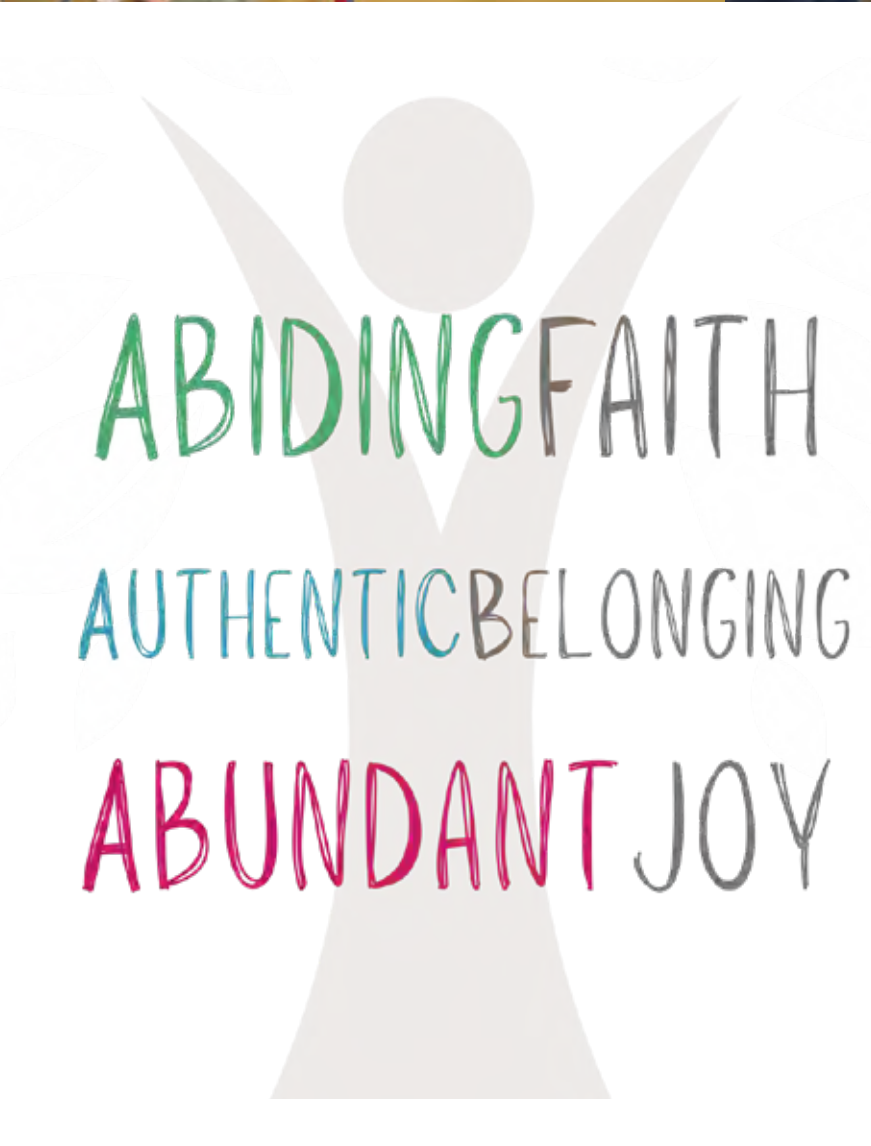




FALL  
2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG



# worship & music

## SUNDAYS

Rejoice! at 9 am in Mullin Life Center, coffee & doughnut fellowship at 8:30.

Traditional at 11 am in the sanctuary, also livestreamed.



### COMMUNION SUNDAYS

*Communion is one of two sacraments in the Presbyterian tradition.*

September 14  
October 5, World Communion Sunday  
November 2  
December 7

### ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

September 7

We kick off the program year in one service at 11 am in the sanctuary. Our newest class of church officers will be installed. Potluck lunch after worship, fried chicken provided!

### CAMP WEAVER SUNDAY

October 19

We gather under the pavilion for creative Sunday School, worship and lunch, followed by your choice of camp activities.



### COMMITMENT SUNDAY

October 26

We dedicate our annual financial gifts to the church.

### ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

November 2

*Requiem* by Grayston Ives will be offered by FPC and Westminster Presbyterian choirs at 5 pm.



### RECITAL

November 23

John Alexander performs for the 25th anniversary of the LeTourneau organs, 5 pm.

## MIDWEEK

Music, prayer and a message of care with Hot Dish & Hope guests.

Second & fourth Thursdays, 5-5:30 pm in Mullin Life Center.

## THE MUSIC MINISTRY IS FOR EVERYONE

The Chancel Choir, for ages high school and up, rehearses Wednesdays beginning September 3, 7-8:30 pm in Smith 301. The choir sings in Sunday's traditional service. Contact John Alexander, 336-478-4715 or [JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

If you play an instrument and/or sing, try the Rejoice! Ensemble, which provides music for the 9 am Sunday service. Contact Will Edwards, 336-478-4729 or [WEDWARDS@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:WEDWARDS@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

If you are interested in ringing handbells, contact John Alexander, 336-478-4715 or [JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

Children's choirs who sing periodically in worship. *More info on page 15.*

Youth Choir Pick-Up Opportunities, contact John Alexander, [JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).



### ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 30

**A Little Advent Music  
Sundays at 5 pm, free**

*Messiah* Sing-along, December 7. No rehearsal, just come and sing.

Grimsley Madrigal Singers: Caroling and Cocoa, December 14, *donations accepted*

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, December 21 with extended handbell prelude.

# An Arctic adventure in August



## JILL DUFFIELD

Senior Pastor and Arctic  
Adventure leader at VBS

Nothing is impossible with God, not even a blizzard in August. For four days many of us went on an Arctic Adventure with Jesus, learning Bible verses, doing crafts, singing and, of course, eating lots of snacks. Vacation Bible School, no matter the theme, is always fun, joyous and a little chaotic. Seeing volunteers of so many ages coming together to show our children God's love never ceases to warm my heart. Personally, it was a gift to get to know better not only the first-graders I got to help shepherd through the halls, but also the youth who wrangled kids with me. Seeing their patience, their wisdom and their kindness reminded me that our church is in good hands. We have many thoughtful leaders not only on the horizon but also showing us the way right now.

One of my favorite moments of the week was when a member of my group said to me: "I know you. You are one of the church pray-ers. I see you up there all the time!" I affirmed that this was in fact so and that I saw him all the time, too. I pointed to where he sat in worship nearly every week and

said, "I see you over there all of the time!" One of the many reasons I participate in VBS is because I want the children who see me "up there" to know me, and I want to know them as we sit together on the Life Center floor, play on the playground and gather around tables together. I want to be able to greet them by name and learn who they are because, like our youth, they aren't just the future of the church, they are its present.

Our Arctic adventure reminded me that while there is certainly much in the world that is painful and sad, we can't lose sight of all that is beautiful and good. In fact, seeing so many energetic kids, so many dedicated adults, so much that is lovely and commendable and pure, reaffirmed for me that we are to do everything in our power to help all God's children flourish.

This program year we are going to explore what it means to aspire to be a community of abiding faith, authentic belonging and abundant joy. I believe VBS offered us a glimpse as to what that kind of community might look like: every generation coming together to live the Bible story, every person sharing their gifts, everyone welcomed, music, food, games, laughter, a few tears, many prayers, and glitter, lots and lots of glitter.

I am grateful to everyone who made our summer so meaningful, and I look forward to another program year of Christ-centered ministry with each and all of you.

Grace and peace,

# FALL KICKOFF

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10 AM

**Skills Every Bible Reader Needs to Improve Understanding** – Dr. Sandie Gravett, Redhead Hall

**Old Testament Images of the Afterlife** – Dr. Jerry Beavers, Garden Room

**Gospel of John** – Gerard Davidson, Main 125



## ONE SERVICE, 11 AM

**Our newest class of elders will be ordained and installed:** Andy Brantley, Allison Cochran, Tom Gillespie, Alice Moore, Anne Wagoner, and Hugh Williams. They will serve for three years.

## POTLUCK LUNCH

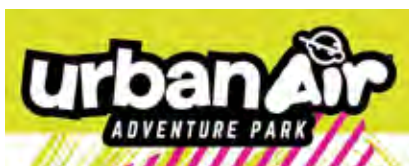
**Fried chicken provided, bring salads, sides & desserts.**

Jill Duffield will tuckpoint a brick to officially kick off the renovation with help from Project Review Committee leaders Homer Wade and Buddy Seymour.

## LATER IN THE DAY

### Kids Disciple Club Kickoff

2-4 pm at Urban Air. For grades 3-5, \$25/person. RSVP by September 3 and complete the waiver. Get the links at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP).



### Youth Kickoff Party

Music, games, snacks and prizes, starting at 6:30 pm in the Life Center. Bring a friend and meet Nolan Chilton, our new Interim Director of Youth.



# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jean Pinckard caught up with new members to learn more about them. Welcome to the family!



We are excited to be here!

**Preston and Amanda Edwards** joined FPC because they love our community and welcoming message. They originally came to Greensboro in 2017 for Preston to attend Elon Law. Both Preston and Amanda are attorneys.

They live in Lake Jeanette and enjoy being active – Amanda is a runner and Preston a cyclist – and spending time with family and friends or curling up with their two dogs. They both love the church's Outreach and Earth Care ministries. Amanda has also joined the Communication Committee.

When asked what else would you like us to know about you? They responded, "We are excited to be here!"



We knew right away this was the right place for us.



**Elliot and Stephanie Jones** have three delightful children: Duke, 6; Dean, 4; and Dodd, 2. They joined by Letter of Transfer from Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago.

The Jones family are clearly invested in Greensboro where they all enjoy attending FPC and other family activities, especially home gardening. Not surprising since, as well as a buying a local niche market flat glass-making concern, they are the new owners of Guilford Garden Center.

When we caught up with Stephanie on her break from helping out at Vacation Bible School, she said, "We knew right away this was the right place for us."

*continues, next page*



## FPC's vision meshed with my core values.

Better opportunities for work, health, and living brought **Ginger Garner and sons Michael, William, and James** to Greensboro, after living in coastal North Carolina for 21 years. Ginger owns Garner Pelvic Health and has been a pelvic and orthopedic physical therapist for nearly 30 years.

They chose FPC because of Senior Pastor Jill Duffield's leadership, the warmth in the church, and the inclusion they felt. As Ginger puts it, "FPC's vision meshed with my core values as a parent and advocate for healthcare and social justice."

The Garners are interested in the Music Ministry and our community service. Ginger especially loves contributing to the FPC music program. "Being a part of the Rejoice service allows me to give to the community, but I also gain so much medicine from it as well."



Ginger also loves spending time in nature with her boys, or on her own – camping, hiking, backpacking, and general adventuring, and creative cooking over an open campfire. The Garners live in New Irving Park along with their rescue pup, a black labrador retriever named Scout Finch. For the literary nerds out there, yes, she was named after the character in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



## First Pres was the place for me.

**Mary Ellen Shiflett** came to FPC when a friend invited her to hear Sandie Gravett teaching in YMBC. "That led me to additional YMBC programs, to the sanctuary, and finally to the realization that First Pres was the place for me."



She is retired and grateful for the opportunity to spend her days reading, enjoying music & art, being with friends and family, traveling, and working with civic groups.

Mary Ellen has one grown child in Louisiana and another in Croatia, and two grandchildren in Louisiana and Florida. She treasures the visits with them, exclaiming, "Thank goodness for Facetime!"



## We were attracted to the welcoming community.

**Alex Turpin and Seth Fitzgerald** will be married at FPC this fall. Alex says, "We can't wait to celebrate our marriage with First Presbyterian!"

They have lived in Greensboro since 2018. "We had been looking to find a church/place of worship to further our faith that is new to both of us. I grew up Catholic, Seth grew up Wesleyan and neither faith had particularly appealed to us. We know several folks that are members and were attracted to the welcoming community around this church."

Seth works for Qorvo, Alex at Morgan Stanley. The outdoors, gardening, the gym, horseback riding, and spending time with their dogs are their interests. FPC ministries which have caught their eye are Earth Care and Hot Dish & Hope.





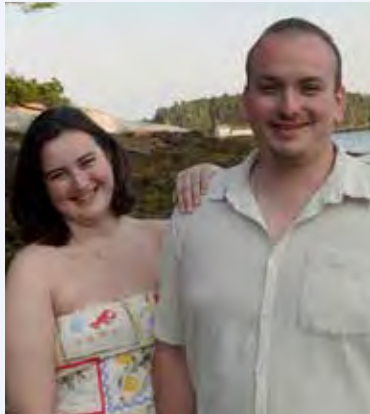
## Community and connection

**Mary Grace Cavey** joined FPC because she loved the community and connection she's found.

After growing up in a Presbyterian church in the Richmond,

Va., area, Mary Grace moved to Greensboro four years ago after graduating from Elon University. Her fiancé Jack joined her in Greensboro last August and they recently purchased their first home together.

Professionally, Mary Grace works as an event planner both corporately and with her own small business. When she isn't managing an event, she may be working as a swim coach or investing in her love of the arts through pottery or choir. This fall she will begin working with the youth group as a high school advisor, and is excited to be a part of the Communications Committee.

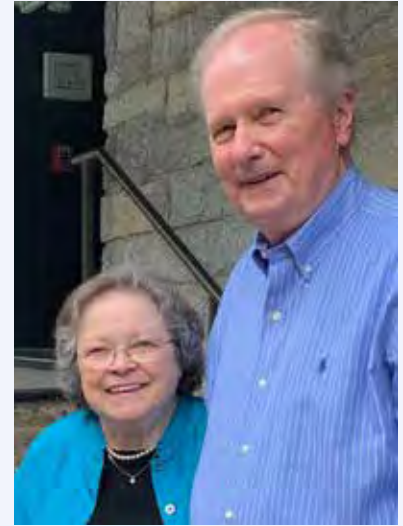


## We wanted the variety of programs and activities.

**Kathy and H.T. Busby** came to Greensboro with a job change when he accepted a position with Syngenta Crop Protection. Now H.T. is retired and Kathy has retired from teaching and raising their family.

They joined FPC because they want the variety of programs and activities available with a larger church.

Kathy enjoys social activities with friends and family, travel, and teaching. Not surprising since she has a BA in education from UNC-Chapel Hill and is a former high school teacher, in English and science. H.T. also was educated at UNC-CH, earning a PhD in chemistry. His current interests are sports (especially Tar Heel basketball and football), classical music, hiking and gardening, and investing. Three children and five grandchildren keep them busy.



1,000 WORDS



**THE JOY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** Some members from our mission group in Black Mountain in August, helping put lives back together after the flooding last fall.

## TO LIVE IN GRACE AND DIGNITY

### The Who and What of the Sadye Bowles Fund

#### WHO WAS SADYE BOWLES?

A member of FPC who left her estate to the church to help adults 55 and older with the expenses of care at home or in an assisted living or skilled nursing facility.

#### WHAT IS THE SADYE BOWLES FUND?

A Session-designated restricted endowment, it is part of the church's endowment funds. Annual distributions are used to provide care for recipients and to fund the part-time position of the Director of the Sadye Bowles Fund.

*A couple in their eighties, living in their home on Social Security and a small pension, is just making ends meet. He has increasing cognitive issues and cannot be left alone for long. The Sadye Bowles Fund can support a certain number of hours of home care.*

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE HELP?

Adults 55 + with demonstrated financial need living within 50 miles of Greensboro can receive assistance from the Fund. Preference is given to FPC members. Applicants are required to complete an application form and provide full financial disclosure, all of which is held in the strictest confidence. Applications are reviewed by the Fund director and a subcommittee of the Sadye Bowles Ministry Team. Decisions on assistance are made by the full committee.

*After a lifetime of working, he lives on*



Her portrait hangs outside the Pastoral Care offices.

*his Social Security benefit. The monthly charge at his assisted living facility increases by 10 percent – more than his benefit can cover. The Sadye Bowles Fund can cover the increased charges.*

#### WHAT EXPENSES ARE COVERED?

The Fund can provide assistance with mortgage

payments or rent in a person's home or assisted living facility, prescription drugs, medical or dental care, and in-home care from a home-care agency. The Sadye Bowles Fund is designed to provide assistance for specific needs as a supplement to the applicant's financial resources. There is an annual limit on the amount of assistance available.

*Diabetic and with cardiovascular problems, she is unable to pay for the prescription medicines, even with insurance. The Fund can cover some of the cost of the medicines.*

#### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Rev. Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Interim Director of the Sadye Bowles Fund, would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Contact him at 336-478-4737 or at [NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

#### FALL BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will be in the Life Center September 24, 1:30-6 pm. We all know someone who has needed a blood transfusion. Please donate with us! To make your appointment, use the QR Code or go to [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP).



#### FORK & FAITH

Join other women for lunch and fellowship, noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. Fall dates are August 20 (RSVP by August 15), September 17 (RSVP by September 12), October 22 (RSVP by October 17), November 19 (RSVP by November 14), and December 17 (RSVP by December 12). RSVP to Dolly Jennings, 336-854-2663 or [DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM).

#### VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

This group meets several times a year for food, fellowship & speakers. Get on the list by contacting Rev. Doug McLeroy, 336-279-5441.

#### ALSO:

**PASTOR ON CALL:** For sudden illness, death, or personal crises, call 336-908-8615, leave a message and a pastor will respond.

**VISITS:** Pastors make hospital, home, and care center visits. *Let us know if you or a loved one is in the hospital or very ill at home. Contact the Pastor on Call, above.*

**PRAYER:** Send your confidential request to [NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

**PLANNING IN ADVANCE:** Plan for a meaningful memorial service before an illness or crisis happens. Contact Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or [DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: Community Housing Solutions

CHS provides home repairs to homeowners in Guilford County, supporting neighbors and neighborhoods. With a skilled construction staff and volunteers, CHS works with homeowners who fall below specific income levels to make their homes warmer, drier and safer. With a focus on allowing people to age in place with dignity, CHS provides accessibility modifications such as converting tubs to walk-in showers and adding ramps into the home. Over the past 20 years, CHS has repaired more than 1,850 homes. FPC has partnered with CHS to paint a house and build a ramp, and the L. Richardson Trust has provided financial support for their Aging Gracefully program. Learn more at [CHSHOUSING.ORG](http://CHSHOUSING.ORG).



Some FPC youth & young adults helped build a ramp in July.

### EARTH CARE

- *Beyond Plastics Greensboro* meets September 8 at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room, then on the first Monday of each month.
- We will host the quarterly meeting of *Salem Presbytery Earth Care Congregations*, September 20, 10:30 am-2:30 pm in the Garden Room. Interested in Earth Care? Contact Nancy Abrams, [ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM](mailto:ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM).

**HOT DISH & HOPE:** Help serve a meal to our hungry neighbors. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:45-6 pm in the Life Center.

**FOOD DRIVE-BY:** Every Wednesday drop off canned food for Urban Ministry in front of Redhead Hall, 11 am -1 pm. You can also volunteer as a greeter.

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** Deliver a hot meal on third Wednesdays monthly and fifth Mondays quarterly. To help contact Linda Allen, [LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM) or 336-549-3367.

### STEPUP GREENSBORO IMPACT LUNCHEON

StepUp Greensboro, our partner ministry in the Shetler Building, has served more than 2,263 unemployed & underemployed people with Job Readiness and other training. On September 30, StepUp will hold its Impact Luncheon to increase awareness and raise funds for its mission. If you are interested contact event cochairs Julie Wade at [JBLYWADE59@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JBLYWADE59@GMAIL.COM) or Nancy Abrams at [ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM](mailto:ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM).

### NEIL'S MEALS

Saturday, September 20. We are excited to partner with the Out of the Garden Project for this event. We are looking for 150 volunteers (ages 8 and up, children under 13 with a parent/guardian) to pack fresh produce and other food items in 2,000 food boxes which will be distributed to our hungry neighbors. Join us for this fun, intergenerational event which makes a significant impact in the life of our community! Registration will open at 8:30 am and packing will start at 9 am in the Life Center. We finish about 11.

### CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 5. Feeding the hungry was central to Jesus' ministry and is at the core of FPC's Outreach Ministry. The Crop Walk is a chance for us to partner with others in our community and nation to raise money and awareness about hunger. Not able to walk? Sponsor our walkers. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others. Registration starts at 1:30 pm and the walk starts at 2:30 pm, at Barber Park. Please help us in the fight against hunger by walking and/or giving!

### SIGN UP

for these events and more. Use the QR code or go to



**[FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/  
SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP)**

# SUNDAY STUDIES

classes begin at 10 am  
and are open to all

September 7, 14, 21

## SKILLS EVERY BIBLE READER NEEDS TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING

Redhead Hall

Deepen your insights and discover how to approach familiar texts from fresh perspectives, led by Professor Sandie Gravett. Hosted by YMBC & Agape classes Contact Al Lineberry, [NCCARPE@AOL.COM](mailto:NCCARPE@AOL.COM).

September-December

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Main 125

A deep scriptural study led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers class. Contact Gerard, [GDAVIDSON@WARDBLACKLAW.COM](mailto:GDAVIDSON@WARDBLACKLAW.COM).

September 7, 21, 28



## BIBLICAL IMAGES OF THE AFTERLIFE

Garden Room

We all have mental pictures about what we could see after we die. This series will explore how the biblical writers envisioned the afterlife. Led by Dr. Jerry Beavers in the Come as You Are class. Contact Philip Lopp, [PHILIP.LOPP1988@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PHILIP.LOPP1988@GMAIL.COM).

September 14

## UPDATE ON MONTREAT WITH RICHARD DUBOSE

Garden Room

Richard DuBose is president of the Montreat Conference Center. He is the son and grandson of Presbyterian ministers. Hosted by the Come as You Are class.

September 14 -October 5

## THE WHOLE-BRAIN CHILD

Memorial 304

The Faithful Families class will discuss Daniel Siegel & Tina Bryson's book on nurturing a child's developing mind. Led by Lana Burske, Maddy Lowman & Lisa Witherspoon.

September 28

## SONGFEST, Redhead Hall

Lane Ridenhour leads a singalong featuring favorites of the YMBC and Agape classes. Contact Al Lineberry, [NCCARPE@AOL.COM](mailto:NCCARPE@AOL.COM).

October 12, 26. November 9, 16

## UNAFRAID, Memorial 304

Adam Hamilton's book explores living with courage & hope amid illness, loneliness, financial insecurity, disappointing others, failure, insignificance, and aging. In the Faithful Families class. Contact Lisa Witherspoon, [LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

October 26-November 16

## BIBLICAL PROPHECY – PAST AND PRESENT

Garden Room

In biblical interpretation, *prediction* and *prophecy* are very different concepts. Learn why it matters. Led by Samuel Moss, a freelance scholar with an MDiv from Duke University and 30+ years of teaching experience. In the Come as You Are class. Contact Philip Lopp, [PHILIP.LOPP1988@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PHILIP.LOPP1988@GMAIL.COM).



November 30-December 14

## WHAT MAKES MATTHEW SPECIAL

Garden Room

It is the only gospel to mention the magi and to use the phrase "kingdom of heaven." It references the Old Testament 130+ times. Samuel Moss leads in the Come as You Are class.

# Exploring doubt, faith and time away

The FPC Women's Retreat has a new voice as keynote speaker, and it has an English accent! Niki Hardy is a speaker and author raised and educated in England. Nearly 20

BY TAMARA  
SLAUGHTER  
FPC member

years ago she and her husband, along with their three young children, moved to NC

to start CityChurch in Charlotte. With her children grown and lots of life experience behind her, she is sharing her messages of faith during times of doubt, and encouragement when life falls apart. She has definitely been through both.

When her kids were young, Niki attended seminary at Wycliffe College (part of Oxford University) in a Biblical and Theological Studies evening program while her husband attended full-time seminary. While she attests that her professors would be surprised she is an author, and that writing for her is an act of obedience instead of a joyful natural calling, she currently has three published books. The most recent, *God, Can We Chat?*, is a "daringly honest guide to growing closer to God, one doubt at a time."

When Niki says "doubt brings our faith to life" she is speaking from hard experiences. Her mother died of cancer; several years later her sister passed from cancer as well. Within six weeks of her sister's death, Niki received a cancer diagnosis herself. She found ways not only to cope but also to grow her faith, concepts she outlines in her books.

During the soul-searching a cancer diagnosis brought, she



Keynote speaker is Niki Hardy. Registration includes a copy of her book, *God, Can We Chat? A Daringly Honest Guide to Growing Closer to God, One Doubt at a Time.*

God, Can  
We Chat?

## 2026 FPC Women's Retreat

January 24 & 25  
at Grandover

*Pre-retreat gathering on Friday, January 23* – evening reception at Grandover art gallery.

*Saturday* – keynote addresses, music, chat groups, optional activities & free time, lunch and dinner.

*Sunday morning* – breakfast and a worship service with communion.

**REGISTRATION  
OPENS AUGUST 24!**

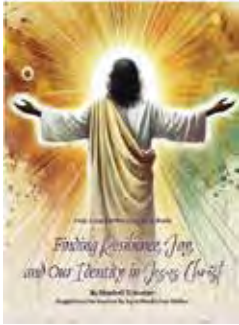
Registration tables will be set up at church that day so you can register in person. You can also go to [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT](https://fpcgreensboro.org/womensretreat) or use the QR Code.



CONTINUES, PAGE 19

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We are looking forward to an exciting year! We invite all women of the church to seek out an existing group, or create your own, for learning, encouragement and fellowship opportunities. For more information about PW and how to get involved, please contact Sheri Evans, [SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM).



### Monthly Circles

These small groups welcome visitors and new members. They meet monthly, and this year will be studying *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

– Sallie Huss, second Mondays, 10:30 am, Myers Loyalty Room. Contact Gail Derkasch, [PPOMPOM@AOL.COM](mailto:PPOMPOM@AOL.COM).

– Mary and Martha, second Mondays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room. Contact B.J. Williams, [RWILLIAMS1@TRIAD.rr.com](mailto:RWILLIAMS1@TRIAD.rr.com).

– Hearts and Minds, third Tuesdays, 10 am-noon, Myers Loyalty Room. Contact Betty Jo Forney, [BJFORNEY@MINDSPRING.COM](mailto:BJFORNEY@MINDSPRING.COM).

– Ruth and Naomi, third Tuesdays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room. Contact Anne Cox, [ANCO7408@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANCO7408@GMAIL.COM).

– Faith & Fellowship, Every Thursday starting September 12, 10-11:15 am, Garden Room. Contact Leigh Jones, [LJONES0206@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LJONES0206@GMAIL.COM).

### Community Service Group

Wednesdays, 10 am-noon, Garden Room. Coordinated by Hannah Britt and B.J. Williams. Make receiving blankets, baby hats, small quilts, mittens, booties, etc. distributed through social workers and missionaries. We bring our latest creations, share patterns, pick up supplies, and have a devotional. Open to anyone regardless of church affiliation.

### WOMEN OF FAITH Christmas Communion Service

December 3, Coffee and fellowship at 11 am, Communion service at noon. Take a break from the weight of making the season magical for your family and make space for worship and joy this holiday season.

### MAHJONG LESSONS

In October we will have an afternoon gathering for beginners and those looking for a refresher. We encourage both men and women to join in the fun! Led by Becky Barger. Sunday, October 12, tentative time is 3-5 pm in the Garden Room. Bring the 2025 National Mah Jongg League card, available at [NATIONALMAHJONGGLEAGUE.ORG](http://NATIONALMAHJONGGLEAGUE.ORG). Watch for sign ups!



### RESILIENCY THROUGH MOVEMENT AND MINDFULNESS

September 8

FPC member **Marianne Harris**

is a registered nurse and an Integrative Health coach.

Marianne has a passion for helping others incorporate mindfulness and walking as part of self-care. She developed the Justmove walking program in Palm Coast, Fla. Join us as Marianne inspires us to better health!



### YOU TOTALLY WANT TO HEAR THIS.

October 13

**Jane Borden** is an author and culture journalist in Los Angeles and a cradle First Preszser, daughter of Bob & Vicky Borden. Her first book, *I Totally Meant to Do That*, chronicles her evolution from debutante to Brooklyn hipster. Her latest book, *Cults Like Us*, is a pop history that follows

the Puritan psyche from Plymouth to the current state of the nation. Bring your book clubs, yoga mates and tennis teams for this one!

**Rev. Maria Hanlin** will be our speaker November 10, and on December 8 we will celebrate the season with a Christmas program from the **Weekday Preschool** children.

### MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

Noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. Make a paid reservation by the Wednesday prior at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP), 336-478-4799, or the Welcome Center.

## CURRIE LIBRARY

**BOOK CLUBS:** The Monday group meets second Monday of each month at 10:30 am and the Tuesday group meets second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm, both in the Garden Room. Copies of the books are available in the library, near the Welcome Center.

### September 8 & 9

*Appreciate these Things: Eight Ways of Cultivating Compassion* by Rev. Jill Duffield, who will facilitate.

### October 13 & 14

*Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver.

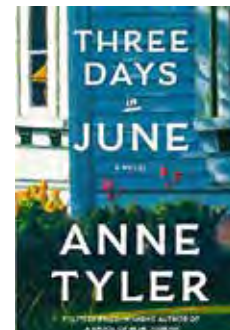
### November 10 & 11

*Three Days in June* by Anne Tyler, facilitated by Kitty Robison.

### December 8 & 9

Bring a book to share, give away, discuss plus a treat to share.

**Coming in 2026:** *My Father's List* by Laura Carney, January 12 & 13. *The Book of Genesis*, February 9 & 10. *Wild, Tamed*,



*Lost, Revived: The Surprising Story of Apples in the South* by Diane Flynt, March 10 combined group. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, April 13 & 14. *Shades of Privilege* by Jeanne Simkins Hollis & George Simkins, May 11 & 12.

Continue to bring magazines for our Hot Dish guests. Hoke Huss collects them twice a week and says he and they are disappointed when there are no magazines!

There are several carts of Giveaway Books for adults and children at the library office door.

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS:** Teens & adults of all abilities explore the Bible and spread God's love through service and fellowship. We engage all our senses to deepen our faith, appreciating the unique gifts each person brings. We celebrate the different ways individuals connect during group activities. Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm. This fall we will talk about *The Lord's Prayer* by Adam Hamilton. We start the year September 9 at Ozzie's Ice Cream, 3712 Old Battleground Road at 6:30 pm. Come and be part of our community!

**TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** is open to adults of all ages and of all levels of spiritual experience. Our members are laity seeking to find the meaning of God's Word in our lives. Our study sessions are in an informal, open discussion format that allows for a variety of interpretations and perspectives. Our fall study is *Harmonized Gospels*. 5:30-6:30 pm on Zoom. Contact Jim Hoeger, [JIM.HOEGER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JIM.HOEGER@GMAIL.COM)

**GRACE:** A gathering of women engaging in meaningful Bible study and fostering fellowship. Currently we are focused on

Jill Duffield's recently published book, *Appreciate These Things*. We meet once a month on Tuesdays, 7-8 pm in homes. Info: Lisa Witherspoon, [LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)

**YOGA FOR HEALTHY AGING:** Each Thursday, 4:25-5:30 pm in the Virginia Gilmer Room (Smith 239). We desire to live and move pain-free, with an emphasis on maintaining range of motion, a healthy spine, strength and stability, and balance. On the first Thursday of the month, the class uses balls and rollers to stimulate fascia and connective tissue to reduce stuck stress and maintain healthy joints and alignment. No fee, freewill offering accepted. For all levels. Bring water, a mat, a strap, and a block (if you have one). Led by Virginia Wood, [REVVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:REVVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM).

**FIRST FAMILIES:** Casual monthly gatherings for families with young children to get to know each other. Hosts rotate, dinner provided, small fee for onsite child care. First Fridays of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Lorie Jones, [LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM).



**Saturday, September 6  
8:30 am, Life Center**

Member Richard Beard Jr. will speak on sports tourism and how it benefits our quality of life. Richard serves as president and CEO of the Greensboro Sports Foundation.

A native of Greensboro and an alumnus of Greensboro College, he spearheaded the development of Rock Creek Center, a project that added 5,000 jobs. In his personal time, he enjoys engaging with his family, traveling, and golfing. Breakfast is free. Invite a friend and RSVP using the QR Code or call Yolanda Baxter, 336-478-4722.





## children & families

# SUNDAY SCHOOL



### MILESTONES OF FAITH

These classes lay an important foundation for a lifelong faith. They meet during Sunday School September 21 through November 9 on the third floor of the Corl Building. (Except October 19, Camp Weaver Sunday).

### Living In Faith Together

On LIFT Sundays, a special team of wonderful volunteers will join our children for intergenerational games, bible study & fun.

FALL DATES: September 14, November 16

### ADVENT TRADITIONS

Families gather in Mullin Life Center for special celebrations. On November 23, we will make Advent wreaths to take home and use during the season.

On December 21, we will decorate a Gingerbread FPC (some candy might accidentally get eaten....) and have a Birthday Party for Jesus.

## KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB

Kickoff Party at Urban Air, September 7, 2-4 pm  
\$25, RSVP by September 3



We're starting the year with climbing walls, ropes course, zipline, dodgeball, trampolines, pizza & more!

KDC, for grades 3-5, meets the first Sunday of the month for fun, service & bible study. 3-4:30 pm in Mullin

Life Center October 5, November 2, and December 7 (Christmas Party).

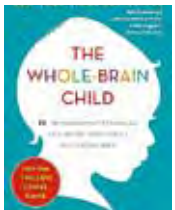


## PARENT INFO

### FIRST FAMILIES IN-HOME GATHERING

Families with children ages infant-early elementary school get together monthly for dinner. Sometimes childcare is provided on site; sometimes parents are asked to find their own sitters. First Fridays except for April (spring break). Fall dates: September 5 (Parent Meeting), October 3, November 7 and December 5. Info: Lorie Jones, [LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM).

### FAITHFUL FAMILIES CLASS



This group of parents will discuss *The Whole-Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary Strategies to*

*Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind* by Daniel Siegel & Tina Bryson. Sundays at 10 am from September 14 through October 5, in Memorial 304.

### CHILD PROTECTION

This year the church updated our Child Protection Policy. All staff and volunteers undergo a background check and training. Learn more at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SAFESPACE](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SAFESPACE).

### SUNDAY NURSERY

Our nursery is open during both worship services and Sunday School. We have regular nursery staff who are trained and have had background screening. The nursery is on the first floor of Mullin Life Center, at the bottom of the large inside stairwell.

### BABYSITTERS!

Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry, keeps a list of FPC youth who babysit. It's updated every fall and emailed to families so make sure the church has your current email address.

### KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON

– Use the QR Code to join the **FPC Children's Ministry**

**GroupMe** to receive short text reminders.

– Join **First Pres Parents** on Facebook.

– Read the weekly **Children's Ministry email**. Not receiving it? Contact Yolanda Baxter, [YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).



## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

We have a great Music Ministry – our children's choir directors hold doctorates from UNCG and love working with kids. The choirs rehearse each Wednesday beginning September 10 and sing periodically in worship. Use the QR Code to register. If you have questions contact Anne Albert, [AALBERT@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:AALBERT@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).



**CHERUB CHOIR:** Ages 3-Kindergarten play instruments & games, led by Anne Albert. 5-5:30 pm, Memorial 303.

**CANTICLE CHOIR:** Grades 1-5 learn about rhythm, score reading, part singing and more, led by John Alexander. 5-5:45 pm in Smith 301.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### CAMP WEAVER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Every fall we get outdoors with worship, intergenerational Sunday School, lunch & camp fun. Everyone gets involved (see the keyboard helper).



### PARENTS NIGHT OUT SEPTEMBER 27

5- 8 pm. Pizza, playtime & *Finding Dory*. For ages infant through 5th grade, \$25/child, register by September 21.



**TRUNK OR TREAT, OCTOBER 26.** 4-6 pm in front of the sanctuary.

**CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE,** 10 am.

# Meet Interim Youth Director Nolan Chilton



*Actually, we're getting re-acquainted! Nolan served as our summer youth intern a few years ago. This spring he graduated from Duke Divinity School.*

## **Tell us a bit about you.**

I am originally from right down the road in Burlington! I grew up as an only child, just me, my parents and our array of pets over the years. We currently have two cats, Carlito and Smoke, who

very much run the house!

## **What was your favorite class at Duke Divinity?**

An exegesis course on the book of Revelation where we explored a variety of interpretive approaches, considering both its historical context as well as its relevance for the church today. I loved the way the course encouraged me to reflect on the intersection of scripture and the ministry of the church today!

## **Why have you chosen youth ministry?**

Youth ministry has always been, to me, one of the most sacred spaces in the life of the church, a place where a deep sense of belonging and transformation exists. I feel called to the work of cultivating these spaces where youth are invited to safely and bravely ask questions and explore the fullness of who they are and who God is calling them to be.

## **What are a few of your favorite things?**

*Music* – Noah Kahan, Gracie Abrams, Chappell Roan

*Books* – *Holy Envy* (or really anything by Barbara Brown Taylor or Pete Enns)

*Food* – Does sweet tea count? I could drink it all day, every day

*Sports* – I love playing or watching most sports! Favorite teams include Duke basketball, Oregon football, the Boston Celtics, and the Dallas Cowboys.

## **What is something about you that would surprise the people who know you best?**

I really enjoy playing ultimate frisbee! Most recently, I played for the club team at Duke, and I hope to continue to play recreationally whenever I can!

## **What are you most looking forward to at FPC?**

I'm really excited to get to know everyone at FPC, especially youth and their families. I'm looking forward to being a part of a vibrant, thoughtful congregation and to seeing all the ways that God is already at work in this community. I can't wait to grow in faith together, build something meaningful, and have a lot of fun along the way!

*Nolan's office will be in the Christian Formation wing, down the hall from the Tower Room. His contact info is (336) 207-0419 or [NCHILTON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:NCHILTON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).*

**Neon Dance Party**

**FALL YOUTH KICKOFF  
SEPTEMBER 7**

**MUSIC.GAMES.  
SNACKS.PRIZES**

**6:30-8 PM  
LIFE CENTER**

# SUNDAYS



grab a doughnut, play some air hockey,  
chat about the week, have a brief bible lesson

Sunday School, 10 am in Memorial 303, September 14 - December 14.  
*No meeting October 19, November 23 & 30.*



games, bible study, food & fun

Youth Groups – 5-6 pm, Middle School ; 6-6:30 pm, dinner for all; 6:30-7:30 pm, High School. September 14 - December 14. *No meeting October 19, November 23 & 30.*



cohort dinners

September 28, in homes. 5-6 pm, MS; 6:30-7:30 pm, HS.



confirmation

Eighth-graders spend several months in study, service, worship, and fellowship in preparation for becoming full members of the church. Classes at 10 am Sundays. October 25, Opening Retreat; March 22, Confirmation Sunday.

## Breakfast Club

This year, MS & HS will meet together first & third Wednesdays at Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road. Two start times: 7:15 am and then 8 am to accommodate HS who go to school later. September 17; October 1 and 15, November 5 and 19, December 3 and 17.

## changemakers for good

We put our faith into action and build community with service projects.  
*September 20:* Neil's Meals – see info on page 10. *November 7-9:* Middle School to Raleigh Youth Mission. More events might pop up during the year!



## summer 2026

We're already looking forward to next summer! Registration will open this fall. **Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference**, rising 6th- through 8th-graders, July 8-July 12. **Montreat Youth Conference**, rising 9th through completed 12th, July 26-August 1.

### YOU WITH US?

- Come to the parent meeting, August 24 4-5 pm at the Abrahams' home.
- Read the weekly youth email. (Don't get it? Contact [YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG))
- Follow our Insta account
- Join your GroupMe



Youth Insta



MS GroupMe



HS GroupMe



Parent GroupMe

## Mid-year report from Finance Committee

ROB PEDDRICK

Finance Committee Chair

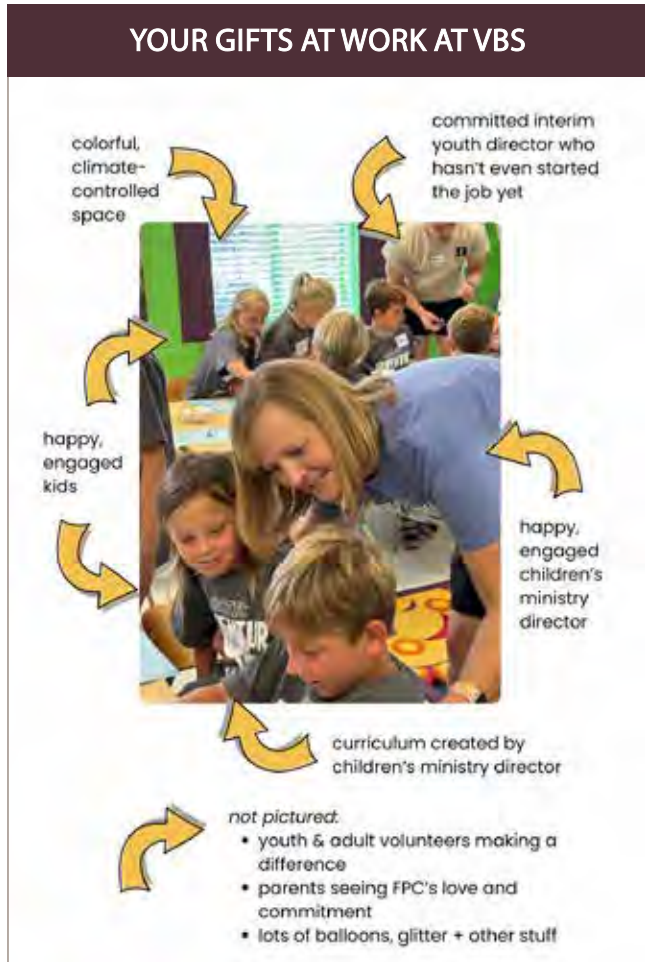
We want to thank our congregation and friends of our church for your generosity. Your gifts allow the wonderful ministries of our church to do amazing work.

It is important for our members and friends to understand the careful use of our resources. Ministries include our youth programs, music for the traditional service and Rejoice! worship, food programs, and many more. Perhaps most important is the care that our ministers provide when our members experience a life event or personal need. We are so proud of our staff, from our senior minister to our housekeeping staff. We run a very lean budget for salaries and benefits. Not surprisingly, this is our largest expense and our most important.

The Finance Committee works to craft a budget that covers all costs to operate our church. We look to see how our 2025 income and expenses relate to our budget and how they compare to the prior year. We arrived at a deficit budget for 2025 hoping, of course, for an increase in revenue to reduce the deficit.

Here is where we stand as of June 30, the midpoint of the year:

- Total revenue was \$2,528,013. That is \$4,121 below our budgeted amount and \$37,554 better than we were last year at this point.
- Because expenses were slightly lower than



expected, we are \$13,380 above budget for income over expenses.

- Pledge income and non-pledge gifts are slightly below last year.

We continue to hope for a strong second half of the year. Please continue to share your generosity so that our wonderful work can continue.

Finally, I want to thank Finance Director Christine Ciaccio and her team for their excellent work assisting our committee.

### PAY IT FORWARD!

You're invited to continue your generous support of FPC far into the future. Planned giving (joining others in the Paisley Heritage Fellowship) is an easy way for you to keep on giving even after you've gone to your glory. Questions or info? Contact Christine Ciaccio, [CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) or (336) 478-4750.

found her thoughts were less about the cancer itself and more about how to live to the fullest. She met “thrivers” – people living their best possible life despite late-stage cancer. With this potent concept, she sought to deepen her relationship with God, having confidence that “God is good even when life isn’t.”

Next, she reflected on her experiences with job shifts, international moves, starting a church, experiencing burnout, and leading a church through the pandemic. The hard concepts of doubt and wavering belief that came with these are daily life for many people. For them (i.e., everyone), she’s written *How to Trust God When You Can’t Stop Worrying*, which offers direction in becoming “the calm, confident person you were created to be.”

The introduction to her latest book offers this: “If you’ve found yourself at the crossroads of doubt and faith, disappointed, disillusioned, distant from God, and worried your faith is slipping away, welcome.” Niki asks us to read *God, Can We Chat?* not like we would a novel, but to approach it as an activity with pauses for reflection. Her goal is to guide us as we reimagine doubt, framing it less as a negative and more as a way to wonder. She calls for interaction, some solo with teamwork an option, and it’s meant to be fun like a stroll with a friend. This is where the FPC Women’s Retreat will focus, in community with and support of each other, with time to contemplate, discuss, and imagine.

How did she get to this place where she could offer help to others? She remembers being called a faith leader early in her journey. She asked the person what they meant and got this reply: “I know you are a leader because people follow you.” Niki notes that a leader can be a “guru” in a particular area because they have lived an experience, or they can be a fellow traveler, living through it with you. Whenever possible, Niki tries to affirm that leadership ability in others, recommending a balance in vulnerability, grace, passion, and risk-taking.

She will share these ideas with us in January. “Women’s retreats are so vital to the heartbeat, connection, and spiritual life of the church,” she says. She sees much of a church’s behind-the-scenes fueled by women, and a retreat is a good way to signal that women are valued. She feels these gatherings deepen and renew friendships and cross-pollinate areas of the church as well as ages and backgrounds within the church.

In addition, she muses that retreats are a good way to reconnect with God, to move from talking about God to meeting God, from doing life *with* God rather than *for* God. We can voice concerns and ask questions we can’t elsewhere. There is an atmosphere of vulnerability and safety, a kind of connection that can’t happen at any other time.

Join your FPC sisters in faith and meet Niki Hardy at the FPC Women’s Retreat, January 24 & 25 at Grandover.

## A few updates on the life of the church

**APNC SEARCH:** The Nominating Committee for the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation has been working diligently through the summer. Look for an update on the search later this month.

**RENOVATION WORK:** Fencing is going up now, followed by scaffolding. 10x10 sections of wall will be tuckpointed initially to test the mortar and the process.

**NEW WEB SITE:** In mid-September the church’s renovated web site will go live. The address will remain the same. More info to come as we get closer.

**NEW DOOR CODES:** The exterior and interior doors have new entry codes. You can get them from your program leader or any staff member.

### WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

#### CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

**WORKSHOP:** Learn how to build stronger, more connected relationships, manage challenging behavior, and help children and adults regulate emotions, solve problems, and feel safe and valued. Two-hour overview September 4, full session September 5 in the Life Center. Sign up by August 28.

#### WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL FUN

**RUN** for kids, October 2; and 5K for adults, October 4. This is the WPC’s biggest fund-raiser of the year, and supports tuition assistance, teacher salaries, and more. Want to volunteer? Contact Rachel Sherwood, [RACHELSHERWOOD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RACHELSHERWOOD@GMAIL.COM) or Emily Morris, [810FITNESSGYM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:810FITNESSGYM@GMAIL.COM).

SIGN UP for these events and more at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP)

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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## NOMINATE OUR LEADERS

FPC members influence the direction of our church through nominating and electing our leaders each spring. The Nominating Committee prepares a slate of six elders and one trustee. Please suggest members whose leadership will strengthen the church and its mission for Christ.

### Deadline for nominations is September 19. Please:

**MAIL** this form to Debby Foster's attention at First Presbyterian Church, 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, 27401 "Confidential: Nominating Committee", or

**DROP OFF** (in a sealed envelope marked "Attn: Debby Foster") at the Welcome Center, or

**PLACE** it in the offering plate (sealed in envelope)

**EMAIL** Ross Harris, Nominating Committee chair, [RHARRIS31@TRIAD.RR.COM](mailto:RHARRIS31@TRIAD.RR.COM); or Andrew Spainhour, vice chair, [ANDREW.SPAINHOUR@REPLACEMENTS.COM](mailto:ANDREW.SPAINHOUR@REPLACEMENTS.COM) or Debby Foster, [DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

### I RECOMMEND:

(Why do you think they would be a good leader?)

PLEASE NOTE **E** FOR ELDER, **T** FOR TRUSTEE

*Nominating Committee:* Ross Harris, chair; Andrew Spainhour, vice chair; Lisa Anderson, Elizabeth Bostian, Louise Bristol, Tim Cook, Graham Farless, Walt Howell, Al Lineberry, Sharon Norman, Taylor Ott, Elizabeth Payonk, Tamara Slaughter, Zelle Jester Smith, Doug Stone

## 2025-26 Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs

*Adult Formation:* John Sullivan, Lisa Ganem. *Youth Formation:* Layne King, Catherine Freeze. *Children's Formation:* Lorie Jones, Katie Rich. *Church Officer Development:* Graham Farless, Nancy Abrams. *Communications:* Ty Buckner, Jean Pinckard. *Discipleship:* Nancy Courts, Alice Moore. *Finance:* Dave Thompson, Hugh Williams. *Hospitality:* Bet Vanderwerff, Patrice Newman. *Human Resources:* Lisa Cook, Rhonda Youngdahl. *Outreach:* Rhonda Wakefield, Hoke Huss. *Pastoral Care:* Sheri Evans, Marshall Brown. *Property:* Sam Simpson, Jonathan Wade. *Stewardship:* Tom Gillespie, Sue Cole. *Technology:* Adrienne Woods, chair. *Worship:* Morgan Hood, Margaret Benjamin. *Nominating:* Ross Harris, Andrew Spainhour. *Appointments:* Leigh Jones, Allison Cochran.