

multiple certificate of deposit accounts at 2 different banks in Salisbury.

During December, the Session approved the 2015 operating budget, with income and expenses totaling \$145,400.00. This is an increase of just 1.5% over the 2014 budget. Some of the additional income will come from a new tenant. Effective January 1st, the Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church is renting The Hut for their youth group meetings every Sunday afternoon. We are happy to have them utilizing this space for their youth, while they continue to hold their church services next door at The Temple.

Thank you for your continued financial support of John Calvin Presbyterian Church. As always, please feel free to contact any member of the Stewardship Committee with questions regarding our finances.

Stewardship: Mark Curran (Moderator), Judy Andersen, Richard Browne, Sabra Cope-Mills (Treasurer), George Glover, Martha West.



Wednesday Night Live

March 4: Rev. Kellie Browne will lead a discussion on Presbytery News (See below). Crew: Susan and Tom Waller, Renee McCachren and Bill Christie, Sabra Mills.

March 11: "Learning More About You." Crew: John and D.J. Whitfield, Claudetter Roberts, Judy Andersen, Jennifer Totten.

March 18: Gabrielle and Logan on their work at the V.A. Hospital. Crew: Blanche and George Glover, Carol

Rathbun and Ray Barber, Pat Featherson.

March 25: "Remembering Our Saints, Part 2." Crew: Mark and Jackie Curran, Peggy and Bob Wilson, Bill Kesler.

Salem Presbytery and Amendment 14F

On April 25, Salem Presbytery will vote on Amendment 14F. Kellie will lead a discussion at Wednesday Night Live on March 4 on what the vote is about and what it means to our ministry at JCPC.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is the highest council of the church, holds its meetings every second year. The most recent meeting was held last summer. As happens every year, some items of business were passed by the Assembly to be sent to the Presbyteries for their vote. There are a number of things to be voted on this year, and Salem Presbytery has finished its voting on all but one.

One of the other types of action that was taken by the General Assembly was to pass an "Authoritative Interpretation" of section W-4.9000 of the Book of Order to grant pastors and sessions discretion in determining whether or not to conduct same-gender marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal. At the time of the assembly, that was 19 states and the District of Columbia. Now, of course, the number of states has grown much larger, and includes North Carolina.

Salem Presbytery's remaining vote is called Amendment 14F, and it is a proposal to make a change to the language in the *Book of Order*. This amendment would change the constitutional definition of marriage from "between a man and a woman" to

"two people, traditionally [between] a man and a woman." The Assembly was careful to protect the consciences of pastors on both sides of the issue, including protective language in both measures. A clause in the proposed amendment states:

"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."

Hope to see you on March 4th!

Session Notes

The session has determined that the church *Handbook* needs to be updated in order to reflect recent actions and policies. Some of the revisions will be to maintain consistency between church policy and committee responsibilities. To that end each committee has studied the *Handbook* and made recommendations for updating. Renee and Amy McCachren have volunteered as a committee to collect these revisions and recommend the appropriate editing needed in the *Handbook*.

Mark Curran was the John Calvin Commissioner to the meeting of Salem Presbytery on February 10.

Lenten Study

Please join us for a Lenten Study on Hymns entitled, "Will You Come and Follow Me." We are meeting in the Old Fellowship Hall on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Joyce Caddell and Kellie Browne are leading the class. Come as often as you can!