

In Touch



Sharing Our Gifts Table of Contents:

A Note From Your Pastor	Page 2
Witness News	Page 3
Concerns of the Church	Page 4, 5
Shoe Fundraiser	Page 5
2019 Church Budget	Page 6
Live and Learn	Page 7
February Calendar	Page 8, 9
Birthdays/Lunch Bunch	Page 10
Bible Study/PW Project	Page 11

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Monday January 21st was the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service. In 1994 Congress acted to make the third Monday of January a national day calling all Americans to work together to solve the nation's problems. The idea was that this would move America closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

In light of our current national political climate that all seems like a pipe dream, an unobtainable goal conceived by dreamers that have their heads in the clouds. It makes one wonder if our nation is on a trajectory towards a permanent state of rancor and intransigence, or an outright breakup into ideological enclaves.

I remember attending a class in seminary that was taught by an excellent professor who was at one time the president of Davidson College. His name is John Kuykendall. He was a professor of religion and would keep us in wrapt attention for hours with just a couple index cards for notes. The subject of the class was Religion in the South. During one lecture on the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Kuykendall made the comment that sometime between 1967 and 1968 racist language stopped being part of polite conversation.

That is something to wonder about given the amount of violence that attended the struggle for civil rights in that same time period. The Civil Rights Act was enacted in 1964. But things were far from settled then. If anything the aggression against black people continued but possibly in less public ways. So what was responsible for this shift in social dialog?

This is more of a sociological question, which means the exact answer may never be known. But if I may, I would like to offer a possible answer. The forces of racism and hatred had a countervailing force: the force of neighborliness. By neighborliness I mean that one cannot long live alongside someone who is different than you without naturally learning more about that person. With that knowledge comes familiarity. With familiarity comes fraternity, or a sense of being "we" rather than "you" and "I." With fraternity comes fidelity, charity, and kindness. With fidelity, charity, and kindness comes love. This graduation into a closer and closer relationship just naturally happens. We are built to form those bonds by our Creator.

This means that those forces that want to hate, alienate, and estrange others exist in an alternate social order that was artificially produced by humankind. It goes against our natural tendencies to form relationships and build communities. Compared to the truth of God's creative purpose, those forces that want to separate us are lies and falsehoods. We can no more deny our neighborly nature than we can deny the radiance of the sun.

So to those who worry about the current divisive state of American society, I would say this. Don't. We have weathered worse and seen the better aspects of humanity prevail. This illness that plagues our society is just that, a momentary, feverish condition that will pass after it runs its course. As Psalm 139 says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Praise God for the way that he made us! *Peace, Joe*

WITNESS NEWS



Thanks to all who contributed to the Blanket Offering in January! A total of \$401 was collected! This will go a long way in helping to keep others warm and dry. By sharing warmth and comfort with others, your love is being felt by the people who need it the most all over the world, even in the USA.

Souper Bowl of Caring will be celebrated on Sunday, February 3rd. Please bring non-perishable food items or money which will be given to local food pantries. A box will be placed in the Narthex for your donations.



Plan to join us on Sunday, February 17!

Rev. Donald Marsden will be our guest minister. Following the worship service there will be a covered dish dinner in the Loy Building. Join us for some delicious food and a chance to fellowship with Donald and one another.

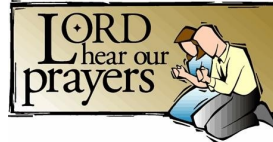
Please bring covered dishes to share!



CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CONCERNS OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY

- SYRIA and YEMEN, civil war
- SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- EGYPT and LIBYA with political unrest
- ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA for 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
- Survivors, families and friends of all types of violence
- The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak, Government instability and famine
- Families separated at the Southern Border
- Victims and relief workers involved with Hurricane Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut and the Earthquake /Tsunami in Indonesia
- Victims of shooting in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA
- Victims of fires in California



On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval
Frieda Hayes

**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 Korea
- Jeff and Diana Dillard
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger.

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sally Ray Warren
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
David and LaNae Grimes
Ara Griffin
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent and Carol West
Bev Hummel
Tina Carr, recovering from heart surgery
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Alice Ricks
Debbie Daniels
Delbra Davis, friend of Debbie Powell
Peg Myrick, cancer
Dee Landen, knee surgery
Betsy Medlin



Shoes, shoes, shoes, shoes, shoes, and more SHOES!

Thanks to everyone that participated in the shoe fundraiser for Doug Hayes! 3600 pairs of shoes were collected which equals 3480 pounds. It was estimated that 400 pairs of shoes were donated by people here at First Presbyterian! \$1,392 was raised for Doug's transplant fund.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we enter into a new year, the Session-approved 2019 budget is printed below for your review. We are pleased that so many of the commitments we make to further the work of Christ in our community and in the world will continue to be strong. The F&P Committee would like to thank each of you for your response in submitting solid pledges for the year – and, as you know, the income from the pledges and other giving provides for our expenditures. As shown in the detailed budget, overall income for 2019 is over \$1,000 above 2018! This good income information allows us to continue each of our committee expenses at or near the same levels as 2018. Please feel free to ask us for any clarification of this very important financial information for our church.

Moving Forward with Christ, The Finance and Personnel Committee

FPC 2019 BUDGET

Operating Income \$174,000.00
(from pledges, offerings, facility usage fees, etc.)

Expenses

Finance & Personnel	127,200.00
Facilities	30,455.00
Witness	8,540.00
Worship	4,330.00
Christian Ed	2,400.00
Stewardship	500.00
Session	300.00
Congregational Care	300.00

(The figures in the budget above are slightly rounded. If you wish to see a detailed budget please contact the office.)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



oh, what fun !



LIVE AND LEARN, LEARN AND LIVE RETURNS FOR 2019

Registration forms are available in the office or the Narthex or call the church office at 537-4018, and leave a voicemail indicating your class choices and/or bring your registration form and payment to the church. Payment must arrive at least 48 hours before the class to guarantee your class selections.

Classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays, at 7:00 pm, (except for the cooking class which will begin at 6:30 pm) in the Loy Building. The classes are as follows:

- Jan. 28—Behavior Management in Young Children
- Jan. 31— Goat's milk soap and lotion by Wendy Byrum of Faintin' Acre Farm
- Feb. 4—Italian Cooking by Yvonne Hoffman *additional \$10—you will get to sample both dishes
- Feb. 11—CPR & basic first aide by Capt. Ed Porter
- Feb. 18—iPad and iPhone Basics by Heather Karns
- Feb. 21—Personal Safety by RR Police Department
- Feb. 25—Genealogy & Family History; where to begin by Ruby Sharber
- Feb. 28—Beginning Painting for anyone by Susan Watson *additional \$15 for supplies
- Mar. 4—Spring Gardening by Victoria Neff of Halifax County Extension Service

Payment in full is required to secure your registration. All classes are \$10 (*except where noted) which is donated to our two designated charities – the Boys and Girls Club of RR and the Bethlehem Food Pantry of First United Methodist Church. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Live and Learn" in the memo line. Payments may be left in the mail slot in the door to the church office.

Remember, classes are open to all so spread the word to friends and neighbors.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3—Souper Bowl of Caring

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:00 pm Worship Committee

6:30 pm Live & Learn (Cooking)

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:30 am Morning Circle

Lesson #6 Leader-Mary Small

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

Hostess-Faye Graham

Lesson #6 Leader-Susan Gaylor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10—Scout Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7:00 pm Christian Ed

7:00 pm Live & Learn (CPR)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel



FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Rev. Donald Marsden)

12:00 Noon Covered Dish Luncheon

6:00 pm Session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00 pm Live & Learn (iPad/iPhone)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

12:00 Noon Lunch Bunch @ El Tenampa

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

10:30 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Bible Study (Parlor)

7:00 pm Live & Learn (Safety)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00 pm Live & Learn (Genealogy)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

10:30 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Bible Study (Parlor)

7:00 pm Live & Learn (Art project)

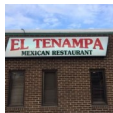


HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

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



FPC Lunch Bunch



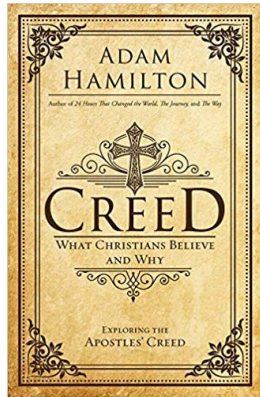
**EL
TENAMPA**

**on Wednesday,
February 13th**



(We had lots of fun last month at Texas!)

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



Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

will be our Spring Bible Study lead by Rev. Joe Sandoval. The class will meet on Thursdays beginning on February 21st through March 28th, 10:30 am or 7:00 pm.

We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters. Chapters include: God; Jesus Christ; The Holy Spirit; The Church at the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins; and The Resurrection of the Body. Everyone is welcome to join us!

HEARTS OF LOVE PROJECT

**You are invited to join the Presbyterian Women
on**

Saturday, February 9th,

at 10:00 am

in the Loy Building

**We will be making Valentine candy jars for the
recipients of Meals on Wheels.**

**Please bring a bag of individually wrapped
candy to fill the jars!**

**(If you wish to make a jar for a friend bring your
own jar. There should be enough supplies for
you to use.)**

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
ROANOKE RAPIDS,**

16 EAST 5TH STREET

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

E-MAIL

fpccroffice@embarqmail.com

fpccminister@embarqmail.com

Telephone - (252) 537-4018

FEBRUARY 2019

IN TOUCH

