

Forecast



Spring 2019

Our mission is to know Christ, to serve Him, and to make Him known.

Dear Church Family,

A few weeks ago we had the session's Annual Report, together with the Gifts Inventory. If you have not filled out the inventory and returned it to the office, we would greatly appreciate it if you did. That same Sunday my sermon was on work, in which we noted that having good work was a part of life before sin ever entered the picture (see Genesis 2:15). Having meaningful work – which is when our work is connected to God's work – was a part of being in Paradise. While most things in life are best done in moderation, work seems to be one of the few things that even having a great deal of it is still good for us. When God created everything at the Beginning, the pattern was “work-work-work-work-work-work-rest.” There is something about having meaningful work that is inherent to human dignity. Humankind – and nothing else that God created – was given the gift of work.

And, like any gift, it is possible to misuse it. Working so little due to laziness or a sense of entitlement so that we burden others, or, working so much that our family relationships suffer due to our absence are to ways to abuse this gift. It is a sacred balance.

One of the ways to restore this work-rest balance is to take pleasure in God's gift of the Sabbath (see Mark 2:27). “Sabbath” literally means “to cease.” This can take a number of forms in the Bible, and it is the basis for my upcoming sabbatical (i.e. June-July-August). This is similar to the pattern in the 7 Day Creation narrative, i.e. after seven years of work comes a season of rest. So, what exactly is a sabbatical? Is it simply an extended vacation? I want to be very clear on this. The answer is: No. It is not an extended vacation. So what then is it?

It is a time to “cease” (or be released from) the regular demands of life in order to grow. It is a time to be very intentional: to step back, to reflect, to pray, to be still and to do it all over again and again. I am working with a spiritual director and will bookend my sabbatical with solitary retreats. He and I are will work on one or two spiritual themes and then create a plan to specifically listen to what the Lord would say to those areas. The whole sabbatical has both a structure and great intentionality. To treat it purely as vacation would make a great waste of an incredible opportunity to deepen my life of discipleship. It is a time of growth and strengthening and refreshment.

Of course, “resting” is part of the mix. There will be rest, opportunities to do something new, and a vacation with the family. Hopefully, at the end of the sabbatical, life will be characterized by spiritual growth, a renewed sense of living out God's call, and a deeper closeness with the Lord. A general framework for a sabbatical may be summarized something like this: release, rest, reflect and refocus.

Heath Burchett, who has preached here a number of times, and who was on staff at our fellow ECO church Bethel in Cornelius has agreed both to preach regularly in my absence and to be in the office one day a week to have a steady pastoral presence and to run staff meetings. The elders will rotate being on call, and they may elect their own moderator, as well as elect someone to administer the sacraments while I am away. It is my hope that everything will be as smooth as possible since summer is the best time in the life of the congregation to be away. I will miss you. And I

If a sabbatical is not a vacation, then what is it?

hope that my sabbatical will not be an encouragement to drift away. Many times when a congregation is between pastors or the pastor is away, it can be a very unifying time because

everyone recognizes that this is an ideal time to come together to keep life vibrant. The congregation is so much richer than simply one person or pastor. You have Jesus. He is more than enough.

Peace,

Darryl

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Covenant Partners	Page 2
Christian Education News	Page 4
Session Notes	Page 6
C.S. Lewis	Page 8



As we prepare for Holy Week I am very aware of the meaning this week has for the Christian. We have a few special services at First Presbyterian Kannapolis that I hope you all will be able to attend as we

contemplate the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and worship Him together as one body.

Mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday, March 6. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:45pm. At 7:00pm, children and adults will gather in the Sanctuary for a special service, including the imposition of ashes with communion. This is a very special and intimate service that prepares our hearts for the Lenten season. The First Council of Nicaea spoke of Lent as a period of fasting for forty days, in preparation for Eastertide. As Christians who anticipate the Eastertide celebration, this service can truly center our hearts and lives on Jesus Christ and His sacrificial love for us all.

This year on Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. our chancel choir will be joined by the Kimball Lutheran Memorial Church choir, led by our good friend Don Simmons, who most of you know as our former director of music. Kimball joining us for this service aligns well with our mission to worship with our community and our neighbor. During this service, communion will be served, and the chancel choir and Kimball will present *It is Finished*, a cantata which is in the format of a Tenebrae service. The Tenebrae or service of darkness certainly is not a new idea, yet the composer Mary McDonald has certainly composed a rich musical score with familiar hymns and original pieces.

We conclude our Holy Week on Easter Sunday April 21 with a special service at 11 am. During this service we will have special music including a kids cantata, handbells, brass, and the chancel choir. Easter brass, with its regal quality is a very effective way to celebrate our risen Savior.

The Alleluia Ringers will travel to First Presbyterian Church Salisbury on Friday March 22 and Saturday March 23 to participate in the Bell Tower Ringers Handbell Festival. This will be our third year in a row attending! On Friday night we will play a challenge piece of music for the first time ever. I thought we are just as good as these other bell choirs so why not. About 12-15 different handbell choirs come together every year from area churches as far away as Raleigh and the eastern part of the state. We have a blast at the clinic all day on Saturday and conclude with a free concert at 5 pm which is open to the public. Our fellowship as a handbell choir has grown tremendously because of this event!

I would like to end this article with a plea. Kay and I both have certainly enjoyed hearing so many of you use your gifts in worship and at other events. However, we are both certain that there are many more of you out there in the congregation who we would love to hear in the choir, handbells, or maybe playing an instrument. Consider joining us for a season if permanently seems like too much of a commitment. Now is the perfect time to join choir as we begin rehearsing for Easter. Kay and I both are welcoming to all who would like to join us in the music ministry. We are not judgmental and we need more folks to join us. Chances are if you are reading this article we are talking to you. I charge you all to consider not "how can I sing?," but rather as the old hymn goes... "how can I keep from singing?"

David

WELCOME New Members



Dave & Jane Argabrite



Richard & Jean Roberts



Susan Hodge Thomas



MISSION MINDED

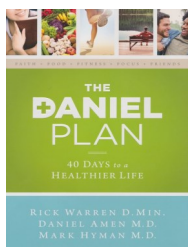
appreciation to our local first responders!

The Missions Team is proud to support the Cabarrus Women's Center's Baby Bottle Campaign! On Sunday, March 10, as part of the children's message, our youth will collect your change in baby bottles. Following the worship service, you may take a bottle home to fill with change or to use to ask others for donations. Then bring your bottle back on Palm Sunday, April 14. Proceeds will be donated to the Cabarrus Women's Center. Thank you as always for your support!!!

Sasha Tsutserov visited FPC on Wednesday evening, January 23rd. He spoke before our congregation and guests from Second Presbyterian Church, highlighting the growth of the Moscow Evangelical Seminary and their current needs. The Chancel Choir and Choristers also presented special music.

Souper Bowl – Thank you to all who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring in 2019. A total of 181 food items and \$605.00 was collected. All donations went to the Cooperative Christian Ministry of Cabarrus County.

The next Missions Meal will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, April 14. Come join the Missions and Fellowship Teams for a salad and taco bar, served on a donation basis. We will also hear from local law enforcement, including our very own Ryan Walker. All proceeds will go toward making gifts bags that our youth will distribute to the Kannapolis Police Department, Kannapolis Fire Department, and Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office. Join us as we show our



If you are not part of The DP study, you can still gain a wealth of knowledge about Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends by purchasing the book and reading at your convenience. You may purchase the book at Christianbook.com for \$3.49; an amazing value for all the material in the book!

Here are recipes from the two diet plans that do not make you feel deprived and are easy to make:

Dr. Hyman's Black Bean Soup

(The Daniel Plan Detox)

- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp garlic
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 tbsp cumin
- 2 (15 ounce) cans black beans
- 2 cups water or vegetable stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 1/2 tbsp wheat-free tamari (or soy sauce)
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Chopped fresh cilantro for garnish.

Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a soup pot. Add the garlic and onions, and cook until the onions are translucent. Add the cumin, and sauté a few more minutes. Add the canned beans, including their liquid, water or stock, and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer 10-15 minutes. Add the tamari and lemon juice and simmer 1 minute more. Serves 5-7.

Source: *The Blood Sugar Solution* by Dr. Mark Hyman.

Chocolate and Walnut Dipped Frozen Banana Pops

(40-Day Core Meal Plan)

- 8 ounces of 70% or higher dark chocolate, broken into pieces or chunks
- 2 bananas, cut into half
- 2 tablespoons crushed walnuts
- 4 wooden skewers or popsicle sticks

Melt chocolate in a double boiler or microwave. If using a microwave, be careful not to "cook" the chocolate; nuke it for 30 seconds at a time until soft and gooey. Let chocolate sit for about 5 minutes to cool slightly. Place crushed walnuts on a plate. Thread banana onto skewer or popsicle stick. Dip half of banana into melted chocolate and roll carefully into crushed walnuts. Repeat until all banana pieces are dipped. Place dipped bananas onto a tray lined with wax paper, and freeze for at least 4 hours, preferably overnight. Serves 4.

Wednesday Night Life

Wednesday Night Life continues. Choristers rehearsal is from 5:45pm - 6:00pm. Dinner will be served weekly from 5:45pm- 6:30pm. After dinner, preschoolers are invited to explore Discovery Club, while our elementary-aged children participate in KIDS (Kids in Divine Service) Church, and our middle-schoolers continue work on another wonderful video project. All children's classes meet on the 3rd floor. Adults will meet in the fellowship hall for The Daniel Plan, led by Renee Goodnight. Come join us as we fellowship and learn together! The cost of supper is \$5.00 per person/\$20 per family.

- 5:45 p.m. - **Choristers**
- 5:45 p.m. - **Wednesday Supper**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Children's Classes**
- 6:30 p.m. - **The Daniel Plan**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**
- 7:30 p.m. - **Handbell Rehearsal**

Men's Fellowship Group

Men's Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday morning, March 2, 2019 at 9:00 AM. A light breakfast will be served. Please come and bring a neighbor or friend. We will discuss upcoming projects for this spring. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM and should be finished on or before 10:00 AM. Look forward to seeing you there!!!

Christian Education Disciples Luncheon

The Christian Education Team will once again honor our Christian Education Disciples at a luncheon following worship on Sunday, May 19, 2019. Our Disciples include our Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School Teachers, Wednesday Night Life Teachers, Nursery Teacher and Helpers, Children's Message Leaders, Children's Church Leaders, and anyone else that has participated in the Christian Education of our church. The entire congregation is invited to join us for grilled chicken and vegetables prepared by Ryan Walker and the CE Team. Please come and help us honor our Christian Education Disciples and the important role they play in the life of our church!!!!

Summer Sunday School

We will give our regular adult teachers a break from preparing weekly Sunday School lessons this summer, and meet jointly for lessons and speakers

in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue with our Coffee Hour at 9:30 AM with breakfast provided by the adult classes on a rotation basis followed by our classes at 10:00AM for the months of June, July, and August. We will publish the schedule of classes and speakers when it is finalized.



Children's Ministries

The congregation honored Andrew and Jenna Baker and baby Presley Layne with a baby shower on Sunday, February 10 in the church Fellowship Hall. The Bakers were showered with diapers, wipes, and a beautiful assortment of clothes, blankets and other essentials.



Thank you to all the women of the church who helped plan, prepare food, and serve at the shower.

The first Youth Sunday of 2019 was held on January 13. Our talented youth led the worship service with songs, special music, and readings. They also served as ushers and acolytes. The next Youth Sunday will be on June 2, as we honor our graduating senior Daniel Pless. Daniel will bring a message that morning, and our youth will again offer their special gifts of worship. A reception for Daniel will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



Agape Bistro

The youth of First Presbyterian delighted our congregation with service and entertainment at “Agape Bistro”, held Saturday, Feb. 16 in our Fellowship Hall. After serving and waiting on tables, the youth presented music and comedy featuring “The Greatest Generation”. Thank you to all youth who served or performed – Katie Satterfield, Fred Caskey, Amelia Caskey, Abigail Malinovsky, Toby Caskey, Will Evans, Addie Evans, Landon Walker, Noah Walker, Camryn Lowder – and Kay Yates our accompanist! A special thank you to Ryan Walker for preparing the meal, and Pat Hill and Chris Lowder for serving in the kitchen.



The session met on December 11, January 8, and February 12. Here are combined highlights of the three meetings:



- Approved the 2019 budget.
- Approved motion for a \$100 Christmas bonus for each staff member.
- Approved five new covenant partners: Dave and Jane Argabrite, Richard and Jean Roberts, and Susan Hodge Thomas.
- Created an annual report and presented it to the congregation at the Souper Bowl of Caring lunch on January 27.
- Approved a Gifts Inventory that was distributed at the Souper Bowl of Caring lunch along with the session's annual report.
- Noted completion of building and grounds improvements including the new roof for the sanctuary, a new sound system, and a new electronic sign.
- Reviewed a drawing for possible changes to the brick work in front of the sanctuary. An estimate will be obtained for this work.
- Started to conduct an annual review of the roll.
- Approved revisions to the greeting and lock up procedures:
 - ◊ An elder will serve as greeter at the back door of the education building before Sunday School (9:20 – 10:00) and before worship service (10:45 – 11:05).
 - ◊ The back door to the education building will be locked at 11:05.
 - ◊ Elders who sing in the choir will not be part of the rotation of greeters.
- Begin to discuss plans for summer Sunday School. Ideas for potential speakers such as our mission partners were suggested.
- Received results of the annual financial review. The review found that handling of finances is being done properly and in accordance with ECO guidelines. A couple of suggestions were discussed:
 - ◊ Passwords to church financial accounts will be changed periodically.
 - ◊ An estimate will be obtained regarding what it would cost to change locks and keys.
- Approved a pulpit supply contract with Heath Burchett for the summer months while Darryl is on sabbatical.
- A Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will be held. The service will include communion and a cantata. The Kimball Lutheran Church choir will be invited to participate. There will be no Good Friday service.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barnhardt



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Jason & Rebecca	Eddings	03/04
Paul & Peggy	Barnhardt	03/14
Bob & Shirley	Faust	03/16
Edward & Jessica	Bell	03/27
Bill & Janice	Jolley	04/02
Frank & Peggy	Gibson	04/30
Larry & Carla	Efird	05/02
Chris & Chariti	Lowder	05/03
Mark & Renee	Goodnight	05/06
Christy & Jeffery	Heintz	05/06
Richard & Risa	Little	05/07
Todd & Karen	Pless	05/07
Ronald & Connie	Lisenby	05/08
Bill & Sharon	Stricker	05/13
Ali & Ryan	Craft	05/24
Tony & Judy	Hunter	05/26
Ron & Alpha	Barger	05/29

Kay	Yates	03/05	Jessica	Bell	04/06	Steve	Goodnight	04/25
David	Reed	03/06	Walter	Rumple III	04/06	Janice	Jolley	04/27
Michael	Martens	03/09	Mary Elizabeth	Jacobs	04/07	Katelyn	Wiseman	04/28
Caroline	Smith	03/09	Daniel	Pless	04/10	Don	Efird, Sr.	05/03
Mike	Lowder	03/12	Tom	Cavin	04/11	Judy	Hunter	05/03
Fred	Caskey	03/13	Kathy	Rumple	04/12	Jason	Burris	05/04
Richard	Griggs	03/13	Betty	Sechler	04/12	Jennifer	Williams	05/04
Bobby	Hallman, Sr.	03/13	Lacy	Williams	04/12	CJ	Semcho	05/05
Mary	Johns	03/16	Cindy	Martens	04/14	Debby	Baker	05/07
Steve	Hodge	03/18	Mal	McDaniel	04/15	John	Roberson	05/08
Matthew	Pless	03/19	Toby	Caskey	04/16	Joyce	Deal	05/11
McKinley	Goodnight	03/21	Abigail	Malinovsky	04/16	Adam	Caskey	05/12
Judy	Hammond	03/21	Bill	Jolley, Jr.	04/19	Larry	Efird	05/13
Sam	McAllister	03/22	Danny	Bost	04/20	Raegan	Swaringen	05/15
Ryan	Walker	03/24	Kay	McAllister	04/21	Virginia	Maguire	05/23
Phyllis	White	03/26	Tanner	Adams	04/22	Landon	Walker	05/23
Linda	Bost	03/27	Mark	Linn	04/22	Noah	Walker	05/23
Michael	Eilers	03/27	Barbara	Wise	04/22	Diane	Crawford	05/26
Todd	Pless	03/30	Henry	Whitaker	04/23	Rebecca	Eddings	05/26
James	Johnston	04/02	Charles	Seaford	04/24	Chris	Lowder	05/26
Brian	Efird	04/03	Alison	Craft	04/25	Ron	Maguire	05/30



As of February, 2019

Budget to date	\$ 47,239
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$ 39,077
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$ 47,731
February Income (for budgeted items)	\$ 20,901
February Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$ 22,314
If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.	

C.S. Lewis: Influence & Relevance Today

An International Symposium of the Presbyterian Heritage Center



From Malta to Montreat, world-renowned scholars will assemble for an International Symposium on C.S. Lewis & the Inklings, November 6-8, 2019, in Montreat, NC. This premiere event will explore the continuing influence of these Oxford Dons on literature, religion and the public's imagination.

Among the speakers is the only surviving member of the Lewis family — stepson Douglas Gresham, who also serves as executor of the estate and executive producer of the Narnia Films by Disney and soon-to-be films and series from Netflix.

Douglas will provide a personal glimpse into C.S. Lewis and Gresham's mother, Joy Davidman, as well as behind the scenes challenges and successes in Gresham's efforts to bring the Narnia novels to the 21st Century through the multi-platforms via Netflix.

Symposium registration covers the program lectures and panels, program materials, the one-man C.S. Lewis play, the exhibit reception, two dinners, one luncheon, and program breaks/refreshments.

An independent non-profit educational organization that is separate from any denomination, the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat has organized this symposium.

For more information or to register, visit <https://montreat.org/events/cslewis>

Forecast

First Presbyterian Church

201 Vance Street

Kannapolis, NC 28021-4383

Happy
SPRING!