

Romans 12:4-5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

**The purpose of my church visits is to:**

- Join in worship
- Take the Presbytery to them, be a face of the Presbytery in their midst
- Let them know that they are not alone, that we are all an important part of the larger community of faith known as the Presbytery of Western NC
- Encourage them to be an active participant in the mission of the Presbytery and to share their mission with the Presbytery
- Present a Building HOPE plaque to the congregation (where applicable)
- Take the pastor (and family) to lunch as a thank you and to just talk

**Church Visits**

It was a busy third quarter.

- I had the honor and privilege to visit and speak with 12 churches (4 in one day, the Lenoir churches at their annual "Praise in the Park" gathering).
- I had the honor and privilege of participating in the installation of David Roquemore at FPC Newton.
- I had the honor and privilege to participate in the ordinations of 2 daughters of our Presbytery; Rosy Robson of Black Mountain and Rebecca Heilman of Waldensian. Both were wonderful events full of energy, enthusiasm and promise for the future. The only thing that could have made them better would be that they were staying within our Presbytery. I've participated in 4 ordinations this year, all were going elsewhere. Maybe someday we can bring them back.
- At the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Crossnore, greetings were brought from the Presbytery, 6 partner Presbyterian churches, 7 of the local and international partner mission agencies, 2 previous pastors of the church, a tearing up of the mortgage, the dedication of a centennial quilt and special music including an original hymn written for the centennial celebration: "We Have Chosen To Respond", followed by a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall.
- At the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brittain the Reverend George Hutchins preached. Reverend Hutchins is a son of the Brittain church, he preached at the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He commented during his sermon that he'd go ahead and pencil in to preach at the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A joyful day, with greetings from the Presbytery and 2 of the 4 daughter churches of Brittain. The 250<sup>th</sup> celebration was a 2 week event, with the other 2 daughter churches coming the following week. A cover dish meal was enjoyed by all on the grounds after worship.
- Attended and spoke at the Mayland Fellowship at Newland; the quarterly gathering for food, fellowship and service of the 16 churches of Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties. A wonderful example of our churches coming together to do more than a single church could do by themselves. They awarded three college scholarships to local students whose goals are teaching, law enforcement and aeronautical engineering.
- There was our July Presbytery meeting wonderfully hosted by Banner Elk at Lees McRae College.
- Hurricane Florence has had a devastating impact for our sisters and brothers in Eastern NC. It also had an impact in our Presbytery. Not to any magnitude of that to our neighbors in the East, but many of our churches cancelled Sunday worship services as a precautionary measure. These cancellations include my

**Moderator’s Church Visitation Report**

planned visit to FPC Gastonia on the Sunday of the hurricane. However, some pastors made it in and were able to broadcast their worship service over the internet. What a blessing.

- I even squeezed in some vacation too.

WOW! What a blessing and gift this summer has been for me. In spite of the busyness, these visits continue to be a joy filled experience for me. I can’t help but be filled with encouragement by the ministry, mission, energy and fellowship that I have encountered at every one of the churches that I have visited. I’m impressed with our pastors and commissioned pastors and their shepherding of their congregations. I’m encouraged for the future by the enthusiasm, energy and character of our young pastors and their call to ministry.

There are so many great things happening all across our Presbytery. Our Presbytery is responding to God’s call, in a big way, to care for our neighbors and all of His creation. I’ve just touched on the few that I’ve personally been involved with in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. There is so much happening in our Presbytery that many of our congregations never hear about. I continually pray that our congregations will hear more of what is happening across our Presbytery and be encouraged to find a mission or ministry to share their gifts alongside folks from other congregations. What a joy it is to expand our Christian family by working together.

Please continue to pray for me, that I can fulfill the commitment that I have made to God and the Presbytery; that I will do no harm, but instead will strengthen the community of faith known as the Presbytery of Western NC. I would also ask that you pray for the churches that are feeling isolated from the Presbytery and PCUSA. And that the doors will open to allow me or others the opportunity to speak with them; with a hope for healing and unity.

Melvin Meares, 2018 Moderator of the Presbytery of Western NC

**Summary – Future plans**

<b>October 1 – December 31</b>	<b>Sundays (Cluster)</b>	<b>Other Activities (Cluster)</b>
Currently Scheduled Moderator Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FPC, Highlands (A)</li> <li>• Morrison, Franklin (A)</li> <li>• Pine Street, Lincolnton (E)</li> <li>• Robinson Memorial, Gastonia (D)</li> <li>• Union Mills, Union Mills (C)</li> </ul>	Presbytery meetings: 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FPC, Hickory (E)</li> </ul>
<b>Sundays Available For Visits</b>	<b>8 Sundays</b>	n/a
13 Sundays	Speaking to 5 Churches	1 Other Moderator Activity

### Summary

January 1 – September 30, 2018	Spoke to these congregations (Cluster)	Other Moderator Activities (Cluster)
Moderator Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banner Elk, Banner Elk (F)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Brevard-Davidson River, Brevard (C)</li> <li>• Dulatown, Lenoir (E)<sup>7,8</sup></li> <li>• Fairview, Lenoir (E)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Fletcher, Newland (F)</li> <li>• FPC, Asheville (B)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• FPC, Belmont (D)</li> <li>• FPC, Burnsville (F)</li> <li>• FPC, Forest City (C)</li> <li>• FPC, Hendersonville (C)</li> <li>• FPC, Hickory (E)</li> <li>• FPC, Lenoir (E)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• FPC, Marion (B)<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• FPC, Spruce Pine (F)</li> <li>• FPC, Sylva (A)</li> <li>• FPC, Waynesville (A)</li> <li>• Grassy Creek, Spruce Pine (F)<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Hayesville, Hayesville (A)</li> <li>• Korean, Asheville (B)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Newdale, Burnsville (F)<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Newland, Newland (F)<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• New Vision, Conover (E)</li> <li>• Northminster, Hickory (E)</li> <li>• Old Fort, Old Fort (B)</li> <li>• Rutherfordton, Rutherfordton (C)</li> <li>• Shelby, Shelby (C)</li> <li>• Sweetwater, Hickory (E)</li> <li>• Union, Gastonia (D)</li> <li>• United, Lenoir (E)<sup>7</sup></li> </ul> <p><sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> visited on same day <sup>8</sup>second visit this year</p>	<p>Ordinations: 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Smith, Montreat, Montreat (B)</li> <li>• Rebecca Heilman, Waldensian, Valdese (E)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Rosy Robson, Black Mountain, Black Mountain (B)<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• William Wilson, FPC, Asheville (B)</li> </ul> <p>Installations: 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Bonnema, Unity, Denver (E)</li> <li>• David Roquemore, FPC, Newton (E)<sup>5</sup></li> </ul> <p>Presbytery meetings: 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowell, Lowell (D)</li> <li>• Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, Banner Elk (F)</li> </ul> <p>Meals: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northminster, Hickory (E), dinner with Jill &amp; Andrew Isola</li> </ul> <p>Events: 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brittain, Rutherfordton (C), 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Crossnore, Crossnore (F), 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• FPC, Hickory (E), lunch with Vasco Kachipapa Banda, General Secretary Synod of Nkhoma, Malawi</li> <li>• Mayland Fellowship at Newland, Newland (F)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Sherrill's Ford, Sherrill's Ford (E), PCUSA Outlook guest</li> </ul>
Other Sundays (no Moderator activity)	<p>2 home church, FPC Hickory (E)</p> <p>2 Mexico mission trip</p> <p>1 Israel</p> <p>1 Hurricane Florence cancellation</p> <p>6 vacation</p>	n/a
39 Sundays Cluster visits Repeat Church Visits	<p>Spoke to 30 Churches</p> <p>A=3, B=4, C=5, D=2, E=9, F=7</p> <p>A=0, B=0, C=0, D=0, E=1, F=0</p>	<p>14 Other Moderator Activities</p> <p>A=0, B=3, C=1, D=1, E=6, F=3</p> <p>A=0, B=1, C=0, D=0, E=2, F=2</p>

Total visits by Cluster: A=3, B=7, C=6, D=3, E=15, F=10