



THE Link

March 2015

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

Church Women Sew for African Girls

By Linda Seiberling

The Women of the Church worked together to make dresses for African girls in February. With donated fabric, bias tape, time and love, we were able to create more than 50 lovely, brightly colored simple dresses (one is pictured below right) that will be sent by missionaries to Africa. This project was sparked by Dot McDonald's trip to Africa a few years ago, when she was moved by the deep need she saw in the African people. Little Dresses for Africa is a nationwide project that has provided thousands of dresses for girls like those pictured below. It is believed that a young girl who is wearing a pretty dress will be less likely to be taken for human trafficking. This project helps these girls understand that they are important and loved by people around the world. For more information, go to www.littledressesforafrica.org. More photos on page 2. ■



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Cameron Presbyterian Church
 P.O. Box 68 • Cameron, NC 28326
 Phone: (910) 245-7901
 Email: revwhitney@cameronpresbyterian.org

www.cameronpresbyterian.com

From your Pastor



Nearly every place I've ever lived, there has been a saying regarding the weather: "If you don't like the weather today, just wait 15 minutes." I've experienced the changeability of Irish rain while the sun hasn't bothered to go away yet, the particularly violent and fleeting thunderstorms of Texas, and the fickle temperatures of Georgia. But North Carolina: oh, you might just take the cake. This winter has been a series of days in which the South seems to be doing its best Ohio impression (while drivers try to do their best Northern driver impression). All of it falls a little short, but it does leave us with days when this, that, and the other thing simply can't happen. We are forced into icy hibernation, and while sitting by a fire and cooking warming food is delightful, it doesn't take long for restlessness to set in.

Forces beyond our control call us to be still, stay in and strip back our days to the essentials. But it's not just sudden winter weather that does this to us. Many forces beyond our control cause us to do just the same in this life. Perhaps it's a sudden illness or change in our situation. Perhaps it's the demand of a family member on our time and energy, or just an inexplicable feeling of discontent. Perhaps it's work stress, or the stress of cluttered retirement. However it comes, life gets disrupted. And when it does, we strip back to the essentials: to the things that warm our shivering souls and fill our hollow days.

Our culture does us no favors in this regard: for from our childhood onwards, it tells us in whispers, nudges and even shouts, "You are what you do." But what if you can't do? What if internal or external forces make "doing" difficult? Who then are we?

Ecclesiastes provides a counter-narrative to our lives, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

We do not create this time; that is God's work. We do not control this time; that also is God's work. But we do fill it, as best we can, with faithfulness. Not because filling those minutes, hours and days tells us who we are, but because it tells the story of who God is to us.

I'm reminded of Annie Dillard's words in this regard from her wonderful book, *The Writing Life*:

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend

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Sewing Dresses for Africa, Feb. 28 2015



Dawn Barber (left) and project organizer Linda Seiberling sew at one of the final work stations where the rainbow of dresses (below) got their final touches. More than a dozen women of the church gave their time for this effort and provided food for the lunch break.



Pastor (cont'd)

our lives. What we do with this hour, and that one, is what we are doing. Each day is the same, so you remember the series afterward as a blurred and powerful pattern. There is no shortage of good days. It is good lives that are hard to come by. A life of good days lived in the senses is not enough. The life of sensation is the life of greed; it requires more and more. The life of the spirit requires less and less; time is ample and its passage sweet. Who would call a day spent reading a good day? But a life spent reading — that is a good life."

Sometimes, the wind blows, and the ice chills, and the snow falls. Sometimes, our best-laid plans are brought to a screeching halt by storms without and within. And when those times come, as they will, we focus our energy on living a life of the Spirit, where each moment is a gift, each cup of coffee a miracle, each story told a parable, and each small act of compassion we offer to our shivering neighbors essential. It is my hope that our Cameron Presbyterian Church family is a harbor in those storms, a fire to warm our worried souls and a table to be fed by Christ and then go out and feed others. How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. Let's spend them together — grateful for the God who sustains us in every season.

Peace,
Rev. Whitney



Tiny, colorful rockhopper penguins were a major objective of our stop at the Falkland Islands; they are unafraid of humans.

Our Antarctica and Faulklands Voyage

By Dot McDonald

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth...” (Rev.21:1) sums up the incredible voyage Rex and I took in January to Antarctica and the Falkland Islands. It was a journey I had wanted to take for many years (#1 on my “bucket list”) after hearing from many experienced travelers that Antarctica was the most beautiful place on earth.

We began our journey on the cold (9 degrees the day before) morning of January 9, flying overnight from Raleigh to Buenos Aires, Argentina by way of Atlanta. It was midsummer in the southern hemisphere and the temperature in Argentina when we arrived was about 90 degrees F. Our cruise ship, the *Azamara Journey*, left port the next afternoon (January 10) at 5 p.m. headed for Montevideo, Uruguay.

The following day we had a leisurely tour of Montevideo, Uruguay’s capitol and largest city, before leaving that night for Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. (We learned later that ships cannot go directly from Argentina to the Falklands, a former British Protectorate, due to the continuing dispute between Argentina and the U.K. Thus, our ship had to arrive from Uruguay.)

En route to Port Stanley, however, our ship’s captain notified us that bad weather was predicted during the coming week. He chose to alter our itinerary and head for Antarctica before the expected storm hit the Drake Passage. This passage is noted for having the roughest seas on earth, and we had to pass through it to get from South America to Antarctica. Captain Ikiadis’ decision turned out to be a wise one; in a long journey of five days, we made it safely to the Bransfield Strait and more protected waters.

On January 15 we passed Elephant Island, the refuge of famous early 20th century Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton and his men. We continued on to Deception Island, entering Deception Bay—the caldera of an active volcano—during a snowstorm (in the middle of summer).

The following morning the sun came out, revealing fantastic scenery. Huge icebergs, many of them bigger than our house, floated past as we traversed the Gerlache Strait.

The interplay of the colors and the light was unbelievable, as if we had entered a space ship and been transported to a new jewel-encrusted planet! It was truly for us a new earth.

Antarctica is the coldest, driest, highest and windiest of the seven continents (and the only one without an indigenous human population). Its icecap holds roughly 90 percent of the world’s ice and 60-70 percent of its fresh water. If all of its ice sheets melted, the world’s oceans would rise by an estimated 200 to 212 feet! The lowest temperature ever recorded in Antarctica was -129 degrees F; the warmest was 59 degrees F. It was around freezing (32 F) mid-day when we were there—warmer than when we left North Carolina!

As we sailed through crystalline waters past ice-covered shores and sculpted icebergs, we saw penguins and seals



swimming in the sea or floating on ice floes. Breaching whales surrounded our ship. Albatross (with a 9- or 10-foot wingspan), cormorants, skuas and other sea birds flew overhead.

Seven nations (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the U.K.) have thus far made territorial claims to Antarctica, claims not generally recognized by other countries. There is no capital, no official language or currency. The Antarctic Treaty of 1959, which states that the continent shall be used for peaceful scientific purposes only with research stations open to inspection at all times, has been signed by 49 countries.

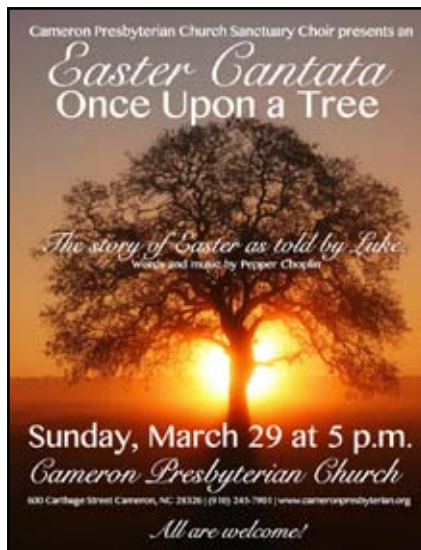
Goudier Island’s Port Lockroy (64 degrees 49 S, 63 degrees 30 W) was our next “stop”. This is the location of Antarctic Treaty Historic Site No. 61, British Base A, as well as Penguin Post Office—the southernmost post office in the world. Two members of the Lockroy Base team came aboard, gave a presentation to our ship’s approximately 690 passengers and stamped our passports for Antarctica. (We were never permitted to actually land on the continent; under the terms of the 1959 Treaty, any visitors other than scientists are very restricted in order to protect this still-pristine area from pollution and disease.)

After four wonderful days in Antarctica our ship headed back into Drake’s Passage, where we met a storm unlike any



A Musical Spring Ahead

1) Our Easter Cantata: Cantata narration by Luke (Ed Thomas)—“What is worth giving your life to? Have you ever asked yourself that question? My dream was to become known as Luke the physician. I wanted to be respected and live a life of ease with my family. Some would say I threw my life away. But I discovered a story so compelling, that giving



my life to tell it...was the only way I finally found my life.

Really, I had no choice. God called me to do this. I've spent my life recording the testimonies of those who were forever changed by their encounters with Jesus. The work has already changed me profoundly: the fantastic account of his birth, the

amazing miracles and the teachings so powerful they had to come straight from heaven.

And now, it is time to write of Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem. Honestly, I've dreaded this day. The story is so powerful, so significant that I'm afraid I am not up to the task. Yet I pray that God will use my humble efforts, so that people everywhere may hear the ultimate story of love...the story that begins, 'Once Upon a Tree.'

John and Carolyn Hatcher will be providing soprano saxophone and flute accompaniments for "Once Upon a Tree"; William Rush, bass guitar; Alan Huntress, percussion. Soloists are Barbara Peiker, Rose Cooper, and Dan Rush.

2) Coming to Cameron Presbyterian Church on April 19, at 4:00 p.m., is the next program in our on-going concert series. We are happy to welcome Randy Shepard,

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Antarctic Voyage

we had ever endured at sea. The waves were more than 25 feet high and winds were 65-70 mph. Rex and I retreated to our cabin; fortunately, we were not seasick. Our captain announced next day that we had truly undergone "the Drake experience" and that some passengers feel cheated if the weather is calm!

When we reached Ushuaia, Argentina at the southern tip of South America, heavy seas prevented our ship from docking for an entire day. Finally able to get ashore after 12 days on the ship, we used the stopover to visit beautiful Tierra del Fuego National Park in Argentina's Patagonia region. Our next destination was Port Stanley in the Falklands, where our primary objective was to see the unusual rockhopper penguins, which I knew to be unlike any we had seen before. Reaching their habitat entailed an off-road trip via 4x4 Land Rover across peat bogs and treeless fields and hills to 100-foot cliffs beside the ocean, miles from our ship. The penguins were definitely worth the rough ride and flat tires: Among the smallest penguin species (about 20 inches high), they hop from place to place rather than "waddling" or sliding on their bellies and they live among rocky cliffs rather than on more level beaches. Some distinguishing features are their red eyes, orange beaks, yellow eyebrows, yellow and black spiky head plumage and pink webbed feet.

The wildlife, scenery, history and inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are all fascinating. It takes truly hardy people to endure this desolate location's extreme changes in weather. Unfortunately, our planned stay here was shortened by a day because of the delays caused by previous storms.

This trip, especially Antarctica, was an experience we will never forget. My sincere hope is that humans will not destroy the beautiful other-worldly continent we visited. God's creation is beyond magnificent, so far above any human creation! ■

More photos from Antarctica on p. 8

music director at Hood Chapel AME Zion Church, and the MLK Children's Chorus! Save the date, and join us for this inspirational concert!

3) Memorial Tone Chimes off to a Super-Ringing start!! On Sunday afternoon, February 22, our sanctuary was filled with the 'sound of music' as excited musicians gathered for an introductory session to our new chimes. Ringing is for everyone: music readers and non-readers alike! Rehearsal dates currently include: March 8-15-22 at 4:00 p.m. Beginning in April, rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Come join the fun!

—Mary Rush, Music Director ■



Come
Join Us!

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class meets on Sunday morning from 9:45 am until 10:30am .

In September, when the new school year begins, the class members decide what they want to study. They get ideas from their members and also from the chair of Christian Education, who suggest topics from *The Thoughtful Christian*, which is maintained by the Presbyterian Publishing Corp, an agency of the Presbyterian Church USA. The class uses many of the downloadable studies which are available. The class also uses series of lessons from “Being Reformed: Faith seeking Understanding,” a series of Biblically based mini courses that provide adults an understanding of the Reformed faith. This too is published by the Presbyterian Publishing Corp

Class members volunteer to teach classes. Following are the sessions for March through May.

March 1, 8 and 15 —“The Prophets Still Speak.” The lessons include Amos, Micah, Isaiah, Hosea, Jeremiah, Jonah and others. Modern day prophets will also be discussed.

March 22 and 29—Islam

April 12, 19, 26—“The Prophets Still Speak”

May 3—The Role of Singing in Worship

May 10—Women of the Bible

May 17—Great Themes of the Bible

May 24—Baptism 101

May 31—Preparation for Fall Sunday school

Vacation until the first Sunday after Labor Day ■

Volunteers Needed for Antiques Fair

Our church will once again offer parking and food as part of Cameron’s Antique Street Fair, coming up fast on May 2. This year’s organizers need your help! Please contact Bruce and Peggy Phillips (245-4264), Jim and Sandy Leiby (245-2535) or Shan Chase (245-3526). Proceeds from food sales and parking fees are used for Mission and Outreach.

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.

Church Gives Books to School Reading Program

By Andrey Bereznitskiy, Mission and Outreach Committee

In the current school year, North Carolina schools have had a budget cut and our Cameron Elementary School did not have money for its reading program. Our Mission and Outreach committee, upon the school’s request, has purchased several copies of the audio book of E. B. White’s *Stuart Little* for group study in school, and a number of paperback copies of the same book intended to be lent to students so that they could read them with their families.

This purchase was done as a Christmas gift from our church to the Cameron Elementary School.



March

Dean Phillips	3-14
Billie Crigler	3-18
Dickie Barber	3-19
Mike Younts	3-19
Katia Bereznitskaia	3-11

April

Laura Younts	4-13
Doris Jean Harbour	4-22
Kay Peele	4-22
Rick Welsh	4-22
Rex McDonald	4-25
Patsy Keith	4-28
Lois Barnes	4-29
Clark Ethridge	4-29
Tommy Trent	4-29

May

Victoria Bettini	5-3
Dwayne Peele	5-7
Cathy McRae	5-9
Hannah McRae	5-9
Peggy Phillips	5-11



Support Phillips Park Projects

Our own Sue Phillips donated her land with instructions that it be a nature park for the people of Cameron. It is our duty to maintain and improve Phillips Memorial Park. Please help by purchasing an \$8 ticket for a Fried Chicken or BBQ dinner served on Thursday, March 26 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Cameron Baptist Church (so you can plan for either lunch or dinner!). The Park Committee is also selling chances for a \$100 Cash Card to be drawn March 26. You may purchase 12 tickets for \$10, six for \$5 or one for \$1. The long-range goal is to build a picnic shelter. Tickets are available at the Cameron Town Hall or from any park committee member. Donations can be sent to Cameron Town Hall PO Box 248, Cameron, NC 28326. Please note your donation is for Phillips Memorial Park.

Members of our church who are on the park committee: Mack Womble, Juanita Harbour, Laura and Mike Younts, Bruce and Peggy Phillips and Linda Seiberling.



Crain's Creek Middle School will give two performances of "Peter Pan, Jr." in their gymnasium on April 17th and 18th at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased at the door. Hope you will come out and support the students who are working so hard.

Fellowship Committee Posts 2015 Events Schedule

Teams from the Fellowship Committee have been assigned to organize refreshments for the following scheduled events.

3/29 Cantata at 5 p.m. (Dawn Barber, Kay McKay, Ginger Douglas)

4/19 Randy Shepard Concert at 4 p.m. (Juanita Harbour, Cathy McRae, Christy Allen)

5/17 High School Senior and Memorial Day Event (Phyllis Frederickson, Linda Seiberling, Julie Oksendahl)

6/07 Choir Special at 9:30 a.m. with continental breakfast at 10 a.m. (Sharon Shaw, Debbie Peele, Tonya Keith)

8/___ OPEN

9/13 Rally Day with covered dish lunch (Flora Childress, Rose Cooper, Judy Kerr, Laura Younts)

10/___ Concert with date and time to be confirmed. (Patsy Keith, Louise Danley, Barbara Peiker)

11/15 Soup and Sandwich Lunch (Peggy Phillips, Ginger Keith, Kay Kelly)

12/20 Cantata at 5 p.m. (Kay Peele, Terri Harvey, Sandra Leiby, Billie Creigler, Marilyn Huntress)

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

Class of 2015

Kay Kelly - Co-Chair, Building and Grounds
(910) 245-7763
kmkelly@embarqmail.com

Sharon Shaw - Co-Chair, Worship and Chair of Administration
910-245-9907
sharontom@embarqmail.com

Lynda Thomas - Chair, Member Care
(910) 245-1198
dotsie.thomas@embarqmail.com

Class of 2016

Dawn Barber - Co-Chair, Worship
910-947-3184
drb150drb@gmail.com

Andrey Bereznitskiy - Chair, Mission and Outreach
910-245-9996
bereznitskiy@centurylink.net

Dean Phillips - Co-Chair, Building and Grounds
910-245-3831
slickjordan@embarqmail.com

Class of 2017

Carol Thomas - Chair, Fellowship
910-695-3588
thomascarol70@gmail.com

Terry Kerr - Chair, Christian Education
910-245-7087
twaynekerr@gmail.com

Randall Douglas - Chair, Budget & Finance
919-499-6082
douglasginger@yahoo.com



Cinnamon Pecan Bread

By Whitney Wilkinson

You should know that, like many folk of the South, we Texans are pecan nuts (hee). We love them, and pronounce them pea-cahns, if you must know. We put pecans in salads, green beans, on top of pastas and in pancakes. This bread celebrates the appealing pecan in glorious fashion: warm, fragrant cinnamon meets those delicious nuts in a swirled, soft-on-the-inside, crunchy-on-the-outside bread. I have to confess that I call it "bread" when it's really cake. Calling it bread somehow makes it perfectly acceptable to eat it for breakfast without someone calling you nuts.

Cinnamon Pecan Bread (makes 1 loaf)

1 cup pecans, chopped
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg

1 cup buttermilk (if you don't have buttermilk handy, as I never seem to do, you can make it! Add the juice of half a lemon to whole milk, let it sit for 15 minutes and it will magically transform into buttermilk.)

¼ cup vegetable oil
½ cup sugar mixed with 4 teaspoons cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine flour, baking soda, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Whisk together buttermilk, egg, vanilla and oil in a small bowl. Stir into dry ingredients just until combined. Stir together pecans and cinnamon sugar. Pour ⅓ of the batter into a greased 9x5 inch loaf pan. Sprinkle generously with pecans and cinnamon sugar in an even layer. Add another ⅓ of the batter and repeat with cinnamon sugar and pecans, ending with cinnamon sugar and pecans on top. Use a knife to gently swirl the layers together, working from one (lengthwise) end of the pan to the other in a figure-eight motion. Bake until golden brown outside, and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 50 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes, then remove to a rack to cool completely. Serve with a nice cup of tea. ■



Cameron Presbyterian Church
600 Carthage Street, P.O. Box 68
Cameron, NC 28326



Rex and Dot McDonald in Antarctica. See their story on page 3.



Antarctic Voyage



On their cruise ship *Azamara Journey*, left, the McDonalds were among about 690 passengers. The sea was filled with sculpted icebergs (above) and marine life such as whales and seals.