

July — September, 2017



# THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I received a call from a friend. They'd had a tough week, stress on the job, problems in the family, and some serious personal difficulties as well. They were clinging to the hope that the weekend would be better, that they could have some quiet time, and they were really looking forward to sleeping in on Saturday morning. That's when it happened, or perhaps I should say "they" happened, because, you see, at about six o'clock on Saturday morning the birds outside their window began to sing and they sang, and sang, and sang. Annoyed, frustrated, and exasperated my friend finally got out of bed and spent the rest of the day in a dark and sullen mood.

We have entered the time in the Christian year that is known as "Ordinary Time." Actually, Ordinary Time occurs twice, between Epiphany and Lent, and, the longest stretch, between Pentecost and Advent. Only Trinity Sunday in June and Christ the King Sunday in November break up the monotony. Otherwise, there are no big days, no Easter, no Christmas, no Palm Sunday, just a seemingly endless stretch of "everydayness."

That makes me wonder if perhaps our Christian lives are too often lived in the ordinary, and, if that is the case, could it be that we are failing to understand something. Is it possible that, if we look and listen closely, the ordinary is overflowing with the sacred?

According to philosopher Charles Taylor, one of the key ideas of the Protestant Reformation was that everything matters because God cares about everything. In other words, the little things, the details, the bits and pieces of our everyday lives, have significance; our jobs, our families, our friendships, our homes, our vacations, even the check out person at the super market, everything in the physical world matters. In other words, there is nothing that is simply "ordinary." Do you remember these words from the hymn "This Is My Father's World?"

*This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;  
He speaks to me everywhere.*

Perhaps no place and no person is merely ordinary. And perhaps the next time we wake up to the sound of birds singing we will realize that those songs might be God's gift to us in a difficult time.

Yours in Christ,

John Pruitt

## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church  
611 Oakhurst Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

Office: (336) 993-7358  
Fax: (336) 993-5526  
www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt  
Pastor

Mrs. Amy Evans  
Director of Christian Education

Ms. Jane Johnson  
Church Secretary

### Services:

The Gathering — 6:00 p.m.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month)

Café Faith — 9:00 a.m.  
(Sundays September — May)

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.



## *Birthdays*

| July                 | August              | September           |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Kelsey Evans       | 1 Kae Mattingly     | 3 Drew Evans        |
| 5 Gerry Sharp        | 4 Rusty Sudderth    | 4 Robert Kerr       |
| 12 Deryel Clark      | 4 Dale Watts        | 7 Kerry Kerr        |
| 13 Joy Lynn Budkey   | 11 Marilyn Demaree  | 12 Robert Myers     |
| 17 Winnie Theobald   | 14 Marcia Newton    | 14 Nick Nitkin      |
| 20 Mark Evans        | 19 Burch Idol       | 16 Floyd Conrad     |
| 21 Marybeth Althouse | 20 Dottie Roudabush | 17 Norman Self      |
| 27 Konnie Conrad     |                     | 18 Donna Carmichael |
|                      |                     | 18 Jim Carmichael   |
|                      |                     | 22 Amy Evans        |
|                      |                     | 25 Debbie Dillon    |
|                      |                     | 26 Lynda Self       |
|                      |                     | 27 Judy Maxwell     |
|                      |                     | 29 Rocky Newton     |

*If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## *Anniversaries*

| July                         | August                   | September       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 6 Allen & Kae Mattingly      | 4 Rusty & Kay Sudderth   | Nothing on File |
| 8 Skip & Shirley Smith       | 10 Deryel & Ginger Clark |                 |
| 16 Rocky & Lisa Newton       |                          |                 |
| 29 Sam & Priscilla Henderson |                          |                 |

*If your anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## *First Presbyterian Church Session Members*

**Class of 2017**  
Priscilla Henderson  
Rusty Sudderth  
Rich Tincher

**Class of 2018**  
Nancy Bolen

**Class of 2019**  
Lorna Foster  
Jean Nitkin

# Growing Together in Faith

Summer is upon us, and I'm sure there are many of us looking forward to beach vacations, cookouts, family get-togethers, and a generally slower pace of life for the next month or two. With that said, I wanted to touch base on some things we have done in the last couple of months that we should give God many thanks for.

Top of the list, of course, is the fact we have a new pastor in one John Pruitt. He has gotten off to a great start, and his installation service was very moving. We had to say good bye to Reverend Dan, but I

believe we were all blessed by his time here with us.

We got to celebrate the high school graduation of two of our young people, Megan Tincher and my own daughter, Drew. While we likely won't see as much of them going forward, we know we helped them develop a strong relationship with Christ that will provide them a firm foundation as they venture into their next phase of life. We certainly anticipate them sharing God's message with others, and being God's light in this ever-changing world, as they now enter adulthood.

Vacation Bible School was a success, and while attendance numbers unfortunately fluctuated from night to night, the enthusiasm level remained high. Our teachers, leaders, meal staff, all performed with excellence. We certainly would have wanted more participants, but to the lives we did touch, I know we made a difference. We had one four year old express on several occasions " I LOVE this church "...Out of the mouths of babes.

Our monthly worship program " The Gathering ", has continued being a success, and we have seen the attendance for this event grow, and have enjoyed the opportunity to let members lead the program, and the chance to fellowship together with the meal held afterwards. We look forward to seeing the numbers within this program continue to grow.

Our Backpack ministry is on a hiatus for the summer, but it has been successful, and we look forward to ramping it back up in the fall.

We have gotten an early jump on our Holiday Market items for this year, and request that all who can come and participate will, when we meet for these project nights. Many hands make the work go faster, and add to the fun had by all.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention that as July approaches, we need to wish Rocky and Lisa Newton our best as they prepare for their move to the coast. Past the envy for where they are going, they will be missed by us all, but we send with them our fondest wishes that they become a vibrant part of a new congregation in their new place of residence. May they continue doing God's work, ( Rocky, if you want to come back for eggs, please consider the invite extended now ), and be a blessing to their new community.

And in closing, it is with much sadness we mourn the loss of our brother in Christ, John McKinney. His passing has been felt by us all, and we want to continue to offer ourselves in support to Fran, knowing she can turn to us at any time.

May God's blessing be upon you during these next months, with wishes for safe travels, good health, and an enjoyable summer.

With Christ's Peace,

Amy Evans

# Worship Service Schedules

## July 2017

### Greeters

2 Winnie Theobald  
Lorna Foster  
9 *Comm* Bernie Krecklow  
Rusty Sudderth  
16 Bob Myers  
Donna Myers  
23 Millie Vernon  
Bernie Krecklow  
30 Norman Self  
Lynda Self

### Ushers

2 Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
9 *Comm* Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
16 Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
23 Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
30 Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram

### Lay Reader

2 Millie Vernon  
9 *Comm* Kerry Kerr  
16 Dottie Roudabush  
23 Dee Barham  
30 Rusty Sudderth

### Element Preparation

9 *Comm* Dee Barham  
Priscilla Henderson

### Assisting Elders

9 *Comm* Anne Waddell  
Rusty Sudderth  
Dale Watts  
Faye Hodges  
Lynda Self

## August 2017

### Greeters

6 Anne Waddell  
Dale Watts  
13 *Comm* Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
20 Lorna Foster  
Winnie Theobald  
27 Burch Idol  
Becky Collins

### Ushers

6 Becky Collins  
Rusty Sudderth  
13 *Comm* Becky Collins  
Rusty Sudderth  
20 Becky Collins  
Rusty Sudderth  
27 Becky Collins  
Rusty Sudderth

### Lay Reader

7 Tom Parker  
13 *Comm* Sam Henderson  
20 Nancy Bolen  
27 Lorna Foster

### Element Preparation

13 *Comm* Bernie Krecklow  
Dottie Roudabush

### Assisting Elders

13 *Comm* Becky Collins  
Priscilla Henderson  
Kerry Kerr  
Jean Nitkin  
Sam Henderson

## September 2017

### Greeters

3 Kae Mattingly  
Rusty Sudderth  
10 *Comm* Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
17 Anne Waddell  
Dale Watts  
24 Millie Vernon  
Kae Mattingly

### Ushers

3 Norman Self  
Lynda Self  
10 *Comm* Norman Self  
Lynda Self  
17 Norman Self  
Lynda Self  
24 Norman Self  
Lynda Self

### Lay Readers

3 Kerry Kerr  
10 *Comm* Norma Stikeleather  
17 Millie Vernon  
24 Dottie Roudabush

### Element Preparation

10 *Comm* Kay Sudderth  
Nancy Bolen

### Assisting Elders

10 *Comm* Rusty Sudderth  
Bob Myers  
Rich Tincher  
Donna Myers  
Ellen Watts