

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news





ON THE COVER: Emily Lake, Laura Anne Hoffer, Kathryn Scott, and Ida Whitehead lead a game during Vacation Bible School. For more pictures from VBS, see page 14 and 15.

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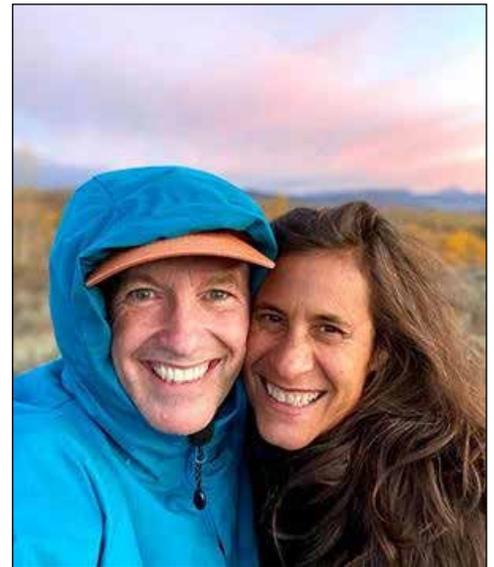
Please submit news briefs or announcements to Kim Brauss at kbrauss@florencefirst.org. To be added to the mailing list call the church office at 843-662-2583.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

OC International, Tim and Annette Gulick

After two years of working remotely, Tim and Annette Gulick are back to working face-to-face. For June, they accepted an invitation to Juba, South Sudan, to help Grace Theological College develop a youth ministry course as well as to teach a pilot program for them. They also worked with youth leaders from a Presbyterian church there to help them define their goals and figure out how to collaborate with them toward meeting those goals:

“This is both exciting and intimidating: Exciting because the need is real — 51 percent of the population is below age 18, and only 27 percent of the adult population is literate — Intimidating because there is so much violence and instability that their needs are much deeper than simple information. We don't want to just ‘parachute’ in, do our thing, and fly out. We do want to be a part of an ongoing process. We have already been interviewing youth ministry people in the country and talking with colleagues in Kenya and Egypt to get their advice.



The days after we accepted the initial invitation, we had three people tell us that they had been praying for our decision and that they believed we should accept it. Another person said how happy he was that we would be helping in South Sudan. We are encouraged to see God confirm the decision. If we were only considering security and health risks, we would not choose South Sudan as a work destination. But the needs are significant. We have been invited by brothers and sisters who are committed to making a difference, and we have knowledge and experience that we trust will help them accomplish their goals and strengthen their people and the kingdom of God.

Please pray:

- A. that we will discern and collaborate with what God is doing in South Sudan.
- B. that we will encourage and be useful to those guiding young people to be disciples of Jesus there.
- C. that God will protect us.”

A Day in the Life

(This article was “inspired” by my wife. If you don’t like it, please contact her!)

THE DAY was June 10, 2022. Months before, several couples had decided to take a weekend and go “backpacking” on Roan Mountain. Roan Mountain is one of my favorite hiking spots. It’s perched on the North Carolina-Tennessee boundary about 1.5-hour trip from Boone-Blowing Rock, North Carolina. We decided on a June date because the mountain is painted with the pink and white blossoms from Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel trees. The trip was on the calendar!

Weeks before I began to review and revise my list of items needed. I set up my tent in the backyard. Poles, tent, and rain cover were “ship-shape.” My thought was, “What could possibly go wrong?”

Days before I began to assemble my list of supplies to buy. Coffee was at the top of the list! I had my water purifier “updated.” I remembered to take extra batteries for my headlamp. And as I stuffed everything into its designated place I thought, “What could go wrong?”

On the day we left for our trip, I was like a kid before Christmas. I went back through my supplies. I checked the roads that we needed to take to get to Culver’s Gap, where the trail started. And then, I kept looking at the extended weather forecast. Somehow, I’ve always had the gift of choosing dates for hiking when hurricanes, monsoons, or thunderstorms came visiting. But this time, the weather forecast got better and better the closer to our embarking. As I switched off my weather app, I thought, “What could possibly go wrong?”

Then, THE DAY (June 10) arrived. I was up early ... and so was my wife!! I re-checked the directions. We loaded the cars, uttered a quick prayer of thanks, and we were off to Roan Mountain. I was riding “navigator position” and giving directions to our trusty driver. We got on the Blue Ridge Parkway and headed toward Grandfather Mountain. Many times, I have biked this section but for some reason, I had our driver turn prematurely on another road.

No problem...I knew that this road would also get us where we needed to be. But the road was much curvier and had more switchbacks than a South Carolina politician! As we approached the final 8-mile road up to our destination, I began to feel “queasy.” I might as well confess to you that I need to turn in my “man card” and my “WV mountain boy” card. As soon as we parked, I shot out of that car, found a secluded spot, and proceeded to lose “lots of weight!” I was still dizzy and nauseated when we hit the trail and told the group, “You go ahead for a while, and I’ll rest here.” By the

time they returned we realized that we would not make the designated shelter that night and that the mountain had lots and lots of hikers.

So, we decided to hike in some other areas. That evening as the sun was setting, we had found a picnic area just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. We enjoyed a meal together. We laughed together about our “best laid plans,” which were put to rest.

And when the sun bid goodbye over the ridge, we thanked God for the day...and all that had gone wrong!

Love in Christ Jesus,



LESSON LEARNED:

In everything give thanks for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. (I Thess 5:18)

Despite wrong turns, churning stomachs, spoiled plans, and poor choices, the Lord is in control and worthy of our praise. Remember — when you don’t know how to pray, “Thank You, Lord” always works.



Men’s Fall Retreat: Our men’s retreat will be held Friday, August 26 - Sunday, August 28 at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, N.C. Reserve your spot now for this time of Bible Study, fellowship, and relaxation in the Blue Ridge mountains of N.C. Cost for the weekend is \$150 per person, which includes 2 nights lodging, breakfast and dinner on Saturday. Online registration is available on our website at www.florencefirst.org. For more information, email Bill Cain at wvcain50@gmail.com. The registration form is on page 4.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEN'S RETREAT 2022
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC
Friday, Aug. 26 - Sunday, Aug. 28
Cost: \$150 (Scholarships available)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Home/Mobile/Work (Circle One)

Email: _____ Age: _____

Emergency Contact (Name & Phone #) _____

Medical Notes: _____
(As needed)

Roommate Preference (if any): _____

We will attempt to honor your request if possible; if no selection is made we will find a great roommate for you.

Some rooms have bunk beds. Please let us know the following:

_____ I need a bottom bunk _____ I'll take a top bunk _____ Either

Recreation* On Saturday afternoon, I would like to . . .

___ Play Golf ___ Hike ___ Bike ride ___ Relax ___ Fish

Your selection above is to help us plan accordingly; it is not a firm commitment.

*Some activities will require an extra fee (golf approximately \$27, fishing at Lake Susan \$5)

Please indicate if you can help cook Saturday: Breakfast/ Dinner (Circle One)

Please return this form to the Church office.

Contact Bill Cain at 407-473-0912 with any questions.

***** For Office Use Only *****

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Toward a Healthier Church

Doing ‘Small Church’ Well

According to a study by *The Hartford Institute for Religious Research* (www.hirr.hartsem.edu), of the approximately 300,000 congregations in the U.S., 59 percent have an average weekly attendance of less than 100. Interestingly, 50 percent of churchgoers attend congregations with average weekly attendance of 350+. Several years ago, at a church administration conference I attended, one of the breakout sessions was on church growth in large and mega-churches. I will always remember a comment from one of the speakers: “To be successful, large churches must do ‘small’ well.” In his 2010 book *The Gifts of the Small Church*, Jason Byassee writes, “Megachurches and suburban churches are well suited to an age that likes things fast and professional and suburban. But most of us through most of time have met Jesus in small churches.”

Members of small churches are imaginative, scrappy survivors. Little worshiping communities have been the primary means for the body of Christ to gather and worship throughout history.

Many of you may be asking yourself, “Why is he talking about small churches? First Presbyterian Church is not a small church!” While that is true, the post-pandemic outlook for congregations of all sizes is uncertain and there is much to be learned from the long-suffering witness of small local congregations.

Small churches are resourceful and creative problem solvers. Little congregations are experts at finding creative solutions to unexpected problems. I’ve read numerous accounts of how small churches adapted to the COVID pandemic. One pastor said this: “We know how to pivot and cobble together a quick fix at the last minute. We have learned how to survive on less by having small staffs, few institutional structures, decades of dwindling membership and diminishing financial resources.” As a result, small congregations know how to adjust and think quickly to prioritize the needs of the community. Large congregations can fall victim to “paralysis by analysis” as we “overthink” ministry opportunities and how to “do it just right.” We need to remember that sometimes ministry can be “messy” and we need to be flexible.

Small churches empower strong lay leaders. In the early Christian church, worshiping communities

leaned heavily on the leadership of key individuals. They did so because these worshiping communities were new, had little institutional support or oversight and were small. In *The Gifts of the Small Church*, Byassee writes, “Break open your New Testament to the letters of Paul and others and you will find letters written to small churches.”

These letters go so far as to lift individual members by name. The final greetings in Paul’s letters highlight chief figures crucial to the leadership in these individual Christian communities. As early Christians predominantly met in households, notably, the leadership of women in local communities was indispensable to the early church. Small congregations today continue to thrive when they equip strong lay leadership. Essentially everyone has an opportunity to assume a leading role in the daily operations of congregational life. New faces aren’t overlooked for leadership roles.

Small churches prioritize relationships. A small congregation is like an “extended family,” says pastor Ben Gosden in a January 2015 MinistryMatters post. “That church directory? It’s a short read (if the church even has one). Everybody knows your name. Small-church saints make it their personal responsibility to celebrate milestones with you, and they show up for you at your darkest moments with a casserole.” Small churches are models of Paul’s exhortation to the Ephesians 4:2 to bear “with one another in love.” They don’t have the luxury to delegate duties of hospitality and fellowship. First Presbyterian Church is blessed with covenant partners who willingly use their talents and abilities in ministry. Our congregation has a rich heritage of strong lay leaders who have served as Sunday School teachers, elders, deacons, small group leaders and mentors. And finally, there is a focus on building relationships with the body of believers that is First Presbyterian Church. The pandemic and other factors have affected the way that we “do church.” Let’s continue to pray for and learn from our fellow believers realizing that, regardless of church size, we are all members of the body of Christ (1Corinthians 12:12).



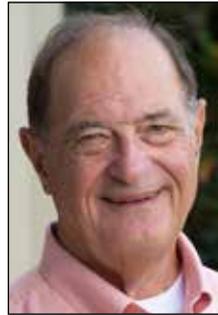
The Comparison of Adam and Jesus

ROMANS 5:12-21

As one reads Genesis chapter 1 and 2, it is evident there are two accounts of Creation. In the first (Genesis 1:1-2:4) the entire created universe is made in a seven day period. The creation of human beings is made on day six. "So God created adam (humankind) in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them (Genesis 1:27)." The Hebrew word adam means humankind. In the second account of Creation (Genesis 2:4b-25), the human being is at the center of creation. Adam is the first created being and only after all of creation is searched through for a helper for Adam does God create the female from Adam. Eve means mother of all living. In seeking to comprehend the creation accounts, I find meaning in Robert Alter's statement: "the term adam ... is a generic term for human beings, not a proper noun. ... It also does not automatically suggest maleness. (Genesis, Alter, p. 26)." God creates gender in this second account of Creation by taking the rib of adam to create woman. The Hebrew word, ish, is used for the male and ishshah for the female.

Paul in Romans 5:12-21 compares Adam and Jesus Christ. I understand Adam to be the symbol of the sinful human race and Jesus Christ as the one human who restores humanity to the Creator God. In *ROMANS*, Paul Achtemeier states: "Adam, the one in whom all humans find their common ancestor, and who, individual or not, represents for Paul the whole of humanity, fallen under the power of sin (*ROMANS*, P. 96)."

This is the universal and original sin. Only God through Christ can bring a release from sin. We humans have two choices, one is to choose to obey ourselves and practice idolatry under the power of sin. The other choice is to obey God by accepting Christ as the one to restore humanity to God. The way to obey God is given in the teachings of Jesus as he interprets the law. We are free to obey by interpreting the Gospel and the law. The law as Paul understands it is the boundaries set by God upon humanity. The sin of Adam has condemned humanity to death.



**REV. MIKE
FLEENOR'S BLOG**
<https://onepastorsponderings.wordpress.com/>

God reverses the universal death of humanity by giving eternal life to Jesus through resurrection. Adam represents sin and death. Christ represents grace and life. Adam represents all the poor decisions the Hebrew nation have made in the history of Israel. Christ's resurrection is a promise of new life for all who trust in the faithfulness of God. "What Adam (read human beings) could not accomplish, God in Christ has accomplished. He can save us even from ourselves and our proneness to serve Satan rather than God (*ROMANS*, Achtemeier, p. 101)."

It is through grace that Jesus overcomes the power of sin. There is no evil that the LORD God does not overcome by giving Jesus Christ to the world. Grace is given in an extraordinary amount to overcome evil. This is the meaning of the Gospel. Having established the victory of grace over evil, Paul in the next part of *Romans* will seek to define the relationship between sin, grace and the law. Sin came from adam's rebelling to obey God, the law was given to identify the enormity of sin, and grace from Christ offers humanity new life.

Save the Date

Women in Ministry's Kick-Off Event
Tuesday, Aug. 30
6 p.m. in the CLC



Homebound ministry

As part of the Friendship Circle's outreach, we want to be aware of all our homebound members. If there is someone who needs to be added to the current list on page 12, please call or text Jan Green at 843-250-5134.

Women in Ministry survey

To all our women in the body at First Presbyterian: Women in Ministry (WiM) is seeking your input. Whether you're currently involved or not as involved as you'd like to be, we certainly value your thoughts. Please consider completing the survey many of you received at church these last two Sundays or online, <https://forms.gle/7dqsegtKFP6rRrWA6>. It's not too late. Thank you for helping us!



Church News

Veterans group forming

Charlie Caldwell and several of our covenant partners, who are veterans, are compiling a list of covenant partners who have served in the military. These veterans and others have expressed an interest in gathering for fellowship, prayer, Bible study and possibly service projects with others who have served in the armed forces. Plans are being made for a gathering of interested veterans later this summer. If you or a member of your family are a veteran of any branch of the military, please contact Charlie Caldwell at cccotswold@aol.com or by phone/text, 843-992-9447. First Presbyterian Church appreciates all who have served our country. Thank you for your service!

WinShape volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for a few tasks ahead of and during the weeklong day camp held at First Presbyterian.

1. We need 10-12 people to wash WinShape Team members' clothes as they arrive on Saturday afternoon, July 16. The laundry needs to be picked up in the CLC in the afternoon and returned to the stage in the CLC before church on Sunday. Please contact Sandra Davidson at 704-785-1756 or 85davidson@gmail.com if you are able to help.
2. We need a group of people to prepare snacks for WinShape Camp the week of July 11. This involves putting snacks into sandwich bags for each day of camp. We will meet together at church to accomplish the job. Contact Dottie Handley at 843-206-3200 or handleydv@gmail.com if you are interested.
3. We are looking for 5 people each morning from 9 to about 11:30 a.m. to make bag lunches for the WinShape team, volunteers and some campers during camp (July 18-21). We will work out of the church kitchen. Contact Dottie Handley at 843-206-3200 or handleydv@gmail.com if you would like to help.



Scouting ministry adds 6 new Eagle Scouts

Our Scouting ministry added 6 new Eagle Scouts (pictured) to this prestigious list in our May court of honor. In July, we have 22 Boy Scouts and leaders attending a week of summer Scout camp of fun and earning merit badges at Camp Barstow on Lake Murray. Also in July we have 25 Scouts and leaders heading to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park for 6 days and 5 nights of adventure. Scouts will be camping in Smokemont campground next to a mountain stream, backpacking, horseback riding, white water rafting, riding on the Great Smokey Mountains Railroad, taking day hikes to see Clingmans Dome and going into Cherokee to see the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills."

Monday night meetings will resume after school starts back for boys in the sixth - 12th grades. Our Cub Scout ministry is on a summer break and also will resume after school starts back for youth in the first - fifth grades.

Birthday Ministry relaunch

Kathy Griffin restarted the ministry of calling covenant partners on their birthday. Please update your contact number with the church or clear your messages on your cell phone so that you may receive birthday wishes. If you need assistance in updating your info on Realm, please contact Kim or Becky in the church office, 843-662-2583.

Combined worship services continue in July

We will return to two services August 7. Please mark your calendar, especially remember the change in time.

Thank you note from Leroy Williams

Our new lead custodian, Leroy Williams, said he would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome to First Presbyterian. He said he looks forward to serving the church and ministry and encourages anyone to contact him with any needs or requests.

CDC's Fourth of July Parade



The children and staff of the Child Development Center held their annual Fourth of July parade ahead of the holiday. They circled the roundabout a few times before heading back inside to their summer camp activities.



SUNDAY, JULY 3

9:00 AM Sunday School: Discovery
 10:00 AM Combined Worship
 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies

MONDAY, JULY 4

Church office closed

2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
 5:00 PM Children's Ministry Meeting: LR
 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203



TUESDAY, JULY 5

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 7

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
 9:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

FRIDAY, JULY 8

9:00 AM Youth: Beach Day at Pawley's Island

SATURDAY, JULY 9

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: HopeHealth

SUNDAY, JULY 10 Contemporary Service

9:00 AM Sunday School: Discovery
 10:00 AM Combined Worship
 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies
 Youth: Depart for Blowing Rock, N.C.

MONDAY, JULY 11

12:30 PM Worship Committee: LR
 2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
 5:00 PM Children's Ministry Meeting: LR
 5:30 PM Enabling Committee: Women's Only Classroom
 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

TUESDAY, JULY 12

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
 12:00 PM Discipleship Committee: Women's Only Classroom
 2:00 PM Fellowship Committee

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

10:00 AM Bible Study
 12:15 PM Outreach Unit Meeting: Pilgrim
 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 14

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
 9:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

SATURDAY, JULY 15

Youth: Return from Blowing Rock, N.C.

SUNDAY, JULY 17 Traditional Service

9:00 AM Sunday School: Discovery
 10:00 AM Combined Worship
 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies
 7:00 PM Youth: Wheeldateens!

MONDAY, JULY 18

8:00 AM WinShape Camps
 2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203



**TUESDAY, JULY 19**

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
 8:00 AM WinShape Camps
 1:00 PM Youth: Junior High Girls Lunch
 6:30 PM Board of Deacons: JFH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

8:00 AM WinShape Camps
 10:00 AM Bible Study: Women's Only Classroom
 1:00 PM Youth: Lunch at Moe's
 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 21

8:00 AM WinShape Camps
 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
 9:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Youth: End of Summer Trip Departure
 8:00 AM WinShape Camps

SUNDAY, JULY 24

9:00 AM Sunday School: Discovery
 10:00 AM Combined Worship
 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies
 Youth: End of Summer Trip Return

MONDAY, JULY 25

2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

TUESDAY, JULY 26

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
 11:00 AM Youth: Brunch at Venus
 6:30 PM Session

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

8:00 AM Youth: Carowinds Water Park
 10:00 AM Bible Study: Women's Only Classroom
 6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 28

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
 9:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

SUNDAY, JULY 31

9:00 AM Sunday School: Discovery
 10:00 AM Combined Worship
 11:00 AM Lemonade and Cookies
 7:00 PM Youth: Wheeldateens!



July 18-22
First Presbyterian Church

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Home

Isla Louise McCoy
Jack Williams

Lowman Home

Mac King

Methodist Manor

Kit Ellington
Joyce Floyd
Julie Hughes
Marie Jordan
Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community

Ann Cash
Aaron Leland

Memorials

Gregory Jones
Dudley Saleeby
George Wheeler

Baptisms

Wallace Howard Lane, son of Landis and Hannah Lane

Birth Announcement

Thomas Rhett Spencer, IV, born Wednesday, June 15, 2022,
son of Rhett and Eliza Spencer

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place memorial flowers in the Sanctuary. Please contact Genia Tyson (genia_tyson@hotmail.com or 843-992-8904) or Melba Whitesides (992-4267). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.

July 3: Communion
July 10: OPEN
July 17: Barbara Meeks
July 24: Marion Howard
July 31: OPEN

Sympathy

Bruce Crawford and family, loss of his mother
Ken Charles, loss of his mother
Family and friends of Carolyn Wolfe

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer

Sick & Recovering

Butch Carroll
Amelia Carter
Aubrey Crawford
Claudia Ervin
Judy Fuller
Debbie Harwell
Chase McDaniel

Elders

Richie Wilhoit
Mike Nunn

Deacons

Brian Fast
Ellen Pearson

Mission

My Brother's Keeper
OC International,
Tim and Annette Gulick

Women in Ministry

Berta Allen
Beverly Harrell

Teachers

Janet Brand
Kathy Griffin

Staff

Wynde Edwards
Christina "Taiter" Garrett

Households

FLOCK 1: Ginger Owen
FLOCK 2: Jay and Ellen Pearson
FLOCK 3: Stan and Lana Lehman
FLOCK 4: Lisa Collins
FLOCK 5: Susan Perrou
FLOCK 6: Daniel and Emily Jordan, Thatcher
FLOCK 7: Johnny and Robin Stoupenos
FLOCK 8: Camp and Elizabeth Blanton, Emma and Eliza

July BIRTHDAYS

JULY 1

Randy Cranford
Belle Rockhill
Julia Watkins

JULY 2

William Bratton
Addie Evans
Derek Hemmingsen
Pessy Losah

JULY 3

Harriett Gilpin
Avery Hucks
Harper Suggs
Frances Welch

JULY 4

Natalie Hall
Louise King

JULY 5

Ken Jackson
Erik Marechal

JULY 6

Amelia Carter
Emma Carter
Kate Carter
Bobby Garris
Mary Kirkpatrick
Benjamin Lewis
Weston Lewis
Tripp Toniolo

JULY 7

Wanda Granger
Richard Hopkins
Renée McRae
Wendy Singletary
Guy Slagle
Stirling Temple

JULY 8

Emily Jordan
Maggie Reece

JULY 11

Frank Hodges
Rob Lewis
David Spearman

JULY 12

John Hofler
Sammie Kennedy
Luke Poston
Susan Rhea

JUNE 13

Jan Bray
Nabil Cotran
Ann Houck

JULY 14

Gregg Jones
Barbara Maffett
Hunter Moore

JULY 15

Robbie Suggs
Eiley Foxworth

JULY 16

Pat Conyers

JULY 17

Mac Gandy
Jessica Garris
Mitchell Green
Margaret Lee
Jim Moseley

JULY 18

Jacob Mikulecky
Robert Miles
Pam Morgan

JULY 19

Jane Moss
Landen Turner

JULY 20

Nancy Harwell
Isla Louise McCoy
Marty Taylor

JULY 21

Alice Bankson
Denise King
Weber Mimms
Mike Porter
Freeman Williams

JULY 22

Jimmy Green
Martha Nance
Rob Molnar

JULY 23

Martha Blanton
Walt Burch
Alice Caldwell
Tenny Moss

JULY 24

Beth Player
Ford Scott
Kim Ryan
Christy Wallace

JULY 25

Shawn Bulliner
Emily Davidson
Becky Thomas
Alicia Truman
Elizabeth Tuttle

JULY 27

Troy Mbunu
Michael Miles

JULY 28

Margaret Jones
Caleb King
Hannah Moree
Eddie McRae

JULY 29

Bruce Crawford
David DuBose
Thomas Hardee

JULY 30

Thomas Davis
Vicki Hebert
David Sanderson

JULY 31

Seth Crawford
Palmer Jones
Marie Jordan

Vacation Bible School



What a great time was had by all at our VBS this year! A huge thanks to all the adults and youth that volunteered their time to make this a special week for our children. Our children learned that God can make a wave in their own heart, and it can have a ripple effect to others around them!







Bible Drill faithful excel in Scripture

What an exciting year Alexis Morris and Ellen Wilhoit have had with the fourth- and fifth-graders in Bible Drill! The children were faithful to attend each Wednesday night and worked very hard.

They learned all the books of the Bible, 25 Scripture verses and where to find 10 key passages. During the year, we held three Bible Drills, which consisted of a Book Call, Key Passage Call, Quotation Call and Completion Call.

With the Book Call, the children would find the book of the Bible called and name the book that came before and after. The Key Passage Call consisted of the children finding a key passage and reading a verse within the passage. In the Quotation Call, a Scripture refer-

ence was given and the child quoted the verse and gave the reference. The final call was the Completion Call in which a portion of the verse was given and the children responded with the whole verse and the reference. As if that were not amazing enough, they were able to respond within 10 seconds!

Alexis and Ellen felt blessed to watch God at work in the lives of these children. One of our Scripture verses this year was Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

May God guide them in the future with His Word that has been hidden in their hearts! To God be the glory!!

Thank you,
Ellen Wilhoit



KIDS CONNECTION

Rally Day to kick off Sunday School

Save the Date: Rally Day will be August 7

Sunday School Rally Day Breakfast and Program will be Sunday, August 7. Children, parents, and teachers, please meet in the CLC at 10 a.m.

Regular Sunday School classes for children will resume on August 14.

WinShape Camps for Communities July 18-22

Don't Forget to Register!

This is a camp that you don't want to miss! It is for campers who have finished 5K-8th grade. What a great adventure awaits your child in discovering and exploring their God-given talents in a fun-packed week. God lays out opportunities before us to broaden our friendships and come together as the body of Christ. WinShape Camps is definitely one of those opportunities! Jesus reminds us in Mathew 22:37-40, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

A great week of meeting new friends and discovering God's love is in-store!

First Presbyterian families get a \$25 off coupon. Register today with a down payment at <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/1091>.

*Blessings,
Wynde*



Rally Day Breakfast 10 a.m. Sunday, August 7 CLC

Sixth-grade Sunday School teachers needed

We are so blessed that the majority of our children's Sunday School teachers will be returning in the fall, and we are grateful to all of you. We do have one opening for the 6th grade class. If you would like to serve on a teaching team for our 6th grade children, please contact Wynde at Wedwards@florencefirst.org.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever believes in me ... rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38, NIV



Summer events load up July

June has flown by! We had so much fun working on the youth room, eating lots of meals together, riding around town for Wheeldateens! and going on day trips. We are very excited for July and all the events planned. Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Car Wash & Bake Sale, as well as your donations on Mother's Day.

The deadline to sign up for the End of Summer Trip is July 1. If you have not signed up and would like to go, please reach out to Taiter ASAP. We will stay at the Garden City Chapel. Cost is \$75 per person (\$50 per sibling).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee at F.E. Pops (9 a.m.): July 7, 21 & 28.

Wheeldateens! (7 – 8:30 p.m.) July 17 & 31.
Neighborhoods to be determined.

Beach Day (9 a.m.) July 8. We will travel to Pawley's Island for the day.

Blowing Rock, N.C. – July 10-15. This trip is in place of Fun in the Sun. We have space for 2 more people. If you did not previously sign up for that trip, please let Taiter know ASAP if you would like to go. Cost is \$275.

WinShape Camps - July 18-22. Please let Taiter know if you would like to attend or if you would like to volunteer (completed 9th grade). The camp runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to noon Friday. Campers and volunteers register online. First Pres youth will only need to pay the \$25 deposit when they register and then get \$25 off the full price. This will make your total in the end \$199 instead of \$224.

Junior High Girls Lunch (1 p.m.) July 19. We will meet at Top Hat Teas. Please bring money for your meal.

Lunch at Moe's (1 p.m.) July 20. Bring money for your meal and bring a friend!

End of Summer Trip - July 22-24. Cost is \$75. See trip information above.

Venus Restaurant (11 a.m.) July 26. Join us for brunch. Bring money for your meal & a friend!

Carowinds Water Park (8 a.m. *time change* - 6 p.m.) July 27. Cost is \$45. Bring a towel, sunscreen & money for lunch. Please let Taiter know by July 8 if you would like to go.





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CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Dr. Darryl Evans
Interim Assistant Pastor	Dr. Bill Cain
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Vic Rockhill
Director of Youth	Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett
Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Wynde Edwards
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Ministry Assistant	Mrs. Becky Thomas
Financial Assistant	Mrs. Gwen DuRant
Communications Assistant	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Lead Custodian	Mr. Leroy Williams
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane

