



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

February 2023

153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.fpcrm.org
252-446-9121



Happy February!

This past month, I preached a short sermon about the three types of fishing with which I am familiar, and I compared it to different types of evangelism. There is spear fishing—where you target one particular person, invite them to come sit with you at worship, an event, or a function. There is bait fishing—where we dangle a program out there and hope that someone comes by and latches on to it. There is also net casting—where we reach out into the community, far and wide, to let people know that they are loved, prayed for, and cherished.

The response to that sermon was overwhelming. People asked, “So what are we going to do?” That’s the million dollar question. How can we cast a net over Rocky Mount, and show people near and far that they are beloved children of our loving God?

Let’s try a few experiments, let’s host another community worship service in the park. Let’s find a way to intentionally pray with and for our neighbors. Let’s partner anew with our community partners and others to do acts of mercy and justice. Invite some friends—churched and unchurched—to your house for a dinner party and enjoy time together. We’ll invite our fellow Presbyterians in Rocky Mount to worship with us for the sake of unity and connection. There are ideas and plans in the works for this spring. Stay tuned for ways that we can partner together to fellowship and cast a net of God’s love all a round our city.

With love and gratitude,
Matt

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker *Community Pastor:* The Rev. Hannah Trawick
Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale *Financial Secretary:* Jeanne T. Shannon
Director of Music: Jim Smith *Organist:* Virginia Vance

Sexton: Michael Smith *Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:* Charity Lodge *Nursery Attendant:* Mary Hilliard

Community Connections: Ripple Effects



We are the church in the community and the community in the church. This spot highlights a community initiative in Rocky Mount or a church mission at FPC that needs its story told. If you know of an organization, program, or person that our church should know about, please contact Pastor Hannah. And, know that this space is always an invitation. If you see something highlighted here that awakens your sense of call, reach out to Hannah—you never know how the spirit is moving!

"I alone cannot change the world. But I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." -Mother Theresa

This quote by Mother Theresa is the philosophy and foundation of *Ripple Effects*, a local Community Transformation Organization that began in 2016 to support the people of Nash and Edgecomb Counties. Founded by Keisha Spivey, *Ripple Effects* emerged in an effort to fight the cycles of desperation and hopelessness in which so many people get caught throughout various periods of life.

The primary purpose of *Ripple Effects* is to enter the real lives of real people who are facing the real effects of crisis, trauma, and pain. As Keisha says in a promotional video, "we feel the suffering of the people who walk through our doors, and it is out of that place of pain that we birth actions."

In listening to the stories of affected people, in offering compassion and empathy, and in feeling the pain and suffering of others, *Ripple Effects* has opened the *Ripple Effects Empowerment Center*, which offers personal growth and development resources as well as the priceless services of networking and connections. *The Bridge*, another program birthed from listening to the needs of the community, is a transitional housing program that helps individuals and families experiencing homelessness or unstable housing situations find flourishing. *Ripple Effects'* Bridge Program currently consists of four single family home properties and one multi-family home property. Their approach assists residents with the immediate need of shelter and safety but expands services to include assistance with health and wellness, career readiness, and financial literacy.

In its six years of existence, *Ripple Effects* is teaching our community a valuable lesson: when we make space to listen to and be affected by the needs and suffering of others, big and lasting change is possible.

As we think about Matt's past sermon and Newsletter article and the ways we might cast a net over Rocky Mount to show others they are loved, listened to, and prayed for, perhaps we can follow *Ripple Effect's* lead, opening ourselves up to really hear the people in our community, to be affected by their stories, and to cast our own stones across the water. Enough ripples can create a wave.

To learn more about *Ripple Effects*, visit their website at rippleeffectsgroup.com—it's worth pursuing!

With love,

Hannah

MAKES CENTS

Happy New Year! Please review the below church income and expense data for the month shown. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions.

Pledges and Loose Offering through December, 2022

Month – to – date	\$ 118,292.32
Year – to – date	\$ 642,299.88



Expenses through December, 2022

Month – to – date	\$ 44,030.73
Year – to – date	\$ 619,831.46

We are grateful for your 2023 pledge!

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office by phone at 252.446.9121 or by email at jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org. Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 -2:30 PM.



DEACONS

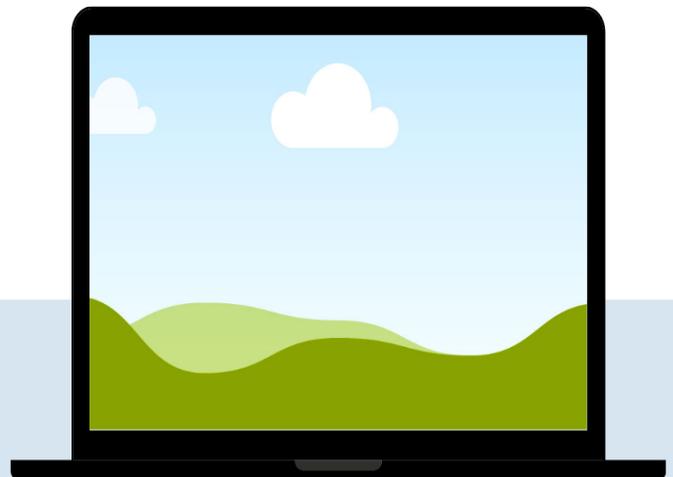
*Assist with Shrove Tuesday
February 21, 2023*

SESSION

February 28, 2023
5:30 p.m.

New FPC Website!

Stay tuned for the anticipated launch date -
January 30th



www.fpcrm.org

COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

**TUESDAY
FEB. 28, 2023
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Red Cross Blood Drive

REGISTER ONLINE AT
REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG
AND ENTER FIRSTPRESRM
TO SCHEDULE AN APPT.



**153 N. CHURCH ST.
ROCKY MOUNT, NC**

PW of the Presbytery of New Hope Scholarship Opportunities



College Scholarship

Applicants must live in the Presbytery and be a member of a church in the Presbytery. Applicants may attend the college of their choice, but preference may be given to those attending a Presbyterian-related college. See church office for an application if needed! Due March 1, 2023.



Campership Scholarship

For youth (grades 6-12); must live in the Presbytery and be a member of a church in the Presbytery. Campers may attend the camp/youth event of their choice, but preference may be given to those attending a Presbyterian-related camp. See church office for an application if needed, value \$250; due March 1.

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSINGS



Laying of hands during
New Officer installation—
January 8, 2023



Youth Ski Trip; January 20-22, 2023; Wintergreen Ski Resort in Virginia



LOTS OF WAYS TO
CONNECT AT FPC!

Heretics Small
Group

5:30 on February 2
(RMT Mills)

Kiddos in the Kirk

3:30-5:00 on February
6 and February 20

Wednesday Nights

6:00 Wed. Night Covered
Dish meal
6:40 Handbell Choir
6:45 Wed. Night Program
7:30 Chancel Choir

Presbyterian Women

10:00 PWCT on February 6
10:30 Joint Circle meeting
on February 14

Brown Bag
Bible Study

12:00 on Mondays
(Session Room)

Tuesdays @2
2:00 on Tuesdays
via Zoom (Contact
Dionne Seale for
more info)

Young Adults
7:00 on February 7—
Trivia Night at
Westridge Grill

Youth
6:45 am on February 9:
HS Breakfast at
Dunkin (Sunset Ave.)
4-5:30 Youth Group on
February 12 and 26

Sip & Chat
5:30 on February 9—

**Men's Breakfast
Fellowship**
7:30 a.m. on February
16—Hardee's on
Sunset Ave.

In-Betweens
5:00 on February 24
at Covenant Homes
Dining Hall—hosted
by Janice Smith and
Evelyn Reese.

Presbyterian Women Update

A Bible verse for Valentine's Day ♥ 1 Corinthians 13:13

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

The Presbyterian Women continue to demonstrate their joyful hearts....sometimes it is as simple as being a source of joy for others.

This month the Team joyfully celebrates the Children's Hope Alliance with its annual monetary donation. Also note, there are several scholarship opportunities available through the PW for summer camp and college. Contact the church office for details. The deadline for both scholarships is March 1st.

* PWCT will meet Monday, February 6th in the Session Room at 10 am

* A Joint Circle meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 14th at 10:30 am Session Room - Lessons 5 & 6

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2022-23

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Sarah Gooding, *Historian*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*

Martha Tesoro, *Together in Service*

Myra Richardson, *Circle of Friends Leader*

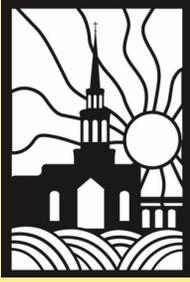
Linda Amerson, *Circle of J.O.Y. Leader*



Presbyterian Women 2022 Annual Report

The Women at First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount served faithfully throughout the year in 2022. The needs were many and as they arose so did the women of the church. Whether it was within our own church family, or in the community, no task was too big or too small. Our Circles gathered in fellowship and study to support each other and gain deeper knowledge of the Bible. Participation increased not only monetarily but with new faces to share in service to others. From the handcraft ministry to the Thank Offering, and all the offerings in between, our works are our mission. We are particularly proud of our participation this year in helping our community's families during the QVC crisis as well as the fundraising for the Lucas Project through Peacemakers. Our priorities continue to be the needs of our congregational family, the residents of Covenant Homes, the students and staff of Tar River Academy, the children at Peace Makers, My Sister's House, and the missions of the Agape Village. We look forward to the year ahead as we continue to demonstrate the strength of our role in the Church.

Submitted by Sarah Gooding, Historian



WORSHIP HELPERS

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you
has received."*

1 Peter 4:10

Date	Ushers	Time with Children
February 5	Dee Whitley, Sylvia Phillips, Marie Kem, Andy Warner	Matt Baker
February 12	Russell Proctor, Nancy Proctor, Sam Brown, Tom Steed	Hannah Trawick
February 19	Jean Kitchin, Jep Rose, Anne Mosley, Meredith Cooper	Randy Adams
February 26	Tommy Honey, Kate Honey, Mike Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor	Matt Baker



In-Betweens Gathering

Friday, February 24, 2023 at 5:00 pm

Covenant Homes Dining Hall

135 Covenant Court, Rocky Mount

Hosted by Evelyn Reese and Janice Smith

No RSVP needed

**(Meat provided; bring an appetizer, side or
dessert to share.)**



Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

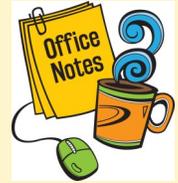


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc_rockymount

Contact Information Updates: Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date. Church office hours are 9:00-4:00 PM Monday-Thursday.



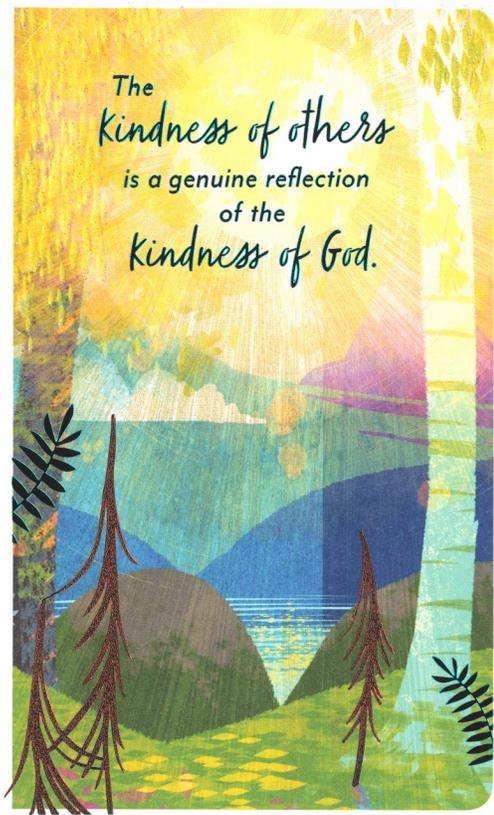
As the Church celebrates the baptism of the Lord, know that you and yours are beloved and pleasing to God. You are known by name. We see you and give thanks for you at the Theological Education Fund.

Thank you for the ways you are responding to your own call and helping others do the same as they prepare for their service to the Church and the world.

Grateful,

Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty

Presbyterian Foundation/Theological Education Fund



*For my First Presbyterian Church Friends,
No one could be any better than you all.*

Thank you so much and love always,

Charity

The Lord bless you, because you have show this kindness.

II Samuel 2:5

Communications Deadlines

- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoons. The weekly email deadline is noon on Wednesday.



Honor someone or mark a special occasion in the coming year by signing up for the date you prefer by contacting the church office or using the link on

the church website. Dionne Seale can place the order on your behalf at a cost of \$75 that will be billed to you or contact her for names of **approved** floral arrangers that you can contact and pay directly. Not only do we enjoy these flowers during worship, but they are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to those in need of cheer or celebration the following day.

****Donations are also accepted to the flower fund so the church can provide flowers on dates that are not assigned.**

As of printing, these upcoming dates were available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

February 12, 19, 26



- The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to L.M. Barnes and family upon the passing of his wife Margaret Barnes on January 5, 2023
- The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Suzanne Buchanan and family upon the death of her father Herman Ferguson on January 13, 2023.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- ▶ Dick Fountain

ROCKY MOUNT REHABILITATION CENTER

- ▶ Phyllis Goodwin

THE LODGE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Sandra Luther

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Betsy Boddie

- ▶ Mike Braswell

- ▶ Cora Lee Gold

TRINITY ELMS ASSISTED LIVING—Clemmons

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CONCERNS

Logan Barnes

Tucker Carrier (U.S. Army)

Earl Goodwin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Wayne Moore

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Nancy Proctor

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Nancy Richardson

Maida Sessoms

Mark Stuart

Phyllis Toler

Mary Watson

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



As we have closed the books on another year in the life of our church and look forward to 2023, we would like to honor those members that have been in our church for over a half century. If you and your family joined in 1973 or before, we would like to acknowledge your faithful support and commitment to our church family during worship on February 19, 2023. A list of names was published in the weekly email—if you are not sure if you were included, please contact **Beth Turnage to see if you are listed or let her know if we have overlooked a member ASAP.** We are excited about celebrating these long time devoted First Presbyterians in worship on February 19th!

FEB. 21 FROM 6-7 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

RSVP by February 14 – call
the church office at
252-446-9121 & press 2
to leave a message.



Ash
Wednesday

February 22, 2023
5:30 p.m.
Chapel

Join us in the church chapel
on this first day of Lent for a
time of prayerful reflection
and the imposition of ashes.