

first notes

mid-fall 2023 at first presbyterian • fpcgreensboro.org



Everything, all at once, page 3

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Autumn calls us to the country to be immersed in the beauty of God's creation. Join our church family on Sunday, October 29, at Camp Weaver for a special time of worship, fellowship, and fun! The camp is only 17 minutes from the church, at 4924 Tapawingo Trail. We will be at the Warwick Pavilion right beside the parking area.

FALL SUNDAY

RETREAT

SCHEDULE

- 10 am Coffee & donuts
- 10:15 Intergenerational Sunday school
- 11 Worship
- 11:45 Lunch (grilled chicken sandwiches, broccoli, pasta salad, fruit)
- 1-3 pm Optional activities (arts & crafts, playground, canoeing, archery, rock climbing, yard games, sitting & visiting)

No worship services at FPC; pre-recorded service will be available online.

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 Solarium.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

November 5 and December 3

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Pledging our support for 2024 ministry. November 19, one service at 11 am in the sanctuary

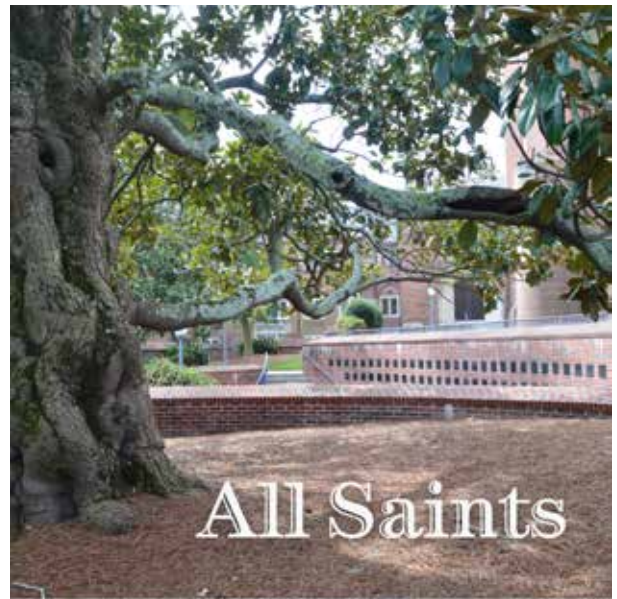
MIDWEEK INFORMAL SERVICE

With Hot Dish & Hope guests. Second & fourth Thursdays in Mullin Life Center, Music, 5-5:30 pm, prayer and a message of care at 5:30 pm. October 26, November 15 & 30, December 14.

ORGAN RECITAL by John Alexander, November 12 at 5 pm

HARVEST HOME CONCERT

Presented by UNCG University Choirs, November 19 at 5 pm



<p>Nov 1</p> <p>Prayers, noon-12:15 in Memorial Columbarium</p>	<p>Nov 5</p> <p>Worship, 9 am Rejoice! & 11 am Sanctuary</p>	<p>Nov 5</p> <p>Music, 5 pm, selections from Brahms' Requiem & more</p>
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Regular weekly worship schedule: Rejoice! at 9 am in Mullin Life Center (coffee & doughnut fellowship at 8:30) and Sanctuary service at 11 am

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Everything, all at once, in the Spirit



JILL DUFFIELD

Senior Pastor

Shetler building, 200th anniversary, Rooted and Reaching Capital Campaign, Oh my!

It's all happening, friends. Sometimes it feels like we are living the title of that movie, everything, everywhere, all at once. I once read that when things feel chaotic it is a sign that the Spirit is doing a new thing and something beautiful is about to be born. I'm counting on this being the case!

The discernment process regarding the use of the Shetler Building has led us to a potential partnership with DHIC, a 50-year-old non-profit based in Raleigh that develops affordable housing. The Property Committee is shepherding this process, keeping the Session informed, and making sure every "t" is crossed and every "i" is dotted. We're still in the early days of this potential project. There are many hurdles yet to clear, however, we trust that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains, so we are hopeful! If those hurdles are cleared, then eventually, a few years from now, there will be a brand-new building comprised of 40 apartments of affordable housing for seniors on the corner of Elm and Fisher. The land owned by the church, the

building owned and operated by DHIC. The information sessions we've had both with the congregation and the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association have been fruitful. I encourage you to ask questions, any question, all your questions throughout this journey. We're in this together!

The 200th Anniversary Committee continues to work planning a series of events to mark this momentous milestone. We'll kick off the celebrations the weekend of October 4th 2024 with several gatherings and a special worship service. There will be additional happenings between October 2024 and May 2025. We'll be giving God thanks for our rich tradition of music and preaching, community outreach, as well as our historic ties to the city of Greensboro. We will also be looking forward, stepping into God's future plans for us as we build upon the strong foundations put in place by the saints who came before us.

We've not forgotten about the Rooted and Reaching Capital Campaign, either. Our leadership team is in place with John and Becky Veraar and Will and Lauren Martin at the helm. The full team has met several times and the committees are getting their instructions, too. We've incorporated your feedback from the feasibility study into the plans so look for more specifics about the outreach portion of the campaign and additional details about the needed repairs on our campus. I'm grateful beyond measure for all of you who have agreed to help make this campaign and the projects they will fund a success.

While we work on these perhaps once in a lifetime projects, we continue to worship week in and week out, feed people hungry in body and spirit week in and week out, welcome the children week in and week out, and care for one another in Christ's name every single day. Everything, everywhere, all at once, all of it good because God is good, all the time. The Spirit doing a new thing, something beautiful being born. I'm counting on it. I'm sure of it.

Thanks for the privilege of being on this journey with you! It is a gift, and I am grateful!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Feeding 5,000 and finding abundance



MATT BUSSELL

Associate Pastor
for Outreach and
Mission

One of my favorite stories in Scripture is John 6 when Jesus feeds the five thousand. They are in the middle of nowhere, but this massive crowd has followed Jesus as they are desperate for his healing and teaching. Being in remote area, there are no shops around to purchase food. Jesus asks who has some food, and only a boy steps forward and offers to share his five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus takes the food offered by the boy, blesses it, and starts passing it around the crowd. Soon, everyone was completely full and twelve basketfuls of food were left over.

The way this story is often interpreted, and the way I learned it as a child, was that this miracle was a demonstration of the divinity of Jesus. For a God who created everything out of nothing, providing a meal for a crowd was a small undertaking. Yet, what if a different miracle occurred that day in a remote region along the Sea of Galilee? What if the miracle was transforming the people in the crowd to live into God's vision for the world?

Let's reimagine this story. Jesus has set out for a remote area along the Sea of Galilee but the people are desperate for his healing and teaching. Recognizing that they will be in the middle of nowhere, the people pack up whatever food they have around the house to sustain them for the day. They are poor people so nobody has much. They set off and follow Jesus. After several hours with Jesus, it is time for a meal but there are so many people in the crowd that people are reluctant to take out their food for fear that they will be asked to share when they don't have much. The people are living in a mindset of scarcity; they are always concerned that there will not



Matt's Service of Installation as associate pastor will be held on October 22 at 4 pm. A reception will follow in Mullin Life Center.

be enough. But then a boy steps forward and offers to share his bread and fish with Jesus. It is not a lot of food, but this child is willing to share. Jesus receives the bread and fish, blesses them, and starts passing it around to the crowd. As the food comes to people, they take out what they have and add it to what is being passed around. What started off as a tense moment of anxiety turns into a celebratory potluck. People are eating and sharing, community is being formed as relationships are built. All because a child was willing to share when Jesus asked. One small gift transformed the mindset of scarcity into a vision of abundance.

As we move into the fall, stewardship season, and Thanksgiving, this story reminds us that the world's perception of scarcity does not fit with God's vision of abundance. We are invited to emulate that child some two thousand years ago who was generous and empowered others to be generous as well. Like the story of the feeding of the five thousand, there are many in our community who are hungry. We can emulate the child in the story and drop off some canned food items on Wednesday to help feed the hungry in our community. Many of our hungry neighbors also live on the street without the basic necessities of human dignity. Giving a tarp, blanket, or sleeping bag to be given out at Hot Dish & Hope can have a real impact on those living on the streets. May we be generous like the child was two thousand years ago; trusting that just as then, God will use our gifts to do what we could not do by ourselves.

The Salem Presbytery Peace and Justice Task Force will host a discussion of the book *Not A Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty In America* by Peter Edelman on November 28 on Zoom. More details will be shared closer to the date.



Are you interested in building congregational vitality, eradicating poverty, and dismantling racism?



Consider attending the **Matthew 25 Summit** in Atlanta January 16-18. Put on by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the summit will include inspiring preaching, powerful worship, and transformational workshops. Information and registration are available here. Talk to Matt if you are interested or have questions.



Beyond Plastics Greensboro

meets in the Garden Room the second

Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.
Info: Nancy Abrams, ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM.



FPC has been recertified as a PC(USA) **Hunger Action Congregation**. If you're interested in fighting hunger, consider sharing 2 hours once a month with our Meals on Wheels team, or sign up to be a substitute! Contact Linda Allen, LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM OR 336-549-3367.

OUTREACH

PASTORAL CARE

WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR BRAIN

Most everyone fears developing memory loss as we age. Karen Amirehsani will present researched-based information on how memory works, 17 ways to promote a healthy brain, normal memory changes with aging vs. brain disease, and when to see a doctor. October 19, 1-2 pm in the Garden Room. RSVP to Debby Foster at DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-478-4702.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION: PREPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Communicating effectively and mindfully is not easy, especially with family during the holidays when we have additional elements of stress, expectations, or unresolved family conflict. Join Doug McLeroy and Karen Amirehsani to learn about the Awareness Wheel and how you can use its 5 zones to better understand yourself and others. November 15, 5-6 pm in the Garden Room. RSVP by November 13 to Debby Foster at DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-478-4702.

FORK & FAITH

Lunch and fellowship for women. Wednesdays, 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.

PAISLEY TRAVELERS

Join us October 20 for an interactive tour at Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem. We will see the Smith & Libby Exhibition on the mystery of Zachary Reynolds' death 90 years ago, tour the gardens, and enjoy lunch and shopping in Reynolda Village. We will leave from the church at 8:20 am, and leave Reynolda to return home at 3:15 pm. Cost is \$65 (drive yourself), \$73 (ride with someone), or \$49 (you drive and take passengers). RSVP with a check payable to FPC 55+ Travel Group and mail to Dolly Jennings at 202 N. Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 for receipt by October 17.

VETERANS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

November 15 at noon in the Life Center. For veterans and spouses/widows/widowers of veterans. Quilts of Valor will share special recognition for 11 of our veterans. \$10 (cash or check at the door). RSVP by November 10 to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 OR DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SOUP & BREAD MINISTRY

We have lots of soup but we need more bread! Our pastoral staff takes a meal to members who need a little tender loving care. If you can make bread for our freezer from time to time, contact Tamara Slaughter, 336-456-8022 or TAMARA@ME.COM.

ACTION!



DOGS ARE BLESSED, hope is shared, middle school makes a mess & high school hangs out, loves goes out to retirement

First of all, thank you! We are in good financial shape due to your generosity and faithful support. Pledged and non-pledge gifts are more than anticipated for this time of year and more than we received by this time last year. So, again, thank you! We could not do all that we do in our congregation and community without your consistent and generous giving.

Our campaign for next year's ministry kicks off on Fall Retreat Sunday October 29 at Camp Weaver, and we will dedicate our pledges and gifts November 19 with one service in the sanctuary at 11 am. Between those Sundays we will share more about current ministries and future goals.

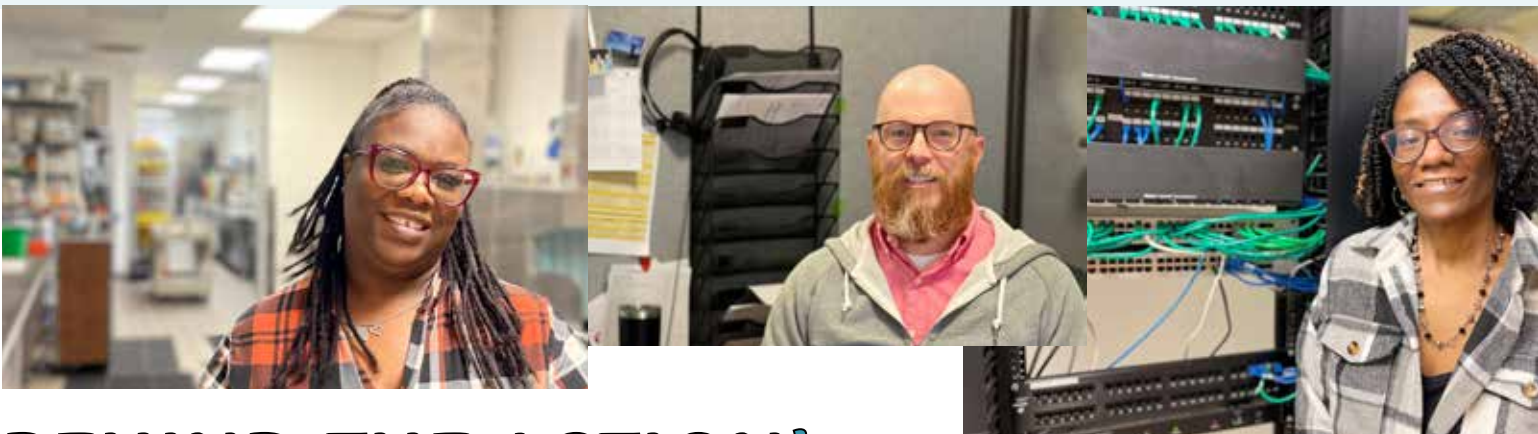
Recognizing that everything flows from our relationship with our Savior, we pray this stewardship season will be a time of seeking a closer connection with our Lord. He is the vine, and we are the branches. When we focus on following Jesus, every other priority falls

into its rightful place. That's why we hope this stewardship season will be a time for us to rededicate our lives to Jesus Christ as we prayerfully consider our financial gift to His Body, the church.

Our pledge goal this year is bold: \$2.8 million, about a 7.5 percent increase from this year's projected pledge total. Why this amount? Our fixed expenses have increased. The three biggest items in our budget are people, property, and IT. All are affected by increases largely outside of our control, from new presbytery

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in Ac
having an c
relationship with

... BECAUSE Donora helps organize the kitchen, Paul pays bills and deposits donations, Jennifer keeps the lines in and the data s



BEHIND THE ACTION!



community residents, veterans visit the chapel at Fort Liberty, strangers who walk up to the Welcome Center find prayer

th tion abundant n Jesus Christ

requirements for paying half of pastors' self-employment tax, to rising health-care costs, to inflation, to the current hiring market. If we are to keep good people and support the ministries taking place inside and outside our walls, we will need your help in reaching this ambitious goal.

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee would humbly ask you to consider raising your pledge by 7.5 percent if you are able to do so. We would also prayerfully ask those of you who have not pledged or given in the past

to consider doing so this year. Any amount makes a difference. It truly isn't the number so much as the motivation that matters. A pledge or gift to the church represents our gratitude for all God has done for us, our trust in God's promises to us, and our desire to participate in God's work in the world.

We, you and I, are the source of income for our church. If our church is to continue to do all it does, we must support it not only with our prayers, our time and our talent, but also with our financial gifts. There is nobody else to do that.

Faith in action comes from an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, one that overflows in all areas of our lives, in all aspects of the church, and we pray, out into the world God so loves.

Thank you again for sharing your time, talent, and financial gifts. We are grateful and we do not take your giving for granted!

afe, Tim puts it on social media, Mr. Washington tends his work area like a garden, Tami helps people get where they need to go.



The new and staying power of small groups

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

– Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

This is a tale of two small groups at FPC. One the brand-new Friday Night Live (FNL) and the other long-established First on Fridays (FoF).

Like the era of the French Revolution in which Dickens set his novel, the times we live in are anxious ones. Times which could lead us to despair were it not for the transforming power of Christ's love in the fellowship of other Christians.

BY JEAN PINCKARD

FPC member

Similarly in the early times of the Church small group meetings in the homes of Christians sustained and strengthened many congregations.

How do these groups begin? How do they operate? How have these groups endured?

They begin with an idea for an in-home fellowship meeting, such as Friday Night Live. FNL, a meeting of couples with a catchy name which says it all: fun and relaxed fellowship, was founded this past summer by Tom and Kate Gillespie. Now already full at 22 this response surprised and delighted the Gillespies. As Kate says, "God put it in my heart to lead or be part of such a group. There never seems to be enough time to talk with people." Clearly many members responded to this idea. Now meeting monthly at the Gillespie home, they gather first in the living room, the group then moves to the kitchen for refreshments Kate provides. Kate delights in the Southern traditions of fine china and cloth napkins. Then, with a short break for dessert, they share stories bonded in Christ's love.

With Kate's background as a pastor, the group has a natural leader to guide discussions. With a shared spirit and no agenda, no one needs to bring anything, just show up. FNL members' ages range from 55 to 85 so the group joins to help care for one another.

FNL represents a fresh aspect of the spiritual life of FPC. For Tom this is an opportunity to reconnect.

*a group
for you ...*

Donna Chase encourages others at FPC – young parents, caregivers, youth – to form groups around their needs and interests. Contact Donna with your ideas at 336-478-4725 or DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

His parents, who rest in the Columbarium, were long-time FPC members.

First on Fridays invitations go to more than 60 members through the automated Punchbowl app so, because responses usually number two dozen or so, with potluck appetizers, desserts, paper plates and napkins, hosting is a breeze.

FoF traces its history to a Lenten 2008 home study group under Rev. Sid Batts, first meeting hosted by Donna and Bill Chase. Current coordinator Julie Wade found an old invitation showing FoF has been around over a dozen years yet still going strong.

Long-time members Nancy and Ed Abrams and Sheri and Bob Evans, all of whom have hosted FoF many times, agree: "It's fun and easy to do!" Sheri adds that she appreciates the balance between food, fun and spiritual fellowship.

Both groups operate independently of FPC often supported through resources available from staff and materials through Donna Chase and Yolanda Baxter, and pastoral support from Newton Cowan, Matt Bussell and Jill Duffield. FNL meets monthly at the same home and the FoF goes to a different home monthly to share hosting duties.

I am the Resurrection and the Life.

– John 11:25

Dickens quotes this gospel verse using his hero to model how humans can be called to a life of Christian values and the transformative power of Christ's love. Indeed, Dickens gives us a powerful ending to his tale,

*It is a far, far better thing that I do,
than I have ever done...*

Perhaps with the addition of other new small groups, FPC is on the verge of becoming that better thing.

ADULT FORMATION

COFFEE, BISCUITS & BIBLE

Join us in the Welcome Center October 24 and November 14, 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! Led by Newton Cowan. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

NEW



YOUNG ADULT & YOUNG FAMILY SIMPLE SUPPERS

We gather around a simple meal, share in fellowship, and reflect on faith & life. Wednesdays October 25, & November 29, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Solarium & Welcome Center. Please let us know if you will be able to attend and if you will need childcare. We would love to have you! Use the QR Code to RSVP. More info: Rachel Fitch, RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FALL WALKING GROUP

Prayer and a 3-mile walk around the neighborhood! November 1, 5:30-6:30 pm (Fisher Park south). Bring a water bottle and comfortable clothes. Sign up with Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



TOUR DE PRES FINALE

Time to finish your map of new experiences! Make sure you've done at least 6 of the suggestions for a chance to win dinner with the pastors.

- *November 5*, Pop-up Activity: On this All Saints' Sunday, pick up the name of a member who has lost a loved one in the past year, pray for them and send a note of care. In the Welcome Center and Life Center.
- *November 12*: At 10 am in the Welcome Center six winners will be chosen at random for a pizza dinner with Jill, Matt & Newton! You can drop off your booklet anytime before that.



CURRIE LIBRARY BOOK CLUBS

Monday Club: Second Mondays, 10:30 am. **Tuesday Club:** Second Tuesdays, 1:30 pm. Both in the Garden Room.

- *November 13*, combined group at 10:30 am. *The Sum of Trifles* by Julia Ridley Smith. The author, a lecturer at UNC-Chapel Hill, will lead the conversation.
 - *December 11 / 12*, book sharing for Christmas. Bring a book to share, exchange, give away, or discuss.
- You can now search the library's collection online! Link at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ADULT-FORMATION/BOOK-CLUBS](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/adult-formation/book-clubs)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. Make a paid reservation by the Wednesday prior online at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/signup), via email at TLUNDY@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or at the Welcome Center desk.

- *November 13*, Speaker: Nancy Fuller, Currie Library. Menu: Pork medallions, rice, Greek salad & peach crisp.
- *December 11*, Weekday Preschool Christmas program. Menu: Chicken casserole, mashed potatoes, green beans & pumpkin pie.



GET READY TO BE GRATEFUL!

Pick up a gratitude calendar at the Fall Sunday Retreat on October 29 and afterward in the Welcome Center, narthex & Life Center.



The **WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT RETREAT** at Grandover has filled its first block of rooms and added more! Our keynote speaker will be Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin from University Presbyterian in Chapel Hill, and our own Lee Atkinson will lead music. Optional activities include yoga and a book discussion, and Grandover has a spa, art gallery, walking trails, bike rentals, fitness center, fire pits, indoor pool and more. For more info or to register point your phone's camera at the QR Code or go to [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/womensretreat). Paper copies of the registration form are also available in the Welcome Center. Deadline is November 17!



Many ongoing Sunday classes & small groups would love to see you! Check the bulletin insert, Monday e-news, or the calendar at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org).

CHILDREN

CHURCH & TREATING

Wear your costumes to church on October 22! 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.

FALL SUNDAY RETREAT

Join us at Camp Weaver for worship, have lunch, and spend the afternoon with archery, crafts, canoeing, rock climbing, and more! 10 am- 3 pm, optional activities.

KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB

Grades 3-5 are invited to a Minute to Win It Party! November 5, 3-4:30 pm in the Life Center. We'll focus on gratitude!

PRESCHOOL CHAPEL

November 15, Thanksgiving chapel. 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

Preschoolers and stuffed animals gather in the main chapel for a blessing October 16 at 9:30 am, then move to the third floor of Corl building for a best-friend check-up. Led by Karen Amirehsani & the Health Ministry Team.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

November 18, 5-8 pm. Pizza dinner & the movie *Encanto*! Registration will open November 1 and close November 15. Check [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup) for link starting November 1.

The **FIRST KIDS CONSIGNMENT SALE** is returning in March! Sign up now to be a consignor or a volunteer. Spaces are limited and there are perks! Go to [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CONSIGNMENT](https://fpcgreensboro.org/consignment) for info and links. The sale benefits the Weekday Preschool Center.

EVERYONE

Doughnuts Dialogue Devotion – Sundays at 10 am on third floor of Memorial Building.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Breakfast Club – 3rd Wednesdays, 7:15-7:45 am at Chick Fil A on Pisgah Church Road. October 18 and November 15.

Youth Group – 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5-6:30 pm in the Life Center. October 22, November 12 & 19* (early b/c of Thanksgiving), December 10)

Sunday Funday – We're going to Skyzone November 5, 5-7 pm. We'll jump 5-6:30, then have pizza & a short devotion.

Registration required by November 1! Use QR Code, above right, to go to sign-up page.



HIGH SCHOOL

Breakfast Club – 3rd Thursdays, 7:15-7:45 am at Panera on Lawndale. October 19, November 16.

Connections – Dinner & discussion, 2nd & 4th Sundays (October 22, November 12 & 19* (early b/c of Thanksgiving), December 10) 6-7:30 pm in member homes. We'll connect Scripture to times in our lives. Led by Rachel Fitch, RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

ORG.



Dinner at Cugino Forno – November 5, 6-7 pm. Contact Lisa Witherspoon for more info, 336-478-4726.

YOUTH

Shetler Discernment Project Update

FPC is one of six NC churches who participated in a months-long pilot project with Duke Divinity School's Ormond Center. Our team, made up of church members and community leaders, explored Greensboro's needs and ways our shuttered Shetler Building could make a difference. From that work an idea of affordable housing for seniors emerged, and FPC's team and Property Committee have been working with a potential partner on a proposal. Below are common questions that have come up during recent information sessions for members. A video of one of the sessions is available at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SHETLER.

What is the proposal?

First, this is NOT a homeless shelter or public housing. The Shetler Building and parking deck would be removed and replaced by a building with 40 apartments ranging from studio to 2-bedroom. The building would have 4 floors of apartments atop 2 levels of parking. The apartments would be leased to individuals ages 55+ whose income ranges from 30% to 70% of the community's median income. The rent would have a sliding scale based on income, ranging from \$400 to \$1,200 per month with utilities.

Why is this a good use of the property?

Affordable housing and affordable child care are Greensboro's greatest needs. The location is perfect for seniors, with a bus stop and amenities such as parks, restaurants, a grocery and a library nearby, and the possibility to be involved in church activities. It is in a beautiful, established, walkable neighborhood, one that is safer than many seniors on limited incomes can afford.

What is the church's role?

We would retain ownership of the property and grant a 75-year lease to DHIC. All other work – development, funding, construction, maintenance, and leasing and management – would be handled by DHIC and Brightspire, and they would own the building. After 75 years, the lease could be extended or ownership of the facility could revert to the church.

Would there be any financial impact on the church?

The church would not receive income from the property. We would be able to eliminate \$30,000 from our annual operating budget for costs related to keeping the building mothballed. The cost to separate Shetler from the Life Center physically would be included in DHIC's work.

I thought we were going to make it a park or sell it?

In 2017 the building was listed for sale or rent. No purchase offers were received. Rent options would have required \$750,000 in renovations (new elevator, asbestos removal, disability requirements, etc.). The Property and Finance committees decided to not pursue this option.

In 2018 an ad hoc committee recommended that the parking deck be kept and the building replaced by a park. In 2019 a separate ad hoc committee explored costs and determined it would take \$750,000 to demolish the building and develop a park. The project did not move forward for lack of funding.

In 2021 the Shetler Building and Greene Street properties were listed. One very low offer came in for Shetler and the Property

Committee deemed it not credible. The building has been shown to prospective buyers several times, with one offer. The Property Committee decided to stop showing the building after Session approved the Duke discernment project.

What would it look like?

The building would be designed to fit in with the church campus and the neighborhood. While the building is not in the Historic District and it is not required to do so, DHIC would consult with the city's urban designers and historic preservation planners. Some of our members have toured DHIC's properties in Chapel Hill and were impressed with their work.

Who are these groups?

We know Brightspire well – it was formerly known as Presbyterian Homes and manages Friends Homes Guilford and Friends Homes West. DHIC is a nonprofit that develops affordable housing for families, individuals, and seniors. It has been operating for 50 years. It has 18 senior communities and 27 family communities across the state, all affordable housing. DHIC is also developing a senior community at the site of a dissolved congregation in the Presbytery of New Hope.

What happens next? Is this a done deal?

No. This is a long process with several steps, and a major one is applying for tax credits from the state Housing Finance Agency, critical to DHIC's funding model. These credits are very competitive. Here is how the timing looks:

- Before applying for credits, DHIC would need to apply for rezoning (while the corner is not in the Fisher Park Historic District, the building would exceed current height limits).
- A preliminary application for tax credits would be submitted in January 2024, with the full application due in May.
- Tax credits will be awarded in August 2024, and construction needs to be completed within two years of receipt.

Will the congregation vote on this?

Under our Book of Order, congregational votes are held on matters of pastoral calls, election of officers, and the purchase or sale of property. Since this is not a sale, a congregational vote is not required and the decision rests with the Session. The Session has met with DHIC and heard details. The Property Committee will take a motion to Session at its October meeting asking it to support the concept and allow the committee to negotiate terms for a potential lease. This will allow DHIC to apply for rezoning. Much would depend on the tax credit application.



A BIT OF ADVENT

HOT DISH ANGEL TREE

Share the Christmas spirit with our Hot Dish guests! Beginning November 19, pick a card and bag from the Hot Dish tree in the Welcome Center. Gather the needed items and return them in the bag by December 11. Cards for adults & kids.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark will be our churchwide Advent study beginning November. (\$10 in Welcome Center). Many regular small groups will use it, and special times will be offered as well.

MORE ADVENT READING

Available in the Welcome Center beginning November 19:

- *Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* (\$10). Jill Duffield connects everyday objects with biblical texts.
- Devotional reading guide for the gospel of Mark, free.

HOLY DISRUPTION

Dr. Jason Myers, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Greensboro College, will lead. Sundays, Dec 3, 10, and 17 at 10 am.

A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC

- December 3, *Messiah* Sing-along with orchestra & soloists, 5-6 pm.
- December 10, Holiday Pops, 5-6 pm.
- December 17, Service of Lessons and Carols, 5-6:30 pm.

DO IT FOR DOLLY FOOD DRIVE-BY

December 6, 10 am - 2 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Plan to drop off extra canned & non-perishable food donations for Urban Ministry, in loving memory of our friend and Associate Pastor Dolly Jacobs.

CHRISTMAS EVE

- Family Service, 10 am
- Candlelight and Communion Services, 5:30 & 11 pm