

# FPC news

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



## Lenten DILEmma

THOUGHTS FROM DANNY MASSIE, PAGE 3



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Lent happenings,  
pages 8 & 9

Lectio divina,  
pages 10-12

Spring & summer,  
pages 14-17

# FIRST CHURCH PEOPLE

## SYMPATHY

Sympathy to the family and friends of FPC member **Janet Brooks Sheffield** who died February 27, 2019

Sympathy to family and friends of FPC member **Olena S. Bunn** who died February 26, 2019.

Sympathy to family and friends of FPC member **Marilyn Cotten-McMichael** who died February 14, 2019

Sympathy to FPC member **AnnaDell Pharr** on the death of her mother, Molly LuAlma Evans Watts Moore, on February 12, 2019.

Sympathy to **Interim Pastor Danny Massie and his wife, Tita**, on the death of their son, David Massie, on February 12, 2019.

Sympathy to FPC member **Wes Weathersbee** on the death of his mother, **Adele Weathersbee**, on February 6, 2019.

Sympathy to family and friends of FPC member **Ronald "Ron" H. Davis** who died February 4, 2019

Sympathy to the family and friends of FPC member **Ruth Read Patterson** who died February 1, 2019

Sympathy to FPC member **Joe Vartanian** on the death of his father, Pete Vartanian, on February 4, 2019.

Sympathy to FPC member **Alex Wrenn** on the death of his sister Elinor Wrenn Hadley on January 31, 2019

Sympathy to FPC member **Mike Ageon** on the death of his father, John Michael Ageon Sr., on January 30, 2019.

Sympathy to family and friends of FPC member **Ben "Van" Delsem Woltz**, who died January 28, 2019.

Sympathy to FPC member **Bene Ralls** on the death of her stepson **George Thomas Ralls, Jr.** on January 24, 2019.

Sympathy to FPC member **Aimee C. Scotton** on the death of her father, Jake Scotton, on January 22, 2019.

## SHARE YOUR LIFE EVENTS WITH FPC

### BAPTISMS or MEDICAL ISSUES, CRISES, DEATHS:

Debby Foster, 336.478.4702 or dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org

**BIRTHS, ADOPTIONS, ADDRESS/PHONE/  
EMAIL CHANGES:** 336.478.4799 or solson@fpcgreensboro.org

### WEDDINGS:

Anne Albert, 336.478.4711 or aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org

PLEASE DON'T ASSUME that we know you or a loved one is hospitalized or very ill at home. Let us know: 336.478.4702 or after-hours and weekends, 336.373.0445 and follow directions for the pastor on call.

## MEET A NEW MEMBER

**JENNY RIDDLE** is a native of Wilmington but is a mountain girl at heart. A pediatric nurse practitioner at Moses Cone Hospital, Jenny is a graduate of Queens University in Charlotte and South University in Savannah where she earned her graduate degree. She and her fiancée Kevin Hansen, a pharmacist at Moses Cone, live in Browns Summit and plan to be married in June. Both are runners and enjoy their 1-year-old Golden Doodle. Jenny was drawn to FPC because she likes a traditional service and because there are so many activities here for young adults. She has a number of friends at FPC, as well. Once her schedule settles a bit, Jenny would like to volunteer in children's ministries, participate in small group activities, and assist the congregational nurse.



– BIO BY PAM BARNHARDT

## FPC News schedule is changing

This is the last issue of FPC News for the 2018-2019 program year. For the 2019-2020 program year, the schedule will be:

**Fall preview**, arriving in late August. Submission deadline is July 22.

**Advent preview**, arriving in mid-November. Submission deadline is October 14.

**Lent preview**, arriving in mid-February. Submission deadline is January 13.

**Year in review & summer preview**, arriving in mid-May. Submission deadline is April 20.

Thank you to this issue's contributors: Pam Barnhardt, Keith Bowman, Lana Burske, Donna Chase, Betsy Farmer, Nancy Fuller, Dolly Jacobs, Brianna Martin, Danny Massie, David Partington, Susan DeVaney, and Lisa Witherspoon.



The Fight Between Carnival and Lent, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1559



DANNY  
MASSIE  
INTERIM PASTOR

## The Lenten dilemma

One of my favorite artists is a famous Dutch and Flemish Renaissance painter by the name of Pieter Bruegel the Elder, not to be confused with his two sons, Pieter Brueghel the Younger and Jan Brueghel the Elder (both of whom were notable artists in their own right). Landscapes, biblical depictions and peasant scenes from the 1600s are mesmerizing and informative. They reveal some of the sensitivities of those who had embraced the recent Protestant Reformation in the Low Countries of Europe. (If I am still among you come December I will surely mention his “Census at Bethlehem” where Joseph and Mary are almost lost amid the chaos and activities of a small village in the Middle Ages. The message: It is still easy to miss the significance of Jesus’ birth in the midst of so much holiday activity.)

But the Bruegel painting I have in mind for the current season is “The Fight Between Carnival and Lent.” Again, we see the chaos and activity of a small village in Europe. On the right side of the painting is a medieval church surrounded by observant worshippers and obedient children. Alms are being given. This is the overtly religious side of life. On the other side of the work beside an inn there is revelry and celebration and excesses of food and drink. Bruegel depicts the dilemma Protestants have always had when it comes to the season of Lent.

CONTINUES, back cover

# 1,000 WORDS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Mel Bringle greets worshippers on Mullin Forum Sunday ... Sharing the love at the Weekday Preschool's Valentine's Dance ... Youth take donations at Souper Bowl Sunday ... Elder nominees hear about the process ... Children and elder friends celebrate the Welcome to the Lord's Table service after finishing Milestone communion class.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Giving Back Gardeners begin prepping soil for spring planting ... Eighth-grade girls meet a new friend on a field trip ... Chef Stephen Scott preps a meal in the Life Center kitchen ... Christian Formation director Donna Chase poses in Israel during a trip with local religious leaders .

# Springtime can bring thoughts of suicide



BY SUSAN DEVANEY

Yes, it does happen here. In Greensboro, in the better neighborhoods, at First Pres. We might not want to recognize it, but thoughts of suicide, attempts to self-harm, and what counselors call “completions” are part and parcel in all age, socioeconomic, and religious groups. Ask any police officer, any social worker, any pastor. Ask Rev. Doug McLeroy, retired military chaplain, FPC Pastoral Associate, and Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling.

“There are a lot of misconceptions,” Doug says. “For example, that the month of December has the most suicides. It’s really April, when depressed individuals regain enough springtime energy to carry out their intention. Also, many believe that people who talk about suicide aren’t serious and won’t follow through. Not so.”

How does an untrained person recognize a potential suicide? In every case there are warning signals, and in today’s world every church member, every citizen, every friend and family member should be aware of those signals and know how to respond to them. For example, does the person seem depressed? Is she drinking to excess? Noticeably gaining or losing weight? Complaining either of insomnia or sleeping long hours during the day? Has she withdrawn from friends and family? Missed a lot of school? Eased off exercise or abandoned former activities? Given away cherished belongings? Have you heard disturbing but seemingly offhand remarks such as “You’d be better off without me” or “If I were going to off myself I’d ....”

Recognizing such signals is one step in preventing a possible suicide, but following up with a conversation is crucial. Be prepared with some conversation starters, recognizing that you may have to try more than once. Following are some examples:

“When I hear you talk about how unhappy you are, I worry that your sadness may lead to something worse.”

“I’m wondering if you’ve ever thought of hurting yourself?”

“Who have you talked to about your feelings?” (these thoughts? your situation?)

“What are you doing to take care of yourself?”

“What does your doctor (spouse, pastor, mother, friend) have to say about what’s happening with you?”

“What is your thinking in terms of God’s love and forgiveness?”

The responses to these questions will determine next steps. If the person brushes you off, try again with a statement of concern such as, “It doesn’t sound like you want to talk about it, but I’m pretty sure things aren’t right with you.” If given the opportunity you might ask, “Do you have a counselor (Recommend one if you are able) or “When was the last time you visited your physician?” (Offer to take her or make an appointment). Take the conversation as far as possible, assessing the person’s current ability to think rationally, their social connection, and any thoughts of suicide. Remember that women attempt suicide more often than men, but men tend to use more lethal means so are more likely to die. Because teens and elderly are more likely to feel isolated, they are at greater risk of suicide, as are undocumented immigrants and other oppressed people. Having a history of suicide within the family increases risk, but most important, the more concrete the suicidal ideation and planning, the greater the likelihood of an attempt. Time, place, method, and prospect of rescue or reversal all affect the gravity of the plan.

What if, after all this, a conversation leads to discovery of a suicide plan? First, recognize that this person has trusted you with his most private thoughts. Your obligation is to stand with him, despite any discomfort or uncertainty you feel. Accepting the seriousness of the situation is paramount, even if the person tries to deny it. If possible, accompany the person to a place of safety: to a mental health professional, a trained pastor, or a medical facility such as Cone Behavioral Health. This might take some convincing; expect the person to minimize their distress. Nonetheless, willingness to face the prospect of another’s suicide trumps all excuses and denials and might mean the difference between life and death. It’s a matter of being helpful but also seeking help.

“Going for help is a sign of strength,” Doug emphasizes, “not weakness. It’s important to understand that suicide can be prevented.”



# GOD

# TALKS

*faith worth sharing*

6:30 pm speakers

book signing & music  
in the courtyard afterward

*look for speaker  
announcements in March!*

## Ash Wednesday, March 6

Services of Imposition: 8 am, Memorial Chapel & 6 pm, Sanctuary; Preschool Chapel, 9:45 am, Sanctuary

### Prayer – Its Possibilities & Problems

Sunday Sermon series with Dr. Danny Massie. 8:30 & 10:30 am, Sanctuary and 10:30 am, Rejoice

March 3 – Why Prayer? Matthew 7:21-23

March 10 – Prayer's First Purpose, Jeremiah 9:23-24  
& Philippians 4:6-11

March 17 – Seeking God's Face, Psalm 27  
& 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

March 24 – Prayer and Expectations, Matthew 9:27-3

March 31 – Persistent Prayer, Luke 11:1-8 & Luke 18: 1-8

April 7 – A Partner's Perspective, John 14:1-14

April 14 – What Does Prayer Change? Matthew 7:7-11  
& James 5:13f



### The Last Sayings of Christ from the Cross

Series by Dr. Danny Massie. Wednesday Lenten Worship, 6 pm, Memorial Chapel, through Holy Week

## Palm Sunday, April 14

Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am, Sanctuary and 10:30 am, Rejoice

Ponies on the Playground: Preschool & elementary classes gather on the Elm Street playground at 9:45 am to pet some "colts" and lead the procession to worship. (No regular church school.)

Dupré's *Stations of the Cross*, John Alexander, organ. 5 pm

## Holy Week, April 14-20

Holy Monday: Rev. Neil Dunnivant leads. 6 pm, Sanctuary

Holy Tuesday: Rev. Doug McLeroy leads. 6 pm, Sanctuary

Holy Wednesday: Dr. Danny Massie concludes Lenten series. 6 pm, Memorial Chapel

Maundy Thursday Communion: Rev. Nate Sell leads 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Friday: Hadyn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross* with Chancel Choir & orchestra. 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 pm, begins in Columbarium and continues in Sanctuary

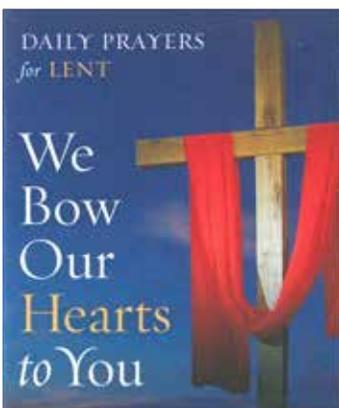


## Easter Sunday

Full Sanctuary services, 8:30 & 10:30 am; Rejoice, 10:30 am

**Bring a flower for the cross!**

Bells, Bubbles & Butterflies: Preschool & elementary children gather at the Elm Street Playground at 9:30 am to ring the Easter alleluias & release butterflies, followed by an egg hunt in the courtyard. **Bring your baskets!**



## DEVOTIONALS & CALENDARS

for adults and children & families available in the Welcome Center, Tower Room & Mullin Life Center.

## EMAIL MEDITATION

Journey deeper into your spiritual life with a daily meditation from Chip Bristol exploring an aspect of the spiritual climb. Leave it at that or explore further in a short, written response. Sign up: [chipbristol@gmail.com](mailto:chipbristol@gmail.com).

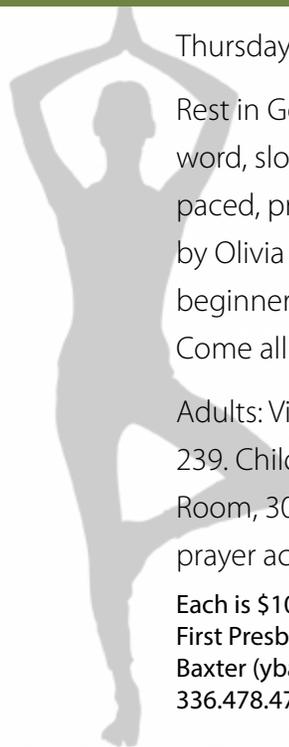
## ASH WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

Special children's Lent activities at Wednesday Fellowship Dinner. Meals available before each Wednesday service. Get tickets by Monday noon prior to dinner at reception desk or 336.478.4799.

## LECTIO DIVINA FOR LENT

Mondays at 11:30 am, Myers Loyalty Room  
Thursdays at 11 am at Well-Spring, in Activity Room 1 of the new Resident Activity Center

## YOGA FOR ADULTS & KIDS



Thursdays, March 7-April 11, 6-7 pm

Rest in God and focus on a Lenten word, slowing down from our fast-paced, production-driven lifestyle. Led by Olivia Wilson Smith. For all levels, beginners welcome & encouraged. Come all six weeks or when you can.

Adults: Virginia Gilmer Room, Smith 239. Children in grades K-5: Garden Room, 30 minutes of yoga followed by prayer activities.

Each is \$10/session. Bring cash or check to First Presbyterian Church. RSVP to Yolanda Baxter ([ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4722) so we can gauge numbers.

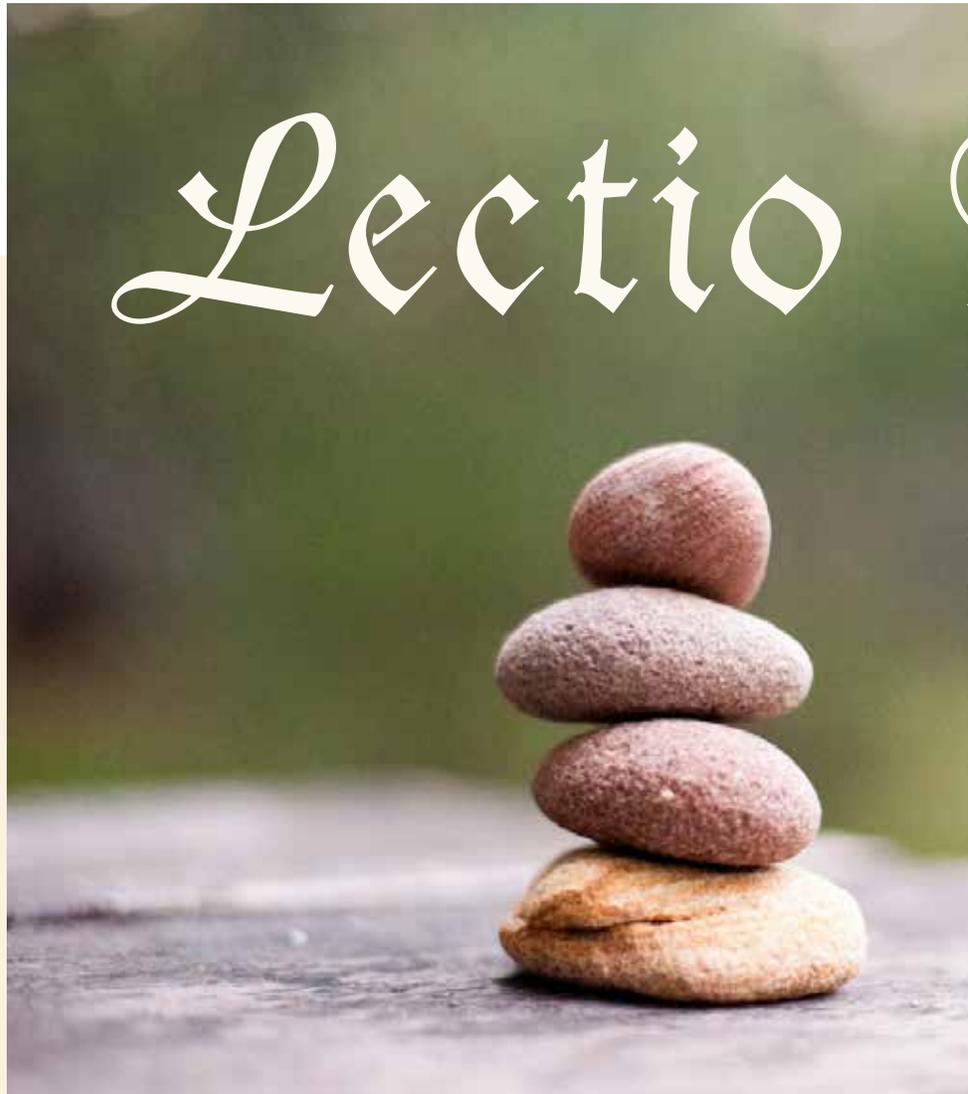
## PARTY FOR CONGOLESE CHILDREN

Kids Disciple Club leads an Easter Egg Hunt & Party for children of Congolese families in our congregation. Hide eggs, then help with crafts, games, and a snack, and enjoy fun & fellowship. April 7, 3:30-5 pm, Mullin Life Center.

## CROSS DISPLAY

Help us reflect on the Last Sayings of Christ from the Cross. Bring a favorite cross to share on a display in the Welcome Center. Sundays, April 7, 14 & 21. Pick up after worship April 28.

# Lectio



The words “Divine Reading” and “Prayer that begins as a dialogue and ends as a duet” toss us into a field of theology that is rarely on the table in our conversations with each other about spiritual practices or different ways to pray. To speak in such relational language is to invite us to probe what is called “The Experiential Knowledge of God.” Conversation about Lectio Divina needs a softer, personal, and more mysterious language than the language of academic theology. In praying together as a group following the flow of Divine Reading we are listening to holy scripture and are expectant that we will experience moments or glimpses of Presence.

Genie Schwartz, FPC member and Well-Spring resident, shares her personal experience in a Lectio Divina gathering:

*In communion with each other and with God, we read, listen,*

BY REV. DAVID P

*contemplate a verse, a phrase, a word  
again. And again ....*

*Then, each of us becomes still, silent.*

*Thinking of a phrase from the verse  
ourselves to a place deep within us  
open our hearts to God.*

*Frail and human as we are, our hearts  
phrase, the word. We pray to meet  
God always awaits us.*

*Time passes ... chimes ring ... slow  
other, say a few words, perhaps read*

*Next week, we will meet again with*

# Divina

‘Prayer that begins  
as a dialogue and  
ends as a duet’

## PARTINGTON

word. Then we do it again. And

lent, open to God alone.

erse, perhaps one word, we open  
s and wide as all creation. We

minds wander ... we recall the  
again that deepest place where

wly we re-enter our time with each  
main quiet.

with each other and with God.

In my present journey it is a gift to lead two Lectio Divina groups. FPC member Rob Hallquist and I co-lead one on Mondays at 11:30 am in FPC's Myers Loyalty Room. Following my retirement from FPC and our move to the Well-Spring Retirement Community here in Greensboro I felt a nudge to run up the flag about forming a weekly Lectio Divina group here. To my delight there has been a very positive response. We are in the beginning stages of praying scripture together journey and I trust that the Holy One who gathered us will sustain us as we pray.

Well-Spring resident Clem Clements offers a reflection from her experiences of praying with scripture . . .

*Lectio Divina, the practice of divine reading, offers a sacred invitation for me to listen to God's word so that I may know and feel*

CONTINUES, next page

*the sacred message for my life. It requires meditation that I need and it requires listening that I need, and it requires silence that the world needs.*

There is some thoughtful guidance for the flow of a gathering for a time of the Divine Reading and praying of scripture:

READING GOD'S WORD (Lectio)  
 REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD  
 (Meditatio)  
 RESPONDING TO GOD (Oratio)  
 RESTING IN GOD (Contemplatio).

This regular flow of prayer frees us to be attentive, expectant, and focused. I find that using the historic Latin words about this way of being present to God as God is present to us puts me in touch with the great cloud of witnesses who have journeyed this way.

However, today's mentors in different prayer practices help us to a fuller understanding of this way of experiencing the presence of God as we pray. Theologian Henri Nouwen speaks of not only our Lectio (reading) of holy scripture but also God's Lectio of us:

*Spiritual reading is not only reading about spiritual people or spiritual things. It is also reading spiritually, that is, in a spiritual way! Reading in a spiritual way is reading with a desire to let God come closer to us.*

*The purpose of spiritual reading . . . is not to master knowledge or information but to let God's Spirit master us. Strange as it may sound, spiritual reading means to let ourselves be read by God!*

*... Spiritual reading is reading with an inner attentiveness to the movement of God's Spirit in our outer and inner lives. With that attentiveness, we will allow God to read us and to explain to us what we are truly about.*

FPC member Ralph Davison reflects on his experience:

*While I am a regular reader of the Bible, the Lectio Divina process has been new to me. Always part of my*



#### VISIT A LECTIO GROUP

Mondays, 11:30 am, at FPC in Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242

Thursdays, 11 am, at Well-Spring in Activity Room 1 of the new Resident Activity Center

*prayers has been my call for help in being open to God's presence and will for me. The Lectio Divina has helped me to focus on this in a new way.*

FPC member Martha Hallquist offers yet another lens:

*There seems to be an arrogance, or perhaps false confidence, associated with modern life. With so many tools at our fingertips, we come to believe that most any answer is just a few clicks away. Contrast that with expectant listening for the still, small voice! Such is the starting place for Lectio Divina, a time apart that allows the Word of God to overflow into our lives like lava seeking daylight.*

You are invited to come and pray with us. Remember . . .

Lectio Divina is "prayer that begin as a dialogue and ends as a duet."

# CURRIE LIBRARY

LOCATION: First floor of Smith Building  
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 1:30 pm, and Sunday, 9 – 10:30 am  
CONTACT: Nancy Fuller, 336.478.4731 or nfuller@fpcgreensboro.org

## GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

In memory of:

- **Joyce Dekle:** *Through Your Eyes: My Child's Gift to Me*, given by Debra Ditzler.
- **Our many friends who died in 2018:** *Activities for the Family Caregiver: Lewy Body Dementia; Show Me the Way: Readings for Each Day of Lent; and Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*, given by Kitty & George Robison.
- **Van Woltz:** *Why Religion? A Personal Story*, given by Rose Chamblee.
- **Marilyn Cotton-McMichael:** *Killers of the Flower Moon*, given by Sara Stuart.
- **Bynum Hunter, Dr. Joseph B. Mullin, Gordon Turner and Bill Summerlin:** books to be selected, given by Young Men's Bible Class for members who died in 2018.

In honor of

- **Megan Bishop Moore:** *Biblical History and Israel's Past: The Changing Study of the Bible and History*, given by Kitty & Mac Sigmon.
- **Jack Glenn:** *Home by Another Way: A Christmas Story*, given by George Robison.
- **Dan McAlister:** *Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance*, given by George Robison.
- **Rev. David Partington:** *Book of Common Worship*, given by Carol Stevens.
- **Currie Library:** books to be selected, given by The Contemporary Book Club.

## CHECK IT OUT

Ainsley Earnhardt celebrates joys and miracles on a trip to the park as seen through her daughter's eyes in *Through Your Eyes*.

*Biblical History and Israel's Past* is co-authored by Megan Bishop Moore, granddaughter of Kitty and Mac Sigmon. Megan has a graduate degree in Old Testament History, Greek and Hebrew. Rev. David Partington says it is well-written.

David Partington wanted FPC to have the most current (2018) edition of *The Book of Common Worship*, prepared by the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.

*Killers of the Flower Moon* is the story of the Osage Indian murders that led to the beginning of the FBI. Sid Batts recommended it. Marilyn Cotton-McMichael was a faithful member of the Tuesday Book Club.

In *Halftime*, Bob Buford focuses on the transition to a time of revitalization and living the second half of life with more significance.

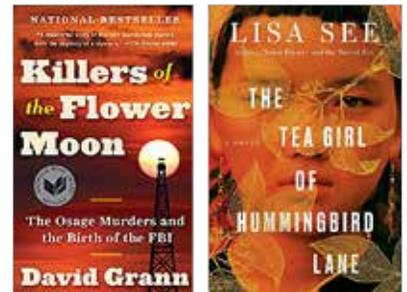
*Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton draws on Scripture and science for living with courage and hope in uncertain times. One of FPC's small groups studied this book recently.

In *Home by Another Way: A Christmas Story* Barbara Brown Taylor (one of our Mullin Forum preachers) gives a new perspective on the three wise men and their encounters with others.

## MONDAY BOOK CLUB

10:30 AM, SECOND MONDAYS • SOLARIUM  
INFO: SARA STUART, 336.545.9440

**MARCH 11:** *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann



**APRIL 8:** *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, by Lisa See

**MAY 13:** Planning for next year

## TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

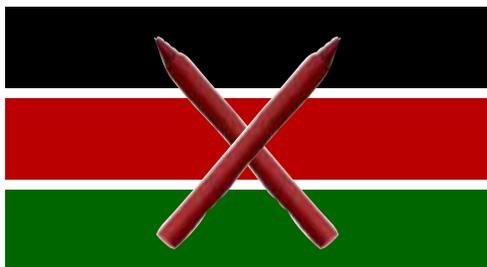
1:30 PM, SECOND TUESDAYS • GARDEN ROOM  
INFO: BRENDA FROST, 336.288.0509 OR  
UFROST@TRIAD.RR.COM



**MARCH 12:** *Small Great Things*, by Jodi Picoult

**APRIL 9:** *Lilac Girls*, by Martha Kelly

**MAY 14:** *The Summer Before the War*, by Helen Simonson



## CRAYONS FOR KENYA!

Our youth heading to Kenya this summer are collecting 450 coloring books & 450 boxes of 24 crayons to take to schoolchildren. Please bring donations to collection containers in the Welcome Center, Life Center & Tower Room!

# MARCH

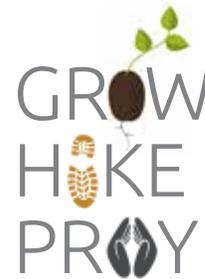
ONGOING

## SUNDAY ADULT SERIES • 9:30 AM

**RECONSIDERING THE PARABLES OF JESUS:** Led by Professor Sandie Gravett, Sundays in March, YMBC & Agape classes, Redhead Hall

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AND THE PARABLES OF JESUS:** Led by Rev. Neil Dunnavant, March 17 & 24, April 7 & 14, Homebuilders & Faith Matters classes, Myers Loyalty Room

**EXODUS:** Led by Gerard Davidson, Seekers Class, Main 125



“Everything old is new again,” or so they say. March through May, Pastoral Resident Nate Sell opens a spring series on Ancient

Spiritual Practices for Today with experiences, readings, documentaries, and discussion. March focuses on how gardening can foster spiritual growth. Group meets Sundays at 9:30 am in the Solarium. On March 30, we will work in a garden at Peacehaven Farm. No experience necessary! **Please email Nate by March 15 if you are interested in the garden workday, nsell@fpcgreensboro.org.** Beginning March 31, the group will explore hiking (pilgrimage) as a spiritual practice, with an optional overnight trip April 6-7 and beginning April 28, prayer, with an optional contemplative retreat May 4-5.

## REVOLUTIONARY JESUS



Rev. Frank Dew & members from Saint James Presbyterian join us Tuesdays through Lent, 6-7:15 pm, WAMRev Gallery, first floor at Revolution Mill, 1250 Revolution Mill Drive  
Come for all sessions or when you can:

- March 5:** The Politics of the Day
- March 12:** Death, Resurrection and New Life in Jesus
- March 19:** The Body of Christ: The Church
- March 26:** Spiritual Practices
- April 2:** Discernment of Calling & Gifts.
- April 9:** Commissioning & Action in the World

## WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS • 5-7 PM, MULLIN LIFE CENTER

Purchase tickets by noon Monday prior to dinner: Welcome Center, 336.478.4799, or receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org. No tickets at the door. \$8/ages 13-adult; \$5/ages 5-12; free/4 & under + paying adult; family max, \$25

**MARCH 13:** Chili with corn chips, salad with green beans, bacon, shallots & mushrooms, buttered rice, seasonal fruit with white chocolate crema

**MARCH 20:** Vegetable lasagna, mixed greens with homemade balsamic & ranch dressings, fresh vegetable medley, homemade brownie with salted caramel sauce & candied pecans

**MARCH 27:** Meatloaf, Caesar salad, roasted potatoes, fresh steamed broccoli, and chocolate mousse

**APRIL 3:** Chicken and quinoa gratin, mixed greens with homemade balsamic & ranch dressings, fresh green beans, and apple crumble

**APRIL 10:** Spaghetti with meatballs, cucumber, tomato, red onion salad with a homemade vinaigrette, and ricotta cheesecake

**APRIL 17:** Chopped salad, roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, fresh green beans, chocolate polenta tart

# & APRIL

**MARCH 19: ALMANAH** group for widows meets for lunch at 1 pm Elm Street Grill, 3606 Elm St. RSVP day prior: 336.545.7757 or beckypeters8@gmail.com

**MARCH 20 & APRIL 17: SPIRITUS:** Support group for those providing care for a loved one. 1:30 pm, Blair Hagan Room (Memorial 100). INFO: Maggie Turner, 336.478.4724 or mturner@fpcgreensboro.org

**MARCH 27 & APRIL 24: LAMENTATIONS:** Bereavement support group. 11 am. INFO: Dolly Jacobs, 336.478.4734 or djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org

**MARCH 31: EXPLORE FPC,** for anyone interested in membership. 8:30-10:15 am. Sign up: 336.478.4711 or receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org. Also June 9.

**MARCH 31: THE GLORY TRAIN:** Like good old gospel? FPC will host this production by the FirstFruits Drama Ministry of Saint Matthews United Methodist. The Saint Matthews DayStar Dancers will present "A Glimpse of Movement in the Black Church." 7 pm, Mullin Life Center. Free.

**APRIL 2: ALE-LELUIA:** Nate Sell & Matt Logan lead conversation at the intersection of current events and Christian Faith. 7 pm, at Double Oaks, 204 N. Mendenhall St.

#### APRIL 7: COMMUNION SUNDAY

**APRIL 8: PW LUNCHEON:** Noon, MLC, \$8. RSVP by April 3: receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.373.0445. Menu: Penne primavera with fresh vegetables & light tomato sauce, mixed green salad, bread sticks, chocolate tart

**APRIL 10: VETERANS' FELLOWSHIP COFFEE & COOKIES,** 1:30 pm, Redhead Hall. Hear from Army Recruiting Command on the challenges of recruiting today. RSVP: Debby Foster, 336.478.4702, or Doug McLeroy, 336.478.4739.

## SPECIAL EVENTS



**MARCH 17: PIANO CONCERT: STEPHANIE A. EMBERLEY,** 2 pm, free. Stephanie is a member of Chancel Choir.

**MARCH 24: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The Session has called a meeting for March 24, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee, and to approve the change of call for one of our pastors. A backup meeting is scheduled for March 31, if needed.

#### APRIL 7:

**CHURCH FINANCES: FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET TO ENDOWMENT** presented by the Finance Committee in the Garden Room after 10:30 worship. Also May 5.

**RALEIGH RINGERS,** 5 pm, Sanctuary. Tickets available at Welcome Center & fpcgreensboro.org/music, at the door. \$15 general admission, \$5 students.

**APRIL 28: UNCG CHAMBER SINGERS AND CHORALE,** 5 pm, free.

**APRIL 29-MAY 3: BOGO BOOK FAIR.** The Weekday Preschool Center will have a Scholastic Book Fair set up in the hallways of Corl from 8 am to 3 pm daily. It's a buy one, get one! Stop by and pick up some good summer reading for kids!



# RETREATS, TRIPS & CAMPS



**APRIL 12: THE 2019 MEN'S RETREAT**, 8:30 am-5 pm at the Bennett Farm in Stoneville. Sing to the Lord a New Song (or an Old Song in a New Way). Whether gathered in the barn or wandering the grounds, we will explore the nature of our spiritual lives and discover, or re-discover, the song God has given each of us to sing. Workshops: Prayer and Meditation 101, Creativity as Prayer, Drum Circle. Activities are ATV riding, walking, skeet shooting, volleyball. Optional: Stay for cornhole, croquet, a campfire and dinner. Chip Bristol leads. **RSVP by April 1:** Forms at [fpcgreensboro.org/rsvp](http://fpcgreensboro.org/rsvp) or reception desk, or call Yolanda Baxter, 336.478.4722. Registration \$25. Add transportation for \$10 and post-retreat fellowship for \$25. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Men's Retreat" in memo line and mail or leave at reception desk. Mailing address is 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.

**APRIL 6 & 7: BACKPACKING PILGRIMAGE** led by pastoral resident Nate Sell, includes Sunday morning communion service. No experience necessary! **Email Nate by March 15** if you are interested in the hiking trip, as space will be limited ([nsell@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:nsell@fpcgreensboro.org)). Estimated cost: \$25.

**MAY 4 & 5: CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT:** Join Donna Chase & Nate Sell for an overnight retreat at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville. In this beautiful and peaceful sacred space, experience 24 hours of silence, contemplative prayer practices & worship. Eighteen spaces available; **email [ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org) by April 15.** \$125 covers single room, three meals, all retreat facilities.



**AUGUST 9-11: MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.** Montreat, NC. A time to care for yourself, a time for space and Sabbath, so you can experience spiritual nourishment, inspiration & discernment. Keynote speaker is Valarie Kaur, a civil rights activist, award-winning filmmaker, lawyer, faith leader & founder of the Revolutionary Love Project. Amy Grant will lead music at the closing worship service! \$300/person. FPC needs a minimum of 10 women to make up a group for housing and food. **Registration & payment due by June 1.** Contact: Yolanda Baxter, [ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4722.

**OCTOBER 2-9 TRIP TO PERU:** Neil Dunnivant will lead this trip with time in Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, and Cusco, location of the Santo Domingo Monastery atop Inca foundations and a cathedral with a magnificent collection of artwork. Contact Neil: [ndunnivant@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:ndunnivant@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4707.

**SEPTEMBER 9-20 TRIP TO CELTIC IRELAND & SCOTLAND:** Rev. Frank Dew will lead a 12-day pilgrimage exploring Celtic and Reformed roots of Christianity and modern spirituality, including the monastery founded by St. Columba in Iona, the Book of Kells, Edinburgh cathedrals, and visits with groups who are working to build peace in Northern Ireland. There will also be time to pray and reflect. Cost: \$2,879 plus airfare. Info: [www.progressivepilgrimage.com/frankdewireland](http://www.progressivepilgrimage.com/frankdewireland).

**JUNE 3-AUGUST 16: WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL CENTER SUMMER CAMP:** Offerings by the day and the week for ages 2 months through 9 years. INFO: [www.fpcgreensboro.org/wpc](http://www.fpcgreensboro.org/wpc)

**JULY 15-18: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB CAMP:** Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good! Early bird registration, \$30/child through April 2; then \$35/child through June 20. NEW: Parents who volunteer at least two days receive discounted registration (\$15/child). Info: Lisa Witherspoon, [lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org).

**JULY 25-28: PASSPORT CAMP:** An ecumenical camp in Spartanburg, SC, where current 3rd-, 4th-, or 5th-graders connect with each other & God! \$375. Contact Lisa Witherspoon ASAP, [lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org). <https://passportcamps.org/kids-camps/>



**JULY 21-27: MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE** for current grades 8-12. Dolly Jacobs & Nate Sell lead. Registration open now. \$150 deposit due March 30, second payment of \$175 on April 30, and final payment of \$175 on June 30. INFO: [kmurray@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:kmurray@fpcgreensboro.org).

# MAY

**MAY 2: GOD TALKS: FAITH WORTH SHARING.** We start at 6:30 in the Sanctuary and afterward head downstairs to the Solarium & Courtyard for a book signing & hymn sing! Look for speaker announcements in a few weeks.

**MAY 4 & 5: CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT:** Join Donna Chase & Nate Sell at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville. For anyone interested in deepening their spiritual journey. Eighteen spaces available; email Nate if you are interested, [nsell@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:nsell@fpcgreensboro.org). \$125/single room, three meals, full use of retreat facilities.

**MAY 5: CONFIRMATION SUNDAY:** Our eighth-graders conclude their confirmation journey and become full members of the church.

**CHURCH FINANCES: FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET TO ENDOWMENT** presented by the Finance Committee in the Garden Room after 10:30 worship.

**ORGAN RECITAL & LECTURE.** John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry & Principal Organist. 4 pm lecture, 5 pm recital. Free.

**MAY 7:**

**ALE-LELUIA:** Nate Sell & Matt Logan lead conversation at the intersection of current events and Christian Faith. Folks from all faith backgrounds or no faith background, ages 21 & older, are invited. First Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Double Oaks, 204 N. Mendenhall St.

**ORGAN RECITAL:** Andre Lash. 7:30 pm, free.

**MAY 8: WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER** with lasagna, mixed greens with balsamic & ranch dressings, "Not Your Mother's" strawberry shortcake. Children's option available. Get tickets Monday prior: [receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.373.0445.

**MAY 13: PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON.** Program is presented by the Children's Hope Alliance. Menu: mixed green salad with homemade dressings, quiche Loraine, spinach and mushroom quiche, and seasonal fruit with Mascarpone sauce. Noon, Mullin Life Center. \$8. RSVP by May 8: [receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.373.0445.

**MAY 15:**

**WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER**, last of the program year. Sherry baked pork cutlet, farro salad with seasonal vegetables and goat cheese, "Not Your Mother's" spaghetti and tomato sauce, and hazelnut cake. Children's musical at 6:30 pm. Get tickets Monday prior: [receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.373.0445.



**OH, JONAH!**  
CHILDREN'S MUSICAL  
MAY 15 • 6:30 PM • FREE

**MAY 18: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: FINDING DORY,** 5:30-8 pm. \$10/child, \$15/ages 2 & under, \$30/family max. **RSVP by May 14:** [lwiterspoon@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:lwiterspoon@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4726.



# JUNE



**JUNE 2:** Join Rev. Neil Dunnivant's newest short-story study, **READING TOGETHER THE STORIES OF ANTON CHEKHOV: REFLECTING ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE** Sundays in June, 9:30 am, Garden Room. We'll discuss *Gooseberries*, *The Man in a Case*, *The House with the Mezzanine*, *The Black Monk*, and *Rothchild's Fiddle*. For further reading, Neil recommends *In the Ravine*.

**JUNE 4: ALE-LELUIA:** Nate Sell & Matt Logan lead conversation at the intersection of current events & Christian faith. All faith backgrounds or no faith background, ages 21 & older, are invited. First Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Double Oaks, 204 N. Mendenhall St.

**JUNE 9: EXPLORE FPC,** a class for anyone interested in membership. 8:30-10:15 am with a tour after worship. Sign up: 336.478.4711 or [receptionsist@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:receptionsist@fpcgreensboro.org). Child care available with reservation.



## summer WORSHIP

MEMORIAL DAY  
THROUGH JUNE:  
10:30 services only

JULY: One blended  
service, 10:30

AUGUST 4-LABOR  
DAY: 10:30 services  
only

# SESSION DIGEST

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY SESSION MEETING APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING

## **The Work and Worship of the Session Monday, January 28, 2019**

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held on Monday, January 28, 2019 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Room. Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor, served as meeting moderator. Dolly Jacobs attended the meeting as a called ordained staff member.

The Elders first sang the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, Director of Music Ministry. Neil then led a responsive reading of Psalm 81.

Guests: Myles Fish, Christine Ciaccio, Nate Sell, Tim Millisor, John Alexander, Mead Willis, Margaret Arbuckle and Erwin Fuller.

Mead Willis made a brief announcement about encouraging the staff and Session to review "A Closer Walk with God" devotional by Rev. Katie Crowe. Please submit comments by the May Session meeting to Mead Willis or any member of the Adult Christian Formation Committee.

**The Consent Agenda** was approved.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the December 17 stated Session meeting.
- From the Discipleship office: December 2018 attendance, membership and visitor reports.
- Committee Report: Christian Formation Children Committee.
- 2018 Church Statistical Report .
- Memorial Tribute for Jean Troyke King.

Session members identified prayer partners for the month.

## **What's Going Well – Where Have We Seen God's Movement?**

- Confirmation class of 2019.
- Hurricane relief efforts led by Nate Sell
- 8th grade small group.
- Cynthia Price Resident, Libby Boehne Sapp, ordained at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Durham recently.
- Calendar year 2018 finished with a \$37,807 surplus!

**Finance Committee:** Betsy Farmer, chair, presented the report on the December 2018 finances. Revenues through December were \$4,367,962; \$83,512 less than budgeted and \$30,529 less than last year. Our expenses through December were \$4,330,155; \$121,319 less than budgeted and \$46,030 less than last year. A big thank you to the staff – they have done an outstanding job of managing expenses! For the twelve month period through December, expenses and revenue were expected to be equal, thus resulting in a balanced budget. Revenues actually exceeded expenses by \$37,807, which means that First Presbyterian Church finished 2018 in the black with a surplus! This is the second year in a row with a positive budget and is a significant achievement for the Church. Revenue from non-pledged gifts lagged projections by \$220,526. Many pledging members paid more than their pledged amounts. Pledged gifts were \$2,683,768 through December which was \$75,768 in excess of what was budgeted.

**Debt Motion:** The following motion updates Session motions of 2012 and 2017 concerning the payment of capital loans. These earlier motions reference "capital campaign loans" so Session needs to authorize using unrestricted bequests to pay down any current and future debt and not just capital campaign loans. The motion provides: *That, in order to provide funding for capital expenses, any payments made on unpaid Capital Campaign pledge balances and all future unrestricted bequests shall be designated for current and future capital debt retirement through December 31, 2024. Further, any funding requests to be included in the capital debt shall require the approval of the Finance Committee which will submit approved requests to Session for its approval.* The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

**2019 Budget:** The 2019 proposed budget came to the Finance Committee with a deficit, but the Finance Committee is committed to the spiritual and fiscal discipline of having a balanced budget. This is extremely important as the Church attracts the most qualified candidates to be senior pastor. The Finance Committee submitted the following motion for consideration and approval: *That, in order to provide funding for 2019 operating expenses and a balanced budget, the Session shall approve the 2019 budget as presented (copy attached). Funds shall be spent for the purposes outlined in the budgets submitted by departments and committees. Further, any funding requests and/or needs shall be submitted to the Finance Committee for their review and approval before a commitment is made to spend the funds. The Finance Committee shall submit approved requests to the Session for its approval.* The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

**2018 Audit:** The Finance Committee has begun the process of preparing for the 2018 audit, made more complicated this year by the implementation of new standards from FASB. The Audit Team consists of Jonathan Peddrick and Molly Carrison, and they will work with Christine and the outstanding accounting firm to coordinate the audit.

**Finance Information Sessions:** The Finance Committee is holding two finance information meetings for the congregation on April 7 and May 5.

**Scripture Reading:** Neil encouraged the Elders to read Luke 8:22-25.

**Faith Sharing:** Elder Atim Idika shared her faith statement.

**Stewardship and Annual Campaign:** Myles Fish gave an update on stewardship matters and the importance of the spiritual dynamics inherent in the stewardship process of constructing the revenue portion of the 2019 budget.

The Stewardship Committee attributes 4 factors to the increased revenue potential within the Church:

1. The energy created by the arrival of Danny Massie;
2. The momentum generated by 2 years of balanced budgets;
3. 108 families have increased their annual pledges; and
4. Some families who had drifted away are coming back!

# 'Joy of Giving' = Balanced budget

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, members' commitment to our mission, and the careful attention to expenses from staff and committees, First Presbyterian finished the 2018 fiscal year in the black with a surplus of \$37,807. We are particularly grateful to 685 individuals and families who made pledge commitments to First Presbyterian and exceeded the \$2,608,000 in expected pledges by \$75,000. Making sometimes difficult decisions about priorities in our expense budgets is also part of achieving this balanced budget. This is our second year in a row ending the year with a balanced budget and a modest surplus, a significant and very positive achievement for us.

On January 28, Session approved a balanced operating budget of \$4,491,534 for 2019. We want to make balanced budgets a habit!

Both the Finance and Stewardship committees are committed to the spiritual as well as fiscal discipline of having a balanced budget. We want to demonstrate to you, the members of the congregation, that in asking you

## INFORMATION MEETINGS ON CHURCH FINANCES

From the operating budget to endowment, the Finance Committee will offer two information sessions about FPC's financial structure and operations this spring. Sundays, April 7 and May 5, in the Garden Room after 10:30 services.

to make your stewardship commitment to FPC that the church's leadership is committed to being good stewards of the church's funds.

Balanced budgets are the foundation of both the church's long-term financial health and a successful and growing mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We also know that having our annual budget operating at a surplus and being responsible stewards of our funds is important in attracting the best possible candidates to be our new senior pastor. Most importantly, though, our stewardship commitment is an act of faith and an expression of our love and devotion to Jesus Christ – and that is truly the "Joy of Giving."

*Betsy Farmer is chair of FPC's Finance Committee.*

The Stewardship Committee has taken a "leap of faith" in 4 areas with regard to its projected revenue in 2019:

1. Pledged gifts of \$2,725,000
2. Non-pledged gifts of \$450,000
3. Plate donations of \$35,000
4. Collection of prior year pledges of \$65,000

This Stewardship report complemented nicely the Finance report earlier in the meeting.

**Appointments:** Elizabeth Brumbeloe reported on behalf of the committee. The process of getting the Nominating Committee slated for fall 2019 is going well. The committee is also responsible for naming chairs and vice-chairs of committees, slating officers of the church corporation, slating members of the Appointments Committee, and appointing elders to committees. Elizabeth asked the Elders in Classes of 2020 and 2021 to complete the Service Preference Sheet in the meeting packet.

**Race Task Force:** Margaret Arbuckle encouraged Session members to participate in a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge given to our congregation by Debby Irving, the author of *Waking Up White*, who visited the Church last fall. Text 41411 and then message 21day (no spaces).

**Prayers of the People:** Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of need, healing, thanksgiving, and celebration, and Dolly offered prayers for those people and the life of the church.

**New Business:** There were 4 items:

1. A survey regarding the future of the Church will be coming out soon. Please be on the lookout and devote prayerful time and attention to completing this important survey.
2. Listening sessions are being held to solicit the opinions of church members about the future of the church and its leadership. A portion of the February Session meeting will be devoted to a listening session to hear the thought leadership of the Session.
3. The Mullin Forum will be held Sunday, February 10.
4. The Souperbowl luncheon will be held Sunday, February 3 in Redhead Hall, and will feature various soups and chilis prepared by the youth of the church.

Neil offered closing prayer; meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Maulsby Bristol, Assistant Clerk of Session

## THE L. RICHARDSON

TRUST is accepting requests for 2019 grants through April 12. Grant amounts have averaged \$2,000 to \$10,000. Grants may be made annually "for the benefit of Home and Foreign Missions and the benevolent causes of the church." Multi-year grant requests have been considered on a year-by-year basis. Forms are available at [www.fpcgreensboro.org/outreach](http://www.fpcgreensboro.org/outreach) and at the Welcome Center reception desk. INFO: Gerard Davidson, 336.314.2882 or [gdavidson@wardblacklaw.com](mailto:g davidson@wardblacklaw.com).

## LENTEN DILEMMA

FROM PAGE 3

Traditionally we Protestants have been suspicious of many rituals observed by our Catholic friends and have wondered what is appropriate and what is not. And we are torn frankly between the excesses and extremes of both fasting and feasting, of Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Is self-denial or celebration in order? Do we give up or take on something for Lent? Do we pretend for 40 days that we do not know that Jesus is the risen and reigning Lord, the giver of life abundant and eternal? Or do we focus on his bitter suffering and painful death for which our sins are responsible? Must it be one or the other? Could it be both? I think so.

A balanced life and a balanced faith makes room for both sentiments and seasons. In faith and in life there is sorrow and joy, sparsity and abundance, self-denial and pleasure. Yes, we are journeying to a cross this Lent, but the road ends, lest we forget, at an empty tomb.

I pray that you will have a balanced journey in your Lenten observance this year. And I hope to see you both on Ash Wednesday and on Easter morning. One is not

complete without the other.

In addition, to assist in our observance of a spiritual and disciplined Lenten observance I will be offering two opportunities and reflections beyond our annual and traditional celebrations of Ash Wednesday (March 6), Maundy Thursday (April 18), Palm/Passion Sunday (April 14) and Holy Week (April 14-21).

Beginning on March 3 and continuing through April 14 I will be focusing in worship on "Prayer: It's Problems and Possibilities" in a sermon series. And then on Wednesdays at 6 pm through Holy Week I will conduct a brief series of reflections in Memorial Chapel on the cross of Christ and the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross which we find in the gospels. Wednesday dinner will be served by our new chef in Mullin Life Center from 5 to 7 pm, so families and individuals can eat before or after the chapel service.

Have a blessed Lent!

Danny Massie