In Touch

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. ပ Z RAPIDS ш Х ROANO CHURCH BYTERIAN S ш **Ч** FIRST



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I remember hearing on the radio a very special moment between a father and a son. The father was getting on in years and did not expect to live much longer. The son was grown and working hard to provide for his own family. The father said to the son, "May you have enough."

Notable to me was that the father did not say, "May you have riches beyond measure." It made me think of what the father had learned in his own lifetime about working hard and providing for a family. Having enough was certainly better than not having enough. But was the father saying that having enough was better than having more than enough? Does having more than enough present its own set of problems?

Thinking in terms of God's providence, having enough, can be looked at as an affirmation of sorts. If we are engaged in doing things for others, like raising children, having enough means we have struck the right balance of providing for our family and being present for our family. Having more than enough could (but doesn't always) mean that we have worked harder at providing for our family but may not have been present for them as much as we needed to be.

In terms of our church, the same thoughts may apply. The session has just approved the church budget for next year. The Finance and Personnel Committee chair, Jim Small will give a detailed description of the budget in a letter that is part of this newsletter. In it he will describe that we expect to receive slightly less in the way of revenue next year. This required having to cut some expenses that were requested. That was difficult but in the end it was accomplished. After making things balance I got the feeling that while we will not be able to spend like we have this year, it will be enough. For that I was grateful.

Having enough keeps us thinking about the mission of the church and not about preserving the institution of the church. It keeps us looking outward, perceiving needs that are in our community and in the world at large and discerning how we as a congregation may respond.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

One thing that is striking to me is how responsive you have been to the various giving opportunities that the Witness Committee has provided. I don't have numbers to back this up but I feel certain that you have given to Special Offerings this year on a level that is significantly higher than in previous years. That makes me feel especially good about the strength of our faith as a congregation.

Another way that we have been given enough is through the wonderful skills and talents of Nancy Sandoval. When Charles Harris had his accident on March 20 and was unable to be our organist, Nancy filled the breach. When it was apparent that Charles would not be returning soon, she started practicing the organ again in the face of a demanding work schedule and the expectation that she would be serving on the Weldon board of commissioners. She has been a great help to me in knowing that she would fill in for Charles for as long as she was needed. When Nick Stephenson came into our lives, I felt God was giving us a way to continue our wonderful music ministry and to give Nancy a needed rest. We are going to celebrate Charles' service to the church as our organist on December 8th. But I hope that each of you will offer some thanks to Nancy for doing a wonderful job of being our organist in the interim.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your patience with me as we have explored the book of Revelation over the last few months. I learned a few things about doing a sermon series as a result. First thing was that while it is good to do in depth studies of books of the bible, some may be better done in a Bible Study as opposed to Sunday worship. Also, the duration of the series probably prevented us from finding fresh ground in other parts of scripture. I have gathered some constructive comments from you all about the series and welcome more. I will keep them in mind when I plan the next series. In the process, I will try not to expose my bible-geek tendencies!

Looking forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas with you all!

God bless, Joe



DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship (Congregational Meeting)

> MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 6:00 pm Worship Committee

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 9:30 am Morning Circle @ Parlor Discussion of Lesson #4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg. Lesson #4 leader: Phyllis Hayes Hostess: Nancy Sandoval

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 7:00 pm Movie Night @ Loy Bldg.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Christmas Brunch 9:30 am Christmas Party Breakfast and Celebration Celebration of Charles Harris 11:00 am Worship

> MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 6:00 pm Christian Ed. Committee

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

<u>DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS</u>



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Lessons & Carols—Joint worship at First United Methodist Church 12:00 noon Covered dish Lunch @ FUMC 6:00 pm Session

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 6:00 pm PW's Christmas Dinner/Party

> WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 12 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Pino's 6:30 pm Choir

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 7:00 pm Movie Night @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship (Christmas Joy Offering)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Communion)



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship



The CHURCH OFFICE will be closed December 24th until January 2nd

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



FPC CHOIR RECEIVES NEW ROBES AND STOLES

Look at our beautiful choir in their new robes which were dedicated in memory of Edmund **Burnett on October 20** by his loving family.

Truly beautiful and amazing voices! **Thank you!**



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 B.T. Brown Joyce Thomas Jason Mitcham Chris Fitts Amy Browder Heybrock Eula Cutler Bill Howell Sally Ray Warren Kevin and Michael Doug Hayes Sandra Stephenson Ellen Burnett Susan Horrell Betsy Medlin Billy Green Jane Love Jonathan Hayes Diane Bone Yvonne Joyner

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

Bobbie Bright Sandy Sandoval Charles Harris

ALL people who provide on-going care

FPC LUNCH BUNCH At PINO'S

Wednesday, December 18!

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





The Witness Committee thanks all who participated in Church World Service's

Best Gift Event!

Thanks to all of you we raised.....

(drum roll please)

\$2552.00!

What an overwhelming response!!!

We had a wonderful time sharing food, fun and fellowship while helping others!

Items purchased were:

7 people provided for 7 malnourished children;

19 people bought two hens and a rooster;

6 people bought 500 fishlings and also purchased were:

2 sheep; 6 goats; 4 cans of corn for farmers to plant; 3 bought seeds for community gardens; 4 purchased 300 banana trees each; 7 bought home gardening for three families each; 3 sand dam accesses for 3 families; 7 biosand water filters for 7 families; 6 blankets; 3 school kits; 1 literacy class for a month; 6 health center visits for 6 refugee children; 2 indoor soccer for 2 refugee children for a year each; 12 sets of 10 concrete blocks for house walls were purchased and 8 sets of books for 10 students! AWESOME!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Just Around the Corner 2020

Live and Learn. Learn and Live 2020 is just around the corner, and the committee is hard at work lining up fun and informative classes.

The committee would welcome your suggestions and ideas for either topics or presenters. Please speak to Susan Barmer, Nancy Crowe, Muzette Kiger, Nancy Sandoval, or Cheryl White with your ideas. You may also leave a message at the church office.

Your suggestions and ideas will help us hit a home run with the next series.

The Church's Christmas **Celebration will be**

Sunday, December 8th

9:30 am

The Light and Legacy

This program focuses on our legacy children who have grown-up in this church and their children. Breakfast will be served. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.





For a change of pace, let's start this month's update from the Personnel side. As Joe mentioned in last month's newsletter we are all saddened with the knowledge that Charles Harris will not

be returning as our organist due to his continuing health issues. He has brightened our church with his music since 2004

and we are so appreciative of that. Looking forward, the Worship Committee recommended that Nick Stephenson (he has filled in for Nancy on a few occasions this year) be hired as our organist and asked the F&P to determine how much a proposed salary should be. The F&P Committee weighed Nick's superb

credentials and skills against what would the church could afford and gave Joe a salary proposal to carry to Nick. We are happy to announce that Nick has agreed to be our organist! The session added its endorsement of Nick as our new organist at its last stated meeting. You will be seeing additional information regarding both Charles and Nick from others within our church family.

Financially, October pledges came in slightly over budget which is very good news and thanks to everyone for making this possible. Please continue to make your pledge commitments through the end of the year. Our expenses continue under budget but are expected to be closer to budget by year-end. All in all, if the current trends continue we will have a surplus for the first time since 2016!

The 2020 budget has been approved by Session and more information will be coming in December and January. Our committee had our work cut out for us since the initial expenditure projection was almost \$2,500 above 2019. And although the 2020 pledges came in almost \$3,000 above 2019 (very good news), the non-pledge income was lower, resulting in our total income being \$5,408 less than 2019. This \$7,900 difference had to be balanced to our income – and it has been done after much discussion and hard work. We have a balanced budget for 2020. Thanks to all in making this possible.

The Finance and Personnel Committee

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:			
		Chris Brewer	Dec. 1
		Riley Snowbarger	Dec. 6
		Tyler Snowbarger	Dec. 6
Tom Wingfield	Dec. 16		
Pet Spears	Dec. 20		
Marie Anderson	Dec. 30		



Dec. 31

Taylor Clifton

All Women are invited to join us for the **Presbyterian Women's Christmas Dinner Tuesday, December 17th 6:00 pm**

> at the home of Faye Brown 30 Longstreet Road, Weldon

RSVP by December 13 to tammyspragins@embarqmail.com or 586-1818 or 532-6856

This year we will be collecting donations to buy Food Lion gift cards for Children's Hope Alliance

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR A CHRISTMAS HAT (There will be games and prizes!)



Christmas Open House

Flease join us at our home in celebration of Christmas

11 Longstreet Road Weldon, NC

Sunday, December 15 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Joe and Nancy

PLEASE HELP US PROVIDE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH ANGEL'S CLOSET! BOXES WILL BE DELIVERED AS THEY COME IN! HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 50 BOXES!



