

Our Paint Party was a great success! Thanks to all who participated and to the following team members that made it all possible: Debbie Jacobs, Betsy Olive, Joy Worsham, Meredith Worsham, Pam Pope, Pam Schall, Judy Schmidt, Helen Best, and Dot Ellmore.

Everyone seemed to have a good time painting and eating the refreshments. We were able to raise $430-$450 for such a good cause!

Our next event will be our Christmas Cookie Exchange on Sunday, December 16. We hope you will help us with this event and will enjoy lots of good cookies. They are great for gifts at the holidays. All leftovers will be donated to Christmas in a Barn, which is that evening.

—Martha Taylor

Order of the Arrow and Spaghetti Fundraiser

This month, we have one of our biggest fundraisers of the year: our SPAGHETTI DINNER! It will be held on November 6th, from 5:30-7:30 in the FPC Fellowship Hall. Tickets are $7 in advance, or $8 at the door. Tickets can be purchased from Carson Horne, Davis Bell, or Evans Horne.

In October we had two scouts, Davis Bell and Jude Reece, go through the ordeal campout to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow, the Honor Society of Boy Scouts. We also began the Automotive Maintenance Merit Badge with the help of Evans and Cooper Horne at Horne Automotive.

If you know of any middle or high schoolers who are interested in Scouting, please direct them to our Senior Patrol Leader Davis Bell or our Scoutmaster Evans Horne so they can partake in the new upcoming Scout Year.

—Davis Bell

Troop 95 Senior Patrol Leader

This Christmas Be an Angel

As part of our Session-approved partner ministry with the Smithfield Rescue Mission, the Mission Outreach Quadrant will be sharing an Angel Tree again this holiday season. Angel cards will be available Sunday, November 18, through Sunday, December 16.

Select an Angel Card and remove it from the tree.

Locate your Angel Card number on the Master List and write your name or group (with a contact) on the line next to the Angel Card number.

Bring the UNWRAPPED gift/gifts to church by Sunday, December 16, with the Angel Card (so the recipient can be identified) and place near the Angel Tree.

Please use the labels attached to the Angel Card to identify additional bags or gifts purchased for that individual. Four (4) labels are provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Dot Ellmore. Thank you for all your support of our local missions.

—Dot Ellmore

Diverse, Yet One in God

FOR THE 2018 PC(USA) THANK OFFERING

For in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

— Romans 12:4-6a
Ruth Bell’s Legacy to FPC

Almost every photo that we found in our files of Ruth Bell has her surrounded by the children and youth she loved and served. She worked faithfully with our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and PYC and KICKS. She coordinated Christmas in a Barn for several years. Her first love, however, became Wee Kirk.

Wee Kirk was begun at FPC in 2008 under the leadership of our last Director of Christian Education, Cameron Womack. The purpose of Wee Kirk was and remains to educate our youth in our Order of Worship so that they understand each part, such as the Call to Worship, the creeds, Holy Communion, and confessions. Together Ruth and Cameron wrote the curriculum.

Ruth’s father, Dr. Roger Horne, was the pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington for 27 years. Ruth and her brother Evans spent a lot of time at church in their childhood, and they continue to in adulthood, becoming leaders in our congregation.

As Westminster was closing its doors last April, Evans and Ruth were invited to go through the church and take anything left that had meaning for them. Ruth immediately wanted the two small pews and a few small chairs there for our Wee Kirk room here. A dear friend of the Horne family, Charles Smith made those pews when the church was organized, making them even more special to Ruth and Evans. Ruth knew that the addition of these two pews would make the Wee Kirk room seem more like church. She was right.

We will always miss Ruth Horne Bell, but we will remember her through her legacy of good works for our children. You are encouraged to stop by the Wee Kirk room and take a look at the beautiful, handmade pews and our beautiful children and youth who fill them.

Julie Duncan Receives National Recognition

Julie Duncan, wife of Kenny Duncan and daughter-in-law of Billy Duncan, has proven herself over and over again to be an outstanding human being. Julie has served our church as a deacon, she has volunteered with our youth, and she helps whenever needed to prepare the elements of communion.

A couple years ago Julie changed jobs, going to work for Progress Residential, one of the largest providers of high quality single-family rentals in the United States. Its home office is Scottsdale, AZ, and Julie works out of the Raleigh office.

Every year Progress Residential gives out an annual award based on peer-based nominations and descriptions of the nominee. This year, Progress Residential gave eight Choice Awards to employees from all across the country. Julie was one of the honorees. She spent the weekend of April 26-28 in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she and the seven others were honored at a banquet.

Way to go, Julie! Make sure to congratulate her when you see her.

Just a note of appreciation for all the prayers and support from some wonderful fellow Christians. Your kindness means the world to me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jill Merrick

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works
—Titus 2:7

Remember to turn in your Officer Recommendation Form on Sunday, November 4.
Happy Thanksgiving!
Enjoy your holiday!