

# The First Edition

*First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC*

June 2019

www.pcanet.org  
Church Website: www.ellerbepca.com

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## **From the Pastor:**

I vaguely remember my Communicants Class. To be perfectly honest, I remember only one specific thing about it – the pastor explained to us the significance of the various seasons in the liturgical church calendar (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, etc.). I especially remember his stress on the appropriate colors to be worn in each season. I later came to Christ in a Baptist church where there was much less interest in such things. In time I became a Presbyterian and find myself in a tradition somewhere betwixt the two extremes. So, what do we do with seasons and days, holy days and holidays?

Let's start with the Scottish Presbyterians and Puritans. To be sure they were opposed to the full-fledged church calendar. Their rationale was essentially two-fold. First, it was their settled conviction that imposing a church calendar not found in the Bible was wrong because doing so involved binding the conscience of believers in an area where God had not bound it. Paul warns against the practice in such passages as Galatians 4:9-10 and Colossians 2:16. Second, an inordinate infatuation with the church calendar can easily have the effect (however unintended) of de-emphasizing the one truly holy day God has ordained for New Testament believers – the Lord's Day. From the resurrection of Jesus until he returns the first day of the week is set aside by God as a day to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the rest believers have in him. Yet despite their opposition to the church calendar, the Westminster divines would certainly not disallow corporate worship on special occasions and days other than the Lord's Day. Westminster Confession of Faith chapter 21 entitled "Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day" allows for "solemn fastings, and thanksgivings upon special occasions, which are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner" (WCF 21:5).

We do well to also consider the wisdom of the Continental Reformers such as John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli. While they likewise rejected the full-fledged church calendar, which had been imposed by the medieval Roman Catholic Church (and was unknown before the fourth century), they did allow for the so-called "five evangelical feasts." These include Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. If one adds Trinity Sunday to this list, the high points of the gospel message are taught and celebrated without becoming entangled with the full church calendar (*Leading in Worship* by Terry L. Johnson, 156). Note that giving a special focus to these "special days" does not mean giving inordinate attention to days set apart by our culture which have no foundation in scripture. Rather, setting apart these days, while keeping the weekly Christian Sabbath, the Lord's Day, both mandatory and primary, does point us to the scriptures where we find the tri-personal God and his marvelous works of salvation.

How we set our calendars affects everything – how we feel, who we are, what we do. So, as we plan our weeks and mark our days, let us look first to God's holy word. Then in areas where God is silent and we need wisdom let us allow our good tradition to inform our thinking, priorities, and action. If we do, we will be better Christians for it.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Layton

## **From the Session**

The Session met Wednesday evening, May 1, for the regular monthly stated meeting. As a general rule, meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month but was moved up due to our Revival.

Several members of the WIC appeared before the Session with information on renovating our pews and furniture in the Sanctuary, a project that has been long overdue. Also, new cushions for the pews was approved and are expected to be installed and completed prior to the August 2019 quarterly Presbytery, which our church will be hosting.

A pastor's report on ministry, activation, health and hospital, plans, and requests was received by the Session. The Emergency Action Plan Committee concerning church safety will meet Saturday, June 8 at 12:00 Noon with hotdogs and hamburgers being served. Needless to say, the Emergency Action Plan has been in place in the majority of churches for some time and is vital in the safety and protection of a worshipping church body.

New chairs for the Fellowship Hall have been approved, ordered, and now received and in place. A Revival Committee report was received and the Session is looking for a 2019 Vacation Bible School Director. If you are willing, please see one of our Session members. Your service will certainly be appreciated by all.

*Ruling Elder Billy Carter*



Circle II enjoyed their May Outing on May 21. Eight ladies traveled to the American Roadhouse in Asheboro for dinner and enjoyed food & fellowship. Meetings are suspended for Summer break with the next regular meeting resuming August 27th.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

Circle III met Tuesday, May 14. Marion Covington had the devotion from Mark 14:32-50, "My Father is With Me." Susan DeWitt led the lesson from Psalm 1, The Wisdom Psalm. The theme is about life's two roads. The life of the faithful person compared with the life of the faithless person. The project for May is to have two card showers. Jeanine Wall will lead the lesson during our next meeting on Tuesday, June 4 at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Please join us!

Susan DeWitt, *President*



## WIC Update

Several of the WIC ladies attended a Session meeting in May to present information about refurbishing the pews and furniture in the sanctuary and purchasing new pew cushions along with 40 pew pillows. The pillows will be available in the vestibule for people to pick up and use as they are seated. The furniture is showing wear and has scratches, thus the request for refurbishing and the cushions are worn and many buttons are missing. We learned that the cushions, along with professional furniture refurbishing, were last completed in the 1980s. Sample colors and forms of the cushions were shown and new cushions have been ordered. Two companies have come to the sanctuary and refurbished two items to show what their completed work would look like. Many people have compared the products and their feedback, along with pricing, has gone back to the Session.

Another WIC project is to publish a new membership directory and we expect this to be completed in June. This will be copied at the church and it will be in a computerized format where future edits can easily be made.

Thank you to Circle II for hosting the Revival covered dish luncheon. Circle III will host the Youth Sunday covered dish luncheon on Sunday, June 9.

Sandra Futrell, *WIC President*

## Youth Sunday

The following church members are graduating from Richmond Senior High School and will be recognized on Youth Sunday: Logan Michael Moore, Emily Renee Parsons, and Emma Olivia Russell.

We also recognize Adam Nicolas Latta who is graduating from college and Dylan Michael Wagers who is graduating from high school.

## Church Transportation

The Session is desirous of providing transportation for anyone wanting to worship but needs transportation. If you are willing to drive others to worship or know of anyone needing transportation to worship, please let a Session member know.

## Vacation Bible School

The Session is looking for persons to serve in Vacation Bible School in all the following capacities: Director, teaches, and helpers. Please let any Session member know if you are interest in serving.

## Special Fund

While working full-time, Timm Dazey continues to pursue seminary studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte. The Session has set up a fund to help defray Timm's seminary costs. Persons wishing to contribute to this fund should so designate on their checks.

## General Assembly

PCA General Assembly (Dallas, TX) is Tuesday, June 25 through Friday, June 29.

### Church Officers:

#### Ruling Elders

- Austin Bryant
- Bill Carter
- Tim Clark
- Timm Dazey
- Rickie DeWitt
- Robert Mabe
- Richard Smith
- Jimmy Wagers
- Tony Yates

#### Deacons

- Chris Meacham (class of 2019)
- Tommy White (class of 2019)

#### WIC Officers

- Sandra Futrell, President
- Patricia McCormick, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Jane Carriker, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Effie Meacham/Beth Meacham, Mission to the World Chair
- Jane Smith/Victoria Smith, Mission to North America Chair
- Lori Clark, Christian Growth Chair

## Greeters

2 M/M Mark Tyson  
 9 M/M Billy Carter  
 16 M/M Timm Dazey & Josh Dazey  
 23 M/M Chris Meacham  
 30 M/M Richard Smith

## Anniversaries



7 M/M Ricky Monroe  
 9 M/M Alex Bryant  
 15 M/M Tim Clark  
 20 M/M Perry Dawkins  
 23 M/M Pete Abbott  
 26 M/M Tony Yates  
 26 M/M Jamie Lambeth  
 28 M/M Andrew Snead



Happy  
 Birthday  
 June

1 Patrick McCormick  
 2 Barbara Wagers  
 3 Beth Meacham  
 3 John Quick  
 3 Ricky Monroe  
 13 Janie Carter  
 14 Robin Horne  
 15 Jewell Paul  
 15 Faye Fetter  
 16 Donald Murdock  
 16 Bill Carter  
 17 Kellie Sears  
 17 Beth Bryant  
 17 Amanda N. Moore  
 18 Kristi Wagers  
 19 Mary Nell Watson  
 19 Jennifer Lambeth  
 22 Lewis Paul Stewart  
 26 Joleen Moore  
 27 Clay Wagers  
 29 Marion Covington

**Prayer List:** Armed Forces and Families, Our President and national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Peace and Unity in our country, Judy Bennett, Jack Berry, Bill Bostick, Jerry Britt, Austin Bryant, Kevin Conner, A.T. Covington, Evon Craven, Sharon DeWitt, Ellerbe First Responders, Paul Fowler, Mark Futrell, Becky Henderson, Barbara Hill, Doris Hill, Tommy Kinney, Gayle Mabe, Meredith McBride, Dan McInnis, Shannon McNeill, Effie Meacham, Peyton Monroe, Mary Murdock, PCA General Assembly, Jewell Paul, Sami Poore, Sophia Potterfield, Hazel Rhyne, Cozette Rush, Carolyn Sellers, Mark Sellers, Jane Smith, Dawn Snead, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Peggy Townsend, Colton Williams, Katie White, Jack Yates, Unspoken Requests.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>Every Sunday:</b>            9:15 –9:45 am—Prayer season, conference room.            10:00 am—Sunday School opening in sanctuary followed by classrooms.            11:00 am—Worship service</p>						<p>1  <b>June 2019</b></p>
2	3	4 1:00 PM Circle III, fellowship hall	5 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	6	7	8 <b>12:00 PM Hotdogs/ Hamburgers for everyone hosted by Emergency Action Committee</b>
9 <b>Youth Sunday</b> 12:00 PM <b>Covered Dish Luncheon</b> 6:00 PM Prayer Service	10	11	12 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Session Meeting	13	14	15
16 <b>Happy Father's Day!</b> 6:00 PM Prayer Service	17	18	19 6:30 PM Bible Study	20	21	22
23 6:00 PM Prayer Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 6:00 PM Prayer Service						