

A community of faith!

Church Staff:

Rev. Robert M. Alexander,
Pastor

Thomas E. Bishop,
Organist/Director of Music

Lori Todd,
Program Director

Vicki S. Grady,
Secretary

Michael Jones,
Custodian

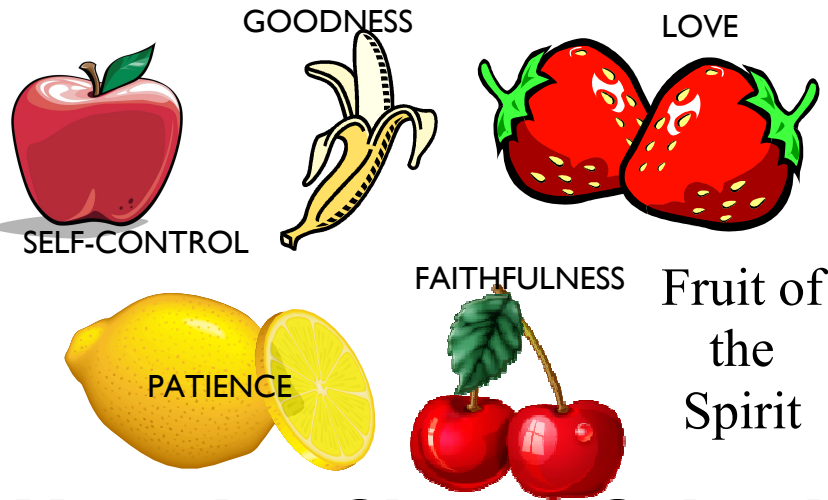
**Sunday
Schedule**

9:45 am

Sunday School

11:00 am

Worship Service



Vacation Church School

Order UP

June 26-30

5:30-8:00 PM

All Ages - Register Now!!

- Dinner each evening (5:30 pm)
 - Opening in the Sanctuary (6 pm)
 - Bible Stories
 - Games
 - Crafts
 - Snacks (based on the fruit of the night!)
 - Adult Class—Spiritual Formation
 - Closing around 7:50 at the Outdoor Worship Area
- Look for registration forms on the bulletin board!**

Tower Talk

June & July 2011

Online at www.fpcunion.com



Come, O Spirit

*Come, O Spirit,
with Your sound
Like a wind, quick
rushing;*

*Come from heaven
and stir our hearts,
Each disciple
touching!*

*Mold our actions to
Your will,
You our service giving;*

*Move with-in our
fellowship,
Transform now our
living!*

Presbyterian Hymnal, pg. 127

Return Service Requested

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

From the Pastor's Pen:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you read this, I am serving with our Honduras Mission Team in and around Tegucigalpa, Honduras. We are working with Tim and Gloria Wheeler, our Mission Coworkers in Honduras. We certainly appreciate your prayers as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ by partnering with Tim and Gloria and the Honduran people to further God's Kingdom and spread the good news of the gospel.

On June 12th, the week after we return, we will celebrate Pentecost. This event is a time to remember the gift of God's Spirit to the church. If you read the book of Acts you discover the wonderful things that God's Spirit did in the early church. You discover the ways that the disciples were strengthened and gifted to share the good news to the ends of the earth. That strengthening and gifting still goes on today. God's Spirit is on the move in mighty ways!

During these past months we have seen incredible things in our world. There has been massive destruction through earthquake, tsunami, tornado, and flooding. There has been great unrest through the struggle for freedom in what is being called the Arab Spring. There has been terrible violence on many fronts as a result of the many wars that rage on around the world. All of these things, not to mention ongoing oppression, famine, and incredible poverty provide a multitude of ways for us to share our hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

The Spirit is moving in mighty ways and Pentecost offers us time to pause and reflect on the ways that God may be stirring in our own hearts - calling us forth to be renewed in our efforts to be God's faithful people in the world. We are the Church of Jesus Christ and we are filled with God's Spirit to accomplish the will of God in the world. There are so many opportunities to love and serve the Lord. Where is God leading you? What is the Spirit of God equipping and preparing you to do? What gifts are being born in you to accomplish God's purposes in the world? This is the time to ask and answer such questions.

During the next two months we will continue to look at the ways in which God's Spirit is at work in us. During our Vacation Bible School and during Sunday morning worship, we will be exploring the fruit of the Spirit and find out how bearing such fruit can make a difference in the world around us.

Please don't take a vacation from your faith. Continue to seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Continue to pray, read scripture, and share your gifts. Continue to worship, study, and serve to the glory of God.

To God be the Glory!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Robert



Thank You to our Elders

Each June a class of elders rotates off the session. Though they remain active in the life of the church and are always elders in the Presbyterian Church, they are no longer actively serving on the session. We are grateful for the energy, imagination, intelligence, and love of Susan Bailey, John Carson, Erin Connolly, Sybil Crow, Richard Duncan, and Vickie Shields. Thank you for sharing yourselves so unselfishly and serving Christ and His church in this capacity.

Christian Education

Summer Sunday School Opportunities



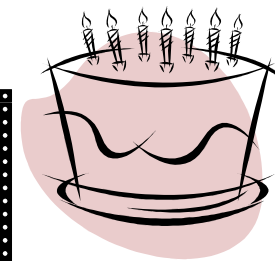
Committed, Caring Adults to lead our children and youth in Christian Education. Sunday work is required along with prayerful study and preparation of lessons! If you feel God calling you to be a part of this important ministry of our church, please contact Lori Todd.

Preschool and Elementary Classes will continue to meet as usual throughout the summer. **Youth** are encouraged to be a part of helping with the summer program.

Rising seniors, graduates, and young adults are invited to meet together for a time of Bible Study and sharing in Room 308.

Adults are encouraged to join together during the summer months. Beginning June 19th, Pastor Robert will lead a book study on *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns. The class will be held in Room 305. Other Adult classes will continue as usual throughout the summer.

Please don't take a vacation from studying and growing in God's Word. Be a part of Sunday School all summer.



Happy Birthday To the Church!

**Day of Pentecost
June 12
10:30 am**

The Holy Spirit arrived, Peter spoke, people believed, and the Church was formed! Everyone is invited to celebrate this "birthday" of the Church outside the Parlor!

"1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:1-4

June Sunday School offering will be given to the **Vacation Bible School Fund** to help offset the cost of VBS. In April, \$68.13 was collected for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Children and Youth:

Presbyterian Pals

In May, our children presented an original production, "Won't you be my neighbor?" based on the parable of The Good Samaritan. We will take a break for the summer and be back together in the fall with more studying and sharing of God's Word!

Youth Group

The Youth Group ended the regular year with a "splash" at the home of Clark and Gwen Beavans! Several members of the group will be traveling to Montreat for the Youth Conference on July 10th. Please keep the group in prayer as they spend time studying God's Word and meeting other Presbyterian youth from around the country! Special thanks to Tommy Wilburn and Mary Susan Gregory for allowing us to use their home in Montreat!



Summer Camp Fun Begins

Hang up the school backpacks and put away the books because summer is here! It is time to make sure that you have your children and youth signed up for the program of their choice at Bethelwoods. There is so much fun to be had, and you don't want to miss out on the valuable experiences that Bethelwoods has to offer. Camp programs provide a variety of activities and adventures including swimming, hiking, canoeing, archery, games, arts and crafts, cookouts, and meeting new friends. These activities are all centered on daily Bible study and worship that focuses on our summer theme entitled, "Putting the Pieces Together." There is still time to sign up for an experience that your son or daughter will always remember. Camp brochures are available at your church or you can register online at www.bethelwoods.org or 803-366-3722.



Congratulations to our outstanding young people:

- Union County High School*
Erin Connolly will attend Presbyterian College to study Art Education.
 - Michael Flint** will attend Presbyterian College and then join the US Army.
 - Spartanburg Day School*
Will Whitney will attend Sewanee to study Philosophy and Political Science.
 - Jae Jun Lee** will attend Georgia Tech to study engineering.
- May God bless all their endeavors!**

Higher Education:

- Jordan Leonhardt** received her Masters of Accountancy with an Emphasis on Business Measurement and Assurance from Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. She will begin work for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Spartanburg in the fall.
- Taylor Adams** finished Coker College with a degree in Theater Performance and a minor in Psychology. She will pursue her Master's Degree in Education while living and working in Hartsville.

Session Highlights:

The Session met on May 15, 2011 at 6:30 in the church conference room.

The following items were discussed and approved:

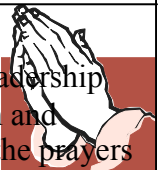


- Examined and approved the following elders to the Class of 2014: Mickey Connolly, Deborah Flint, Woody Sanford, and Marilyn Stoddard. Ken Hill will fill an expired term in the Class of 2012, and Vickie Shields will fill an unexpired term in the Class of 2013. These elders will be installed and ordained on June 12th.
- Approved a request from the Witness and Service committee to donate \$1,500.00 from the Coleman Fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Voted to approve capital improvements in the sanctuary. The east wall will be repaired and painted at a cost of \$3,600.00. The bid of \$12,970.00 by Art Glass was accepted to repair and clean all of the stained glass windows. It is the recommendation of the Administration Committee to establish a fund for the ongoing maintenance of these windows.

Established an award committee for the Sloan Scholarship for Presbyterian College.

Leadership Retreat – Pray for our Session and Staff

On June 17th and 18th our session and staff will be meeting for our annual Leadership Retreat. This year we will be focusing our time together on Spiritual Growth and renewing our own faith practices as we seek to lead effectively. We ask for the prayers of the congregation as we meet together during this time of worship, study, and reflection.



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



	(MTD actual)	(YTD actual)
Income:	\$ 19,166.98	\$ 75,478.26
Expenses :	19,254.49	78,447.78
Variance :	\$ (87.51)	\$ (2,969.52)

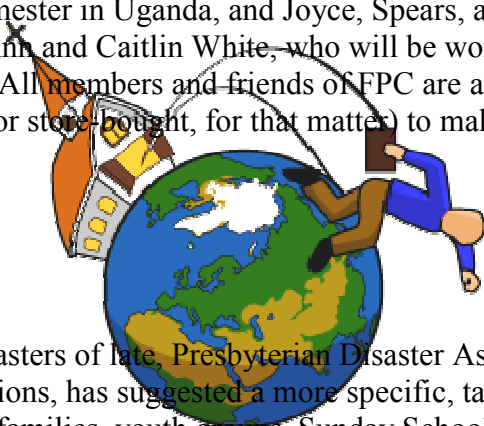
Pentecost Offering

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we receive a special offering that supports the work of the church to reach out to youth and young adults and to support ministries with children who are at-risk. We will receive this offering on June 12th. Forty percent (40%) of the offering will remain in Union to be used for ministries with at-risk children and youth. Please give generously.

General Interest:

“LEARN AND CHURN” MISSION EVENT!!

Make sure to mark your calendars for the evening of June 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. On that Sunday evening, we will have an opportunity as a community of faith to share two exhilarating joys: the exhilarating joy of spreading the love of Christ through mission, and the exhilarating joy of consuming homemade ice cream with brothers and sisters in Christ! The joy of spreading the love of Christ through mission will be shared by Loren Flint, who spent the fall 2010 semester in Uganda, and Joyce, Spears, and Robert Alexander, Doug Shields, and Ann and Caitlin White, who will be working in Honduras from May 28th until June 5th. All members and friends of FPC are asked to bring churns of homemade ice cream (or store-bought, for that matter) to make the joy even more intense!



NATURAL DISASTERS HELP:

In response to the numerous natural disasters of late, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, in addition to soliciting monetary donations, has suggested a more specific, tangible approach that may interest individuals, families, youth groups, Sunday School classes, and Presbyterian Women and Men groups: hygiene kits. Your Witness and Service Committee has set a goal of accumulating 50 kits to ship to ravaged areas around the world, including U.S. tornado and flood victims. **A single kit consists of : 1 hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels), 1 washcloth, 1 side-tooth comb (remove from package), 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards; remove from package), 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper), 1 toothbrush (in original packaging), 6 Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment to the disaster site. SEAL ALL INDIVIDUAL KITS IN A ONE-GALLON PLASTIC BAG WITH A ZIPPER CLOSER** and deliver to a designated collection area in the Fellowship Hall prior to the end of June. Once collected, we will forward all kits to one of several designated disaster assistance collection centers for distribution to the various disaster areas. *Each kit in and of itself is inexpensive; however, its impact on our brothers and sisters in need is priceless!!!*

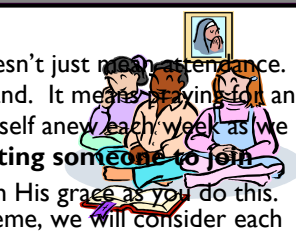
Opportunity to Grow:

Come Worship With Us – And Bring a Friend

Consider a stronger participation in worship this summer. That doesn't just mean attendance. It means preparing yourself for worship by reading the sermon text beforehand. It means praying for an openness to how God would speak to you. It means preparing to offer yourself anew each week as we ascribe greatness to our Awesome God. And one more thing, consider **inviting someone to join you** for worship sometime this summer. May God bless you and fill you with His grace as you do this.

Beginning June 12, in conjunction with our Vacation Bible School theme, we will consider each week “the fruit of the Spirit.” Join us each Sunday morning to find out more about what God desires to do in you and how God wants us to live. See you there!

June 5	Psalm 51	
June 12	Galatians 5: 16-26	“The Call to be Fruitful”
June 19	1 Corinthians 13	“The Fruit of the Spirit: Love”
June 26	Psalm 16	“The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy”
July 3	Romans 14: 13-23	“The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace”
July 10	2 Timothy 2:20-26	“The Fruit of the Spirit: Patience”
July 17	2 Samuel; 9	“The Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness”
July 24	2 Corinthians 9: 6-15	“The Fruit of the Spirit: Generosity”



1st Presbyterian Music Notes!



The Chancel Choir will sing for worship through the month of June with rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. (Please note the time change.) If the earlier rehearsal time suits your schedule better, please come and sing with us for the month of June. We have plenty of seats available! There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday, June 29th (VBS week).

Tommy Bishop will be attending the Montreat Conference on Worship & Music June 26th – July 2nd. The conference theme this year is “One in Christ: Visions of Unity” which will explore the fullness of what it means to be Christian in a church and world filled with diversity and division.

Again this summer, while the Chancel Choir takes some much deserved time off, we would like to have 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 July and August, please contact Tommy Bishop for scheduling as soon as possible.

Special thanks to our volunteer Presbyterian Pals and Children’s Choir leaders for their dedication of time and talent throughout the school year: Susan Adams, Sybil Crow, Emily Hill, and Kathleen Read.

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

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




Italicized names are the daily prayer names

* Denotes Birthdays

Sanctuary Flowers - Circle 1

JUNE 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
			1 <i>Pat Littlejohn Family</i> 10:15am- Oakmont 6:30-Chancel Choir	2 <i>Patrick Littlejohn Family</i> 12-Comm. Prayer (Gazebo) 5pm-C.E. Committee 6pm- Open AA meeting	3 <i>Darla Love</i>	4 <i>Spiller McCoy</i>
5 <i>Elsie McGill</i> Marty Simmons/Worship Leader *N. Yates Giles, Jr *Wayne LeBlanc Nurs: Mike Fowler Family Meals: Lloyd Sutherland Greeter: Vickie Shields 4pm- Cong. Life Committee	6 <i>Brandy McNeace Family</i> 7pm- 1st Pres. Men's Church League Softball (South Hills Field #2) 	7 <i>Rodney McNeace</i> 7:30am-Prayer 5:15- Administration Committee	8 <i>Chris McWhorter Family</i> 12pm-Staff Meeting 6:30-Chancel Choir	9 <i>Brad Morris</i> *Marilyn Stoddard 9am-Comm. Outreach 6pm- Open AA meeting	10 <i>Barry O'Dell Family</i> *George Dunham	11 <i>Clarke Perrin Family</i> *Brandi Harrell
12 <i>Frances Powell</i> Day of Pentecost 10:30am- B-Day Party for Church Ordination / Installation of new officers Nurs: Jenny Alexander & Kayla Jones Meals: Brock Dillard Greeter: Tim Barnado 2pm-Presbytery Meeting @Oakdale (Clover, SC) 7pm- Mission Presentation	13 <i>John Rampey Family</i> *Maggie McWhorter 7pm- 1st Pres. Men's Church League Softball (South Hills Field #2)	14 <i>Sanders Read Family</i> *Jean V. Harris 7:30am-Prayer Flag Day 	15 <i>Ray Robbins Family</i> 6:30-Chancel Choir	16 <i>John Robbins Family</i> *Thom White *Patsy Whitney 9am-Comm. Outreach 6pm- Open AA meeting 8pm- 1st Pres. Men's Church League Softball (South Hills Field #1)	17 <i>Woody Sanford Family</i> *Lloyd Sutherland *Sylvia Carson 6-9pm- Leadership Retreat	18 <i>Douglas Shields Family</i> *Erin Connolly 8:30am-3pm-Leadership Retreat / Session Meeting 5:30pm- Community Meal 
19 <i>Greg Shields</i> *Robert Guess Trinity Sunday / Father's Day Nurs: Erin Connolly & Grant Harris Meals: Robert & Vanda Guess Greeter: Sylvia Carson	20 <i>Betsy Skipper</i> 8pm- 1st Pres. Men's Church League Softball (South Hills Field #1)	21 <i>Raymond Sligh Family</i> 7:30am-Prayer 10:30am- 3rd Tues. Together 8pm- 1st Pres. Men's Church League Softball (South Hills Field #1)	22 <i>Bryson Stoddard</i> 12pm-Staff Meeting 6:30-Chancel Choir	23 <i>William Stoddard, Jr. Family</i> *Greg Shields 9am-Comm. Outreach 6pm- Open AA meeting 8pm- 1st Pres. Men's Church League Softball (South Hills Field#2)	24 <i>Bill Stoddard, Sr. Family</i> *Claire Alexander 10am- Ellen Sagar Praise & Prayer	25 <i>Lloyd Sutherland</i> Kick-off Dinner for VBS
26 <i>Sara Sutherland</i> Nurs: Windy Boyd Meals: Mike & Lori Todd Greeter: Thom White 5:30p.m.- Witness & Service Committee 5:30-8pm- VBS Begins	11am-Michael Flint's Eagle Scout Ceremony 27 <i>Laura Leigh Todd</i> *David Hope 5:30-8pm- VBS 6pm-Congregational Care Committee	28 <i>Mike Todd Family</i> *Ashley Kendrick 7:30am-Prayer 5:30-8pm- VBS	29 <i>Jim Vaughan Family</i> *Amanda Gibson 5:30-8pm- VBS	30 <i>Jesse Walker</i> *Nicolas Fowler 9am-Comm. Outreach 6pm- Open AA meeting 5:30-8pm- VBS		