

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.



Sharing Our Gifts

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Nancy and I are in West Virginia where I used to live and work and go to school. My mother and stepfather still live here, a lot of my friends still live here. My brothers came here to celebrate Christmas with my mother and stepfather. For the first time in several years we have all been at the same place for Christmas. It has been a nice steady dose of reunions for the past several days. Nancy and I even sang in the church choir in worship at the Methodist church where I used to be a member. Lots of fun.

My mother and stepfather live on a large tract of hilly land they bought when our family moved to West Virginia in 1979. The hills are so steep that they are in your face as you climb them.

I urged my brothers to go walking on the property like we used to do when we were putting up barbwire fence, hauling firewood and clearing briar patches. Hard work was part of our day when we lived there. Even so, as our elderly neighbors would remind us at the time, we had it easy. They used to plant gardens on those hills for food. The firewood they would gather was for heat and for cooking. And the fences they would build would have to contain strong bulls, not docile horses.

But even as our experiences of living in the hills of West Virginia were different, our appreciation for living where we did was the same. The older people of the hills and I could both agree that it was a fine life to have a place that you could call your own, no matter how hilly and inhospitable, and enjoy the benefits of your own hard labor.

That kind of life is enjoyable, but in those years I came to know something else. Hard manual labor has its own joys. The joys come from discovering what you are capable of and gaining a certain level of mastery over your environs. During college on my summer break I would work as a hand on a neighbor's property clearing land and splitting firewood for sale. I didn't get paid until October or November when the firewood was being sold. But I kept coming back to work each summer because I found the

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

work suited me and I was good at it. I had a role in life which included using my body to lift, carry, build, and mend things. Now as some of my joints have been replaced and I have to be careful about what I lift, I realize that my role in life is not what it used to be. The work I am called to is less and less about manual labor and more and more about thinking.

As my vacation is drawing to a close I am approaching the time you have given to me to work on my thesis. This time will be filled with hard work of a kind that I believe will represent what my role will be in my future. But I hope that it will present its own joys.

I covet your prayers as I prepare to undergo this hard work. God bless. I will see you again on February 3.

-Joe



Pray for your Pastor!

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, January 1



SUNDAY, January 5

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, January 6

6:00 pm Worship Committee

TUESDAY, January 7

9:30 am Morning Circle @ Parlor

Lesson #5 Leader: Pet Spears

WEDNESDAY, January 8

3:30 pm Witness Committee

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, January 9

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

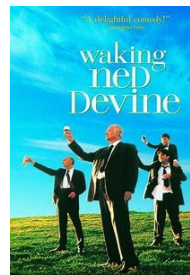
7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

Lesson #5 leader: Mary Shelby

Hostess: Faye Brown

FRIDAY, January 10

7:00 pm Movie Night @ Loy Bldg.



JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, January 12

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)

Installation of Class of 2022 Elders

WEDNESDAY, January 15

12 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Texas Steakhouse

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, January 19

9:45 am Sunday School

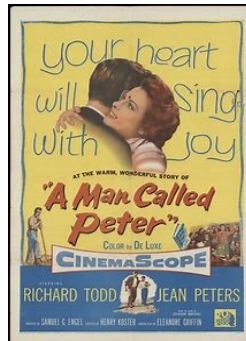
11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, January 22

6:30 pm Choir

FRIDAY, January 24

7:00 pm Movie Night @ Loy Bldg.



SUNDAY, January 26

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, January 29

6:30 pm Choir

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 LUNCH BUNCH

at



Wednesday, January 15th!

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

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
Miles Gregory
Bill Davis, surgery
Susan Lloyd
Al Hayes
Benjamin Hayes

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**



A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we enter into a new year, the Session-approved 2020 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 stated at the congregational meeting on December 1, our income for 2020 is about \$5,400 less than 2019, even though pledges were almost \$3,000 above 2019 (some non-pledge income moved to actual pledge commitments). As a result of the lower income, expenditures have been reduced to balance the budget. The actions taken were to reduce the F&P budget by about \$3,000, Facilities by \$1,250, Witness by \$750, and Worship by \$400. Although the income may be down slightly, we know that each of you will continue to not only match or exceed your pledge, but also contribute with Special Offerings throughout the year.

Please feel free to ask us for any clarification of this very important financial information for our church.

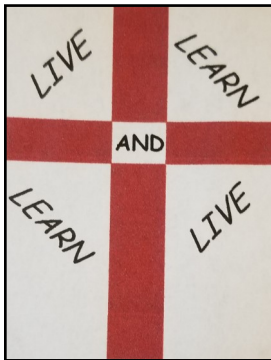
Moving Forward with Christ, The Finance and Personnel Committee

FPC 2020 BUDGET

<u>Operating Income</u>	\$168,600.00
(from pledges, offerings, facility usage fees, etc.)	

	<u>Expenses</u>	
Finance & Personnel		124,200.00
Facilities		29,200.00
Witness		7,800.00
Worship		3,900.00
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.)



2020

Live and Learn, Learn and Live 2020
is almost here!

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.



Weight Watchers is now holding two meetings in the Loy
Building of First Presbyterian Church.

They meet on Tuesdays at
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
and

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Please take this in consideration when planning events
using the Loy Building.

2019 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Breton Pate	Jan. 3
Lee Cranford	Jan. 5
Gary Hackenburg	Jan. 10
David Grimes	Jan. 12
Rebecca White	Jan. 17
Nathan Howard	Jan. 19
DJ Glasgow	Jan. 20
Melanie Oglesby	Jan. 29
Garrett Tant	Jan. 29
Julia Ann Fitts	Jan. 30
Chip Clifton	Jan. 31



ITEMS NEEDED

Please save glass jars (14 oz or larger, pickle or spaghetti jars, etc.) for a project that Presbyterian Women will be doing in February or March. Bring the clean jars to the Administrative Building and put them in the yellow tub next to Tammy's office door. I'm also looking for donations of ribbon, lace, rick-rack, buttons, beads, etc. for decorating the jars. You may also put these in the same yellow tub by the office door. Thank you!





C.A.R.E./The John 3:16 Center

407 East End Avenue | Littleton, NC | 27850

December 18, 2019

C.A.R.E./John 3:16 Center
P.O. Box 1541
Littleton, North Carolina 27850

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

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your kind donation to our Christmas Outreach 2019. You have made it possible to share the love of Christmas to the children we serve in Halifax, Warren and Northampton Counties during this wonderful time of year.

Your support of \$300.00 helps The John 3:16 Center in purchasing items for the children. Each child receives a complete outfit (including shoes and underwear), one book and 5-6 toys, as well as a Christmas party at The John 3:16 Center with loved ones that includes a hot meal and a meeting with Santa. Each family will also receive a bible. We will be providing for 175 children this year, and during this process we build relationships with the children and families that is critical in creating a greater impact now and in the future.

God bless you for being a part of what makes the work here possible!

Sincerely,

Sonya Smith
Fund Development Manager
C.A.R.E./The John 3:16 Center
ssmith@john316center.org

JOIN US FOR A



ON

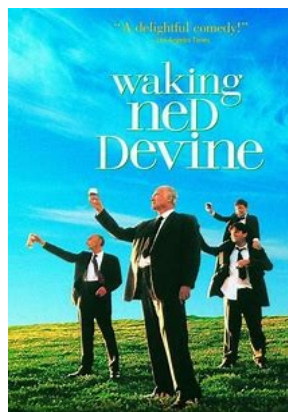
FRIDAY

At 7:00 pm

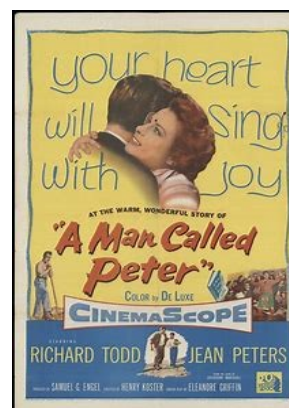
In the Loy Building

MOVIE SHOWING IS....

January 10th



January 24th



Drinks and popcorn will be provided!

Hope to see you at the movies!



Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Matthew 2:7-10

**When the night sky was filled with 50 stars,
the biggest star of all appeared over the place
where the baby Jesus was laid.
In fact there were 57 stars that appears in the sky above!
They represent the number of Christmas shoeboxes that
were filled and given to Angel's Closet this year.
Our goal was 50 boxes and
THANKS to all of you we exceeded it!
“...they (we) were overwhelmed with joy.”
The Witness Committee**

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

December 28, 2019

First Presbyterian Church
16 East 5th Street
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

Dear Brothers and Sisters at First Presbyterian Church:

As we come to the end of our fourteenth year doing God's work by assisting the needy in our area, *Angel's Closet* wanted to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your contribution in 2019. The \$270 and the many boxes of items for children this Christmas you donated to us is a true blessing for us!!!

Thanks to God's people like you, we finished the 2019 year assisting 2,304 families with 2,544 children. This past Christmas we were blessed to place a smile on the faces of 836 children from 341 different families with toys, clothes and food. The families come from 11 different counties in North Carolina and Virginia. As you know, we assist these families at no cost to them.

In addition, we assisted financially the following groups, clubs and organizations:

1. College scholarships (14) 2. Senior fees; cap & gowns 3. Field trip costs 4. JROTC Programs 5. Boy Scouts 6. DECA Club 7. Art Club Life Skills 8. Student Council 9. Boys2Men 10. Band 11. Youth Fellowship 12. Cheerleaders 13. Midget football 14. RRHS Field House 15. Hannah's Place 16. Enfield Peanut Festival 17. Weldon Kitchen Soup 18. Life Skills and 19. RV Adult Care. We also assist financially and work closely together with the Weldon Police, RR Police, RR Fire and Halifax County Sherriff Departments and Halifax Community College in hopes of making this 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.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and pray that Our Heavenly Father will provide you and your loved ones with many blessings in 2020!!! Again, thank you so very much!

Your brother in Christ,



Gilbert Portela

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
ROANOKE RAPIDS,**

16 EAST 5TH STREET

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

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JANUARY 2020

IN TOUCH

