



The Messenger

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

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Vol. 35, No. 4

April Edition

March 24, 2015

Yes, Easter Comes Yet Again

Easter comes yet again.
Resurrection hope arrives once more.
From deep crevices of death thunders forth life.
Easter comes yet again.

Amidst hopelessness and surrender.
Right next to sheer grief and pain.
Easter comes.
Easter comes yet again.

Truly Easter comes yet again.

With it comes life anew. There are hope-filled things happening this Easter. Thanks to the gracious gifts of some special folks, the new hymnal, Glory to God, will be in the pew racks ready for worship on Easter Sunday!

Also, with the Easter season comes our capital campaign! Yes, finally, the new roof is on the way. If you have never seen a minister excited about a new roof, just come by my office and you will. The MACS and the youth and the scouts will soon see new buses! I'm sure I can get a grand "Amen" from all those folks! With your help, these issues, and other much needed upgrades to the building are just around the corner.

With all the naysayers that claim the Church is crumbling, it is exhilarating to see all the life, action, work, and worship here at LPC!

Yes, truly Easter comes yet again.

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!



Palm Sunday, March 29

11 am Worship followed by Children's Easter Egg Hunt
During worship the Chancel Choir and Children will sing; following the Children's Sermon on the steps, children will then go to Sunday School. Parents, teachers will bring your children to the fellowship hall immediately following worship for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please join them and help by bringing a dozen candy-filled plastic eggs to the fellowship hall by Friday, March 27 or at the latest before worship on Palm Sunday morning.

5:45 pm Communion Class

1st-2nd graders are invited to attend Jr. Youth (3rd-5th) for the communion class and dinner at the Hut.

6 pm Youth led Journey to the Cross & Fundraiser Meal.

Please come support the youth at 6 pm on Sunday, March 29 for a meaningful Easter program and a great fundraiser dinner in the fellowship hall. "A Journey to the Cross" symbolizes Christ's last days on earth. By walking the path that Christ walked, you will be able to focus on the events leading up to Easter. Throughout the church building there will be different "stations" to guide you along the path Jesus walked during his last days on Earth. The reading, prayer and activity will help us remember Jesus' pain and suffering on his journey and his unending love and forgiveness for us all.

Early on in the Christian movement, Jesus' followers remembered Jesus' execution and the places where various parts occurred, recounting the details. By the Middle Ages, pilgrimages to Jerusalem for Holy Week were like the Muslim Haj—a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. When people couldn't go to Jerusalem to walk the via Dolorosa with Christ, the ritual of the stations of the cross was born so that people could journey with Christ spiritually in their own parish devotion. We're going to participate in the ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death. Enter into the experience open to the Lord's presence.

The senior high youth group will guide you through the stations. The middle school youth will provide dinner. Chicken and rice, salad, corn bread and dessert will be \$7.00 and children under 12 will be free. Please join us.

Holy Week Events Continue

Wednesday, April 1

4 pm Scotia Worship and Communion led by Neal Carter; and "The Final Week of Jesus' Life," a presentation based on a book by Christian writer Max Lucado, will combine stories from the Bible along with original paintings by local artist Nancy Sandgren in an unusual Holy Week event in the Morgan Center at Scotia.

Note: no Wednesday night meal at LPC Spring Break

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion

Holy Saturday, April 4

5:30 pm Service of Healing & Wholeness (Chapel)

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:30 am Flowering of the Cross

please bring flowers to decorate the cross

11 am Easter Worship and Communion with special music and brass

Sunday Worship

March 29 - Passion/Palm Sunday, Year B

Is 50:4-9; Ps 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; **John 12:12-16**

Children sing with Chancel Choir

Neal's Sermon: *Homeless Jesus*

88 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

426 Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak

101 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

In lieu of flowers a donation will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Ricki Ohl by her family.

April 5 - Easter Sunday, Year B

Is 25:6-9; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; I Cor 15:1-11; **Mark 16:1-8**

Neal's Sermon: *Even the Unexpected*

485 We Know that Christ Is Raised

268 Crown Him With Many Crowns

248 Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Easter Lilies will be in sanctuary; please remember to take your lilies home after worship.

April 12 - 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Rev. Lyndsey McCall will be preaching.

232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

249 Because You Live, O Christ

In lieu of flowers this Sunday a donation will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Howard, Emily, and Jim Clark by John Clark.

April 19 - 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B

Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Acts 3:12-19; **Luke 24: 36b-48**

Joyful Ringers and Singers help in worship.

Neal's Sermon: *Witnesses*

254 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

172 Blessed are They

233 The Day of Resurrection!

Flowers given to the glory of God in memory of Bill and Lois Bateman by the family.

April 26 4th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 4:5-12; **Psalm 23**; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Neal's Sermon: *Before the Valley of the Shadow of Death*

238 Thine is the Glory

187 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

In lieu of flowers a donation will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Mrs. D. J. "Dot" McCormick by the family.

May 3 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8; Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31

Neal's Sermon: *The God Initiative*

246 Christ is Alive!

22 God of the Sparrow

826 Lift High the Cross

In lieu of flowers a donation will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Estelle and Julian Butler, Margaret and Irvin Montgomery and Mildred B. Snowdon given by the Butler and Snowdon families.

Open flower dates: May 10, July 26, Sept. 27, Oct. 18
contact Lynn Mason 276-5353 if you would like to put flowers in the church or contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory or honor of someone.

Our Capital Campaign: Building Our Faith

These are exciting times in the life of our church. One of the most energizing things happening is that we have the opportunity to write the next chapter in the journey of Laurinburg Presbyterian Church.

In last month's Messenger, David Harling mentioned a capital campaign in the works for Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. After much hard work from many people, it is finally here!

After turning over every rock, researching every angle, speaking to numerous contractors, engineers, and bus manufactures, the session has compiled the list of needs for ministries of our congregation for a capital campaign.

Building Our Faith (our theme) reflects the long, unbroken line of faithfulness over the 156 years of our shared ministry here at LPC. We can only speculate the extent of the blessings in and through countless lives over those years which have continued to resonate, life to life, generation

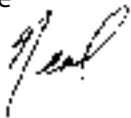
to generation as God has worked God's will through this community of faith.

Building Our Faith has three main points: 1) replacing the roof on the fellowship hall with a more durable, longer lasting metal roof (with other much needed roofing repairs), 2) two new premium buses (These buses will be used by the MACS, the youth groups, the Boy Scouts, and other church groups as needed. The two current buses will be employed by the childcare center), 3) needed renovations to the restrooms at the fellowship hall.

We can think of a long line of God's people who have been encouraged, strengthened, healed, and restored by the work of Christ through the ministry of our forebears in faith here at LPC.

This is to encourage us all as we prayerfully consider what role we will each play in this effort as we seek to continue that faithful response to God's blessing of our lives. My hope is that our call to assist is not to respond out of duty, or guilt, or compulsion, but out of a sense of appreciation for all God provides for our lives, and gratitude for all God is in and through our lives. Ultimately it is God who is the source of all that makes life so rich; the air we breathe, the opportunity to work, and the strength, smarts, and skills to avail ourselves of those opportunities, the inspiration to love and friendship, the power which allows us to forgive, the grace to enter into real, authentic life, and the promise of life eternal in Christ. So let's pray with gratitude and expectation and seek God for the ways in which we can make an impact in our world, in our generation – an impact that will bless not only our church family today, but, in the name and love of Christ, reach beyond our walls and beyond our generation to enrich the lives of countless folks for generations to come.

Grace and Peace



The New Hymnal: Glory to God

Thanks to the gracious gifts of some special folks, the new hymnal, *Glory to God*, will be in the pew racks ready for worship on Easter Sunday!

The 217th General Assembly (2006) authorized the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) to create a new hymnal. David Eicher was then called as Hymnal Editor. Presbyterians applied for membership on the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS). Fifteen people - pastors, musicians, and members - were called to participate; they began work in 2008. Among these were: Mary Louise "Mel" Bringle, who taught at St. Andrews Presbyterian College from 1983-2000. LPC's former

director of music, William McConnell (PAM, ex-officio) also served on this committee. Early in their process, the PCOCS adopted a language statement and a theological vision statement. Following denominational practice, the committee used "inclusive language with reference to the people of God, and expansive language with reference to God". Some pronouns referring to people were updated from "men" to more common words such as "people" or "folk". Hymns and songs represent the wealth of images for God in Scripture, spanning from the Mother Hen (23:37) to Abba (Mk 14:36) to Creator (Is 40:28) and Lord (Ex 3:15).

The PCOCS consulted various PC(U.S.A.) constituencies through surveys and focused consultations. All submissions were discussed by the committee; author and composer information was hidden to encourage honest dialogue. To move a song forward, a 2/3 majority vote was required for approval. Hymns and songs were examined by task forces before coming to the full committee. The PCOCS's spent their final meeting examining and singing through the complete contents in their proposed order.

Glory of God is the culmination of this multi-year endeavor. The PCOCS presents this collection with a great deal of excitement. They are eager for current and future generations to sing the hymns and songs, get to know the collection, and enjoy the rich diversity of gifts present. Every member of the PCOCS desires that *Glory to God* will serve as an instrument of God's grace.



Dr. Mel Bringle served as chair of the PCOCS.

Joyful Singers & Ringers Schedule: Wednesday Rehearsals: April 1, 8, and 15; Sing and Ring for Worship: April 19 (be in sanctuary at 10 am); Spring Concert: April 22; Special Event (possible): April 29

Whitechapel Ringers Schedule: Sunday Rehearsals: April 12 and 19; Ring for Worship: April 26 (arrive at 9:30 am to set up tables and practice)

Chancel Choir Schedule: Wednesday Rehearsals will continue through the end of May. Special Event (possible): April 29. Chancel Choir will go on "summer vacation" starting June 14. On July 12, 19, & 26: "Summer Choir" (come Sundays to rehearse at 10:30 and sing at 11 am) to participate in worship.

MACS (Maturing Adult Christians) Saturday, April 18 beach trip to Calabash for lunch - only 3 seats left on the bus departing at 10 am. Call today! Plus sign up now for our Thursday, May 14 trip when MACS will be traveling to TEMPLE THEATRE to see HAIR-SPRAY, "where a 'pleasantly plump' teenager teaches 1962 Baltimore a thing or two about integration after landing a spot on a local TV dance show." Play is \$21 and money is due by April 23. Play starts at 7pm and we will go to dinner first. We will let you know what time BUSES will be leaving. We look forward to another fun filled time together. Contact Betty Jackson (544-9304) or Sis Thomas (276-0220) today to sign up.



1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FOOD DRIVE! The Deacons urge you to bring one canned good per family member with you the first Sunday of every month for Church Community Services. Collection baskets are located at the entrances for your donations. Thank you for sharing and caring with others in our community.

LPC COMMUNITY GARDEN is leasing garden plots and less than 11 remain. Plots are \$30-\$85 depending on size. Please contact Sam Thompson 910-852-9415 or email him at: samthompson2009@gmail.com

SCOTIA LECTIONARY STUDY meets at 1:30 pm every Wednesday in the Living Room on Scotia's 2nd floor.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES are broadcast on WLNC 1300 Sunday at 11 am, on the internet (wlnradio.com), the previous week's service TV Channel 2 on Sundays at 10 am and Tuesdays at 8 pm. Plus Sunday's (same day) service is shown at Scotia's MMEC at 2 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Three adult classes are taught at 9:45 am: Men's Bible Class in the Session room, the 3M's Class and the Fun Adult classes meet off the fellowship hall. The Part Time Adults meet upstairs with Neal teaching the weekly lectionary passages at 10 am. We have nursery during worship with Darlene Swing as caregiver with volunteers. Children's Classes are taught following the children's sermon on the steps: Explorers 3 year olds -1st grade meet on first floor, and Trekkers for 2nd-5th grade meet upstairs. **Needed:** Sunday School teachers for the Trekkers (2nd - 5th graders) We have a rotation where you teach about every 5th week. Please contact Sarah Williams (276-1416) if you can help teach.

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19 All Children's Sunday School Teachers are invited to an appreciation lunch following worship in the fellowship hall. After lunch, we will hold a brief meeting to get your input with regards to curriculum, supplies, suggestions and thoughts to help us plan for the upcoming year. Childcare will be provided. Please let the church office know if you can to attend. Sarah Williams (CNE Children's Sub-committee)

THEOLOGY ON TAP (TOT) TUESDAY APRIL 21 **Moved to 3rd Tuesday.** Join us for food, drink, and fellowship at 6 pm at the Downtown Club. Discussion begins at 7. RSVP by noon Friday, April 17.

YOUTH SCHEDULES Sunday March 29 gather at 5:45 to prepare for Journey to the Cross & Middle School Youth Fundraiser. No Youth April 5 and 12 due to Spring Break. Resume April 19..

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 YOUTH MUSIC & FUNDRAISER 6 pm Youth Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser proceeds to benefit the Youth Ministries of LPC (Eat-In or Take-Out) 7 pm Youth "Celebration of Music!"

JR. YOUTH SCHEDULE 5:45 AT HUT March 29 Communion Class April 19 Lesson/Activity Hut May 3 Practice for Youth Sunday



WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE We will not have a meal or regular Wednesday night program on April 1 and April 8. However the Children's choir/chimes will practice as well as the Chancel choir. 6:00 pm Fellowship Meal - ends April 22 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Program - ends April 22 6:30 pm Children's Choir/Chimes - ends April 29 7:15 pm Chancel Choir through May 27



Fellowship Meal Adults: \$7. Children 12 and under: FREE!! RSVP by 1:00 pm on Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

6 pm Fellowship Meal: BBQ chicken, sweet potato casserole, cole slaw, field peas, tossed salad, bread, tea, dessert
6:30 pm St. Andrews University Spring Choir Concert

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 (last meal and program)

6 pm Fellowship Meal Hamburgers, Hotdogs, mac & cheese, chips, baked beans, slaw, buns, tea, dessert
6:30 pm Children's Choir and Chimes Spring Concert
The Joyful Singers & Ringers will present our spring concert, "This is My Father's World" on Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 pm. We will be sharing music from across the globe, featuring many of our favorite songs from throughout the year, as well as some new pieces. Please join us!

LOOKING FOR CAST IRON

Boy Scout Troop 420 is looking for 10 inch or 12 inch cast iron frying pans to put in our patrol boxes. If you have one you are not using we would appreciate you donating it to us. We do not care about the condition as we will recondition all pans donated. You may drop donations by the church office for our pickup. Thanks, David Harling Troop Committee Chairman 420

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Coordinating Team 5:30 pm on Monday, March 30 and Monday, April 27

Some PW Circles scheduled to meet Monday, April 6
Circle 3 at 12 pm Fellowship Hall (bring a sandwich)
Circle 4 at 3:45 pm at Scotia

* Circle 1 meeting Monday, April 13 at 7 pm at Phyllis Breeden's home. Janice Liles co-hostess

* Circle 2 meeting Monday, April 13 at 4:30 pm at Anne Sprouse's home. Lesson then dinner catered by Barbara Bateman and Virginia Ann McCormick

ACOLYTES

March 29 Jackson Purcell
April 5 (communion)
April 12 Cooper Sutherland
April 19 Alexis Patterson
April 26 Daniel Caudill

NURSERY

March 29 Scott & Leslie Sellers, Caroline Bounds
April 5 Sue Schulz, Kenslee Hecht
April 12 Jamie & David Synan, Sara Paige Liles
April 19 Mitzi & Jeff Byrd, Gibson McLaurin
April 26 Chris & Eddie Carmichael, Haley Sellers

EXPLORERS (3 years-1st grade)

March 29 Carolina Caddell & Pam Hill
April 5 (communion)

April 12 Chris & Eddie Carmichael
April 19 Meredith & Brian Bounds
April 26 Beth Elliott & Kim Liles

TREKKERS (2nd-5th grade)

March 29 Kitson & Kristin Broadbelt
April 5 (communion)
April 12 Chris & Eddie Carmichael
April 19 Debra & Jamie Sutherland
April 26 Annette Morgan & Candy Nichols

BUS DRIVERS pickup at Scotia 10:15

March 29 David Carmichael
April 5 David Herr
April 12 Bill Caudill
April 19 Michael Sellers
April 26 SCOTIA TO BRING

GREETERS Sanctuary Door

March 29 Nick & Lucy Sojka
April 5 Clint & Carlene Willis
April 12 John & Martha Olmstead
April 19 Geoffrey & Molly Taylor
April 26 Dick & Dot Burr

GREETERS Office/Fellowship Door-Elders

March 29 Anne Caudill
April 5 Mike Coughenour
April 12 Debby Holcomb
April 19 Edna Ann Loftus
April 26 Richard Massey

GREETERS ELEVATOR DOOR-DEACONS

March 29 Kitson Broadbelt
April 5 Chris Carmichael
April 12 Doug Harris
April 19 Bill Loftus
April 26 Chris Rhue

USHER TEAM # 3 Herman Gillis, lead

Bill Caudill, Craig Ellis, Hal Jernigan, Charles Liles
Bill Loftus, Edna Ann Loftus, Allen McLaurin, John McLaurin, Penny McLaurin, Gus Purcell, Gray Sellers, Anne Sprouse, Jimmy Stubbs, Philip Wilkinson, Clint Willis

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dick Stang in the death of his mother, the family of former member Ken Newbold, and to Jane Somerville in the death of her daughter, Laura Gray Woodall.
Continuing Concerns: Michael Fore, Keiko Fore's son (has a rare type of cancer); Tamara & 3 year old son Hudson (leukemia MD); Lucile Bridgeman, Courtney Carmichael, Ray McCormick (Virginia Ann McCormick's

brother), Hugh McArn, Ralph Parker (Banner Elk), Frances Shannon, Creed Sellers, Sam Snowdon; At Scotia SNF: Edna Drake, Frances Hopkins, Virginia Johnson, Mackey McCormick; At Scotia Special Care: Anne Collins, Evelyn Crossley, Reba Essey, Frances Haupt; At Assisted: Ervin & Ann Hill, Edna McKeithen, Helen Middleton; At Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan, Joyce Stutts; At Prestwick: Lois Muse, Dooda Robertson

John Phillips is serving in Afghanistan for a year. You may stay in contact/write him at this address:
COL John Phillips
335th SC (T) (P)
25th Signal Bn
APO AE 09354

TOMMY BRITT MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Scotch Meadows Country Club
12 pm shot-gun 3 person Captain's choice format. \$60 per person. Proceeds for the SHS Tommy Britt Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contact Scotch Meadows or Jaime Sutherland to register.

SUMMER JOBS AT MONROE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

MCRC is seeking outstanding, dedicated, hard-working, Lord-loving college-aged people to work as our summer resident staff from June 24-August 7, 2015! Current positions available are: Male & Female Camp Counselors, Lifeguards, Program Assistants & Traveling Day Camp Director. On average our staff is paid \$190 a week which includes housing, meals and a fantastic summer experience. For more information go to our website monroecamp.org/summer-employment or contact Rev. Lyndsey McCall, Director of MCRC.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**2015 is Monday, July 13-
Friday, July 17.**

Volunteers needed! If you are interested in helping teach, decorate or assist in any way, please call the church office.



NEW POLICY on Presbytery Selling Books & Calendars

Please reserve your order of 2015-16 PCUSA Planning Calendars (\$11.00) by contacting the Presbytery office by May 1, 2015. After the May 1 deadline, calendar availability cannot be guaranteed. Phone: 910-862-8300 x 200 or 800-277-7479; FAX: 910-862-3524; Email: dls67@presbycc.org or kayebledsoe@presbycc.org. The Presbytery office will no longer sell the Book of Order or Book of Confessions. Order books at <http://pcusastore.com> or 800-533-4371. These books can be accessed free online.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Jacque Doubles	03/29
Bonnie Purcell	03/29
Poppy Bounds	03/30
Douglas Hix	04/01
Ellen Thompson	04/01
Sara Harling	04/02
Ben Freeman	04/03
Heather Whistler	04/03
Jen Rhue	04/04
Jackson Purcell	04/06
Sarah Wilkinson	04/06
Jacque Britt	04/07
Jack Herr	04/07
Megan Batten	04/09
Mitzi Byrd	04/11
Kathy Jones	04/11
Suma Brooks	04/13
Billy Hardy III	04/14
Andrew Todd	04/14
Grace Wilkinson	04/14
David Bridgeman	04/16
Alexis Patterson	04/16
Neal Bushoven III	04/17
Jane* Heller	04/17
Catharine Neylans	04/17
Brynley Byrd	04/18
Gus Purcell II	04/19
Hannah Harling	04/20
Kate McDavid	04/21
Larry Schulz	04/21
Bill Brandon	04/22
Reba Essey	04/22
Ashlyn Murray	04/24
Betsy Gordon	04/25
Bryan Heller	04/25
Beverly Bowling	04/26
Kirsten Dean	04/26
Winston Dwyer	04/26
Joshua Altman	04/27
Meredith Harling	04/27
Tyler Parks Sellers	04/27
Charles Wentz Jr.	04/28
Berry Williamson	04/28
John McLaurin	05/01
Edna McKeithen	05/02
Geoffrey Taylor	05/02
Drew Williamson Jr	05/02
David Bounds	05/03
Marjorie Coughenour	05/04
Jane Quick	05/04
Chuck DeVaney	05/07
Lynn Mason	05/07
Peggy Medlin	05/07

Happening in the Presbyterian Church USA

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the PCUSA approved Amendment 14-F last summer, but required a majority of presbyteries to ratify the provision for it to become part of the church's Constitution.

At its meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Palisades Presbytery became the 86th presbytery to approve an amendment to the PC(USA)'s Book of Order.

Our session will be meeting to discuss what Laurinburg Presbyterian Church will do regarding these changes. Here are some of the common questions and answers that congregations have expressed.

Are congregations and/or pastors required to participate in/host such weddings?

"In no case shall any teaching elder's conscience be bound to conduct any marriage service for any couple except by his or her understanding of the Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit." No pastor is compelled to perform a service of marriage nor a session compelled to use church property for a service of marriage.

Can a pastor in a state where it is not permitted perform a wedding in a state where it is?

The teaching elder has freedom of conscience. Beyond that, it would depend on whether the teaching elder is authorized under civil law to perform a wedding in the state where the wedding is to take place.

Will sessions have the authority to permit (or not) same-gender marriage services in the church?

Yes. Nothing has changed about the authority of sessions in the way church property is used.

If a pastor is willing to preside at the marriage of a same-gender couple, can the session prohibit the pastor from doing so?

No. The session cannot compel the pastor nor can the pastor compel the session. The pastor has the freedom of his or her own conscience and the session has the responsibility for providing for worship and making decisions about the use of church property.

Can the session make a categorical prohibition of same-gender weddings in its building?

Yes. Nothing has changed about the authority of the session with regard to the use of the church building.

Here is the wording of amendment 14-F: The proposed amendment to the Book of Order recommended by the 221st General Assembly (2014)

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder, who may agree to the couple's request only if, in the judgment of the teaching elder, the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values. In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.

The marriage service shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to this covenant and to the forms of Reformed worship, under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the session (W-1.4004-.4006). In a service of marriage, the couple marry each other by exchanging mutual promises. The teaching elder witnesses the couple's promises and pronounces God's blessing upon their union. The community of faith pledges to support the couple in upholding their promises; prayers may be offered for the couple, for the communities that support them, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness.

A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction.

Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder's or the session's discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.

On the Calendar... Sundays: 9:45 am SS Adults; 11 am Worship; 11:20 am Children's Church School; 12:15 pm Whitechapel Ringers; 5:45 pm Youth

Sun 3/29 6 pm Journey to the Cross & Fundraiser
Mon 3/30 5:30 pm PW Leadership Team
Wed 4/1 4 pm Scotia Worship/Communion (MMEC)
(no meal at LPC) 6:30 Children choirs
7:15 Chancel Choir rehearsal
Thurs 4/2 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
Sat 4/4 5:30 pm Healing & Wholeness Service
Easter Sun 4/5 10:30 am Flowering the Cross
11 am Easter Worship & Communion
5:30 pm Deacons
Tues 4/7 7 pm BEG
Wed 4/8 (no meal at LPC Spring break)
6:30 Children rehearse; 7:15 Chancel Choir
Wed 4/15 6:30 pm St. Andrews Choir Spring Concert
7 pm Finance & Administration
Sat 4/18 MACS - Day trip to Calabash
Mon 4/20 7 pm Session Meeting
Tues 4/21 5 pm Membership; 5 pm CNE;
5:30 pm Childcare; 6 pm TOT
Wed 4/22 Last Wednesday Meal at 6 pm
6:30 pm Children's Spring Concert
"This is My Father's World"

Recently the church office switched to Time Warner Cable for phones and internet service; therefore all the email addresses ending in @bellsouth.net no longer exist. Please add these new email addresses your email contact lists:

Neal Carter ext. 302 cell 280-9688
nealcarter64@gmail.com
Lu Fowler ext. 301
laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com
Lyndsey McCall ext. 303 cell: 919-656-2718
mccallyndsey@gmail.com
LeGette McLean ext. 304
legettemclean@gmail.com
Sean McDonald cell: 910-373-1776
seanmichaelmcdonald@gmail.com
José Rivera ext. 305 cell: 414-218-2822
jriver45@gmail.com
Priscilla Graham ext. 306
graham.priscilla@gmail.com

A new membership directory will be published soon and we need your current contact information. Have you changed your email, cell, home or work numbers? Please email Lu at laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com or call 910-276-0831, x301 today! Thank you!

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Laurinburg, NC 28352

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