

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 28, 2024

11:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Pastoral.....Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Matt Bussell

* CALL TO WORSHIPRachel Fitch

Leader: Come to us, O Lord of Life,

All: And fill this place with your presence!

Leader: We praise your name and rejoice in your love.

All: We stand in utter amazement of who you are!

Leader: Everyone who calls upon you will find fulfillment,

All: They will rejoice forever because you are God!

Leader: Rejoice and give thanks!

All: Halleluiah! Amen!

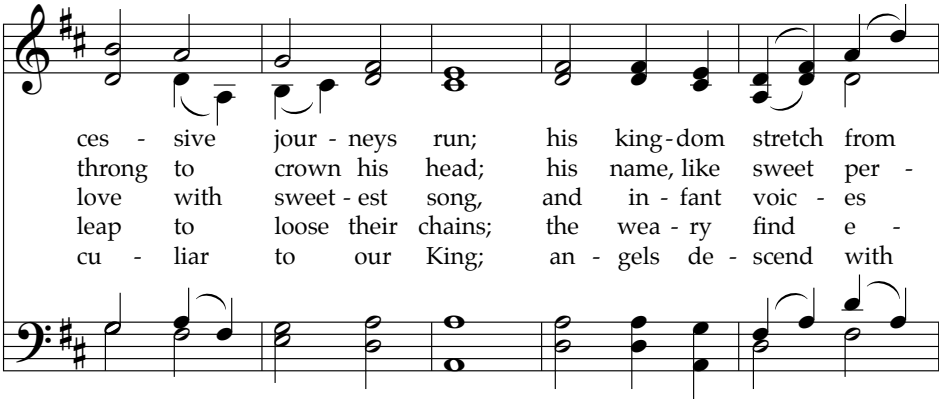
* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 265 – Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun..... DUKE STREET



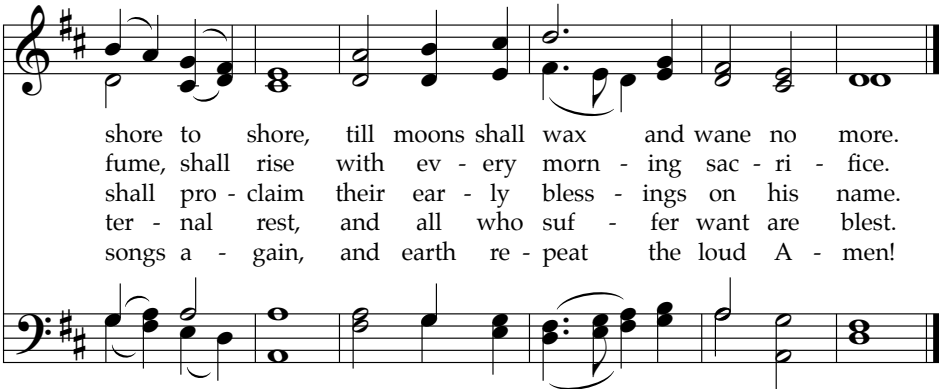
265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: There Is Now a New CreationSTUTT GART



There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Psalms 22:25-31* Lee Lashley

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay
before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the
LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all
the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him
shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has
done it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Rachel Fitch

ANTHEM: All You that Know God's Holy Name..... George F. Handel (1685-1759)
arranged by Hal H. Hopson

Chancel Choir

All you that know God's holy name,
His glory tell, His praise proclaim.
Sing forth the glad, triumphant song.
Glory to God. Sing forth the joyful song.
God is our song, O bless his name.



THE WORD READ: *Acts 8:26-40*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Including the “Other”* Matt Bussell

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 301 – Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)TWO OAKS

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

THE CHURCH

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.**

– from A Brief Statement of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

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

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.

OFFERTORY: It Is Well with My Soularranged by Tom Fettke

*Chancel Choir
Janice Wells, piano*

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Though Satan should buffet, tho’ trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul.

My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.
It is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so,” it is well with my soul.

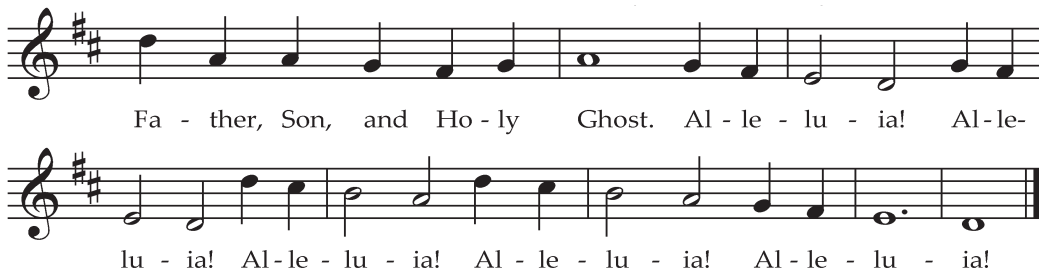
– Horatio E. Spafford

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The musical score is written for three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise'.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-
lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise



* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Newton Cowan

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Matt Bussell

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 756 – O God of Every NationLLANGLOFFAN

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



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*

Rachel Fitch, *Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident r*

Newton Cowan, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*

Lee Lashley, *Lay Reader*

Charlotte Freeze, *Acolyte*

John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Robert Wells, *Director of Chancel Choir*

Janice Wells, *Piano*

Chancel Choir

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun” Text: Isaac Watts; Music: John Hatton.

“There Is Now a New Creation” Text: David Gambrell; Music: Witt’s *Psalmodia Sacra*.

“All Are Welcome” Text: Marty Haugen; Music: Marty Haugen.

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

“O God of Every Nation” Text: William W. Reid, Jr.; Music: Welsh folk melody.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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O God of Every Nation

756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

TEXT: William W. Reid Jr., 1958, alt.

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LLANGLOFFAN

7.6.7.6.D

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

We seek to be God's changemakers for good in the world.
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and our creation care and hunger
ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

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

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.

PARKING MINISTRY: This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:15-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at fpcgreensboro.org/signup. Info: Tim Millisor, tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4793; or Nancy Courts, nancy_courts@uncg.edu or 336.273.1617.

FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA –

Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on **Facebook** (search "First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro"), **YouTube** ("fpcgreensboro") and **Instagram** ("1stpresgso") to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of John James Sullivan III (Jay) by John and Janice Sullivan, Robert and Jackie Sullivan, Anna James Sullivan and Stella Mae Sullivan.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. You can also go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple or Android) and for instructions for giving via text. You may also mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.



USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: Contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sunday morning Sanctuary worship service. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. *Dates available: September 1, 8, and 29.* Contact Carolyn Yow, cwow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn C. Edwards
April 20, 2024

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF APRIL 28-MAY 5, 2024 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

LATER TODAY

Last Sunday evening youth gatherings until fall: Middle School meets in the Life Center, 5-6:30 pm. High School Connections meets at the Bristols' home, 6-7:30 pm.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, MAY 2

• **INTERCESSORY COMMUNAL PRAYER** for our church and community, 5:30-7:15 pm on Zoom. Also June 6, August 1, and September 5.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

• **FIRST FAMILY SMALL GROUP:** Meet other parents & children, 6-8 pm first Fridays in member homes. Lorie Jones can tell you more, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

• **YOUTH END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION AT CAROWINDS:** A few seats are available! Sign up with QR Code.



NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 5

• **RACHEL'S LAST TIME IN THE PULPIT:** Rachel Fitch preaches in 9 am Rejoice! and 11 am Sanctuary services. Her pastoral residency with us concludes on May 19.



WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

Breakfast at 10:15 am for seniors and their families, with recognition at 11 am in the Sanctuary service.

NEW IN CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM

• **Children:** Preschool - grade 1 meet for Storytime in the Children's Library, next to the Welcome Center. Grades 2-5 meet in Corl 306 for games and spiritual practices. Continues May 12 & 19, then on summer break until fall kickoff.

• **Scripture on the Risen Christ:** from the Old and New Testaments. Led by Rev. John Willett. in Redhead Hall, hosted by YMBC and Agape. Continues May 19 & 26.

• **Everyone Has a Story: Caring for your Mind, Body, and Soul:** A 3-part series for Mental Health Awareness Month, more info on back. Come as You Are elective class, in the Garden Room.

• **FPC 101:** For anyone interested in membership or members wanting to learn more. Explore the Bible, church history, theology & polity. Led by Matt Bussell and Newton Cowan in the Solarium. Continues May 12 & 19.

• **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB:** Ice Cream "SUNDAE" and Foam Party! Open to current 3rd-5th graders plus current 2nd-graders who will be welcomed to KDC in 2024-2025. Bring a friend! 3-4:30 pm. Sign up with QR Code.



These bricks and mortar matter



because this is where our 3-year-olds receive Storybook Bibles and learn the stories of our faith. Our campaign is at just under \$10 million toward our goal of \$11.1 million. Join in!

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN



HAPPENING IN MAY

SPRING WALKING GROUP,

May 8, 5:30-6:30 pm. Meet at the sanctuary steps. Also June 12.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER,

FPC Gathering, May 9, 6:30-7:15 pm on Zoom. Contact Yolanda Baxter (YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) for link.

BOOK CLUBS combine for a *Carolina Table* book discussion and food sharing, May 14 at 1:30 pm in the Garden Room. *Last book club of the program year!*

RESCUE IN THE NIGHT

Our children's choirs will present the story of Daniel in the lion's den, May 15 at 6:30 pm.

PENTECOST

SUNDAY, May 19. Potluck in the Life Center at noon. Entree provided; bring sides, salads & desserts! Can drop off in the kitchen before worship.

RSVP FOR THESE AT [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup)

PLANNING YOUR Q4 SERIES: Living Options as You Age. May 8, 5-6 pm in the Garden Room; *RSVP by May 6.*

STAYING SAFE ONLINE: Keeping children out of dangerous situations, cyberbullying, and more. May 9, 5:30-6:30 pm, Garden Room. *RSVP by May 7.*

NEIL'S MEALS: Pack food boxes for our hungry neighbors, May 11 at 9 am in the Life Center. *Sign up by May 10.*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON on May 13, with Jill Duffield speaking. *RSVP by May 8.*

FORK & FAITH women's luncheon on May 15, *RSVP by May 10* to Dolly Jennings, 336-854-2663.

ALZHEIMER'S: FACTS, FIGURES & THE FUTURE: Updated info on dementia and new advances in treatment. May 21, 2:30-4 pm in Redhead Hall. *RSVP for session by May 17, for onsite respite care by May 14.*

VETERANS' FELLOWSHIP PICNIC on May 22, *RSVP by May 14.*

NEW DATE – GREAT WOLF LODGE TRIP: Rising 6th-graders have fun, get to know other FPC youth, and hear about youth ministry. **Now June 10,** *Sign up by May 31.*

PAINT THE TOWN: 10 youth (at least 14 by the date) and 10 adults will paint a house for a low-income family! Part of a Community Housing Solutions event June 12, 8:30 am-3:30 pm. *Sign up by May 19.*

FPC BLOOD DRIVE FOR RED CROSS: June 12, 1:30-6 pm. Sign up now for appointments & to volunteer.

STAFF TRANSITIONS



After 22 years of leadership in our Music Ministry, **Robert Wells** is stepping down as director of the Chancel Choir. Robert will be taking on additional leadership and administrative roles in the School of Music at UNCG, where he serves as Professor of Voice and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy. His last day will be May 12.

We also will be saying good-bye in May to **Rachel Fitch**, who is concluding her time as Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident. Her last day will be May 19.

Please join us in thanking Robert and Rachel for their ministry among us. Boxes will be available in the Welcome Center beginning this Sunday where you can leave cards and letters.