



# The First Presbyterian Church

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## JULY 2015

### NEWSLETTER

In previous newsletters, I have tried to keep the congregation informed about some changes in the church. I understand that change is hard. Change was fine as long as we were children being led around by parents, but when we become adults, change is more difficult. A few weeks ago I had mentioned a friend's tee shirt during my message. On the front was written "Change is Good," and on the back, "You First!" That's how we feel.

This month, July, will be the last month the church newsletter will be mailed out to all members. When the congregation had over 200 members mailing a newsletter was the best way to keep the church informed. Since our membership has dropped below 200, the session decided this is a good time to distribute the newsletter another way. We will have copies available every month in the vestibule, in the education building, and on the desk outside the choir room. We will be posting the newsletter on our new website [www.fpcmountholly.org](http://www.fpcmountholly.org) so please check it out there. The shut in members of the church will continue to receive the newsletter by mail.

Soon you will notice the Little Free Library in the garden facing Main Street. This is another project by our Mission and Outreach Committee. The thought behind this project is to provide books for those in the community who want to read, but are unable to purchase books or get to the public library. There is no cost to this service for the public. If you have books you would like to donate to this project, please see Bob Miller. I believe he'll be happy to collect them.

The upgrades to the new sound and video equipment will be completed this month. Then several members of the church will continue exploring the many opportunities this equipment will provide for worship and other special occasions.

Friends, there are many publications, newspaper articles, studies and surveys conducted, all searching for how to build a strong congregation. I read the following last week in a publication titled *The Parish Paper*, dealing with myths. If we let them, myths will allow us to believe that what we have been doing is correct, thus avoiding changing. "If we use the same old methods, we get the same old results." We as a congregation of the church of Jesus Christ must exhibit imagination, courage and the enthusiasm as we continue seeking ways to reach God's people. So ask yourself the following questions, "What gives us joy? What are we really about? What are we going to courageously seek?"

My hope is that you answered each of these questions by stating first, "With the help of Jesus Christ....." Blessings of Peace and Joy, Bryan

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, July 1 -- 6:30-9:00 City of Mount Holly Fireworks show
- Saturday, July 4 -- Happy Fourth of July
- Sunday, July 5 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service  
No Session Meeting this afternoon
- Monday, July 6 -- The Church Office will be Closed.  
No Ministry of Prayer Group Meeting
- Sunday, July 12 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/CRO Collection
- Sunday, July 12 – Saturday, July 18 -- Montreat Youth Conference
- Monday, July 13, 20, 27 -- 10:30 AM Ministry of Prayer Group Meeting
- Sunday, July 19 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/Lemonade on the Lawn
- Monday, July 20 -- Articles for the Newsletter are due in the office
- Tuesday, July 21 -- 7:30 PM Group 10 meeting at Bob Miller's House
- Sunday, July 26 -- 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service/5 Cents A Meal Collection  
6:00-8:30 PM VBS at First United Methodist Church
- Monday, July 27-Wednesday, July 29 -- 6:00-8:00 PM VBS at First United Methodist
- Tuesday, July 28 -- Presbytery Meeting at Trinity Presbyterian (Hendersonville)

## USHER FOR JULY

Chairperson: Henry Massey

## NURSERY FOR JULY

(During the Morning Worship Service)

July 5 David/Becky Lineberger  
July 12 Nicole/Bill Zonin  
July 19 Will/Anita Self  
July 26 Brenda McKinney/Jayn Cox

## PRAYER CHURCHES

July 5 -- Buladean (Bakersville)  
July 12 -- Burnsville  
July 19 -- Calvary (Asheville)  
July 26 -- Canton

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

## BUDGET

2015 Current Expenses & Benevolence Budget  
\$194,438.48  
Receipts: January-May 79,630.36  
June 8,931.00  
\$88,561.36  
(Amount Needed to Meet Budget: \$105,877.12)

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



*Libby Allen, Marie Spears,  
Hoyt Green, Frances  
Springs, & our shut-ins*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to *Easton Payton* upon graduating from Highland School of Technology on June 13, 2015. He will be attending William Peace University.

Congratulations to *Chloe Kaylor* who attended Governors School East at Meredith College in Raleigh.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

During their June meeting the Session:

- Hosted GAP (Gaston Area Presbyterians) at the church on the evening of June 15<sup>th</sup>. Bryan and Bob Jessen represented our church.
- Discussed possible alternative times for holding Sunday services beginning in the fall. More details will be coming on this during the summer months.
- Discussed matters relating to how we distribute the monthly Newsletter in the future. There can be considerable financial savings to the church when the cost of paper, the copier cost, postage, and other costs relating to putting out the Newsletter each month. The Newsletter is now part of the church website for anyone to see should they wish to do so. And the plan may include placing Newsletters in the vestibule each month for those who may wish to take one. More on this will follow as matters and details unfold.
- Approved no Session meeting in July. Should something arise needing action by the board, a Special Meeting will be called.
- Approved a request from Susie Crisan-more to follow on this in the coming weeks.
- Approved the City of Mt. Holly using the front lawn of the church for activities surrounding the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday celebration.
- Completed the Church Mission Study. The study has been submitted to Presbytery for final approval in about two weeks. Once approved, the Officer Nominating Committee will begin seeking candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- The Chair of the Christian Ed Committee reminded the board of the joint VBS program with First United Methodist on July 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>.

--Bob Jessen, Clerk of Session



Have you visited our church's **Little Free Library** in our garden courtyard? It's a miniature library- blue with a red roof. It's one of 25,000 Little Free Libraries found in all 50 states and over 70 countries. The Little Free Library motto is "Take a Book, Return a Book." If you find a book you like, take it. Bring it back when you've finished reading it.

With our library, we especially want to provide access to books to others in our neighborhood, particularly children, regardless if they're able to "return a book." We hope to share the love of Christ through the gift of reading. Please check out our library. If you have books you would like to donate, bring them to the church. Thank you.

## GAP NEWS

The Gaston Area Presbyterians (GAP) held their monthly meeting at Mount Holly on June 15. It was well attended and GAP members are very appreciative that First Mount Holly wants to once again be involved. On August 1, there will be a youth event where they will be rebuilding the Green House at Webb Elementary School. Also in August will be the "Transformation/Spiritual Formation – beyond Christian Education" workshop. Some of the topics include: why are we reformed, what the church in the future will look like, how we can get our youth to be more involved, and more. In July, our church will need to send two volunteers to help organize and plan the activities for this event. They will meet on July 20; more details when they are available. This event is open to all church members.

In September, GAP will begin another Habitat Build. It will kick off with a BBQ on September 11, at Pryor Street, the site of the new home. On September 27, GAP will have a pulpit exchange. I will be going to Third Street Presbyterian in Gastonia, and James Holeman from Union Presbyterian Church will be here. You will like James, a very personable and talented young man.

As we receive more information regarding GAP activities with the youth and other events, the church office will notify the congregation through email, the website, and Facebook.

-Bryan



Sylvia Mauldin, Sybil Groner, and Becky Lineberger attended the 27<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Women Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering on June 12 – 14 at Massanutta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia. The theme was 'Living Water', which is our Bible study this coming year. Rev. Judy Record Fletcher, writer of the Bible study, spoke at our plenaries and also led a workshop.

There were 215 PW at the gathering. A reception welcomed the 63 'first timers'. Everyone met each morning for devotions. Activities included workshops, a silent

auction, a candlelight vigil, plenaries with speakers and singing, and we ended with a worship service on Sunday morning. Sylvia helped serve communion. Sybil assisted with the offering, and Becky had the Service of Remembrance.

Offerings were collected for Children's Hope Alliance and Living Waters for the World. We also collected a hunger offering at each meal. A total of 3,255 bras were brought for the 'Free the Girls' mission project.

Join us for the next summer gathering, June 9 – 12, 2016!

-Becky Lineberger



Becky Lineberger attended the 2015 Churchwide Gathering of the Presbyterian Women in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme was 'One Body, One Spirit'. There were 1600 PW from the United States and abroad. We had plenaries with wonderful speakers each morning and evening. We attended workshops during the day.

We collected an offering of \$32,038.45 for Instituto Prevocacional e Industrial de Puerto Rico and ECPAT-USA. Both of these programs work to ensure safety and healing for women and children who are at risk for violence and human trafficking.

We were asked to bring \$10 Target gift cards for the American Indian Family Center. The gift cards totaled \$30,890.

The gathering ended Sunday with a worship service and communion. -Becky Lineberger

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for their generous donation to our baseball program. We truly realize how great Stacey Hall and Tim Matz have made our youth programs. They are a tremendous help to us and their recognition is duly noted. Once again, thank you for your donation and support.

-Mark Jusko (Mt. Holly Parks & Rec. Dept.)

## BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY

July 1 – Luke 15-16 (Gospels)  
 July 2 – Philippians 3-4 (Epistles)  
 July 3 – Leviticus 10-12 (The Law)  
 July 4 – II Kings 1-5 (History)  
 July 5 – Psalms 78-80 (Psalms)  
 July 6 – Proverbs 8-9 (Wisdom)  
 July 7 – Ezekiel 19-24 (Prophecy)  
 July 8 – Luke 17-18 (Gospels)  
 July 9 – Colossians 1-2 (Epistles)  
 July 10 – Leviticus 13-15 (The Law)  
 July 11 – II Kings 6-10 (History)  
 July 12 – Psalms 81-83 (Psalms)  
 July 13 – Proverbs 10 (Wisdom)  
 July 14 – Ezekiel 25-30 (Prophecy)  
 July 15 – Luke 19-20 (Gospels)  
 July 16 – Colossians 3-4 (Epistles)  
 July 17 – Leviticus 16-18 (The Law)  
 July 18 – II Kings 11-15 (History)  
 July 19 – Psalms 84-86 (Psalms)  
 July 20 – Proverbs 11-12 (Wisdom)  
 July 21 – Ezekiel 31-36 (Prophecy)  
 July 22 – Luke 21-22 (Gospels)  
 July 23 – I Thessalonians 1-3 (Epistles)  
 July 24 – Leviticus 19-21 (The Law)  
 July 25 – II Kings 16-20 (History)  
 July 26 – Psalms 87-89 (Psalms)  
 July 27 – Proverbs 13 (Wisdom)  
 July 28 – Ezekiel 37-42 (Prophecy)  
 July 29 – Luke 23-24 (Gospels)  
 July 30 – I Thessalonians 4-5 (Epistles)

## BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY

Joan Miller	1
Ann Albert	2
Elizabeth Allen	3
Gene Stewart	4
Anita Self	5
Billy Trull	7
Lois Bergman	7
Cathy Springs	7
Jennifer Solomon	14
Nancy Smith	18
Donna Love	20
Jonathan Poplin	21
Michelle Sudderth	23
Maggie Fuller	23

### AUGUST

Kathryn Williamson	4
Bob Randall	5
Madilyn Lockridge	6
Robert Whitt	9
Jeff Kaylor	9

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