

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER Albemarle, North Carolina Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music Stan Scheer, Organist Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education & Fellowship Leah Beamon, Christian Education Program Coordinator Pam Knighten, Secretary Church Office: (704) 982-2722

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April 2018

Dear Friends,

We begin the month of April with one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar: Easter Sunday. After a holy week of preparation, including spirituality centers, a celebration of Christ's final hours on Maundy Thursday, and the somber vigil of Good Friday, how wonderful it is to begin a fresh new month with the celebration of resurrection and new life!

April kicks off the Easter season which last 50 days until Pentecost. This will be a season in which nature reflects the truth of the Christian story: after death comes new life. As the world around us is reborn with life, color, and beauty, we have the chance to reflect upon the impact of Christ's resurrection on our lives. I hope that this will be a season of renewed life and spirit for you.





7:00 a.m.

Gather at the shelter at the top of Morrow Mountain to celebrate Easter with the rising of the sun! Be sure to dress for the weather and plan to enjoy a light breakfast after worship.

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages.

11:00 a.m.

Worship will include seasonal music, guest musicians, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



Sunday, April 1	Easter Worship at Sunrise at Morrow Mountain State Park at 7:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and receiving the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger. Scripture: Mark 16:1-8
Sunday, April 8	Scripture: John 20:19-31
Sunday, April 15	Youth Sunday Worship will be led by our youth in grades 6-12. Our high school seniors will lead the sermon. The Youth Club ORFF ensemble will play their instruments. Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48
Sunday, April 22	The Youth Club Trusty Travelers & Faith Explorers sing in worship. Scripture: John 10:11-18
Sunday, April 29	Youth Club Handbell Ensemble rings in worship. We will receive the Faith on the Fifth Offering to benefit the Habitat for Humanity as we prepare to sponsor a build with Norwood First Presbyterian Church and Locust Presbyterian Church. John 15:1-8



Dear Friends,

My sabbatical time was a lovely gift. Thank you for your generosity which made it possible. With ample time for rest, reading, reflection, and prayer, I was overwhelmed at every turn by gratitude - gratitude for God's faithfulness and generosity, gratitude for you and the things of faith I have

learned from you, and gratitude for the gifts God has given us to share. I look forward to talking with you more about all these things and to hearing your stories of God moments. I worshipped in a variety (some very small, some very large, and some about our size) of churches and learned something in every setting about what God is doing and how congregations respond faithfully to Christ's command to *go and make disciples of all nations*. We will have plenty of time to talk in the weeks ahead and to celebrate all that makes First Presbyterian Church an authentic witness to the God we worship and serve.

Grace and Peace,

Elizabeth

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on April 1. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery. We received a total of \$314.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal in February. Ten cents per person per meal is just \$9.00 per month and helps provide people both nourishment and hope. If you don't have a Ten-Cents-A-Meal container, you can find one in the pit stop. Checks and/or coins are welcome!

2018 Flower Calendar

The 2018 flower calendar is posted in the pit stop. If you wish to put flowers in the church in honor or memory of someone or just to provide beauty to the service, please sign up on the calendar. **Flowers may be ordered from any local florist.** Contact Frankie Palmer (704-982-1757 or <u>fpalmer3@carolina.rr.com</u>) for more information and to make arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to the church on Saturday or Sunday morning before worship.



Youth Sunday

Our youth will lead worship for us on April 15. They will lead us in prayer, music, and worship of God. Our two seniors, Adam Jolly and Isabel McLeod, will reflect on God's Word. It promises to be a wonderful day of worship, so plan to join us.



BREAD FOR THE WORLD LETTER WRITING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 29 IN THE PIT STOP (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.)

breadfortheworld have faith. end hunger.

BREAD SALE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Urge Congress to support measures that help mothers and children receive the nutrition needed to be healthy and live active lives.

Sample Letter (Handwritten letters using your own words are most effective.)

Date _____

Sen	
U.S. Senate	
Washington, DC 2	0510

or

Rep._____ U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator _____

or

Dear Rep.____

As Congress works on the fiscal year 2019 budget and spending bills, I ask you to invest in and protect key programs that will reduce hunger and poverty.

Our country and the world have made progress against hunger and poverty in recent decades. I want you to continue to invest in programs like SNAP and tax credits for low-income workers. Continued funding for programs which reduce hunger and poverty around the world are also important to me.

My faith calls me to urge you to make public investments that will move us toward the end of hunger.

Sincerely,

_____ (your name)

_____ (your address)

_____ (city, state, ZIP)

Please write your name and return address on the envelope. Members of Congress want to know that they represent you.



First Presbyterian Church Music & Arts Camp June 10-14, 2018

FOR WHOM?

For you if you are age 4 (must turn 4 before June 30) or older - - all the way through completed 6^{th} grade AND if you love to create, sing, and have fun with others. Everyone is welcome.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

We'll sing and dance, create sets, play percussion instruments, study the Bible in new ways, act, and play. It will be a full and exciting week.

WHEN WILL WE DO IT?

It all begins on Sunday, June 10 at 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. On June 11-14, these are the hours:

Ages 4-5 Grades K-6 (completed) 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WHAT ELSE? Early Bird Registration Fee is only \$40.00 (by May 24). **Late Registration Fee is** \$45.00 (after May 24).

Children who have completed grades K-6 should bring a lunch each day. Drinks will be provided.

> The camp's grand finale will be a performance of Life of the Party...The Story of Mary & Martha on Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. (Ice Cream follows)

Name	_ Age & Grad	e Completed (as of June 11)
Address		
Phone H	mail Address	
Parent's Name		
Emergency Contact during hours of Music & Arts Ca	mp	
Food or other allergies		
T Shirt Size: YX-Small (2-4) YSmall (6-8) YMed	um(10-12) YLarge	(14-16) YXLarge(18-20)
Adult S M L XL		
Other things we should know about this child		
Permission to Use Photograph: I grant to First Prechild/children during the 2018 Music & Arts Camp and t	2	
I have read and understand the above:		
Signature of parent or guardian (if under age 18)	Printed Name_	
Return registration form to: First Presbyterian Church	-	704) 982-2722 h Beamon (lbeamon@fpcalbemarle.org)

P.O. Box 1578 126 West North Street Albemarle, NC 28002

STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...FEBRUARY 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND		
Actual:	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget-to-Date</u>
Total Income Received:	52,167.00	91,913.00
Total Expenses:	<u>106,451.00</u>	<u>107,054.00</u>
(Shortage)/Surplus	(\$54,284.00)	(\$15,141.00)
GENERAL FUND BUDGET	<u>2018</u>	
Pledges:	509,141	

556,481

556,481

Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: <u>\$10,701</u> Average Weekly Amount Received in February: <u>\$5,937</u>

We are behind \$22,947 in pledges.

Total Income:

Total Expenses:

Ten-Cents-A-Meal for February: \$314



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

First Presbyterian Church Schoolarship Endowment: In memory of Doris Simpson, given by Marlene & Nathan Sanges.

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of Toby Webb, given by A. Sims and Alicia Garrison

Sympathy

To Martha & Keith Wolf upon the death of her mother, Doris Simpson, on March 5. To Nancy & Don Joines upon the death of their niece, Lora Walker, on March 24.

Congratulations

To Penny & Jack Morton upon the birth of their grandson, Goodwin Rory Chisholm, on March 1. He is the son of Caroline (Morton) & Rory Chisholm.

To Kim & Jim Marshall upon the birth of their grandson, James Ben Mallory, on March 9. He is the son of Brittany (Marshall) and Joe Mallory.

New Address

Lee, Billie Jean, & Witt Snuggs 2501 Q Street NW, Apartment B8 Washington, DC 20007

SESSION NOTES

At its stated meeting on March 18, Session heard reports from the Christian Education, Mission, Scholarship, Nominating, and Endowment committees. The Christian Education committee held a retreat on February 18, at which they discussed planning for Sunday School, Children's Church and Youth programs. They are also planning Music and Arts camp in June and will need many volunteers. Session approved a motion from the Mission committee to partner with Relay for Life for Purple in the Pulpit offering on April 18. The Mission committee will hold a mini retreat on Sunday, April 8, following worship. Bread for the World letter writing will be held on April 29. The Property committee reported that First Presbyterian of Norwood was unable to remove the playground equipment behind the Masonic Temple and is now working on another plan to try to remove the equipment. The Endowment committee reported five projects that were approved for funding from the Gaither Grant: 36 compartment glass racks to help with washing and storing; commercial refrigerator to replace broken one; 5 new computers for FPC staff and a standup desktop desk for Kyle Lambert; money to buy supplies for cooking summer camp; money to buy supplies for yearend cookout for youth club. Session approved a motion from the Nominating committee to hold a congregational meeting on April 22 to present a candidate for a vacancy on the Diaconate for the class of 2020. The Scholarship committee will meet at the end of the month to begin reviewing applications. Session approved the March 25 baptism of Barrett Jackson Morgan. Plans for Palm Sunday and Holy Week were announced. The Easter sunrise service will be held at Morrow Mountain at 7 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Submitted by Mary Kesselman, Clerk of Session Circle #5 will meet at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle) on Monday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. We will be studying Lesson 6 in *Cloud of Witnesses:* The Community of Christ in Hebrews.



NEWS and NOTES

May Newsletter Deadline on Tuesday, April 17. Early submissions are always welcome! If you type your items in Microsoft Word, please email them as an attachment to: pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.



Thanks for helping in the office in March: Gloria Bryson, Ann Duckwall, Donna Gaither, Ruth Goodwin, and Martha White.

Thanks to Don Joines for serving as the church liason for Bucknell University students while they were here to serve the Stanly County Habitat for Humanity organization.



Bread Bakers Needed

Bread bakers (and shoppers) are needed for the April 29 bread sale to be held on Letter Writing Sunday. If you bake quick bread, sourdough, or yeast breads, call Ann Duckwall (704-983-3498) to tell her how you can help. Donations from the sale will be given to SCCM.

BUCKNELL STUDENTS VISIT ALBEMARLE

On Sunday, March 11, three students from Bucknell University in central Pennsylvnia, along with their faculty chaperone, arrived at First Presbyterian Church, which would be their home-away-fromhome for the next week. What they may have lacked in numbers they made up for in energy and dedication. Don Joines served as their liaison with the church.



Students Ruby, Caitlin, and Julia, and chaperone Mary, did a range of service work with Habitat for Humanity. Working around the rain during the week, they landscaped Habitat House #50 on Mann Road in Albemarle. They spread topsoil, seeded and strawed the yard, planted shrubbery, and put out mulch.

When they couldn't work outside, they worked at the Habitat Resale Store dusting, cleaning, sorting, culling, and organizing. The Habitat construction trailer also benefited from their cleaning and organizing skills, and now has new shelves built and installed by these college volunteers.

It was not just a week of work. The students took advantage of this trip South to explore the area. On their free afternoon, they traveled to Charlotte and visited the Museum of the New South and drove over the state line into South Carolina to up the number of states visited on their spring-break trip. On another day, they got in a late afternoon hike at Morrow Mountain State Park.

They said they felt warmly welcomed at First Presbyterian and in Albemarle. They joined the congregation for the Lenten dinner on Wednesday evening and were guests at the Rotary Club meeting for lunch on Thursday. On Thursday evening, the Sanges and Joines couples prepared dinner for them ... complete with sweet tea! The Bucknell basketball team was playing in the NCAA Tournament on Friday evening. Matt Drumheller was able to set up the computer in the church theater so they could watch the game on the big screen. Surely all of Albemarle heard the cheering and screaming!

After making plans to return next year, they left early on Saturday morning (March 17) and headed toward the mountains to get on the Blue Ridge Parkway and enjoy its beauty as they returned to Pennsylvania.



Do you ever see a name on the prayer list and think, *Now who is that?* Or forget what the relationship is? You are not alone as many folks have asked for help with this. The *Prayer List Connection* will refresh all our memories. Folks with chronic needs will be listed for a month in the bulletin. Following that month, we will keep them on the newsletter's *Prayer List Connection* for as long as we are requested to do so. Critical prayer concerns will be added weekly to the prayer list in the bulletin.

Friends of the Congregation:

Dale Benson, brother of Ann Crutchfield. **Ted Biggers,** friend of Martha Sue Hall & Dan Samples. Margaret Brooks, friend of Debbie Hahn; at an assisted living facility. Rachel Darling, friend of Dona Lisk; battling cancer. Mike Dearstyne, brother of Holly Norwood; medical concerns. Sara Dyer, mother of Martha White; ongoing health concerns. Lindsey Efird, daughter of Karen Efird and Mark Efird; battling MPS. Gay Ellington, former co-worker of Martha White; lung cancer. Glenn Fowler, possible nerve damage and failed rotator cuff surgery. Marty Goforth, treatment for melanoma. Calvin Hall, kidney cancer. Elizabeth Howard, cousin of Mary Kesselman; health concerns. Jackie Lynn Kruis, ten year-old great-niece of Gloria Bryson. Molly Amelia Lowder, continuing health concerns. **Diane Marks,** mother of Kyle Marks; diagnosed with breast cancer. Bryanna Medlin, nine year old diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma. Sam & Melanie Obermiller, friends of John & Debbie Hahn. Nic Presson, brother of Dona Lisk. Karen Russell, First Baptist Church Wee Care Teacher; breast cancer. David Sanges, brother of Nathan Sanges.

Garin Stepp, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Members of the Congregation:

Blue Honeycutt.

Myra Land.

Polly Moose.

Linda Richards.

Marlene Sanges.

Pete Smith.



MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS

On Mother's Day, the arrangements in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of mothers. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place in the offering plate your money with the form below **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY**, **MAY 6.** Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for *Mother's Day Arrangements*. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on **Mother's Day**, **May 13**. Any money collected over the cost of the arrangements will be donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of:	
Given by:	
In honor of:	
Given by:	



For this issue of the newsletter, our Mission Committee would like to provide an overview of many of the programs with which our church is involved. While this list is not exhaustive, it gives you an idea of how many ways we are engaged with our community and world. It also gives you plenty of ideas of how you may be able to re-engage with God's call to love our neighbor through the many opportunities at First Presbyterian Church.

ON MISSION WITH CENTRAL SCHOOL

Central Elementary School is located in the downtown area and near First Presbyterian. It is an inner-city school with many students with various needs. First Presbyterian has an ongoing relationship to provide support for both students and teachers.



Backpack Food Program for Students at Central School UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED:

Large Cans of Soup, Tuna Helper, Small Cans of Tuna A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation. Next Packing Dates/Times: Wednesday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m.



END OF THE YEAR BRUNCH FOR CENTRAL SCHOOL TEACHERS & STAFF

The Mission Committee will be sponsoring an end-of-the year brunch for the teachers and staff of Central School in June. Your help will be needed in providing food, set-up, and clean-up. A date will be announced soon! Submitted by: Ruth Cotton



CENTRAL SCHOOL SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

During the months of July and August, we will collect school supplies for Central School. Providing students and teachers with supplies for the school year is a great way to tangibly show the love of Christ. A school supply list will be listed in future bulletins.

Submitted by: Ruth Cotton

The Mission Committee assists Central School in recruiting proctors for the end of grade testing (usually held in May).

The Mission Committee assists Central School in recruiting volunteers for the Central School Book Fair. Students look forward to purchasing books and other items that enhance their learning.





BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR LUNCH FOR

CENTRAL SCHOOL TEACHERS & STAFF

The Mission Committee will be sponsoring a beginning of the year lunch for the teachers and staff of Central School in August. Your help will be needed in providing food, set-up, and clean-up. A date will be announced in July!

Submitted by: Ruth Cotton





ON MISSION WITH SCCM

STANLY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY CHALLENGE FOR APRIL Toiletries & Household Items: Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Laundry Detergent, Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene

CIRCLE THE SANCTUARY

Each year during the summer, our congregation spends several weeks collecting food for SCCM and placing it around the perimeter of our sanctuary. This is a visible reminder of the need in our community and the truth that part of our worship is our response to the need around use



Caring & Sharing for SCCM First Presbyterian Church participates in one of SCCM's largest fundraisers throughout the year. We use the recognizable yellow cups to collect change (and bills) to donate to SCCM. This money is used to support those in need in our community.

Community Table

On two Saturdays every year, we provide a meal for the Community Table. This is a meal open to anyone in the community. Approximately 100 people come to lunch. This is an important ministry which serves our community, as no one needs to qualify for this meal in any way. Please keep your eyes open for our next date and plan to help out.





Heating & Cooling Assistance for SCCM

The Mission Committee designates two of our Faith on the Fifth offerings every year to heating and cooling programs at SCCM. In the winter, the heating collection helps people pay their bills when the weather is bitter outside, and our cooling collection provides the opposite when the weather is stifling in the summer. This is an important resource for those who struggle to make ends meet, especially those who are vulnerable to extreme temperatures.



ON MISSION WITH STANLY COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On April 29, we will receive a *Faith on the Fifth* offering to support Habitat for Humanity. This collection will kick-off our fundraising efforts as we join with Presbyterian churches in Norwood and Locust to sponsor the construction of a home in Stanly County. Our three churches will join together to both fund the house and provide many labor hours for the construction process. We expect construction on this project to begin late summer or early fall. Please help support this important ministry in Stanly County.



ON MISSION WITH SERRV The SERRV sale at First Presbyterian is a unique mission, offering us opportunity to "do justice" by purchasing items from artisans and small scale farmers in cooperatives of developing countries as well as some in the US. It gives us a reliable source of good quality, fairly priced gifts in a range of prices through a catalog sale in October each year and a sale of food items from

SERRV. We have coffee and teas available at the sale and year-round from another fair trade organization--Equal Exchange. When you start thinking of Christmas shopping, remember the opportunities offered through fair trade and SERRV. Submitted by: Ann Duckwall



Alternative Gifts



Our church will be offering Alternative Gifts again this year. This is a wonderful way to honor those teachers, special friends, and loved ones by making a contribution to a worthy cause. It is a win-win situation. Keep checking the newsletters for the start date (which will be in late November). Submitted by: Sandy Saunders

Angel Tree



The Angel Tree project operates under the auspices of Helping Hands Stanly and the Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM). The goal is to help provide Christmas gifts for local children who would otherwise not receive them. Each year, First Presbyterian Church requests the names of approximately 50 children (students from Central Elementary School, along with their siblings). A profile is provided for each child (age, clothing size, and desired gifts). This data is used to create a paper angel ornament for each child to be placed on our tree in the Pit Stop. In late November, our angel tree is decorated with the ornaments and FPC members, church groups, and friends are invited to select one or more names. Should you have any questions or wish

to be contacted to help with this ministry, contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or email her at: maf447@windtsream.net. Submitted by: Peggy Finley



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

For nearly the last three decades, First Presbyterian Church has participated in the Community Christmas Dinner along with five of the other downtown churches. Each of the churches takes the leadership in hosting the event in (or near) their church facililty. Every year, our church provides the pre-determined amounts of sweet potato casseroles, dressing,turkey, ham, and pound cakes, along with *handmade Christmas Cards* (made by Youth Club to be used in the take out plates) and *people power* to make this a true community project. If you have never had an opportunity to take part in Community Christmas - don't blink as sign-up sheets will appear in the pit stop in only seven months! Submitted by: Martha Sue Hall

On Mission with Operation Christmas Child

Local churches in more than a hundred countries around the world experience the joy and vitality which comes to their congregations when shoeboxes are distributed. Along with a box, each child receives a colorful book in their own language telling them of *the greatest gift*. It has been estimated that 35 or more persons will read this book – family and friends of the child. It can be our great joy and blessing to share the gospel, to pray for the recipient of our box(es), and encourage the local



church in evangelism. Watch for the green and red OCC boxes in October, to be filled and returned to the church in time for the mid-November collection date.

Submitted by: Ann Duckwall



ON MISSION IN MWANDI

First Presbyterian has been in partnership with Mwandi Mission, Mwandi, Zambia since 2008 when we made our first trip to Mwandi. It is a mission of the United Church of Zambia and consists of a hospital, secondary school, preschool, homeless shelter, and an Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Center (OVC).

Montaña de Luz

Providing hope for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Hondura

Since the initial trip, there have been three additional group trips and several other trips to assist with projects. Funding and hands-on work have helped to build an outdoor kitchen for the church, a ventilated pit latrine for the school, painting for the manse and the hospital, roofs and doors for village churches, the construction of a new church, and a well for the village of Mabumba. The youth groups also raised funds to provide a freezer for the OVC.

There is an ongoing project by ladies of the church to crochet and sell ribbon necklaces to benefit Mwandi's Infant Formula Program. The program provides formula for babies of HIV infected mothers and helps to prevent the spread of HIV to these infants. The necklaces sell for \$5.00 each and they have generated over \$35,000 for this ministry.

Submitted by: Joyce Lambert

ON MISSION IN MONTANA DE LUZ – MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT

Montaña de Luz (MDL) is a mission in Honduras that cares for children, many without parents, who have HIV. A friend and former colleague of Elizabeth's and Skeet's served on the board of MDL, and he encouraged taking a group to Honduras for a unique and fulfilling mission trip. In the summer of 2005, Melissa Eudy led a group of high schoolers, college students, and adults on the initial First Presbyterian Church mission trip to MDL. Since that time, First Presbyterian has sponsored 11 more trips for members and community friends. Members of First Presbyterian have

been responsible for numerous supplies and the purchase of furniture, a washer and dryer, a lawn mower, generators, a water pump, screens for dorm windows, and various other needed items through the years. Skeet Ayscue has led the recent trips to MDL and has been a part of all 12 trips to Honduras. He is taking a break this year, but that does not mean there will not be a trip. Multiple groups making the trip this summer from all over the United States have space for others. The trips typically run from a Wednesday to a Wednesday. If you are interested in a trip this year, please let Skeet know as soon as possible and he can start working on the details with you. Submitted by: Skeet Ayscue

Community Inn Evening Meals

Every evening a church group, civic group, area company, family, or individual provides a meal at the community for those seeking shelter for the night. First Presbyterian Church has served meals multiple times since the Inn opened in 2009 and is currently serving the meal on the first Friday evening of every month. This typically consist of different volunteers supplying a main dish, a vegetable, a fruit, and a dessert that is served around 6:30 p.m. Volunteers usually arrived at 6:15 p.m. to set up the meal, and then clean up is often finished by 7:00 p.m. If you would like to be added to the rotation, please email Skeet Ayscue at

Submitted by: Skeet Ayscue

ON MISSION WITH HOMES OF HOPE

aayscue1@live.com. It's an easy to reach out to the homeless!

Homes of Hope is local non-profit that provides housing and services to Stanly County homeless, and it began right here at First Presbyterian Church. In 2004, a Sunday afternoon mission retreat resulted in a committee being formed to look into the need for housing for the homeless. This ultimately resulted in multiple churches, community helping organizations, and social service agencies getting together to form Homes of Hope in April of 2005. They started with one home in which to operate a Transitional Housing Program where a homeless family could live for six



months while working with staff on all the issues that led to the homeless situation. Within about seven months, the organization expanded to six houses. In 2009, Homes of Hope opened the Community Inn as emergency housing for those with homes. In a continued partnership with Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), SCCM offered the unused half of the Community Table for the new housing location and Homes of Hope had all the required modification done to open the facility. In 2015, SCCM and Homes of Hope expanded both sides of the building to more easily accommodate the ever-present demand. In 2011, Homes of Hope opened Ether House, Stanly County's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program. In 2013, Homes of Hope spun Esther House off into its own non-profit entity. Homes of Hope has housed and served more than 1100 homeless men, women, and children through these programs. There are many volunteer opportunities that exist to help with these mission outreach programs. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, call Skeet Ayscue (704-984-2883).





- 01- Leslie Kinley Kent Newport
- 04- Wes Eudy
- 05- Steve Blalock
- 07- Angie Earnhardt Russell Karr
- 08- Joyce Lambert
- 09- Ashley Maust
- 10- Murphy Hall Holden Taylor
- 11- Marlene Mittendorf
- 12- Laura Blalock Jake Davis Holly Norwood
- 14- Anissa Chapman
- 17- David Kilde
- 18- Elizabeth Wilson

- **19-** Cooper Atwater
- 20- Peggy Finley
- 22- Marshall Rogers
- 23- Emma Gibson
- Polly Moose 24- Liz Davis
 - Anita Gower Alexis Poolos Jacqueline Poolos
 - Nicole Poolos
- 25- Emma Grace Lemons Tommy Murrell
- 26- Ella Averette John Kilde
- 27- Ethan Richards
- 28- Aaron Whisnant
- 29- Harold Sharpe



02- Michael & Kristen Laton Lynn & Martha White
07- Thomas & Salem Taylor
13- Gus & Nancy Feather
16- Kyle & Laura Beth Marks

- 19- Robert & Myra Land
- 22- Jim & Lori Ivey
- 24- Robin & Melissa Lemons
- 25- Steve & Kate Melone
- 28- Kevin & Adrienne Averette
- 29- Steve & Elaine Coats



Here is our schedule of activities for the month of April. Please join us as we spend the rest of the year in prayer, fellowship, and Bible study.

- Sunday, April 1 Sunday, April 8 Sunday, April 15 Sunday, April 22 Sunday, April 29
- Easter 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- No Youth Group Youth Group Youth Group Youth Group SCCM Food Collection

Charlotte Knights Game Lock-In

On May 11, the youth will see the Charlotte Knights play a baseball game. Then the group will spend the night sleeping out on the field in the baseball stadium while watching a movie and playing games. The cost for this event is \$30. Please sign-up with Matt.





Montreat Youth Conference

Our high school youth, along with youth from First Presbyterian Norwood and Locust Presbyterian, will participate in the Montreat Youth Conference this summer from July 8-14. The theme will be *Lift Every Voice*. Youth from all over the region (and the country for that matter) will join us in singing, praying, worshipping, and expanding our faith experience in small groups. They will be accompanied by Matt Drumheller and Alexis Poolos. Please pray for our youth and leaders.

Massanetta Middle School Conference

Middle schoolers are invited to attend the middle school conference this summer at Massanetta Springs in Virginia. We plan to go June 26-29 to join in the conference titled, *Y'all are Mine*. This year, rising 6th graders are invited to join us on this trip. Please sign up as soon as possible with Matt.





APRIL

- 17- David Kilde
- 25- Emma Grace Lemons
- 27- Ethan Richards





From the Scholarship Committee...

Scholarship applications are available on the counter in the church office.

The deadline to return completed applications is Monday, April 9.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2018 are: Lee McLaurin, Chair; Al Andrew, Heather Deese and Taylor Johnston.



Come & Join Us for the Young Adult Lunch Thursday, April 5 at Coach's Neighborhood Grill (720 NC-24/27, Albemarle)

Each month, young adults from the church and the community are invited to gather for lunch on the 1st Thursday at a local restaurant. We rotate around to a number of different delicious options each month, so make plans to join us if you can!

Join Elizabeth for a 5 week study of *Making All Things New* by Henri Nouwen. In this

small book, Nouwen invites fellow Christians into the spiritual life (which includes both

solitude and community) as they let go of the worry and busyness that characterize the lives of many of us. Weekly conversation will provide encouragement for all of us who seek a relationship with God that is sufficient for every day, every circumstance. Meeting time will be determined by the needs of the participants. Please contact Elizabeth (eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722) or the church office by Monday, April 9 to

H E N R I N O U W E N

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW





express interest in this opportunity.

Book Conversation on Monday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor Book: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger Limited number of books available for \$10.00 in the church office.

This New York Times Bestseller finds its strength in the perspective of its narrator. In the summer of 1961, when 13 year old Frank Drum should be enjoying all the gifts of summer, he finds himself trying to make sense of his world which seems to be falling apart. The tiny town of New Bremen, MN experiences too many deaths and too much heartbreak. Loss and mercy are woen throughout the devastating events and complicated relationships.



Movie Night Friday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Gym

*Bring the entire family out to enjoy a movie with friends, popcorn, candy & drinks...

*Bring a chair or blanket and plan to relax and laugh out loud!!!









Movie Night Sunday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the church theatre *Our Souls at Night*

Come for a fun movie night for adults. We'll gather in our very own theatre to watch Our Souls at Night. The movie (which has received excellent reviews) is based on the book of the same title by Kent Haruf and stars Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. Heartbreak and hope are partners in this story which brings long-time neighbors, widow Addie Moore, and widower Louis Waters, together. Watchers of the movie say the movie has a more satisfying ending than the book does! Come and see for Childcare provided if needed. vourself. Contact the church office by April 25 to let us know.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION

Saturday, April 14, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stanly County Agri-Civic Center Rear Parking Lot





Youth Club 2018



Trusty Travelers (K-3rd grades)-Last month our Trusty Travelers were busy with not one, but two service projects! To raise money for the God's Gift Sponsorship program in Montana de Luz program that our Youth Club has supported for a number of years, they partnered up with our Youth Club parents to host one of our weekly Lenten dinners. The Youth Club parents provided delicious Ritz Chicken casseroles, veggies, and desserts, and the Youth Club

kids helped set up tables, chairs, and place settings, and also decorated the tables with centerpieces that they made in art. The donations from the dinner will be sent to Montana de Luz. Their other service project was for a little closer to home-in art, they used recycled soup cans to make paper tulip flower arrangements that they donated to Arbor Way to decorate the tables in the dining room and bring a little spring cheer to the residents there! We will have our annual end-of-year party on April 25th at the YMCA Park where the kids will enjoy games, hamburger sliders, and ice cream!

Faith Explorers (4th and 5th grades)-Our Faith Explorers are now spirituality-center professionals! For several months now they have been using various spirituality centers while following the curriculum <u>The Way</u> <u>of the Child</u>, a program that provides space to practice different spiritual disciplines in order to help kids develop a personal and deep relationship with God. They had a blast last month at the Lazy 5 Ranch in Mooresville, and were very impressed by the length of the animals' tongues and their enthusiasm at getting fed! This month on April 15th, they will travel to the Greensboro Science Museum.

There will be no Youth Club on April 4th.

The Youth Club ORFF ensemble will play in worship on April 15.

The Trusty Travelers (K-3rd grades) <u>and</u> the Faith Explorers (4th and 5th grades) will sing in worship on April 22.

The Youth Club Handbell ensemble will play in worship on April 29.

Youth Cubs...Cubs will continue to enjoy Bible stories, play, music, and art through a variety of hands-on activities. The Cubs have experienced a wonderful year together. I, along with Jillian Scardina, Teresa Taylor, and Martha White, value the importance of guiding each child in their journey to understand their work as a child of God. It is our hope that the Bible stories, songs, and activities will remain in their hearts forever. Submitted by: Lynn Poplin, Youth Cubs Coordinator



Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!! For 2nd & 3rd Graders Sunday, April 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Room

The past couple of months, we have had a great turnout for our Breakfast Bunch program! If you are in the 2nd or 3rd grade, don't

miss out on participating in this awesome group. We will meet in the Media Room on April 15th at 9:00 a.m. for muffins, fruit, yogurt, and more while we enjoy fellowship with our peers and strengthen our friendships while we pray for members of our congregation and community. Please contact Jill Niebler with any questions (jlniebler@gmail.com).



faith Explorers' Adventure to the

Green/boro Science Center

On Sunday, April 22 Noon-5:00 p.m.

Following worship on April 22, the Faith Explorers (4th and 5th graders) will gather for lunch and then travel to the Greensboro Science Center. We will gather at noon in the Pit Stop and pick-up is at 5:00 p.m. (also in the Pit Stop). Contact Jane Snyder if you can go (jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-438-3358).

MAY 2018

- May 6 Recognition of Teachers & Leaders in Christian Education
- May 13 Mother's Day
- May 20 Pentecost

Recognition of Scholarship Recipients





MUSIC & ARTS CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED JUNE 10-14, 2018

This year's Music and Arts Camp is taking place June 10th-14th. We need TONS of adult and youth volunteers to help run this program. There are a wide variety of areas we need volunteers for, and we will place you somewhere you feel comfortable. We need help with music, set design, shepherding the campers from activity to activity, recreation, art, sign-in and check-out, Bible study, and lunch-time. Please let us know as soon as possible what you can help with! Contact Leah Beamon (Lbeamon@fpcalbemarle.org) Thanks!



WOMEN'S RETREAT SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2018 WILLIAM BLACK LODGE MONTREAT, NC

Cost: \$183.00 Double Occupancy \$240.00 Single Occupancy A \$75.00 deposit will reserve your spot.

As this year of Youth Club draws to a close, we would like to extend our gratitude to all of our faithful volunteers. It is humbling to work alongside those who give their time, energy, talents, and love to teach and guide our children in the name of Christ. Youth Club offers our kids many different kinds of learning opportunities and fun-from exercising their bodies and learning sportsmanship in recreation, to quiet (ok, maybe semi-quiet) reflection during Bible Study. So, it takes volunteers with different hearts and talents to make our program run. Our volunteers have taught new games, held ice packs on hurt knees, read stories, peeled oranges, filled water cups, refilled water cups, wiped tables, taught joyful music to share during worship, found new



and exciting ways to share stories from the Bible, and patiently loved, cared, and spent time with children of our congregation and community. They have come when called and shown up week to week. Janice Abernathy, Linda Anderson, Duncan Bryson, Daniel Dickens, Ann Duckwall, Matt Drumheller, Cathy King, Lindy, Liam, and GHA staff, Dona Lisk, Sarah Michael, Penny Morton, Meredith Moses, Jacob Palmer, Yogi Patel, Frank and Beth Poolos, Lynn Poplin, Kim Robertson, Rose Saltzman, Carol Sasser, Jillian Scardina, Ann Snuggs, Natalie Taylor, Teresa Taylor, Terri West, Martha White, Martha Wolf -whether you have helped out once or been there every week, we thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts.



Sunday, April 1

Easter/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal		
No Youth Gr	oup	
	Sunrise Service at Morrow Mountain State Park	
9:45 am	*Sunday School	
11:00 am	*Worship	
Monday, Ap	ril 2	
Easter Monday/Church Office Closed		
7:00 pm	Circle #5 at the home of Gloria Bryson	
	(811 Smith Street, Albemarle)	
Wednesday	, April 4	
No Pray & Pl	lay/No Youth Club/No Choir Rehearsal	
6:30 am	Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast	
12:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)	
Thursday, A	pril 5	
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	
12:00 pm	Young Adult Lunch at Coach's Neighborhood Grill	
	(720 NC 24-27, Albemarle)	
Sunday, Apr	il 8	
8:45 am	*Diaconate	
9:45 am	*Sunday School	
11:00 am	*Worship	
	Mission Committee Mini-Retreat (Pit Stop/Kitchen)	
5:00 pm-7	:30 pm Youth Group	
Monday, Ap	ril 9	
Deadline for	Scholarship Applications	
	High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's	
8:00 pm-9	:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square	
Wednesday	, April 11	
6:30 am	Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast	
9:15 am-1	1:00 am *Pray & Play	
3:15 pm-5	:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club	
5:15 pm-5	:45 pm Youth Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2)	
5:15 pm-5	:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5)	
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, A	pril 12	
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	
Friday, April	13	
6:30 pm	Movie Night in the Gym – COCO	
Catural and A		

Saturday, April 14

9:00 am-1:00 pm Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Collection at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center (Rear Parking Lot)

*childcare provided

Sunday, April 15

Youth Sunday/Youth Club Orff Ensemble Plays 8:00 am Session Breakfast Bunch (Media Room) 9:00 am 9:45 am *Sunday School 11:00 am *Worship 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group Monday, April 16 6:30 am-7:15 am Youth Breakfast 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square Tuesday, April 17 Tax Day 6:30 am-7:15 am Youth Breakfast 12:00 pm May Newsletter Deadline Wednesday, April 18 6:30 am-7:15 am Youth Breakfast 9:15 am-11:00 am *Pray & Play 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2) 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5) 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Thursday, April 19 6:30 am-7:15 am Youth Breakfast 10:00 am Staff Meeting Friday, April 20 6:30 am-7:15 am Youth Breakfast *childcare provided





Sunday, April 22

Earth Day/Trusty Travelers & Faith Explorers Sing in Worship *Sunday School 9:45 am 11:00 am *Worship 12:00 pm-5:00 pm Faith Explorers to the Greensboro **Science Center** 3:00 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group Monday, April 23 7:00 pm Book Conversation (Parlor) 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's Wednesday, April 25 Administrative Professionals Day 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:15 am-11:00 am *Pray & Play 10:30 am Backpack Food Program 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club/Youth Cub End-of-the-Year Cookout at the YMCA Park 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Thursday, April 26 10:00 am Staff Meeting Saturday, April 27 Arbor Day

*childcare provided



Sunday, April 29

Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale Youth Club Handbell Ensemble Rings Faith on the Fifth Offering for Habitat for Humanity Faith Build 9:00 am-11:00 am Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale in the Pit Stop 9:45 am *Sunday School 11:00 am *Worship 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale in the Pit Stop 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group SCCM Food Collection 7:00 pm Movie Night in the church theatre – Our Souls at Night 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

*childcare provided



and know

that J am





Psalm 46:10

THOSE WHO SERVE IN APRIL

Ushers: Jim Marshall, captain; Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Lachlann Currie, Kyle Marks, Laura Beth Marks, Mark Mabry, Mike McLeod, and Chris Whitley

Elder Greeters for April: Jim Marshall; Sarah Michael

Nursery Room:

April 1: Cortney Brown April 8: Kaitlyn Massey April 15: Sara Kate Thomas April 22: Kaitlyn Massey April 29: Sara Kate Thomas

Nana & Papa Team:

April 1: Debby Johnston; Carol Sasser April 8: Mary & Frank Green April 15: Chris Mabry April 22: Gayle & Ned Russell April 29: Bede & Russell Karr

Acolytes:

April 1: Ethan Richards April 8: Grant Lisk April 15: Andy McLeod **April 22:** Katherine Jolly April 29: Graham Chapman

Preschool Partners:

April 1: Kristie & Keith Bryson April 8: Leah Beamon; Heather Deese April 15: Dona & Greg Lisk April 22: Angie Earnhardt; Kelly Lentz April 29: Laura & Mike McLeod

Children's Church for April:

April 1: No Children's Church **April 8:** Michelle Cumming April 15: No Children's Church **April 22:** Michelle Cumming **April 29:** Michelle Cumming

Diaconate Meeting on April 8 Kaitlyn Massey

Pray & Play Wednesdays, April 11, 18, 25

Heather Raborn

Movie Night Sunday, April 29 Sara Kate Thomas

April 1: Kyle Marks; Mark Mabry April 8: Brad Boone; John Earnhardt April 15: Wes Eudy; Tom Norwood April 22: Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley April 29: Jack Morton; Mark Andrew

Church Website Address & Email Addresses

Church Website Address: www.fpcalbemarle.org Church Email Address: Elizabeth Ayscue: Leah Beamon: Matt Drumheller:

klambert@fpcalbemarle.org eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org lbeamon@fpcalbemarle.org mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org

Stan Scheer: Jane Snyder:

Pam Knighten: pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org Kyle Lambert: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org sscheer@fpcalbemarle.org jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COOKING CAMP FOR KIDS (COMPLETED 4th - 6th Grades) June 18-21 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Cost: \$40.00 per child

Camp Limit of 12 children (ONLY ONE SPOT LEFT)

Do your children have a passion for cooking or love to help you prepare meals in the kitchen? Then perhaps a cooking camp is the perfect summer camp for them. This camp is offered to rising 4th-6th graders on Monday, June 18 - Thursday, June 21 from 9:00 a.m.-**1:00 p.m.** Young chefs expand their palates, kitchen hygiene and healthy eating habits, utensil skills, proper etiquette, cooking and baking and will experiment with flavors and ingredients. This camp will be packed with culinary excitement and tasty adventures! We will also be incorporating a field trip into the mix!

The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society will be in the beautiful city of Wilmington for its spring tour on Friday and Saturday, April 6-7. Tour will include historic churches and sites such as the magnificient Bellamy House Museum. Registration begins Friday at noon at Thalian Hall; the cost is \$20. The schedule, registration form, and motel information is on the website at www.ncphsociety.org or contact program chair, Steve McRae at smcrae@stevemcraelaw.com or 336-693-1929. Transportation will be provided by van from Raleigh for \$15; if you would like a seat, please contact Barbara Cain, btcain@nc.rr.com or 919-782-0944.

Outside Ushers: