

FOCUS

The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 W. Calhoun St.
Sumter, South Carolina 29150



September 21, 2016

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Session Room)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for All Ages)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship

The Chancel Choir will sing the offertory anthem:
Write Your Blessed Name by K. Lee Scott

11:45 a.m. ~ Children's Choir (Choir Room)
All singers, grades K-5 are invited!

5:00 p.m. ~ Youth Bells in the Sanctuary
All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome.

6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Group in the West Building
(Dinner will be served.)

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Will Holmes, Margy Carpenter

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Bob Smith

WORSHIP AT HOME

Vicki Goodwin, Ike Jenkins

TELLER DUTY

Ben Abbott, Dee Dailey

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING

(September 18-24) Bob Smith

USHERS

Jimmy Ezell, Gloria Coker

Junior Ushers: Madison White, William Cooper

YOUTH READER

Sumter Cooper

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE VOLUNTEERS

Committee Member – Nancy Spivey

Nursery – Markita Gadson

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Jack and Nancy Spivey



Come join your church family as we fellowship with the Cheeks!

The church officers have planned a variety of small group gatherings over the next six to eight weeks. Lunches, afternoon tea, evening socials and dinners are all in the works. Sign-up sheets to attend one of these events will be available in the Education Building beginning this Sunday, September 25. A big "thank you" to all the hosts!

Do not miss the fun as we celebrate and welcome Nick and his family.

FROM PASTOR NICK

Sunday's Sermon: "Do Not Worry"
Philippians 4:4-9 Matthew 6:25-34



Last Sunday we asked ourselves the question, "Who do we say that Jesus is?" It's not an easy question, but it is the most important question. It is the one question that will inform our past, our present, and our future. It is a foundational question; one that gives meaning to all other areas of our lives. It is also a question that is meant to be asked more than once. It is a daily question and we answer it not only

with our words but with our actions. In fact, we are a living answer to that question – who is Jesus? – because we are Christ's representatives on earth. We are the Church, the people of God, followers of Jesus. How we live communicates to the rest of the world who Jesus is. No pressure.

At the end of the service I offered up a challenge for you. Every day when you wake up this week, ask yourselves the most important questions: "Who do I say Jesus is?" "How will I live according to my answer today?" "How will I answer that question in my daily interactions with those I encounter?"

I hope some of you took the challenge. If not, you still have time. I'd love to hear how you answered the question. Email me and let me know at ncheek@fpcsumter.org. Have a blessed week. Bless you!

I'm proud to be your pastor.

Nick
Nick

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Joint Circle Meeting and
Covered Dish Supper

October 4, 2016

5:00 p.m. in the West Building



Plan to attend the Presbyterian Women Joint Circle Meeting and Covered Dish Supper on October 4, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the West Building. We will enjoy fun, fellowship and a delicious meal followed by the October Bible lesson from our Horizons Study Book "Who is Jesus?"

Our guest speakers are Rev. Dr. Alan Arnold, who serves as Pastor of the Cheraw Presbyterian Church, and his wife, Penny. They will present an inspiring message about Living Waters for the World, a global mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters, Presbyterian Church (USA), which trains and equips mission teams to share the gift of clean water with communities in need.

Please contact Linda Hogon (803-840-7671 or lhogon03@yahoo.com) by September 27 to RSVP or to arrange transportation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Session Room
- 6:00 p.m. Troop 86..... Scout Hut
- 6:00 p.m. Pack 86..... West Building

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:00 a.m. MSY Prayer BreakfastBaker’s Sweets
- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
- 11:30 a.m. Pastor Lunch/Visitation... Covenant Place

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 7:00 a.m. HSY Prayer Breakfast Chick Fil-A
- 12:00 p.m. Lectionary Lunch with Pastor Nick
.....McLaurin Room
- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers..... Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir..... Sanctuary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 1:30 p.m. Shepherd’s Center Quilting Class
..... West Building

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 ~ World Communion Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Care and Prayer Session Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ Classes for All Ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship..... Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Bells Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group..... West Building



UPDATE ON STORM DAMAGE

Because of significant water damage in the Fellowship Hall and on the third floor caused by the storm that passed through the area several weeks ago, those areas remain closed and unavailable for use at the present time. In the aftermath of the storm, we brought in various contractors to remove moisture from these areas, evaluate the extent of damage and of our restoration needs. Here’s what we can determine:

- Damaged floor tiles on the third floor tested positive for the presence of asbestos, which will have to be abated (removed) by a professional firm that is state licensed for removal of hazardous materials, such as asbestos. No repairs or restoration can begin on the third floor until the hazardous material has been removed. There will be special emphasis in keeping our kindergarten and preschool areas sealed off and protected.
- The Fellowship Hall flooring appears to be in good shape with no noticeable damage to the floor tiles and with no need of replacement. Most areas of the ceiling, however, did sustain considerable damage and will require replacement, as about a dozen or so tiles loosened by storm water have detached from the ceiling and fallen. Other areas throughout the ceiling have tiles that are stained and discolored by the storm water.
- Our insurance adjuster with GuideOne Insurance has informed us that our claim will be paid. The church will only be responsible for costs in the amount of the policy deductible of \$ 2,500.
- Our contractors will be expected to make every effort in following established procedures and the law in the conduct of their work to ensure everyone in the building is safe during this process. This will be a primary emphasis that will be consistently stressed and monitored.

Regrettably, we don’t have a firm timetable as to when the entire process of removal and restoration will be complete without more information from our contractors, which will be forthcoming within the week. We will keep you informed. Again, thank you for understanding and patience as we work through this. We all hope and pray we can return soon to resume ministry in these critically needed spaces.



LECTIONARY LUNCH WITH PASTOR NICK
Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
In the McLaurin Room

Bring your lunch and enjoy a led discussion on the lectionary reading for the upcoming Sunday. All ages are welcome.



CHILDREN’S CHOIR SCHEDULE

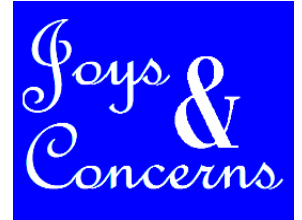
- Sunday, September 25 Rehearsal-11:45-12:15
- Sunday, October 2 Rehearsal-10:00 in the Sanctuary. We will sing during worship. (No rehearsal after Church.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tuomey: Charles Shaw,
Claire Richards

Brookdale: Marion Young

At Home: Terry Hill,
Aggie White, Margaret Hunter,
Linda Montague,
Helen Brookes-Futrell,
Gordon Rettke



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .
. . . the family of Blaney (Sonny) Coskrey, who died Sunday, September 18;
. . . John and Tumpy Creech on the death of their son-in-law, Eric Johnson, who died Tuesday, September 20.

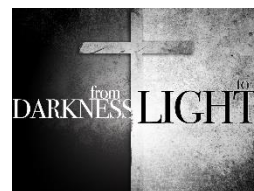
Names added to this list will be removed after three weeks unless there is a continued need or a request to remain on the list.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Week Beginning 9/11/2016

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$11,004.00	\$496,645.07	\$529,939.74
*Other Sources	\$4.40	\$105,512.39	\$116,063.18
	\$11,008.40	\$602,157.46	\$646,002.92
Disbursements	\$15,711.51	\$599,125.42	\$637,229.66
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$4,703.11)	\$3,032.04	\$8,773.26

**Endowments, Church Event Fees, Etc.*



DARKNESS TO LIGHT
November 2-4

SEE the autumn leaves in the mountains of [Montreat Conference Center](#),

HEAR the inspiring words of **Rev. Jill Duffield**, editor of [The Presbyterian Outlook](#),

TASTE epicurean treats created by local clergy chefs,
SMELL the comforting scents of a wood burning fire,
FEEL the experience of engaging with old and new friends in Christ at the Spiritual Retreat hosted by the New Harmony Presbytery’s Worship and Spiritual Formation Ministry.

Click [registration information](#) for details or contact [Rev. Josie Holler](#) (843-968-0447) or [Julie Cox](#), (877-662-8411), with questions. Registration deadline is October 18.