



THE Link

June 2017

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

Our Congratulations...and Farewell



Rev. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche and her new husband, Carlos Arreche, share their first dance as husband and wife. See page 2 for news of the couple's future plans.

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From your Pastor



Editor's note: It was with a heavy heart indeed that members of our church learned at the end of May that Whitney will be leaving us. She shared the reasons for her difficult decision in the letter below. On page 4 she also explains what she hopes this new call will enable her to do.

Dear Members and Friends of Cameron Presbyterian Church,

It is with a heavy heart, and after much prayer and discernment, that I request the dissolution of my pastoral relationship with Cameron Presbyterian Church, effective July 31, 2017. I have sensed and responded to a calling from God to pursue doctoral studies, particularly around peace and reconciliation in the church, exploring both North American and Northern Irish contexts. I have been accepted into Duke Divinity School's Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) program, to begin in August. This is a full time program. My husband, Carlos, has been offered a tenure-track math position at the University of Texas at Dallas. This would mean settling in Texas closer to my family long-term. After much discernment, we have decided to pursue both, and embark on the adventure of long-distance marriage for the two years of my five-year program that require residence in Durham. I will then complete my academic work from Dallas, traveling back to Durham as needed. We are both grateful to pursue our dreams together with flexibility and creativity.

Pursuing this dream means, sadly, leaving a wonderful church. I'm not able to adequately express in one letter the depths of my gratitude to you (though in the coming weeks, I will try my best to). You have invited me into your families, shared your most holy and vulnerable moments with me, and wholeheartedly embraced me as your pastor. You have taught me,

and will continue to teach the world, what it means to be a people driven by compassion and caring, service, faith, and support. I am a better pastor and a better person for having lived and ministered with you, and I will carry you in my heart wherever I go.

On Sunday, June 11, there will be a congregational meeting following worship for the purpose of acting on my request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between us, effective July 31, 2017. I will be working with our strong session these next several weeks to make plans for this time of transition, and I encourage you to make known to them ways you will support the ministry of this church. If every person continues to participate in just one way – greeting, actively serving on a committee, visiting with the sick, supporting our young adults, serving our music ministry, praying for our session – then no one person will have to carry the load of ministry alone, but instead the church will live out Paul's vision of "the priesthood of each believer," trusting the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

God has been working in this church, God is working in this church, and God's promise is to continue working in and through this church, through each of you who have been Christ's very face to me.

With all my love and prayers,

Whitney



Getting to Know You: A New Regular Column

We started this column in *The Link* this year to help our members get to know each other better. In each issue, we feature details that different members would like to share with our church family. This issue features **Phil and Patsy Keith** and **Terry and Judy Kerr**. In the coming months, other members will take a turn introducing themselves.



Judy was born in Hutchinson, Kansas [Terry writes] and I was born in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Judy graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS in nursing. I graduated from the University of Nebraska with a BA in English and History. We met and were married in San Francisco when Judy was working there as a home health nurse and I was in the Air Force, stationed at nearby Travis AFB. As a result of my Air Force time we lived for a year in Japan, and for two years in South Korea. When we returned to the U.S. we were sent to Pope AFB, which is why we are now living in this part of the world.

We have two sons, Brad and Steve, and four grandchildren: Holden, Ian, Reilly and Ashely. Holden presently attends UNC Charlotte and Ian is a student at NC State. The two girls are still in high school. Both families live close by (in Zebulon and Rocky Mount). Brad is the city engineer for Rocky Mount, and Steve works for Branch Bank & Trust (BB&T) managing a portion of their computer system.

Judy and I were both downhill skiers at one time, but that ended about 20 years ago. When one of Judy's cousins moved to Bonaire we went regularly to visit there—and learned to scuba dive. We visited every year for seven years and became avid divers. The cousin's rather sudden death ended that activity for us. I used to play tennis and golf regularly; Judy played golf, but not much tennis.

Judy and I are both members of the Vass Lions Club, and I have served as club president, district



Phil and Patsy (McNeill) Keith are natives of Moore County, NC. Moore County has been home since they married in 1970 except for two years in Ebenheid, Germany while Phil was in the Army and two years in Boone while Phil completed his degree at Appalachian State University. Patsy attended Sandhills Community College, earned her CNA certificate and studied Accounting.

Together they worked in rental property management for 40 years, retiring in 2014. During this period Phil squeezed in 13 years as Business Office Manager at Moore Regional Hospital while Patsy was caring for their three children. Both also operated a motor coach tour and charter company for 10 years.

Their son Brandon with wife Angela and three sons Riley, Avery and Bennett live in Apex, NC. Petra and husband Kurt Campbell with children Shepherd and Nora live in Stuttgart, Germany. Also their son Bronson lives in Southern Pines.

Phil loves fishing and working as a volunteer with Joe McKay and Andy Oksendahl building handicap ramps. Patsy enjoys reading and taking walks with Phil, and they both spend as much time as possible with family and friends.

Terry and Judy (cont'd)

governor, and as statewide chairman for youth activities. I am a member of the Friends of the Vass Library board of directors (as are two other members of our church, Jane Ethridge and Pete Madsen). Judy likes to play bridge and garden.

Becoming a Student and Teacher of Peace

I was 27 years old when I met Fra, former IRA leader turned politician, in a pub on a blustery Belfast afternoon. Invited to hear his story, I explored the Falls Road, exclusively Republican territory. I visited a museum for former Long Kesh inmates, touted as heroes. Fra then took me to the 'Felons Bar,' a place true to its name.

I'll admit my discomfort when he proclaimed to all in earshot, "This wee woman is an American Presbyterian minister!" The "American" descriptor proved to be my salvation; context is everything. I ate sandwiches and sipped a pint with people for whom 'terrorist' might be a descriptor. I found them kind and fragile in a way I still seek to understand. Sated with sandwiches, we went to where stories of the Troubles often end: the cemetery. It began to rain, as if the land itself mourned such loss of life, and this terrorist/ felon/ human being showed me the cost of conflict, as etched in grief on his face as the names on those cold tombstones.

Peace is no simple term. Reconciliation is messy, especially when lines between victim and perpetrator blur. I want to study those lines, examine the messiness of reconciliation, especially for the church of Jesus Christ. For, if the heart of the church is proclaiming the gospel in word and deed, and the heart of that gospel is reconciliation with God and one another through Jesus Christ, is not the church existing in places where peace, in all its complexity, is being built? How is this reconciling identity, not tangential to the church's identity, but its core ecclesiological foundation and purpose?

I was a student of peace in that Belfast cemetery. The time has come to become a student of peace again: to immerse myself in stories and practices of peace, especially stories from the conflicted context of Northern Ireland and the equally conflicted context of the United States, where I would focus on conflicts around race, gender and identity. Through a liberative theological method, I would create a conversation between these stories, allowing theological and ecclesiological models of church as reconciling communities to emerge.

Liberation theology starts with the lived stories of people in particular places. Then that story is put in conversation with a theological idea (such as sin, salvation, grace, etc.) and informs our understanding of it. Therefore, the methods I would use in my research would always involve real people in real experiences of peace and conflict, as opposed to a theoretical study.

Fra and my American friend Lori



As a student of peace, I can become a teacher of peace: training church leaders to claim and celebrate this complex gospel identity as peacemakers, and/or creating and pastoring a new church community centered around reconciliation.

Whitney

A Time of Transition: What Lies Ahead

At a Called Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on June 11, members of the church voted without dissent to ask the Coastal Carolina Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Wilkinson and Cameron Presbyterian Church. Following the vote, Whitney explained the step-by-step process of the coming transition.

1. Commission on Ministry (COM) liaison Judy Boroughs (an elder at Jackson Springs) will be working with our session. Exit interviews with Pastor Whitney and Session will be done, and a congregation-wide Mission Study to discern who you are, who God is calling you to be, where God is calling you to go will take place.

2. Supply preachers will be arranged before Pastor Whitney's departure to ease the time of transition. The COM will appoint a temporary Session moderator.

3. A Pastor (interim or permanent) Nominating Committee will be formed after Pastor Whitney's departure, by congregational vote.

Session will keep the congregation informed at each step along this prayerful process. Please commit to praying for the work of the Spirit in bringing the right leadership to our wonderful church.



Come
Join Us!

Lasagna Dinner Raises More Than \$2,000 for Clinic

By Linda Seiberling

The Women of the Church hosted a lasagna dinner on March 18 to raise funds for the Moore Free & Charitable Clinic. Tickets were given to interested folks, with a free will offering at the dinner. Ladies brought homemade lasagna and desserts. The Texas Road House provided salad, rolls and peanuts. The WOC decorated the fellowship hall in a St. Patrick's Day theme, including door prizes.



Moore Free & Charitable Clinic is a private, non-profit organization that provides primary care services for a sliding-scale fee to adults who meet certain eligibility guidelines. The Clinic was established to help those in the community who have no other place to turn for health services. By helping to provide primary care to people without insurance coverage, the Clinic hopes to reduce the burden of preventable health problems in our community.



June

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

July

Earl Harbour	July 3
Chris Benton	July 12
Alan Huntress	July 15
Bradley Bettini	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 Clinic is funded solely through the generosity of community donors and grants from various organizations. As the result of a wonderful turnout, the WOC lasagna dinner raised \$2,105 to donate to this worthy cause. Thanks to the lasagna makers, to all attending, and to those who gave donations to the Moore Free & Charitable Clinic.



The women of the church raised their voices to sing "Blessed Assurance" on Mother's Day, May 14. The men of the church will sing "Come, Thou Fount" on Father's Day (June 18).

Photo by Dave Seiberling



Spring Fundraisers Garner More Than \$4,000 for Park Trails Maintenance

* Hand-made birdhouses donated by Jim and Vicki Jolliff were a big hit at the Antique Street Fair on May 6; 39 birdhouses were sold for a total of \$585.

* A barbecue/fried chicken benefit held at the Baptist Church on May 11 generated \$2,331.50. Raffle ticket sales for a cash prize, held in conjunction with the benefit, raised \$494.

* Outright donations to support the park trails brought in \$835.

* The total raised to repair and maintain the trails was \$4,245.50.

New Traffic Pattern for Fair Still a Work in Progress

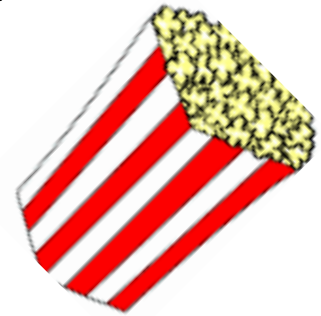
Feedback from the new traffic pattern for the Antique Fair (which closed a stretch of Carthage Street to vehicle traffic for pedestrian safety) was generally positive, according to Town Commissioner Sarah Hillmer. "Some parts to tweak will be communicating the pick-up points for large items purchased, and making sure that parking areas are better marked. We are also interested in hearing other suggestions."

Yoga Takes Summer Break

Our weekly low-impact yoga sessions will resume in the fall after a summer hiatus. Watch for announcements of the day and time in the next issue of The Link.



Plan to Come Enjoy "Hidden Figures" at Movie Night -- Free Popcorn!



EVERYONE is invited by our church's Fellowship Committee to come and enjoy a screening of the award-winning film "Hidden Figures" on Friday, June 23 at 7 p.m. in our church sanctuary. This is the true story of three brilliant African-American women mathematicians at NASA who served as the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. The achievement propelled America into the forefront of the Space Race.

The screening will include free popcorn and beverages. Hope to see you there!

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.

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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Special Music Planned for Summer Sunday Worship

While the sanctuary choir takes a break from rehearsal, holiday music and Sunday programs for the summer months, worship will be enhanced by special music. The schedule of musicians at this time:

June 11	Barbara Peiker
June 18	Men of the Church
June 25	Alan Huntress
July 2	Shan Chase
July 9	Larry Allen and Emily Whittle
July 16	Terry Kerr and Shan Chase
July 23	Dave Seiberling and friends
July 30	Cheryl Bacon
August 6	The Well-Seasoned Singers
August 13	Bill Emerson
August 20	Rose Cooper and Kim Sparks
August 27	Martin Bacon

Chimes at Pentecost



Wearing red in observance of Pentecost Sunday (June 4), the church's Memorial Hand Chimes group performed an arrangement of "It Is Well with My Soul" by Ville du Havre.

Photo by Cathy McRae



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 600 Carthage Street, P.O. Box 68
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Bridal Tea Celebrates Whitney's Nuptials with Hat Extravaganza

Photos by Cathy McRae



Rose Cooper's home in Whispering Pines was transformed into a fancy tea room on April 30, when many of the ladies of our church gathered to consume delectable treats, admire the variety of fancy hats on display, and celebrate Whitney's upcoming marriage to Carlos Arreche in Texas.

