



Network News

Beloved in the Lord,

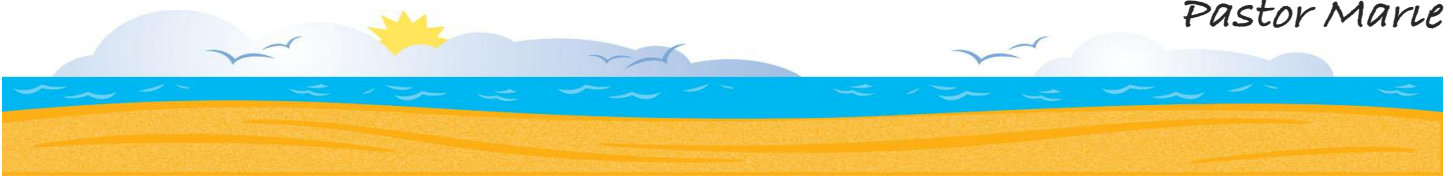
One of the great opportunities of the interim journey is the chance to rethink and reconsider familiar things. That's a gentle way of saying that during the interim time things change. In the midst of change, though, people often feel uncertain and anxious. There is an innate desire to hold onto the familiar, to protect what we are used to and know how to deal with. This is a good thing, for change that comes just for the sake of change is usually short-lived and disruptive. When the Children of Israel were exiled in Babylon, they adjusted to their new life by retaining their identity as Jews. They were not able to make pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem, but they were allowed to gather for worship, to circumcise their sons, and to keep their scriptures. In fact, it was during this time that the oral traditions from the various tribes were gathered together and shaped into the Old Testament books we know today. In time, Babylon began to feel like *home* for the People of Yahweh. But Babylon was not their real home, and our Almighty God knew that the transition back to the Promised Land would be difficult. For that reason, Yahweh spoke these words of encouragement through the prophet Isaiah:

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. [Isaiah 43:16-21]

In the midst of new things, God is there. As Paul reminds us in Romans 8, if God is for us, who can be against us? And I would add this: if God is for us, then *we need to be for each other here at First Presbyterian*. This means that even when we feel anxious or threatened by something new or different, we should be committed to the success of this new thing and the spiritual growth that it could bring. Being *for each other* also means that as we birth a new thing, we recognize that we may be causing others anxiety, and so we commit ourselves to stand alongside them and encourage them. I urge you all to keep that in mind as the Mission Study Team completes our Mission Study this summer and as the Session begins to implement the ideas and vision that come out of it.

Meanwhile, the summer season is upon us! I pray that everyone will get a chance to kick back and enjoy some relaxing time with family and friends. And I look forward to seeing you in worship and study as your schedule allows!

As always, I remain
Yours and His,
Pastor Marie



Special Dates in June and July

JUNE

2 June Blackmon
 10 Hannah Sartelle
 15 Marilyn Danford
 16 Kristen Brooks
 19 Connie Kitchen
 24 Phyllis Tonnacliff
 26 Jay Southerland
 David Davis

27 Martha Harvelle

JULY

1 Eloise Walton
 5 Allen Amos
 7 Ellie Cone
 13 Gene Davis
 17 Virginia Sartelle
 24 Harry Woodard
 Rose Robinson

25 Edward Carrier
 27 Rusty East
 29 Makala Dempsey
 Denise Story
 31 Sandra Housel

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



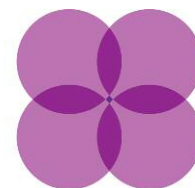
Father's Day
 June 19



Choir Choir will have it's last rehearsal of the season on June 29. After a short break, we will resume on August 3.

SUNDAY ASSISTANTS IN WORSHIP

Dates	Liturgists	Usher Leaders	Treasurer Assistants
June 5	Jessica Skinner	Barbara Kraus	Jackie Southerland
June 12	Bobby Sheegog	Connie Kellum	Mary Ellen Andrews
June 19	Elaine Miller	Tim Hunter	Opal Amos
June 26	Gary Danford	Connie Kellum	Tim Hunter
July 3	Jennifer Bean	Connie Kellum	Gary Danford
July 10	Sue Lowery	Pete Andrews	Mary Ellen Andrews
July 17	Bobby Sheegog	Time Hunter	Bobby Sheegog
July 24	Bob Kraus	Barbara Kraus	Opal Amos
July 31	Opal Amos	Connie Kellum	Tim Hunter



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 news and articles to the newsletter editor.

AUGUST 2016 Newsletter Submission Deadline.....FRIDAY, JULY 22

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



Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 5, 2016, during the 11 a.m. Worship Service

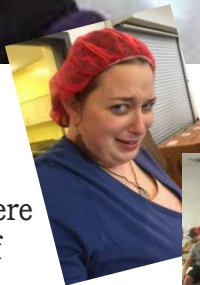
Kaile (the Carrier's oldest daughter) will be recognized as a high school graduate. If there are other high school or college graduates we need to recognize, please contact the office.



May 22 was a busy Sunday!!!



With the help of our boy scouts, their families, and members from Antioch Presbyterian Church, we were able to complete our goal of 15,120 meals. Your willing hearts and busy hands will help feed the hungry in places all over the world.



Session Notes

Called Session Meeting, May 1, 2016: Members present: Opal Amos, Bill Carrier, Gary Danford, Tim Hunter, Connie Kellum, Barbara Krause, Sue Lowery, Ariel Rymoff, and Bobby Sheegog. Also present were Pastor Marie Cone, Moderator, Kaye Bledsoe, and Confirmands Abbigail McKinney, Brianna Thornton, and Jaliyah Thornton. Mary Ellen Andrews and Dan Roerman were excused.

Confirmands prepared and served dinner for Session members, reviewed the structure of the confirmation classes, and explained the various Apostles' Creed scenes depicted on their stoles which they had made.

Action Items

- Approval of special Pentecost offering.
- Acceptance of Abbigail McKinney, Brianna Thornton, and Jaliyah Thornton into full membership in the church.

Stated Session Meeting, April 19, 2016: Members present: Opal Amos, Mary Ellen Andrews, Gary Danford, Tim Hunter, Connie Kellum, Barbara Krause, Sue Lowery, Dan Roerman, Ariel Rymoff, and Bobby Sheegog. Also present were Pastor Marie Cone, Moderator, and Brad Kuegel, Treasurer. Bill Carrier was absent.

Action Items

- Approval for Project Homeless Connected/United Way to use Fellowship Hall on July 27, 2016 to connect homeless to services and other benefits
- Approval of two days' study leave for Pastor Marie to attend East Community Pastor's Retreat Sunday afternoon – Tuesday (August 14-15)
- Approval for entire Pentecost special offering to be sent to Presbytery of Coastal Carolina for the benefit of children, youth, and Young Adult Volunteers
- Approval of revised Preschool Standard Operating Procedures
- Approval to recognize outgoing and incoming preschool staff
- Election of Bobby Sheegog to serve as Commissioner to June 11 East Community Gathering at Windermere PC

Discussion Items Included: Pastor's Report

Preaching & Teaching

- Preached 4 out of 4 Sundays; made Communion Bread for 5/1
- Led 3 Preschool Chapel services
- Taught 1 Confirmation Class; led the Confirmands' Dinner for Session
- Led 3 Wednesday Night Dinner and Study (ave. attendance: 5)
- Officiated 2 baptisms (Aubrey and Genevieve McKinney)
- Prepared liturgy, hymns, and scriptures through July

Administration

- Prepared monthly Letter from Pastor for the newsletter
- Staff Meetings: I meet with Gloria at least once a week
- Attended Meetings: Session (x2)
- Led the first Café Conversation for the Mission Study
- Attended the audition for the summer pianist
- Hospital Visitation: One for Gordon Robinson
- Home Visitation: Two for the Dempsey family
- Lunch with the Pastor: Two
- Fellowship/Mission Events: Men of the Church Chicken BBQ, Blessing of the Animals, Confirmands' Dinner
- Meetings with Individuals: Seven

Other:

- Holiday: 0; Vacation: 3; Study Leave: 0; Sick Leave: 0
- Will have parade of churches at East Community Gathering at Windermere PC June 11.
 - Bobby Sheegog will carry a sign using Mission Statement and new logo to usher our church into gathering. This will serve as a regular Presbytery meeting. Please show your support of the Presbytery by attending. Contact Pastor Marie, Kaye Bledsoe, or Sue Lowery for details.
- Volunteers needed for Presbytery committees. See Pastor Marie, Kaye Bledsoe, or Sue Lowery for more info or for volunteer form.
- Reception for confirmands (lemonade and cookies) on lawn, weather permitting, following worship on May 22.
- Reviewed results of 25 completed "Exploring Our Faith" surveys. It is not too late to submit a survey. Every opinion counts as we develop a Mission Study Report for the Pastor Nominating Committee to use when preparing information seeking a new

Other discussion items (copied from Team reports given to Session members):

Christian Education (Meeting May 15, 2016)

- Meeting opened with prayer by Opal Amos
- Review of group leaders, supply list, assignments and station locations for VBS. A few more volunteers are still needed.
- Ariel will get advertisements underway as soon as possible (website, bulletins, newsletter). Ariel will coordinate with Pastor Marie and the Worship team for advertising on the church sign by Johnson Blvd.
- Set-up for VBS will be Sunday, June 19, from 2:00-5:00pm
- Next scheduled meeting: Sunday, June 5, 2016, directly after worship.

Congregational Care

- Congregational Care met May 15th at 9:45 a.m. with two members present and the moderator.
- There are a total of 11 care teams. At the present time 4 are without a care team leader. There was brief discussion about reducing the number of groupings but the committee members felt it best to keep them as they are at this time. The care team is in need of additional members.
- The team was provided a resource from the Caregivers Library for review during the summer; with follow-up in September. The moderator will strive to identify new care team leaders by the next meeting June 12th at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Preschool (Meeting May 15, 2016)

- Members present were Barbara Krause, Connie Kitchen, Anna Hamilton, Mary Ellen Andrews, Melody Abshear, and Jessica Arnold (who was welcomed as the new 2016-2017 director). After interviewing applicants for staff vacancies the meeting began at 10:30 a.m. with opening prayer. The revised SOP directive was introduced, reviewed and accepted for Session approval. Discussions centered on future increases in salaries for staff as next year's budget is reviewed. At present the applications received for 2016-2017 will fill each class by 50%. Tuition will be required at the beginning of each month; cash payments will require the parent coming inside to co-sign the receipt of payment. Committee members selected candidates to

Session Notes

fill staff vacancies; they will be contacted by Melody and offered positions sought. The committee will ask the congregation to recognize Melody for her service the past four years, and to receive Jessica as the new preschool director. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Stewardship (Meeting May 12, 2016)

- The scholarship team has received 1 scholarship applications for the Southerland Scholarship. The scholarship will be presented during worship service June 19.
- Memorial Fund Report – No new requests have come in and the balance in the Memorial Fund is \$13,548. There was discussion about the need for a new grill for the church, since the old one was stolen, as a possible memorial request. We will look at options and approach property or Men of the Church with findings. Memorial Funds are unrestricted and Session Teams should be reminded to present requests for use of these funds to Marilyn Danford for review and recommendations.
- Time and Talent Sheet update – 31 individuals have completed the time and talent sheets. Pastor Marie has input the data on an excel spreadsheet so access by ministry teams is easy. We still need to encourage all of our Adults and older children to complete the sheets. Session team leaders are encouraged to use these sheets so we can engage our church family in areas they have an interest in.

Worship (Meeting May 10, 2016)

- Communion schedule set through August
- Summer music: GRACE BEACHAM from Coastal will be the musician for July 10, 17, 24, and 31
- Summer pulpit supply dates to be filled: May 29 Nancy Gladden; June 12 Jay Bender; September 4 Nancy Gladden
- Worship recordings: currently, sermons are put on the website, not the entire service
- Head Usher training: Team approved Head Usher Guide, and Tony Amos will set up and conduct training soon
- Acolyte Coordinator: Connie Kellum has volunteered to oversee the program, and will meet with Tracy

- Pastor Marie was unable to attend the meeting, but requested the team discuss the possibility of having worship in the fellowship hall for July 4-Sept 4; following discussion, the motion was made and defeated; motion was made to amend the time frame to just the four Sundays in July that Sheila is on vacation; motion was again defeated.
- Sunday, May 15 is Pentecost, red paraments. The children/youth will bring in “flames” during the first hymn.
- Supply preaching honoraria shared with the team; copy forwarded to Gloria
- Church sign: Pete Andrews and Dan Roerman volunteered to coordinate with Pastor Marie for making changes to the sign, as needed (Don Edmondson is currently unavailable due to family circumstances).
- Hymn service possibility discussed as a special worship service and/or to have available in case minister is unexpectedly unavailable; Opal will meet with Pastor Marie and Sheila to further explore.
- Team discussed having youth as liturgists (scripture readers); Opal will discuss with Pastor Marie.
- Team discussed homebound communion; Opal will meet and discuss with Pastor Marie for procedures and schedule.
- Team received information from a visitor asking about the minister’s title in the bulletin, and also the identification of our church as “USA” on the website (currently does not state “USA”)
- Joys and concerns: Dan Roerman and family; Walter Bateman and family; Don Edmundson and family
- Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 (6PM)

The budget was presented; no extraordinary expenditures were noted.

Members discussed plans for the Stop Hunger Now event on May 22.

*Sue Lowery
Clerk of Session*

Financials

April 2016

General Fund\$13,714.09
 Building Fund\$385.00

Through May 15, 2016

General Fund:
 Income\$64,600
 Expenses\$80,939

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

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.

Thank you for your support — The Stewardship Team



You are cordially invited to a floating reception for Allen and Leah Amos on Saturday, June 4, 2016, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

They are expecting their first child in August. Allen is the son of Tony and Opal Amos, and is a child of our church. He spent many Sundays sitting beside Sheila while she played the organ for worship. Allen currently works as Band Director at Lucas Middle School in Durham. He is also the Director of Music at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill. Leah's hometown is Yadkinville, NC. She has an extensive background in history and school leadership, and teaches 10th grade American History at the School for Creative Studies in Durham. Please join us in celebrating the soon-to-be arrival! Gift cards are welcome, but the gift of your presence is most treasured.

Tony and Opal Amos



Our Mission

The Spirit calls us to

Welcome all:

Sure and Unsure
Whole and Broken
Insiders and Outsiders

Grow more like Christ as we explore issues of faith together; and to

Serve with gratitude and grace to the glory of God

Welcoming 🍀 Growing 🍀 Serving

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

News from CE! Vacation Bible School is near!



LOOKOUT! Vacation Bible School is Just around the corner! Just a reminder that this fun filled event starts June 20, from 6:00 – 8:30pm and June 21 – 24, from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Volunteers please arrive 30 minutes prior. We are still in need of a few more volunteers for group guides and someone to take pictures. Please contact Ariel Rymoff at ariel.rymoff@gmail.com if you are interested. Setup for VBS is going to be Sunday June 19, from 2:00 – 5:00pm. If you are available to help, please come whenever you can during that time. CE is asking for donated/loaned items for VBS. Some of these items are:

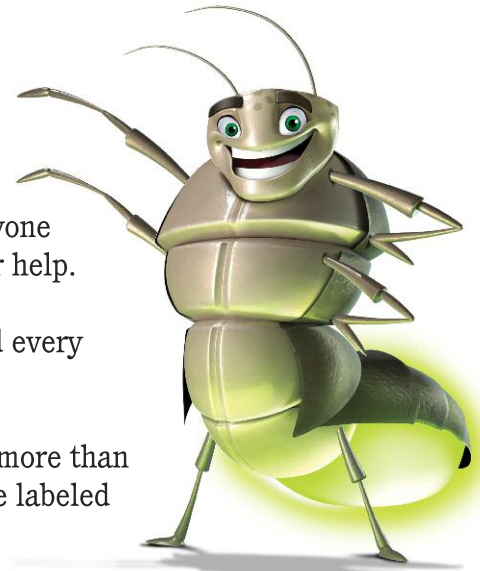
- Flashlights
- Battery operated Christmas lights
- Package of large glow stars
- Duct tape
- 1 large blue tarp
- Large brown sheets
- Several 1lb boxes of corn starch
- A variety of bird feathers (from hobby shop)
- A variety of delicate plastic flowers
- Crown of thorns (vine wreath from hobby store)
- Small Spotlight
- Battery operated, flameless pillar candles
- 20 sponge balls (water games)



- Large blue balloons
- Large car washing sponges
- 2 5x18" foam cones
- 1 large pack of tube socks
- Plain rocks
- Fluorescent rocks
- Glue dots – 2 packages
- Hula hoops
- Small flicker lights

Please contact Ariel Rymoff at ariel.rymoff@gmail.com if you would like to donate/loan any of these items. A big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered. This would not be possible without your help. Another very big thank you to all those who donate to the Youth Fund throughout the year. Events like this are possible because of each and every one of you.

Please attach this tag to any items you are going to loan. If you have more than one item, please bundle them together and CE will make sure they are labeled and given back to the right person.



VBS 2016 Item Loan Tag

Name: _____

Item(s) loaned: _____

VBS 2016 Item Loan Tag

Name: _____

Item(s) loaned: _____



400 Bayshore Boulevard N., Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our 1st East Community Gathering

June 11, 2016, 9am – 1:30 p.m. at Windermere Presbyterian Church, Wilmington

Energetic Preaching – Rev. Jerry Cannon • Worship Painting – Artist, Hope G. Smith

Business session – Short! • Mission Fair – All Day • Lively music

Come Celebrate our common calling and faith in Jesus Christ...share stories, offer ideas for future events, and enjoy the fellowship!

CENTERPOINT

Conflict is a part of all relationships. While it is unpleasant, conflict is none the less inevitable. People generally try to avoid conflict and some are actually afraid of it. Avoiding, ignoring, or hiding from it, won't make conflict disappear. Most people use these tactics because they have never learned how to successfully resolve conflict and have only seen conflict result in angry outbursts and unnecessary hurt. The health, well-being and sometimes very survival of a relationship depends on appropriate conflict resolution.

Here are a few tips to remember when faced with your next conflict. State the facts calmly and clearly. State how the facts impact you or make you feel. Do not attack, blame or accuse. Take responsibility for your actions. Listen to what the other person is saying and let them finish before responding. Try to understand the other person's feelings and point of view. Counseling can help you overcome any difficulties you may have dealing with conflict. It can also help you learn to resolve conflict in healthy appropriate ways.

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

— Ann C. Thacker, Counselor

The Hope in Our Calling

General Assembly of the PC(USA) meets June 18 – 25 in Portland, OR

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 172 presbyteries. The GA is full of activities: business sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, daily worship services, and mission tours sponsored by the Committee on Local Arrangements. The assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries.

Hosted by the Presbytery of the Cascades and united under the theme “The Hope in Our Calling,” from Ephesians 1:18, the General Assembly will include rich worship services, the election of the Moderator, action on a plethora of overtures, and much more.

Please keep the commissioners to G.A. in your prayers. The following is a list of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina’s commissioners to the 2016 General Assembly.



Teaching Elders

East Community

John N. Causey
Pastor, Shallotte Presbyterian Church
PO Box 3256, Shallotte, NC 28459-3259
(R) 910-575-7137
(C) 910-520-6994
(W) 910-754-6929
causeyoib@atmc.net

Central Community

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Stated Supply, Iona Presbyterian Church
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(R) 910-739-6335
(C) 910-674-8405
(W) 910-671-4042
jlpii@longlearprofessionalcounseling.com

West Community

Laura Lupton
West Mission Coordinator, Presbytery of Coastal
Carolina
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lauralupton@presbycc.org

At Large

LaVera Parato
Pastor, Antioch/Jacksonville Presbyterian Church
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Ruling Elders

East Community

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Central Community

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At Large

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Youth Advisory Delegate

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