



THE Link

October 2016

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

Hurricane Matthew Topples CPC's Ancient Hickory Tree



Photo by David Seiberling

When the heavy winds and rains of Hurricane Matthew struck our part of the state on October 8, there was widespread damage and loss of many large old trees. Among the casualties was the towering hickory tree which has provided shade in front of our church for so many after-services conversations and for the tradition of serving lemonade and cookies to high school graduates each spring. The tree's actual age has been hard to determine; according to Tom Shaw, "It was already big when I was little." Fortunately, the tree fell away from the church building. Unfortunately, it fell across the power lines and into the street, blocking one lane of traffic. (More on the effects of Matthew

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From your Pastor



Homeward Bound

I walked, all one spring day, upstream, sometimes in the midst of the ripples, sometimes along the shore. My company were violets, Dutchman's-breeches, spring beauties, trilliums, bloodroot, ferns rising so curled one could feel the upward push of the delicate hairs upon their bodies. My parents were downstream, not far away, then farther away because I was walking the wrong way, upstream instead of downstream. Finally, I was advertised on the hotline of help, and yet there I was, stopping along happily in the spring's coolness. So maybe it was the right way after all. The beech leaves were just slipping their copper coats; pale green and quivering they arrived into the year. My heart opened, and opened again. The water pushed against my effort, then its glassy permission to step ahead touched my ankles. The sense of going towards the source.

*I do not think that I ever, in fact, returned home.
—excerpt of "Upstream" by Mary Oliver*

Perhaps it is preparing sermons on lectionary readings from homesick Jeremiah, perhaps it is hearing stories of North Carolinians forced to flee their homes from rising waters, perhaps it is the stirring words of one of my favorite poet-prophets Mary Oliver's new poems, but I find myself captivated by the idea of home these days.

God told the exiled people of Israel in Jeremiah's time that, in essence, you can't really go home again. You can only create home where you are: planting crops, sharing the harvest, seeking the welfare of the place where you find yourself. Mary Oliver speaks of home as a place of stasis and stillness, and as a perpetual pilgrim, the idea is not terribly attractive. Presbyterian Pastor Frederick Buechner defines home as the kingdom of God, writing, "The kingdom of God is what we all of us hunger for above all other things even when we don't know its name or realize that it's what we're starving to death for. We glimpse

it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. We catch sight of it when at some moment of crisis a strength seems to come to us that is greater than our own strength. The kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it."

What is home for you? Is it a person? Is it a feeling? Is it an old, weathered recliner? Is it the smell of wooden pews as the organ begins playing to start worship?

And what happens when that home is disrupted, when waters rise, when the person who is home to you is distant, or ill, or even lost, when the feeling of home is overwhelmed with darker emotions, when the recliner wears out or the church reminds you of too many funerals? What is home then?

I agree with ol' Fred that home is what we long for, without even realizing it. Longing is a powerful motivator. It's what made Mary Oliver walk upstream and become one with nature's beauty. It's what made Jeremiah respond to displacement and violence with a wild mixture of grief and wide-eyed hope. It's what makes us reach out, again and again, to the God who chose to make a home with us.

Where will our longing and homesickness take us? Outside our doors, beyond our walls, into our community? Into the lives of one another, not settling for a simple "peace be with you" for two minutes on a Sunday? Into the world God made, finding delight and glory in every single leaf (even if we have to later rake it up)?

Maybe we'll never be home, at least in this life, at least in the way we expect. But I do know one thing: we will be together, and God, the source of all good, will journey with us, even upstream.

*Peace,
Whitney*



Hearty Italian Soup

By Whitney Wilkinson

I cannot explain my affinity for Italian food, and the ways that the comforting flavors of Italian sausage and good tomatoes warm my soul, but how I adore that fare. Especially delectable are Italian soups on chilly, winter evenings, with plenty of warm, crusty bread to sop up all of the rich flavors. This Italian soup is one of my very favorites: spicy and sweet Italian sausage are married with tomatoes, broccolini, beans and pasta to form a rich and satisfying thick soup, worthy of sharing with loved ones or even freezing and eating any old evening you need a pick-me-up.

Thou shalt not open a can of soup, dear reader, when such a delightful, homemade soup is only a few steps away. This makes a very generous pot of soup for six people, so invite some neighbors over, throw on “The Godfather” and have yourself a little Italian evening you won’t soon forget. I assure you, they’ll not refuse the offer of a second bowl of this flavorful Italian classic.

- ½ pound hot Italian sausage, removed from casings
- ½ pound sweet Italian sausage, removed from casings
- ½ onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 bunch broccolini (tender-stem broccoli, but you can use regular broccoli in a pinch), chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 1 28-ounce can Italian whole tomatoes in juice
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 15-ounce can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup small, dry pasta
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 sprig rosemary
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- salt and pepper
- shaved parmesan, for garnish

Heat olive oil on medium-high in a large dutch oven or soup pot. Add sausage and cook, crumbling, until well-browned, about 15 minutes. Meanwhile, finely chop the whole canned tomatoes. Add onion and garlic to the pot, reducing heat to medium. Cook until nearly tender, 5 minutes. Add broccolini or broccoli and nutmeg. Add chicken stock and tomatoes (with juice), scraping the bottom of the soup pot to release all of the flavorful bits. Add beans, rosemary and bay leaf. Bring to a gentle simmer and add pasta. Cook just until pasta is tender, about 8 minutes. Serve with shaved cheese and crusty bread. Buon appetite!



Antique Fair Parking Proceeds Benefit Mission & Outreach

Parking cars for the twice-yearly Antiques Street Fair provides funds for our church’s Mission and Outreach goals. Treasurer Kathy Oldham provided this comparison of parking proceeds from the 2016 fairs.

May: church lot \$1470, Phillip’s lot \$480—TOTAL \$1950. October: church lot \$1216.75, Phillip’s lot \$ 625—TOTAL \$1841.75.

Mission and Outreach Chair Andrey Bereznitskiy reported to the Session on October 25 that 30 blankets have been ordered for the Mercy Homeless Church in Atlanta. He will be delivering those blankets the first week of November.

Any unused budgeted mission funds will be used to help local hurricane relief.



Our Concert Series: Harpist Eryn Fuson

Eryn Fuson opened our 2016-2017 concert season on Sept. 25 in a beautiful presentation with harp and vocals. Eryn and her husband, Jadie, live in Whispering Pines. She can be reached for lessons and performance requests at erynfusonmusic@gmail.com. ■



Photos by Dave Seiberling



Music for Fall

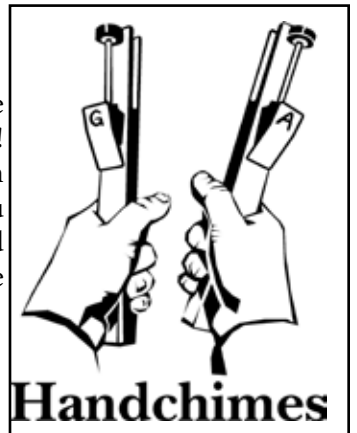
Cakes and Carols, Dec. 4, immediately after worship. The Sanctuary Choir will host Cakes and Carols once again in the parlor after morning worship on Dec. 4. Barbara Peiker will entertain with a variety of seasonal repertoire as we munch on delicious finger sandwiches and mini-cakes! Join us for this time of holiday treats, delightful music, and conversation.

Christmas Cantata, Dec. 18, 5:00 p.m. "Breath of Heaven," by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith, gives a fresh perspective of Christmas by taking a closer look at the compassionate heart of Mary. Based upon the reflective Christmas song by Amy Grant, the music arrangements and lyrics display Mary's posture of servanthood and what it means for this season. Mauldin and Smith include plenty of carols for congregational singing as well. Be sure to reserve the date on your calendar as the Sanctuary Choir, Mary and Joseph (Christie and Larry Allen), along with violinist Emily Whittle, present "Breath of Heaven."



Martin Bacon, Julie Elkins and Cheryl Bacon closed out our summer Sundays on Sept. 4 with special music, including a rousing rendition of "I'll Fly Away" as the closing hymn.

We need players for the Memorial Hand Chimes! Come and give it a try on Wednesday at 5:45. You don't need to be able to read music to enjoy this unique way of making music.





Come
Join Us!

Church Community News

WOC Share Food, Fellowship with Culdee Circle Members



Our church's Women's Circle hosted the women of Culdee Presbyterian Church on September 11 for a lavish pot luck followed by the first Bible study lesson from this year's study guide, *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*, by Judy Yates Siker. Rev. Whitney Wilkinson led the study (titled "Who Was Jesus According to Mark?") using handmade visual aids to illustrate the Gospel's fast-moving narration. Women of the Church will meet again Sunday, November 6 at 3 p.m. in the Adult Sunday School room to study the third lesson, "Who is Jesus According to Luke?"

Session Dates 2016

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 holidays.)



November

Corinne Edmundson	Nov. 3
Patrick Peele	Nov. 5
Taylor Keith	Nov. 12
Juanita Harbour	Nov. 13
Thomas Shaw	Nov. 13
Ricky Stutts	Nov. 20
Debbie Phillips	Nov. 24
Mark McRae	Nov. 26
Marilyn Madsen	Nov. 27
Dick Loase	Nov. 28

December

Joanna Hipp	Dec. 2
John Hipp	Dec. 2
Gwen Simmons	Dec. 8
Kay McKay	Dec. 12
Colton Cooper	Dec. 13
Millie Womble	Dec. 16
Nancy Hively	Dec. 17
Joe McKay	Dec. 19
Linda Seiberling	Dec. 28
Martha Thomas	Dec. 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.



Phillips Memorial Park Hosts "Trunk or Treat"



A perfect October afternoon brought dozens of families with children in costume to enjoy this alternative to traditional Halloween. Activities included a maze (above) made with black plastic sheeting instead of corn. Some hobgoblins migrated to the park's play area (right).

Try Some Low-Impact Yoga!

Do you want to get a little healthier this fall and winter? 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! ■



Park Committee News

The Park Committee will be planting shade trees near the picnic shelter and the restroom as Phase One of our landscaping to make the park even more appealing.

On Sunday November 13 at 3 p.m., the Park Committee will have a ceremony at the picnic shelter to recognize the Cameron United Methodist Church gift of the picnic tables for the shelter.



The picnic shelter was filled with families for Trunk or Treat.



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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Trees Were Casualties of Matthew



The DOT cleared away the top portion of the church's hickory tree (above) in the days following the storm. Most of the wood from the trunk was taken by interested persons but Rev. Wilkinson asked that one section be saved for a future project to benefit the church, for example made into a communion service or a small table. Elsewhere in town, felled trees made many roads impassable (below).

Photos by Dave Seiberling





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