



THE Link

June 2016

The news on what's happening in the life of Cameron Presbyterian Church.

Seeking Ways to Help Refugees in Crisis



Jourdi Bosley of Church World Services in Durham provided detailed information on the process through which refugees can become U.S. residents in her May 22 presentation at our church. See story on page 8 .

(Photo by Jim Leiby)

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From your Pastor



“Grace in a Mason Jar”

This article is to be published in an upcoming edition of The Presbyterian Outlook

To say my ministry at my wee kirk in the North Carolina Sandhills began in a mason jar is oddly, fairly, accurate. When I ponder my most joyful moments of these past four-and-a-half years as solo pastor of Cameron Presbyterian Church, that humble emblem of small-town Southern culture keeps floating to the surface of my memory. My ministry in this Mayberry-esque town of 250 began with a mason jar, but not an empty one. That mason jar was filled to the brim with fragrant homemade vegetable soup and hand-delivered to my house by Juanita, neighbor and church member, who also happens to be our resident prophet keeping us on the path of justice. Can God’s grace be contained? Probably not. But a mason jar full of homemade soup made lovingly just for you comes awfully close.

That humble mason jar has made many other appearances: usually as the perfect glass for sipping cloyingly sweet tea and sharing hilarious and heartbreaking stories of our lives with one another. Recently, during the season of Lent, I wanted to weave prayer more concretely into the life of our church. Guided by a dear friend and creative colleague, Karen Jackson, I decided upon a prayer loom. Two men gifted in the spiritual art of working with their hands built us a beautiful loom. We placed it in the front of the sanctuary, and I cut countless tiny strips of purple paper, upon which folks could write their prayers, and come forward and weave them into the loom during worship.

I had the paper slips; I had the miniscule golf-sized pencils. But, what to put them in? I don’t believe the Spirit is constrained to the identity of Southern (or American, for that matter), but She was that day. Because what would I

discover but perfectly petite mason jars in which to place those prayer tools in each pew? During worship those seven weeks, there was a holy sound that filled our sanctuary. It was the sound of mason jars clanking, as prayers were bravely scribbled, and woven together before God and one another. Those prayers were later transformed into Easter art hanging in the front of our sanctuary, reminding us that the prayers of the faithful swirl around us each time we worship together.

The challenges of rural, small church life certainly exist: most notably fatigue among the faithful who must serve in many roles to keep our church vibrant and active, and facing aging and death on a fairly regular basis. Nowhere is the beautiful affirmation of A Brief Statement of Faith “In life and in death we belong to God” more poignant or relevant than the rural church. We know what it is to grieve that things are not what they once were. We know what it is to send our beloved friends on to the life to come. But, because of this, we also know the value of each moment—that it doesn’t take a strategic plan to sit down with mason jars of sweet tea and get to know your neighbors. Life is fleeting; life is changeable; but life in small-town Cameron is also as sweet as that mason jar tea, and as nourishing as that mason jar soup.

The mason jar isn’t flashy or expensive. It’s no high-end container. But you can see through it, and what you see is what you get. There’s no pretension, no airs or arrogance. So it is with my wee kirk. We are who we are. We’re not perfect, and we’re not trying to be anyone else. But we are trying to feed our community and the world with a taste of God’s grace, in our particular way. What could be more delicious than that?

*Peace,
Rev. Whitney*



Mason jars filled with pencils and prayer slips, ready to distribute among the pews.

Coconut Frosting Complements Any Cake

By Juanita Harbour

Double Boiler (7-minute) Frosting

Combine in top of a double boiler:

2 egg whites at room temperature

1 ½ cup sugar

¼ to 1/3 teaspoon cream of tartar

1/3 cup cold water

Place over boiling water and beat until mixture holds soft peaks. Fold in 1 ½ teaspoon vanilla.

Stir until slightly cool. Spread and top with as much coconut as desired.

Use this frosting on a 9x14 sheet cake pan or a layer cake baked in three round pans. At Christmas time I usually use the three round pans and put the coconut between the layers and on top of the cake. I think the 7-Minute Frosting is good on any cake. ■

A group of members who celebrated spring on May 14 with supper at the Pickin' Pig in Carthage topped off the meal with coconut cake at Juanita and Earl Harbour's home. Juanita was kind enough to share her recipe.



Education Committee Awards Scholarships

By Laura Younts

Cameron Presbyterian Church awards two scholarships through the Education Committee of the Session. The McKeithen Memorial Scholarship is an annual scholarship started in 1981 with an anonymous \$500 gift to honor the memory of Fay R. and Leighton B. McKeithen, who were dedicated to the church, the schools and the young people of the community. The recipient of this scholarship is chosen from the Cameron community on the basis of—in order of priority—(1) need, (2) academic achievement and (3) involvement in community and church activities.

The Cameron Presbyterian Session voted on October 7, 2007 to create The Gilchrist Scholarship and on February 13, 2008, voted to endow the scholarship with funds from a bequest made by Ms. Ada Gilchrist to Cameron Presbyterian Church. The scholarship is given in memory of Effie and Margaret Gilchrist, long-time elementary school teachers at Cameron School. Ms. Ada Gilchrist, a native of Cameron, spent most her working career at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Criteria for the awarding of this scholarship (in order of priority) are (1) attended Cameron School and/or Cameron Presbyterian Church, (2) financial need, (3) academic achievement and (4) involvement in community and/or church activities.

The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the recipients of these \$400 scholarships for 2016. **Alex Butner** attended Cameron Elementary School and graduates from Union Pines High School on June 3. He has been

accepted to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill with the goal of becoming a cardiologist. **Matthew Cooper**, a member of Cameron Presbyterian Church, is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, majoring in political science with a minor in statistics. Congratulations to both of these young men!

If you would like to contribute to these scholarship funds in memory of someone or in honor of someone, please send your contribution to the attention of the desired scholarship name in care of Cameron Presbyterian Church, PO Box 68, Cameron, N.C. 28326.



Our Concert Series: Horns of the Sandhills

The sanctuary resounded April 10 with music by composers ranging from Gilbert & Sullivan to Richard Wagner, performed by a quartet of French horn musicians. As seated at right, they are (from left):

- Bill Pearce, a Fayetteville resident for 35 years, retired instrumental music educator and member of numerous ensembles in the area;
- Liz Hasty from Wagram, N.C., a graduate of East Carolina University who taught in North and South Carolina for 35 years and has often been a soloist with regional ensembles;
- Kim McGill from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a member of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and the Wilmington Symphonic Winds;
- Denise Wallace, who was principal horn with the Fayetteville Symphony for 27 years and a featured soloist with the Lakeland Symphony Orchestra.

Horns of the Sandhills was the concluding concert for this season's series. The first concert in our 2016-2017 series will feature Eryn Jones Fuson, harpist, on September 25th at 4 p.m. ■



Photo by Jim Leiby

Music for Summer

The Summer Sundays special music will include:

- June 5, Barbara Peiker
- June 12, Denise Wallace
- June 19, Men Sing
- June 26, David Seiberling
- July 3, Laura Rush
- July 10, Larry Allen
- July 17, Alan Huntress; Bill Emerson
- July 24, Rose Cooper
- July 31, Shan Chase and Terry Kerr
- August 7, The Well-Seasoned Singers
- August 14, Cheryl Bacon
- August 21, Marie Reidesel
- August 28, Traci and Karen Keith
- September 4, Julie Elkins and Martin Bacon



The Women of the Church overflowed the choir loft on May 8, Mother's Day, to sing the anthem, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine."

Photo by Jim Leiby



Come Join Us!

Church Community News

GLAD TIDINGS!!

We were delighted on May 19 by Rev. Whitney's emailed announcement from Northern Ireland that she and Carlos Arreche had just become engaged while vacationing there. They visited Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, where Whitney had served



from 2004-2005 and 2008-2010 before blessing us with feeling called to Cameron. This selfie of the joyous couple was taken in a "faery ring," a circle of trees and stones that is traditionally viewed in Ireland with a certain respect and even superstition. The landscape is very green because rain was a regular feature of the weather during the trip (it was Ireland, after all), but the prevailing drizzle can't dim the brilliance of the new engagement ring, which Carlos designed and had custom made.

Mission Trip to Atlanta to Include Concrete Jungle

A group from our church will once again visit the Mercy Church in Atlanta to work with the homeless people who depend on the church and also to work with Concrete Jungle, a company that helps homeless and people in need, according to Andrey Bereznitskiy, chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee. There are also plans to visit a monastery and take a tour of Atlanta.

The trip will take place Jun 10-15. Those planning to go as of May 29: Andrey, Rev. Whitney Wilkinson, Shan and Sarah Chase, Jared Douglas and Alex Bereznitskiy.

Session Dates 2016

- June 28, 6:30 p.m.
 - July - no Session meeting
 - August 23, 6:30 p.m.
 - September 27, 6:30 p.m.
 - October 25, 6:30 p.m.
 - November 15, 6:30 p.m.
 - December 13, 6:30 p.m.
- (November and December Session meetings are a week early due to Thanksgiving and Christmas



June

Sharon Bettini	June 6
Michael Thomas	June 6
Christie Allen	June 8
Hunter Mac Chase	June 24
Youlia Bereznitskaia	June 26
Natalie Hendrickson	June 26

July

Earl Harbour	July 3
Leon Keith	July 3
Chris Benton	July 12
Alan Huntress	July 15
Bradley Bettini	July 16
Brandon Phillips	July 16
Terry Keith	July 20
Jane Ethridge	July 23
Terry Kerr	July 23
Hayes Harbour	July 24
Desiree Bettini	July 26
Keziah Ann Hildreth Hively	July 28

The Link needs your news! Please send items of interest to our church community to Sandy Leiby (sleiby@yahoo.com) or call 910-245-2535.



Community Support for Phillips Memorial Park

The Cameron Park Committee's efforts to maintain and enhance Phillips Memorial Park have met with widespread help from the community. Jordan's Catering donated \$734 from the proceeds of its food booth at the Antique Street Fair on May 7, and Kenna and Glenda Hoffman donated \$210 from the proceeds of a sandwich truck they operated at the fair that day.

In addition, the Cameron Methodist Church has provided funds for the six picnic tables that will complete the new picnic shelter. Two of the tables are 10 feet long in order to accommodate a wheelchair, according to Sarah Hillmer of the Park Committee. She and her husband have been conditioning the wooden components of the tables with an oil treatment. The table bases are in a town-owned storage building. After Bruce Phillips drills holes in the wooden parts, the tables will be assembled with help from the local Girl Scouts.

The Committee asked advice from Jerry Hall, a Soil and Water Specialist with the County of Moore Cooperative Extension Service, on how to remedy erosion problems on the drip line around the shelter. Mr. Hall recommended placing centipede grass sod to stabilize the eroding area. The Committee has already been notified of someone who is willing to donate the sod, and Bill Thomason has volunteered to rototill the eroded area to prepare it. ■

Try Some Low-Impact Yoga!

Do you want to get a little healthier this summer? Join our yoga group on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Sunday School classroom. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in, and bring a yoga mat or large towel and a bottle of water. We will use low-impact yoga DVDs as we exercise together.

Join us! ■



Remembering Agnes (Jean) Tocher

By Dot McDonald

A very distinguished visitor from England visited our church a number of times in years past. Her name was Agnes (Jean) Tocher. She was a friend of myself and Rex, and also of Ellen Gilchrist (a deceased member of our church) and her sister Annie Hollingsworth Jones.

Jean was from Poole, Dorset, UK. She died on March 18 in Poole at the age of 97. Her service was held on April 8 at St. Luke's Church.

She lived an extraordinary life helping others and was honored in England for her code-breaking work at Bletchley Park during World War II. Jean had friends all over the world. To Rex and me, she was a most remarkable woman whom we had the great pleasure to know and visit. To read about Jean Tocher's work at Bletchley Park in the Second World War, see the following:

rollofhonor.bletchleypark.org.uk ■



Code breakers at work at Bletchley Park (England) during World War II

Our Vision

In response to feedback from our growing and changing congregation, we envision fulfilling our mission by:

- *Enhancing our facilities*
- *Expanding our programs*
- *Attracting and inspiring through worship*
- *Serving faithfully through our missions*

Elders

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'Sip and Sing' - a Musical Transition to Summer

Rain poured down outside but our sanctuary was alive with music, applause, occasional laughter, and the smell of coffee from the parlor on May 29 as the sanctuary choir provided a special musical interlude before the regular Sunday service. As well as belting out foot-tapping favorites like "That Old Time Religion" and "Have a Little Talk with Jesus," the choir literally changed hats to segue into a selection of show tunes. A Memorial Hand Chimes performance and a violin solo by Larry Allen completed the program. ■



Phyllis Fredericksen (pink hat, below) left the choir loft during the show tunes segment to share her purple feather boa with Bruce Phillips (above). Larry Allen (left) soloed on the violin and also backed up Mary Rush's piano accompaniment of some selections with his mandolin.



Photos by Jim Leiby



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Refugees in Crisis

(cont'd from page 1)

For refugees seeking to resettle in the United States, the road is “long, bureaucratic and slow,” Jourdi Bosley of Church World Service (CWS) recently informed a local group interested in providing help for people in crisis abroad. Ms. Bosley is a Community Resource Coordinator for CWS in Durham; her presentation in our church sanctuary on the evening of May 22, organized by Juanita Harbour, attracted concerned members from other congregations as well.

The United States now accepts 85,000 refugees per year, .5 percent of the global refugee population, according to CWS. Refugees are admitted here on a quota basis depending on their country of origin. Those seeking to immigrate face 15 to 30 years of interviews and processing overseas as their backgrounds are checked and double-checked. Most spend these years in a ‘country of asylum,’ where many of them live in camps, “stuck in limbo by regulations,” Ms. Bosley said. Conditions and resources in these camps vary widely; some—but by no means all—have food distribution and educational programs for children, all funded and administered by the United Nations and NGOs (non-governmental organizations). Refugee cases from Syria are being expedited due to the ongoing crisis in that part of the world, she said, but the process “will still take years.”

Immigrants who make it to the United States get help adapting to their new country from organizations such as CWS, which combines the outreach of 37 communities nationwide. CWS operates four Resettlement Agencies in the Triangle area. Partnering with numerous community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Triangle area CWS agencies resettled 228 refugees from 14 different countries in 2015 and expect to resettle 250 to 300 newcomers this year.

As much as many communities might want to help and welcome refugees, small towns such as Cameron are actually ineligible as resettlement sites. Access to public transportation and nearness to



the support of Resettlement Agency offices is essential during immigrants’ first year or so in this country, Ms. Bosley explained. The wait for U.S. citizenship is typically about five years, but most refugees have “got their feet under them” and are functioning fairly independently after a year, she said.

Communities that can’t accommodate immigrants, have other options for helping. Just two examples:

- Advocacy—Contact lawmakers in an effort to influence policies that affect refugees.
- Donations—Especially welcome for newly arrived refugees are gift cards redeemable at food stores, and at merchants who sell clothing appropriate for newcomers who have just been hired for their first job in the U.S. Another suggestion is backpacks suitable for school.

For more information on CWS programs and services, to volunteer or to make a charitable gift, visit www.cwsrdu.org. ■