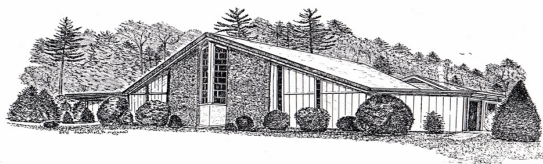


# THE PINECREST



## PRECENTOR

**Volume XIX, January 2017**

**Rhett Carson, Senior Pastor**

### *From Our Senior Pastor -*

We know every year brings changes with it: in the world, in our nation, in our families, etc. Perhaps the biggest change that will take place in our church family this year is happening in just a few short days. Our long time secretary and bookkeeper Minona Beasley will be retiring.

Minona has been working at Pinecrest Church since 2002. That's almost 15 years! That means Minona has put together 14 annual reports, 180 church newsletters, 780 bulletins, and at least 4,000 year-end contributions statements. I can't even begin to count the number of phone calls she has answered, doors she has opened, and supplies she has ordered. Minona has been an invaluable resource to our church and to our ministry. She has been the face and voice of our church during office hours and she has done countless behind the scenes jobs so that the other church staff and members can focus upon the ministry.

We are thankful that the Lord has led our search committee and church to Melody Burrell who will be assuming Minona's responsibilities in early February, but no one can ever replace Minona. She is greatly loved and will be sorely missed.

Please join us Sunday, January 29th at noon in Evans Hall for a small reception so that you can join us in telling Minona: "Thank you! You will be missed."

*Rhett Carson*, Senior Pastor

### **CIRCLE NEWS**

**CIRCLE 2** ~ No report as January's meeting was cancelled due to snow. Next meeting will be at 12:30PM, February 14 in the church library.

**CIRCLE 3** ~ 8 members and 1 guest, Dottie Kent, were present. Next meeting will be February 8 at 1:15PM in the church library.

**CIRCLE 4** ~ had 8 members in attendance. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, February 21 at 1PM at Carolina Village.

**CIRCLE 5** ~ No report.

**Next PRECENTOR Deadline is  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

### **Intercessory Prayer**

Carolyn Evans, Nancy Boyea, Dot Shipman, Evalyn Coad, John and Sarah Ellen Carson

### **Super Bowl Sunday**

Pinecrest Youth will collect canned goods and donations for the "Souper Bowl" at both morning services on February 5. The proceeds will be given to Interfaith Assistance Ministry and Hendersonville Rescue Mission. **Evening Worship on Sunday February 5 will be held at 5PM.**

### **Youth Trip to Winter Jam**

Youth in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to go to a Christian music concert in Greenville, South Carolina called Winter Jam on Friday, February 17. The tickets cost \$10. Contact Tommy Harper or Rhett Carson if you are interested in attending.

### **Congratulations to our Graduates**

**Carlos Unda** graduated in December from Erskine College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics.

**Brice Molton** graduated in December from Brevard College with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Spanish language and culture.

### **First Wednesday/ Youth Fundraiser Dinner**

Help the Pinecrest Youth by attending their bar-b-que dinner at 5:30PM, February 1 in Evans Hall. All donations will go toward youth camps and conferences this year.

### **"Sing to the Lord a New Song . . ."**

As we approach the Easter season, I invite you to consider donating a new Easter anthem in memory of a loved one. We are in the process of examining several offerings from SheetMusic.com. Throughout the Easter season we would love to augment our heavenly choir (weren't they the best last Sunday?) with new members in all voice parts. Please consider sharing in our music ministry if you are a singer. We feel richly blessed by all those who participate in and are supportive of our service to the Lord. Won't you be a part of it! ~ In His Name, Judy Roberts

## *Many Thanks ~*

To My Pinecrest Family,

I am so grateful for your support, your concern, and especially your prayers during my recent health scare. My recovery has been slow, and I have had to learn patience. This was a wake up-call.

Some of you have asked what my official diagnosis was and it is called aortic dissection, type B. I realize it was extremely serious, and I thank God every day for sparing my life. I know that He still has a plan for me.

All of you are very dear to me . . . and I appreciate each and every one of you.

~ Eleanor Richardson

Dear Pinecrest Family,

Kathy and I would like to thank the congregation for all of the gifts and cards we received this Christmas. They were a wonderful and tangible expression of your love, thoughtfulness, and generosity. Thank you all!

~ Rhett and Kathy Carson

Dear Pinecrest Congregation,

Thank you all for the Christmas gifts you gave to me and my family. Your kindness and generosity are overwhelming. Thank you and God bless, Minona

Dear Ones at Pinecrest,

I want you to know that you are very precious to me. I appreciate so much the pile of socks for my "church," the inmates at Henderson County Detention Center. Another big load of thanks for the toys given out to the children of inmates. We give them out with a Christmas party at the family visitation at the jail the weekend before Christmas. Thanks to those at Bonclarken who helped make contact with Mt. Carmel ARP and Angel Tree in Abbeville for the two children of inmates there. You made one of our "guests" at HCDC very happy. Thanks to those who have slipped me support funds for Blue Ridge Prison and Jail Ministries. And thanks to the whole church for regular financial support that keeps us going.

I have heard missions described as going out of your culture to spread the Gospel and jail ministry is definitely that.

~ John Andrews

## **Pinecrest Phone Messages**

The One Call System has been an invaluable tool for advising church members of meetings, closings due to inclement weather, and additional notices regarding requested prayer for individuals. In an effort to enhance the value of the calling system, please think about the calls you receive and let us know if you need to change the phone number you have provided. If you would like to change the number, or add an additional number, please notify the church office at 692-0063.

## **2016 Contribution Statements**

are available for pick up in the atrium.

If you need your statement mailed to you, please contact the church office at 692-0063.

## **The 2017 Flower Calendar**

is posted beside the sanctuary doors.  
Be sure to sign up early for special dates.

## **Sermons Online**

Pinecrest Church's website has an exciting new feature. Only 3 clicks needed. Go to [pinecrestchurch.com](http://pinecrestchurch.com). Click on the SERMONS tab. Click play. The last sermon will begin playing. Previous sermons can be heard by downloading.

Also, a CD of any sermon can be ordered from the Audio Order Station in the atrium. Each CD usually contains two Pinecrest services with music and sermons. Please use one of the order forms provided, or send an email to me with the date requested.

~ George Lamb

Pinecrest Audio Ministry

## **BABIES' LIVES MATTER**

Since January 22 was Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, I thought I would throw in my two cents worth. To be honest, prior to September 1991, I did not give much thought to the sanctity of life. Most of what one heard swirled around babies and abortion. Except for three months of my nurses' training, I had relatively no baby experience in life. God changed things that September.

If ever there was a prime candidate for abortion, Sheqwan was it. While pregnant, his teenage mother had a virus. It seemed much like a common cold for her, but for her baby it was devastating. The CMV virus (please don't ask me to attempt to spell the actual name) attacks developing organs. She had it at the time her baby's brain was developing, thus his brain was just minimal in size and capacity. I do not know the extent of the prenatal care his mother had. If the devastation of his brain was known prior to birth, I expect that she would have been advised to abort the infant. Praise the Lord, that for whatever reason, his life was spared.

Though spared, his life was very fragile, very difficult to maintain, and, I suspect, held no pleasure for him. The night of September 5 it seemed that five months was all he could endure and that it was ending that night. It is a long story that I love to tell but space here is limited and my story shall have to be the same. He was left to die at the hospital that day and as providence would have it, our lives crossed. Within 24 hours it had begun, his life not only continued on, but it became permanently entangled with ours, Andy's and mine.

You can only imagine the red tape involved, but by October 9 we had his mother's permission and the doctors' blessings to care for Sheqwan in our home. To explain his disabilities I've decided it would be quicker to tell what he could do. He could see and hear on his right side, he could grow once he started getting regular (every two hours) feedings through his stomach tube, he could smile and make happy sounds, he could turn his head about 1/4 of a turn, and he could love. That was all that he could do and it was plenty for us. Being our "first child" I hadn't known the overwhelming love that one could have for

a little one. I would hold him by the hour praising God for placing this glorious child in my life. To us, he was absolutely perfect. Together we endured the horrible seizures that wracked his body daily, the growing respiratory distress, the 15 hospitalizations he had, and the constant stream of social and health care workers that invaded our lives.

Did this fractured life have sanctity? YES! A million times yes. God hadn't messed up when he knit him together in his mother's womb. (Psalm 139) He too was made in the image of God. (Genesis 1) Like all other men, he was "made a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned with glory and honor." (Psalm 8) And, just as for us, there were "good works" prepared in advance for him to do. (Ephesians 2)

Sheqwan taught me many things about our Lord. The first lesson hit me like a ton of bricks before we ever brought him home. Friends at the hospital were amazed at how we loved him. One even said to me "It's like you don't even see all that is wrong with him." Before I could respond, it felt as though God literally tapped me on the shoulder and said, "See, that is just as I love you." God went on to make it clear that although he well knew all the "wrong" things, a.k.a. sins, in my life, but, because of my belief in Christ, he saw me as covered with Christ's blood and he no longer saw what was wrong with me. Bingo!

At the time, I was doing a lot of speaking for Stonecroft's Christian Women's Clubs. At least once a month I would travel off somewhere and give my testimony to one or more clubs. I quickly changed my talk to include Sheqwan's story and compared how I saw and loved him to how God sees and loves us. It seemed to be what was needed for many women to understand and accept God's love and forgiveness. Not until heaven will we know how many are there because of Sheqwan's life. In Fayetteville, a young teen was brought to the dinner by her teacher. As she left she told me that she hadn't thought God could ever love her because of things she had done. Now she understood differently and had prayed the prayer of repentance with me. In Athens, Georgia a grandmother had also prayed the prayer. One of her grandchildren had been born with Down's syndrome and she had never accepted him, never given him gifts as she did the others, she had gone home that day anxious to start anew their relationship. Did Sheqwan's life matter? Indeed it did, not just to Andy and me, our family and church family, but to hundreds of others it mattered for eternity.

But, Ecclesiastes 3 tells us "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die." I had told Sheqwan so much about Jesus and heaven. Living life was never easy for him although Andy and I made it as enjoyable as we could. We could see it was becoming harder and harder for him to carry on. I truly believed that being with Jesus was becoming more and more his desire. And so two weeks shy of his second birthday, God granted his desire and took him home to be with him. As Andy and I sat holding that precious little body, one moment alive and the next moment not, with tears falling we sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow". That little boy, who could have so easily been aborted, was a pure

God-given blessing in our lives and will remain so for all eternity.

It was Sunday morning and our Pastor was with us. In time he returned to church and reported to the congregation, "This morning Sheqwan is a very happy little boy." How true! But, I've learned to see it another way too. Sheqwan wasn't the only happy one. The Bible tells us three things that are precious in the sight of God: Israel (Isaiah 43), the blood of the needy (Psalm 72), and the death of his saints (Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.") Now, I would tend to think that a sinner's repentance, a saint's obedience, or the birth of a saint would be precious in his sight. But no, it wasn't a birth but the death of his saints that made the "precious scale". But, what is death on earth is birth into heaven. A commentary comment said, "To God death means the most intimate communion." It makes me think that God can hardly wait to scoop us up to be with him. He longs for the time when he can have us all to himself. Death truly is a precious time, a sanctified time. ~ Martha Scott

#### **Financial Statement as of December 31, 2016**

Income	Expenses	Surplus
<b>\$376,727</b>	<b>\$348,202</b>	<b>\$28,525</b>

#### **Interfaith Assistance Ministry**

Pantry Focus: beef stew, canned fruit, cereal, powdered milk

Clothing Closet: all warm clothing, blankets

#### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Christine McMurray
- 5 Julie Ann Gosnell
- 6 Susan Brogi
- 12 Melanie Huggins
- 13 Julia Clark, Gary Letchworth
- 15 Bill Stanley, Sonja Tonnesen
- 17 Edna Arnott
- 18 Eleanor Muller
- 21 Carrie Davis
- 22 Andy Scott
- 23 John Myslik, Martha Scott
- 25 Virginia Barker
- 27 Karla Reese

## Youth & Children's Activities

### Weekly Meetings & Events

#### Thursdays

3:30 pm Bible Club

#### **Souper Bowl Collection**

At Sunday **Worship Services on February 5.**

Please bring canned goods and donations.

#### **Youth Winter Jam Concert**

Friday, February 17. Departure time to be announced

### **Pinecrest Calendar**

#### Sundays

8:30 am Early Morning Worship  
9:30 am Sunday Morning Bible Study  
10:55 am Worship Service/Children's Church  
12:00 pm Coffee Hour  
5:00 pm Evening Worship **Sunday, February 5**  
6:00 pm Evening Worship remaining Sundays in February

### Weekly Meetings & Events

Monday 4:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
Tuesday 2:30 pm Sonshine Small Group-1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday 11:00 am Prayer Meeting - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
Thursday 12:00 pm Sunday Bulletin Deadline  
7:00 pm Men's Bible Study - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group

## **February Calendar**

#### Wednesday, 2/1

11:00 am Prayer Meeting  
5:30 pm First Wednesday/Youth Fundraiser Dinner

#### Thursday, 2/2

5:30 pm Christian Education Team Meeting

#### Sunday, 2/5

Youth Souper Bowl Collection at both morning services

**5:00 pm** Evening Worship Service

#### Monday, 2/6

11:00 am Congregational, Worship & Social Concerns Team Meeting

#### Wednesday, 2/8

1:15 pm Circle 3 Meeting - Library

#### Tuesday, 2/14

12:30 pm Circle 2 - Library  
6:30 pm Board of Deacons Meeting

#### Friday, 2/17

Youth Winter Jam Concert

#### Sunday, 2/19

*Precentor* Deadline

#### Tuesday, 2/21

1:00 pm Circle 4 Meeting - Carolina Village  
6:00 pm Session Meeting  
7:00 pm Circle 5 Meeting - Carson home

#### Thursday, 2/23

9:00 am *Precentor* mailing - Library

PINECREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
POST OFFICE BOX 421  
FLAT ROCK, NC 28731  
(JANUARY 2017)