



Network News

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Beloved in the Lord,

This month the Mission Study Team will be gathering the information from our three Café Conversations, the New Beginnings report, and our faith survey. Once we have consolidated all of this data into one document, it will form the bulk of our Mission Study Report. Then we will summarize and analyze this material in order to prepare a meaningful executive summary. Once that is written we will submit the entire report to Session for approval. We plan on presenting it to the congregation during the Fifth Sunday Luncheon on October 30. Then we will submit it to the Commission on Ministry for final approval in November.

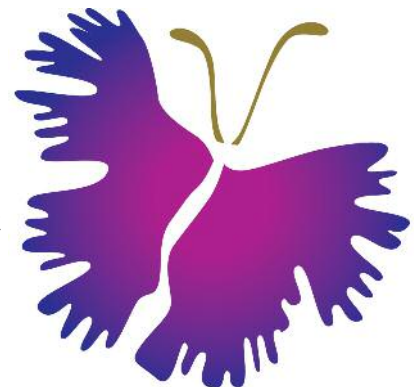
In preparing this report, especially the executive summary, we recognize that we have a number of audiences, each having its own expectations of what the report will achieve. Our staff and Session are looking for clear, practical direction including goals, objectives, and guidelines for session teams. Congregation members hope to find that individuals and groups have been heard, that they are represented on the pages of the report, and that there is good reason to get excited about the future. The Commission on Ministry expects to see integrity in the study process and a summary and a vision

statement that are realistic. They will be reading the report for signs that First Presbyterian Jacksonville is ready to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Once that PNC is elected, those members will look to the report to provide material that can be easily transferred to the Ministry Information Form. Finally, pastors who are interested in being considered for the open position will look to the Mission Study Report for a clear understanding of the process and results of the study. They will be hoping to find an accurate picture of First Presbyterian Jacksonville and reasons to be excited about interviewing with the PNC.

Therefore, as we work faithfully on this final task, we covet your prayers for inspiration and insight. May the Holy Spirit guide our thoughts, our conversations, and our composition so that what we prepare is pleasing to our Lord and serves the many purposes for which it is intended.

Yours and His,

Pastor Marie



Special Dates in October

Roberta Siegriest's 100th birthday was on September 15! Thank you to all who helped make her day special!



BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Opal Amos
Andrea Forte
- 12 Thomas Dill
Dan Roemerman
Macie Ruddell
- 28 Adair Hadlely

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

SUNDAY ASSISTANTS IN WORSHIP

Dates	Liturgists	Usher Leaders	Treasurer Assistants
2	Bill Carrier	Barbara Krause	Mary Ellen Andrews
9	Sue Lowery	Tim Hunter	Opal Amos
16	Bobby Sheegog	Connie Kellum	Bobby Sheegog
23	Gary Danford	Connie Kellum	Tim Hunter
30	Sue Lowery	Bobby Sheegog	Opal Amos

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.

November 2016 Newsletter Submission DeadlineThursday, October 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

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child — Shoeboxes

What goes in is FUN, what comes out can be eternal!

Every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship – helping transform the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

First Presbyterian will provide these special shoeboxes this year and hope you can fill them with items for boys and girls. Marilyn Danford is organizing this project for us and will have the boxes along with instructions for you to pick up.



What goes in a shoebox?

Ideas include: Soccer ball with pump, Stuffed animal, Toys (puppets, trucks, etc.), Doll (baby, Barbie, etc.), Musical instrument, Outfit, Shoes, **Toys:** Include items that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc. **School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. **Non-liquid Hygiene Items:** toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc. **Accessories:** T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc. **Crafts:** Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

Deadline for collection: Our Shoebox collection date is Sunday, Nov. 13. \$7.00 per box is requested for shipping expenses and evangelistic materials. Checks are recommended and should be made to Samaritan's Purse. Place checks in the shoebox.

If you need information on how to pack your shoebox, go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/> or call Marilyn.

School Supplies Delivered to Clyde Erwin Elementary School



A Clyde Erwin Educator and Administrator gratefully accep school supplies.

On September 19, boxes of school supplies donated by members of First Presbyterian for the Back-to-School Drive were delivered to the school. A quick count of items resulted in these amounts: 11 backpacks, 17 bottles of hand sanitizer, 20 bottles/stick packs of glue, 6 boxes of facial tissues, 27 packages of notebook paper, 6 packs of construction paper, 2 packs of printer paper, 12 packs of colored pencils, 7 packs of sticky notes, 8 crayon packs, 29 pencil/pens packs, 6 scissors, 4 flash drives and a partridge in a pear tree!

Reaching Out to Onslow County Women's Center

The extra items leftover from the Gift of the Heart Hygiene Kits we assembled this summer, have been delivered to The Women's Center. The Evangelism and Mission Ministry Team decided to find a useful home for them. We had combs, nail clippers, wash clothes and hand towels to share. These donations were received with many thanks.

Ladies of the Church

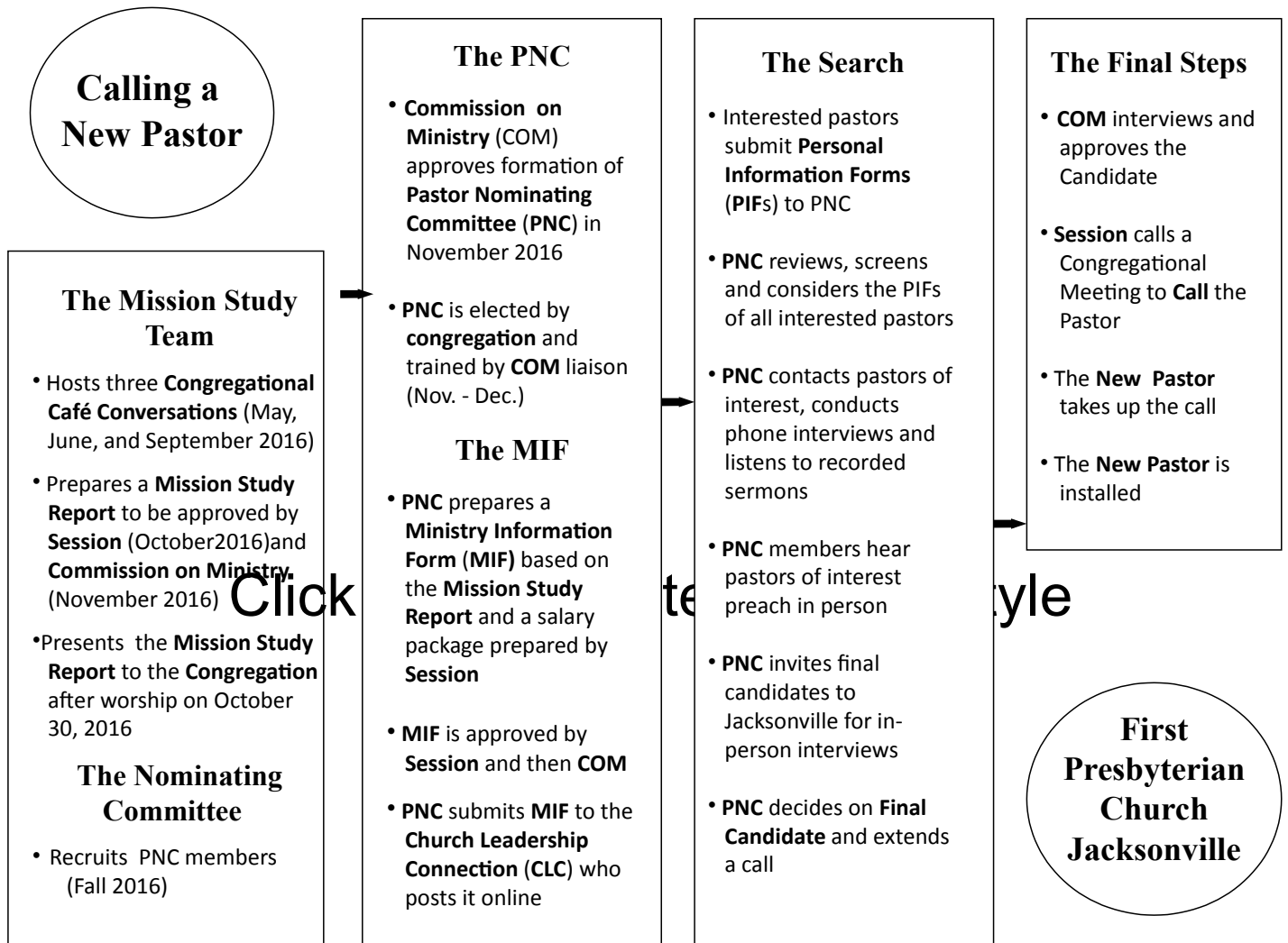
Church Women United Luncheon will be at First Presbyterian Church on **Friday, November 4 at 11:30 a.m.** I hope you can attend and meet women from other churches.

I need help with set up, food, help in the kitchen, registration and clean up. We have decided to do a pot luck meal. I will have a sign-up sheet on desk in the hallway next to the office or you can call, email, or message me. Thank you for any help that you can give me!

Wanda Elliott
 910-455-0538
 910-265-1116
 welliott4@ec.rr.com



Pastoral Call Process



News from CE!

Greetings from the Christian Education Ministry Team! School is back in session, and we hope the children are enjoying their new school year so far.

Thanks to everyone for their participation in our **Blessing of the Backpacks and Rally Day** celebration! Special thanks to all who brought school and work materials to be blessed for this school year.

And that brings us to our **Dessert Auction and Bake Sale**...wow, what a great day! For anyone who may not know, our annual Dessert Auction and Bake Sale helps supplement the youth fund, which sponsors camperships and other youth-oriented activities. We enjoyed a fun and filling lunch, with great food and many wonderful side dishes (thank you everyone!). Special thanks to Bill Carrier and the Fellowship Committee for organizing our wonderful food. A special thanks also to our auctioneer extraordinaire, Mr. Gary Danford, and also to you, our faithful members and friends, who so willingly and enthusiastically baked and bought!!! We raised just over \$1,200!

TRUNK or TREAT



Saturday, October 29

And just in case you didn't get your fill of fun at the auction, we will be sharing more fun with the community at our **TRUNK or TREAT** festivities on Saturday, October 29, from 6 until 8 p.m., in the side parking lot (or inside the fellowship hall if weather is inclement). Plans are underway for a variety of games, food, music, prizes, Bouncy House, and more! We are also partnering with our Boy Scout Troop so this will be a whole lot of fun! There are lots of opportunities, and it's such a fun evening, so please consider where you might be able to support this community outreach event.

Thanks again to everyone for all that you do to support the Christian Education ministry team and its missions.

*In Christ's Service,
The Christian Education Committee Team and Pastor Marie*



Hello, Everyone!

We have had a great first month of preschool! To say it's been a smooth start would be an

understatement; not one student has cried! We had a fantastic field trip to the new Jacksonville Fire Station and Police Department. We have learned all about apples, bears, and community helpers, so far.

We are looking forward to our field trip to Mike's Farm on October 10, to pick our pumpkins to carve in our classrooms for Halloween. We are looking forward to all of the exciting learning opportunities that the month of October will bring. The students and staff always enjoy the beauty that the Lord blesses us with, every fall. We have many exciting and educational activities and events planned for the months ahead.

*With Gratitude, Jessica Arnold
First Presbyterian Preschool Director*



Continued Prayers for...



Deployed
Peter Jacob

At Home

Martha Jacob • Macie Ruddell
Slim Ruddell • Roberta Siegriest
Winton Southerland

In Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Rehab Centers

Lei Ashley – Onslow House
Donna McIntyre – Liberty Commons
Dot Keel – Liberty Commons

*Please send updates to Gloria,
gjparker@embarqmail.com*



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

Financials

August 2016

General Fund\$18,375
Building Fund\$580

Change in Fund Balances

January 1, 2016 \$ 109,136.
August 31, 2016 \$ 86,513.

Net Change \$ <\$23,960>

***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

Vespers at Kirkwood

**First Presbyterian Jacksonville is hosting the October 9 Vespers at Camp Kirkwood!
2015 Camp Kirkwood Rd, Watha, NC 28478**

Refreshments served in the picnic pavilion 5-6 p.m.

Vespers held at the lakeside worship area 6-7 p.m.

The offering taken during worship benefits Friends of Kirkwood, who sponsor the services.



vesper [ves-per]

noun

1. (initial capital letter) the evening star, especially Venus; Hesperus.
2. Also called vesper bell. a bell rung at evening.
3. vespers, (sometimes initial capital letter) Ecclesiastical. a religious service in the late afternoon or the evening. the sixth of the seven canonical hours, or the service for it, occurring in the late afternoon or the evening. Roman Catholic Church. a part of the office to be said in the evening by those in major orders, frequently made a public ceremony in the afternoons or evenings of Sundays and holy days. Anglican Church. evensong (def 1).
4. Archaic. evening.

adjective

5. of, pertaining to, appearing in, or proper to the evening.
6. of or relating to vespers.



Friends of
Camp
Kirkwood



400 Bayshore Boulevard N., Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CENTERPOINT

Forgiveness

“Refusing to forgive is like taking poison and hoping that the person who has harmed us will die.” *(source unknown)*

Our society equates forgiveness with weakness. The thinking is that forgiveness means we must allow the wrongdoer repeated opportunities to harm us. If that were the case forgiveness would be an impossible option. We would inevitably hang on to our resentments. As a result those angers would eventually leave us bitter and even make us emotionally and physically ill.

True forgiveness is very different from the popular conception. It involves two challenging and life-giving benefits. As we genuinely forgive, we choose to no longer be angry with the perpetrator because: **1)** it enhances our emotional health, and **2)** in repentance, he or she asks for our forgiveness. The first is a gift to us. The second is a gift to the other person. Neither action requires that we allow the person who has harmed us with an opportunity to hurt us again.

Forgiveness is not pretending we are no longer hurt or angry. It is healing deep hurts with patient insight and concern. It may well involve the supportive assistance offered by the caring staff of the Presbyterian Counseling Center.



— Doug Edwards, Counselor

(910) 452-7370 www.presbyteriancounselingcenter.org

Session Notes

Stated Session Meeting, September 20, 2016:

Members present: Opal Amos, Gary Danford, Connie Kellum, Barbara Krause, Sue Lowery, Ariel Rymoff, and Bobby Sheegog. Also present was Pastor Marie Cone, Moderator.

Action Items

- Authorized "Gifts of the Heart" fundraiser in February 2017, with proceeds going to "Stop Hunger Now" event to be held May 21, 2017
- Approval to enter into Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Employer Agreement to pay dues for Pastor Participation enrollment for Pastor Marie (amounts already approved in Interim Pastor renewal contract effective September 16, 2016) and to pay 75% of member only health insurance coverage for Gloria Parker
- Approval, upon request from Gloria, that effective January 1, 2017, her working week be reduced to four days (Monday through Thursday, 32 hours per week).
- Authorized five-member Pastor Nominating Committee to be elected once Commission on Ministry approves its election.

Pastor's Report

Preaching & Teaching

- Preached four out of five Sundays
- Planned and help teach the first rotation for Sunday School
- Led four Evening Dinner and Study events at my home (average attendance: 5)
- Participated in the Eagle Court of Honor for Josiah Morton

Administration

- Prepared monthly Letter from the Pastor for the newsletter
- Staff Meetings: I meet with Gloria at least once a week
- Attended the monthly Interim Pastor Collegium
- Attended Meetings: Session, Mission Study Team, Mission and Evangelism (2x), Rotation Model Sunday School Orientation, CE, Personnel, Finance, Worship
- Hosted East Community Ministers Group

monthly meeting

- Helped set up the new Sunday School room
- Attended the E3 Learning Fair
- Met with Security Sales Representative

Pastoral Care & Nurture

- Lunch with the Pastor: One
- Fellowship/Mission Events: Three: Barbara Siegriest's 100th Birthday Party, Slim Ruddell's 92nd Birthday Party, Cake Day
- Meetings with Individuals: Two

Other

Holiday: 1; Vacation: 4; Study Leave: 0; Sick Leave: 0

Discussion Items:

Communications: Mailings from Bill Reinhold, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk regarding World Mission Celebration at October 8 Presbytery meeting and requesting socks and underwear ("Seats and Feets") for school-age children. Information on Thai Christian Dance Troupe, packaging of hygiene kits for PDA, and "Stop Hunger Now" event submitted for inclusion in World Mission Celebration. Bins located in narthex and outside Gloria's office for socks and underwear to be taken to October 8 Presbytery meeting by Sue Lowery.

Christian Education: (copied from report submitted) Meeting September 18, 2016.

Discussed the success of Rally Day. Just over \$1200 raised. Discussed and planned for the next rotation of Sunday School. Deborah is the next topic. Finalizing plans for Trunk or Treat. Date is Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m. Kaye will check with Evangelism on getting a Bounce House. CE is to buy all candy. Leftover VBS items will be given out. CE would like the budget to stay the same. Next meeting Sunday, October 16. CE will meet every other month on even months on the 3rd Sunday. Meeting closed with prayer by Kaye Bledsoe. The Boy Scouts will join in the Trunk or Treat event.

Congregational Care: Members are reviewing different congregational care models.

Session Notes

Evangelism/Missions: Blessing of the Animals October 1 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Team will make application for a \$1,000 grant from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina to benefit the CHEW program. Bobby Sheegog asked, on behalf of the Boy Scout troops, whether a plaque could be installed listing names of Eagle Scouts; it was decided this will be acceptable, with its location to be determined.

Fellowship: The Team will coordinate a fifth Sunday luncheon for October 30. Members who are serving or who have previously served on the Team will assist the Moderator in planning and executing this luncheon.

Nominating: Team members reviewed listing of active members eligible to serve on Pastor Nominating Committee and as active Ruling Elders for the Class of 2019. A list of suggested active members for PNC was developed; nominating ministry team members will contact and secure commitment. A second listing was developed for Class of 2019 Ruling Elders.

Personnel: See action items above.

Preschool: Successful completion of the start of the new school year with teachers and students eager to begin.

Property: A work day is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, for yard work. Boy Scouts will assist by power-washing the tables and chairs from the Fellowship Hall. There was a discussion on the removal of two front pews from the sanctuary and the difficulty of relocating them to walls in the library and the Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship and Treasurer's Report: Income from pledges is ahead of schedule, but non-pledged income (estimated) is behind schedule. There has been a negative net change of \$23,960 in fund balances since January 1, 2016 (general expenses are more than received income from pledges). No extraordinary expenses since the last budget report.

Worship (from report submitted): Meeting September 13. TEACHING CHILDREN IN WORSHIP will begin 9/18/16, and conclude 11/27/16. World Communion Sunday will be observed October 2, with various types of bread available. Eric Blahut has agreed to be supply pastor October 23, November 13 and January 1. Connie Kellum presented information about the acolyte program with the following information: no robes for the children at this time, one acolyte per service, and confirmed the timing for entrance and exit of the light. Usher training was very successful, and many thanks to those who participated. Homebound communion pending for Gene Davis, and Roberta Siegriest; scheduled for Martha Jacob (9/18/16). Team reviewed the current budget with no new recommendations. Discussed One Minute of Silence following Confession, and recommended to change the wording in the bulletin to "Moment of Silence", and shorten the time to 30 seconds, with the music signaling the end of the silent prayers.

Mission Study: Two more sessions scheduled: October 24 following worship and a session to prepare the Mission Study Report. Report will be presented to Session at its October 18 meeting and to the East Community Commission on Ministry at its November meeting along with a request to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Other Discussion: Connie Kellum has discussed with Barbara Krause (Property Team Moderator) her desire to have the pulpit, lectern, and baptismal font repainted. She will proceed with having this done.

*Sue Lowery
Clerk of Session*

SHARE JESUS
WITH A FRIEND