

FPC news

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practicing sabbath



Holy Week,
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sunday:30

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BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Britt & Elizabeth Preyer** on the birth of Alice Armfield Preyer, on February 24, 2017.

SYMPATHY

- Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Sallie Webb Huss**, who died March 27, 2017.
- Sympathy to FPC member **Carrie Cowan** and former FPC staff member **Newton Cowan** on the death of Newton's father, John Columbus Cowan III, on March 21, 2017.
- Sympathy to FPC pastor **Neil W. Dunnivant** on the death of his mother, Jean Sager, on March 18, 2017.
- Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Robert "Bob" Moore Armfield**, who died March 13, 2017.
- Sympathy to FPC member **Sena Nance Allen** on the death of her husband, David Warren Allen, on March 11, 2017.
- Sympathy to FPC member **Mary Lou**

CONFIRMANDS (& MENTORS): *Confirmation Sunday is April 2.* **David Collins Brown** (Clint Farabow), **Turner Woodson Chamblee** (Paul Parker), **Mary Elizabeth Coates** (Diane Cavin), **Andrew Cockman** (Mark Yarbrough), **Ethan Davidson** (John Atkinson), **Isabel Caroline Dover** (Sara Stroud), **Anna Stewart Edmunds** (Laura Lovvorn), **Eva "Kaytlen" Engebretson** (Holly Chambers), **Brooks Townsend Farabow** (Louise Bristol), **Ryan Patterson Green** (Brian Rightsell), **Rachael Guenther** (Kate Pierce), **Carolyn Ruth Hale** (Stephanie Farabow), **Flinn Hering** (Leigh Abraham), **Alex Hogsett** (David Witherspoon), **Caroline Hunt** (Kate Dunnivant), **Charles Richard Jones IV** (Bert Davis), **Tilley Grace Kirkland** (Susan Fancher), **Hank McAlister** (Glenn Enochs), **Will Michael** (Rick Steedle), **Mason William Mount** (Randy Pearsall), **Noah Mount** (Stu Johnston), **Will Niven** (Scott Faircloth), **Tenley Parr** (Anne Chamblee), **John Wesley Purdie IV** (Sanders Cockman), **Grant Ruch** (Newton Cowan), **Thomas Earl Stewart IV** (Chad Oakley), and **Courtney Sutton** (Bet Vanderwerff).

The following children received Bibles on March 12, 2017: **Hooper Barbee, Anna Lee Botros, Mac Cochran, Sally Cooke, Foster Kirkpatrick, Carolina Helen Medlin, Ward Payonk, Ella Reichard, Whitten Richardson, Steele Williams, Lucy Willis, and Lila Witherspoon.**

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 and weekends, call 336.908.8615 and follow the directions for the pastor on call.

SHARE YOUR LIFE EVENTS WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN – Baptisms: Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org // **Weddings:** Anne Albert, 336-478-4711 or aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org // **Births, Adoptions, Address/Phone/Email Changes:** Rachel Sommers, 336-478-4799 or rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org // **Medical Issues, Crises, Deaths:** Pattie Murray, 336-478-4709 or pmurray@fpcgreensboro.org

BAPTISMS

On March 19, 2017, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

- **Charles "Charlie" Raymond Adams IV**, son of **Chip & Mary Adams**
- **Caleb Joseph Cook**, son of **Tim & Lisa Cook**
- **Mary Charlotte Holderness**, daughter of **Charlie & Hilary Holderness**

Kendrick Williams on the death of her mother, Nancy Rothrock Kendrick, on March 11, 2017.

- Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Helen Marie McElhone Lee**, who died March 10, 2017.
- Sympathy To FPC member **Holly Chambers** of the death of her father, Vaughan Crandall Chambers, Jr., on March 6, 2017.
- Sympathy to FPC member **Elizabeth M. Heafner** on the death of her son, James H. Heafner, Jr. on March 4, 2017.
- Sympathy to family and friends of FPC member **JoAnne Faye Dollar Wilson**, who died February 21, 2017.
- Sympathy to FPC member **Judy Dexter Hoag** on the death of her son, Timothy Gilbert Hoag, on February 5, 2017.

Staff transition

A little over 4 years ago I arrived in Greensboro to begin a new adventure. Neal and I were true empty-nesters, and joining FPC as director of Adult Formation was my dream job.

I was so excited to have the opportunity to work in ministry with adults who wanted to grow in their understanding of God and apply that understanding to their lives.



WENDY DUNCAN

FPC offered me the chance to do that work.

In the past four years I have met and worked with many wonderful people who love God and this church. I have had the blessing of learning experiences that have challenged me to be a better Christian educator. God is at work at FPC and the good work being done here will continue for many years to come.

Sadly, that work will continue without me. Neal and I will welcome our third grandchild in September! With our hearts full of the joy of grandparenting, we are moving closer to our grandchildren in Winston-Salem. Neal will work at BB&T, and I will be the Director of Christian Education at Clemmons Presbyterian Church.

We are so grateful to you all for welcoming and nurturing us. We ask for your prayers as we begin our new life. We will always hold FPC in a special place in our hearts.

Dear Friends,



Easter! April 16th. It's our greatest day of Christian celebration.

The Apostles' Creed says, "The third day he rose again from the dead."

A Declaration of Faith says:

In the death of Jesus Christ

God's way in the world seemed finally defeated.

But death was no match for God.

The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death ...

But Christ has been raised from the dead ...

In his resurrection is the promise of ours ...

So we treat death as a broken power.

Its ultimate defeat is certain ...

No life ends so tragically

That its meaning and value are destroyed.

Nothing, not even death can separate us

From the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

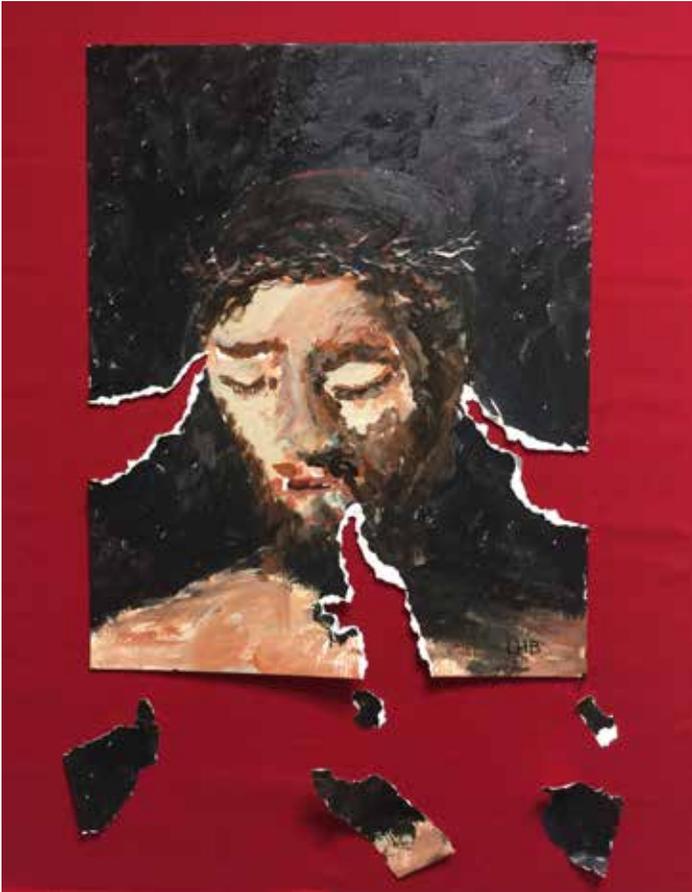
We have been preparing for Easter with our *Stations of the Cross* Lenten series that has included sermon focus, member-artists' paintings of the stations, devotions and contemplative services.

For me, it's through experiencing the events of Holy Week that enable me to sing the Easter "hallelujahs!" Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. We will have services each weekday of Holy Week. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 o'clock, we will hold 30-minute services with homilies from our pastoral staff, accompanied by prayers and music. Our traditional Maundy Thursday communion service will include gathering in groups of 12 to experience the Upper Room's Last Supper. On Friday, our Tenebrae service (a service of light to dark) hears the lessons of Holy Week through scripture and music.

God Talks: May 4, (the first Thursday in May) will see our third *God Talks* event. This is shaping up to be our best one yet. Three speakers will be our guests, each with a different lens for faith: a mother of four explores family and living in the moment through her blog; a basketball great looks at athletics and ministry; and a Duke physician looks at medicine and faith. Beforehand we will gather outside of Redhead Hall on Elm Street for food and fellowship. Fun!

Blessings,

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



The story behind the painting

BY CHIP BRISTOL

Trying something you are not sure you can do is a wonderful way to feel alive. It feels like faith. That's where my mind was when I began thinking about how to evoke Peter's denial of Christ. Maybe something metaphorical? I sketched a front of a church, with darkness and emptiness behind it. Such an image captured the dichotomy between Peter's leadership in the early church and his denials.

I listed things about Peter: Fisherman, Disciple, Hot-blooded, Leader, Flawed, Walked on water, Declared Jesus as the Christ, Denied knowing him. Known as "the rock." I thought about painting a rock with three cracks, one for each denial. I sketched a boat, which has long represented the church, tied to the rock.

I then thought about a more traditional rendition, one which showed Peter's face illumined by the fire outside Caiaphas's house, with others looking at him with disdain. Although I had never painted a face before, something about his face, full of remorse, illumined by the light of a fire appealed, but then I stepped back, put down my pen, and thought about Peter and the nature of denial.

Like Peter I have denied Christ. When in a room of cynics, I have not given voice to my faith. When presented with the opportunity to follow Christ, I have walked the other way. In the days when I wore a clerical collar, I sometimes felt embarrassed by what it suggested. Denial, I thought, is not unique to Peter.

I began to imagine a portrait of Christ disfigured or shrouded by Peter's (and our) denials. This led to the idea of a picture of Jesus ripped three times.

Pulling off such a piece was another matter! Not only had I never painted a face before, I was beginning with the face of Jesus and hanging it in a church. The artistic demons were having a heyday in my head. Still, the intimidation I felt was proportionate to the excitement about where this was headed.

I found other paintings of Jesus, seeking a look that spoke to me. There were primitive ones, with Jesus looking right at you, but I wanted something else. In a class recently, I learned about the first painting of Jesus that showed his profile rather than a front view, and how controversial it was. Remembering this, I wanted him to be looking away. It would allow us to draw closer, I felt. Eventually, I had him looking

View the Stations of the Cross exhibit in Cannon's Solarium Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays, noon-3 pm, and Wednesdays, 3-6:30 pm. It will move to the Sanctuary on Wednesday, April 5, for the 6 pm Contemplative service.

down, as well as if contemplating something.

My first attempt was only fair. I lit three candles and tried again, asking for help from the Holy Spirit, and soon Christ's face came into form. It was dark, full of earth tones, and the brushstrokes a bit wild and unpredictable. In the end, I felt Christ was real, alive, and approachable. He also looked vulnerable, maybe a bit sad, which made him seem tender.

I had imagined placing the painting in a shadow box frame, where the edges would show, but such a dark painting needed a brighter color behind it, rather than the traditional black of such frames. I decided blood-red would be better. With the painting dry, frame and background ready, I placed the painting where it would be, and suddenly confronted a challenge I hadn't anticipated: I didn't want to rip it. Yes, there were logistical issues, like in what direction and in what way would I rip, but my angst went deeper than logistics. I practiced ripping a similar piece of paper by hand and with scissors; the hand-ripped one had the feel for which I was looking. The real challenge was internal. I didn't want to rip a picture of Jesus. It felt disrespectful. It felt like betrayal, like denial.

After almost an hour, I went for it. I was surprised by the white edges, but they made the rips pop. I couldn't rip into Jesus' face; that was too much for me. But I think the point was made.

I chose Peter's three denials alone, rather than the full story, with the refreshing words of *The Message*. They showed a progression I liked.

"I do not know what you are talking about."

"I swear, I never laid eyes on the man."

"I do not know the man."

For me, this project was much more than a work of art. It came from a place within, and I feel I was joined (and protected) by God's creative spirit throughout. It hangs with other works of art, all of which seek to stir Christians during this holy season. One might walk by and think it's just another piece of religious art, but it was, and is, much more than that.

More stories, next page

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY APRIL 9

Traditional services, 8:30 and 10:45 am / Rejoice, 10:45 am. Gather outside Mullin Life Center at 10:15 to meet the donkey and join the palm processional



MIDWEEK SERVICES, 6 PM

Monday, April 10, Kevin Geurink
Tuesday, April 11, Neil Dunnivant
Wednesday, April 12, Lara Musser Gritter

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:30 PM

Communion service, Josh Musser Gritter

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE, 7:30 PM

Scripture and music follow the Stations of the Cross from Gethsemane to the shadows of Calvary.



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 16

Sunrise service, 7 am; 8:30 & 10:45 am services in the Sanctuary with brass; 10:45 Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center. Bring flowers for the cross outside the Sanctuary! Children will ring bells and release butterflies at 10 am, beginning in the Columbarium.

More stories behind the paintings

station
1

Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

My normal subject matter is beauty – sunlit landscapes, colorful street scenes, beautiful people, horses & dogs. The thought of painting something as cruel as the last 24 hours of the life of Jesus did not appeal to me. I finally realized it wasn't about me. It was about helping someone else on their faith journey, helping them to imagine what it must have been like for not only Jesus, but also other people in the story as well. I pictured Gethsemane as an orchard with organized rows of olive trees and a stone wall around the perimeter. I visualized Jesus at the end of the day, with the sunlight almost gone. He had come to contemplate and to pray, and some of the disciples were nearby sleeping among the trees. As I placed the silhouette of Jesus on the horizon, I had two thoughts, one was that of peaceful meditation on the part of Jesus, but then the realization that he knew what was coming his way.

– DOUG KEY

station
5

Jesus helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross

Christians are often called to do something that we are reluctant to do. It must have been a shock to Simon after traveling almost a thousand miles from northern Africa to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, to be thrust into this situation. He had probably just set up camp and stumbled into what looked like a parade. As he drew nearer, Simon saw a badly beaten man carrying a cross. Then Roman soldiers seized Simon and commanded him to help. No doubt Simon was hesitant, not knowing if he might also share Jesus' fate, but fearing the soldiers, he took up the cross. When we put our faith in Christ, we share in his death by dying to sin. Thus, we are alive in Christ, who lives in us.

– ALEX GALLOWAY

station
2

Jesus betrayed by Judas

I grew up as a Baptist and knew nothing of the Stations of the Cross. I only recently heard of the Stations from my youngest son, who attended Catholic school. I chaperoned his 8th-grade class on a trip to Washington, where we visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This was an amazing and beautiful place, and I was struck by an overwhelming spiritual peace in the presence of such history and artistry. I felt, as I never had before, a connection between all Christians of all denominations. Among the chaos of being responsible for 50 8th-graders, I felt blessed to be able to witness such an awesome place. I wanted to show Jesus' peacefulness, even as he was betrayed and about to be arrested.

– KELLY RIGHTSSELL

station
6

Jesus is crucified

This drawing has aerial view. Maybe an angel would have seen Jesus from this viewpoint. I decided to draw this piece in charcoal, with just enough detail to convince myself that I was getting the story across. After finishing I realized Jesus appears to still have his wits about him, a "second wind" or some sort of burst of energy that enables him to appear not to be on death's doorstep at this moment. Or maybe that's as dark as I was allowing myself to go toward conveying the cruelty of a public execution of a human being. Maybe I will draw the scene again someday, perhaps with more of his body showing, with more emotion, exhaustion or suffering. I do feel, however, just being able to draw Jesus on the cross was a good start for my being able to approach the subject.

– DOUG KEY

station
3

Jesus is denied by Peter, page 4

station
4

Jesus before Pilate

I chose to paint Jesus' appearance before Pilate because it is a very human story. One could make the case that Pilate was an innocent and reluctant, though weak, participant. Jewish leaders viewed Jesus as a threat but were prohibited from condemning anyone to death. Pilate was thrust into what could be viewed as a no-win situation. Although he and his wife thought that Jesus was innocent of the charges and no threat to the Roman Empire, he capitulated when the Sanhedrin threatened to bring charges against him before the Emperor. How often do we succumb, just as Pilate did, to forces that separate us from what we know is right and just?

– ALEX GALLOWAY

station
7

The Resurrection

The thought of painting any part of Jesus' journey to the cross was painful for me to even think about. Easter has always been one of my favorite holidays and even though the way was rough, it is the completion of Christ's journey here on earth, and I realized that painting the resurrection would be the most joyous part for me to portray. I actually painted three paintings but decided this one gave the best interpretation of what I felt about the empty tomb. I could feel that He had been there but the emptiness of the tomb itself was so meaningful and vital to my faith. It assures us of a living Christ and not just a hope or a dream. Jesus kept His promise to rise from the dead so that we can believe that He will keep all of His other promises to us!

– JUDY LOMAX

faith, medicine, banjos & more ...



"Educated debutante" and blogger **ADRIAN WOOD** on finding joy in the unplanned life
Pediatric oncologist, Duke Divinity professor & poet **RAY BARFIELD** on faith & medicine
ACC basketball Hall of Famer and minister **WAYNE ROBINSON** on faith, sports & motivation
with emcee **KATE GARNER** from FOX8 and music from Durham's **HARDWORKER BAND**

GOD TALKS

THURSDAY, MAY 4 • 7 PM

5:30 - 7 PM: Homeslice Pizza, Jersey's Best Hotdogs & Preyer Brewing outside Redhead Hall
7 PM: Speakers begin in the Sanctuary

april's spiritual practice:



SABBATH

Exodus 20:8 – Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

A day of rest? Commanded by God? This ancient commandment given in through the Mosaic Law has been a time honored tradition by our Jewish brothers and sisters who keep

BY DOLLY JACOBS

“Shabbat” (Hebrew for rest or cessation) Friday evening until Saturday evening. Shabbat is a day of quiet, a day of contemplation, a day for festive family meals and blessings, a day for God to renew and replenish and refurbish the weary souls of the faithful through rest.

Certain Christians such as the Seventh Day Adventists and Seventh Day Baptists also keep a rigorous Sabbath. We mainline Protestants

are not so religious in our Sabbath keeping. In a culture where 24/7 accessibility signifies accomplishment, social status, and power, a day of Sabbath seems lazy, foolish, and impossible. Yet, if we understand what the Sabbath is for, then maybe we will welcome this spiritual practice and not only keep it holy, but also be glad to model it for others. Practicing the spiritual discipline of Sabbath should not be seen as an obligation but as a gift. Jesus pointed this out to religious leaders as he said to them, “Sabbath was made for man, man was not made for the Sabbath. (Mark 2: 27).

In other words, the Sabbath was a gift from God to God’s people as a way to rest and renew.

It was not meant to become a legalistic obligation that forced people to sit in darkness and silence.

Many of us grew up with “Blue laws” which restricted Sunday activities for religious reasons, particularly to promote a day of worship or rest. As children we did not have many options for Sunday afternoons besides rest. My mother often reminded me that Sunday was a day for God, family, and rest. And while her family’s Sabbath-keeping was much stricter than mine, I remember that I was not allowed to go to friends’ houses to play, or to join my friends at the movies or the shopping center. Instead, after worship at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian, we spent time as a family enjoying the gift of the day: Having lunch and walking in the historic Garden District of New Orleans. Reading books on our front porch hammock or helping our parents plant flowers in the garden beds around our swimming pool. And while school sporting events did not take place on Sundays, we did attend some Saints football games. I am certain you have your own childhood memory and story of Sabbath-keeping.

But western culture no longer recognizes a sacred day for Christian worship and Sabbath keeping. Retail stores are open often by 10 a.m., travel sports teams pull families out of town, and in families where one parent travels for work, Sunday is the only day when the family is all together and that time becomes “sacred family time.” This loss of an expected time of rest can make it difficult for us to “remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.” That is, unless we become creative as to how we might

receive the gift of the Sabbath that we need so much today.

How can we as 21st century Christians practice the spiritual discipline of Sabbath? We need only to look to the One who created us and models it for us. Genesis 2: 2 says, “On the seventh day, God rested.” After the Eternal One creates the world and everything in it for six days straight, God rests. The Trinitarian God whom we love, worship, and serve even takes a day of physical, spiritual rest from what is holy work.

Here are some practical ways to keep Sabbath if you cannot participate in the traditional Sunday Sabbath keeping.

- Take a day or half-day to unplug from technology. This means that you and your family are not reachable by email, social media, or cell phone (unless you have an emergency, of course).
- Choose a Bible story to read in solitude or as a family. When reading the passage, ask yourselves what these scriptures say about God, about us, and about God’s relationship with us.
- Spend time journaling or writing a letter to God about how you are doing on this chosen sacred Sabbath day. Close your eyes and listen for God’s voice in response.
- Spend time in nature looking for God’s hand in creation.
- REST! Take a nap, lie in a hammock and look at the sky.

The gift of the Sabbath is that God wants us to spend time resting, renewing, and refreshing our souls so that when we are working, studying, actively participating in this life, our souls are at their best.

WHAT & WHY

“Sabbath is God’s way of saying, ‘Stop. Notice your limits. Don’t burn out.’ It is a day God gives to us to remember who and what work is for as well as what matters most.”

– *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*

READ IT

Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time, edited by Dorothy C. Bass

The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath, by Mark Buchanan

Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline, by Lauren Winner

Sabbath in the Suburbs: A Family’s Experiment with Holy by Rev. MaryAnn McKibben-Dana

CLICK IT

sabbathtruth.com/

jewfaq.org/shabbat.htm

soulshepherding.org/2012/08/sabbath/

Recommended apps:

The Sabbath App: Get a pop-up reminder at Sabbath sunset times for Fridays & Saturdays at your location and read Bible verses about the Sabbath
Sabbath Ideas.org: Games, Bible study, and fun for your day with God

FPC IT

See Dolly’s suggestions at left.

NEW OPTIONS ON THE WAY! STAY TUNED FOR START DATE!

sunday :30



8:30

i've already had two cups of coffee
the kids are rested & ready to go
i like to worship before church school
i need to prep for a lunch gathering
we have a soccer game at noon



10:30 

we need a slow morning
the baby was up three times teething
lost track of time reading the NYT
i can still beat the lunch crowd
soccer game starts at 2 this week



NEW TIME FOR SANCTUARY & REJOICE!

CHURCH SCHOOL REMAINS AT 9:30



a church that prays

In his book *With Open Hands*, Henri Nouwen writes: “When we pray, we are standing with our hands open to the world. We know that God will become known to us in nature around us, in people we meet, in situations we run into. We trust that the world holds God’s secret within it, and we expect that secret to be shown to us. Prayer creates that openness in which God is given to us. Indeed, God wants to be admitted to the human heart, received with open hands, and loved with the same love with which we have been created.”



DOLLY
JACOBS

Throughout the stories in the Bible, the people of God are encouraged to open their hands, bow their heads, and lift their voices to God in prayer. The Psalms are a beautiful example of this for they are a collection of the prayers of the people of Israel calling out to God in joy and celebration, thanksgiving, anger and doubt, and supplication. Jesus often spent time alone in prayer and taught his disciples the words to what we now call “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Prayer offers us the opportunity to recognize that God loves us, yearns to be in relationship with us, and welcomes the articulations of our needs. During Lent, FPC is sending you a prayer prompt on Thursdays to guide you in prayer. Our pastoral staff welcomes the opportunity to pray with you and for you. There are prayer request cards in the bulletins as well as at prayer stations in the foyer of Mullin Life Center and the Quiet Center on the second floor of the Smith building. These prayer requests are confidential and only the pastors read and pray over them unless you check the box that allows us to add your name (only) to the FPC prayer list.

Each Thursday, our intercessory prayer group meets at 8 a.m. in the Quiet Center. This group of members gathers to pray for our faith community, our civic leaders, and our world. We invite you to join this group if you would like an opportunity to pray for others. For more information, please contact me.

Building hope in Honduras

From March 19 to 24, a group that included First Preszers helped a Honduran family add structure to their dreams.

Each night of our week in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras, our tired yet invigorated group of eleven First Pres and Habitat Greensboro team members gathered for devotions. And every night our leader, Gerard Davison, would ask, “Why are you here?” Each individual answered differently, but most often the answer was “for the strong and lasting relationships formed in working, serving and playing together.”

BY PHYLLIS
PARKER
& DONNA
CHASE

The mission of Habitat for Humanity is the simple, yet sometimes complicated, biblical mandate to put God’s love in action. They believe this is best fulfilled by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope! This week we helped to build hope for the Rodriguez family by assisting three

amazingly skilled young Honduran masons in constructing a 700 square foot cinder block home with running water and electricity. The home will accommodate a mother and her two adult daughters: One daughter is autistic and needs round-the-clock care, and the other is a nurse with two young daughters of her own. The home is the largest Habitat model in Honduras in order to accommodate the special needs of the family.

Along with daily construction, and playing with neighborhood children, our team was immersed in the community and culture of Santa Rosa de Copan. We visited the local community of Rosario, with a school, playground and community center supported by Habitat, and a neighborhood of fifty Habitat homes built by Habitat Greensboro, Durham and Wake County. We enjoyed games and crafts with the girls at the Catholic orphanage and the special treat of the best coffee farm tour in the world!

“Why are you here?” Maybe it was the chance to experience the daily love of God through the innocent laughter and hugs of children, the sweat and tears of cinder block walls being raised, the simple kindness and generosity of neighbors; or a group that started as an eclectic mix of Greensboro people who enjoy helping others and was transformed by God into a community of people who both gave and received grace and hope.



At 700 square feet, the Rodriguez family home will be the largest Habitat model in Honduras.



At the mission's conclusion, the walls are near completion.



Gerard Davison receives a service award for 20 years of giving graciously and generously to Habitat Honduras.

- 67% of the Honduran population is below the poverty line, and half live in rural areas where the poverty rate is 75%.
- More than 50% of Hondurans have no electricity; 75% cook with wood; and 15% live without water and sanitation.

‘FPC’s future will be different because of their stewardship’

Planned giving has defined our past and hopefully it will be just as influential to our future. That might sound like a strange statement, but think about it a minute.

We didn’t build our beautiful facility with money from a line item in an annual budget. Instead, we were blessed with estate gifts (planned giving) from former members who wanted their gifts to bless and sustain the church.

In a similar way our future could be blessed by present members who plan ahead to leave a portion of their estate to FPC. While we aren’t trying to build another building, this campus and our ministries could be maintained and enhanced for decades with the increased proceeds from an expanded endowment.

Today’s planned givers could do for future generations what our former members so generously did for us.

One hundred and forty families have already made this choice by joining the Paisley Heritage Fellowship. Each has committed to make a planned gift to FPC. Gifts include bequests, appreciated assets, real estate, retirement plans, IRAs, and life insurance policies.

We are grateful for each of these families and we are inspired by their thoughtful generosity. The future of FPC will be different because of their stewardship.

If you have not made plans for a gift that will keep on giving, I hope you will give me a call. Together, we can create a way for you to express your values and to leave a legacy that will support FPC long into the future.

Currie Library News

LOCATION: First floor of Smith Building near the Welcome Center

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

Memorials have been given in memory of **Harriet Anthony Carlson, Jessie Macon Sapp Edwards, Julian Beattie Friday, Jr., Bettie Rader Grubbs, Mirvin Squier Hill, Randolph M. Kabrick, Ruby Thomas Richbourg, William Lindsey Warmath, Sr.,** by **Kitty & George Robison**. They also made a gift in honor of **Dan McAlister** (George’s First Friend). These gifts will be used to purchase needed resources for the library.

In memory of **Hugh Eckess Jones, Jr.:** *That Bright Land*, given by Kitty & George Robison.

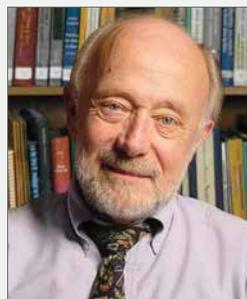
In memory of **Rosemary Reed Troxler:** *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Book on CD), given by **Kathleen L. Reed**.

CHECK IT OUT

That Bright Land, a novel by N.C. author Terry Roberts, won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award this year.

We are delighted to add *Just Mercy* as a Book on CD. It has 9 discs.

“Mom, I’m Gay”: *Loving Your LGBTQ Child and Strengthening Your Faith* by Susan Cottrell is a revised and expanded edition.



MONDAY BOOK CLUB
 APRIL 10 • 10:30 am
Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most by Marcus Borg.
 Neil Dunnavant, facilitator



TUESDAY BOOK CLUB
 APRIL 11 • 1:30 PM
Dimstore: A Writer’s Life by Lee Smith
 NEXT MONTH:
 May 8: Planning for 2017-18
 May 9: *I Never Had It Made: An Autobiography* by Jackie Robinson

Passing the leadership dish

Since Hot Dish & Hope served its first hot meal with a side of hope in July 2008, its success has come from great collaboration among many faith communities. At the hub is FPC. Former member Sheron Sumner developed the idea for a free hot meal and a devotion

for hungry adults and children and tended the ministry as it grew to its current 16 partner groups, two meals a week, and an average of 150 guests each night.

When Sheron moved to Raleigh in 2015, longtime Outreach volunteer Jill Tourtellot stepped into the leadership role.

“Working in community with our faith partners and seeing their faith in action is wonderful,” she said. “I love experiencing how they celebrate their faith in different ways.

“Different, yet we all share the same connection of responding to God’s call to love him and serve others.”

Jill is preparing to move to Michigan to be closer to family, including a darling young grandson. Now Camille Townsend, a Hot Dish volunteer since 2008, will become the hub of this collaborative ministry.

“From the very beginning, the idea and concept were needed in this community and our church could do this in a big way,” she said. “I was looking for a meaningful ministry and this was even more than I imagined it to be. There are lots of God experiences at Hot Dish & Hope.

“I felt God wants me to be here, and I am honored to be asked. For me, this is



Jill Tourtellot (left) and Camille Townsend (right) at a March 26 event honoring Jill for her service to Hot Dish & Hope.

one of the best ministries we do to address a visible need in our community and give back.”

As Jill prepares to move on, she hopes more First Preszers will experience Hot Dish.

“You will feel the vibrancy and pull of God’s love and call to serve others in our community who struggle with hunger,” she said. “You will have an opportunity to serve alongside other volunteers whose faith and backgrounds may differ from yours but who share the same compassion to make a difference in the lives of our guests.”

Thank you to Jill for wonderful leadership, and best wishes for your life’s next chapter in Michigan. Thank you to Camille for stepping up in leadership.

CHECK
IT OUT 

Have 90 minutes a month to help serve Hot Dish & Hope?
Contact Camille Townsend at cctownsend15@gmail.com.

Coming up in

APRIL AND EARLY MAY

Church School

Sundays • 9:30 am • open to all

Agape – Apr. 2 & 9: led by Alex Galloway. *April 16: class does not meet.* April 23: James Keith shares the story of his “road to FPC” and the Rejoice! Band. April 30: led by Bet and John Vanderwerff. The Garden Room.

Commitment Class – April 2: Discussion/wrap up of *Race: Power of an Illusion*, part 2. *April 16: class does not meet.* Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100.

Faith Matters – “The Many Ways to Pray.” *April 16: class does not meet.* Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242.

Homebuilders – A discussion of *The Divine Dance, The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr. *April 16: class does not meet.* Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200.

Pastor’s Bible Study – “I believe”: Learn the context, history, and theology behind the Apostles’ Creed. Led by Dolly Jacobs and Kevin Geurink. April 16: led by Lara Musser Gritter. Memorial 303.

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

YMBC – Gerald Donnelly leads “Martin Luther: the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, 2017.” The class will cover the historical background preceding October 31, 1517, when Luther nailed his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. In addition, we will see how his actions and ideas contributed to the creation of the Protestant movement in Europe.. 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. *April 16: class does not meet.* Memorial 300.

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING POTLUCK PICNIC APRIL 30 AFTER WORSHIP

ADULT CLASSES & SMALL GROUPS

Presbyterian Women Circles:

(please note slight changes for this month)

- Deborah’s Dining & Discussion will meet in the home of Ginny Hayes, April 17 at 11:45 am
- Hearts and Minds: meets at Becky Peters’ house, April 24, at 10 am
- 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
- PW Board meeting May 8 at 9 am

Presbyterian Women Luncheon: (no luncheon for April) May 8, noon, Mullin Life Center. Virginia Bethune, who plays her harp for hospice and others, will present on therapeutic music. She will have CDs for sale, with proceeds going to a PW project. Purchase tickets by May 3. *Rachel Sommers, 336-478-4799, 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. *Rachel Sommers, 336-478-4799, rsommers@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*

Faith & Fellowship – Thursdays, 9:15 am in *Myers Loyalty Room*. A relaxed study & fellowship group. *Leigh Jones, ljones0206@gmail.com*

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. Dinner at Sapporo’s (2939 Battleground) on Monday, April 24, at 5 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*

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 paying adult; family max/\$25. Tickets available in the Welcome Center, online, or by calling 336-478-4799. **No tickets at the door.**

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

APRIL 12: BBQ chicken, baked beans,

potato salad, slaw, cornbread, banana pudding.

APRIL 19: Fried pork chop & gravy, redskin mashed potatoes, lima beans & corn, salad, Oreo cookie trifle, cherry yum yum.

APRIL 26: Sesame ginger chicken, basmati rice, stir-fried vegetables, salad, lemon layer cake. Children’s menu available.

MAY 3: Turkey & gravy, whipped sweet potatoes, squash casserole, salad, yeast rolls, pies. Children’s menu available.

CHILDREN

Church School – all children’s church school classes continue age-appropriate Lenten studies.

- *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 – Wednesday, April 5, 9:45 a.m. on the chancel steps. Parent coffee time in the Solarium 9:15-9:40 a.m.

Preschool storytime: April 19, 1:15 pm in the Welcome Center; ages 2-5 welcome with a parent.”

Family Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 8, 10-11:30 a.m. We will meet in the Mullin Life Center for food and crafts before going on our egg hunt. *Please consider donating plastic eggs or nut-free candy to go inside the eggs. You can drop your donations in bins in the Welcome Center and the Greene Street entrance of the Corl Building.*

Week of the Young Child: Monday, April 24 – Friday, April 28. Weekday Preschool children will sing in 10:45 am Sanctuary service, Sunday, April 30.

Kid’s Disciple Club – Sunday, April 30. Last KDC event of the church year. Details to come. Save the date!

ADOPT A GULFORD COUNTY SCHOOL PROJECT CONTINUES through 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

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday – see page 5 for details

YOUTH

Confirmation Sunday – April 2. Our Confirmands will be received into the Church in the Sanctuary. All youth are encouraged to attend this service to show their support to the 30 confirmands as they make this major milestone in their faith journeys.”

Church School, grades 5-12 meet in the Shetler Youth Room after Confirmation Sunday .

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.

Senior Recognition in Sanctuary – Sunday, May 7

Youth Group End-of-Year Party – Sunday, May 7

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; registration closes Sunday, April 30.*

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



SPIRITUS

Support group for caregivers –
 Wednesday, April 19, 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*.

RSVP now for upcoming trips

DURHAM: On Wednesday, May 10, the group will tour The Nasher Museum, the recently renovated Duke Chapel, and the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, leaving at 8 am and returning at 5:15 pm, in time for our Wednesday Fellowship Dinner (make reservations separately by May 7). **Sign up by April 15.** The non-refundable \$60 cost includes lunch. If you'd like to tour the garden on a trolley (available for up to 20 people) please note your request with your reservation. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared for natural, uneven ground and graveled walkways. The garden tour will be guided. Make checks out to 55+ TRAVEL GROUP and mail to Dolly Jennings, 202 N. Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410. For info, call Dolly, 336-854-2663.

SAVANNAH: We're going to Savannah – join us Tues-Thurs, Nov. 7-9. Total cost is \$525 for double occupancy. **Make your reservation by April 26** with your deposit of \$262.50 to secure your spot. The balance will be due by Aug. 28. Mail a check payable to 55+ TRAVEL GROUP to Linda Allen, 3513 Terrault Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410. Contact Linda for more info: liallen1@yahoo.com or 336-294-3084.

Paisley Travelers



FUN ONLY THIS LANE

Mobile Meals needs 4-6 volunteers



Mobile Meals needs four to six people to substitute for its regular volunteers who deliver a hot meal to people who can't get out on the third Wednesday of every month. Join our team and fill in on an as-needed basis when our regulars aren't able to work. Contact Linda Allen, liallen1@yahoo.com or 336-294-3084.

Volunteer Grants Writer Needed

The Technology Committee and Music Ministry are seeking one or more volunteer grants writers, who will consult with the committees on (1) analyzing the organization for grant competitive qualities, (2) identifying opportunities for funding project proposals from appropriate grants and foundations sources, and (3) preparing applications for proposals including budgets and budget narratives. Please contact Vicky Hooks at hooksvgm@gmail.com if you are available to provide some assistance.

MUSIC

first sundays at 5

- **Dupre's Stations of the Cross**
April 2, Sanctuary
 Marcel Dupré's Stations of the Cross with John Alexander, organist, and Robert Wells, narrator.
- **Lord Nelson Mass**
May 7, Sanctuary
 Lord Nelson Mass and Dona Nobis Pacem with the Chancel Choir and orchestra.

À la carte concert

Thursday, April 27, Sanctuary • 7:30 pm

The concert is free, open to the public, and features some of the area's best musicians. Includes: A solo cantata by J.S. Bach; the Baron Tymas Trio; emerging violinist Brandon Ironside; saxophonist Susan Fancher; and a cross-genre arrangement with the Baron Tymas Ensemble and Clara O'Brien.



2017 Women's Retreat

Friday, August 11- Sunday, August 13

This year's conference, featuring *New York Times* best-selling author Rachel Held Evans, will encourage participants to find grace and renewal through reflection, rest, and community. Conference activities will include worship, fellowship, recreation, rest, and workshops. There will also be a time set aside to study and discuss her book, *Searching for Sunday*, together as a conference community.

This conference will be at the Montreat Conference Center. For more information on the conference, schedule of events, and the speaker, visit www.montreat.org/women

We have a limited number of tickets available. First come, first Montreat bound! Registration can be found on FPC's website, or you can visit Rachel Sommers in the Welcome center to fill out and pay for your registration. For more information, contact *Rachel Sommers, 336-478-4799, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org, or Debbie West, debbiewest2002@hotmail.com.*

session digest

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

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, February 20, 2017

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held on Monday, February 20, 2017, starting at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. The Rev. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as meeting moderator.

The meeting began with Sid leading a responsive reading of Psalm 96. Those gathered sang the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: Lisa Witherspoon, Anne Albert, Christine Ciaccio, John Alexander, Myles Fish, Wendy Duncan, Donna Chase, Nick Demuynck, Kevin Geurink, Lara Musser Gritter, Ashley Staton, Genie Schwartz, Tim Millisor, Bonnie McAllister, Cathy Lovejoy, and a number of confirmands and mentors.

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the Minutes of the January 23, 2017, stated meeting of the Session.
- From the Discipleship Office: January 2017 attendance, membership, and visitor reports.
- Committee Reports: Youth Formation

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

Sid informed Session that Neil Dunnavant's father-in-law had died, and a memorial service was held that day at Starmount Presbyterian Church.

What's Going Well

- FPC's new slate of elder nominees
- Sid's sermon on Sunday
- Great confirmands and mentors
- Milestone classes for Kindergarten through 5th-graders
- Racial Equity Training Conference.

Congregational Care Committee: Chair Holly Albright provided a report on the When Death Occurs document. Holly explained that the funeral policy's goal is to summarize information related to memorial services and funerals in a user-friendly format for pastors, families and the congregation. The committee has been working on the document for a year. It also summarizes how staff will be

paid for weekend funeral and memorial services. Holly said that Session will vote on the policy at the March meeting. Contact Holly or Dolly Jacobs with any concerns or questions.

Appointments Committee

Chair Vance Barron thanked elders who had completed and returned committee preference forms. Vance also announced the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee proposed by the Appointments Committee. The proposed slate includes elders Vicky Borden, chair, Andrew Spainhour, vice chair, Ashley Stewart, Jeff Shell, Becky Veraar, Susannah Washburn, Alex Galloway, and Nancy Coble. At-large members of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee include Stu Johnston, Sam Bostian, Wendi Cimino, Lori Richardson, Marshall Brown, Ashley Staton, Maurice Schwartz, and Bet Vanderwerff. The Session unanimously approved the proposed Nominating Committee slate.

Outreach Committee

Vice Chair Margaret Arbuckle reported that FPC had hosted a two-day "Racial Equity Training" event February 13-14. The Greensboro Partnership organized the event. FPC provided the facilities, volunteers and some food. In return, five members from the FPC staff and the Session Task Force were granted free entry. FPC attendees included Brenda Keys, Josh Musser Gritter, Lara Musser Gritter, Deb Staton, Sid Batts, and Neil Dunnavant. Margaret said that attendees appreciated the FPC pastors' extended attendance at the training event.

The Race Task Force has continued the film series "Race: The Power of Illusion." Thirty to forty-five people have attended, including FPC members and non-members. Margaret also mentioned the book *The Secret Game* and encouraged everyone to read it and participate in upcoming discussion groups.

Margaret explained that the Race Task Force has been discussing a potential combined worship service with St. James Presbyterian Church as part of St. James Church's 150th anniversary. FPC member and Greensboro Historical Museum volunteer Betty K. Phipps has been helping the Task Force collect historical information about the shared history between FPC and St. James Church. Margaret then made the following motion: On behalf of the

Race Task Force and the relationship the Task Force has established with members of St. James Presbyterian Church and the shared history of our two congregations, I move that the Session of First Presbyterian Church and its appropriate committees, along with the Session and committees of St. James Presbyterian Church, work toward identifying a date for and planning a shared worship service commemorating and celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. James Presbyterian Church. St. James Church has 300 to 400 members. Session unanimously approved the motion.

Finance Committee

Chair Josh Showers presented summarized that there was an operating budget deficit of \$179,000 at the end of 2016. He reported that the church paid off the line of credit for operating expenses in late December. The Capital Campaign loan balance was \$3,030,683 at the end of 2016, which reflected a loan balance reduction of \$1 million in 2016.

Josh said the 2017 budgeting process is continuing, and the Finance Committee is planning to present the 2017 budget at the March Session meeting. Josh explained that the committee wants to fully understand 2016 budget results and have confidence in preliminary contributions and gifts figures for 2017 before finalizing the budget.

Scripture Reading: Elder Kay Rule read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

Faith Sharing: Elder Pam Murphy shared her faith statement.

Stewardship Team

Myles Fish presented the report. The total pledged amount to date for 2017 is \$2,640,000. The team has set a goal of raising \$300,000 in non-pledged gifts plus \$60,000 in gift funds from any other source so that the 2017 church budget could have a total gift and contributions figure of \$3 million. He reminded Session members throughout the year, and he said that the team is considering work on a possible rolling three-year revenue plan. Myles also said stewardship is shifting some of its current focus to estate-planning gifts and finishing the Capital Campaign.

Jeff Shell praised Myles' work in creating enthusiasm within the church

for stewardship. Jeff encouraged women on the Session to consider joining the currently all-male Stewardship Team.

Worship Committee

Chair Brian Pierce and Vicky Borden, Chair of the Worship Committee's 8:30 am Service Task Force, explained the process for Session discussion about proposed Task Force recommendations. Vicky summarized the Task Force's work over the past year, highlighting research that was conducted from conversations with churches of similar sizes to ours in Raleigh, Atlanta, Charlotte, Baltimore, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. The Task Force talked with pastors and Christian Education directors, who welcomed the discussion and confirmed similar discussions and considerations at their churches. Additionally, the Task Force interviewed 20 Session members of different ages, providing the same background information and asking the same questions. Vicky said that the Task Force considered a membership survey but concluded that the worship time schedule is a Session decision.

Vicky reminded Session that the Task Force was asked to look at the 8:30 am service and evaluate whether it was meeting the needs of the congregation. Vicky highlighted some considerations in

the proposed worship time changes:

- Services that remain appealing and relevant
- Cultural influences that affect Sunday morning worship
- Need for young families to have more time on Sunday outside of church
- A review of church data about attendance at all services
- Concern for members who regularly attend the 8:30 service.

Vicky thanked Task Force members Nancy Abrams, Brian Pierce, Ashley Staton, Anne Albert, John Alexander, Sid Batts, Donna Chase, Kevin Geurink, and Lara Musser Gritter for their service.

The Task Force proposed the following schedule: 8:30-9 am: worship service in the Sanctuary, 9-9:50 am: Church School, 10-11:00 am: Traditional service in the Sanctuary and Rejoice! in the Life Center.

The proposed 8:30 am service format will include elements of Presbyterian reformed worship in an intimate setting in the Sanctuary. Ministers will lead the service on a rotating basis and will have the flexibility to be creative and innovative in the planning of the service. This 30-minute service will be traditional and substantive, and elements will include more regular Communion by intinction, a short homily, scriptures,

prayers and music.

Bonnie McAllister organized the Session discussion groups and explained the format. Session members were divided into four discussion groups and were asked to discuss their reactions to the proposed time changes and possible effects on the congregation. Before Session members divided into groups, elders asked various preliminary questions and were encouraged to discuss those questions in the smaller groups. The discussion groups met for about 20 minutes and then Session members reconvened to hear the feedback from each group.

New Business: Sid announced that fan-based discussion groups about the book *The Secret Game* will be held in member homes in March. The book's author, Scott Ellsworth, a life-long Presbyterian, will speak at FPC on March 30, 2017, at 7 pm.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Magod, Clerk of Session

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 5, 2017

The Rev. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as moderator and opened the Annual Congregational Meeting with prayer. Sid said that the Session had authorized the calling of a congregational meeting for today for the purpose of hearing and acting upon a report from the Appointments Committee to elect the at-large members of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee; hearing and acting upon a report by the Nominating Committee offering: one nominee for the office of Trustee of First Presbyterian Church (responsible for the L. Richardson Trust) in the class of 2022; three nominees for the office of youth elder in the class of 2018; the single slate of 20 nominees for the office of elder in the class of 2020; one nominee to fill an unexpired term in the elder class of 2019; one nominee to fill an unexpired term in the elder class of 2018; to receive any additional nominations from the floor; and to either elect the single slate or close nominations for these offices.

Sid announced that a quorum was present.

Sid introduced Vance Barron, 2016-2017 Appointments Committee chair. Vance announced that the members of the 2016-2017 Appointments Committee also included: Susan Devaney, vice chair; Chip Pegram, Nominating Committee chair; Vicky Borden, Nominating Committee vice chair; Vic Cochran, Glenn Enochs, Graham Farless, Peggy Hudson, Hoke Huss, Alim Idika, Judy Lomax, Parrish Peddrick, and Brantley White with Neil Dunnivant, staff liaison, and Debby Foster, staff support.

The Appointments Committee is responsible for recommending to the congregation annually a slate of 15 (16 this year) persons to serve as members of the Nominating Committee, seven of whom are elders elected by Session and eight members at-large elected by the congregation.

The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of active members of the church, including both men and women, giving fair representation to persons of all age groups. Elders currently serving on Session shall be designated

by Session to serve as chairs of the committee. Vicky Borden will be chair of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee, and Andrew Spainhour will be vice chair. Elders to serve on the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee were voted on by Session in February. In addition to the chair and vice chair, those elders are: Nancy Coble, Alex Galloway, Jeff Shell, Ashley Stewart, Becky Veraar, and Susannah Washburn.

The congregation approved these nominees as at-large members of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee: Sam Bostian, Marshall Brown, Wendi Cimino, Stu Johnston, Lori Richardson, Maurice Schwartz, Ashley Staton, and Bet Vanderwerff.

Sid thanked Vance Barron and the Appointments Committee for their service. Sid introduced Vicky Borden, vice chair of 2016-2017 Nominating Committee. Vicky listed other committee members: Chip Pegram, chair, Lisa

continues 

congregational meeting

from previous page

Anderson, Sissy Barham, Jim Compton, Leslie Deaton, Sheri Evans, Dan Goley, Kelly Harrill, Judith Judy, Dan Kerns, Hank Lovvorn, Paul Parker, Camille Townsend, Jay Witherspoon, with Neil Dunnivant, staff liaison; and Debby Foster, staff support

Vicky reported that the committee met weekly from mid-October through mid-December, discussed almost 400 names, and devoted hours in meetings, preparation and study, and in communications with each other and with prospective nominees.

The committee sought to adhere to the congregational directive and the Session Manual of Operations. The committee looked for potential nominees who are active in the life of the church in addition to Sunday worship, while keeping in mind the gender, age and talent diversity of our congregation. The committee

sought to identify people of strong faith, who possess leadership skills, a cooperative spirit, and a deep love for this church, and who have supported the church financially and with their time and talents. The committee also sought to balance the slate with nominees who provide a good blend of experience and new ideas and whose combined involvement in the life of our church covers the full range and breadth of our programs and ministries.

The congregation approved the following nominees:

- Trustee of First Presbyterian Church (responsible for the L. Richardson Trust) in the class of 2022: Ginni Lineberry.
- Youth Elder in the class of 2018: Davis Jones, Isabella Lauer, and Emma Winstead
- Elder in the class of 2020: Melanie

Albright, John Atkinson, Elizabeth Bostian, Elizabeth Brumbeloe, Richard Cimino, Andy Cochrane, Key Compton, Carrie Cowan, Ed Cox, Tricia Faircloth, Clint Farabow, Betsy Farmer, Lavonne Fisher, Mike Godwin, Hoke Huss, Doug Key, Paul Leonard, Terri Maulsby, Penne Prigge, and Anne Shoemaker.

- An unexpired term of elder in the class of 2019: Ty Buckner.
- An unexpired term of elder in the class of 2018: Dottie Blanchard.

Sid expressed gratitude to the Nominating Committee and the slate of elders.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Magod,
Meeting Secretary