



**A community of faith!**

**Church Staff:**  
 Thomas E. Bishop,  
 Organist/Director of Music  
 Lori Todd,  
 Program Director  
 Vicki S. Grady,  
 Secretary  
 Michael Jones,  
 Custodian

**Sunday  
 Schedule**  
 9:45 am  
 Sunday School  
 11:00 am  
 Worship Service



## Jacob Robbins receives the Eagle Scout Designation

During worship on July 24th, Jacob Robbins was awarded the Eagle Scout designation from the leaders of his scouting program.

Jacob is a member of Troop 42 sponsored by Grace United Methodist Church. He has worked his way through the ranks earning all required badges on his path to the Eagle award. His Eagle Scout Leadership Project consisted of the restoration of the McKissick Cemetery in the Pea Ridge section of Union County. The project consisted of:

- ◇ removing fallen trees, thinning trees, clearing underbrush and vines
- ◇ installing 20 posts around the cemetery to mark the boundary
- ◇ clearing a walking path to the cemetery, with posts to mark the path
- ◇ installing a sign at the road to identify the cemetery location
- ◇ installing two additional signs within the cemetery (one to direct people to the Union County Museum for research and another that is a poem... THE RECORDING OF A CEMETERY)
- ◇ installing a sitting bench

Over 200 man hours went into this project. Jacob was helped by friends, other scouts, and family members to complete this project.

# Tower Talk

August 2011 Online at [www.fpcunion.com](http://www.fpcunion.com)

***Great Is Thy  
 Faithfulness***

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O  
 God my Father, There is no  
 shadow of turning with  
 Thee;*

*Thou changest not,  
 Thy compassions they fail  
 not;*

*As Thou hast been Thou  
 forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new  
 mercies I see; All I have  
 needed Thy hand hath  
 provided;*

*Great is Thy faithfulness,  
 Lord, unto me!*

*Presbyterian Hymnal, pg. 276*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**  
 101 West South Street  
 Union, SC 29379

Return Service Requested

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are going to miss you terribly! What a blessing this church family has been to us. God has truly blessed us during our time with you. Thank you for your love, your generosity, and your kindness. I am hopeful for this next chapter in all of our lives because God is good and we are God's people. I hope and pray that we will all trust in the Lord in these coming days and seek God's Kingdom FIRST and God's righteousness. God will provide all that we need.

At the request of the session I am including my final letter to them from our July meeting. I hope that you will join me in being hopeful! God bless you all.

"It is easy to look back over my time in Union and wonder what would have happened if I had done things differently. I cannot say that I "regret" anything that has happened here and I am glad for that. I have made plenty of mistakes but I have learned a lot from them and I would not trade that education for anything. I can honestly say that every time a decision was made it was made after much thought and prayer. I will not say that I always heard God's voice clearly. Sometimes we have stepped out in faith – unsure of what was on the other side of a decision – and have learned that a decision was the wrong one or at least made at the wrong time. Other times we have found success and joy and celebration. Whatever the case, God has been with us, and continues to be with us as we "seek to be God's faithful people through worship, discipleship, service, and above all else, love!"

I am hopeful! Some have expressed concern for the future of this church in particular and "the church" in general. I am pretty sure that those who are concerned for "the church" mean the PC(USA), for there is no reason to be concerned for the church universal. God's promise to us is that the "gates of hell will not prevail" against the church universal. Christ is the head of the church and that head will always find a body to lead in faithful ministry in the world. Will First Presbyterian Church be a part of that Body? Well...we are! And I believe we will continue to be.

I am hopeful because despite our declining membership people continue to come to worship. People bring me bulletins from their experiences in other congregations on any given Sunday. People worship as families in their own homes and when they are away on vacation. I am hopeful because we believe in the centrality of worship to the life and health of the church...although some think it is all that they need to do...and that is something to work on.

I am hopeful because despite the economy we have continued to pay our bills and support people involved in important missions and ministries around the world. We have maintained and cared for our facilities, including a beautiful manse which will help attract a new minister.

We have been good stewards of our financial resources and there is a desire to find new and exciting ministries to support with the generous gifts of God's people. We have shared many, many thousands of dollars with people in our community who are in need and some of those have made First Presbyterian their church home.

# Rally Day

## The Beginning of the new Church School Year!

Church School is the place where we:

- learn and grow in our knowledge of the Bible.
- form relationships with other members of our church.
- focus on the importance of studying God's Word when so many things try to distract us.

28th **This year we want EVERY MEMBER to be involved in some form of Christian Education!**

According to the *Book of Order*, all members should be studying scripture. Sunday School and Bible study opportunities are our church's way of helping you fulfill this commitment. Daily devotions are important for all of us, but studying together gives us the chance to discuss and determine what God is saying to us as a church. Make Christian Education a priority for you and your family starting this fall!

### Rally Day Schedule:

**9:30 am—Breakfast  
Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am—Program  
Sanctuary**

### Sunday School Offering

In June, \$80 was added to the VBS offering and sent to the Society of St. Andrew to assist in sending produce to food banks and soup kitchens throughout the country.

The August offering will be sent to Thornwell Home for Children to help purchase school supplies and other items for the cottages.

## Children and Youth:

**August takes our children and youth Back To**

**School!** For some, it will be exciting; for some, it will be scary; for all, it will be a time to learn. Not everything will be taught by the teachers. Choices will be necessary to determine which things are in keeping with their Christian beliefs and upbringing and which things are not.

Please keep all of our young people in prayer as they begin a new year of school or college. Pray, also, for the teachers and staff members that play such a vital role in the lives of our children.

**Join us Sunday, August 14th**, during worship for a special time of prayer for our school children and the adults who work with them.

## Church School Information

**For Parents with school-aged children: (including high school!)**

**Sunday, August 21  
Fellowship Hall  
9:45-10:30 am**

Plan to be involved in your child's Christian Education Program this year! It is vital that you are a part of all aspects of your child's education and church is no exception. Plan to come hear an overview of the fall programs and to provide input for future programs and planning!

**For Teachers (and anyone interested in helping with our church programs):**

**Saturday, August 6  
Fellowship Hall  
11:00 am—12:00 pm**

All leaders and teachers will gather to look at materials and resources for the upcoming church school year. If you teach, assist, or are interested in getting more involved in our education program, please plan to come to this gathering. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Lori Todd at 426-3620.

I am hopeful because there is still a strong core of people who value bible study and prayer as a means to grow in faith and faithfulness. These people gather on a weekly basis to read, share, learn, and grow...and some of them still invite others to join them.

I am hopeful because we have many visitors that still attend our church and share their gifts and may some day choose to commit themselves through membership. Some of our members who have been less involved are beginning to come back and there is always the possibility that more will come. But God never counted on us being great in number to accomplish great things. All we need to do is have faith and trust and be the People of God that we are called to be.

May God bless you in your efforts to be the people that God has created and called you to be!

To God be the Glory!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Robert



*Dear FPC family,*

*Thank you. You welcomed us with open arms in 2004, ministered to our family over the years, and have taught us much about life, faith, community and discipleship. Thank you for sharing your lives with us and including us in your family's celebrations and sorrows. Thank you for loving all five of us. Our lives have been deeply blessed by you.*

*We wish you all the best as you move forward as a family of faith. Keep believing, serving, studying, and growing together. We won't be too far away and we will remain close in spirit through prayer. We are forever united in Christ's love and mission.*

*We love you and will miss you in many ways. But your kindness, gifts and joy will stay with us.*

*May God bless and keep you,*



## General Information:

Dear Church Family,

I thoroughly enjoyed attending this blessed church while staying with the Whitney family. It was quite an experience to move from a city of 13 million people (Seoul, S. Korea) to Union, SC! Your welcoming made me feel "I kinda like this place". I not only thank you for the graduation gifts, but also appreciate your prayers and support. I will miss my Union First Presbyterian family.

Sincerely,  
Jae Jun Lee

*Note of Appreciation*



**The Church Directory has been updated and is available.**

Copies are located on the vestibule tables outside the sanctuary.

Please take just **ONE** directory per family. This gives each family an opportunity to get one and also helps conserve paper and printing costs.

*If a family does not get one, please contact the office.*

**Presbyterian Women's Salad Supper**  
**Wednesday, August 24th**  
**6:30 PM**

*All women of the church are invited to come together for a time of fellowship and planning as we begin our fall programs. Even if you have not participated in circle meetings before, please join us as we look forward to a great year of Bible study. Bring your favorite salad (green, congealed, meat) to share as we kick off another wonderful year.*



## Opportunity to Grow:

## 1st Presbyterian Music Notes!

Tommy Bishop

We extend our thanks and gratitude to Pastor Robert and his family for their many musical contributions to this congregation over the past seven years! They will truly be missed!!

Tommy recently inherited the large music library of Miss Sarah Fant Jones. He has been busy this summer going through the many boxes of choir, organ, and piano music along with other books and papers. Many of us remember the wonderful community Christmas concerts in our sanctuary that she organized, financed, and conducted from 1990 to 2000! Miss Sarah also provided in her will a bequest of \$50,000 for maintaining and adding to our Schlicker pipe organ. Her main wish was to add a festival trumpet stop to the great division of the organ which would be very useful for weddings, concerts, and other festive occasions. We are grateful for her generosity and her many musical contributions through the years to this church and the entire Union community!

Again this summer, while the Chancel Choir takes some much deserved time off, we are having special music for worship consisting of vocal and instrumental solos. If you would be willing to share your musical talents for one or more Sundays during August, please contact Tommy for scheduling as soon as possible.

Rehearsals for Presbyterian Pals, Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, and Handbell Choir will resume in September.

If anyone has any choir music at home that belongs to the church, please return it to the choir room. Thanks!

"Music is a higher revelation than philosophy!" – Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



**General Information:**

**Update from Leadership Retreat**

During our Leadership Retreat in June, the Session and Staff spent several sessions discussing the two booklets *Spiritual Practices for Beginners and Leaders* and *Spirituality Matters for Committee Meetings*. During our conversations we were invited to explore several spiritual disciplines. They were:



- The Discipline of Community – moving from believing to belonging
- The Discipline of Solitude – cultivating daily practices of personal prayer
- The Discipline of Study – ongoing learning through ideas and experiences
- The Discipline of Service – stewardship of life’s gifts on behalf of others
- The Discipline of Vocation – a lifelong discernment process asking the question “What form is my service to take now?”

We discussed the importance of making these a part of each individual’s spiritual growth, the spiritual practices of the session, and the nurture of the whole congregation. The session invites you to consider these disciplines and commit to spending more time exploring at least one of them. If you would like more information, ask one of our elders. Join us as we seek to grow in faith and faithfulness.

**Come Worship With Us – And Bring a Friend**

During this time of transition we will have various guest ministers leading our worship until an Interim Pastor is called to serve. Please make a special effort to join us for worship on August 7<sup>th</sup> when the Reverend Mark Verdery, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Providence Presbytery will lead worship and help guide us in the processes that will take place to accomplish that task.

Worship is central to who we are as Presbyterians and as Christians. God calls us to worship. Answer the call.

**Session Highlights:**

**The Session met on July 10, 2011 at 6:30 in the church conference room. The following items were discussed and approved:**



- Reviewed and approved the revision of church committees.
- Approved continuing to support the Community Outreach Ministry based on congregational support until the Hands Up Ministry is in place.
- The Reverend Mark Verdery will meet with the Session on August 7th to discuss the transition plans, and the interim search process.
- Approved Deborah Flint, Woody Sanford, Mike Todd, and Cynthia Baker for the interim search committee.
- Approved support for Kelsey White’s mission in Colombia with a \$250.00 donation from Mission and Giving.
- Welcomed Paul Lunsford into membership on profession of faith, and set July 17th as the date for his baptism.
- Accepted Thom White's resignation from the session with regret.
- Commended Lori Todd and all who helped with Bible School on a very well planned program.

**June 2011 Financial Report: More info in report on office bulletin board:**



	(MTD actual)	(YTD actual)
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 19,454.02</b>	<b>\$ 113,647.78</b>
<b>Expenses :</b>	<b>20,913.37</b>	<b>120,764.75</b>
<b>Variance :</b>	<b>\$ (1,459.35)</b>	<b>\$ (7,116.97)</b>

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

This article is to provide a “mid-year” report on our financial situation. All numbers discussed will reflect the financial situation of the church as of June 30, 2011. We have had actual income of \$113, 647.78 and actual expenses of \$120,764.75 for the first six months of 2011, leaving us with a negative spending variance of \$7,116.97. Our problem has been on the income side of the ledger, as we have had income of **\$7,906.94 LESS** than the budgeted amount (\$113,647.78 actual income vs. \$121,554.72 budgeted income) for the first six months of the year. Our expenses year-to-date are in line with our 2011 budget, as we have had \$120,764.75 in actual expenses vs. a budget of \$121,344.90 (\$580.15 less actual expenses than budget). Please keep these numbers in mind as you make decisions concerning contributions for the remainder of the year.

*Italicized names are the daily prayer names*

\* Denotes Birthdays

Sanctuary Flowers - Helping Hands

# AUGUST 2011

First Presbyterian Church  
101 West South Street or  
Post Office Box 672  
Union, SC 29379  
Office: (864) 427-8319  
Fax: (864) 427-8342

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> <i>Kim Carson Family</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Rose Chewning</i> *Duane Gibson 7:30am-Prayer Bucket Day!	<b>3</b> <i>Joe Chibbaro Family</i> 10:15am- Oakmont 12 pm- Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> <i>Clarence Chrisawn Family</i> *Jim Vaughan 12pm-Comm. Prayer (Gazebo) 6pm-Open AA Meeting	<b>5</b> <i>Lindsey Connolly</i> *Dee Blackwell	<b>6</b> <i>Mickey Connolly Family</i> *Robert Alexander 11am- SS Teacher Meeting
<b>7</b> <i>Charlotte Cranford</i> Communion Rev. Mark Verdery- Guest Speaker Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: Kim & Grant Harris 4pm- Congregational Life Meeting Called Session Meeting	<b>8</b> <i>David Cranford</i> *Debbie Littlejohn	<b>9</b> <i>Mickey Creach Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer 5:30pm- Admin. Comm.	<b>10</b> <i>Lynn Crow Family</i> *Tim Barnado	<b>11</b> <i>Bill Davis Family</i> 6pm-Open AA Meeting	<b>12</b> <i>Brock Dillard</i> *Evelyn Chrisawn *Courtney Blitchington	<b>13</b> <i>Richard Duncan Family</i> *Anne Rampey
<b>14</b> <i>Peggy Duncan</i> Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: John & Lisa Robbins Greeter: Mike Todd 6:30pm-Session Meeting	<b>15</b> <i>Lisa Todd Epps</i> 1st Day Back To School 	<b>16</b> <i>Randy Fleming Family</i> *Marsha Jordan 7:30am-Prayer 10:30am- 3rd Tues.	<b>17</b> <i>David Flint Family</i> 12pm- Staff Meeting	<b>18</b> <i>Loren Flint</i> 12pm- September Tower Talk Due 6pm-Open AA Meeting	<b>19</b> <i>Michael Fowler Family</i> *Ramsey Fowler *John Rampey	<b>20</b> <i>Norris Fowler Family</i>
<b>21</b> <i>Ramsey Fowler</i> *Reid Nicholas Barnado 9:45am- Fall program review for Parents & Children Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: Thom & Ann White Greeter: Woody Sanford	<b>22</b> <i>Duane Gibson Family</i> *Raymond Sligh *Julia E. Guess 6pm-Congregational Care Committee	<b>23</b> <i>Yates Giles Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer	<b>24</b> <i>Ellen Gregory</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Tony Gregory Family</i> *Bennie Giles 6pm-Open AA Meeting	<b>26</b> <i>Julia Guess</i> 10am- Ellen Sagar Praise & Prayer	<b>27</b> <i>Robert Guess Family</i> *Bill Davis *Will Whitney
<b>28</b> <i>Brandi Harrell Family</i> Rally Day 9:30-am- Breakfast 10am- Program *Steve Willard Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: Pat & Debbie Littlejohn Greeter: Marilyn Stoddard 5:30pm- W.& S. Committee	<b>29</b> <i>Kim Harris Family</i> *Cynthia Baker *Michael Flint *Nancy Hamilton Hope	<b>30</b> <i>Ricky Harris Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer	<b>31</b> <i>Kevin Hendrix Family</i> 12pm-Staff Meeting			

Presbytery  
Dimes for  
Hunger  
Kick-off  
Dinner