

The Pewsletter

Volume 27, Issue 343

First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton, NC

March 2016

From the Pastor's Desk...



Stop trying to help God across the street like a little old lady.” Bono

I love this quote by Bono, the lead singer and personality behind the rock group U2. You may not be aware that U2, one of the most successful rock and roll bands in history began in a church youth group in Ireland and almost became a Christian music group. I personally believe their witness is much stronger in the secular world they ultimately chose than if they were stuck with the label of “Christian rock band.” Much of their music is infused with a spark of the Divine and direct and subtle allusions to Christ and the Church abound.

Think about what Bono is saying here. Isn't this what we Christians do? We try to protect God, take care of God; avoid offending God as if God is somehow thin-skinned and easily irritated. We want to make sure God is happy and comfortable and we create church communities that are often more like an assisted-living center for the Almighty than a place from where radical worship, mission and love emanates.

I'm thinking of all this now because of the interest generated by one of my extra-curricular activities, The Thirsty Beaver Good Time Fellowship Hour. I love that folks are curious about and interested in this monthly country honky-tonk worship service. It's also amusing to me (in a good way!) that of all the things mentioned in my bio that appeared in last month's Pewsletter, “fellowship hour” is what is most asked about and commented on in my first weeks as your pastor.

Below I have included two links that will help you understand the history, structure and theology of this church service in a bar. If you do not get the Pewsletter electronically I will have printed copies available at the church. My involvement in this unique ministry is one of the ways that I try to follow Bono's advice and break out of the rut of doing everything “decently and in order.” Make no mistake, I am Presbyterian through and through, but I have also come to realize that the days of just opening up the doors of the sanctuary and expecting folks to show up are long gone. In many ways the Church is going back to its roots when the apostle's Paul, Peter, James and others took the Good News to the people, wherever they may be.

Now, having said all of that, I want you to know how appreciative I am for your welcome of me into your midst. You are a congregation with a great history and bright future and I am thankful to be able to participate with you in ministry.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/living/religion/article13054964.html>
<http://advocate.apcenet.org/article/claiming-sacred-space-bar>

Blessings and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dany".

Mission News from Sandy Eldridge

Let me first say "Thank You!" for your vote of confidence in electing and ordaining me as an Elder. Working together, each of us can be part of FPC's stated goal to Reach, Teach, Feed and Love all of God's people.

There are as many ways of doing this as there are members of FPC Lincoln. As a permission-giving church we are trying to enable all of you to share your ideas and see them blossom. I ask you to observe the world around you, both local and global, and allow Jesus to speak to your heart about what you see. Then please share your ideas about what needs seem most pressing to you. Talk with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers. See what, if anything, others are doing to solve the problem or remedy the situation. Consider how you and FPC can join in the effort. Then contact me through the Church Office or directly and let us see how we can make that happen.

No one person or one congregation can do it all. Not every mission effort is fully successful or continues forever. That we never stop seeking to be the Hands and Feet of our Lord is all that is asked.

Here are Mission Activities that actively involve members of FPC right now. Are you already involved? Would you like to be?

Christian Ministries

Soup Kitchen – 1st Sunday of each month we prepare and serve a meal.

LINC Meals – volunteers are needed to help prepare and pack the meals in the CMC kitchen on weekday mornings. Drivers are needed to deliver the meals.

We are always collecting, and they are always grateful for the food we collect.

Miss Sue's Garden

We grow fresh vegetables to donate to all who need them.

It is time to plant this year's crops. Can YOU help?

Elder Pantry

Established to assist persons who are unable to prepare meals on their own. Single serving, ready to eat snacks and simple meal components are kept at the church and delivered as needed. The pantry also includes paper products in manageable sizes for single persons – paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags and foil or plastic wrap.

Cards of Caring

A supply of greeting cards and envelopes designed to assist the congregation in reaching out to anyone on the published weekly prayer list as well as others they may know of. This would include our Doctors Leslie and Cynthia Morgan in Bangladesh and the sister church named every week in the bulletin.

Good Neighbor Shop

Hessed House and Amy's House

Those are our most visible activities. Here are some general areas of interest that have been suggested:

- Telephone friends
- Prayer warriors
- Habitat For Humanity
- Refugee support
- Summer music concerts

My prayer is that each of us find the way that suits us best to serve the Lord. Remember that we are Here to listen for and say "yes" to God's work.

Sandy Eldridge



Upcoming event

This year we will be joining First United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School. The dates for Vacation Bible School will be July 31st through August 4th at 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, NC. This will be open for preschool through adults.

The theme for this year is “Surf Shack”. Come join us and “Catch the Wave of God’s Amazing Love!”

We will have further updates as the time gets closer. If you are interested in helping, please contact Christine Thomas.



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Session News—February 16

The Session met on Tuesday, February 16th. They will continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 6 pm in the kitchen. All congregation members are welcome to attend.

Items discussed at this meeting:

1. Provided Rev. Danny with an overview of the Session and roles/responsibilities.
2. Discussed the Fellowship Hall roof - it is leaking, and expect to provide the congregation a status by the March Session meeting.
3. Reviewed the January 2016 figures - started working on the 2016 budget. Plan to present to the congregation after Easter.
4. Discussed process of pastor nominating committee work - Presbytery of Western NC has to provide training. Working on scheduling that training.

<u>January 2016 Financials:</u>	
Income:	14,846.86
<u>Expense:</u>	<u>11,040.59</u>
+/- :	3,803.27

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY OF LINCOLN COUNTY
 207 South Poplar St.
 PO Box 423
 Lincolnton, NC 28093-0423

WISH LIST...

Oil, canned fruit, detergent, quart plastic bags

Easter is coming!

While the Ministry does not have a budget to provide Easter baskets to the clients, we normally give out over 100 Easter baskets to the children. This is all done by donations.

We need any kind of baskets/buckets, candy, Easter grass, plastic eggs. Any children’s books or toys that show what Easter is about is really needed.

We will be giving out the baskets from March 14th to March 25th. Please call if you have any questions.

Ministry for the Church

MARCH 2016

Wed., March 2nd	6:00 pm	Lenten Study Series	Apple Classroom
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sun., March 6th	9:30 am	Sunday School	
	10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		SOUP KITCHEN	
Wed., March 9th	6:00 pm	Lenten Study Series	Apple Classroom
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sun., March 13th	9:30 am	Sunday School	
	10:30 am	Worship—COMMUNION	Sanctuary
	12:00 pm	Covered Dish Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Tues., March 15th	6:00 pm	Session Meeting	Kitchen
Wed., March 16th	11:00 am	Women's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 pm	Lenten Study Series	Apple Classroom
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sun., March 20th	9:30 am	Sunday School	
	10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Wed., March 23rd	6:00 pm	Lenten Study Series	Apple Classroom
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thurs., March 24th	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service—Communion	Sanctuary
Fri., March 25th	6:00 pm	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Sun., March 27th	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service	Macpelah
	10:30 am	Worship—COMMUNION	Sanctuary
Tues., March 28th		PEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
Wed., March 30th	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	

MARCH WORSHIP TEAMS

Team Leaders—John Lafferty & Jamie Hodges
 Soup Kitchen—Roberts, Beavers & friends

March 6th

Greeters & Offering.....The Roberts
Worship Leader.....Christine Thomas
Nursery.....Pat Carpenter
Children's Time.....Jan Duncan
Lock-up.....John Lafferty

March 13th

Greeters & Offering.....The Carpenters
Worship Leader.....Zoe Cloer
Nursery.....The Cloers
Children's Time.....Barbara Crumley
Lock-up.....Pam Sipe
COMMUNION:

Preparers...Betty Beaver & Judy Roberts
Servers...Greg McBryde, John Lafferty,
 Peggy Lafferty—Nursery

March 20th

Greeters & Offering.....John & Peggy Lafferty
Worship Leader.....Chip Crumley
Nursery.....Anna Gilbert
Children's Time.....Rev. Danny Trapp
Lock-up.....Mort Wadsworth

March 27th

Greeters & Offering.....The Cloers
Worship Leader.....Peggy Lafferty
Nursery.....Ann Hallman
Children's Time.....Christine Thomas
Lock-up.....Greg McBryde
COMMUNION:
Preparers...Mary Smith & Sue Bowen
Servers...Mort Wadsworth, Sandy Eldridge,
 Chip Crumley—Nursery

If you cannot serve, please find your own replacement and notify the office of the change.



Elder on call for emergencies:

March 4th—Mort Wadsworth
March 11th—John Lafferty
March 18th—Sandy Eldridge
March 25th—Jan Duncan
April 1st—Christine Thomas

It is time to order Easter lilies. They are \$9.00 each and Upchurch Garden Center will be delivering them on Thursday, 03-24-2016. There are order forms in the Government Street vestibule and on the table coming into the Sanctuary from the Main Street vestibule. The deadline for placing the order with Upchurch Garden Center is 03-14-2016 so order forms must be turned into the office no later than Thursday, March 10th.



First Presbyterian Church
 114 West Main Street
 Lincolnton, NC 28092
 Phone 704-735-8671
 www.fpclincolnton.org

SCHEDULE

Church School: 9:30am

Worship: 10:30 am

Choir Rehearsal
 Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

MISSION:

REACH.
TEACH. FEED.
LOVE.

CHURCH STAFF

John M. Lineberger
 Music Director/Organist
 MusicDirector@fpclincolnton.org

Jill Goins
 Administrative Assistant
 admin@fpclincolnton.org

Nancy Rudisill
 Sexton
 admin@fpclincolnton.org

Lesla Ritter
 Preschool Director
 preschool@fpclincolnton.org

SESSION

JAN DUNCAN,
 CLERK OF SESSION
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CHRISTINE THOMAS
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MORT WADSWORTH
 MWADSWORTH@CAROLINATRUST.COM
SANDY ELDRIDGE
 SANDYELDRIDGE25@GMAIL.COM

Girl Scouts meet at FPC.
 Contact Tina Cloer,
 704-732-8187

FPC's Calendar is updated on Google Calendar and the church website.