

In This Issue:
Letter from Our Pastor
From the Handbell Director

Prayer Concerns

Bible Study
Children's Music
Church Directory
Fall Gathering
Financial Report
Handbell Choir
Highlights of Session
Hospice
JOY Connection
Labor Day
Memorials
Missions
Patriot Day
Presbyterian Women
Property Team
PYC and KICKS
Stewardship Season
Sunday School Curriculum
Thanks
Wee Kirk
Yes We Can

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

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PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-0988
www.fpcsmithfield.org

ICHTHUS

September 2016

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, NC

Reflections in the Water—Reflections in the Water

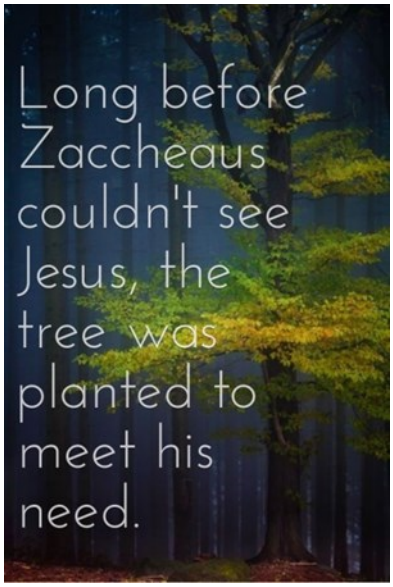
VISION2020
GIVE NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

The Next Chapter: Grateful Hearts and Generous Spirits

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." —Luke 19:1-10 NRSV

Last month I posed the following question: What is your vision of church and the faith community? Beginning on Sunday September 11, we will enter into a season of remembrance and celebration of the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian Church as we enter our stewardship season. Through personal testimony, church members will share what God is doing in their lives and jointly how God is working through our corporate life and in the lives of our neighbors and community. As we enter the second year of stewardship program Vision 2020, we also have an opportunity to express our thanks with a grateful heart and generous spirit.

Our Vision 2020 focus is twofold. We seek to support our annual mission and ministry through our commitment of financial support, time, and prayers, and we seek to fulfill our obligation for our new building and expansion which has helped us continue our mission and ministry. In faith we strengthen a foundation here and now for generations that will come later to spiritual heirs of the covenant of Abraham and Sarah and realize our baptism with Christ. I challenge you to listen carefully and prayerfully to these stories and testimony during our stewardship season that we may continue to hear God's calling and glorify God with a grateful heart and a generous spirit.



Blessings to you all.

Pastor Joe



Prayer Concerns:
Nor Bell at Barbour Court
Jane Bolin at SECU Hospice House
Shannon Kimball at Barbour Court
Tom Barbour at Meadowview
Bernice Johnson at Meadowview
Alice Narron at Meadowview
Shirley Williams at Meadowview
Myde Eason at Brookdale Smithfield
Hazel Whitehurst at Brookdale Smithfield
Timothy Allen
Marie Atkins
Bobby Cox
Jane Cunningham in Wilmington
Ruth Daniel
Tom Harder
Tom Johnson
Nancy Lee
Bill Leist
Marie Maddox
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.
Tony Loye, Tonya Worley's father
Sharon Van Velzen, sister of Joyce Knoll

Christian Sympathy to the family of William Ross Kimball; Bill died on August 12; and to Mary and Gene Miller on the death of her brother, Tom Rankin.; and to Dave and Bobbie Hartman on the death of Dave's sister, Carol Mendenhall; and to Greg, Ruth, and Davis Bell on the death of Greg's sister, Vicki Paul.



Honorarium for Dwight Dockery
Memorials for Tom Avera, John Shallcross, Clem and Mikki Sharek, Stan Harper, Frank Van Schaik, Bill Kimball, Tom Rankin, Carol Hartman Mendenhal, Vickey Paul
Donors: John and Shirley Booker, Joe Kluttz and Martha Chapman, Jim and Becky Purnell, Dee Wellons Lee, William and Lynn Ragsdale, Benny and Pam Pope, John and Nancy Lampe, Lisa and Frank Deans, Bill and Shirley Sharek, Dot Ellmore, Billy Duncan, Bruce and Nancy Johnson, Robert and Ellen Williams, Roger and Eleanor Horne, Beth Daniel, Ken and Jane Allen, John Shallcross, Jr., Marty and Rae Cox Mason, Gloria Denning, Bob and Karen Lippitt, Jack Chrismon, Julia Ann K. Freeze, Tommy and Camille Boone, Sandy Perkinson, Tom and Sandra Johnson,



Hank Roberson for providing flowers for Music for the Lunch Bunch as needed this summer.
Jane Harrell for coordinating the Reception Desk Volunteers and keeping up with substitutes as needed.
All the First Presbyterians who faithfully attended Music for the Lunch Bunch this summer.
Betsy Olive for keeping the sanctuary candles refilled.
Billy Duncan and Thad McCrae for rearranging the piano and chairs in the chancel for Music for the Lunch Bunch this summer.
Diane Dockery for writing acknowledgments of honorariums and memorials.
Camille Boone, Madeline Horne, and Kathy Rice for a successful Presbyterian Music Camp.
Judy Schmidt for writing acknowledgments of Sunday visitors.
Evans Horne, Linda Crowder, and all the youth and member volunteers who made our First Annual Chicken Roast a huge success.



of August Session

Approved a Music Camp for ages 4-fifth grade and approved leaders Camille Boone, Madeline Horne and Kathy Rice for August 15-17, 2016
Approved a request by the pastor to attend the Interfaith Institute at Wildacres Retreat Center , Ancient Laws and Traditions; Modern Concerns and Applications on August 1-August 7, 2016.
Approved new members Rick and Cindy Synder by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Strasberg, PA
Approved a request to transfer the membership of Erin Marett Smith to Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
Approved Continuing Education for the pastor to the Haden Institute for a workshop on spirituality on October 27-November 2, 2016
Approved moving the PYC potato bake to September 11, 2016 to include a report of the Montreat Youth Conference
Approved moving the PYC Live Auction to October 23, 2016
Received a report from the July New Hope Presbytery meeting from Elder Commissioner Linda Crowder
The Sunday School teachers for the 2016-2017 school year will remain the same, with the addition of Bobby Cox for the Covenant Class. All Teachers were approved.

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

—Debbie Jacobs



September 5



September 11

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

My family and I write to say thank you for your tremendous support in recent months in the wake of my father's illness.

On May 22nd my father, Joe Hester, suffered a significant left cerebellar stroke. This event affected his left side, speech, and to a lasting degree his balance and ability to walk and stand. Following a long period of hospitalization and another long stint in a rehabilitation facility, my dad has made steady if slow progress and returned home under constant supervised care last week

Your personal support through cards, visits, words of encouragement, and especially your prayers have played an important role in my dad's recovery. He has read through the large stack of cards several times and shown them to everyone who visits point out that ". . . most of them are from First Presbyterian Church in Smithfield." The Prayer Shawl Ministry presented him with one of their beautiful creations and it stays very close to him at all times.

I thank you for your encouragement and support of me as your pastor to balance my role as pastor with my role as only child with visits to Wilmington to support my family during this time. We are very grateful to each of you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Joe

Joe and Janet Hester
Wilmington, North Carolina

New Church Directory in the Works

The Communications and Technology Team continues to work in preparation for our new church directory. Please mark your calendars for October 13-18, 2016, and remember to schedule your appointment. We will offer online sign-ups. We also have members of the team who will call individuals to schedule sessions.

Military members, please submit a photo of yourself in uniform, in addition to your photo session (or submitted photo), for a special Military Tribute page. We will be offering assistance to people with online sign ups after church for several Sundays beginning August 28, 2016.

If you need help or more information, please contact Debbie Jacobs.

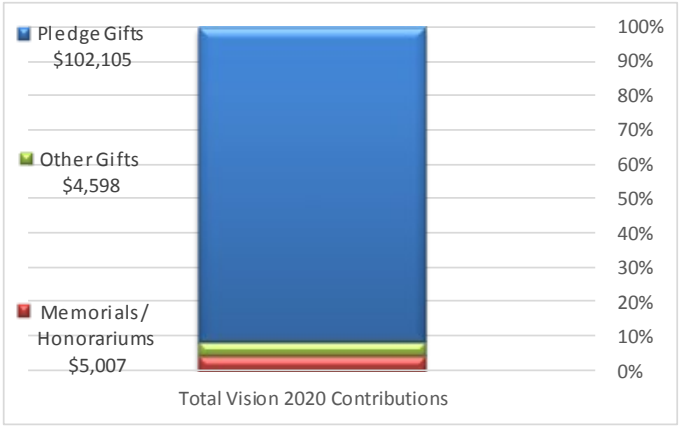
—Debbie Jacobs

First Presbyterian Church
Operating Results January –July
Actual vs. Budgeted

	Jan - July Actual	Jan - July Budgeted
Revenue		
General Offering	149,232.98	169,166.69
Disbursements		
Educational Quadrant	1,165.42	2.362.43
Mission Outreach Q	8,065.21	10,937.50
Spirituality Quadrant	88,553.74	104,085.94
Stewardship Quadrant	58,438.50	64,653.26
Total Disbursements	156,222.87	182.039.13
Net Income	(6,989.89)	(12,872.44)

VISION 2020 Capital Campaign as of 7/31/2016

$ 102,105 Pledge Gifts
$ 5,007 Memorials/Honorariums
$ 4,598 Other Gifts
$ 111,709 Total VISION 2020 Contributions



$ 559.626 Total VISION 2020 Commitments
$ 1,106,494 Mortgage Balance

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.

—G. K. Chesterton

Property Box

With Session approval, the Property Team addressed four major items:

- **Resurfacing of the parking lots**
- **Repair of the leak in the bell tower**
- **Repair of the air conditioning on the second floor of the original building**
- **Installation of an intercom/camera security system in the pastor's and secretary's office, and a buzz in device for the front desk.**

A reminder to lock doors and turn off lights and equipment when you're leaving the building.

The office will gladly make copies for Team, Quadrant, or Committee Meetings. If you have trouble with the copier, please notify the pastor or the secretary.

Thanks!

Your Property Team

Grateful Hearts



Generous Spirits

Stewardship Season begins

September 11

A SEASON of SHARING

Stewardship Quadrant

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577

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

September 2016

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

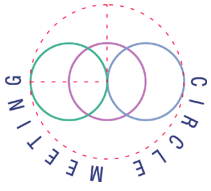
ICHTHUS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)





Presbyterian Women
Spiritual Nurture Committee
Military and College
Care Package Donations
September - October
Please give generously!



Monday Circle, Sept. 12, 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday Circle, Sept. 6, 10:00 a.m.
fellowship hall

Circles will resume meeting in September.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

New Bible Study Underway

Join us for a look at Christian Theocracy: communities that combine Church and State, such as Mormons, the pilgrims, and the city of Geneva. This will lay a foundation for an understanding of why we have a division of Church and State. Come Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for this timely and important Bible study led by our pastor, Joseph Hester.

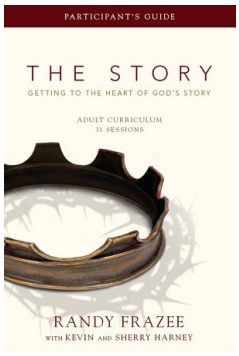
Preschool Music Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Camille Boone is once again opening the world of music for three- and four-year-olds in our church and community. In a Christian environment, she hopes to instill an awareness and appreciation for music in the preschool set that will enrich their lives for years to come.



Classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00-10:30 at First Presbyterian Church beginning September 27. Enrollment is free and will be limited to 10 students per class. For more information please call Camille at 919-404-6055 or email at *labtoter@gmail.com*.

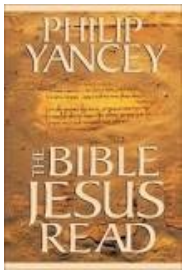
Fall Curriculum



The Story is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. There are no verse references, and Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, *The Story* helps people understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily.

Simple, accessible, and easy to use, churches are finding *The Story* a powerful way to engage their people in Bible reading like never before. As *The Story* brings the Bible to life, the broad scope of God's message will penetrate hearts. People of all ages will be swept up in the story of God's love and God's plan for their lives.

Church-Wide Sunday School — Every First Sunday



Please join us on September 4 at 9:45 a.m. for church-wide Sunday school. This year's curriculum is The Bible Jesus Read.

Award-winning author Philip Yancey serves as guide and interpretive leader of ten video study sessions. In a series of in-depth interviews and explanations he covers five crucial segments of the Old Testament: 1. Job: Seeing in the Dark 2. Deuteronomy: A Taste of Bittersweet 3. Psalms: Spirituality in Every Key 4. Ecclesiastes: The End of Wisdom 5. The Prophets: God Talks Back. Philip Yancey's combination of scholarship and insight brings new light to old material and stimulates new discussion, thought, and further study.

Wee Kirk Resumes on September 11

Wee Kirk means little church and refers to the period from immediately after Time with Children until the end of the worship service. Wee Kirk will resume on Sunday, September 11 with Ruth Bell and Trish and Evans Horne once again as leaders.

Debbie Jacobs will also help as we plan to use the interactive white board with the children this year. Wee Kirk will continue to meet in the middle Sunday School classroom in the kids education hall.

Wee Kirk includes children from Kindergarten through fifth grade and serves as a transition program for kids from playing in the Worship Hour Nursery to beginning to learn about our worship service, why we do what we do, and what things mean and how they should respond to them.

If you are interested in helping with Wee Kirk, please contact Ruth Bell.

Educational Quadrant

JOY Connection: September 1

Joy Connection resumes on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy time with friends, time for a delicious meal, and time for a unique program. At 12:00 on the first we will meet in the fellowship hall, and after lunch we will enjoy a program by Jewel Ryals, a local antiques appraiser. Bring a family heirloom, a treasure, or even a curiosity and have it appraised as part of this Antiques Roadshow program. Please reserve a space for this event by signing the clipboard at the reception desk or calling the church at 919-934-0988.

JOY CONNECTION

As always you are also welcome to bring a dessert to share with others that day. We so appreciate your helping us in this way and everyone loves to see what will decorate the dessert table! If you have any great ideas for JOY programs for 2017, please share them with me. We are starting to work on our plans for next year and would like to hear from you with some new ideas. So if you know someone who would be a good speaker for our JOY group, if you know of a musical group that would be able to perform, please let me know. Also we will be looking for cooking teams to prepare our monthly meals. So if you and a couple of your friends are willing to plan and prepare a meal for JOY Connection on ONE Thursday next year please let me know. You will discover joy, enthusiasm and appreciation as you serve the older adults in our church and in our community through this important ministry.

—Ann Ragland

We Serve SECU Hospice

The Mission Outreach Quadrant would like to thank Sheila Bryant, Pastor Joe, Debbie Henderson, Pam Pope, Dot Ellmore, Janet Lampe, and Betsy Olive for providing the August 14 meal for the families with loved ones at Hospice House and the staff and volunteers. The Mission Outreach Quadrant partners with the volunteers at Hospice House in Smithfield four (4) 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 and also the dedicated staff and volunteers.



Our church will also be stocking the pantry at Hospice House the month of November. The pantry items are used by family members of the patients at Hospice and are very much appreciated during such a difficult time. Please watch for details and suggested items in the October ICHTHUS.

—Joyce Knoll

Mission Outreach Quadrant

Faith in 3D

imagine...create...animate



Live Auction/Silent Auction

Up For Bid . . . One of a kind hand-made bench by Daniel Scott. Perfect for your man cave, garage, deck, or any outdoor space. Daniel will donate for Faith in 3D Live Auction—October 23, 2016!

We need other donations…….vacation homes for a week or long weekend, sports tickets, art, furniture, cars, plants, crafts, services, etc.

Sign up sheet in parlor or email your donation idea to Linda Crowder at: youthfpc2015@gmail.com

Live Auction/Silent Auction
October 23, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Handbells Resume



Handbell Director

This summer has flown by so quickly! As we begin to plan for fall, I must thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Going to Montreat is always a relaxing end to a music year as well as a jumping off place to begin thinking about the year to come. As has become my custom, I spent most of the week in the handbell classes and seminars, including an hour every day with 3rd-5th graders who were learning to play! This year, I moved a little out of my box to participate in the global music program, witnessing the amazing power of drumming and music from all over the world.

Our first ever Presbyterian Music Camp was a huge success—it warmed me all over to hear those sweet voices and watch the young ones learn about God's love through singing, rhythm, handbells and movement. I'm grateful to Camille and Madeline for including me in the fun!

Handbell rehearsals will start back after Labor Day on September 7 at 6:30 p.m. As you are making your plans for fall, consider joining us. We need ringers, and I can guarantee you good music and a good time.

Ring on!
Kathy Rice

Youth Outreach

Once again our youth will partner with Carolina Premium Outlets to collect food for the Smithfield Area Ministries Food Closet. Look for their boxes at the Outlet Center beginning October 3!!



SAM Food Closet



Youth Fellowship Meal and Montreat Presentation
Sunday, September 11
following worship

CHICKEN

Please join us!
Donations accepted!

2016 Middle School Retreat

"Storm Chasers of Faith"

October 7-9, 2016
Who: Middle school youth and their adults
Where: Camp Don Lee
How Much: $125 per person (youth and adults)



FYI: The Chicken Roast on August 19 was a huge success!
The youth thank you for your support!!

Spirituality Quadrant



Society of St. Andrews
Youth Sweet Potato Gleaning
Yam Jam
October 29
Details to follow!

God wants our work to be meaningful and satisfying. No matter what we do, it should provide a reason to get up each day and use the talents God has given. As Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who achieves makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing."

Mission Outreach Quadrant

We're back!! Nine hardy souls headed to Brenton, West Virginia, on July 23 to spend a week participating in the Appalachia Service Project. Those participating were Jane and Timothy Allen, Eleanor and Roger Horne, Madeline Horne, Greg Knoll, Anita Liverman, Pam Pope and Teron Sloan.

What a week! Our days began early each day with breakfast at 7:30, followed by making sandwiches for lunch and heading to the warehouse for our supplies for the day. We were blessed with having a mentor/assistant assigned to guide us through our projects as we acknowledged that our skill levels were not at the top of the scale; however, we were willing to learn. Chris Christian from Georgia was beyond a blessing to us. Chris is a heavy equipment operator by trade, and he volunteers his time to work with ASP when he can. Chris was patient and explained how to do things. He even had Madeline Horne up on a scaffold helping with installing siding! That gave Madeline the confidence that she could do anything!! He was given a Prayer Shawl as a "thank you" from us, and we hope that we will cross paths again.

Each day was hot and humid, which was unusual for that part of West Virginia. Nonetheless, we worked hard each day and looked forward to returning to the center to shower.

Each evening, there was a program after dinner; however, the highlight of the evening was the trip into nearby Pineville and the Dairy Queen. Now, ice cream is good, but it also held the comforts of cell phone service for some of our folks. Those of us with Verizon found out that their service DOESN'T cover everywhere! Greg, Anita and Eleanor were kind enough to allow us to use their phones to check in with family. It was strange to not have the convenience of phone service and being able to check on what was going on in the world. When we were heading home on July 30 and crested the last mountain before heading onto I-77, the phones started "pinging" and "tweeting." Such a lovely sound!

Our group looks forward to sharing our stories with the congregation in the near future. A special thanks to those who contributed to help offset some of our costs. We appreciated each dollar.

Sign up for next summer's Appalachia Service Project begins next month! I hope that we can take two teams next year!

—Pam Pope



I volunteered to go on the mission trip to ASP without knowing much about what that meant. I knew that I wanted to help others. Give my time and skills (such as they are) to make someone's life better. As I received more information about what I might be doing, I became anxious about being able to do the things that were mentioned in the "ASP Construction Manual". The ASP contacts assured us that we would be fine and that we could help make someone's life better.

And we did. We helped one family with drywall and siding for a day but we were reassigned to another project when an issue arose that was beyond our group's skill level. The new project had started earlier in the summer with a complete roof replacement and our role was to do some painting and put down new flooring in the kitchen, hallway, a couple bedrooms and a dining area. The work was hard. It was hot. (Clayton doesn't have anything on West Virginia relative to humidity.) Sounds pretty simple.

But to me the most important thing was that I was face to face with poverty. Close up. There are real people living in conditions and homes that I would have difficulty living in. There are real life stories about how they landed in their current situation. It was not comfortable.

God calls us to help. He calls us to meet the poor and help.

— Greg Knoll

I know a lot of people wonder why we need to go to some other place to do mission work when we have so much that could be done in Smithfield. There is a lot we could do in Smithfield; however, there is one big reason I like mission trips. When I'm in town it is hard for me to find time to do projects for others when I am busy maintaining my own things. However when I go on these mission trips, there are no "My Projects." I am there for the benefit of a family. There are no personal distractions (especially when there is no tv, phone, or internet) and I can focus on what I am there for.

I also enjoy getting to know the group a little more personally and learning more about them. On a previous mission trip I learned how to install a roof, and I came home and put a new roof on my house. This time I learned how to install drywall, laminate flooring, and VCT (vinyl composite tile); you never know when that might come in handy. And these trips allow me to see a part of the country I may never see again and be a part of the lives of the family whose house I worked on for the week.

—Teron Sloan

I've been struggling over what to share about my trip to West Virginia. Don't get me wrong. I'm glad I went. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help someone have a better life. I'm proud that I used power tools (with supervision) and no one died. But it wasn't the "warm and fuzzy" uplifting experience I had expected. And I didn't understand why.

Then a friend got bad news. I recognized that same feeling. When you want to make everything better, but you can't. So you make something better. You fix a meal. You send a card. You sit and listen and cry with your friend. But their suffering continues.

We couldn't make everything better for our West Virginia family. We couldn't give them a brand new house. We couldn't undo the effects of generations of poverty. We couldn't bring wide-spread employment opportunities. But we could make something better. We painted walls. We installed new floors. We made one family's home warmer, safer, drier. We sat and listened and laughed and cried with our family. We helped, but their suffering continues.

So it was a good experience. I'm glad I went. But now my heart is heavy in new and different ways. I've seen the suffering. It is no longer anonymous. It has a face and a name and a laugh and a heart. So I pray.

—Jane Allen



Even though Eleanor had reservations about my going on a mission trip, I had no reservations about Eleanor. I knew that she had enough stamina for both of us. However, it was an exhausting and physical challenge for both of us, mostly because of the heat. It was a joy for us to see the smiles and hear the appreciative comments of the people whose homes we were able to make a bit more comfortable.

What was even more gratifying was the Friday night experience at which all of us—our group and the 50 to 60 adults and high school students with whom we shared that week's mission work—shared at least one "God moment" from the week's experience.

It was evident that every one of us was spiritually moved and had our faith strengthened because of what we were able to do for others for home life has not been easy. It was a special blessing for Eleanor and me to see how much a blessing it was for our granddaughter Madeline, and how much enthusiasm she displayed throughout the week.

Of course, it was a further blessing to get to know our team members better and to experience their dedication and fortitude as we tackled all that was assigned to us.

We thank God for an unforgettable experience that surely has strengthened and stretched our own faith. We are thankful that First Presbyterian made this experience available to us.

—Roger and Eleanor Horne



ASP was an amazing experience! To be honest, I wasn't looking forward to going. I would be traveling about six hours away to an area with no cell phone signal, and no wifi, where I would try to work on someone's home in the heat. That's not exactly how I wanted to spend a week of my summer vacation. However, now that I've been, I wish I could've stayed longer! I have gained so much from this experience! Even though I wasn't looking forward to going, I decided to go in with an open mind, even though I was sure that I wouldn't be able to do anything to help the team. On the first day of working, I climbed up on top of scaffolding and helped put siding on a house! Throughout the week, I began to try new things. I learned how to put down laminate, and linoleum floors! I'm still amazed at how many things I learned from one week! I also got to spend a lot of time with some great members of our church. I knew everyone that was going on this trip, but I was still nervous about going on a trip with a bunch of adults and only one other youth. I was able to connect with all of the adults, and I think we worked really well as a team. We all had different talents, and not much of a construction background, but together we were able to accomplish so much!

The best part of the whole trip was the way I was able to see God working through all of us. I have never seen anything like it! I saw God working through me, through our entire team, and through everyone that was working with ASP. I am so thankful that I was able to go on such an amazing trip!

—Madeline Horne

I had tons of fun UP in Appalachia, and I do mean UP! Had trouble keeping my ears unpopped, if you know what I mean! We worked on two houses doing linoleum, painting, and siding. Every few days we treated ourselves to Dairy Queen. (PING! PING! PING! lol!) And the homeowners were very nice. I hope to have another opportunity to go and serve in the future.

—Timothy Allen





There was a need in Appalachia for better housing. Teams of volunteers were organized to make those homes warmer, dryer, safer. And this idea works! Volunteers travel hours to be part of the Appalachian Service Project. Together, they leave a home in better shape than when they found it..

—Anita Liverman

