

FPC news

February 2015

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

all u need is



love does at fpc, page 4

gettin' the dream team together, page 8

puttin' roots in the garden, page 5

hittin' the road to resurrection, page 7

FIRST CHURCH PEOPLE

Welcome new members

Please welcome the following new members who joined in January.



Bill & Cindy Schink



Bob & Lou Heinzelmann



Peggy Young & James Stimpson



Herve Betel



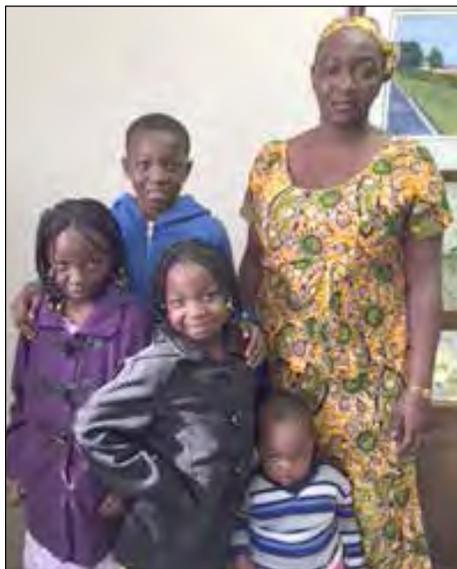
Bodin Kamdje



Leigh & Dave Abraham with Luke, Carter & Kendall



Tommie Anne Moore



Sylvie Oussa with Leonel, Estelle, Armel & Jade

NOT PICTURED:

- Linus Addae
- Philomene Betel
- Joyce Chamblee
- Karen & Chris Cook & son Tyler
- Stephani Doyle
- Cliff & Alyssa Mann
- Elizabeth Preyer

More PEOPLE
continues, page 4



Dear Friends,



In Sunday's N&R, Bill Hancock wrote this about downtown Greensboro:

The stars are aligning for 2015. A performing arts center, a new hotel, a renovated Southeastern Building, the \$10 million LeBauer Park – they are all on the way. And that's just at the north end. Seven blocks to the south is the planned Union Square with two large university campus buildings and apartments. Plus more work on the greenway that will circle downtown. More businesses. Even a rundown vacant building reimaged as a hip-cool brewery. It's all coming together.

Comedians often speak of the importance of timing. So does scripture. “For everything there is a time and a season.” It seems to me that the timing of our renovation puts us in the vortex of downtown Greensboro's transformation and gives us a unique place to imagine our future.

As I write this, the staff offices are being moved from Shetler to the Smith Building. Our new hub in Smith combines offices, people, the Welcome Center, a new synergy and more potential points of connection. It seems the timing is right.

We are still in transition. Though the renovation is mostly complete, February and beyond will still see us working on mastering the lighting, video, sound and temperature in the sanctuary. Furniture that has been in storage is coming out and being placed in the Smith building, tower room, narthex, and Virginia Gilmer Room. Paintings and photographs are being placed on the walls. Scaffolding will be up in the chancel area for several weeks as the Letourneau organ folks will be here completing the re-installment, voicing and tuning. We are getting there! By May all should be “decent and in order.” Our plan is to have a Grand Reopening celebration on May 3.

February brings Bob Goff, a Christian writer and noted author of *Love Does*. He will be our preacher for the one worship service on February 8 at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary. February also walks us into Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18. A service of the Imposition of the Ashes will begin our Lenten season. What a meaningful service!

Lent will see us on a “Road to the Resurrection” and a sidebar will include an idea we stole from some Episcopal churches out west. It is called Lenten Madness, a takeoff on basketball's March Madness, where we too will have brackets! But with a twist. Our brackets will include notable spiritual heroes and heroines, all with great influence on the Christian tradition. Think John Calvin, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther, Thomas Merton, Augustine, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Julian of Norwich, etc. Intrigued? We will see who makes it to the final four ... i.e., we vote for our favorites after learning more about them!

My prayer is that God will lead us in this confluence of downtown and FPC, and help us see what it means to be the church at this unique time in our history.

Blessings,

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

P.S. My article about our renovation is in the January issue of Presbyterian Outlook. It has great pictures. Copies are available in the Welcome Center.

FIRST CHURCH PEOPLE

continued from page 2

Birth

Congratulations to **Brad & Courtenay Fields** on the adoption of their son **Hatcher Franklin Fields**, born December 16, 2014.

Sympathy

Sympathy to family and friends of member **Robert Carlson**, who died January 21, 2015.

Sympathy to FPC member **Alan Duncan** on the death of his father on January 20, 2015.

Sympathy to family and friends of member **Charles Decatur Cunningham, Jr.**, who died January 12, 2015.

Sympathy to family and friends of member **Gretchen Fanny Wyatt**, who died January 6, 2015.

Sympathy to FPC member **Wil Courter** on the death of his mother on January 6, 2015.

Sympathy to FPC member **Robin Hinton** on the death of her father, Fred D. Herring, on December 28, 2014.

Baptisms

On January 11, 2015, the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

- **Hooper Matthew Barbee**, son of **Ben & Elizabeth Barbee**.
- **Anna Lee Botros**, daughter of **Lucas & Christy Botros**.
- **Brigman "Briggs" Lee Clemmons** and **John Beckett "Beck" Clemmons**, sons of **Bryan & Ashton Clemmons**.
- **Henry Vernon Cunningham IV**, son of **Tripp & Meredith Cunningham**.
- **Whitten Lunsford Richardson**, son of **Tyler & Lori Richardson**.

no church starts up
hoping to be typical.



let's get back to leading
that amazing ministry
we were aiming for.



love does
at fpc

with author & life-changer

BOB GOFF

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Convo with youth, 9:30

One service, 10:45

Book signing afterward

LOOK FOR LOVE DOES STUDY GROUPS BEGINNING IN MARCH!



a new season in the garden

It happened fast and gave big! That's the short story of the Giving Back Garden (GBG). A spontaneous idea at the 2014 Women's Retreat turned into a quick turnaround project involving loads of volunteers, lumber, fill dirt and mulch, plus a wheelbarrow full of paperwork and a big pile of plumbing.

All the initial building work is done, and a successful harvest of more than half a ton of fresh produce was provided to our city's food-insecure families. Now it's time to look at what's next for the Giving Back Garden.

BY TAMARA SLAUGHTER

How, asks co-coordinator Jane Trevey, can we set up this garden project so it's self-sustaining? How can we make it a well-fertilized machine for the future?

Jane envisions a group of about a dozen people leading through the Giving Back Garden Guild. They would manage the project over the course of a year. That includes selecting crops, getting the seeds and seedlings, recruiting people to "adopt" plots, and coordinating maintenance, planting, harvest and delivery, plus organizing groups eager to volunteer, such as new elders, youth groups, church school classes and Scout troops.

How did it all happen? Ask Jane, and she'll tell you, "God did it." Ask GBG co-coordinator Glenn Williamson, and he'll tell you, "God gave us Jane!" He tells about how Jane took the Women's Retreat idea and \$1,800 donation and ran with it, transforming an unsightly, uneven church-owned lot at the corner of Fisher Avenue and Greene Street into a blooming, verdant rose window garden.

Jane, in turn, says that she didn't do a thing until she got Glenn on board. "It would have been impossible without him," she states emphatically. She goes on to stress that God's hand was apparent at every turn. The right people with the right

continues, next page ►

the giving back garden guild



FIRSTPRESBYTERIANCHURCH

from page 5

skills kept showing up at just the right time, along with a donation to provide just the right supplies. Even the planting bed design seemed like a sign to go on, as the beautiful rose window plan of Boston Project Ministries Garden was the first picture to show up when Jane searched online. When she sought 13 teams to adopt plots, she got exactly 13 calls. There are so many instances like this, it seems the project was destined to succeed.

By what measure can we judge the garden's success? The first measure is the almost 1,800 pounds of food provided to the community. While it was originally hoped that the church kitchen could use produce for Hot Dish & Hope, that didn't work out as planned. Providing fresh vegetables directly to people experiencing homelessness was also problematic, as they have nowhere to prepare and cook the produce.

Instead, much of the bounty went to Share the Harvest, an organization that provides a distribution point for all community gardens to donate fresh goods. One downside that Jane notes with this method is that no one involved with the garden gets to interact with the people receiving the fruits and vegetables. She'd like to see an opportunity for gardeners and volunteers to interact with and get to know the folks who enjoy the harvest, maybe even sharing recipes and preparation tips. For now, that's on the "to-do" list.

Another measure of the success of this project is that fact that it's evolving. After this initial year, plans for improvement are already in the works for the coming season. A Boy Scout is exploring the possibility of putting in a drip irrigation system as an Eagle Project. Planting earlier, in February and March, is in the works and would allow for another turn of the beds later in the season. More Japanese eggplant might be added, as produce recipients from South Africa are eager for this vegetable that features prominently in their cuisine. Corn might not get a second chance this summer, as there's not



What's Grown in the Garden? Broccoli, cabbage, onions, peas, cucumbers, peppers, radishes, eggplant, okra, beans, squash, tomatoes, kale, collards, elderberries, figs, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, herbs, nasturtiums.

enough space to produce a volume crop. Glenn also reports that last year's cantaloupe got powdery mildew fungus, so that may be out, as well. Plants sure to return are tomatoes and yellow squash, plus a big bed of zucchini. Glenn would like to see more green beans, but they require frequently harvesting, not ideal for volunteers unable to stop by every day. Beans are healthy, well-liked, and easy to prepare, so Glenn hopes top-notch bean harvesters will be ready this summer!

This is the initial thought process; suggestions are welcome. The goal is for the GBG Guild to get up and running, using information gathered from the first season and adding spice to the broth with creative ideas. In talking about the project, Jane conveys gratitude to see church members and friends mobilize for the benefit of people they never see. "There is no direct thanks or praise, but it's a beautiful exercise," she affirms. If being part of a beautiful exercise is for you, plan to be part of the Giving Back Garden Guild!

INFO ON THE GARDEN AND THE GUILD: Jane Trevey, cptjw@aol.com or 617-6691
PLANNING MEETING AT DEEP ROOTS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 1, AT NOON

r o a d t o t h e
RESURRECTION



LENT 2015 / FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Taking time to pray is hard. Busy schedules get in the way, distractions come and go and sometimes we just forget. This Lent you're invited to join us on

a journey to make prayer a priority. This is our third year praying together – 300 people already are participating! Imagine the transformation that can happen when a large group comes together in virtual prayer.

FPC youth practice the four types of prayer, ACTS. (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication). Throughout the 40 days we'll pray from each category.

Each day, you'll receive a text sent straight to your phone with a simple prayer. Take a second to pray.

This project is open to anyone; parents, youth, grandparents, friends, babysitters, coworkers, friends in California. Really, ANYONE! Spread the word!

Want to join us? Text @40days to 81010.

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 6 pm, Sanctuary. Libby Boehne, our seminary resident, will be the preacher. Children & youth will help lead.

Lenten Contemplative

Services: Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25, 6 pm, Memorial Chapel. Led by Sid Batts

First Sunday in Lent,

February 22. Devotionals for children, youth & adults available in the Welcome Center.

Palm Sunday, March 29
 Palm Processional, children's choirs sing at 10:45 service

Holy Week Services in the Sanctuary,

5:30 pm
 Monday, March 30: Sid Batts; Tuesday, March 31, & Wednesday, April 1: Libby Boehne and Austin Carty

Maundy Thursday, April 2
 Sanctuary, 7:30 pm

Tenebrae Service, April 3
 Sanctuary 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 5
 Full length services, 8:30 & 10:45 am, Sanctuary

CHILDREN

First Sunday in Lent, February 22

- Pick up a Lenten devotional in the Welcome Center.
- Children's Message during Lent/ Easter will focus on the symbols of the sanctuary and the season.

Church School: 9:30–10:20 am K-4 on 3rd floor Corl Building, 5th in Memorial 300. In March we will be **Preparing for Easter**. Keep up on weekly Bible stories, music, games & more on the free GROW PROCLAIM SERVE app.

Kids Disciple Club, February 22, 3–5:30 pm. 3rd- through 5th-graders lead Lenten devotions & make crosses with our members at River Landing retirement community. Meet on FPC upper parking deck to carpool. Bring offering money & clothing for StepUp's consignment store.

Palm Sunday Celebration,

Sunday, March 29, 10:20 am, Mullin Life Center circle. Preschool & elementary families & children's choirs will carry palms and follow the donkey and crowds into Jerusalem (and the sanctuary and Rejoice).

Family Egg Hunt, Saturday,

March 28, 10–11:30 am, Mullin Life Center. Crafts, games, music, Easter story and egg hunts by ages. Bring your basket, a breakfast item to share, and gently used children's clothing for our outreach project. Bins will be around campus starting March 1 for donations for the eggs: individually wrapped, nut-free candies, Easter stickers, small toys, etc. are welcome!

Easter Sunday Celebration,

Sunday April 5, 10 am, Columbarium. Ring bells and sing the Easter Alleluias! No regular church school. Rain plan is to move to Welcome Center.

ADULTS

Deepening Our Prayer: the Heart of Christ, March 4–25,

6:30–7:30 pm, Blair Hagan Room. Led by Donna Chase, Helen Spigner & Libby Boehne. Daily prayer and reading from Companions in Christ workbook, available in the Welcome Center, \$15. RSVP by March 1: smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org or 478.4722.

DETAILS TO COME

Lenten Madness: Learn about thinkers and doers who have made a lasting difference in the Christian faith. (See info in Sid's column on page 3.)

Display of Crosses: All ages are invited to share a cross, with a note about its significance, to be displayed in the Welcome Center in March. They will be on view through Easter.

Children's cross-making event will be held in the Welcome Center in March.

REV. LARRY AVENT

has been part of the FPC staff since 1989. He has degrees from Hampden-Sydney College and Union Presbyterian Seminary. "I am in the business of hatching, matching and dispatching, he says. He and wife Margaret Ann have 2 daughters (one deceased), 4 grandchildren & 1 great-grandchild.



REV. CLYDE COOK,

part-time Parish Associate, served as FPC's Associate Pastor for Education and Community Ministry 1977-1991. He also served churches in Texas, Kentucky, Florida & Pennsylvania. A native Texan, he roped cattle as a youth and enjoys outdoor pursuits, particularly fishing.



REV. FRED

HORNER served as Senior Associate Pastor of Program Administration under pastors Jerry Shetler and Sid Batts for 16 years. After a brief retirement in 2003, he returned as Parish Associate for another three years. Now he gratefully "unretires" to work in the same capacity as a part-time volunteer. His ministry will focus on visiting members in their homes, hospitals, and retirement communities.



After a brief retirement

REV. DAVID PARTINGTON

returns as Parish Associate. Over his long career David has served Congregational Care and Adult Ministries at FPC and at Westminster Presbyterian in Greensboro. Throughout he has provided pastoral care and devotional leadership at Well Spring retirement community. He is well known for his devotion & participation in Music Ministry.



A long time Deacon and Elder, **RUSSELL SHERRILL** was first invited to become a church visitor in 1995. Since then he has been a continuing presence at the bedsides of hospitalized church members. He will continue in the capacity of congregational visitor and contribute as part of the Congregational Care leadership team.



MAGGIE TURNER

served as FPC's Congregational Nurse until retiring in 2010. Her work was recognized for excellence by the Cone Health Congregational Nurse program in 2009. She returns as administrator of the Sadye Bowles Fund, which helps senior adults stay in their homes as long as possible.



Also, senior pastor Sid Batts and executive pastor Neil Dunnivant will continue to share in Congregational Care.

me
HAN

Have you heard? Among the at FPC, Congregational Care Dolly Jacobs, longtime head of and New Member ministry has leadership of a refashioned and ministry of Congregational Care

BY SUSAN DEVANEY

membership: paying attention feel disconnected from their s recognizing transitions such a illness, or job loss. It means ta to grave" perspective regarding members at every stage of life As Dolly observed, "We can't we can surely walk alongside With the formation of our new sufficient expertise and body p congregational needs effective Once Dolly accepted her new of the Dream Team, as she cal followed. Dolly, along with Sid Dunnivant, invited David Part out of his recent retirement. E bringing a comprehensive – a – care plan from 2008, written members of today's team.

"There are rich stories and I Dolly says. "We need to be tho rhythm of the present system things too much. In large part job to sit and listen to the Cor Care committee and others al certainly not to make major c In this manner the Dream T "We kept inviting and now we wonderful experienced folks w

ore
NDSDS



more
HEARTS

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Team took form.
e have all these
who have been

involved for years: pastors Clyde Cook, Larry Avent, and Fred Horner. Maggie Turner’s coming back with her background in nursing. We already had Russell Sherrill who knows so many people, he could be mayor of Greensboro! The upshot is that nine times out of 10 when we get a call, we can now assign a pastor or caregiver that members already know. I could never handle this assignment without this collective body of knowledge and expertise.”

When Dolly first arrived at FPC 12 years ago, she did not consider herself a natural pastoral Congregational Care person. “What all of us are called to do as pastors is to walk alongside the people of God, and I was doing that in visitor and new member ministry, but this new call gives me a chance to journey alongside people who welcome us into the very heart of their joy and pain. When Sid and Neil came to me and said we think you might be the right person to lead this ministry, it was one of the finest compliments I’ve ever received.”

Dolly is a woman of many talents and breadth of education. Her first degree was in creative writing, but although her major professor wanted her to pursue writing at a top graduate school, she knew she wasn’t “disciplined in that way.” Instead, she fell back on her love of the church and an early ambition “to walk alongside the people of God.” Upon graduation, she became director of youth ministry in her childhood church, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church in New Orleans. Although she was naturally drawn to hearing people’s stories, it soon became apparent that she needed additional skills to respond to the predictable troubles of youth: eating disorders, drugs, parental discord, divorce and death.

Her head of staff recommended she obtain a counseling credential, which she did: a master’s degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling. It provided Dolly with the fundamental listening and questioning tools central to developing empathic relationships.

Throughout her career, Dolly has honed those skills. “Everybody yearns to know that they are loved and made in the image of God. I love this congregation so much. It’s such a faithful, spirit-driven congregation, and with the new members and visitors I get to hear stories of how God has called them here. I get to help them get connected. Then six months down the road I’ll hear, ‘Oh, Dolly, I served at Hot Dish & Hope last night’ or ‘I love the Bible study I joined.’ There is great joy in having people say, ‘I’ve finally found my spiritual home.’

“It’s been bittersweet leaving Discipleship, but now God is calling me to enter gently and quietly into the sacred moments of people’s lives where their faith in God is often deepened.

“But at age 42, I’ve been here long enough to see some of the struggles of the families I’ve walked with in Discipleship. Some of the children have disabilities. A family may have suffered financial reversals through job loss; couples may be struggling in their marriages. With this new call, I can broaden my perspective to all members. I’m honored to have the opportunity to learn again, to work with the best team ever put together. I’m thrilled to be a part of where God is going to take us.”

Changes may ultimately be in the works, but there are already many FPC small groups

continues, next page



HANDS and HEARTS *from page 9*

committed to congregational care. First Friends extends friendship to members who feel disconnected. They adopt a friend, whom they visit, invite to movies, or take on outings. Fast Friends, a third group, takes on chores such as picking up dry cleaning or making a pharmacy run, small errands requiring little time. A Mental Health team offers speakers and promotes mental health issues within the church.

Congregational Care also includes the Circle of Friends, bringing meals to families of deceased members and staying in their homes during funerals. The Bereavement Group writes notes of consolation on behalf of the church. MOMS brings a Bible and hot meal, along with a note from Sid, to new mothers shortly after a baby arrives. In addition, there's the Almanah Group in support of widows; the DVD ministry that sends sermons to retirement communities and the homebound; and the flower ministry that dismantles sanctuary flowers, reassembles them into small vases and makes deliveries to recent surgical patients and others. A group writes birthday cards to express love and care from the church to our oldest members, the Functional Fitness class keeps older adults flexible, and the Parking Assistance Ministry helps those with mobility issues get into the sanctuary for worship.

"Not only are these incredible ways for people to get involved, but they are important ways to show that the church loves you, is thinking about you," Dolly explains. "My job right now is to see what's in place, what might have run its course, and where we might go next."

Dolly has asked each team member to determine what role they would like to play. Would they enjoy leading devotionals at retirement communities? Hospital or home visitation? Worship leadership on Sundays? "All the team members are part time. They are all enthusiastic, but I want their ministry to be joy-filled. I want them to wake up in the morning excited about who they might see that day, not



'We can't fix things, but we can offer love, care, and the knowledge that they're not alone.'

– Rev. Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

exhausted from being stretched too thin.

"Congregational Care is a hidden, quiet ministry, one of being present. We can't fix things but we can offer love, care, and the knowledge that they're not alone. As the body of Christ we can respond to people, pay attention to the cues they give us, recognize changes in life such as birth, death, illness, marriage, adoption."

The ministry is also one of empowerment, teaching one another

how to care. "I noticed that after I went through my divorce, more people came to me. I think I seemed more real. The same thing happened after I dealt with my own postpartum issues. I tell people, 'Some day you will sit alongside another person, put your hand in theirs, and be able to understand what they're going through as no one else can.' Where one is weak, another is strong or will become strong. Congregational Care is not just a ministry where pastors and staff are giving all the care. It's the body of Christ, the heart of who we are. It's in-reach as opposed to outreach."

Responsibility for Discipleship and new members now lies primarily with Wendy Duncan, who also manages Adult Education. "I'm looking forward to seeing what Wendy does with Discipleship. She is going to take it to new places, and I'm glad she wants the pastors to be part of it. Wendy was also instrumental in helping the Welcome Center come together.

"When we reopened and prayed together in the Center, tears streamed down my face because it's been a long-time dream of Sid's and mine and others," Dolly said. "It's already bustling with activity. I've loved my call here and now I've also been given the gift of a new call within the same congregation. I don't know how often that happens."

Currie Library News

LOCATION: First floor of Smith Building as of February

HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-noon, Sunday, 9-10:20 a.m.

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

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

In memory of

Bobbie Odom: *Joseph in Egypt: The Animated Stories from the Bible* (DVD) and *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, given by the Agape Class;

Dr. W. Siegfried Smith, Jr.: *Learning to Walk in the Dark* and *Samuel: The Animated Stories from the Bible* (DVD), given by **Chip & Ellen Smith**;

Sieglinda Lee Smith: *How Do Dinosaurs Say Merry Christmas* and *The Name Jar*, given by **Chip & Ellen Smith**.

In honor of

Hannah Britt: *A Mother Knows Her Child: Poetic Meditations from Mary*, given by **Marilyn Burris**.

CHECK IT OUT

A "Big Thanks" to Sandra Burns for her generous contribution to Currie Library. After the Library moves to first floor of Smith it will be used to enhance our library collection. Sandra along with many of you is a big fan of Books on CD so maybe some newer and more current BCD can be added.

A Mother Knows Her Child: Poetic Meditations from Mary is by Linda B. Brown who lives in Greensboro and is a retired professor from Bennett College and a friend of FPC member, Marilyn Burris. These are poems and meditations about Mary as the earthly mother of Jesus.

We are delighted to add to the Children's DVD Collection the two DVDs, "Joseph in Egypt" and "Samuel" from *The Animated Stories from the Bible* series.

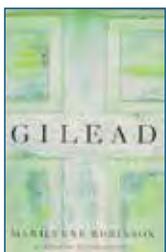
Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor was the January Monday Book Club read. "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares us," Taylor writes of her journey into the darkness and what God can teach us through the darkness.

Big Move and Passalong Books: There are many new passalong books available each week as Currie Library prepares to move to a smaller space. Check the carts inside the Library and, on Sundays, on carts in the hallway outside Mullin Life Center. The cost is \$1/book donation and you may find a treasure! These are books being discarded from the Library because our space will be smaller in the new location. A number of people have been helping make the passalong decisions; Neil Dunnivant is very helpful in the religion section.

A BIG "Thanks" from Currie library to...

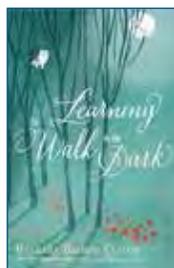
- The Recorder Consort for offering music on their recorders at B&N on December 6. Under Susan Fancher's direction the group played a variety of lovely Christmas music. The Consort was composed of Susan Fancher, Sabine Ford, Jacqui van Lier, Connie Kotis and David McDonald. Thank you to each of them for participating at B&N during the FPC Voucher Days.
- Each of you who supported Currie Library during the Voucher Days in early December, 2014. The \$77.16 earned will be used to enrich and support Currie Library's Collection.
- Wayne and Clyde Taylor who "dressed" the lovely Chrismon trees in the Life Center and Library.
- The congregation members who donated 2015 calendars for the preschool children in the Weekday Preschool and First School. The children were allowed to select their own calendars from the generous supply members gave to the Library. One member, K Bringle, collected about 30 calendars from residents at River Landing where she lives. The children and teachers are thrilled to select their own calendars. Thank you for donating them.
- Members who donated magazines for the Magazine Swap Basket outside the door of the Library. Older magazines have been taken to the Interactive Resource Center. The basket is awaiting more of your magazines to swap!

IN THE BOOK CLUBS



MONDAY CLUB, 10:30 am
February 9: *Gilead*
by Marilynne Robinson,
facilitated by Austin Carty

March 9: *And the Mountains Echoed*
by Khaled Hosseini, facilitated by Bette Dunker



TUESDAY CLUB, 1:30 pm
February 10: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Skloot

March 10: *An Altar in the World*
by Barbara Brown Taylor

session digest

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

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, November 17, 2014

The stated monthly meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held on Monday, October 27, 2014, in Redhead Hall. Rev. Sid Batts served as moderator.

The meeting began with the responsive reading of Psalm 100 followed by the singing of the hymn "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Associate Director of Music.

Guests: Margaret Arbuckle, Lana Burske, Tyler Hollis, Brian Coghill

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the October 27 called Session meeting.
- From the Associate Pastor for Discipleship's office: October attendance, membership and visitor reports.
- Reports from Christian Education Youth; Congregational Care Committee; Discipleship Committee, Worship Committee.

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

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

- Elder Pam Murphy reports that the console of the organ is in the sanctuary.
- Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Discipleship, reports that seven new members joined last week.
- The 10-session "Growing Deeper" class is finishing, with another starting in January.

Finance: Ginni Lineberry, Finance Committee chair, reports the following:

- The Revised Annual Budget reflects the work of the Budget Team after its October 28 meeting in which Budget Team looked line by line for savings in expenses for the remainder of the year and looked at using restricted funds as additional income. Projecting for 2014 total revenue as \$4,408,360 and total expenses as \$4,408,360.

• At the end of October, Total Support and Revenue is \$3,373,039 and Total Expenses are \$3,847,565 for a Support and Revenue under Expenses of (\$474,526). David Kolosieke, Director of Finance and Operations, confirms that about 25% of pledge dollars are collected in November.

• Projected 2014 Support over/ (Under) Expenses for year end is (\$29,744). This is an "optimistic but realistic and attainable target." Thank you for honoring your pledge. Every gift is important as we try to close this gap for 2014.

• Sanctuary Masonry Repairs to date are \$628,259 and are projected to be \$768,259 by the end of the year.

On the balance sheet:

- \$874,000 is on line of credit at Bank of NC for operations which FPC will begin to repay in November and December. Of this amount \$628,259 is for the Sanctuary masonry repairs.

Regarding the Capital Campaign:

- \$15.5 million pledged
- \$11.3 million collected
- \$14.5 million expenses to date
- \$158,000 taxes (will be returned)
- \$3.2 million line of credit
- \$3.9 million pledge receivables

The Finance Committee has approved the 5% Distributions from the Session-Designated and Endowment Funds for 2015 which will be included in the 2015 budget. Session-Designated disbursements for 2015 are \$158,663 and Endowment disbursements are \$146,474 for a total of \$305,138 from FPC Funds.

After presenting this motion at the October 27, 2014, Session meeting, Ginni moved the following:

The Finance Committee recommends to the Session that the minimum on a named endowment fund be \$100,000. If the gift is less than \$100,000, the gift or bequest will be placed in one of the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund categories as outlined in the Endowment Fund Declaration adopted by Session in 1992. The motion passed.

Ginni Lineberry presented for Tommy Mayes, on behalf of the Funds Management Subcommittee of the

Finance Committee, the following motion: The Finance Committee unanimously approved Wells Fargo to be the provider of investment and other philanthropic services for the Session-Designated and Endowment funds of First Presbyterian Church. The Finance Committee moves that the Session approve the opening of investment account(s) required to consolidate and manage funds noted above. A vote will be taken on this motion in December.

Ginni Lineberry detailed the professional process, chaired by Tommy Mayes, by which Wells Fargo Philanthropic Services was selected to provide investment and philanthropic services for the Session-Designated and Endowment Funds of First Presbyterian Church.

- Nine firms made written proposals; four were selected to make in-person presentations on November 10, 2014.
- The committee reviewed the organization, investment processes, fees, 10- and 15-year returns, fund accounting and reporting services and other services to support FPC's stewardship and planned giving programs.
- Illustrated diagrams were presented on how the relationship between Wells Fargo and FPC would work, information on the Philanthropic Advisory Practice, and how their services would support FPC stewardship efforts.
- Wells Fargo charges an Advisory Fee of .69% based on FPC \$7.2 M in Funds. There are some soft costs reflected in performance net of fees. These are not charged to FPC.
- FPC funds have been invested in Income Fund of America for the past 15 years and this diversified and balanced fund has served FPC well. FPC has 30+ funds each in a separate account which is time-consuming for record keeping. There has been increasing concern over the past years about the risk of having all our Funds in one Mutual Fund.
- Wells Fargo is offering to liquidate our stock for no additional fee if FPC keeps a minimum balance in an account. The minimum was approved by the Finance Committee and the

Session, continued

church will notify the congregation when the account is in place.

Stewardship: Tyler Hollis, co-chair of the Stewardship Committee, reported a great turnout for all services on Commitment Sunday. There are 93 more pledges, \$500,000 more pledged dollars, and 46 more new families pledging than at this same time last year. There are 400 families who have pledged in the past who have not yet committed.

First School and Early Education: Sam Turner, Chair of the First School Board of Directors, thanked the board members, and invited Margaret Arbuckle, board member and rotated elder, to make a presentation.

Margaret referred to studies by noted educational researchers as to the vital cognitive importance of the first 2,000 days of life (birth to kindergarten) and the difficulty of remediating intellectual privation during this time period. She noted that the church has historically realized the importance of excellent care in the early years and has sought to minister to families with young children. The difficulty in developing top-rated care is cost. It simply cannot be provided at what young families can afford, thus most highly regarded child-care facilities rely on a support network, such as First School and Weekday Preschool do with FPC. The schools will continue to share strengths and seek support.

Sam introduced Lana Burske, Interim Director of First School. She has been with FPC since 1996, many of those years as Director of Weekday Preschool. Sam stated that there are 75 children representing 64 families in Weekday Preschool, and 150 children representing 120 in First School. Of the total 225 children, 20% are from member families. First School is open 7 am – 6 pm weekdays; the average time a child is there is 9 hours. There is ongoing change and innovation, as well as analyzing how to move forward and maintain the great reputation of both programs.

Project Review Committee/Property: Tim Millisor, Director of Property, presented an update on church renovation and repair.

- Carpets and doors are in place on the 3rd floor of Smith Building. It will be

done in days.

- Carpet and flooring are down in the sanctuary.
- Choir Room in Smith Building has new hardwood flooring.
- Pews are coming back and should be completely installed the day after Thanksgiving. December 12 is a volunteer workday to put Bibles, hymnals, and pew cushions in place.
- The façade on the new addition is being installed.
- The new addition is framed and ready for paint.
- The new louvered roof is installed over the boiler room, the generator is in place, and landscaping will be put in later this week.
- There is a 93% chance that work in the sanctuary will be finished by December 4.
- The organ console arrived from storage on November 14. Work will be done on the organ December 2-5.
- Smith should be finished by the end of November, with staff moving in December 8-12.
- Furniture will be delivered from storage December 9.
- On several dates, church events will be held in different locations than usual due to the move of staff to new offices and general movement and rearrangement in the new spaces.
- Masonry repairs are done; scaffolding is 50% down.

The Reverend Sid Batts, Senior Pastor shared a quote from Architectural Digest. In writing about the work of architect Hobart Upjohn, they declared First Presbyterian Church “by far his most daring project.”

Scripture Reading: Elder Marshall Brown read Ephesians 6:10-17.

Faith Statement: Elder Ron Hampton shared the story of his faith journey.

Cynthia Price Residency: Stu Johnson, committee chair, reviewed the history of the development of the residency, the current program, the current Resident, and plans for the future. Leigh Jones thanked the committee for finding and bringing Libby Boehne, who has been active in youth events.

Community and Regional Outreach Report: Elder Louann Clark, along with

Steve Fogarty and Fran Davis, attended the 104th meeting of the Presbytery November 8 at North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church. Notable among the business was a vote on a new Confession of Faith originating in South Africa dealing with injustice, and the dismissal (at their request) of three churches from our Presbytery. Elder Erwin Fuller was recognized for his volunteer work on legal documents for the Presbytery. John Elam, former FPC member and seminary student, was ordained at this meeting and was called to Franklin Presbytery in Salisbury. Neil Dunnivant and Newton Cowan, former Director of Adult Christian Education and seminarian from FPC, participated in his induction service.

Prayers of the People: Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of need and celebration. Libby Boehne, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident, offered prayer.

Change in Call for Pastors: Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry, asked for approval of the Pastor’s housing allowance. He proposed no change from the previous year. This was approved.

New Business

Elder Lisa Anderson, chair of the Antioch Group, provided an update on the survey of membership. There were 177 responses, half by email, half by US mail. The group categorizing responses is finding them meaningful and reflective, and is forwarding them to appropriate church ministries. The consultant John Wimberly will be helping assess where church resources are and should be. A final report is anticipated by the beginning of February. Dolly announced that the Discipleship Committee will be hosting a Christmas themed Open House in the new Welcome Center 8 am-noon for our congregation on Sunday, Dec. 21. Volunteers are needed to help put Bibles, hymnals, and cushions in the refurbished pews. The women’s Retreat is January 23. The sign up deadline is December 1; half the spots are already reserved.

continues, back cover



session digest

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

The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, December 15, 2014

The stated monthly meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held Monday, December 15, 2014, at 5:30 pm in Redhead Hall. The Rev. Sid Batts, Senior Pastor, served as moderator.

The meeting began with the responsive reading of Psalm 104 followed by the singing of the hymn "Joy To The World" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Associate Director of Music.

Guests: Skip Moore, Gerard Davidson, John Showers, Genie Schwartz, Bonnie McAlister

The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the November 17 stated Session meeting.
- From the Associate Pastor for Discipleship's office: November attendance, membership and visitor report. (see attachments)
- Reports from Hospitality (attached)
- Finance Reports for November (attached)

Session members identified their prayer partners for the month.

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

- A billboard advertises the opening of the Sanctuary
- Reporters from the News & Record were at the church today
- Hymnals are back in the pews in the Sanctuary
- Temple Emanuel's gift of hospitality for hosting our congregation for over 20 months
- Thanks to all the leaders of Temple Emanuel, First Baptist Church, Canterbury School, and the Greensboro Grasshoppers. Representatives from each group will be at services on Sunday to be formally thanked. The idea of a resolution of thanks was suggested, with Elders Robby Hassell and Erwin Fuller nominated in abstentia to write it.

Appointments: Cathy Lovejoy, Chair of the Appointments Committee, indicted

that the first task of the Committee is to slate a Nominating Committee. She requested recommendations for these positions, with the deadline of January 11, 2015.

Antioch Group

Tyler Hollis, member, reported that the Antioch Group searched for and secured the services of a consultant. He is John Wimberly, a minister with 40 years of experience plus a PhD and an MBA. His specialty is Congregational Consulting. He will help talk to staff who oversee ministry areas. We are looking for guidance in how we should use the resources we have and how we align those resources with the wants and needs of the church. Specifically, there are three points we hope to clarify:

1. What support is needed to conduct the programming desired by members;
2. What is the most effective use of support staff; and
3. An outline for future options for staff growth as funds become available.

Installation of L. Richardson Trustees

Senior Pastor Sid Batts read Ephesians 4. Gerard Davidson and Ralph Paris, Elder, were presented and installed by the Session as L. Richardson Trustees.

Finance: Ginni Lineberry, Finance Committee Chair, reported on the Statement of Activity, the Capital Campaign, and the Balance Sheet. Josh Showers presented the 2015 Preliminary Operations Budget Proposal. Highlights are listed below.

Statement of Activity:

- For the month of November 2014, revenue was \$298,182 and expenses were \$325,237.
- For the YTD actual for 11 months ending in November, income is \$3,631,068 and expenses are \$4,054,656.
- For the month of December, revenue is projected to be \$763,859 and expenses to mirror November expenses of \$327,448.
- Projections for year end: Revenue of \$4,394,927 and expenses of \$4,382,104 for a positive revenue over expenses or projected surplus of \$12,823. Ginni thanked Elders for honoring pledges by year end. She stressed that

every gift is important and needed to make this projected surplus a reality.

Capital Campaign

It is estimated that upon completion of the Sanctuary/Smith renovation project, the cost will exceed the pledges/gifts by approximately \$815,000 (this is exclusive of the masonry repair cost). This excess will in the short term be borrowed from the \$7 million restoration project line of credit secured by investments. The Finance Committee expects to bring a recommendation to Session in early 2015 to address this shortfall.

Balance Sheet

- A due to (from) funds on the first line has been added. This shows that as of November 30, we have borrowed from ourselves for operations.
- Total current assets for operations are \$2,845,097 and total current liabilities are \$1,144,087.
- Total current assets including all funds, columbarium, session-designated, endowments, and Capital Campaign are \$15,567,021.
- Total current liabilities for all operations are \$5,364,340.

Josh Showers presented the 2015 Preliminary Operations Budget Proposal developed by the Budget Team of the Finance Committee composed of himself, Ginni Lineberry, Jim Hegner, and Reid Wilcox. Their goals were to:

- Develop a balanced operations budget of estimated revenue and expenses for 2015 to be approved by Session before January 1.
- Discuss budget compared with vision, ministries and survey feedback
- Use historical revenue and expenses available to forecast as accurately as possible
- Include identified changes for 2015 and beyond.

The Revenue Overview key points are:

- \$4,398k total (preliminary)
- Pledge Gifts: Increasing pledges offset decreasing giving units maintaining a flat total
- Non-pledge gifts: no consistent pattern, although higher in previous 10 years that didn't include Capital Campaign

Session, continued

The Expense Overview key points are:

- \$4,365k total (preliminary)
- Expense reductions in 2015 are across areas
- Anticipate additional savings from 2014 reductions
- Recognize some reductions operating our renovated facilities.

2015 Total Expenses (\$4,365k Preliminary) according to church function:

- \$1902k, Support Resources
- \$ 843k, Education
- \$ 688k, Worship
- \$ 514k, Outreach
- \$ 251k, Congregational Care
- \$ 167k, Evangelism

Scripture Reading: Elder Margaret Chase read Luke 14: 7-14.

Faith Statement: Elder Julie Wade shared her faith journey.

Human Resources: Jim Gentry, Chair, reports that several retired members of the FPC ministry staff, including David Partington, Clyde Cook, Larry Avent, and Fred Horner, have agreed to join the Congregational Care Team on a part time basis. Dolly Jacobs, in her new role as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, brought a motion to approve the retired ministers as Parish Associates. The motion was seconded and approved by the Session. Also returning to keep watch over the Sadye Bowles Fund and participants is Maggie Turner, Director of Sadye Bowles Fund and Congregational Nurse.

Jim also noted that Wendy Duncan is looking forward to her new leadership role as Director of Adult Formation and Discipleship.

Stewardship Development: Skip Moore presented information regarding the history and current status of the idea of hiring a full time, professional development director for FPC. Sid indicated an interest in restarting the conversation about this, as it has been under discussion for over a year. Bonnie McAlister facilitated small group discussions on this topic among those present at the Session meeting. A report of the results will be forthcoming.

Project Review Committee/Property

Tim Millisor, Director of Property, presented an update on church renovation and repair.

- The Sanctuary is 98% finished. Smith Building floors 2 and 3 are done. Offices and meeting rooms under the Sanctuary are done. Much of the landscaping has been completed.
- The refinished communion table and font will arrive on Wednesday. That same day the sound system tuning will be complete.
- The main emphasis this week is on the Welcome Center and Reading Room.
- Construction equipment will be out of Fisher Park Circle for parking on Sunday.
- Inspections: Mechanical is passed; electrical didn't pass but the small checklist items have been corrected and the inspection is rescheduled; there are still items to correct before the fire inspection but those are expected to be completed before the inspection on Friday; plumbing inspection is upcoming.

- Staff is expected to move into new offices the last week of January. Suzanne Tilley's committee will place furnishings and decorative items.
- Meetings and Church School classes are expected to resume in their pre-renovation spots by February 1. There will need to be a capital campaign in 5-7 years to replace the turrets and capstones, redo the roof, tuckpointing, and balustrade, and other repairs.

Discipleship: Brian Pierce discussed the single 10:45 service on February 8. Bob Goff, author and speaker, will be at FPC. He will speak with youth at 9:30, will sign books in the Welcome Center after the service, and will speak at a lunch in the Life Center. Elders are invited to the lunch with this author of *Love Does*, a book read and appreciated by many members of our congregation. A video clip of Bob Goff was shown.

Prayers of the People: Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of need and celebration. Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry, offered prayers for all.

New Business

Sid offered copies of "Final Report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage," approved by the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He explained that the 2014 General Assembly vote provides a way for ministers to make their choice about performing same-sex marriages and that Sessions will also have an option (dependent upon legality in the state where the church resides). Our presbytery will debate and vote on this Book of Order change at the April Salem Presbytery meeting. If this passes, individual ministers in our church will be able to perform same-sex marriages or not, as they see fit. Session will decide if our church is one in which same sex marriages may take place. Sid asks Elders to study this issue, as he hopes to discuss it at the upcoming Session meetings. Volunteers to help plan the logistics of this discussion are Jack Glenn, Tim Cook, Chip Pegram, Louann Clarke, and Reid Wilcox and Dan Goley. Neil notes that some presbyterys have already voted on this issue; some have approved and some have not.

Sid noted a concern that Sunday's 10:45 service will be very crowded. He encouraged Elders to attend the 8:30 service.

Note which teams are serving communion in January. Fred Carlson needs help before services to set up the elements.

Anyone wishing to use space in the foyer of the Life Center on Sunday mornings (for an information table or the like), please contact Wendy Duncan.

Nick Demuyneck, Associate Director of Youth Ministry, announced that pre-ordered FPC sweatshirts are in. They will be available in his office or after services.

Closing Prayer: Sid Batts closed the meeting with a prayer.

This meeting of the Session ended at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Slaughter,
 Clerk of Session

THE MONTH AT F P C

More: fpcgreensboro.org/events

FEBRUARY

WORSHIP

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

February 1: Pennies for Hunger collected, special offering for Souper Bowl of Caring.

February 8: **Bob Goff**, author of *Love Does*, joins us to speak with youth (9:30 am, Life Center), to preach for one service (10:45 am, sanctuary), and to sign books (after worship, Welcome Center).

February 15: Baptism Sunday.

Wednesday, February 18: Road to the Resurrection – Lent begins with our **Ash Wednesday** service, 6 pm in the sanctuary. Children and youth will assist in leadership.

February 22: Cherub and Credo Choirs sing in Rejoice!

March 1: Pennies for Hunger collected, congregational meeting after 10:45 am worship services to elect church officers.

MUSIC

Westminster Ringers – Intermediate handbell choir, 4:30 – 5:30 pm Tuesdays, Smith 306.

Coventry Ringers – Advanced handbell choir, 5:45 pm Tuesdays, Smith 306.

Children's choirs – Wednesdays:

- Joyful Noise Musical Experience (ages 2-3 & parents), 4:30 pm, Smith 301.
- Cherub (ages 4-preK), 4:30 pm; Credo grades K-1), 5 pm; Canticle (grades 2-5), 6 pm, all in Smith 330.

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

Youth Choir – Thursdays, Smith 330:

- Genesis (middle school), 5:15 – 6:15 pm, come at 5 for snack.
- Exodus (high school), 6-7 pm.

The Music Ministry hosts the **UNCG Chamber Singers Concert in the Sanctuary**, Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 pm. Free Admission.

Lenten Compline Service – March 1, 5 pm for 45 minutes, Sanctuary. Small chamber choir will do *a cappella* music from renaissance periods. Service is music-silence-meditation. Sponsored by Music Ministry

CONNECTION

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

Watercolor Class – led by Ron Bauer, Tuesdays 9-11 am in the Garden Room, Smith 124. The only cost is for your painting supplies. Info: Dolly Jennings, 854-2663.

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.

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner – Mullin Life Center, 5-6 pm. \$7/ages 13+, \$5/ages 6-12; free/5-younger. Family max: \$25. RSVP by noon Tuesday, fpcgreensboro.org/wednesday-dinner or 478-4747. Each week: salad, fruit, rolls, dessert & drink, chicken nuggets for kids.

- February 4: Baked pasta.
- February 11: Fried chicken, sweet potato soufflé, steamed vegetables.
- February 18: Meatloaf, green beans.
- February 25: Chicken pot pie, broccoli.

Explore FPC, Saturday, March 7 (9 am to noon in the Welcome Center) and Sunday, March 8 (briefly after worship). Anyone interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian should attend Explore FPC. Sign up (including child care) by contacting Wendy Duncan, (336) 478-4723, wduncan@fpcgreensboro.org.



Join Senior Pastor Sid Batts on a spiritual journey from Florence to Rome

Oct. 5 – 14

REGISTER BEFORE FEBRUARY 15

FOR MORE INFO:
Weezie Glascock, 275-1010 or weezieglascock@gmail.com

THIS MONTH AT FPC
FEBRUARY

C H I L D R E N

Sunday morning classes – 9:30 am

Grades K-4, Corl Building

5th grade, Memorial 300

Elementary Milestone Classes: Through February 22, second-graders meet for “Touch the Water, Taste the Bread” communion education, and 4th-graders meet for “Getting to Know My Bible.”

Preschooler Story Times – 9:30, 10, 10:30 & 11 am, led by Linda Watkins & Nancy Fuller. Open to all preschool children, in the children’s reading room of the Welcome Center.

Preschool Chapel – Parents & preschoolers can join children from First School & Weekday Preschool Wednesdays at 9:45 am, Memorial Chapel. We sing, move, and hear a Bible story.

Children’s choirs – Wednesdays:

- Joyful Noise Musical Experience (ages 2-3 & parents), 4:30 pm, Smith 301.
- Cherub (ages 4-preK), 4:30 pm; Credo grades K-1), 5 pm; Canticle (grades 2-5), 6 pm, all in Smith 330.

Kids Disciple Club – February 22, 3-5:30 pm. Third- through fifth-graders lead Lenten devotions and make crosses with our church members at River Landing. Bring offering money and clothing items for Encore.

Getting Ready for Summer – February 22, 10 am in Memorial 201. Parents and children are invited to an informational meeting about Camp Grier. There will also be an informational table in the Welcome Center before and after 10:45 worship. FPC summer camp and VBS registration begins online March 1. *See page 19 for summer dates and info; more to come at fpcgreensboro.org.*

O U T R E A C H

TRIAD CAREER NETWORK

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

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: Sheron Sumner, sksumnr@bellsouth.net, or fpcgreensboro.org/hotdish.

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.

Friendship Day – 9:30 am – noon Thursdays, Life Center. Ages 55+ have fun, devotion & fellowship. Stay for lunch, \$6.

StepUp Greensboro – Donate your unwanted clothing to Encore!, StepUp’s new thrift store at Golden Gate Center. While you are there pick up info on other ways to support this ministry to help people build stable lives. Call 676-5871 for more information

Giving Back Garden Guild planning meeting – noon at Deep Roots on Sunday, March 1

Every Sunday, we collect donations of non-perishable food for Greensboro Urban Ministry’s pantry. In 2014 FPC delivered almost 8,000 pounds of canned and boxed food to help our neighbors in need. Please join in this ministry in 2015!

Y O U T H

Sunday morning classes – 9:30 am, third floor of Shetler. Separate classes for middle school & high school. *No youth church school or confirmation class on February 22.*

Youth choirs – Thursdays in Smith 330:

- Genesis (middle school), 5:15-6:15 pm, come at 5 for a snack;
- Exodus (high school), 6-7 pm.

Ski trip – to Massanutten Ski Mountain, Feb. 20-22. \$275 covers food, transportation, ski/snowboard rental & indoor water park. RSVP online by Feb. 1; space is limited. Info: Nick Demuynck, ndemuynck@fpcgreensboro.org.

Sunday Youth Groups – Middle School meets 4:30-6 pm in youth room, third floor Shetler, or Mullin Life Center; High School meets 6-8 pm.



Support the youth as they travel around the world spreading God’s message of love and grace.

Youth Chili Cook-Off Fund-raiser – March 8, 5:30-7:30 pm. Members and friends of all ages are invited to join us for a festive feast benefiting the Youth Ministry summer trip fund. *See page 19 for more info.*

THIS MONTH AT FPC
FEBRUARY

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sticky Faith – Sundays, 9:30 am, Shetler 116, thru Feb. 22. Companion class for parents of 7th-graders & confirmands; parents of teens welcome. Led by Jane Trevey & Wendy Duncan.

Basic Bible Skills – 9:30 am thru Feb. 22, Memorial 305. For parents of 4th-graders in “Getting to Know My Bible” Milestone class & other interested adults. Led by Rev. Neil Dunnivant.

Other Sunday classes, 9:30 am:

- Faith Matters, Memorial 202.
- Foundations, Memorial 303.
- Homebuilders, Memorial 200.
- Agape, the Garden Room.
- Young Men’s Bible Class, Redhead Hall.
- Travelers Class, Memorial 304.
- Seekers Class, Main 125.
- Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room (Memorial 100).

Weekday classes:

Short Stories and the Spiritual Life, 6 – 7:30 pm at Kirkwood Kitchen and Bar, 2618 Lawndale Drive. Rev. Neil Dunnivant and young adult intern Austin Carty lead this study. We’ll have a private dining room, and you may order food and beverages. RSVP to ndunnivant@fpcgreensboro.org or austingcarty@gmail.com to let us know you plan to come.

- February 3: “Pigeon Feathers” by John Updike.
- February 17: “Revelation” by Flannery O’Connor.
- March 3: “Ax of the Apostles” by Erin McGraw.
- March 17: “The Enduring Chill” by Flannery O’Connor.

Further Readings in C.S. Lewis – 7 pm, Feb. 9 & 23, Smith 242 (Myers Loyalty Room). Austin Carty leads this adult class in discussion of *The Great Divorce*; *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*; and *The Screwtape Letters*.

Faith & Film – 7 pm, Feb. 2 & 16, M’Couls (110 W. McGee Street). Austin Carty leads.

Young Adult Married Couples’ Bible Study – 7 pm, Feb. 11 & 25. Info: Austin Carty, austingcarty@gmail.com

Navigators: Moms of Teenagers – 11 am Wednesdays thru February 18, Main 125. Current study: Gary Chapman’s *The 5 Love Languages of Teenagers*.

Growing Deeper – Introduction to Spiritual Formation: The Way of Christ – 6-7:15 pm Wednesdays through February 11, Redhead Hall. Sid Batts leads.

Growing Deeper – Responding to Our Call: The Work of Christ – 6-7:15 pm Wednesdays through February 11, in the Welcome Center Solarium. Donna Chase leads.

Beth Moore Study – 4 pm Wednesdays through March 18 in the Garden Room. Workbook for the study, “Children of the Day,” can be purchased at Lifeway Bible Bookstore.

Living the Covenant – 6:30–8 pm Thursdays through February 26, Main 125. Wendy Duncan, director of adult education, leads.

Presbyterian Women Circles –

- February 9, 10:30 am: Mary & Martha Circle, Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100;
- February 9, 10:30 am: Rachel Circle, Memorial 202;
- February 16, 10 am: Hearts & Minds, members’ homes;
- Feb. 16, 11:45 am, Deborah’s Dining & Discussion, the Garden Room;
- Febr. 17, 10:30 am: Ruth & Naomi’s Circle, Memorial 100.

Currie Library Book Clubs:

- 10:30 am February 9 in the library. Austin Carty facilitates *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. Info: Sara Stuart, 545-9440, or Nancy Fuller, 478-4731.
- 1:30 pm, February 10. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Info: Brenda Frost, 288-0509.

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

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

GIFT in the Evening – 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, 9 to noon Friday, and 9 to 10:20 am Sundays. Info: 478.4731 or nfuller@fpcgreensboro.org

The Bible in a Year Challenge: A Virtual Academic Study

– ongoing online study. Join Professor Sandie Gravett in reading the complete Bible in a year, with academic study of the text. Follow at twitter.com/sandiebible, subscribe at sandiesbibleblog.wordpress.com, or send a friend request to “Sandie Daily Bible” on Facebook.

Child Protection Training – All who volunteer in our children’s and youth ministries must first complete our Child Protection Policy training. Contact Sara Manchester, smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org, to sign up. If you need child care during the meeting, please give 48 hours’ notice. Meets in Memorial 200 (Spencer Love Room). For additional training dates, visit <http://fpcgreensboro.org/learn/child-protection-policy>.
February 11, 4:30-5:30 pm or February 15, 11:45 am – 12:45 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

Children's Church School: GROW, Proclaim, Serve
Keep up to date on weekly Bible stories, music, games and more on the free GROW Mobile app for parents.

Spring Milestones in the Faith

Belonging to God: A First Catechism Milestone for third-graders & parents, March 1-April 12. Children & parents to learn the basics of our Presbyterian & Reformed faith: what we believe & how we live it presented in a child-friendly, hands-on way.

Getting Ready for Middle School Milestone for fifth-graders & parents, April 19- May 3. Families get transition advice. Class will be led by our youth staff & leaders as well as church members who are middle school teachers.

Children in Outreach

Encore Clothing Drive – Church school classes will collect gently worn children's winter clothing for Encore, StepUp Greensboro's consignment store. See children's e-news for specific items each month. Our monetary offering March-May will also help to purchase needed items for Encore children's area. Our goal is \$500 and 500 items!!

Kids Disciple Club – March 8. Join 3rd- thru 5th-graders work at Encore. Details to follow.

Children in Worship

Wednesday, February 25: Welcome to the Lord's Table Service with second-graders, families, Canticle Choir & elder friends 6:30-7:15, sanctuary, followed by dessert reception in Welcome Center.

Family Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 28, 10-11:30 am, Mullin Life Center. Families are invited to the Life Center for crafts, games, music, Easter story & egg hunt by ages. Bring a breakfast item to share & your egg basket. Collection bins will be around the church starting March 1 for donations for the eggs.

Easter Sunday Celebration

Sunday April 5, in the new Columbarium 10 am (between the 2 full-length worship services at 8:30 & 10:45 am). Ring bells & sing the Easter Alleluias! No regular church school. Rain plan: in the Welcome Center.

Youth Chili Cook Off Fundraiser – March 8, 5:30-7:30 pm. Members and friends of all ages are invited to join us for a festive feast benefiting the Youth Ministry summer trip fund. Come enjoy fellowship and good food with your FPC family while supporting a great cause.

Do you have the best chili in town? Or are you simply a chili aficionado? Come share your talents and bring your taste buds. We'll have chili from 5 categories: beef, poultry, spicy, vegetarian & creative.

\$10 per person, \$25 per family. Tickets for sale Sundays and Wednesdays in February, daily at the church office, and at the door on March 8. You can also reserve your spot by contacting Sara, smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org. Limited reserved tables are also available for \$200, which includes 8 tickets.

SUMMER

June 16-21: **Middle School Mission and Conference at Massanetta** (*rising 7th-8th*). Join with hundreds of Middle Schoolers from across the country as we serve God through hands-on mission work and exciting, engaging worship & small groups. We'll play lots (slip & slide anyone?), hear from awesome speakers, meet tons of other youth and serve the city of Harrisonburg, Va. This is a not-to-miss opportunity for our middle school youth!

June 22-25: **Music Camps** (*age 4 by Sept 1 – rising 5th*). Monday through Thursday, 9 am – noon. Led by Director of Children's Music, Colin Burns, * other talented musical professionals. Children explore music through song, instruments, rhythm & movement while learning to love & serve the Lord.

July 6-9: **Passportkids! Camp** (*rising 4th-6th*) comes to Montreat! Kids will discover God's love & practice being followers of Jesus through Bible studies, missions education, recreation, and worship.

July 11-17: **HS mission trip to Dominican Republic**. Registration CLOSED.

July 12-17: **FPC Week at Camp Grier Explorers** (*ages 6-9*) & **Discoverers** (*ages 10-12*). Camp Grier offers a variety of dates & programs. We would like to foster fellowship in FPC members so try to attend during this week.

July 20-23: **Vacation Bible School and Kids Disciple Club**. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon. Children's relationship with God and the church blooms during this yearly tradition through outreach, art, music, dance, games, scripture, fellowship & worship.

July 26-August 1: **Montreat Youth Conference** (*rising 8th – college freshman*). Join us in the mountains with more than 1,000 other Presbyterian teens. We'll worship, hear from incredible speakers, meet other youth in small groups, cook, laugh & play. If you're looking to grow in your faith & connect with other youth from FPC, this is the best way to do it!

Online registration for summer camps and VBS begins March 1. Need more information? Contact Sara Manchester, smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org.

Session *from page 13*

Lindsey Evans, Director of Youth Ministry, and Nick Demuynck, Associate Director of Youth Ministry, told Session about the need to raise \$10,000 for FPC youth to participate in a Dominican Republic mission trip. FPC sweatshirts are being sold as well as honor cards selling for \$1 each in packets of \$20. Cards will be available at Sunday services and at Wednesday night suppers.

Elder Steve Fogarty, on behalf of Adult Christian Education, encouraged Elders to talk with others about Christian Education needs of the membership and to relay any ideas or suggestions to Wendy Duncan, Director of Adult Christian Education, or himself.

Sid Batts notes the 10 am Thanksgiving service at the Temple, and noted the

upcoming Advent services including music, chimes, prayer, poetry, meditation, and silence.

Elder Kelly Harrill noted that the Hot Dish & Hope Christmas party would again include 260 gift bags for attendees. Elders are encouraged to help provide the contents of these bags. Kate Yarbrough, younger sister of Youth Elder Caroline Yarbrough, has undertaken to provide 75 bags as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Closing Prayer: Donna Chase, Director of Christian Education, closed the meeting with a prayer of hope.

The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Slaughter
Clerk of Session

A note from our ministry partner

Wheels4Hope would like to thank First Presbyterian for your support in 2014. Congregations like yours help us meet our mission of providing affordable, reliable transportation to low-wage-earning families in the Triad.

In 2014, Wheels4Hope received 107 car donations and placed 41 cars with recipients from our Partner Agencies. Three were generously donated by members of First Presbyterian.

Our “Driving Force” Holiday Campaign was a huge success with a goal of 25 cars donations. We are happy to announce we received 28 in December. What an amazing way to end the year.

Wheels4Hope is excited about 2015. We hope to receive 165 car donations and place 48 cars.

Our 2nd Annual Memorial Day Bike Ride will be on Monday, May 25. We will place cars with veterans at this event. We are seeking sponsors for this event. If interested, contact us at Deborah@wheels4hope.org or 355.9130. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business and support a great cause.

Thank you for helping Wheels4Hope make a difference in our community!

– Deborah Bryant, Wheels4Hope