

In Touch

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.



QuotesIdeas.com

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Nancy and I frequently take walks in my neighborhood. While my neighborhood is a pleasant neighborhood with lots of wooded areas and flowers and nicely cut lawns, seeing the same things day after day gets boring. So we will listen to a podcast or three while we are walking. Today I happened to be walking alone and listening to a podcast about some of the victims of the sexual predations of Jeffrey Epstein.

To hear the encounters from a woman's perspective was probably some of the most disturbing things I have ever heard. While Mr. Epstein was making his advances these women are wanting to think the best of him. In the case of one victim, Mr. Epstein was helping her out with her college expenses. It took her a long time to see past the kindnesses she was receiving from him and realize that those kindnesses carried with them expectations that were way out of bounds.

We want to think the best of people. Those who don't are sometimes considered suspicious or cynical. Celebrating the goodness of people is part of loving them, which is something we are told to do. Some people do this with total abandon. Others do it with reserve. Good or bad experiences in relationships are often the deciding factor as to which approach a person takes. The question that many of us struggle with is how do we honor God's wish for us to love each other and still protect ourselves from people who want nothing but to take things from us? Victims of sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and rape deal with this question regularly. But for some of us there is another question.

Part of my continuing education as a pastor is healthy boundaries training. It is something our presbytery requires me to take every three years. I look forward to the training each time because it reminds me of the responsibilities that I have. I need that training so I can stay aware of situations that I should respect. For me and other people in places of power the question is how do I do the work I am called to do while respecting boundaries?

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

What I think is of great value is knowing how vulnerable people (not just women) make themselves when they believe a particular relationship exists purely out of mutual concern and respect. A person in power who understands the other's perspective, the perspective of a vulnerable person, understands that vulnerability and should know that it comes from a precious thing that needs to be protected and not taken advantage of. That thing is trust.

I believe everybody in at least one time in their life has been vulnerable in this way. Which means that every person should be able to sympathize with those who are vulnerable and be a caring, nurturing presence for them. This makes me believe that Mr. Epstein had suppressed what he knew was the right thing to do while he was taking advantage of the untold numbers of young girls he had abused. But when he was in jail the realities of what he had done caught up with him and he found he could not live with himself. He discovered that his life, despite all his wealth and celebrity, was tragedy after tragedy, leaving horrible emotional wreckage behind.

A life like Jeffrey Epstein's is the result of ignoring the humanity of others. If we do this, even to some small degree, then our own humanity is diminished. We become less than the people we can be and what God wants us to be. But thankfully we have some help to keep us on track. That help comes from the people we may be ignoring. Movements like #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter are filled with people who trusted their fellow human being to treat them with love and respect but received contempt and disrespect. Their stories can serve as continuing education lessons for our lives. They help make us aware of the boundaries we should respect, but maybe even more importantly they remind us that the good parts of others, the parts that make them vulnerable and allow them to trust, need to be protected and treated as the precious things that they are, for their sake and for ours.

Grace and peace,

Joe

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

LABOR DAY



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8—Communion

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:00 pm Worship Committee

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 am Morning Circle @ Parlor

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

4:00 pm Witness Committee

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15—RALLY DAY

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

COVERED DISH LUNCH

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

12 Noon Lunch Bunch at Carini's

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

SEPTEMBER 23–SEPTEMBER 30

Pastor Joe on Vacation

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

Guest Minister—Rev. Robert Evans

**FPC Lunch Bunch at CARINI'S
Wednesday, September 18th!**

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



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



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Diana Dillard	Sept. 3
Nancy Sandoval	Sept. 4
Judy Oglesby	Sept. 5
John Shives	Sept. 6
Jimmy Bryant	Sept. 9
Will Ricks	Sept. 9
Jim Small	Sept. 11
Larry Spears	Sept. 15
Carolyn Crawford	Sept. 17
Alicia Grimes	Sept. 17
Laura Pate	Sept. 17
Denise Hackenburg	Sept. 19
Dee Landen	Sept. 20
David Hayes	Sept. 25



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
Mike Stainback
Billy Green
Joyce Thomas
Jason Mitcham

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

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**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will start their new year this month.

We will be using the 2019/2020 PW/Horizons Bible Study,
Love Carved in Stone-A fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia
Anne Gamble.

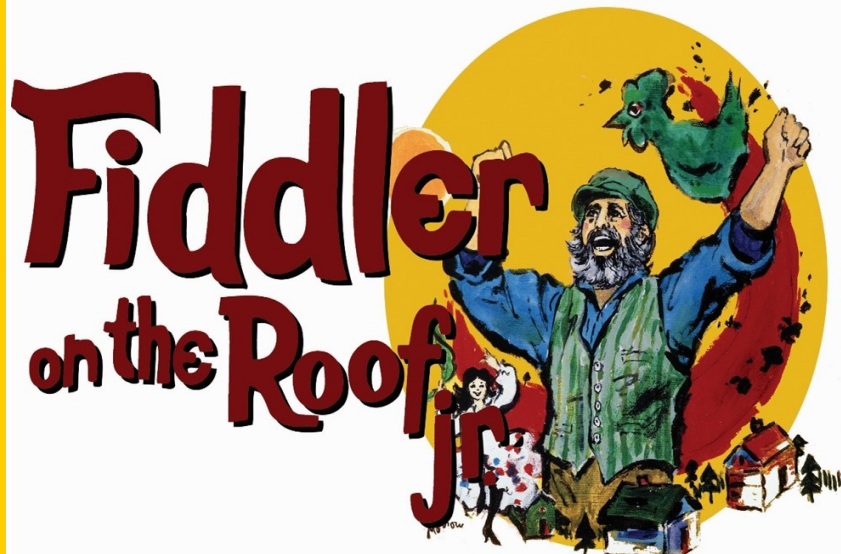
The Evening Circle will meet on Thursday, September 5th, at 7:00 pm in the
Loy Building. Ellen Burnett will lead the introduction and lesson #1.
Faye Graham is the hostess.

The Morning Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 10th, at 9:30 am in the
Parlor. Grace Fishel will lead the introduction and Cheryl White will lead
lesson #1.

If you are not a member of Presbyterian Women, we invite you to join us!
You may choose the meeting that works best for you.

**Look who made it in the pictures from the 107th
New Hope Presbytery Meeting on July 23 at
Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Raleigh!
It's our Pastor, Joe and Treasurer, Jeff!**





Thanks to all who helped with the Music/Drama
Camp and Production in July!

It was a huge success for the third year!

Approximately 35 children from the community
participated in the camp which was held each
afternoon of the third week of July. The
teenagers practiced every Wednesday since
school was dismissed for the summer. What a
commitment for them to make!

Performances were held on Friday and Saturday
nights. There were approximately 135 people in
attendance on Friday night and 95 for Saturday
night's performance.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Denise Hackenburg!
We could not do this without you!



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



IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN DONATING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR ROOM AT THE INN THERE WILL BE A BOX LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

Union Mission of Roanoke Rapids, Inc.

Summer 2019



*"Love begins
when the needs
of someone else
become more
important than
your own."*

FROM ROOM AT THE INN

The Union Mission's Women and Children housing, Room at The Inn (RATI) continues to provide love, compassion and friendship in Christ. We are proud to be a part of the lives of the families that have allowed RATI to offer them a new start in life. Everyone deserves a second chance, a helping hand, and an opportunity to allow Christ to touch their heart and change their life. We offer that help by encouraging our residents to set, obtain, and maintain goals. While the women are engaged in that process, they are attending Bible study, church, and volunteering at the Mission. They are also learning about consistency, responsibility, and commitment to Christ.

Our efforts are enhanced by the help from the community donors to the Union Mission who supply most of the RATI's needs. However, there is a need for specific donations to RATI. We are in constant need of household cleaning supplies, washcloths & towels, clothes, feminine products, as well as paper products. Any donation of these items is truly appreciated.

Through the donor's help and contributions, we have helped another family get back on their feet and is now gainfully employed and in her own home. Please know, we could not have done this without the help and support of our continued partners that help with the resources necessary to make this story possible.

Will you join us as we offer love, compassion, friendship in Christ to women and children who come our way? Your financial gifts, gifts of time, offering support, and encouragement mean so much to RATI residents and they are most appreciative. Contact Sabrina Lawson 252-676-2476.



What Can I Give To Help In 2019?

Monetary Donations

Cleaning Supplies

Gift Cards from
Walmart/Food Lion

Toilet Tissue

Paper Towels

Napkins

Dishwasher Pods

Laundry Detergent

Used Plastic
Grocery Bags

Plastic Utensils

Sugar

Cooking Oil

Postage Stamps



Thank
YOU!



The Witness Committee chose to sponsor 2 children (\$125 each) through The John 3:16 Center to attend the “Not Good but Great” Basketball Camp at the T.J. Davis Recreation Center in July. Following are thank you notes from the families of the recipients.

Dear Sponsor,

Tyron is able to attend basketball camp because of your generous scholarship. According to his grandmother, who raises him by herself this scholarship would benefit Tyron as he would have the opportunity to learn new skills and train with a professional basketball player.

Thank you!

Dear Sponsor,

Shawn is able to attend basketball camp because of your generous scholarship. The following is a note from his mom she wished to share with the sponsor.

Thank you!

I cannot afford to put my children into the camp without financial assistance. Both me and their father work jobs making minimum wage, but our children love basketball. Shawn love sports but we have never been able to actually put him into any. We are saving for him and his brother to be able to play sports next year.



Join us as we kick off the fall season!

September 15, 2019

Theme of Rally Day:

"Focus on Ministries and Answering the Call"

Worship service will feature a video starring familiar faces sharing their perspectives of our church's various missions. Join us for a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Loy Building

(please bring covered dishes to share)

followed by the assembly of health kits, for donation.

Plan to be there to celebrate our church's success in answering God's call!

Mark Your Calendar!

Consecration Sunday is scheduled for October 13th.

An informative breakfast will begin at 9:45 followed by worship service and dedication. Our beloved Frank Covington will deliver the stewardship sermon. Be there to give support to our important church missions and to welcome Carole and Frank!

**The Witness Committee
THANKS EVERYONE
THAT BROUGHT SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FOR ANGEL'S CLOSET!**

THESE ITEMS WERE COLLECTED:



1 Backpack

3 Binder pouches

18 pkgs of Notebook
paper

52 Glue sticks

1 pkg of graph paper

29 boxes of crayons

13 one subject notebooks

12 boxes of markers

4 college ruled Notebooks

5 boxes of colored pencils

30 folders

244 pencils

7 pencil boxes

17 ballpoint pens

2 pkgs. page markers

18 mechanical pencils

7 bottles of glue

8 pencil sharpeners

4 composition books

10 dividers

1 calculator

3 kids scissors



Angel's Closet, Inc.

Physical Address: 47 Hwy. 158
Mailing Address: 228 Hunting Ridge Road
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Phone: (252) 326-3236
Federal ID# 46-0705623

When we care for those around us who have material poverty, we become spiritually enriched. When we feed the hungry, we come away satisfied. When we clothe the naked, bind the wounded or listen to the lonely, we touch Jesus himself. When we help those in need, we are actually saving our own lives...becoming richer in the process.

August 14, 2019

First Presbyterian Church
16 E. 5th St.
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian:

From the bottom of my heart, I just wanted to send you a note of "thanks" for your continuous support of our *Angel's Closet* ministry. Thank you so very much for your recent donation so many, many items of school supplies! This is a true blessing for us as we strive to assist the needy families and children in our area.

We just recently awarded 14 college scholarships to a senior from each high school in Halifax, Northampton and Warren counties. The schools make the selection with the only requirement that the student faces financial difficulties to continue his/her education. We also offer a scholarship to a home schooled student. Next year it will be 16 scholarships with the addition of two new Charter Schools in our area.

Thus far this year, we have assisted 1,373 families now covering 9 counties in North Carolina and 3 in Virginia. We continue to grow!!! As you also know we do many, many other things to make our area a better and safer place to live. The beauty is that we are still able to accomplish all of this without a payroll.

None of this would be possible without the unity and cooperation of people like you.

Again, thank you and may God's blessings be always with all of you and your respective families.

Your brother in Christ,



Gilbert Portela

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
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SEPTEMBER 2019

IN TOUCH

