

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

February 2018

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

Volume XXVIII Edition 2

From the Pastor:

How can we tell when a church is being effective and when one is not? How are we to judge whether God is at work in a body of Christ or whether he is not? Quite often we look at numbers. And numbers are important. Jesus commanded us to make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20) and he promised that if he is lifted up he will draw people to himself (John 12:32). Effective churches will, as a rule, be growing in some tangible ways, including numerically. The problem is that numbers can be read in more than one way and they do not always tell the whole story.

For one thing, numbers cannot quantify holiness. Further, the Lord may be doing some really good things that do not show up in the numbers. For instance, the Lord may be strengthening marriages; God may be preparing future leaders for future service. God's people may be repenting over sin and resolving by grace to conquer besetting sin. Believers may be growing their passion for Christ and their determination to witness more often; all the while, they may be seeing few, if any conversions.

We live in a world which is results-oriented and in many, if not most, cases those results are quantifiable. But perhaps we should be more concerned with the process than the result. There is not a more successful person in America than Nick Saban (though this Auburn fan takes no delight in acknowledging such), the football coach at the University of Alabama. He has now won six national championships, including five in the last nine years. Yet Saban is quoted as saying that he is much more interested in the process than the result. The reason is that he knows he has much more control over the process than the result. If that is true on the football field, then how much more in the church? When it comes to kingdom matters, the results are in many ways left up to God; the process, meanwhile, is something for which we are responsible.

But how do we evaluate the process? What are the signs that the "process" is working in a church? There is one key phrase which recurs in the book of Acts (and elsewhere) that gives us a clue. Three times in Acts, Luke tells us that the word of God (or "word of the Lord") increased (6:7; 12:24; 19:20). That's it. That is what we are responsible for. That is the question we need to be asking – Is the word of God increasing? Is it going forth faithfully in our worship services and discipleship venues? Is the Word prevailing upon us personally and having its way in our hearts? Is the Word strengthening our marriages? Are our children and grandchildren being exposed to the Word in family worship and youth meetings? Are others in our neighborhood being exposed to the Word by our witness? Are unbelievers being exposed to the Word in our worship services and through our ministries? Are we praying that the seed of the Word will bear fruit as it is cast?

Let's make sure we get the process right, and then leave the results to God. As one of my favorite preachers likes to say, **"The Word does the work."** We just need to make sure the Word is increasing. If we do the Lord will bring tangible results in his time and way.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Layton

Senior Citizen & Grandparents Luncheon Sunday, February, 18th, Noon

Hosted by the Youth and Circle 2

The meal includes stewed beef with rice, salad, bread, green beans and dessert.

Door prizes will be awarded. RSVP by February 11 to Sandra Futrell, Jeanine Wall, or Ginny Layton. Looking forward to a good meal and special fellowship!

Circle News

Circle II met Tuesday night, January 30 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Circle II met on Tuesday night, January 30th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Members enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Kim Yates. She presented lesson one from our study in the Fruit of the Spirit – Peace: Overcoming Anxiety and Conflict entitled “Coping with Anxiety” based on Philippians 4:4-9 “We all suffer from fears and anxieties of various sorts. Yet, if we fail to deal with our anxieties, they can cripple and immobilize us. In Philippians 4, Paul gives us a prescription for inner peace. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Circle II is collecting canned food for their annual Souper Bowl. Boxes have been placed in the vestibule and fellowship hall for donations. Plans are being made for the next Movie Night in February. Look for more details in our Sunday bulletin when the date is set and approved by the Session. Our agenda has been updated for 2018 and members look forward to another exciting year of service to our Lord.

Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:30 pm hosted by Lori Clark. We invite any lady not involved in Circle to join us.

Patricia McCormick, Secretary

Circle III met Tuesday, January 9 with seven members present. Marion Covington had the devotion titled “Do Not Dwell on the Past” from a book by Sara Young, with the scripture from Isaiah 14:3, 18-19, and Psalm 118:24, 16:11.

The project for January was to collect a special offering for the Sandhills Children’s Center in honor of Josh Dazey and Clay Wagers. Seventy dollars was donated. Beth Bryant, WIC president, presented information concerning the WIC. The Circle purchased a gift for Cozette Rush in honor of her 90th birthday.

Jeanine Wall led the lesson, “Our Mother’s Legacy” about disagreements in the church in Corinth and letters from Paul to the new believers. We have been called out from the world to be different, we are to work in harmony and look at those new in Christ as a new person and not to look at their past.

The project for February is to bring goodies for the Valentine bags that will be given to college students, military personnel, and shut-ins. There will not be a lesson. The next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 1:00 pm in the old Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Jan Stivers, Secretary



WIC Update

The WIC quarterly meeting was held Tuesday, January 9. The refreshment committee, Ruby Dunn and Barbara Ingram, provided a delicious light meal. Pastor Stan gave an update from the Session with several topics including the church grounds maintenance, WIC budget, Wednesday night meals prior to Bible study which the WIC will assist with, the WIC’s desire to organize the library, and research about mission trips. Information about mission trip opportunities will be given to the WIC.

I provided the Missions to the World (MTW) program, opening with devotion from Matthew 2: 16-20 about The Great Commission. Information was shared from the MTW website, www.mtw.org. A short video was presented from the website about church planting in Peru. Key points include that church planting encompasses being involved in the community as much as planting a church. Another video featured missionaries in Cambodia, Haiti, Germany, and Bulgaria. Handouts were distributed including: How to pray for Missions; Suggested prayer topics for 30 days; MTW teams; and a MTW Journey book written by missionaries.. There was a fee for the journey book and I suggested reading about one reflection each day, and requested that the book be passed along to someone else after reading it.

Final edits were made to the WIC 2018 program and copies are available in the vestibule. A Library Committee has been formed and a few ladies volunteered, Ruby Dunn and Barbara Wagers. It was noted that Nancy Daughtery will also be asked to assist. Others are welcome to contact me if they have an interest in this project. If there are new addresses or edits to the college and military list, please give these to Kim Yates. The meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction.

Beth Bryant, WIC President

From the Session

A Joint Session and Diaconate meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 18. The very importance of The Safety and Security System was discussed with more information on this plan provided by Ruling Elder (RE) Austin Bryant. As we are all aware, this is a lengthy and slow process requiring many long hours of training and classes by a dedicated safety committee as we face the needs of the future in our church.

Following the joint meeting, the Session had the regular stated monthly meeting. Mr. Layton discussed the possibility of an Inquirers class in which some interest has been shown. After approval by the Session, it is scheduled to begin in February. Also, a Young Adult ministry was mentioned and will be discussed at a later time.

The Session will begin an advanced study on reformed worship from a book, *Reformed Worship* by Terry L. Johnson. This will be part of the monthly called meetings. An update on the Potterfield triplets, grandchildren of RE Tony and Kim Yates, was heard with special prayers offered. The 2018 Commissioner Schedule was approved along with the Women in the Church 2018 agenda. Mr. Layton's request to attend the annual Twin Lakes Fellowship conference in the spring was approved.

Attention was brought forth concerning the recent vandalism which occurred in the Fellowship Hall, in the community, and downtown businesses with seriousness and responsibilities discussed. The Session approved a one time gift to the Pee Dee Pregnancy Center (Sanctity of Life).

Ruling Elder Billy Carter

It seems as if 2018 has just begun yet we are already in February. With a positive attitude, the choir began the New Year devoted to our purpose, supported by determination to serve our church and our Lord. Yes, time does move on and we as a choir continue to

Choir Notes



follow God's timetable encouraged by dedication to him. Although it's early in the year and we have just celebrated Christmas, it's not too early to turn our thoughts toward Easter which is April 1. Choir Director Ted Futrell is in the preliminary stages of selecting special music for our annual Easter cantata. His dedication to our church and choir is sincerely appreciated by everyone. May we give thanks to our Lord for our choir and may his blessings carry forward to each of us throughout 2018. May we meet every challenge shielded by His love and mercy.

In Christian Love, Billy Carter

Church Security

In light of recent events and for security purposes, we encourage everyone who uses the church to be alert to any church doors or windows which might be unnecessarily unlocked or open and to ensure all doors used are locked upon exiting. Your cooperation is very much appreciated

Special Fund

The Session has set up a fund to help defray Timm Dazey's seminary costs. Persons wishing to contribute to this fund should designate so on their checks.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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			February	1	2	3 10:00 am Ladies Bible study with Lor- raine Buracker
4 10:00 am Inquirers Class 5:30—7:00 pm Youth Group	5	6 1:00 pm Cir- cle 3		8	9	10 7:00 am Men of the Covenant Breakfast Youth Bowling
11 10:00 am Inquirers Class	12	13		15	16	17
18 10:00 am Inquirers Class 12:00 Sr. Citizen/ Grandparent luncheon	19	20		22	23	24
25 10:00 am Inquirers Class	26	27 6:30 pm Circle 2				

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)
- Buck Smith (class of 2018)
- Tommy White (class of 2019)

WIC Officers

- Beth Bryant, President
- Mollie Snyder, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Jane Carriker, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Effie Meacham, Mission to the World Chair
- Victoria Smith, Mission to North America Chair
- Lori Clark & Patricia McCormick,
Christian Growth Co-Chairs

Greeters

4 M/M Mark Tyson
11 M/M Billy Carter
18 M/M Timm Dazey & Josh Dazey
25 M/M Chris Meacham

Anniversaries

4 M/M Stan Layton
14 M/M Tom Covington
20 M/M Steve Goodman



Happy Birthday
February



Prayer List: Armed Forces and Families, Our President and national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Peace and Unity in our country, Dan Allen, Steve Allen, Phyllis Barton, Jack Berry, Joyce Britt, Eddie Brown, Austin Bryant, Steve and Brenda Campbell, Hannah Faith Carr, Mary Ellen Carter, Tommy Childers, A.T. Covington, Barry and Renee Craven, Evon Craven, Rebecca Dale, Barbara Davis, Betty Dawkins, Perry Dawkins, Bill DeVoss, Sharon DeWitt, Wade Dyar, Mark Futrell, Sara Godwin, Polly Greene Family, Doris Hill, Ken Hill, Dee Kennett, Connie Little, Roger Lovin, Kim Marlin, Jimmy Martin, Meredith McBride, Robert McCormick, Dan McInnis, Bobby Meadows Family, Mary Murdock, John Neal, Jane North, Larry Parsons, Cassie Patrick, Jewel Paul, Larry Paxton, Elizabeth Potterfield, Tripp Potterfield, Rhett Potterfield, Nora Potterfield, Sophia Potterfield, Sami Poore, Mike Ransom, Charles Rhyne, Judy Richardson, Earl Rose, Cozette Rush, Buck Scott, Buck Smith, Mike Snead, Herman and Naomi Stutts, Betty Sullivan, Cary Thompson, Katie Tyson, Regina Uribe, Denise Vernon, Hayley White, Betty Williamson, Jack Yates, Unspoken Requests.

5 John Sears, Jr.
8 Ted Futrell
10 Bradley McInnis
12 Lauren Clark
13 Kevin Stivers
17 Barbara Sears
21 Lorie Tatum
27 Shelly Russell
27 Wayne Wright
28 Marty Goodman

Youth News

McKenzie Ward, a freshman at Peace College in Raleigh, has made the Dean's List for the first semester. She is also a starting pitcher for the Girl's Varsity Softball team.

Refreshments for Youth

The youth have begun meeting on Sunday night once a month. We are combining our youth with Rourke youth and meeting here at our church. Our church will be providing the refreshments. We would like to have your help with refreshments. If you are interested in helping please place your name on the sign up sheet located on the old fellowship/Sunday School bulletin board. Thank you for helping us make this a very successful and rewarding endeavor.