

FPC news

First Presbyterian Church • Greensboro, NC • fpcgreensboro.org • 336-373-0445

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



DOUG KEY



LENT 2017



BAPTISMS

On February 19, 2017, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to **Grady Wade Williams**, son of **Todd & Cottie Williams**.

On February 26, 2017, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to **Scarlet Beverly & Lacey Elizabeth Geurink**, daughters of **Kevin & Sara Geurink**.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Craig & Katherine Bonney** on the birth of **Emily Miller Bonney**, on February 14, 2017.

Congratulations to Britt & Elizabeth Preyer on the birth of Alice Armfield Preyer on February 24, 2017. She has a sister Elizabeth, 2.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Jerry Walter Wood**, who died February 17, 2017.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Robert Johnstone "Johnny" McLean, Jr.**, who died January 25, 2017.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Walter Herbert Streuli**, who died January 19, 2017.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Jane Davis Lambert**, who died January 16, 2017.

New Members: Please welcome the following new members who joined in February 2017:



Dustin & Kristin Bell



Sue & Bill Chandler
12 Dutchmans Pipe
Greensboro NC, 27410



Asende Etunda & Sara Mauwa with Engwa, Ebambe, Chuki, Ramadhazi & Risasi
3928C Hahns Lane, Greensboro, 27401



Doug & Dana McLeroy
1003 Benton Court, Reidsville, 27320

Not pictured:
Chris & Megan Morris, 2204 Granville Road, Greensboro NC 27408



Yvonne Nyambuyeyi & Gislain Mihigo with Promise, Tiere & Patrice
3932-E Hahns Lane, Greensboro, 27401



JoAnne Peek-Murray
3010B Pisgah Place
Greensboro NC 27455



Michel Mwamba & Feza Florence with Junior, Merveille & Jerome
3933-B Hahns Lane, Greensboro, 27401

Dear Friends,



Lent is a season that prepares us for Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday (March 1) and takes us to the most important day of our faith, Easter Sunday (April 16).

At FPC, our Lent will focus on the events of Holy Week, the final week where Jesus enters Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then the day of resurrection, Easter. It is a week full of drama and meaning.

An ancient venue enabling us to experience Holy Week is called Stations of the Cross. On page 10 you will find an article by Maurice Schwartz that further explains its history and purpose.

Lenten sermons will focus on these Stations of the Cross. One of the exciting developments is that our artist-members are painting the Stations based on the scripture. You will see these paintings throughout Lent. We are blessed to have such talent among us!

As has become our tradition during Lent and Advent, we will have contemplative services (30 minutes) each Wednesday of Lent at 6 o'clock in the sanctuary. As well, we will have services each day of Holy Week.

March Madness!

March will also see a church-wide read of the excellent book, *The Secret Game* by Scott Ellsworth. Ellsworth, a University of Michigan professor, basketball fan and life-long Presbyterian, will be here on the evening of March 30. Beforehand, fan-based discussion groups of the book will be hosted by our members. You'll see information on page 5 on how to sign up and participate. Copies of the book are available for purchase in the Welcome Center. Very exciting!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dio'.

Making the most of our Sundays

Last March, a Worship Committee task force began meeting to look at the 8:30 am service and determine if it was meeting the needs of our congregation, whether it was time to consider a change in time, place or length, and how Church School might be affected.

We talked with 12 churches of similar size about their times and types of worship, what was best attended, and demographics of each service. Almost all were conducting similar studies. The theme that emerged was that churches are adapting to the changing needs of their members, particularly the need for time on Sundays for everything in their lives.

We looked at FPC's data on worship attendance by service and demographics.

We surveyed 20+ Session members of all ages representing all services, seeking feedback on possible options. The common thread was that time affects the choice of service, whether Church School is an option, and in some cases whether church is an option.

After a year of study and research and prayerful consideration, the task force has recommended to the Session this schedule:

8:30 – 9 am: Service in an intimate arrangement of the sanctuary. Pastors will rotate leadership in a service of traditional Presbyterian reformed worship, including more regular communion, a homily, scriptures, prayers, and music.

• 9 – 9:50 am: Church School

10 – 11 am: Traditional worship in the sanctuary and Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center

The congregation is invited to participate in conversations with the task force on March 5 and March 12 in the Virginia Gilmer Room or Myers Loyalty Room next door after all services and during Church School.

Please join us.

– *Vicky Borden, chair; Nancy Abrams, Brian Pierce, and Ashley Staton, with staff Anne Albert, John Alexander, Sid Batts, Donna Chase, Kevin Guerink, and Lara Musser Gritter*

Money: a spirit-filled ministry

“As a form of ministry, fund raising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry,” according to Henri J. Nouwen, author of *A Spirituality of Fundraising*.

This concept had never crossed my mind when our Stewardship and Generosity group began the journey that would transform our misconceptions about fund raising and energize our mission. Fund raising can be a bit awkward without a spirit-filled attitude.

You see, stewardship is about proclaiming what we believe in such a way that others perceive a value and want to participate. It's an invitation for each of us to invest in our own community of faith – our own mission and vision.

The Live Your Ministry” pledge campaign that preceded Stewardship Sunday was intended to represent a value proposition about FPC's Christian Formation, Outreach, Congregational Care, Worship, and Music. These ministries deliver the “value” we receive as a relational family motivated by the spirit of God. It's about welcoming our family to worship

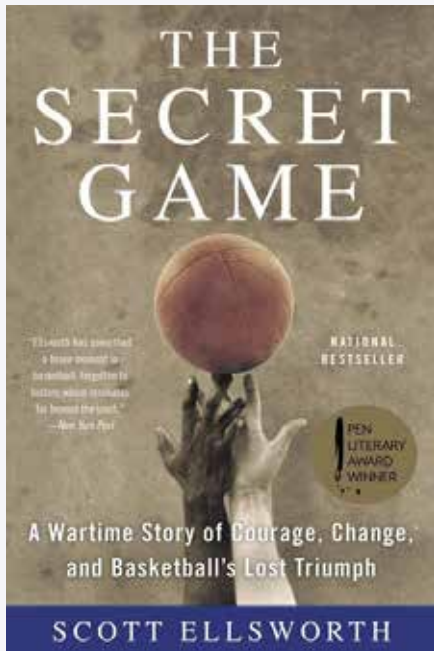
and music on Sunday mornings, children's education, resources to feed the poor, comfort for those in need, and ministry to the sick and dying. Our church is the central community that's essential for providing these ministries. Only through your generous gifts can we remain a vibrant and caring community of God. Therefore, there should be no misconceptions that fund raising is a form of ministry.

Our Stewardship and Generosity group is pleased to report that current pledges have exceeded our initial goals. To everyone who pledged, we express our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your kind generosity. We'd also like to invite the entire congregation to participate with us, share the gifts that God has given to you, and make an investment in yourself through the ministries of the church. If you'd like to learn more about stewardship, please contact our Director of Stewardship, Myles Fish, by calling 336-478-4735 or via email at mfish@fpcgreensboro.org.

The Apostle Paul writes, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.”

Jeff Shell is chair of Stewardship and Generosity.

ALL-FPC READ



The story takes place one Sunday morning in the spring of 1944, in a locked gym on the south side of Durham. It is a story not just about basketball but also about the South, and freedom, and war, and the coming of a new kind of America.

FPC WELCOMES SCOTT ELLSWORTH

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 • 7 PM

PREGAME PARTIES: Gather with other fans of your favorite team to talk about basketball & the book. Facilitators: Sid Batts, Josh Musser Gritter, Lara Musser Gritter, Kevin Geurink & Dolly Jacobs.



<p>TIE-DYE NATION Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 pm. Hosts: George & Amy Jordan. RSVP: amyjordan@triad.rr.com</p>	<p>TAR HEELS Tuesday, March 21, 7 pm. Hosts: Otis & Lavonne Fisher. RSVP: lavonne.fisher123@gmail.com OR Sunday, March 26, 5:30 pm. Hosts: Brian & Kate Pierce. RSVP: katemcnairyperce@gmail.com</p>	<p>CAMERON CRAZIES Monday, March 27, 7:30 pm. Hosts: Erik & Holly Albright. RSVP: hej721@gmail.com</p>
<p>WOLFPACK Sunday March 26, 5:30 pm. Hosts: Will & Lauren Martin. RSVP: lauren.mcmartin@gmail.com</p>	<p>THE REST OF THE NCAA Sunday, March 19, 7 pm. Hosts: Bob & Sheri Evans. RSVP: smevansnc@gmail.com</p>	

Q&A

with our newest parish associate



**REV. DR.
DOUG
MCLEROY**

dmcleroy@
fpcgreensboro.org
336. 279.5441

Welcome, Doug! Tell us a bit about you.

I am a native of Atlanta. I moved to North Carolina after retiring from my Army chaplaincy. My wife, Dana Blanton, and I have three adult daughters and five grandchildren. I earned a bachelor's in history from Georgia State, a master's in pastoral ministry from Southwestern Baptist seminary, a D.Min. from Southern Methodist, and a master's in theology from Columbia Theological Seminary.

You spent many years as an Army chaplain. Would you share one of your most meaningful experiences in that role?

Out of the 30 years on active duty, the assignment that was most meaningful was serving as the Division Chaplain of the Second Infantry Division in South Korea during 1993-94. The assignment was what is called an "unaccompanied assignment" which means your family remained in the United States. I was responsible for supervising the ministry of 20 chaplains and 20 chaplain assistants in their care of 20,000 soldiers scattered along the demilitarized zone. I recall conducting a Thanksgiving service for the soldiers at Panmunjom. A large North Korean flag along with numerous loud speakers continuously announced their propaganda, while our soldiers sang their favorite hymns and gave their testimonies of gratitude for God's presence when they felt so far from home. It was a deeply moving moment.

What is it about FPC that called to you? What are you excited about in your role here?

After my retirement from the military, the First Presbyterian Church of Reidsville called me to serve as their pastor. During 12 years there, Dana and I often attended worship here when I had a Sunday off. This church

became our spiritual home when I especially needed a sense of sanctuary. So, when the invitation came to serve this church as a Parish Associate, I was greatly honored. I look forward to assisting with the Congregational Care needs of the people. Much of my training and experience has been in pastoral counseling.

What are a few of your favorite things?

I have several hobbies, but the one I love the most is my horse Ranger. Of course it helps if



he is in the right mood. As long as he is with other horses, he feels more relaxed, but when I take him for a ride away from them his anxiety goes up. I am convinced that he believes that the hay bales in the fields

are buffalos who are out to get him. Other than those kinds of challenges, riding is a fun hobby.

What is something about you that would surprise those who know you best?

My 30 seconds of fame took place at Fort Campbell, Ky. As the senior chaplain of the installation, I sent 50 chaplains to deploy with the 101st Air Assault Division as they entered the invasion stage of Bagdad. I kept five chaplains with me to care for 150,000 dependents (military families). National Public Radio had contacted the post commander requesting that they be permitted to tape a chaplain's sermon on the day the war began. I was asked to preach this sermon to a congregation of Army wives and children. NPR came as planned and I conducted the worship service preaching on the 23rd Psalm. That evening as I listened to their broadcast, they played only about 30 seconds as I began my sermon. Needless to say my fame as a radio preacher was short lived.

a ministry in oil

Commissioning portraits of senior pastors is a tradition at First Presbyterian. Sid Batts' pastor nominating committee and a group of church members joined together to retain a North Carolina artist, John Seibels Walker, to paint his portrait.

John Walker is regarded as one of America's premier portraitists. He has received numerous awards for his work and has painted governors, judges, college presidents, ministers, authors, business leaders and now, our Senior Pastor, Sidney Franklin Batts. John divides his time between his studios in Charlotte and Lucca, Italy. He possesses a unique ability to capture the nature and character of his

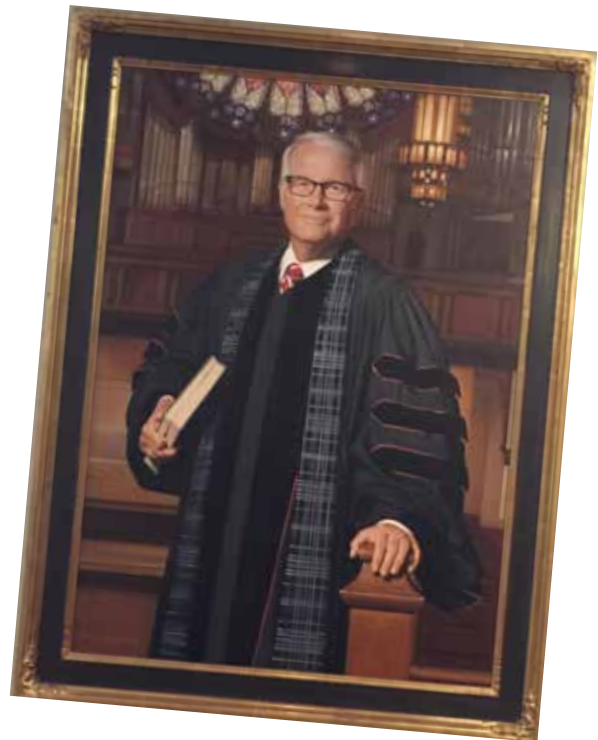
subject. When John and Sid met for the "sitting", they related well and enjoyed each other's company for several hours. The result

BY JAN
LAWSON

is a portrait that is a true work of art that also communicates a meaningful message.

The portrait is amazing! It is beautiful, full of color and light, and Sid's likeness is spot on. The Batts family is pleased, and we think you will be pleased and proud too. A few points of interest:

- Sid is posed in the pulpit with the renovated sanctuary prominently featured, two important symbols of his work here.
- Sid is holding his favorite Bible, marking a favorite passage with his finger – Galatians 5:22, Fruit of the Spirit.
- His father's ring is seen on his right hand and his wedding band on his left hand, signifying the importance of marriage and family in his life and work.
- The colorful tartan stole was given to him by the congregation of Government Street Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Ala., in appreciation of his ministry



there. The blue tartan is the pattern of the clergy of the Church of Scotland.

- His red tie was purchased and worn for his daughter's December wedding and complements the red piping on his favorite black robe. The initials CMEL (for wife Cathy, daughters Meredith and Emily, and mother Lucy) are hidden in the folds of the robe's sleeve, near the left shoulder.
- Sid's expression is warm, friendly, and slightly serious at the same time. There is abundant light around his face emphasizing his inner grace and spirit.

The portrait hangs in the Virginia Gilmer room along with those of beloved senior pastors in our history. It affirms and celebrates Sid's ministry among us and will be appreciated by generations of First Presbyterians. Come and see!

1,000



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Explore FPC class gets the view from the chancel ... Sid with Mullin Forum Sunday preacher Scott Black Johnston from Fifth Avenue Pres, who taught Dolly Jacobs at Austin Seminary ... Queen Esther (Donna Chase) tells her story at Preschool Chapel

WORDS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Kids Disciple Club outing at Piedmont Winterfest ... award-winning organist Patrick Scott on the LeTourneau in February ... Students at Peck Elementary received winter clothing collected by Children's Ministry ... Presbyterian Women welcomed guests from local Jewish and Islamic women's groups at its luncheon.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent this year at FPC we'll use some elements of the Stations of the Cross as we approach Good Friday and Easter. Here we present a brief discussion of the stations, with indications of how we as a congregation and as individuals can use them in our lives.


BY MAURICE E. SCHWARTZ The Stations of the Cross are inspired by the *Via Dolorosa* – the Way of Sorrows – in Jerusalem, which tradition sets as the path walked by Jesus to his crucifixion at Calvary. The stations are a series of images – paintings, sculptures, mosaics – showing Jesus on this path. Christians following the stations are making spiritual pilgrimage by following Christ's passion.

The stations originated in medieval Europe, and have had many forms over time. Today the most common, traditional stations are found in almost all Catholic churches, and occasionally in other churches. They are often found at retreat centers, sacred gardens, and similar places. Small, personal versions are also available, often in booklet form, for private or small-group

practice. Stations are practiced year-round, but especially during Lent. Good Friday plays based on the stations are common.

There are 14 stations in the widespread traditional form used today. Eight have an explicit scriptural basis, e.g., station 5 where Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross. Others have no explicit scriptural basis, eg, station 6 where Veronica wipes Jesus' face with her handkerchief, which takes on an image of his face. Even so, the entire group can give to the believer a profound sense of Christ's passion, and a chance to participate in it. In the practice, at each station there is usually a brief account of the event there, and then a message or prayer or meditation in response.

At FPC we'll have a chance to participate in these traditional stations in several ways. Artwork by our members will be set up in Cannon's Solarium and used in worship through the season. The First Sundays at 5 service on April 2 will feature John Alexander and Robert

continues, page 12 



JUDY LOMAX

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

8:30 & 10:45 am Traditional in the Sanctuary
 10:45 am Rejoice in Mullin Life Center

Each week our message will explore one of the stations. In your bulletin you will find a reflection with art by one of our members that you can use for personal meditation.

March 5: **Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**, Luke 22: 39-46. Art by Doug Key, Sid Batts in the pulpit

March 12: **Judas' Betrayal, Jesus Arrested**, Luke 22:47-53
 Art by Kelly Rightsell, Josh Musser Gritter in the pulpit, special music by the children's Canticle Choir

March 19: **Jesus is Denied by Peter**, Matthew 26: 69-75
 Art by Chip Bristol, Sid Batts in the pulpit

March 26: **Jesus is Judged by Pilate**, John 18: 28-38
 Art by Alex Galloway, Sid Batts in the pulpit

April 2: **Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene to Carry His Cross**, Luke 23: 26-32. Art by Alex Galloway, Sid Batts in the pulpit.

Palm Sunday, April 9: **Jesus is Crucified**, Matthew 27: 32-37, 45-54. Art by Judy Lomax, Sid Batts in the pulpit. Meet at 10:30 am outside Mullin Life Center to participate in the Palm Procession. All children's choirs sing in 10:45 Sanctuary service. Special offering for Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Easter Sunday, April 16 **The Resurrection**, Matthew 28: 1-8
 Art by Judy Lomax, Sid Batts in the pulpit. Special offering for Greensboro Urban Ministry. Sunrise service at 7 am in addition to regular services.

SEE & HEAR

VISIO DIVINA

This spiritual practice invites us to reflect on images as we meditate. In your bulletin each Sunday you will find a guided reflection with art by one of our members that you can use in your own practice.

You also may view the Stations of the Cross exhibit by members in Cannon's Solarium, near the Welcome Center, starting Sunday, March 5.

MUSIC

April 2: Dupre's Stations of the Cross, 5-6 pm, with John Alexander and Robert Wells

WEDNESDAYS

Contemplative Services, 6 pm, Sanctuary

March 8: Lara Musser Gritter

March 15: Sid Batts

March 22: Josh Musser Gritter

March 29: Kevin Geurink

April 5: Donna Chase, incorporating our artwork

HOLY WEEK

April 10: Holy Week service, 6 pm, Kevin Guerink

April 11: Holy Week service, 6 pm, Neil Dunnivant

April 12: Holy Week service, 6 pm, Lara Musser Gritter

April 13: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm, Josh Musser Gritter

April 14: Good Friday Tenebrae, 7:30 pm

stations

from page 11

Wells performing Marcel Duprè's *Stations of the Cross* with an English text from the powerful poem "Le Chemin de la Croix" by Paul Claudel.

A scripturally based form with 14 stations was introduced by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday, 1991. Here each station has a name, then a reader presents the Gospel account, and the minister (or the people – we the people) make a prayer. Here is one excerpt which might suggest how we could use the stations.

Station 4. Jesus is denied by Peter

Reader: A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the words that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. (Matthew 26: 73-75)

Minister: Lord, grant us the gift of honesty that we may not fear to speak the truth even when difficult.

There are numerous online resources about the stations in both traditional and scriptural form. Strongly recommended is the website <http://thev3movement.org/2015/02/stations-of-the-cross-a-practice-during-lent/>. It presents the stations in many ways, with images and messages showing beautifully and powerfully how the stations can enter many aspects of Christian life.

Visiting churches with stations is also a good experience. A guide to the 14 steps might be useful, as

spiritual practice for march: stations of the cross

READ IT

Walk with Jesus by Henri Nouwen and *The Way of the Cross According to the Method of St. Francis of Assisi*

CLICK IT

Devotional: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markroberts/series/the-stations-of-the-cross-a-devotional-guide-for-lent-and-holy-week/>

Info about the stations:

<http://thev3movement.org/2015/02/stations-of-the-cross-a-practice-during-lent/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/stations-of-the-cross.html>

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations-how.html>

FPC IT

See the schedule of opportunities on page 11.

many are only labeled by number.

FPC's neighbor St Benedict has a set in painted bas relief. St. Pius at Elm and Cornwallis has two sets: panels in cast brass in the small chapel, and sculptures in polished dark wood in the sanctuary. Duke University's chapel has a lovely set in wrought steel.

May we personally and intimately be able to follow the stations in our own lives.

MORE LENT OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

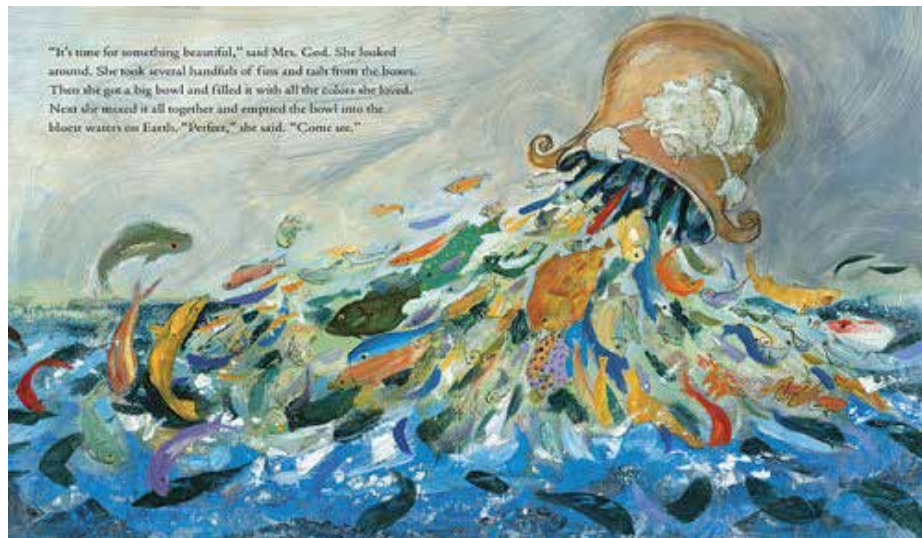
Throughout the season children will be "Making our Way to Jerusalem" with a creative series that helps them experience the last week of Jesus' life on Earth.

March 29: Resurrection Egg Hunt at Wednesday dinner. Children will move between tables to collect plastic eggs that tell the story of Holy Week through scripture & symbols. Activities/crafts will be provided.

Family Egg Hunt: April 8, 10-11:30 am. Bring your basket and a breakfast item to share (coffee & juice provided) to the Life Center for activities & the Easter story. At 10:45 we will head out to FPC playgrounds & Fisher Park to find eggs! Members, please contribute candy (no nuts) and small toys & stickers for youth to use when they stuff the eggs on April 2!

ADULT FORMATION

Creating Flow in Lent: Yoga for Body, Mind, and Spirit
Tuesdays, March 7-April 11, 6:15 - 7:45 pm, Virginia Gilmer Room. Based on the book *40 Days to Personal Revolution* by Baron Baptiste. Lara Musser Gritter will lead a 45-minute study of Scripture, followed by a 45-minute Power Yoga practice led by Terri Maultsby. Baptiste yoga is a challenging physical yoga practice, designed to empower students of all levels with focus, skill, and insight. The tools of Baptiste yoga and this Lenten study are a power yoga practice, meditation practice, and active self-inquiry. Bring a mat, and straps & blocks if you have them. Books are not required but are encouraged. Register by March 4: fpcgreensboro.org/Lent



From *Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen*

Currie Library News

LOCATION: First floor of Smith Building
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sunday, 9-10:30 a.m.
CONTACT: Nancy Fuller, 478-4731 or nfuller@fpcgreensboro.org

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

In memory of

May White (mother of **Betty Jo White Forney**): *Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus*, given by **Eugenia MacRae**:

Harriet and Bob Carlson: *Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen*, anonymous giver.

CHECK IT OUT

Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus is a more sophisticated interpretation of the life and ministry of Christ by John Hendrix. It brings to life the Biblical accounts of Jesus's miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection. The book was featured in the New York Times Sunday Book Review for young people. It's appropriate for our older children (not preschool).

Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen, by Nancy Wood with illustrations by Timothy Basil Ering, "takes a lighthearted look at God's Creation." Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry, recommended this book.

Thank you again to Jack Harrington for moderating a discussion of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson for the Monday Book Club. It was an interesting and informative session that stimulated a great deal of discussion on justice and mercy. Jack is very interested in matters of race and is on our church's Race Relations Task Force.

Don't miss out on reading *The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball's Lost Triumph*. Currie Library has one copy available to borrow. You can purchase a copy for \$15 at the receptionist's desk and have it signed when author Scott Ellsworth is at FPC on March 30!

Volunteers: What would the Library do without the loyal and wonderful team of volunteers who help keep things running smoothly? Because the Library is staffed on limited hours a note can always be left for someone to call you with your requests or needs. Leave your name, request and telephone number.



THIS MONTH'S SELECTIONS

MONDAY BOOK CLUB
 MARCH 13 • 10:30 am
Midwives by Chris Bohjalian

TUESDAY BOOK CLUB
 MARCH 14 • 1:30 PM
Wright Brothers
 by David McCullough

NEXT MONTH:
 April 10: *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* by Marcus Borg
 April 11: *Dimstore: A Writer's Life* by Lee Smith

Coming up in

MARCH

Church School

Sundays • 9:30 am • open to all

Agape – joins with YMBC for March.

Commitment Class – March 5: Discussion/ wrap up of *Race: Power of an Illusion*. March 12: “Immigrants and refugees: how we as Christians can be welcoming to the ‘strangers in our land.’” Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100.

Faith Matters – “The Many Ways to Pray.” March 19: focus on the Lord’s Prayer led by Dr. Jason Myers, assistant professor of Biblical Studies, Greensboro College. Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242

Homebuilders – March 12: Terrell Sanford from the Salvation Army will speak. March 5, 19 & 26: *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living* by Krista Tippett. Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200.

Pastor’s Bible Study – March 5: Josh Musser Gritter. March 12: Sid Batts. March 19 & 26: Neil Dunnivant. Memorial 303.

Seekers – “American Religious History,” led by Gerard Davidson. Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.

YMBC – “Bible Basics for the 21st Century Christian” with Professor Sandie Gravett. Redhead Hall.

Gather – Cynthia Price Pastoral Residents Josh & Lara Musser Gritter lead a group for young adults with a focus on Scripture as it relates to current events & our lives. Memorial 300.

ADULT CLASSES & SMALL GROUPS

Presbyterian Women Circles:

- Deborah’s Dining & Discussion: Third Monday, 11:45 am, Garden Room
- Hearts and Minds: Third Monday, 10 am, member homes
- Mary and Martha: Second Monday, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room
- Rachel: Second Monday, 10:30 am, Myers Loyalty Room
- Ruth and Naomi: Third Tuesday, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room

Presbyterian Women Luncheon: March 13, noon, Mullin Life Center. Special health-conscious menu. Join fitness coach Gina Deese to learn how you can be healthier in 2017. Wear clothes you can move in! Purchase tickets by March 8. *Rachel Sommers, 478-4799, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org*

GIFT in the Evening – Mondays, 6:45 pm, in homes. Women’s group with BYO dinner. *Aimee Scotton, 336-430-0649 or acscotton15@gmail.com*

Watercolor class – Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Garden Room, Smith 124. Learn to paint or improve your painting skills; the only cost is for your materials.

Men’s Bible Study – Wednesdays, 7am, Myers Loyalty Room. *Wendy Duncan, 336-478-4723 or wduncan@fpcgreensboro.org*

Women’s Bible Study – Wednesdays, 7:30 am, Cannon’s Solarium. *Betsy Harrington, betsyharrington@triad.rr.com*

Community Service Group – Wednesdays, 10 am, Garden Room. Hand-craft items for people in need. *B.J. Williams, 336-288-8601*

Beth Moore Study Group – Wednesdays, 4 pm in Main 125, Vaughn Conference Room, through March 22. *Rachel Sommers, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4799*

Faith & Fellowship – Thursdays, 9:15 am in Cannon’s Solarium. A relaxed study & fellowship group. *Wendy Duncan or Leigh Jones*

Grace on Fridays – Fridays, 9:15 am, members’ homes. For moms of tween & teens. *Sara Stroud, sara_stroud@yahoo.com*

Almanah Group – Meal & fellowship for widows. Lunch at Capt Bill’s on Thursday, March 23, at 1 pm. RSVP by March 22 to Becky Peters at *beckypeters8@gmail.com* or 336-545-7757

Functional Fitness – for older adults, 10:15 am, Mondays & Thursdays, Smith 124. Free for Silver Sneakers/UHC & BCBS; \$3/class for other. *Carol Sellars, 336-288-2077*

M U S I C

first sunday at 5: Pärt’s *Passio*

March 5, Sanctuary

Dr. Welborn Young, director of choral activities at UNCG, conducts *Passio* by Arvo Pärt. This piece for four voices, choir and instrumentalists is a setting of John 18 & 19, Jesus’ betrayal, trial, and death.

Furman Singers

Tuesday, March 7, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Free concert. Internationally recognized for choral excellence, the Singers tour annually, performing for churches, schools, and other public functions.

Bel Canto Company

Saturday, March 25 • 8 pm

Monday, March 27 • 7:30 pm

Season finale in the Sanctuary. Tickets: belcantocompany.com

W E D N E S D A Y D I N N E R

Mullin Life Center, 5-6:30 pm. Tickets for each week’s meal must be purchased by 1 pm Sunday in the Welcome Center or at fpcgreensboro.org/connect/wednesday-night-dinner. \$8/ages 13+, \$5/ages 5-12, free for ages 4 & younger with a paying adult; family maximum/\$25. Tickets available in the Welcome Center, online, or by calling 336-478-4799. **No tickets at the door.**

MARCH 8: London Broil, buttermilk mashed potatoes,

corn, lima beans, yeast rolls, assorted pies.

MARCH 15: Corned beef, cabbage, parsley potatoes, salad, cornbread, Bailey’s Irish Cream cake.

MARCH 22: Country-style steak, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, salad, biscuits, cakes.

MARCH 29: Fried pork chop & gravy, red skin mashed potatoes, lima beans & corn, salad, Oreo cookie trifle, cherry yum yum.

APRIL 5: Maple-glazed ham, mac & cheese, French-style green beans, salad, yeast rolls, Easter cupcakes.

CHILDREN

Church School – all children's church school classes begin age-appropriate Lenten studies March 5.

- *Preschool classes* (ages 3-4) meet in MLC 102.
- *Kindergarteners* and parents meet together in Corl 301.
- *First- and second-graders* and parents meet together in Corl 300.
- *Third- and fourth-graders* meet together in Corl 303.

Weekday Preschool Chapel – Wednesdays, 9:45 am on the chancel steps. Parents welcome!

Preschool storytime: March 9, 1:15 pm in the Welcome Center; ages 2-5 welcome with a parent. Theme: "Green."

Preschool Bible presentations: March 12, 9:30 am, Memorial Chapel.

Kid's Disciple Club – Sunday, March 26, 4-5:30 pm. Mark your calendars!

ADOPT A GULFORD COUNTY SCHOOL PROJECT CONTINUES: March 5-April 30; spring collection for children's summer fun and learning items, for students at Peck Elementary School. Bring new or very gently used items for children to take home for summer learning reinforcement or to be used in the classrooms or playgrounds for summer school. *Items may include:*

- Flash cards: math, reading, etc.
- Workbooks for all levels and subjects
- Art Supplies: paints, pens, paper, playdough, clay, stickers
- Children's books and magazines
- Children's puzzles and games
- Bubbles, sidewalk chalk, balls, jumpropes, hula hoops

YOUTH

Church School, grades 5-7 and 9-12 meet in the Shetler Youth Room.

8th Grade Confirmation Class meets in Memorial 304 during the church school hour. Confirmation service will be April 2.

Youth group – Three Sundays per month, we meet in the youth room (first floor of Shetler) for games and devotions, and sometimes we go out for

service or fun. Middle-schoolers meet 5:30-7 pm; high-schoolers meet 6:30-8 pm. Supergroup of middle- and high-schoolers has dinner together, 6:30 pm, costs \$5.

High school girls' study meets 7:45 pm Wednesdays, Youth Room.

Thursdays – High school devotions at 7:20 am at Panera on Lawndale.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



SPIRITUS

Support group for caregivers – Wednesday, March 15, 1:30 pm, Blair Hagan Room. Info: Dolly Jacobs, 336-478-4734 or djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org

Intercessory Prayer Group – Thursdays, 8 am, Quiet Center. Come and pray for members of our community using the FPC prayer list. Info: *Pattie Murray, 336-478-4709 or pmurray@fpcgreensboro.org.*

- Let Dolly Jacobs know if you would like to be added to our church prayer list. *Only your name will be lifted in prayer. 336.478.4734 or djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org.*

Make Summer Plans Now

DOOR MIAMI

Sunday, June 18 – Saturday, June 23. For rising 9th through graduating 12th grades. Registration is closed. Contact Mollie Gordon for waiting list information.



MUSIC CAMP

Monday, June 26 – Thursday June 29, 9 am to 12 pm. For ages 4 (by June 1) through rising 6th grades. Early registration March 1 – April 30 (\$60); regular registration May 1 – June 16th (\$65). Includes activities, daily snacks and t-shirt. Contact Anne Albert (aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org) for info.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Monday, July 17 – Thursday, July 20, 9 am - 12 pm. For ages 3 through rising second grades. Early registration March 1 – April 30 (\$30); regular registration May 1 – June 30 (\$35). Includes activities, daily snacks, and t-shirt. CD of program music available for \$5 each.



KIDS' DISCIPLE CLUB CAMP (KDC)

Monday, July 17 – Thursday, July 20, 9 am to 12 pm. For rising third through rising fifth grades. Early registration March 1 – April 30 (\$30); regular registration May 1 – June 30 (\$35). Includes activities, daily snacks, and t-shirt. CD of program music available for \$5 each.

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 23 – Saturday, July 29. For rising 9th through graduated 12th grades. Cost: \$600 per person includes transportation, meals and lodging. Spaces still available. Contact Mollie Gordon to register.



For more info on most summer camps, contact Mollie Gordon, mgordon@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4722. For info on Music Camp, contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org. Register online at fpcgreensboro.org/summer-camps-2017

session digest

Minutes of the December Session meeting
Approved at the January Session meeting

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, December 12, 2016

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held Monday, December 12, 2016, starting at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. The Rev. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as moderator.

The meeting began with Sid leading a responsive reading of Psalm 93 and singing the "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: Lisa McHenry, Ann Alexander, Christine Ciaccio, John Alexander, Myles Fish, Wendy Duncan, Donna Chase, Nick Demuynck, and Lara Musser Gritter

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the November 21, 2016, stated meeting.
- From the Discipleship Office: November 2016 attendance, membership, and visitor reports.
- Updated Presbytery Meeting Schedule for the Elder Class of 2018

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

What's Going Well

- The Community Messiah Sing yesterday was a great event.
- Advent music has been amazing.
- Daily Advent devotions are inspiring.
- The Greensboro Day School basketball team attended the Rejoice service together.
- The Messiah music on the screen in the Rejoice service is working well.
- 21 new members joined this month.

Communications Committee

Lisa McHenry, Chair of the Communications Subgroup of the Communications & Technology Committee, reported to the Session about the Just A Thought radio program. The committee is recommending discontinuing the radio program. The cost of the radio program is \$19,800 annually. The Communications Committee Subgroup believes that the program can continue as a robust ministry and be delivered more efficiently through social media at a cost of \$600 annually. Facebook is another key way to reach the targeted 22- to 40-year-old age range. 500 people

subscribe to the Just A Thought emails and 30% open the emails. The motion was approved unanimously.

Christmas Eve Communion

Nancy Abrams distributed a signup sheet for those who want to serve communion by intinction on Christmas Eve.

Appointments Committee

Vance Barron reported that the Appointments Committee is about to begin its work. He asked Session members to help by recommending future leadership for our church. The group's first task is to propose members for next year's Nominating Committee. Session members can use the sheet in the packet for recommendations. The church bulletin also will include a nominating form. Nominating members include Vance Barron, Susan DeVaney, Vic Cochran, Atim Idika, Brantley White, Chip Pegram, Glenn Enochs, Graham Farless, Hoke Huss, Judy Lomax, Peggy Hudson, Parrish Peddrick and Vicky Borden.

Worship and Congregational Care

Holly Albright and Dolly Jacobs discussed the Worship and Congregational Care committees' combined work in developing guidelines for lay speakers at funerals or memorial services. The Session will vote on the proposed Funeral Lay Speaker Guidelines at the January meeting. Dolly explained that some lay speakers have not been worshipful in their remarks, and this document will provide guidelines to help preserve the appropriate tone and message. Although there has been a brochure for families to follow, the guidelines have been vague.

Marshall Brown asked if the proposed guidelines will apply to funeral services in both the Sanctuary and the chapel, and Dolly confirmed that they would. Dolly also mentioned that the committees would be evaluating whether or not to charge a fee for funeral services for non-members and possibly for weekend funeral services as well.

Finance Committee

Chair Josh Showers began by reviewing the Finance Committee motion presented at the November 21, 2016, Session meeting. The motion reads: The Finance Committee moves that the Session approve the release of Session-

designated and endowment funds for 2017 per the recommended schedule. The committee is accountable for an annual review of investments and a recommendation for the appropriate distribution. The distribution percentage for 2017 will be 4.5% based on a rolling 12-quarter average of fund balances, and these distributions will be released in April or May 2017. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

Josh presented a second motion to be voted on at the January 23, 2017, Session meeting. This motion proposes an extension for three additional calendar years of the current Session directive that unrestricted estate bequests received be applied to Capital Campaign indebtedness. Considerable discussion followed about the best wording for the motion, and ultimately by consensus the following motion language resulted:

The Finance Committee moves that in order to provide funding to meet our Capital Campaign financial needs, all future unrestricted bequests received by FPC through December 31, 2019 (retroactive to January 1, 2017) shall be designated to the extent necessary for 2012 Capital Campaign debt retirement. Josh commented that the original intent of the Committee of 17 was that the campaign would not result in any FPC indebtedness to be carried forward when the pledge payout period ended and that the proposed motion is one way to achieve that objective. Currently there is a gap of about \$1.2 million between expenditures and unpaid pledges. Neil reminded Session members about Paisley Heritage gifts and the potential for sizable gifts that may be contributed to the church over the next few years.

Josh provided an update of financials through the end of October. Pledged gifts were \$100,000 below expectations, and expenses were \$29,000 higher. The through October is \$674,000 compared with a \$408,000 deficit at the end of October 2015. Josh said that the Finance Committee thinks that there may be a deficit of \$200,000 or more at year's end.

Josh explained that expenses have been higher than support and revenue for seven of eight months in 2016. The call to action by Finance and the work of other committees and staff have helped to bend the expense curve downward in

October 2016 compared with the upward trend in 2015. Josh attributed the deficit to a missing faith budget segment of \$279,000, an increase of salaries and benefits of \$70,000, higher expenses for programs and activities of \$55,000, and recent repairs and maintenance of \$27,000 for HVAC in Redhead Hall and a compressor unit in the Life Center.

To close the budget gap, the church has taken the following steps:

- Concentrating on Stewardship efforts
- Engaging staff in reducing expenses
- Using restricted funds as appropriate
- Not filling open positions and eliminating three staff positions
- Reallocating operations tasks and filling the Director of Finance position
- Having Sid send a letter to members asking for additional gifts for 2016
- Using a different approach in developing the 2017 budget with a greater level of involvement from committees and staff, and
- Possibly considering the sale of FPC properties not essential to ministry.

Josh also referenced the Antioch Group's recommendations presented in the summer of 2016 which apply to building the 2017 budget and potential trade-offs. Josh said the committee plans to present a 2017 budget at the January 23, 2017, Session meeting.

Sid discussed the letter he sent to members asking for additional financial help before the end of 2016. He said that this is only the third time in 16 years that he has asked for additional contributions like this. He reminded Session that the church has been through many transitions, and he is hopeful for a positive response to his letter.

Scripture Reading

Elder Atim Idika read Romans 8:24-29.

Faith Sharing

Elder Mary Thomas shared her statement.

Stewardship

Myles referenced the list of proposed Special Offerings for 2017. Myles explained that the Stewardship Committee is recommending that the church replace the One Great Hour of Sharing offering with a second offering for Urban Ministry. The 2016 total Easter season offering was \$3,900. Session unanimously approved the proposed Special Offerings list for 2017.

Myles praised Finance Committee Chair Josh Showers and the Finance staff for their work in helping the church staff

better understand the budget process. Myles thanked Sid for signing 900 letters last week that asked for additional contributions before the end of 2016.

To date, 475 pledges have been received, which is behind the total of 700 pledges received in 2015 for 2016. Myles encouraged elders to talk to church members to raise the number of pledges to 700 by year's end. The pledges total \$1.972 million, which is \$700,000 behind the 2015 total. The average pledge for 2017 is a few hundred dollars more than the average for 2016. Stewardship had a great team and has done everything possible during the campaign.

Food Service Task Force

Darlene shared how much the task force has appreciated how Tim Millisor and Neil have worked with food service. This fall was a pilot program with Above and Beyond Catering. The last Wednesday dinner was served December 14. Darlene reported that the food has been good and the caterer has been easy to work with. She commented that the task force is disappointed in the number of people attending on Wednesday nights. A group of older adults and some families who attend regularly.

Special occasion meals have included the FPC Women's Luncheon, the Kickoff Sunday lunch, the College of Elders dinner, and Trunk or Treat. The task force has decided to continue the program through May 2017 and to add youth dinners on some Sundays. Starting next fall, the task force anticipates that the caterer will begin using the church kitchen to prepare church meals.

The cost has been basically break even, so there has not been any material negative impact on the church budget. The task force hopes that food service can generate a small positive cash position when preparation activities can take place in the church kitchen.

Buying dinner tickets in advance has been a cultural shift for our church. Average dinner attendance has been about 100 people. Susannah Washburn asked if youth would need to buy tickets in advance for Sunday night meals. Darlene said that Nick would estimating youth attendance, so youth would not need to buy tickets in advance.

Step Up Greensboro

Neil reported that Step Up Greensboro paused operations November 1. He said that Step Up has a strong Board of Trustees and Neil anticipates that it will reopen soon. FPC members and staff

who serve on the board include Neil Dunnivant, Mike Godwin, Terri Hammer, Len White, Honey Moore, and Billy Nutt.

Step Up has rehired Anthony Bass at a modest salary. Neil said that he anticipates that the week-long Job Readiness class will begin February 1. Contributions can be made on the redesigned website. The Encore! store is still running. Session members were reminded that StepUp is financially separate from FPC and is supported by a number of churches.

New Business

- Second-graders will begin Communion class early in 2017, and second-year elders will share their faith journeys with the class.
- Neil mentioned that African members of FPC have an African service at our church on Sunday afternoons, and he invited anyone interested to attend.
- Upcoming events include the birthday party for Jesus, Lessons & Carols, and three Christmas Eve services.
- Advent sermons will use the text of *The Messiah*.
- Members are invited to the December 11 community *Messiah* sing-a-long.
- Advent Wednesday contemplative services begin November 30 at 6 pm.
- The Chancel Choir will sing with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra December 16 at 7:30 pm at the Greensboro Coliseum.
- Advent devotions written by elders are available through print, podcast or blog. Lara expressed appreciation to elders who contributed.
- Nancy Abrams reminded Session that January 8 is Communion Sunday and asked everyone to check the serving schedule. Nancy also invited elders interested in serving communion on Christmas Eve to contact her.
- Vicky Borden reported that the Worship Task Force exploring Sunday service times expects to bring a report to Session in early 2017.
- Sid informed Session that he will have back surgery in early January. He expects to be able to resume most of his work activities by year's end.

Prayers of the People

Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of need and celebration, and Dolly offered prayers.

The Session meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Magod, Clerk of Session

session digest

Minutes of the January Session meeting
Approved at the February Session meeting

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, January 23, 2017

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. The Rev. Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor, served as meeting moderator, in the absence of Sid Batts who was away attending a conference and who reported that he was recovering well from back surgery.

The meeting began with Neil leading a responsive reading of Psalm 95. Those gathered sang the hymn "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: Lisa Witherspoon, Ann Alexander, Christine Ciaccio, John Alexander, Myles Fish, Wendy Duncan, Donna Chase, Nick Demuynck, Lara Musser Gritter, Josh Musser Gritter, Genie Schwartz, Tim Millisor, and a number of confirmands and mentors.

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the December 12, 2016, stated meeting of the Session.
- From the Discipleship Office: December 2016 attendance, membership, and visitor reports.
- Committee Reports: Adult Formation and Children's Formation.
- FPC Statistical Report for 2016.
- Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

What's Going Well

- Dolly's sermon on January 22nd was excellent.
- Sid's prayer was particularly poignant.
- Recent sermons by Lara and Josh Musser Gritter were very good.
- Derrick Jackenheimer's solo during worship on January 22nd was beautiful.
- Dolly mentioned observing two FPC members who had similar losses providing comfort to each other.
- The American Congolese FPC gathering was successful and included a potluck dinner and games.
- The Hot Dish & Hope celebration just before Christmas went well.
- African members of FPC are holding services on Sunday afternoons,

and all are invited to attend those services.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Josh Showers presented the report. He noted that November financials reflected a continuing operating deficit through 11 months of 2016 of about \$679,000. December financials are not yet completed, which is not unusual. Josh reported that there is an optimistic view about revenue for the end of 2016, attributed in large part to responses to Sid's letter to members in December.

Josh read the motion from the Finance Committee that was presented at the December Session meeting. Josh stated that the language had been minimally edited to polish wording and to reflect comments and suggestions made at the December Session meeting, and the motion as finalized read as follows: The Finance Committee moves that in order to provide funding to meet our Capital Campaign financial needs, all future unrestricted bequests received by FPC through December 31, 2019 (retroactive to January 1, 2017) shall be designated to the extent necessary for 2012 Capital Campaign debt retirement. The motion was approved unanimously. Josh said that the Finance Committee, committee chairs and church staff were working hard on the 2017 budget, and the 2017 budget will be presented in February.

Worship and Congregational Care

Congregational Care Committee Vice Chair Tom Heggie read the motion presented at the December Session meeting regarding funeral lay speaker guidelines. The motion states: The Congregational Care and Worship Committees move that the Funeral Lay Speaker Guidelines be approved. Dolly reminded Session members that these guidelines have been developed to help ensure that lay speakers' remarks at funerals and memorial services honor their loved ones in a worshipful and appropriate way. The motion was unanimously approved.

Scripture Reading: Elder Layne King read Matthew 14: 23-33.

Faith Sharing: Elder Tom Heggie shared his faith statement.

Stewardship Team

Myles Fish thanked the team for its efforts, especially in contacting FPC members who had not yet made 2017 pledges. The Stewardship campaign began in October and the team was working hard to complete the campaign by the end of January, instead of at the end of March, to help ensure a more precise 2017 budget. Myles reported that 41 members pledged for the first time, and those pledges totaled \$115,000. 243 members increased their pledges, and 226 members pledged the same amount as in 2016. Sid's letter to members in December raised \$150,000 by the end of 2016, and 65 members increased their pledges for 2017.

The total pledged amount to date for 2017 is \$2,566,000, which is only \$34,000 less than the 2017 campaign goal. Myles said that there were no six-figure pledged gifts for 2017 and that the church can no longer depend on those larger gifts each year. The church needs to continue to build a broader giving base. He also reported that 65 FPC households that pledged in 2016 have not yet made a pledge for 2017. The team hopes that some of those members will still decide to make a pledge. He emphasized the importance of the blue worship attendance books to keep track of those present at services. He said that more members are making pledge payments online, and the team is working to make sure those automatic pledges are tracked correctly.

Myles addressed the question of how to deal with unpaid pledges at year end. He responded that unpaid pledge amounts are fairly consistent from year to year, and that the 2017 budget will take into account that fact. Dan Goley commended Myles's work in bringing professionalism to the stewardship process. This year, the campaign was more targeted with tailored messages and approaches for different groups. Myles thanked Session members for setting the example for the rest of the congregation by increasing their pledges overall for 2017 by 15 percent.

Children's Formation Committee

Chair Tricia Shaw praised the committee for its work and explained that the committee's focus this year is building

a vision, examining strengths and weaknesses, and implementing the Antioch Committee's guidelines for children's ministry. Tricia highlighted two areas of work which include:

- Developing a call list of members who can volunteer to provide child care for special church events. This will help reduce the cost of child care for the church.
- Developing a child-care policy to establish guidelines and expectations for child-care offerings at FPC that will be part of the FPC Procedures Manual. Those procedures, for example, include outlining child protection measures and ensuring an allergy aware and nut-free environment.

Property Resources Committee

Chair Erwin Fuller reported that the committee had met with Chris Spencer from the Greensboro Department of Transportation to discuss the announced City plan involving North Elm Street changes which propose bike lanes in both directions near FPC and the elimination of some on-street parking during Sunday worship times. For the FPC Property Committee, Erwin sent a letter to Chris Spencer that summarizes FPC's position of strongly opposing the proposed Sunday morning on-street parking elimination between Fisher Avenue and South Park Drive. The City has received the letter, and Erwin will keep Session members updated about the City's response to it.

Erwin also reported that FPC and Habitat for Humanity, which leases most of the Shetler Building basement, have been in discussion about future lease arrangements and have not been able to find common ground. As a result, Habitat has advised that it will be vacating its space during 2017 (likely this summer). The differences centered on FPC's desire and need to lease the entire building (except for the first floor Youth space) in order to justify significant capital expenditure required to upgrade the building for occupancy by tenant groups and Habitat's request on behalf of the Housing Hub group for more nearby parking for clients and employees than FPC could provide. The committee will handle the termination of the agreement with Habitat and explore possible alternative HVAC arrangements.

Nominating Committee

Vice Chair Vicky Borden reported for Chair Chip Pegram. Vicky explained that the committee includes seven current

Session members and eight at-large members elected by the congregation. Other committee members are Lisa Anderson, Sissy Barham, Jim Compton, Leslie Deaton, Sheri Evans, Dan Goley, Kelly Harrill, Judith Judy, Dan Kerns, Hank Lovvorn, Paul Parker, Camille Townsend and Jay Witherspoon. On behalf of Chip, Vicky thanked them for their service.

The committee met weekly from October through December and reviewed numerous recommendations from the congregation and committee members. The committee spent many hours prayerfully discussing and considering nominees. Vicky reminded Session of the criteria to be considered for elder:

- Active participation in the life of the church
- Demonstrated leadership or leadership potential
- A strong faith and love for the church
- A consistent pattern of regular financial giving
- A cooperative spirit
- Gender, age, racial and ethnic diversity (to our reflect membership)
- Diversity of interest in the ministry of our church.

One or two committee members met with each prospective nominee in person and reviewed the expectations. Vicky said the committee felt God's presence during the process. She believes that the nominees also felt God's presence.

The committee has completed its work and its slate of outstanding nominees who have accepted nomination will be announced on February 5, 2017. The congregation will vote on the slate at the congregational meeting on March 5, 2017. Vicky thanked the Session for its prayers and support.

Appointments Committee

Chair Vance Barron explained that elders in the classes of 2018 and 2019 need to complete the committee form included in the packet. Elders need to indicate their interest and skills for committee placement and leadership. Vance asked that completed forms be returned either to him or to Debby Foster.

New Business

- Vance announced that Urban Ministry will be running out of food by the end of the week, so please consider donations to the food bank.
- Kelly Harrill invited everyone to a preview of the movie "The Shack." Kelly is part of a group that has rented out a 400-person theater for the preview.

Tickets are \$25, which includes time with the author of the book. Kelly invited contact with him by email or Facebook if interested in tickets.

- Dolly announced that Doug McElroy has joined the Congregational Care team. Doug recently retired from Reidsville Presbyterian Church and also worked for 30 years as a military chaplain. Doug is a talented, gentle spirit and is a trained counselor in post-traumatic stress disorder. Doug will work 16 hours per week, focusing on members at Abbotswood Senior Living Community and families with military backgrounds. Dolly mentioned that many Abbotswood residents gather in the commons room on Sunday mornings to watch the FPC live feed of the worship service, and they even collect an offering.
- Margaret Arbuckle announced that the Race Relations Task Force will be offering two opportunities to watch the three-part film series "Race: The Power of Illusion." The film will be shown February 5, 12, and 19 and discussed February 26 at 9:30 am in the Virginia Gilmer Room. The February 19 viewing will be held in the Blair Hagan Room. In addition, the film will be shown on February 9, 16, and 23 in the Virginia Gilmer Room at 7 pm. There is also an opportunity to discuss the film "Hidden Figures" on February 2. The granddaughter of one of the women portrayed in that movie will participate in the discussion.
- Scott Black Johnston, Senior Pastor at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, will be preaching on Sunday as the 2017 Mullin Forum preacher. He also will be leading a Sunday School class in the Garden Room at 9:30 before worship. Contact Debby Foster to make a reservation for the College of Elders lunch that will follow the worship service.
- Dave Maner clarified that the proposed changes for North Elm Street include a dedicated right turn lane from North Elm Street onto Fisher Avenue.

Prayers of the People

Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of both need and celebration, and Lara Musser Gritter offered prayers for all those people.

The Session meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Magod,
Clerk of Session

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