

first notes

first presbyterian church • fpcgreensboro.org • spring 2024



TY'S ROOTS, 2

GLENN'S GIFT, 7

200 STORIES, 5

KIDS IN PEWS, 10



Who rooted your faith at FPC?

I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go into the house of the Lord.

That's the opening verse of Psalm 122, one of my earliest memories of what I learned in Sunday school at a small Presbyterian church in South Charlotte.

The author of this psalm, possibly King David, is writing about being in the presence of God and God's people. As I understand the scriptures, God means for us to be together in community. It's one of the most important lessons I've learned in my spiritual journey.

I started visiting First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro in 1988, early in my professional career, a few years after graduating from UNCG. I came here, probably, because I figured I could be lost among the 3,500 members at the time.



TY BUCKNER
FPC member

Boy, was I wrong. In no time, God placed saints in my path to make sure I would not be anonymous.

I remember one Sunday in the early '90s, sitting two-thirds the way back on the lectern side of the sanctuary and encountering Mary Coward, a lovely older lady who, never having met me, offered her phone number if I needed to talk.

About six years after I began visiting, I made my way to the chancel steps after worship to express interest in membership. The chancel greeter was Doris Preyer. I introduced myself and – I'll never forget this – she looked up at me and said, "I know who you are. What took you so long?" You see, one of Doris' responsibilities as a church volunteer was to keep track of visitors signing the friendship pad each week.

I was glad when they said unto me ...

There are many examples of people who have drawn me into a deeper relationship with God and with this church.

I start with our pastors, all of them, through their care and concern for each of us and through their teaching and preaching, pastoral care and leadership.

Among staff and fellow members, for me the saints include: Patrick Murphy, our former music director,

CAMPAIGN UPDATE: \$6.8 MILLION SO FAR!

As of March 16, we were at 62% of our goal of \$11,175,756! Pledges placed in the offering baskets on Commitment Sunday are being tallied. We are \$4.3 million from goal! If you would like to support the campaign, point your camera phone at the QR Code and click the link that pops up. Or pick up a pledge card on campus, or contact the Finance office at 336-478-4750 or CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



who invited me into the Chancel Choir almost 30 years ago ... and Robert Wells and John Alexander, who provide a weekly opportunity of inspiring music-making among a family of singers.

Tom Hamlin, now retired and living in Virginia, who welcomed me as co-facilitator of a Disciple Bible Study group, in which I deepened my understanding of scriptures, and made long-lasting friendships.

I was glad when they said unto me ...

There are women in our congregation that when they ask you to do something, you simply don't say no. Right?

Ginny Bradsher recruited me to the dishwashing crew for Wednesday suppers and other events. She has a way of making you feel essential to any task.

Nancy Coble, Jackie Wilson and Betty Hilliard asked me to volunteer on the board of Ten Thousand Villages, where I got an up-close view of a spirit-led, purpose-driven organization.

Reggie Chapman, who encouraged me to join, and later succeed him in leading the Greensboro Prison Ministry board, established at First Pres, which provided resources for supporting the spiritual needs of those currently and formerly incarcerated.

And those are only a few examples.

You've heard a lot about our Capital Campaign the past few weeks. We're raising about \$11 million for facility improvements, programs and benevolences.

I invite you to think about the people who have made a difference in your faith journey at First Pres.

This campaign ensures that many more people will have experiences like mine, and like yours.

Connection, commitment & joy



JILL DUFFIELD
Senior Pastor

It feels like 2024 is flying so we must be having fun! As you know, the Rooted & Reaching Capital Campaign kicked into high gear earlier this year. Meetings, lots of meetings, put plans in place for gatherings, communication, worship and more. The leadership team never failed to take on any and every task with enthusiasm and skill. Many of you responded to their calls, pledging, sharing your stories of your love for this church, volunteering to help in any way you could. I confess, when this process started over a year ago, I didn't think, "I can't wait to take on a capital campaign!" I knew we needed to do it. There are projects that cannot wait. I also knew marking our 200th with the funds needed to shore up our walls for our next hundred years of ministry made sense. What I didn't anticipate was the gift of so many conversations with so many of you throughout these past few months.

Whenever we got together, at church or in homes, the sense of connection and community was palpable. It was evident how much you enjoy being with one another, how much you care about each other. The gatherings were marked by laughter and heartfelt sharing. Unprompted, some of you told stories of just how much this church means to you and how committed you are to making sure our congregation thrives for the sake of future generations. I left every meeting encouraged and inspired.

While the most intense part of our Rooted & Reaching Capital Campaign is behind us, there is still much work to be done. The Project Review Committee is working diligently to plan the scope and sequence of the work to be done on our campus. The renovations will require moving our preschool, StepUp and Sunday school classes. No doubt, there will be times when we feel upended by all that needs to get done. However, I've no doubt that the same spirit of connection and commitment I witnessed these past few months will infuse the entire process.

I could not be more grateful to all of you who continue to serve Christ in this place with energy, intelligence, imagination, love, AND joy. I am excited to see what God will do next as we begin the projects funded by your generosity and we mark our 200th anniversary made possible through the faithfulness of those who came before us, the entirety of our life together held in Christ and upheld by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

LEARN

A Descendant's Story: Ann Morris. A native of Roanoke, Va., Ann began a journey in 2020 to more fully understand her family's history as enslavers on a plantation near Richmond. The journey led her to connect with descendants of the families enslaved there, and to come together to embark on transformative work, including hosting an event for 200 "linked descendants" on the site of the former plantation. With photos and videos of that remarkable day, she shares a story about the power of truth telling, acknowledgement, healing and the possibility for repair. Join the Racial Equity Ministry Team for her presentation on April 23 at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room.

The Earth Care Team invites everyone to come out to Keeley Park on Saturday, April 20, from 1 to 4 pm for the **Greensboro Earth Day Festival.**



There will be a wide range of activities and educational opportunities including: Do's and Don'ts of Recycling, A Beginners Guide to Composting, a tree planting demo and more.

We will continue learning about discriminatory housing appraisals and their impact by watching the second half of ***Our America: Lowballed***. This documentary focuses on the intersection of racism and housing, two key priorities in our Matthew 25 work. May 21 at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room.

StepUp Greensboro Lunch & Learn: Learn more about our ministry partner which helps people find jobs and build stable lives. April 3, noon-1 pm in Redhead Hall. RSVP: MROBINSON@STEPUPGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-676-5871, ext. 310. Also offered June 26, August 1, and October 23.



SERVE

With Greensboro experiencing an affordable housing crisis, the Outreach Committee has discerned the need for a dedicated Affordable Housing Ministry Team to lead the church in responding to this crisis. We are looking for volunteers to serve on this committee. In addition to people passionate about justice, we are looking for experts in various aspects of housing (financing, developing, building, etc.) to join this ministry team. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Matt Bussell, MBUSSELL@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-478-4705.

The **Interfaith Affordable Housing Initiative Working Group** meets the second Monday of every month at noon. The Working Group is a networking and learning gathering which is open to anyone interested in working on the affordable housing crisis in Greensboro. The location rotates between various involved faith communities. Please contact Matt Bussell if you are interested in participating or have any questions.

We are excited to partner with the Out of the Garden Project for our next **Neil's Meals** event on May 11 at 9 am in Mullin Life Center. We are looking for 150 volunteers (ages 8 and up, children under 13 need to work alongside a parent/guardian) to pack fresh produce and other food items for 1,500 food boxes which will be distributed to our hungry neighbors. Join us for this fun, intergenerational event which makes a significant impact in the life of our community! Three ways to sign up: go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP, or point your phone camera at the QR Code and click the link that pops up, or visit the reception desk. Sign up by May 10!

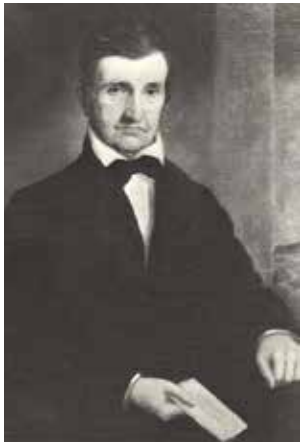


The **Wednesday Food Drive-by** has new hours, 11 am to 1 pm. As of mid-March we have collected just under 4,300 pounds of non-perishable food for Urban Ministry! Please help out by being a greeter. Go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.



People, places & happenings that helped shape FPC

In October we will celebrate FPC's 200th anniversary! As part of this season Kitty Robison & Jean Pinckard will offer 200 stories from our church's history.



We start with David Caldwell, who taught our founding minister. This month is a serendipitous time to consider him.

March 17 is the anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Dr. Caldwell tended to the wounded of that 1781 confrontation.

And the UNC Tar Heels, as of this writing, are pursuing the chance to play for the NCAA basketball title. Caldwell was a trustee of Liberty Hall, the precursor to UNC.

Spring, the season of Easter and new growth, reminds us that which delights and sustains us sprang from seeds planted long ago. As in the proverbial tale about a society which only grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they may never sit, here in 2024 our bicentennial year we wonder about those who planted the seeds of First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro.

BY JEAN
PINCKARD
FPC member

What was the impetus which caused our church to take root here in Greensboro in 1824? What other questions spring to mind?

Fortunately, we have excellent resources, both printed documents and living members, who can answer these questions. Nancy Fuller, our librarian, suggests two books from earlier celebrations: one created by John Wells Simpson in 1945 and a second from the Heritage 150 under the leadership of Emmett W. Bringle in 1975.

Kitty Robison, a member and longtime Greensboro resident, known for her expertise in FPC history, has contributed invaluable insights. Kitty and her late husband George were active with the middle school. Kitty wrote plays involving extensive research. One play about 1776 in cooperation with assistant minister George Carpenter, included voices of spirits of the past calling from our choir lofts. Do you remember this?

FPC roots go back further and farther than you may realize. We can trace its seeds and impetus to an individual, David Caldwell, born in 1725, nearly

a hundred years before our church was founded. Kitty has provided an informative monograph about him.

David Caldwell was born in Lancaster County, Penn., on March 25, 1725. He worked as a carpenter before attending the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, graduating in 1761. After studying theology he was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick and ordained in 1765. He then took assignment as a missionary in the North Carolina backcountry. He became pastor of Buffalo Presbyterian and Alamance Presbyterian churches.

"In 1767, David Caldwell established the Dr. Caldwell Log College, a theological and classical school for men. The lack of physicians in this area of North Carolina prompted him to study medicine." The Log College is where Father Paisley, our founding minister, was one of more than 50 ministers who studied with Caldwell.

David Caldwell represented Guilford County at the N.C. Provincial Congress in 1776 and helped write the state constitution. A circuit-riding preacher, he had the perfect opportunity to act as a spy for General Greene against the British.

Later he was asked to be president of the new North Carolina University but declined because of age and died August 25, 1824, months before our church was founded October 3, 1824.

As we explore FPC history this year, we will see many people who nurtured it, watered it with tears of joy and sorrow, tended its needs and the church has in turn provided its shade and strength of faith and fellowship.

PLANNING YOUR 4TH QUARTER

We all want to live our best life and to see the people we love enjoying all their days. Planning – financially, physically, personally, and emotionally – gives us the freedom to focus our 4th quarter on the things that matter most. This series is for anyone planning for themselves or aging parents or others. Come to all or **choose what you need.**

AGING WITH DIGNITY: Honoring Your Medical Wishes

Karen Amirehsani & Rev. Newton Cowan. April 10, *RSVP by April 8.*

LIVING OPTIONS AS YOU AGE: Pros and Cons

Jennifer Harriss of Age Advocate. May 8, *RSVP by May 6.*

PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

Rev. Newton Cowan. June 5, *RSVP by June 3.*

UNFINISHED FAMILY BUSINESS

Karen Amirehsani & Rev. Doug McLeroy. July 10, *RSVP by July 8.*

Presentations begin at 5 pm in the Garden Room. RSVP to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

Learn about new advances in Alzheimer's treatment

Join us for an update on the current facts on Alzheimer's Disease and the new advances in treatments. Specialists in this disease will lead the presentation and Q & A.

The Pastoral Care Ministry is partnering with the Alzheimer's Association and Well-Spring Solutions on this program, which will be held May 21 from 2:30 to 4 pm in Redhead Hall. RSVP for this session by May 17 to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

Care will be available at the church for adults with cognitive challenges. Advance registration needed – please contact Jodi Kolada, JKOLADA@WELL-SPRING.ORG or 336-545-4245.



be a life saver!

FPC Blood Drive
June 12, 1:30-6:30 pm
Mullin Life Center

On June 12, the Life Center will become a Life **saving** Center when we host a blood drive. The Red Cross says June is one of the months of greatest need. Our goal is 65 donors – must be at least 16 (with parental consent) and provide a photo ID and/or donor card. Look for sign-ups soon!

Questions? Contact the Health Ministry Team & Karen Amirehsani, 336-478-4724 or KAMIREHSANI@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SMALL GROUPS

FORK & FAITH: Monthly fellowship lunch for women, April 17, noon in Mullin Life Center. Also May 22. RSVP five days prior to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

VETERANS' FELLOWSHIP PICNIC: May 22 at noon at Shelter #7, Carolina Field of Honor, Triad Park. RSVP by May 14 to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or Doug McLeroy, 336-478-4739.

A

sign

OF

faith



Our Sunday worship opportunities are again visible on Elm Street, thanks to a sign created by member and woodworker Glenn Williamson. He shares a bit more about himself here.

How long have you been a member at FPC, and what brought you here?

Some friends introduced us to First Presbyterian. Dr. Redhead was in his last year. His sermons were an important reason that we joined. Then Joe Mullin was called and we knew we had made the right decision. I have always enjoyed Young Men’s Bible Class and the singing and the lessons.

How did you get into woodworking?

As long as I can remember I have always made things. As a child I made rabbit traps, we called them rabbit hollows or hollers. I made wooden push carts with four wheels and a steering mechanism. I worked as a carpenter’s helper for four summers to pay for an education. Then I started making my own furniture for budget reasons.

The “old saw” on woodworking is measure twice, cut once, right? Tell us how you went about creating the new sign.

Tim Millisor and the Worship Committee told me what they wanted. The most difficult part was finding a font that would blend with the Old English in upper part of the sign. I already had a piece of wood that would work. The sign is one of the first things your eye goes to when you are passing the church so I have no doubt that there was an invisible hand leading me on this project.

What other projects have you done for the church?

I really haven’t done very much. In the children’s Sunday School area, I helped install the stage, the movie theater and the computer workstations. When Faith Action first moved to the house across from the Life Center, I helped my wonderful friend Clay Welker prepare the space for the move by installing paneling and crown molding in some areas. I have done some molding repairs and replication on the woodwork in the area where the choir is seated. The last thing I will mention is a new manger last year.

Our vision calls us to be Rooted & Reaching in Christ’s Love, and you work with things that literally grew from roots. Do you think woodworking could be a kind of spiritual practice?

As to the question of whether by virtue of wood at one time being a living thing makes woodworking spiritual, it depends on the project. For me, there is a different feeling if I’m working on a church project or a Habitat house than some other project.

What are some of your favorite things about our church?

My favorite things about the church are the amazing and devoted staff, the opportunity to serve others, and the support in the quest for the search for unending spiritual joy.

worship

Regular weekly schedule, unless otherwise noted:


Rejoice! at 9 am in Mullin Life Center and traditional at 11 am in the sanctuary.

In April and May we will focus on the books of **ACTS** and **PSALMS**.

MIDWEEK INFORMAL SERVICE with Hot Dish & Hope guests. Music, 5 pm, followed by prayer and a message of care, second & fourth Thursdays, Life Center.

SENIOR SUNDAY, May 5. We will recognize our graduating seniors.

PENTECOST SUNDAY is May 19. Potluck in the Life Center after the second service. Entree provided; bring sides, salads & desserts!



SUMMER SCHEDULE: In July, one service at 10 am in the sanctuary.

music

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL: Our children's choirs will present *Rescue in the Night*, the story of Daniel in the lion's den, on May 15 at 6:30 pm.

ORGAN RECITAL: John Alexander, May 19 at 5 pm.

SUMMER CHOIR: In June and August, sing with the choir! Meet in the chancel at 10 am for rehearsal, sing in the 11 am service. Best seats in the house!

adults

SUNDAY CLASSES, 10 AM

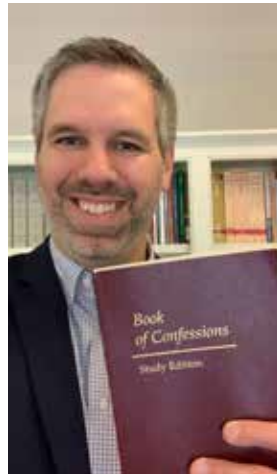
APRIL

The B of C and Me

Rev. Matt Bussell, a self-described Book of Confessions nerd, leads. He says: "I love and am fascinated by the creeds and

confessions of our church. Within them are the collected wisdom of the Reformed tradition about interpreting Scripture and what we believe about God, humanity, the church, and the world. Each was written in its own unique situation with the church working to articulate its faith and actions to its contemporary world. Each has

its own insights and quirks. Each continues to speak to us in unique ways; sharing the lessons of history, theology, and ethics with the church of the present and future. The Book of Confessions includes four documents from the 20th century: the Theological Declaration of Barmen, the Confession of 1967, the Confession of Belhar, and the Brief Statement of Faith. During the month of April, we will spend a week studying each of these documents. We will explore why these documents were written and who was involved in their writing. We will look at their key points and discuss how they continue to speak to us today. We will use these documents to look back in the life of the church to help us look ahead to what is next." Redhead Hall, hosted by YMBC & Agape.



APRIL 7

Presbyterians and Roman Catholics: Some Similarities and Lots of Big Differences

Led by Neil Dunnivant in the Come as You Are class, Garden Room.

APRIL 14

Scotland Pilgrimage

Info meeting on this 2025 trip, Garden Room.

APRIL 21 + 28

Post Resurrection Bible Stories

Rev. Doug McLeroy leads week one, Rev. Rachel Fitch leads week two. Come as You Are, Garden Room.

MAY 5, 19, 26

Scripture on the Risen Christ

Led by Rev. John Willett. Jesus on the Road to Emmaus shared his resurrection as recorded in the gospel of Luke. Old Testament writings also foretell Jesus's genealogy and proof of death and resurrection. Redhead Hall, hosted by YMBC and Agape.

MAY 12

Remarkable Mothers from the Holy Bible

Led by Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield. May 12 in Redhead Hall, hosted by YMBC and Agape.

MAY 5, 12, 19

Mental Health Awareness

1 – *Mind*: Signs & symptoms (adults and children) a person may feel or see in a loved one or friend; support for care. 2 – *Body*: Care for self and of others experiencing challenges, extending grace & kindness. 3 – *Soul*: Promoting acceptance & compassion, language matters, decreasing stigma, seeking help. Come as You Are elective class, in the Garden Room.

JUNE + JULY

New Sandie Gravett series

Redhead Hall, hosted by YMBC and Agape.

ONGOING

The Gospel of John

Led by Gerard Davidson, hosted by Seekers Class in Main 125.



A time to connect with our personal faith and our Scottish Reformed roots through a pilgrimage experience from Edinburgh to Iona and back to St. Andrews and Dundee! Along with our Presbyterian roots we will also explore how the Church of Scotland is reaching into the community to rediscover its mission.

SMALL GROUPS

These groups have space available and welcome visitors & new members.

MONDAYS

LECTIO DIVINA, prayerful pondering of selected writings and personal reflection and prayer. Led by Rev. David Partington, 11 am-noon on Zoom each week. Contact David at DCPSBW197@GMAIL.COM.

MARY AND MARTHA women's circle, second Mondays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room.

SALLIE HUSS women's circle, second Mondays, 10:30 am, Myers Loyalty Room.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON, second Mondays at noon in Mullin Life Center. April 8 speaker, Rev. Dr. Jerry Beavers. May 13 speaker, Jill Duffield. Get your ticket (\$10) by the Wednesday prior to each lunch. Go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP or call 336-478-4799.

TUESDAYS

COFFEE, BISCUITS AND BIBLE: Twice a month before work join fellow FPC'ers for food, fellowship & discussing scripture. Bibles and food provided. 7:45-8:30 am, Solarium. April 9 & 23, May 14 & 28.

HEARTS AND MINDS women's circle, third Tuesdays, 10 am, Myers Loyalty Room.

RUTH AND NAOMI women's circle, third Tuesdays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY on Zoom at 5:30 pm. Info: Walt Howell,

WHOWELL1@TRIAD.RR.COM, or Jim Hoeger, JIM.HOEGER@GMAIL.COM.

PEACEHAVEN FARM & FPC YOUNG ADULTS. Twice a month young adults of all abilities meet for scripture reading, discussion, song, laughter & prayer. 6:30 pm April 9 in the Solarium, April 23 on Zoom, May 14 in the Solarium, May 28 on Zoom. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S LECTIONARY, weekly, 7:30-8:30 am on Zoom. Contact Jack Harrington, JACKHARRINGTON44@GMAIL.COM.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WOMEN, weekly, 8:45-9:45 am. Contact Betsy Harrington, BETSYHARRINGTON@TRIAD.RR.COM.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP uses sewing bags to support church and local non-profit efforts, making small quilts, jackets, sweaters, blankets, hats and more. Newcomers & visitors welcome, supplies available. 10-11:45 am, Garden Room. Weekly through May 8; in summer June 19, July 17, August 20. Info: B.J. Williams (336-288-8601) or Hannah Britt (336-288-9289).

SPRING WALKING GROUP, 5:30-6:30 pm on Wednesdays, April 10, May 8 and June 12. Meet at the sanctuary steps.

WEDNESDAY COMPANIONS, second and fourth Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 pm at Jackie Wilson's home. Info: JACKIEWILSON9544@GMAIL.COM.

THURSDAYS

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP women's circle, meets weekly, 10-11:15 am in the Garden Room. Info: Nancy Abrams, ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM, or Leigh Jones, LJONES0206@GMAIL.COM.

LEVEL 2 YOGA, weekly, 4:25-5:30 pm in the Virginia Gilmer Room, Smith 239. Bring water, a mat, a strap & block if you have one. Love offering accepted, not required. Info: Rev. Virginia Wood, REVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM.

FRIDAYS

FIRST FAMILY SMALL GROUP, for those with children, first Fridays, 6-8 pm in member homes. Info: Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.



Those considering membership & current members are invited to explore the Bible, church history, theology & polity. Led by Matt Bussell and Newton Cowan. 10 am, Solarium

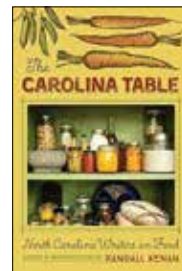
CURRIE LIBRARY

The library sponsors two book clubs. The Monday club meets second Mondays of each month at 10:30 am, and the Tuesday club meets second Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, both in the Garden Room. Info: Nancy Fuller, NFULLER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



APRIL 8 & 9

All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family's Keepsake by Tiya Miles, facilitated by Donna Chase.



MAY 13 & 14

The Carolina Table: North Carolina Writers on Food, edited by Randall Kenan. A Greensboro Public Library One City, One Book selection for fall 2023.

The gift of children in pews

There were A LOT of children in worship that day.

Some of them were singing with the children's choir. Some of them were leading prayers. Some of them were processing



LISA
WITHERSPOON
Director of Children's
& Youth Ministry

in the light, the bible, the cup, and the bread. Some of them were munching doughnuts with sugary fingers or crunching goldfish crackers as crumbs fell on the floor. Some had to

go out for a potty break!

Most of them were squirming in their seats. Most of them crinkled paper or plastic bags as they laid on the floor to color. Most of them talked or whispered loudly – some of the younger ones even squealed or cried.

ALL of them were sitting with parents who were just a bit (or maybe a lot) bedraggled as they had struggled to get everyone fed, dressed, and out the door on time to come to that place where they find community, love, and faith.

ALL those children heard scripture read, praises sung, and prayers said, even if they are still too young to read the words, sing the songs, or say the prayers

on their own.

ALL the kids were part of something bigger that day. They were enveloped in a community of faith; a group of people who share a love of Christ and a love for one another.

ALL of those precious children will someday face exclusion, grief, struggle, fear. What a gift that we can give them a foundation on which to stand when those things come – because they WILL come. What a gift that we get to walk alongside the children as they grow and discover a faith of their own. What a gift that we can show them a place where they are loved unconditionally – that we can indeed BE a place where they are loved unconditionally. What a gift that WE are the ones who get to help teach them about a Savior who sees each one of us – each one of them – and loves us so much that he sacrificed himself for us.

What a gift these children are! Even (maybe especially) if they come wrapped up in sticky fingers, noisy wiggles, and unfiltered joy & curiosity. So, let there be children in the pews and let us be grateful for the gift, in fact the honor, of being their community of faith.

... but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

– Matthew 19:14

APRIL

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10 am – Preschool (Corl 304), K-2 (Corl 301), 3-5 (Corl 306)

KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB: April 7. Grades 3-5 focus on Creation Care as we celebrate spring and help clean up the campus & Fisher Park! 3-4:30 pm, Life Center.

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC: After Preschool Chapel on April 18, led by Pastoral Care. 9-11:30 am, Corl 300.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: April 20, 5-8 pm, for infant-5th grade. We'll play, eat pizza, and watch "Toy Story." \$15/child. Spaces limited. Use QR code to sign up.



PRESCHOOL BIBLE PRESENTATION: April 21 in the Rejoice! service at 9 am. 3-year-olds receive an age-appropriate Bible in one of our milestones of faith. RSVP to Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FIRST FAMILIES GATHERING: Families & kids get together April 5, 6-8 pm in member home. Contact Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.

5TH GRADE RECOGNITION: April 28. Families & 5th-graders are invited for breakfast and a blessing as we send them off to youth group! 10 am, Corl 306.

MAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: May 5, 12, 19, 10 am. Preschool-1st grade, Storytime in the Children's Library. Grades 2-5, games and spiritual practices in Corl 306.

FIRST FAMILIES GATHERING: Families & kids get together May 3, 6-8 pm in member home. Contact Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.

KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB: Ice Cream "SUNDAE" and Foam Party! May 5, 3-4:30 pm, Life Center. For grades 2-5. RSVP to Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SUMMER CAMP
NEWS



youth + families



CONGRATS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS! Eighth-graders finished their months-long confirmation journey and are full members of the church: Hayes Brabham, Owen Carson, Lily Chandler, Caroline Cochran, Lily Cochran, Cale Coker, Anna Craven, Audrey Faucher, Susan Fields, Stella Frick, Lydia Hare, Anna Harron, Bella Imanivong, Drew King, Cate Kovarik, Jim Legette, Fletcher McIntosh, Liza Payonk, JW Poole, Brant Richardson, Henry Scott, Porter Spencer, and Gray Tilley.

APRIL

DOUGHNUTS-DIALOGUE-DEVOTION: Sundays at 10 am in Memorial 303.

YOCO will be at ParTee Shack April 7, 5:30-7:30 pm. \$10, registration required.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: 5-6:30 pm, back of the Life Center. April 14 & 28.

HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS: 6-7:30 pm at the Bristols' home, April 14 & 28.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB: April 17, 7:15-7:45 am, Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.

HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB: Panera on Lawndale Drive, April 18, 7:15-8:45 am.

BACK PACK BEGINNINGS SERVICE: 2-3:30 pm on April 21. Sign up!

MAY



May 4, leave the church at 9 am on chartered bus, return by 8 pm. \$65, register by April 20!



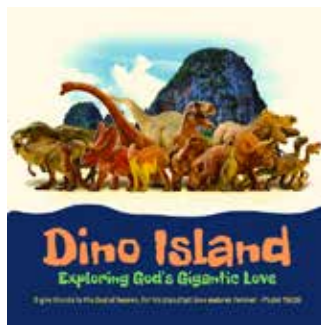
May 5, breakfast at 10:15 am for seniors and their families, with recognition in the 11 am worship service.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB: May 15, 7:15-7:45 am, Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.

HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB: May 16, 7:15-8:45 am, Panera Bread on Lawndale Drive.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

July 29-
August 1,
9 am-noon



Vacation Bible School for ages 3 (by Aug. 31) thru rising 2nd-graders



Kids Disciple Club for rising 3rd- thru 5th-graders

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

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Greensboro, NC
PERMIT 95



Volunteers who helped make this winter's Women's Retreat happen gathered this month for an appreciation celebration.

SAVE THE DATE:

We'll return to Grandover for next year's retreat on January 25!

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24:

Rejoice! at 9 am, Sanctuary at 11 am. Children's choirs will sing at both services. Preschool-elementary families are invited to intergenerational Sunday School at 10 am. At 5 pm, Marcel Dupré's *Stations of the Cross* with John Alexander on the organ.

MAUNDY THURSDAY,

MARCH 28: Communion service with our Hot Dish community in the Life Center at 5:30 pm.

TENEBRAE, MARCH 29:

Chancel Choir leads this service of gradual darkness. 7:30 pm, sanctuary.

24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL:

Join us in prayer Holy Saturday-Easter morning. Sign up with the QR code or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.



EASTER VIGIL, MARCH 30: Begins at 7:30 pm with a bonfire in Memorial Columbarium, then we carry the light into the sanctuary with candles.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31:

7 am Sunrise Service in Memorial Columbarium. Identical traditional services at 9 & 11 am with brass, organ & Chancel Choir. Rejoice! Easter Celebration, 10-10:40 am in the Life Center. Join us for an Easter sing-along and donut & coffee fellowship. Resurrection Egg Hunt at 10 am on Elm Street Labyrinth Prayground (weather permitting).