



Network News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • JACKSONVILLE, NC



March 2016

Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; and the fish of the sea and they will declare to you: in God's hand is the life of every living thing. — Job 12:7, 8b, 10a

Beloved in the Lord,

I'm writing this having just finished preparing for a very special event: A Blessing of the Animals at Riverview Park in Swansboro. It was held Saturday, February 20, and I'll let you know how it went! Why a blessing of the animals? Why in Swansboro?

Well, here's how this delightful service came about. My friend Gail has a close friend, Kelly, who is a life-long resident of Swansboro. Kelly has had a number of losses lately, and the most recent one hit her particularly hard. Her beloved dog Max, her faithful companion of 16 years, died in the beginning of February. As friends from far and near sent her words of sympathy and support, Kelly realized that she and others might find comfort by gathering to celebrate the lives of their beloved companions. So she asked Gail and me to help her plan and host a Blessing of the Animals. Here's the invitation she posted on Facebook:



"Please join as we celebrate and remember the lives of the pets we have loved and lost and to honor those in our lives today. I invite you to bring your dogs on a leash or crated (and cats, if you think they'd like to join us) to a special gathering at Riverside Park overlooking the White Oak River. Although I will be remembering Max, I want you to also share in this fellowship with me to think about your own furry friends. You are invited to bring a bag of pet food to be donated to a local animal shelter, but this is not required. Most importantly, let's join one another for this very special blessing of our beloved animals officiated by Marie Cone, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville NC."

I mentioned to Session that I would be doing this service, and we talked about having a similar one here at First Presbyterian, once the weather is warmer. We'll keep you posted!

Yours and His, Pastor Marie

Special Dates in March



- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Mike Bean | 22 Gordon Robinson,
Ryan Story |
| 5 Donna Kuegel | 25 Hadley Hunter |
| 8 Sue Lowery | 28 Dominique Richmond |
| 8 Jennifer Bean | 31 Blanche Nichols |
| 14 Samantha Sartelle | |
| 20 Gwen Dupstadt | |
| 21 Bill Carrier | |

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

First Presbyterian 2016 Lent & Easter Programs

Wednesday Night Dinner and Study

February 17 and 24, March 2, 9, 16; 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Limited menu: soup, bread, dessert. Based on "A Horse and His Boy". Program is open to everyone, even if not reading the book

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 19, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday

March 20, 11 a.m.; Special Musical Performances



Maundy Thursday

7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Casual Worship Service with Communion

Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service (weather permitting)
Light Breakfast
Easter Worship 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY ASSISTANTS IN WORSHIP

Dates	Liturgists	Usher Leaders	Treasurer Assistants
6	Opal Amos	Tim Hunter	Kaye Bledsoe
13	Sue Lowery	Bobby Sheegog	Ariel Rymoff
20	Bobby Sheegog	Connie Kellum	Sue Lowery
27	Walter Bateman	Barbara Krause	Jackie Sountherland

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.

March 2016 Newsletter Submission DeadlineFRIDAY, MARCH 25

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



Scouting for Food

As Scouts, we know how fortunate we are to have a warm meal every night — whether around the campfire or at the kitchen table. And we know that not everyone is so lucky. That’s the genesis of Scouting for Food, the annual food-collection drive run by your local Scout council. It’s another reminder to our local communities that Scouts are here, doing good turns.

Scouting for Food takes place on two consecutive weekends. On the first weekend, Scouts distribute bags and/or door hangers to let their neighbors know about the drive. On the second, Scouts revisit those houses to pick up bags full of canned food, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, juice and other nonperishable items.

This year, they collected 521 pounds of food. The food is delivered to needy families all throughout the council’s borders.

Church Women United Meeting/Lunch

- Where:** Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 1115 Lejeune Blvd.
- When:** March 4, 2016, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Cost:** \$4.00
- How:** Contact Wanda Elliott by Tuesday March 1 if you attending:
910-455-0538 • 910-265-1116 • welliott4@ec.rr.com

Prayers of the Church

*Condolences to
Shirley Phillips and family
on the death of John.
Please keep Shirley and
her family in your prayers.*

Please
Pray
for...



~ **At Home** ~
Martha Jacob
Macie Ruddell
Slim Ruddell
Roberta Siegriest

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

Missionaries and the Thai Dance & Drama Troupe to visit FPC

On Sunday, April 17, 2016, Andy and Ellen Collins, PC(USA) missionaries to Thailand, will bring a troupe of eight performers to First Presbyterian Church. The Thai Dance & Drama Troupe is a unique ministry of the Christian Communications Institute (CCI) in Thailand. Their goal is to share a slice of Thai culture as well as introduce their ministry. This is an excellent opportunity to experience the beauty of Thai performing arts and to see how CCI uses this medium to communicate Christian truths. They also hope the performers will return to Thailand having gained some insights into local American culture and Christian ministries.

The 8-member troupe will travel through several Mid-Atlantic states during their 6-week visit. The 90-minute performance will feature a cultural introduction to Thailand brought to life through dance, followed by a traditional Thai drama with live English translation.



Your Help — We are being asked to provide housing and meals for Andy, Ellen, son Jonathan, and the 8 performers (4 men, 4 women) on Sunday evening. If you have a spare bedroom you'd be willing to offer for Sunday evening, please contact the church office.

On Sunday, April 17 at 5:00 P.M., the beautiful program for all ages will begin in our Fellowship Hall. We will share a covered-dish meal following the performance. Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy this unique ministry with us!

GIFT OF THE HEART Fundraiser Shares Love at Home and Abroad

Thanks to so many of you, Valentine hearts appeared on lawns of Jacksonville homes and brought smiles to many during the month of February.

The Evangelism/Mission Ministry Team wants to thank everyone who participated in with this project: Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clinton, NC, who gave us the idea and shared resources; children & youth who helped decorate the yard hearts; people who lovingly delivered the hearts & mugs and presented the cards; people who paid to donate hearts showing their love for family & friends while providing funding for Gift of the Heart Hygiene Kits; and Pastor Marie and the church Session who supported the Evangelism/Mission Ministry Team's proposal.



What was the goal of the fundraiser? The funds collected (around \$750) will purchase items to fill Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program's hygiene kits.

The Evangelism/Mission Ministry Team at First Presbyterian Church became aware of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program's need to replenish their supply of hygiene kits. This Disaster Assistance program is the emergency/refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Following the October flooding in South Carolina, many clean up and hygiene kits were distributed.

Thank you for your efforts to serve with gratitude and grace to the glory of God!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Your gifts make a difference!

This special offering will be received on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

We've got talent, yes we do! We've got talent, how 'bout You?!

It has been a few years since Time and Talent Sheets have been completed by our Church Family. In March, Time and Talent sheets will be available for all to complete. We will compile this information in a new church data base, so our Ministry Teams will have easy access. Please take a few minutes to complete the form and let us know the various places you are willing to share your time and talents.

STOP HUNGER NOW Meal Packaging Event

Our Evangelism & Mission Ministry Team and Session are issuing a mission challenge!

Here's the CHALLENGE...10,152 Meals at \$0.29 per meal. Let me do the math...that's \$2,944.08

Can we package 10,152 meals to provide life-saving aid for the world's most vulnerable people? We have scheduled a STOP HUNGER NOW Meal Packaging event for May 22, 2016.

What is a Meal Packaging Event? It is an immensely fun, hands-on and rewarding experience for anyone of any age (4 years to 104 years). STOP HUNGER NOW delivers ingredients and supplies and volunteers set up and take down packaging stations and equipment, fill bins with raw ingredients, scoop ingredients into meal bags, weigh and seal the bags, box and stack them on pallets, and load the pallets and equipment onto a truck.

A group of 40 to 50 volunteers can package 10,152 meals in about two hours. We are inviting area



Presbyterian Churches to partner with us for the event. Currently, Antioch Presbyterian Church has agreed to join in the project. The Scouts will also be invited to participate.

How will we fund the project? The Christmas Eve service offering provided \$402.00 toward our goal. That's a start, but to continue the fundraising, you will have the opportunity to contribute each

Sunday morning beginning in March and continuing until the May 22 event. The children will be moving throughout the sanctuary each Sunday morning prior to our worship service with buckets to collect your donations. So, arrive early for worship and have those bills ready to donate. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Stop Hunger Now" in the memo line.

If you wish to know more about STOP HUNGER NOW, you can find information at www.stophungernow.org. A YouTube video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vg9Xiql7a4>.



Welcome to March! We have had some frosty mornings, and some rainy afternoons. Fortunately, February was filled with plenty of indoor fun. We learned about our presidents, Groundhogs Day, Valentine's, Fossils, our ocean floor and more. We also had some very special visitors come in last month. Onslow County Museum came in and taught us how to dig for fossils. Our students were able to find some prehistoric shells and some shark teeth. We also had some scaly friends from the Pine Knolls aquarium slither in. The students had an up close encounter with an alligator, snake, box turtle and sea turtle. Our last visitor was brought in by Mr. Brad! He brought it one of his chickens during outdoor play. The children loved petting their new feathery friend and chasing her around the playground.

We had our students take mid year evaluations to make sure they were on track of where they need to be for kindergarten and beyond. I am so proud of how well they did. We have some terrific teachers and some brilliant little minds at our school. I love that our preschool is able to teach so many things, in fun and exciting ways in a Christian environment. I would not be surprised if we have a future president attending our school this year!

"Children are one third of our population and all of our future," – unknown

– Melody Abshear

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



The Nell Maultsby Scholarship is available to any young person who is a member of our church and has had a satisfactory rating for continued education beyond high school. Applications are available in the church office and must be completed by **April 1, 2015**.

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

January 2016

General Fund\$16,981
 Building Fund\$6,650

Through February 15

General Fund:	
Income	\$20,390
Expenses	\$27,205

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 March everyone! It's amazing just how quickly we are already moving through 2016. We hope everyone enjoyed Valentine's Day, and the Gifts of the Heart celebrations. Spring is just around the corner, and we will celebrate Easter in the coming weeks.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our SOUPER BOWL OF CARING luncheon! We enjoyed delicious soups, wonderful sandwiches and sides, and of course, dessert! Thank you Kaye and Pastor Marie for helping us all understand the need to share our abundance with those who have less...it was a lesson worth remembering, especially when it came time for dessert! ☺ Many of you donated canned and non-perishable goods which will greatly benefit our local Onslow Community Outreach. Monetary donations were also given, totaling \$155. Thanks to our youth who collected the donations, and to all donated, and for those who helped set up and clean up for the event.



Our youth and their families are busy preparing music for **Palm Sunday, March 20**. Just as a reminder, the songs are #73 Hosanna, #41 Jesus Loves the Little Children, #21 At the Cross, and #4 The Old Rugged Cross. The next rehearsal will be Sunday, March 13 at 9:45 in the music room at church with Ms. Sheila, and there will be rehearsal again the following Sunday (March 20) at 9:45 in the music room. That same Sunday, which is Palm Sunday, the youth will sing during worship. Great job everyone! We look forward to hearing your uplifting voices!

The Christian Education Team, under the leadership of Pastor Marie, is offering a **Wednesday evening LENT study** using C.S. Lewis' book *The Boy and His Horse*. Books and study guides are available at the church (\$8 for the book and \$2 for the study guide). Study includes soup, bread, and dessert, with sessions starting at 5:00 and ending by 6:30. February 17th was the first lesson study, but all are welcome to join at any time. There will be a break for Holy Week, and a couple of classes after Easter, so please come join us! There will be a sign-up sheet by the church office for each week to help us plan the menu, and if you would like transportation, just let us know...we can make it happen!



Are you ready for some Easter fun? On Saturday, March 19, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., our church will host a **Community Easter Egg Hunt**. There will be eggs to find, crafts to create, food to enjoy, and fun activities for the children. Stay tuned for more information about this community outreach celebration, and invite your neighbors and friends!

As always, thanks to every hand that helps and every heart that prays. We couldn't do it without you.



400 Bayshore Boulevard N., Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Something New is Brewing!



Hey! There's a new addition to our kitchen! Thanks to Barbara Krause's generous donation, we now have a Keurig coffee maker, complete with pods for coffee, hot chocolate, apple cider, and tea. If you are a Keurig user, please feel free to bring your own pods to enjoy if you'd like. If you are not familiar with how the new machine works, but would like to give it a try, check with Barbara, or just ask around...someone will be more than happy to welcome you to the Keurig family! Thanks so much Barbara for your generosity! (And thanks to Ariel Rymoff for the suggestion...it was a great one!)

Check out our new, improved website – www.jacksonvillepresbyterian.com!

It features the new logo and colors, easy-to-use navigation, and on the home page you'll find a handy calendar of events. If you have an event or meeting that needs to be added to the online calendar, please e-mail your event info – **Event Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location, and Details** – to Lisa (see page 2 for e-mail address).

- Easter lilies to be available for purchase
- Palms for Palm Sunday to be ordered
- Continental breakfast following Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.
- New Time and Talent sheet being developed
- 2015 audit in progress
- Scholarship applications and due dates to be announced in bulletin

Action Items

- Approval of baptism of Edward and Patricia Carrier at a date to be determined
- Authorization to collect love offering for missionaries Andy and Ellen Collins during Thai Christian Drama Troupe presentation; supplement up to \$500 as honorarium
- Approval of expenditure of funds not to exceed \$2,000 for redecorating pastor's office (new carpet, paint, ceiling tiles, lighting)
 - o \$970.80 to come from McMillan memorials; balance from memorial fund
 - o Memorials/Stewardship will reevaluate if estimates exceed \$2,000
- Election of Dan Roemerman as Commissioner to March 5 meeting of Presbytery at Shallotte Presbyterian Church