

FPC news

First Presbyterian Church • Greensboro, NC • fpcgreensboro.org • 336.373.0445

october's line-up



Spiritual
practice
page 6

Our new
residents
page 9

Livin'
the life
page 4

Trunk or
Treat!
page 13

Save that
date!
back cover

FIRST CHURCH PEOPLE

Baptisms

On August 21, 2016, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

- **John Barnes Farless**, son of **Graham & Katherine Farless**.
- **Meares McLendon King**, daughter of **Matt & Sally King**.
- **William Payne McVey**, son of **Chris & Ryann McVey**.

Births

Congratulations to **Charlie & Hilary Holderness** on the birth of **Mary Charlotte Holderness** on September 9, 2016.

Congrats to **Jay & Ashley Witherspoon** on the birth of **Charlotte James Witherspoon**, on August 31, 2016.

Sympathy

Sympathy to FPC member **Mary Eagle** on the death of her father, **Grover Cleveland McNair**, on September 30, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Charles Mendenhall**, who died September 29, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Shirley Stockard Brantley**, who died September 28, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Robert "Beau" McIntosh** on the death of his mother, **Margaret Ann F. McIntosh**, on September 20, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **J. Gary Lee** on the death of his mother, **Gwendolyn Lee**, on September 19, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Homer Wade** on the death of his mother, **Elaine Tolan Wade**, on September 19, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Rachel Frick** on the death of her sister, **Linda Elizabeth Huggins**, on Sept. 11, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Edward Francis Wrenn**, who died September 9, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Carolyn "Lyn" Heath** on the death of her mother, **Patricia Stewart**, on September 5, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Richard Wyche Cartland**, who died September 1, 2016.

New Members

Please welcome the following new members who joined October 2, 2016:



Innocent & Aline Bihunda with sons Rukundo, Kelvin, King, Merci, and daughter Gentille

525-A Homeland Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27405



Jane Davenport
20-C Fountain Manor Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27405



Charlotte Hendren
18-B Fountain Manor Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27405



Stephanie Horth
3600 Wilshire Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27408

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Dorothy Nall Blair**, who died August 27, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Rosemary Reed Troxler**, who died August 27, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Ann W. Sapp** on the death of her mother, **Kathryn Dianne Walters**, on August 26, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of **Lunsford Richardson, Jr.**, who died August 24, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Sybil Harrison Davenport**,

who died August 22, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Dr. Henry "Frank" F. Starr, Jr.**, who died August 19, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Katherine Hines Galloway**, who died August 17, 2016.

PLEASE DON'T ASSUME ... that our pastors know you or a loved one is in the hospital or very ill at home. Call 336.478.4709 and let us know. After-hours & weekends, call 336.908.8615 to leave a message for the pastor on call.

Dear Friends,



Faith is a gift.

Have you heard that? Do you think it is true?

I do. Faith is a gift we receive from God's Spirit working through many channels...our parents, friends, church, a Bible study, etc. But there is a problem with the idea of "faith is a gift." The image of receiving a gift puts us in a passive role. That can be problematic.

It's football season so think of a receiver on a football team who catches passes. This receiver is anything but passive. A receiver works hard, runs routes, and fights off linebackers and cornerbacks in order to get free and be open. He is anything but passive!

In the spiritual life, you and I are the receivers. Often we have to work at "getting open" in order to receive God's gift of God's presence. Whereas passive receivers do not catch many passes, likewise, passive Christians do not put themselves in a position to "catch" much of a spiritual life.

What does this mean? It is highly improbable and nearly impossible for you and me to grow as spiritual people without working at "getting open." When we do get open, we allow God to speak to us and to grow in us.

What does this mean for you and me? It means being intentional about creating times and places where we are open to God. Those places are worship, Bible study, prayer, small groups, book clubs, spiritual practices, classes, meditation, and a hundred other places where we work to be open so that we can be a receiver of God's presence and grace.

Hear the quarterback's instruction to the receiver: "Get open."

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'Dio' or similar, written in a cursive style.

P.S. This fall is vibrant at FPC!

1,000

WORDS



Celebrating the dedication of our latest Habitat house with new homeowner Elizabeth Davies and her family. Kids Disciple Club & Children's Ministry provided plants, a bookcase & a Welcome Home banner!



Rev. Dolly Jacobs leads a discussion of Adam Hamilton's *Half-Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves & Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say* through October 12, Wednesdays at 6 pm.



Kids' Disciple Club started their year by conquering the ropes course at Canterbury School.



Newly ordained elder John Vanderwerff attends his first Session meeting with elder mentor Cheryl Crago.

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 13



OUR MINISTRY

Grab your daypack.

Make sure your phone is fully charged, because
you're gonna want to take pics.

Bring your enthusiasm and your sense of wonder.

And your FPC passport. It'll be in your mailbox
in a couple of weeks.

Get ready to see First Pres
like you've never seen it before.

At FPC, we want to support the spiritual formation of all ages and stages of life. This year, we are exploring spiritual practices on our own and in our community. Each month we focus on a different category of faith practice. You can learn about its foundations and how it can help you grow spiritually, receive suggestions for further reading and interactive learning, and find ways to experience that practice in the ministries of FPC. Join us on the journey!

this month's practice:

READING SCRIPTURE

I have many wonderful memories of my maternal and paternal grandparents and the values they shared. They were both from large farm families with a strong work ethic and an even stronger faith ethic. My maternal grandparents were tobacco and vegetable farmers, and deacons and teachers in the Primitive Baptist church across

BY DONNA CHASE
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN
FORMATION

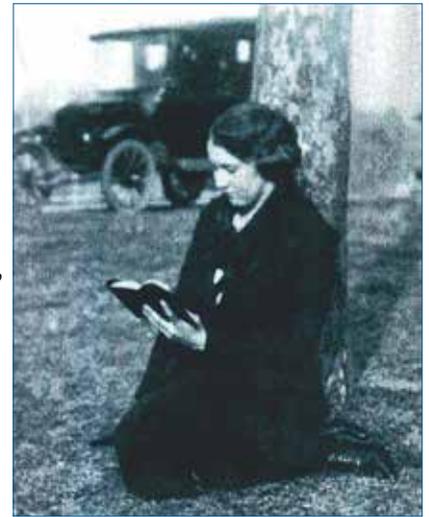
the road
from their
farm. My
paternal

grandparents were cotton and dairy farmers, and elders and Sunday superintendent in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church at the crossroads of their town.

On my office desk is a picture of my maternal grandmother. She died at age 42 and therefore I never met her, but often heard her described as a woman of deep faith who loved the scriptures. This faded picture is of her reading the Bible – note the model T in the background! My paternal grandmother I knew and loved well and fondly recall her sitting in her rocking chair on Saturday evenings with Bible in hand, pouring over her Sunday school lesson and the text of the day. She passed this on to my father who I observed in my home growing up with the same habit. I am blessed to have grown up in a family of faith formers who exemplified a love of God, the Holy Bible and the church.

When we invite our members to teach or lead our children and youth, we often hear, “I just don’t know the Bible well enough to teach.” Maybe that’s true, but maybe we are thinking about Bible study as purely intellectual study.

I would like to offer another approach to considering scripture, what some call a *formational* approach instead of an intellectual *informational* approach. The emphasis is less about study,



Donna's maternal grandmother, Etta Moore

COMING IN
NOVEMBER



prayer

memorization or even knowing the Bible and more about meditating and reflecting upon the text and listening to God speak through it. It is less about knowing about God and more about developing a relationship with God. Another way to consider the difference in this formational approach to scripture reading is to think about the difference in reading the newspaper versus a personal letter, or the difference in reading a car manual and the Bible.

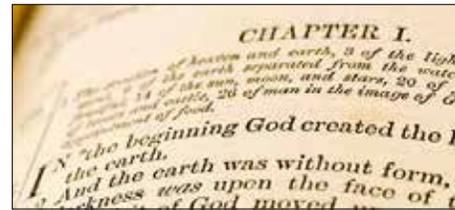
Some questions to reflect upon are: what is God saying to me through this scripture? How might God be calling me to respond? These are questions that move from head to heart and spirit.

There are many methods of this more formational, meditative approach to scripture that has as its focus listening to and developing a relationship with God. I will share one here which is called the ancient practice of *lectio divina*, or divine or sacred reading.

Begin the practice by finding a quiet place and opening yourself to God in silence.

- Read the scripture passage slowly, maybe even aloud. Listen for words, phrases or images that come to mind as you read the text.
- Reflect on one or more of the words, phrases or images from the first reading and hearing of the passage as you read it through a second time. What meaning does the phrase or image have for you?
- Respond to what God is saying to you as you read the passage prayerfully a third time. Speak to God of your needs and struggles as well as your gratitude.
- Rest deeply in God's loving presence by spending time in silence. Let go and be receptive to what God seeks to give you at the time.
- Record your thoughts on the reading and responding to the scripture passage. Keeping a journal is a good way to develop this practice.

In his book *Life Together*, theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer suggests meditating on the same scripture passage every morning for a week. A few scripture passages you may want to use with *lectio divina* might be Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:6-11, Matthew 5:13-14, John 10:11-18, Philippians 2:1-11, Colossians 3:12-17, Galatians 5:22-26. You might also consider using the Sunday sermon scripture which you can find on our website each week.



WHAT & WHY

"In traditional Christian understanding, scripture is both God's Word and human word. It is part of God's chosen self-revelation, simultaneously familiar and strange. ... If Scripture truly has this character, we can expect to encounter the divine presence in its pages. It is not that the words magically or mechanically contain God's presence but that, as we allow the same Spirit through which the scriptures were written to inform our listening, the presence of God in and beyond those words becomes alive for us once more."

– Marjorie Thompson, *Soul Feast*

READ IT

NRSV Spiritual Formation Bible

The Meeting God Bible: Growing in Intimacy with God through Scripture

Jesus Calling devotional by Sarah Young

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers

CLICK IT

Our Daily Bread: <http://odb.org/>

BibleGateway.com

Scripture-based apps: Bible Gateway, YouVersion, 3

Minute Retreat, Daily Prayer (PCUSA)

FPC IT

Growing Deeper groups led by elders

Sunday school classes

Small group Bible studies

A time of grace & growth



REV. DOLLY JACOBS
Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care

Every fall, we turn our clocks back an hour to “save” some daylight. Individually, we experience “time change” that is more internal and spiritual. Moments of intentionality where we need some space; we need an objective someone whom we know and trust to help us see things with a new perspective.

These time changes give us fresh eyes to see the love and grace of God and how it sustained us in the decisions we made. Richard Rohr writes, “On the journey of life, grace

must and will edge you forward.” I felt moments of grace during my summer sabbatical.

My sabbatical was a much-needed gift of time with my family. The last three weeks of May, I could drive carpool each day, listening with a rested spirit and focused ear as my daughters shared their thoughts, their concerns, and their youthful silliness during the ride. I enjoyed afternoons shooting baskets and trying badminton in our backyard. I was able to be a full-blown swim team mom, making brownies and cheering. I also recognized that whether I am with my girls throughout the day with their lives as my sole focus, or I am coming home at the end of a meaningful day at FPC, patience will always be a “spirit fruit” that I must strive for while parenting my spunky, smart, insightful daughters. On a self-care note, I discovered that I love spin class and I still go twice a week!

This time change afforded me the joy of taking my first doctoral class in Pastoral Care and Counseling at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, Calif. In nervous preparation I read works by John Calvin, Karl

Barth, Dan Migliore, John Hick, George Sittser, Philip Yancey, Stanley Hauwerwas, Nicholas Wolterstorff, and Wendy Farley, all theologians and spiritual writers that were to be discussed in *The Theology of God and Human Suffering*.

I immersed myself in thinking, discussing, writing, and awakening to what we as the people of God believe, wonder, doubt, and hope for as we seek our triune God in times of need. This time challenged me theologically, grounded my belief in a loving, comforting God, and called me to once again use my God-given intellect in meaningful conversations with colleagues. I met other students who serve through parish ministry, prison ministry, college ministry, chaplaincy, and ministry to the LGBTQ community.

This time allowed me to recognize that, while I often feel confident and prepared, part of me still feels butterflies when I walk into a room of strangers. Those butterflies pushed me to meet new and deep friends. Those butterflies carried me as I wrote my first doctoral paper, worrying about not getting an A+, only to find out after the course was complete that my program is about the quality of the content and not a grading scale!

This time change reminded me that not one person on this earth has the sole track on the thoughts and will of God, and that we are to be in relationship with, respect, and see one another, in all of our differences and uniqueness, as God’s children. And while I am still sinfully proud to be a PC(USA) minister, I think I am maybe even more open-minded than I was before!

This sabbatical is a gift that you have given to me and to our pastoral staff throughout the years. I am forever grateful for the time away, the prayers and support, and the enthusiasm you have had for this time change. I am also so appreciative of your supporting the Congregational Care staff members while I was gone. They are amazing servant leaders who offer depth and wisdom, Christ’s love and care.

With thanks and Christian love,
Dolly

Q&A

with our newest residents

Through the Cynthia Price Pastoral Residency, FPC offers a two-year program for recent seminary graduates who hold an M.Div. Degree and are on track for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The program allows residents to learn all aspects of church work, and brings their fresh thinking to our ministries. The program was established by a generous gift from the estate of the late Cynthia Price. The program is now in its third year, and our newest residents are Josh and Lara Musser Gritter from Duke Divinity School.



**JOSH
MUSSE
GRITTER**

Welcome, Josh! Tell us a bit about you.

I hail from Holland, Michigan, and moved to Washington State where I attended Seattle Pacific University, studied theology, and met a pretty girl who liked theology, hiking, and drinking coffee as much as I did.

How did you end up at Duke Divinity School?

It was my dream to study with some of Duke's renowned Old and New Testament faculty. North Carolina also just seemed like the kind of state I'd love to live in.

How do you define the role of pastor?

Pastors have been called to proclaim and embody the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Pastors are storytellers – they constantly remind the Christian community around them that the community is called to tell and live within God's narrative just as much as the pastor is.

What is it about FPC that called to you?

I felt that FPC was a community that desired to live

into the challenge of Jesus. It became apparent that this community cares deeply for Greensboro, and desires to grow deeper into the implications of that care for its neighbors. It just felt like a community I wanted to be a part of, a place where I could be myself.

What are a few of your favorite things?

Blake Mills, Bob Dylan, The National, David Bazan, and Chance the Rapper. *Shawshank Redemption*, *Good Will Hunting*, and *Short Term 12*. *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, *The Blood of the Lamb* by Peter DeVries, and *Gilead*, *Home*, and *Lila*, all by Marilynne Robinson. Seattle Seahawks! Go Blue! Golf, soccer, hiking, golfing, craft beer drinking, and playing, writing and listening to music. Italian and Thai food, and anything that comes off a charcoal grill.

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

I write poetry as a sort of spiritual practice.

words of healing, justice, and restoration. The pastor does this because we follow the one who made the dream of resurrection real.

What is it about FPC that called to you?

The leadership is earnestly seeking to listen to and follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. If leadership at a church this size is willing to take risks because the Holy Spirit has directed them to, then this is a place I want to serve, learn, and grow.

What are a few of your favorite things?

Beyonce, Chance the Rapper, and The National. *Shawshank Redemption* and *Mean Girls*. The Seahawks, the White Sox, and the Blackhawks. Running, antique shopping, gardening, and drinking citrusy IPAs. Any and all kinds of curry. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

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

I love Harry Potter and reading poetry.



**LARA
MUSSE
GRITTER**

Hello, Lara! What is your story?

I was born in Colorado and lived in Southern California until my family settled in a Chicago suburb. I spent my youth hanging around church and running cross country and track. Thanks to an encouraging youth pastor, I wound up at Seattle Pacific University studying Christian Theology. I met Josh in a class called Women in Christianity and we dated for several years before getting engaged. After graduating from SPU, I spent a year being a nanny and living with 10 of my dearest friends in one very big very old house in Seattle.

How did you end up at Duke Divinity School?

They have an Office of Black Church Studies. It felt like the place where I could learn about what God has done in a context I had not been exposed to in my previous education.

How do you define the role of pastor?

A person who holds both the wounds and the dreams of a community together. Being intimately aware of places of wounding, a pastor speaks God's



connecting with **creation**

But ask the animals,
and they will teach
you, or the birds in
the sky, and they
will tell you; or speak
to the earth, and it
will teach you, or let
the fish in the sea
inform you. Which
of all these does
not know that the
hand of the Lord
has done this? In
his hand is the life
of every creature
and the breath of all
mankind.

Job 12:7-10

What was your favorite place to play when you were little?

This was the question three FPC children’s ministry leaders – Donna Chase, director of Christian Formation, and Lana Burske and Becky Fligel of the Weekday Preschool Center – asked themselves and others when they began re-imagining FPC’s play spaces. Many adults

BY LISA MCHENRY

would answer: the creek, the woods, a sandbox, a fort, or just any pile of dirt.

A growing number of parents and educators are realizing that perhaps those natural spaces, where we first felt wonder at the largeness of God’s creation, are also the best places for our children to learn and play.

At last year’s North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC) conference, natural play was a focus. Research shows that playing in naturalized outdoor learning environments provides many benefits to children. Play in natural spaces supports creativity and problem-solving, enhances cognitive abilities, improves academic performance, improves self-discipline and social relations, increases physical activity, and reduces Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) symptoms.

For Christians, it seems appropriate to teach our youngest members to be good stewards of God’s creation by providing places where they can connect with nature and disconnect from the electronic world. With that in mind Donna, Lana, and Becky began to form a plan for a



natural play space at FPC.

Natural play spaces commonly include water, vegetation, sand, natural logs to sit on, lean against or hide in, shade, and a variety of loose parts, different levels and textures. After visiting natural playgrounds at the Raleigh Children’s Museum, N.C. Hospice, and Friendly Avenue Church, the group had plenty of inspiration.

FPC’s playground on Elm Street, affectionately referred to as a “Prayer Garden,” will include a small labyrinth, a music garden, a cross-shaped garden, and prayer books. A mini lending library (mini lending library) will also be included. The books changed seasonally and are available in the church library. The space is meant to be a place where a leader can walk a s

on through play!



children through a story using the various features to illustrate the biblical principles of the lesson.

Our playground on Greene Street is used primarily by the preschool and is an area meant to foster free play. It features a mud kitchen, slide, tunnel, large boat, sand pit, stage, and water feature.

People throughout our church were ready to help the playground

Lana were enthusiastic as they shared all that our church members have done. Glenn Williamson, who works with the Giving Back Garden, has given advice on plantings to provide opportunities for children to witness growth and change. Bryan Clemmons donated items such as the tunnel where children can hide, and his construction crew did physical work on the site. For his Eagle Scout project, Nate Duggins developed a water pump and dry creek bed which were used this summer. Henry Duggins created a play boat and flag. Cooper Crosby built art easels. Mac McAlhany is constructing a theater stage with seating and sun shades. Carter Green is making tables for the art center. Josh Turner is building interactive music centers.

incorporate colors, things to hide, a variety of diversity. s including the Zoo, Kid's Path Christian Church, n.

t, already being ay-ground," will c feature, stage, box. A book box included with ovided by our t to serve as a small group of



Donations of time, expertise, and materials are still needed as the play spaces move toward completion. We are looking for more Eagle Scouts to consider building our stage/Bible theater and our water feature, a community well. We are also looking for Master Gardeners to help design the garden boxes and sensory space. Lana Burke has projects for anyone interested in helping to bring this vision to fruition. If you are interested

team's vision become reality. Kurt Karriker from Natural Playground Designs drew the plans. Most of the work to date has focused on the Greene Street playground. Donna and

in getting involved, contact Lana at lburske@fpcgreensboro.org or Donna at dchase@fpcgreensboro.org.

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

Currie Library News

MONDAY BOOK CLUB: October 10, 10:30 am
In the Sanctuary of Outcasts by Neil White. Anne Chamblee, facilitator

TUESDAY BOOK CLUB: October 11, 1:30 pm
Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl. Dr. Sid Batts, facilitator

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

In memory of **Sybil Harris Davenport**: *The Secret Game: a Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball's Lost Triumph*, given by **Bob & Jean Rapp**; and *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*, given by **Rose W. Chamblee**.

In memory of **Mary Watson "Watty" Flora Pinson**: *Extra Yarn* and *The Nice Book*, given by **Patsy & Park Davidson**.

In memory of **Rosemary Reed Troxler**: *The Underground Railroad*, given by **Dixie Wilson**.

In memory of **Marillyn Hoyt Yancey**: *How Kind!*, and *The Kindness Quilt*, given by **Patsy & Park Davidson**.

In honor of **Kevin Geurink**, in celebration of his Ordination of Teaching Elder - Minister of Word and Sacrament and Pastor on June 9, 2016): *51% Christian: Finding Faith after Certainty*, given by **Maggie Turner**, and *If You Can Keep It; The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty*, given by **Rev. David Partington**.

In honor of **Libby Boehne**, in honor of her ministry as a Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident 2014-2016: *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*, given by **Rev. David Partington**.

In memory of **Robert "Bobby" Faire Crews**: *Alexander Hamilton* (Book on CD), given by **Rose Chamblee**.

In memory of **Harriet & Bob Carlson**: *Blue* and *When Breath Becomes Air*, given by **Charles & Betty Younce**.

In memory of **Randolph "Randy" M. Kabrick, Jr.**: *Hamilton: The Revolution* (CD), given by **Bob & Jean Rapp**.

In memory of **William "Bill" Lambert**: *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care*, given by **Charles & Betty Younce**.

In memory of **Martha Crowell Stewart**: *The Summer Before the War*, given by **Bob & Jean Rapp**.

In memory of **James "Jim" A. Middleton, Jr.**: *Legends & Lies: The Patriots* by Bill O'Reilly, given by **Jim & Melinda Ogburn**.

In honor of **Dr. Drew Jones**, Max Kreimer's 2016 Confirmation mentor-2016: *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Christ; Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life; Bettyville: A Memoir; Proclaiming the Great Ends of the Earth: Mission and Ministry for Presbyterians; Looking for Palestine: Growing up in America as an Arab-American; 100 Things Every Child Should*

Know before Confirmation: A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders; Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most; and The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community, given by **Fritz & Amy Kreimer**.

CHECK IT OUT

Kevin Geurink recommended *51% Christian: Finding Faith after Certainty* by Mark Stenberg for Currie Library. It sounds like a funny title but it is about you, the reader. "Faith is about relationship: a living, daily relationship based on trust and being active in concrete, daily practices."

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel H. Evans encourages those who have left the church to reconsider their faith and turn to God all over again.

Donna Chase, Director of Christian Education, recommended these children's books that show empathy and kindness: *Extra Yarn*, *How Kind!*, *The Kindness Quilt*, and *The Nice Book*.

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead is a fictitious account of a young slave's trek north to freedom.

David Partington has chosen two thoughtful and important books for Kevin Geurink and Libby Boehne. About *If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty* by Eric Metaxas, *The Wall Street Journal* writes "Mr. Eric Metaxas has a way of prizing civility while both staking out strong positions and defending the right of others to speak out." David Partington is a big fan of Krista Tippett, host of the podcast *On Being*. *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living* was a Servant Leadership School summer reading pick.

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow has been added to our Books on CD Collection. It is abridged, has 10 CDs and good if taking a car trip. It is the inspiration for the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*.

The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson begins with a bright story of innocence set in the small, idyllic coastal of Rye, England, in the days before WWI and proceeds into the brutal reality of WWI.

"Two of the best writers on American ways of death, burial and grieving have given us our best book on funerals," *The Christian Century* says about *The Good Funeral* and authors Tom Long, a preacher and theologian, and Tom Lynch, a funeral director.

Janie Whichard has donated *When God Doesn't Fix it: Lessons you Never Wanted to Learn, Truths You Can't Live Without*. It is available for check out.

THIS MONTH AT FPC
OCT
 O B E R

8:30 / 10:45 Sanctuary,
 10:45 Rejoice in Mullin Life Center

W
O
R
S
H
I
P

Children's Sabbath • October 23

Educate A Child: Transform the World! In observance of Children's Sabbath, Weekday Preschool children will sing in Rejoice! and our elementary choirs will be sing in the 10:45 am Sanctuary service. There will be a special offering for our Adopt a Guilford County School classroom project.

Reformation Sunday • October 30

We mark the birth of the Reformed tradition with bagpipes and kilts.

All Saints' Sunday • November 6

Presbyterians believe in the communion of Saints. On this Sunday we honor those who have gone before us.

Stewardship Sunday • November 13

One service (10:45 am, Sanctuary) to celebrate Stewardship Sunday.

HIGHLIGHTS



Come meet **Dr. Sharon Contreras** on Monday, October 10, noon in Mullin Life Center. PW invites everyone to meet the new (and first woman) superintendent of Guilford County Schools, along with FPC member & Board of Education chair Alan Duncan. *Lunch tickets are no longer available, but all are welcome to attend this presentation.*

M
U
S
I
C



John Alexander organ recital – October 28, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Our Director of Music Ministry will give a recital on the Letourneau organs. John has played across the U.S. and Europe, and his performances have been heard nationally on NPR broadcasts.



Mozart's Requiem – November 6, 5 pm, Sanctuary. *Requiem* is one of Mozart's most famous works, although it remained unfinished at his death. Join our Chancel Choir and orchestra for an All Saints' Sunday performance of this monumental work.



New York Polyphony – November 11, 8 pm, Sanctuary. We are hosting this event in UNCG's annual arts series. Tickets range from \$8 to \$35 and may be purchased at the door or in advance at <https://vpa.uncg.edu/upas/ny-polyphony>

CROP HUNGER WALK
 ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sunday, Oct. 16

All are invited to join our team to help fight hunger.

Register or donate at fpcgreensboro.org; click on "Serve" from the home page and follow the links



Trunk or Treat
a gathering for all ages!
 Sunday, Oct. 30

- Dinner, 5-6 pm
(tickets required: buy tickets by Oct. 25)
- Trunk or treating on Fisher Park Circle, 6-7 pm

This year we're having dinner, music and other activities before we Trunk or Treat on Fisher Park Circle. Dinner includes hamburger/hot dog, chips & fixings, pasta salad, potato salad, cookies and dessert bar, tea. *The meal is ticketed, like our Wednesday night dinners, so be sure to get your tickets by Oct. 25!* Buy them at the Welcome Center, or online at fpcgreensboro.org/trunkortreat.

If you'd like to decorate your trunk, contact Lisa Witherspoon, lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org, or sign up online.



Adult Church School Sundays / 9:30 am • open to all

- **Agape** – Oct. 9: Josh Musser Gritter presents “My Path to FPC”; Oct. 16: FPC Plus, presented by: Wendy Duncan; Oct. 23: Dr. Jung Hyown Kim and David Parker discuss PC(USA) General Assembly 2016; Oct. 30: Vance Barron presents “The Reformation.” Meets in the Garden Room.
- **Commitment Class** – “The Intersection of Faith and Social Issues: Human Trafficking,” in Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100.
- **Faith Matters Class** – “The Fruits of the Spirit.” Class meets in Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242.
- **Homebuilders** – Discussion of *Half-Truths* by Adam Hamilton. Meets in Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200.
- **Pastor’s Bible Study** – Meets in Memorial 304. Oct. 9: Rev. Myles Fish discusses themes from the Book of Acts and what they mean today. Oct. 16, 23 and 30: Rev. Kevin Geurink leads a study of King David.
- **Seekers** – “American Religious History,” led by Gerard Davidson. Meets in Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.
- **YMBC** – Through Oct. 23, a study of Jeremiah led by Charles Howell meets in Redhead Hall. Oct. 30: Craven Williams presents “Staying Connected.”
- **Young Adult Study** – Our new Cynthia Price Pastoral Residents Josh and Lara Musser Gritter lead a new Bible Study for young adults with a focus on Scripture as it relates to current events and our lives. Meets in Memorial 303.

W E D N E S D A Y S

Dinner!

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 for ages 13 and older, \$5 for ages 5-12 and free for ages 4 and younger (with a paying adult); family maximum is \$25. Tickets available in the Welcome Center, online, or by calling 336-478-4799. **Tickets are not available at the door.**

Menus: October 12 – Country-style steak, mashed potatoes, honey-glazed carrots, salad, yeast rolls, cookies. October 19 – Baked spaghetti (meat or tomato), fruit, salad, breadsticks, cheesecakes; stay after dinner (around 6:30pm) for Wil & Hilda Courter’s travelogue, “EGYPT – Gift of the Nile”. October 26 – Lemon-pepper chicken, wild rice, veggie medley, salad, yeast rolls, cakes.

Wednesday night small groups

Sunday is the deadline to reserve child care for each week’s studies: Contact lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4726.

- **Where Moms Connect**, 6-7 pm in Memorial 304, for moms with children of all ages. Parenting is a journey, take it with friends. For more info, contact Wendy Duncan, wduncan@fpcgreensboro.org, or Lisa Witherspoon, lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org.
- **Men’s Bible Study** of 1 Thessalonians, 6-7 pm in Memorial 303. Led by Pastoral Resident, Kevin Geurink; email kgeurink@fpcgreensboro.org for info.
- Wendy Duncan and Rev. Dolly Jacobs lead a study of Adam Hamilton’s *Half-Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say* through Oct. 12, 6-7 pm in the Vaughn Conference Room (Main 125).



SPIRITUS
FPC Caregivers' Support Group

Wednesday, October 19
1:30-3:30 pm and 6:30-7:30 pm
Blair Hagan Room

For more information, contact
Maggie Turner, 478-4724 or
mturner@fpcgreensboro.org

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Medicare Update – Wednesday, Oct. 26, noon - 1 pm, Redhead Hall. If you are approaching age 65, helping parents who are 65, considering a coverage change during this enrollment period, or just have questions about Medicare, come and explore your options. Bob Boyd of the State Health Insurance Program will be here to help! Feel free to bring your lunch; dessert and drinks will be provided. To sign-up and for more info, contact Maggie Turner at 336-478-4724.

C O N N E C T I O N

Coffee – in the Welcome Center Sundays before & after worship. First floor, Smith Building.

New Creation Community Church meets for worship Sundays at 5 pm in Redhead Hall.

Functional Fitness – Exercise for older adults, 10:15 am, Mondays & Thursdays, Smith 124. *Free for Silver*

Sneakers/United Healthcare & BCBS; \$3/class for other. Info: Carol Sellars, 336-288-2077, or Martha Sharpless, 336-282-0397.

Almanah Group – Meal & fellowship for widows. Tuesday, October 11, 5 pm at Village Tavern, 1903 Westridge Road. RSVP: Becky Peters at becky_p@bellsouth.net or 336-545-7757.

Currie Library Book Clubs – Monday Club meets Oct. 10 at 10:30 am in Virginia Gilmore Room to discuss *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* by Neil White, with Anne Chamblee facilitating; Tuesday Club meets Oct. 11 at 1:30 pm in the Garden Room to discuss *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl, with Dr. Sid Batts facilitating. Both clubs welcome new members.

THIS MONTH AT FPC OCTOBER

Presbyterian Women Circles: All women are invited to join a Presbyterian Women Circle. Our study this year is "Come to the Water," about the Biblical imagery of water in our faith. Circles meet at various times to accommodate as many people's schedules as possible. Contact Wendy Duncan, 478-4723 for more information about circles.

- Deborah's Dining & Discussion
Third Monday, 11:45 am, meets in the 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.

SMALL GROUPS AND STUDIES

Men's Book of the Bible Club

Join Rev. Neil Dunnivant on October 20 at 7 pm as he hosts the first meeting of this new men's group. In the next few months we will meet four times to discuss an entire book of the Bible, considering its literary, historical, moral, and spiritual qualities. This month we will focus on First Samuel. We will gather at 3504 Watauga Drive. Future meeting times will be discussed at this meeting.



GIFT In the Morning – Mondays, 9:15 am, Cannon's Solarium. Led by Rev. Dolly Jacobs, Growing in Faith Together is for women with preschool and elementary-age children. Child care is provided with a reservation. Info: Sissy Barham, sissy.barham@gmail.com.

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

Wednesday Men's Fellowship – To get involved, contact Wil Courter at wcourter@earthlink.net.

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

Community Service Group – Wednesdays, 10 am, Garden Room. These ladies meet for

fellowship and a devotional while hand-crafting blankets, lap robes and more items for people in need in our community and beyond. Contact: B.J. Williams, 336-288-8601 or Hannah Britt, 336-288-9289.

Beth Moore Study Group – Wednesdays, 4 pm in Main 125, Vaughn Conference Room. Contact Rachel Sommers, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4799 for more info.

Faith & Fellowship – Thursdays, 9:15 am in Cannon's Solarium. Members take turns leading this relaxed study and fellowship group. Contact Wendy Duncan or Leigh Jones for more information.

Grace on Fridays – Fridays, 9:15 am in members' homes. Small group for moms of tween and teens! Contact Sara Stroud, sara_stroud@yahoo.com, for more info.

CHILDREN

Preschool Storytime – Focus is Dinosaurs! We'll read some books, play some games, do some crafts, and have a snack. For ages 2-5 and a parent. Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 1:15 pm in the Welcome Center Children's Space.

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

KDC Event: CROP Walk Meet-up – Sunday, Oct. 16. To RSVP for this event, contact Mollie Gordon at mgordon@fpcgreensboro.org

Children's Sabbath Outreach Day – Sunday, Oct.

23, 9:30 am. Congregational Book Collection for "Adopt a GCS Classroom." Bring new or gently used picture, pre-reader or chapter books to fill the shelves at Peck Elementary!

Fall Fellowship Dinner & Trunk or Treat – Sunday, Oct. 30, 5-7 pm. This year we're having dinner before we go out to Trunk or Treat on Fisher Park Circle. See page 13 for more info.

Devotions and Dessert! Wednesday, Oct. 26. Join us after dinner for a new devotion for families on the go and an ice cream bar served by our children!

H CROP Walk – Walkers meet at the church at 2 pm to walk to Grasshoppers Stadium together. After CROP Walk, come to the gym to play basketball until youth group starts.

T 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. *Class dinners:* Oct. 23 in members' homes.

Y MS Breakfast Clubs meet at Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road. *Oct 11* at 7 am, Greensboro Academy/ *Oct 18*, at 7:20 am, Mendenhall/ *Oct 25* at 7:20 am, Canterbury/ *Nov 1* at 7:20 am, Greensboro Day School.

High school girls' study meets at 7:45 pm on Wednesdays in the Youth Room.

Thursday mornings – High school youth meet for devotions at 7:20 am at Panera on Lawndale.

Confirmation Class CROSS trip – keep our travelers in prayer during this mission trip to Charlotte. Group leaves Friday Nov. 4, returns on Sunday, Nov. 6.

SESSION DIGEST

Minutes of the May meeting approved at the June meeting

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, May 16, 2016

The stated meeting of Session of First Presbyterian Church was held May 16, 2016, 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 63. Those gathered sang "To God Be the Glory" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: David Kolosiekie, Libby Boehne, John Alexander, Tim Millisor, Myles Fish, Kevin Geurink, Wendy Duncan, Donna Chase, Nick Demuyneck, Aaron Ferry, and Paul Parker.

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the April 13 stated meeting of the Session
- From the Discipleship Office: April attendance, membership, and visitor reports
- Committee Reports: Outreach and Christian Education Youth

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

What's Going Well

- The worship service and the picnic on Pentecost Sunday were enjoyed.
- The work of StepUp Ministry is going well, and the recent luncheon was quite a success.
- The Racial Inequity Task Force has held its first meeting with the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church.

God Talks

Margaret Chase spoke about the great success of the first God Talks event April 21. The committee was very pleased with the turnout and particularly the great number of visitors that attended and enjoyed our hospitality. Margaret reviewed the vision for God Talks (to have invited speakers to share their personal spiritual journey to inspire people to explore their own faith in a deep and meaningful way) and reported that work is underway to arrange speakers for the next God Talks event November 17, 2016. Sid expressed his great appreciation for the committee and marveled at their ability to organize this first-time event.

Human Resources

Neil Dunnivant reminded us of Nick Demuyneck's intention to attend seminary starting fall 2017, and he informed Session of Nick's need to begin the one-year Inquiry Phase, which requires his receiving an endorsement from Session. Nick spoke on his call to ministry, and Paul Parker spoke as his FPC Elder liaison. A motion was made that Session endorse Nick Demuyneck's entry into the Inquiry Phase, and this motion was

approved unanimously.

Scripture Reading: Elder Susannah Washburn read Galatians 3:23-29.

Faith Sharing: Elder Betty K. Phipps shared the story of her faith journey.

Finance Committee

Art Winstead reviewed a report of the work that went into formulating the church budget for 2016, including details of actual expenses and revenue for 2015 and the projections for 2016. At the end of April, FPC had an operating deficit of \$24,482, only \$3,471 worse than projected. Revenues are down compared with April 30, 2015, but this was anticipated in the budget preparation. Art reminded everyone that the lower revenues are being addressed in two ways. Stewardship, under the leadership of Myles Fish, is continuing to revamp our approach to giving at FPC, and it is expected that this will lead to an increase in revenue during the second half of 2016. Also, the Finance Committee has instituted trigger dates of June 30 and September 30 when the church budget situation will be thoroughly analyzed so that any concerns can be reported to FPC leadership for further discussion and appropriate action.

Ginni Lineberry gave the annual report regarding management of the Session-designated and FPC endowment funds. Our new investment manager at Wells Fargo is Mike Joyce. Wells Fargo had created a report for this Session meeting reflecting the details of our relationship, including an overview of financial transactions and the performance of the FPC account during 2015, which Ginni reviewed briefly with the Session.

Outreach

Pam Murphy, Judith Judy, Kristin Magod, Lisa Anderson, and Stu Johnson attended the April 30 Salem Presbytery meeting at Elkin Presbyterian Church in Elkin. Details on all that was addressed at the meeting are available on the Salem Presbytery website, but Stu reported on some of the more notable events:

- A revised policy on dismissal of churches from Salem Presbytery was approved.
 - A resolution calling for the repeal of HB2 was approved.
 - Reverend Diane Givens-Moffett of St. James Presbyterian Church gave a stirring sermon.
 - The Ordination for Ministry Candidate Kevin Guerink was approved.
- Sid noted that the Ordination Service for Kevin will held June 9.

Property Committee

Meade Willis provided an update on a number of FPC property matters.

- The final punch list items for the recent

renovation are being addressed. Carpet on all three floors of Smith Building will be replaced in late summer at no cost to FPC due to discovered defects.

- Tim Millisor has been working on a campus-wide maintenance plan. The plan began as an effort to project what maintenance work will need to be done over the next 10 years, but Tim has come up with projections for the next 50 years. The plan should be a very helpful tool in analyzing what our budget needs might be in the future.
- A safety task force has been formed to update the building occupancy emergency plan cards that are posted in rooms throughout the campus. These revised cards will be reported to Session in due course.
- As part of a scheduled Sanctuary roof engineering assessment, a large crane will be at FPC June 13-14th so that the masonry repairs done to the roof in 2014 can be inspected and evaluated for effectiveness and for possible further needed repair actions.
- Efforts are continuing to be made to rent space in the Shetler Building. Brown Investment Properties is in charge of marketing the building and hopes to have some of the space rented by the end of the year.

Worship Committee: Vicky Borden informed Session that on the 5 Sundays in July there will be one combined service at 10:45 in the Sanctuary with a variety of musical forms being presented.

Church Officer Development

Leigh Jones spoke about the highly successful New Elder Retreat held on Mother's Day weekend, and she thanked the FPC staff and her committee members for helping organize this event. Leigh added a reminder that the new elders will be sharing their faith statements with the Session on August 21.

Christian Education

Donna Chase reported on Christian Education activities for this summer. Details are available on the website. Donna also provided a handout highlighting events. Summer interns, Jordan Hinze and Allison Tyson, will be here in 2 weeks. Events might be added to the schedule after they arrive.

Prayers of the People: Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of both need and celebration, and Libby Boehne offered prayers for all these people.

New Business: David Kolosiekie announced that after 10 years of service, he will leave later this month to begin exploring the next step in his life. Neil explained that Brad Morton of NextGen CFO will help during the transition. David was given a standing ovation.

Kevin Geurink gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Reid Wilcox, Clerk of Session

SESSION DIGEST

Minutes of the June meeting approved at the August meeting

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, June 20, 2016

The stated meeting of Session of First Presbyterian Church was held Monday, June 20, 2016, at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. Dr. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as moderator.

The meeting began with Sid leading a responsive reading of Psalm 68: 32-35. Those gathered sang the hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: Myles Fish, Libby Boehne, John Alexander, Kevin Geurink, Norman Graham, Ginger Booker, Josh Showers, Cheryl Crago, John Vanderwerff, Atim Idika, Nancy Courts, Maggie Turner, Ellen Linton, Dan McAlister, Tommy Price, Susan Petty, and Tim Millisor.

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the May 16 stated meeting of the Session
- From the Discipleship Office: May attendance, membership, and visitor reports
- Committee Reports: Discipleship, Congregational Care, and Worship
- Finance Report for May and 2016 Budget Report [attached]
- Memorial Tributes for Ike Efird and Robert Clendenin

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

What's Going Well

- Session member Pam Murphy sent an email expressing her gratitude for the love and support she has felt during a difficult time involving emergency surgery. She said she is doing very well and has enjoyed watching services online.
- Jeff Shell reported that he had been hospitalized recently and praised visits from the church staff. He mentioned Russell Sherrill as a ray of sunshine during a visit.
- Judith Judy praised the Circle of Friends, chaired by Betty K. Phipps, for providing a lovely meal after a recent funeral. Two families expressed their appreciation.
- Kevin Geurink's ordination was a time of celebration.

Sadye Bowles Ministry Fund and Team

Norman Graham, chair, introduced the team: Ellen Linton, Dan McAlister, Tommy Price, Judy Grubbs, Martha Turner, Susan Petty, and Nancy Courts. Norman and Judy will be rotating off the committee, so there will be two openings this year. The term is five years, and the team consists of attorneys, nurses, physicians and other persons committed to serving older adults.

Norman outlined the history of the fund. Church member Sadye Bowles had the foresight to plan for financial assistance for

elderly members to help them live out their lives with dignity. Norman explained that Congregational Nurse and fund director Maggie Turner has knowledge of aid and social agencies in Greensboro. She identifies applicants and advocates for recipients of resources. Maggie works with nurses and social workers and communicates with family members. She monitors care cost, approves invoices, updates the Ministry Team, and maintains confidential files. Maggie gave further background about Sadye Bowles. She was born in 1905, joined FPC in 1923 and worked for the IRS. Sadye inherited real estate from her sister and died at 88, leaving the real estate to FPC. Its sale netted the church about \$1.8 million. Her will directed financial assistance for older adults who needed to enter a home for the aged but could not afford to do so. Today, this ministry has been broadened, per a Ministry Declaration approved by Session, to include assistance, which permits older adults to continue living at home instead of having to move to an assisted care facility. Maggie reported the stories of two individual recipients, a 92-year old church member who receives day care assistance and a 95-year old person who has received \$1,000 a month over 18 years for assisted living care. The majority of recipients are long-time church members, either currently or formerly active. Maggie explained that the fund faces challenges: a large FPC older adult population, people living longer and outliving resources and the rising cost of skilled nursing care and health care in general. She said the prepared annual financial report gives more detail, and she expressed gratitude for the church's support for and interest in its senior members. Jack Hicks asked about a caregiver support group. Spiritus is a new group started for caregivers and meets 1:30-3:30 pm third Wednesday in the Blair Hagan Room. Jack asked about night meetings for those who cannot attend during the day. That suggestion will be considered.

Portrait Project: Ginger Booker gave an update about church portraits, explaining that the church has honored past senior ministers with portraits. As a member of the nominating committee when Sid was called, Jan Lawson has led efforts to raise money for a portrait of Sid to hang in the Virginia Gilmer Room. An artist has been chosen. Ginger said that Sid's portrait will be completed by late summer or early fall.

Scripture Reading: Elder Meade Willis read Mark 10: 17-27.

Faith Sharing: Elder Beth McAlhany shared the story of her faith journey.

Finance and Stewardship: Josh Showers

reviewed finance reports for May. He explained that May financials closed on time and that Brad Morton, CFO of Next Gen, advised and helped close the books this month. Total expenses exceeded total revenue through May by \$135,818 or \$38,190 worse than expected. Josh explained that total pledges remained the same in May, overall \$200,000 less than last year. Josh referenced the explanation of significant variances, including the increase in fees for service of \$62,270. He said there were larger variances in additional fund support. Note 5 in the summary shows a negative budget variance in salaries and benefits due to a payout of final compensation to an associate who left employment last month. Steve Fogarty asked about the 2016 budget trigger dates of June 30 and September 30 explained at the May Session meeting. Josh responded that the Finance Committee will meet in July and send an update to the Session. Erwin Fuller pointed out that the 2016 Budget Narrative in the Session packet links activities to figures so as to give meaning to the budget numbers. Josh reported that the church received a clean audit report. He also discussed the transition plan from a financial perspective for the next few months, laid out by Brad Morton. The comprehensive plan includes four items: stabilize the department; simplify and utilize staff; align finance staff with accountability and back each other up functionally; and streamline.

Human Resources

- Neil reported that a search committee for a new Finance Director was in place, which includes Neil Dunnivant, Jan Lawson, Art Winstead, Myles Fish, Ginni Lneberry, Rhonda Youngdahl, and Josh Showers, chair. The group has met once and feels comfortable with Brad Morton to help with the transition.
- Aaron Ferry has resigned as Director of Youth Ministry. Neil asked for prayers for Aaron and his family. Nick Demuynck will be assuming the position of Interim Youth Director for one year.
- Neil explained that Church Member, Youth Elder and Youth Intern Savannah Caccamo plans to attend seminary in 2017 and will work this year as a Young Adult Volunteer with youth in impoverished neighborhoods in Miami. Because this is a church-supervised position, the Session must approve her ministry. A motion was unanimously approved.
- Neil mentioned Libby Boehne's youth Bible study and praised her work with the young women who participated.

Outreach

- Kelly Harrill reported that FPC's Habitat

June

from previous page

house is coming along well and is expected to be completed in August. Recruiting volunteers has been challenging, and he encouraged anyone interested in helping to email him directly. The work has moved from outside to inside the house, so it's cooler and easier. Kelly thanked all those who have volunteered thus far. The youth are going to help with painting.

- Neil described a new program, a Bible study in the downtown Greensboro jail once a month. Volunteers need to be men over 21 who can help a few times a year. Neil encouraged anyone interested to contact him.
- Neil also discussed a new volunteer opportunity to tutor 6th-graders in math at Aycok Middle School. Stu Johnston, elder and Assistant Principal at Aycok, expressed the need for volunteers and thinks it could be a good fit for our church, since Aycok is the closest public middle school to FPC.

Worship Committee: Vicky Borden, chair, reported on a task force evaluating the 8:30 service. The task force includes Vicky as chair and Ashley Staton, Brian Pierce, Nancy Abrams, Kevin Geurink, Donna Chase, John Alexander and Sid Batts. The task force will consider how church school would be affected and how those attending the 8:30 service would respond to a possible time change. The task force has contacted other churches to get information on service times

and has found that other churches are doing the same study. The task force is looking at how other churches have adapted to changing needs and attendance. FPC wants to build community and have more members together at one time. Vicky said that the task force has talked to a cross section of 20 elders and collected responses and information about possible early worship times. Vicky mentioned that initial feedback from young families indicates that time on Sunday is an issue. Sunday afternoon is an important time for family, activities and travel. Vicky said the task force will update the Session in the fall and she asked that any questions be directed to her. Sid commented that FPC members have opinions about worship and that no time changes will occur during fall 2016.

Prayers of the People

Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of need and celebration, and Libby Boehne offered prayers for all.

New Business

- Sid spoke about elders who will lead small-group Bible studies the fall. About 15 elders agreed to lead, and each will recruit members for their group. He hopes these groups will have a substantial impact on the congregation. Sid appreciated everyone's efforts and consideration.
- Meade Willis reported that a large crane was used to inspect the sanctuary

roof earlier this month. Prior repairs are holding up well and minor new repairs were needed and made. The roof will be evaluated every two years. This year's cost will be considerably less than budgeted (\$15,500).

- Neil Dunnivant said sharing between FPC and St. James Presbyterian has gone well and has not been politically charged. Regarding the Orlando tragedy, Neil reported responses from churches and other religious organizations. He hopes FPC will consider ways that our congregation can respond to tragedy in the future.
- Erwin Fuller conveyed his gratitude for Circle of Friends. He mentioned the death of Ruby Richbourg and the dinner provided by Circle of Friends after Ruby's memorial service. He emphasized the important help provided for families experiencing loss. Betty K. Phipps leads that group and Darlene Young thanked Betty K. for her service.
- Sid recognized Libby Boehne's service as a Pastoral Resident over the past two years. He commented that Libby was a model first resident for the Cynthia Price Pastoral Residency Program.

Neil Dunnivant gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Magod, Assistant Clerk of Session

SESSION DIGEST

Minutes of the August meeting approved at the September meeting

First Presbyterian Church The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, August 15, 2016

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held Monday, August 16, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Room. The Rev. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as moderator.

The meeting began with Sid leading a responsive reading of Psalm 81. Those gathered sang "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: John Alexander, Tim Millisor, Myles Fish, Kevin Geurink, Dolly Jennings, Wendy Duncan, Donna Chase, Nick Demuynck, Lisa Witherspoon, Genie Schwartz, Frank Johns, Nancy Abrams, Atim Idika, Cheryl Crago, John Vanderwerff, and Layne King.

The Consent Agenda was approved as

distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the June 20th stated meeting of the Session
- From the Discipleship Office: June and July attendance, membership, and visitor reports
- Human Resources Committee Report

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

What's Going Well

- The five Sunday services in the Sanctuary in July and the variety of musical performances were tremendous.
- The problem portions of carpet in the Welcome Center and other church building areas are in the process of being replaced at no cost to FPC.
- Vacation Bible School went well.
- Dolly Jacobs has returned from her sabbatical.
- Great progress has been made on the Habitat house.

- Youth retreats this summer were well attended and enjoyed.
- A life partner was found for John Alexander.

L. Richardson Trust: Mike Godwin provided a brief history of the L. Richardson Trust. A report reflected the purpose of the trust and a list of grants made by the Church Trustees during the past year and other useful information.

Human Resources

Neil Dunnivant reported that Kerry Prather had resigned and will be taking a job with Habitat starting in September.

The benefits plan for employees was renewed this year.

With Kevin Geurink recently ordained, he can request a housing allowance as part of

more, next page 

August

from previous page

his compensation package. Neil requested Session approve a \$1,500/month housing allowance for the remainder of Kevin's residency. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Stewardship

Art Winstead presented a motion on behalf of the Finance Committee regarding authorized signers for FPC checking accounts, and the motion passed unanimously.

Art gave the report of the Finance Committee. He also called upon Myles Fish to provide an update on the plans for narrowing the 2016 budget gap before year end. Myles described the different approach FPC will take to reach those who have not given recently (or at all). The proposed actions will be the 1824 campaign, direct mail contact, and face-to-face meetings. Myles feels strongly that we will be helped by educating the congregation about our mission through the use of case statements explaining how budget contributions translate into FPC programs and activities. Myles estimates that the results of this effort could positively impact the overall church budget position at 12/31/16.

Scripture Reading: Elder Art Winstead read Ephesians 6:10-17.

Guilford Child Development Conversation

Neil Dunnivant described a community outreach opportunity recently brought to his attention. FPC has been approached by GCD about possibly being the site for a Head Start program in four former First School classrooms. The downtown 27401 ZIP Code is one of the poorest in Greensboro, and GCD would like to have a Head Start site within this area. The program would not start until the fall of 2017, and it would be scheduled to last for 4.5 years. All FPC costs would be covered by a grant being applied for by GCD. Two issues were presented for Session action: Do we want to have an exploratory committee formed to review issues and questions so that an informed recommendation can be presented to Session this fall? This question was answered unanimously in the affirmative. GCD's application for the grant must be submitted by August 19. There was a motion to authorize Neil to advise GCD that FPC has expressed possible interest in GCD proposal contingent on final approval by Session later this year and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with GCD on behalf of FPC. The motion was approved unanimously. Art Winstead, Erwin Fuller, Lisa Witherspoon, Margaret Arbuckle, and Tricia Shaw volunteered to be members of the exploratory committee.

Appointments Committee

Marshall Brown, 2015-2016 Appointments Committee Chair, put forward multiple motions:

- The following persons were presented as the slate of nominees for the 2016-2017 Appointments Committee and were elected unanimously: Vance Barron, chair; Susan Devaney, vice chair; Vic Cochran, Graham Farless; Atim Idika; Chip Pegram, Nominating chair; Vicky Borden, Nominating vice chair; Glenn Enochs, Peggy Hudson, Hoke Huss, Jenny Ledford, Judy Lomax, Parrish Peddrick, and Brantley White.

- Marshall made a motion that the following persons be elected to the following offices: Kristen Magod as Clerk of Session; Trip Adams as Assistant Clerk; Jim Hegner as Church Treasurer; and Art Winstead as Assistant Church Treasurer. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Acting as the Trustees of the Church Corporation and upon motion duly made, the Session elected the following persons as officers of the Church Corporation for 2016-2017: President, Vance Barron; Vice President, Andy Hines; Treasurer, Jim Hegner; Assistant Treasurer, Art Winstead; Secretary, Kristen Magod; Assistant Secretary, Trip Adams.

Nominating Committee: Chip Pegram thanked all who will be serving on the Nominating Committee for 2016-2017. He requested that Session members assist the committee with the nomination process again this year by submitting names of FPC members for consideration as possible Elder or Trustee nominees. He asked that recommended names be sent to Debby Foster by October 9.

Food Service Task Force: Darlene Young and the Task Force have been meeting since February. The goal is to re-open the church kitchen without causing a heavy financial burden. Darlene discussed a proposal that includes working with Christy White of Above and Beyond Catering over the next few months on a trial basis. The proposal is to permit Above and Beyond Catering to have shared access to the church kitchen while it also provides meal service for Wednesday dinners and other church occasions as needed. The Task Force will closely monitor this relationship throughout the fall. A motion was made to approve this trial program for September through December with the understanding that the Task Force will return with a report and recommendation for 2017 before the end of 2016.

Community and Regional Outreach: Sid Batts, Kevin Geurink, Chip Pegram, Darlene Young, Tom Heggie, Fred Horner, and Jack and Betsy Harrington attended the August 9 Salem Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Boone. Chip gave a brief report of the proceedings.

- Jeff Smith of FPC Boone provided the

sermon.

- Libby Boehne and one other person were enrolled as teaching elder candidates.
- Betsy Harrington spoke on the sin of racism and provided suggestions for helpful resources on this subject.
- The Presbytery website has been updated, and a new directory is in place. Further details about the August 9 meeting can be accessed there

Church Officer Development Committee:

Becky Veraar commended Leigh Jones on her excellent work as chair of the committee, and she reported that August 21 at 7 p.m. the incoming non-ordained elders will give their faith statements and a Service of Affirmation will follow in Memorial Chapel. Installation of the elders in the Class of 2019 will take place on August 28.

Comments from Dolly Jacobs: Dolly expressed appreciation for her sabbatical and offered reflections on the experience. She read an excerpt from *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans.

Prayers of the People : Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of both need and celebration, and Dolly offered prayers for all these people.

New Business: For the Good of the Session

- Wendy Duncan encouraged all in attendance to review the fall education schedule for the great programs that will be forthcoming.
- Sid reviewed his call from the spring to have a dozen elders leading Bible study sessions in small groups this fall. The small group sessions will begin shortly after Labor Day.

Neil Dunnivant gave the closing prayer.

The meeting of the Session was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reid Wilcox, Clerk of Session

GOT STYROFOAM?

FPC collects #6 Styrofoam and delivers it to a recycling facility in Randleman. It must be clean, with no food on the container, and only #6. Collection cans are behind the Shetler Building, beside the lower level door. INFO: Nancy Fuller (336-478-4731) or Evelyn Edwards (336-272-0796).

First Presbyterian Church
617 N. Elm St.
Greensboro, NC 27401-2095
www.fpcgreensboro.org

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Greensboro, NC
PERMIT 95

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

GOD

TALKS

faith worth sharing

**THURSDAY,
NOV. 17**