

THE SPIRE LIGHT

August 26-September 15, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
100 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655
828-437-1811
www.fpcmorganton.org



Blessing of the Backpacks **Sunday, August 26, 10:55 AM**



The return to school, starting a new grade with new teachers and students, even new schools, is a big deal for children and their families! We want children to know that their lives are important to the church. We also want them to hear that God is with them at school and that the church cares about what happens there. God and church are not “off to the side” or just a Sunday thing. So children and students of all ages, as well as teachers and staff, are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a special *Blessing of the Backpacks* during worship on Sunday, August 26. Each participant will receive a special “Blessings Tag” for their bag.

Kick-Off Sunday **Sunday, September 9**

9:30 AM—New Christian Education Classes Begin!
Meet Your Teachers!

10:55 AM—Special Worship Service to
Kick Off the Fall Semester of Ministries!

12:15 PM—Potluck Meal & Ministry Fair!

Please bring a dish to share that will feed 10 or more people, and stay after worship for our special Potluck Meal & Ministry Fair celebration.

At this event, you can find out how to get involved in the various ministries and missions of First Presbyterian Church. This is a great Sunday to invite some friends to church. Hope to see you there!



In the interim...

God has blessed our congregation richly this summer: Bible Camp with 104 campers and 78 volunteers, Mission Trip to Abaco Island with 24 participants, Fun in the Sun Youth Conference with 15 participants, Lectionary Bible Study each week, Celebrations of the Lord's Supper, and Summer Sunday Social fellowships.

At the same time, we are experiencing some extra expenses: lift rental for cleaning the steeple and church trim, installation of security keypads for doors, kitchen hood replacement to meet fire code, automated external defibrillator (AED) replacement batteries and pads, replacement of trash dumpster, and repair of headstones in cemetery to address safety issues.



Because of these and other expenditures, we need to make up a revenue deficit for this year. Please consider helping cover these additional costs as part of your faith giving.

This church is very generous in giving to those in need. With catch-up giving and conservative spending, we will be able to maintain mission and ministry commitments to ourselves as well as to others. Your contributions in the last four months of this year will make a big difference. Thank you for your dedication.

Wanda Neely, Transitional Pastor (mobile: 828-929-5001)

Member Giving Through July 2018

	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Received YTD</u>
Pledged Giving	\$513,571.00	\$272,311.68
Non-Pledged Giving	63,500.00	27,891.10

For a detailed analysis of revenues and expenses, please see the financial notebook located in the church library.

Small Groups

Small Group Ministry is beginning at First Presbyterian Church on September 9. More information is coming soon about how you can join a small group. If you are interested in starting one, contact Pastor Adam Bowling.

Mission Morganton

Please join other local churches in the annual Mission Morganton beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 22, on the lawn at First Baptist Church. You can sign up in the narthex Welcome Center on Sunday mornings for a project. You can also donate to a variety of collections prior to the actual day via containers in the Welcome Center. Please donate new or gently-worn clean school clothing/shoes and new socks/underwear. Your clothing contributions will be given away FREE at the Bouchelle Street Rec Center on September 23. Thank you for helping those less fortunate.

Thank You

Thank you, dear church family and friends, for the support you've shown me during Gene's hospitalization and after his death. I felt your prayers and love surrounding me like a comforter. Thank you for the hugs, cards, emails, texts, calls, and visits. These all have brought me such comfort and peace. With love, Kathy Allan-Calloway

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to:

- Adam Bowling and family at the death of his great aunt, Florence Shelor, who died on August 5, 2018.
- the family of Millicent "Millie" Arrick Gordon, who died on August 15, 2018.
- Lee Opp and family at the death of her husband, Bob Opp, on August 19, 2018.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, August 26

9:30 AM Summer Sunday School
10:55 AM Worship Service with
Blessing of the Backpacks,
Ordination,
Installation,
& Communion
5:00 PM End of Summer
Vespers Service
with Baptism
—Chapel
No PM Youth

Tuesday, August 28

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
1:30 PM Staff Meeting

Music Rehearsals Resume:

Wednesday, September 5

Chancel Ringers—4:40-5:30 PM
Chancel Choir—7:15-8:30 PM

Sunday, September 9

Chancel Choir—10:00 AM
Children's Choir—12:15-1:15 PM

Sunday, September 2

9:30 AM Summer Sunday School
10:55 AM Worship Service
with Baptism

Monday, September 3



Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 4

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3—Parlor

Wednesday, September 5

4:40 PM Chancel Ringers
6:00 PM Worship Ministry
Meeting
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, September 7

3:30 PM Meal for the
Patton High School
Football Team

Sunday, September 9

Kick-Off Sunday
9:30 AM Christian Education Hour
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Chancel Choir
10:55 AM Worship Service
with Communion
12:15 PM Congregational Potluck
& Ministry Fair
12:15 PM Children's Choir
5:00 PM Youth Bread Sunday

Monday, September 10

10:00 AM Mind, Body, Spirit Class
10:30 AM Circle 1—Grace Ridge
12:00 PM Spire Light Deadline
7:00 PM Circle 2—Parlor

Tuesday, September 11

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
9:00 AM Soup Kitchen
1:30 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 12

10:30 AM Spire Light Volunteers
4:40 PM Chancel Ringers
5:15 PM Simple Meal
6:15 PM Ministry Teams Meet
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, September 14

8:30 AM Administration Meeting

Now is the Time to Register for FPC Student Ministries!

- 1) Go to the church website to update your Student Ministries Registration Form.
- 2) Print the new Health and Permission Form for 2018-2019.
- 3) Make sure you sign up to receive First Presbyterian Student Ministry News!
- 4) Text "@fpcyouth1" to 81010 to sign up for text alerts from FPC Youth!

All forms and info can be found on the church website:

<http://www.fpcmorganton.org/ministries/youth.html>

Student Ministries

Rev. Adam C. Bowling
828-448-8914

adam@firstpresmorganton.org

Sunday, August 26—No Youth Group (due to Saturday's Dollywood Trip)

Sunday, September 2—No Youth Group (Labor Day Weekend)

Sunday, September 9, 5:00-8:00 PM—Bread Sunday @TBA

Gather your friends and head to Bread Sunday at 5:00 PM. Bring a snack and/or drink to share, \$3 for dinner, your Bible, and a friend! Please RSVP via Facebook or email Pastor Adam today! Hope to see you there!

Elective Adult Sunday School Class—9:30 AM in Room 102 Downstairs

August 26—Christians: Nice People or New Creations or Both? Led by Maggie McKinney. Another look at our hearts through the words of Jesus, the Apostle Paul, C. S. Lewis, and class participants.

September 2—Lena Kenan will continue our study of Philippians.

September 9—John Hawes will present highlights of the 2018 General Assembly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

August 26, 2018

Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely

Scripture Lessons

I Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Ps. 84; Eph. 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

Greeters

Holly and Ted Restel

Jane and Lewis Riggsbee

Nursery

Janet Leissner

Grace Ridge Bus Driver

Eric LeGoullon

Usher Captains

Greg Carpenter, Lisa Roller

Visitors Table

Linda Wilson

September 2, 2018

Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely

Scripture Lessons

Song of Sol. 2:8-13

Ps. 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Greeters

Joyce and Walter Pharr

Debbie Wellmon

Nursery

Catharine Corn

Grace Ridge Bus Driver

Tom Kilgore

Usher Captain

Scott Davis

Visitors Table

Julie Scott

September 9, 2018

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

Scripture Lessons

Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Ps. 125; James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

Greeters

Lisa and Jeff Roller

Sue and Woody Wynn

Nursery

Gabby Putt

Grace Ridge Bus Driver

Ken Corn

Usher Captains

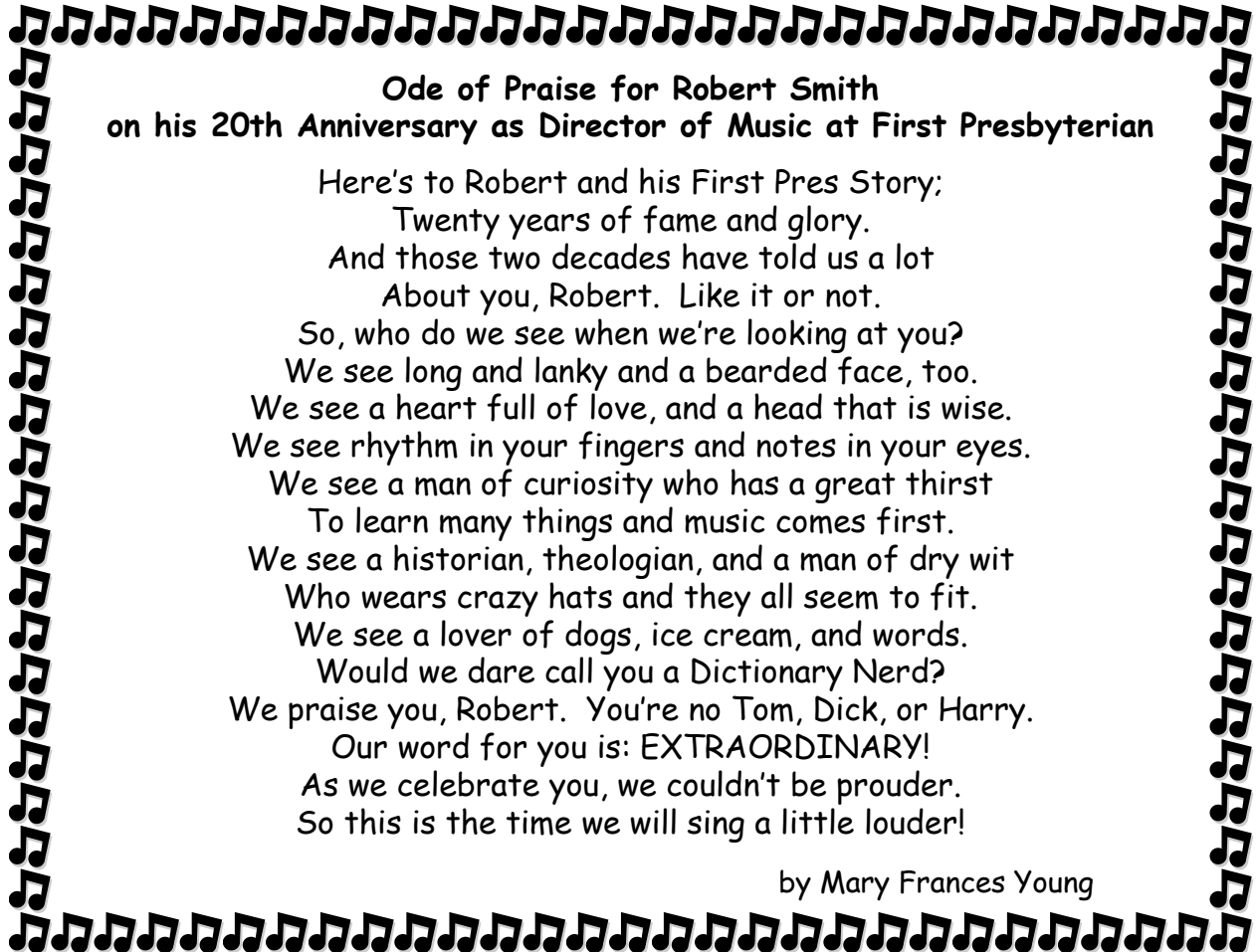
Scott Coley, Hugh Lowe

Visitors Table

Julie Scott

The next newsletter covers September 16-October 6 events.

Please submit your church news to the church office by noon on Monday, September 10.



Ode of Praise for Robert Smith
on his 20th Anniversary as Director of Music at First Presbyterian

Here's to Robert and his First Pres Story;
Twenty years of fame and glory.
And those two decades have told us a lot
About you, Robert. Like it or not.
So, who do we see when we're looking at you?
We see long and lanky and a bearded face, too.
We see a heart full of love, and a head that is wise.
We see rhythm in your fingers and notes in your eyes.
We see a man of curiosity who has a great thirst
To learn many things and music comes first.
We see a historian, theologian, and a man of dry wit
Who wears crazy hats and they all seem to fit.
We see a lover of dogs, ice cream, and words.
Would we dare call you a Dictionary Nerd?
We praise you, Robert. You're no Tom, Dick, or Harry.
Our word for you is: EXTRAORDINARY!
As we celebrate you, we couldn't be prouder.
So this is the time we will sing a little louder!

by Mary Frances Young

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee would like to bring you up to date on our process. As you may remember after Pastor Neely became our transitional minister in January of 2017, the first task was to put together a mission study to discern what our congregation wanted in its new minister. After the mission study was completed and presented to the congregation, the Nominating Committee began to put together a slate of individuals to become the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Once the slate of nominees was chosen, a congregational meeting was authorized by Session, the committee was approved by the congregation, and the first PNC meeting was held at the end of October.

The first task of the PNC was to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for First Presbyterian. Drawing from the information learned in the mission study, the PNC began meeting weekly to put that information into the form to describe as accurately as possible our church, our community, and what we are searching for in our next minister. Bobbi White, General Presbyter, met with us in the beginning. The process was arduous. Finally, the MIF was ready to send to PCUSA headquarters in Louisville in December so that we could officially begin the search process in January.

Ministers can be referred in various ways. The committee has contacted ministers far and wide and others in the Presbyterian world asking for recommendations. The Church Leadership Connection of the PCUSA in Louisville attempts to match ministers and churches. Just as the church puts together a Ministry Information Form, a minister seeking a new church or position puts together a Pastor Information Form or PIF. The minister has the opportunity to self-refer to churches which are listed on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). Ministers may also put their PIF on the CLC site. The CLC "computer in the sky" takes the MIF from a church seeking a new head of staff and matches it with the PIF of any minister seeking a church with similar characteristics, much as a dating service would work. Each PIF must be assessed by the search committee as it applies to our church's goals for the new minister.

The first matches presented to the committee began in January. They were given to us in batches of 20 or 25. Self-referrals have come in at random times. It has been a grueling task of reading PIFs, determining whether the individuals are good matches for our church by viewing and/or listening to sermons (we have heard hundreds), searching on Facebook and elsewhere to learn all that we can about the minister and the family, and contacting and interviewing references. With those to whom the Spirit is guiding us further, we may set up and have Skype interviews, visit their churches, have a neutral pulpit arranged somewhere in the Presbytery, and/or entertain them in our homes.

What we have learned through all of this is that while we are searching and trying to discern whether a minister is a fit for us, she or he is at the same time searching and considering not only our church but others. After much study, listening, and discussing, we have found that he or she may be too far into the process with another church, the individual is not what we believe to be best once heard in person or once we had a chance to interview in person, or the candidate did not find our church to be what was best for him/her. All of that is to say that it has taken time to filter through many, many possibilities, and we continue that process.

It's been a hard but rewarding process. First Presbyterian has been blessed with amazing ministers in the past. The bar has been set high and continues to be with our transitional minister, the Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely. We continue to trust that God has a plan for First Presbyterian. We continue to pray earnestly that we will know the will of God for our congregation. Your words of encouragement and your prayers sustain us as we seek to continue to carry out this awesome responsibility.

The Pastor Nominating Committee:

Chris Bergelin
Greg Carpenter
Molly Franklin

Linda McCrary
Mason Streppa

Jean VanNoppen
John Wilson