

Volume 20 - August 2018



FIRST WORDS

AUGUST 2018



Loving God.
Loving our neighbors.
Because Christ loves us first.

RALLY DAY 2018



Sunday,
September
9th, 2018

9:30 AM - Sunday School Kickoff
11:00 AM - Worship
12:00 PM - Free Rally Day Luncheon
5:00 PM - Youth Fellowship Kickoff

A Note From Our Pastor



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Robe

Portions of this Newsletter Article will appear as part of an upcoming series in the Presbyterian Outlook, a national newsmagazine of the Presbyterian Church.

There's a robe that's been hanging in Meg's office closet at Bluff Presbyterian Church for the past few months. Before Julia was born, and Meg's maternity leave began, she was wearing this robe on Sundays for worship, but it's not her regular robe. It's an old men's robe that's been hemmed at the bottom.

Women's robes are a relatively new thing in our society. It's pretty much just judges and pastors who wear them, and we're only a couple of generations into women serving in such roles. I'm no fashion expert, but as I understand it, most women's robes are made with a tailored, tighter fit across the waist that makes for a sleeker, more feminine look. This works great, unless, of course, you come to need that extra room around the waist, as you do when you're pregnant.

Which is wear this old robe comes in. Because it's a men's robe, it's wider in the waist and hangs loose, but because of the way it's been hemmed at the bottom, it still fits the height and stride of most women. For last seven or eight years, this robe has been shipped across the country, passed from expecting pastor to expecting pastor, when their normal robes no longer comfortably fit.

Meg first received the robe when we lived in Mississippi in early 2015 when she was pregnant with Lindsay. She heard about the robe from Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan, a friend of ours who had worn it while serving as the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian in Rocky Mount. Mary Kathleen passed the robe on to Meg. After Lindsay was born, Meg passed the robe on to a colleague in Texas. We've known six different women who've preached in the robe over the years. Now that Julia has been born, Meg will soon be sending the robe off to another expecting pastor who needs it, having completed her second stint with it.

As legend has it, the traveling pregnancy robe's journey began with a seminary student named Laura Neely, serving a summer internship in Anderson, South Carolina. Laura needed a robe to wear the robe for the internship, so her Senior Pastor gave her one of his old robes. "It's not made for a woman, but I got it hemmed for you," he told her.

Laura kept the robe after her internship was complete. Upon graduating from seminary she got a new robe, one made for a woman that fit a little better. The old hemmed rug hung in her closet for a couple of years, until a friend from seminary complained that her robe was starting to get a little tight after thirty or so weeks of pregnancy. She shipped the old robe to her friend. That friend later passed it on to another expecting pastor, who passed it on to another, and the sisterhood of the traveling robe was born.

Meg and I long knew the story of the robe. But this second time around, the story took on a deeper significance for us. We learned that the Anderson, South Carolina pastor who first hemmed his robe and loaned it to his intern so many summers ago was none other than Rev. David Bailey, who served as the pastor here at First Presbyterian of Dunn in the 1990s. If you look under the collar of the robe, you can see his initials stitched on the tag.

To me, the sisterhood of the traveling robe has become a great testament to what Hebrews calls "the great cloud of witnesses," that cheers us on as we run the race of our faith. I've never met David Bailey face to face, but his picture hangs on the wall of our church's library. I hear stories about him. And now the very same robe he wore leading worship from the very same pulpit I lead worship from today has traveled all over the country, has made it's way back to Dunn, all in the name of sharing among women colleagues doing the hard work of sharing Christ with the world.

Peace and Grace

Rev. Howard Dudley

A Music Moment



Feeling stressed? Need a weekly support group? How about a circle of folks who are genuinely friendly, without being intrusive? Sincerely kind, without being fake about it. Eager to laugh, and just as willing to share the sorrow. Pedigree or academic degree is of no real issue here. Neither is the group impressed with the size of personal bank accounts. All that matters is that the new member is willing to stand with the group and be ready to burst into spontaneous and/or highly rehearsed song. For point of reference, let's call this support group, the choir.

It is estimated that approximately 32.5 million people in the United States are a member of a chorus. What drives this many people to show up after a long, hard day at their jobs to sing? What possesses busy, stressed people to commit yet another hour or two a week to voluntarily sing in the choir? People with businesses, people working overtime, people with a host of personal and family issues set aside time to sing. Why on earth do these folks demand a temporary halt to their world so they can meet for choir practice? Really? Are their priorities misplaced? Are they completely crazy? I suggest that for all the reasons some would argue that they should stay away, that is the very reason they come. Because these 32.5 million people know a secret. Singing together lifts the singer. Saint or sinner, rich or poor, singing together provides a lift to the mind and spirit like no other.

Maybe this lift is the rationale (if you dare call it rational) why 2500 hundred people stood in line for a hall that holds 700 for a group sing with Frank Damrosch, chorus master at the Metropolitan Opera in the late 1800s. Maybe this explains why a Pennsylvania town formed the Orpheus Glee Club in 1911 made up of miners who had just endured the worst mining disaster in its town's history. Perhaps this sheds light on why an exhausted firefighter at the

9/11 site started to sing and afterwards musicians of all genres came to sing to the volunteers at Ground Zero. And once again this December (as they have done for the last 50 years) nearly 3000 ordinary people will fill the Lincoln Center in New York just to join the Messiah Sing-A-long. They show up with their own copy of Messiah, pay a significant price for a ticket and take a seat in the audience just to sing with folks they don't even know the two-hour-long work of Handel, a composer whose been dead for 259 years.

For generations, people have shown up amid dismal of scenes of life to sing. Singing is hardly a "fix" for destruction and devastation, but it may be a "fix" for the singer, for the listener, or for any of those who spontaneously join in song for the simple fact, they can do nothing else, but sing. Surveyed choristers describe their experience as invigorating, inspiring, and energizing. For a rehearsal hour or two, the burdens on their shoulders are lifted on the wings of song. Their steps home less labored, their shoulders less drooped.

The Mass Choir (Israelites) in the desert sang of the horse and rider being thrown into the sea. They rejoiced in song. When God needed to impress the law upon their hearts, they sang it. When King Saul had a troubled heart, young David would play his harp and sing Psalms. When Old Testament temple worship was at its finest, singers and instrumentalists were on the scene lifting their praises to God. Group singing and music making seems to be God's idea. Whether it's a hymn duet by Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16:25) or 4000 instrumentalists (I Chronicles 23:5) in David's court, God instituted group singing to glorify Him and to edify the singers. One singer, no matter how extraordinary the talent, cannot be the choir. A choir must have singers. The choir needs people, and people need the choir. Need a lift? A fix? Consider group singing. For a point of reference, let's call it choir practice. Can't wait to see you there. First Presbyterian Choir begins choir practice on Wednesday, September 5th at 7 pm in the choir room. Come and be lifted as you lift praises to the Lord in song.

Welcome Back to Weekday School!

The Weekday School is preparing for another exciting school year! The teachers will soon be busy decorating classrooms and hallways, having conferences with parents and students, and preparing lessons for another year which begins Sept. 4th.

We welcome back Kathy Fennell as our 5 Day teacher with Laura Brewer as her assistant. We have been fortunate to have this strong team for many years. Our 2 and 3 Day classes will welcome Gina Warren as their new teacher. Gina is one our own members who was a former teacher and we are happy she is returning to the classroom. Lisa Ennis, who has been with our program for many years, will be her assistant. Our Mother's Morning Out program welcomes Denise Jarrell, a local retired teacher, and her assistant will be Regina Rawls another member of our church. Our school is fortunate to have such talented and dedicated teachers.

The Weekday School Council will hold an orientation for parents and students on Sunday, August 19 at 5:00 p.m. This will familiarize the parents with the structure of the school, schedules, carpool rules, expectations, etc.

We welcome new students as well as familiar faces of students who continue to progress through our school program and look forward to an exciting and rewarding year.



Back-to-School Water Party

Tuesday, August 21st

- 4:00-5:30 pm Preschool through 2nd grade
- 5:30-7:00 pm 3rd through 5th grade

WHERE: Front lawn between the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary

Food: Pizza and snacks around 5:30 pm

CLOTHING: Water shoes, shorts and tees OR wear swimsuits with a tee. Bring a towel!



 **merican Red Cross**

MAKE SOMEONE WHOLE AGAIN

Without A, B & O, we can't save anybody. You are the #MissingType we need.

Dunn Community Blood Drive

Held at First Presbyterian Church
901 N Park Ave
Dunn, NC 28334

Tuesday, August 21, 2018
1:30 PM to 6:00 PM

To schedule your lifesaving appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: "Dunn" or download the Blood Donor App!

Contact Anne Johnson with any questions at (919) 407-9867.

WE NEED ALL ELIGIBLE DONORS!!

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To schedule your donation time, please go to
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and enter "28334" in the zip code box.



August 19: Preschool Parent Orientation

August 21: Red Cross Blood Drive

August 21: Back to School Water Party

August 25: Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

September 3: Labor Day Holiday

September 4: Weekday School Starts

September 6: Lifetouch Portrait Make-up Day

September 9: Rally Day & Catered Luncheon

Announcements

The New Church Directory:

It's not too late!! There will be one final "make-up day" to have your portrait taken for our upcoming directory - Thursday, September 6th from 2:00 - 9:00 pm. You can schedule your photography session by calling the church office.



Wednesday Night Basketball

Looking for a little exercise? Join us for Basketball, every Wednesday Nights at 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Bryant Pope.

Thursday Night Bluegrass Jam

Do you play a guitar, banjo, mandolin, dobro, bass, fiddle or other bluegrass instrument? Love bluegrass music? Want to test your chops? Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 7:00 PM for our new weekly Bluegrass Jam, hosted by Mac McCaskill. No experience necessary, and listeners and spectators are welcome.

Cooking Teams Needed

The Fellowship Council is taking signups for Wednesday night meal teams for the Fall! We hope that our fantastic teams from the past year will help again this coming year, but we need more teams! If you'd like to help but cooking is not your strength, see Cindy Smith or Bryant Pope about hosting a take-out meal or a covered dish set-up and clean-up.

Prayer Concerns

Larry Bacon
Margaret Beasley
Phillip Campbell
Abe Elmore
Jackie Elmore
Joe Giles
Judy Godwin

Keilah Goff
Margaret Lee
Tammy Lockamy
Linda McCaskill
Butch Raynor
Gloria Ryals



August Birthdays

Dottie Driver	1	Tyler Wilson	15
Andy Wermel	2	Pam Kelly	16
Palmer Foster	3	Dave Mason	17
Amanda Hudson	5	Janelle Johnson	18
Grace King	5	Cindy Smith	18
Vernon Stewart	5	Tyler Sasser	19
A.C. Williams	9	Lynn Godwin	20
Henry Willoughby	9	Zachary Harper	20
Amy Hartley	10	Clarice Willoughby	20
Mason Green	11	Karin Suess	21
Heather Williams	11	Anna Stanley	22
Mary Bradham	12	Peggy Bryan	23
Chris Smith	12	Daughtry Williams	23
Sara Titchener	12	Julie Howard	25
Joyce Dorman	13	Amanda Allen	26
Ashley Ferguson	13	Kathy Lasater	26
Lauren Whittington	13	Lynda Turner	28
Gene Smith	14	Diane Gray	31
Eva Strickland	14	Mary Alice Reece	31
John Tart	14	Grey Wermel	31

September Birthdays

Johnson Godwin	1	Kevin Allen	18
Riley Heath	1	Johnson Tilghman	19
Courtney Williams	5	Grace Deboer	20
Madison Hales	6	Jarrett Hodges	20
Don Hodges	6	Steve Malone	20
Tilghman Pope	6	Logan Patrick	20
Priscilla Weber	7	Matthew Green	22
Heather Jackson	9	Patrick Green	22
Elaine Tart	9	Lee Malone	22
Rebecca Hales	10	Sara Brown	23
Meda Williams	10	Jim Gray	23
Gene Chance	11	Rick Stephenson	23
Linwood Beasley	12	Alexander Turlington	24
Faye Jackson	12	Katie Dickens	26
Lisa Bradham	13	Keira Stevens	26
Reid Whittington	15	Lauren Taylor	26
Erin Young	15	Brian Foster	28
Noel Bass	16	Angie Hathaway	28
Barbara Hartgrove	17	Patsy Williams	30



Interested in upcoming events at First Presbyterian Church? Be sure to check out our online calendar on the church website!

Nursery Attendants

August 19

Travis Strickland & Amanda Norris
Casey & Melissa Kerley

August 26

Andy & Meredith Wermel
Matthew & Carrie Smith

September 2

Jason & Millie Jones
Susan Hatley & Melissa Stevens

September 9

Casey & Melissa Kerley
Courtney & Meda Williams

September 16

Clint & Anna Stanley
Ronnie & Katie Dickens

Acolytes

August 19 - Rilyn Kerley
August 26 - Julie Howard
September 2 - Sloan Colmenero
September 9 - Carson Strickland
September 16 - Robert Tart

Deacon Greeters

(August)

Patsy Williams
Claudette Green
Morgan Colmenero

(September)

Natalie Turner
Melissa Stevens
Jackye Sholar

Elder at the Door

August 19 - Cindy Smith
August 26 - Heather Williams

