

In Touch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC



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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The subject of my letter this month will deal with how our church is doing financially. At the outset I want to say that we are doing OK, although we have some cause for concern. The main area of concern centers around how we finished 2017.

At the end of 2017 we experienced a shortfall in pledged giving of \$3,743.04. We also experienced a shortfall in non-pledged giving of \$5887.00. You may be wondering how we can know for sure what we get in the way of non-pledged giving. The answer is that our receipts treasurer, Tammy Spragins, keeps track of the giving habits of our congregation, even those of you who do not pledge. Last year we projected \$17,492.00 in non-pledged giving. Only \$11,605 of that was actually given. The total shortfall for the year was \$8215.04.

Often is the case that at least some of a shortfall that we may experience will be offset by an underspending as compared to the budgeted expenses. However the 2017 budget was very carefully put together last year, so no overage was experienced. In fact the budgeted spending was only off by \$128.57 vs. what was actually spent.

How is this different from years past when we had overages? In the past we have had a significant amount of money given in the non-pledging category, over and above what was projected. For instance, in 2016 we had \$25,545.00 given by non-pledgers while we only projected receiving about \$18,000. That money did not come in the same amount for 2017. Also we spent more in 2017 than we did in 2016. In 2016 we spent \$175,346.92. Whereas in 2017 we spent \$185,614.57.

What did we do to make up for the shortfall? We drew on savings. There is an Operating money market fund that is used to keep our checking account in a positive balance through the year. It has a significant amount of cash in it. Some years we put more money in that fund

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

than we take out. At the end of 2017 we took \$8,822.61 out of that fund to make the books balance for 2017.

What are doing going forward? First, our budget is smaller. We anticipate income to be approximately \$172,629.00 for 2018. This is roughly \$13,000 less than what we received last year. If the Budget subcommittee does the same good job of projecting spending for this year as it did for last year, AND you give as you have in the past, then we will be fine for 2018.

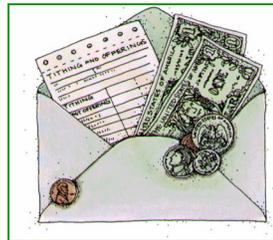
What can you do to make sure that 2018 is a better year financially? Those of you who have pledged, stay current on your pledge. Tammy sends out giving statements quarterly, but she can give you a giving statement any time you ask. If you can't find your giving statement, call the church office on Wednesday or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Tammy will email it to you or put it in the mail.

Those of you who give but haven't pledged, it's not too late to pledge. You can contact Tammy over the phone or by email and communicate your intentions for 2018. This will give the Budget subcommittee a much better sense of what can be expected in giving for 2018. Currently we are projecting \$16,720.00 of non-pledged giving. It would be nice to decrease that amount by something like \$10,000 and increase the pledged-giving amount by the same. This will allow us to feel certain that we are going to finish 2018 in much better shape than 2017.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that there is no need for panic or worry. We suffered a setback, one from which I believe we can recover. Besides, panic and worry are for people who have no assurance of knowing that there is a God who loves us powerfully and works out his will in mysterious ways.

God bless and keep the faith!

-Joe



LEADERPOST - NEWSLETTER



MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS



LEADERPOST - NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

10:00 am Bible Study (Loy Bldg)

7:00 pm Bible Study (Loy Bldg)

**7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Margaret Biggs' home
707 Hamilton Street, RR**

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, MARCH 5

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

9:45 am Morning Circle



LEADERPOST - NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

12:00 Noon Lenten Service @ Rosemary Baptist

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

10:00 am Bible Study (Loy Bldg)

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

7:00 pm Bible Study (Loy Bldg)

SUNDAY, MARCH 11—3rd Sunday in Lent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)



LEADERPOST - NEWSLETTER



MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MONDAY, MARCH 12
7:00 pm Christian Ed

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
12:00 Noon Lenten Service @ First Presbyterian
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 15
10:00 am Bible Study (Loy Bldg)
7:00 pm Bible Study (Loy Bldg)

SUNDAY, MARCH 18—4th Sunday in Lent
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21
12:00 Noon Lenten Service @ St. John's Catholic
6:30 pm Choir



SUNDAY, MARCH 25—PALM SUNDAY
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
Pennies for Hunger Offering

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
12:00 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Ruby Tuesday's
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 29—MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Communion)

FRIDAY, MARCH 30—GOOD FRIDAY

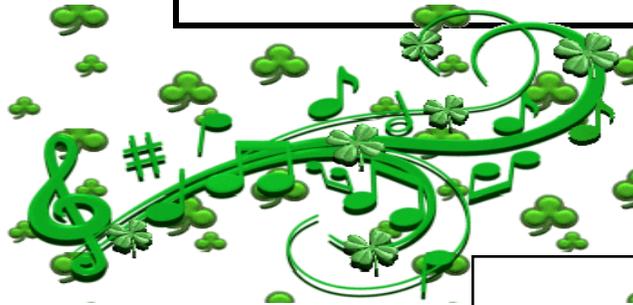


CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH



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 approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- * Syrian refugees
- * Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- * Fires in California
- * Survivors, families and friends of the shooting in Parkland, Florida



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 Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South Korea

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Clark Chase, grandson of Bobbi Scott
Patsy Rawlings
David Grimes
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
Greg Batchelor
Gilbert Portela
Linda Ray, Pancreatic cancer
David and LaNae Grimes
Sandy Sandoval
Ara Griffin
Grace Fishel
Carolyn Crawford
Mike Swartzell, heart transplant
Saundra Arnold-Smith
Ciera Bristol, surgery for thyroid



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY,
MARCH 11th! DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR
BEFORE BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT!**

**THANKS TO THE SCOUT TROOP
FOR LEADING THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4!**

**The members shown here are Tye
Sweet, Wil Harris, Ray Zelaya,
Matthew Rieck, Josh Sweet, Joshua
Linton, Robby Gums and Scout
leaders, Steve and Shane Gardner
and Pastor Joe Sandoval**



LUNCH BUNCH

**Need a break? Want some good fellowship time?
Consider joining us for lunch once a month at a
local restaurant!**

**In February we dined at El Tenampa. We
enjoyed great fellowship with one another,
discussed some good reading and learned more
about the Coast Guard and the movie, "The
Guardian". The food was good also!**

**LUNCH BUNCH WILL
MEET AT RUBY
TUESDAY'S ON MARCH
28TH AT 12:00 NOON
JOIN US!**



MAUNDY THURSDAY/TENEBRAE SERVICE

On Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 pm we will observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with a combination service. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated by Intinction then the service will move into "the shadows or darkness" (which is the meaning of the Latin word tenebrae) by using selected readings of the last 24 hours of Christ's life during which candles will be extinguished. The purpose of the service is to remind us of the somber events that incurred in Jesus' life from His jubilant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to His burial on Good Friday. As the last reading is read and the last candle extinguished, the room will be plunged into darkness. Jesus' death on the cross brings us to the lowest point in our relationship with God but in the end we see that God's light (candle is lit symbolizing Christ's resurrection) is not extinguished as a foresight to Easter morning and Christ's resurrection. The service ends and we will leave in contemplative silence. Join us for one of the most meaningful services you will ever experience!



WITNESS NEWS

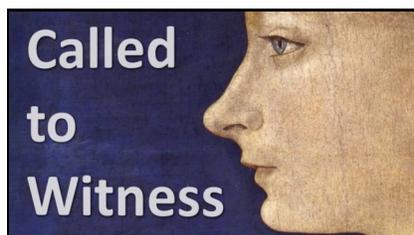
We collected 180 items for local food banks on Souper Bowl Sunday! Our goal was to gather more than 77 so we are calling the food drive a huge success! Thanks to everyone who brought items which were delivered to Bethlehem Food Pantry and Union Mission. We also replenished our Blessing Box with some of the items.

Save your pennies for Sunday, March 25. Pennies for Hunger will be collected that day, which is also Palm Sunday.



We had a wonderful visit with Donald Marsden on February 11. He conducted very informative Sunday School lesson and his presentation during worship was wonderful. A group of us shared lunch and fellowship together at Texas Steak House after the service. Donald is an interesting person to get to know better. We had a great conversation with him during lunch. Thanks to all who came out with us.

Our next Witness meeting will be on April 9, at 7:00 in the Parlor.



Bev Hummel
reporting for the
Witness committee



“THIS IS CHURCH”

Have you ever taught a child to fold their fingers inside their hands and say the rhyme, “here is the church,



here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people?” The wiggling fingers teach children, and adults, too, that the church is not the building — the steeples, windows, or structure, but people gathering to worship God.

There’s something else in the children’s rhyme. As the child breaks open their hands to reveal the people,” they move their fingers back and forth, often as fast as they can. This simple move reminds us that the church is the energy and actions that share the love of Christ.

- : When a disaster strikes, people give, volunteer, and pray so that those impacted receive help and hope, this is church.
- : When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its root causes, this is church.
- : When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power, this is church.

The church is the Holy Spirit’s transforming power emanating into the world sharing the compassion, justice, love, and peace of Christ.

Presbyterians join the movement of the Spirit into every corner of the Earth — and in this season, through our church-wide

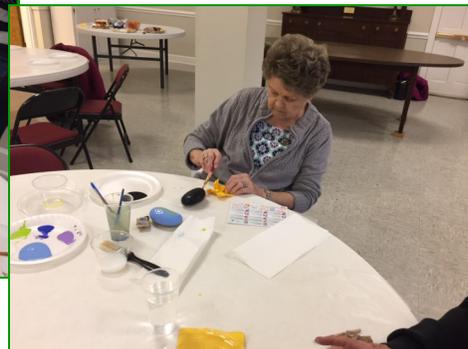
One Great Hour of Sharing.

- : We share — and church happens with women who were once trafficked for domestic labor and now own their own cooperative business.
- : We share — and church happens with people through land rights training and improvements to farming methods.
- : We share — and church happens with those whose homes have been washed away by flood, as the arms of comfort wrap around them, and hands pick up shovels to assist.

The church is happening right now, all around us — because we share Christ’s love.

Please give as generously as you are able to the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING, which will be received on Easter, by using the “fish boxes” or the envelopes that will be provided in the bulletin.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ROCK!



Join Joe for a six-week Bible Study on Adam Hamilton's "The Call" which is a study based on the travels of Paul.

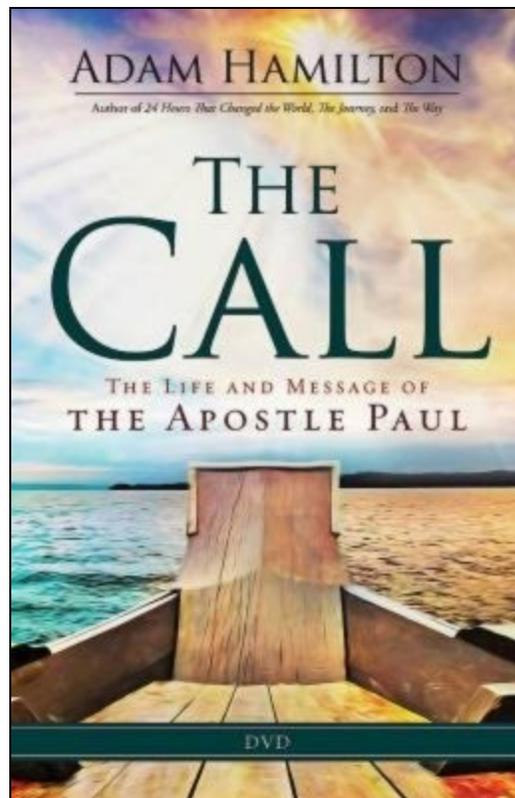
Classes will be held on Thursdays.

You may choose the morning class at 10:00 am or the evening class at 7:00 pm. Both classes will be held in the Loy Building.

The classes will meet on the following dates:

March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, April 12 and April 19

Please sign-up by calling or emailing the church office.



The apostle Paul and his fellow missionaries turned the ancient world upside down by preaching a gospel of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Now journey with Adam Hamilton to the ancient sites themselves in Greece and Turkey and hear penetrating insights that have profoundly shaped every branch of Christianity.

LEN TEN SERVICES

LEN TEN SERVICES

**Make plans to join us for the Lenten Service
Luncheons!**

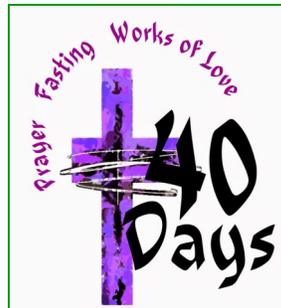
**Schedule for Lenten Services and Luncheons,
Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon**

**February 28th Host: Rosemary Methodist
Preacher: Fr. Pius Wekesa**

**March 7th Host: Rosemary Baptist
Preacher: Rev. Steve McElroy**

**March 14th Host: First Presbyterian
Preacher: Rev. Layne Wallace**

**March 21st Host: St. John the Baptist
Preacher: Rev. Joe Sandoval**



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

Jim Allen	2nd
Betty Keyes	5th
Mary Shelby	6th
Tracy Snowbarger	7th
Susan Barmer	9th
Beth Brewer	9th
William Brewer	10th
Greg Batchelor	12th
Ann Horne	16th
Ryan Tant	19th
Gwen Whitley	27th
Bev Hummel	29th
Frieda Hayes	31st



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MARCH 2018

IN TOUCH

