



THE Link

March 2016

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

Easter Cantata Features Harpist



Eryn Jones Fuson provided accompaniment on a Celtic harp to this year's Easter Cantata, "Who Do You Say That I Am?" by Lloyd Larson.

Story and more photos on page 4.

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From your Pastor



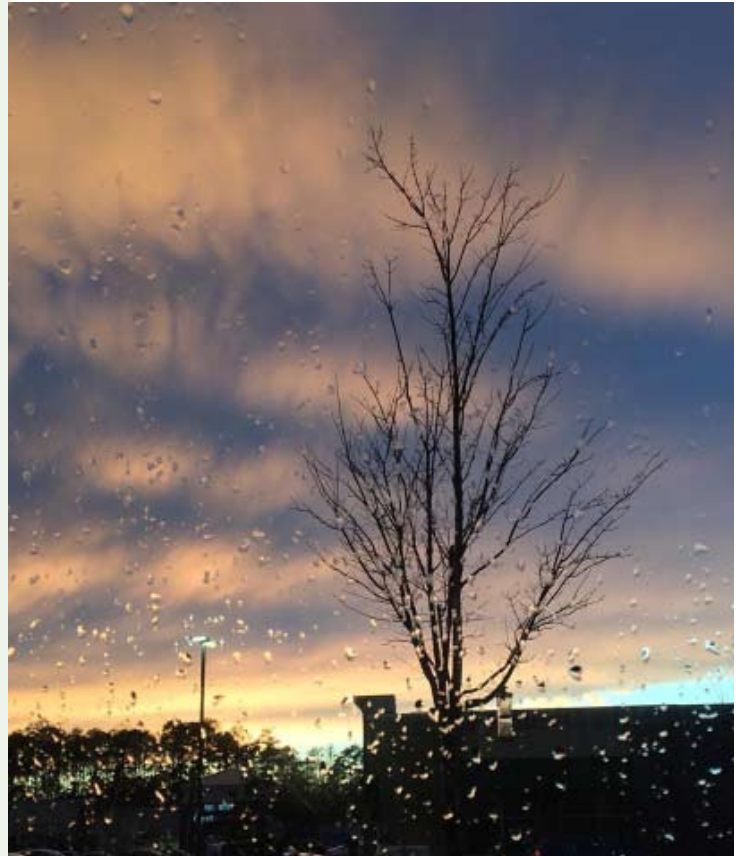
“A New Thing”

I drove home, my mind swirling with all there was to do, all the people I wanted to check on, and how few days I had to prepare before Easter was upon us. Suddenly, my tedious thoughts were interrupted by a loud “plop!” One large raindrop had fallen upon my windshield. My focus centered on it (and, of course, on driving my car), and a few seconds later, there was another, and then another. The bottom didn’t fall out suddenly—it was as if nature was trying to decide if it wanted to rain or not. Eventually, hours later actually, the rain did all pour from the heavens at once, agreeing that the time had finally come to dance on the earth.

I’m reminded of those beautiful words from the prophet Isaiah:

*Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters...
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.*

God’s newness comes, drop by precious drop. Don’t we need that? Don’t those of us wearied with doctor’s appointments and diagnoses need a drop of that newness? Don’t those of us inundated with demands on our time, who can’t find a moment to ourselves, need a drop of that newness? Don’t those of us trying to juggle family and friends and even church responsibilities need a drop of that



newness? We’re thirsty, friends. Perhaps that’s what the season of Lent is all about – journeying with Jesus into the wilderness until we finally admit how much we long for living water.

Here’s where the good news comes in, the Easter tidings we long for: God is bringing new life, even now. Sometimes it comes as a teeny, precarious drop at a time, so that we’ll take notice of it and, for a moment, let go of our fretting ways. Sometimes it comes as a terrifying deluge, where we can’t keep our head above water and have to let go and float. It always comes, this new thing of God. And as this newness comes, God asks that prophet’s ancient question, “Do you not perceive it?”

Truth be told, we often don’t. We expect God to speak with a Charlton Heston Mosaic voice, and miss God speaking in the smiling “hi” from a child at the next table in a restaurant. We expect God to fix everything in our lives in one fell swoop and miss the new life coming in making this day more bearable than the one before it. The new things of God are springing up all around us, whether we perceive them or not. But how rich this life is when we do! We then can become prophets of good news in a thirsty world, who do not worship the past or fear the future, but who fully, deliciously, live in the present.

*Peace,
Rev. Whitney*

Welcome Spring with Risotto Primavera



By Whitney Wilkinson

As I walked outside today, the cold air swirling around my feet made me wish I'd thrown on a pair of socks this morning as I rushed off to a meeting. Though I wore a coat, my neck longed for a scarf to keep out the biting breeze. Walking in the sun, I felt like I could just plop down right there with a good book and ice cold lemonade; however, a quick step into a shady spot made me crave a warm fire and hot chocolate.

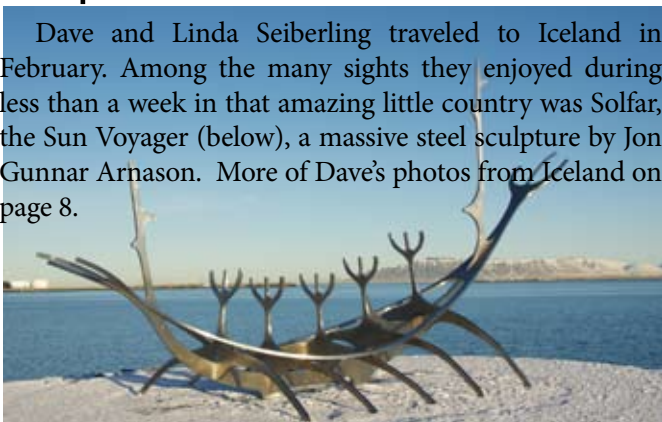
Ah, the schizophrenia that is North Carolina weather. Well, the weather may not have decided whether or not it's spring yet, y'all, but I have. I hereby declare that, though my toes go numb, I shall not swath them in socks! Though I shiver, I refuse to bundle up as if it were January! It is March. Spring is here. Just as I celebrate the arrival of autumn with the warming delight of rosemary-roasted butternut squash risotto, I celebrate spring's arrival with another risotto: primavera. The word means spring, after all! This creamy risotto with the delightful verdant crunch of fresh asparagus and peas, a creamy bite from Parmesan cheese and sweet freshness from basil, just tastes like spring. Get thee to thy local farmer's market, and celebrate the first delicious taste of the season. ■

- 1 T extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 T butter
- 1 cup arborio rice (only this sort of short-grained Italian rice will do)
- 4-5 cups chicken stock (vegetable stock if making it vegetarian)
- ½ lb. fresh asparagus, woody ends trimmed, chopped in 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup frozen peas (fresh if available)
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, chopped
- ½ cup dry white wine
- ½ cup fresh basil, rolled into a log and chopped (impress friends at parties by calling this a "chiffonade")
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 T fresh lemon juice
- salt and pepper

In a deep pan, heat olive oil and 1 T butter on medium heat. Add shallots and cook, until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook an additional couple of minutes. Add rice and cook until beginning to turn opaque, about 5 minutes. Add wine and simmer 5 more minutes. Begin adding stock, about ½ cup at a time, stirring the risotto as continuously as possible with a wooden spoon. Once most of the liquid is absorbed, add more hot stock. Continue cooking for 10 minutes, then add asparagus and peas. Cook an additional 5-10 minutes, until risotto is creamy on the outside but still has a little bite on the inside, and asparagus and peas are tender-crisp. Remove from heat; add cheese, basil, remaining 1 T butter, lemon juice and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve topped with additional Parmesan cheese and a basil leaf. This light but satisfying dish is substantial enough for a simple dinner for two, but is also delicious paired with grilled chicken. ■

A Trip to Iceland

Dave and Linda Seiberling traveled to Iceland in February. Among the many sights they enjoyed during less than a week in that amazing little country was Solfar, the Sun Voyager (below), a massive steel sculpture by Jon Gunnar Arnason. More of Dave's photos from Iceland on page 8.



Join me for a chat about God, faith, church, life...anything at all.





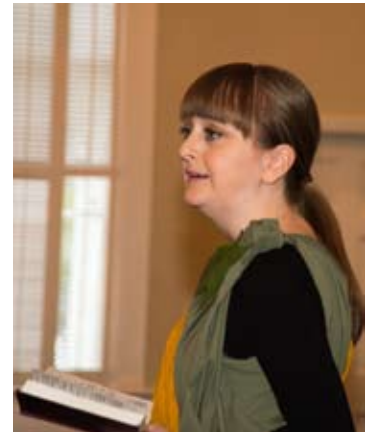
Ed Thomas read the part of the Apostle Peter.

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”—The Easter Question

The title of Lloyd Larson’s cantata, performed by our church choir (above) on March 20, poses the question which is not restricted to first-century citizens. It is a valid question for all who have encountered the story of Jesus down through the ages. It demands a response from all of us today as we again review the biblical recording of Christ’s earthly life and impact upon the lives of those He touched. The cantata included monologues by the characters of John (Martin Bacon), Peter (Ed Thomas), Mary (Cathy McRae), Pontius Pilate (Gene Frazelle), Joseph of Arimathea (Rev. Whitney Wilkinson) and Mary Magdalene (Juanita Harbour). Photos by Jim Leiby



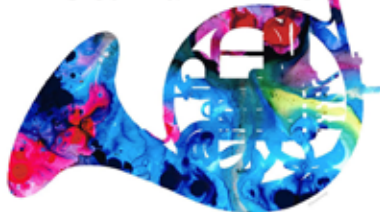
Cathy McRae (above) read the words of Mary Magdalene; Rev. Whitney Wilkinson (right) spoke as Joseph of Arimathea.



Our Concert Series

Cameron Presbyterian Church Concert Series presents

Horns of the Sandhills



Featuring Kim McGill, Liz Hasty, Bill Pearce and Denise Wallace

Sunday April 10
4 p.m.

600 Carthage Street, Cameron, NC 28520
cameronpresbyterian.org

April 10, 4 p.m. “Horns of the Sandhills” will visit Cameron Presbyterian with their dynamic French horn quartet repertoire. We look forward to hearing Kim McGill, Denise Wallace, Bill Pearce and Liz Hasty! ■



Anna Elizabeth Murphy and her father, The Rev. Dr. Paul Murphy, jazz duo, presented “Music from the American Popular Songbook—and Beyond.” on February 21. Many of their selections will appear on Anna Elizabeth’s upcoming album, “The Bossa and the Ballad”. Both Paul and Anna Elizabeth are well-known in the area, and around the country. Paul is a graduate of UNC, and also pastor at Trinity A.M.E. Zion church in Southern Pines. Anna, 26, shares in the family’s love of music and performance.



Come
Join Us!

Church Community News

* Rev. Whitney Wilkinson reports: "We are putting our church calendar up on our website and emailing it each month. It's in the "Connect" section of the website. March is up now; April will be soon."

* Terry Kerr is at work in a new, updated Church Directory after transforming an Education Building classroom into a photo studio during the Annual Meeting in order to take current portraits of church members. He hopes to have the updated directory finished by the end of May. If you have appealing candid photos of church members and activities for the "Mission, Worship and Fellowship" section of the directory, please send them to Terry (twayneker@gmail.com).



Luncheon is served! Congregants had an array of dishes from which to choose at the February 7 Annual Membership Meeting luncheon. Story on page 7.

Try Some Low-Impact Yoga!

Do you want to get a little healthier this spring? 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!

(Note: the yoga group will not meet on Monday, March 28.) ■



Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women

* Day circle meets April 4th at 2 p.m. at the church.

* Evening circle meets April 5 at 7 p.m. at the church.

* The Annual Spring Gathering for the women of Coastal Carolina Presbytery will meet April 9 at the First Presbyterian Church in Sanford.



April

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

May

Victoria Bettini	May 3
Dwayne Peele	May 7
Cathy McRae	May 9
Hannah McRae	May 9
Peggy Phillips	May 11
Phyllis Frederiksen	May 13
Teri Harvey	May 15
Louise Danley	May 16
Lynda Thomas	May 17
Billy Ethridge	May 19
Ashley Phillips	May 19
Rose Cooper	May 23
Clinton Peele	May 30
Carlyle Edmundson	May 31

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.



Picnic Shelter Dedicated to Mack Womble



The February 7 dedication of the Phillips Memorial Park picnic shelter, planned to take place in the park, was moved indoors to the Cameron Methodist Church due to cold, rainy weather. Volunteers and Park Committee members assembled to present Mack Womble with the memorial plaque (left) that will be affixed

to the shelter. Completed earlier this winter after dedicated fundraising and other volunteer efforts, the shelter will be equipped with picnic tables this year and should enhance the park's usefulness to the community for years to come.

(Photos by Linda Seiberling) ■



Mack and Millie Womble at the dedication ceremony



The Park Committee, volunteers and others (above) gathered for the picnic shelter dedication, where Laura Younts presented the dedication plaque to Mack Womble (below).



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 2016

Dawn Barber - Chair, Worship
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Andrey Bereznitskiy - Chair, Mission and Outreach
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Bruce Phillips - Chair, Member Care
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Julie Oksendahl - Chair, Fellowship
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Annual Congregational Meeting, February 7



There was good food and fellowship at the Annual Meeting on February 7.



Clerk of Session Cathy McRae opens the Annual Meeting following the luncheon.



The church welcomed new members Martin and Cheryl Bacon (from left above) and Walt Snyder and Patricia McGowan (from left below) on February 7. Walt is a member of the Memorial Hand Chimes group; Marty and Cheryl sing in the choir.





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

The Seiberlings' Trip to Iceland

(cont'd from page 3)



Northern Lights (above), the result of collisions between gaseous particles in the earth's atmosphere with charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere



Reykjavik Harbor (left), home port for many of Iceland's ocean-going trawlers and marine activities such as whale watching.

Hallgrímskirkja (below), largest church in Iceland, begun immediately after WW II but only completed a few years ago.



A rural church, in the valley where two tectonic plates are separating.



Linda (below left) with the owner of THE quilt shop in Reykjavik. Quilt in background depicts Northern Lights.

