

# In Touch

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC**  
*First Presbyterian Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by expressing our love for Him and our neighbors through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, congregational care, and mission.*



## Sharing Our Gifts

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## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I remember when I was entering high school my father asked me if there were any causes for which I would get out and get involved. The idea sounded strange to me. I had grown up hearing about starving children in other parts of the world. But I still thought of myself as a young person and incapable of doing much of anything except collecting change for UNICEF at Halloween. Besides, those problems seemed so far away. I wondered if they were better solved by people who were closer to them.

Since that time, I have learned a few things. I now know that, even though I may live far away, I can still help. I do not have to experience poverty to help out impoverished people.

The prophet Isaiah, a man speaking primarily to men in his writings, proclaimed that God's expectation was for the people of Israel to take care of widows and orphans. Jesus, who was not a Samaritan, showed through his own actions and through his parables that God expects us take care of those who are different from us. The point is that when someone else is in need, I should empathetically feel that need, or at least be aware of it, and strive to help that situation in one way or another.

The difficulty in taking this compassionate stance is that very often those who get involved, but don't have a "dog in the fight," are viewed with suspicion. Since they don't have the experiences which would naturally make an advocate for a person or people, their devotion to that person or persons can be questioned. This suspicion doesn't come from nowhere. It is born out of experiences with people who come to help but, for one reason or another, don't finish the work they have started. Or they come to help but refuse to listen and understand the real needs of people in need, the assumption being that the person or persons helping know better what those who need help truly need. This attitude is called "paternalism."

Paternalism can take on many forms. Sometimes it is in the form of laws that prohibit actions and the creation of products that can be harmful to people. Motorcycle helmet laws and, more recently, laws against e-cigarettes are examples. These laws have good intentions but (maybe necessarily) limit people's liberties.

Other times paternalism can take the form of forced cultural assimilation. In the early to mid-twentieth century, native American children were taken from their homes, put in schools

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

with white children, and told never to speak their native language. The assumption was that cultural assimilation would address the woes of alcoholism and poverty that afflicted native people after being relocated from their ancestral homes. Now it is understood that forced assimilation has done nothing to address the problems of alcoholism and poverty in the native American population and instead created another problem with alienation among generations and near cultural extinction amongst many native Americans.

In Africa, paternalism can be seen in the shocking failure rate among hand pumps for water in rural areas that are installed by charitable organizations. A United Nations Joint Monitoring Program of watering points in Africa reveal a failure rate of between 30% and 60%. What is the reason for this?

The Voss Foundation, an organization that has been working on Africa's water problem for years, says that the situation is almost always the same. A Non-governmental organization (NGO) arrives, digs a well, installs a hand pump, and leaves. There was no attempt to train the community in maintenance. The NGO never returned after the pump was installed. And the NGO left no way to get in touch with them for support with broken hand pumps.

It is for this reason that I am pleased that our congregation has chosen to support clean water solutions for Africa which involve partnerships with native communities and implement sustainable solutions like water-filtering kits which have support infrastructures attached to them.

As Christians we are called to help others in need. But part of helping is listening and not forcing the people we help to live in ways that are unsustainable or unnatural to them. This requires more effort in coming up with truly helpful solutions to problems, but the reward is that paternalism is kept to a minimum, we show ourselves to be trustworthy partners, and community grows among people in distant parts of the world.

Grace and peace,

Joe



## **OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:30 am Morning Circle @ Parlor  
Lesson #2 leader: Alice Ricks

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.  
Lesson #2 leader: Tammy Spragins  
Hostess: Marie Anderson

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6—World Communion Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship—Communion  
Peace & Global Witness Offering

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

6:00 pm Worship Committee

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

4:30 pm Witness Committee  
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

10:30 am Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.  
6:00 pm Finance & Personnel  
7:00 pm Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13—CONSECRATION

9:30 am Breakfast  
11:00 am Worship—Rev. Frank Covington



## **OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

12 Noon Lunch Bunch at San Jose

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

10:30 am Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

7:00 pm Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

10:30 am Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

7:00 pm Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

6:00 pm Trunk or Treat



## **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
- \*People of Venezuela
- \*Victims of tornadoes in the South and floods in the Midwest
- \*Victims of violence in Sri Lanka
- \*People of Sudan
- \*Victims of violence in Gilroy, CA



*Our deepest Christian sympathy  
is extended to the family and  
friends of  
Michael Everett Stainback  
who left this earthly world  
to be with his Lord and Savior  
on Sunday, September 22, 2019.*

**Funeral Services for Mike will be held Sunday,  
October 6, 2019 at 2:00 pm at First Presbyterian  
Church with Rev. Joe Sandoval and Dr. Dain Butler  
officiating. Burial will follow in the family plot at  
Cedarwood Cemetery.**

**The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 pm  
in the Loy Building at the Church.**

### 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  
Delbra Davis  
Betsy Medlin  
B.T. Brown  
Billy Green  
Joyce Thomas  
Jason Mitcham  
Chris Fitts

Bill Howell  
Sally Ray Warren  
Kevin and Michael  
Doug Hayes  
Sandra Stephenson  
Ellen Burnett  
Susan Horrell  
Peg Myrick  
Bev Hummel  
Becky Hux  
Marie Anderson  
Jane Love  
Jonathan Hayes  
Diane Bone

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

#### On-Going Care

Harry Bright  
Bobbie Bright  
Sandy Sandoval  
Charles Harris

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

**The Witness Committee donated \$120 to World Concerns for water filters in September. People are drinking dirty, contaminated water and it's making them sick. A water filter will instantly remove dirt, germs and disease-causing bacteria for only \$39 each. If we gave during the month of September our gifts would be doubled, so the committee decided to ask if the congregation would like to contribute. The response was overwhelming at \$508! With our contributions being doubled we supplied 32 water filters! Thanks to everyone for donating! Clean water gives life!**







## Consecration *Sunday*


**OCTOBER 13TH**

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

**Join us for an informative breakfast at 9:30 a.m.  
in the Loy Building.**

**Our guest minister this year will be  
Rev. Frank Covington. Carole will also be there.**

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 10th.



*What will you give back  
to God from the blessings  
you have received?*

*Stewardship*  
**A WAY OF LIFE**





*With such an amazing church family that I am so blessed to be part of, words are hard to come by to say how much all of you mean to me.*

*Your many cards, phone calls, food and oh my, your prayers that sustained me for so long in having my surgery.*

*To my Sunday School class, an extra thanks for your concerns and kindness.*

*Thanks also to the congregation for the most warm welcome I received in the sanctuary when I returned.*

*God bless each and everyone of you.*

*Blessing and love,*

*Marie Anderson*

## **FPC Lunch Bunch at SAN JOSE Wednesday, October 16th!**

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



# Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults and Those Dealing with Later-Life Issues

## DATE & TIME

October 25, 2019

8:00 to 5:00 PM

## LOCATION

First Christian Church

836 Roanoke Ave.

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

## REGISTRATION

### CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nancy Hux, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare

252-431-4018

nancy.hux@cardinalinnovations.org



### Mental Health First Aid USA for Older Adults and Those Dealing with

**Later-Life Issues** is an 8 hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adults and older adults, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adult/older adult in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

**What Will Participants Learn?** The course teaches participants the risk factors and warning signs of a variety of mental health challenges common among older adults, including dementia, anxiety, depression, psychosis, and substance use disorder. Participants do not learn to diagnose, nor how to provide any therapy or counseling – rather, participants learn to support an adult developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in an emotional crisis by applying a core five-step action plan:

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies

### Intended Audience

- Family and loved ones
- Aging services and social service agencies
- Senior center staff and volunteers
- Nursing, rehabilitation and assisted living facilities
- Healthcare providers and homecare workers
- Mental health workforce
- Faith communities

**Instructor:** Nancy Hux, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare



## **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>



The summer heat is behind us and now Fall is here with all its beauty and falling leaves. The beauty in our church are all the wonderful things we support with our time, talents and money pledges. As an example, just look at all the wonderful organizations we support through the Witness Committee, impressive.

I previously mentioned falling leaves and, unfortunately, our pledge commitments are also falling - falling behind. You, the congregation, had a wonderful response earlier in May to not only get our pledge commitments on track but actually well above the expectation. But after the summer break we are about \$1,700 behind our pledge commitments through August.

**Let's end 2019 strong and meet all our pledge commitments so that we can continue to support our good works!**

With that in mind, Consecration Sunday is coming soon, so our committee requests that your pledged amount for 2020 reflects your real commitment to meet that pledge. All of the church's needs that we support are dependent on the pledges we receive, so we need each of you determine how your 2020 pledge can support all of our local and world-wide missions.



**(All in the heavens and on the earth is yours,  
and of your own we give you.)**

Thank you in advance in meeting your commitments.

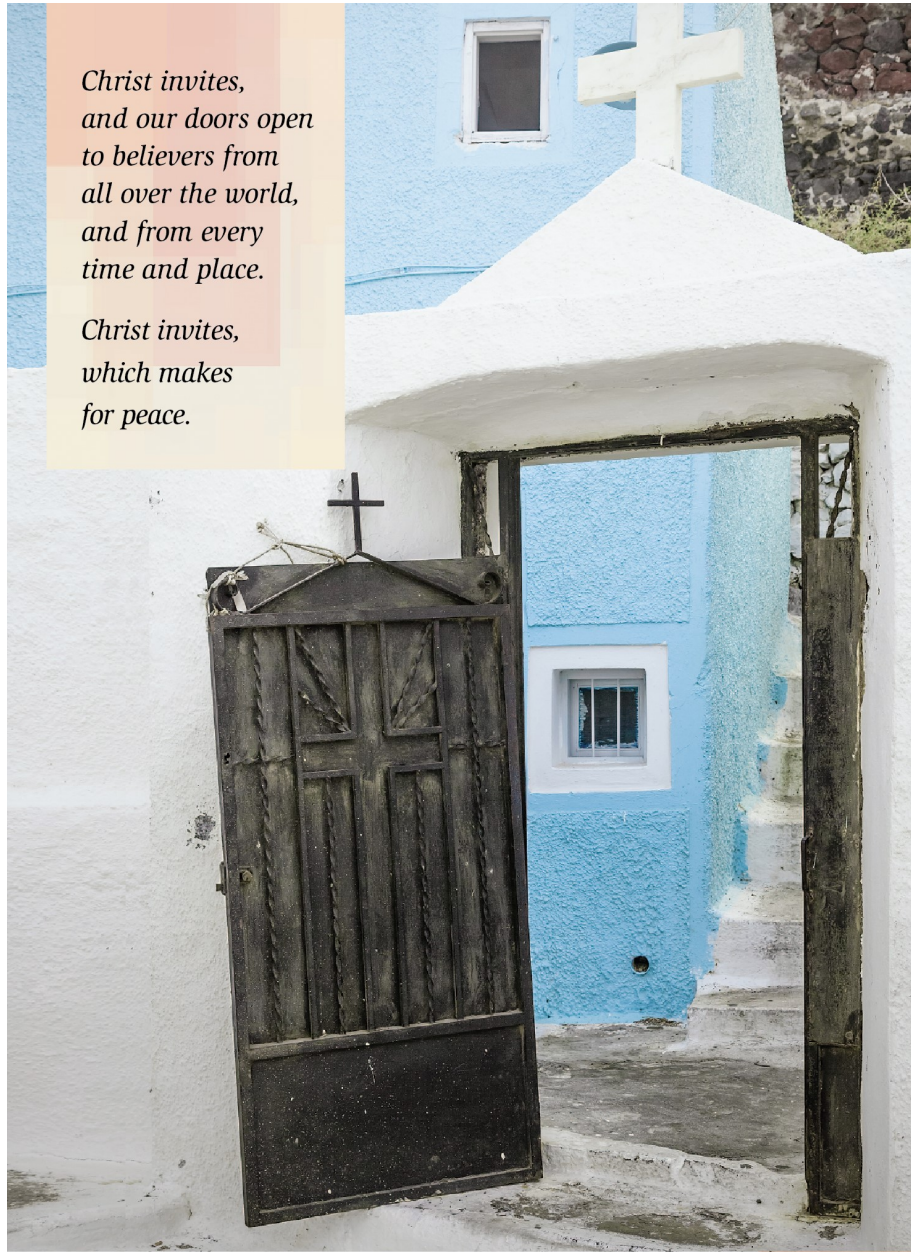
The Finance and Personnel Committee





*Christ invites,  
and our doors open  
to believers from  
all over the world,  
and from every  
time and place.*

*Christ invites,  
which makes  
for peace.*



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

**Please give!**

Have you given any thought to Christmas this year? Have you made your list, planned your meals, or put up decorations (just kidding!) Don't know what to get for the loved one that's hard to buy for or the person that seems to have everything? Looking for the *best gift*? Look no longer!

**Join us for the**  
**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE — *Best Gift* Event!**  
**Wednesday, November 6th for dinner at 6:00 pm**

and an opportunity to share your love with others. There will be many different gift items that can be purchased in honor or memory of our loved ones. Prices start at \$5 and go up.

This event will give each and everyone a chance to see and discover all the ways in which we can spread God's love. These gifts mean a moment of joy for a refugee child weighed down by trauma, a meal for a hungry family, warmth in the cold, or rest for the weary, amongst many other life changing gifts. It's HOPE.

Providing that hope is so simple. Just like the Magi sharing their gifts with the Christ Child, we can share our gifts this Christmas.

Please come join us for fellowship, good food and a chance to change someone's life with the *Best Gift* ever!





**FIRST  
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**OCTOBER 2019**

**IN TOUCH**

