

# In Touch

## October



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## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am starting a new thing as I select texts to preach from. We have been through two cycles of the lectionary since I started as your pastor. For those of you who don't know what the lectionary is, back in 1969 the Catholic Church put together a set of readings from the bible that covered worship for every Sunday and every holy day for three years. Since then revisions to that original document have been made by various Protestant traditions. The latest revision that has gained common acceptance is the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Publicly released in 1994, the RCL is used by Catholic churches, Episcopal churches, Lutheran churches, Anglican churches, Presbyterian churches, and Methodist churches. The three year cycle is broken into years A, B, and C. The church year does not coincide with the calendar year. The first Sunday of a church year is the first Sunday of Advent, usually the end of November or the beginning of December. The last Sunday of a church year is Christ the King Sunday, sometimes called "The Reign of Christ" Sunday.

Each Sunday the RCL indicates an Old Testament text, a psalm, a gospel text, and an excerpt from an epistle. I will choose from any of those texts to preach on for any given Sunday. Sometimes I will feel called to preach on a text that I had already preached on three, or six years ago. But I typically avoid doing that. Sometimes (not often) I have a hard time selecting a scripture text for a given Sunday. In those cases, with a little more prayer, I will eventually find the passage meant for that day and everything usually works out.

But I wonder if one day I will be called to preach from a scripture passage that is not indicated by the RCL. The regimen that I have employed for the last eight years would have caused us to miss an opportunity. I think that would be unfortunate.

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

So I have begun examining texts in the New Testament that are not included in the RCL. September 30 will be the first Sunday where I will be using a scripture passage that is not in the lectionary. This passage is about the birth of John the Baptist. For the holy days of the church like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Baptism of the Lord, etc. I will likely continue to use the lectionary texts. But for Sundays in "Ordinary Time" I will begin looking for fresh ground for us to explore. I hope you share my excitement in the potential to learn more about what's in the Bible and how less-traveled ground can enrich our spiritual lives.

On a personal note, I will be getting my right hip replaced on November 27. As a result I will not be leading worship on December 2nd. An old friend from seminary, Rev. Carl Parsons, who retired recently, will come and lead us in worship. If I do as well in recovery as I did for my left hip, I may be joining you in worship that day.

Lastly, I'd like to make you aware of the numerous prayer concerns we have. Among them are: LaNae Grimes, who is in a rehab center in Raleigh struggling with an infection; Bev Hummel, who is at UNC Hospital recovering from some extremely invasive surgery on her lower jaw; Ellen Burnett, who is having some serious problems with her eyes; and Sally Ray Warren, who continues to struggle to be the lovely and jovial person we know her to be. Of course there are the multitudes who are recovering from the hurricane. All could use our prayers. Also, some could use some good old-fashioned loving in the form of visits and possibly a cooked meal. May God bless us all as we discern ways to help those who need help.

Grace and peace,

Joe





## CONSECRATION SUNDAY

**October 14**

A fresh opportunity to pledge our time,  
talents and resources to God.

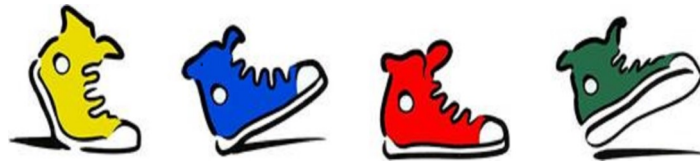
Join us for breakfast at 9:30 a.m.  
in the Loy Building.  
Our guest minister this year will be  
Rev. Randy Hall of Lexington, NC.

Make your reservations by call the church office (537-4018) or  
by placing the reservation card in the offering plate during  
Sunday worship services. Deadline to register is October 11th.



# **Youth** activities

**The Youth will be meeting at Angel's Closet on October 14 from 6-7 pm. We will be putting shoes together for our church's shoe drive for Doug Hayes. Everyone is welcome to come help!**



**First United Methodist Church,  
339 Roanoke Avenue, Roanoke Rapids,  
invites you and your friends/neighbors  
to a  
Pancake/Sausage dinner  
on  
Tuesday, October 9,  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
Proceeds will go towards missional giving.  
Cost: \$6.00 (adults), \$5.00 (children under 7)  
Please contact the church office at 537-2173 ext. 1  
to make a reservation.**

# **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
- \*Survivors, families and friends of all types of violence
- \*The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak
- \*Families separated at the Southern Border
- \*Those affected by the fires in California
- \*Those affected by floods in Wisconsin and Hawaii
- \*Victims of Hurricane Florence and First Responders



## **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.

We pray that Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South Korea.

Jeff and Diana Dillard

Rev. Kadade from Frontier Fellowship and the Evangelical Church in Niger for needed wells and new church planting evangelists.

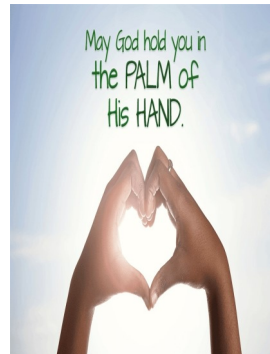


## **On-Going Care**

Harry Bright  
Bobbie Bright  
Sandy Sandoval  
**ALL people who provide  
on-going care**

## Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Clark Chase, grandson of Bobbie Scott  
Priscilla Ricks  
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels  
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil  
Kevin and Michael  
Ken and Holly Phipps & family  
Ara Griffin  
Linda Ray  
David and LaNae Grimes  
Sandra Stephenson  
Bill Howell  
Sally Ray Warren  
Mary Francis Fisher  
Doug Hayes  
Lee Cranford, broken shoulder from a fall  
Harrison West, son of Kent and Carol West  
Bev Hummel  
Ellen Burnett



## FPC Lunch Bunch at SAN JOSE On OCTOBER 17TH!

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



## **OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**6:00 pm Worship Committee**

**7:00 pm Witness Committee**

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2**

**9:30 am Morning Circle \*Please note TIME change\***

**Lesson #2—Cheryl White**

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**6:30 pm Choir**

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**10:30 am Religion Study—Loy Bldg.**

**7:00 pm Religion Study—Parlor**

**7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.**

**Lesson #2-Mary Shelby; Hostesses: Judith Clary &  
Tammy Spragins**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7—World Communion Sunday**

**9:45 am Sunday School**

**11:00 am Worship (Communion by Intinction)**

**Peace & Global Witness Offering**

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**7:00 pm Christian Ed Committee**

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10**

**6:30 pm Choir**

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11**

**10:30 am Religion Study-Loy Bldg.**

**6:00 pm Finance & Personnel**

**7:00 pm Religion Study-Loy Bldg.**



## **OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14—Consecration Sunday**

9:30 am Breakfast-Loy Bldg.  
11:00 am Worship (Rev. Randy Hall)  
6:00 pm Session

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17**

12 Noon Lunch Bunch at San Jose  
6:30 pm Choir

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18**

10:30 am Religion Study-Loy Bldg.  
7:00 pm Religion Study-Loy Bldg.

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**

9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24**

6:30 pm Choir

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**

New Hope Presbytery @ Duraleigh Church

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28-Reformation Sunday**

9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship (Rev. Judy Ouellette)  
Pastor Joe will be on vacation October 22-28

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31— HALLOWEEN**

6:00 pm Trunk or Treat  
6:30 pm Choir



# WITNESS NEWS

Hello everyone!

I would like to express the need for prayer for Bev Hummel. Please pray for quick healing and easy recovery. Bev does such an outstanding job for the Witness Committee! We pray that we can continue in her steps and look forward to her return as our moderator.

Thanks to everyone for contributing to the Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. We collected enough supplies to complete 34 kits and have supplies left over for the Christmas shoeboxes. The kits that we donated may be used for victims of Hurricane Florence here in our state! Special thanks to the Presbyterian Women for paying the shipping costs!

We donated \$50 to Dylan Moore Days which is a "pay it forward" benefit. This year's recipients were Trinity Pulley, Sandra Stephenson and Noah Cook.

The 2018 Hannah's Place Annual Fundraiser event will be held on Tuesday, October 16th. We sponsored the event with a half page ad of our church to be printed in their program.

We will provide dinner Friday night, October 19th for the Roanoke Rapids football team and RRHS cheerleaders prior to the home game.

The Union Mission is looking for volunteers for their Community Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, November 21st, 11:00 am—2:00 pm. The biggest needs are: groups to decorate, serve, clean-up, precooked turkeys, turkey dressing, sweet potatoes/casseroles. Contact the Union Mission at 537-3372 if you can help.

Our Book Bag Buddy program has started! A big thanks to the Scouts for packing the bags! Maybe you would be available to deliver the bags to Aurelian Springs School this year. Marie Anderson is "the person in the know" to include your name on the schedule.

This month we are excited about participating in the Parasite Prevention Program through World Concern! It's amazing what only 44 cents can do! Check out the next page for details!

We are excited about upcoming events and projects as we continue to witness locally and globally. Please pray for us to continue to work in Christ's name. God bless you all.



Wally Spragins

## PARASITE PREVENTION



For less than the cost of a postage stamp per child, you'll provide a child with tablets that bring immediate relief from painful parasites, and the effects last for an entire year! Without this medicine, worms will cause a child pain, sickness, and even stunted growth. Your gift is the cure!

***Intestinal worms are one of the most common causes of poor health among children living in poverty.***

*A child can contract intestinal parasites due to poor hygiene, dirty water, or even a lack of latrines in their village.*

*A child just like Jennika, who was so eager to receive the little white pill she knew would cure the pain in her stomach. "I love to study and go to school, but when my tummy hurts I have to stay home," Jennika explained.*

*Long-term, intestinal worms can even hinder normal growth and development for many children. A simple pill--the 44-Cent Cure--kills the parasites in a child's body. It's one of the best ways to reduce poverty in a community. Children can absorb nutrients, attend school, and parents can work.*

*Here's what your gift of the 44-Cent Cure will do:*

- *Provide deworming medicine in the form of chewable tablets to children suffering from worms*
- *Provide vitamin A, which is depleted when someone has parasites*
- *Help prevent reinfection with follow-up doses, access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene training*

*Now Jennika is much healthier and able to go to school, but there are many children just like her around the world that continue to suffer every day from stomach worms.*

During the month of October we will be collecting donations for this Parasite Prevention Program through World Concern.

Please put your contributions in the clean water pail in the Narthex and see how many children we can cure!!



## #DougStrong Shoe Fundraiser

We are partnering with Funds2Orgs to collect shoes. Funds2Orgs will pay toward Doug's Transplant Fund and donate the shoes to those in need in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. Please consider helping Doug and making a bigger impact in the world. Any and all shoes and sizes of gently worn, used and new shoes are welcomed and needed. For more information about Funds2Orgs and their mission, please visit: [www.funds2orgs.com](http://www.funds2orgs.com)



**Please bring your donations by  
October 19 - Collection boxes located in the  
Narthex and Admin. Building**

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Hello congregation, we have finalized our church financials through August and I have to say that the August pledged income was really an improvement – we were under budget by only \$360! Thanks for the wonderful response since the last newsletter. Unfortunately, even with the very good August our year to date pledged income is still \$6,620 under budget. The Finance and Personnel Committee's request now is that each member **ensure that you are current for the year with your pledged giving** commitment. By the way, surpassing your pledged amount is quite acceptable.

Additionally, we have other sources of income besides pledges. These include non-pledged giving, loose offerings, preschool contributions, and facility usage with all but non-pledges being close to budget. The non-pledged income is \$4,790 under budget. This non-pledged income amount is based on previous years of giving without an associated pledge card and it has been, as you can imagine, quite variable.

Overall, the church's income is \$10,492 under budget through August. Expenditures are close to budget so we are currently in about a \$10,000 negative situation. Expenditures should track on target by year-end so our focus as a church will be to meet our budgeted income.

For 2019, Consecration Sunday is coming soon, so our committee requests that your pledged amount reflects your commitment to meet your 2019 pledge.

Our committee would love to have additional members who are willing to serve on this very important committee to enhance our mission in the church and in our community. If interested, please let me know. The next meeting is October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the Parlor.

God blesses us and our community,

Jim Small

Moderator, Finance and Personnel Committee

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Last year, the Christian Education Committee participated in Trunk or Treat and were overwhelmed by the response. We were in costume, had our trunks decorated, and a supply of candy. We did not imagine the number of people that would arrive and quickly were out of candy. Many trips were made back and forth to the store for more. We enjoyed interacting with the parents and children and each person was enriched by the experience. It proved to be a true outreach project for our church. Our plan is to participate again this year and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. We believe that you would not only enjoy the experience but would feel blessed by the interaction with all the children and their parents.

We'll meet you in the parking lot at 6:00 pm on October 31st!





## **HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:**

<b>James White</b>	<b>October 1</b>
<b>Betsey Merritt</b>	<b>October 2</b>
<b>Ray Barmer</b>	<b>October 3</b>
<b>Lily Brewer</b>	<b>October 6</b>
<b>Ellen Burnett</b>	<b>October 13</b>
<b>Mary Braswell Kiger</b>	<b>October 20</b>
<b>Emily Dwight</b>	<b>October 27</b>
<b>Bill Graham</b>	<b>October 27</b>
<b>Bill Tant</b>	<b>October 30</b>



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**OCTOBER 2018**

**IN TOUCH**

