



Musicians of the Athens Piper Band perform at the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro.

Church celebrates Scottish heritage



The choir was in fine form for Sunday's Scottish celebration.



A view from above the congregation.



Special guest folk singer and guitarist Joan Stevens sings.

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The sound of bagpipes and drums returned last Sunday to the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro during its annual Scottish Heritage Service. The church was recognizing and celebrating two important events: the first being the official start of the Presbyterian Church in America on May 21, 1789, and the second its annual Scottish Heritage service. Additionally, May 19 is also Pentecost representing the birthdate of the early Christian church.

Despite a hefty rain falling throughout the morning, parishioners, special guests, and visitors filled the church, where the service commenced with a processional down the aisles to the beautiful sounds of the Highland bagpipes and drums.

A special banner signifying "family" was hung during the Kirkin' o' the Tartans, a prayer or blessing for family tartans given by the pastor, and it remained on view with several congregation members also dressed in full Scottish regalia.

Guest musicians on the pipes and drums included David Gregory, Rob Rogers, Ashley Frosh, and Tyler Emblar, who came to Greensboro from Athens and Atlanta for the service.

Following the service, fried chicken, shortbread, and other delicious options were available in the foyer, while inside the church, Gregory played a few more Scottish songs on the bagpipes.



Rev. Hillary Shufford speaks to the congregation Sunday.

Following the pipes, special guest folk singer/guitarist Joan Stevens sang a collection of beautiful Scottish folk songs including the very beautiful and haunting song, "The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond."

This marked the fourth annual celebration of Scottish Heritage Sunday at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro.



Steve Stewart of the Scottish Heritage Committee leads the clergy during Sunday's processional.