



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2018

10:30 a.m.

MULLIN FORUM SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Please sign the Welcome Pad and pass it along the pew.

Turn off all cell phones, and refrain from using cameras during worship.

VOLUNTARY: Passacaglia in c minorJohann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITY Sid Batts

* CALL TO WORSHIPDolly Jacobs

Leader: Where two or three are gathered

People: **There Christ is with them.**

Leader: As brothers and sisters in Christ,

People: **Let us worship God as one family.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 461 – God Is Here!ABBOT'S LEIGH

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Lara Musser Gritter

O God, we forget that we belong to you and pretend we don't need you.

We try to be the sole architect and artist of our lives.

But you are the designer and artist; we are your beautiful creation.

Forgive us. Surround us with community who help us trust and follow you.

Amen.

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: O Lord, You Are My God and King..... JERUSALEM



Your works will



give you thanks, O Lord, Your saints Your might-y acts will show, Till all the



peo - ples of the earth Your king-dom, pow - er, glo - ry know. E - ter - nal



is Your king-dom, Lord, For-ev - er strong, for-ev - er sure; While gen-er -



a - tions rise and die, Your high do - min-ion will en - dure.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON: *Psalm 111*

Reader: Joe Dunlop

- Leader: Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- People: Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**
- Leader: Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- People: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**
- Leader: He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- People: He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**
- Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- People: They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- Leader: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
- All: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN..... Lisa Witherspoon

*(Children ages 4 – first grade are invited to Worship Enrichment
and will return for the Hymn of Response.)*

ANTHEM: All My Hope.....David Crowder

Rejoice! Ensemble

I've been held by the Savior.
I've felt fire from above.
I've been down to the river.
I ain't the same a prodigal returned.

*[Chorus]:
All my hope is in Jesus.
Thank God that yesterday's gone.
All my sins are forgiven.
I've been washed by the blood.*

I'm no stranger to prison,
I've worn shackles and chains;
But I've been freed and forgiven
And I'm not going back- I'll never be the same.

[Chorus]

There's a kind of thing that just breaks you down,
Break you down to your knees.
God, I've been broken more than a time or two.
Yes Lord, then He picked me up and showed me
What it means to be alive.

[Chorus]

INTRODUCTION OF SHANNON JOHNSON KERSHNER..... Sid Batts

SECOND LESSON: *1 Corinthians 8:1-13*..... (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 171)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Priorities.....Shannon Johnson Kershner

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 531 – Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels..... BRIDEGROOM

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITHJosh Musser Gritter

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

– from the United Church of Canada

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *concluding with the Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING..... Dolly Jacobs

OFFERTORY: Caritas et amor.....Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1939)

Chancel Choir

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Alleluia ibi est, Alleluia Domine.
Gaudium quod immensum est,
secula infinita!*

Where good and love are, God is there.
Alleluia, God is there.
The joy that is immense and good,
Unto the ages through infinite ages.

– Antiphon, 10th c.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise
 God, all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
 lu-ia! Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise
 Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
 lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP Sid Batts

* BENEDICTION Shannon Johnson Kershner

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Go to the World! SINE NOMINE

Go to the world! Go in-to ev-'ry place. Go live the
 Word of God's re-deem-ing grace. Go seek God's pres - ence



in each time and space. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

VOLUNTARY: Final from *Sonata no. 1*Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
John Alexander, organ

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Shannon Johnson Kershner, Pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago; and Mullin Forum Guest Preacher | *Sid Batts*, Senior Pastor | *Dolly Jacobs*, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care | *Lara Musser Gritter*, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident | *Josh Musser Gritter*, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident | *Lisa Witherspoon*, Associate Director of Children's Ministry | *Joe Dunlop*, Lay Reader | *Elliott Kirkland and Perrin Maulsby*, Acolytes | *Robert Wells*, Director of Chancel Choir | *John Alexander*, Director of Music and Principal Organist | *James Keith*, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice! | *Chancel Choir* | *Rejoice! Band*



* Please stand as you are able.

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"God is Here!" Text: Fred Pratt Green; Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor.

"O Lord, You Are My God and King" Text: *The Psalter*; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry.

"Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels" Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music: Peter Cutts.

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.

"Go to the World!" Text: Sylvia Dunstan; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams.

About Shannon Johnson Kershner



Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner grew up in the manse of the First Presbyterian Church of Waco, Texas, the daughter of Jimmie and Sherry Johnson, a Presbyterian pastor and a school teacher. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity University in San Antonio and went on to receive a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., where she was awarded the Columbia Leadership Award for demonstrating the greatest potential for future leadership within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Before and during her time at seminary, Shannon served as pastoral intern at urban congregations in Texas and Georgia, including Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Atlanta. Her first call upon graduating was as associate pastor at the Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church in The Woodlands, Texas. From there she was called to Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, Texas, where she served as head of staff for seven years before being called as head of staff to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, just outside the gates of the Montreat Presbyterian Conference Center in North Carolina. Shannon was officially installed as pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Shannon's sermons have been published in the *Journal for Preachers* and *Lectionary Homiletics*, and she has been a preacher and worship leader at various worship and preaching conferences. She is married to Greg Kershner, a financial advisor who, like Shannon, has a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Seminary. They have two children, Hannah and Ryan.

About The Mullin Forum

The Joe and Betty Mullin Preaching and Teaching Forum is designed for rejuvenation and rejoicing. If you are a pastor, a church professional or lay leader, this forum is a place to rest and rediscover your gifts and rejoice in the God who gave them.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church established the forum in 1991 to honor the former minister of this church and his wife. The forum brings "distinguished preachers, teachers or similar guests" to preach for the community and conduct workshops for ministers. Past speakers have included Fred Craddock, Samuel Proctor, Walter Brueggemann, Joanna M. Adams, Rodger Nishioka, John Buchanan, Nora T. Tisdale, Tom Tewell, Thomas Troeger, Barbara Brown Taylor, James A. Forbes Jr., Anna Carter Florence, Tom Long, Frances Taylor Gench, Dr. Brian Blount, Kenda Creasy Dean, Diana Butler Bass, Ted Wardlaw, and Scott Black Johnston.

Contributions to the Mullin Forum fund, established at Dr. Mullin's retirement in 1988, underwrite this project. Contributions are accepted.

WHAT'S GOING ON: Connect with our media to keep in touch with upcoming programs and events.
Start at fpcgreensboro.org/connect.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the season of "Ordinary Time." This season is a time of spiritual growth when the scriptures about Jesus' preaching, teaching and healings are read and proclaimed.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given today by the Mullin Forum Committee to the glory of God and in honor of Betty D. and Joseph B. Mullin.

THE QUIET CENTER IS AVAILABLE AFTER SERVICES for anyone needing prayer or mediation. This prayer space is the first room on the right as you walk down the Smith Building hallway from the Tower Room (Smith 231). A pastor will be available. All prayer requests are confidential.

OUR 10:30 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED on the web, and can be accessed at fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live, or via our Facebook page. You can also sign up for reminders and alerts at livestream.com/fpcgreensboro, and you can stream the service on mobile devices by installing the Livestream app (free account sign-in required).

PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP ENRICHMENT: We are in need of volunteers to teach Worship Enrichment during our 10:30 am service this year. Please contact Lisa Witherspoon (lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4726) if you are able to help out with this valuable experience.

USHERS NEEDED for Sanctuary worship services! If you can help out on Sunday mornings, contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4711.

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY ..." First Presbyterian Church would like to pray for you. Please fill out one of the prayer request cards, which are available in the Sanctuary, the Quiet Center on the second floor of the Smith Building, or the Mullin Life Center foyer outside of the Rejoice! worship service. Pastors read and pray these petitions each week. You may also email prayer requests to Dolly Jacobs, djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org. The FPC Intercessory Prayer Group meets Wednesdays at 8:45 am in the Quiet Center, Smith 231. Contact Dolly Jacobs for information or to join.

BECOMING A MEMBER: We welcome anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ to join our community of growing disciples. New members are received after completing Explore FPC, a class about our church and its ministries. The class will be offered again over consecutive Sundays, February 4 & 11, 8:30 -10:15 am in Cannon's Solarium. To RSVP, including child care requests, contact Sara Manchester, 336.478.4722 or smanchester@fpcgreensboro.org.

DON'T ASSUME ... that the pastors know that you or other members are in the hospital or home with a lengthy illness. Please call the church offices at 336.373.0445 and let us know so that we can extend a hand in prayer and care.

OVERFLOW PARKING: Our neighbor Hanes Lineberry allows us to use its parking lot for overflow on Sunday mornings and other occasions. Please do not park there if you see yellow "Funeral Parking" signs at the access points; that means a service or event is scheduled at the funeral home.

THE PARKING ASSISTANCE MINISTRY TEAM (PAM) has spaces on both sides of Greene Street reserved for our members and visitors with special needs. PAM volunteers can assist with guiding you to appropriate parking. If you are being driven to church, you may be dropped off at the Greene Street entrance while your driver parks.

THE RICHARDSON TRUST is accepting 2018 grant requests through April 3, "for the benefit of Home and Foreign Missions and the benevolent causes of the church." Info: Margaret Benjamin, 336-339-1186.

NEXT SUNDAY – Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, director of PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., will be our guest preacher. He is a former youth pastor and has worked with Salem Presbytery in college ministry and at camps in North Carolina and Virginia. He spent 15 years as senior pastor of Covenant Presbyterian in Durham. During church school, Rev. Hawkins will speak in the Garden Room about the office's mission and work.

IN MEMORIAM

James "Doc" Thomas Taylor, Jr.
January 14, 2018

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith. We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, we encourage you to wear a name tag, available in the blue Welcome notebooks on your pew.

VISITORS AND MEMBERS, please sign the attendance pad in the Welcome notebooks. We care about how folks are doing and try to pay attention when our members haven't worshiped with us in a while. And please note the names of others on your pew and say "Hello!"

FAMILIES can find comfortable seating, a nursing screen, and a live feed of the service in the Myers Loyalty Room behind the Sanctuary. Parents must supervise children.

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, we offer ways to make worship meaningful for them. Children in second grade and up are encouraged to participate with the congregation in the full service. Children age three and under may enjoy the nursery. Children are also encouraged to lead in worship by being acolytes and lay readers, and by joining our children's choirs. Sign up for the children's e-news to learn about various opportunities for your child, and the whole family, to get involved in worship.

Nursery care is provided for infants through age 4 on the **first floor of Mullin Life Center**. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

Children in Worship bags: Children in both Sanctuary and Rejoice! services are invited to participate in worship by using the **worship bags** with new activities, located in the Tower Room and in the back of Mullin Life Center. Please return your bag to the cart following worship.

Worship Enrichment is our children's worship time during the sermon for four-year-olds through first grade. Children will return to the service during the Hymn of Response.

Restrooms, including a family room, are located off the hallway behind the pulpit and chancel. We encourage young children to be accompanied by parents any time they leave the Sanctuary.

NEXT WEEK IN CHURCH

SCHOOL 9:30 a.m.

- **Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**, director of PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., will lead a class for adults in the Garden Room.
- **"Peter: The Man, His Mission, and Our Call Today,"** a new study led by Sandie Gravett, begins in YMBC in Redhead Hall.
- **Genesis** – A deep study of the the opening book of the Bible continues, hosted by Seekers class in Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.

SAVE THE DATE

- **February 11** – Lenten studies begin in Homebuilders/Faith Matters and Gather.
- **February 11** – United Way CEO Michelle Gethers-Clark will speak in the Garden Room, hosted by Faith, Community, Action.

The vision of First Presbyterian Church

FPC's vision is to be a vibrant regional church of **growing disciples** through a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ, with a passion for welcoming all people who seek a life of meaning and purpose, with a special focus on churchless young adults. Relying on God's grace, FPC will be this church through:

- Worship that is relevant, spiritual, welcoming, vibrant, mysterious and majestic
- Living as an inclusive community of faith within the Reformed tradition of head, heart and hands
- A faithful commitment for excellence in children's and youth ministry
- Pastoral care that is responsive and proactive
- Outreach that makes a significant difference in the community, the world and in the lives of members
- Engaging, transformative education for all generations
- Connecting relationships within this faith community
- Facilities that are welcoming, inviting and user-friendly
- A staff that models collaborative leadership
- A session that governs with a focus on growing disciples.



FIRST
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First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro



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dchase1/faith-and-family

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Rudisill Brantley
March 17, 1929 – November 7, 2017

Jack Rudisill Brantley was a highly respected, major contributor to all the aspects of life in which he participated—and there were many. He died November 7, 2017, after eighty-eight years of living abundantly.

Jack was born and grew up in Greensboro, beginning his life during the Great Depression. He attended Greensboro Senior High School (now Grimsley), and Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. In 1950, he graduated from the University of North Carolina. Having learned the game of golf at an early age, he lettered twice on the UNC varsity golf team. Later in life he was club golf champion at Greensboro Country Club. While at UNC, he joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, making lifelong friends there.

On a blind date during his college years, Jack met Dottie Rabey of Savannah, Georgia, who at the time was a senior at Women's College (today University of North Carolina at Greensboro). The couple were married in Savannah in the summer of 1951, then moved to New York City so that Jack could continue his job selling denim for Greensboro's Cone Mills. In due time, four children completed the family: Jack Jr. (Jay) in 1953, fraternal twins Betsy and Alison in 1955, and Duncan in 1959.

In 1960, the Brantley family moved back to Greensboro—to the same home on Meadowbrook Terrace where Jack had grown up. But soon, friends from Jack's UNC years, Jimmy and Bobo Tanner, initiated a career change for Jack. So the family moved to Rutherfordton, where he went to work at Tanner, the growing upscale garment manufacturing business. Jack enjoyed an accomplished career with Tanner and happy, fun-filled years in Rutherfordton. As the textile industry began to decline in the '90s, Jack and Dottie prepared to return to Greensboro which they did in 1992. Jack continued to make important contributions in business, this time as a consultant principally with Charlotte Pipe and Foundry. He retired from the foundry in 2008.

Jack and Dottie thoroughly enjoyed their Greensboro years, their Rutherfordton years, their New York City years. The family spent leisure time at Lake Lure, Figure Eight Island, on trips to New York, at ball games at UNC and other sporting events. But Jack was also focused on First Presbyterian Church. He taught Sunday school, was elected elder, and chaired the session's Human Resources Committee among many other contributions to the church's leadership.

Jack's lifelong priorities were family, friends, golf, his faith, his personal integrity. Jack's family notes that one of his proudest accomplishments was leading First Presbyterian's search committee to its decision to select Dr. Sid Batts as minister in 2001. That committee remembers the process as an outstanding one due to Jack's care for the contribution of each of its members and his attention to the detail of the work.

Jack Brantley was a gentleman, a lifelong student, a teacher, a leader who led others to their best decisions, one who respected others. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Marion Brantley and Dorothy Thweatt; his brothers Joseph M. Brantley, Jr.; Julian T. Brantley, M.D., and sister Jean Brantley Edwards. He is survived by his four children: Jack R. Brantley, Jr. of Decatur, Georgia; Betsy Brantley of Orange, Virginia; Alison Brantley Friedson of Berkeley, California; Duncan G. Brantley of Venice, California; seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. The Session of First Presbyterian Church gives thanks for the life of Jack Rudisill Brantley and offers its condolences to his family and to all those touched by his outstanding life.