

THE SHELBY PRES (S)

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

MARCH 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

What, if anything, would come to mind if a friend or family member mentioned the season of Lent? Some people might think first about Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. Others associate Lent with Mardi Gras, the New Orleans style party that precedes this season of self-denial. For still others, the first thing that might come to mind is the tradition of giving up something for Lent. Much like a New Year's resolution, some will pledge to eliminate a certain food from their diet or forsake a bad habit.

So why do Christians often give up something for Lent? Is it about self-improvement, forsaking bad habits, or exercising self-discipline? The tradition of giving up something for Lent is linked to the ancient practice of fasting – giving up food (and sometimes drink) in order to devote oneself to prayer and meditation. Whether or not you actually attempt to fast, and some of us continue to find this meaningful, it is helpful to remember that this spiritual discipline is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end: giving up one thing in order to make time for something even more important.

At Session meeting we spoke about some spiritual disciplines that we can practice during Lent. Our Spiritual Life committee has provided devotional materials that can be used in small groups, families, or individual meditation. One is *"Together in His Footsteps: Family Devotions and Activities During Lent"* by Michelle Van Loon. The other is *"Moving Toward the Cross: Reflections on the Writings of Frederick Buechner"* by Martin Marty. Both are available in the church office at no charge.

We also spoke about Prayer Trios, a small group devotional time that many of us have found meaningful (see the article on Prayer Trios in this newsletter for more information!) I plan to sign up for a Prayer Trio during this Lenten season and I hope many of you will as well.

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 1. There are at least two opportunities for you to attend an Ash Wednesday service that day. Many of us plan to attend the community Ash Wednesday service that will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at noon. That evening following our 6 p.m. Wednesday night dinner in Ellis Hall, we will gather at 6:40 p.m. in the sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday observance. This is a powerful way to mark the beginning of Lent, this time of preparation leading to Holy Week and Easter.

One other spiritual discipline that we discussed was church attendance. It is easy to get out of the habit of attending worship regularly. Reading the morning paper, watching television, taking a morning bike ride, or going out for breakfast can make it difficult to find time for church attendance. It is not a new problem. In the New Testament (Hebrews 10:25) it says, *"do not forsake meeting together as is the habit of some."* A letter to the members of Shelby Presbyterian written a century ago challenged the congregation to recommit to regular church attendance for a six-week period as a reminder of how important this is for us as Christians. As a Session we concluded that this is a spiritual discipline that is no less important for us today.

Luke Harkey

YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUND-RAISER BREAKFAST

Join us March 5, 9:30-10:30, for an old-fashioned breakfast served up by members of the SPC Youth Committee and the Guatemala Youth Mission Team. Enjoy biscuits with ham, sausage, cheese, gravy, eggs, and grits. Pastor Luke will lead us in a short devotion during this time, and we encourage you to participate in the food and fellowship in Ellis Hall. However, those of you who do not want to miss your Sunday School lesson may take a plate to your classroom. Donations will support the Youth Mission Fund. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The Congregation will meet immediately following the 11:00 services on March 5 and 12. On the 5th, we will hear a report from the Nominating Committee. On the 12th, we will hear nominations from the floor for officers. If there are nominations on the 12th, we will meet March 19 to elect officers by written ballot.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Deborah and Sarah Circles will meet together on Wednesday, March 1, at 11:30 a.m. in the private dining room upstairs at Joe's Place.

Martha/Mary Circle will meet Tuesday, March 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the home of Shannon Blackley, 812 Hawthorne Road. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP Shannon, 704-481-0753, shannonblackley@gmail.com.

MEN'S FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

There are two opportunities for all men to join with other men from Shelby Presbyterian Church for food and fellowship. Come to breakfast or lunch or both!

● **First Thursday, March 2**, 7:00 a.m. at Ken & Mary's Restaurant, 1628 S. DeKalb Street, for breakfast and sharing prayer concerns.

● **Fourth Thursday, March 23**, 12:30-1:30, lunch and fellowship in the private dining room upstairs at Joe's Place.

FIRST THURSDAY WITH SUSAN BELL

Bible Study with Susan Bell will be held Thursday, March 2, 12:00-1:00 p.m., at Central United Methodist Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Feel free to bring a bag lunch.

JOIN US

IN ELLIS FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN MARCH

6:00 Meal – 6:30 Program

... an opportunity to pause midweek,
... to build new relationships,
to strengthen existing friendships,
.. and to glorify God through
intergenerational activities, worship,
and programs that help us grow in our faith.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Program</u>
March 1	*Ham & Turkey SubSandwiches	<i>Ash Wednesday Worship Service</i>
March 8	*Barbecue	<i>Joyful Hands Signing Choir, Gardner-Webb University</i>
March 15	*Pizza	<i>Anne Langley & the Sunday School Music Makers</i>
March 22	*Chicken Strips	<i>TBA</i>
March 29	*Ham & Turkey SubSandwiches	<i>Susan Bell: Easter Through Artists' Eyes</i>

*\$3/adult; \$1/under 12; \$10/family max. Bring side dishes & desserts--completely peanut free please. Child care is available for children 4 and under.

SPECIAL THANKS

...to everyone's efforts, and especially Middle School Youth, \$646.00 and 83 non-perishable food items were collected for our "Souper Bowl of Caring" on February 5. All food and money goes to the Shelby Presbyterian Church Food Ministry program to help feed hungry and homeless people. Great job Middle Schoolers - You are AWESOME!!!

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12!

Don't forget to spring ahead one hour.

You don't want to be late for church!

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Davis Kennedy and Wilson McNeary for their performances in Shelby High School Swim and Dive competitions. Both advanced from the Conference competition to go to the Regional Meet in Charlotte on February 4th. Davis was named SMAC Male Swimmer of the Year for the 2nd consecutive year. Shelby High took 1st place in the Conference Meet. At the Regional Meet, Wilson placed 5th in 1 Meter Diving advancing to the 2A State Meet in Cary on February 8th and 9th. Davis qualified for the 2A State Swim and Dive Meet with 1st place finishes in the 100 Yard Freestyle individual race and in the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay. He was also part of the 200 Yard Medley Relay team which qualified 3rd and he went on to qualify 4th individually in the 100 Yard Backstroke event. At the State Championship Meet, Wilson finished 8th in the diving competition. Davis took home 1st place in the 2A State finals in the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, 2nd individually in the 100 Yard Freestyle race, 5th in the 200 Yard Medley Relay, and 9th individually in the 100 Yard Backstroke. Shelby High School boys finished 6th overall with only 6 swimmers and 1 diver.

HELP NEEDED TO FEED OUR YOUTH

Are you looking to connect with our Middle or High School Youth, feeling like empty nesters because your kids have graduated and moved out, love working with kids, love to cook, or just looking for a reason to get out of your house Sunday evenings? If so, the Youth Committee would appreciate your help feeding this group of hungry kids and leaders. We have Sunday nights available to feed one or both groups this spring. (Our Fall schedule will be out by late summer for new dates as well.) We feed around 15 if feeding one group, or 25 if feeding both groups. If interested, we'd love to hear from you. You can let Jane in the church office know, or contact Nancy Hendrix by email: shendrix1@carolina.rr.com.

Open Dates: High School March 19; Middle & High School April 2.

Thanks to Agaat Den Hertog, Joyce & Doug Boyette, Becca Schweppe and Catherine Ware for filling recent vacancies.

NEWS FROM RAINBOW CONNECTION

I always think of February as a cold, wintry month, but this year it has felt like Spring! The children loved being outside, having great adventures on the playground. We discovered and chased our shadows on Groundhog's Day. One class even had a Valentine's Day picnic in the courtyard!

We had a wonderful Parent's Night Out on February 11th. It was nice to have our current and former Rainbow children, along with others from the community, joining us for an evening of fun! Thank you to the SPC Mission team for all of your planning and hard work!

On March 23 we will celebrate our 100th Day of School. This year, as in recent years, each child will be asked to collect 100 coins (pennies or assorted) to be donated to Children's Home of Cleveland County. It feels good to celebrate our year by helping other children.

This month we will start registration for the 2017/2018 school year and for our 2017 Summer Program. Current Rainbow and SPC families may start registering on March 20. Registration will open to the community on March 30. If you know of a family interested in Rainbow Connection, please encourage them to come early to get a spot reserved for their child.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Rainbow Connection!

-Becky Dorsey, Director

CONFIRMATION TO BEGIN THIS MONTH

High school youth (9th grade or older) are invited to participate in our confirmation program led by Pastor Luke Harkey. Each youth will also be assigned an adult sponsor whose role is to encourage and pray for their confirmand. This year the program will begin with an orientation for youth and parents on March 5th during the Sunday school hour (9:45–10:45 a.m.) The youth group is serving breakfast as a fundraiser for the Guatemala Mission trip this summer. We will have a table near the stage where we can discuss the proposed schedule. If you are unable to attend please call the church office to indicate your interest or ask questions.

-Luke Harkey 704-477-7838

MEMBER CARE

The goal of the Member Care Committee is to extend love and care to all of our Shelby Presbyterian Church Family. If you find anyone needing attention in our church family, in your neighborhood or beyond, please contact Margie McSwain, Chairperson of Member Care, margieabt@carolina.rr.com 704-484-0585 or the church office, 704-487-8503.

Please include the following in your prayers:

Josie Bowles	Homer Haworth
Jack Breen	Rebecca Jones
John Campbell	Ruth Layng
Shirley Carothers	Pearl Lieurance
Karen Carpenter	Faye & Glenn McCants
Myra Carpenter	Debi McDaniel
Rip Collins	Joe Miller
Ed Cushman	Judy Neville
Carolyn Darnell	The Persing Family
Chris Dodrill	Ann Pharr
Robin Fichter	Joyce Ruark
Steve Harrington	Jim Teddy Sr.

- Troy Goss & all those serving in the military
- Stephen Ministers & their care receivers
- Our brothers and sisters of Monte los Olivos
- John McCall in Taiwan
- Dr. Steve & Alene Burgert in Kenya
- Jo Ella Holman in the Caribbean
- Food Ministry
- Rainbow Connection
- Christians who are persecuted for their faith
- All disaster victims
- If you would like to be added to this ongoing prayer list, please contact Jane in the church office, 704-487-8503, jane@shelbypres.org.

Thank you for expanding your prayer list to include specific children and youth each month. During March, pray for our Fifth Graders: Whit Beam, Lillian Moore, James Petrilli, Olive Pharr, Lawson Taylor; and Sixth Graders: Parker Dixon, Kate Fletcher, Silas Hamilton, Walton Moore, Ben Rybnicek, Dylan Steeves, Caroline Stowe.

Pastoral Counselor, Bob McCully, is now at Preferred Choice Health Care, 704-487-4000, 1243 E. Dixon Blvd. (behind Hendrick Appliance). He no longer holds office hours at Shelby Presbyterian.

NEWS FROM SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE:

LENTEN DEVOTIONS & PRAYER TRIOS

With Lent fast approaching (Ash Wednesday is March 1!), the Spiritual Life Committee would like to encourage you to consider a devotion for your quiet time as well as joining us in prayer individually or as part of a Prayer Trio. A generous donor is helping us provide two options as far as devotional booklets. If you are "traveling your Lenten journey" with children or grandchildren, you might consider Together in His Footsteps, a devotional booklet by Michelle Van Loon which contains *family-centered reflections and prayers to remind children and adults of the importance of deepening their spiritual life during Lent*.

If you are doing your **Lenten studies** as a couple or one-on-one with God, we are providing Moving Toward the Cross: Reflections on the Writings of Frederick Buechner. This contains *thought-provoking quotes from Frederick Buechner, a theologian and author of more than 30 published books*. These quotes are paired with insightful reflections by religious commentator and biblical scholar Martin E. Marty, accompanied by Bible reading and prayers. We respectfully ask that you choose one booklet that best suits the needs of your family.

If you would rather have your devotionals delivered to you via your electronic device of choice, perhaps you would choose: <http://www.faithgateway.com/free-easter-devotions-ebook/>, a free download of devotionals from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary which can be found through the App Store: search Devotions-Advent & Lenten, download the app and the devotionals will be delivered to your device as they are released for the season.

We would also like to encourage participation in **Prayer Trios** again this year. If you wish to participate & would be paired with two others or if you have your own trio, please sign up on the Trio sign-up sheets beginning on February 19 after each worship service. Devotional booklets were also available beginning on that date.

Please know that we are lifting each other up in prayer as we draw closer together and closer to the heart of Christ.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT SPC?

New and Prospective Member Orientation Classes will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour on March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 in the Pastor’s Study. Contact the church office or Pastor Luke Harkey for more information.

SILENT ART AUCTION

On Sunday, April 2, there will be a silent art auction to support our church mission trip to Guatemala. This will be held in conjunction with the luncheon after the 11 am service. If you would like to contribute an original piece of art (of any description), please notify the church office. No age limit. Thank you for your support!

CROSS IN SANCTUARY

If you would like to provide flowers for the cross in the Sanctuary on Easter morning, please call Jane in the church office, 704-487-8503. Flowers may be placed either in memory or in honor of someone.

EASTER LILIES

As is our custom, Easter Lilies will fill our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16 (after which you may take yours home). If you would like to order a lily(ies) - \$10 each - to be placed in the church, either in memory or in honor of someone, we ask that your check accompany the order form below and that it be made payable to “Shelby Presbyterian Church”. Turn your form and check into the church office **by March 30** or drop it in the offering plate by then.

I (We) would like _____ lily(ies) placed in the church on Easter.

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10 each payable to SPC).

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

FAITH ENDURES: *“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts.”* (Romans 5:5)

Daily, nearly one billion of God’s people quietly struggle with crippling poverty, almost unnoticed by the world. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which we traditionally receive on Easter Day, supports ongoing ministries addressing these urgent needs. Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Your generous gifts to this Special Offering help provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Distribution of the offering is 32% for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, 36% for Presbyterian Hunger Program, and 32% for Self Development of People.

The gifts we give to One Great Hour of Sharing this Easter will respond not only to the immediate pain of disasters----whenever and wherever they happen during the next year----but also to the long-term conditions that keep people in poverty and hunger.

Fish boxes for children’s contributions will be available beginning First Sunday in Lent, March 5. Envelopes for adults will be available during worship on Easter. God has surely blessed us to be blessings to others, thanks for your gracious contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.

CAMP GRIER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A fund was established in 2013 for Camp Grier Scholarships for our SPC children to attend Camp Grier. Information is available on line, www.campgrier.org detailing the camps available for rising 2nd - rising 12th graders. If you need a partial/whole scholarship for your child, please see Pastor Luke Harley or Christian Educator Linda Ware.

Senior High Youth will lead both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services in the Sanctuary on March 26.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICES

Noon Lenten Worship Services begin Ash Wednesday at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Services are held in the sanctuary and conclude at 12:30 p.m. after which a soup and sandwich lunch is served in the Epworth Building for \$5. Below is the schedule of speakers and lunch menu:

March 1 - Rev. Randy Blanton, Pastor

(Aldersgate United Methodist Church)

Lunch: Hearty Beef & Vegetable Soup, Cheese Toast, Peanut Butter Cookies

March 8 - Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor

(Ascension Lutheran Church)

Lunch: Cheesy Chicken Chowder, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Oatmeal Cookies

March 15 - Rev. Tracy Jessup, Senior Minister

(Gardner-Webb University)

Lunch: Italian Sausage Soup, Cheese Toast, Chocolate Chip Cookies

March 22 - Rev. Angela Pleasants, District Superintendent

(Catawba Valley District-United Methodist Church)

Lunch: Taco Soup, Cheese Toast, Forest Ranger Cookies

March 29 - Rev. Sarah Underwood, Pastor

(Sharon United Methodist Church)

Lunch: Creamy Vegetable Soup, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Butterscotch Cookies

April 5 - Rev. Tony Tench, Senior Pastor

(First Baptist Church, Shelby)

Lunch: Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheese Toast, Snickerdoodle Cookies

April 12 - Rev. Colston Morris, Pastor

(Durham/Philadelphia United Methodist Churches)

Lunch: Cowboy Soup, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Cookie Sampler

March 6.....	Hal Bryant
March 6.....	Mary Kelly
March 6.....	Jake Taylor
March 7.....	John Ogburn
March 8.....	Anna Greer
March 8.....	John Haskell
March 8.....	Olive Pharr
March 9.....	Jack Breen
March 9.....	Carol Williams
March 10.....	Carolyn Gaston
March 10.....	Tom Moss
March 10.....	Margaret Schweppe
March 10.....	Nathan Wright
March 11.....	Judy Pearson
March 12.....	Parker Dixon
March 12.....	Betty Hager
March 12.....	Ted LeGrand
March 12.....	Rachel White
March 13.....	Nancy Hendrix
March 13.....	Cheryl Sisk
March 14.....	Nancy Blackley
March 14.....	Pat Wilkison
March 15.....	Anna Langley
March 15.....	Thomas Neville
March 15.....	Reagan Wall
March 16.....	Joe Henderson
March 16.....	Reece Ware
March 17.....	Libby Jackson
March 18.....	John Auten
March 19.....	Bob Eddins
March 20.....	Frances Evans
March 21.....	Jonathan Bridges
March 21.....	Chris Burns
March 22.....	Conway Carter
March 22.....	Meredith Teddy
March 22.....	Laura Wheeler
March 22.....	Wendy Wright
March 23.....	Sue Breen
March 23.....	Don Bridges
March 23.....	Gordon Hamrick
March 25.....	Carol Bridges
March 25.....	Kate Fletcher
March 26.....	David Beam
March 26.....	Glenn Moore
March 26.....	Jeanne Spragins
March 27.....	Gracie Blackley
March 28.....	Watt Jackson
March 28.....	Elliott Welton
March 29.....	Jeremy Baker
March 29.....	Janice Blake
March 29.....	Margaret Harry
March 30.....	Mason Venable
March 31.....	Susan Teddy
March 31.....	Donna Jo Yocum

☺ HAPPY BIRTHDAY ☺

March 1.....	Sharon McInnis
March 3.....	Gloria Jobe
March 3.....	Jon Pharr
March 4.....	Adele Aylmer
March 4.....	Shields Fletcher
March 4.....	Alex Haydon
March 5.....	Tyler Burns
March 5.....	Erin Carter

SESSION MEETING NOTES

JANUARY 17, 2010

The Session of Shelby Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the back parlor of the church. In attendance were: Rev. Luke Harkey, Pastor, Moderator; Elders: Ellen Fletcher, Margie McSwain, Joe Ogburn, Kathy Wilson, Sherry Young, Doug Boyette, Agaat Den Hertog, Brock Taylor, Jill Venable, Jeff Hamilton, Anne Langley, Lloyd Williams and Paul Woodard (excused absence: Robin Holland); Co-Chairs Board of Deacons: Laura Carter and Sandy Cheaney.

The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer by Rev. Luke Harkey. Joe Ogburn lit the Christ Candle and had devotion. Sherry Young led in singing of "This is My Father's World." Luke Harkey led in the affirmation taken from "A Declaration of Faith" as printed in the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk: Joe Ogburn - •David Roberts requested a transfer of membership to Sharon Presbyterian Church in Charlotte which was approved. •Ric Daughenbaugh, Elder, has submitted his resignation which was accepted by the Session.

Co-Chairs, Diaconate: Laura Carter and Sandy Cheaney reported that the Diaconate has not yet met in year 2017.

Pastor: •Luke Harkey reviewed the status of Associate Pastor Rebecca Jones who has terminated her relationship with Shelby Presbyterian Church effective 12-31-16. •Pastor Luke reported that he cannot attend all committee meetings due to his work schedule in the absence of an associate pastor. •John Knox Presbyterian Church plans to discontinue participation in the 5th Sunday combined worship services. Luke will discuss with members of Ryburn Memorial and Shiloh Presbyterian Churches the possibility of having only one combined service per year.

MINUTES

•Minutes of the Session Meeting of December 13, 2016 were reviewed and approved as submitted. •Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Annual Congregational Meeting of January 15, 2017, were reviewed and approved as submitted.

COMMITTEES

Finance: Jill Venable presented a proposed budget for 2017 which was reviewed, discussed, and approved by Session. Jill reported that all budgeted obligations for 2016 have been met.

Property: Brock Taylor and Lloyd Williams reported that the security doors and system has been completed. The request by Rainbow Connection for security doors at the back hall has been reviewed. The cost will be approximately \$6600. Property budget has approximately \$2700 leaving a gap of \$4000 which will need to be raised. Steeple lighting is again being reviewed for needed repairs. Windows along the courtyard side of the sanctuary are in need of repair with work soon to begin.

Columbarium: Luke reported that the second section of the columbarium has been ordered.

Mission and Ministry: Luke reported on the Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Program offered through the YMCA. Two of the soup lunch guests have been approved to participate. Distribution of materials regarding the program will be made to the congregation through Wednesday Night Supper or similar means.

Youth Guatemala Mission Group: Ellen Fletcher requested that the Mission Group be allowed to work with Property Committee to request funds for support of the mission trip when the annual application is made to the Dover Foundation for funding of special projects at Shelby Presbyterian Church. The Mission and Property Committees will discuss with the Finance Committee and bring a report to Session.

NEW BUSINESS

•The annual statistical report for Shelby Presbyterian Church was reviewed and accepted by Session.

•As required by the State of North Carolina for incorporation of our church, Elder Joe Ogburn was selected to serve as the Registered Agent.

•Pastor Luke requested that the *Declaration of Faith* which was adopted by the Southern Presbyterian Church prior to reunification and which is continuing in use be studied by our Session. If we agree with the suggestion of Pastor Luke after several months of study, Luke requests that our Session make an overture to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina that the *Declaration* wording be updated and that ultimately an overture would be made to the General Assembly of PCUSA to include the revised and updated *Declaration* in the *Book of Order*. Session agreed to such action of study and discussion.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Rev. Luke Harkey.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Ogburn, Clerk of Session, and Doug Boyette, Vice Clerk of Session.

PRESBYTERY IN BRIEF
JANUARY 28, 2017

On a crisp winter's day, 191 Presbyterians gathered in the lovely Lincoln First Church and participated in an inspiring service of Word and Sacrament, led by Danny Trapp (host pastor), Terry Cline (co-host pastor from the Pine Street congregation in Lincoln), and Joan Martin (Covenant Village, Gastonia) - which was enhanced by a fine choir under the direction of John Lineberger. The two congregations also provided splendid hospitality, which was much appreciated.

If any think that our PCUSA cannot adapt to new and effective ways of worshipful ministry, they should have witnessed the examination and approval of Lisle Garrity for ordination as a "pastor and sanctified artist - a creative entrepreneur, seeking to deepen our worship experience by filling Christ's Church with more color, paint, mystery and creativity." Our Presbytery also welcomed John Pope (professor at Montreat College in Charlotte), Thom Nelson (retired but still active) and returning (yeah!) Wanda Neely (transitional pastor for Morganton First).

As is the case every other January, there were proposed amendments to the Constitution. With spirited but respectful debate on some, all but one was approved. The amendment concerning persons who had renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA - was disapproved. The Presbytery seemed especially pleased to welcome back the title "Minister of Word and Sacrament," along with "Teaching Elder."

Two more proposed amendments concerning the revised Directory for Worship are scheduled for the next Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, April 25 in Montreat. A good overview of the revised Directory was given by Jane Vann, assisted by Kathy Campbell and James Aydelotte. All are urged to attend one of two in-depth seminars on this important change: Tuesday, February 28 in Canton, or Tuesday March 28 at Northminster (Hickory).

This meeting was ably led by newly installed Moderator Susan Denne and Vice-Moderator Melvin Meares, along with Stated Clerk Cam Murchison. Other important actions were: •Adoption of the budget for 2017, well explained by Jay Crane. The contributions of all congregations were listed, including 27 non-giving churches. •Deceased

Teaching and Ruling Elders during 2016 were movingly remembered. •Otis Wilson, for the Personnel Committee, recommended modestly increased stipends for the Presbytery staff, which were enthusiastically approved. •Adam Bowling and Rick Leissner announced a Spiritual Retreat on March 31-April 1 in Flat Rock. •Dick Larson and Feild Russell (variously disguised) stated that the H.O.P.E. Campaign had reached \$1.7 million, with the anticipation of additional contributions by the end of March. They also praised several good projects already being funded. •George Hutchins was honored on his retirement. •Daria Ragan offered our prayers of intercession. •Reports from several administrative commissions were received, and the one for the Walnut Grove church was dissolved with the thanks of Presbytery. •Several exciting Youth Events were announced (details on the Presbytery website). •A mission trip to West Virginia to help with flood recovery will be on April 30-May 6. •The Guatemala Partnership has scheduled several trips and meetings in 2017 (email pwncguatemala@gmail.com for details.) •The Hunger Committee announced seven grants, totaling \$47,520. •All were urged to remember the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 5. •Good reports were received from Associate Presbyter Billy Robinson and General Presbyter Bobbi White (to whom we sang "Happy Birthday").

Work well completed, the commissioners were blessed on their homeward journeys by the Moderator.

-James Aydelotte, scribe

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SPC children ages 4 to 5th grade will be going "to camp" each Sunday this summer. Wear your "camp-type" clothes to church and plan on having some fun, singing songs, doing skits, and learning more about the "fruits of the Spirit!" After the Children's Sermon, our SPC children will "head out to camp" - located within our SPC building. They will have SPC counselors who will have lots of camp fun planned for them. Weather permitting, "camp" will end on the playground when the worship service is over. Questions? Contact Christian Educator Linda Ware for more info.

FEBRUARY 2017 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2017 Operating Budget. \$543,199.00
Needed Weekly. \$ 10,249.04

February 5

Received. \$ 19,191.00
5¢-A-Meal (total Feb.). \$ 415.69
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering. \$ 646.00
Sunday School Attendance. 76
8:30 a.m. Worship. 50
11:00 a.m. Worship. 120

February 12

Received. \$ 8,933.62
Sunday School Attendance. 88
8:30 a.m. Worship. 36
11:00 a.m. Worship. 123

February 19

Received. \$ 8,657.51
Sunday School Attendance. 90
8:30 a.m. Worship. 41
11:00 a.m. Worship. 103

UPDATE ON ORGAN FUND

Needed by June 2017. \$120,000.00
Balance as of 2/20/2017. \$ 55,973.33

MEMORIALS RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY

. . . to the Food Ministry Fund in memory of Martha Blackley.

. . . to the Memorial Fund in memory of Al Mancinelli.

. . . to the Organ Fund in memory of The Fleming Family, Al Mancinelli, John Spragins.

. . . to the Youth Mission Fund in memory of Al Mancinelli.

ARE YOU ON DUTY IN MARCH?

9:30 Sunday Morning Fellowship Time

March 5 Fund-Raiser Breakfast for Mission Trip
12 Judy & Larry Pearson
19 Kathryn & Don Bridges
26 Nancy Fichter

11:00 Deacons Taking Up Offering & Ushers

Mary Lampley, Captain
Ina Harrington (March 5-Barbara Moore)
Beverly Styers
Laura Carter
Tom Greene

11:00 Worship Liturgist

March 5 Marlene Lovelace
12 Darlene Gravett
19 *Not Yet Scheduled*
26 Senior High Youth

11:00 Moments With The Children

March 5 Anne Langley
12 *Not Yet Scheduled*
19 Cheryl & Steve Sisk
26 Senior High Youth

11:00 Sound Board

March 5 Chip Blackley
12 Joe Petrilli
19 Lee Huston
26 Jim Teddy Jr.

Sanctuary Worship Guild

March 5 Judy Greer & Rachel White
12 Beverly Elmore & Stuart Schweppe
19 Jill & Lionel Dodson
26 Debbie Griffin & Marlene Lovelace

Monday Morning Offering Counter with Bookkeeper

Entire Month of March - Lori Titus

Wednesday Night Elders & Deacons

March 1 Margie McSwain & Joe Ogburn
Sandy Cheaney & Ina Harrington
8 Kathy Wilson & Sherry Young
Phil Haydon & Warren Julian
15 Doug Boyette & Joe Ogburn
Thomas Couch & Kathryn Bridges
22 Jill Venable & Agaat Den Hertog
Mary Lampley & Jennifer Ormand
29 Brock Taylor & Jeff Hamilton
Beverly Styers & Thomas Couch

Sanctuary Flowers

March 5 Tom, Mimi & Alex Martin
12 *Available*
19 *Available*
26 *Available*

**SAVE THE DATE
HERITAGE SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
11:00 A.M.
KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS**