



Network News

Things are pretty quiet around First Presbyterian during the month of July, and that's a good thing because the world outside is so full at the moment. The news exhausts me emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. I can only take so many shootings, mass killings, international sporting events, and national political conventions before I just want to jump in the pool or head to the beach. Or stop and pray. I have a delightful little book on my bookshelf by Anne Lamott: *Help, Thanks, Wow...the Three Essential Prayers*. In regards to the prayer "Help" she writes:

This is a hard planet, and we're a vulnerable species. And all I can do is pray: Help. When I pray, which I do many times a day, I pray for a lot of things. I ask for health and happiness for my friends, and for their children. This is okay to do, to ask God to help them have a sense of peace, and for them to feel the love of God. I pray for our leaders to act in the common good, or at least the common slightly better. I pray that aid and comfort be rushed to people after catastrophes, natural and man-made. It is also okay to ask that my cat have an easy death. Some of my friends' kids are broken and the kids' parents are living in that, and other friends' marriages are broken, and every family I love has serious problems involving someone's health or finances. But we can be big in prayer, and trust that God won't mind if we pray about the cat and [my grandson's] tender heart. Is God going to say, "Sorry, we don't have enough for the cat"? I don't think so.

I ask for help for this planet, and for her poor, and for the suffering people in my little galaxy. I know even as I pray for help that there will be tremendous compassion, mercy, generosity, companionship, and laughter from other people in the world, and from friends, doctors, nurses, hospice people. I also know that life can be devastating, and it's still okay to be [angry at] God.

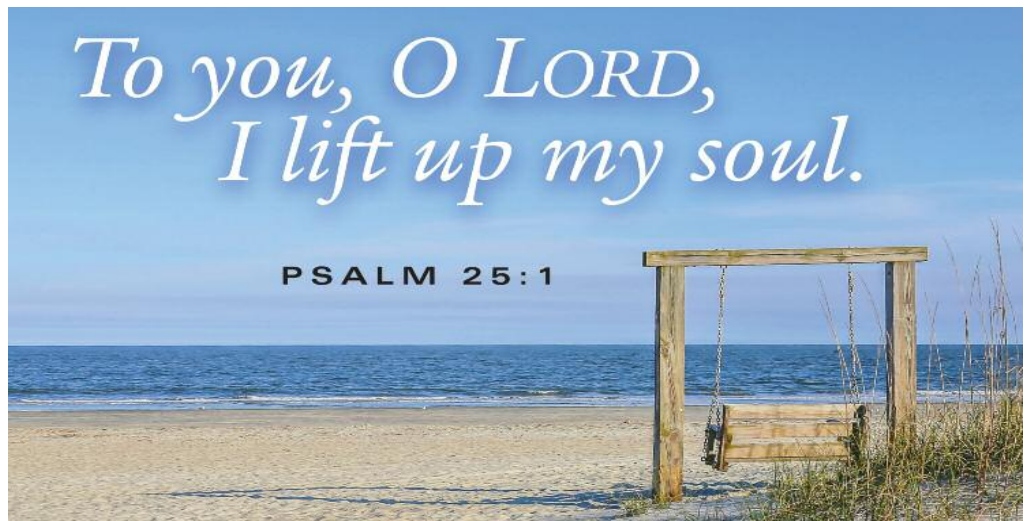
In prayer, I see the suffering bathed in light. In God, there is no darkness. I see God's light permeate them, soak into them, guide their feet. I want to tell God what to do: "Look, Pal, this is a catastrophe. You have got to shape up." But that wouldn't work. So I pray for people who are hurting, that they be filled with air and light. Air and light heal; they somehow get into those dark, musty places, like spiritual antibiotics. We don't have to figure out how all this works...it's enough to know it does. [pgs 13 and 16]

Let us hold those who suffer in the presence of God, asking that they be filled with air and light.

Yours and His,
Pastor Marie

To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

PSALM 25:1



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

Special Dates in August

BIRTHDAYS

1 Sterling Williams	8 Shelby Hunter	30 Lisa Colwell
2 David Dillingham, Shelia Miller	24 Frank Dill	31 Betty Davis, Donna Bateman, Adrienne Story
	26 Mary Ellen Andrews	
	29 Justin Southerland	

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

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, August 3.

SUNDAY ASSISTANTS IN WORSHIP

	Liturgists	Usher Leaders	Treasurer Assistants
August 7	Gary Danford	Pete Andrews	Mary Ellen Andrews
August 14	Rusty East	Tim Hunter	Connie Kitchen
August 21	Jenifer Bean	Connie Kellum	Harry Woodard
August 28	Bobby Sheegog	Barbara Krause	Tim Hunter

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.

SEPTEMBER 2016 Newsletter Submission DeadlineSaturday, August 20

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

Dan and Mary Southerland Family Scholarship Presented



Shaun Ryan Hayes was presented the 2016-17 Dan and Mary Southerland Family Scholarship on Sunday, July 17. Shaun is a former recipient who has kept his academic honors current and his career goals high. He is working toward his Master of Public Administration degree next Spring at UNC-Pembroke while instructing for the Coastal Carolina Fire Academy and employed as Division Chief for the Jacksonville Fire Department. Shaun is very active in our community and holds a number of professional certificates with the NC Firefighters and International Fire Investigators. His ultimate goal is to become a fire chief or emergency manager as he continues to serve our communities. He is a member of Pineland Presbyterian Church, where he and his wife were married by Pastor Vanderbilt in 2011.

Congratulations to Shaun Ryan Hayes! We know we will be hearing his name again!



EDUCATE...EQUIP...EMPOWER

Presbytery's E3 LEARNING FAIR Partners with Union Presbyterian Seminary

You are invited to Presbytery's annual E3 Learning Fair **Saturday, September 17** in Elizabethtown – Connect with good ideas to strengthen your service and participation in the church. The Learning Fair has a new format this year welcoming faculty from Union Seminary to be our session instructors. The E3 Learning Fair offers spiritual enrichment for all church participants.

This year's Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Brian Blount — President and Professor of New Testament in the Walter W. Moore and Charles E.S. Kraemer Presidential Chairs at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA.

Keynote Topic — *“If You Get MY Meaning: Why who we are shapes our understanding of biblical texts”*

2016 E3 Learning Fair—Schedule for Saturday, September 17

10:00 AM	Registration, Refreshments, Displays
10:30–11:45 AM	Plenary with Keynote
12 Noon	Lunch & Bookstore
1:00–2:00 PM	Session #1 Workshops
2:15–3:15 PM	Session #2 Workshops



Rev. Dr. Brian Blount

Find the E3 flyer and registration forms are posted on the educational building hallway bulletin board. Registration forms can be given to Kaye Bledsoe (kayebledsoe@presbycc.org or 910-389-2592. Online registration is available at **www.presbycc.org**.

Session Notes

Stated Session Meeting, June 28, 2016: Members present: Opal Amos, Mary Ellen Andrews, Gary Danford, Tim Hunter, Connie Kellum, Barbara Krause, Sue Lowery, Dan Roemerman, Ariel Rymoff, and Bobby Sheegog. Also present were Pastor Marie Cone, Moderator, and Brad Kuegel, Treasurer. Bill Carrier was excused.

Action Items:

Authorized donation of \$150 to continue Christ's ministry through the José Sánchez Medical Clinic in Tabasco, Mexico; check to be presented at October 8 Presbytery meeting in Fayetteville
Effective September 16, 2016, the existing contract with Interim Pastor Marie C. Cone will be renewed for one year, with the following changes:
Full Board of Pension dues included up to a .5% increase
Delete moving costs
Payment of Newton Sign Company invoice of \$1,567.55 approved; of that amount, \$1,120.10 from Evangelism budget had been previously authorized. Additional work requested to make changing sign easier and safer and can be paid from Memorial Fund.

Discussion Items (copied from written reports submitted):

Pastor's Report

Preaching & Teaching

Preached four out of six Sundays, including Confirmation Sunday (2 Confirmands, 1 Baptism)
Led two Preschool Chapel services
Led three Wednesday Night Dinner and Study (ave. attendance: 5)
Co-led the daily VBS Openings and Closings (5 days)

Administration

Prepared monthly Letter from the Pastor for the newsletter
Staff Meetings: I meet with Gloria at least once a week
Attended Meetings: Session, Worship, Mission Study Team, Personnel
Led two Café Conversations for the Mission Study
Attended East Community Ministers Group monthly meeting
Took minutes for the Coastal Carolina Presbytery East Community Gathering

Pastoral Care & Nurture

Home Visitation: One for the Ruddell family
Lunch with the Pastor: Two, one of which was at our home
Preschool Graduation: Gave a brief address to the parents

Fellowship/Mission Events – Three: Stop Hunger Now, Onslow Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon, Church Picnic (at our home)

Meetings with Individuals: Three

Other

Holiday: 1 Vacation: 9
Study Leave: 0 Sick Leave: 0

Ministry Team Reports

Personnel

Discussion on need for Personnel Policy, including, but not limited to, office hours, church holiday schedule, information on record-keeping for part-time staff, and requirement that all staff comply with Child and Youth Protection Policy and Sexual Misconduct Policy. Sue Lowery will obtain copy of earlier Personnel Policy and circulate among Team members.

During Don Edmondson's absence, is there a need for a new cleaning services contract? Ariel Rymoff asked to be considered during the summer months when she is not teaching.

Preschool has 22 students enrolled for the fall term. One of the new hires is certified to work with special needs students and another has a degree in psychology. Members explored ways the church can be more involved with the preschool.

Property

Got form from Duke Energy for damage during the power surge.
Estimate for repairing organ
Wireless thermostat \$973.00; answering machine \$30.00; printer \$230.00; fan \$30.00
Duke Energy has cut trees and branches away from the electrical wiring by the church.
Both Men's bathroom flushers are not working properly and are being repaired.
Getting quote for getting the bushes trimmed.
Getting Preschool floors stripped and waxed.
Getting estimate on getting the grout cleaned in the kitchen.
For information, Scouts are responsible for cleaning the upstairs and the bathrooms.

Worship

Pastor Marie would like for the elders who are serving communion to move to the first pew during the hymn just prior to communion; she is working on sermons and worship services through Advent, and is planning to request one Sunday of leave in October, date to be

Session Notes...continued

determined.

No one attended the Head Usher Training on June 5; Survey session members.

Communion was shared with Dot Keel, Donna McIntyre, and Lei Ashley; homebound communion will continue to be provided quarterly, list to be updated as changes occur. Members who recently volunteered to prepare communion elements will be invited to pair with trained individuals in order to learn how to set communion up.

ATTENTION PROPERTY TEAM AND SESSION: The Worship team discussed the possibility and feasibility of removing the front pews (first row both sides) to provide more space at the front of the sanctuary. The Worship team is requesting that Property consider and discuss.

Other Discussion Items:

Receipt of email from Souper Bowl of Caring regarding our participation

VBS average participation was 26; collection for Habit for Humanity was \$111

218 hygiene kits (hand towel, wash cloth, comb, soap, toothbrush, nail clippers, 10 Band-Aids) completed using funds from Gift of the Heart; some leftover supplies will be saved for future packaging of hygiene kits; event held at Pastor Marie's home (burgers, hot dogs, and pool for children and any others)

Preschool has all vacancies filled for the 2016-2017

school year.

Members were reminded to register for this year's E3 learning event on September 17 at Elizabethtown PC. (see flyers and registration forms on bulletin boards in the hall)

Results of "Exploring Our Faith" survey reviewed; participants at World Café Mission Study discussed what we as a church value and what should our response be to recent violence if we hold those values.

Called Session Meeting, July 10, 2016: Members present: Opal Amos, Mary Ellen Andrews, Bill Carrier, Tim Hunter, Sue Lowery, Dan Roerman, Ariel Rymoff, and Bobby Sheegog. Also present was Pastor Marie Cone, Moderator.

The only item of business was the approval to hold a Service of Lament on July 17, 2016, at 6 p.m. to let the community know of our concern and dismay over the recent acts of violence in our nation and the world and to give participants an opportunity to grieve and express feelings. Area PC(USA) churches as well as local African-American churches, law enforcement, and government officials will be invited and the service will be advertised in the local newspaper.

*Sue Lowery
Clerk of Session*

Stewardship

June 2016

General Fund	\$15,730
Building Fund	\$ 275.00

Through July 18, 2016

General Fund:	
Income	\$93,683
Expenses	\$112,546

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



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

Lunch with Pastor Marie

The women of the church are invited to join Pastor Marie for lunch! About twice each month we'll gather for some good food and lively conversation. Come as often as your schedule allows, just let Gloria in the office know you're planning on coming so we can make our reservations.

When

August 11 @ 12:30
August 25 @ 12:30
September 8 @ 12:30
September 22 @ 12:30
October 13 @ 12:30
October 27 @ 12:30
November 10 @ 12:30
December 8 @ 12:30
December 22 @ 12:30

Where

Osprey Grille
The Old Siam
Cheddar's
Ruby Tuesday
Chili's
Old Chicago
Texas Roadhouse
Duck's
Pastor Marie's

I hope to see soon for lunch!
Pastor Marie

Thursday Night Narnia Study

Have you enjoyed one of the Wednesday night studies of C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*? Did you want to participate but were unable? Are you a fan of C.S. Lewis and interested in meeting with others to discuss his books? Do you like to get together with friends for a good meal and good conversation?

If you answered "Yes!" to any of these questions, then plan to join Pastor Marie for a study of C.S. Lewis' *Prince Caspian*, the next book in our Narnia study.

When? Thursday Nights, beginning August 4

What Time? 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Where? At Pastor Marie's home: 207 Lansing Court in Jacksonville

What's on the Menu? Something delicious, decided each week

How do I Prepare? Get a Copy of *Prince Caspian* and begin reading it! Copies can be ordered from the office for \$8.00 by indicating "yes" beside your name on the Sign-Up sheet.

How do I Sign Up? Look for a Sign-Up Sheet on the table by the church office, call Gloria in the office, or email Pastor Marie

Who do I Contact? Pastor Marie: 610-659-3064 or marie.cone@verizon.net



General Assembly Wrap-Up

Historic PC(USA) 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon was held June 18–25, 2016. Collectively the 594 commissioners acted on nearly 100 overtures. They elected Co-Moderators Rev. Denise Anderson and Rev. Jan Edmiston. Rev. J. Herbert Nelson was elected as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, along with The Confession of Belhar being added to our Book of Confessions.

Read a post-GA letter to the church from PC(USA) leaders at

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/6/25/pcusa-leaders-issue-post-general-assembly-letter-c/>.

Resources on the Belhar Confession can be found at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga221/ga221-belhar/>.

Read the Belhar Confession at this link.

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf.

A Letter from Stop Hunger Now Eastern North Carolina



For 6th grader Jonathan Lambert, and many other children like him around the world, going to school means hope. "I am really happy because sometimes this is the only meal I get for the whole day," he said. "My parents are not able to buy me food." The Stop Hunger Now meals Jonathan eats every day at school give him more energy to study and focus, and his grades have risen from Bs to As. Jonathan is only one of the tens of thousands of children around the world who receive Stop Hunger Now meals at school. By packaging meals with us, you have helped Jonathan grow and thrive. And because you shared your time with us, children have hope for their future, families can take a step out of poverty, and communities can prosper.

We are delighted to announce that **the meals from your meal packaging event on 5/22/2016 have been shipped in a container totaling 199,584 meals from our Eastern North Carolina warehouse.** The meals will be received by our in-country partner CitiHope International in Dominican Republic. This shipment also included six pallets of medicine from MAP International.

With 42% of the population below the poverty line, food shortage is prevalent throughout the Dominican Republic. CitiHope provides food and other resources to schools, orphanages and other needy people and takes an active role in the distribution and monitoring. CitiHope supports sustainable educational and development programs that empower locals to create strong, self-sufficient communities. CitiHope's country director in the Dominican Republic says, "We consider this not to be 'charity' but a real investment in humanity. The school and orphanage programs help our country so much by creating a future of responsible citizens that contribute to the improvement of our society. These children come from families that cannot supply even one meal a day for their children and don't understand the purpose of education. So the motivation comes from the food!...These SHN donations are a defining component that heals a nation, multi-dimensionally."

Visit www.stophungernow.org for more information about how you can support Stop Hunger Now and continue your involvement in the fight against hunger. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stophungernow for updates, videos and photos from the field.

Thank you for volunteering with Stop Hunger Now. We truly appreciate your dedication and commitment to the vision of a world without hunger.

Gratefully,
Chris Singleton, Program Manager
Stop Hunger Now Eastern North Carolina



400 Bayshore Boulevard N., Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Centerpoint

The Puzzle of Addiction

When I was a child I touched a hot stove... after my mother had warned me not to. It hurt. I never did it again.

This brief, simple story about the process of learning illustrates how discomfort and pain, such as that provided by a hot stove, are very good motivators for helping us to learn what to do, or not to do, as we mature and grow as human beings.

So what do you think about people who repeatedly touch the same hot stove and get burned repeatedly? As we move through life, it soon becomes apparent that there are people who we see on a regular basis (maybe even in the mirror) who repeatedly engage in behavior that is harmful to themselves and/or others. They hurt themselves and/or others and don't seem to learn from their mistakes. What I'm describing is an "addiction."

An addiction is defined by two things: loss of control and negative consequences. Whatever is causing pain—shopping, gambling, over-eating, drugs/alcohol—should have stopped long ago. Promises and vows have been made and broken... because people cannot stop themselves. What is the answer? It's one of the hardest things for most people to do: *Get some help*. If you'd like to talk about how to gain control over your actions, please call the Center. We are here to help *you*.

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



— Doug Edwards, Counselor