

SMALL IN NUMBER – LARGE IN SPIRIT

by Rev. Susan Sexton

Selma Presbyterian Church / Selma North Carolina

From the Archives:
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[Editor's NOTE: One of the PC(USA)'s smallest congregations reminds us that a church doesn't have to be large in membership to do great things for God and God's people.]

The twelve member Selma Presbyterian Church, located in eastern North Carolina town of Selma, recently initiated an exciting and fulfilling ministry for residents of Autumn Care, a nearby assisted living community. Pastor Susan Sexton reports, *"Over the years and during a time of declining church membership we began to wonder how God might be able to use our tiny and aging congregation of just 12 members. Through prayer and discernment we saw the opportunity to serve some folks in our own community who were not able to attend church, but who hungered for worship and fellowship."* One Sunday in June, after first gathering in the sanctuary for prayer and a hymn, church members piled into their cars and carried their regular 11:00 Worship Service and Communion to Autumn Care where they were received with enthusiasm and gratitude. Since that first worship service Selma Presbyterians have been excited to continue the Sunday service once a month.

Members have commented, "Some of our most meaningful worship takes place outside the walls of our own church sanctuary. We have had wonderful times of fellowship, sharing the gospel with one another, singing favorite hymns, praying, coming together for the Lord's Supper, and really feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit among us." Several Autumn Care residents have related that this was their very first time to break bread and celebrate communion. Rev. Sexton notes, "The ministry is definitely a two-way street in the work of the Holy Spirit!" Selma Presbyterian church members have found themselves welcomed by the residents and blessed by the ministry. All have discovered first hand that one can never be too old, nor can it ever be too late for a person to grow in the love and grace of Jesus Christ.



**SELMA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SELMA, NORTH CAROLINA**



**CELEBRATING COMMUNION
AT AUTUMN CARE ASSISTED LIVING**