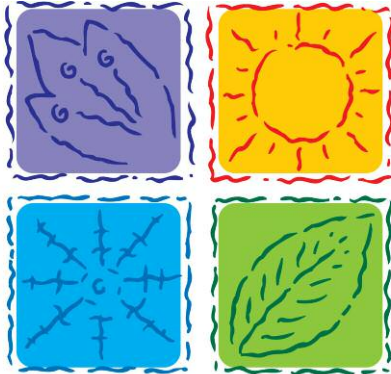




Network News



FOR EVERYTHING THERE
IS A SEASON, A TIME
FOR EVERY ACTIVITY
UNDER HEAVEN.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT

Beloved in the Lord,

It's tempting to decide during times of transition to put some things on hold. "It's just not the right time for that," we say. When a church is between called pastors, members and leaders alike may think some things just need to wait for the new pastor. The truth of the matter is that for the most part, even during an interim period, church life goes on. Here are some of the ways church life continues on at First Presbyterian as I write this letter in mid-March:

- Two baptisms are scheduled for Palm Sunday: Edward and Patricia Carrier. Their older siblings will join the church at the same time: Kaile, Jan and Ahliyah.
- There will be three or four others joining the church in April, as well as two more baptisms!
- Three of our teenagers will be confirmed in May.
- The Session has approved the formation of a Mission Study Team. We will be getting to work after Easter designing a **Congregational Survey** and planning several **Congregational Gatherings**, which are important pieces of our Mission Study. The information collected by the survey and the gatherings, plus the data from the **New Beginnings** report, will form the basis for the Team's Mission Study Report. Once that report has been approved by the Session and Commission on Ministry, it will be distributed to the congregation and we will be given permission to form the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The Mission Study Report will be used by the PNC to prepare the Ministry Information Form (MIF), which is the church's resume in the pastor search process. More on that alphabet soup later!
- Meanwhile, plans for Holy Week were laid out last month and the staff and committee members are working faithfully to develop worship experiences that are pleasing to God and meaningful to those who gather to commemorate and celebrate the powerful events of Christ's final days on earth.

Seasons may change, but our Creator does not. First Presbyterian may be in an interim period, but our Lord and Savior still ministers to and through us. We may wonder what lies ahead, but the Spirit continues to lead us into the future for which God is already preparing us!

Yours and His,
Pastor Marie

Special Dates in April



- 3 Martha Danford
- 4 Lei Ashley
- 7 Shirley Phillips
- 19 Jackie Southerland
Jayla Thorton
- 21 Billie Shires
- 25 Ann Sholar

Please send birthday updates to Elaine Miller, selainemiller54@hotmail.com.



Prayers of the Church

Please
Pray
for...



~ **In Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Rehab Centers** ~
 Lei Ashley – Onslow House
 Donna McIntyre – Liberty Commons
 Dot Keel – Liberty Commons

~ **At Home** ~
 Martha Jacob
 Macie Ruddell
 Slim Ruddell
 Roberta Siegriest
 Barbara Krause
 Mary Cameron

SUNDAY ASSISTANTS IN WORSHIP

Dates	Liturgists	Usher Leaders	Treasurer Assistants
3	Gary Danford	Pete Andrews	Mary Ellen Andrews
10	Sue Lowery	Bobby Sheegog	Sue Lowery
17	Bobby Sheegog	Harry Woodard	Tim Hunter
24	Opal Amos	Tim Hunter	Connie Kitchen

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the Worship Service, please sign up on the sheet across from Pastor Marie's office, or call the Church office.

Network News of the First Presbyterian Church

400 Bayshore Boulevard, Jacksonville, NC 28540 • (910) 455-2434 • www.jacksonvillepresbyterian.com
 Coastal Carolina Presbytery www.presbycc.org • Presbyterian Church (USA) www.pcusa.org

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church—its purpose is to inform members and friends of the meetings and programs of the church, to provide newsworthy articles, and to strengthen communications in our church family.

Please send articles and news to the editor.

MAY 2016 Newsletter Submission DeadlineFRIDAY, APRIL 22

Ministers	The People of the Church
Interim Pastor	The Reverend Marie Cone
Choir Director	Jeff Story
Organist.....	Sheila Miller
Pre-School Director.....	Melody Abshear
Church Secretary.....	Gloria Parker
Newsletter Editor.....	Lisa Colwell, (910) 937-0190, colwellster@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women of Coastal Carolina East Community

Welcomes All to Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church

Located near the beautiful coastal ocean waters

Come to the cooling waters to Refresh, Refocus, and Re-charge

SABBATH KEEPING SPRING RETREAT

“Its Meaning, Purpose, Necessity”

with Rev. Rebecca A. Kahnt

Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church

Laurinburg, North Carolina

Saturday, April 23, 2016

10 AM–2 PM

Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church

1209 N. Lake Park Boulevard

Carolina Beach, North Carolina

Lunch - \$5.00

Make checks payable to “Carolina Beach PW Org.” and mail to the church address

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

Contact - Jaxie Julian - (910) 547-7745 - jazzyjax@atmc.net

Kathy Benson - (910) 612-6259 - kathyrbenson@juno.com



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

Session Notes

Congregational Meeting, February 21, 2016: A Congregational Meeting was held immediately following worship on February 21, 2016. The following were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2016: Pete Andrews (Men of the Church), Walter Bateman (Session), Chrystal Carrier (Youth), Dr. Bob Krause (at-large), Donna Kuegel (at-large), Sue Lowery (Moderator), Jackie Southerland (Women of the Church), and Pastor Marie Cone, ex officio.

Stated Session Meeting, March 15, 2016: Members present: Mary Ellen Andrews, Gary Danford, Sue Lowery, Dan Roerman, Ariel Rymoff, and Bobby Sheegog. Also present were Pastor Marie Cone, Moderator, and Brad Kuegel, Treasurer. Tim Hunter, Connie Kellum, and Barbara Krause were excused.

Discussion items included:

Pastor's Report

Preaching & Teaching

- Preached three out of four Sundays
- Prepared Maundy Thursday Service
- Led three Preschool Chapel services
- Taught two Confirmation Classes
- Led three Lenten Wednesday Night Dinner and Study (average attendance: 10+)
- Lead a Blessing of the Animals Service in Riverview Park, Swansboro, on Saturday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m.
- Taught three Inquirer's Class Sessions; the two visitors who attended the Wednesday evening sessions [Alicia Burnett and Tammy Davis] plan on joining First Presbyterian after Easter! I met once with Traci McKinney at my home (this is easier for her during the day when the girls are at school). We will meet again this Thursday. She would like to join soon and have the younger two daughters (Aubrey and Genevieve) baptized this spring on a Sunday when Daniel is in from Hawaii.
- Spoke with Bill and Crystal Carrier regarding their three older children joining the church and the date for their two younger ones being baptized (the baptisms were approved by session at our February meeting). The baptisms (Edward and Patricia) will be held on Palm Sunday, March 20. I suggested that the older children might want to join at the same time, and she thought this was a wonderful idea. Jan, Kaile and Ahliyah were all baptized and confirmed in the Philippines and they could have joined in 2013 with their parents.

Administration

- Prepared monthly Letter from the Pastor for the newsletter
- Staff Meetings: I meet with Gloria at least once a week
- I have been working at home or around the church as my office is being redone
- Attended Meetings: Session, CE, Nominations, Preschool Board, Personnel, Presbytery (at Shallotte)
- Moderated Congregational Meeting to elect the 2016 Nominating Team
- Attended one Interim Pastor's Collegium meeting
- Moderated the congregational gathering at Pineland PC on Wednesday 2/17 where they voted to leave the PCUSA for the EPC.
- Attended East Community Ministers Group monthly luncheon
- Recruited Mission Study Team members: Gary Danford, Pete Andrews, Donna Kuegel, Kay Bledsoe, Jessica Skinner (tentative).

- Pastoral Care & Nurture
- Hospital Visitation: None
- Home Visitation: Three – Donna McIntyre, Dot Keel and Doris Sewell (I checked in with several others via phone calls, as I wasn't able to visit much with my bronchitis)
- Funerals: None
- Fellowship/Mission Events: None
- Meetings with Individuals: Eight

Other discussion items:

- Acknowledged, with regret, receipt of resignation from Session from Walter Bateman
- Reviewed information about Board of Pensions Seminar regarding changes to health insurance for pastors and other employees
- Heard a report from Dan Roerman on Presbytery meeting
- Examined and approved a neonatal cardiologist for ordination
- Dismissed three churches to EPC
- Collected \$1,888 for Camp Monroe
- Community Easter Egg Hunt details
- Plans for Sunday School teachers for youth
- Reviewed active membership roll
- Gift of the Heart fundraiser received \$750 to purchase hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Relief
- Thai Christian Drama Group April 17; need to raise \$2,949 to support event; Jackie Southerland securing housing for participants; Antioch Presbyterian Church will partner with us
- New personnel needed for Preschool next year due to relocations
- Revised Time and Talent Sheet to be distributed to all congregants
- Pastor's office being spruced up with new ceiling, paint and carpet
- Ariel Rymoff being trained as additional receiving treasurer
- Audit underway; may have preliminary report in April

Action Items

- Approved baptisms of Aubrey and Genevieve McKinney to be scheduled after their mother Traci joins the church
- Authorized expenditure of \$914 (plus taxes and shipping) for VBS supplies from Youth Fund
- Agreed to do away with closed Facebook group and keep open (public) group
- Authorized applying Two Cents a Meal contributions from February through May to the Stop Hunger Now event
- Scheduled Congregational Meeting for April 3 for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders to fill vacancies on Session; ordination and installation on April 10
- Approved Mission Study Team members (Pete Andrews, Kaye Bledsoe, Gary Danford, Donna Kuegel and Jessica Skinner) to work with Pastor Marie leading the congregation in a process of discerning what God would have First Presbyterian be and act in the future
- Approved use of Fellowship Hall on April 9 by Boy Scout leaders for a training session and fundraiser
- Agreed to host Camp Kirkwood Evening Vespers at a date to be determined

Sue Lowery
Clerk

From the Stewardship Team

Time and Talent — It has been several years since our Church family has completed a Time and Talent form. The forms have been in the Sunday bulletin and can also be obtained in the church office or on our website (go to About Us > Resources). The forms have been updated and we are asking every individual to complete a form even if you filled out a form years ago. We will compile this list so it can assist the session and ministry teams of our church with matching your time and talents so that we can all continue growing in Christ. Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete the Time and Talent form.



Missionaries and the Thai Dance & Drama Troupe to visit FPC

On Sunday, April 17, from 5:00 until about 6:30 P.M., the beautiful program for all ages will be held in our Fellowship Hall. Following the performance, we will share a covered-dish meal. Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy this unique ministry with us!

This just in: we have received a Stop Hunger Now fundraising challenge. An anonymous donor will match up to \$1,000 of all funds donated in April for the meal packing event! Let's meet that challenge and reach our goal of \$2,944.08!

- May 22, 2016
- 40 to 50 Volunteers
- 10,152 Meals
- Two Hours
- On Board:
 - First Presbyterian Church
 - Antioch Presbyterian Church



STOP HUNGER NOW

Our children will be moving throughout the sanctuary each Sunday morning prior to Worship Service with buckets to collect your donations. Arrive early for worship and have those bills ready. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Stop Hunger Now" in the memo line.

For more info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9Xiqld7a4>.



The Presbyterian Counseling Center
is hosting a
Plant Sale

Saturday, April 2 from 8 to 11 am.
(4810 Wrightsville Avenue)

Johnson Nursery will be offering a selection of
beautiful plants at below retail prices.
Cash or check only

100% of proceeds go to the Center to help fund
our sliding scale fee structure.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville provide
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dan and Mary Southerland Scholarship is offered to any resident of Onslow County, a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and a high school graduate with a financial need for assistance in tuition at an institution of higher education. Applicant must show evidence of acceptance in a college or university. Application forms are available in the church office and must be submitted by **May 1, 2016**.

The Ruby Ennis Maynard Scholarship provides educational opportunities for the mature woman who has been out of the work force for a period of time, or who needs to upgrade her skills or education in order to succeed in her career, or who needs to change careers in order to improve her earning ability. Application forms are available in the First Presbyterian church office or online through The Triangle Community Foundation Scholarships at http://trianglecf.ehclients.com/grants_support/view_scholarships/.

Financials

February 2016

General Fund	\$13,673
Building Fund	\$5,840

Through March 15

General Fund:	
Income	\$32,532
Expenses	\$064

Thank you for your support — The Stewardship Team

***In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God. — Philippians 4:6***

Happy Spring from the CE team!

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Easter with family and friends, and felt the spirit of the season as we celebrated the Resurrection.



The Christian Education Team has much to celebrate as well. Our **Community Easter Egg Hunt** was quite a successful and fun event, despite the threatening rain. We opted to host the celebration indoors, anticipating rain about the time the egg hunt would take place. Of course, once we decided to set up inside, the rain didn't come until evening! Nonetheless, we all had a great time, and many families and their children enjoyed games, a great hot dog lunch, and lots and lots of Easter eggs to find! As always, the Bounce House was a great hit, and many thanks to Dan Roemerman for making it happen! Dan was also chief cook, along with Tony Amos, and many thanks to that duo once again. They have earned the title of First Presbyterian

"Hot Dog Masters" for sure!!! Many thanks too for all the hands that helped set up for the event, shepherd children to their hidden eggs, and helped clean up once the event was over. Pastor Marie prepared gift bags for each family that contained a welcome letter, a newsletter and pen, candy, an adult

coloring sheet, a VBS flyer, a Christian bookmark, and her business card. Big thanks to Gary Danford for monitoring activity in the Bounce House, and to Christeen Hyden who provided craft activities for the kids and their families. Thanks also to Connie and Barry Kellum who stuffed eggs, Jennifer Bean, Wanda Elliott, Pete and Mary Ellen Andrews, Tim Hunter, and Opal Amos who helped shepherd the children during the hunt, and to our birthday girl and CE chair, Ariel Rymoff, who (along with her Mom) helped plan and organize the schedule for the event, as well as shepherd the older group for the egg hunt. Thanks to our parents, members, and older youth as well who helped make our visiting families feel welcome. And of course, a huge thanks to Mr. Brad for bringing his Easter chicken!!! It was a fun time for all!!!



Kid Power!

As the CE team plans for curriculum needs and changes, Christeen Hyden has volunteered to teach our combined youth class this summer, beginning June 12. Connie Kellum has volunteered to teach the older youth for the remainder of the spring curriculum (April and May). The team is currently investigating utilizing a rotation model for our children's classes beginning in the fall. Planning is in the early stages, so stay tuned for details!

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching. The week will begin on Monday, June 20, and run through Friday, June 24. **Habitat for Humanity** will be the mission project for the week. Numerous opportunities are available for member participation, including prayers, donations, shepherding, etc. Prayerfully consider where your time and talents might help support this community outreach event.

As always, thanks to everyone for their prayers and hands-on support...we couldn't do what we do without you! – the CE Team



400 Bayshore Boulevard N., Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CENTERPOINT

“Should I keep coming for counseling?” a woman recently asked me. I agreed that she had mostly resolved the difficult concern that prompted her to begin meetings. I also shared with her that the deeper object of counseling is not simply about solving problems. It is about broadening one’s self-understanding.

Can we ever reach the end of discovering everything about ourselves?

Daily life overflows with countless distractions. Strong emotions snare us. We easily overlook how God creates us and delights in us. But we don’t need to lose our way.

In wonder and thanks we may focus on what God is doing within us. We may embrace our uniqueness with deepening curiosity. *“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it.”* (Psalm 139:14)

Anyone will benefit from the self-exploration counseling offers!

Call the Center at **(910) 452-7370**, and visit **www.presbyteriancounselingcenter.org**.



— Jonathan R. Kelley, Counselor