

# In Touch

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC**



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## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I once knew a child who at the age of 3 or 4 hated for people to leave him. I would regularly come visit his parents but dreaded the eventual departure because the child would see me getting ready to leave and throw a fit. First he was angry, then he would cry, finally he would get sullen and walk off without saying good bye. I thought it was an odd thing for a child his age to appreciate company so much that he would not accept the fact that all good things must come to an end, people who come into your life must leave.

Now at the ripe old age of 54 I am beginning to understand how that child feels. Harry Fishel died a few weeks ago. Only a few weeks before I was having a conversation with him in his hospital room. My expectation was that he would soon come home and, not long after, I would saunter into his house in the late afternoon and share a drink with him, just like always. I understand and accept that Harry died at an age that not many men attain, 94 years. But I still don't really understand the how and why of his death. There is a selfish part of me that feels deprived of Harry's company. I want to be angry. I want to be sad. I want to walk around and brood. People must leave, but I don't have to like it.

Sadly our congregation has had other people leave recently. Some are following opportunities. Some are following their convictions. I would like to think that the community of our church is so wonderful that it makes it unthinkable for people to want to leave. Our relationships with each other make whatever negatives there may be pale in comparison. But sometimes the negatives are too much and people leave. And we are left clinging to the thought, "It's going to be OK. We will be all right." All the while the shadow of doubt plagues us. Moreover, even if we do manage to find a way to cope without the company of those we lose, we also know that some time in the future

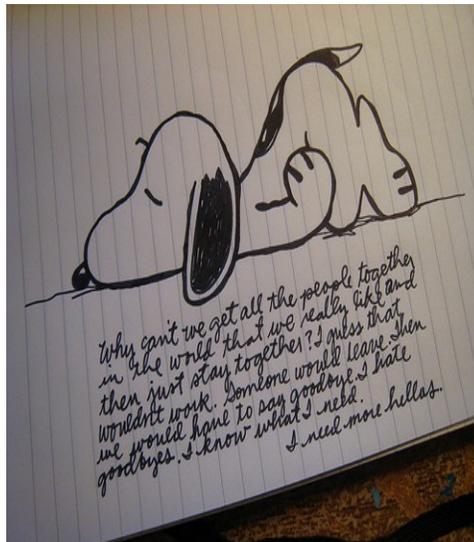
## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

more will leave, and then what will we do?

There is a powerful story in the writings of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was active before and during the time of the Babylonian exile. At the time of this story the city of Jerusalem was under siege. There was no way for the king of Judah or anyone else to escape.

Jeremiah receives a word from the Lord that Hanamel, son of his uncle Shallum is going to come to Jeremiah and say "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right to purchase it is yours." Sure enough, this exact thing comes to pass. Ordinarily buying a piece of land when the future of your country is uncertain would be a foolhardy thing. But Jeremiah, having received the word from the Lord, chooses to do the foolish thing. He buys the land with cold, hard cash, settles the deed, and carefully makes sure that it was properly recorded, boldly proclaiming that the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, has said that houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land.

Admittedly, we are not under siege. Our future seems infinitely more promising than that of the pre-exilic Jews. But at the same time we are painfully aware that we are not what we used to be. It is when our doubt seems ready to overtake us that I would commend the story of Jeremiah (ch. 32) to you. He bought a field on the strength of God's word when all of reality told him it was the wrong thing to do. Similarly, let us ask God what is our field to buy.



Grace and peace, Joe

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Building**

**Hosted by Faye Graham**

**Moderator Lesson #6—Susan Gaylor**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

**SCOUT SUNDAY**

**9:45 am Sunday School**

**11:00 am Worship**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
**"SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY**  
**12:00 Noon—Soup Luncheon**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**6:00 pm Worship Committee**

**7:00 pm Witness Committee**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**9:45 am Morning Circle**

**Moderator Lesson #5—Pet Spears**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**6:30 pm Choir**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

**6:00 pm Finance & Personnel**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**DONALD MARSDEN—PRESBYTERIAN**

**FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP**

**9:45 am Sunday School**

**11:00 am Worship**

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
**7:00 pm Christian Ed**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**6:30 pm Choir**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
**9:30 am Presbyterian Women Rock!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
**9:45 am Sunday School**  
**11:00 am Worship**  
**6:30 pm Session**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
**6:30 pm Choir**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**PRESBYTERY MEETING @ First Presbyterian**  
**in Raleigh**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
**9:45 am Sunday School**  
**11:00 am Worship (Scholarship Fund Offering)**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**  
**6:30 pm Choir**

# CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH



## Worldwide Concerns

- \* SYRIA and YEMEN civil war
- \* SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- \* EGYPT and LIBYA political unrest
- \* ISRAEL, GAZA, PALESTINE, peaceful coexistence
- \* IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- \* USA, war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan
- \* NIGERIA, the approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- \* Syrian refugees
- \* Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- \* Fires in California

## On-Going Care

Jim and Margo Allen  
Harry Bright  
Bobbie Bright  
Larry Avent

ALL people who provide on-going care

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

We pray for the Children of Clara Hearne and Aurelian Spring Schools and our ministry to them.

We pray for Stanley White and Littleton Churches during their uncertain times of not having a pastor.

Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South



*Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Harry Fishel who left this earthly world to be with his Lord and Savior on January 4, 2018*

## Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Clark Chase, grandson of Bobbi Scott  
Patsy Rawlings  
Scott & Melanie Cranford  
Greg Shaffer  
Priscilla Ricks  
Bill Howell  
Doug Hayes  
Glenn & Gayle Garner, coordinator @ Meals on Wheels  
Sally Ray Warren  
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil  
Ken and Holly Phipps & family  
Kevin and Michael  
Walt Gaynor, cancer, Ellen Burnett's brother-in-law  
Clay Gaynor, Crohn's Disease, Ellen Burnett's nephew  
Greg Batchelor  
Doug Hayes  
Gilbert Portela  
Linda Ray, Pancreatic Cancer  
David and LaNae Grimes  
Sandy Sandoval  
Ara Griffin  
Alison and Cody Burnett  
Margaret Biggs  
Ann Horne  
Grace Fishel  
Carolyn Crawford  
Mike Swartzell, heart transplant

+++++

The Elders for the Class of 2020 were installed on January 21st.

They are Jimmy Bryant,  
Nancy Crowe, Mary Shelby  
and Wally Spragins.  
Congratulations and thank  
you for your willingness to  
serve our church in this  
capacity.

Outgoing Elders for the  
Class of 2017 are Gary  
Hackenburg, Bev Hummel,  
Mike Knudson and Jenny

Shives. Thank you to all of you for all of the hard work and time that  
you put into serving the church and our Lord.



# Happy February Birthday

Brian Harris	10th
Margaret Biggs	14th
Ginger Phipps	15th
Rachel Pate	16th
Cheryl White	16th
Jonathan Hayes	17th
G.C. Warren	19th
Cameron Pate	22nd
Shanna Tant	25th
Tammy Spragins	27th



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ROCK!

Painting rocks for kindness is a project/movement that was started by an individual whose goal was to promote random acts of kindness to unsuspecting recipients. "One message – at just the right time can change your entire day – your outlook – your life."

Presbyterian Women would like to invite all men, women and youth to join us in painting rocks for kindness on February 17th at 9:30 in the Loy Building. Supplies, coffee, and muffins will be provided.

The rock that you create may make a difference in



# SCHOLARSHIP TIME

Our semi annual collections to support the First Presbyterian Scholarship have been designated for the last Sunday in February and the last Sunday in September for 2018.

Sunday, February 25 is our next opportunity to contribute to the

Applications for our scholarship can be picked up at the church office, or obtained by emailing Peggy Howard, chairperson



scholarship can be picked up at the church office, or Peggy Howard, chairperson

[@howardp411@gmail.com](mailto:howardp411@gmail.com)

Completed applications are due by March 31, 2018.

## **FPC Lunch Bunch @ El Tenampa WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST**

Please join us for a Dutch treat lunch,  
at 12:00 Noon, each month  
as we fellowship together!  
Everyone is welcome!



# WITNESS NEWS



It's been awhile since our last Newsletter so some of our news is dated. We collected 77 Christmas boxes which were delivered to Belmont

Elementary School, Kipp Charter School and Angel's Closet. Each of these institutions was very thankful for our gifts. The response at Angel's Closet was overwhelming. Thanks to everyone who prepared the beautiful boxes for our less fortunate children and youth. Together we helped many children have brighter Holidays!

Our Church World Service blanket drive was a huge success with \$453.00 collected. At \$10.00 a piece our donation will purchase 45 blankets for people who suffer as a result of natural disasters around the world. Thank-you for your generous gifts toward this effort.

Our Souper Bowl Sunday canned food drive is in full swing. All types of canned or non-perishable food items are needed to help stock the Bethlehem Food Pantry at the First United Methodist Church and the Union Mission distribution center located in the Rosemary section of town. These items can be placed in the collection tub in the Narthex from now until February 4.

A soup and chili lunch with all the fixings will be served after church on Super Bowl Sunday!

# WITNESS NEWS

We are also offering gatherings of our various committees to discuss previous accomplishments and set goals for 2018 at this event. You do not need to belong to any particular committee to attend the planning sessions. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to share their opinions directly with Session members as they discern actions for the new year. Make plans to stay for lunch after church and share this time of fellowship together. We are looking forward to a great participation from the congregation on Super Bowl Sunday! Hope to see YOU there!

The Christian Education committee is assisting us to provide Valentines with gift cards for fast food restaurants included to our Boy Scout Troop as a token of our appreciation. These young men helped our pre-school staff move everything out of Susan's classroom and the Book Bag Buddy storage room so the new flooring could be installed during the Christmas break. They also helped move everything back before school commenced in January. Hats off to our Boy Scout Troop volunteers!

Again, join us for soup and chili after church on February 4!



Bev Hummel,  
reporting for the  
Witness Committee



## **Annual Organizational Committee Synopsis**

There are many opportunities for our stewardship throughout the year by our active participation on one or more Church Committees. These are listed in our Church Manual of Operations, where more clarification and specific objectives are delineated. We hope you will prayerfully review these committees and join us for some preliminary discussion of last year's accomplishments of the committees and help us set goals for 2018 Committee Work. Listed below is an overview for your thoughts, prayers and consideration to help fulfill our Church's ministry.

### **Christian Education Committee: to provide Christian fellowship opportunities as part of educational ministry:**

7 areas of responsibility

1. Church School aka Sunday School ;
2. Youth Ministry;
3. Vacation Bible School;
4. Training of Christian Educators and promote special education programs and seminars;
5. Oversee Church Library;
6. Oversee FPC Preschool Program;
7. Support and encouragement for Presbykids, PresbySeniors, Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men, Scholarship Committee, etc.;

### **Congregational Care Committee: assists the Clerk and Pastor to attend to the pastoral needs of the congregation (provide healing and support in joyful and sorrowful transitions affecting members of the congregation):** 7 responsibilities:

1. New member packet and outreach, New member luncheon;
2. Assist the church office with the Newsletter;
3. Pictorial Directory—Update and publish (with help of Administrative Assistant) Annual supplement;
4. Provide oversight of the church rolls;
5. Assist Clerk and Pastor with appropriate correspondence (cards and letters for the bereaved, estranged, sick, personal challenges, etc.)
6. *Work with Bereavement Committee*
7. *Work with Session Committee and Pastor*

### **Facilities Committee** maintenance of all buildings:

7 areas of responsibility

1. Building and equipment maintenance;
2. Ground Maintenance;
3. Housekeeping ;
4. Oversee rental of Loy Building;
5. Maintain security for FPC;
6. Interior Decorating and Maintenance;
7. *Work with Long Range Planning Subcommittee for long term facility needs*

## Annual Organizational Committee Synopsis

### **Finance and Personnel:** Areas of responsibility and Subcommittees

1. The F & P Committee oversees the financial affairs of the church, reviews the church's financial statement monthly and keeps the congregation informed. 2. Develops a budget annually; 3. Works with Treasurer to provide monthly budget reports; 4. Administers the building fund; 5. Promotes Stewardship and *work with Stewardship Session Subcommittee*; 6. Conducts/contracts an annual audit; 7. Works closely with the Session for fiduciary solvency.

This Committee is divided into 3 critical Sub Committees:

1. Budget Committee

2. Personnel Committee develop /update personnel position descriptions, facilitate annual performance evaluations of all staff and make recommendations to the session (*coordinated with Pastor*) and oversees background checks making appropriate personnel recommendations and

3. Long Range Planning Committee *Develop with the Facilities Committee a Long range financial plan for the mission and ministry of the church*

*Stewardship Committee (W.5.5004 and W.5.5005 Book of Order) works with the whole church and the Finance and Personnel Committee, Witness Committee, and the Pastoral Care/Commitment Committee)*

**Witness Committee** is to develop congregational support and witness involvement for domestic and international missions of the church:

7 areas of responsibility

1. Global missions; 2. Domestic missions; 3. Other missions (Presbytery special offerings i.e Souper Bowl Sunday, Pennies for Hunger, Joy Gift, etc.; ) 4. Peacemaking; 5. Stewardship of the Environment; 6. Evangelism; 7. Fellowship dinners (formerly Wednesday night suppers)

**Worship Committee:** 7 areas of responsibility

1. Sunday worship services; 2. Music Ministry; 3. Special Worship Services (i.e. Gifts of Women, World Wide Communion, etc.); 4. Weddings; 5. Funerals; 6. Installations, ordinations and special observances; 7. Casual worship programs

**There will be a BLOOD DRIVE held in honor of Douglas Hayes on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm at the Kirkwood Adams Community Center. Volunteers from our church are needed to assist at the registration desk, work at the canteen, men to help pack-up at 6 pm (30 minutes), provide goodies and especially to give blood. If you can help please call Muzette Kiger at 326-0303 or Phyllis Hayes at 537-3115.**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!**

**Donate Blood  
In Honor of  
Doug  
Hayes**



***Blood Drive@***  
**Kirkwood H. Adams  
Community Center**  
***Tuesday, February 6, 2018***  
***12:00 pm - 6:00 pm***

**To schedule an appointment visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the Sponsor Code: RoRapPublic**



**American Red Cross**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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**JOIN US FOR THE**



**LUNCH**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH**

**At 12:00 NOON**

**In the LOY BUILDING**

**SOUP, SANDWICHES & DESSERT  
WILL BE PROVIDED**

**Fill out the reservation cards in the bulletin or  
call the church office at 537-4018 by Feb. 1st.**



During lunch there will also be a chance to find out what our different church committees have been doing this past year and plans for this year (see pages 12 & 13 for committee duties). Maybe you might like to join one?! Many hands make for light work!

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**FEBRUARY 2018**

**IN TOUCH**

