



ROOTED & REACHING
in Christ's love

FALL 2023 AT FPC

Fall kickoff, y'all!

sunday, august 27

**ONE SERVICE
AT 11 AM**

Back-to-School Blessing
for students & installation
of new elders

**POTLUCK
LUNCH**

Fried chicken!
Bring sides & desserts
(drop off in Life Center)
Share summer tales

T-SHIRTS!

With our Rooted
& Reaching
vision logo! \$10

**YOUTH
PARENTS**

Meet 6:30 pm at
the Driscolls' home,
2004 Dalton Road

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love



JILL DUFFIELD

Senior Pastor

Mission and vision statements can be helpful, but only if they are useful, only if they are enacted. Perhaps you have a personal one. Perhaps you are familiar with those of organizations with which you are affiliated. Maybe you, like me, have put much effort into creating a mission and vision statement, only to forget about it until it feels like it might be time for a new one. Given that we're on the cusp of our 200th, and given that we're on the other side of a pandemic, and given that we've had much change in leadership — well, it felt like time to reconsider our congregation's mission and vision. Hence, all of those small groups, shifting through every response, writing and rewriting, conversation, discussion, wordsmithing, much prayer, a little weeping and gnashing of teeth. After all of that process, here's where the Session landed (at least for now!):

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we will
serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good.

Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith
community welcoming those who seek

an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ
meaningful worship
authentic connections
lifelong learning
transformative service

We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly
rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.

All of this is based on Ephesians 3:17b-18, verses that emphasize the expansiveness of God's love revealed in Christ. If you remember nothing else about this process, the statement, the words, remember this promise and truth of God's abiding, abundant love. It is this truth, when we even begin to grasp it, that will transform us, our actions, our priorities, our perceptions, everything, and we then, in turn, will begin to participate in God's transformation of the world, for good.

I've been reading a lot about strategy, most of it written for the corporate world. Some of it applicable to the church, much of it not so much. But the following concept from an article in the Harvard Business Review concisely articulates what I hope our mission and vision statement encompasses. James Collins and Jerry Porras write, "Core purpose is an organization's most fundamental reason for being." I pray our core purpose for being here at FPC Greensboro is to demonstrate the love of God made known to and for the world in Jesus Christ. I pray everything we do, indeed who we are to our core, reflects that saving, embodied, expansive, powerful love. So, yes, please, let's learn our mission and vision statement, but, more importantly, let's live it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill".

the vision

BY JEAN PINCKARD, FPC member

With roots more than 200 years deep in our city's past and grounded in God's love, we seek to reach out and be changemakers for good, always led by the Holy Spirit. Whether you are a new member, a long-established member, someone searching for a more abundant relationship with Jesus Christ or someone looking for a new church home, this overview will provide an appealing visit with some of our members and their experience here. From the outside our church looks imposing with many doors through which to enter, but enter one and you will find a small church sensibility and people with serving hearts who have found a home here.

If you are new or returning to FPC before long you too will find familiar smiling faces and outstretched arms. FPC is grounded by four deep roots allowing us an abundant life of the spirit: meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service.



in the missions

meaningful worship

Meaningful worship resonates in many ways: gathering to worship together, raising our voices in song and praise, making a joyful noise, connecting through prayer and quiet contemplation, seeking renewal of faith or hope for burdened hearts, hearing the word of God anew.

Jim and Paula Hoeger and family exemplify intergenerational connection with meaningful worship that many members rely on in good times and bad. Despite his own storms of faith, Jim returned to the church, committed to worship, while Paula experienced the blessing of pastoral care during her health challenges. Both return God's love through participation as lay readers and ushers, as well as service work alongside their daughter Catherine Freeze. Catherine, raised in FPC, treasures her days in Youth Ministry, anticipating a similar meaningful experience for her own family. Her daughter



The Hoegers and Freezes

Charlotte serves as an acolyte with a joyful heart and big smile.

A major part of FPC worship remains our strong music program, encompassing excellence in organ, guitar, and voice. Worship through singing with the

Chancel Choir brings great joy to both Bonnie McAlister and Cheryl Crago. Bonnie declares, "Music is an extra way the Word comes to me." Cheryl suggests the stories we tell each other are what we live on. Both credit Dr. Robert Wells' sure guidance and the close-knit community of the choir with engendering meaningful worship. And anyone who has felt the music move the congregation during our Rejoice! service or thrilled to the voices of Jill Hare and Tim Cook under Will Edwards' leadership cannot deny they exemplify deep meaning in worship.



John Vanderwerff, second from left, serves in the Peacehaven -FPC Young Adult Group.

authentic connections

Authentic connections form the foundation of FPC. In discussing this pillar long-time FPC member and Discipleship Committee member Nancy Courts raised the question, "What is authentic connection?" Perhaps it's best exemplified in the genuine caring offered and trustfully received between each of us. From our encounters within FPC whether as a potential new member, or as members receiving pastoral care, participants in service or worship, or in

study groups, this is often the signal quality of our connections.

Elder John Vanderwerff remarked that among his many connections within the life of our church – from participating in youth programs 30 years ago, during his service ministry, to his role now as an elder – one of his favorite moments of authentic connection was serving as elder during the baptism of Rev. Rachel Fitch's new son Isaac. As the congregation watched the sacrament of baptism their faces testified to that connection.

CONTINUES, NEXT PAGE

lifelong learning

Lifelong learning stands as an integral part of Presbyterian faith. Great teachers and library resources are central to that part of FPC. From our wealth of knowledgeable pastors and teachers past and present to the sound library at FPC we are well-served. With Nancy Fuller at the helm our library stands ready to support every aspect of Christian learning from our youngest to advanced scholars among us. Check our library bulletin board or participate in the book clubs to know spiritual enrichment. Or slip into a class led by Dr. Sandie Gravett or Dr. Jerry Beavers and be enthralled and more connected to the rich heritage of the Bible and

transformative service

Transformative service remains the root most visible to greater Greensboro. From the Wednesday Drive-by canned food collection to Neil's Meals and other services we have an amazing hunger ministry. Chief among these is Hot Dish & Hope, chaired by the capable Camille Townsend. Many of those already mentioned here as well as volunteers from other faith groups in Greensboro serve hundreds monthly on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mullin Life Center through Hot Dish. Not surprisingly this need led to the issue of what else can be done about hunger in our community.

Sharon Sumner, who started Hot Dish, wrestled with this issue. In answer she replicated Raleigh's StepUp program in Greensboro. Nancy Godwin, now StepUp Greensboro board chair, sees the program empowering people to make better life choices, supported in their journey to jobs and a better life, which transforms not only the lives of those they serve but also hers. Martha Turner's inspiration in working with StepUp is witnessing people overcome horrendous challenges when StepUp transforms lives as part of God's love.

Christianity.

If wrestling with contemporary issues stirs you, seek out adult Sunday School leaders Jack and Betsy Harrington. They remain committed to the role of learning in our faith journey. Betsy notes, "It's the deep experience of talking about important issues together, seeking more questions than answers, that is so meaningful." Jack reflects on especially in the Wednesday Men's Bible study, "The journey of conversations with others, the honest give and take, these are the gifts of participation in the life of our church." He enjoys that these men are committed to meet if in town, to "be there" for each other.



A Hot Dish friendship: Miss Betty and Zelle

Hot Dish volunteer Zelle Jester tells how she and her late husband John served in the early years of this ministry. As he was failing but still an engaging talker they set out to "jaw jack" people who might be going hungry and entice them inside. One woman they befriended, Miss Betty Patterson, began praying for John. When he passed five years later, Miss Betty was still praying for him. Their friendship endures. Zelle says, "It's lopsided: Those who are serving get more than those they serve. It's not a secret!"



If you are looking for an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, come as you are to First Presbyterian and prepare to be transformed.

Rooted at FPC, reaching at the U.N.

BY VICTORIA ALEXANDER, FPC member

Hi First Pres! Greetings from a New York humid enough to give Greensboro a run for its money! I'm finishing the last of my two (technically three, online in 2020), YAV years, at the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, and it's been a sprint to the end.

We hosted a youth group from our Salem Presbytery siblings at Alamance Pres, followed by a visit from PCUSA's mission coworkers in South Sudan, Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mathers. They met with the U.S. mission among others to discuss the humanitarian crisis and how to meet urgent relief needs for civilians fleeing the violence.

On one of my last days our office took part in an interfaith service at the Church Center of the U.N. commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice and focused on rededicating ourselves to the work of peace. This event was months in the making, and I was honored to help plan it.

We hosted folks from divided families who fled the North and 70 years later remain separated. We also had representatives from Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand, the Holy See, Kiribati, and the United Kingdom, along with UN officials. Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, Mennonites, Buddhists, and Quakers led us in prayer and reflection. It was a beautiful, moving service, and the epitome of the type of ministry we as Presbyterians engage in within the UN context.

My time as a YAV would not have been possible without the support, encouragement, and love of my FPC family. This church has seen me through every year of my life so far, and whether I'm in Scotland serving as a YAV, representing PCUSA in Montreal at the UN biodiversity conference, or engaging the UN community through ecumenical advocacy as a YAV in New York, I know that I can always turn to my community at home in FPC.

A personal highlight for me occurred this past February, when I had the opportunity to travel back to Greensboro with Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, the head of the PCUSA advocacy offices in Washington, DC, and New York City. I got to see so many familiar faces, share the work that our offices do, and introduce my boss to my home faith community. In these three



Victoria outside the UN during the Commission on the Status of Women; on her first Sunday at Fintry Parish in Dundee, Scotland; and as a kindergarten angel at FPC on Christmas Eve.

years filled with many unforgettable experiences, the feeling of being in the same sanctuary and Life Center I sat in as a kid, this time in front with a microphone, looking at the same smiling faces that have loved on me my whole life, tops them all.

Although my time as a YAV is done, my advocacy journey and faith journey are not. In late August I will begin a full-time position in the Mennonite Central Committee's UN office as an Advocacy Associate (only three floors from the PCUSA office!). I will also continue to serve on PCUSA's Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice, on the board of Presbyterian Women, and from afar on FPC's Racial Equity Task Force.

My advocacy and faith journeys began at FPC, and I know as I embark on this next step, I carry y'all with me every step of the way.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

meaningful! worship

JOIN A MUSIC GROUP

CHANCEL CHOIR

Wednesdays beginning September 6 at 7:15 pm in the Choir Room, third floor of Smith Building. Robert Wells directs.

WESTMINSTER RINGERS

Tuesdays beginning September 11, 4:45-5:45 in Smith 301. Contact John Alexander, 336-478-4715 or JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

COVENTRY RINGERS

Tuesdays beginning September 11, 5:45-7 pm in Smith 301. Contact John Alexander, 336-478-4715 or JALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

REJOICE! ENSEMBLE

Play an instrument or like to sing? Contact Will Edwards, WEDWARDS@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Meet Wednesdays. Register:

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

CANTICLE CHOIR, grades 3-12.

Kickoff Retreat, September 9, 9 am-3 pm. **RSVP** to Anne Albert, AALBERT@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG. *Weekly rehearsals*, Starts September 12, 5:30-6:30 pm in Smith 301. Led by John Alexander.

CHERUB CHOIR, ages 3-K

Starts September 12, 5-5:30 pm in Corl 303. Anne Albert directs.

CREDO CHOIR, grades 1 & 2. Starts September 12, 5-5:30 pm in Smith 301. John Alexander directs.

CONCERTS

ORGAN RECITAL by John Alexander, 5 pm, November 12

HARVEST HOME CONCERT

Presented by UNCG choirs. November 19 at 5 pm

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC: December 3, *Messiah* Sing-along with orchestra & soloists; December 10, Rejoice! led music; December 17, Service of Lessons and Carols.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Family Service, 10 am; Candlelight and Communion Services, 5:30 & 11 pm.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

REJOICE! 9 am in Mullin Life Center.

Coffee & doughnut fellowship at 8:30

SANCTUARY, 11 am

MIDWEEK INFORMAL SERVICE

Second & fourth Thursdays in Mullin Life Center. We worship with Hot Dish & Hope guests. Music, 5-5:30 pm, prayer and a message of care at 6.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

COMMUNION

September 10, October 1 (World Communion Sunday), November 5, and December 3.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

October 15, *More information on page 16.*

FAMILY RETREAT WORSHIP at Camp Weaver, October 29. A pre-recorded service will be available online. *More info, page 16.*

ALL SAINTS

November 5

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 19, one service at 11 am in the sanctuary.

SPECIAL SERVICES

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 8 at 3 pm on the Elm Street Playground. *More information on page 16.*

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION FOR MATT BUSSELL

Matt officially becomes our Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission on October 22 at 4 pm. Reception following in the Life Center.



PASTORAL CARE

Caring, compassionate and inclusive

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in a ministry called Faith & Grief. This ministry is based out of Dallas, Texas, and faith organizations across the country serve as host sites. Holy Trinity began in August of 2022. The mission is to provide opportunities for comfort & hope to those who have experienced the death of a loved one.



In partnering with Holy Trinity we will have some of our members trained as table facilitators, and will also open this up to the congregation and community to come and find a loving and supportive community on this journey of grief.

The gatherings are the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1 pm at Holy Trinity (one block south on Greene Street). For more information contact Newton Cowan, 336-478-4737 or NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or visit FAITHANDGRIEF.ORG.

MORE SMALL GROUPS



Join other women at Fork & Faith for lunch and fellowship. Wednesdays, September 20 (chicken salad & pasta salad), October 18 (tomato basil soup & quiche), November 8 (chicken casserole), and December 6 (turkey & ham) at noon in the Life Center, \$10. RSVP: Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

This group meets several times a year for food, fellowship, and speakers. Next gathering: November 15, at noon in the Life Center. Quilts of Valor will share special recognition. \$10, RSVP by November 1 to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or Doug McLeroy, 336-279-5441.

PAISLEY TRAVELERS

This group takes day trips around North Carolina and occasionally beyond several times a year. Contact Vicky or Jim Hooks, HOOKSVGM@GMAIL.COM or Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

SUPPORT MINISTRIES

PASTOR ON CALL

A pastor is always available to our members for sudden illness, death, or personal crises. Reach the pastor on call at 336.908.8615. Leave a message and they will respond.

PASTORAL VISIT

Pastors make hospital, home, and care center visits to assure members they are being remembered during this time. *Please let us know you or a loved one is in the hospital or very ill at home. Contact us through the Pastor on Call line, above.*

WORSHIP SUPPORT

When circumstances prevent you from attending worship, watch the Sanctuary service online at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SADYE BOWLES FUND

This fund helps adults ages 55+ with financial need pay for necessary care in their home or in a facility. Must live within 50 miles of Greensboro; preference to FPC members. Contact Karen Amirehsani, Congregational Nurse/fund director, at 336-478-4724 or KAMIREHSANI@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

PLANNING IN ADVANCE

When a loved one has passed away, a pastor will help you plan a Service of Witness to the Resurrection. Although it is difficult to talk about death, what better gift can you give a loved one than meeting with a pastor prior to an illness or death to plan for meaningful service? Contact Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

NEED PRAYER?

Send your confidential request to NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or use the attendance QR code in Sunday's bulletin. Pastors will be reading and praying these petitions.



OUTREACH

Transformative service



MATT BUSSELL

Associate Pastor
for Outreach

SAVE THE DATE:

**Matt's Service of
Installation will be on**

October 22 at 4 pm.

When Jesus sent the disciples out to do the work of the Kingdom of God, he sent them in pairs so that they would not be alone. This has provided the model of ministry throughout the life of the church in that we join the work of God in community. This community is not just amongst the members of the church, but the church being a part of the larger community. As I have been getting settled here at First Presbyterian Church, I have been learning about the communities within the church and the partnerships we have with other faith communities and non-profit organizations.

One thing that has struck me so far has been the breadth of ministries and partners the church is involved in. Whether it is feeding people Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Hot Dish & Hope, funding and constructing Habitat for Humanity homes, caring for the environment with the recycling center, working for reconciliation with the Racial Equity Ministry Team, or collecting food for the hungry to be distributed by Urban Ministry, this church is committed to joining the work of God in our community. These various ministries and partnerships also mean that there is always a place for people to join in God's work taking place here. The pastor and theologian Frederick Beuchner once wrote: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." If you are looking for a place to make a difference but don't really know the best place that fits your passion and schedule, please come talk to me.

I am looking forward to learning more and more about what God is doing here. I am also excited to walk along with all of you as we join God's work in Greensboro!

ONGOING MINISTRIES

HOT DISH & HOPE

A free meal and a measure of hope for our neighbors, homeless and housed, who are hungry. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:45-6 pm. Learn more and help out! Contact Camille Townsend, CCTOWNSEND15@GMAIL.COM or 336-908-2088.

FOOD DRIVE-BY

Every Wednesday you can drop off canned food for Urban Ministry in front of Redhead Hall, 10 am-2 pm. Please take a 2-hour shift as a greeter! Link at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

MEALS ON WHEELS

We need your help with this longtime ministry! Can you share 2 hours one morning a month? Volunteers & substitutes are needed to deliver meals to homebound seniors on third Wednesdays and on fifth Mondays. Contact Linda Allen, LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM OR 336-549-3367.



- Drop off glass & styrofoam at our recycling center on the top level of Shetler parking deck.
- Get one of our new **FPC water bottles!** \$5 at the reception desk in the Welcome Center.
- Use it at the water refill stations in the Welcome Center and Life Center hallway!
- Interested in joining our Earth Care Team? Contact Nancy Abrams, ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tasting and learning about God's work in Kenya

Karibu Chakula, "Welcome to the Meal." Sister2Sister International will hold its Taste of Kenya event at FPC on September 23. This event will give us the opportunity to not only taste Kenyan cuisine, but also give us a "taste" of how God is working through Purity Ruchugo and Sister2Sister to improve the lives of children and women in her native country.

BY TRICIA SHAW
FPC member

Purity now lives in Kernersville. After a visit home, she began hearing God's call to give back to her home country and founded Sister2Sister in 2010. She started a program at an elementary school that serves a hot lunch to almost 200 children daily. A Children's Home opened in Ngong this past December with 12 teenage girls and their 9 babies living there now. Knowing their babies are cared for by a matron and staff, the girls are able to complete their schooling and learn skills such as knitting and sewing. Praying and worshiping together daily, they find hope and encouragement as they realize their God-given potential.

A TASTE OF KENYA

Benefit for Sister2Sister
September 23

5-7 pm, Life Center.

Tickets:

SISTERSINTERNATIONALWOMEN.
ORG/EVENTS



Purity also has a shop in Winston-Salem, UMOJA, African Crafts, and proceeds go to women in need locally and in Kenya.

In 2019 our youth had the amazing opportunity to take a mission trip to Kenya with Sister2Sister. Our trip involved some manual labor and tasks, but our focus was a mission of presence with the children and people. We were present in moments that touched our hearts, taught us something new, and changed our perspectives. Many occurred while gathering for a meal, with children, with our high school pen pals, with Maasai warriors, and at worship. We focused on being present and seeing how God was present in the lives of the children and people we met.

Jesus gathered with people over meals throughout scripture. Let's gather for a meal and fellowship together. Let's be present with each other and get a "taste" of Kenya and a "taste" of how God reveals himself in the missions of Sister2Sister International.

STEPUP GREENSBORO IMPACT LUNCHEON

The StepUp alum speaking this year is our own Johnathan Holland, FPC's Associate Director of Housekeeping! September 19, registration at 11:30 am, event noon to 1 pm. Life Center. Info: STEPUPGREENSBORO.ORG/EVENT.

NEIL'S MEALS

October 7, check in 8:30-9 am; packing 9-11, Mullin Life Center. Named after long-time



Associate Pastor Neil Dunnavant, this event works with Out of the Garden to pack fresh food for local individuals and families. Anyone ages 8 and up can volunteer;

children under 13 must work alongside a parent. Registration coming soon.

CROP HUNGER WALK

October 8, Greensboro Coliseum Complex. 1:30 pm, registration & entertainment. 2:30 pm, walk. Info: GREATERGREENSBOROCROPWALK.ORG.



The Racial Equality Team has been working on a documentary about FPC's work. The goal is to share our experience and learning with other congregations who want to reflect on their history and discern their role in racial healing. Keep an eye out for the debut showing this fall!



ADULT FORMATION

Lifelong learning



SCHEDULE

Begins at 9 am on Saturday, concludes with a communion service at 9 am on Sunday.

ACTIVITIES

Meg's keynote, music, chat groups, optional activities such as yoga and a book discussion, and fellowship & fun. For your free time Grandover has a spa, art gallery, walking trails, bike rentals, fitness center, fire pits, indoor pool and more.

COST

\$250 for shared room & meals. Limited double rooms available so sign up early (or plan to share a bed with a friend). Single rooms offered with additional charge. Confidential financial assistance available – contact Donna Chase, 336-478-4725 or DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or

MORE INFO

Use the QR code to go our web page or contact Nancy Abrams,



ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM or 336-314-2694, or Julie Wade, HWADE1805@GMAIL.COM or 336-580-6117.

And our retreat speaker is ...

Meg Peery McLaughlin!

Meg, with her husband Jarrett, are co-pastors of University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill. Never heard of married co-pastors? Neither had anyone else,

BY TAMARA
SLAUGHTER
FPC member

which is what makes this couple groundbreakers.

From this singular viewpoint, Meg will be the keynote speaker at the FPC Women's Retreat at Grandover Resort January 27-28.

It wasn't a surprise that Meg went into ministry. Both her parents are ordained as are her brother and his wife. She and Jarrett earned two master's degrees at Union Presbyterian Seminary. They have shared the leadership at University Pres since 2019. Says colleague Mindy Douglas of FPC-Durham, They "have been leaders in the denomination from the beginning of their careers."

"I know of other co-clergy couples," says Meg, but they serve in different areas with one as a pastor and one as, for example, a Christian educator or counselor.

"Co-pastoring with your spouse is not for everyone," Meg says. "We aren't turfing, we complement each other, we communicate well, and we're open to help and coaching."

It's not without problems. For



Meg, Jared, and their children: Naomi and twins Caroline and Zanna.

example, who sits with the kids – Naomi and twins Caroline and Zanna – when Mom and Dad are leading the service? The girls are old enough now to sit on the front row with oversight by congregational friends – and the occasional meaningful glance from a parent.

When asked about women in ministry in general, Meg notes that the old model measured women against how a man would do it. More recently, the special ways and gifts women naturally bring to the table are more valued. Still, women clergy are not paid as well and fill more associate than lead pastor positions. There are still gender expectations, such as when someone

REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 14!

Great reasons to sign up early:

- Double rooms are limited
- Those who register by September 2 have a chance to win an upgrade to a suite at Grandover, and those who register by September 20 have a chance to win a \$150 Grandover gift card!



How to register

- Use the QR Code or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT to get the link.
- Pick up a paper form in the Welcome Center.

under Jarrett's direct supervision charged with fluffing the church parlor came to Meg to ask about getting the drapes cleaned. There is also the ingrained expectation that the mom is the default parent, the one who manages the kids' schedules, books the babysitter, buys the shoes. Meg stresses that Jarrett is an excellent parent; it's just that there's a different load for women. And let's not forget navigating boundaries and being mindful of sexual harassment, from which the PC(USA) is not exempt. Overall, Meg notes in a wise observation, there is "what you see plus what you don't see" that women clergy carry on their shoulders.

This idea of seen and unseen issues is one of the reasons women's retreats are valuable. Meg has many good memories of these gatherings, including the time she and her mother (an ordained minister who has spent her career in Christian counseling) led a retreat together. She recalls an older retreat attendee who had recently moved to town and the church. Her husband had Alzheimer's, and time away was rare for her. She was a bit quiet and watchful, gathering her impression of this community. When her husband was hospitalized then passed, it was the retreat women who rallied around her. This illustrated to Meg that retreats help the church for more than that weekend; they offer more connection than just an hour on Sunday. They provide a framework to form the warp and weft of the church's fabric. Plus, she adds, "taking a break with women of your faith and your church is refreshing and wonderful."

Julie Wade, who is co-chairing FPC's retreat with Nancy Abrams, believes that women of all ages and stages will relate to Meg. "She is both witty and wise, plus has a prayerfully considered message to bring to the women of FPC," Julie says. "I can't wait to hear it!"

NEW GROUPS

Join us in the Welcome Center 7:45-8:30 am for food & fellowship and reading & discussing scripture together. No prep needed, just be ready to meet God and your fellow FPC community! Newton Cowan will lead on the Beatitudes September 12 & 26. Also will be held October 10 & 24. Info: Donna Chase (DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)



Join us for prayer and a 2.5-mile walk around the neighborhood! 5:30-6:30 pm September 20 (Downtown Greenway), October 11 (Fisher Park and Green Hill Cemetery) and November 1 (LeBauer and Center City parks). Bring a water bottle and comfortable clothes. Limited to 10 people – sign up with Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



Join a small group of adults interested in discerning a spiritual pilgrimage for FPC. This group will meet by Zoom beginning late August and spend time praying together and discerning goals, sites, etc. Possible sites may include Holy Land, Scotland/ Ireland, Camino de Santiago or others. Travel timeframe would be late 2024-early 2025. Contact Yolanda Baxter to sign up: YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG



MORE ADULT, NEXT PAGE

SMALL GROUPS

MONDAYS

LECTIO DIVINA

11 am-noon on Zoom. Contact David Partington, DCPSBW197@GMAIL.COM. The historic Lectio Divina manner of prayerful listening to Holy Scripture through readings enables the group to ponder, meditate, pray, and share as led by the Holy Spirit.

TUESDAYS

PEACEHAVEN FARM & FPC YOUNG ADULT GROUP

6:30-7:30 pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. First gathering on September 12 will be in the Solarium. We will be looking at the songs in Luke 1 & 2. Join us as we learn and laugh together! Info: Rachel Fitch, RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

7:30 am on Zoom, meets year-round. Contact Jack Harrington, JACKHARRINGTON44@GMAIL.COM.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WOMEN

8:45-9:45 am on Zoom. Info: Ann Adams, ANNADAMS329@GMAIL.COM, or Betsy Harrington, BETSYHARRINGTON@TRIAD.RR.COM.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Wednesdays, 10 am-noon, Garden Room. Coordinated by Hannah Britt and B.J. Williams. Since 1956 we have made receiving blankets, baby hats, small quilts, sweaters, mittens, booties, burial gowns for infants, adult hats, scarves, mufflers, lap robes, hospital gowns, mastectomy comfort pillows, etc. that are donated for distribution through social workers and missionaries. Each week we bring our latest creations, share patterns, pick up supplies, and have a devotional. Open to anyone regardless of church affiliation.

WEDNESDAY COMPANIONS

Second and fourth Wednesdays starting September 13, 2:30-4:30 pm at Jackie Wilson's home. We discuss Scotty McLennan's book *Jesus Was a Liberal*. Contact Jackie, JACKIEWILSON9544@GMAIL.COM.

THURSDAYS

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Weekly group, 10-11:15 am in Myers Loyalty Room. Contact Nancy Abrams, ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM, or Leigh Jones, LJONES0206@GMAIL.COM.

GRACE GROUP

Women's Bible study, currently working on plans. Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FRIDAYS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: A COUPLE'S GATHERING

First Fridays, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3 & December 1, 7-8:30 pm. Kate and Tom Gillespie host at their home. Info: Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Second Monday speaker lunches, noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. Make a paid reservation by the Wednesday prior online at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP, via email at TLUNDY@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or at the Welcome Center desk.

September 11, Matt Bussell and Karen Amirehsani. Menu: Sandwich bar, pasta salad & cookie tray.

October 9, Dr. Jerry Beavers: *5 Major World Religions and What We Have in Common with Them*. Menu: Grilled Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad & Banana Pudding.

November 13, Nancy Fuller. Menu: Pork Medallions, Seasoned Rice, Greek Salad & Peach Crisp.

December 11, Weekday Preschool Christmas program. Menu: Chicken Casserole, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans & Pumpkin Pie.

Monthly circles are studying *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke -Acts*.

Hearts and Minds, third Tuesdays, 10 am-noon, Myers Loyalty Room. Contact Betty Jo Forney, BJFORNEY@MINDSPRING.COM.

Sallie Huss, second Mondays, 10:30 am, Myers Loyalty Room. Contact Gail Derkasch, PPOMPOM@AOL.COM.

Mary and Martha, second Mondays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room. Contact B.J. Williams, RWILLIAMS1@TRIAD.RR.COM.

Ruth and Naomi, third Tuesdays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room. Contact Anne Cox, ANCO7408@GMAIL.COM.

CHURCH SCHOOL

10 AM SUNDAYS, STARTS SEPTEMBER 10

NEW

COME AS YOU ARE

Garden Room. This new year-round elective class begins with *Revisiting Children's Bible Stories as Adults* with Dr. Jerry Beavers. We will use recent biblical studies, archeology, history, art, & theology to glean deeper insights into these foundational understandings of the world. 4th Sunday will be coffee, donuts & sharing highs and lows of our month with God and one another. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FAITH BUILDERS

Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242. This fall we will study *Breathing Underwater* by Richard Rohr, facilitated by class members. Info: Doug Key, DOUGKEYART@GMAIL.COM or Karen Schaeede, KSCHAEDE@REVOLUTION.LAW.

BIBLE 101

Redhead Hall, September-November. Professor Sandie Gravett leads *Bible 101*, everything a Christian needs to know about the Bible, from content to canonization. We will think about important figures in the history of its production, key theological concepts about its origins and interpretation, and more! In YMBC (Al Lineberry, NCCARPE@AOL.COM, and Agape, Betty K Phipps, BETTYKPHIPPS@GMAIL.COM, or Katy Williamson, KATYWILLIAMSON33@GMAIL.COM).

NEW

STICKY FAITH FOR PARENTS

Memorial 300, Milnor Jones Room. For parents of all ages. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SEEKERS

Main 125. In-depth scriptural study, now studying John. For singles, couples of all ages. Info: Gerard Davidson, GDAVIDSON@WARDBLACKLAW.COM.

COMMITMENT

Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100. Our fall study will be *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America*, by Rev. Jimmie Hawkins. Many of us heard Jimmie Hawkins at FPC last spring. Hilda Courter leads. Info: Betsy Harrington, BETSYHARRINGTON@TRIAD.RR.COM.



YOU ARE ROOTED IN SOME AREAS OF FPC – WE INVITE YOU TO REACH INTO NEW ONES!

Pick up a map booklet at fall kickoff on August 27 or the Welcome Center anytime after. Do at least 6 of the suggestions (they are easy and fun!) and initial them. Bring your booklet to the Welcome Center at 10 am on November 12. Six winners will be chosen at random for a pizza dinner with Jill, Matt & Newton!

Have fun!

Your Adult Formation Committee

CURRIE LIBRARY BOOK CLUBS

These groups celebrate friendship and fellowship while looking for faith messages and experiences in different categories of books.

Monday Book Club: Second Mondays, 10:30 am in the Garden Room.

Tuesday Book Club: Second Tuesdays, 1:30 pm in the Garden Room

SEPTEMBER 11 / 12

Burning Faith by Chip Bristol, Facilitated by the author, an FPC member.

OCTOBER 9

COMBINED GROUP AT 10:30 AM

Sit-Ins, Drive-Ins and Uncle Sam: Coming of Age in the Era of Civil Rights and the Vietnam Draft by Bill Slawter. Facilitated by the author, who grew up in Glenwood and attended Greensboro Senior High. Library book set available.

NOVEMBER 13

COMBINED GROUP AT 10:30 AM

The Sum of Trifles by Julia Ridley Smith, facilitated by the author. Library book set available.

DECEMBER 11 / 12

Book sharing for Christmas. Bring a book to share, exchange, give away, or discuss.



evenings better?

Interested in helping to start an evening book group? Contact Nancy Fuller, 336-478-4731 or NFULLER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



YOUTH

Authentic connections

Sign up
for these
events so
we can
plan for
food!



PARENT MEETING

For parents of 6th- through 12th-graders, August 27 at 6:30 pm at the Driscolls' home, 2004 Dalton Road. Important info about this year in youth programs!

YOUTH KICKOFF – SEPTEMBER 10!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOAM PARTY!

Pizza dinner in the Life Center at 5 pm, then to the Life Center courtyard for millions of tiny bubbles shot from a giant foam cannon, music & games! Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a towel! Pick up at 6:30.

HIGH SCHOOL COOKOUT!

Meet at the Strouds' home, 2011 Granville Road, 7-8:30 pm.

SMALL GROUPS

EVERYONE

DOUGHNUTS DIALOGUE DEVOTION

Sundays at
10 am on
third floor of
Memorial,
starts September 10.



YOCO

Presby youth from across the city
get together
the 1st Sunday
of each month,
5:30-7:30 pm.

October 1 at
Westminster Presbyterian, 3906 W.
Friendly Ave., and November 5 at
Fellowship Presbyterian, 2005 New
Garden Road.



MIDDLE
SCHOOL

BREAKFAST CLUB: 3rd Wednesdays, 7:15-7:45 am
at Chick Fil A on Pisgah Church Road. *September 20,
October 18 and November 15.*

YOUTH GROUP: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5-6:30 pm in the Life
Center. *September 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 & 19*
(early b/c of Thanksgiving).*

HIGH
SCHOOL

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast and prayer, 3rd Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 am, at Panera
on Lawndale. *September 21, October 19, November 16.*

CONNECTIONS

Dinner & discussion, 2nd & 4th Sundays (*September 24,
October 8 & 22, November 12, December
10*) 6-7:30 pm in member homes. We'll
connect Scripture to times in our lives:

Where to turn when I wonder who I am
and who I want to be? When I mess up?
When I wonder where we find our worth? When I am in a
time of change? When I am overwhelmed? Led by Rachel
Fitch. Info: RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



KEEP UP! Follow [FPCSTUDENTS](#) on



and read the weekly youth email! Sign up: YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG



CHILDREN

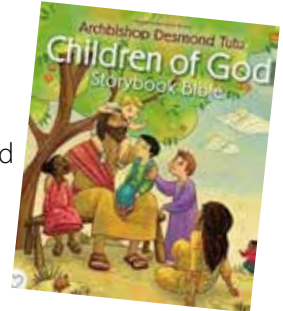
Strongly Rooted

AUGUST 27, ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11 AM

Back-to-School Blessing (and a little something for your bookbag!).

Dig down to the deep roots – there you will find the stories of our faith. Roots, and children's faith, grow strong when they are consistently nourished. Sunday School is an important experience for children, when they can learn about God's love with other kids their age. It's important to nourish them at home, too. Remember the A-B-Cs: **ATTEND** Sunday School. Read the **BIBLE** verses with your children each week. At home, **CHAT** with them – what are they learning? what do they wonder about?

Sunday School begins September 10 at 10 am. We'll see you there!



Sunday School Sing!

Preschool, Corl 204

SEPTEMBER 10
Sing Joy, Exodus 15: 1–21

SEPTEMBER 17
Sing in Times of Trouble,
2 Chronicles 20: 5–22

SEPTEMBER 24
Sing Transformation,
Luke 1: 46–56

OCTOBER 1
Sing New Creation,
Revelation 7: 9–17

K-2, Corl 301

Grades 3-5, Corl 306

SEPTEMBER 10
Sing Freedom! Exodus 15: 1–21

SEPTEMBER 17
Sing in Times of Sadness,
Psalm 22: 1–31

SEPTEMBER 24
Sing Transformation, Luke 1: 46–56

OCTOBER 1
Sing New Creation, Revelation
7: 9–17; 21: 1–5a

*Special
Sunday
School
events on
October 22
& 29!
See next
page for
details.*

Sunday School Hope!

Preschool, Corl 204

OCTOBER 8
Hear Hope, Joshua 2;
Matthew 1: 5

OCTOBER 15
Children's Sabbath*
See Hope, Luke 1: 26–56

NOVEMBER 5
Share Hope, Luke 2: 1–7

NOVEMBER 12
Proclaim Hope, Luke 2: 8–20

K-2, Corl 301

Grades 3-5, Corl 306

OCTOBER 8
Hear Hope, Isaiah 40: 28–31

OCTOBER 15
Children's Sabbath*
See Hope, John 1: 1–14

NOVEMBER 5
Share Hope, Luke 1: 26–55

NOVEMBER 12
Proclaim Hope, Luke 2: 1–20

** On Children's
Sabbath children
will help lead
worship. Bring
new or gently used
children's books
for Backpack
Beginnings!*

KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB

For grades 3-5

KICKOFF PARTY AT SKYZONE! October 1, 3-4:30 pm. We'll jump for an hour followed by snack and devotion. *Registration coming in September.*

MINUTE TO WIN IT PARTY: November 5, 3-4:30 pm in the Life Center. We'll focus on gratitude!



OPENING OF SCHOOL BLESSING & SOCIAL

We will gather for a quick blessing and prayer for the new school year, followed by lemonade! September 1 at 9 am in the sanctuary.

WORLD FAMOUS COOKIE DOUGH!

Sales begin September 25! Order your dough from Lana Burske, LBURSKE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG. Proceeds benefit the school.

FIRE TRUCKS VISIT

See the big trucks and learn about fire safety! October 5 at 10 am, Life Center semicircle drive.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Supports preschool education. October 9-13 during school hours, Corl Building hallway.

GRANDPARENTS' CHAPEL

Grandparents are honored in Childrens' Chapel, October 11 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

THANKSGIVING CHAPEL

November 15 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

Special Events



October 8, 3-4 pm

on the Elm Street Playground

After the blessing, make rope toys for shelter dogs, have a treat, make a craft, take a funny photo. Don't have a pet? Bring your buddy to the Stuffed Animal Check-up Station!



Pizza dinner & movie!

Registration will open November 1 and close November 15. Check [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup) for link.

Family Retreat



Worship & more at Camp Weaver!
10 am-3 pm

On this Sunday everyone is invited to worship, have lunch, and spend the afternoon with archery, crafts, canoeing, rock climbing, and more! *Can't come? A pre-recorded worship service will be available online.* More details & registration in late September/early October.



Wear your costumes! We'll visit adult classes and collect treats across the campus. Meet in the back of the Life Center at 10 am, pick up on the Elm Street Playground.



Join the First Pres Parents Facebook group! Link at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup).

INTERESTED IN CHILDREN'S CHOIRS? See page 7 for info.

BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH

Nominate our leaders

FPC members influence the direction of our church through nominating and electing our leaders. The Nominating Committee prepares a slate of elders and a trustee for next spring's election, and we ask you to suggest members whose leadership will strengthen the church and its mission for Jesus Christ. The Session has approved a plan to gradually transition to 18 active elders. This is the first year in the transition, and the slate will have six elders and one trustee.

Deadline for nominations is September 17. Please:

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

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

PLACE it in the offering plate (sealed in envelope)

EMAIL Debby Foster at DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

I RECOMMEND:

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

PLEASE NOTE **E** FOR ELDER AND **T** FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TRUSTEE

2023-2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Carrie Johnston, chair, Nancy Moore, vice-chair, Caroline Brantley, Stewart Edmunds, Dan Goley, Alex Harrill, Jeff Hatcher, Brenda Keys, Sally King, Dean Little, David Newman, Kate Pierce, Marty Sumner, Rhonda Wakefield, and Todd Williams.

SHETLER DISCERNMENT PROJECT UPDATE

A team from DHIC, a non-profit developer of affordable housing based in Raleigh, has been in conversation with our Property Committee. DHIC is proposing replacing the Shetler with a new structure that could provide about 40 apartments for affordable housing for seniors. This requires a property survey, which is in process. Results will be shared with DHIC, and we will learn more about options and possibilities. Should this move forward, the apartments would be managed by an experienced and trusted non-profit. We are early in the process but please be in prayer. The congregation will be kept informed as these conversations continue.

PROPERTY UPDATES

With proceeds from the sale of the Greene Street properties, these repairs and updates have been completed:

- The wrinkled carpet in the Life Center circulation gallery has been replaced with carpet squares.
- The rubber treads on the Tower Room steps has been replaced.
- The boiler room chimney was cleaned of waste accumulated from birds flying in and out. New screening will keep birds out going forward.
- The Old Presbyterian Graveyard saw some trees removed and the repair of an obelisk damaged last fall by the remnants of Hurricane Ian.

Also, exterior rails and light posts have been painted, covered in the 2023 budget.

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

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Pop-up Prayer



This fall we will reach out to the community in Christ's love once a month, somewhere people are gathered, and offer to pray for and with anyone interested. We start September 28, 10:30 am-1:30 pm, at Pink in the Park in Center City Park. We hope to hand out flowers or cookies and Pastoral Care's Hope cards. Interested in helping? Contact Jill, JDUFFIELD@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

