

# In Touch

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## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Sunday night I watched the movie production of West Side Story. This is the movie that was made in 1961 with Richard Beymer and Natalie Wood in the lead roles. I have watched it before, maybe more than once.

In the past I remember seeing the animosity between the two rival gangs. I remember hearing the racial slurs and the words of hatred and thinking, "Wow, I am glad those times are behind us." But in my latest viewing of this movie what struck me is how this type of speech has found its way back into our culture. The issue of strife between ethnicities in our country has sadly become a contemporary problem. Some would say that it has always been a problem, but it is once again finding an opportunity for expression.

I guess I have always been sensitive to ethnic hatred, even though I have never been the target of it. My father is from El Salvador he came with his family to this country as a boy. He does not speak with a Spanish accent despite being raised in a Spanish-speaking household. My mother is from Pennsylvania with German and Irish ancestry. My father never spoke Spanish to me or my brothers. My father's mother, whom I called Mama Luchy, would occasionally speak Spanish while speaking to my father, but would refuse to speak Spanish in public. I remember her talking to a woman at a Spanish bakery in Rockville, Maryland where she lived. The woman knew her and started speaking Spanish. My grandmother objected saying, "We live in America, let's speak English."

Nowadays there is more of a cosmopolitan culture in America. Knowing a foreign language is valued among people who will likely never have to speak in anything other than their native tongue of English. I remember when I was writing software for a pharmacy software company I was in charge of making sure the language on pill bottle labels could be easily switched to Spanish. One time when I was training a pharmacist in Chicago to use our software, I showed that feature to her. Her response was, "that makes me so mad." I was puzzled until she explained that her

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

father and mother were from Poland. They worked hard to learn English as a second language. Seeing that the Hispanic community was accommodated while her father still struggled with English was hard for her to accept. Granted hers was not a charitable position towards Latinos, but I have no doubt that it was sincerely felt and born out of a belief that the rules have unfairly changed since previous generations of immigrants came to this country.

It is with this understanding that I view our current social climate towards immigrants. Contained within the animus, is bigotry and prejudice, but also a sense that things are changing in a way that is much different from the status quo thirty, or more, years ago. My question is how do we get American society to back down from this surly feeling towards people who are different from us? The Old Testament points us toward a compassionate regard for the “aliens dwelling among you.” The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to make no distinction among ethnicities as we all share in the call to grow in relationship with God. How do we assure each other that diversity is to be embraced and not feared? How do we remind ourselves that our common American identity is not in having a common language or skin color, but is in the common belief in the ideals of liberty and justice? How do we get to a place where we feel proud that so many wish to come to America? How do we become charitable to those who come needing so much and look at them as an investment in our future? America was a country born out of a sense of love for fellow human beings. That sense comes from a profound Christian heritage in this country. In my mind that is a heritage worth restoring and making it manifest in the ideals that once made this country great and can make it great yet again.

Peace be with you,

Joe



## **JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, JUNE 3

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, JUNE 9—DAY OF PENTECOST

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)

Pentecost Offering

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

SUNDAY, JUNE 16—FATHER'S  
DAY

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 am Session



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

12 Noon Lunch Bunch at Frazier's

6:30 pm Choir

## **JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**



**William Patrick Patterson**

**Doctor of  
Veterinary Medicine**

**upon his graduation from**

**College of  
Veterinary Medicine**

**North Carolina  
State University**

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

**On Saturday, May 11, 2019**

# CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

## Worldwide Concerns

- \*SYRIA and YEMEN
- \* 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
- \*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 of fires in California
- \*People of Venezuela
- \*Victims of tornadoes in the South and floods in the Midwest
- \*Victims of violence in Sri Lanka



## The **DAY OF PENTECOST** is Sunday, June 9th.

We will receive the Pentecost Offering that morning. Each year on Pentecost



Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth and young adults. 40% of the offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our local community; 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer experience; 25% supports ministries with youth; and 10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative.

In 2018 we contributed \$114.60. Please make your checks to First Presbyterian Church with “Pentecost Offering” on the memo line.

### Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks  
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels  
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil  
Ken and Holly Phipps & family  
David and LaNae Grimes  
Mary Francis Fisher  
Harrison West, son of Kent & Carol  
Alice Ricks  
Delbra Davis  
Betsy Medlin  
B.T. Brown  
Mike Stainback  
Billy Green  
Joyce Thomas  
Jason Mitcham

Bill Howell  
Sally Ray Warren  
Kevin and Michael  
Doug Hayes  
Sandra Stephenson  
Ellen Burnett  
Susan Horrell  
Debbie Daniels  
Peg Myrick  
Tommy Gregory  
Bev Hummel  
Becky Hux  
Jonathan Hayes  
Red Barnes

#### 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
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger.

#### On-Going Care

Harry Bright  
Bobbie Bright  
Sandy Sandoval  
Frieda Hayes  
Charles Harris

**ALL people who  
provide on-  
going care**

#### **FPC Lunch Bunch at Frazier's on Wednesday, June 19th**

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







The Finance and Personnel Committee would like to thank each of our congregation members for using their time and talents to further Christ's mission in our local and world-wide community. Good results come from good works. With that in mind, we want to update you on our financial picture through April. It's one of those good news, bad news scenarios.

The Good News is that our income through April is above our expenditures by about \$370! That is very positive indeed.

You might say that with such positive financials what is the bad news? Well, the Bad News is that our year to date pledged giving is almost \$4,000 under budget! If not for the fact that our expenditures were under budget by over \$3,150 we would be in the red. Looking forward, if each of our Church Committee's expenditures meet their year-end budgets and if the Church's income stays on the current track we will have over spent our income for the 3rd consecutive year! We cannot allow this to happen.

We plan to review the financial picture over the next one or two months and if we see that it looks like the Church's income will not match or exceed expenditures by the end of the year, we will make recommendations to Session on what expenses must be reduced for the rest of 2019. This is a responsibility we do not take lightly nor is it one we look forward to, but it is what is needed to be financially secure now and in the future.

Please prayerfully consider your commitments to Christ and to our church and keep our F&P Committee in your prayers as we consider the potential necessary steps we may have to take.

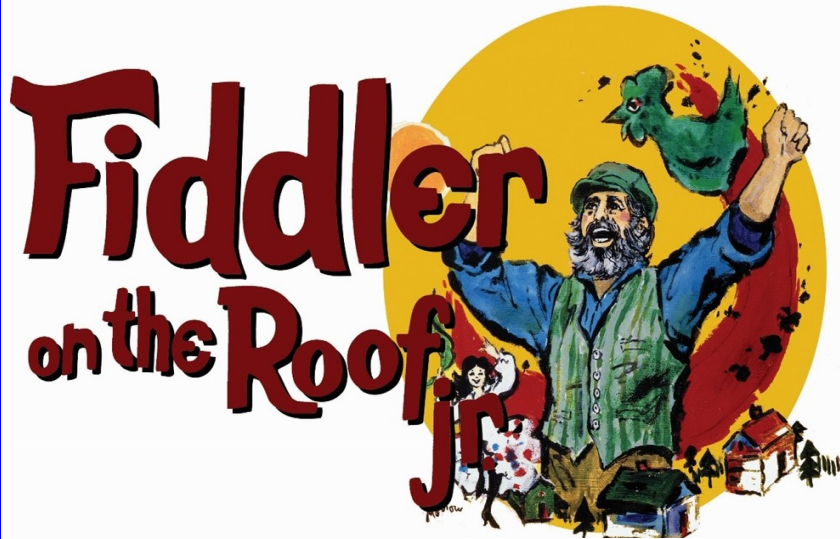
With Christ, for Christ,

Jim Small

Moderator F&P Committee



FREE  
MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP



July 15-19, 1-4 pm each day

Performances July 19 & 20, 7 pm

Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders

(Teens begin practice on June 5)

Students must have finished at least first grade.

First Presbyterian Church Loy Building  
16 East Fifth Street  
537-4018

Application forms in the church office

# 2018-19 WITNESS OFFERINGS

as of May 6, 2019

Pennies for Hunger - 2019	\$227.48	
Bethlehem Food Pantry (Souper Bowl 2019)	\$25 and 61 food items	
Montreat Conference Center	\$300	
Disaster Relief (New Hope Pres.)	\$300	
	\$1000 Budgeted	
National Child Safety Council	\$179.40	
Frontier Fellowship (Donald Marsden)	\$1200 Budgeted	
FF – Well for Niger	\$1500	
FF – Mileage and honorarium	\$300	
FF – D. Marsden Love Offering 2/17/19	\$900	
Doctors without Borders	\$100	
Hannah's Place (half page ad)	\$50	
Church World Service (Blankets 2019)	\$401	
Living Waters for the World Well	\$800	
Dylan Moore Days	\$50	
Bread of Life	\$68	
Christmas Joy Offering - 2018	\$167	\$336 -2017
Pentecost - 2018	\$114.60	
World Concerns – Parasite Project	\$600.21	
One Great Hour of Sharing - 2019	\$502.06	
Peace & Global Offering	\$95.48	
Foster Child Care Fund (Halifax Co.)	\$100 Budgeted	
Missionaries – Sthreshleys' (Pres. Mission)	\$1200 Budgeted	
Book Bag Buddies	\$2000 Budgeted	
Children's Hope Alliance	\$250 Budgeted	
Home, Health & Hospice of Halifax	\$250	
Boy Scouts	\$250	
Peacemaking Offering	\$100	
10 Witness Discretionary	\$2840 Budgeted	

# 2018-19 WITNESS OFFERINGS

- Fed Roanoke Rapids Police, Firemen & EMT's  
approx. 30 people
- Fed Roanoke Rapids High School Football team & cheerleaders  
approx. 65 people
- Supported Doug Hayes Transplant projects
- Donated books and luggage to Guardian Ad Litem
- Angel's Closet – donated 50 Christmas shoeboxes
- Hurricane Florence relief – hygiene items
- Church World Service – 34 hygiene kits  
(Presbyterian Women paid \$68 shipping)



## HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

Sally Ray Warren	June 5
Phyllis Hayes	June 9
Katherine Keyes Anderson	June 13
Bobbie Scott	June 16
Helen Wingfield	June 17
Alexis Karns	June 23
Bonnie Hummel	June 24
Roni Hackenburg	June 25



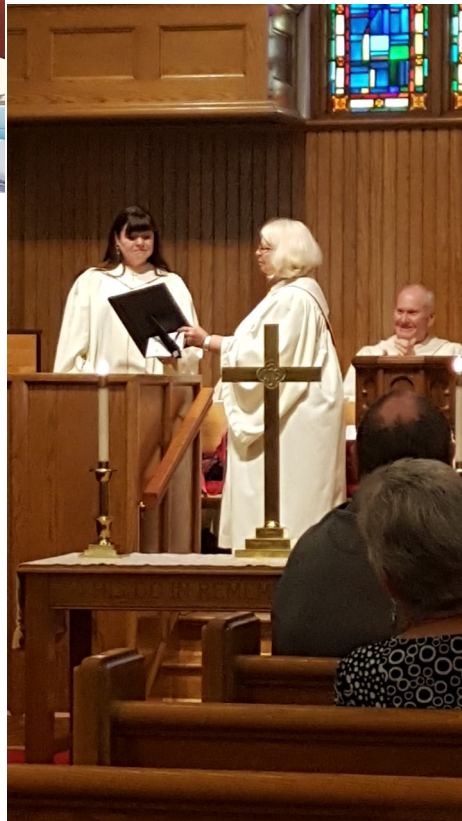
# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The 2019 Honorary  
Life Membership was  
given to  
Virginia  
(Pet)  
Spears  
during the PW's  
Birthday dinner and  
program on May 16th

and  
The 2019-2020  
PW Yearbook  
was dedicated  
to  
Denise  
Hackenburg.

Congratulations and  
Thank you ladies for  
all you do for the  
Presbyterian Women  
and the church!



## LETTER OF THANKS FROM PRESCHOOL

Dear Church Family,

As the school year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the many ways the church has supported us in the work we do.

First of all, without the use of the buildings we would be unable to offer a quality program at a reasonable cost to children living in the area. Our program is a mission, reaching out to children, some who know very little if anything about who Jesus is. This year I had a little boy who had no knowledge of prayer or God. He became very upset the first time we prayed. I promised him that by the end of preschool I would help him learn about God. I feel God's call to teach these children and am blessed greatly by it.

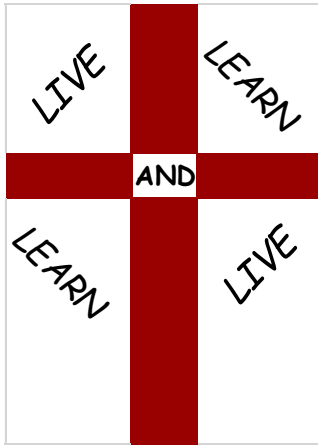
Many thanks to the Presbyterian Women for providing a cement pad in our playground area, giving children a place to ride on their tricycles and scooters. This has been a nice addition which the children have greatly enjoyed!

Thanks also to each of you who donated toys, a record player and other items. It is all appreciated by children and teachers alike!

I am very grateful to those behind the program. Tammy is always so willing and helpful. Bev Hummel serves as our treasurer and the Preschool Board is very supportive of what we do.

Blessings to you all!  
Susan Gaylor





## 2019 RESULTS

Committee members:

Susan Barmer, Nancy Crowe,  
Muzette Kiger, Nancy Sandoval,  
Pet Spears, Cheryl White

Program begun in March 2018 as a way to create opportunities for life-long learning for entire community.

For 2019 these 9 classes and their presenters were held:

Jan. 31 - Goat's Milk Soap and Lotion (18 enrolled)  
Wendy Byrum of Faintin" Acre Farm

Feb. 4 - Italian Cooking (32 enrolled)  
Yvonne Hoffman of YCook?

Feb. 11 - CPR (11 enrolled)  
Ed Porter, fire chief of Gaston Fire Department

Feb. 18 - iPhone and iPad Basics (14 enrolled)  
Heather Karns of Roanoke Rapids Public Schools

Feb. 21 - Personal Safety (14 enrolled)  
Bobby Martin, Interim Police Chief, and  
Morgan Worrell, detective, RR Police Dept.

Feb. 25 - Genealogy & Family History –  
Where Do I Begin? (17 enrolled) Ruby Sharber

March 4 - Spring Gardening (20 enrolled)  
Victoria Neff, Halifax County Cooperative





On behalf of First Presbyterian, Joe Sandoval presented a check for \$950 to Don and Becky Malcolm, coordinators of the Bethlehem Food Pantry of First United Methodist Church. Representative from our church were committee members Muzette Kiger, Nancy Sandoval, and Pet Spears. Also from FUMC were Tawnya Gray, Dick Raim, and Rev. Joe Casteel, pastor.



On behalf of First Presbyterian, Joe Sandoval presented a check for \$950 to the Boys and Girls Club of Halifax County. Representing our church were Susan Barner, Muzette Kiger, and Pet Spears, committee members.



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
ROANOKE RAPIDS,**

16 EAST 5TH STREET

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

**E-MAIL**

[fpccroffice@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpccroffice@embarqmail.com)

[fpccrminister@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpccrminister@embarqmail.com)

Telephone - (252) 537-4018

**JUNE 2019  
IN TOUCH**

