



The “First” Press

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church

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Garden Of Faith and Love Is Dedicated For God’s Work



FPC’s Mission Garden was dedicated on Sunday, June 27, in a poignant, albeit brief, service. At the conclusion, folks in attendance gave the “V” for “vegetables” sign and retreated to the shade trees for refreshing lemonade. Stop by soon to see how our garden grows. (see related article on page 7)



“remembering before
our God and Father
your work of

faith

and labor of

love

and steadfastness of

hope

in our Lord
Jesus Christ.”

(1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Thoughts From the Interim Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you.

The Pastor Nominating Committee of my Interim church in Suffolk, Virginia gathered nearly every Tuesday night, and each evening before the group began its meeting with prayer, the chairman would place the Committee's mascot on the table. It was a little plastic donkey, meant to remind them of the donkey Balaam rode when summoned to go and curse the people of Israel as they made their way to the Promised Land. Perhaps pre-occupied with many thoughts, hopes, options and concerns, Balaam did not see the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a sword in its hand and blocking Balaam's way. But the donkey did, and it left the road, walking into a field and making Balaam so angry that he struck the animal. Again and yet again the more perceptive donkey took steps to avoid the threatening angel. And when Balaam for a third time beat the animal, God "opened the mouth of the ass," giving it the ability to speak in words that Balaam would understand. It then helped its master realize there was something in their way, something he needed to attend to, yield to, obey... if he hoped to remain alive. Balaam then saw the sword-bearing angel. And I assume he apologized to his donkey (see Numbers 22).

By having such a mascot at its meetings, the PNC hoped that it would help the Committee keep looking and listening for God's

presence and direction as it moved along in its search. The Committee hoped that, if it came to a barrier, it would be reminded that sometimes stops and reversals are for the best. It hoped it would be inspired to trust that God was guiding its work. It hoped to be stimulated to accept God's direction and cooperate with God as faithfully as it could. The PNC had a fairly long and sometimes bumpy ride. But it never lost faith. It pursued its work with a great deal of prayer. And in time, it celebrated a happy conclusion to its journey. And you can be sure that when that arrival was celebrated, the mascot was given a place at the head table!

Recently your PNC reported on its efforts, its journey, on what it's anticipating and what it's hoping. As it considers candidates, and more crucially, as it seeks to discern how God is directing it, the Committee continues to need the support of your prayers, the expression of your faith that God is at work with it, and your willingness to be patient, and eager, but not anxious. We should have no doubt that God is with us in this interim journey. We should feel great desire to remain alert to God's promptings and engaged in responding to them. Someday there will be a celebration here. But, in fact, everyday with God some kind of celebration's called for... don't you think?

As ever, I wish you all the very best in Christ. *Bill*

Check Out These Additions!

Forgiving Ararat: A Good Summer Read For Everyone

Touted posthumously (*refer to synopsis below*) as the “#1 Bestseller in Heaven,” *Forgiving Ararat* has been recommended as an “all-parish summer read” and is now available in our church library.

A synopsis by author Leo Tolstoy reads, “This strange, haunting tale of the war between justice and forgiveness waged within every human heart recounts how one incredibly brave soul won that war . . . and found peace.”

Stop by the library soon to check this book out!

Attention: Bible Scholars and Sunday School Classes

The Education and Nurture Committee has purchased for the church two sets of DVDs suitable for individual or class study. Each set consists of 24 half-hour lectures sup-

ported by a leader’s guide and discussion questions.

The set on the Old Testament was written and presented by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt Divinity School. The author of the New Testament series is Professor Bart D. Ehrman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to the four canonic gospels and other books of the New Testament, there are discussions of the non-canonic Gospels, the “Historic Jesus—sources and problems, solutions and methods.” Each session is “freestanding” so individuals or classes can “pick and choose” what most interests them.

The DVDs can be checked out using the library book card method. Please comply so we can keep track of them so they are available to all who wish to use them. Copies of sections of the leader’s guide can be made at the church office.

—*Education and Nurture Committee*



SESSION COMMITTEES ARE ORGANIZING

At its meeting in June, members of the church's Session took responsibility for leading the ten committees the Session currently uses to help the congregation answer its calling to Share God's Love. During the coming twelve months, the following elders will be working with ministries in the areas of:

Administration

Emily Moore, Frances Parrott

Commitment and Stewardship

Ned Manning, Julie Privette

Congregational Care

John Hendrix, Emily Moore

Congregational Fellowship

Lyndon Fuller, John Hendrix, Pam Summerlin

Education and Nurture

Frank Hall, Brenda Woodley

Facilities

Ann Cherry, Chris Henderson, Pat Johnson, Pam Summerlin (ad hoc)

Finance

Chris Henderson, Rick Landis

Membership Growth and Development

Ann Cherry, Julie Privette

Mission and Outreach

Ruthie Stroud

Worship and Music

June Cummings, Pat Johnson, Michael Riddick

In the coming weeks, those elders will be assembling their committees and helping members plan for and begin engaging in the full range of exciting, crucial ministries and activities FPC is being called to carry out now.

And every member and friend of FPC should be considering how he or she might assist with that work, how he or she might be profitably employed by God this year at FPC. If you have an interest or skill related to one of the committees, and if you think you could help in some way with its work, contact the elders leading it. They'll be glad you did, and so will you.

Presbytery Meeting In Rocky Mount

On Tuesday, July 20, New Hope Presbytery will be meeting at FPC Rocky Mount. Along with the Interim Pastor, Elders Ned Manning and Ann Cherry will be representing the Session as its commissioners. At this meeting, the Presbytery will be honoring Outstanding Older Adults from its congregations.

From FPC Kinston, the Session has asked Jean Tabory to go as its 2010 Outstanding Older Adult nominee. Jean, a retired school psychologist, is a consummate teacher. She has served as both a deacon and an elder, has taught the Adult Discussion Class for more than thirty years, is a member of the Caregivers Group and the Mission and Outreach Committee, teaches the Women's Bible Study group, and regularly contributes articles for the church newsletter. She is one of the pillars of the Presbyterian Women, having led the Bible study for her own circle as well as several other circles on a regular basis. She has been Ecumenical Missions and Relations Chair and a dramatist for PW and other groups. For these many contributions, she received the PW Honorary Life Membership in 1993. Jean is extremely active in many community organizations and is a wonderful physical fitness role model to all. At age 90, Jean is a vibrant member of FPC and a role model to young and old alike.

Lectionary Scriptures

July 4

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 18

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 25

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Find *daily* lectionary readings and other devotional materials at www.pcusa.org.

Presbyterian Women Were Busy During 2009-2010!

FPC's Presbyterian Women organization has continued to send mission contributions to New Hope Presbytery, provided desserts for Meals-on-Wheels, served meals to families of deceased church members, and provided a scholarship for high school graduating senior Bethany Fillippeli.

In addition, the following projects were completed:

- ◆ Collected more than 100 pairs of socks for the Homeless Shelter
- ◆ Sent Campbell product labels to Barium Springs Home for Children
- ◆ Filled shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child*
- ◆ Collected old all-purpose and Christmas cards for St. Jude's Ranch for Children
- ◆ Donated gently worn clothing for Cherry Hospital
- ◆ Gave Christmas gifts for residents at Cherry Hospital
- ◆ Collected \$865 on Blanket Sunday, which bought 173 blankets for Haiti
- ◆ Provided Mother's Day cards to be used by those who contributed to the blanket fund to honor "special mothers"
- ◆ Sent 2 Baby Layettes to Church World Service
- ◆ Gave \$250 to Smile Train for one complete surgery for a child who needs cleft reconstruction
- ◆ Mailed 272 Hygiene Kits to Church World Service done by PW circles before the Haiti earthquake; 100 additional Hygiene Kits were completed by the congregation after the earthquake for total of 372
- ◆ Sent 82 School Kits to Church World Service
- ◆ Prepared gift baskets for members in the hospital
- ◆ Decorated the church for Christmas and Easter

Thank you to all circles for an exceptionally busy year of service to others.

—Elaine Nix

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Very well, indeed! On Tuesday, June 22, the first fruits of the Mission Garden were harvested! Beautiful yellow banana peppers were picked and Inez Dale took them to ICOR to distribute to a few lucky folks. But that's only the beginning with other peppers and squash being ready very soon!

Every Tuesday morning around 8:30 folks will meet at the garden to weed, feed, gather produce—whatever needs to be done. So come on out any Tuesday and share in the fun of this mission! There is a job for everyone, no matter what your level of gardening knowledge or ability.

Helping Others With Pennies and Cans!

Our “Pennies for Hunger” offering will be received on **Sunday, July 4**, during morning worship. The grocery carts will be outside the Chapel also to receive your donations of non-perishable food items for ICOR. Both of these opportunities offer us an on-going means of helping those in need in our own community.

Special Thanks to These Special Folks!

A huge debt of gratitude goes to ***Inez Dale and her husband Bill Thaxton and Brenda and Jim Woodley*** for their invaluable and expert leadership, as well as their manual labor, in getting the Mission Garden project off the ground.

Tremendous thanks go to ***Ted Berry, Wilma Boldt, George Fisher, and Helen Rackley*** who have come regularly to help with the garden planting and weeding.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the members of the ***Handyman's Group*** who built the fence gate and the platform for the rain barrels.

Margaret Butler and her Girl Scouts and parents have been so faithful in helping with the garden. We thank them for their labor and for their excitement about this project.

**“Pennies for Hunger”
collected in June
\$ 144.93**

ASP DOES MORE THAN HOMEWORK

After hearing about a young girl named Riley Philpot who has cancer and lives in Winterville, NC, the students in FPC's After School Program made and mailed cards to her back in the early Spring.

Leader Lynette Waters learned of Riley's desire to receive thousands of cards when she returned home from Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Just before school recessed for the summer, the ASP kids received the following note from Riley:

Thank you for my cards
you have sent me. They
have made me feel happy
all this time so thank
you for the cards.

It's Time To Think School

Now is the perfect time to make arrangements for after-school care for your child for the Fall.

FPC operates a safe and caring program, very capably led by Mrs. Lynette Waters, in a small group setting with plenty of personal attention. The program is for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. Please email or call the church office for further information or to register your child. And if you have friends or neighbors whose child would benefit from this program, share the word!

COLLEGE STUDENTS — Where Will You Be?

Not long from now, FPC's college students will be heading off to school, settling in at some address for a year of scholarship, adventure and growth. And the church would dearly like to support them when they do. In order to help us stay in touch with our students—by mail, email and even phone—please help us get up-to-date contact information as soon as these are known. It can feel really good to send a care package to a college student. (It can feel pretty good getting one, too!) Help us out please!

The Joy of Coloring

In his book *Dangerous Wonder*, the late youth-ministry pioneer Mike Yaconelli debunks the idea that Christianity is “all about coloring within the lines and coloring well.” He writes: “God’s grace is so outside the lines of our understanding that we can only stand in awe and wonder. Christianity is not about learning how to live within the lines; Christianity is about the joy of coloring. The grace of God is preposterous enough to accept as beautiful a col-



oring that anyone else would reject as ugly.

“The grace of God sees beyond the scribbling to the heart of the scribbler — a scribbler who is similar to two thieves who hung on crosses on either side of Jesus. One of the two asked Jesus to please accept his scribbled and sloppy life into the kingdom of God . . . and he did. Preposterous. And very good news for the rest of us scribblers.”

A Local Worshiping Trigger

What are your worshiping triggers? What are the things that, when seen, challenge you to worship God? The author of the Presbyterian Women study book “Joshua” says that the stones taken from the Jordan at Gilgal and the large stone erected at the sanctuary of God at Shechem were such objects.

When I see Larry (Landry) driving the church van into our driveway on Sunday mornings, I think of it as a worshiping trigger: God inspires his followers to help others. An ordinary car would serve as well, but the van is also an imagination trigger.

When Larry and Joe, the only male passengers, help us up into the van, we are no longer little old ladies en route to church. We are daughters of the King going to meet him. The van is a coach.

The van is also a chariot. We are warriors on the way to learn more about how to fight for righteousness.

The van is a means of sharing God’s love. Blessed are all who drive it.

—Jean Tabory

Is the Website Working For You?

In today's world a website is the new "front door" for a lot of churches, businesses, organizations, etc. Over the past few months, therefore, enhancements have been made to FPC's website—the addition of the monthly newsletter as a PDF document, color coding on the monthly calendar, a move toward adding more pictures, etc. We hope you've noticed these changes and that they're ones that have improved your use of the website.

Please take a moment and give us your feedback about the church's website:

Do you use it on a regular basis?

If so, for what purpose?

If not, what would make it better so that you would use it?

Is it easy to maneuver?

Is it user-friendly?

Would you like to see something included that isn't at present?

Do you have ideas or suggestions to make it better?

The webmaster would truly appreciate your valuable input and ideas. Email them to info@fpckinston.com.



With the busyness of vacations and traveling, visits from and to family, and extra activities to fill school-less days during summer, it's easy to forget to keep our church pledges current during these months.

As you pay your routine bills this summer in anticipation of being away on vacation, please remember your commitment to the support of the church's work and ministry.

—Finance Committee

Make a Date With the Pastor

If you'd like the pastor to visit and if evenings suit your schedule best, consider claiming one of the following evenings reserved on Bill's calendar for visiting: **July 1, 7, or 13.** A visit then, or at other times, day or evening, can be scheduled by calling the church office at 522-1921.

Attendance

5-30	Worship	62
6-6	Worship	76
6-13	Worship	62
6-20	Worship	93
6-27	Worship	84



Those who
bring sunshine
to the lives of
others
cannot keep it
from themselves.

—*J. M. Barrie*

FROSTY FRESH GRAPE POPS

Jesus is our vine, and we are to be his fruitful branches. Have "bunches" of fun making this refreshing grape snack.

What you need:

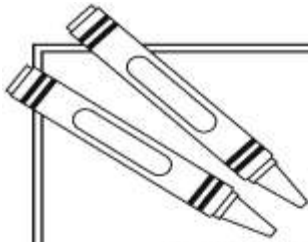
- An adult to help
- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups seedless grapes (red, green or black)
- Food processor
- Plastic spatula
- Strainer
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Food coloring (red, green or blue; optional)
- 5 oz. paper cups
- Aluminum foil
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Another 2 cups grapes, halved (optional)



What you do:

1. Blend grapes in a food processor until smooth.
2. With a plastic spatula, press mixture through a strainer into a mixing bowl. Discard skins and skim foam off the top.
3. Whisk sugar into juice until dissolved. Add a few drops of food coloring, if desired.
4. Fill cups with juice, spooning most of the foam off the top. (If using additional grapes, put $\frac{1}{2}$ -cup halved grapes into each cup.)
5. Cover each cup with foil and insert a wooden stick into the center of the foil.
6. Place cups in freezer.
7. To remove pops, take off foil and tear away cup. Enjoy!

Variation: To make layered juice pops, make two batches of mix from different-colored grapes. Fill cups half full with one color, cover and then insert the stick and freeze. Then fill with the remaining color and freeze again.



Just for **KIDS**

The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START ▶ 1 b a s m l t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a K r c

v f f l i s s e u h t c t n s a r r q b p e o h n t m e l

a w m x a y n z t a e a m b a c i d n e s f i f n m m n e o a p

e c b a l l i r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j i l l i d q n p

d a e r f m g u h c c h d f d r e u e i j t

"↓ _____ ; _____

_____ ;

apart from me you can do nothing."

J o h n 1 5 : 5 . N I V

Answer: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit."

Special Prayer Concerns

Bill and Pat Anderson (Mary Riddick's parents)

Fred Antonowich, 813 Westminster Lane, Kinston 28501

Morris and Betsy Barbee, 1906 Pawnee Drive 28504

Becky Berry, 1406 St. James Place, Kinston 28504

Lois Flowers, 705 W. Highland Avenue, Kinston 28501

Al Gold and his family, following his mother's death

Ramona Griffis, Spring Arbor, 3207 Carey Road, Kinston
28504

Myra Holder, 1204 Dorcas Terrace, Kinston 28504

Dennis Irving, 2681 Gary Drive, Kinston 28501

Linwood Lender (Otha Lender's brother)

Mary Mallard, 2002 West Road, Kinston 28501

Bill Manning, 1305 Greenbriar Road, Kinston 28501

Jeanette Marshall, 1413 St. James Place, Kinston 28504

Mac and Gwen Orr, 2107 Michele Drive, Kinston 28504

The Pastor Nominating Committee, continuing its search

Carole Pepper (Dot Taylor's daughter), 4013 Sage Meadow Blvd, Jonesboro, AR 72401

Nola Dean Stroud (Earl Stroud's mother), 3073 Tyndall Williams Drive, Deep Run,
NC 28525

Kathryn Thutt, 1603 Crawford Drive, Kinston 28504

David Williams, Jr., 455 AEW/EAMXS/F-15 AMU, APO AE 09352

Dick Wood, Britthaven of Kinston, Room 2318, P. O. Box 3527, Kinston 28502

Those serving in our armed forces, overseas and here at home

Those many portions of our planet suffering from ecological disaster

Members of the FPC family who are in nursing homes

Session Committees, reorganizing for a new year of ministry

Our sister church in LaGrange, Jason Presbyterian Church

Education & Nurture Committee, planning fall offerings

Those in Kinston assisting the poor and those at risk



in July . . .



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Katy Benton | 18 | Fran Parker |
| | Teresa Dobbins | 21 | Gene Henderson |
| 3 | Brooks Johnson | 22 | Nancy Aycock |
| 4 | Courtney Cherry | | Dick Goodley |
| 9 | Kim Henderson | 23 | Jay Cherry |
| 10 | Ann Gold | | Allen Summerlin |
| 13 | John Erwin | 24 | Cindy Mills |
| 14 | Harold Motts | 29 | Steve Dawson |
| 15 | Lisa Lewis | 30 | Madeline Kornegay |
| 18 | Ned Manning | 31 | Will Grizzard |
| | Del Nix | | |

JULY RESPONSIBILITIES

	<i>GREETER</i>	<i>LOCK-UP</i>	<i>STEWARD</i>
July 4	Frank Hall	Pat Johnson	Ralph Clark
July 11	Chris Henderson		Ralph Clark
July 18	John Hendrix		Ralph Clark
July 25	Helen Rackley	John Erwin	Ralph Clark

FPC Bulletin Board



Upcoming Events!

- July 4 Bring "Pennies for Hunger" and canned goods for ICOR to worship
- July 5 Church Office closed
- July 20 Presbytery Meeting in Rocky Mount

July 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

PLEASE NOTE:

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5.



*Have fun!
Be safe!*

News Around FPC's World



First Presbyterian Church
2101 N. Herritage Street
Kinston, NC 28501-2221

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

To share a specific prayer concern or make known a particular concern or suggestion, please see any of the persons listed below who comprise the leadership of our church.

Class of 2011

Rick Landis
Ned Manning
Julie Privette
Michael Riddick
Pam Summerlin

The Session

Class of 2012

Ann Cherry
Ralph Clark
Lyndon Fuller
Chris Henderson
Pat Johnson
Brenda Woodley

Class of 2013

June Cummings
Frank Hall
John Hendrix
Emily Moore
Frances Parrott
Ruthie Stroud

Bill Nickels, Intentional Interim Pastor

Cookie Emory, Office Administrator

John O'Brien, Director of Music/Organist

Ann Blackmon, Church Secretary

Jeff & Christi Boyd, Missionaries to Cameroon