

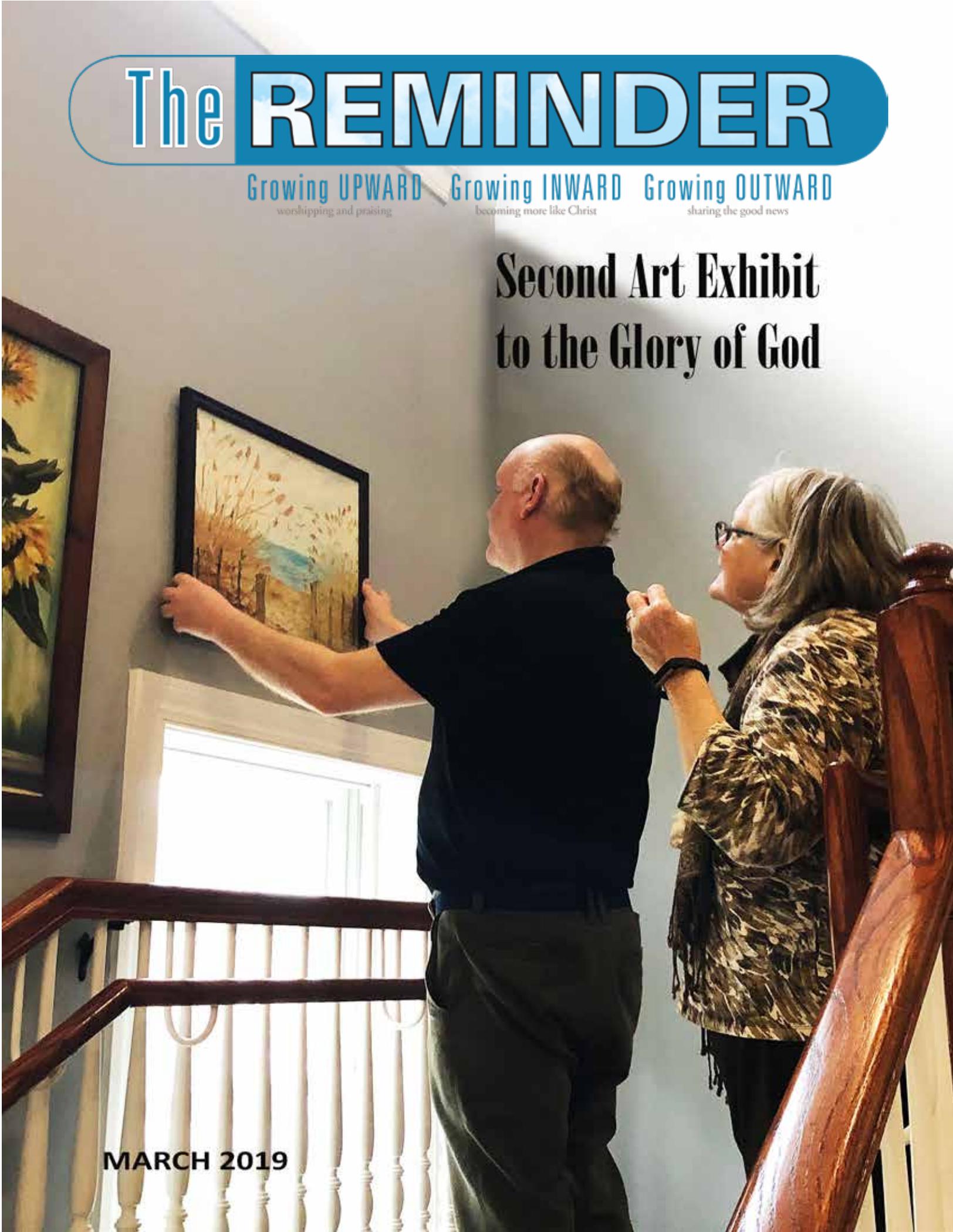
The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news

Second Art Exhibit to the Glory of God



MARCH 2019

Ways to help your preacher, pastor

Sometime in the not too distant future you are going to have a new "Senior Pastor." Looking back over my years of ministry in churches, I am trying to think through what I wish a congregation had done to help me be a better preacher and pastor with and among them. Here are some thoughts.

First, I always had people who, whether they always agreed with me or approved of my approaches, continued to pray for me. And some even prayed with me regularly. In each of the churches that did this, it was usually the older members who had been through all life brings. And it was mostly women.

I am not sure why praying tends to be central to many women's practice, but I greatly appreciated it. I wish that more men had felt comfortable in praying for and with me. This past Sunday I was greatly encouraged by an older man who said he liked to pray with and for the preacher each Sunday. So men, when your new preacher arrives,

more and more of you drop by to see him or her. Take him or her to lunch and get to know them apart from their job. Initiate prayer with her or him. Do not give up praying for and with them. It will make you a better covenant partner and make them better preachers and pastors.

Second, not every preacher is a good pastor. Not every person who is a good pastor is a good preacher. The Lord will bring a person who may be strong and gifted in one area and not in the other. Some people only want a good pastor. Other people only want a good preacher. Sometimes the Lord brings a person who is good at both. Pray for whomever the Lord calls as your next pastor. And they may become far stronger over time in the area they are weakest.

Third, love them in spite of who they are or how good they are at what you think is most important. Jesus instructs us, "This is my command: love one another." Love and care for your new preacher as Christ loves you. And be sensitive

to his or her family. Some mates are very comfortable in being the mate of the preacher and others are not. Love his or her family especially and encourage them in small ways that fit who you are. You have certainly done this with me and my family. Continue doing this for your new pastor and his or her family.

Finally, be patient with your new preacher. If he or she is young, and especially if this is their first time being a senior pastor, they do not fully appreciate all the demands that they will face. If they have been a pastor for a number of years, they know the special demands they will face. He or she will already have had "senior pastor experience." It is very different from being an associate. In either case, be patient with him or her. As I saw on a lapel button some years ago, "A life under construction. Be patient. God is not finished with me yet."

With appreciation for you,

MARCH 2019 IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the Transitional Pastor
- 3 From the Associate Pastor
- 4 Church Administration Matters
- 5 From the Congregational Care Assistant
- 6-7 Women in Ministry
- 7 Music Ministry
- 8 Child Development Center
- 9 Birthdays
- 10-11 Calendar
- 12 Prayer Concerns
- 13 Pray for our Missions
- 14-15 Church News
- 16-17 Children's Ministry
- 18 Parenting Column
- 19 Youth Ministry



ON THE COVER
Betsy Olsen and her son, Robert, hang artwork ahead of the opening reception for the Second Art Exhibition to the Glory of God. See page 15.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Take heart in the flourishing church

Our time in Colorado Springs at the National Gathering excited and challenged the four of us who attended. Jayne Boswell, Susan Snow, Alexis Morris, and I were blessed to participate; and we hope to share some of what we heard with you after dinner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12.

There were about 950 in attendance, and we sang and prayed and heard the Word preached in the most powerful of ways.

We heard from a church planter in Wilmington, N.C., who captured Jayne's ear as he shared how the new church had grown using a ministry with horses. Yes, horses!

Susan tuned into a challenge from Richard Starnes the president of World Vision and author of *The Hole in Our Gospel*. He spoke of the Church's call to those in poverty. One of the speakers grabbed Alexis's imagination when he said our everyday life is the place where God wants her/you to sense how God can use you/her on mission. In other words, it is not the 2 to 5 hours of time gathered as the church that stand as evidence of you living into the call of God on your life. It is the other 110 hours scattered in your community where you evidence

God's work in your life as his ambassador.

I was especially taken by the message of our denominational leader, Dana Allin, who has consistently cast a vision for the direction of our denomination. As he vision cast, he rehearsed to us a clear statement of what every ECO congregation is supposed to be doing: Building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. He gave us values that help define who we are as we engage in our mission.

1. The vibrancy of the ECO movement overall is based on the strength of each congregation as it understands its own unique position in its community for mission. In other words, "why has God put First Presbyterian in Florence to build His kingdom." Every congregation has a uniqueness because of where it is.

2. We live our theology by zealously taking risks to influence the culture of Florence for Him; believing that he is in control and is sovereignly working through us to draw others into a life with Jesus.

3. The strength of our covenant community (ECO) is how

well we spur one another on to constantly transform using our mission affinity group (Saxe Gotha, Westminster and Ocean Drive); our presbytery (17 congregations in South Carolina) and even locally in discipling relationships.

4. We will accelerate our influence for the Lord as we create vibrant systems of leader multiplication/development. Our session has made use of several curriculum's that the denomination has developed that directly address leaders. The intent of these curriculums is to create healthy and deep leaders who have a profound sense of what the call to leadership means and how to proceed.

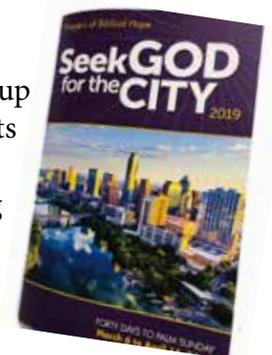
If we are going to live into the culture of the ECO, we will continue to need to become aware and be challenged by the vision. I have to say I am excited about the direction of our movement and look forward to what God's doing and what God is going to do with us. Come on March 12 to hear the four of us share and hopefully be challenged to discipleship!

Chris

Season of Prayer

March 6 through April 14 First Presbyterian will participate in a season of prayer for community along churches involved with Helping Florence Flourish using the prayer journal called "Seek God for the City."

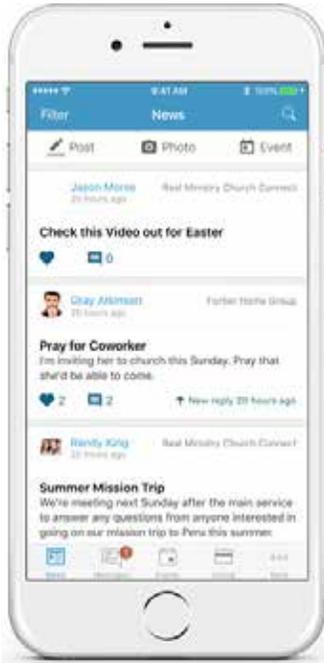
These journals are \$1.50, and you can pick up your copy in the Welcome Center. Payments are directed to Helping Florence Flourish. There will be a City Wide Prayer Gathering on 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at The Assembly located on 2925 W. Palmetto St. Please consider attending.



New system coming to First Presbyterian

REALM is coming! First Presbyterian Church has approximately 800 covenant partners of all ages.

Many of you are involved in numerous groups and ministries in our church. Our church management system helps our staff, elders, deacons, Sunday School



teachers and other ministry leaders keep track of who is involved and who needs to be involved. The church is often referred to as a **family of faith**, and we want to keep up with our family members. **Realm** is a 100% web-based solution from **ACS Technologies** that helps organizational staff track congregations, contributions, send mass emails, enter contribution records, manage small groups, secure check-in and connect members together online. We are in the process

of converting to this new system. Our church staff is currently being trained on this new system. **Realm** features a mobile app called **Realm Connect** for use by our covenant partners. To view a brief (2 minute) video about **Realm Connect**, visit <https://bit.ly/2IBvJr0>. In the coming weeks you will hear more about **Realm** and how it will help each of you stay connected with the other members of your **family of faith** known as First Presbyterian Church.

Facts & Figures

Recently, a “State of The Church” letter was mailed to all covenant partners. The letter highlighted the significant events and ministry accomplishments for 2018. The letter included membership information and a report on the general financial condition of First Presbyterian Church. In order to carry out the **Ministry Action Plan** set forth by our pastors, program staff, and the various ministry units of the Session, we need to receive contributions of approximately \$31,000 per week. The chart below is a snapshot of our giving for January and February. I have also included a line

showing gifts received for our Firm Foundation Debt Retirement campaign.

Average Weekly Need	\$32,000.00
January Average Weekly Giving	\$26,601.00
February Average Weekly Giving	\$30,051.00
Total Ministry Action Plan Receipts	\$226,612.00
Total Ministry Action Plan Expenses	\$239,435.00
Firm Foundation Receipts to Date	\$640,628.00

Offering Envelopes

A growing number of our covenant partners are choosing to take advantage of online giving to make their contributions to support our church. In fact, in 2018 we received an average of nearly \$7,400.00 per month through online giving in support of the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Currently, all covenant partners of First Presbyterian receive offering envelopes in their homes through the mail on a monthly basis (one envelope for each week). We have noticed a trend where many people make their contributions on a monthly basis. While others place their offering in one of the envelopes found in the pew racks. If you no longer wish to receive the envelopes by mail, please contact Gwen DuRant by phone or email her at gduurant@florencefirst.org to have your name removed from the envelope service mailing list. We will continue to provide envelopes to those who wish to receive them.

Paul's response to the Corinthians

Paul was accused of “persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law (ACTS 18:13).” Throughout his career and correspondence with the early church, Paul maintained the centrality of Jesus as Messiah to his understanding of Jewish history. His views and theology form the basis of a correct faith in modern culture.

Paul's letters continue to inform the modern Church in the correct way to follow Jesus. His revelation from Jesus approximately 15 years before the writing of the letters in the New Testament are the basis of all Christian faith. Paul first visited Corinth and founded the church there in 50 A.D. Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months. He left there and went to Caesarea and Jerusalem. His second visit was painful as his authority as a Prophet of Jesus as the Messiah was attacked. He wrote a severe letter, which is Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church (see February Reminder).

He plans a third visit but writes 1 Corinthians after sending Timothy and others to help settle problems in Corinth: “This is the third time I am coming to you. ‘Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses.’ I warned those who sinned previously and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again, I will not be lenient — since you desire proof that Christ is speaking in me (2 Corinthians 13:1-3).”

The church in Corinth has many issues. Paul in the letter to the Corinthians speaks boldly to resolve these issues. 1 Corinthians is written after Paul receives information about the problems in the church. There is a report from Chloe's people. Second, the Corinthians had written a letter to Paul asking his opinion about certain questions.

Third, Paul learns of the situation in Corinth from Timothy and others he had sent. After the salutation and the thanksgiving in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians, the section of the letter from 1 Corinthians 1:10 through 1 Corinthians 4:21 deals with the divisions in the church. The Corinthian church divided themselves by following a certain leader.



REV. MIKE FLEENOR'S BLOG

<https://onepastorsponderings.wordpress.com/>

“For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, ‘I belong to Paul,’ or ‘I belong to Apollos,’ or ‘I belong to Cephas,’ or ‘I belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 1:11-12).’” Paul challenges and insists in a brilliant essay that the crucified Jesus is the foundation of the church. “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).”

I think of the hymn: “The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord.” In the Church since the first century there have been many divisions. Paul identifies the cause of divisions in the church: “You are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations (1 Corinthians 3:3)?” As the church became more powerful, it became more political, seeking to establish national strength and to govern people. Paul extends a resolution for the division in Corinth by reminding them of the crucified Christ.

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).” The Church as the body of Jesus Christ in the world today is still united under the Lordship of the Crucified Jesus. It is critical for Christ's followers to uphold the Lordship of Christ as the true image of God the Father and Creator of humankind. Paul's correspondence with the Corinthians speaks to the modern church as he proclaims and witnesses to the centrality of Jesus to the Christian faith.

Mike



Mid-Winter Gathering

Dozens of women turned out for the Mid-Winter Gathering on January 24. Women cut, counted, packaged, and prayed over prayer cloths for the Tabernacle Project. They also wrote to our college students.



Women in Ministry Monthly Groups

Women in Ministry's aim is to strengthen our relationship with God and build each other up in the body of Christ.

If you are not involved in a circle, please, join in for Christian fellowship and Bible study. We have a place for you!



Bread and Fish	March 9	9 a.m.	Call Jan Green
Joyful Hearts	March 12	10 a.m.	Margaret Jones' home, 824 Mohawk Drive
Posies and Petals	March 12	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Prayer Warriors	March 12	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	March 12	10 a.m.	Ida Whitehead's, 175 W. Pocket Road
Soul Sisters	March 12	noon	Presbyterian Community
Serenity	March 12	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	March 14	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane

Get involved in Music Ministry

Tuesdays

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble (Ladies of all ages)

4 p.m. Girls' Ensemble (Sixth grade and older)

Wednesdays

5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir

6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir

6:30 p.m. Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal



If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583.

Praise Team vocalist auditions: If you're interested in exploring using your musical gifts to serve the congregation on the Praise Team, please contact Glenn Ham: 843-687-8556 or glennham@allstate.com.

Women in Ministry

SPRING CELEBRATION

Monday, April 15

6:30 p.m. Salad Buffet Dinner in the CLC

For more than a decade, **Dr. Muriel O'Tuel** has motivated a variety of audiences including school, college, business, church and civic organizations throughout the United States. Muriel O'Tuel can spin a yarn. Her stories are like a craftsman's toolbox. You never know what she will pull out or how she will wield it, but the results are something to behold. Her wisdom and wit are intertwined in a way that teaches and inspires while the audience is entertained.

Her stories might leave you laughing or crying but they will never leave you.

Bring a salad; bring a friend!

RSVP to the church office for child care by April 8.



Dr. Muriel O'Tuel





Children play on the new piece of playground equipment at the Child Development Center.

Staff, children looking forward to spring's fun

In case you haven't heard the groundhog did not see his shadow on February 2, so the consensus is an early spring! We are all for that here at the CDC and have enjoyed the warmer weather this past week. We were blessed with a new piece of playground equipment that was installed last week and the children are having a great time playing on it this week.

As the calendar turns to March, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday in a silly, fun week of reading activities and will end the month with the "50th" birthday celebration of the beloved book by Eric Carle, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Young children love books and love to be read to. The creative age-appropriate activities and experiences help to make books come alive for young children.

We are looking forward to the month of April and our 3rd Annual Art Show. The art will be on display in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall from Sunday, April 7, to Thursday, April 11. On the evening of April 11, the art will be



for sale by donation, with all donations going to purchase needed equipment for the Child Development Center. This is a fun event for our children as they will be the featured artists. Children love to show off their art creations. We hope you will come by sometime during the week of April 7-11, to see the art that the children have made.

Blessings,

Beth



March

BIRTHDAYS


March 1

Rufus Brown

March 2

Michael Coker
Gwen DuRant
Jan Green
Sullivan Johnson
Maggie Jones

March 3

Karen Silver

March 4

Rita McInville

March 5

Billy McBride
Amanda McLaurin
Boyd Moree
Maggie Reames
Hattie Scott
Ed Sprenger

March 6

Denise Alvey
Mary Wallis Vaught

March 7

Matthew Dowdell
Harper Sanyi

March 8

Brooklynne Clancy
Karen Johnson

March 9

Amelia Abernathy
Philip Leach

March 10

Klay Kennedy

March 11

Sloan Bankson
June Chang-Kim
Kaitlyn Molnar

March 12

Hal Campbell
Madison Hindman
Daniel Hubbs
Martha Tyson
Anna Watt

March 13

Grace Munn
Jules Newton
Mike Nunn
Hudson Page

March 14

Carson Jeffords
Marcia McNeil

March 15

Katherine Johnson
Weave Whitehead

March 16

Brad Selleck
Bankston Wallace

March 17

Angie Garrett
Ford Hofler
Wilson Josey

March 19

Joyce Dalsbo
Steve Halus

March 20

Beth Brown
Cannon Coker
Elizabeth Fast
Sonya Molnar
Jay Ramirez

March 21

William Duncan
Ashley Harris
Ronald Hayes
Merrell Kennedy
Anne Evans Scott

March 23

Libbie Reames

March 24

Susan Bankson
Ashleigh Bulliner
Elizabeth Frost
Ann Spearman

March 25

Dan Abernathy
Noah Johnson
Jean Lavespere
Linnie Myers
Jeremy Williams

March 26

Jack Banner
Nell G. Oliver

March 27

Jane Heath
Bob Olsen
Colton Sanyi

March 28

Kathy Crawford
Mary Ervin
Judy Henegar
Stone Lewis

March 29

Berta Allen
Kaleb Griffin
Megan Matthews

March 31

Warren Montgomery



March

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Youth ski trip

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

6:00 PM Pee Dee Boy Scout Banquet: CLC

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 Communion Sunday

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH

MONDAY, MARCH 4

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room



TUESDAY, MARCH 5

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 9:45 AM WiM CT Committee Meeting: LR
 11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators Meeting
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 12:00 PM Keenagers: JFH
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal: Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

5:00 PM Adult Handbells
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday service
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, MARCH 7

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study: Ways of God: Lawson-Rain
 5:00 PM Kiwanis Pancake Supper: CLC

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: Hope Health
 9:30 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Jan Green

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 2:00 PM Family Promise Training: JFH
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH



MONDAY, MARCH 11

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Margaret Jones' home, 824 Mohawk Drive
 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: Lawson-Rain Chapel
 10:00 AM WiM SonFlowers: Ida Whitehead's, 175 W. Pocket Road
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: Price Classroom
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: Lawson-Rain Chapel
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 6:30 PM WiM Prayer Warriors: Lawson-Rain
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

5:00 PM Adult Handbells
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study: Ways of God: LR
 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace: 3002 Japonica Lane

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

10:00 AM Aglow International: JFH
 4:00 PM Respite Night

March

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH

MONDAY, MARCH 18

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Board of Deacons
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

5:00 PM Adult Handbells
 5:00 PM Children Covenant & Kingdom Gathering:
 Discovery Class
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH

MONDAY, MARCH 25

St. Anthony Catholic School play rehearsals: CLC
 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

St. Anthony Catholic School play rehearsals: CLC
 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Board of Session
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

St. Anthony Catholic School play rehearsals: CLC
 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
 5:00 PM Children Covenant & Kingdom Gathering:
 Discovery Class
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

St. Anthony Catholic School play rehearsals: CLC
 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 6:30 PM City Wide Prayer: The Assembly

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

St. Anthony Catholic School play: CLC

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

St. Anthony Catholic School play: CLC

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Engaging God's Word Bible Study: JFH

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

Homebound

Linda Foxworth

Dora Hewitt

Pam Hoogenboom

George Richardson

Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Pee Dee Gardens

Joy Tedder

Presbyterian Community

Hannah Barringer

Ann Cash

Lois Jinks

Clariann Kellam

Tom Kellam

Aaron Leland

Sympathy

Family of Margaret (Joseph) Baroody

Nik Casstevens, loss of his father

Jean Lavespere, loss of her brother

Memorials

Margaret Baroody

George Dawson

Evander Smith Everett

Billy Houck

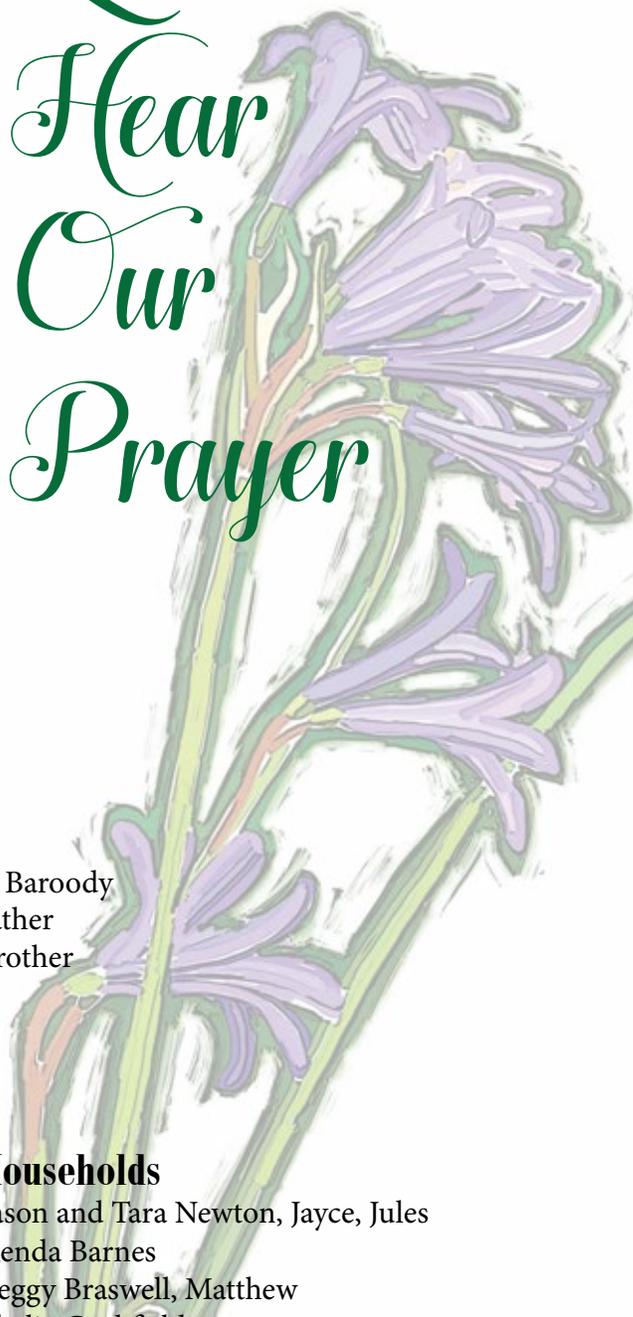
Malcolm Rogers

Honorariums

Sam Dozier

Ron Echols

Lord,
Hear
Our
Prayer



Sick & Recovering

Jonathan Bankhead

Jack Cagle

Barbara Covington

Chuck Dennis

Grace DuBose

Vicki Hebert

Carolyn Holland

Wendell Holland

Anna Grace Hubbs

Rainey Josey

Gwen Misurella

Mike Page

Mary Catherine Rawlinson

Elders

Dudley Saleeby

Ryon Watkins

Deacons

Kim Hawkins

Eddie McRae

Mission

Family Promise

Tim and Annette Gulick

Women in Ministry

Kathy Hatfield

Nancy Thompson

Sunday School Teachers

Ruth Watts

Ida Whitehead

Staff

Ron Echols

Alexis Morris

Households

Jason and Tara Newton, Jayce, Jules

Renda Barnes

Peggy Braswell, Matthew

Shelia Cockfield

Chris and Paige Alexander, Gracyn, John Joseph

Cary and Liz Andrew

Rufus and Bobbie Sue Bratton

Walt and Hunter Burch, Mac, Bruce

Denise Alvey

Ralph and Jo Lynn Bratcher

God's Work in our Community

Family Promise

Family Promise of Florence serves homeless and low-income families by providing temporary housing and meals in local churches with the eventual goal of helping these families to achieve sustainable independence.

Jobs for volunteers when families are staying at First Presbyterian Church include: cooking/serving meals,



helping to supervise/tutor children, staying overnight as a chaperone, laundry, set up/break down, family activities. Contact Janet Brand for more information.

God's Work Around the World

Tim and Annette Gulick

After working as the summer youth interns at First Presbyterian Church in 1992 and 1993 and finishing seminary, Tim and Annette Gulick joined the mission organization, One Challenge International. Since 1996, Annette and Tim have focused on providing youth ministry training and materials. They do this through on-site, face-to-face training, one-on-one mentoring and coaching, as well as through publishing youth ministry materials, primarily on the Internet.

The Spanish-language website they started 20 years ago — www.ParaLideres.org — currently has over 40,000 pages of free youth ministry resources with new ones being added every few days. On average, 10,000 people a day use that website.

In 2008, they helped start a college-level school for youth ministry in Argentina that has trained students from 17 countries. During the past two years, they have helped create and run a school for trainers of youth leaders in India. This summer they were invited to run a similar school in eastern Africa.

Tim is the son of Dr. Roger Gulick, a former pastor of FPC-Florence. Tim and his wife, Annette, have been married 27 years.



Practical prayer needs for missionaries include:

- Well-being (health, safety, and encouragement) of all family members (Psalm 5:11)
- Strong personal walk with God (Deuteronomy 10:12)
- Ability to speak accurately and boldly (Colossians 4:3-4)
- Strength in the “inner man”; hearts to be encouraged and strengthened (Ephesians 3:16)



Church News

Prayerwalking starting on church campus

Prayerwalking is on-site intercession. On-site praying is simply praying in the very place where you expect God to bring forth His answers. Prayerwalking engages both body and mind in the art of praying. We are living in interesting times as a nation, a community and a church. We have a God who loves us deeply and longs for us to bring Him our praises as well as our intercessions.

Prayerwalking will officially begin the week of March 3-8. As a prayerwalker, you will walk the church campus praying for specific events, groups of people, and physical spaces where we expect to see the Lord build His Kingdom and to make His will be known and done. The hope is that 2-3 people will prayerwalk together each week using provided scripture as the basis of their prayers. Prayerwalkers can choose any time or day to walk the campus and pray.

Prayerwalkers will be asked to participate in a brief orientation to provide clarity and vision for the purpose of prayerwalking around our church.

Anyone who can read scripture out loud can be a prayerwalker! Our prayer room at church (located under the stairs in the Welcome Center) will be the location to sign up for a week to prayerwalk, pick up a prayerwalking guide and begin your adventure of prayer for the week. Prayerwalking will officially begin the week of March 3-8. Contact Dottie Handley with any questions and/or to attend an orientation: handleydv@gmail.com or 843-206-3200.

Volunteers needed for Respite Nights

Volunteers are needed for the monthly respite nights for families whose child or children has or have special needs. The idea is to give parents a break from caring for their child/children.

We need volunteers March 16 to help chaperone and care for the children. Please contact Ashley Hylton: 843-319-0896 or awhylton13@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday service to be held

Please join us for an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. March 6 as we will mark the beginning of the Lenten season. We will come together to acknowledge our sin, to acknowledge our mortality. We will come to glimpse the Christ who offers forgiveness and everlasting life. As part of the worship, the imposition of ashes will be offered. This practice may not be familiar to everyone. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century, and ashes are mentioned in scripture as a symbol of purification and repentance. We will offer the imposition of ashes as a physical reminder of our mortality and sin; an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation. Classes will be offered for children in second grade and younger.



Scouts to spend evening at Riverbanks Zoo

Our Scouts will spend the night at Riverbanks Zoo for a night time behind the scenes tour with zoo keepers in March.

Final preparations for this summer's backpacking trip in New Mexico's Rocky Mountains for 20 Scouts and leaders are being made. Troop 477 has sent over 10 crews to Philmont Scout ranch over the years. Philmont is the largest youth camp in the world serving over 25,000 youth each summer. Parents of boys ages 11-17 interested in our scouting ministry can contact Alexis Morris in the church office for more information.

Keenagers luncheon features organization

Keenagers will hold a noon luncheon on Tuesday, March 5, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall.

If you answer "yes" to the following question: "Do you have clothes in your closet that you have not worn for more than a year?" then come learn in this entertaining and engaging presentation about living more with less. This will be given by Dr. Sharon Moore Askins based on James Wallman's book, *Stuffocation*, which will serve as the basis for the call for us to stop accumulating stuff and start accumulating experiences. We will also enjoy lunch and fellowship.

Works of art



Above: Hofler brothers Ford, left, and John look at Linda Smiley's Women in Ministry quilt during the opening reception of the Second Art Exhibit to the Glory of God.

Top left: *First Presbyterian* by Lane Davis.

Left middle: *Cardinal* by Sarah Ella Hardee

Left: *Maison de Fleurs* by Wanda Hill

Thirty-six pieces of artwork are on display and can be seen in the Welcome Center, hallways, and classrooms, through March 25.

Pick up a copy of the work names and locations in the Welcome Center and take a tour of the creative pieces of work. The exhibit is held every other year.

Swim and Serve Lock-in

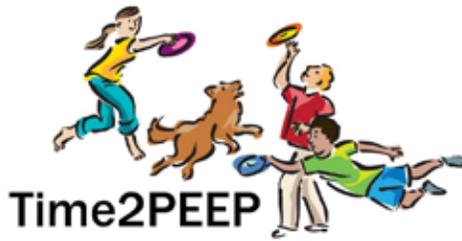


Students in the Children's Ministry participated in the Swim and Serve Lock-in at the end of February. The children started their Friday night swimming at the YMCA and then prepared care bags and served breakfast at the Parking Lot Ministry time Saturday morning.

Art Smart camp returns in July

Art Smart 2019 will be held July 22 through July 25. Twenty spots will be available for children who have completed first grade through completed fifth grade. It will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A light morning snack will be served and children must bring a packed a lunch. Volunteers are needed, as well. Art Smart 2019 will be a dive into visual arts as well as music and dance. We will be experimenting with STEAM projects everyday. And a trip to the Florence County Museum is on the agenda, as well. The cost of the camp is \$50. Registration will open in April.





Time2PEEP

Play Eat Encourage Pray

On Sunday, March 24, after the 11 a.m. service, we'll have our Time2PEEP with our friends at The Assembly.

Bring a change of clothes and meet in the Welcome Center. We will take the bus over for fellowship. Parents can pick up at The Assembly or meet us back at First Presbyterian at 2:10 p.m.

WinShape Kickoff

WinShape Camps registration opens March 3! Go to any Chick-fil-A, mention WinShape when you make a purchase and you will get a code valid until March 10. The first 50 participants to register with the code will get \$50 off the cost of camp. After the first 50, those who register with the code through midnight March 10 will get \$25 off the cost.

You can make payments on the fee until the camp starts. Camp will be held on the First Presbyterian Church campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 15-July 19. The Best Week Ever! is open for children who have completed 5K through eighth grade.

Ash Wednesday Service

On March 6, there will be a special time of worship at 6:30 p.m. for all children in third grade and older with their parents. Classes will be offered for second-graders and younger.

Monthly canned food drive



The first Sunday of every month, all children's Sunday school classes are asked to bring non-perishable food items, diapers, or baby formula for Sunday School offering. There will be collection boxes in the pods. A local congregation distributes it bi-monthly to people in the Florence community.



The River

Vacation Bible School:
June 9-12
5:30 to 8 p.m.

We will begin each night with Family Dinner followed by classes for everyone! **God's river of love** flows from the first garden to the last. Jump in and let the gospel carry you through.

Online registration opens April 1. Volunteers are needed in many areas — some of which don't involve working with children. Contact Heather Taylor or make a note in the friendship pad on Sunday mornings.

Also — the team is having a logo contest! Any child or youth in the congregation is encouraged to submit drawings by March 28.

Mission Camp

June 24-27

completed 1st-6th grades

Join children from Central United Methodist Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church, and The Assembly for a great week of hands-on work showing the love of Jesus to the Florence community. Online registration opens April 15. Camp fills up! Don't wait. Space is limited.

Ways to help parent our children and ourselves

Associate Pastor's note: This new Parenting column addresses, on a monthly basis, some of the challenges Christian parents face. Alexis Morris, Brock Prage, and I (Chris Handley) will share the responsibility of giving parents a nugget to help and challenge moms and dads. We hope you enjoy!

Last month, I shared a few thoughts from a podcast called "Raising an Alien Child." I hope you had a chance to read it and consider how it could benefit your family. The first two ways were activities and speech. This month, I share the last three ways the author Jen Wilkin encourages us to be aliens.

3. Possessions: Alien children will understand the difference between wants and needs, between immediate gratification and waiting for the better. If they know the budget and they want more, have



them save to cover the difference.

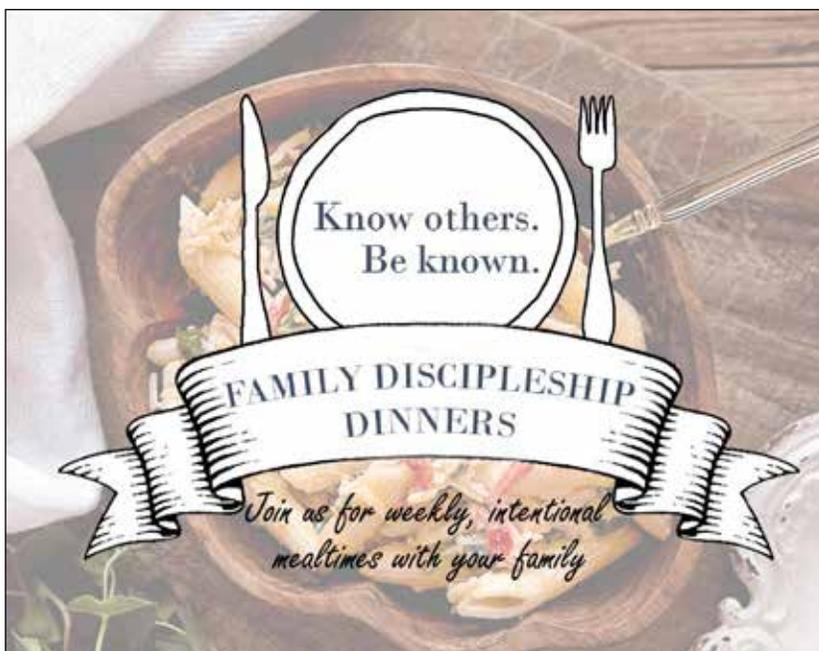
4. Entertainment: When you have free time for entertainment, are individuals doing their own thing or are you being entertained together as a family? Whenever there is a wait, stay unplugged to give conversations a chance to bubble up. Did you know that the default settings for most smartphones and tablets is "explicit" giving your children access to everything?

5. Friends: Finally, alien children will have different friendships than other children and their siblings will be the best friends they have. They will be drawn to and draw friends toward them

that think the way they do: that use kind words, are considerate, and control their emotions. Teach your children to walk away from "friends" who are not really friendly.

In the end, Wilkin states "The only way to raise an alien child is to be an alien parent. You, yourself, must drive to know, love and serve God with everything that you have." It is good to remind children that you, as parents, are accountable to God for the way you raise them. Mistakes will be made, but that is opportunity to ask for forgiveness. I encourage you to listen to the podcast titled "Raising An Alien Child" (2016). You can find it on The Gospel Coalition website or at FamilyLife Today Radio.

— Alexis Morris is the Director of the Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. Email her at amorris@florencefirst.org.



Family Night Dinners

Dinners are held at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the school year. Dinner is \$5 per person, and families cap at \$20. Following the meal, at 6:30 p.m., activities are available for all ages.

For March, the following meals are planned:
 March 6: Beef stew, mashed potatoes, broccoli, salad, and dessert
 March 13: Chili, baked potatoes, ice cream cups
 March 20: Chicken strips, slaw, fruit, cookies
 March 27: Pizza, salad, cookies



Youth during the annual Nerf War



Wednesday night (412) Youth Group

Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 10-10:50 a.m. / Light continental breakfast, Lesson
- MOVE: March 10, 24 / 5-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson, Games
- Small groups: March 3, 17 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson
- 412 on Wednesdays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 / 6-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Bible study, prayer
- East Florence Mission: March 5, 12, 19, 26 / 4-4:45 p.m.
- P3BC on Thursday: March 28 / 7:15 a.m. / Breakfast, prayer, devotion

Youth Ski Trip

- Our ski trip this year is March 1-3. We are going to Winterplace, W. Va., again. We will leave Friday after school and return late Sunday night. The cost is \$200/person. That cost covers lodging, ski rentals, and lift tickets, and all but two meals.

Spring Getaway

- Our Spring Getaway this year will be March 29-31. We are traveling to Ridgehaven Christian Retreat Center in Brevard, N.C. This will be a time to pull away from the busyness of life and spend focused time on our faith and our walks with Christ. The cost is \$110/person. Please contact Brock at 864-230-8354 if interested in participating.

Spring Break Mission Trip

- We will be participating in a Spring Break mission trip again this year the week of April 22-26. Our plan is to travel to Shelby, N.C., and work with YCM's Son Servants. The total cost for the trip is \$325/student, which includes lodging, food, service project materials, and entrance to the U.S. National Whitewater Center and Carowinds. Financial assistance is available.

Sacred Parenting: How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls (Gary Thomas)

“But Christian parenting calls us to a much different purpose and motivation: raising servants who will seek first the kingdom of God. This doesn't mean we don't emphasize education and training, as it honors God to help our children become all that he wants them to be. But as we read in the book of Malachi, God is seeking godly offspring. That's one of the reasons God wants us to work on our marriages — godly marriages are far more likely to produce godly children. Unstable, chaotic, and “serial” marriages often produce troubled kids — and that's not the offering God wants from us.”



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501
PHONE: 843-662-2583/FAX: 843-662-1726
www.florencefirst.org

CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor	Dr. Jim Bankhead
Associate Pastor	Rev. Chris Handley
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Glenn Ham
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
Director of Children's Ministry	Mrs. Alexis Morris
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
The Tabernacle Experience	Mr. Joe Koenig
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Teresa Stewart
Financial Assistant	Mrs. Gwen DuRant
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Head Custodian	Mr. Ron Echols
Assistant Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane



MISSION

A clear, concise statement of what we are ultimately supposed to be doing:

Building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.

STRATEGY

Picture or process that shows how we accomplish our mission:

A flourishing ECO church can consistently name its Flourishing Next Step, which ECO will help cultivate and support through:

One-on-one Coaching for assessment & development

Peer-based Groups for encouragement & accountability

National and Regional Gatherings for synergy & inspiration

