

FPC news

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LENT



Worshiping in the stream. Page 4

Spring is coming. Page 7

A Divine RSVP. Page 8

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Baptisms

On December 20, 2015, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

- **Creighton Hannah Smith**, daughter of **Aaron & Caroline Smith**.
- **Louisa Borden Stogdill**, daughter of **Nathan Stogdill & Jane Borden**.

On January 17, 2016, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

- **Elyn Jade Ferry**, daughter of **Rev. Aaron & Mary Kate Ferry**.

Sympathy

Sympathy to FPC member **Allison Morrisette** on the death of her sister, Nancy L. Alderman, on January 25, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Elizabeth Matthews Stratford**, who died January 25, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Phillip R. Gelzer** on the death of his brother, Rev. Dr. David R. Gelzer, on January 23, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Nancy D. Branson** on the death of her sister, Margaret Dick Garner, on January 23, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Evelyn Fisher** on the death of her sister, Laura Wells Hiers, on January 17, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Rebecca Buffington** on the death of her father, Denny B. Barnes, on January 14, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC staff member **Reggie Smith** on the death of his brother, Charles Smith III, on January 14, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Hugh Eckess Jones**, who died January 13, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Harry Duard Coulter**, who died January 11, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Janie C. Strickland** on the death of her brother, Carter Strickland, on January 11, 2016.

Sympathy to FPC member **Beth McAlhany** on the death of her father, Robert Calvin Dawson, on January 5, 2016.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Barbara Conroy Hudson**, who died January 5, 2016.

FIRST CHURCH
PEOPLE



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 336.373.0445 and follow the directions for the pastor on call.

At FPC, giving is a spiritual practice



REV. MYLES FISH

As FPC's new director of stewardship, my mission is to heighten awareness of, and commitment to, Biblical stewardship.

At FPC we believe stewardship is a spiritual issue, not a financial issue. Yes, the church needs money to do ministry, but at the root stewardship is about personal spirituality. Scripture tells us that every good and perfect gift comes from God. As we follow God we begin to grow the fruit of the Spirit – we become more grateful, generous, and faithful. We become less focused on the newest and greatest things and more focused on being a blessing to others. Giving back to the Lord becomes a measure of our growing faith and one element of our joyful, abundant life in Christ.

Want more info on stewardship at FPC?
Go to fpcgreensboro.org/giving

There are several things you should know about stewardship at FPC:

- Giving is a privilege and an important source of spiritual growth, but no one is required to give.
- Giving through the offering plate is always appreciated; please use a check instead of cash if you need a tax-deductible receipt.
- All gifts and giving histories are held in strict confidence. The church has open financial records but these do not include individual giving records.
- Becoming a generous giver is a process. It takes time, patience, and practice. Most importantly, it takes a first step.

If you are already giving to FPC I thank you. If you haven't begun practicing stewardship, please make a modest pledge for 2016. The first step is always the most difficult, but I know from experience you will never regret investing in the Lord's work.

PS: I hope to see many of you at the Men's Breakfast on February 6. I'm your speaker!

Dear Friends,



February brings Ash Wednesday (10th) and the beginning of Lent, a season that prepares us for Easter, the most important day of Christian faith. Though Christians speak of “the 40 days of Lent,” from Ash Wednesday until Easter is actually 46 days (40 days plus 6 Sundays).

Protestantism is nearly 500 years old but Lenten observances and services such as Ash Wednesday are relatively new in many Protestant churches (if you think 30 years can be considered new). I believe Lent is an important season for us because it points us to practices that call for self-reflection, deepening our faith and our relationship with Christ.

Lenten spiritual practices have historically been linked with penitence, self-denial, fasting and prayer. One mantra surrounding Lent is to “give something up for Lent.” In that spirit, Christians give up food, drink, unhealthy habits or things that are impediments to faith. Some popular choices are giving up meat, alcohol, or sweets. The point is that through our sacrifice we are reminded of the sacrifice of Christ, and that Christians are called to a sacrificial life on behalf of others.

At the same time, Lent can also be adopting new practices. Popular choices are Bible study, regular prayer, or commitment to serving the poor. One Lenten idea is to fast one day a week and give the money we’d spend on food to the poor.

At First Presbyterian, we will offer a variety of avenues for the Lenten journey. Worship itself is a spiritual practice. On Ash Wednesday, we will host four services: a 7:30 and 12:30 service in Memorial Chapel, a 9:45 a.m. chapel service for preschoolers and parents, and a traditional Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. On each Wednesday during Lent, Lenten Contemplative Services will be held in the sanctuary (6 o’clock). During Holy Week, there will be a service each day. Additionally, Lenten studies and small groups will be offered.

Remember Ash Wednesday, February 10, as the day we begin our Lenten journey. Be thinking about how this Lent can be important, different and used as a platform for spiritual growth and depth.

Blessings,

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

where two or more gather in my name



Here's a riddle: How can the voices of 20 sound like the voices of hundreds? When they join the full FPC congregation during a live streamed service at Abbotswood in Irving Park retirement community.

With Clyde Cook, Parish Associate for Congregational Care, coordinating the worship, attendees participate fully and enjoy a community of faith as they participate in the Sunday service taking place on screen in

Abbotswood's Theatre Room. "It's wonderful," says Iris Mann, an FPC member for 20+ years. "I feel like I'm in church!"

This started with a conversation in the lobby between Clyde and Warren Buford, a resident and rotated FPC elder. They brainstormed

the possibility of streaming FPC's service at the retirement community. World Communion Sunday was coming up October 4 and they felt it would be a great way to begin. Abbotswood Director Allison Pate overheard them and sent them to activities director Tracey Guthrie, who organized equipment. The service is now a regular event at Abottswood.

Every Sunday at 10:30 am, Clyde and Warren greet attendees and make sure large-print bulletins are in each pair of hands. These bulletins include readable type, hymns, and Scripture readings. On most Sundays, Clyde gets the service started and makes sure the technology is working properly. Usually he stays until the end, but sometimes zips back to FPC to attend the Rejoice! service.

BY TAMARA
SLAUGHTER

On a recent Sunday, attendees include mother-daughter combination Suzanne and Mary Ellen Banner (FPC members), Jean Farabee of Pisgah United Methodist, and Bailey Hobgood of St. Andrews Episcopal. They are regulars along with 20 or so others, and represent the variety of backgrounds in this gathering. Their common denominators are a strong faith, and health or mobility limitations that inhibit travel. Clyde has started a sign-in sheet requesting name and contact information. He's eager to learn names of all participants, stressing that a name is one of the most important things God gives us. Calls and notes to active and new parishioners help re-create the sense of community they had at their old church.

Lights dim, our sanctuary pops up on the large screen, and the service begins. As the welcome is made to everyone at 617 N. Elm St., worshipers at Abbotswood feel the same warm greeting. As responses to the ministers' words ring out from people in the sanctuary, they also do from those in the Theatre Room. When the first chords of the organ introduce a hymn, papers are rustled and voices readied to sing in the same full voices heard in churches everywhere. The humorous story in Sid's sermon reaches the punch line (an elderly lady concerned about Jesus making wine for a wedding who said, "I'd have thought a lot more of Jesus had he not!") and Abbotswood attendees join the FPC congregation in hearty chuckles. And it's gratifying to hear the collective recitation of The Lord's Prayer and the Fruit of the Spirit.

On Communion Sundays, teams of FPC elders travel across Greensboro extending communion to institutions, retirement and care centers, and private homes, to FPC members unable to venture to our bricks-and-mortar church. Two teams serve FPC members living at Abbotswood – one serves those unable to leave their apartments. Another works with Clyde through the streamed service. Clyde and his wife, Connie, arrive early to make sure the elements are ready. Their son Chris, an elder, often assists in serving, as well as Warren, a regular participant and helper. Communion is brought to each attendee at their seat. The rolling, padded captain's chairs are arranged in wide rows allowing plenty of room for walkers and canes.



Each Sunday, about 20 people attend a live stream of FPC's worship service at Abbotswood retirement community led by Rev. Clyde Cook, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, pictured with member Iris Mann.

This extra space also accommodates socializing when the service is done. As at the Elm Street church, post-service visiting is happy and brief; everyone heads to lunch in the airy dining room shortly afterward. Clyde and his family tidy the elements, collect the bulletins for recycling, and make sure the room is ready for the next activity.

Resident Bailey Hobgood calls the worship "a blessed alternative service for me." He enjoys Dr. Sid Batts' "down-to-earth sermons that relate to real life." While the Episcopalian was active in his home church, his most satisfying job was delivering communion to shut-ins as a lay eucharistic minister. Now, it's his turn to receive the same blessing.

Clyde is delighted by the response to the streaming service, saying it "renews a sense of community with the church." Both as a volunteer chaplain at Abbotswood (after his first and second "retirements" from FPC and Love Valley PC) and now as a staff member of FPC's Congregational Care team, he also ministers to Vera Springs Assisted Living and Spring Arbor Assisted Living and Memory Care. He lauds the work of Congregational Care staff members and volunteers who serve communion to members wherever they are located.

As Clyde says, "we are the church together."

Our 10:45 am sanctuary worship service is live-streamed on the web, and can be accessed Sunday mornings at fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live, or via our Facebook page. You can also sign up for reminders and alerts at livestream.com/fpcgreensboro, and you can stream the service on mobile devices by installing the Livestream app (*free account sign-in required*).

Currie Library News

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

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

In honor of

Friends, ministers and staff who have blessed us, fed us, prayed for us, and supported us in the past two years, Books on CD (to be selected), given by **Kitty and George Robison**.

CHECK IT OUT

George and Kitty Robison want to especially thank the people who have offered so much love and support over the past two years. George developed a serious eye problem that left him unable to read and Books on CD have been a wonderful blessing for him/them. New Books on CD (BCD) will be added to the FPC Library Collection soon. Kitty wants us to know that the State Library of North Carolina offers a wonderful service of providing BCDs to any N.C. resident who has limited vision.

Three BCDs that have been added to the collection recently that are

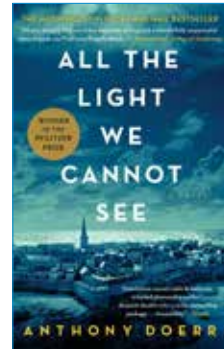
very popular are *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel J. Brown, and *The Wright Brothers*. If you have BCDs that you've listened to and are ready to pass along, please consider offering them to Currie Library for others to use.

FPC ministers sometimes mention a book/movie from the pulpit and often Currie Library already has this book. Several times recently *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems has been mentioned. We have this book plus three others by Weems that might interest you.

Currie Library collects magazines to offer to Hot Dish & Hope guests. Magazines may be dropped off at Currie Library for the Hot Dish cart that is taken to the Life Center on Tuesday nights.

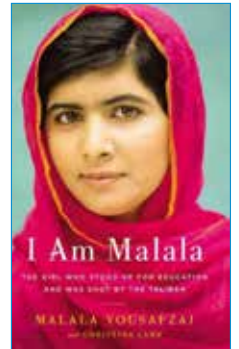
Thank you again for the 2016 calendars. The children were thrilled to select their own calendar, find their birthday in it, and take it home!

IN THE BOOK CLUBS



MONDAY CLUB
FEBRUARY 8
10:30 am

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr



TUESDAY CLUB
FEBRUARY 16
1:30 PM

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

What would Jesus do with needle, yarn and fabric?

The Community Service Group meets weekly to share a love of handcrafting and the love of Christ. Their work is donated to local agencies to help those in need. For information, contact B.J. Williams, 288-8601, or Hannah Britt, 288-9289

2015 DONATIONS:

For babies & small children:
37 afghans
270 fleece car coats
1 carriage blanket

810 infant hats
267 toddler hats
19 preemie hats
270 flannel blankets
56 fleece blankets
236 quilted playmats
and 68 knit sweaters.

For early school-age children:
123 hats
12 fleece blankets.

For teens and adults:
3 large afghans
2 fleece laprobes,
1 double fleece, 15
needlework, 7 quilted,
432 hats, 53 heavy
knit scarves, 182 knit
scarves, 183 fleece
scarves.



GRAND TOTAL
3,047 ITEMS WITH
AN ESTIMATED
VALUE OF \$46,449!

RECEIVING AGENCIES:

After Gateway
Beacon Place/Hospice
Children's Home Society
Children's Hope Alliance
Coalition on Infant Mortality
Cone Health/Women's Hospital NICU,
Comfort and Indigent Closet
SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner)
"Elizabeth's Men"
Faith Action International House
FPC Homeless Veterans Project
Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center
Guilford Child Development
Hot Dish & Hope
Peacehaven Community
Room at the Inn
StepUp Greensboro

COMING THIS SPRING

APRIL 10 & 11



Mullin Forum with Dr. Ted Wardlaw, president of Austin Seminary



APRIL 21

GOD TALKS



faith worth sharing.



APRIL 2



Raleigh Ringers in concert



MAY



THE



BOROS

Invitations from

REJOICE always,
PRAY without ceasing,
GIVE THANKS in all
circumstances ... for
this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

What is spiritual discipline? How can or should we reach out to God? Is attending worship service on Sunday sufficient? Bible reading and study? Offering a blessing at meals? Should we, as Paul states, pray without ceasing? What would ceaseless prayer look like?

As experienced, ordained pastors, David Partington, Sid Batts, Dolly Campbell Jacobs, and Neil Dunnivant daily invite us into the Body of Christ. They offer sermons, classes, writings, and discussions on faith topics. They are available to us for conversation and visitation when we are in need of comfort. Beyond these important aspects of their work, how do they commune with the Divine? Not surprisingly, when asked, they willingly shared an array of thoughtful practices designed to deepen spiritual life.

"There are so many different ways that God invites us to be with God," David, Parish Associate for Congregational Care, began. "It's a very personal thing. ... When I was a boy I would sing my heart out to God. Being a musician, sung prayer is important to me, to sing with abandonment and open my heart that way.

OM God

BY SUSAN DEVANEY

“No one is tied to a particular set of practices,” David continued, “and prayer can’t be limited to an inventory, but it can be comforting to see one.” The Book of Common Prayer used by Presbyterian leadership lists key worship aids, methods of invitation and prayer, and ways to open ourselves and others to God – or as David says, “getting in touch with a hunger to be with God that we don’t even know is there.”

In the same vein, Senior Pastor Sid Batts explained: “We all have our own spiritual lives and disciplines. The reason we pastors are in church life is because of our faith. This is what we’re called to do. The problem occurs when we get into the business of the church; you have to be intentional about separating what you do (as an occupation) and your own spiritual life. When you’re leading you’re concerned about how others are being fed, so pastors have to find a way to tend to our own spiritual lives. We have staff chapel services on Tuesdays, and when I’m on sabbatical or vacation going to worship is meaningful to me. We need to be renewed both for ourselves and for our ministries.”

David, too, seeks opportunities to worship in a formal

context. A “confirmed Episcopalian who happens to be a Presbyterian minister,” David attends the Wednesday Stillpoint service at Holy Trinity. There worshipers receive the Eucharist and engage in Taizé chants. The music of Taizé pulls simple phrases from scripture or the liturgy and repeats them many times. “The intent is to go from head to heart, to awaken and become aware that there’s a song in you. For me, it’s an important service.”

Executive and Outreach Pastor Neil takes a somewhat different approach to spiritual communion. “There are many things I do regularly that I consider spiritual experiences, but I don’t necessarily do them as an intentional spiritual practice.” For Neil, spiritual practice translates into living in the moment: “appreciating life, loving surprises, assuming nothing but being prepared for anything.”

Neil considers balance a major life theme. To achieve balance, Neil reads widely, listens to a broad range of music, prepares and enjoys healthy food, watches inspiring films, and bonds with friends, family, and wife

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invitation

from previous page

Kate. A devotee of physical exercise, Neil runs alone or with friends several times a week. He finds pleasure and inspiration in the music and prayer he enjoys on these runs, and often finds ideas for sermons and his blog, aptly titled Run Rev Run.

“I guess I would say my spiritual practice is a state of being, just something I do naturally. Avoiding black-and-white thinking, holding varying points of view in my mind and heart, honoring and respecting every single person.” And when he errs, as we all commonly do, he counts on God’s forgiveness. Social ministries, too, offer a tangible form of prayer to others. The church’s outreach endeavors such as StepUp and Hot Dish & Hope – even attending Moral Mondays in Raleigh – are forms of spiritual practice.

When describing the scope of her spiritual practice, Rev. Dolly Jacobs, Director of Congregational Care, depicts a holistic approach. “Going to church and praying before meals is a foundation that teaches us who we are, what we believe, and how we belong, but that’s rudimentary so that as we become adults it’s natural to hunger for more. We’re looking for less routine and more internal conversation with God.”

Like Neil, Dolly is invigorated by movement. Strengthening her body has been a lifelong pursuit, now best accomplished through long walks and Pilates which provide opportunity for reflection, deep breathing, and being present in creation. In addition, she finds spiritual nourishment in prayerful preparation for the classes she holds for mothers of preschoolers and pre-teens.

“I find preparing for my classes to be spiritually life-giving. When I read something new, I make extensive notes and consider how the subject matter enhances both my life and the lives of the women I teach. Sometimes the material includes scripture but when it doesn’t, I ask, ‘Where in the Bible do I find these

truths to be evident?’ I love offering an environment for God to be present with these moms and watching them find the Spirit in the middle of it.”

In similar fashion, Sid considers his sermon writing to be a fulfilling spiritual practice. As he prepares, he studies and prays for insight. “Simply working on an issue, trying to understand what the Bible says, is an important spiritual practice.

“Learning is a part of growing, and I’ve always benefited from it. The transformation comes with using study – what you learn about God – to know God.”

All four pastors agree they often find God through music, art, nature, and human interaction. “Beauty is essentially the presence of God,” David observed. “Through beauty God beckons us to come close. I own a monotype entitled Behold Your Mother. When I first saw the painting in a catalogue I didn’t get it, but now when I contemplate this work I see Mary trembling, see the pain of the crucifixion more clearly in her face than in any painting of Jesus on the cross.”

Contemplation is a central element in both David’s and Sid’s prayer life. “When I was in my first pastorate in West Virginia,” David recalls, “there was a little monastery close by where people gathered from the surrounding areas. Each meeting opened with a centering prayer. At the time I had no idea what that was, but it means being silent, being present to God, not paying attention to the flotsam and jetsam of life.”

Over the past few years, Sid also has developed keen interest in ancient Christian contemplative practices. As far back as the 200s A.D., desert monks saw the need to experience God in their aloneness. Their advice and practice informed Roman Catholic tradition for centuries. During the Reformation, however, Protestants discarded things that smacked of Catholic embellishment.



ABOUT THE IMAGE

The Hubble Telescope captured this view of a galaxy 45 million light-years from Earth called NGC 1097, which is notable because it travels with two smaller galaxies. A poetic scientist at NASA describes them in the words of Kahlil Gibran, living “the dance of stars and the dance of space.”



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FPC's Lenten
Contemplative
Service on March
16 will include the
monotype **Behold
Your Mother** by
Bruce Herman, from
the collection of Rev.
David Partington. The
service will begin
at 6:30 in Memorial
Chapel.

“Although Catholics through the centuries had discovered ways to come closer to God, Protestants were so focused on Word of God proclaimed and studied that we missed 1,500 years of scripture and prayer practices. Most of us in the Protestant tradition knew nothing of Augustine, Ignatius, or Benedict until relatively recently – sometime in my lifetime — when it became OK to look at them.”

Sid has studied these ancient practices, tried them on, and found them meaningful. “These are not formulaic customs. Prayer is what strikes you at the time. For example, there’s a practice known as the prayer walk. As you are walking, you say prayers for the people you meet and the homes you pass. Another practice is called daily examen where you become aware of the presence of God, then reflect on the events of the day with gratitude, even attempting to see events through the eyes of God.”

A third method is the breath prayer. After considering how one wants to address God, a person attaches a need or request, thus breathing in the name of God and exhaling the request. At any time or place the prayer might be (inhale) Holy God, (exhale) help me find peace or (inhale) Jesus our Savior, (exhale) be with my mother in her pain. The breath prayer matches human need with human attachment to God. Using it, we can pray throughout the day.

Both Sid and David have adopted the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina, a method of scripture

reading. Used either individually or in a group, Lectio Divina begins with reading a brief scriptural passage, then considering key words or phrases. Upon a second reading, the worshiper asks God to reveal their significance. With contemplation, words gradually dissolve and the Word is revealed. Reading and focusing in this way reduces internal noise and allows God to enter the mind and heart.

“Sometimes I only need one verse of scripture,” David says. “It’s like a yellow highlighter goes across the page, like God is saying, ‘Be with this verse of scripture, David.’ For me, frequently it’s just the name of Jesus.”

In terms of focus, Sid observed: “By nature I’m not very contemplative. It’s really hard for me to sit in silence for 20 minutes, but I’ve gotten better with practice. Spiritual life is a journey for me like everyone else. Where I am in the journey dictates my spiritual practices. What once was important may not be now; new things take up resonance.

“Paul said we don’t know how to pray and what to pray for. Rather than asking God for anything specific, I use silence and present the names on my prayer list to God. I try to combine silence for a few minutes with names. It’s a way to feel connected while also praying for the concerns that I have.”

Dolly has a similar take on prayer. “I’m a pray-

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Devotionals

Beginning February 7, you can pick up FPC devotionals for youth & adults and a devotional/activity mat for children.

Small groups

40 Days to Personal Revolution:

Create a breakthrough in your life this Lent with yoga, Bible study, and self-care led by FPC pastoral resident Libby Boehne and FPC member Terri Maultsby. Group meetings Wednesdays, February 10-March 23, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Garden Room (off the Welcome Center), daily heated power yoga practice at a local yoga studio. Cost: \$185 (unlimited pass at yoga studio, weekly meeting, T-shirt, weekly health coaching, optional workshops). Info: Libby Boehne, lboehne@fpcgreensboro.org or Terri Maultsby, terri@thinkeatgrow.com. Registration link at fpcgreensboro.org/Lent

The Agape Class (Sundays, 9:30 am, Garden Room off the Welcome Center) hosts a series of **speakers on Lent**. February 14: Rev. Neil Dunnivant; February 21: Rev. Fred Horner; February 28: FPC member Tim Cook.

A Creative Lent: Beginning Feb. 21, the Faith Matters class (Sundays, 9:30 am, Cannon's Solarium off the Welcome Center) will explore faith and lives through all our senses in preparation for Easter.

Luke for Everyone: a four-week study of the gospel of Luke sponsored by the First Friday group, empty-nest singles and couples in their 50's and 60's. 7:30 pm in homes. Hosts: February 26: John & Lee Atkinson; March 4: Bob & Sheri Evans; March 11: Vince & Brenda Keys; March 18: Dean & Christie Mitchell.

CONNECTION

Wednesday Dinner & Lenten Fun

February 17, 4:45 to 6:30 pm, Life Center. Enjoy pork tenderloin, sweet potatoes, greens & chicken tenders, and then planting a live Resurrection Garden to take home, making prayer flags to hang outside our Sanctuary on Palm and Easter Sundays, and filling backpacks with our donated school supplies to go to Honduras! Dinner: \$7/adults, \$5/ages 6-12, free/5-younger. RSVP by noon February 16, 478-4747 or fpcgreensboro.org/wednesday-dinner-rsvp.

Family Egg Hunt

March 19, 10-11:30 am, Life Center Crafts, games, music, Easter story and an egg hunt by ages. Bring a breakfast item to share and a basket for collecting eggs. Help us get ready: Beginning March 1 bring goodies for the eggs: Individually wrapped, nut-free candies, Easter stickers, small toys, etc. are welcome!



FEBRUARY 10

30-minute services with imposition of ashes

7:30 am, Memorial Chapel
led by Rev. Dolly Jacobs

12:30 pm, Memorial Chapel, led
by Rev. Dolly Jacobs.

9:45 am, Memorial Chapel, for
parents & preschoolers, led by
Rev. Dolly Jacobs

6 pm, Sanctuary. led by Cynthia
Price Pastoral Resident Kevin
Geurink and the Chancel Choir.
(1 hour)

WORSHIP

Holy Week

March 21-23: Holy Monday, Tuesday,
& Wednesday Services, 5:30 pm,
Sanctuary. Music, liturgy & a brief
homily.

March 24: Maundy Thursday
Service, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Amber
Burgin is our preacher; communion
will be served by intinction.

March 25: Good Friday Tenebrae
Service, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Music
Ministry leads this worship service
that contemplates the crucifixion of
Christ on Good Friday.

March 27: Easter Sunday

- 7 am Sunrise Service in the Columbarium
- Identical Sanctuary Services, 8:30 & 10:45 am
- Rejoice! service, 10:45 am, Life Center

Sundays in Lent

8:30 & 10:45 am Sanctuary
10:45 am Rejoice

Dr. Sid Batts will be our preacher using texts from the Common Lectionary, a schedule of Scripture readings for Sundays that is used by many denominations. This year the Lectionary focuses on the gospel as written by Luke.

Contemplative Services

WEDNESDAYS,
FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 16
6 pm, Sanctuary

These intimate, 30-minute services will be held in the Chancel of the Sanctuary and will be led by a different staff member each week.

Lenten Compline Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
5 pm, Sanctuary

An evening of music and meditation led by the Music Staff.

Palm Sunday

March 20:
8:30 & 10:45 am Sanctuary
10:45 am Rejoice

Preschool and elementary families and all children's choirs will carry palms and follow the donkey and crowds in to Jerusalem! We will parade to the Sanctuary and Rejoice services at 10:45. All children's choirs will sing in 10:45 Sanctuary worship.

First Preszers, it's time to get



IN FELLOWSHIP!

InFellowship is our new membership connection tool. Our Session, committee and staff leaders have already updated their profiles. During February, each member is asked to log in, check your information and start exploring!

Step 1

The first week of February, you will receive a letter with instructions. Follow the instructions to set up your account.

Step 2

If you have questions, bring them to our InFellowship Help Desk on Sundays in February in the Welcome Center, or to the February 17 Wednesday dinner, and members of the Discipleship & Communications and Technology committees will help you!

Step 3

Use InFellowship to connect with other members and help you in your church volunteer work.

THIS MONTH AT FPC FEBRUARY

W O R S H I P

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



FEBRUARY 7

Rev. Neil Dunnivant is back from sabbatical. *Special offering for Pennies for Hunger.* This year's slate of church officer nominees will be announced.

FEBRUARY 14

First Sunday in Lent.
Preacher: Sid Batts

FEBRUARY 21

Second Sunday in Lent.
Baptism Sunday.
Preacher: Sid Batts

FEBRUARY 28

Third Sunday in Lent.
Preacher: Sid Batts

Hot Biscuits

Country Ham

JUST FOR MEN

Come if You Can!



FPC Men's
Breakfast

M U S I C

Sunday, February 7, 5 pm – The Chancel Choir Ensemble leads this service of music and worship. Dating from the Medieval Church, Evensong services create a special time for reflection and worship at the end of the day.

Westminster Ringers – Intermediate handbell choir, 4:15 – 5:15 pm Tuesdays, Smith 301.

Coventry Ringers – Advanced handbell choir, 5:45 pm Tuesdays, Smith 301.

Chancel Choir – Adult choir, Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, Smith 301.

Children's choirs – Wednesdays (*no children's choirs on Ash Wednesday, February 10*):

- Joyful Noise Musical Experience (ages 2-3 & parents), 4 pm, Corl 303.
- Cherub (ages 4-preK), 4 pm,
- Credo (grades K-1), 4:30 pm,
- Canticle (grades 2-5), 5:15 pm, all in Smith 301.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9-10:30 AM
MULLIN LIFE CENTER

SPEAKER:
Rev. Myles Fish

SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR ADULTS

Small groups and studies

Centering Prayer – Noon Mondays in Myers Loyalty Room (Smith 242), led by Rev. Frank Dew.

GIFT in the Morning – 9:15 am Mondays, Solarium. This Growing In Faith Together group is for moms of preschool & elementary ages. Rev. Dolly Jacobs leads. Child care with a reservation.

GIFT in the Evening – a Bible study for professional women in their 20s, 30s & early 40s. Meets in members' homes Tuesdays at 6:45 pm. Info: Aimee Scotton, acscotton@co.randolph.nc.us.

Currie Library Book Clubs – Monday Club meets February 8 at 10:30 am to discuss Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*, with Alison Swofford facilitating; Tuesday Club meets February 16 at 1:30 pm to discuss *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai. Both clubs welcome new members.

Currie Library – open 9 am-1:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 9-10:30 am Sundays. Info: 478.4731 or nfuller@fpcgreensboro.org

Men's Fellowship – 7:30 am, Wednesdays, Memorial 100 (Blair Hagan Room). Info: Wil Courter at wcourter@earthlink.net.

Beth Moore Study Group – meets Wednesdays, 4 pm in the Garden Room, with a Priscilla Shirer study: "The Armour of God." Contact Dolly Jacobs for more information (djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org).

Faith and Fellowship – 9:45 am, Thursdays in Cannon's Solarium. A relaxed group that gathers for study and fellowship; members take turns leading. Contact Leigh Jones, ljones0206@gmail.com.

GRACE on Fridays – study for moms of tweens and teens, Fridays at 9:15 am in members' homes. Contact Dolly Jacobs for more information (djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org).

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.

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon – February 8, noon in Mullin Life Center. Dr. Cody Watson, Associate Director of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, will be the speaker. The mission of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship focuses on spreading the gospel across nations or "people groupings," and overcoming socio-cultural barriers is central to this endeavor. RSVP to Rachel Sommers, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org or 478-4799. Luncheon cost is \$5.

Men's Breakfast – February 6, 9-11 am in Redhead Hall. Myles Fish will be the speaker. RSVP to Sara Manchester, smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org, 478-4722.

FPC welcomes Salem Presbytery's quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 9, from 9 am to 3 pm. *Some regularly scheduled on-campus events may be moved or rescheduled for that day.*



Sundays / 9:30 am open to all

FAITH MATTERS meets in Cannon's Solarium. Feb. 7: guest speaker Dr. Cody Watson, Associate Director of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship; Feb. 14: discussion of Mark Helprin's "Palais de Justice." A Lenten study, A CREATIVE LENT, begins Feb. 21, exploring our faith through all our senses in preparation for Easter.

GROUNDING: FINDING GOD IN THE WORLD-A SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION, a Diana Butler Bass study, is led by Doug Key. Homebuilders class, Memorial 200, Spencer Love Room.

THE AGAPE CLASS meets in the Garden Room. Feb. 7: Jean Goodman, "Early Childhood Foundations"; Lenten speakers – Feb. 14: Neil Dunnavant; Feb. 21: Fred Horner; Feb. 28: Tim Cook.

ERACISM: THE BELIEVER'S CALLING, an in-depth study of racism in our society, continues in the Commitment class, Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100.

YMBC meets in Redhead Hall, led by Sandie Gravett.

SEEKERS class meets in Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125. Study of Hebrews led by Gerard Davison.

YOUNG ADULT CLASS meets in Memorial 303, led by Amber Burgin.

PARENTING TEENS IN THE FAITH continues through February 14 in the Youth Room, for parents of tweens, teens & confirmands. BASIC BIBLE SKILLS begins Feb. 21 in the Youth Room, with "Making Sense of the Old Testament."



HONDURAS MISSION TRIP
February 20-28: Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident Libby Boehne plans to blog from this mission trip – *keep an eye on fpcgreensboro.org for more info.* Also, continue to bring school supplies Sundays through February 14, to send with this trip.

THIS MONTH AT FPC

FEBRUARY

Sunday mornings – 9:30 am, First-graders continue “Ready, Set, Worship!” in Corl 304 through February 7. Second-graders continue “Touch the Water, Taste the Bread” in Corl 306 through February 21. Third- and fourth-grade Bible Milestone classes continue through March 20. February 7: Third- and fourth-graders receive Bibles in a special ceremony led by Dr. Sid Batts in Memorial Chapel for the Bible Skills Milestone, “Getting to Know My Bible.”

Our outreach in church school continues through February 14, collecting school supplies for the Newcomers school and for the Habitat building trip to Honduras. These items can be dropped off at the bins in Mullin Life Center.

Preschool Storytime – Seasonal Bible stories, crafts, milk & cookies. For ages 2-5 and a parent. Wednesday, February 10, and Thursday, February 11, at 1:15 pm in the Welcome Center Children’s Space.

Weekday Preschool is having a **Valentine Dance** on Thursday, February 11, 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Redhead Hall, with a DJ, photo booth, pizza, fruit & veggies, and dessert. Cost is \$20 per family and children of all ages are invited! RSVP to 478-4771. Proceeds will benefit BackPack Beginnings.

KDC Outreach event: February 21 – serving God and our community. *Details to come.*

Welcome to the Lord’s Table – 2nd Grade Milestone culmination communion service, February 24 at 6:30 pm, Memorial Chapel.

First Kids Children’s Consignment Sale will be March 4 & 5 in the Life Center. Come shop the sale for clothing, toys, books, and other children’s items while supporting the Weekday Preschool and children’s ministries. Want to consign or volunteer? Visit fpcgreensboro.org/consignment for more information.

Preschool Bible Presentation – March 6 at 9:30 in Memorial Chapel.

Child Protection Training – All who volunteer in our children’s and youth ministries must first complete our Child Protection training. Contact Sara Manchester, smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org, to sign up. *Please note that classes without registration will be canceled.* If you need child care during the meeting, please give 48 hours’ notice. Also, if you need to make special arrangements, dates or times for a training session, please contact Sara Manchester. UPCOMING DATES: *Thursday, Feb. 11, 4 pm, Vaughn Conference Room / Sunday, Feb. 14, 11:45 am, Spencer Love Dining Room / Monday, Feb. 22, noon, Garden Room*

CHILDREN

YOUTH

Sunday mornings – 9:30 am, first floor of Shetler. All youth (middle- and high-schoolers) gather in the youth room. Then we divide into groups by grades to explore God’s story and how it relates to our lives.

Youth group – Sunday nights, first floor of Shetler. Our weekly fellowship and small group time. 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. (*No evening youth Feb. 21 & 28.*)

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

High School Boys’ Bible Study begins February 2, Tuesdays at 7 pm in Youth Room. With “The Red Letters of Jesus.”

February 7 – Super Bowl 50 Tailgate Party, 4-6 pm, Shetler parking deck and Youth Room. Wear your team colors and bring some finger foods to share!

February 13 & 14 – “For the Love” Youth Mission and Outreach Days for MS & HS Youth. Sunday, Feb. 14 – MS Open Gym (2-3:30 pm); HS Fellowship Night (event TBA).

Middle School Ski Trip – Feb. 19-21, Wintergreen Ski Resort. Cost: \$250; \$100 due by Feb. 1 registration deadline. Register online at fpcgreensboro.org/youthtrips.

High School Ski Trip – Feb. 26-28, Wintergreen Ski Resort. Cost: \$250; \$100 due by Feb. 8 registration deadline. Register online at fpcgreensboro.org/youthtrips.

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

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, 288-2077, or Martha Sharpless, 282-0397.

Wednesday Dinner – February 17 in the Life Center. Pork tenderloin, sweet potatoes, greens/green beans, congealed salad, rolls, chicken tenders. Dinner begins at 5. \$7/adults, \$5/ages 6-12, free younger. RSVP by February 15 to 478-4747 or fpcgreensboro.org/reservations.

Almanah Group– Meal & fellowship for widows. Thursday, February 11, 1 pm at Cafe Pasta, 305 State St. RSVP: Becky Peters at 545-7757 or becky_p@bellsouth.net.

CONNECTION



SUMMER PLANS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

RSVP NOW

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/YOUTH



New Orleans Mission Trip

June 18-26 / *high school youth*



Mountains to Coast

Middle School Mission Trip / July 10-16

Montreat Youth Conference

July 24-30 /
high school youth



RSVP NOW

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CHILDREN

PassportKids! Camp

June 22-26 / Lynchburg, Va. /
rising grades 4-6

FPC Week at Camp Grier

July 10-15 / Old Fort, NC /
rising grades 2-6

FEBRUARY 21: A director from Camp Grier will be in the Welcome Center 9 am to noon to give more information and answer questions about the camp.

**RSVP
IN MARCH**

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CHILDREN

Vacation Bible School

July 18-21 / *preschool-rising grade 2*

Kids Disciple Club

July 18-21 / *rising grades 3-5*

Music Camp

July 25-29 / *rising grades pre-K - 5*

session digest

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

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, December 14, 2015

The stated meeting of Session of First Presbyterian Church was held Monday, December 14, 2015, starting at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. The Rev. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as moderator.

The meeting began with Sid leading a responsive reading of Psalm 84. Those gathered sang the hymn "Joy to the World" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: Ralph Paris, David Kolosieke, Libby Boehne, John Alexander, Tim Millisor, Myles Fish, Kevin Geurink, and Donna Chase.

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the November 16, 2015, stated meeting of the Session.
- From the Discipleship Office: November attendance, membership, and visitor reports.
- Special Offerings for 2016.

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

What's Going Well

- The concert by the Clare College, Cambridge Choir was a great success Saturday night, December 11.
- The Linda Jennings memorial service was particularly moving.
- The Children's Moravian-Style Love Feast was enjoyed by many.
- Wendy Duncan did an excellent job at a recent Explore FPC class.
- The online streaming of the service is being utilized on Sundays.

Appointments Committee

Chair Marshall Brown provided the report for the Appointments Committee. The work of the committee will begin in January, and the first task is to slate the Nominating Committee for 2016. A sheet for submitting proposed names for this committee was provided on the Session meeting information table. Proposed names can also be e-mailed to Marshall or to Debby Foster. The deadline for

submitting names is January 10. Marshall also presented a motion for 4 amendments to the Session's Manual of Operations. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

Chair Art Winstead provided a summary of financial reports, and he also reported that the Finance Committee anticipates that a proposed Church budget for 2016 will be presented to Session at the February meeting.

Scripture Reading

Elder Graham Farless read Matthew 16:13-19.

Faith Sharing

Elder Duncan Jones shared the story of his faith journey.

Stewardship and Annual Campaign

Chair Dan Goley provided a progress report on this year's Stewardship Campaign. We have received a total of 602 pledges this year versus 577 pledges at this time last year, and the amount pledged this year is \$31,000 less than the amount that was pledged at this time last year. Other details:

- We have received \$130,000 in new pledges this year.
- Members increasing their pledge this year have done so in the total amount of \$126,000.
- Members decreasing their pledge this year have done so in the total amount of \$82,000.
- A total of \$2.3 million has been pledged so far this year.

Dan specifically noted that Myles Fish has been extremely helpful in this process, and with the help of Myles, Dan feels we will reach our goal for 2016 of 800 pledges totaling 3 million dollars.

Salem Presbytery Meeting at FPC

Louann Clarke provided an update on the Salem Presbytery meeting that FPC will be hosting on February 9. The planning team met with representatives from the Presbytery last week to review what needs to be done in preparation for this meeting.

To help make this meeting a success, we will need involvement by all Session members, plus many members of the congregation, as well. A sign-up sheet for different volunteer opportunities will be produced at a later date, but to get a head start, Louann discussed some of the duties the planning team has already outlined and the people in charge of each duty.

- Jim Hegner is in charge of signage and will need help with this task. His group will start putting up informational signs around the church on February 8.
- Andy Hines is organizing the parking volunteers. We will need 15 people to help from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on February 9 to help navigate traffic and parking.
- Tom Heggie is managing the greeter guides. His group will need to be here starting at 7:15 to direct foot traffic.
- We need 8-10 people to assist at the registration table. Registration orientation will take place at 7:30 a.m., and registration begins at 8. Louann is the contact person for this group.
- Suzanne Tilley and Jane Brabham are in charge of hospitality and will need help in the morning and at lunch.

Prayers of the People

Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of both need and celebration, and Kevin Geurink offered prayers for all these people.

For the Good of the Session

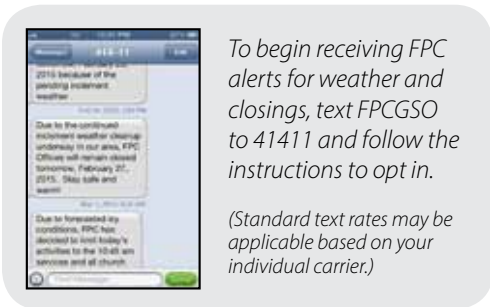
- The Clerk of the Session was recognized and provided with a virtual toast for completing the NYC Marathon last month.
- The sermons on *It's A Wonderful Life* have been appreciated.
- Merry Christmas was wished to all!

Libby Boehne gave the closing prayer.

The meeting of the Session was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reid Wilcox, Clerk of Session



invitation

from page 11

throughout-the-day person. Once a week or so someone comes into my head, and it seems something positive or negative happens to them. I used to wonder about it, but now I stop and offer them up in prayer.” Dolly also uses social media as a prayer vehicle, posting both generic prayers for anyone to use and prayers for members who may be sick or dying. Using prayer, she uses her Facebook page as a way to inform concerned members when their fellows are ill.

Recently, Dolly’s daughter asked how they could help a grieving family whose son had died. Dolly explained that there were no words or actions that would comfort them, but they could “let them know we loved them and were praying for them. We sat on the bed, held hands, cried, and prayed. It was all we could do, but it seemed pure, authentic, not perfunctory or obligatory – what we should do when we pray together.”

This authentic, moment-to-moment claiming of God’s presence in Dolly’s daily life comes more easily now than when she was younger. “I realize it’s not

important what others think. In different seasons of life different practices make sense. There’s no need to judge others because of their different spiritual practices.” Dolly herself advocates a grabbing-tiny-snippets approach. “You can stick a one-sentence prayer on your car’s visor. If that’s all you can do, it still honors God.”

Currently, Dolly is honoring both God and family by writing a series of letters to her mother, who died 22 years ago. In these missives Dolly reflects on recent happenings, then relays what her mother might say in response, finally ending with a prayer. It gives her peace and comfort to think that one day her daughters might read these letters and catch a glimpse of how things once were and the amazing grandmother they never knew.

In sum, if we model the stance of our church leaders, we recognize that throughout life our God expands us and gives us new ways to approach the Divine. The question then becomes, “God, how are you inviting me to be with you today?”