



First On Third News

Aug. 2016



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We have been honored to have several baptisms this summer! Shown at the top left is Roland holding Barbara and Joe Jamison's sleeping grandson. The pictures to the right include mothers Catherine Harris and Meade Van Pelt and their families. Shown underneath the baptism pictures are the Rigbys enjoying fellowship time at Christmas in July—see more on page 5.

YOUR PNC!

I have the wonderful opportunity and privilege of attending the weekly meetings of your PNC. They have met every single Monday evening since you elected them and they even met on an additional Thursday evening. They are really a group of hard working, committed and faithful folk. I am deeply proud of them and they are in my morning and evening prayers.

They have been hard at work on the church's information form which will be approved by our Session and the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. After being approved by those two bodies, the information will go "online" on the website of our General Assembly. On that site interested persons can read about our church's mission statement, local mission, programs, the kind of pastor we are interested in and our strengths and challenges. You too will be free to access all of this information.

And then the hard part begins!

And you? What do you do? Pray for the PNC. Pray to be patient. More often than not, this process toward a new pastor takes 18 months! 18 months! Yep, that's about average. Hey, I want this to be over more than any of you, believe me! But be patient. Don't bug the PNC. Love 'em. Pray for 'em. Be nice to 'em.

Roland 111
Interim Pastor

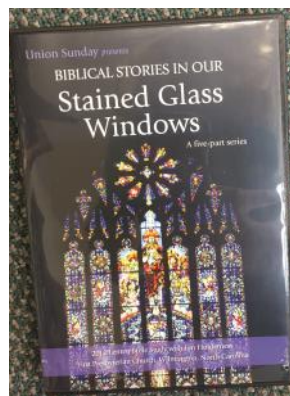
Jim's Stained Glass Window Lectures available on DVD

Rev. Jim Holderness just loved working with our Stained Glass Windows and the 85 Bible Stories they represent. He wanted us to "feel surrounded by friends" as we sit in the sanctuary, both by biblical friends and church friends, as he felt.

As many of you remember, Jim died suddenly Dec, 27, 2012, but he is still a part of us through the legacy of his teachings.

If you would like a copy of five parts of his

lectures, "Biblical Stories in our Stained Glass Windows," there are copies on DVD for you to pick up in the Welcome Center. Please enjoy them and remember Jim.



Reminder: three services in August at 8:45, 9 and 10 a.m. Welcome back!



Save the Date—Nov. 13 **Hymn Sing & Congregation Dinner**

Mark your Calendar now for a good old fashioned **hymn sing-a-long** and an all congregation dinner on Sunday evening, 5pm Nov. 13 here at First Presbyterian Church. John Tabler and our wonderful choir will lead us in several all time favorites in the Sanctuary.

Dinner and fellowship time together will be in Gilmour Hall. Save the Date and watch for more details in the next **First on Third** news.

Grandparent Support Network celebrates successes!

By Jane Hawthorne



They all said it was Math!

In June, members and volunteers from First Presbyterian Church celebrated the end of the final 9 weeks of the school year with an academic banquet in Gilmour Hall. And almost all the students said it was improvement in math that they were most proud of.

For 3rd graders, it was mastering their times tables. For older students, it was passing EOGs and making the A/B Honor Roll. According to Evie Nicklas, Director of Grandparents Network, out of 80 students enrolled in GSN, 20 elementary age student made all S's on their report card and 18 students in 3rd through 12th grades made the A/B Honor Roll. Conyeh Daniels was honored for making the highest EOG score for his 6th grade class and also having

one of the top 5 scores in Social Studies. At GSN, all students are recognized for some accomplishment—“having a great sense of humor” and “mastering the art of blueberry pie making” were two of the non-academic honors awarded.

We celebrated with joy that two of our students have graduated from high school and will be attending college in the Fall. Deanna Mullins graduated from New Hanover High and will be attending Cape Fear Community College to study art. Russell Corbett graduated from Ashley High School and will attend Barton College in Wilson, NC on an athletic scholarship and hoping to major in social work. Russell distinguished himself as an All-State shot put and discus athlete and will be on

Barton's track and field team. We also celebrated Destiny Tate's graduation from Meredith College with a degree in Fashion Merchandising. On hand for the celebration were Susan Fennell, Executive Director of the YWCA (GSN's parent organization) and board members Evelyn Bryant and Linda Reese. Matlynn Yeoman of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PC(USA) was also present to congratulate all the award winners.

Grandparents Network is a support group for grandparents and older adults who are the head of household to one or more grandchildren. Volunteers (including high school youth) are needed to be mentors for children who participate in the Grandparents Network program. Please contact Evie Nicklas for more information on how you can make a difference.

Interested in Being a Mentor?

**Grandparent
Support Network
Meets 5:30 p.m.**

Thursdays

Starting back Sept. 8

Boney Hall

Contact Evie:

**Eviesnicklas
@gmail.com**



**One of the proud Grandmas
in the Grandparent Support
Network with her graduate.**

Refugee Mission Update—ARRIVED!

The progress of resettlement and adjustment to a new life in Wilmington by our Congolese family continues to amaze us. From new shopping experiences, immunizations for all of the children, enrollment in WIC, ESL study, to medical exams and treatment they are all thriving and adapting. And we are growing in faith as we see how God is leading us to greater service and devotion.

We just had a wonderful adventure at the beach. It was a big experience for our Congolese family to go to Wrightsville Beach Sunday, July 24. They were ready when we arrived to join the caravan. There were sixteen refugees, including extended family and friends, and ten volunteers to watch over them to make sure that everyone would be safe. The

team was more anxious than the family about everything from parking at Little Chapel to avoiding rip currents. We were a curious sight as we ventured onto the crowded beach!

For many of the Congolese, this was their first ocean experience! The four year-old got some beach toys that



seemed to help his anxiety, but the ocean was still scary. It was only after he found an older hand that he stepped into the waves!

After a couple of hours, some watermelon, cupcakes, and a birthday celebration, we returned the family with salt



and sand to their home. We are thankful for the many hands that have made the new experiences possible for this family.

Please pray that this family will continue to adapt and grow in this new environment. And pray that as faithful followers of Christ we can through love and acceptance, give witness to the love our Father has for all of his children.

--Bruce Gibson

Centerpoint—Presbyterian Counseling Center By Doug Edwards, Counselor

The Puzzle of Addiction

When I was a child I touched a hot stove... after my mother had warned me not to. It hurt. I never did it again.

This brief, simple story about the process of learning illustrates how discomfort and pain, such as that provided by a hot stove, are very good motivators for helping us to learn... what to do, or not to do, as we mature and grow as human beings.

So what do you think about people who repeatedly touch the same hot stove and get burned repeatedly? As we move through life, it soon becomes apparent that there are people who we see on a regular basis (maybe even in the mirror) who repeatedly engage in behavior that is harmful to themselves and/or others. They hurt themselves and/or others and don't seem to learn from their mistakes. What I'm describing is an "addiction."

An addiction is defined by two things: 1) loss of control and 2) negative consequences. Whatever is causing pain -- shopping, gambling, over-eating, drugs/alcohol -- should have stopped long ago. Promises and vows have been made and broken... because people cannot stop themselves. What is the answer? It's one of the hardest things for most people to do: Get some help.

Call the Center at 910-452-7370, and visit at www.presbyteriancounselingcenter.org

Midsummer Nights Christmas In July

It may have been too hot for snow, but Christmas in July was a wonderful celebration at First Presbyterian Church. Adults enjoyed two classes—one digging deeper into the two Biblical accounts of the birth of Jesus, and the other exploring how to make the Christmas season a more worshipful one and a time of service to others. Children enjoyed Christmas crafts, singing Christmas songs, and exploring the story of Jesus' birth in the Bible. Youth were helpers in all areas.



The gathered group enjoyed a simple dinner together and then many remained for an impromptu Christmas pageant and retelling of the Christmas story.

The final Midsummer Nights is Sunday, August 21 beginning at 5:00 at the church. Read on below.

—Kathy Beach



Next Midsummer Nights on August 21

Come, bring your family and friends and participate in the First Presbyterian Olympics, Sunday, August 21, 5-7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church. There will be activities and Olympic events for all ages and a nursery provided for our youngest Olympians. Come early and bring your dinner or enjoy sub sandwiches and salads. The Kona Ice truck will be here for frozen, sweet treats at the end of the evening. The evening will conclude with an intergenerational worship service in which we offer prayers for our nation and world.



*Wear your
USA colors!*

Montreat Youth Conference Challenges Youth to "Make a Difference!"

The theme of this year's Montreat Youth Conference is a world of difference. We were challenged to be different, to: make a difference in our family, make a difference in our church, make a difference with our peers, and make a difference in the world.

We prayed together, laughed together, read scripture together and played together. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Elizabeth Hipp
FPC Youth Director



MUSIC AT FIRST 2016-17 Concert Series

September 18, 5:00 p.m.
Elizabeth Field, soprano
Stephen Field, piano

October 16, 5:00 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Chamber Singers
James Smith, Conductor

November 6, 5:00 p.m.
Perry Smith, guitar

December 11, 5:00 p.m.
John T. Hoggard
Holiday Choral Concert

January 29, 5:00 p.m.
Domonique Launey, piano
& Beverly Andrews, violin

February 12, 5:00 p.m.
Tallis Chamber Orchestra

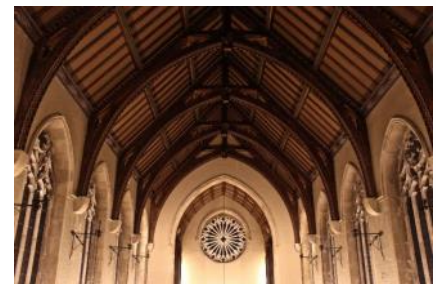
March 19, 5:00 p.m.
Stevenson/Stohl Suzuki
Tour Group

April 2, 5:00 p.m.
Domonique Launey, piano

May 12, 7:30 p.m.
Jonathan Rudy, organ

May 28, 5:00 p.m.
Festival Singers, chamber
choir of Carolina Voices

June 11, 5:00 p.m.
Port City Music Festival



News Briefs

Calling all TOP DOGS

(3rd-5th graders) it's time to kick off a new year for this great group! Our first event will be Sunday afternoon, August 28, from 2:45-4:30 p.m. at Off The Wall Sports, 203 Antilles Court. Drop off and pick up will be at Off the Wall Sports. Please wear comfortable clothes, running shoes, and bring \$7. Please RSVP to Maggie Bennington,. If you want to receive email reminders about Top Dogs events, please also email Maggie Bennington. at her [email](#).

FPC Fall Christian Education

First Presbyterian Church will kick off our Christian Education year on Sunday morning, September 11 at 10 a.m. Exciting opportunities for Christian growth and learning for all ages, children, youth, and adult will begin. Watch the Sunday announcements and church newsletters for more details.

FPC Choir Dates

Summer Choir will resume meeting Sundays in August at 9 a.m. for the 10 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary through August.

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 8, at 7:15 p.m.

Children's Choir will start on Wednesday, September 14, 4:45 p.m. Registration is online at our website: www.firstonthird.org

Coming up—Lock-In!

Calling all rising 6th and 7th graders! It's time to welcome all the 6th graders to youth fellowship and for a LOCK IN!! Come join the fun on Friday, August 26 starting at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathy Beach, kathy@firstonthird.org. Details will be emailed to all families later in August.

Stephen Ministry
"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

—Hebrews 13:16

"Acts of kindness and sharing are particularly pleasing to God, even when they go unnoticed by others".

For a caring, compassionate, skilled, and trained Stephen Minister, please call Janice Clark 228-8584.



Backpack Blessing

First Presbyterian will hold the annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** on Sunday morning August 28 during both the 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services. All children preschool through elementary are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship that morning. The children will be given a special key chain to carry with them as a reminder that the church family is praying for them while they are at school.



Summer Book Study

The First Presbyterian and Chestnut Street Presbyterian Summer Book Study will conclude with a potluck dinner and discussion on Wednesday, August 10, at 6 p.m. at the **Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church, 712 Chestnut Street**. Questions, contact Jennifer Coleman at her [email](#).

Youth Java and Jams

August 18, 5-7pm

Bitty and Beau's Coffee with Stray Local! 4949 New Centre Drive

Camp Kirkwood Service for everyone!

Come join in an Evening for Fellowship and Worship at Camp Kirkwood on Sunday, September 11. First Presbyterian Church will be co-hosting the evening fellowship and Vespers Worship Service with our brothers and sisters from The Bridge Church in Leland. Fellowship begins at 5 p.m., worship at 6 p.m. Camp Kirkwood, a camp of the Presbyterian Church, is located in Watha, NC, about a 45 minute drive from Wilmington. It is a beautiful camp surrounded by woods and the sites and sounds of nature.

Montreat Church-wide Retreat

will be November 4-6, 2016! The keynote speaker and musician for adults will be Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.



First On Third News

**125 South Third Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401**

Phone: 762-6688 Fax: 762-7471

www.firstonthird.org

Pastor On Call - 762-9622

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Pathways to Learning and Leadership Educational Program offered

For those training to be Commissioned Ruling Elders and other interested church members, online and hybrid education courses will be offered in September

What is It? Pathways to Learning and Leadership is a program of **nine** courses offered over a two-year period to provide education preparation toward leading a congregation as a Commissioned Ruling Elder, and **six** courses for church members who want to increase their knowledge and discipleship. Each course is five weeks long and the first course, Biblical Interpretation, starts **September 3**. Another foundational class, Reformed Theology is offered in the fall and two more classes will be offered in the spring of 2017.

People studying to be CREs will be joined by interested church members in learning together. Courses will be taught from a Reformed (Presbyterian) perspective, but are open to all. There are no prerequisites and the courses will be taught by faculty from Union Presbyterian Seminary. The cost is \$100 per five-week course and there will usually be one book to purchase per course. To register, go to www.upsem.edu/pathways for more information and to register, or contact Marilyn Johns at mjohns@upsem.edu for questions.