

November 2015

FPC news

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

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FIRST CHURCH PEOPLE

Sympathy

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Dorothy Reeves Hunter**, who died October 30, 2015.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Julian B. Friday**, who died October 30, 2015.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **Anne Fitchett Armfield**, who died October 24, 2015.

Sympathy to FPC member **Debbie Galloway** on the death of her mother, JoAnne Brannon, on October 23, 2015.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **William D. Snyder, Jr.**, who died October 22, 2015.

Sympathy to friends and family of FPC member **John Peterson**, who died October 21, 2015.

Sympathy to FPC member **Robert Hassard** on the death of his father, Thomas A. Hassard, on October 17, 2015.

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.

SHARE YOUR LIFE EVENTS WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Baptisms: Debby Foster
478-4702
dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org

Weddings: Anne Albert
478-4711
aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org

**Births, Adoptions, Address/Phone/
Email Changes:**
Sara Manchester
478-4722
smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org

Medical Issues, Crises, Deaths:
Pattie Murray
478-4709
pmurray@fpcgreensboro.org

Giving to God's work

As I start my first week at FPC, I would like to thank all of you who have participated in making this opportunity possible. I'm excited to be here, humbled by the opportunity, and grateful to each of you.

If you know something about my past you may be tempted to ask, "why FPC?" To me there is a simple answer, but it may not be obvious.



BY MYLES FISH
Director of Stewardship

I have been blessed to see God at work all over the world. I spent 17 years working in our nation's prisons with Prison Fellowship. Then as the President of International Aid, I helped to respond to the hardships caused by 9/11, the Indian Ocean tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan, and the wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq. I was privileged to see what clean drinking water can mean in Latin America and the impact the most basic healthcare can make in Ghana, the Philippines, and China. All of this might sound different from Greensboro, but there is a common thread.

Everything I have seen, done, or tried to do in ministry has been supported by faithful Christian stewards who made investments in God's work. Stewardship was a priority in the ministries where I served. We had whole teams that focused on it. We conducted trainings, hosted special weekend events,

and challenged everyone to higher levels of stewardship. Stewardship was a priority because we believed that nurturing the donor in stewardship was just as important to our ministry as was feeding the hungry or responding to disaster victims. Our donors were both supporters of our work and recipients of our ministry. It was an organic whole that couldn't be separated.

I believe this is the most honest and Biblical approach to development, but for reasons I don't understand, it often isn't practiced by local churches. In the typical church, stewardship is discussed once a year during the pledge drive. That is an unfortunate lost opportunity. Stewardship is one of the most dominant themes of the Bible and as believers we should be anxious to learn what God has in store for us as faithful stewards. The church, in my opinion, should lead in this arena, not follow, and we should do it because we want to grow and experience the full abundant life that God has called us to.

Why FPC?

My response is quite simple.

The leadership of FPC has expressed a desire to grow in stewardship. Yes, the bills have to be paid, but their emphasis is on the spiritual growth of the steward. I have tried to do that for most of my career but I've never had the opportunity to do it within the community of a local church. FPC has offered me that opportunity, so after much prayer, reflection, and soul searching my prayer ultimately became, "here I am Lord, use me."

My location and daily tasks may now be different, but my focus on Christ and the service of His kingdom will be exactly the same.

Dear Friends,

I find it poetic that Thanksgiving Day and Stewardship Season are in the same month. It seems to me they are philosophical & theological sisters, joined at the hip. On Thanksgiving Day we give thanks... but to Whom? Seems to me that the core reasons behind our giving to church, God and God's purposes, are an expression of thanks.



There is *good news* about giving: reports say that overall charitable giving by individuals increased 4.2 percent in 2013 (or 2.7 percent when adjusted for inflation). However, if not *bad news*, there is *concern* that giving to "religion" declined 0.2 percent in 2013. In the 1980s, nearly 60 percent of charitable giving went to churches. Today that figure has dropped to 31 percent.

I am all for giving generously to philanthropic causes that make the world a better place! But as someone who believes the church is God's primary vehicle in the world to express God's message, love and mission, I am concerned, yes, bothered, that we Christians would substitute "charitable causes" for the mission of the church. Look at today's world and ask this question: Has there been a time in recent memory when the world needed the church's influence as much as today?

True wisdom
and real **power**
belong to God;
from him we
learn how to
live, and also
what to live for.

Financial giving at First Presbyterian is a mixed bag. If you throw in the Capital Campaign of recent years (and its marvelous work of renovation!), the big picture of FPC giving is good and generous. However, the annual giving (which is the engine for our on-going mission) has been relatively flat for years. The blessing in these years of flat giving is that our core members keep increasing their commitment, which offsets the decline that comes from members who do not give at all, or those who give little.

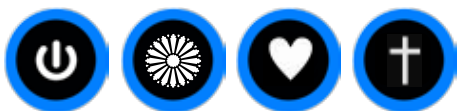
What I know and what I believe is that we can do better than this... and that God deserves our very best. We are the hands and feet of Christ.

- Job 12:13,
The Message

Tithing is a concept that seems ridiculous or impossible for some. It's a principle that God deserves and expects 10 percent of our income. Wherever we are on the giving scale, I hope we will measure our giving, not by amount but by our percentage, using the tithe as the bar God has set.

Blessings,

THE POWER OF GIVING



2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card to the church office as soon as you can.

If you have not received your pledge card, contact director of stewardship Myles Fish at (336) 478-4735.

You can also pledge online at fpcgreensboro.org/giving

Fair trade goods for the gre

Step into Ten Thousand Villages, and you are surrounded by the bright colors and many textures of exotic lands. Spices perfume the air, and strains of soulful music transport you to another place. You may think you've left home, until a warm voice says in a southern accent, "Welcome to Ten Thousand Villages!" and you realize you're still in Greensboro, not the *soukhs* of North Africa. But you have entered a place filled with goods from many other lands – in fact, each item in Ten Thousand Villages is handcrafted by artisans who live in more than 35 developing countries. You will find backloomed textiles made by women in Guatemala, fine silver jewelry crafted by Tuareg men, and smooth onyx pieces from Pakistan.



Come to FPC member Betty Hilliard's annual birthday event, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6-8 pm at Ten Thousand Villages (Jefferson Village Shopping Center off New Garden at Bryan Blvd). 15% of sales go to StepUp, our job & life skills ministry partner.

What you may not know upon walking through the front door, but will surely learn before you leave, is that Ten Thousand Villages exists for a greater purpose. All of this – the music, the crafts, the volunteers – exists to support people in developing countries who would otherwise suffer in poverty.

Volunteers? That's right. Ten Thousand Villages is staffed by dozens of

volunteers who see their work as an answer for those in developing countries who need someone to tell their stories and pay them a fair wage for their handicrafts. Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit organization, which

means that it exists solely to fulfill this mission of alleviating poverty for those in developing countries who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. Most of the artisans who make the products are women, many have overcome mental and physical disabilities, some have even escaped from harrowing situations such as sex trafficking.

Reaching out a helping hand to these artisans from across the globe is what brings together more than 65 volunteers who unpack boxes, arrange displays, and help customers find the perfect gift for someone they love. Without these dedicated volunteers, there would be no store, no sales, and no income for the people who need it so desperately. Income from the sales of their handicrafts gives artisans a life of dignity and the chance to change the lives of their families for generations to come; a woman who formerly begged on the streets and lived in a cowshed can now send her sons to college; a woman who turned to prostitution to make ends meet, escaping into drugs and alcohol to ease her grim existence, now has safe and lawful work, along with the support of a community of other women like herself.

How did this space filled with the best from all over the world come to its little corner of Greensboro? Ten Thousand Villages Greensboro came about through a group of people in Greensboro who wanted to make a global impact in a tangible way. Founded in 2004, the store has since provided more than a million dollars in income to artisans in countries like Bangladesh, Ecuador, and Uganda. Volunteers work hundreds of hours per month to make this a reality, not only in the store, but out in the community sharing the fair trade mission of the



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Water good

Ten Thousand Villages brings the developing world to Greensboro



organization. A dynamic Speakers Bureau engages audiences ranging from elementary students to senior citizens groups, helping them to understand how their purchases can make a difference. Creative events such as Little Villages, a shopping experience designed for children to be able to make their own holiday gift purchases and have them wrapped by a group of teen volunteers, focus on fun but also on conscious shopping and education.

Volunteers at Ten Thousand Villages Greensboro share not only their love for fair trade, but an appreciation of global culture. Surrounded by the textures and sounds of exotic lands, this volunteer opportunity is as unique as the handicrafts that fill the shelves. This shared interest in other cultures, and in social justice, unites volunteers from all walks of life – from 16 to 86, from those who have travelled extensively to those who only dream of doing so – mothers, businesswomen, artists, and many others enjoy their time volunteering, and all know that they have made a difference.

Enjoyment is an inherent part of the volunteer program at Ten Thousand Villages Greensboro. Although we take our mission seriously, we never take ourselves too seriously. Our resident comedienne's alter ego, Dorinda Sue Dowdy, has brought her own brand of Southern humor to

training videos and volunteer potlucks alike. Volunteers have been spotted dancing during our monthly Drum Circle, which is a free event for all members of the community. And four-footed canine greeters are a popular addition to our customer service when they come to volunteer with their owners.

Many volunteers have developed close relationships with their shift partners, exchanging books, keeping up with the exploits of kids and grandkids, and bringing each other treats such as small jars of homemade jam or a souvenir from a recent trip across the globe. The Volunteer Committee has worked

Greensboro's
Ten
Thousand
Villages
store began
with FPC's
International
Outreach
Committee,
11 years ago.

diligently to foster a sense of community, planning in-store events and field trips. Whether volunteers are enjoying a Saturday morning breakfast while they learn about new fair trade tea from local vendor Vida Pour Tea, or visiting an alpaca farm together so that they can better share with customers about our Andean knitwear – education, fun, and community go hand in hand.

Ten Thousand Villages Greensboro is a unique volunteer experience. It might seem challenging to keep up your enthusiasm and be dedicated to helping those you may never meet face to face, but for those volunteers who grasp the mission and make it their own, it is incredibly rewarding. The fun they have while working here is just a bonus to knowing that they can reach a helping hand across the globe when they come work at a place miles from home.

Our volunteers would tell you there's nowhere like it on earth.

Currie Library News

LOCATION: First floor of Smith Building

HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, 9-10:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Nancy Fuller, 478-4731 or nfuller@fpcgreensboro.org

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

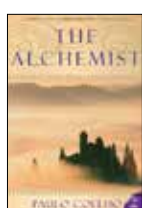
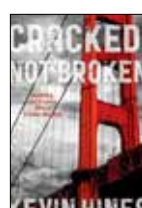
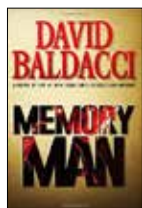
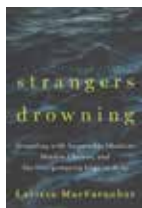
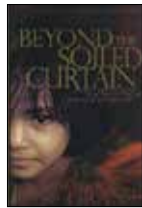
In memory of

Doris D. Benton: *A Long Letting Go: Meditations on Losing Someone You Love* and *Strangers Drowning: Grappling with Impossible Idealism, Drastic Choices, and the Overpowering Urge to Help*, given by Gloria and Debra Ditzler;

Litell Stephens Baird (mother of Christie Baird Mitchell): *Cracked, Not Broken*, given by Homebuilders Class;

Richard Andrew Cella (son of Eileen Lane and grandson of Sybil A. Tate): *Beyond the Soiled Curtain: Project Rescue's Fight for the Victims of the Sex-Trade Industry*, given by Eileen Lane and Sybil Tate;

Milnor Price Jones: *The Alchemist*, *Go Set a Watchman*, *Memory Man* (BCD), *A Spool of Blue Thread*, and *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, given by the Maharona B. Simpson Family.



CHECK IT OUT

In *Strangers Drowning*, author Larissa MacFarquhar confronts the reader with what it means to be human, how much we can and should help, and our own thoughts about what (and why) we value most in life. Neil Dunnivant suggested this book for our Currie Library Collection.

A Long Letting Go by Marilyn McEntyre is *Meditations on Losing Someone You Love*. She "invites caregivers to slow down for reflection and prayer as they prepare to say good-bye" to someone they love. The author is a longtime Hospice volunteer.

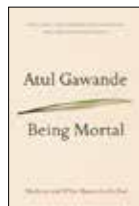
Dolly Jacobs recommended *Cracked, Not Broken* by Kevin Hines. Hines survived and thrived after a suicide attempt and is one of the leading mental health advocates of our time.

An interesting group of books/BCD has been given in memory of Milnor Jones. *Go Set a Watchman* is by Harper Lee. It is set two decades after her beloved Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Lee wrote this book 50 years ago but did not allow it to be published until 2015. *Memory Man* (BCD) by David Baldacci will be enjoyed by our BCD lovers. *A Spool of Blue Thread* is by Anne Tyler. Tyler is a very popular fiction writer among our FPC readers and Currie Library has ten other of her books.

Eileen Lane, who donated the book, *Beyond the Soiled Curtain*, writes that she "hopes that more awareness can be shared regarding this worst malady (the sex trade) afflicting our community".

IN THE BOOK CLUBS

Monday club:
November 9, 10:30 a.m.
Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande.
Maggie Turner facilitates.



Tuesday club:
November 10, 1:30 p.m.
A Bridge in Time by Ben Frazier. The author will facilitate.



Report from the Urban Ministry Food Drive –October 10, 2015

On Saturday, October 10, First Presbyterian Church participated in the Urban Ministry food drive at the Food Lion location on Lawndale Avenue, and we collected 1,276 pounds of food. Thanks to the following people who helped with collecting food that day: Kelly Harrill, Kelly Harrill, Alex Harrill, Susannah Washburn, Key Compton, Charles Compton, Carson Compton, Nancy Coble, Margaret Arbuckle, and Mike Bateman. – Hoke Huss

Giving a year, getting a better world

What happens to FPC youth once they graduate? Degrees? Jobs? Marriages? Moves? What follows are four accounts of young adult members who have chosen to devote a year or more of their lives to service. These young people work with VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) or its sister organization

Four FPC members have devoted a year (or more) of service to VISTA and AmeriCorps

BY SUSAN DEVANEY

FPC is proud to have four members working for the betterment of society.

Stationed closest to home is **Will Chase**, son of Bill and Donna Chase, who is beginning his second year as a resident assistant to mentally challenged tenants at Peacehaven Farm in Whitsett. Will is part of a team of 25-30 young people working with the AmeriCorps Partnership in Homelessness through Greensboro Urban Ministry, Mary's House, and Out of the Garden. The Peacehaven segment includes both VISTA and AmeriCorps workers as part of a self-sustaining residential facility which grows, preserves, and sells foodstuffs and crafts through the efforts of its residents,

AmeriCorps, the central component of the Corporation for National and Community Service. VISTA's mission is to eliminate poverty while AmeriCorps addresses critical community needs in education, health, public safety, and the environment. Service of this nature presents huge challenges, and

assistants, and community volunteers.

For Will, working five 24-hour shifts each week, "is a lot to take in. I'm a pretty big introvert, and now my whole life is being around people. I never set out to work with people with




Will Chase, resident assistant at Peacehaven Farm

disabilities, but it made sense to me. I knew our director from a mission trip I went on. He had confidence after our short week together that I had what it takes to do this."

What the job takes is diligence and a great deal of patience. "There were a lot of things I didn't think I could handle

that I can now: mostly the residents counting on me, looking up to me. It's stressful but equally rewarding. Some of the residents, for example, have A.D.H.D. and constantly ask questions, which is very hard for me. Having to answer a lot of questions shuts me down, and I have to find a quiet place. Another guy has spacial issues. I'm slowly having to teach him the importance of personal space. "

Although Will sometimes finds the constant responsibility taxing, he unquestionably enjoys his time with the residents. "In a way we've become family. It's wild seeing residents help each other out, being there for each other. I've seen them working together when one has an

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Giving a year, getting a better world

anxiety attack. Like any family, people can get on your nerves, but their cohesiveness and caring override it. “

Through Will’s AmeriCorps experience he’s discovered a clear sense of self, a greater maturity. “I’ve learned what I can handle and when to take a breather. And I’ve learned a lot about people with mental disabilities – at least about the three living at Peacehaven.” For one thing, Will no longer lumps “the mentally disabled” into a single category. Instead, he recognizes that every person – with or without mental challenges – has special strengths and needs.

“A.D.D. is big part of my life,” Will confesses. “I’ve always been drawn to people who are like me. We understand each other; there’s not as much judgment. That’s part of why I believe I’ll eventually choose [working with people in] some area of disability.”

Another FPC member, **Win Johns**, found equally intense placement with the AmeriCorps Conservation Corps. The son of Frank and Ann Johns, Win works on federal and state projects where he and his team, between five and ten hardy young people, clean up land and combat invasive species. It’s physically taxing but meaningful work.

“I learn something on every single project,” Win explains. “What a species does to the environment, how to get rid of it. It’s hard to eradicate a species entirely, but we can get it under control, or at least reduce or limit its growth.”

In many Colorado prairie areas, for example, Johnson grass sucks up precious water, causing other species to die. Russian olives and pampas grass may invade and wreak havoc. Win and his mates attack the aggressors with hoes and water bottles, working hard while attempting to stay hydrated.

Since he began his stint in January, Win has worked hitches in Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Florida, and Oklahoma. Because the national forest budget has suffered serious cutbacks, AmeriCorps recruits assume tasks formerly performed by foresters: felling trees, clearing brush, mending fences. In Florida, they helped rebuild beaches and cleared trails using chainsaws, weed-whackers, and death stars, tools similar to weed-whackers but sporting a powerful star-shaped ninja blade.

“The machinery is a little scary,” Win admits. “But I’m gradually getting better. I’m learning to be the best I can be efficiently and quickly.”

Still, there are hazards. While clearing acres of brush in a dense forest, Win suffered heat exhaustion. “The job takes a lot out of you,

“ he stated, in all seriousness, “but now I have enough energy at the end of the day to cook my own meals.”

If you’re getting the idea that Win is roughing it, you would be correct. AmeriCorps accommodations vary according to the area but usually consist of tents or bunkers.

“For most of July and August we stayed in bunkers within

national forests. One even had bedrooms. Whoa! I loved that hitch.”

According to Win, the best part of his service is seeing tasks through to completion. “We do work and finish it. That’s satisfying. This particular gig is great for anyone who enjoys the outdoors, nature, and seeing God’s beauties for what they are. Sunsets in Colorado are like heaven and I know I’m helping sustain the environment for years to come.”

Win’s sister, **Catherine Johns**, has made AmeriCorps a family affair. Win and Catherine’s brother, Abraham, formerly worked with City Year, another branch of federal volunteer service,



Win Johns works with the AmeriCorps Conservation Corps



from previous page

in San Antonio, and recommended they take time out to serve. Catherine's reasons for entry, however, were a bit different.



Catherine Johns' love for education led her to VISTA and Chain Reaction.

"I was at a stopping point, having finished my masters in anthropology. My specialty was in southern Mexican culture, but it's not safe to work there so I was searching for what to do next. I love education, so I began looking at VISTA. I chose this placement because I wanted to work with teens, and to experience a new location."

Now working out of the University of West Florida, Catherine helps recruit teens aged 14-18 to work with children aged 9-12, who themselves help even younger children. Through the program, called Chain Reaction, teen recruits accrue volunteer hours and gain leadership skills. Catherine and the other VISTA workers do not perform direct service to clients; rather, they "build capacity" among their recruits by teaching them to design, develop, and deliver programs and events.

The outcomes are, by any measure, innovative. One group recycled old t-shirts, cutting and remaking them into doggie chew toys for the Humane Society. Another team developed a Home Safety for Seniors program whereby the kids developed safety checklists and performed minor home upkeep jobs such as replacing light bulbs and installing safety strips. A third squad used donated Legos to create new projects in the form of animals, fruit, or popular cartoon figures. They then disassembled the puzzles, wrote instruction sheets, and delivered the final products as kits for hospitalized children.

Another aspect of Catherine's work involves Kids College, which offers classes in everything from soccer to bowling to Polynesian dancing to math games, money matters, and understanding statistics. "The teens at Kids College are my own

personal heroes," Catherine enthuses. "They work with 6-12 year-olds, handle security, take kids to the bathroom, usher injured children. One day the regular teacher didn't show up so the teens took charge. It's amazing. They give up their summer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily and abide by strict rules. One teen actually drove 2 hours daily just to serve."

Catherine has found working for a small non-profit is not easy. "It's hard getting the word out about our programs, hard living within budget. It's a challenge to use the skills I have developed and a challenge to engage the teens. Our teens come from every walk of life, all religions, all socio-economic groups; but they are some of the most outstanding citizens I know. They work really hard. Initially they come because they need service hours, and we feed them a lot of candy to make them happy. But ultimately they buy into the idea of the program as an incubator. Chain Reaction helps them grow, develop their resumes and their skills."

Speaking of skills, when **Will Leimenstoll** began his AmeriCorps placement with Durham's Habitat for Humanity, he had no construction experience. Undaunted, Will, the son of FPC members Jerry and Jo Leimenstoll, has begun learning to both manage volunteers and perform hands-on home construction.

"I'd never volunteered with Habitat although it was on my radar," Will explained. "In preparation, I went around to different sites, met the site supervisors, watched and learned. There is so much I don't know. It's been a trial by fire. I'm not a huge fan of heights, for example, but I had to go on a roof to work with a screw gun. It was a new tool in an environment well outside my comfort zone."

Will, however, is used to living outside his comfort zone. During college and afterward he studied and worked in Thailand, New Zealand, and South Africa, where he studied urban planning, city preparation for climate change, and prospects for building resilient communities. Despite this considerable breadth of experience, when a friend emailed Will about the AmeriCorps position, he jumped at the chance. Here was the chance for hands-on work of a different kind – close to family and on America's east coast.

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a visit with Louise Miller

“Welcome Louise!” read the sign that reserved a parking space for Louise Miller’s special visit to FPC on October 19. And that’s exactly what we did for this wonderful lady who served on our Weekday Preschool staff for 47 years, from 1945 to 1992.

Louise started as a teacher for 4-year-old children on the very first day our Weekday

Kindergarten began, in 1945. From that time on she became a “legend in her own time” about whom “Miss Miller”

BY CLYDE COOK
Parish Associate for
Congregational Care

stories are still told by former teachers, students and their parents. A lot of those stories were retold when Louise came to visit us.

A hearty, energetic 93 year-old, Louise came with her three nieces, who call her “Aunt Weezie.” She lives in Cary, N.C., and has resided at Glenaire Presbyterian Retirement Community since 1992. Louise participates in many Glenaire activities and has won the “Best Halloween Costume” contest every year since she moved there. She really gets pumped up for this annual event, because her birthday is on Halloween.

It was my privilege and pleasure to lead Louise and her nieces on a tour of all of our new sanctuary

and building renovations. We began in the Garden Room, which was Louise’s first Weekday Preschool classroom. Our adult exercise group was in session, and Louise joined right in with them shouting, “Let’s get with

it! Keep them hips moving!” In response, the exercise group sang “Happy Birthday, dear

Louise.” It really thrilled Louise when several of the group members came over and reminded her that she had been their children’s preschool teacher.

Our next tour stop was the sanctuary, and Louise could hardly believe how bright and beautiful it was. We took her to sit in the same pew she had sat in every Sunday. An extra sanctuary treat was an organ examination recital being played by a music student from UNC-G.

One of the most moving experiences of the tour was our visit through the Corl Building, where Louise taught from 1961 to 1992. She led us straight to her old classroom, where she met an energetic class of 4-year-old children. The room was filled with Halloween decorations. As we exited that classroom, a teacher from across the hall came out and exclaimed, “Miss Miller, what are you doing here?” This teacher, Fran Barnes, was one of Louise’s former students, and she is now a Lead Teacher in our Weekday Preschool. It was a joy to see Louise and Fran hug each other and reminisce about their time as teacher and student.

After a few more tour stops in the Mullin Life Center and in our First School area, we made our way to Cannon’s Solarium in our new Welcome Center, where a group gathered for a surprise luncheon. Nine of her former teaching buddies came and greeted Louise. We had a great time telling “Miss Miller” stories and recalling the wonderful experiences we had shared with her. As our time came to a close, I asked Louise, “What did you most enjoy on your tour today?” Without any hesitation, she smiled and replied, “being with the children again!”

I worked with Louise for 14 years as I served as an Associate Pastor at FPC, and I knew then, and again, as I made the tour with this amazing lady, that her life has always been about “being with children!” As I write this article, I give thanks to God for Louise *being* with hundreds of our children over her years as their teacher and friend.

Happy 94th Birthday and Happy Halloween, Dear Louise.



Louise Miller (seated) with (left to right) Clyde Cook, Lana Burske, and Fran Barnes.

THIS MONTH AT FPC

More: fpcgreensboro.org/events

NOVEMBER

Church offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving.

Giving Thanks!

WEDNESDAY DINNER, Nov. 18

Sign up today for our monthly Third Wednesday Dinner, featuring turkey, sweet potato souffle, green beans, cornbread stuffing, cranberry congealed salad, pumpkin and lemon chess pies (and cheese pizza for children) \$7/adults, \$5/ages 6-12, free/ages 5 and younger. RSVP by noon Nov. 17 at fpcgreensboro.org/wednesday

OUTREACH PROJECT, Nov. 18

After dinner on Nov. 18 we will prepare some "blessing bags" for veterans that the Weaver House serves. **Please bring** items such as toiletries, snacks, winter accessories, water bottles, etc., for the veterans.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, Nov. 26

Our annual Thanksgiving Day Worship Service begins at 10 am in the Sanctuary. Please bring canned food to donate as we give thanks for God's abundant blessings.

W O R S H I P

SUNDAYS: Sanctuary services, 8:30 & 10:45 am.
Rejoice! 10:45 am, Mullin Life Center.

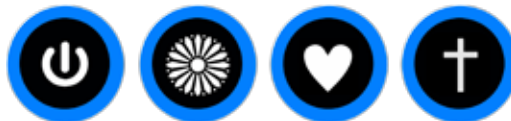
November 15: Three-service schedule returns. Sid Batts continues our 'Power Up' sermons with part 9: 'The Power of Anger.'

November 22: Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. Sid Batts concludes our 'Power Up' sermons with part 10: 'Power Sharing.' **Look for Advent devotionals in the Welcome Center!**

November 29: First Sunday of Advent. Dolly Jacobs begins our Advent sermon and children's message series, **'It's a Wonderful Life!'** At 5 pm, our *A Little Advent Music* series features Red Clay Saxophone Quartet, Sanctuary.

December 3: A Service of Remembrance. Noon, Memorial Chapel. .

THE POWER OF GIVING



Pledge online at fpcgreensboro.org/giving

OUTREACH

CANNED FOOD DRIVE – through Nov. 22, our Children's Ministry is leading a canned food drive for the Out of the Garden Project. Out of the Garden uses these contributions to fill food bags for families in need. Please bring your donations to the third floor of Corl.

Our children also are collecting winter clothing for **Backpack Beginnings**. Please place your donations in the bins in the Life Center.

HOT DISH & HOPE – 6 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays, Mullin Life Center. Share in the ministry that puts our faith into action as we serve dinner and a "measure of hope" to individuals and families in need. Info: Jill Tourtellot, jdtourtellot@gmail.com, or fpcgreensboro.org/hotdish.

STEPUP GREENSBORO – Donate gently used clothing to Encore!, StepUp's thrift store at Golden Gate Center – currently in need of warm winter clothing. While you are there pick up info on other ways to support this ministry to help people build stable lives. Call 676-5871 for info.

STEPUP AT TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES – Join FPC member Betty Hilliard's birthday party at **Ten Thousand Villages**, 6 to 8 pm, Nov. 18. StepUp Ministries will get 15% of sales! (Jefferson Village Shopping Center off New Garden at Bryan Blvd.)

YOUTH OUTREACH: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – See *youth column, next page*.

TRIAD CAREER NETWORK (formerly FPC JOBS) – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 am, Memorial 304. Anyone dealing with the effects of losing a job is welcome.

EVERY SUNDAY, we collect donations of non-perishable food for Greensboro Urban Ministry's pantry.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP – 10 am Wednesdays in the Garden Room, Smith 124. Women gather for fellowship and a devotional while hand-crafting blankets, lap robes & more items to be distributed to people in need in our community and beyond. Info: B.J. Williams, 288-8601; Hannah Britt, 288-9289; or Nancy Jewson, Well Spring coordinator, 288-0333.

A D U L T S P I R I T U A L F O R M A T I O N

Sunday classes open to all

LISTENING FOR GOD: SHORT STORIES – Faith Matters meets in Memorial 100 for an exploration of selected writings from the *Listening for God* series. Nov. 8: *Pray Without Ceasing* by Wendell Berry; Nov. 15: *While I Was Gone* by Sue Miller; Nov. 22: *The Tie That Binds* by Jebt Haruf; Nov. 29: *Mr. Green* by Robert Olen Butler.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHARITY AND JUSTICE on Nov. 8 with Rev. Frank Dew in Homebuilders class, Memorial 200, Spencer Love Room, followed by **SPIRITUALITY AND THE NEW TESTAMENT** on Nov. 15 and 22 with Doug Key.

THE SIX GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH with Wendy Duncan is the topic Nov. 8-22 in Agape, which meets in the Garden Room. During Advent, beginning Nov. 29, **Agape welcomes everyone to an intergenerational Advent study** focusing on the Moravian Lovefeast.

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

REVELATION STUDY led by Gerard Davidson in Seekers, Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.

YMBC meets in Redhead Hall. This month's guests include Claudia McCoy from Presbyterian Counseling Center on Nov. 8; David Kolosiekie, our director of finance and operations, on Nov. 15; and Kevin Geurink, our second Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident, on Nov. 22.

Small groups and studies

Beth Moore Study Group – Wednesdays, 4 pm Memorial 200 (Spencer Love Room).

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 – Growing In Faith Together, 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 – open 9 am-3 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 9-10:30 am Sundays. Info: 478.4731 or nfuller@fpcgreensboro.org

Currie Library Book Clubs – Monday Club meets Nov. 9 at 10:30 am to discuss *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande with Maggie Turner facilitating; Tuesday Club meets at 1:30 pm Nov. 10 to discuss Ben Frazier's *A Bridge in Time* with the author facilitating. Both clubs welcome new members.

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

HAM & SAUSAGE BISCUITS

free while they last –
 Sunday mornings in
 the Welcome Center,
 for that warm, welcomed feeling.



YOUTH

Sunday mornings – 9:30 a.m., 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.

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

Operation Christmas Child –

Please bring an empty shoe box on Sunday, Nov. 15, for Operation Christmas Child. The congregation is encouraged to bring giftwrap and shoeboxes for this project.



Middle School parents: We need drivers for the evening's project. Contact Sara Manchester, 478-4722 or smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org, to sign up.

Confirmation – Parents of eighth grade youth should have received a packet in the mail concerning Confirmation. We will have an informational meeting in Mullin Life Center after our 10:45 am worship services on Sunday, Nov. 15. If you need more information, contact Sara Manchester, 478-4722 or smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org.

CHILDREN

Bring more food, and clothes! – Please bring canned food to church on Sundays for **Out of the Garden Project's** efforts to help hungry children! We're also collecting winter clothes for **Backpack Beginnings**. Look for bins in the Life Center, or bring donations to Corl.

Kindergarten: Growing, Grateful, Generous Hearts Milestone – Sundays through Nov. 15: Kids and parents learn about stewardship of time, talent, money, and creation.

Kids Disciple Club work day – After worship Sunday, Nov. 8, Kids Disciple Club (grades 3-5) will work at the Out of the Garden Project's Warehouse off N.C. 68. Contact Sara, 478-4722.

Preschool Story Times – Nov. 18 and 19, 1:15 pm in the Welcome Center's children's space.

MUSIC

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

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

Children's choirs – Wednesdays:

- 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.

Chancel Choir – The adult choir welcomes new singers. Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, Smith 301.

Organ recital – Nov. 13 at 7:30 pm, Christopher Jacobson, Duke Chapel's new organist, will play in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

A Little Advent Music – Our annual Advent music series returns this year! The series begins Sunday, Nov. 29, at 5 pm with a special concert from Red Clay Saxophone Quartet.

CONNECTION

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.

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

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon – Nov 9, noon in Mullin Life Center, with special guest Jessica Bryan who will speak on *My Big Golden Book of Gratitude!* RSVP to Rachel Sommers, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org or 478-4799.

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, 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.

Almanah – Our group for widows has its next meeting at 1 pm Nov. 10 over lunch at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steak Restaurant, 6108 W. Market St. We invite all widows to join us for fun, fellowship and food. Please call or e-mail Becky Peters so she can make reservations: 336-545-7757 or becky_p@bellsouth.net.

UKirk Greensboro – invites First Presbyterians to monthly worship, the first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Holderness Presbyterian House, 409 S. Mendenhall St., near UNCG. UKirk connects young adults and college students with local congregations including ours. Next meeting is December 1. More information is available at ukirkgo.org.

SPIRITUS – Congregational Care of FPC is starting a caregivers' support group for all members who are caring for a loved one. Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 1 pm in Redhead Hall for a one-hour conversation led by Dolly Jacobs and Maggie Turner. See page 15 for more info.

Women's Retreat 2016 – Save the date! January 22-24, 2016. More info, page 14 – registration coming soon!



Join FPC member Betty Hilliard's birthday party at **Ten Thousand Villages**, 6 to 8 pm, Nov. 18. StepUp Ministries will get 15% of sales!

Jefferson Village Shopping Center off New Garden at Bryan Blvd.

session digest

Minutes of the September Session meeting
Approved at the October Session meeting

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, October 19, 2015

The stated meeting of Session of First Presbyterian Church was held on Monday, October 19, 2015, starting at 5:15 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 136. Those gathered sang the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry.

Guests: John Alexander, David Kolosieke, Tim Millisor, Aaron Ferry, Libby Boehne, Donna Chase, Wendy Duncan, and Kevin Geurink.

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the September 21, 2015 stated meeting of the Session.
- From the Discipleship's Office: September attendance, membership, and visitor reports.
- Committee Reports: Adult Education; Children's Education; Outreach.

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

Finance

Art Winstead, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided the financial update for September by reviewing the

reports provided with the agenda. Art also reported that the final bills for the masonry repairs have been received, and in response to a question from a member of Session, he explained that Tim Millisor and the Property Committee are keeping track of HVAC costs. Tim has been making adjustments throughout our renovated and vacated space that should help achieve some of the cost savings that were anticipated with the installation of our new HVAC zone system.

Scripture Reading: Elder Vance Barron read *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*.

Stewardship

Sid announced that he had hoped to introduce to the Session tonight the new FPC Stewardship Director, Myles Fish, this evening, but he was still en route from Michigan to Greensboro, so that introduction will occur at a future Session meeting.

Annual Campaign

Dan Goley, Chair of the Stewardship and Generosity Committee, described the purpose of a *Motion re: Church Financial Confidentiality that would allow certain limited financial information to be provided to the new Director of Stewardship, the Stewardship and Generosity Committee, and the Nominating Committee.*

Dan also encouraged all Session members to turn in their Stewardship Campaign pledge cards for 2016 before Stewardship Sunday, November 8th.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Prayers for the People

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

Growing Deeper, Wider and Tech Savvy – What we have seen and experienced

- We have a new Communications and Technology Committee. Two meetings have been held.
- We have a great group of new members.
- The CROP Walk was a success.
- The new online Church Directory system is well liked by those that have signed up.
- Storytime for Children's Education has gone well.
- The Children's Choir efforts are much appreciated.

New Business – For the Good of the Session

- No new business items were presented for Session information or action.

Neil Dunnivant gave the closing prayer.

The meeting of the Session was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,

Reid Wilcox
Clerk of Session



2016 Women's Retreat January 22-24, 2016

The Carolina Inn • Pinehurst, North Carolina

Marilyn Wolf, a faculty member at The Servant Leadership School in Greensboro, will help us use the Enneagram to consider the unique  God has given each of us!





Congregational
Care Ministry

SPIRITUS: a caregivers' support group

Caregivers are unsung heroes. They are spouses, parents, grown children, and friends who care for a loved one who is suffering from an illness, a disability, or a mental health concern.

These caregivers are a variety of ages but all have in common similar concerns, and a much needed time to care for their own spiritual life in the midst of their selfless care for another.

Congregational Care of FPC is starting SPIRITUS: a caregivers' support group for all members who are caring for a loved one. **We invite you to join us on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 1 pm in Redhead Hall for a one hour conversation led by Dolly Jacobs and Maggie Turner.** We would love for you to join us.

Care for your loved one is available during our gathering in the Blair Hagan room with a reservation (contact Maggie Turner, 478-4724 or mturner@fpcgreensboro.org).

Christmas Memorial & Honor Gifts

Honor family and friends this season with a contribution to Hot Dish & Hope or a poinsettia plant in our Sanctuary on December 20, Christmas Eve, and December 27. **Memorial and honor gifts** will be acknowledged in a booklet at worship December 20 and which will also be available online.



Hot Dish & Hope allows us to put our faith into action as we serve dinner and a measure of hope to those in need. Meals are served Tuesdays & Thursdays in Mullin Life Center and include a message of God's love.

The dozens of poinsettias that are donated as honor or memorial gifts will make our worship space warm and bright throughout the Advent season, beginning with the worship services and the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 20. Poinsettias are \$15 each and may be picked up after the 11 p.m. service Christmas Eve, or the 10:45 a.m. service December 27.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

- Hot Dish & Hope Poinsettia

The acknowledgement of my gift to appear in the December 20 booklet should read: *(please print)*

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

HONOR GIFTS

- Hot Dish & Hope Poinsettia

The acknowledgement of my gift to appear in the December 20 booklet should read: *(please print)*

Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Deadline is Monday, November 30, 2015.

Payment must accompany forms. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate Hot Dish & Hope or Poinsettia. *Please make a separate check for each fund.* Do not include your pledge in the same check; funds must be accounted for separately. **Mail to: First Presbyterian Church, Attn: Christmas Memorials, 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, N.C. 27401.** Go to fpcgreensboro.org/memorialandhonor to make your honor and memorial gifts online.

KEEP
WARM
AND
SUPPORT
YOUTH
MISSIONS!

ORDER FPC SWEATSHIRTS!

Sundays: Welcome Center & Life Center before 10:45 am services cash or check
Wednesday dinner: November 18, Life Center cash or check • 24/7: fpcgreensboro.org/youth credit card only

\$35

Youth &
adult sizes

Order by
Dec. 6

Pick up after
Dec. 13

