

ICHTHUS
April 2017

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, North Carolina

In This Issue

From the Pastor
From the Hand Bell Director

Prayer Concerns

Avera Scholarship
Communications and Technology Updates
Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch
Financial Information: Operating Results
Highlights of Session
Holy Week Schedule
Hospice Meal
Hunger Sunday
JOY Connection
Memorials
Property Box
Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration
Relay for Life Team 37
Refugee Resettlement
Reception Desk Volunteers
Spring Gathering of PW
Stewardship
Sunday School Restructuring Trial
Thanks
Vacation Bible School
Yes We Can
Youth Updates

April Calendar
Lectionary
Worship Nursery
Flowers
Birthdays
Anniversaries
Ushers
Lay Readers
Acolytes
Trinity Ringers
Building Officers
Sunday Shepherds
Time with Children



A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
215 S. Third Street
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-0988
fpcmwallace@gmail.com
www.fpcsmithfield.org

Reflections in the Water: Flowering of the Cross

First Presbyterian Church
Easter 2015



"*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us . . . So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.*"

—Ephesians 2:13, 19-22

We approach the Resurrection of Christ from many paths and places. During the season of Lent we have a the opportunity to consider in prayer the many twists and turns of life that have brought us to the present moment of life. The picture above was taken on an Easter morning a couple of years ago at First Presbyterian Church as we concluded our worship on the lawn with the Flowering of the Cross. The image speaks to me of the diverse talents and unique circumstances of individual lives that bring together as the children of God at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. The photo communicates what I cannot quite put into words. It is an icon of the Church which Paul tries to describe to the Ephesians as he shares what it means to be brought into the household of God. Everyone in this picture and those beyond it's borders are filled with a rich life experience that brings them to this singular moment at the cross of Jesus. What do you see here and how do you answer the question *why are we here?*

As we journey from Lent into the Easter season in a series of Lenten practices, Holy Week observances and Easter celebration, I ask you to consider the welcome God offers to you: how God has called us who were strangers and resident aliens and given us a place among the saints, a seat at his table, and place of rest in God's household.

Pastor Joe



Prayerful Concern for
Tom Barbour at Meadowview
Nor Bell at Meadowview
Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Shirley Williams at Meadowview
Myde Eason at Brookdale Smithfield
Hazel Whitehurst at Carillon Assisted Living, Fuquay-Varina
Marie Atkins
Helen Best
Ruth Daniel
Debbie Henderson
Tom Johnson
Shannon Kimball
Tony Lester
Joann Lee
Bill Leist
Marie Maddox
Catherine Miller
Gene Miller
Mary Miller
Benny Pope
Chap Ragland
Shelley Roberts
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Peter Russell
Linda Stephenson
Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Ted Wells
William Wells
Hilda Worsham
Rebecca Ziady
Joseph Hester, Sr.
Sharon Van Velzen, sister of Joyce Knoll

Congratulations to Rodney and Alice Ann Wilson on the birth of a son, **Carter Leo,** on March 23, 2017. **Bill and Shirley Sharek** are the proud grandparents.



Memorials for Clem and Mikki Sharek, Julie Capps, Jane Bolin, Jane Cunningham, Marc Wallace
Honorariums for Kathy Rice and Avery Coats and her family
Donors: Frank and Lisa Deans, Joyce and David Lee, Debbie and Jake Jacobs, Jane Harrell, Greg, Ruth and Davis Bell, Tony and Anita Liverman.

And We Were Locked Out!!



Although this relates to starting a church in Kenly, it is a good story worth sharing during our anniversary year in Smithfield.

In the *North Carolina Presbyterian* of August 24, 1893, the Rev. John A. McMurray, our pastor from 1893-1898 who officiated at the laying of the cornerstone of our original building on North Second Street writes:

"Bro. F.D. Thomas and Myself were holding a meeting at Kenly and were by consent using the Free Will Baptist church. After having used it for about a week one Wiley Walkins without any notice to us locked the doors against us. He *claims to* have done so by authority, I suppose not *Jure divino.* He is said to have 'set up free cider' that night on the success of his scheme. He claims that he was ordered to do so because we did not attend his grandmother's burial the day before – of whose death and burial we knew not. The burial and death were out in the country about Kenly at some place unknown to us. We have an unfinished house at this place and with $50 more we could use it, 'without any to molest or make us afraid.' Will not some of our people happy in worshipping 'under their own vine and fig-tree' help our little flock at Kenly? Fifty dollars will put them into a new house. Shall they remain out of doors for the lack of your help? If you wish to lend them help send to me at Smithfield. N.C."

—Ann Huckenbeck

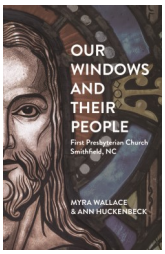


of March Session

- Approved the following leadership for 2017:
  Spirituality Quadrant Chair: Sandy Perkinson
  Special Services Team Chair: Joy Worsham
  Worship Team Chair: Judy Daniels
  Liturgical Space Team Chair: Betsy Olive
- Educational Development Quadrant Chair: Kelly Coats
  Education Team Chair: Nichole Booker
  New Programs/Special Interests Team Chair: Courtney Scott
  Youth Leadership Team Chair: Jennifer Templeton
- Stewardship Quadrant Chair: Judy Miller
  Finance Administration Team Chair: Shirley Sharek
  Personnel Administration Team Chair: Kay Taylor
  Property Administration Team Chair: Stan Coats
  Communication and Technology Team Chair: Debbie Jacobs
- Mission Outreach Quadrant Chair: Tom Barwick
  Community Outreach Team Chair: Ann Ragland
  Congregational Fellowship and Service Team Chair: Dot Ellmore
  Prospective Membership Team Chair: *Position vacant*
- Approved the continuation of information to be shared with the congregation on the refugee resettlement project through Church World Services. Greg and Joyce Knoll and Hubert and Judy Schmidt are currently sharing this information.
- Approved Continuing Education leave for the pastor to attend the Haden Institute from March 30-April 6, 2017.
- Approved the PYC hosting a covered dish dinner on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm to share their experiences with the Faith in 3D and Raleigh Youth Mission projects.
- Approved designating Sunday, June 11, 2017, as Youth Sunday.
- Approved our youth attending the Montreat Youth Conference on July 9-15, 2017.
- Approved the youth's use of the parking lot to provide spaces during the Ham and Yam Festival, May 5-7, 2017, for rental to individuals interested in holding yard sales.
- Approved the submission of the 2016 PC(USA) Statistical Report.
- Approved the restructuring of Sunday School for children ages two through fifth grade for a trial period beginning April 30, 2017, and continuing through September 30, 2017.
- Approved an Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Luncheon hosted by the Educational Development Quadrant on Sunday, April 9, 2017, following worship.
- Approved the 2017 budget with plans to share stewardship information with the congregation, use $20,000 funds from reserves, if necessary, and commit to raising any additional funds needed with fundraisers. A task force of elders comprised of Tom Barwick, Sandy Perkinson, and Myra Wallace was appointed to work on fundraisers.
- Approved a Called Congregational Meeting to approve the 2017 Pastor's Terms of Call.
- Elected Beth Daniel as Church Treasurer for 2017.
- Elected Debbie Jacobs as Clerk of Session for 2017.

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

—Debbie Jacobs



Our Windows and Their People
A History of the Stained Glass of FPC
Only 16 copies left.
Get Yours Now!
$15.00
All proceeds go to the Building Fund



To our church members who place flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday, and to **Nancy Lee** for making the flower calendar each year.
To Ann Ragland for her tireless work for JOY Connection.
To Joyce and Greg Knoll for their leadership in our helping SECU Hospice House.
To Camille Boone and Judy Lee for their work with children's music each Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Refugee Resettlement

Salah spent 25 years in a refugee camp: This is where he met his wife. This is where his children were born.

Originally from Somalia, Salah had to flee to Kenya due to the civil war in his home country. When he arrived in the refugee camp, Dadaab, he managed to find work with micro-financing projects, working as a shelter manager, and eventually owning his own shop. Despite these successes in the refugee camp, it still came with many hardships that made it a "horror camp," according to Salah. Abductions and shootings took place on a regular basis, and even the police would steal from camp residents during the night. If you attempted to report it you would be charged with reporting false crimes. The refugee camp was a place where there was no justice or respect, yet this was Salah and his family's reality.

After 25 years, Salah was granted refugee status, allowing him to leave the refugee camp and start a new life in Durham. Though he learned English in the camp, he still struggled to find work to provide for his family. Thankfully, the Local Church stepped in to provide items for Salah and his family's new home. Members of the Local Church welcomed Salah and his family at the airport, provided them with a meal, and took them to their new home as well. By serving Salah and his family, the Local Church allowed Salah to focus on searching for jobs rather than worrying about provisions for his home. As the local Church and refugees partner, we witness refugees like Salah become empowered to thrive in the U.S. World Relief Durham, 2016

In light of the recent executive order that has stopped refugee resettlement for 120 days and federal funding to support the local Church World Service Refugee Resettlement office, Church World Service needs financial support.

If you have any questions or would like to help support Church World Service, please contact Hubert or Judy Schmidt at 919-879-8143 or at hujuschmidt@gmail.com ,or Greg or Joyce Knoll at 919 -607-7134 or at gjknoll841@gmail.com.

—The Knolls and Schmidts





Immigrants: People *who choose* to leave one country to live in another company in hopes of having a better life. Refugees: People *who have been forced* to leave their country to escape war, persecution, death, or natural disaster.

Can You Volunteer Just 3½ Hours Per Month? Reception Desk Greeters Needed

Are you willing to volunteer just 3½ hours a month, on either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon from 12:30—4:00? We need people to answer the phone and greet visitors. Please consider participating in this mission. Call Jane Harrell, Reception Desk Coordinator, at 919-553-8595 either for more information or to volunteer.

—Jane Harrell

April JOY Connection



On the first Thursday in April, **April 6,** welcoming doors will be open to First Presbyterians and folks from the community for JOY Connection. The air will be filled with delicious aromas. The dessert table will be filled by your gracious hands. Friends will gather with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts. Don't miss this special event.

Sign up on the sheet at the reception desk or call the church to reserve a space and be ready to experience a very refreshing, uplifting time. After a tasty lunch and lots of conversation and desserts of all kinds, our "Dynamic Duo" made up of Bennie Pope and Rich Huckenbeck, will become our "Dynamic Trio" as the two guys will be joined by Pam.

Music will fill the air! Sweet Springtime will be welcomed in song. We look forward to having fellowship with each of you on the 6th.

—Ann Ragland

We Provide Hospice Meal on April 23

The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers and staff at SECU Hospice House in Smithfield several times a year to provide an opportunity for our congregation to share our support and care to the families with loved ones at Hospice House by providing and serving a meal for the families, volunteers and staff. Our next meal will be on Sunday, April 23. If you would like to participate, please watch for the sign-up sheet which will be placed on the table in the vestibule March 26. Please contact Joyce Knoll if you have any questions.



—Joyce Knoll





Hunger Sunday:
Every Third Sunday



Locally We Give to the Smithfield Area Ministries' Food Closet Housed at Centenary UMC
More Broadly, We Contribute to New Hope Presbytery's Hunger Program.
Bring Coins and Cans!



Food Choice for April: Breakfast Food
Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, Nutrition Bars





Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch on the Lawn following Worship
Palm Sunday, April 9
Plan to Stay. Bring a Friend!

Chili Lunch, a Quilt and an Afghan



FPC's Team 37's Chili Lunch brought in $1,238 for the American Cancer Society. A lot of the research grants given by the ACS go to places in North Carolina. Our church is working to help find a cure and new medications to help cancer patients.

After Easter we will have luminary sheets in the bulletins so you can remember or honor the special people in your life that have fought and survived cancer or who lost their battle.

You can purchase tickets at the reception desk for the afghan and the quilt, or you can see Betsy Olive or Martha Taylor.

Team 37 thanks you for all your tremendous support!

—Martha Taylor, Captain
Team 37



Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women

First Presbyterian Church, New Bern

April 8, 9:30 a.m.

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration

Saturday, April 29, 11:00 a.m.

Come for Brunch , Fellowship, and the Installation of Officers for 2017-2018

Make Reservations through Church Office or Circle Chair

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

APRIL 2017

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Communications and Technology News

If you are unable to pick up your pictorial directory from the church office, please contact your deacon who will assist you in getting yours. We prefer not to mail them if we can get them to you another way. Just let us know.

If you are not receiving the eNews on Thursdays or Dial My Calls information, please contact Debbie Jacobs so that your email and phone number can be corrected. If your information changes, please let her know of the changes so that you can stay in touch with what's happening at First Presbyterian.

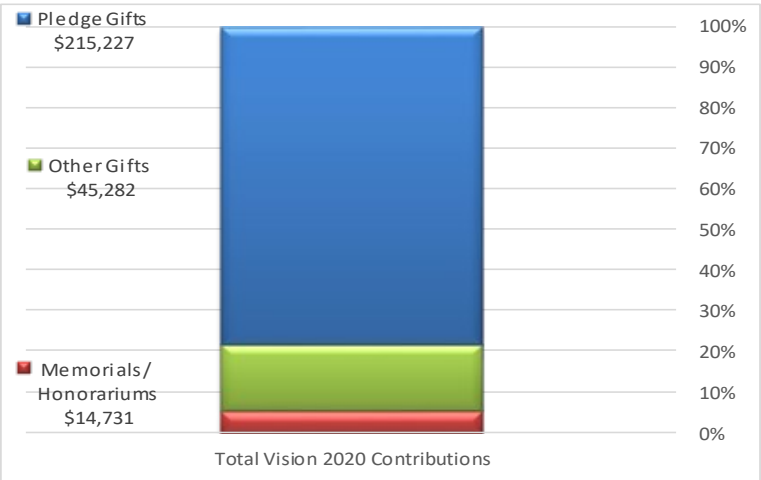
—Debbie Jacobs

First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results January—February 2017
Actual vs. Budgeted

	Jan—Feb 2017 Actual	Jan—Feb 2017 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	37,639.82	48,333.34
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	1,772.25	4,841.68
Mission Outreach Quad.	2,070.50	3,125.00
Spirituality Quadrant	23,740.02	25,530.48
Stewardship Quadrant	16,800.89	18,472.36
Total Disbursements	44,383.66	51,969.52
Net Income	(6,743.84)	(3,636.18)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 2/28/2017

$	215,227	Pledge Gifts
$	14,731	Memorials/Honorariums
$	45,282	Other Gifts
$	275,240	Total VISION 2020 Contributions
$	559,626	Total VISION 202 Commitments
$	941,622	Mortgage Balance



Property Box



According to church policy, long-term storage **must be approved by Session.** Unless it is a workroom supply, items should not be left on counters or in cabinets in the workroom.

Please help the staff have the space they need to work. If you have left things in the workroom, please find them a permanent home.

Thanks.

—Your Property Team



Hand Bell Choir Wants You . . .



As I was trying to figure out what to submit for this edition of the ICHTHUS, hoping to come up with yet another way to make an appeal for new hand bell ringers, I decided to try to dispel some hand bell myths. Consider the following:

I can't ring hand bells because . . .

"I don't read music." You would be amazed at the creative ways we mark music to make it playable for each ringer. Just think, you eventually will learn to read music!

"I'm not very coordinated." We practice each week so ringers can develop the necessary muscle memory to be able to ring.

"I'm self-conscious about performing in front of people." You probably noticed we don't do a lot of solos. While we always try to give our best, music in worship is not so much a performance as our gift or an offering to God.

"I can't make it to rehearsals every Wednesday." Consider being a substitute.

"I'm too old (or too young) to play bells" Some of my most rewarding musical experiences have involved multi-generational choirs. If you are in middle school or older, give us a try.

"You guys play music that would be too challenging for me." Our music library contains level 1, 2, 3, and 4 music. It is my job as director to choose music that appropriate for our ringers. We work hard, but we don't play in worship until everyone is comfortable.

When I stop and pay attention to the many roles our ringers play in the life of the church, it makes me proud that they take the time to be part of a team that learns from each other, supports one another, and makes beautiful music together. We'd love to have you join us.

—Kathy Rice



Holy Week Schedule

Sacred Arts Pilgrimage
April 10, 11, and 12
9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

If you have something to submit, such as a poem, a work of art, or a photograph, please contact Nancy Lee or Joe Hester by noon on Palm Sunday, April 9.



Noon, Monday, April 10 through
Noon, Tuesday, April 11

Sign up sheet in the narthex



Maundy Thursday
April 13
Covered-dish Meal, 6:00 p.m.
Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.



April 14
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
followed by Stations of the Cross
ending in our sanctuary



Easter Sunday
6:30 a.m.
Sunset Memorial Gardens
Community Sunrise Service
Breakfast in our fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m.



Flowers on the Cross
following worship
Easter Sunday



The Evelyn Southerland Avera Scholarship



It is time to apply for the Evelyn Southerland Avera Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to honor the Avera children's mother, her love of First Presbyterian Church, her spirit, and her strong belief in the value of education. This scholarship is designed for someone seeking a two- or four-year degree, has a financial need, has a connection to this church, and exhibits the characteristics of Evelyn Avera. It is open to any student who is currently enrolled in college. Download an application from our website and return it by June 15, 2016, to Debbie Jacobs.

—Debbie Jacobs



Looking Ahead . . .
VBS
Summer 2017
If you can volunteer, please contact Linda Crowder.
Details to follow . . .

Donate Those Plastic Grocery Bags

The youth who participated in the Raleigh Youth Mission in February are now undertaking a drive to assist the homeless which they learned about during their mission. Shelters who work with the homeless in Raleigh explained these individuals need plastic grocery bag daily. They use the bags to carry their personal belongings and keep them dry; they braid them to make bedding and shelters to keep them dry on the streets, and the mission itself uses them to distribute food and personal items to the homeless.

PYC is asking for you help in collecting these bags over the next few months. Our youth will deliver them to the shelters of Raleigh by the end of school year. You can place them in the blue containers in the Great Hall.

—Linda Crowder

Another Successful Oyster Roast



The youth, their leaders, and the Youth Coordinator send you a heartfelt thank you for your generous support of the Annual Oyster Roast. Your contributions of soup, chili, cornbread, slaw and desserts played a huge part in their profits. At this writing, we believe their profits from the event is $985.00.

—Linda Crowder

Pot Lunch Meal
Tuesday, April 18
6:30 p.m.
Youth Presentation for Faith in 3D and Raleigh Youth Mission
Special Guest Speaker from RYM



Saturday, May 6

Rent a Church Parking Lot Space
$25.00 / Space or
two for $40.00

See Linda Crowder



Experimental Schedule for Sunday School for Children

The Educational Quadrant asked Session to approve a new approach to Sunday School for our children. After listening to their proposal, Session agreed to a trial period to see how effective it is. Beginning April 30 and running through September 30, the restructuring will be in its trial stage. At the end of the trial period, Session will decide whether to adopt the new format or to return to the old.

The Educational Quadrant stated that through their actions and their participation, church families are telling us that coming to worship is a priority, but coming to Sunday school is not. A typical Sunday has left them searching for teachers for classes with few or no children. Therefore, they will shift their approach to Christian Education to maximize the experiences of our children and families when they are in the building on Sunday mornings.

From 9:45 a.m.—10:45 a.m., we will offer a multi-age Children's Corner in the current preschool classroom. Utilizing children's worship bulletins and bibles, a single volunteer will assist the children at this time. The curriculum and materials will be organized and ready to go.

For those children who are here during worship, we will offer a new education program. After Time with Children, two-year-olds through fifth graders will go to Wee Kirk. There they will spend 10—15 minutes working on music with Mrs. Camille and Mrs. Kathy. Afterwards, those who are two-years-old through kindergarten will gather in the preschool room and spend 10—15 minutes learning an age-appropriate bible story. After that, they will work on crafts. The older children will also devote 10 or 15 minutes to a bible lesson. These are Presbytery approved materials which we already have and will be used for all lessons. All participants sixth grade and older will remain in worship and begin a Deacon in Training program which will call for them to participate more in the worship service.

We would love your help. We need one volunteer each Sunday for the Children's Corner from 9:45—10:45 a.m., a volunteer for the Wee Kirk preschool room from 11:20—12:00, and one for the Week Kirk first grade to fifth grade room from 11:20—12:00. The Bible lessons and crafts will be easy to follow and ready to use, and you will be working with amazing kids. Please sign up today on the sheet on the desk in the children's education wing.

—Shelley Roberts



Tell Us How You Really Feel, Shelby!

Tuesdays and Wednesdays are special for the children of our community when they gather for music and fun. Shelby, Jane Kate Brown's granddaughter, is pictured with Judy Lee and Camille Boone as they share a happy moment at Children's Music.

Children's Music
Tuesdays
and Wednesdays
10:00 a.m.
Ages 1—PreK

Educational Quadrant