



THE Link

August 2015

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

Joanna Hipp Ordained



Family and friends of Joanna Hipp joined many members of our congregation Oct. 11 for the service of her Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Here she has just received her stole from TE Jim Ewing of Community Presbyterian. More photos on page 3

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From your Pastor



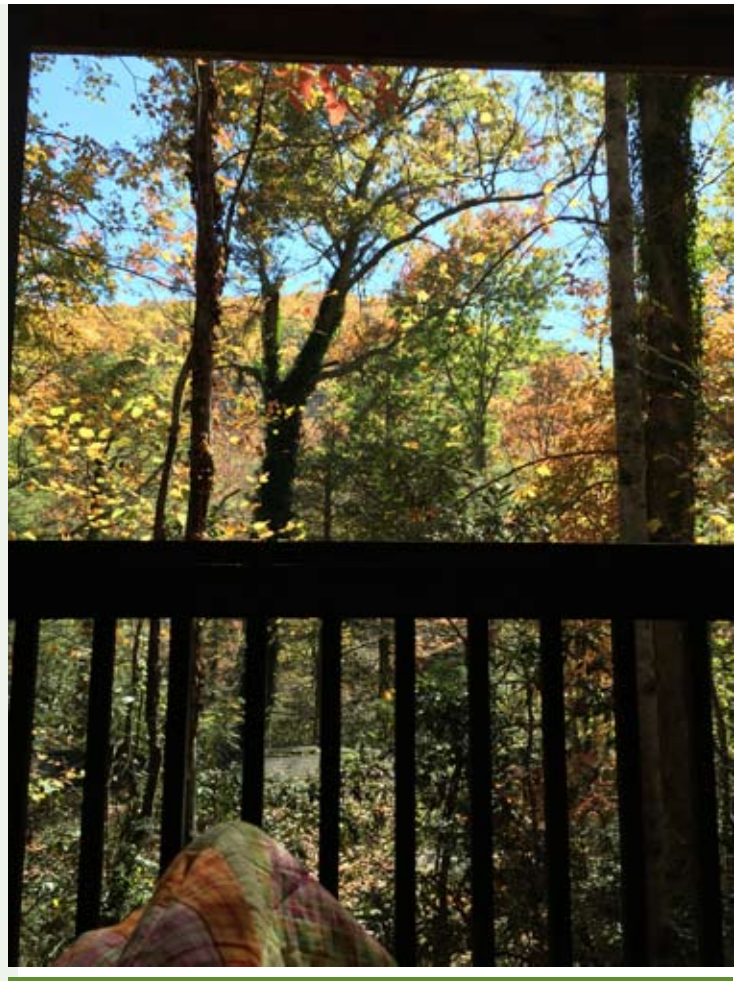
A Season of Letting Go

I sit on a porch in a padded rocking chair, quilt on my blanket, dog in the next chair, a masterpiece of fall foliage as my view. This place is what my friend Beverly has named, “On Mountain Time,” a haven in the mountains of North Carolina she graciously shares with me. It is bliss to get away from it all and be “On Mountain Time” this week. I officially requested this week from the session as “study leave,” one of my two weeks a year I am allotted for spiritual and intellectual growth as your pastor. I brought many books (I now realize far too many), and I have been doing just that: reading on aging and modern medicine, reading on missional spirituality in scripture, reading on the future of a post-modern, post-Christendom (institutional Christianity) church.

But, after several hours of this, I looked up from those books. And I instead studied what was before me: vibrant leaves of lemon yellow, apricot and apple green (I do realize it sounds like I’m describing a fruit salad and not trees!). As I watched, the leaves did their seasonal dance downwards: they fell. They let go. I wonder if it is some agreement between the branch and the leaf at the exact right moment, when they bid one another a fond farewell, or whether the branch is mischievous and surprising, breaking away from the leaf at a moment’s notice. But either way, those leaves, in great groupings of choreographed dance and in singular, brave twirls, head downwards. They let go, or are let go of. And it is a beautiful prayer to watch.

It occurs to me that so many of my own prayers, and perhaps so many of your prayers, and certainly so many of our prayers as a church are about just the opposite. We do not often pray to let go. We pray to hold on. To hold on to what is safe and certain and secure. To hold onto what is familiar and comfortable. To hold onto what we hold dear: people, traditions, habits and theologies and, of course, life itself. We hold on so tightly, all the time. It’s no wonder we are exhausted. It’s not wonder we feel inadequate. You simply cannot hold on forever.

This season reminds us that there is a time to let go. I’m reminded of Jesus’ words in John 12, words spoken to people he loved, people he didn’t want to let go of, but who could not follow him to the cross, “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,



it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” Jesus is explaining that his letting go will bring life for us all. Just as a leaf letting go, lands upon the earth, fertilizing it for new life in the Spring.

Here’s the beauty of a faith community like ours: we can let go together. Let go of our need to be right. Let go of our need to be approved or validated. Let go of our need to constantly do, or earn or buy. Let go of the need to hold on. When we do, we land together, because you never see a lonely leaf. (Feel free to come visit my yard for proof of this!) Leaves grow and let go in community. So shall we. Let’s learn wisdom, friends, by listening to the greatest teacher our Creator gave us: creation. And then let’s follow its example, and let go, that new life might spring up where we least expect it.

Peace,
Rev. Whitney

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.

Joanna Hipp is Ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament



TE Ed Boyce (left) of Eureka Presbyterian asks the Constitutional Questions of Joanna Hipp as part of the Ordination Service. At Joanna's left are TE Whitney Wilkinson of Cameron Presbyterian, RE Teresa Page of Lumberton Presbyterian and TE Jim Ewing of Community Presbyterian..



(Above) Ruling and Teaching Elders gather around newly ordained Joanna Hipp for the Laying on of Hands and Prayer.

(Left) Following the Ordination Service, TE Joanna Hipp administers Communion with TE Alissa King of St. Phillip Presbyterian. Other members of Joanna Hipp's Ordination Commission were RE Cathy McRae of Cameron Presbyterian, RE Teresa Page of Lumberton Presbyterian, RE Brian Entz of Donegal Præsbytery, TE Whitney Wilkinson of Cameron Presbyterian, TE Ed Boyce of Eureka Presbyterian and TE Jim Ewing of Community Presbyterian.



Church Rocks to Standin' on the Rock

Special thanks and appreciation go out to Dan Rush and fellow musicians with Standin' on the Rock, whose beautiful and energizing music provided our recent opener for the 2015-2016 Cameron Presbyterian Concert Series. Now in its fourth year, the series attempts to reach the wider community through this outreach opportunity! Thank you to our regular concert attendees, and to all those who come as new friends of Cameron Presbyterian for these special events. More photos on p. 8 ■

Sanctuary Choir and Chimes Gear Up for New Season

The Sanctuary Choir, now back on its regular rehearsal schedule, returned to the loft in early September to lead in morning worship. They have come refreshed after the summer months, and have enjoyed that time sitting in the pews and worshipping with family. Remember the choir members in prayer as they continue to serve joyfully.

Our memorial hand chimes provided the prelude in worship on October 18 when they played an arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me" and "Holy, Holy, Holy". We welcome Sandy Leiby and Walt Snyder along with Sharon Shaw, Dot McDonald, Shan Chase, Sarah Chase, Phyllis Frederiksen and Jane Ethridge. Wonderful ringing!

Save the Date! for **Cakes and Carols** immediately after church on Dec. 6. This event will take place in the parlor where you can satisfy your sweet tooth and hear sounds of the season arranged by Mollie Wilson and Susan Rush. Always a delicious and delightful time, you won't want to miss Dec. 6!

Christmas Cantata! Let the Whole World Sing by Joel Raney will feature the Sanctuary Choir, Brass Ensemble with David Seiberling (arranger), flute accompaniment provided by Marie Riedesel, and "Silent Night" interpreted through dance by Rev. Whitney and Claire Cameron. Mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec. 20 at 4:30 p.m. here in our sanctuary! All are welcome! ■



Come
Join Us!

Session Meeting Highlights

August 25

- The Session voted not to have the food booth at the Cameron Street Fair and only do the parking.
- The Session voted to make a donation in the amount of \$500 to the Northern Moore Family Resource Center in Robbins for its new pre-school program.
- The Session voted, as requested by the New Facilities Committee, in the future to seek input and feedback from the congregation relative to their work.

September 29

- Some members from the Mission and Outreach Committee, along with Rev. Wilkinson, will be traveling in October to Atlanta, GA to Mercy Church to deliver blankets and other items.
- Session discussed the possibility of having a special evening service for “healing and wholeness” in the near future since so many members of our wonderful church family are experiencing illness at this time. **Please note: “A Gathering for Wholeness” has now been scheduled for Sunday November 1 at 6 p.m.**

Mission & Outreach Report

A small group of our church members (Sarah Chase and I, but everyone was invited), led by our fearless minister, Whitney, undertook a follow-up trip to Mercy Homeless Church in Atlanta to personally deliver blankets (winter is coming!) purchased in advance using our Mission and Outreach budget money—and some other items much needed by the homeless (underwear, to be precise).

The trip continued from 14 through 16 of October. We stayed in Decatur, Georgia, hosted by Whitney’s absolutely wonderful seminary friend Nancy. The whole day of October 15 we spent in Mercy Church, where we joined the homeless for Bible study and worship. Also we participated in food distribution for the homeless on the streets of Atlanta. In the evening, to thank our host, Whitney and I cooked a nice dinner (everyone who is interested can get a free recipe), inviting Mercy Church minister Maggy as well. It was a great evening of spiritual communion (really, out of five participants, three were ministers!). Next morning our group left for home. —*Andrey Berezniatskiy, Mission & Outreach Chair*

Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women

The 2015 Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award will be presented November 8 at noon, at a soup and sandwich lunch in the Fellowship Hall. This Women of the Church Honorary Life Membership Award has been given every other year since 1976.



October

Marcene Emerson	Oct. 16
Bill Simmons	Oct. 20
Ellis Seiberling	Oct. 23
Ed Hendrickson	Oct. 24
Ben Cameron	Oct. 25
Sarah Chase	Oct. 27
Gene Frazelle	Oct. 27
Sharon Shaw	Oct. 28

November

Morgan Douglas	Nov. 3
Corinne Edmundson	Nov. 3
Patrick Peele	Nov. 5
Taylor Keith	Nov. 12
Juanita Harbour	Nov. 13
Thomas Shaw	Nov. 13
Jared Douglas	Nov. 20
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



Progress on Picnic Shelter!

When Mrs. Sue Phillips donated her land for a nature park for the people of Cameron, she must have envisioned how it would be a popular place for the young and old to visit. She was right! It is enjoyed every day by many from Cameron as well as surrounding communities as a beautiful, peaceful place to walk, sit and read or just admire the beauty of God's creation.

What the park needs now is a picnic shelter to provide a shady spot to eat—and it is on its way!! The clay pad for the 20x40-foot shelter has been made, postholes have been dug, posts have been sunk, beams are placed and volunteers have begun construction under the direction of Ray Butner.

The Park Committee is sponsoring its second fried chicken/ BBQ dinner on November 5 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cameron Baptist Church. Plates are only \$8 each and proceeds go to the construction of the picnic shelter. Purchase your tickets in advance from Cameron Town Hall, from Judy Loving at the Cameron Baptist Church or Linda Seiberling, Juanita Harbour or Laura Younts at Cameron Presbyterian Church. The committee is also selling \$1 chances on winning a twin/throw size quilt handcrafted by Linda Seiberling; the drawing will be November 5.

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. ■



Construction is well under way for the picnic shelter, which will have a view of the pond and convenient access to the rest rooms. Next step is for struts to be added in preparation for a metal roof.

Memorial to Three Notable Women Dedicated



Cameron's antique dealers and other residents gathered in Phillips Memorial Park at 6 p.m. October 22 to dedicate a memorial to three women whose efforts helped make the town the unique place it is today. Three benches set in a semicircle under a red maple tree have brass plaques acknowledging the contributions of Jean Hillmer, Sue Phillips and Isabel McKeithan Thomas. Following the formal dedication, several of those present shared personal memories of these influential ladies and everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by The Old Hardware. ■

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

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

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

Chicken Noodle Soup

By Whitney Wilkinson

Comfort: it means different things to different folks. For some, comfort is flannel pajamas and a porch on which to drink their black coffee from a Carolina pottery mug. For others, comfort comes in the form of an elaborately prepared coffee drink in a paper cup from Starbucks as they rush to the office. For some, comfort is a crowd full of people you don't know, all swaying to music that is intentionally too loud. For others, comfort is an overstuffed plaid armchair, and a quiet night in with a good book.

We all experience comfort in different ways, but there is one universal definition for comfort that is shared by all: chicken noodle soup. Fragrant, warm broth, hearty vegetables and slurpy noodles combine to form a bowl full of comfort. I offer you today my simple and satisfying recipe for chicken noodle soup. I added a few things that are perhaps a bit different than the usual recipe: fragrant fresh thyme, green peas and white beans. The peas add a freshness and color, the white beans up the creaminess and protein of this soup, and the thyme gives a depth of flavor to the broth. Indulge yourself in this ultimate of comfort foods, or even better, share it with someone who needs a little pick-me-up.

Chicken Noodle Soup (serves 6)

32 ounces of chicken broth (you can make your own, but I just bought the boxed variety)
2 cups of cooked, shredded chicken
1 small onion, chopped
4 carrots, peeled and chopped
½ cup frozen garden peas
½ pound wide egg noodles (about 2 cups)
4 sprigs fresh thyme
small can of Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
2 tablespoons butter
Pepper

Heat butter in a large soup pot over medium-high and sauté carrots and onion until nearly tender, about 10 minutes. Add chicken broth, noodles, whole thyme sprigs and great northern beans and season well with pepper. Reduce to medium and simmer for about 10 minutes, until noodles are cooked. (While in many pasta recipes you want your pasta to be "al dente" with a little firmness to it, for this soup you want it to be tender.) Add shredded chicken and peas and simmer another few minutes. Remove thyme stems (most of the leaves will have fallen off.) Ladle into bowls and serve alongside crusty bread or simply saltine crackers. If you're making this soup as a cold remedy, squeeze fresh lemon juice in at the end.



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Standin' on the Rock -They Brought Us to Our Feet

(cont'd from page 4)



The hour-long program of Christian Rock and favorite spirituals was performed by vocalist Dan Rush (upper left), acoustic guitarist Mat Encinosa (above center), keyboard player Alan Daubenspeck, bassist William Rush (both above), percussionist William Johnson (left) and electric guitarist/bassist Kurt Wurfele (pictured far right in p. 4 photo).

Photos by David Seiberling