



The First Presbyterian Church

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MARCH 2015

NEWSLETTER

Whenever I hear the word change, I think of that old joke someone told me years ago. There are three Presbyterians sitting around looking at a light bulb that needs to be replaced. One says, "We need to change that light bulb." The other shouts "**CHANGE??**"

Isn't that the way we sometime view change? It's interesting that we view change in this manner because our life is nothing but change. Our life begins as an infant, moves into childhood, then adolescence, and finally adulthood. We seem to deal with these changes okay, so why does change in our adult life create so much anxiety?



We cannot begin to understand why we resist change, but we can be reminded of a few reasons. Do we struggle with change because we have less control, or because it threatens our self-confidence, or because it will have a direct effect on our ego and power? It can be all of these and much more. But change is also a good thing. Change demonstrates our flexibility, and removes our stubborn nature. Change offers us the opportunity to increase our knowledge. If we never change, we will never grow.

There are hundreds of references in the Bible to change: Abraham going to a land about which he knows nothing... Jesus calling the disciples and them dropping whatever they were doing and following ... Paul, changing from a man whose mission it was to kill followers of Christ into one who preached the gospel throughout the Mediterranean Region. In Revelations we are told there will be a new heaven and earth, because the old one will pass away. **Change!**

We are entering a time of year where our climate will soon change. As we get closer to spring, the days get longer and hopefully the evening will not be as cold. It is also a time of change for us when we practice our spiritual disciplines. Whether we give up something for Lent or not, we are called to prepare ourselves for Easter Day, when God will reveal the new life in store for us.

First Presbyterian Church Mount Holly has experienced change in its short history, and it has survived. The church, like the human race, must evolve in order to have a viable place in our culture. The church must have an active presence in the community when spiritually related questions and issues need to be discussed and answered. The most important element of any change in the church is that we do not forget that we are a place of worship, where all people can enter and experience the grace of God, in a nonjudgmental congregation, with unconditional love for all.

Reinhold Niebuhr said this about change, "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Blessings of Peace and Joy – Bryan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, March 1 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service
12:15 PM Worship Committee Meeting
4:00 PM Session Meeting
6:00 PM Lenten Supper/Bible Study (Circle 5 serving Pizza)
- Monday, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 -- 10:30 AM Ministry of Prayer Group
- Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25 -- 5:00-6:00 PM Confirmation Classes
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, March 8 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/CRO Offering
6:00 PM Lenten Supper/Bible Study (Men serving breakfast)
- Sunday, March 15 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service
6:00 PM Lenten Supper/Bible Study (Circle 4 & 6 serving Hotdogs)
- Sunday, March 22 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service
6:00 PM Lenten Supper/Bible Study (PW Coordinating Team serving BBQ)
- Tuesday, March 24 -- 7:30 PM Group 10 meeting at Bob Miller's house
- Sunday, March 29 -- 11:00 AM Worship Service/Palm Sunday/Communion/5 Cents A Meal Offering
4:00 PM- 6:00 PM Community Easter Egg Hunt/Hot Dog Supper
6:00 PM Lenten Supper/Bible Study

USHER FOR MARCH

Chairperson: Harman Poplin

NURSERY FOR MARCH

(During the Morning Worship Service)

March 1
March 8 Jeff & Nan Kaylor
March 15 Tim & Amanda Matz
March 22 Jim & Donna Love
March 29 Harman & Nancy Poplin

PRAYER CHURCHES

March 1 -- Walnut Grove (Newland)
March 8 -- Warren Wilson (Asheville)
March 15 -- Waynesville First
March 22 -- Wee Kirk (Linville)
March 29 -- West Asheville (Asheville)

And don't forget to pray for our
Partner Church in Palin, Guatemala.

BUDGET

2015 Current Expenses & Benevolence Budget

	\$194,438.48
Receipts: January	13,919.00
February	<u>12,336.00</u>
	\$26,255.00

(Amount Needed to Meet Budget: \$168,183.48)

CRO Offering – YTD- \$
5 Cents A Meal - YTD- \$



Joe Spears, Paul Bumgarner,
Libby Allen, our shut-ins.

CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

11:00 AM Monday, March 2, Circle 3
7:30 PM Tuesday, March 3, Circle 5
10:00 AM Wednesday, March 4, Circle 6
Contact Phyllis Piper for Circle 4 meetings

If you are not currently in a ladies circle,
please feel free to visit with any of the
above circles. All visitors are WELCOME!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

During their February meeting the Session:

- Approved the use of church facilities for the wedding of Kathryn Smith on October 3, 2015. Kathryn is the daughter of “Happy” Smith and granddaughter of Nancy Smith.
- Received a presentation and information for an upgrade of the church audio/visual system. The upgrade was approved.
- Approved dates for “Traveling Communion” and “Special Offerings” during 2015.
- Approved the Church Survey that will be distributed to the Congregation to assist the Pastor Nominating Committee in their work.
- Received a report on the Presbytery meeting held at Gaston Day on January 31st.

--Bob Jessen, Clerk of Session

Be sure and mark your calendars.
*Daylight Saving Time Begins on
Sunday, March 8.*
*Remember to set your clocks
an hour ahead!!*

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT



Our church is holding an Easter Egg hunt for the Mount Holly community on Sunday, March 29 from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. We'll have crafts for the kids and the egg hunt, of course. We're also providing a Hot Dog Supper for children and adults.

Our congregation is invited to stop by for a hot dog and greet the families.

If you would like to help with the event in any way, please call the church office (704 827 0521) or Bob Miller (704 820 0795.)

--Mission/Outreach Committee



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Please join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 10:00 - 10:45. Prior to Sunday School, from 9:30 -9:45, you are welcome to join us for delicious, light snacks, coffee and fellowship in the Choir Room.

Sunday School opportunities available to you are as follows:

*******NEW CLASS*******

Pre-school through First Grade Sunday School Class:

Beginning Sunday, March 1, 2015, we will begin a new Sunday School class for pre-school - first grade children. This class will be taught by Michelle Sudderth and will meet in the pre-school classroom.

*******ADULTS*******

Friendship Class:

Our Friendship class is a mixed class which uses a more traditional approach to study God's Word. This class uses a quarterly and interactive discussion to study and apply scripture to everyday life situations.

Covenant Class:

The Covenant class is a mixed class that uses a more contemporary approach in an informal and casual setting. This class uses a variety of materials to share and apply God's Word.

Ladies Bible Class:

Our Ladies Bible class is a small ladies class that uses a traditional quarterly approach to study God's Word.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

- 11AM Sunday Worship, March 29- Palm Sunday and Communion
- 4PM Community Egg Hunt/Hot Dogs on March 29
- 7PM Thursday, April 2- Maundy Thursday
- 7AM Easter Sunrise- April 5
- 11AM Easter Sunday Service- April 5

ENDOWMENT GRANTS

All applications to be considered for Endowment Grants and Scholarships should be turned into the Church Office by April 1st. The Endowment Committee will meet and further make their recommendations to the Session by May 1st. The Session will report their financial decisions to the congregation by June 30th. These forms will be on the table outside the choir room and the office.

Our Lenten Supper continues on the Sunday nights listed below beginning at 6:00 PM with the Bible Study given by Bryan Hovey following the meal. Below is the menu for those nights:

- March 1 - Circle 5 (pizza)
- March 8 - Men (breakfast)
- March 15 - Circle 4 & 6 (hot dogs)
- March 22 - PW Coordinating Team (BBQ)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The Presbyterian *Book of Order* tells us, "In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the church, the body of Christ" (G-1.0301).

We are happy to have four participants (*Alex Faith, Bailey Kaylor, Joey Matz and Shayne Zonin*) in this year's confirmation classes. Classes begin on Wednesday, February 25 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We will complete our instruction on April 22 and the class will join the church on Mother's Day, May 10. Please keep these students in your prayers. --Bryan



Today is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever. In its place is something you have left behind. Let it be something good.





BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

March 1 – Judges 17-21 (History)
 March 2 – Psalms 24-26 (Psalms)
 March 3 – Job 17-18 (Wisdom)
 March 4 – Isaiah 45-50 (Prophecy)
 March 5 – Matthew 23-25 (Gospels)
 March 6 – I Corinthians 3-4 (Epistles)
 March 7 – Genesis 36-39 (The Law)
 March 8 – Ruth (History)
 March 9 – Psalms 27-29 (Psalms)
 March 10 – Job 19-20 (Wisdom)
 March 11 – Isaiah 51-55 (Prophecy)
 March 12 – Matthew 26-28 (Gospels)
 March 13 – I Corinthians 5-6 (Epistles)
 March 14 – Genesis 40-43 (The Law)
 March 15 – I Samuel 1-5 (History)
 March 16 – Psalms 30-32 (Psalms)
 March 17 – Job 01-22 (Wisdom)
 March 18 – Isaiah 56-61 (Prophecy)
 March 19 – Mark 1-2 (Gospels)
 March 20 – I Corinthians 7-8 (Epistles)
 March 21 – Genesis 44-47 (The Law)
 March 22 – I Samuel 6-10 (History)
 March 23 – Psalms 33-35 (Psalms)
 March 24 – Job 23-24 (Wisdom)
 March 25 – Isaiah 62-66 (Prophecy)
 March 26 – Mark 3-4 (Gospels)
 March 27 – I Corinthians 9-10 (Epistles)
 March 28 – Genesis 48-50 (The Law)
 March 29 – I Samuel 11-15 (History)
 March 30 – Psalms 36-38 (Psalms)
 March 31 – Job 25-26 (Wisdom)



BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH

Yvonne Webb	1
Bailey Kaylor	1
Kate Fesperman	2
Brenda McKinney	6
Diana Faust	15
John Reynolds	16
Harrison Faith	18
Jon Roberto	18
Sylvia Groner	19
Trevor Hall	19
Hunter Roberto	23
Shannon Lineberger	29
Dianne Bumgarner	30
Nicole Zonin	31

APRIL

Alex Faith	1
Amanda Matz	2
Yates Springs	5
April Jessen	6
Becky Lineberger	7
Warren Rhinehart	7

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