SUNDAY
AUGUST 25

• 9 a.m. Faith Formation

• 10 a.m. Worship

FESTIVAL DAY 2019

• 11 a.m. Brunch on the Front Lawn

• 5 p.m. Youth Slideshow & Supper

Living as Disciples of Christ – Growing in Heart and Mind
Festival Day — Sunday, August 25

Festival Day, our kick-off celebration for an exciting year of faith formation and education, is **Sunday, August 25**. Yes, a little earlier than previous years, and, as we are still on the summer schedule, a perfect opportunity for all of us to worship, fellowship and faith formation together. All ages come to Calvin Hall at 9:00 a.m. for a blessing of the volunteers, a presentation by one of our children who attended the Passports Kids Camp, and a Middle East Pilgrimage presentation by Stephanie Williams and Caroline Smith. Here is more from Stephanie and Caroline:

*The Shopkeeper, Torrential Rain, A Beautiful Baby, and Jesus...*

Curious about the Holy Land?

Come hear **Caroline Smith and Stephanie Williams** recount their adventures on the 2019 Jordan/Israel trip, and how they experienced Jesus in both expected and unexpected places, (such as a souvenir shop in Bethlehem, on a rainy day seeking shelter at Dome of the Rock, and dinner with a Palestinian family). You’ll see their photos and hear of moments both poignant and comical. If you’ve ever wondered about what it’s like to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 25** – and bring any questions you may have about visiting the Holy Land!

Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and Blessing of the Backpacks, followed by lunch on the front lawn at 11:00 a.m. Just walk out, grab a plate of Smithfield’s Chicken and BBQ and have a seat. Enjoy live entertainment by Willy Fisher while sitting under the shady trees. Children will have plenty to do! Inflatable, lawn games, and a face painter! YES! You can bring friends and neighbors to enjoy this day with you!
Upcoming Events & News

Twin Lakes Lunch with FPC Staff –
Wednesday, August 28, Noon, The Terrace

Village of Brookwood Lunch with FPC Staff –
Thursday, August 29, Noon, Lakeside Dining

Labyrinth Blessing

Sunday, September 1 is a holiday weekend but that does not stop us from providing a new opportunity of faith formation at FPCB! Come to Calvin Hall at 9:45 a.m. for a Blessing of the Labyrinth.

A Sacred Path Comes to First Presbyterian Church

A labyrinth is a centuries-old tool used for meditation, prayer, self-reflection and personal and spiritual growth. Sometimes confused with a maze which is a puzzle with decisions to be made about which direction to go, the labyrinth is a path that leads to the center and out again, insuring that one never gets lost on this journey. It is simply “putting one foot in front of the other.” The labyrinth walk is a “deeply meditative and symbolic discipline” where one walks to the center to find the “center” of one’s self. It is a “sacred path.”

One of the most famous labyrinths is the one set into the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France. Created in the 13th century, it is distinctly Christian in pattern with a visible four-armed cross. The center is a six-petal rosette design, a traditional symbol of the Virgin Mary.

And now, First Presbyterian Church has acquired a labyrinth for use in church programs throughout the year. The labyrinth at First Presbyterian Church, based on the Chartres design, is a portable labyrinth, allowing it to be used in different places. Commissioned for programs sponsored through Healing Ground retreat center in Summerfield, NC, it already has a distinguished history of helping seekers to find a contemplative path to walk. Its design was created for Healing Ground by the Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress, a leader in the worldwide labyrinth movement. First Presbyterian Church acquired this labyrinth in May 2019 and will hold a blessing service for this sacred path on September 1, 2019 at 9:45 a.m. in Calvin Hall. It will then be available for contemplative journey use on that day and at different times and at different church events during the year. Please check the church website for times when the labyrinth will be available.
Upcoming Events & News (continued)

Ministry Fair
Join us for Coffee Hour and Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 8 starting at 9:00 a.m. in Calvin Hall. Explore different “booths” to learn more about the many ministries at FPCB. Discover how God is calling you to get involved, grow and serve — Living as a Disciple of Christ! Invite friends! Expect to see tables from Furniture Ministry, Andrews Partnership, Faith Formation, Presbyterian Women, Youth, and more! Contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright callbright@fpcburlington.org or 336-228-1703 x 223 if you would like to host a table and share the ministry in which you serve!

Calling All Deacons
On Sunday, September 8, 6:00 p.m. we will gather for a cookout at the home of Ron and Pam Shive (532 Circle Drive). We will come together again after our summer travels to enjoy some time together and refocus our energies on our ministry as Deacons. Please RSVP to Ron Shive at rshive@fpcburlington.org.

Explore FPC Lunch
If you are a newcomer to the life and worship of First Presbyterian Church, please join the church staff for lunch on Sunday, September 15, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in Room 122. This will be an opportunity to meet other newcomers, get to know our church staff, and learn more about the exciting ministries of this great church. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Shive at rshive@fpcburlington.org.

Friendship Group
Friendship Group returns Thursday, September 19 at 11:00 a.m. in the John Knox Room! All are welcome! Come reconnect with old friends, come meet new friends! Laugh, perhaps sing, and enjoy a delightful and enlightening program followed by a wonderful meal ($5.00). Spectacular September with Friendship Group! Don’t miss it! Friendship Group meets the third Thursday of each month.

Older Adult Singles’ Gathering
If you are single and an older adult and would be interested in gathering with others, join us for a glass of wine and an appetizer. This will be an enjoyable opportunity to be together and to plan our next gathering. Join us on Sunday, September 15, 5:00–6:30 p.m. Location TBD.

Taizé Service, Sunday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m.
This service will follow the Taizé tradition. A defining element of this style of worship is contemplative participation where we seek to be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit. The service uses moments of silence, meditation and reflection, coupled with sung response, to help us become aware of God’s presence within us and to hear God’s whispered voice speaking to each of us. Come, gather and join with brothers and sisters in Christ seeking Sabbath light. Members of FPC and the community are invited to attend this quiet and reflective worship experience. Childcare is available.

508 Partnership with First Baptist Church, Apple Street
Our 508 Partnership continues to thrive as we gather around two events this fall.

• Discussions in African American Poetry Class (begins Oct. 2 — see page 6 for details)
• Thanksgiving Dinner — Sunday, November 24, 6:00 p.m. @ First Presbyterian Church, Calvin Hall
Upcoming Events & News (continued)

A Special Evening for all Presbyterian Women
Monday, September 23

• 6:00 p.m. in Williams Chapel
to honor the fine women in our congregation who have passed away in the past year

• 6:30 in the Witherspoon Room
for the Annual Salad Supper and Life Membership Award Ceremony

Bring a friend and a covered dish salad. Drinks and desserts provided.

Other Presbyterian Women Events:
• Monday, August 26, PW Coordinating Council Meeting (Room 122) at 10:00 a.m.
• Saturday, September 28, Salem Presbytery Fall Gathering, Unity Presbyterian Church, 885 Woodleaf Barber Road, Cleveland, NC 27054, 704-278-4248

Men of the Church Oyster Roast & BBQ
We will gather on Saturday, October 5, at Hugh Cummings’s Farm (2609 Pitts Road, Elon) at 5:00 p.m. to watch college football and at 6:00 p.m. enjoy Hugh Cummings’s steamed oysters and Phil Langley’s BBQ. We will conclude the evening around 7:30 p.m. Bring a pair of gloves and shucking knife if you have one. You will greatly enjoy the time together and can’t beat the cost — $10 for oysters, BBQ, and beer and soft drinks! If you have questions, call Jerry Bailey (336-213-1942) or Hugh Cummings (336-260-8071). Call the church office (336-228-1703) to make your reservation.

American Red Cross Memorial Bloodmobile
Tuesday, October 22 in Calvin Hall

The American Red Cross is planning to hold the Burlington First Presbyterian Church Bloodmobile on Tuesday, October 22 in Calvin Hall from 2:30-7:00 p.m.

This bloodmobile is a memorial blood drive in memory of Harold and Barbara Lloyd. Harold Lloyd organized many bloodmobiles at First Presbyterian and Barbara was a faithful Red Cross volunteer for many years. When available on-line you may schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code FPC Burlington. If you need assistance or information you may contact Lucy Kernodle, Site Coordinator, at lkernodle@bellsouth.net. The site, redcrossblood.org also gives information about guidelines about who may donate blood and what to expect as a blood donor. You can put the power of faith into action and help save a life! Please save the date!
Adult Studies

Faith formation is a lifelong journey! At First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, we believe that faith formation is an essential element of discipleship and therefore we offer a variety of opportunities to learn and grow. Opportunities of 2019-2020 adult faith formation include:

**Sunday Morning Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.**
- **September 1–29:** All classes in Calvin Hall
- **October 6:** Individual classes begin — **Enrichment Class:** Room 228, **The Point:** Room 227, **The John Knox Fellowship:** The John Knox Room

**Short-Term Series**
- **Breaking Down the Walls — Understanding the Israel-Palestine Conflict from Different Perspectives:** September 8, 15, 22 & 29 in Calvin Hall (more details, see page 7)
- **Paul’s Writings and the Influence on the Development of Christianity:** led by the Rev. Dr. Mickey Efird — October 6, 13, & 20 and May 3, 10, 17 & 24 in the John Knox Room.
- **Raising White Kids — A Parenting Class:** led by the Racial Justice Task Force. They will facilitate conversations using the book *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America* by Jennifer Harvey; October 6, 13, & 20 and November 3 in Room 227.
- **Guest Speaker:** The Rev. David Morrow, Special Guest Former U.S. Military Chaplain, November 10, Veterans’ Day, the John Knox Room
- **Book of Ruth:** led by the Rev. Amanda Anderson, November 17, the John Knox Room
- **Hanging of the Greens:** led by the Rev. Amanda Anderson, November 24, the John Knox Room
- **Narnia:** led by the Rev. Taylor Barner, December 1, 8, 15, & 22, the John Knox Room

**Mid-Week**
- **Bible Study — Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts of the Old and New Testament:** led by Ron Shive in the Witherspoon Room (see page 8 for more details)
  - **Tuesday Morning Men:** 6:45–7:45 a.m., starting September 10
  - **Wednesday Morning Everyone:** 10:00–11:15 a.m., starting September 11
  - **Thursday Morning Women:** 6:45–7:45 a.m. starting September 12
- **Discussions in African American Poetry:** 508 Partnership led by Homer Ashby, Harry Brown, and Vickie Morrow, 12:00 p.m. Thursdays. As in the past, we will alternate meeting locations beginning October 2 at First Presbyterian Church in Room 203 and continuing October 10 at First Baptist, and so on.

**Lunch Bunch Book Club**
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. in Room 122. Come for fun book discussions and fellowship. Bring your lunch with you.
- **September:** *And It Was Good* by Madeline L’Engle
- **October:** *The Good Neighbor* by M. King
- **November:** *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- **December:** *The Age of Blessing* by Vicky Morrow
- **January:** *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff

In addition:
- **Meditation** each Wednesday morning at 7:45 a.m. at the home of Nan Perkins
- **Yoga for Women** at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays — check Facebook or the Website or ask Charlotte Nance-Allbright about upcoming classes

Several of these opportunities are still in the works, so the best way to keep informed is to check the weekly eblast, the Facebook page (like us if you have not already!) or the website. An adult faith formation brochure with more information about the classes will be available in August and December. If you have suggestions of classes or teachers, or if you would like to teach a class, please contact Bruce Shields or Charlotte Nance-Allbright. We would love to hear from you!
BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS — UNDERSTANDING THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES
SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER 9:45 – 10:45 A.M., CALVIN HALL

For more information, please visit our website at www.fpcburlington.org

- **September 8: Steve Feldman — Compartments**
  How people get the wrong ideas about others—a first-hand experience—and correction of some myths. Steve Feldman is a Jewish dermatologist whose professional activities have given him the opportunity to see people who are on the other side of the walls that separate us into different groups.

- **September 15: J. Mark Davidson — History**
  Pre-1917, 1917-1948, 1948 to Present. J. Mark Davidson is Pastor of the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill, where he has served for 21 years. He grew up in Lebanon, where his parents were mission coworkers with the PC(USA). Davidson has been active in the work for a just and lasting peace in Israel-Palestine since 2004.

- **September 22: Bshara Nassar — Present**
  Description of the current reality—settlement growth, water issues, etc. Bshara Nassar is the Founder and Executive Director of the Museum of the Palestinian People in Washington, D.C.

- **September 29: Steve Feldman and Mark Davidson — Future**
  Discussion of what the future can and should hold. What can we do?
Adult Studies (continued)

Join Dr. Ron Shive in a Weekly Bible Study this Fall — *Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts of the Old and New Testament*

**September–December 2019 in the Witherspoon Room**

**Three Weekly Options:**

- **Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study:**
  6:45–7:45 a.m. beginning September 10

- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study:**
  10:00–11:15 a.m. beginning September 11

- **Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study:**
  6:45–7:45 a.m. beginning September 12

Robert P. Carroll, the former Irish Old Testament scholar says, “If reading the Bible does not raise profound problems for you as a modern reader, then check with your doctor and inquire about the symptoms of brain-death.” Carroll is correct! If we read the Bible fully engaging our intellect as well as our heart and if we are honest, there are many biblical texts that are not only problematic but offensive. They are tyrannical! So how do we deal with these tyrannical texts? Most often we repudiate them. We discard them from our consideration. We silence them. We get out our scissors and perform surgery on the Bible. Or, we simply ignore them. This is how Francis Taylor Gench, Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, describes our predicament as intelligent and modern disciples of Jesus.

So what is a better way of engaging these tyrannical texts? Gench suggests we leave our scissors at home and we need to stay engaged with these difficult texts and wrestle with them. In this process, we can even encounter God in new ways.

This Bible study will begin with one session devoted to how Presbyterians and other mainline Christians understand, use, and interpret the Scriptures. The next week, we will discuss how we can engage and wrestle with these troubling texts. Then for the next nine weeks, we will consider one of these tyrannical texts each week—first from the Old Testament and then from the New Testament. In the process, we will encounter God—the one who was, and is, and is to be!

“If reading the Bible does not raise profound problems for you as a modern reader, then check with your doctor and inquire about the symptoms of brain-death.”
Music Ministry 2019-2020

Our newest season of Music begins in September! This is a great time to step up and join one of our choirs in leading worship! And you will also find wonderful fellowship, deep faith experiences, new friends, and good food (that’s right)!! Contact Patrick Murphy if you want more information or have questions!

Chancel Choir (college and adult) – Wednesdays 6:45-8:15 p.m. (begins September 4)

Carol and Covenant Choirs (K-grade 5) – Sundays 5:00-6:00 p.m. (begins September 8)

Carillon Choir (college and adult handbells) – Tuesdays 5:30-6:45 p.m. (begins September 10)

Services of Music 2019

Mark your calendars for our annual services of music!

All Saints’ Day – Sunday, November 3 (8:30 and 11:00 a.m.)

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 15 (5:00 p.m.)
Youth Ministry

Mission Trip
The Senior High youth group had a wonderful time serving in Pittsburgh on our Summer mission trip! We worked on building homes for those in need and also helped at a local farm which serves the poor and hungry, both located in the Garfield neighborhood. We also got to see a Pirates game and many of the sights of the city. We learned about how far Pittsburgh has come from its coal and steel days and also learned about the struggles that homeless and low income families face on a daily basis. It was truly a glorious opportunity to witness and participate in the work that God is doing!

Annual Youth Slideshow, Sunday, August 25
Our annual Youth Slideshow is back on August 25 at 5:00 p.m. in Calvin Hall! Our slideshow showcases the last year in youth ministry at FPC and kicks off our new year. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend. A potluck dinner will be held and those attending are asked to bring a dish to contribute. Youth parents are strongly encouraged to attend this event, as we will be giving out very important information regarding youth group for the new year. We hope you will join us and see what our students have been up to this past year!

Update Your College Student’s Address
Presbyterian Women and the College Student subcommittee need updated addresses for your college student. We love to contact them throughout the year to let them know their church family is thinking about them and praying for them. Even if your student’s address has not changed, please let me know. Send the information to Cathy Wall at cbwrmw12@gmail.com. Thanks for your help!

Young Adult Ministry

Attention Young Adults!
Overflowed, our young adult ministry group, will start again on Thursday, September 12. Overflowed meets at the Burlington Beer Works in downtown Burlington every Thursday night. One new change is that our original meeting time has now moved back to 8:00 p.m. Come out and join us for some great food, drinks, and conversation!

Young Adult Softball
We are excited to bring back the FPC Burlington Softball Team! Spring registration is still a long way off but we want you on the team! If you are interested in playing or have questions, email Taylor at tbarner@fpcburlington.org or call 412-613-0835. Grab a mitt, grab a friend, and come out and cheer for us next Spring!
Children’s Ministry
Festival Day is Sunday, August 25!

Note the earlier date and mark your calendars now so you do not miss this day to kick-off a new year of spiritual formation at First Presbyterian Church of Burlington. Quick overview of the day:

- **9:00 a.m. Faith Formation** in Calvin Hall for everyone. We will recognize and bless the teachers, hear from children who attended Passport Kids Camp, and then the children will go with the youth to Room 224 to hear more about the youth mission trip to Pittsburgh.
- **10:00 a.m. Worship** including Blessing of the Backpacks
- **11:00 a.m. Brunch on the Front Lawn** with musical entertainment, games, inflatable and face painting by William Gattis.
- **5:00 p.m. Youth Slideshow and Supper**

**Blessing of the Backpacks is on Festival Day Too!**

Blessing of the Backpacks is **Sunday, August 25** during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Each year we take a moment to celebrate the milestone that a child is entering another year of education, preschool to high school and homeschool. We remind the children that they do not walk this road alone. God is always with them. On August 25, our church family will surround children and youth with prayers and a blessing. Each child will receive a small gift from the church to put in or on their backpacks to remind them of God’s presence and our love. All children are welcome to receive this blessing.

Children’s Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings
Starting September 1

*Children Worship, Too Class for Kindergarten & 1st Graders*

**October 6, 13, & 20**

First Presbyterian Church Burlington invites Kindergarteners, 1st Graders, & Parents/Guardians to participate in *Children Worship, Too: A Worship and Sacrament Milestone!*

This is a class designed to help guide children, and parents/guardians, to be full worship participants. Children are an integral part of the Body of Christ. All children are welcome and invited to participate in worship. Join us for a three-week journey where we will explore why, how, & where we worship. October 6, 13, & 20 at 9:45 a.m. Please let Charlotte Nance-Allbright (callbright@fpcburlington.org or 336-228-1703 x 223) know you are participating so that she can order enough Bibles. Yes, each child will receive his/her very own Bible at the end of the course!
This past February, as I have done almost yearly for the past 10 years, I led a group on a pilgrimage in the Holy Land beginning in the city of Amman, Jordan. On our first morning we made our way out of Amman and traveled southeast to the top of Mount Nebo, where Moses led the Hebrew people from Egypt. Standing atop Mount Nebo, Moses could see the land that would be their journey’s end. Looking southwest they could spot the Dead Sea. Looking northwest, they could see the ancient city of Jericho.

Standing atop Mount Nebo, I imagined what must have been running through Moses’ mind when he reached that summit. For him, it was the culmination of an arduous and contentious journey.

Moses led the people through the desert for forty years. During the trek, God gave the people the 10 Commandments to establish rules that would show them how to love God and love and live with each other. When Moses climbed Mount Sinai and did not return in a timely fashion, the people sculpted a golden calf and began to worship idols. When they ran out of food, God provided manna. When times got tough in the desert, the people groaned that they had it better as slaves in Egypt. Finally, after many years of journey, the Hebrew people reached Mount Nebo. Moses leads them to that point where they could see the land that was their final destination.

As I stood there on the top of Mount Nebo, surveying the wide expanse of land before me, I imagined Moses whispering, “There it is.” But then God speaks, “This is the land I promised to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...I’ve let you see it with your eyes. There it is. But you’re not going to enter this land.” God was telling Moses that he would die before he completed his journey. What an unsatisfactory ending.

One of the aesthetic, architectural, and engineering wonders of the world is the dome of the cathedral, the Duomo, in Florence, Italy. The height and span of the dome has never been surpassed. The man who designed the dome and oversaw its construction was Filippo Brunelleschi. In 1418, Brunelleschi, then forty-one, won a competition to design the dome and then spent the rest of his life building it. In 1446 it was almost complete; the first stone of the dome’s lantern was consecrated by the Archbishop of Florence. Unfortunately, Brunelleschi died a month later and never saw the completed work — another unsatisfactory ending.

We often envision our lives as a journey we are meant to complete or a project we will see through to fruition. The late author and poet Jim Harrison, in the final poem in the last book of poetry he published before..." (continued on page 13)
(continued from page 12)

dying in 2016, uses the metaphor of building a bridge to describe his life’s work:

Most of my life was spent
building a bridge out over the sea
though the sea was too wide.
I’m proud of the bridge
hanging in the pure sea air.
Now that I’m old the work goes slowly.
Ever nearer death, I like it out here
high above the sea bundled
up for the arctic storms of late fall,
the resounding crash and moan of the sea,
the hundred-foot depth of the green troughs.
Sometimes the sea roars and howls like
the animal it is, a continent wide and alive.
What beauty in this the darkest music
over which you can hear the lightest music of human
behavior, the tender connection between men
and galaxies.
So I sit on the edge, wagging my feet above
the abyss. Tonight the moon will be in my lap.
This is my job, to study the universe
from my bridge. I have the sky, the sea, the faint
green streak of Canadian forest on the far shore.

Harrison is recognizing in his old age that his life's work was never meant to accomplish a goal — that he would never arrive at any destination and that his bridge would never be complete. He is not disappointed, however, but proud and satisfied, knowing that he lived his life (built his incomplete bridge) with as much integrity, humility, and grace as he could muster.

More than any achievement or finality we may seek, striving to live our lives with integrity and character on a day-to-day basis may produce the best ending any of us could hope for.

By Dr. Ron Shive
This article was printed in the The Times-News — Burlington, NC on Saturday, June 8

We often envision our lives as a journey we are meant to complete or a project we will see through to fruition.
New Members

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**Elizabeth Byars**
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**Jane Wellford** (Jane is pictured with her husband, the Rev. Randy Wellford, who is a member of Salem Presbytery)  
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AUGUST 2019

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Outreach

We are a Matthew 25 Church!
Matthew 25 and How it Relates to FPC Burlington

Matthew 25 is a new initiative from the National Office of the PC (USA) denomination. It comes from the Mission and Outreach portion of the national office. Basically the initiative lays out a program to call churches to refocus and reenergize their mission activities in three general areas:

- Reinvigorate and Sustain “Congregational Vitality”
- Confront and Combat “Structural Racism” where it exists locally and nationally
- Engage in resolution efforts regarding the Issues/Conditions contributing to “Systemic Poverty” in our communities.

Individual churches are invited to join this initiative. If they do join they commit to expanding their effort on at least one of the three Matthew 25 missions. Obviously FPC Burlington through the action of its Session at the May 2019 meeting decided to join the Matthew 25 initiative and to expand our already existing efforts in all three Mission areas.

It turns out we are among the first 100 congregations of the denomination to join the Matthew 25 initiative. Incorporating the logo into our materials will help create congregational and community awareness of the Matthew 25 initiative and our involvement as a congregation.

The tripartite logo symbolizes these issues and the diversity of the PC(USA) membership joining in the initiative. There will be a link on our website regarding this symbolism when we put together more information.

We hope our participation will motivate greater congregational involvement in our community and will attract seekers to join our church and engage in the Matthew 25 initiative’s goals.

On page 17 is a prepared statement by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for churches that are just joining the Matthew 25 Initiative.
Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):
A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)’s invitation to follow Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

• Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed

• Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color

• Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.
Outreach (continued)

Furniture Ministry News

It Takes a Village
The Furniture Ministry Warehouse has been extra busy in May, June and July. We have been blessed with lots of donations from Elon University in regards to loveseats, couches, dressers and other furniture. Our dedicated pick-up guys, Reid Dusenberry, Dan Hardie, Kent Byrd, and Bruce Shields have worked tirelessly to pick up donations and coordinate one Saturday each month to collect donations in addition. Reid Dusenberry and Bruce Shields coordinated the donations from Elon and the other church members who have assisted with these pick ups from Elon are Joe Wood, Gary Garrison, Phil Langley, Dick Cannon, Dick Fisher, and six Elon football players (pictured, right).

Many thanks to all the church members who assisted with the “Don’t Trash It Campaign”: Liz Sherer, Peggy Harrelson, Bill/Marion Gardner, Karren Carrouth, Ted/Karen Hruslinski, Mary Lou Massie, Catherine Green, Jan Scott, Bob/Ann Carter, Faye Alexander, Barbara Carson, Jo Grimley, Melissa Allen, Jin Jin Blackburn, Vickie Whitaker, Connie Yarbrough, Leah/Jim Johnson, Linda Fisher, Leanna Giles, Betsy Reeves, Bill Haslan, Bobby/Elizabeth Mize, Bibby Pinson, Candy McCall, Allison Bryan, Betty Beal, Sandy Fuller, Barbara Roberts, Karen Garrison, Margaret Beatty, Wendy Lunsford, Gayle Gunn, Angie Chilton, Tricia Hinson, George Holt, Eve Jones, Shirley Gerkin, Sandy Scott, Christine Fischer, Gayle McGowen, Lucy Kernodle, Joan Marder, Shelley Lassiter, Doris DeSarro, and Denese Byrd. A special thanks to Raye’s family, Corbin, Ashley, Betsy, Lindley, Andrea, and Bennett. They assisted Raye in getting the linens from Elon to the Garrison Joyner Building. After the linens were received, they had to be sorted, washed, packaged into a Bed in a Bag. Each bed in a bag includes a set of sheets, mattress cover, comforter or bedspread with care given that the items coordinate. The bedding that we are able to receive from Elon University may last us about nine months and saves us lots of money. With each bed that is provided for our clients, they receive a bed in the bag which consists of sheets, comforter/bedspread, mattress pad and a bed pillow. The pillows are provided by donations received from Virginia Wilburn with Preferred Realty.

The results from the “Don’t Trash it” campaign that was collected from Elon students:
205 — Bed in bags (we purchased about 40 mattress pads)
29 — 3-drawer plastic chest
7 — 2 drawer plastic chest
7 — Lamps
10 — Bed Pillows
15 — Decorative pillows
46 — Throws
Outreach (continued)

Dr. Bob Carter was able to recruit volunteers for our June and July workdays. In June, members from the Elon football team came out to assist with deliveries and Elon basketball players came in July (pictured, left). Despite the heat, we were able to deliver to ten families and five donation pick ups on July 13. These young men provided much needed assistance on both workdays. We would also like to thank Peggy Harrelson for keeping our refrigerator stocked with water for the volunteers. This has been vital on these hot workdays. Jo Feroe provides donuts to the volunteers on our monthly Saturday workdays.

Furniture Ministry has office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week for three hours each day. Denese Byrd, Libby Lasley, Nan Perkins, Elizabeth Bailey, and Raye Sapp are known as the phone ladies. Leslie Hardie and Candy McCall pitch in when the other ladies are not able to staff the office. The ladies answer the phone, handle the referrals and paperwork for the monthly workdays. Betty Beal comes in to make plaques, gets bibles ready, and pack dishes. Tom Whitaker is our lamp guy and he cleans each lamp and gets it ready by making sure it works and has a light bulb before it is given out to our families.

We also couldn’t get the furniture delivered to our families without the many volunteers that are so dedicated to come out each month on the second Saturday to work through cold, heat, and rain to get the children in beds. That list is way too long to begin to list everyone. We are so appreciative to each of these volunteers whether they show up each month or one time per year. Each volunteer is an important piece to this ministry.

The Furniture Ministry meets the needs of so many in our community. This ministry needs lots of people in many ways to keep it going. We ask that you prayerfully find a way to get involved with Furniture Ministry.

- Volunteer (one or two Saturdays per year — see upcoming delivery dates below left.)
- Donate furniture or household goods: [www.fpcburlington.org/furniture-ministry-donation-request/](http://www.fpcburlington.org/furniture-ministry-donation-request/)

Office Hours:
Monday’s 1:00–4:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
No Office hours on Wednesday

Upcoming Furniture Delivery Dates:
Saturdays (9 a.m.–Noon), Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 & Dec. 14

To contact Furniture Ministry:
(336) 212-2937
[www.furnmin@fpcburlington.org](mailto:www.furnmin@fpcburlington.org)
Outreach (continued)

Greetings First Presbyterian Friends!

Because of your generous donation to Habitat, the inaugural First Presbyterian Women’s Grassroots Team — Habitat Alamance Women Build/She Nailed It! — was able to meet its $2500 fundraising goal!! Your contribution will enable a hard-working family from Alamance County to be able to purchase their own home at cost on an interest-free (0%), 20-year mortgage. Many, many thanks for your support of this great cause!

Regards,
Gayle Gunn, Team Coordinator

Andrews Elementary Reading Buddies

A Shout Out to the Andrews Elementary Reading Buddies!
The Reading Buddy program is a major part of FPC’s partnership with Andrews Elementary. It would not exist without the commitment of our 12 volunteers, who spend an hour each week working with a child or children. The individual time and attention given to these children is invaluable. The students demonstrate growth both academically and socially. First Presbyterian Church, Andrews Elementary and the Andrew’s Visioning team thank Steve Buckley, Hugh Cummings, Gayle Gunn, Myra Jackson, Leah Johnson, Jim Johnson, Nan Perkins, Patty Phillips, David Sellers, Bruce Shields, Andrea Thomas, and Jin-Jin Blackburn for sharing their time and talents with these elementary students.

Andrews Elementary Reading Buddy Signup — Make a Difference!
If you are interested in spending an hour a week at Andrews Elementary listening to a child read, helping a child learn their letters, site words or numbers, please contact Jin-Jin Blackburn (jblackb@hotmail.com or 336-260-0689). You will MAKE a DIFFERENCE in a child’s life! The volunteers love their time spent at Andrews and the children flourish under the one-on-one attention. Teachers appreciate your help and share the children’s growth results. The Reading Buddy Calendar usually goes from October—middle of May. Volunteers help in grades Kindergarten through third grade.

August School Supply Collection
For Andrews Elementary

It’s not too late to help collect school supplies for Andrews Elementary. The items in high demand are clorox wipes, Kleenex, dry erase markers, gallon ziplock bags, electronic pencil sharpeners, and book bags. There is a plastic container outside the office and in the Welcome Center for your donations.

Thank you!
Church Business

2019-20 Theme for First Presbyterian Church

Living as Disciples of Christ...

...Worshiping Joyfully

...Growing in Heart and Mind

...Giving Generously

...Serving Faithfully

Offering Ritual Cards

In the pew racks, you will find “Offering Ritual” cards. The giving of our tithes, offerings and of ourselves is a vital part of worship in which we express our gratitude for God’s blessings. The passing of the offering plate is a visible demonstration of our commitment to devote our time and treasures to Christ’s ministry. If you give monthly, quarterly, annually or through stocks, credit cards and/or e-giving, please participate in the offering ritual by placing the card in the plate when it is passed. To give electronically, see the instructions on the backside of the card. Or you may scan this code to connect to our online giving page: This code will link you to the online giving page of FPC’s website (www.fpcburlington.org). Scroll down to the blue button that says “Give.” For questions about e-giving, please contact Lacey Way in the church office at 336-228-1703 or lway@fpcburlington.org.

Volunteering: Short on Time, But Big on Desire?

If you’ve been wondering about ways to connect with fellow FPC-ers, as well as to live out Christ’s charge to us to love and serve one another — but don’t have a lot of time in your schedule — check out our new Volunteer Cards. These cards will be available in the church pews on the third Sunday of each month and will feature upcoming volunteer opportunities that are quick and easy to do. (Note that a limited number of cards will be in the church office, as well).

Just take a card, fill it out, and place it in the offering plate, (or drop it off in the church office). A staff member will follow up with you via email.

Easy! Enjoy the volunteer experiences and know that, even in your busy life, you are making a difference for your church, for your community, and for the world.
Church Business (continued)

Session Digest for August, 2019

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met on August 18, 2019 for the monthly Stated Meeting.

1. The Treasurer reported on the June and July Financials. Revenues have been higher than the budget. This was aided in part due to 2018 pledges that were not received until 2019. Expenses were below budget so our year to date numbers are positive.

2. A report on utility usage was provided to the group. Due to work by the staff to reduce usage, electric consumption is down by 32% and gas usage is down by 39%.

3. The Financial Advisory Committee presented a report that included a recommendation to make a one-time gift to Salem Presbytery of $5,000 to assist with the reorganization of that body.

4. The Fellowship Committee requested approval for another church sponsored back-packing trip in the fall. This was approved by the Session.

5. The Generosity and Gratitude Committee reported that Dedication Sunday will be held on October 27, 2019. We will have one service that day at 10:00 a.m. with lunch to follow.

6. August 25 will be Festival Day at the church. There will be lunch and games following the 10:00 a.m. service. The Youth Slide Show and covered dish supper will be held at 5:00 p.m. on that same day.

7. Patrick Murphy reported that there will be a Taizé service on September 22, 2019 and Lessons and Carols will be on December 15, 2019.

8. The Presbyterian Women will hold their Annual Memorial Service and dinner to honor Life Members on September 23, 2019.

If you should have any questions regarding the Financial Statement, please contact Chan Chandler, Church Treasurer, JIChandlerIII@aol.com or Lacey Way, Financial Administrator, Iway@fpcburlington.org in the church office.

2019 Flower Donations

Floral donations for use during worship are offered on a first come/first serve basis. If you would like to reserve a Sunday in memory or honor of your loved one, call Kathleen Seagroves in the church office (336-228-1703) or Cindy Cothran, Chancel Guild chairperson (336-226-8226). The dates that remain available for this year are currently: September 22, 29; October 13, 20, 27; November 3, 17, 24 and December 1 and 8.

Church Finances — July Financial Statement

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July 2019</th>
<th>Monthly Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
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<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Total</strong></td>
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<td>$108,818.92</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you should have any questions regarding the Financial Statement, please contact Chan Chandler, Church Treasurer, JIChandlerIII@aol.com or Lacey Way, Financial Administrator, Iway@fpcburlington.org in the church office.
Dear Friends,

This will be the final monthly First Press newsletter produced.

Your Communications and Technology Committee has thoughtfully analyzed the best and most effective ways of communicating with everyone in our congregation. In place of the monthly newsletter, we will be communicating through the following avenues:

• **Expanded announcements in the bulletin each week.** (Worshipers are encouraged to take the bulletin home each week as a reminder of upcoming events.)

• **For those who can’t make it to worship on Sunday, a weekly announcement sheet** will be available in the church office or may be read on the church website (www.fpcburlington.org).

• **Weekly Thursday eblast email** of all the church announcements (If you are not currently receiving this, please email Kathleen Seagroves at kseagroves@fpcburlington.org). Once a month this will include the Session Digest and the church financials, as well as Furniture Ministry updates.

• **Facebook posts** (“Like” First Presbyterian Church, Burlington on Facebook).

• **The newsfeed on our website.**

• **Bi-annual (January and August) glossy publication** that will elaborate on the ways that the Spirit is working in and through this great congregation to accomplish God’s work in our community and world.

We think these will be positive changes, however please give us your feedback as we make this transition. You can email Stephanie Williams (sdwinelon05@gmail.com) or Jane Cunningham (jcunningham@fpcburlington.org).

Grace and peace,
Ron

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**Choosing Gratitude as a Way of Life...**

...was the stewardship campaign theme you saw last fall. As Christians, we know it is our duty, our responsibility to give and share our resources in grateful response to God’s generosity. Over 54% of our congregational “giving units” made a commitment and pledged financial resources to the church and its missions for 2019. While this participation level is down over previous years, the total dollars pledged were in line with that of prior campaigns.

What the Gratitude & Generosity (stewardship) Committee really hopes you will continue to focus on, however, is your participation. Yes, dollars pledged go to operate and support the numerous programs, outreach and ministries of FPC-Burlington. Our Sunday “Moments for Mission” testimonies are proof of the positive impact these programs have within our own church family, but also within our local community and in select spots across the globe. But what happens to us when we set up that automatic bank draft to send money every week/month/quarter to the church? Or when we drop our cash/check in the offering plate? Turns out that participation in stewardship has multiple personal benefits. It provides a way for each of us to express gratitude to God; the offering itself is an act of worship. Grateful giving also enhances our own welfare. In their book *The Paradox of Generosity*, authors Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson cite their research that shows that “generous people are likely to express a rich, robust, and externally-focused life purpose, which contributes to their general personal well-being.”

Could there be any better reasons to make gratitude and generosity a part of our daily lives?

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

- October 27: Trunk or Treat
- October 27: Stewardship Dedication Cookout
- November 10: Youth Rake and Run
- December: Alternative Giving Fair
- December 14: Fruit Basket Delivery
- December 18: Drive-Thru Nativity
- March 29: Pritchett Symposium with guest preacher and teacher the Rev. Diane Givens-Moffett
Memories Under the Steeple

On June 5, 1989, John W. Johnson was welcomed to the staff as Christian Educator. He graduated from Stetson University, Deland, Florida with a degree in Music Education and from Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Va., with a Master's Degree in Christian Education. One of his jobs was to direct the service trip work of both youth groups. This was carried out with his three-year-cycle plan: close to home the first year, away from home but still in the US for the second year, and a foreign country the third year. Under John’s leadership, the Drive-Through Nativity was greatly enhanced. He initiated a weekly Wednesday night Senior High study, and the first church website — with information about church programs, youth activities, and our worship program. Another innovation he brought to the church was in the area of youth music. During his last few years with us, John enrolled in a two-year program at San Francisco Theological Seminary, earning a Master’s Degree in Divinity. A six-week study period at the Seminary each of the two summers was necessary in addition to the home study. John was ordained in 2002, and upon leaving First Presbyterian Church, served as supply to Yanceyville Presbyterian Church, and then accepted a position as Pastor at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. He currently serves as Pastor at Bethany Presbyterian Church of Graham.