

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

May 2019

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From the Pastor

In his humorous yet helpful little book *Think on These Things*, Donald E. Wildmon tells the story of a young boy who crawled under a big tent thinking it was a circus tent but was quite disappointed, having made his way in, to find he had instead entered a revival meeting (27). The anecdote serves the point of saying that unless we really do desire a true revival we might be a bit disappointed should we find ourselves in the midst or wake of one.

In his masterful book *The Holy Spirit* Geoffrey Thomas has a chapter entitled “The Holy Spirit and Revival” and in one small section of this book Thomas notes how true revivals tend to make us afraid. He writes, “Though we may be reluctant to admit it, we Christians in the twenty-first century are comfortable in our routines, thinking that the godliness we have attained in life is our limit. Do we really want a confrontation with God the Holy Spirit, which by the Word will break our pride and increase tenfold our zeal for serving Jesus Christ? Do we want the next years to be filled, night after night, in counseling guilty, troubled sinners and pointing them to the Savior? This commitment would demand much from us; it would take us away from pleasant evenings in the family room with our families. We want our churches to grow, but not through something that makes demands on our souls and our lives. If we are truly committed to praying for a mighty work of God in our hometown, it will cost us time, energy, and a bruising of our souls” (*The Holy Spirit* by Geoffrey Thomas, 216).

Indeed, when God brings true revival people crave more of worship, not less. They are not content with Sunday morning and evening worship, They seek out other opportunities during the week and make them a priority, over sports and arts, TV and trivia. Like the post-Pentecost church of Acts 2 worship becomes a central part of life. When God brings revival, people with all sorts of sins and addictions and backgrounds are converted and enveloped into the loving family called the church. When God brings revival, those things which divide the church such as race and class dissolve in light of the cross of Christ which unites us (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). When God brings revival, love for Christ is such that his people will rather suffer for him than enjoy comfort and ease without him. When the Lord brings revival, there is such a love for the brethren that believers would rather part with valuables than see brothers and sisters in need (Acts 2:44-5; 4:32-7). These are just a sampling of the things we might experience should the Lord bring true revival.

The question is then “Do we really want revival?” We should. The scriptures charge us both implicitly and explicitly to pray for Revival. The prophet Habakkuk prayed, “O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy” (Hab. 3:2 ESV). The psalmist prayed similarly, “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” (Ps. 85:6). Do we really want revival? If we are honest, we may be saying “Now that I have thought about it, I am not so sure.” If that is the case, perhaps the best way for us to prepare for Revival is to pray with King David, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” (Ps. 139:23-4).

As we prepare for “Revival” perhaps we should do as Donald Wildmon suggests and “think on these things.”

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Layton

Revival Services

Sunday, May 5—
Wednesday, May 8

Prayer Services will be
held at 6:45 pm in the
Conference Room.

Revival Services are at
7:15 pm.

Circle News

Circle II met on Tuesday night, April 16th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall with 6 members in attendance, plus guest Beth Bryant. Lori Clark presented lesson three from our new study in the Fruit of the Spirit – Joy entitled “Joy in God’s Word” based on Psalm 119:9-16, 105-112. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you (v 11). Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (v 105).

Circle II wishes to thank the ladies that attended our Salad Supper in March. We had a nice attendance and enjoyed the food along with the fellowship. Our Spring Fling was another successful event and we thank all who attended as well as helped in any way to make it a success. It was certainly a pleasure to fellowship with other ladies from our neighboring churches.

We hosted the annual Easter Egg/Scavenger Hunt on April 20th and had a great turnout for the event. All enjoyed a pizza party and had a nice day to hunt for eggs and scavenge for hidden items. For April, we also made a monetary love gift to a person of need in our community. For the month of May our project will be to purchase Relay for Life luminaries in honor and in memory of those with cancer. We will be hosting our Revival luncheon on May 8th following the worship service. Circle members will also be enjoying their usual May outing before going on Summer break.

We would like to extend an invitation to all ladies in the church to join us for good food and fellowship. Our next regular meeting will be August 27th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

The Circle III meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 1:00 pm. Marion Covington had the devotion titled *Tree of Love* from Matthew 27:27-35. Jeanine Wall led the Bible study which was an introduction to the Book of Psalms. There are new study books which have been approved by the Session.

The projects for April were to host the Maundy Thursday refreshments and assist with the Spring Fling. We also provided a \$20 gift card to a sick member. The project for May is to purchase American Cancer Society Relay for Life luminaries in memory of Circle sisters Mary Black, Janette Mabe, Ruby Henderson, Dorene Griffith, Ruby Hill, Connie Parsons, and Mollie Snyder.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 7 at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall and Susan DeWitt will lead the lesson. Please join us!

Susan DeWitt, *President*



WIC Update

The WIC Love Gift covered dish dinner was held Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Circle 2 for hosting this event. The Love Gift offering remains open through the end of April. There is not a PCA sponsored Love Gift this year, so the funds will remain local.

After the dinner, the WC held the quarterly meeting. New draft by-laws were presented and ladies were asked to review these and send edits to Jan Stivers. The by-laws will be finalized during the July meeting.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Spring Fling a big success with approximately 40 ladies attending, including two other PCA churches with ladies joining us. The food was wonderful, the crafts prepared and led by Lori Clark was fun, Beth Meacham had an inspirational devotion and provided everyone with bookmarks, and Ginny Layton presented the music accompanied by Donna White on the piano.

Thank you to Circle 3 for hosting the Maundy Thursday refreshments. Circle 2 will host the covered dish luncheon as Revival services start on Sunday, May 5.

Sandra Futrell, *WIC President*

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.

Greeters

5 Mike Poplin
 12 M/M Tony Yates
 19 Rickie DeWitt
 26 M/M Tim Clark & Family

Anniversaries

1 M/M Caleb Smith
 9 M/M Mark Tyson
 15 M/M Tony Russell
 23 M/M Dan Allen
 26 M/M Kevin Stivers
 26 M/M John Schrenker
 27 M/M Matthew Blades
 30 M/M Ronnie McLendon
 31 M/M Chris Meacham
 31 M/M Mike Wagers



Happy
 Birthday
 May

1 Matt Wagers
 1 Connie McLendon
 2 Jim Watson
 7 Steve Bryant
 8 Timm Dazey
 8 Alexandra Russell
 8 Pastor Stan Layton
 10 Tess Bryant
 11 Barbara Hoffman
 11 Jan Stivers
 12 Jimmy Richardson
 12 Caleb Smith
 15 Marie Fulp
 15 Meg Watson
 16 Mercedes Bryant
 17 Pete Abbott
 18 Walker Lambeth
 20 Mike Wagers
 21 Mitchell Carter
 26 Dusty Stewart
 26 Chris Richardson
 26 Chris DeWitt
 30 Ruby Dunn

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, Jerry Britt, Austin Bryant, Kevin Conner, A.T. Covington, Evon Craven, Kevin Craven, Sharon DeWitt, Ellerbe First Responders, Mark Futrell, Becky Henderson, Barbara Hill, Doris Hill, Tommy Kinney, Gayle Mabe, Meredith McBride, Mike McFayden, Dan McInnis, Shannon McNeill, Effie Meacham, Peyton Monroe, Mary Murdock, Jewell Paul, Sami Poore, Sophia Potterfield, Hazel Rhyne, Cozette Rush, Carolyn Sellers, Mark Sellers, Jane Smith, Dawn Snead, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Colton Williams, Katie White, Jack Yates, Unspoken Requests.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May <div> Every Sunday: 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 </div>			1 6:00 pm Dinner and Bible Study (meal provided) 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting 7:00 pm Session Meeting	2	3	4 2:00—4:00 pm Farewell Reception for Bob and Becky Henderson
5 12:00 Covered dish luncheon 6:45 pm Prayer meeting, conference room 7:15 pm Revival Service	6 12:00 Bible Study 6:45 pm Prayer meeting, conference room 7:15 pm Revival Service	7 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 pm Circle 3 meeting 6:45 pm Prayer meeting, conference room 7:15 pm Revival	8 12:00 Bible Study 6:45 pm Prayer meeting, conference room 7:15 pm Revival Service	9	10	11
12 Happy Mother's Day! 6:00 pm Prayer Service	13	14	15 6:00 pm Covered dish meal & Youth Ministry Presentation	16	17	18
19 6:00 pm Prayer Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 6:00 pm Prayer Service	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

From the Session

The quarterly Joint Session/Diaconate meeting was held Wednesday evening, April 10, prior to the regular monthly stated Session meeting. The Session commended the Deacons for their hard work and faithful service to the church. Here at Ellerbe First PCA, our Deacons have a long and outstanding history of dedication, not only to our church and members, but more importantly our Lord. Following the joint meeting, the Session held the regular monthly meeting.


A health and hospital update was brought forth by Teaching Elder Mr. Layton with concerns of the shut-ins. A reminder was noted by Mr. Layton that he would be away April 22—25 attending the annual Twin Lakes Fellowship and also he will be on vacation May 20-26. Ruling Elder Timm Dazey will occupy the pulpit for the Sunday morning service on May 26 in his absence. During May 29-31, Mr. Layton will be in Atlanta for a Review of Presbyterian Records.

A report from the Revival Committee was heard and a revised membership roll was discussed and updated. The annual year end financial report was approved and the Session approved the Circle III request for books to be ordered by Mr. Layton. The May stated meeting has been moved to May 1 instead of the normal second week of the month.

Ruling Elder Billy Carter

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.

Choir Notes  The choir presented the annual Easter Cantata, *And the Crowd Cried Out*, prior to the Maundy Thursday evening service on April 18 in the church sanctuary. The setting was fitting with the stage adorned in an array of palm trees enhancing the true meaning of Easter. Under the direction of Ted Futrell, the choir offered a theme of Easter renditions supporting the title. Opening with *And the Crowd Cried Out* featuring Ginny Layton as soloist and backed by the choir, and ending with the all powerful version of *Holy Ground* by Wesley Futrell, truly reflected the Easter story. The choir members are to be thanked for their hard work and faithful service in planning and presenting this event. For this, we are grateful to Ted Futrell, all the members of the choir, and to Donna White, accompanist and to Ruby Dunn, organist. May this effort to our choir be pleasing to our Lord.

A time of fellowship and refreshments was held in the fellowship hall following the Cantata and Maundy Thursday worship service.

In Spiritual Hope, Billy Carter

Youth Sunday

High School and college graduates will be recognized on Youth Sunday. Please let a Session member know of any church member who is graduating from high school or college.

Farewell Reception

Everyone is invited to a drop-in Farewell Reception for Bob and Becky Henderson on Saturday, May 4, 2:00—4:0 pm in the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship with two of our oldest church members.

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

REVIVAL SERVICES 2019

Revival: Our Revival will be held May 5th – 8th. The theme is “The Way to God.” Dr. Rick Light is our visiting speaker. A native of Kingsport, TN, Dr. Light is the Senior Pastor of the Eastern Heights Presbyterian Church in Bristol, TN. In addition to his pastoral duties, Dr. Light is a sought-after evangelistic speaker and trainer. He also serves as the Executive Director of Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship. Dr. Light and his wife Evangeline have three children, Joshua, Nathan and Victoria and five grandchildren.

Themes: Nightly themes will be as follows:

Sunday Night.....	Community Night
Monday Night.....	Youth & Bring a Friend Night
Tuesday Night.....	Family Night
Wednesday Night.....	Sunday School Night

Prayer Services: Pre-service prayer meetings will be held nightly at 6:45 pm, with worship services to follow at 7:15 pm. The nursery will be open during the prayer meetings. The men and women will meet together in the Conference Room, with Mr. Layton leading in prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come and pray for our revival services.

Noon Bible Studies: Dr. Light will conduct studies from 1 Samuel on Monday through Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please call Lori Clark (910-995-0687) or Mike Poplin (336-416-4657) if you, or someone you know, needs transportation for the noon study.

Meals: A covered dish lunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 5th, immediately following the worship service. Circle II is hosting. Everyone is invited to bring food and remain for the luncheon. Meals will also be provided for the ministers and their families at 6:00 pm Monday through Wednesday evenings:

Monday Night.....	Diaconate & Youth
Tuesday Night.....	Session
Wednesday Night.....	Sunday School Classes

Special Music: Special music will be provided Sunday Morning and each evening:

Sunday Morning.....	First Presbyterian Church Choir
Sunday Night	The Cameronian Quartet
Monday Night	Ginny Layton
Tuesday Night.....	Jeanine Hanson
Wednesday Night.....	Cameronian Presbyterian Church Choir

Nursery: Nursery will be provided as needed each evening beginning at 6:45 pm so that parents can attend the nightly prayer meetings and services.

Transportation: Please contact Lori Clark (910-995-0687) or Mike Poplin (336-416-4657) if you need transportation to or from the nightly services.