

MARCH

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A publication of
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ICHTHUS

MARCH 2015

Dear People of God: 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. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

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.

—Ash Wednesday, Book of Common Prayer

On Ash Wednesday this year, our congregation joined with the greater community and a larger vision of the body of Jesus Christ at St Paul's Episcopal Church in a noon observance to mark the start of our season of Lent. As we began the journey, the invitation above was extended to those gathered, and now I share it with you. I ask you and your household to join with fellow Christians in the holy observations planned (below) as we once again make our way through the spiritual wilderness and prepare to peer into a Jerusalem tomb now empty with the approaching Easter morning.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. —from Psalm 51

Lenten Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services
Wednesdays at Noon

March 2
The Rev. Tom Jackson, Sharon Baptist Church

March 9
The Rev. Greg McClain, Johnston Health Chaplain

March 16
Bishop R. W. Johnson, St. Peter's Disciples of Christ Church

Holy Week Schedule

March 20
Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch following worship

March 21 - 22
Prayer Vigil Noon to Noon

March 23
Holy Wednesday Service
Dr. Otis Hmm, Original Free Will Baptist Church

Thursday, March 24
Maundy Thursday Meal, 6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m..
The Rev. Joseph Hester

March 25
Good Friday Community Service
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, noon

Sunday, March 27,
Easter Sunrise Service
Sunset Memorial Park
7:00 a.m.
Breakfast follows in our fellowship hall
Easter Sunday Service — Bring flowers for the lawn cross



Prayerful Support for
Nor Bell at Barbour Court
Jane Bolin at Brian Center
Tom Barbour at Meadowview
Eula Brown at Meadowview
Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Shirley Williams at Meadowview
Myde Eason at Brookdale Smithfield
Hazel Whitehurst at Brookdale Smithfield
Jane Cunningham in Wilmington
Bill Leist in Colfax
Ellen Rogers in Raleigh
Martha Rogers in Richmond
Mary Alice Thomas in Charlotte
Marie Atkins
Tom Avera
Ruth Daniel
Tom Johnson
Bill Kimball
Shannon Kimball
Charles Lee
Nancy Lee
Marie Maddox
Chap Ragland
Hank Roberson
Peter Russell
Linda Stephenson
Sharon VanVelzen, Joyce Knoll's sister
Nelson Vaughn
Betty Welch
Ted Wells
William Wells
Hilda Worsham
Rebecca Ziady

Congratulations to David and Bridget Miller on the birth of a son, Benjamin Charles Miller, on February 8, 2016. He is the grandson of **Gene and Mary Miller.**

memorials & gifts

In Honor of Tom Barwick
In Memory of Clem and Mikki Sharek, Lo Aldhizer, Jane Mapel, Alvin D. Brantley, Sr., Bernice Townsend, Peter Rogulski, Martha Howerton
Donors: Frank and Lisa Deans, Tom Roberts, Frank and Betsy Olive, Dot Ellmore, Nina Darling Bennett, Tommy and Camille Boone.

Harold Allen for putting up the lamp post on the new side of the building and for changing the lights in the chancel.



Lacy Bailey for keeping the children's worship bags well stocked.
Hubert Schmidt for keeping our grounds weed-free.
Andy Allen and friends for putting up the cross on the front lawn.
Ann Ragland for continuing to make JOY Connection a vibrant outreach to our community.
Camille Boone and the Prayer Shawl knitters and crocheters for providing comfort to so many in our community.
Anita Liverman, Joy Worsham, and Sue Booker for serving as our Sunday School Superintendents.
Betsy Olive for changing our paraments as needed.
Jo James and Judy Daniels for providing drapes for our sanctuary and lawn crosses.
The Rev. Jim Melnyk and St. Paul's Episcopal Church for hosting the SAM's Ash Wednesday Service and for hosting our Confirmation Class at the Labyrinth Walk.

HIGHLIGHTS of February Session:

- Approved December and January financial reports.
- Approved field trips for our Confirmation Class to the Greek Orthodox Church in Raleigh and to Temple Israel, the oldest Jewish synagogue in NC, in Wilmington.
- Approved vacation leave for Joseph Hester from March 29 through April 10, 2016.
- Approved hosting the Clerk Cluster Meeting on March 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- Approved a request from the 2015 Nominating Committee to be dismissed, with thanks, and leave an unfulfilled elder position for a few months. The 2016 Nominating Committee will address this need.
- Approved applying a $26,000 gift directly to the Building Fund principal, as requested by the benefactor.
- Approved moving $42,000 from the building fund checking account to our Raymond James account. This will still maintain at least three mortgage payments for quick access.
- Approved the addition of Lacy Bailey to the Finance Team.
- Elected Harold Allen as Elder Commissioner to the March 5, 2016, New Hope Presbytery Meeting at Hudson Memorial in Raleigh.
- Elected Beth Daniel as Church Treasurer for 2016.
- Elected Debbie Jacobs as Clerk of Session for 2016.
- Approved Quadrant and Team Leaders for 2016:
  - Educational Development Quadrant Chair: Kelly Coats.
    - Education Team Chair: Nichole Booker.
    - New Programs/Special Interests Chair: Courtney Scott.
  - Stewardship Administration Quadrant Chair: Jimmy Hooks.
    - Finance Administration Team Chair: Shirley Sharek.
    - Personnel Administration Team Chair: Jimmy Hooks.
    - Communications and Technology Team Chair: Debbie Jacobs.
    - Property Administration Team Chair: Stan Coats.
  - Mission Outreach Quadrant
    - Community Outreach Team Chair: Ann Ragland.
    - Congregational Fellowship Service Team Chair: Dot Ellmore.
    - Prospective Membership Team Chair: Hubert and Judy Schmidt.
  - Spirituality Quadrant Chair: Judy Daniels.
    - Special Services Team Chair: Joy Worsham.
    - Worship Team Chair: Sandy Perkinson.
    - Liturgical Space Team Chair: Betsy Olive.
    - Youth Leadership Team Chair: Jennifer Templeton.
- Approved changes to the FPCS Manual of Operations to reflect our quadrant structure.
- Examined, ordained, and installed new officers for the Class of 2018.
- Approved hosting a community handbell concert in April 2016.
- Received Charles Lee as a new member through the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Approved the wedding of Steve Bryant and Rose Edwards on April 23, 2016.

If you have items you wish to see brought before Session, please contact Debbie Jacobs, clerk.

—Debbie Jacobs

Through this blessed exchange, in which Christ changes places with us (something the heart can grasp only in faith), and through nothing else, are we freed from sin and death and given his righteousness and life as our own.

—Max Lucado

OUR SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Several years ago, our Session voted to support four major special offerings promoted by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Those offerings are:

1. One Great Hour of Sharing (Feb. 10 — March 27): These funds are used to aid disaster relief efforts, reduce hunger that is a global problem, and partner with developing countries to alleviate poverty and injustice.
2. Pentecost (March 28 — May 15): Investment in this mission effort supports young people who wish to pursue the ministry, serves volunteer programs centered on young adults and provides advocacy for children. A percentage of the donated funds is returned to this church to aid in our own youth efforts.
3. Peace and Global Witness (Sept. 3 — Oct. 2): This offering supports peace initiatives and reconciliation around the world. A fourth of this offering funds local ministries of peace; half of this offering is used to advance global church partnerships.
4. Christmas Joy Offering (Nov. 27 — Dec. 18): The church provides assistance to students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. It also assists current and retired church workers and their families by helping them in challenging circumstances.

In addition to these greater church special offerings, we participate in the monthly Pennies for Hunger campaign to support food pantries. Our children do a spectacular job in collecting for this

How are we supporting these special gifts for global efforts?

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Joy Gift	331	830	712	953	516	403
OGHS	529	431	534	265	790	447
P&GW	496	366	421	279	452	535
Pent.	206	310	40	416	286	190
PFH	2,408	2,237	2,275	2,246	2,345	2,258
Total	3,970	4,264	3,982	4,159	4,389	3,733

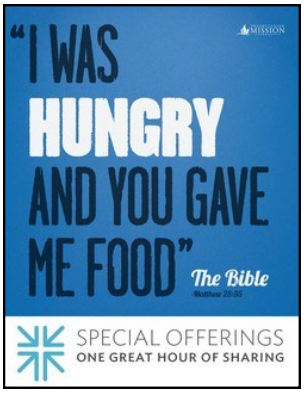
OGHS = One Great Hour of Sharing; P&GW = Peace and Global Witness; Pent. = Pentecost; PFH = Pennies for Hunger

We thank Shirley Sharek for the financial information.

As we begin our Lenten Season, we think of the sacrifices that many have made for the Christian faith, Let us all make a little sacrifice and continue to give to these special efforts that support thousands of people both locally and worldwide.

"If you close your ear to the cry of the poor, you will cry out and not be heard." —Proverbs 21:13.

—Ann Huckenbeck



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Easter Sunday 2016

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

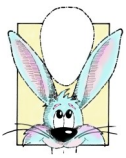
March JOY Connection

What a treat we have in store for the March gathering of JOY Connection. On March 3 we will meet at noon in the fellowship hall to eat together, talk together, and then to take a vicarious trip on the Appalachian Trail with Brent Booker.

Some years ago Brent ventured out on the trek and has stories to share with us. It will be a fun and interesting adventure story that we will enjoy while sitting comfortably in our church.

Please, please let us know if you are coming by signing the sheet at the reception desk or by calling the church to reserve a space. As always you are welcome to share a dessert that day if you would like. We all look forward to seeing your smile on March 3!

—Ann Ragland



Stay after church on Palm Sunday and enjoy a Hot Dog Lunch and an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn. Bring your children, grandchildren, or neighborhood children!!

Pinewood Derby Winners

On Saturday, February 6, Cub Scout Pack 95 held their annual Pinewood Derby Race! We'd like to congratulate all the winners:

1st Place — Gavin Sharek
2nd Place — Carson Horne
3rd Place — Vincent Belcher
4th Place — Damien Neumyer

This is a busy time for the Webeloes 2 Scouts. They are working hard to finish up all of their activities as they begin to transition into Boy Scouts. They will officially cross over into Troop 95 the first weekend of April.

—Trish Horne

(Ed. note: Two other FPC boys participated in other Pinewood Derbies. Brady Thompson of Oakland Presbyterian's Pack 33 placed third, and Alex Rice of Troop 356 of Occoneechee Council also placed third in his pack.)

Congratulations 2015 Tuscarora Council Silver Beaver Recipient Crystal Allen!



The Silver Beaver Award is the highest honor that a Council can bestow upon a local Scouter that has provided service to the Boy Scouts of America, has good standing within their community, and has shown an exceptional record of service to youth within the Council territory. Join us in congratulating Crystal Allen for receiving this honor and in thanking her for her hard work, dedication, and service to Scouting.

The Scoutmaster of Troop 95 in Smithfield, Crystal has been involved in Scouting as an adult since 2001. She served as a Softball Coach for Johnston County Schools from 2005 through 2014, and is an active member of the Smithfield Woman's Club.

Crystal has served as a Den Leader, Cub Master, Committee Member, Committee Chair, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Crew Advisor as well as wearing many other hats in the Scouting community. She has served on NYLT and Wood Badge Staff, is a past Wood Badge Course Director, a Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow and has earned the Scouter's Key, Scouter's Training Award, James E. West Fellowship Award and the District Award of Merit. She was an Assistant Scoutmaster for the Tuscarora Council National Jamboree Contingent in 2010, a Philmont Crew Advisor in 2011, and the Conclave SR-7B Advisor in 2015.

Crystal is a member of First Presbyterian Church.

Mission Outreach Quadrant





Monday and Tuesday mornings are filled with the voices of children singing with Camille. They come with parents or daycare workers from all over the county. They have a great time as they learn new songs.

Thanks to Camille Boone for beginning this outreach program.





YAY!!

Forty years ago FPC purchased Orff instruments. They have been kept in wonderful condition all these years . . . until two weeks ago when Camille Boone discovered the f bar is missing from the xylophone. Imagine her relief when she found it *hiding* inside the xylophone!

All's well that ends well!

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 2016

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

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

2014-2015 Relay for Life Team 37 Results
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED: $5784.66

What this money could provide for cancer patients:

Number of cancer patients that could have been provided free 24 -hour information and support via phone, email and online chats:231

Number of rides to and from treatment for a cancer patient through the ACS's Road to Recovery Program: 578

Number of nights of free lodging that could have been provided at an ACS Hope Lodge when their best hope for treatment is away from home: 58

Number of breast cancer patients that could have been provided with one-on-one support from a trained volunteer breast cancer survivor: 58

Number that could have been provided three years of follow-up for participants enrolled in the Cancer Prevention Study – 3, a research study that will help better understand what causes cancer so that it can ultimately be prevented: 165

We want to thank FPC and all its members and friends who so generously support our endeavors to raise money for the fight against cancer. We are very proud to represent this church.

—Martha Taylor



Relay for Life Chili Lunch
Sunday, March 6
following worship

Sign up on information table to donate chili, soup, cornbread, and desserts. You may purchase luminaries for the June 3rd Relay for Life event. Also buy a chance to win the beautiful quilt made by Judy Schmidt that is on display in the fellowship hall.

PCUSA Recognizes Our Special Offerings Support

First Presbyterian Church recently received a certificate of appreciation from PC(USA) for our support of special offerings. It reads:

In response to God's gracious call,
First Presbyterian Church of Smithfield, NC
is recognized as a FOUR for FOUR congregation
supporting Special Offerings around the corner and around the globe on this 21st day of January, the year of our Lord 2016.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.
—James 1:17

The certificate is displayed in the Adult Sunday School hallway.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Hospice Meal

The Mission Outreach Quadrant would like to thank Ann Huckenbeck, Judy and Hubert Schmidt, Debbie Jacobs, Sheila Bryant, Jane Harrell, Greg and Joyce Knoll, and Betsy Olive for signing up to provide the February 28 meal for the families with loved ones at Hospice House in Smithfield. The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers at Hospice House 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.

SECU Hospice HOUSE OF JOHNSTON HEALTH

—Joyce Knoll



Deacons' Care Groups 2016

Brian Bailey 919-880-7116
Tom Barbour, Jeff and Dina Burke, Julie Capps, Rick Capps, Judy Daniels, Craig and Evy Ennis, Paul and Abby Gorman, Jo James, Nan Jones, Tony and Sandra Lester, Benny and Pam Pope, David and Kathy Rice, Shirley Williams

Madeline Horne 919-618-5622
Bob and Debbie Arthur, Rodney Best, Nina Blackman, Jane Bolin, Bobby Cox, Paul and Kim Creech, Billy Duncan, Jane Harrell, Scott and Brandy Holzshu, Bernice Johnson, John McFadyen, Hubert and Judy Schmidt, Myra Wallace

Kay Taylor 919-417-4624
Jane Kate Brown, Eula Brown, Linda Crowder, Eddie and Jamie Foy, Bill and Brigitte Kimball, Bill and Shannon Kimball, Nancy Lee, Troy Lester, Tony and Anita Liverman, Lane and Cheri Pollard, Hank Roberson, John and Martha Taylor, Mary Alice Thomas

David Rice 919-300-3950
Ellen Adams, Lee Capps, Beth Daniel, Wayne and Diane Dockery, Tim and Debbie Evans, Eddie and Jennifer Foy, Emma and Andy Gemmell, Ross and Pam Hailey, Jim and Debbie Henderson, Jimmy Johnson, Tres Lassiter, Glenn, Kay and Matthew Taylor

Helen Best 919-934-3772
Harold and Cathy Allen, Brad and Corey Baker, Crystal and Andy Allen, John and Shirley Booker, Kenny and Julie Duncan, Rich and Ann Huckenbeck, Jeff and Wilma Johnson, Pandora and Wes Johnson, Greg and Joyce Knoll, Miriam Lore, Josh and Kelly Perkinson, Ellen Rogers, Pam Withrow, Maxine McFadyen

Julie Duncan 919-889-8283
Tom Avera, Tom and Sharon Barwick, Anna Capps, Evans and Trish Horne, Freddy and Julie Johnson, David and Joyce Lee, Julia and Jimmy Narron, Teron Sloan, Nelson Vaughn, Ted Wells, Linda Wells, Phil and Rebecca Ziady, Lucy Worley, Nikki and Tory Parker

Judy Schmidt 919-879-8143
Nathan and Jane Adams, Ken and Jane Allen, Ruth Daniel, Marie Atkins, Steve Chance, Frances Churchill, Stan and Kelly Coats, Dwight Dockery and Shelley Maddox, David and Bobbie Hartman, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Walt and Janet Lassiter, Brandon and Stephanie Roberts, Al and Joy Worsham, Vic Wynne

Wayne Dockery 919-553-0461
Billy and Helen Best, Brent and Nichole Booker, Elizabeth and Rick Craig, Robert and Barbara Hess, Tom and Joy Howerton, Charles and Judy Lee, Earl and Etta Marett, Jill Merrick, Bill and Shirley Sharek, Zach Stanley, Laura Vaughn, Paul and Tonya Worley

Benny Pope 919-989-7097
Brian and Lacy Bailey, Tommy and Camille Boone, Jaime Henderson, Ann Hobgood, Lee and Paul Johnson, Brittany and Jayson Naylor, Frank and Betsy Olive, Nathan and Destiny Rilley, John and Kathy Stephenson, Rodney and Alice Wilson, Bob Worsham, Hilda Worsham, Patrick and Sonya Murdock

Chris Roberts 919-868-3957
Alice Adelman, Walker and Helen Flint, Jake and Debbie Jacobs, Tom and Sandra Johnson, Gene and Mary Miller, Ricky and Sarah Pate, Becky Peele, Tyler and Lauren Perkinson, Martha Rogers, Cindy Smith, J.A. and Linda Stephenson, Frank and Vicky Wefald, Betty Welch, Jean Worley

Jo James 919-934-7368
John and Sue Booker, Brenda and Roger Chellew, Tom and Diane Harder, Starr and Steve Henderson, Joe Hester, John and Janet Lampe, Harold Langdon, Grover and Judy Miller, Mary Moody, Chap and Ann Ragland, Peter and Linda Russell, Virginia Williams

Liz Craig 919-796-5483
Greg and Ruth Bell, Eve Creech, Jane Cunningham, Myde Eason, Susan Hill, Jimmy Hooks, Sandy Perkinson, Chris and Shelley Roberts, Tom Roberts, Daniel and Courtney Scott, Patrick and Jennifer Templeton, Neil and Lucy Watson, Hazel Whitehurst

Presbyterian Youth Busy Taylor Holzshu Impresses in Competition



Congratulations to Taylor Holzshu who just completed her first Platinum Meet in Fayetteville. Her coach had recently moved Taylor up to a higher level competition and shared with Taylor not to be disappointed if she did not place in this meet due to her upgraded status. Taylor placed 9th on the Vault, 9th on bars, 14th on beam and 8th in her floor exercises for a 10th place finish overall!

Taylor is the daughter of Scott and Brandy Holzshu and the granddaughter of Cindy Smith.

—Linda Crowder

Youth Community Outreach

PYC and KICKS worked together on February 7 to host a Souper Bowl of Caring Soup and Sandwich Lunch. Diners gave donations for the meal. All proceeds went to the local SAM Food Closet.

Presbyterians love a good meal and this was a very good meal. On that cold, icy day we all sat down and were thankful for the soup we shared together. Thank you to each of you for the wonderful homemade soups, desserts and chili you donated. The food warmed our souls.

Thank you also for your kind donations totaling $628.00 for the Smithfield Area Ministries Food Closed on behalf of First Presbyterian Church. Seven area churches sponsor this food closet which is housed in Wesley Hall at Centenary United Methodist Church.

This was the first Service Project for the youth for 2016. They are certainly off to a fine start!

—Linda Crowder

Archie's Cross

The cross that stands in our sanctuary each year during Lent and Easter was made with care by the late Archie Crowder just shortly before he died. It is now fondly referred to as Archie's Cross. He was a dear friend to a lot of people here. He loved cars, kids, his family, the great outdoors, and his church.



Archie decided that FPC needed a permanent Lenten and Easter cross for the sanctuary. He chose the tree, cut it down, trimmed the branches, and slashed it carefully together with roping. For him it was a labor of love.

Beginning this year, once the cross is taken down after Easter, it will be set up in the youth room until next Lent. This would have made Archie very happy as he loved working with youth. The cross will be surrounded by a set of elements from Montreat donated by Pastor Joe. Thus a part of the youth room will now be a sacred space.

PYC Bible Study

We kicked off a special bible study time with our PYC youth on February 14**.** Benny Pope provided a 15-minute bible study on temptation during their regular meeting.

Our youth have asked to be more involved with adult members in our congregation, and with that we invited some adults to share in Bible Study time real life situations they have experienced that have impacted their faith walk. In March Rich Huckenbeck has volunteered to share a Bible Study time and in April Julie Duncan has volunteered. We would love to have other adults join us upstairs with the youth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Crowder in the church office at 919-934-0988 or speak to youth leaders Evans and Trish Horne or Sarah Pate.

—Linda Crowder

Cross Mission — Urban Plunge

Once again our youth will travel to Charlotte to participate in the Cross Mission at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. This year's event is March 4-6. Attending this year to serve in this downtown mission to feed and clothe the needy are Madeline, Emma and Carson Horne, Davis Bell, Grace Booker, and Mia Thompson. Chaperones are Evans Horne, Nichole Booker, and Shelley Roberts. Nora and Patrick Ragland from Wilson Mills Christian Church will be joining our group again this year.

All parents who have youth attending the trip are invited to a meeting on Sunday, February 21, ay 5:30 to finalize plans. They should be prepared to make their final payments.

—Linda Crowder



Youth Sunday
June 3

Jennifer Templeton has graciously consented to working with our youth again this year to prepare them for this special Sunday. Plan to attend!

MONTREAT Youth Conference July 17-23, 2016

Reservations are made! Attending are Madeline and Emma Horne, Taylor Holzshu and Mary Margaret Coats. More details coming.

The message of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, not only that suffering is not the last word, but this: Nothing is impossible with God.

—The Rev. James Martin, Sr.

Spirituality Quadrant

Property Box

Keys, Keys, Keys . . .

If you have a church key but are no longer the chair of a quadrant, committee, or team, please return it *as soon as possible* to Myra Wallace in the church office. New leaders and officers need the keys, and we only have a limited number.

Thank you.
Your Property Team

It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.

—Rainer Maria Rilke

Stewardship Quadrant