

FOCUS

ONE FAMILY



January 25, 2017

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

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

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

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

"Humanness"

Psalm 15 Micah 6:1-8

**Introit: *I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say*
by Bernadette Farrell**

**Offertory Anthem: *Offertory* by John Ness Beck,
based on Micah 6:6-8.**

11:40 a.m. ~ Children's Choir (Choir Room)

5:00 p.m. ~ Youth Bells (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Group (West Building)

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Scott Williams, Glenn Woodrum

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Anne Abbott

WORSHIP AT HOME Robbie Branham, Denise Dunn

TELLER DUTY

Catharine Frerichs, Bronwyn McElveen

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING

(Jan. 29-Feb. 4) Anne Abbott

USHERS Jimmy Ezell, Beth Jackson

JUNIOR USHERS Amy Spivey, Caroline Moorman

YOUTH LITURGIST Will Croft

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

VOLUNTEERS

Committee Member – Nancy Spivey

Nursery – Markita Gadson

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Michael & Nancyhunter Blanding

Dear Church Family,

Can you not feel the excitement in the air? As we begin 2017, the energy and passion demonstrated by our church family is contagious. With the arrival of the Cheek family and the impact they have made the last few months reminds me of one of my favorite words "awesome". Sunday morning worship now is not only spiritual but engaging. We have embraced our "One Family" and continue to show the love and support for one another. The installation service for Pastor Nick was uplifting and in his words "we are now officially all stuck together." Your Session is eager to begin its plan of work and will not only need your prayers and support but your personal involvement and commitment to move First Presbyterian Church forward.



I could not begin this letter without a shout out to Elder Brian Frerichs and his Stewardship team for their excellent organization and visioning for this past Stewardship season. They challenged us to reflect on "What First Presbyterian Church means to me" and brought a sense of unity and pride for all. And did our family respond! Of the 181 pledge commitments received for the General Fund, over 60% either increased their financial pledge for 2017 from last year or was a brand new commitment to our general fund. Total pledged dollars to the General Fund were in excess of \$730,000 over the prior year of \$672,000 or approximately 9% increase. We also saw pledges of \$50,000 to our Capital Improvement Fund. Coupled with the successful Stewardship season one year ago, we have seen a remarkable turn around and commitment of financial resources back to this church. While the 2016 Financial Report is still being finalized, we WILL finish the year with a small positive surplus versus a sizeable operating loss in 2015. I believe the difference will be almost a \$100,000 swing. Your Finance Committee and Session had to make difficult decisions to bring our expenses in line with projected revenue. But we did and all are now focused on our bright future.

Thanks to your increased financial commitment, the Finance Committee has approved a 2017 Budget that will go to the Session next week for review and approval. But a sneak peek on the budget: it includes fully funding our new Senior Minister's overall financial package approved by the congregation, funds the new part time Pastor for Family Life position focused on our youth and their families, salary increases for our dedicated staff, increased funding and commitment on all Youth programs, and continued strong financial commitment outside of our church walls for various missions. This budget, however, is still tight and is dependent upon the continued financial commitment by *everyone* to do their part. But it is a budget we can all be proud of.

Your Session is ready to lead and implement its Plan of Work for 2017. However, we need your time and talents to be successful. The various Ministry teams need volunteers on the many important committees of the church so please say "yes" when asked. Better yet, call me, Nick, or any of our serving Elders and tell us how you want to serve. It is going to be an "awesome" year!

Bob Smith
Clerk of Session

In an effort to ensure everyone receives the newsletter in a more timely manner, beginning February 6, 2017, the Focus will be published on Tuesdays. Please submit all information to be included in that week's newsletter to Shirley Wood (swood@fpcsumter.org) no later than noon on Monday.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

- 11:30 a.m. Pastor's Lunch/Visitation Covenant Place
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Session Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pack 86..... West Building
- 6:30 p.m. Troop 86 Scout Hut

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

- 7:00 a.m. MSY Prayer BreakfastBaker's Sweets
- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 7:00 a.m. HSY Prayer BreakfastBaker's Sweets
- 12:30 p.m. Lectionary LunchMcLaurin Room
- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir..... Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 12:00 p.m. Sunday School CommitteeParlor
- 12:00 p.m. Capital ImprovementsMcLaurin Room
- 1:30 p.m. Quilting Class..... West Building

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 – Preschool Closed

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 9:00 a.m. "Care and Prayer" Session Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship..... Sanctuary
- 11:40 a.m. Children's Choir..... Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Handbells.....Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group West Building



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
JANUARY 29**

9:30 a.m. in the Chapel

All adult Sunday School classes are invited to the Chapel this Sunday. Pastor Nick will be speaking.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Presbyterian Women's Retreat
Saturday, March 11
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall**

Ashley Cheek will be our guest speaker presenting **Come Experience the Table, Come to me and I will give you rest**, taken from Matthew 11:28. Please contact Linda Hogon (803-775-4167 or lhogon03@yahoo.com) by March 3 to make your reservation. Bring a friend!



Parents, mark your calendars!

Children will sing during 10:30 worship on Sunday, February 12.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

At Home: Janet Kuhlman,
Betty Crosby,
Charles Shaw,
Anne Bell (11 Holland East Ct,
Simpsonville, SC 29681)



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Chal Glenn on the death of his sister, Stephanie Glenn, who died January 20, in Charlotte.

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.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
SPIRITUALITY RETREAT**

Saturday, February 4

**First Presbyterian Church of Bennettsville
(130 Broad Street, Bennettsville, SC)**



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

- 9:00 a.m. – Refreshments
- 9:30 a.m. – Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. – Retreat
- 12:30 p.m. – Closing (Lunch on your own)

**FOCUS ON FINANCES
Week beginning 01/015/2017**

	Received	
	This Week	YTD
Revenue		
Contributions	\$9,699.00	\$28,733.00
*Other Sources	<u>\$620.00</u>	<u>\$650.00</u>
	\$10,319.00	\$29,383.00
Disbursements	\$14,584.69	\$40,270.47
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$4,265.69)	(\$10,887.47)

**Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*

**Wednesday Luncheon
February 15, 12:30 p.m.**
(Fellowship Hall)

featuring
Lakewood Voices
under the direction of Herbert Johnson



\$5.00 Suggested Donation
Limited reservations available
by calling Suzanne Wates
at 803-469-0509