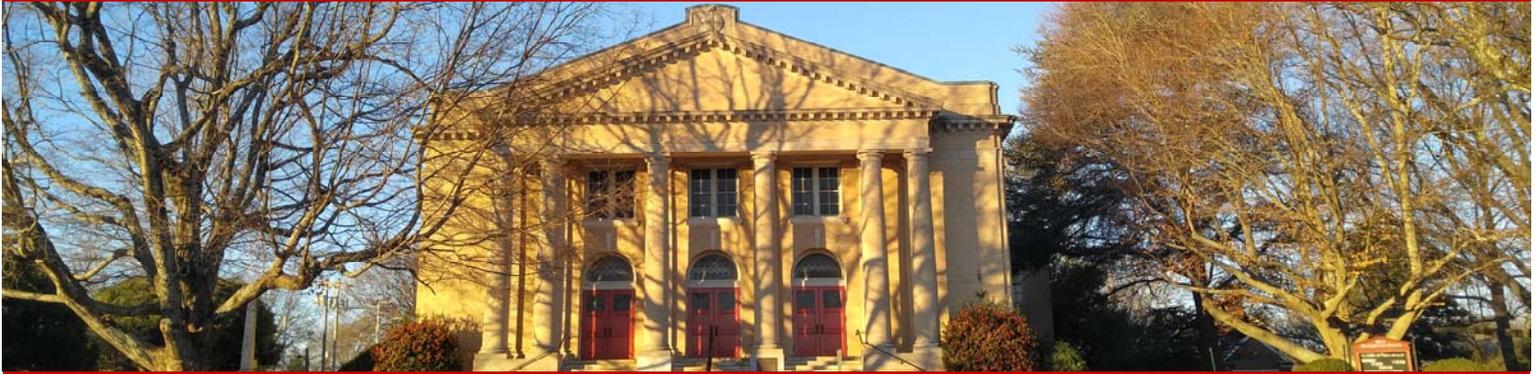




Ye Fourth Creek Journal

First Presbyterian Church



May 2018

Melody Morrison Beaty, Director of Music
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A Spirit-led People

It may feel like we're way past Easter, but really it's a season that lasts 50 days! The seven weeks of our Easter season go back before Christianity, to the beginning of the barley harvest starting right after the Passover (hence it's connection to Easter, since Jesus died and was raised just after the Passover) until the end of the wheat harvest, which initiated the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot (and called Pentecost by Greek speaking Jews), a Jewish festival instituted by Moses in the wilderness that called on the people of God to give thanks for God's presence in their lives, a presence that had delivered them from bondage in Egypt and was leading them to the promised land. Through the festival they were called to "offer a spontaneous gift in precise measure with the blessing the Lord your God gives you" (Deuteronomy 16:10b).

In our Christian context we remember Pentecost as not just the end of Eastertide or the birthday of the church, but the day in which the people received the Holy Spirit - God's abiding presence to deliver them from new trials and forms of bondage. Since the first Pentecost after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, God's Spirit has remained with people of faith to uphold us, guide us, and nurture us. Through our life together in worship, fellowship, and ministry, we are guided by God's Spirit.

May 20 is Pentecost this year, and it's also the final of three congregational conversations we've been having to discern our identity and the ministry to which God calls us all. This year, as we're spending all this time and energy discerning where God's Spirit is leading us, Pentecost may take on new meaning for you. Deuteronomy called on faithful Jews to give a spontaneous gift in proportion to the blessings they had received by God. It would be apt to ask ourselves what gifts we might give, since we've also received blessings by God. What can we do to build up this church and community so that we are prepared to receive new direction as God guides us to a new future? No matter what, we can be assured of God's presence with us.

- Wes Pitts

Preparation for Worship

May 6

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 46:1-11; Philippians 2:1-11

Dave McKechnie Preaching

Sermon: "Fresh Perspective"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

May 13

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:6-25

Anne Carpenter Galliher Preaching

Sermon: "That They May be One"

May 20

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Wes Pitts Preaching

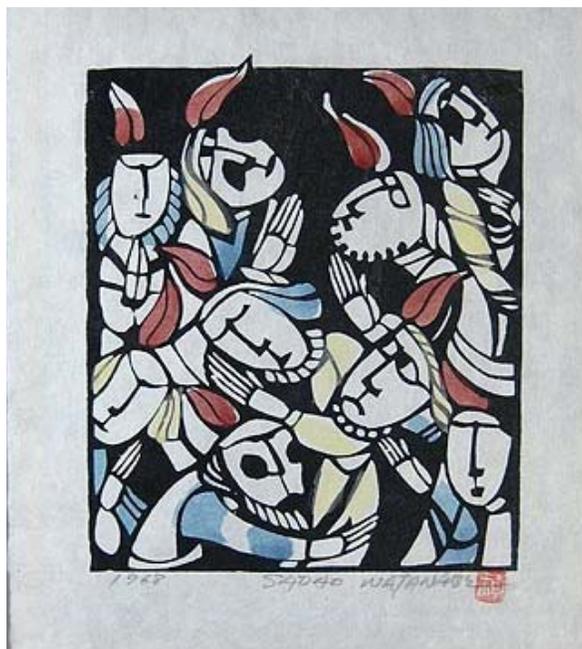
Sermon: "Full of New Wine"

May 27

The First Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29

Kellie Browne



Pentecost by Sadao Watanabe

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Congregational News

CHURCH PICNIC

You are invited to a church Picnic on Sunday, May 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Park, East Shelter. Fried chicken, tea and lemonade will be provided. Families whose last names begin with A through M are asked to bring a side dish. Those whose last name begin with N through Z are asked to bring a dessert. Bring your family and join us for a great afternoon of food and fellowship.



O.W.L.S. meet on May 15, 12:30 a.m.
In the Fourth Creek Meeting Hall

CONGRATULATIONS TO Brandon and Janie Tarman Smith on the birth of their son, Charles (Charlie) Grier Smith on April 18 at 4:12 a.m. Proud grandparents are Jim and Jane Tarman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Jim Shultz and Shirley Hupalowsky, who were married April 21.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

We have openings for volunteers to serve on Sanctuary Guild. Please consider serving for one month during the year. Call Doris Worthington at 704.775.0987 or oww@bellsouth.net.



Chad's Challenge

Fifth Creek Presbyterian Church of Cool Spring and Old Providence Presbyterian Church of Cleveland
Invite you to attend our 6th Annual Chad's Challenge. Benefitting Networking Together Iredell

5K and 1 Mile Fun Run

at

Fifth Creek Presbyterian Church
1547 Mocksville Highway, Statesville, NC

Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Registration and packet pick-up begins at 7:30a.m.

5K - \$25 in advance - \$30 on race day - Beautiful challenging run through the rolling hills of Cool Spring! Prizes will be awarded for top runner in each male/female age group. 1 Mile Fun Run - \$10
Register online: racesonline.com

Register in person: McLelland Family Shoes located at 119 W. Broad Street, Statesville, NC

Not a runner or a walker? No Problem! Bring a lawn chair and enjoy live music. Purchase a delicious barbeque sandwich and drink. Shop with our local craft vendors!

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team asks for your prayers as we continue FPC's transition responsibilities. We have several excellent supply pastors lined up for the month of May. There will be one more Congregational Conversation on May 20th – please mark your calendar and plan to attend! Your input is important.

Our search for our interim pastor continues. We anticipate an interim will be at FPC for at least a year, and possibly up to 2, so it's important we find the right person for the job. You may wonder why we even need an interim, why not just go out and find our new fulltime pastor now like other denominations do? The answer is it's the Presbyterian way of doing things: it's deliberate, methodical, and has been proven to bring results.

The interim period between installed pastors presents a congregation with a prime opportunity for renewal. This transition time is most likely to be constructive when the church completes the following developmental tasks before installing a new pastor, and it's the Interim pastor who guides the church through these tasks. These tasks are as follows:

1. Come to terms with our history, examine our past, the connections we've made, and the missions we've accomplished;
2. Focus and articulate our identity and mission through a Mission Study, which will guide our activities for the foreseeable future;
3. Allow for new lay leadership to emerge and constructively incorporate these shifts into the power and organization of the congregation;
4. Renew denominational ties;
5. Prepare for new pastoral leadership and commitment to a new future led by the Holy Spirit.

If you have questions, please reach out to anyone on the Transition Team: Sloan Goforth, Donnie Haynes, Jane Lentz, Dick Sears, Ann Speaks, Jim Tarman, and Lew Wilson.

Grace and peace,

Jane Lentz, Transition Team Chair

Congregational Life Ministry

Second Sunday Lunch

No Second Sunday Lunch scheduled this month. We hope to see you at the Congregational Conversations, where we'll make sweet rolls and coffee to go with biscuits from the Young Men's Bible Class.

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1

May 8, 10:00 a.m.
In the Fellowship Room

Circle 2

May 14, 2:00 p.m.
In the Fellowship Room

Circle 3

May 15, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Kim Austin

Letter from The ElderCenter

Dear Pastor and Members:

On behalf of the board of directors, staff, clients and family members, I would like to express to you our sincere appreciation for your continued support. Your recent donations have been used to carry on the mission of our agency. Your strong leadership has helped ElderCenter remain in operation for over 30 years.

Our mission has always been providing quality care for each and every client. With that idea in mind, the time had come to change. In 1987 when ElderCenter opened, our clientele was comprised of individuals that had higher cognitive abilities than the clients that come to us today. Safety became an issue in our Davie Avenue facility with its close proximity to a busy city street and elders dealing with Alzheimer's that could wander away in a flash. Our facility at Brevard Street is more secure with fenced outdoor space and a gated entrance.

Our future plans are to create a covered entrance and add an additional wing. We hope to be able to hire a nurse to be available four hours a day allowing us to serve clients with more physical needs than we presently can accommodate. We would like to offer bathing services to our clients as that can become an issue for caregivers dealing with Alzheimer's. Our dream is to be able to operate a small salon to provide hair and nail care.

ElderCare has ongoing daily needs. We also have needs that arise from 30 years of wear and tear. One such need is the replacement of our reclining chairs. We are still using the chairs that were purchased 30 years ago. They are now in need of replacement. We also have more clients with fewer chairs as some have been discarded. On Davie Avenue, we had a beautiful front porch that all the clients loved to sit on and rock in the big white rockers. Our front porch today is unsafe and unusable for our clients. It needs to be fenced and secured. Also it needs some type of shade due to the late afternoon sun shining directly on the porch. A third need is some type of outdoor chair that would be comfortable for seniors to get in and out of and durable in the spring, summer and fall weather. Rocking chairs would be great but straight chairs can be comfortable also.

First Presbyterian was the driving force that helped start an agency in Iredell County that has provided a valuable service to families needing care for their aging parents. We sincerely appreciate the support you have provided over the years and all of your members that have given of their time to serve on our board of directors. We believe that ElderCenter was, is and will continue to be an asset to Iredell County - something to be proud to support and proud of all that our agency has accomplished over the years. You have been and continue to be a blessing to us.

Sincerely,

Tammie Money, Executive Director

Nominees for Session

Nate McElwee

First Presbyterian Church is part of who I am; I was raised in this church not just by my family, but also by my church family. You all did the same for my children and I am most grateful. As we begin our search for a new head pastor, it is an important time to think about what we want our church to be like going forward. I, like many of you, want worship attendance to be like it was when we were young; it was what families did! But, life changes, and so must we. We have a wonderful core of young families to build upon and their input will be most valuable. I have a passion for our senior members and want to continue to remember them in both social gatherings and worship. As the sign in the Young Men's Bible class reads, "let us put our love into actions and deeds," and that is what I will do as an elder.



Ryan Oliphant



First Presbyterian Church has been and will always be an important part of my life - from being baptized into the church by Grant Sharp, attending Sunday School and preschool, and singing in the choir with Melody (we both realized I didn't have much of a singing voice!). As I grew older I was confirmed into my faith and joined our amazing youth group. I attended mission trips and learned a lot about myself in the process. When Lauren and I moved back to Statesville in 2011, there was no question that FPC would be our church home. Lauren joined the church in 2012, and I am proud that my own children are experiencing the same Christian upbringing I did. Addie (9) and Bo (3) were both baptized in our church; Addie loves Sunday School and choir, and Bo will attend FPC preschool in the fall (I'm hopeful he'll take over my position in the infield with the softball team, too). First Presbyterian has played a huge role in my life and I am honored to be nominated to serve and give back to a church that has given so much to me.

Natasha Austin

I am a lifelong Presbyterian, having grown up at Concord Presbyterian Church here in Statesville. At Concord I served as a deacon prior to transferring my membership here to FPC. I currently serve this congregation as an at-large member of the Endowment Board and Sunday School teacher, and have previously served on the Christian Education Ministry and have co-led Vacation Bible School. Matt and I love watching our children, David and Smith, grow in their faith at FPC.



Class of 2021

Beth Setzer



I am the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries in South Korea and was born in Seoul and grew up in a tiny congregation of missionaries worshipping along side Methodists and Baptists who lived nearby. On a number of memorable occasions, my family attended mission conferences at Montreat. I "returned" to the United States at the age of 16, graduating from high school in South Carolina and attending Rhodes College, Appalachian State, and Wake Forest Law. I have been a practicing attorney in Statesville for 26 years with focus on the needs of individuals with disabilities and the aging population. Meanwhile, I've been a member of FPC nearly as long and have served on committees ranging from building maintenance to personnel, and have had the honor of serving as an elder in the past. I'm married to Dennis and we have three children, Sara, Rachel, and Andrew, who would not be the wonderful people they are but for the love and nurture of so many members of First Presbyterian Church.

Wendell Worthington

Doris and I joined First Presbyterian Church in July 2008 after being a member of First Baptist Church for thirty years. While at FPC I have served several terms as a deacon and as chair of the Business Management Committee. Since first joining this congregation I have been active in supporting our church. I am a member of the Young Men's Bible Class, have served as Vice President, President, and am currently Treasurer. I have participated in Clinkers, OWLS, and serve as an usher. I have also served on the Support Services ministry, assist with duties on the Sanctuary Guild, volunteer serving once a month at Fifth Street Ministries, and I deliver Meals on Wheels. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as an elder in our church.



Rhyme Scott

I have been a lifelong member of FPC Statesville, serving in areas as a youth advisor, VBS teacher, church treasurer, deacon, elder, and Clerk of Session. I have enjoyed my participation in summer mission trips, habitat builds, and serving on the board of Kings Grant, an outreach project of the church. Gin and I were married here and the church has always been a hub in our family. We have taken great pride in raising our children, Ben, Abby, and Luke, in the life of the church. I look forward to serving on Session as the church transitions into the next chapter in its 265 year history.





UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- Monday, April 30th- Lazy Five Field Trip (4s)
- Tuesday, May 1st- Ice Cream Social/Spring Open House 6-7
- Monday, May 7th- Patterson Farm Strawberry Patch Field Trip (3s)
- Wed., May 23rd and Thurs., May 24th- Last Day(s) of Preschool
- Friday, May 25th- Four Year Old Graduation (Time is TBD)

2018-2019 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

We still have a few openings in some of our classes for next year and we are on a waitlist for some classes which is very exciting! Due to the high interest in several classes, we will be adding a new three year old class for the 2018-2019 school year. If you or someone you know is interested in preschool next year, please visit our website or contact Falon Speaks (preschool@fpcstatesville.org or 704.873.9054) to schedule a tour.

Our four year old class had a wonderful time walking downtown on their **UMBRELLA Walk** during letter U week.



Like us on Facebook!
First Presbyterian Church of
Statesville Preschool.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & SPRING OPEN HOUSE

All FPC members and their families are invited to our Spring Open House & Ice Cream Social. Please stop by and take a look at all of the wonderful things we have happening at FPC Preschool, enjoy some delicious ice cream and our beautiful playground.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Tuesday, May 1st

6:00-7:00

FPC PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP FEATURING KINDERMUSIK

Come one, come all! Join us for the greatest show on Earth at FPC Preschool Summer Camp! Each day, campers will engage in carnival themed games, activities and crafts. Campers will also enjoy daily chapel with songs, skits and Bible stories.

FPC Summer Camp is open to the PUBLIC and will feature a daily Kindermusik class taught by Maestro Educator Gina Terry. Each day in a 30 minute music class we combine your preschooler's natural love of music, storytelling, and imaginative play with age-appropriate activities that introduce early music concepts and foster independence, social and emotional skills, language growth, and self-control.

Registration is open and can be found on our preschool website. We only have a few spots left, so if you are interested, please register TODAY!

Where: FPC Preschool

When: June 4th-7th (Monday-Thursday)

9 AM- 1 PM

Snack will be provided daily and campers will bring a packed lunch.

Who: Ages 3- 5

\$115 per child



Finding God in the Absurd

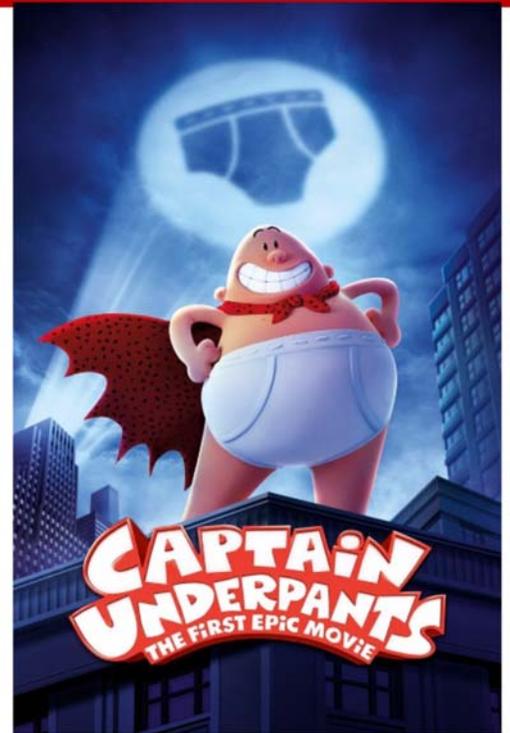
After spending months watching films with pretty clear ties to the beatitudes, it's time for something a little different! It's easy to find theological meaning in some films, their themes match those of scripture in obvious fashion. Other films aren't obvious at all, but if we proclaim that God is in everything and everywhere, then why can't we find glimmers of the divine in absurd movies like *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie*?

By looking at the movie poster and reading the title, you'd likely be hard pressed to see any redeemable quality to *Captain Underpants* except for humor (which is an important part of life, after all, but not where we look first when we're speaking of faith). Behind the silliness of the movie, however, there are some pretty great messages.

In the beginning of the film you're met with its protagonists, best friends George and Herald, who spend all their free time drawing and writing a comic book series they sell to their classmates at Jerome Horowitz Elementary. Their whole lives are humor, and the biggest threat to that humor is the principal of their school—he relishes in the suffering of the children, making them spend every Saturday at school, cancelling the music and arts programs, etc. George and Herald are the only shimmers of joy at Jerome Horowitz Elementary, and they make it their job to keep the morale of their fellow students up. Just in this premise you can begin to see the makings of themes we know well from scripture—working tirelessly to upbuild community for good in the face of incredible suffering. It's what the early church struggled with from its inception, why Paul, John, and other epistle writers wrote all those letters. In this silly, raucous movie, children are able to see connections to their own life (who hasn't had killjoy teacher or principal?) and learn how to connect that to the people that came before them in faith.

Of course it doesn't end there! When we meet Captain Underpants himself, who is really the school principal who has been hypnotized, we realize that while he is as enthusiastic as can be, he's also incredibly dimwitted. He constantly tries to do his best, but is never quite successful. In his character we can see connections to Jesus' disciples. They always wanted to understand what Jesus was saying and doing, but always seemed to come up short. We see glimmers of ourselves, too, as we struggle to act in our faith in ways that are honest and just, and we so often miss the mark. The villain in the story is the hilariously named Professor Pee-Pee Diarrheastein Poopypants, Esq., an evil scientist who aims to rid the world of laughter because he has been made fun his whole life since his name is so silly. His character presents several opportunities of connection—a humorous example of what can happen when we bully people, especially for something not in their control, and discussion of the nature of evil and power. It's certainly evil when someone stops at nothing to control what people think and how they act, and that type of behavior is at the heart of the people's sins throughout the Old Testament.

There are so many ways to find connections to God in this world, if only we keep our eyes open and look for them—even in the absurd! Join us Wednesday, May 16, at 6:00 for pizza, popcorn, and this funny film, as we look for God in *all* places, both silly and serious.



- Wes Pitts

Music Notes

Cherub (4:00-4:30) and Junior (4:30-5:30)

Choirs

- May 2 - last rehearsal for the Spring
 - May 6 - sing in worship.
- This will conclude the regular choir season for the Spring
- June - stay tuned for a Musical Wednesday "play" date.

Handbell Choir (5:45-6:45)

- Rehearsals on Wednesdays
 - May 6 - ring in worship; 9:00 a.m. warm-up
- Prelude: Glorious Spirit with violin, flute, and trumpet

Sanctuary Choir (7:00-8:15)

- Rehearsals on Wednesdays

Youth Choir (5:00-6:00)

- May 6 - 4:45 p.m. - arrive and load up
- 5:00 p.m. - depart to sing at nursing home
- 6:00 p.m. - return to church for dinner and regular youth meeting.

The Lake Norman Orchestra concert Hope in Spring was held at FPC on April 22. The concert was a wonderful afternoon of music. Guest organist, Dreama Lovitt from Winston-Salem played the famously favorite Toccata by Widor and showed the organ off beautifully! The Sanctuary Choir sang selections from Messiah. A love offering was received to help those still struggling to rebuild from the devastating hurricanes in 2017. Plans are being made for next year's concert.

2018 Montreat Worship and Music Conference

June 24-29



The 2018 conferences will celebrate the new edition of the Book of Common Worship (BCW) in worship, song, and seminar. We will experience the richness of the Christian year, as it comes to life through Luke's narratives.

In addition to daily worship and choir rehearsals, this year's conference classes and activities include: Drumming, Art, Creativity in Worship,

Photography, the Hymn Festival, the ever-entertaining Youth Talent Show, and a Silent Movie with Organ Improvisation, to name a few!

Visit this website for more conference information:

www.presbysmusic.org/montreat

FPC will be represented by 15 children and youth and 5 adults

May

Youth

Events



NEW START!

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

**Dave
Ramsey's
Financial
Peace
University**

With *Financial Peace University*, you'll explore personal finance through a faith-based lens to gain freedom from the anxieties of money. The class is designed for individuals and families, the young and old. Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm, beginning May 27

Elders on Call

April 29-May 5

John Childress - (704) 775-3876 (cell)

Joan Scott - (704) 872-3790 (home)

May 6-12

Dick Sears - (704) 562-0845 (cell)

Sloan Goforth - (704) 929-2766 (cell)

May 13-19

Carole Pickett - (704) 929-3859 (cell)

Susan Sharp - (704) 881-3474 (cell)

May 20-26

Sarah Davis - (704) 902-1937 (cell)

Harriet Gilbert - (704) 872-3016 (home)

May 27-June 2

Scott Zanotti - (704) 855-4194 (cell)

Ann Speaks - (704) 437-2772 (cell)

Aside their work in specific ministries and on the Session, Elders have a broader responsibility for the life of the congregation. In this time of transition, and moving forward, two Elders are "on-call" each week in order to provide for a variety of needs within our congregation including, but not limited to, care visits. If you or someone you know is/has been in the hospital, or if you know of a member in a nursing home who hasn't been visited for a while, please call the elders on call or the church office.

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 Preschool Ice Cream Social 8:15 FPC Softball	2 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 The Gospels 4:00 Cherub Choir 4:45 Junior Choir 5:45 Handbell Choir 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	3 6:30 FPC Softball	4	5
6 9:45 Sunday School 10:40 Session 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Dinner 6:30 Youth Group	7 6:30 FPC Softball 6:30 Water Into Wine	8 10:00 Circle 1	9 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 The Gospels 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	14 2:00 Circle 2 7:00 Advisory Council	15 12:30 O.W.L.S. 6:30 Circle 3	16 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 The Gospels 6:00 Family Movie Night 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	17 6:30 Clinkers 8:15 FPC Softball	18	19
20 8:45 Congregational Conversation 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Church picnic at MLK Park, East Shelter	21 6:30 Water Into Wine 8:15 FPC Softball	22 3:00 Fifth Street Team FCJ deadline	23 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 The Gospels 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	24	25	26
27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting	28 6:00 Support Ministry 7:00 Session	29	30 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 The Gospels 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	31		

May Responsibilities

Sanctuary Guild:

Millie Rogers and Janice Searcy

Open/Close the Church:

Richard Boyd

Ushers:

May 6 Matt Austin, Nate McElwee, Donnie Haynes, Clay Speaks, Richard Hanson, Thomas Tuck, Lilli Beaty

May 13 Roy Morrison, Libby Weaver, Hewitt Linyard, George Moody, Lew Wilson, Nate Neely, William Bush

May 20 Brian Long, Rodger Speaks, Rudy Davis, Sarah Davis, Julian West, Carey Parker, Will Spears

May 27 Jim Pickett, Beth Davidson, Scott Zanotti, Reggie Brown, Steve Hartzog, David Rothwell, Aiden Zanotti

Nursery:

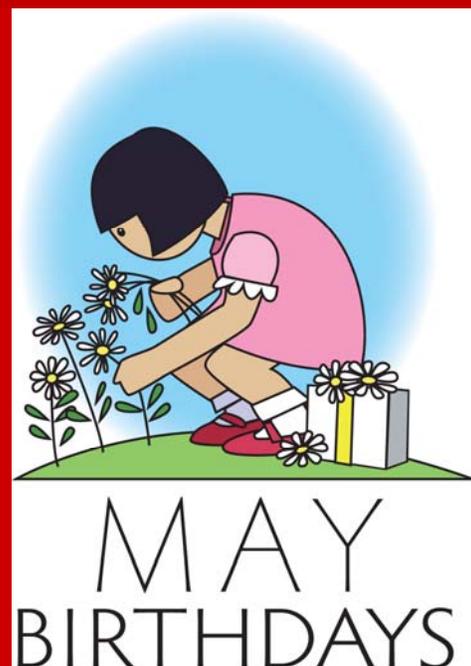
May 6 Beth Davidson, Beth Setzer

May 13 Beth Bush, Karen Kauffman

May 20 Lynn Brennan, Liz Petree, Gina Terry

May 27 Susan Deal, Christina Zanotti

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Melody Beaty | 17 | Sandra Davidson |
| 2 | Alec Sharp | | Heidi Kauffman |
| | Will Spears | 19 | Nicholas Shippee |
| 4 | Claire Raymer | 20 | Dawn Morrison |
| | Robert Dearman | | Lori Carbone |
| 5 | Amy Benbow | 21 | Chris Terry |
| 6 | W.E. Webb, III | 22 | Edie Holland |
| | Matthew Carbone | 23 | Mary Beth Summers |
| 7 | Richard Robertson | | Natasha Austin |
| 8 | Mary Ann Fussell | 24 | Charles Aman |
| | Charles Kirkman | 26 | Jack Causey |
| | Brian Long | 28 | Larry Earle |
| 9 | Whitney Byrd | | Betty Onsrud |
| 10 | Kate Morrison | 29 | Sarah Macon George |
| 12 | Chandler Terry | 30 | Janice Thornton |
| 13 | Sandra Cathey | | A.J. Barbee |
| | Michael Cathey | 31 | Ben Odom |
| | Sally Nix | | |
| | Steve Meyer | | |
| | Melinda Childress | | |
| 14 | Duke Williams | | |
| | Melanie Shippee | | |
| 16 | Joan Scott | | |



If you do not see your birthday listed above, be sure to let the office know the special day!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
125 N. Meeting Street
Statesville, NC 28677
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