



APRIL 2019

First Press

a monthly newsletter publication of First Presbyterian Church

Lent & Holy Week at FPC, 2019

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

During the season of Lent, a worship service will be held in Williams Chapel each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

These 30-minute services will be led by clergy within our congregation and staff, and will include hymns, prayers, scripture, and a homily.

We hope you will make these a part of your Lenten discipline this year.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL —

Sunday, April 14, Sanctuary

All are invited to gather on the plaza in front of the sanctuary twenty minutes before each worship service. Scripture reading, blessing of the palms, and ringing bells will draw us into worship and celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE —

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

On this night, we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples. This service will close with tenebrae, meaning "shadows," an ancient tradition in which light fades into darkness.

EASTER SUNDAY — Sunday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

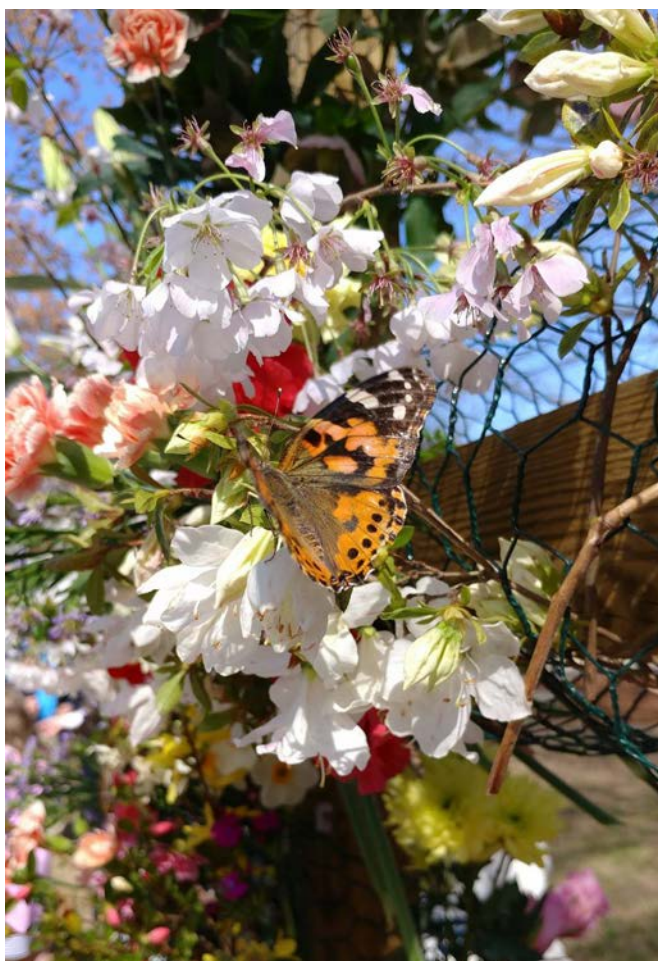
On this day celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we join with the community of believers in every time and place as the Gospel is proclaimed, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is shared, and hymns and anthems are sung, accompanied by brass, timpani and organ.

EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERING THE CROSS — Sunday, April 21, Davis Street Lawn

Bring fresh flowers of the season to "flower the cross."

EASTER SUNDAY ANNUAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE — Sunday, April 21, 10:40 a.m. Mary Helen Long Garden

The Children's Ministry Committee will host the annual Butterfly Release in the Mary Helen Long Garden between the Sanctuary and Williams Chapel. Children will gather in Room 224 and then have an egg hunt before butterfly release. Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection through the symbolism of the butterfly.



Upcoming Events & News

FPC Burlington YOUTH Golf Tournament

**Saturday, April 6, Indian Valley Golf Course
Supporting Summer Mission Trips**

Each summer, a group of High School Youth from FPC answer the call to serve. We have been to Alaska, D.C., Atlanta, Denver, Mexico, New Orleans, Nashville, the Dominican Republic, Philadelphia, and Portland. Rotating on a schedule of Local/ Regional, National, and International locations, this mission experience provides youth with the opportunity to increase their awareness of others' needs and a chance to be God's hands and feet, meeting the needs of others.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help by:

- **Being a Team Sponsor**
- **Playing as an Individual**
- **Buying a Hole Sponsorship**
- **Participating as a Virtual Caddie**
- **Donating Local Gift Card(s) for Prizes**

**Sponsorships and
donations are tax
deductible!**

Contact one of these volunteers to register: Mike Williams (mgwilly33@gmail.com, (336) 269-2569), Avery Wagoner (awagoner@caryoil.com, (919) 380-5848), Becky Wagoner (rcwagoner27@gmail.com, (336) 214-2800), Heather Hauk (heatherpga@yahoo.com, (704) 219-2244), Taylor Barner, tbarner@fpcburlington.org, (412) 613-0835; or go to our website at <https://www.fpcburlington.org/save-the-date-for-the-fpc-youth-golf-tournament-supporting-summer-mission-trips/> to find and print the registration form.

Spring Service of Music

The Chancel Choir will lead worship on **Sunday, April 7** with **Dan Forrest's LUX: The Dawn from on High**. This beautiful and moving work by one of America's most respected young composers centers on the Light of God and its ability to grant us courage and comfort in times of darkness. Many may recall the Choir singing Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* a few years ago. This work is filled with similar sonorous harmonies and ethereal sounds. The Choir and soloists will be accompanied by a chamber ensemble of violin, cello, flute, oboe, horn, harp, percussion, and organ. Also included in the service will be *Bercesse for Flute and Harp* by the French composer Philip Gaubert, and *Andantino for Harp and Cello* by Greensboro composer Jack Jarrett. An offering to support the Music Fund will be received. Worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. will be in the sanctuary.



Sunday, April 21 – Special VBS Experience During Welcome Center Fellowship Time!

It's like a Pre-Pre-Party! Get the info flier, sign up for VBS, "photo booth" with our robot friend, & eat some VBS theme snacks — all between 9:15 and 9:45 a.m.!

No program — just fun.

Upcoming Events & News

Presbyterian Women FPC Circle Meetings — April 2019

Circle #	Date	Time	Location	Hostesses
1	4/7/19	6:00 pm	John Knox Room	Billie Scobey and Jin Jin Blackburn
2	4/8/19	10:00 am	2148 Woodland Ave.	Margaret Beatty
3	4/8/19	10:00 am	John Knox Room	Jeanette Newlin
4	4/9/19	7:00 pm	John Knox Room	Lucy Kernodle, Jane Ingraham, and Catherine Matthews



FRIENDSHIP GROUP Thursday, April 18

11:00 a.m. John Knox Room • \$5.00 for Lunch

Friendship Group in April

Music Stylings by Mark Payne.

Join us for a musical feast with clarinetist Mark Payne as he brings us tunes old and new! You might even get to sing along! And join us for a Spring Picnic with Grill Master Zack Touloupas, from the world famous Zack's, all for \$5.00!

Great fellowship, great friendship, good laughter, and tasty food – what more might you desire? Join us on **Thursday, April 18 at 11:00 a.m.** in the John Knox Room.



Sundays, May 5–June 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the Mary Helen Long Garden. Total cost for the six weeks is \$30 cash or check payable to First Presbyterian Church. RSVP with Charlotte Allbright 336-228-1703 x 223 or callbright@fpcburlington.org.

Mystery Day

Mystery Day for 3rd, 4th & 5th graders will be **Saturday, May 18**. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and will travel to the great unknown. Cost is \$15 per person cash or check payable to First Presbyterian Church. Bring extra money with you for lunch and extras you might want to purchase while at our location. Mystery Day Hint — Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike! What day is it?



Kirkin' O' the Tartan on Sunday, May 19

We will celebrate our spiritual heritage as Presbyterians as we participate in a Kirkin' O' the Tartan Service.

Spring Adult Studies

Adult Studies is an opportunity for faith formation and transformation offered by FPCB. Our hope is to foster lifelong spiritual growth for our congregation and our community. The Adult Studies Committee invites you to make a commitment to Christian formation. Here are some of the many opportunities offered this winter/spring. Pick one (or more) and join the journey. Contact Charlotte Allbright, Director of Christian Education and Formation, for more information (336) 228-1703 x 223 or callbright@fpcburlington.org.

SUNDAYS

Every Sunday Morning, 9:45 a.m. (ongoing)

The Point Room 227

We are professionals & students, parents & friends, and we are committed to asking hard questions of faith and walking together in love. For everything we do and everything we are, we ask "What's the POINT?" and we know better than to expect answers. What we do know is that the point – the purpose – of our study and worship and fellowship and faith journeying is that God has called us into Christian community and that we are doing our best to live out that call. We are opening our hearts and opening our minds to be a part of whatever God has called for with this zany and wonderful group of people. Join us as we search, pray, and discover as "The Point." Join our Facebook group!

Enrichment Class Room 228

For over 25 years, this class has studied a variety of topics from atonement to world religions. The discussion-based class, led by Henry Carrouth and Bill Massey, runs year round, even in the summer months. Everyone is encouraged to share opinions as we affirm each other on this faith journey. The Epiphany party held each January is one of the social events for the class. We actively support missions, like rebuilding New Orleans after Katrina or building a wheelchair ramp for a local cancer patient or adopting a Christmas cheer family. This is a place to grow your faith and build new relationships.

Sunday Classes in the John Knox Fellowship, 9:45 a.m. in the John Knox Room

Journey to Canaan: Book of Numbers

Led by Dianna Wright, Associate Presbyter of Salem Presbytery

Sunday, April 7

The Journey to Canaan Bible Study was created to help congregations reflect on their ministry so they can plan for effective engagement in God's mission in the world. The study is based on the Book of Numbers, the fourth book of the Pentateuch that tells the story of Israel's journey from Mt. Sinai towards the Promised Land.

In this study the church has the opportunity to name itself, review at its journey with God and plan for its new life in the present age.

In this class, you will be introduced to the six week study and experience and bit of what it has to offer.



Biography: Dr. Dianna Wright, the Associate Presbyter for Equip and African American Ministries for Salem Presbytery in Clemmons, NC. An Education Consultant and Founder of Kuumba Center for Christian Education and Spiritual Growth. Past President of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, and currently serves on the General Assembly's Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. Dr. Wright is a graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond Va. and Columba Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. She served the church as curriculum writer for *These Days Devotions and Bible Study* and *Reflections on the Ecumenical Stance* for the PCUSA called "God's Unity... Our Journey." She is committed to the ministry of education and using creative ways to teach the gospel story. She believes that we must find a way to strengthen one another as we together build up the one Body of Christ and serve our Living Lord. She continues to glorify God through the use of the liturgical arts including dance, storytelling, music and drama. She enjoys walking, sewing, crafts, reading tutoring children and traveling.

Spring Adult Studies

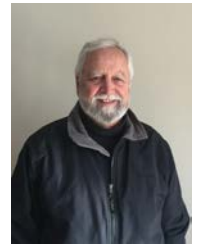


Bread for the World

Led by Rev. Frank Dew
Sunday, April 14

Based on Micah chapter 6 and Frank's work with Bread for the World, learn more about the connection between justice and compassion leading toward advocacy.

Biography: Frank Dew is the founding pastor of New Creation Community Presbyterian Church and Chapel at Greensboro Urban Ministry. Now serving as peace and justice advocate for Salem Presbytery.



The Torah, Part II

Led by Mickey Efird
Sundays, May 5, 12, 19, & 26

The Torah, also known as the Pentateuch or the Books of Moses, remains the basic religious foundation for the Jewish faith — and to a certain degree for Christians also. This second half of the study will focus on significant passages which are often misunderstood. We can really have some fun with this one!!!!

MID-WEEK

Lunch Bunch Book Club

April Lunch Bunch Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, April 9** at 12:00 p.m. in the John Knox Room. Bring in suggestions for next year. Planning time! Bring your lunch with you. Led by Virginia Cummings, Peggy Harrelson and Charlotte Albright.

Join Dr. Ron Shive in a Weekly Bible Study this Spring — “Peculiar Treasures of the New Testament”

March–May 2019 in the Witherspoon Room

Three Weekly Options:

- **Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study:** 6:45–7:45 a.m.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.
- **Thursday Women's Bible Study:** 6:45–7:45 a.m.



This spring we will examine 17 of God's peculiar treasures from the New Testament. Most of them are odd, strange, or eccentric, and yet they still have the power to make us feel more alive for having known them. Hopefully this study will at times bring a tear to your eyes and at other times send a shiver up your spine, but you will walk away with an insight of living as Christ's more faithful disciple. If you have any questions or would like a schedule of our spring study, please contact Ron (336-228-1703 or rshive@fpcburlington.org).

Vacation Bible School – Yes! VBS is for Adults! The Congregation's Song

Led by Patrick Murphy, Sunday through Tuesday Evenings, June 16-18, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The congregation is “the true choir” of the church, for the congregation is the voice of the people. Our faith foundation is formed through our singing, for it is the song of the congregation we first sing with our lips and believe in our hearts. Over the course of three nights, we will explore our “song,” walking through the hymnal and singing our faith.

Children's Ministry

Special Class for Children on Easter Sunday, 9:45 a.m.

Special Easter Class for Children ages Prek through 5th grade. Come to Rooms 223/224 at 9:45 a.m. for a time of exploring resurrection through scripture reading, science, an egg hunt, and flowering the cross. Butterfly release will happen at the end of our class-time at 10:40 a.m. next to the flowering cross on the front lawn. Everyone is invited to join in this day of celebration! Bring your butterflies!

Join First Presbyterian Church of Burlington for:

Vacation Bible School

Preview Party

Sunday, May 5 @ 9:45 a.m.

Rooms 223/224

Learn the music & moves

Get your VBS music CD

Help create to decorate

Preview the crafts



Kick Off Event

Sunday, June 16 @ 9:00 a.m. in

Calvin Hall

Session 1 – “Go Beyond with Faith!”

VBS

Storytelling, Science, Crafts, Music, & More!

Sessions 2-5

June 17-20

6:00-8:00 p.m.



Register online www.fpcburlington.org
and **BRING FRIENDS!!!**

Need more info?
Contact Charlotte Allbright,
Director of Christian Formation
508 W. Davis St.
Burlington, NC 27215
336-228-1703 x 223
callbright@fpcburlington.org

Outreach

Furniture Ministry News

Did you know that 28% of Alamance County residents live in poverty? That 40% of Alamance County children live in a one-parent home and 75% of Alamance County children under the age of five stay in unlicensed day care? That 9,000 Alamance County children are food insecure?

Jim Johnson reported these dismaying statistics at the March Furniture Ministry Committee meeting, and they attest to the importance of the work that our church is doing through the Furniture Ministry and our other local outreach services.

The March 9 Church-wide Mission Day was a huge success for the Furniture Ministry! Thirty-four energetic FPC members turned out to help with the March delivery day. They were joined by eight members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity at Elon, and many hands made light work. Before noon, 11 families with 22 children received truckloads of furniture, new PJs for the children, a bag of age-appropriate books, and a Bible and a prayer plaque for their walls. In all 25 beds were delivered and set up, each with a bed-in-a-bag of linens and pillows. In addition, furniture donations were picked up from four locations.

Many of the volunteers helped with the loading and delivering furniture; others sorted new donations, made up bed-in-bags sets, and assembled a fresh supply of prayer plaques. By the end of the day, the warehouse was cleared, cleaned and organized. Many, many thanks to these wonderful members: Melissa Allen, Charlotte and Jackson Allbright, Elizabeth Bailey, Betty Beal, Robert Boon, Alice and Harry Brown, Kent Byrd, Dick Cannon, Libby Conde, Reid Dusenberry, Jo Feroe, Dick Fisher, Gene Grimley, Leslie and Dan Hardie and their nephew Ethan Batchelor, Jim Johnson, Ron and Sharron Joyce, Phil Langley, Libby Lasley, Bobby and Elizabeth Mize, Jay Pringle, John Rasch, Paul Reeves, Bill Rodgers, Raye Sapp, Nan



Perkins and Bruce Shields, Virginia Wilburn, Stephanie Williams, and Steve Wooten.

Many thanks also to all of you who have made and continue to make donations to the Furniture Ministry. We must raise \$6000-7000 each year in addition to the funds received through our church budget in order to meet the needs of the 300 families we serve each year. You are making that possible!

This is truly a congregation-wide ministry, and there are always more ways to help. In May and June, we will need many volunteers to help with the annual Don't Trash It! linen collection campaign at Elon University. Raye Sapp is in charge, and she will need help in the Garrison Building sorting the linens during the last two weeks of May and making up beds-in-bags during the middle two weeks of June. If you can donate a few hours of your time to help with this very important project, call Raye at 336-260-5833.

Also during Don't Trash It, there will be bags and bags of linens for all of us to take home and wash! Watch for the requests, and thank you in advance for your help!

August 8-18 Peru Mission Trip —Join Us!

We are planning the details now for a mission trip to Peru **August 8-18**. We will be working with Paz y Esperanza San Martin (Peace and Hope) in the construction of a school for deaf children in Nueva Cajamarca, a city near Moyobamba. This trip is being planned in partnership with Miriam Laura at PERUSA, who works closely with our P.C.(U.S.A.) mission co-workers. The trip will cost approximately \$1800. Join us for a life-changing experience. Call Ron Shive at 336-228-1703 or Bill Moser at 336-226-1501 for more information.

Outreach

A Letter from Charles and Melissa Johnson, Serving in Zambia

(from *Mission Connections*, A Program of Presbyterian World Mission)



On any given day, you will find 20-30 women waiting at the Egichikeni Rural Health Center in the Eastern Province of Zambia. Most of those women are in the last stages of pregnancy, with colorful chitenge

fabric wrapped high around their bodies to disguise the evidence of their condition. The rest are either mothers or aunts or sisters who have come to wait with the expectant women until they deliver their babies. There are one or two babies delivered every day. Some women even come from outside the catchment area because they know that the nurse and in-charge officer, Simui Ingundi, has recorded no maternal deaths since he arrived at Egichikeni in 2013. No small feat, considering the maternal death rate in the district in 2018 was 107 per 100,000 — one of the highest in Zambia.

The CCAP rural health center in Egichikeni provides healthcare to the community of over 7,000 people in over 50 villages. Until recently, the clinic faced the challenge of no beds and an uncompleted mother care shelter. Because of this challenge of distance, pregnant women are encouraged to come and stay at the clinic for the last weeks of their pregnancy to prevent complications. The lack of beds and unfinished mother care shelter was a huge challenge for the clinic staff and for the women and their families who came to wait for the delivery of their babies.

Phalaza, a rural community very close to the Malawi border, has a population of over 5,000 people, and the nearest clinic is 16 km (almost 10 miles) away. The Phalaza community also shared stories about challenges traveling long distances to receive medical care was causing their community. The most heartbreaking stories were about women not making it to that faraway clinic before delivering their babies, and even worse, children dying from preventable diseases. The CCAP Zambia Synod approved the construction of a new clinic in Phalaza in 2013, but due to lack of resources has been unable to begin construction.

I don't know about you, but when I was living in the U.S., one of my considerations when looking for a

doctor or medical facility was proximity to my home or work. None of us wants to travel long distances to receive medical care. Can you imagine being heavily pregnant, in labor or ill and having to travel long distances by foot or bicycle?

Charles and I have been partnering with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Zambia (CCAP) for the past 3 years. It's hard to believe we are entering the final year of our first term. Last summer, we spent four months traveling the U.S. during our interpretation assignment (look for us again this summer!) telling the story of CCAP and their holistic ministry to over 50 PC(USA) congregations. We shared the joys, successes, challenges and priorities of the church here as CCAP Zambia strives to grow their holistic ministry. Some of you heard the above stories when we visited your church. They were told with a prayer in my heart that you would feel the pain happening in the other parts of your body — the parts of the body of Christ all the way in Zambia — and would respond to those needs. You did! And now, because of your response as the hands and feet of Christ in the U.S., people here in Zambia are facing fewer challenges and improved health.

Several congregations have joined Charles and me in partnership with CCAP. Liverpool First Presbyterian Church in Liverpool, New York, raised funds to provide new hospital beds and mattresses for Egichikeni Rural Health Center. We prayed for 10 new beds, but because of the generosity of the people in Liverpool, we were able to purchase 20 beds! This was more than enough for Egichikeni, so we were also able to provide some new beds to the other CCAP clinic in Ndaiwala. Liverpool First Presbyterian Church had also previously provided 7 shallow wells to provide safe, clean drinking water for communities in Zambia. Faith Presbyterian in Blue Ridge, Georgia, has also provided funds for completion of a solar lighting project at the clinic in Ndaiwala.



Central Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, Indiana, felt called to "Raise the Roof" for the Egichikeni

Outreach

mother care shelter. This building has truly been built in partnership, a partnership between CCAP, Central Presbyterian, and the local government who provided some of the funds to start the construction in 2015. Through this partnership, the building is now complete and painting is underway. We hope that the handover of the building will be in just a few weeks.

Several months after we returned to Zambia, Lexington Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Virginia, contacted me to ask how they could help make the clinic in Phalaza a reality. They made a very generous gift to jumpstart a fundraising effort they are leading by contacting over 200 people in churches and presbyteries all across the country. We are well on our way to raising the necessary funds. In fact, just today I received word that another congregation, First Presbyterian in Shelbyville, Indiana, has also made a generous donation that puts us over halfway to raising the funds necessary to complete the new clinic. As I'm writing this newsletter, I am back in Phalaza, sitting under the shade of the trees watching the new borehole being drilled that will supply a clean, safe source of drinking water not only for the clinic, but for the church and the entire community.



And you are not just helping with health-related projects. Charles has received grants from Bryn Mawr Presbyterian in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville to improve the Chasefu Theological College and Agricultural Income Generating Activity (AIGA).

In each one of these community development projects, the church and the community took the first step, but as with most big things that are worth doing, none of us is able to do it all without help. In our Reformed tradition, Presbyterians recognize we are a part of a larger body of Christ. But that body doesn't end at the walls of our church buildings, our city limits, state lines or national borders. That body encompasses each and every child of God around the world. Because we all have limitations and are all united in Christ, we believe we are called to mission in partnership because, after all, we are better together.

We are both so very grateful for the partnership between PC(USA), CCAP Zambia and local congregations in the U.S. Your prayers and financial gifts make the projects that once seemed beyond reach attainable. Because of our one body, we truly are better together!



Melissa and Charles

Diaper Drive for April

Please help us collect diapers for families in need. You can drop off the diapers outside of the office near the "Diaper Drop" sign. The diapers collected are stored and distributed by the Alamance Partnership for Children and go to Allied Churches, Family Abuse Services, the Salvation Army, the Health Department's Baby Closet, Elon's Strong Beginnings, The Family Center, Exchange/SCAN, DSS and ABSS.

One Great Hour of Sharing

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, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. This special offering of the PCUSA is being collected Sunday, April 21.

Outreach

VBS Mission Project – Super Soup!

We need YOUR help making this mission project a reality. Super Soup is a bean and spice soup that the children will assemble during Vacation Bible School. **We will collect supplies for this soup in May.** We need YOU to bring those supplies. Every little bit helps! You can get a list of supply needs from Charlotte Allbright or use this list. In May, collection boxes will be available in the Welcome Center and under the VBS bulletin board in the hallway between the sanctuary and the education buildings.

Here is what we need:

- 75 Quart size mason jars with lids
- 75 sandwich size ziplock baggies
- 12 bags EACH of these DRIED beans: pinto beans, barley, lentils, green split peas, black-eyed peas, red beans, white navy beans, black beans, yellow split peas
- 75 cubes vegetable bouillion
- 4 large containers of dried chives
- 1 container salt
- 7 containers dried thyme
- 7 containers ground cumin
- 1 large container ground black pepper
- 75 bay leaves



We will sell this soup later in the year for \$5 a jar. Money collected will be given to Allied Churches.

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies for use in the sanctuary may be ordered as memorial or honorary flowers (\$27 each). Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "Easter Lilies". The deadline to order is April 14, 2019. Please fill in the order form below and include with your payment. Please contact the church (336-228-1703) if you have questions.

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM:

In Memory of _____

Donor _____

In Honor of _____

Donor _____

Photos

2019 Pritchett Symposium



Dr. Ron Shive, Dr. Bruce Shields and Dr. Jill Duffield, Pritchett Symposium Speaker



The Carol and Covenant Choirs Presentation of *It's Cool in the Furnace*



Middle East Pilgrimage



Mount of Olives



Consider the Lilies of the Field



Church of Annunciation

On February 15, thirty-one members and friends of First Presbyterian Church began a two week pilgrimage to the Middle East. We spent four days in Jordan (Amman, Madaba, Mount Nebo, Machaerus, Petra, Wadi Rum, Bethany Beyond the Jordan, and Jerash), four days in the Galilee (Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Kursi, Sepphoris, Nazareth, Megiddo, and Mt. Tabor), three days in Bethlehem (Nablus, Sebastia, Hebron, Herodium, and the Church of the Nativity), and three days in Jerusalem (Masada, Qumran, Jericho, Mount of Olives, all the holy places of the Old City). Along the way, we spent the morning with Abuna Chacour, walked the ruins of Sepphoris with the British journalist Jonathan Cook, had dinner in the homes of Palestinian Christians, and had lunch with Rev. Mitri Raheb.

In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem there is a plaque that says, "If you enter here as a tourist, you would exit as a pilgrim. If you enter here as a pilgrim, you would exit as a holier one." That is true for all who made this pilgrimage.

A similar trip is being planned for February 14-29, 2020. This trip will be limited to 18 people. If you are interested in securing a space, please contact Ron Shive.



Drawing water from Jacob's Well



Haram al-Sharif, Temple Mount



Mount of Rejection at Nazareth



Sea of Galilee



Primacy of Peter

Church Business

A Vision for First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church recognizes that God is on the move, and our church, inspired by God's Holy Spirit, will continue to grow in God's love and the example of Jesus Christ as we minister to each other, the community, and the world. Guided by God's calling for our church and each of us as individuals, we will advance God's mission more fully by:

- Cultivating a nurturing community,
- Discovering new expressions of faith through worship and music while preserving holy traditions,
- Regularly assessing how we need to change in order to sustain our partnership with God's mission for years to come, and
- Engaging in the spiritual, physical, and emotional work of God's mission.

Nurturing Community

We believe that a nurturing community is vital for the development of relational connections and the accomplishment of our mission in partnership with God. Sacred partnering is a cornerstone of how believers at First Presbyterian Church minister to each other, the community, and the world. A strong commitment to faith formation in fellowship with others leads to Christian maturity and deepening faith. In turn, we are in closer connection with the Holy Spirit and God's will not only for our own lives, but for the church as a whole body. As the family of faith strengthens, a sense of belonging and engagement will develop. Our ministry is thus strengthened as we engage in God's plan for us.

Worship and Music

We believe that the expressions of faith life through worship and music at First Presbyterian Church are extraordinary. We also believe that cultivating and sharing holy traditions in worship and music represent a sacred covenant and should be preserved. As our society changes and our church continues to meet the challenge of remaining relevant in uncertain times, a serious commitment to the development of new expressions of faith life is also needed. New and unique ways of incorporating both music and worship as part of the faith life will not threaten the continuation of traditional practices, but rather promote the growth and inclusiveness of the church. A recognition of accessibility, balance, and a variety of worship styles promotes the church as a family of faith, open to all. It also allows for the development and recognition of talent and ability across the church family.

Sustainability

We believe that adapting to a changing social context in order to remain culturally relevant will require prayerful consideration, listening for God's direction, and remaining faithful to God's mission for the church. Organic growth can best be achieved through the communication and demonstration of a compelling purpose that others wish to connect with in order to live by the example of Jesus Christ. A strong family of faith, as demonstrated through worship, giving, service, sacrifice, joy, gratitude and faithfulness regularly communicate this purpose both individually and collectively by word and deed as we engage with the world beyond the church. The church family must prayerfully and purposefully provide for the financial resources needed to support the mission of the church, differentiate to meet the needs of the community and church family, take care of the capital resources of the church, and adapt its practices as the mission of the church evolves.

God's Mission

We believe that God's mission, to heal the world through reconciliation and restoration, is the foundation for the work of all believers. The spiritual, physical, and emotional work within the ministry of Christ's people contribute to the accomplishment of the purpose of the church. First Presbyterian Church will continue to be engaged in both internal and external mission work. The support for social justice, inclusiveness, and making a difference in the community are FPC initiatives that will provide opportunities for the congregation to actively participate in God's mission.

Church Business

Session Digest for March, 2019

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met on March 17, 2019 for the monthly Stated Meeting.

1. The Treasurer reported on the February Financials. Revenues were higher than the budget and expenses were below budget so the month end was positive. He also reported that a number of 2018 pledges were received during January and February which have helped our bottom line.

2. The Personnel Committee gave an update on the position descriptions that have been revised for the church staff. A motion was approved to adopt the new descriptions.

3. The Local Mission Committee reported on the Ministry Work Day held on Saturday, March 9, 2019. Fifty-seven church members helped on that day.

4. The Visioning Committee reported on plans for a Session Retreat to begin work on a new strategic plan for the church. It will be held on April 7, 2019.

5. The Worship and Music Committee reported that they have raised funds to replace the microphones for the sound system in the sanctuary. The Session approved the replacement.

6. The Generosity and Gratitude Committee report that 55% of the giving units in the church made 2019 pledges for a total of \$980,000.

7. The Session approved moving the April Session meeting to April 28, 2019 due to the regular meeting falling on Easter Sunday.

Streaming Trials and Tribulations

It is hard to believe that we have been Live Streaming our 11:00 a.m. service for almost three years. We have had growing pains as more and more people are taking advantage of viewing the services. It has been pointed out that some viewers are having buffering issues. There can be many reasons for this and we are addressing this with our streaming service and our web designers.

Once we feel that all has been done from our side of the streaming to provide you with an uninterrupted service, we will be happy to address individual issues you may have. I ask for your patience over the next week or two as we implement new coding and services to make a better viewing experience for all.

For those of you attending our services, we are always looking for help not only with our streaming but also with our sound system. If you would like more information about either, please inform the church office of your desire to volunteer and we will be in touch with you.

Church Finances — February Financial Statement

	<u>Feb 2019</u>	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
<u>Revenues</u>					
Pledges	\$48,356.98	\$80,040.58	\$115,441.22	\$160,081.16	\$960,487.00
Pre-Paid Pledges (Pro-rated)	2,977.89	0.00	5,955.78	0.00	0.00
Prior Year Pledge	24,176.40	3,333.33	47,401.79	6,666.66	40,000.00
Prior Year Surplus	661.33	661.33	1,322.66	1,322.66	7,936.00
Misc. Income	<u>45,515.59</u>	<u>18,378.42</u>	<u>51,569.57</u>	<u>36,756.84</u>	<u>220,541.00</u>
Total	\$121,688.19	\$102,413.66	\$221,691.02	\$204,827.32	\$1,228,964.00
<u>Expenditures</u>	\$85,389.15	\$102,413.69	\$174,276.78	\$204,827.38	\$1,228,964.00
Net Total	\$36,299.04	(\$0.03)	\$47,414.24	(\$0.06)	

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

Church Business

Welcome New Members!



Fred and Christine Fischer

2454 Cambridge Road
Burlington, NC 27215
Fred: 336-624-9251,
cffischer49@gmail.com
Christine: 336-624-1975,
cmfischer1550@gmail.com



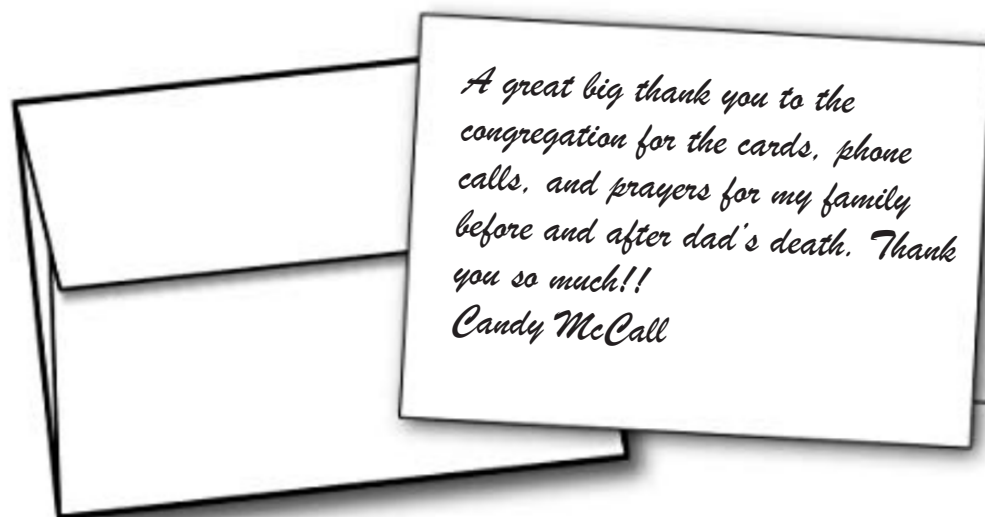
Johan and Aletta Prinsloo

530 Dave Smith Road
Prospect Hill, NC 27314
704-284-4308
ajjprinsloo@gmail.com
Aletta: 704-898-5415

Andrews Elementary Partnership

Pam Burney, social worker at Andrews Elementary, sends her heart felt thank you for all the items collected in January to stock her closet. The school children have many needs and it's great when you can help them.

Andrews Elementary feels blessed by their partnership with our church. Through our partnership we provide snack packs for 125 children once a month. These packs contain 15 items so the children will not go hungry during the weekend. This year 13 volunteers are reading buddies to children in K-2nd grade. The teachers and staff at Andrews do a fabulous job and we provide the occasional treat for them. Thank you FPC members for your generous hearts.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

508 West Davis Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215
Church phone: 228-1703
Church fax: 228-1705
www.fpcburlington.org

Memories Under the Steeple

In order to better support the needs of our own members, the Session and Diaconate began the "Officer of the Week" program in 1988. This activity, which was carried out by a different Elder and Deacon each week, lasted for over sixteen years, and involved contacting members who were sick, bereaved, or homebound, through visits, cards, and phone calls. Officers communicated with the ministers throughout the week and reported special concerns back to the Session each Sunday morning.

On January 1, 1989, the name of our Presbytery was changed from Orange to Salem, and some geographic realignment was done to recognize the changes in Presbyterian population distribution that had taken place over the years. In the earliest days, the largest number of Presbyterians in North Carolina were in Orange Presbytery, including our beginning church in 1879.

