

The Pewsletter Weekly

First Presbyterian Church
Lincolnton NC

“A Wilderness Road Trip”



[1 John 4:7-21](#) (click for Scripture)

[Acts 8:26-40](#) (click for Scripture)

In Children's Chapel with the preschoolers this week we acted out the story from Acts, Phillip's encounter with the Ethiopian on the wilderness road. I explained what a

wilderness is and what wilderness road might mean and then instructed the 4 year-old playing the part of Phillip to go down the wilderness road. Standing in the front of the sanctuary he hesitated, not sure how to create a wilderness road experience right there in the middle of church. With a little prodding he decided to wander aimlessly around the room before finally coming upon the Ethiopian, played by one of the 3 year-olds. Kids that age don't get the concept of metaphor as easily as we do but were still able to pretend the wilderness road somehow wound through our pews.

The fact is, "wilderness road" is an apt metaphor for the state of the church today, and the state of First Presbyterian Church as well. Church membership and attendance has gone from being an understood societal norm to being marginalized and even belittled in our increasingly secular culture. That's a wilderness road experience for those of us still invested in the life of the church. According to a recent Pew Research Center report, nine-in-ten Americans believe in a higher power, but only a slim majority believe in God as described in the Bible. Statistics that belie the wilderness journey of so many over the past 30 years or so. Closer to home, our congregation still remembers with great fondness the days when we held a more central place in the hearts and minds of members and the community. Our journey of the past 15 years is a wilderness road experience.

As Phillip discovered, the wilderness road does not have to be a bad experience; just different. Maybe unexpected. Like running into an Ethiopian eunuch in search of a Bible study and baptism. This story in Acts begins the transition of Christianity from Jewish sect to worldwide religion, something no one saw coming.

What is in store for First Presbyterian Church that we haven't seen coming? What new thing might God be preparing to do with us and among us? What will we encounter along this wilderness road?

Join us for worship this Sunday at 10:30 AM as we consider our congregation's wilderness road trip in light of the instructions to love each other because God first loved us.

Blessings and Peace,

Danny



Sunday is 5 Cents A Meal

During Sunday's offering please consider coming to the front of the sanctuary with a donation to 5 Cents A Meal. This ministry of the Presbytery of Western NC returns funds collected throughout the year to local communities in the form of grants to hunger focused ministries.



Join me downstairs in the Choir Room on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm for a study of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. This Tuesday, May 1st, we will look at 1 John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17. Feel free to bring lunch or just come as you are for an hour of fellowship and study. - Danny



Do You Enjoy These Emails?

If so consider forwarding them to others in your circle of friends who you believe will enjoy them as well. And remember that anyone can subscribe or unsubscribe by using the links at the bottom of the page. Subscribers will only receive the Pewsletter Weekly.

Opportunities To Serve



Christian Ministry of Lincoln County

- Emergency Services
- Soup Kitchen
- LINC Meals
- Food Packing and Supplies
- Winter Food Drive
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Blankets, Coats, Socks
- Hunger Walk
- Souper Bowl of Caring

40 Years

"Working Hand in Hand With The Lord"



Worship

April 29th

- Greeters & Offering
Pam Sipe and Mary Smith
- Worship Leader Scott Smith
- Nursery Ann Hallman
- Children's Time Christine Thomas

Please volunteer to provide

Lock-up Mort Wadsworth
Refreshments Ken Mast and Don Stroud

May 6th

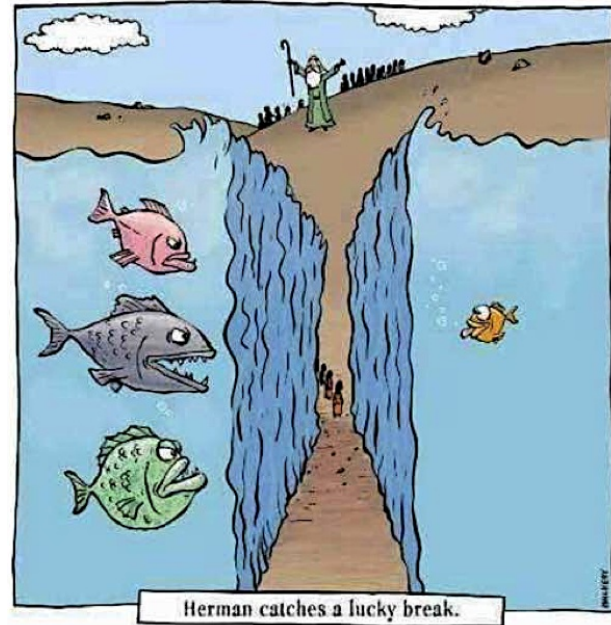
Greeters & Offering
Davis & Judy Roberts
Worship Leader Jan Duncan
Nursery Jamie & Adrienne Hodges
Children's Time Rick Ramseur
Lockup Jan Duncan
Refreshments Jan Duncan

May 13th

Greeters & Offering
Rick and Myra Ramseur
Worship Leader John Lafferty
Nursery Nancy Rudisill
Children's Time Jan Duncan
Lock-up John Carpenter
Refreshments Sandy Eldridge

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

refreshments after worship. It's a simple way to participate in the life of FPCL!



Keep Virginia Yates in Your Prayers This Week

Virginia's last remaining sibling, Dot Mullis, passed away on Monday at the age of 92. Details of her wonderfully rich life and a Friday service and burial can be found by clicking on the link below.

[Dot Mullis Obituary](#)

Remember In Prayer And Acts Of Kindness

Paul Bailey, Bud Bailey's son
Doris Bales, Tina Cloer's grandmother
Tom Bowen
Nan Bumgarner, friend of Scott Smith
Helen Caskey
John Cloer, Thad Cloer's father
John Craig, friend of Jan Duncan
Jan Duncan
Ann Haire
Pauline Heavner, Nancy Rudisill's mother
Judy Holland
James Johnston, Kim Fitzpatrick's father
Bob Lafferty, John Lafferty's first cousin
Bill Larrison, friend of John Lafferty
Carolyn Lee
Bonnie Mullen
The family of Brenda Orren, mother of Paula McCorkle
Susan Rhodes, Sue Bowen's friend
Elizabeth Ross, friend of John Lafferty
Van "Hook" Shepherd, friend of John Lafferty

Janice Stroupe

Cynthia Tanner, Tina Cloer's aunt

Linda Wright, Peggy Lafferty's cousin

David Wulf, friend of John Lafferty

Virginia Yates and family, on the death of Virginia's sister, Dot Mullis

Our Homebound or Those Unable to Attend: Carolyn Lee, Imogene Long, Frances Nelson

Our Partners in Ministry: Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan, South Asia

Please contact the church office to inform us of those needing prayer as well as those who should be removed from the list.



First Presbyterian Church
114 West Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092
Phone: 704-735-8671 www.fpclincolnton.org
Church School: 9:30am Worship: 10:30 am
Choir Rehearsal: 7:00pm Wednesdays
MISSION: Reach. Teach. Feed. Love.

MEET OUR STAFF

Rev. Danny Trapp, Pastor

dtrapp@carolina.rr.com (cell—704-654-1319)

Benjamin Brock Director of Music, Organist btbrock91@yahoo.com
Jill Goins Administrative Assistant admin@fpclincolnton.org
Kristen Willis Preschool Director preschool@fpclincolnton.org
Nancy Rudisill Sexton admin@fpclincolnton.org

SESSION

Clerk of Session / Christian Ed. Sandy Eldridge sandyeldridge25@gmail.com 704-408-1418
Property Davis Roberts jdr747@charter.net 704-735-0803
Worship Pam Sipe psipe3520@gmail.com 828-238-2063
Mission Tina Cloer tdcloer@bellsouth.net 704-732-8187
Adaptive Change Team Chip Crumley cecumley@bellsouth.net 704-735-4523
Finance Jamie Hodges jthodgesjr@hotmail.com 704-732-0158



[Visit our website](#)
