

# First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

**March 2016**

## *Pastor Drew's Views*

### What did you Add for Lent?

Our Lenten journey has begun. Recently I said it was perfectly fine to give up or sacrifice something like sweets or potato chips or Facebook for Lent as an expression of your devotion to the Lord, but I also challenged you to add "agape" as well. Agape is the Greek word for unconditional, Christ-like love. It is love for your neighbor, family member or even your enemy with "no strings attached". Agape love is not about what you get out of it. Agape is about what you put into it. You and I are blessed to be a blessing. Agape is God's design for how we reach our community for Jesus. After all, it's how He reached us.

You will be encouraged to see how much agape we added to our ministry this year. We have included a partial list in this edition of the newsletter. Of course, this list doesn't count the many expressions of agape each of you add to your life and your world every day. Keep up the good work! All agape done in faith makes a difference because of our God who is really doing the loving through us. Never forget what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, "*Love (agape) never fails*".

Blessings,

*Pastor Drew*

Philippians 1:3-6

### The Messiah in the Passover

This presentation is a powerful visual message not only of Israel's freedom from slavery in Egypt, but of the redemption of individuals from the bondage of sin through the atoning work of Jesus. The program will be on *Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.* and is designed to give participants a deeper understanding both of Passover and of the Communion table. Peter Shirokov, of Chosen People Ministries, will be here to make the presentation.

## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



### Women of the Church

First Presbyterian Church  
1841-2016

Recently, a copy of a cookbook, *Choice Tested Recipes*, was sent to the Church. A lady from Voorheesville, NY was going through her mother's things and found it. After checking our website and noting that we are celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, she spoke with Millie and mailed us the cookbook for our historical collection. The Women's Missionary Society published it in 1923. Not only are there many recipes and household hints, but there are also wonderful advertisements from local businesses.

The minutes of the Women's Auxiliary state that in June, 1924, cookbook sales totaled \$92.20. In October 1925, the minutes say a committee was formed to sell the remainder of the cookbooks.

Here are three recipes that were highlighted:

#### Pressed Chicken

One chicken, 1 stalk celery ½ cup chopped almonds, 1 pint of chicken stock, 1 envelope of Knox gelatin, juice of 1 lemon. Boil chicken till tender, run through meat grinder, skin and all. Cut celery in small pieces blanch almonds and chop in small pieces. Dissolve gelatin in stock (have hot); add lemon juice, red pepper and salt to taste. Pour over chicken that has been mixed with celery and almonds. Let congeal. Mrs. B. C. Murray

#### 1860 Peach Pot Pie

One quart nice ripe peaches, cut in small pieces; put these in large cake pan, 1 cup cold water over the peaches. Take a good plain biscuit dough, add just a little more shortening, roll out to one-quarter inch thickness and place over the peaches, even with the side of pan. Place in stove and cook until a nice brown and perfectly done through. Remove from stove and lift off the crust without breaking; turn upside down on large platter. Sweeten peaches to taste and pour over crust, juice and all. Serve in slices with or without sweetened cream. Sara E. Bell

#### Ravioli

One pound spaghetti or macaroni, 1 pound liver, 1 pound beef, cooked, then cut up fine; 2 pounds cheese, 1 can mushrooms, 1 very large onion, cut up fine; ½ cup butter, 1 2lb. can tomatoes, mashed till smooth, 1 heaping teaspoon red pepper, 2 teaspoons salt.

First, cook the spaghetti or macaroni in a large kettle. When done and ready to serve, add the other mixture, and lastly, the grated cheese. This can be saved for a week and heated any number of times. Mrs. J. M. Stafford

**Be sure your calendars are marked to be a part of the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration on Sunday, November 27!!**

### A Blast from the Past

If you have a copy of the annual reports given in 1995 and 1996 (covering the years 1994 and 1995), please let Millie or Pat Brown know. We would like to borrow them to facilitate compiling the church history.

*Christ is Risen!*

# Mission & Outreach

Jesus said "Go!" so we go, "Feed!" so we feed, "Make disciples" so we make disciples in His Name. The church is a hospital for sinners and a launching pad for missional service in our community and "to the ends of the earth".

## 2015 Mission Activities

These are in addition to the church's financial support of missions during 2015.

Jan- Collecting supplies for Christian Women's Center Working on Habitat for Humanity house

Feb & Mar – 2X Challenge for each member to invite 2 people to church.

Mar 30 – Provided all food for Spalding High School basketball banquet.

Apr – Collected school supplies for Cowan Road Elementary School

Apr & May – Collected single serving foods for Rushton's Hope

May 2, Aug 29, Oct 2 – Volunteer Days at Rushton's Hope

Aug 13 – Prepared & served pre-game meal to Spalding High football team

Aug 15 – Great Ice Water Giveaway

Nov 15 – Operation Christmas Child – over 175 boxes collected

Dec 25 - Christmas Dinner – 833 meals served to the community

Dec 2015 – Birthday Gift for Jesus: To Samaritans Purse to purchase hot meals for a child, baby chicks, dairy animals, household water filters, emergency housing, refugee relief, prevention of human trafficking & equipping a missionary hospital. Total \$717. An additional \$50 was given to Samaritan's Purse.

Ongoing: Collecting food for local food pantry

Volunteers at Rushton's Hope

Volunteers at "Backpacks for Kids"

Provided Bibles for members who cannot afford them

*Coming Soon:*

*75 days to come up with  
175 ways to #agapegriffin*

## Christian Women's Center

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, some ladies from the Christian Women's Center will be here to join us in worship and testify to how God is changing their lives. This is a vital ministry in our community that we support. Starting March 13<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting canned foods, bread, produce, paper products, women's products, Christian books and Bibles for the ladies' use.

## Soup Kitchen

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, seven of us went to serve at the **Abundant Life Soup Kitchen** in Griffin. We served a hot meal and tried to bless everyone we met. It turns out God blessed us too. Thanks to everyone who donated ground beef, hot dogs and cheese. We were able to take three heavy bags over, which got a lot of smiles.

## Haiti

Several of our members who will be traveling to Haiti with bellow believers from other ECO churches.

Pastor Drew  
Pat Brown  
Michael Biddle  
Wendy Biddle

They will be gone from June 4 until June 11<sup>th</sup>. Please lift them up in your prayers as they prepare for the opportunity to "be Jesus" in Haiti.

## Operation Christmas Child

In March, shop for quality crafts for your shoeboxes.

**Coming April 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

**Rushton's Hope Block Party...  
save the date!**

# Congregational Care

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!



The ANNUAL Ladies Tea for 2016 is planned for **APRIL 30**.

All ladies from the young to the not so young are invited.

Invite your daughters, granddaughters, sisters and friends.

Looking forward to seeing YOU there

## Thanks!

The CC committee would like to thank everyone who helped set up, brought soup or dessert or helped clean up after dinner. You helped make the Soup Pot luck dinner a big **SUCCESS**. Thank you!!! Looking forward to seeing you all this month, Your CC Team

## March Potluck & Program

Our monthly potluck will be on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center at 6 p.m. followed by Messiah in the Passover at 6:45 p.m.



## Ladies' Painting Party

LADIES - YOU'RE INVITED to join the excitement of "self-proclaimed non-artists" creating beautiful masterpieces with God's Truth on each one! Come hear an inspiring testimony, paint with a trained instructor step-by-step, and have a great time with friends old and new! You won't believe what you can create with just a little assistance! Each person that comes is "paying it forward" to minister to women and children. You'll have a blast and make a difference, and create a lasting keepsake!

Check out the website for more details: [www.TruthBeToldArt.com](http://www.TruthBeToldArt.com)

### Here's how it works:

Just show up! You don't need to bring a thing.

**Register and pay to reserve your spot.**

**Cash will not be collected at the party.**

**For the link to register for the party,**

**please contact Seth** (seth@fpcgriffin.org or 770-500-5143)

Where do you want to hang your painting? Think on this now and you'll have an easier time choosing around 4 colors at the party. Accidents sometimes happen, so wear comfy clothing that won't be ruined if paint gets on them.

Please be on time. Come a few minutes early if you want to pick out your colors and be ready.

**Saturday, March 12th 10:00am - 1:00 pm  
FPC Activity Bldg.**

The CC Ministry Team met on Monday, February 15. There are only 3 pot luck dinners left so please make certain to attend. We love discovering all the different and unique foods that everyone brings! The dates are March 9, April 13 and May 11.

Mark your calendars now for these important days

Men we did NOT forget about you! We have upcoming activities planned for you in the spring. Men's Breakfast and Golf is one of them and Bullets and Bar B Q is the other. Watch for these future activities.

If you would like to be a part of this committee please let Janice Aiken at 770-227-6096 or Tim Brown at 770-228-1519. We are always looking for smiling people to be a part of this rewarding committee.

**March 13th is time change Sunday.**  
Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

# We serve in January

## Children's Message

March 6 - Lou Baldwin  
 March 13 - Bob Bugg  
 March 20 - Pastor Drew  
 March 27 - Diane Gordon

## 2s and 3s Nursery

March 6 - Trey & Tara Jones  
 March 13 - Tim & Becki Brown  
 March 20 - Kyle & Johnna Johnson  
 March 27 - Wayne & Angela Griggs

## Ushers

Russell Johnson Capt.  
 George Hollender  
 Karlene Hollender  
 Christie Hamby  
 Pat Brown, Alternate

## Elder in Charge

Janice Aiken

## Communion Servers

### March 6

Janice Aiken, Capt.  
 Charlotte Thacker  
 Roger Soons  
 John Craig  
 Tim Brown  
 Trey Jones  
 Ralph Jones  
 Kyle Johnson  
 Eddie Huffman  
 Bill Farr

## Communion Servers Maundy Thursday

Lou Baldwin, Capt.  
 Joe Bailey  
 Jim Skinner  
 Wendi Kirby  
 Russell Johnson  
 Diane Gordon  
 Bob Gordon

Communion will be  
 by intinction.

## Communion Servers

### Easter, March 27

Bonnie Pfrogner, Capt.  
 Sid Esary  
 Doug Tingle  
 Ina Jones  
 Ivan Betz  
 Gary Hollums  
 Stewart Esary  
 Tom Hamilton  
 Bob Bugg  
 Janice Aiken

# Important Dates

## March Birthdays

1 - Sid Esary  
 2 - Mimi Johnson  
 2 - Lisa Carcamo  
 7 - Laura Kirby  
 10 - Sheppard Brown  
 11 - Barron Dunn  
 12 - George Kirby  
 22 - Marty Dunn  
 23 - Davidson Johnson  
 24 - Doug Brown  
 24 - Tori Jones  
 25 - Dan Stansberry  
 29 - Dianne Pinson  
 31 - Freddie Hutson

## March Anniversaries

3/5/1983 - Joe & Jane Bailey  
 3/24/1979 - Bill & Lou Baldwin  
 3/30 - Dan & Sharon Stansberry

## Membership Class

The next Membership Class  
 will be Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at  
 9:30 a.m. in the C.E. office.  
 If interested, contact Pastor  
 Drew

## March Session Meetings

**Prayer Meeting**  
 March 13th at 9:00 am - Parlor  
 Everyone is invited to attend.

**Stated Session Meeting**  
 There will **not** be a  
 meeting in March.

# Christian Education



## Church-wide Memory Verse for March

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too  
 might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

## The Great Easter Egg Hunt Is Coming!

Parents, on Palm Sunday, right after church, we will have the egg hunt. Will you please bring in some filled eggs for the hunt? And on the big day, please make sure your children each have a basket or bag to put their eggs in. Like last year, the preschool children will be on the near side of the parking lot on either side of the church's main entrance. The elementary age children will be across the parking lot. In the event of bad weather, we will have the hunt in the activities building.

Please encourage your children to bring a friend.

## Church Family, We Need You

On Palm Sunday, we are having the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and we need eggs for the kids to find!

The Christian Ed ministry team would appreciate it if you would donate some already filled eggs. You can deliver them to the office during the week or give them to Cindy Baynham on any Sunday.

Thank you so much for always doing so much for our children.

## Children's Sunday School Spreads Love

This past Sunday, our children made beautiful Valentines cards to take to Brightmoor and next door to St. George's Woods. Thank you to these precious ones for doing this, and thank you to their teachers, Jen Eling, Ruth Allison, and Tara Jones for joining the adventure and keeping the assembly line going. And special thanks to Jen's mom, Mrs. Montgomery, for pitching in to help!

## Share the Joy of Reading with Those in Need

The soup kitchen we help serve would love to have books to share with the people they serve. They need books for children, youth, and adults, both fiction and non-fiction. While the books don't have to be Christian, they do need to be appropriate. We will announce a drop off place when we figure that out, but meanwhile, we will collect them in the CE office.

**Join us for coffee fellowship each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.  
 Classes begin at 10 a.m.**

# Youth

I can't believe that we are already through the month of February!! And March has some amazing things going on. Well at least for me, because this year March has two of my favorite things in it. First March Madness!! I love college basketball, and I may or may not be sick for the best Thursday and Friday of the year which are the first two days of the tournament. There is just something about having a tournament champion, and not just passing out participation trophies....that is a whole other topic. However my favorite thing about March this year is Easter Sunday. Speaking of not getting a participation trophy, Jesus ran up the score on sin and death and took home that champion trophy. I love being able to celebrate who Jesus is and how he changed our eternal destinies by conquering sin. So I hope that you will join PYF Students and myself as we celebrate the SonRise Service again on Easter Sunday. It will start at 7:30 am out at the cross, and we will lift high the name of Jesus. After the service join us in the activities building for a pancake breakfast. At the breakfast all we ask for is a donation to go towards student missions at First Pres. Looking forward to seeing you and your family Easter Sunday.

# Worship

## Holy Week Schedule

March 20 Palm Sunday with Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service  
 March 24 Maundy Thursday with Twelve Men at the Table at 6:30 p.m.  
 March 25 Good Friday prayer and worship at 12 noon  
 March 27 Sunrise Service & breakfast at 7:30 am  
 Easter Sunday service with Communion at 11:00 am

## Communion

Communion will be served on Sunday, March 6th, on Maundy Thursday, March 24th, and on Easter Sunday, March 27th.

**Worship Ministry Team will meet Monday, March 7, at noon at the church.**

Anyone interested in being a greeter for Sunday mornings please contact Bonnie Pfrogner

# Music



## The Living Last Supper

The men of the church and the Chancel Choir will present the cantata, "The Living Last Supper" on Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Many of you remember the presentation of "Twelve Seats at the Table" that depicted the Lord's last supper with his disciples as each man told of his experiences as followers of Jesus Christ. As in Twelve Seats at the Table, the cantata is also based on the famous painting by Da

Vinci of the Last Supper. The music passionately captures the pathos of the event while, one by one, the disciples speak, expressing their innermost thoughts with brief but poignant monologues that also portray their incredulous astonishment at Jesus' assertion that one of them would betray him that fateful night. During the service, the congregation will be invited to participate in Holy Communion at the Lord's table.

I have had the privilege to be at several conferences with the composer, Ruth Elaine Schram. Her love of the Lord shines through in everything she does. The following paragraph written by her best exemplifies the meaning of this cantata.

*"When God called these twelve men to be His disciples and apostles and to establish the New Testament Church, He chose flawed individuals, people just like you and me, men who were not saints or even finished products, but works in progress; men whose qualities needed to be honed, molded and channeled in positive ways. It is my prayer that God will use this production to remind all of us the He is not yet finished with any of us, and that every one of us is guilty of denying and betraying Him. The most important lesson of this presentation, however, is that His love and mercy covers every contingency, and His will is perfect, even if it is difficult to understand. Just as these twelve exemplary men had a mission given to them to build the New Testament Church on a foundation of love and grace, we are also charged to continue that mission, to love one another and to share the good news of the Messiah."*

Ruth Elaine Schram



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# Be Involved

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2016**

Work has begun to start the celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary this November. Please let Debbie Hammond know if you have any pictures, stories, special music, or any ideas about what needs to be remembered.

This is a special time in our church history to look back at our roots and look forward to our future.

## Women of the Church Bible Study

The Women of the Church Bible Study will meet on second Monday, March 14, at 10:15 in the Fellowship Classroom. We will be studying Lesson 7 starting on page 57 of our Study Book.

Scriptures to be used are  
 Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-7  
 Psalm 51:1-12  
 Matthew 6:12

Please bring your Bible and Study book.