

The Pinecrest Precentor

February 2021

From Our Senior Pastor

Dear Pinecrest Family,

Something that I have been sharing in my new sermon series “Titus: A Recipe for the Church” is my enjoyment of cooking when my schedule allows. I don’t always succeed, but I do get special satisfaction when the meal turns out well.

I still have a lot to learn, but one truth about cooking that has become especially clear: the quality of your ingredients directly affects the quality of your final product. If you cut corners in the quality of what you use, then you should expect there to be lack in the quality of the final product- be it meat, side, or dessert. This truth also goes along with a valuable spiritual lesson.

As we’ve been talking about on Sunday from the book of Titus, the health of the church will likely reflect the ingredients that are at work in it. Paul tells Titus to make sure that the church on Crete has good leadership, good doctrine, and good living.

But what is true for the church is also true for us as individual believers. The ingredients that you include in your life will likely affect the final product. Do you have the right ingredients at work in your life? Do you have good leadership, good doctrine, and good living that are helping you live out your faith in Christ? Are you taking advantage of the means of grace through which God has promised to use His Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our faith and walk: The Bible, prayer, and the sacraments?

If you are not living out your faith well, ask yourself if any of these ingredients are missing from your life and seek help from God and from the church in adding them. If you are living out your faith well right now, make sure that you keep using these ingredients so that you can continue to grow and be strengthened.

Most importantly, make sure that you have Christ included in your life. He is not only the special ingredient that makes every life better, he is the one that God uses to transform a life into something greater than it ever would have been on its own.

Psalm 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!”

I hope that you get to enjoy some good meals with the right ingredients in the weeks to come, but even more than that I hope you get to enjoy a church, a home, and a life with the right spiritual ingredients every day in this life and the life to come.

Blessings!

Rev. Rhett Carson

Intercessory Prayer

Our Nation, The Coronavirus, The Family of Vivian Wyatt, Carol Hager, Andria Lassiter and baby Hudson

Book of Remembrance

The following have contributed towards the General Fund or other fund as noted below:

In memory of Mr. George Lamb from Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brice.

Thank You

I am thankful for all the cards, prayers, and the beautiful Christmas basket that was delivered to me. I love and miss you all. – **Liz Kimberling**

Thank you so much for my Christmas basket. I would have replied sooner but I have been busy eating all my goodies! I miss you all and send my love and prayers. – **Gordon Ann King**

What a blessing it is to be part of the Pinecrest family. Thank you for the special fruit basket. In addition to all the calls and cards it has made me aware that I am not alone. Thank you for all you do for me. Blessings and love – **Charlsie Cooper**

New Members Class

Pastor Rhett will be starting an Inquirer's Class on Sunday, January 24th. This class is open to anyone who is interested in finding out more about our church and/or interested in joining. This class will take place over four Sundays starting at

11:15am in the Fellowship Hall. For those joining us in person, we will require masks and social distancing. There is also an online option available for those who desire to attend this class remotely. Please speak with Pastor Rhett if you are interested or would like more information.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Pinecrest was blessed to be able to make several generous contributions, totaling \$6,000.00, to IAM (Interfaith Assistance Ministry) in 2020. This ministry is serving a vital role in our area providing food, financial aid, and counseling for the many families impacted by COVID 19. In addition to helping with the ministry of IAM the fund has also been used to directly help church members in need of financial assistance. As a result, our Pastor's Discretionary Fund is depleted. The Session is asking our members to consider making a special contribution to that fund so that our church may continue serving our community. You may place a separate check in your tithe envelope or in one of the **Special Offering** envelopes designated for this fund that can be found in the lobby. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Praise God that we are able to help others in need.

Virtual ARP Day

Erskine College is pleased to announce **Virtual ARP Day**, scheduled for **January 31**. The event will be livestreamed at 7:00 p.m. through CEM's Facebook page, and the style will be very much like the Quest and Horizon live event. The livestream will feature a tour of Erskine's campus, a time of worship with the RUF music team, and a message from pastor and Erskine Chairman of the Board Clint Davis. Those who register in advance will be entered into a drawing for gift cards to Starbucks or Chick-fil-a! Please contact Christian Beamguard for more information.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Super Bowl Sunday is here, and that means the Souper Bowl of Caring is here as well! Our annual drive for Interfaith Assistance Ministries will be Sunday, February 7th. If you'd like to participate please bring a canned soup or monetary donation and drop them in the soup pots outside the sanctuary after 10 am worship.

Special Missions Presentation

Join us in person or online for a special missions presentation on Sunday, February 21st during our 10AM Worship Service. Missionaries Juan Carlos & Ruth Bonilla will update us on their ministry and how the Lord is at work in Spain.

Wednesday Night Prayer Group

We held a Wednesday evening prayer group for our nation for several weeks beginning in October 2020 and we are going to continue on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, indoors in the fellowship hall, at 6pm. We will observe all virus protocols and safety measures. We will pray for our nation in accordance with scripture and without political affiliation. We will have a Bible reading, take prayer request, and have a season of prayer at each meeting. The meeting will be similar to a small group meeting. Any and all are welcome. We intend to return to the outdoors when weather and daylight permit. If we exceed our average of about 12 or whatever the indoor virus limit is with proper distance and mask coverage we will seek further approval for additional meeting times. Our goal is to worship God in the name of Jesus Christ and pray for Godly changes in our nation to lead more people to Christ.

Sickness Policy for Public Worship Services

Pinecrest has resumed in person public worship services. Please see below for our updated sickness policy. For our full guidelines please go to the church website www.pinecrestchurch.com. We will continue to broadcast our services online each Sunday from Facebook and our church website for those who need to remain at home.

Sickness Policy for In-Person Worship Attendance during COVID

Anyone (staff, volunteer, or attendee) who themselves or a household member has tested positive for the coronavirus should not attend public worship services until two weeks after the test was administered and any symptoms subside.

Anyone who themselves or a household member has exhibited symptoms of the coronavirus should not attend public worship services until two weeks after symptoms subside.

Anyone who knows they or a household member has been directly exposed to the coronavirus should not attend public worship services until two weeks after exposure and any symptoms subside.

On any given Sunday, anyone who does not feel well for any reason should not attend public worship services that day.

Anyone who tests positive for the coronavirus and has attended a public worship service at Pinecrest in the past two weeks should notify the church office as soon as possible at 828-692-0063.

Wednesday Online Prayer Meetings

Until we are able to meet in person again, Pinecrest will be having an online prayer meeting each week on Wednesdays at 11:00 am using Zoom Cloud Meetings. If you did not receive an email from the church with instructions on joining, please contact the church office. Please email pinecrestarp@gmail.com with any prayer requests and plan to join us online each week as we pray for each other and for the end of the coronavirus.

Inviting Others to Church Online

The coronavirus has changed not only how we worship as a church but it has also changed how we invite others to church. Even while we are worshipping online we need to be inviting others to worship with us so that they can join us in praising God and hearing the gospel message. We can invite others to worship with us online through word of mouth but we can also invite them digitally. We digitally invite people to worship online by pressing the "like" button at the bottom of the video (the more likes, the more "like"-ly it is to pop on in someone's search for a church service). We also invite people to worship with us online by clicking the share button on the video and posting it to others through email or your Facebook page— a few words about what you learned or liked about the service will greatly encourage others to listen. Continue to join us for worship online each week but please also remember to encourage others to join us as well— they need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ too!

Online Giving

During this difficult time, we wanted to make it easy for you to continue your contributions to the church. Please visit our webpage at Pinecrestchurch.com and click on the "Give Online" button in the top right-hand corner. You may use a credit or debit card or opt for direct draft from your bank account. You may also download the Tithe.ly app, create an account, and then search for Pinecrest Presbyterian Church. Or you may opt to mail your check directly to the church at PO Box 421, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

February Birthdays

2 Christine McMurray
5 Ann Gosnell
6 Sue Brogi
7 Jim Voris
13 Gary Letchworth
Julia Clark
14 Tommy Harper
15 Bill Stanley
Sonja Tonnesen
16 Glenn Anderson
17 Edna Arnott
Lee Isaacs
18 Eleanor Muller

22 Andy Scott
23 John Myslik
Martha Scott
25 Virginia Barker
Karla Reese

February Anniversary's

15 Dan & Barbara Eichenberger

If your name or family members name is missing and you would like to have it included in future publications, please call the church office at 828-692-0063.

Youth Bonfire and Dinner

Please join us on Saturday, February 20th from 5:00pm-6:30pm pm for an outdoor youth dinner and bonfire! Please contact Christian for more information.

2020 Contributions

Contribution statements are located in the atrium for you to pick up. If you would like the church to email your contribution statement, please call the church office at 828-692-0063.

2021 Flower Calendar

The 2021 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary ready for you to fill in the dates you would like to provide flowers for worship services in memory or in honor of someone you love.

The Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF)

After the recently budget meeting, the session received questions about the Denominational Ministry Fund: What is it? Why is it included in our budget? The ARP denomination, of which Pinecrest is a part, requests that each church put 10%-20% of its budget towards this fund. This fund supports the ministry and staff of our denomination's boards and agencies. It supports our missionaries around the world through World Witness, our church planters through Outreach North America, our college and seminary students through Erskine, our camps & educational resources through Christian Education Ministries, the ministry of our conference center Bonclarken, and the administration & communications of our denomination through Central Services & the ARP magazine.

Pinecrest supports this Denominational Ministry Fund not only because of the ministries and resources it provides for Pinecrest, but also for the ministries and resources it provides for people throughout the United States and around the world through the ARP denomination.

Financial Statement December 2020

*Contributions	Expenses	Surplus
\$38,806	\$38,543	\$263

Year to Date

*Contributions	Expenses	Deficit
\$377,631	\$409,140	\$31,509

*Does not include investment income/loss.

Upcoming Events:

In addition to the weekly schedule listed below

Ongoing – New Members Class

1/31 - Virtual ARP Day

2/7 - Souper Bowl of Caring

2/20 - Youth Bonfire 5:00pm-6:30pm

2/21 - Missions Presentation

Pinecrest Presbyterian Church *Associate Reformed Synod*

1790 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, North Carolina

For the Glory of God, Pinecrest Presbyterian Church exists to produce fruit for God's kingdom by rooting people in God's word, growing them in their faith, and helping them branch out with the gospel in their homes, communities, and the world so that all may know that Jesus is Lord.

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am.

Sunday High School Discipleship Group via Zoom 3:30 pm.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting via Zoom 11:00 am.

Wednesday Youth Group Meeting 3:00 pm.

Wednesday Night Prayer Group 6:00pm

You may visit our webpage at Pinecrestchurch.com, connect

with us via Facebook, or YouTube to view our Sunday Sermon.