



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

301 Patton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24016

125th Anniversary Homecoming

"Celebrating 125 Years of Our Faith's Harvest"

November 5, 2017



***Greetings, Church Family
of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian!***

This brisk autumn season reminds me that I have an old sweater tucked away in the deep corner of my closet. I have owned this old sweater for an awfully long time, but I still recall the store in Greensboro's Four Seasons Mall where I purchased it. Though a bit tattered and worn with frayed threads around the edges, some might suggest that it has seen better days and, perhaps, should be discarded.

As I remember the sweater, I am reminded of all the good times, and some not so good times, I experienced while wearing it: the dates, the nights out on the town, the struggles over tests in the classroom, the spilled foods and drinks, the snowball fights, baby vomit and all the rest. I've experienced a lot with this sweater, yet with just a quick wash and a shake, it has always kept me warm and comforted.

As we look around our culture and our world, let us be reminded that in times like these we have a church tucked away in a corner of the city of Roanoke; a church we have known for an awfully long time. During this conclusion of the celebration of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church's 125th Anniversary and Homecoming, perhaps you can recall the time you were running around in the Sunday School rooms, the feeling of God's presence in worship, the occasion of your baptism, membership, a wedding or even a funeral of a friend or loved one.

Because the corners of the walls may have been rounded through wear, or the paint has faded from the color of your memory, or the carpet has worn places from the feet of prior saints, some may have suggested that Fifth Avenue has seen better days and, perhaps, needs to be discarded.

But just like my old sweater, with a continued bathing in the love of Christ and the vibrations that come from your renewed energy and ideas, we do not look back at the 125 years which have passed, instead we peer forward with the joyous expectations of the 125 years yet to come. Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church can continue to keep us warm and comforted.

With many blessings on this wonderful and exciting day,
Pastor Vernie L. Bolden, Jr



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
301 Patton Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016

"Celebrating 125 Years of Our Faith's Harvest"

125th Anniversary Homecoming

A Service of Thanksgiving & Renewal

November 5, 2017

Organist..... Mr. Frederick Bolden

Pastor..... The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

We Assemble in God's Name

Organ Prelude

Frederick Bolden

Chimes & Lighting of Candles for the Saints of the Church

- Church Founders
- Church Pastors
- Church Officers & Leaders
- Church Luminaries of the Community
- Church Sojourners
- Church Keepers of the Flame

Call to Worship.....from Psalm 116 & Psalm 134*

Leader: What shall we return to the Lord
for all the good things God has done for us?

People: *We will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.*

Leader: O come, praise the Lord with me,

All: *let us exalt God's name together.*

***Prayer of Invocation (unison):** Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise....."How Firm a Foundation"*.....# 275 Red

Invitation to Confession

Worship Leader

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession (unison): Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us?

People: *Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.*

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

People: *The old life has gone; a new life has begun.*

All: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.*

* Passing of the Peace +

Leader: Since we have been reconciled with God and with each other,

People: *let us now share the peace of God with one another.*

(Congregation greets one another, exchanging words of peace.)

Welcome, Announcements and Concerns of the Church

- Ray Williams, *Clerk of Session*
- Joyce A. Bolden, *125th Anniversary Chair*
- The Rev. Stephen Earl, *Stated Clerk for Presbytery of the Peaks*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

All: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Special Music "Holy Ground" Medley..... The Choir

We Proclaim God's Word

Scripture Lesson.....Exodus 3:1-12.....page 66

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord! *People: Thanks be to God!*

Prayer for Illumination

The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

Sermon

"My Old Sweater"

We Respond in Thanks to God

* An Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father"# 623

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory (unison): Let your love so warm our souls, O Lord, that we may gladly surrender ourselves with all we are and have unto you. When we hesitate out of fear, or feel we are not good enough, remind us that our obedience is all you ask, for you will empower us to do that which you call us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Special Music..... "Ain't That Good News?" The Choir

* Choral Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Hymn of Preparation.. "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" ..# 505 Blue

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Praise

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Hymn: "At the Cross" # 188 Red

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison): Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. As we celebrate your faithfulness to this congregation, we remember those who came before us and gave of themselves so that others might know your Son, our Savior. Help us to be faithful to you, that their legacy may continue through us. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn of Thanksgiving..... "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy"# 430 Blue

We Go in God's Name

Charge, Benediction and Choral Response

We Carry Our Light Into the World(Congregation Seated)

Closing..... "What a Mighty God We Serve"(insert)

*Those who are able may stand + Late worshipers seated

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you have joined us in worship today. Please fill out the card that the ushers gave you at the door. We hope to see you here again soon. Anyone who is interested in joining this part of Christ's church should speak to the pastor or one of the elders.

Remember to Reach Out to and Pray for Members & Friends Who are Ill, Lonely, Recovering from Surgery or Shut-In

<u>Mr. Bob Hale</u> —Salem Health & Rehabilitation Center	355-7837
1945 Roanoke Blvd, Salem VA 24153	
<u>Ms. Lois Hooks</u> —1702 Franwill Ave NW (24017)	345-9173
<u>Mr. Jim Slaughter</u> —1219 Grayson Ave NW (24017)	366-0391

Celebrating 125 Years of Our Faith's Harvest

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church began in 1890 and has been nurtured for 125 years. At its peak it had evolved to be one of the most influential Black Churches in the Roanoke Valley. The story of Roanoke's Black Renaissance cannot be told without referencing Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church pastors, its distinguished congregation, and its commitment to the growth and development of the community and African American youth. The range and stature of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church includes its influence on Roanoke's boom period, the growth of Black Business entrepreneurs, the movement of civil rights/desegregation, and most importantly, the facilitation of the pursuit of higher education among the Black youth of Roanoke.

There is a lot of history that can be told related to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and during our 125th Anniversary celebration we have attempted to provide a variety of activities that reflect the many benchmarks of the church. Over the last year and a half we have hosted theme celebration services that told the story of the church and its people which culminate with our finale homecoming service today.

The success of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church could not have happened without the Roanoke **First Presbyterian Church** (currently First Evangelical Presbyterian Church) under the leadership of Dr. William Creighton Campbell who gave permission to Rev. P. R. Twine to conduct group meetings and Sunday school classes for blacks to take place in the basement of the church. The Sunday school facilitated the birth of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. The founders were **Lucy Addison, Thomas T. Henry, John Riley DuPree, Jesse Wingfield, C. E. Dodson, Ervin I. Terry, and Alfred F. Brooks.**

May 15, 2016—The kickoff of the 125th Anniversary began with a Service of Renewal & Thanksgiving held at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church with our guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary. He

brought a powerful charge for Fifth Avenue to continue our journey in Christ.

August 28, 2016—The church hosted an all church picnic at Carvins Cove. Over 40 members were in attendance. In addition to the great food and camaraderie, the 125th Anniversary Committee conducted a historical quiz on the milestones of Fifth Avenue: its founders, its community leaders, its families and contributions to the life of the Gainsboro and the greater Roanoke community. Prizes were given to the members who answered the most questions correctly.

September 18, 2016 —The church held its annual Men's Day Program. This year's program honored three young men of the church who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies. An honorarium was given to Yosef Bruer, Brandon Keith, and Ja'land Robinson. The men wanted to pay tribute and provide support to the future leaders of our church.

November 5, 2016—The youth of the church sponsored a Fall Fun Day as a fundraiser to support the activities of the youth. Hot dog combo platters, baked desserts, raffle tickets, and crafts were sold. There was a variety of games played, face painting, and bouncy gymnastics were enjoyed by everyone. Many of the congregation, neighbors, families and friends came to support the event.

For Black History Month members of the anniversary committee provided biographical sketches of luminary figures of Fifth Avenue members who were trailblazers in shaping the Black history of Roanoke. Each Sunday in February a presentation was made on one of the following members: **Lucy Addison, Rev. Dr. Lylburn L. Downing, Henry C. Johnson, and Audrey L. Whitlock.** Black History month concluded with a Black History Month Celebratory luncheon buffet after the morning church service on February 26, 2017.

June 25, 2017 – A Celebration of the Commencement of Pastoral Ministry with The Rev. Vernie L. Bolden, Jr and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

August 27, 2017 – Church picnic at Randolph Cove
September 17, 2017 - Men's Day
November 5, 2017 - All Saints Day and The Anniversary
Homecoming & Finale

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church was a “mega” church in its prime, not because of its size but because of its resilience, pride and the greatness of its members as stakeholders and investors in the renaissance of the Black community. A mega church as defined in today's terms it will never be, but Fifth Avenue, if the work of the past is any indicator, will always consist of a few dedicated people trying to do many great things with God's help.

A seed was planted in 1890 that bore fruit and grew into an orchard on the hill of 5th Avenue in Northwest Roanoke. Today we culminate 125th Anniversary Celebration of our faith's harvest. During this span of time we have experienced many seasons of abundant crops, as well as small crops; but, “Thanks be to God!”, the church has never experienced a season that has been barren. Fruit still grows on a hill on Patton Avenue. We thank you for dropping by to sample our special fruit and ask you to pray for us as we continue to spread God's joy throughout the Roanoke Valley.

Peace & blessings,

Joyce A. Bolden, Chairman of the 125th Anniversary Committee

Frederick A. Bolden

Catherine Keith

Phillip Claytor

Lisa Robinson

Ruth Claytor

Ray Williams

*God, save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever.
(Psalm 28:9, NIV)*

Congregational Prayer and Pastoral Concerns

For our nation and its leadership, *for the elections on Tuesday*—for President Trump; for our state and local officials, and those elected to national office— for wisdom and compassion, for a spirit of cooperation and the overcoming of barriers; for a capacity to seek the greater good instead of personal gain

For the leaders of other countries, and the efforts of all who seek to bring *peace* to the world

For our enemies, both personal and national, including terrorists

For our pastor and his family; for our ministry together

For unity in the Church, cooperation among denominations, for people of other faiths and for those who have no faith

For all who mourn the deaths of loved ones and friends: *for the families of William Copney, Betty Preston York, Benjamin Tyree, and Ralph Shepperson; for victims/families of attacks in New York, Colorado, Las Vegas, London, Charlottesville, Barcelona, Finland, and other victims of violence including St. Louis (racial tension); mudslides in Sierra Leone, floods in China, of California wildfires, the Mexico earthquake, victims of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, Nate & other tropical storms, dealing with the aftermath of both natural disasters and manmade accidents & for those who work to help them rebuild their lives; for those suffering from famine and hunger; for people in our own Roanoke & SW Virginia region*

For those battling cancer & other health and life-challenging issues, for those dealing with depression, with addiction; for those recovering from illness or surgery: Bob Hale, Terry Campbell, Audra Williams, Pat Brown (Ruth's sister), Carolyn Coleman (cousin of Joyce & Fred), Rev. Dusty Fiedler, Anita Pendleton, Jim Slaughter, The Roberson family, Betty McFadden (Russ' mother), Cynthia & Nat Harris, Ruth Hilton, Brenda Williams, Jackie Manns, Harold Robertson, Paul Witting (with Parkinson's); Todd Moorman; Thom Witting; health care workers and researchers; for the elderly

For our children and youth; for their teachers & school staff; for those in our neighborhood; for those who work with young people and seek to bring them to Christ and to nurture their faith in him

For our service men and women stationed around the world and their families, including Kevin & Bryan Preston.

For those who seek employment, for the under-employed, for the homeless, for those who are in fear of losing their homes or their jobs; for those under stress at work and at home.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Everyone is encouraged & welcome to remain for our Anniversary Luncheon, in the Fellowship Hall downstairs after worship.

+ Notes from the Pastor +

- Join us for Bible Study: "Forming Faith" on Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. This week (Nov. 7): 2 Samuel chapters 6 ff.
- Office hours this week: by appointment—contact vernlee3@hotmail.com, or call the office—540.342.0264

+ Other Announcements +

- We will celebrate the *Sacrament of Holy Communion* as part of our worship. Shirley Calhoun & Joyce Bolden prepared the elements.
- The Adult Choir meets as announced. Come join the fellowship. New members are welcomed.
- *Remember:* Children are back in school and need good food in their tummies to help them learn! Bring a food offering to share with those who need our help.
- Check out our new web page: www.5thavepresbychurchroanoke.com

Friends & Family Patrons

Cynthia A. Allen
Frederick A. Bolden
Joyce A. Bolden
Nancy Fears Branch
Devin Wayne Branch
Joseph Bruer
Lois Bruer
Keisha Bruer
Yosef Bruer
The Rev. Dr. Edward T. Burton
David W. Claytor, CPA
Kaye L. Claytor, RN-PHD
Mark W. Claytor
Philip & Ruth Claytor
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Katrine Cole
Carolyn I. Coleman
Irene B. Coleman
Carolyn Couser
Renee DuPree
Shantelle DuPree
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Girty, Jr.
Mr. Parrish Gordon
Mr. Chase Gordon
Bill & Antoinette Crichton Hawkins
Ernestine H. Johnson
Catherine D. Keith
Brandon D. Keith
J. Rochelle Loritts
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Manns
Rachel Bolden Mayes
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver McCutchen
Mr. Wesley Mosley
Roberta Claytor Palmer
Alphonso J. Preston
Kenneth L. Preston, Sr.
Priscilla D. Preston
David M. Preston Sr.
Ricky A. Preston, Sr.
Tony Preston
Michael D. Preston, Sr.
Byron & Liz Preston
Clarence & Lisa Robinson
Bernice D. Rogers
H. Westley Rogers, Jr.
James Slaughter
Edgar & Margaret Whitlock
Mrs. Thomasine Mosley Williams

Memorial Patron Saints

Rexford C. Bolden
Martha Coleman Bolden
Nina Charlton Bolden
Rexford Coleman Bolden
Ralph Walter Bolden
Lena B. Calhoun
Leroy W. Calhoun
Ralph C. Coleman
Walter B. Coleman
Annette Means Cooper
Mrs. Lula Johnnie Curle Cooper
Mr. Thomas Clarke Cooper
Ruby Means Crichton
Roslyn Coleman Dunn
Mr. & Mrs. CC. & Mable DuPree
Mr. James DuPree
Mr. Thomas B. DuPree
The Clarence B. Harris Family
Mr. & Mrs. James & Emma Lee
Mrs. Ernestyne Cooper Mosley
Mr. Jackson Rapier Mosley
The Nowlin Family
Mr. Freeland Pendleton, Sr.
Isabel Preston
Mrs. Mable Jean Rogers
Alberta L. Slaughter
Gertrude Scott
Miss Dorothy Sam Stuart
David & Audrey Whitlock