



The First Presbyterian Church

133 South Main Street
Post Office Box 687
Mount Holly, North Carolina 28120
704 827-0521 704 827-2351 (Fax)
E-mail: fpcmth@aol.com

JUNE 2015

NEWSLETTER

Last month was a very productive month conducting the business of the church. The session completed their work on the Mission Study, a document required by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina before the Pastor Nominating Committee can be called. The study addressed seven different areas, compiled to help the congregation better understand the community it serves today, the values held by the church, and characteristics needed in the next installed pastor. The information gathered came from the church survey, the Gaston County Needs Assessment, conversations I've had with members on campus and in their homes, and phone calls to different agencies. This document is 16 pages long and will be posted on the bulletin board in the Education Building. Please feel free to discuss any parts of this document with any session members or with me. Special thanks to Bob Jessen for his help in compiling the data.

I want to thank all those who participated in the church survey. The majority of the surveys returned were from those who worship weekly and prefer a traditional worship service. However, almost half indicated they would like a blended service. Regarding pastor visitation, it was deemed more important for the pastor to establish office hours than to visit with parishioners. Communication is always important and the most preferred method was the church newsletter, followed by email and the church website. Issues of concern included not inviting a guest to church within the last year, and church giving. The three questions regarding what the church does well, what it does poorly, and how to improve participation were summarized in the Mission Study.

We are doing several things well as we prepare to form the PNC. We have eliminated the old website and outdated material that dated back to 2009. We are slowly building our new website with new photos and church information. Please take a few minutes to review the site at www.fpcmountholly.org. We will be using the website more as we seek to better communicate with the congregation. The new sound and video upgrade is underway. The sound system will enhance the sound quality, and the choir will be heard more clearly. The video system will offer a higher quality recording of the service, which can be distributed to our shut-ins. The sermon will be posted on the website for members as well as those considering a church home. There will be two retractable screens that will include prayers, music, and scripture readings during worship services.

I'm excited about the future of First Presbyterian Church Mount Holly. Your session members are involved in the life of the church and every decision brought before them. The Time of Prayer and Reflection will begin on June 3. The mission committee is working on a few projects for the community. We still have much to do. With the congregation supporting its leadership, it will get done.

Blessings of Peace and Joy, Bryan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 -- 10:30 AM Ministry of Prayer Group

Sunday, June 7 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service
3:30 PM Session Meeting
6:00 PM End of School Cookout

Sunday, June 14 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/Communion/Lemonade on the Lawn/CRO

Tuesday, June 16 -- 7:30 PM Group 10 Meeting at Bob Miller's House

Sunday, June 21 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/Happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 28 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/5 Cents A Meal Collection

USHER FOR JUNE

Chairperson: John Reynolds

NURSERY FOR JUNE

(During the Morning Worship Service)

June 7 Rick/Keitha Zittle
June 14 Kathryn Williamson/Phyllis Piper
June 21 Tack Springs/Karen Jones
June 28 David/Becky Lineberger

PRAYER CHURCHES

June 7 -- Bridgewater (Morganton)
June 14 -- Brittain (Rutherfordton)
June 21 -- Brittain's Cove (Weaverville)
June 28 -- Bryson City

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

BUDGET

2015 Current Expenses & Benevolence Budget
\$194,438.48
Receipts: January-April 54,768.93
May 12,616.43
\$67,385.36
(Amount Needed to Meet Budget: \$127,053.12)

CRO Offering – YTD- \$1,425.36
5 Cents A Meal - YTD- \$391.76



David Lineberger, Michelle Sudderth, Marie Spears, Anita Jones, Hoyt Green, Frances Rhoton, Gene Stewart & our shut-ins

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to *Bob and Joan Miller* upon the birth of their grandson, Reid Thomas Miller, born May 14, 2015.

Our congratulations to *Chad Archer* upon graduating from Elon University School of Law on May 23, 2015.

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN Is Back

on Sunday, June 14 out on the front lawn of the Church after Worship Service.

The Fellowship Committee needs someone to volunteer to host on August 16. If you would be interested, please contact Paul Bumgarner.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

During their May meeting the Session:

- Approved the use of the sanctuary by the Mt. Holly Historical Society. Their request is for the same purpose as granted last year...to celebrate veterans. More detail will follow as they are learned.
- Announced the church website is up and running. It is in the early stages, but will be added to and improved upon as we go forward.
- Received a woven banner as a gift from our sister church in Guatemala. It is on display in the Fellowship Hall.
- Approved grants submitted by the Endowment Committee as follows:
 1. \$250 – Lance Kirkland family
 2. \$52,000 – Installation of the Audio/Video system upgrade.
 3. \$15,000 – For repair and preservation of all windows in the Sanctuary building.
 4. \$500 – Dixie Youth Baseball
 5. \$100 – Mt. Holly Farmers Market
 6. \$2500 – For scholarships in Guatemala
- Approved a joint Vacation Bible School program with the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Holly July 26th -29th. More information will be announced as the time gets closer. VBS will be at the FUMC but there will great need from both churches for volunteers. Contact Nan Kaylor if are interested in helping.

--Bob Jessen, Clerk of Session

OUR THANKS

To all our Church family,
Our sincere thanks for your many acts of kindness—the prayers, visits, cards, food--all have brought us strength to build back, even though my age has proved that "old age ain't NO fun." Our appreciation to all of you for our many years shared as a church family. Special thanks for Bryan's visits, prayers, and ongoing work to strengthen our church and members for the future. It was so good to be back in worship again.

God bless you all,
Anita & Karen Jones

Many thanks to all of you who have been taking part in the reading of scripture on Sunday mornings for our Worship Service.



CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Nan Kaylor and Michelle Sudderth met with the Christian Education committee in April to share what they have been doing with the children and youth.

Michelle has 4 children most Sundays in Sunday School. They always have a Bible story, music with Nelson, pictures to color and crafts to make. For the past few Sundays, they have been studying Daniel in the lion's den. Last Sunday they made a lion's head out of a ritz cracker with peanut butter spread on it with raisins for the eyes and a cheerio for the mouth!

Nan is working with the older youth with Jeff Kaylor and Aaron Lockridge. They have been meeting every other Sunday. They try to incorporate Bible study, service community projects, and fellowship. They will pick up trash on May 3 after the meal at the church. On May 17 they will serve lemonade on the lawn. There will be no meeting on May 31. There have been between four and six at each meeting.



We will join the First United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School this year on July 26 – 29. It is for ages Kindergarten through fifth grade.

Our fellowship committee has volunteered to serve the meal on the opening night, which begins at 5:15. The times are 6 to 8 the rest of the week. We will have 6 stations: Game, Snacks, Kid Vid, Bible expedition, Sing and Play, Art. There is also a preK program. The closing program is on Wednesday night.

Seven students and four adults (and Allison and Aaron's daughter) are going to Montreat this year from July 12 – 18.

Nancy Poplin has volunteered to work with the young children to prepare them to light the Christ candle on Sunday morning.

Please help us out if you are called to fill some blank spots in the nursery list!

--Becky Lineberger

PW SPRING MEETING

Marguerite Randall, Phyllis Piper, and Becky Lineberger attended the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 25 at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

When we got there, we saw exhibits set up by Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, & Families, and Children's Hope Alliance, which is the merging of Barium Springs and Grandfather Home.

There was information set up about our Guatemalan Microloan program. This is to help our Guatemalan sisters improve their lives. With the support of ADEHGUA, a non-profit in Guatemala, a group of 36 women received training and were given \$125 loans to embark on

or expand business ventures. After loans are repaid in six months, a second cycle will begin. There are people who are on this committee who would be glad to come and speak to our women or the entire church about this. The Presbyterian Women have donated a total of \$7,085.12 so far for this project. They also had names of Guatemalan women that we could pick up to be our prayer partner. I picked up a prayer partner, and I invite you to remember her in your prayers as well. Her name is Trancito Amalia de la Cruz Martinez.

Rev. Mary Katherine Robinson gave the invocation. She is the new minister for Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, and was going to preach her first sermon the next day!

We were fortunate to have Dr. Heath Rada, Moderator of General Assembly, speak to us for a few minutes. He is an old friend of our moderator, Barbara McLean, going back to her college days.

We gave the Faith Fund award to Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing – The Pfaff House. They assist women who are without a home plan once they are released from Prison. They give women a safe, secure and encouraging environment to help them get the physical, mental, and emotional support and treatment that they may need. The Faith Fund is given annually to a church or community project within the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. The PW of a congregation submits the application. The amount received was \$700.

Our offering went to 'On Eagles Wings' ministries. This was founded by Emily Fitchpatrick, who was with us and spoke about it. Emily followed a call to rescue girls from sex trafficking and help them to live a better and safer life. The organization is headquartered in Charlotte. The offering total was \$1,748.

Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer were at our gathering. They are our mission co-workers in Guatemala who specifically work with our PW sisters.

The theme of the gathering was 'Come to the Waters', which is the title of our Bible studies this coming year. Rev. Kristy Farber, associate pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville, was the speaker. She gave an overview of the Bible study, discussing all aspects of water, along with pictures. She asked us to think and share about a good memory with water, and a bad one. Several ladies spoke about their memories. She asked us what we remembered about our baptism.

We said the verse and prayer, and sang the song at the gathering that our Guatemalan sisters do when they gather.

Officers for the coming year were installed and there was a remembrance service for those PW who died this past year. We ended with lunch at 12:30.

Fall Gathering will be September 26 at First Presbyterian Church in Belmont. Hope you can attend!

--Becky Lineberger



**BIBLE READINGS
FOR JUNE**

June 1 – Psalms 63-65 (Psalms)
 June 2 – Proverbs 1 (Wisdom)
 June 3 – Jeremiah 47-52 (Prophecy)
 June 4 – Luke 7-8 (Gospels)
 June 5 – Galatians 4-6 (Epistles)
 June 6 – Exodus 37-40 (The Law)
 June 7 – I Kings 5-9 (History)
 June 8 – Psalms 66-68 (Psalms)
 June 9 – Proverbs 2-3 (Wisdom)
 June 10 – Lamentations (Wisdom)
 June 11 – Luke 9-10 (Gospels)
 June 12 – Ephesians 1-3 (Epistles)
 June 13 – Leviticus 1-3 (The Law)
 June 14 – I Kings 10-13 (History)
 June 15 – Psalms 69-71 (Psalms)
 June 16 – Proverbs 4 (Wisdom)
 June 17 – Ezekiel 1-6 (Prophecy)
 June 18 – Luke 11-12 (Gospels)
 June 19 – Ephesians 4-6 (Epistles)
 June 20 – Leviticus 4-6 (The Law)
 June 21 – I Kings 14-18 (History)
 June 22 – Psalms 72-74 (Psalms)
 June 23 – Proverbs 5-6 (Wisdom)
 June 24 – Ezekiel 7-12 (Prophecy)
 June 25 – Luke 13-14 (Gospels)
 June 26 – Philippians 1-2 (Epistles)
 June 27 – Leviticus 7-9 (The Law)
 June 28 – I Kings 19-22 (History)
 June 29 – Psalms 75-77 (Psalms)
 June 30 – Proverbs 7 (Wisdom)
 June 31 – Ezekiel 13-18 (Prophecy)



**BIRTHDAYS
FOR JUNE**

Freda Good	3
C. R. Farris	4
Rebecca Nance	4
Tyler Zonin	4
Elizabeth Curtis	7
Lily Boswell	11
Jim Love	12
Sophie Matz	12
Paul Solomon	13
Becky Farrar	13
Marguerite Randall	15
Tom Springs	15
Katie Boswell	18
Anita Jones	22
Frances Richardson	25
Robbie Jessen	26

JULY

Joan Miller	1
Ann Albert	2
Elizabeth Allen	3
Gene Stewart	4
Anita Self	5

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