



First Presbyterian Church  
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Volume 20, Issue 9  
September, 2018

Dear Ones,

I write this on what would have been Sen. John McCain's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Today he lies in state in the Arizona State Capital. This begins a solemn celebration of his life, which will conclude with his burial at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. The impact of his life will go forward in profound ways.

I was struck by something Ted Churn, Executive Presbyter of New Hope Presbytery, sent out this week. Ted posted a copy of the last page of John McCain's last book. These last words are all poignant, but one part of the farewell was especially powerful to me:

*I leave behind a loving wife who is devoted to protecting the world's most vulnerable, and seven great kids who grew up to be fine men and women. I wish I had spent more time in their company..... Their love for me and mine for them is the last strength I have."*

This resonated with me because I missed too much of my children's growing up, as did my father before me, my own. Harry Chapin's, "Cat's in the Cradle" stings as only hard truth can. I was about noble work, as he was, and my life was way out of balance. It's a shame such wisdom comes in hindsight.

As we prepare to celebrate Labor Day, I don't mean to beat up on myself, my dad, or anyone else who has worked hard...maybe too hard.... to provide for others. The oft heard line, "Here are some last words you'll never hear: 'I wish I had spent more time at the office,' "may be true. But, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop." This is true, also. Let us not forget that the command, "Honor the Sabbath day to keep it holy," a command to rest, is followed by a command to work: "Six days you shall labor, and do all your work." But if I could speak a word to young fathers and mothers, it would echo John McCain's last one: "Spend more time with your family. Love them with the strength you have, while you have time and strength."

One last thing. I was making up for wrong choices and lost time on Monday, sitting in the pediatrician's office with Sally for Corinne and Walker's appointments. ( Sadly, I don't believe I was ever present for any of my children's pediatric appointments.) Corinne and I were playing make believe with the dragon and the princess and the supporting cast of plastic characters on the waiting room's play table. Walker was in Sally's arms, bobbing his little wobbling head like a drunken sailor. This was before his shots. There were two other mothers there, toddlers in tow. Their children were playing, too, and bidding their mothers to join in, or at least to notice. The mothers were entirely occupied on their phones They would come up for air occasionally, and then quickly descend again. We were in close enough quarters for me to see that their scrolling was not work related.

Mothers, fathers, grand parents, and all other parts of the village it takes to raise a child, I say to you now what I had to restrain myself from saying to those mothers: "Put your phones down, for heaven's sake." I resist adding in the appropriate expletive. Work when you must work. And when you are with your children, **really and truly be WITH them.**

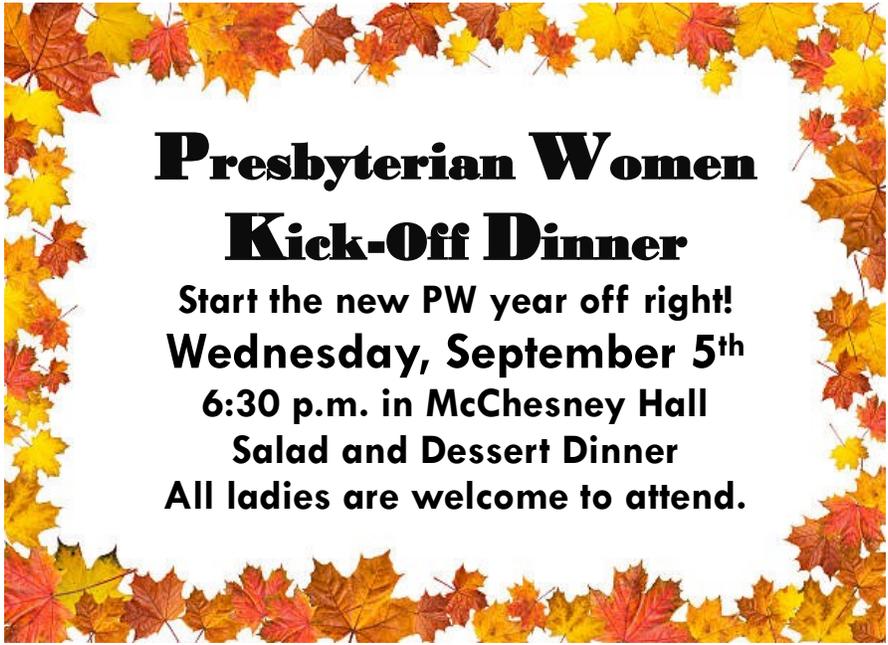
Love,  
Bob





## **Presbyterian Women Kick-Off Dinner**

Start the new PW year off right!  
**Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 p.m. in McChesney Hall  
Salad and Dessert Dinner  
All ladies are welcome to attend.



## **Discipleship Sunday**

**Sunday, September 09**

9:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast  
(McChesney Hall)

9:30 a.m. presentation of Bibles,  
introduction of Sunday school classes,  
prayer and dismissal (Chapel).



## **confirmation**

### **Class of 2019**

September 9, 2018 through May 5, 2019  
Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**Rising 6 & 7 grades**

Teaching Team: Bill & Lisa Royall,  
Susan Stackhouse, and  
Katherine Parker.

Register with Mary Taneti.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

Join us every Wednesday from September 19 through November 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

FPC family will meet for Bible Study, Worship and Dinner.

- 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study (chapel)
- 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Children and youth Bible Study (upstairs)
- 5:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Worship and singing (chapel)
- 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Fellowship and dinner (activity center)

**Please note:** childcare available from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Please request ahead of time.



## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

**The Chancel Choir will begin September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Everyone is welcome to come and join the choir. No experience is needed!

- 1 Mr. Mike Pate
- 2 Shawn Bronner
- 3 Henry Faircloth  
Ms. Stephanie Slusser
- 4 Mr. Mun Best
- 8 Mrs. Mary Glenn Pittman
- 9 Mrs. Barbara Goss  
Mrs. Jackie Joseph
- 10 Mrs. Sue Blackshear
- 11 Mrs. Peggy Till

happy,  
happy  
birthday  
to you!

- 15 Mrs. Fran Boyce
- 16 Mrs. Betsy Neese
- 18 Mrs. Barbara Huff  
Mr. Tom Johnson
- 19 Mrs. Susan Stackhouse
- 21 Mrs. Lucy Warren  
Mrs. Joyce Wooten
- 25 Ms. Joyce Keller
- 26 Mrs. Mary Ann Parker  
Mr. Terry Cottle
- 28 Mrs. Jerri Holland
- 30 Mrs. Emma Jordan



**Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Children and youth**

**Meet at Kangaroo Sams**

**2001 N. William Street**

**Come and bring a friend!**

**Let Mary know if you are coming.**



# Clothing Give Away

Saturday, October 6, 2018  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
Activity Center  
1101 E. Ash Street

**Please begin cleaning out your closets  
and bringing your clothes to the church.**

For the fourth year in a row the Mission Committee is having a Clothing Give Away Saturday, October 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the gym. We trust that our congregation will again be generous in bringing lots of good, clean clothing, on hangers, that they or their children or grandchildren have either outgrown or no longer need or wear. We also ask that you enlist your friends to do the same. A donation receipt will be available if desired. Please mark the clothes by size and gender. We will start sorting and setting up for the event on Monday, October 1, at 9:00 a.m. and will need help throughout the week. Also, on Saturday morning, helpers are needed to assist the guests with their clothing selection.

**GOD HAS BLESSED US, TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!**



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	Rev. Bob Bardin
Sept. 9	Rev. Bob Bardin
Sept. 16	Rev. Bob Bardin
Sept. 23	Rev. Bob Bardin
Sept. 30	Rev. Bob Bardin

### ELDERS

Sept. 3	Linda Brown
Sept. 10	Malcolm Shearin
Sept. 17	Kim Brogden
Sept. 24	Scott Gibson



### DEACONS

Robin Wilson
Rosalyn Lomax
Ellen Jordan
Toby Brown

### USHERS

Deacon-in-Charge: Sonny Wooten  
Co-Deacon: Pam Jennette  
Ushers: Bob Campbell, Charlotte Campbell

### CHANCEL GUILD

Angie Best and Wanda Starling

