ICHTHUS
February 2017

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Reflections in the Water: Evangelion*—Sharing Good News



"In Christian tradition, the rooster symbolizes a sinner's acceptance of divine pardon through Jesus Christ."

—Alice Linsley, Biblical Anthropologist

Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

—Luke 13:29

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20

A watercolor print of the Wilmington riverfront hangs above the sofa in my study. It is an image of the home of my childhood and was painted by a longtime mentor and role model from my youth. Central to her painting is the steeple of their version of a First Presbyterian Church. Locals famously point to the rooster at the pinnacle. In all kinds of weather, day and night, he surveys the community in every direction observing the big ships sailing up and down the river and out into the open sea, vessels bringing people and cargo to and from all points of the globe. In First Presbyterian's case, the symbol echoes the practice of many European Protestant churches who have utilized the rooster atop their steeples to distinguish their buildings from their Catholic counterparts. Adapted with directional points, it has become a familiar weather vane used to discern in which direction the wind is blowing in order to determine the course for the day. I add that as we begin 2017, the Chinese lunar calendar also designates this new year as the year of the Fire Rooster. Like its namesake, the year forecasts the dawn of a new era of social and personal change.

Just as the rooster's crow proclaims the start of a new day and new beginnings, the person of Christ reminds us of our own second chances and new opportunities to have new life. The disciple Peter loudly proclaimed his loyalty to Jesus, but when his master was arrested the same night, Peter then denied Christ three times before the new day had dawned and the rooster crowed. Devastated, Peter repented of his words and eventually went on to become the leading herald of the new heavenly kingdom come to earth. He began living a new life with a new identity. He was given a second chance. The turning around of self and setting our feet upon a new path in which Christ is embodied is a consistent and integral part of our Christian discipleship and creates a new abundant life with Good News to be shared with others

As we continue our congregation's own jubilee observance of 125 years of ministry, I invite you to join me in giving a renewed invitation to others that share unreservedly the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we move to and from east and west and north and south, I encourage you at every opportunity to invite at least one neighbor or stranger to join us in worship and in fellowship on a regular basis. This is our Great Commission, our purpose, and our life.

Blessed indeed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Pastor Joe

*Evangelion: In Christianity, a gospel or Good News



Prayerful Support for
Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Shirley Williams at Meadowview
Tom Barbour at Meadowview
Myde Eason at Brookdale, Smithfield
Hazel Whitehurst at Carillon, Fuquay
Bill Leist in Colfax
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Martha Rogers in Richmond
Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte
Marie Atkins
Helen Best
Avery Coats
Ruth Daniel
Tom Harder
Tom Johnson
Shannon Kimball
Joann Lee
Marie Maddox
Benny Pope
Chap Ragland
Peter Russell
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Ted Wells
William Wells
Hilda Worsham
Rebecca Ziady
Sharon Van Velzen, sister of Joyce Knoll
Joseph Hester, Sr.

Congratulations to Stan and Kelly Coats on the birth of **Avery Lee Coats** on January 15, 2017. **David and Joyce Lee** are the proud grandparents.

memorials & gifts

In Memory of Clem and Mikki Sharek, Julie Capps, Paul Bray, Helen Godwin

Donors: Frank and Lisa Deans, Judy Daniels, Dot Ellmore, Debbie Jacobs, Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, Ellen Rogers, Tricia Parker

Transfiguration: In All His Glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James , and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing. "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white (Matthew 17:2, NRSV).

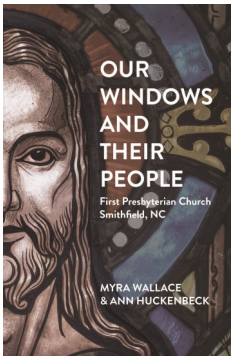


Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus' disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid, and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.

Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 26, 2017



Our Windows and Their People

A History of the Stained Glass of FPC

Only 30 copies left

Get Yours Now!

$15.00

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Linda Crowder for coordinating Faith in 3D event , and to all the chaperons and participants who did FPC proud!
Anita Liverman for obtaining door bell sign.
Harold Allen for installing door bell sign.
Rich Huckenbeck for helping with church security.
Camille Boone and Prayer Shawl participants who make such a powerful impact on those they serve.
Diane Dockery for writing cards to acknowledge memorial gifts to donors and family members.
Judy Schmidt for writing cards to visitors for so many years. The deacons will once again be in charge of this outreach ministry.

HIGHLIGHTS of January Session

- Approved the transfer of membership of Charlie Foy to First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC.
- Approved a request from the Mission and Outreach Quadrant to host a covered dish Fellowship Meal on February 19, 2017. Members of the mission team from the Appalachia Service project will share their experiences with the congregation after the meal.
- Approved a request from the Spirituality Quadrant to designate Sunday, March 5, 2017, as Cancer Survivor Sunday and to participate in worship. A chili luncheon fundraiser for our Relay Team is scheduled following worship.
- Approved continuing the 2016 budget for the first quarter of 2017 to allow new elders time to complete their training and installation before reviewing the financial needs of the church and approving a budget.
- Approved the serving of communion to the church officers during the Joint Officers' Meeting on February 4, 2017.
- Approved reserving twelve months of mortgage payments in the Building Fund account and using the remaining balance, approximately $100,000.00, to make a payment on the principal of the loan.

If you have items you wish to bring before Session, contract an elder or Debbie Jacobs, Clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs

On Valentine's Day, Remember the Most Important Love Story: God's Conversation Hearts



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . . —John 3:16



My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. — John 10:27-29



Call me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.
—Jeremiah 33:3

I have loved you with an everlasting love.
—Jeremiah 31:3



Valentine's Day, February 14

Communications and Technology News

We have received our new pictorial directories from LifeTouch and most of you have yours. If you don't yet have yours, they are available for pick up in the church office. We hope you enjoy them.

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 Pres.

—Debbie Jacobs

The Property Box
Be a Good Steward

Please do not leave the kitchen until the dishwasher has finished its cycles. A cycle is only 90 seconds. Once the cycle has finished, put away the dishes and make sure to turn off the dishwasher. Otherwise, we are paying to keep the water inside the dishwasher hot until someone notices the dishwasher is still on. That has sometimes taken several days. Be a good steward of our resources.

Please do not take equipment from the workroom without approval from the staff.

If you use the he folding machine or the CD copier, please shut it off before you leave. If the Xerox copier becomes jammed, please inform a staff member. It is not good for the machine to churn overnight.

Thank you!
The Property Team

2017 Offering Envelopes in Fellowship Hall



Some people have not yet picked up their giving envelopes. They are still in the fellowship hall. Please write your name on the removable label and place it in the envelope on the table.

If you have questions, contact Beth Daniel, Receiving Treasurer.



Any of These Yours?

One yellow hoodie, size M, made by Abercrombie & Fitch

One red and blue fleeced lined jacket, 4T

One tan cap with Sacramento stitched on it

One light blue denim cap with Doral stitched on it

One large black glove and one large black and yellow glove

Various trinkets

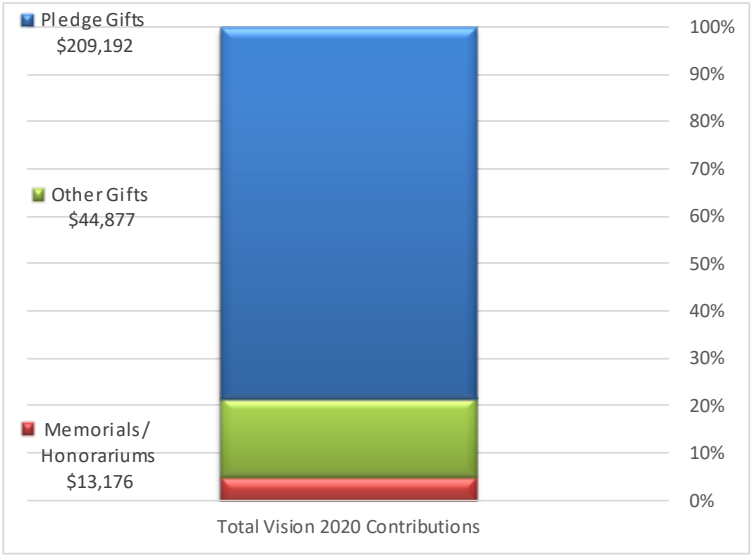
Check in the hall back of the kitchen and in the church workroom.

First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results January—December 2016
Actual vs. Budgeted

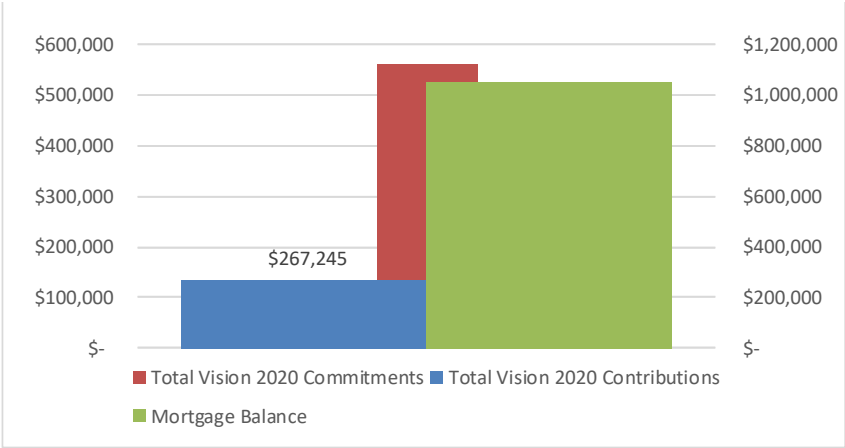
	Jan—Dec 2016 Actual	Jan—Dec 2016 Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	291,424.05	290,000.00
Disbursements		
Education Quadrant	16,678.77	29,050.00
Mission Outreach Quad.	14,579.17	18,750.00
Spirituality Quadrant	148,957.60	153,183.00
Stewardship Quadrant	103,594.02	110,834.00
Total Disbursements	283,809.56	311,817.00
Net Income / (Deficit)	7,614.49	(21,817.00)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 12./31/2016

$ 209,192	Pledge Gifts
$ 13,176	Memorial/Honorariums
$ 44,877	Other Gifts
$ 267,245	Total Vision 2020 Contributions



$ 559,626	Total VISION 2020 Commitments
$ 1,052,427	Mortgage Balance



Love ever gives,
Forgives, outlives,
And ever stands
With open hands.
And while it lives, it gives,
For this is love's prerogative —
To give and give and give.
—John Oxenham

Give from the Heart

Stewardship Quadrant

Faith in 3D

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

February 2017

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February 5
Souper Bowl of Caring. Offering and PYC Super Bowl Party

The youth will collect the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering following worship on Sunday, February 5. All money will go to the SAM Food Closet in Smithfield.

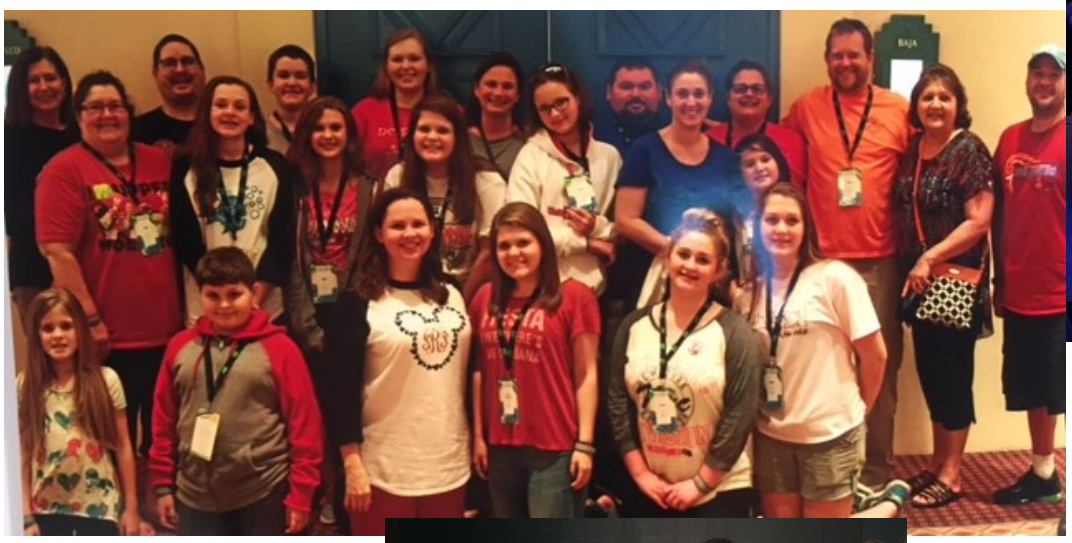
At 6:00 p.m. PYC and KICKS will meet in youth room for a Super Bowl party. It will last until half time. Bring a snack, drink, and $5.00 for pizza! Bring a friend!



Annual Oyster Roast Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, March 19
Details to follow!

Faith in 3D 2017 Participants
Front row: Addison Coats, Davis Bell, Shelley Roberts, Mary Margaret Coats, Gracie Langley, Emma Horne. Second row: Ruth Bell, Mia Thompson, Taylor Holzshu, Lauren Coats, Grace Booker, Brandy Holzshu, Addyson Holzshu. Back Row: Linda Crowder, Greg Bell, Carson Horne, Madeline Horne, Nichole Booker, Ricky Pate, Sarah Pate, Evans Horne, Cindy Smith, Scott Holzshu











imagine...create...animate

The People on the Bus . . .

Our Youth had a wonderful experience at Faith in 3D. They heard inspiring sermons and extraordinary music, and they experienced cultures from around the world. Unfortunately, they came back with flu, RSV, strep throat, and a stomach bug! They still say they would do it again. **And they thank you for your support!**





Educational Quadrant



Only One Sunday Is Still Available for 2017: September 24

If you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary on September 24, please contact Nancy Lee at 919-934–6242 or Myra Wallace in the church office at 919-934-0988.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church will once again host the Ash Wednesday Service at noon on March 1. Our pastor participates in this service. Please make plans to attend.

Ash Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY: Time to reflect and share our thanks, for this is the time that we remember the greatest sacrifice.

World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 3, 2017



Are you reluctant to bring the same prayers to God over and over? Maybe you don't want to trouble God; after all, he already knows what you're going to say. Plus, you're not worthy to ask for anything!

If those thoughts surround you, think about St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. At 16, he was dragged from his home to be a slave. He tended sheep in the cold. Hungry and miserable, he begged God for deliverance.

In his *Confessio*, Patrick recalls praying "a hundred times in the day and almost as many at night.." Without ceasing, he told God of his needs, wants, thanksgiving, and confession. God heard his prayers.

Pray relentlessly. God is always listening.

—*The Newsletter Newsletter*

Midweek Lenten Services



Once again FPC will host Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 12:15 in our sanctuary. The first service will be held on March 8. Worship leaders are members of Smithfield Area Ministries. These services bring in people from all over Smithfield and Johnston County.

We hope you will make plans to attend this year and bring a friend.



February 19: Covered Dish Lunch and Appalachia Service Project Presentation

Please join us for a covered dish lunch following worship on February 19. Following the lunch, the members who participated in the Appalachia Service Project will present a short program highlighting their service work from last July.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parlor beginning Sunday, January 29. The ASP team and the Mission Outreach Quadrant will provide meats, but will welcome other main dish items as well as side dishes and desserts.

Please come and enjoy the meal and fellowship time!

—Pam Pope

Church World Service and Refugee Resettlement

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his/her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Immigrants *choose* to leave their homes and circumstances, while refugees *are forced* to leave theirs in order to save their lives.

The US partners with the United Nation in vetting refugees coming into the US. This process is done in Europe and takes from 18—24 months. The process involves the following steps:

1. Registration and data collection
2. Security checks by the US National Security agencies, including the National Counter Terrorism Center, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, and the intelligence community.
3. Department of Homeland Security Interview. Specifically trained DHS offices review initial screening results, conduct in-person interviews in the host country, and collect biometric data from applicants.
4. Biometric Security Checks: Fingerprints collected by US employees and stored in DHS data base.
5. Cultural Orientation and Medical Check.
6. If all reviews are positive, then and only then applicants are assigned to a Domestic Resettlement Location.

The United States is known by other countries for its thorough screening of those coming to America.

North Carolina's locations for refugees tend to be in larger cities so individuals who have shared like circumstances are together.

Church World Service was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, *including PCUSA,* providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level through collaboration with partners abroad and in the US. FPC's Knoll and Schmidt families are working with Church World Service to support the refugee resettlement program in Durham, NC.

Be on the lookout in upcoming newsletters for ways in which you might help in this effort. If you are interested in learning more, contact Greg and Joyce Knoll at 919-607-7134 or Hubert and Judy Schmidt at 919-879-8143.

—Schmidt and Knoll families

Jeff Plowman at JOY Connection

Please join us at noon on Thursday, February 2 for our monthly JOY Connection. After a delicious lunch, we will welcome Jeff Plowman , the son of Susan Hill and grandson of Myde Eason. Jeff grew up in Smithfield and is possibly known by many of you. After high school, he studied to become a graphic artist and worked in design with the NC Highway Department. And then there were seven years spent as a missionary in France. Those seven years will be the main topic of his program.



Jeff is a very talented, entertaining young man, and you will be blessed by his presence. Be sure to let us know if you will be joining us on by signing the sheet at the reception desk or calling the church at 919 -934-0988. As always, you are welcome to bring a dessert to share with others if you would like. We always look forward to seeing you at this very special ministry at First Presbyterian.

—Ann Ragland



FPC's Team #37
Relay for Life Chili Lunch
following worship
Sunday, March 5
Help us fight cancer!!

