



Volume 24, Issue 5, May 2022

## Change Marches On

So many things have changed during each of our lifetimes. When I was a Boy Scout in the 50s and in Junior High, I spent time from 4 – 5 p.m. weekday afternoons near a phone booth next to a railroad track in our little Illinois town. Replete with a new pair of binoculars, I scanned the sky each day for an hour. There was a form to fill out that recorded every airplane you saw—its direction, approximate speed, and the exact time you first saw it, and then when you last saw it as it moved across the sky. At the end of the hour, you'd make a long-distance, collect call from the phone booth to Terre Haute, Indiana to report your findings. I even had wings to wear on my Scout uniform—as a proud member of the Ground Observer Corps!

Radar was still new enough that towers still needed to be built all over the country to take over the “spotting”, as the Cold War was just beginning to bite its edge of fear in all our hearts. And the GOC was tilted against those threats; a volunteer organization that became pretty much obsolete by the late fifties. And, we all know about things obsolete: Polaroid Cameras, VHS tapes, overhead projectors, encyclopedias, highway maps, ashtrays, and scads of phone booths—including no doubt, the one I used to call Terre Haute! The point here is that technology drives change at an increasingly steep rate. Your computer chip and laptop are now obsolete after only one or two years. Same with your cell phone. And many other things.

But, change also occurs in our churches and in our culture at faster and faster rates, too. In the PCUSA, the way “church” is done now is significantly different from what it was before COVID. Most churches have much less than half the physical attendance than before. Most also continue to live-stream their services each Sunday, saving the file so it can be viewed later by people who “couldn't attend” in the normal ways. I've seen many changes since I came here fifteen months ago. Among the most rewarding has been the re-entry, so to speak, of people, events, and things that had to be canceled during the pandemic—Yard Sale, Christmas Program, Communion by intinction, Children's Day in worship, pastoral visits in person, and many others. We've all sort of steeled ourselves so that we can, perhaps begrudgingly accept

each one of these changes without worrying about it. And thus, the culture of the church is modified, renewed, and is quite different from what it was just two short years ago. After all, our Presbyterian reformed theology even has a Latin motto—*ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*—the church reformed, always being reformed. So change is in our DNA!

But, throughout those past two COVID years your very dedicated Pastor Nominating Committee has continued to meet, review large numbers of pastors' information forms, and make decisions on your behalf as to what new pastor might be best for FPC-Goldsboro! Toby Brown gave a short report on Palm/Passion Sunday that they are in conversations with a candidate. This means that these past two years of significant COVID pandemic changes have not slowed the dedication, progress, and hoped-for results of your PNC. So they are getting closer; yet our collective patience is still required!

But, we should all also begin to prepare ourselves for another kind of change; new pastoral leadership and what that will mean for the Session, Diaconate, and congregation as a whole. This one will be a long-awaited joy ride! When a new pastor comes, it is a time of extreme excitement at every church—a time of “what can we do to make this new person love us and be convinced she or he made the right decision?”

It's a time for excitement on the part of the new pastor, too! But it's sometimes almost overwhelming—learning the names, finding and buying a house, adjusting to how the new church “does things”, learning the names, and little stuff like when meetings start, and certainly, in your case, how well committees function, and finally, learning the names. Did you notice I said, learning the names *several* times? Well, of course. *I'm* still learning the names after fifteen months! And maybe I'm just slow, but cut lots of slack to the new pastor. He or she will learn your name soon enough—for *you*. Not soon enough for the new person, but please understand, OK?

So change is endemic in every situation. Change has accelerated during each of our lifetimes to a pace today that can sometimes be overwhelming. But, it helps to think back on times in your lives when the pace was just about right—in my case on those weekday afternoons with new field glasses, spotting planes in the sky. How about you?

Have a great month!

Grace and peace,

John

## Officer Duties

	Elders	Deacons
May 1	Chris Martin	Demis Perez
May 8	Bill Stanley	Emily Byrd
May 15	John Parker	Nathan Johnson
May 22	Rosalyn Lomax	Coleen Leeper
May 29	Barbara Bradshaw	Robin Wilson

Deacon in charge: Coleen Leeper  
Co-Deacon: Meredith Gurley



### For the month of May

Barbara Bradshaw  
Rebekah Perez  
Joe McLamb

## Presbyterian Women News

### May PW Circle Time

Evening Circle – 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 2 in the parlor.

Morning Circle – 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 3 in the parlor.

PWCT – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 31 in the Parlor.

Mrs. Ellen Best will present the Bible Study, “**Jesus Prays for Unity**,” (John 17:1-26)  
Chapter 12, of the study book, *The Heart of Prayer* by Jerram Barrs.

May 18, Honorary Life Member celebration, 6:30 pm, sanctuary HLM announced Ann Hunter, speaker Special music, Chris Watkins



# May Birthdays!



- 01 Randy Sauls
- 01 Bill Royall
- 02 Rick Sumner
- 07 Mr. George Joseph
- 09 Ms. Katie Graham
- 15 Mr. Steve Jara
- 16 Ms. Charlotte Suddarth
- 17 Mrs. Sharon Stanley
- 17 Ms. Mary Scott Best
- 19 Mr. Brad Gurley
- 29 Ms. Eliana Judd
- 31 Ms. Karis Hawkins

## Christian Education

### Events the month of May 2022

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Sunday            | Faith Formation Classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m.   |
| Sundays 8 & 22    | Young Presbyterians in the Gym 4-6 p.m.             |
| Sunday, May 6 & 7 | Youth Group: Lock-In                                |
| Sunday, May 15    | Last Youth Group meeting before summer 5-7 p.m.     |
| Wednesdays 4 & 11 | Confirmation Class of 2022 in the library 3:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, May 15    | Confirmation Day!                                   |

**Vacation Bible School** will be hosted at FPC  
Monday thru Friday, July 25-29, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.  
We will need the help of many youth and adult leaders.  
Tell your neighbors and friends. Registration is online!  
The last day to register is 7/10/2022.  
Please sign up by emailing Mary Taneti at [fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com).



## **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!**

ATTEND WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, MAY 15 AT 10:00 A.M. TO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, AND CELEBRATE

GARRETT EVANS  
WORTH HAITHCOCK III

AS THEY PROFESS THEIR FAITH PUBLICLY

A LIGHT RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE GYM AFTER WORSHIP SO YOU CAN MEET WITH OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED MEMBERS.

## **THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**



The FPC Education Scholarship has been established to support FPC members needing financial assistance to further their education. FPC seeks to nurture and support our young members training for vocations and careers. The monetary award will depend upon the amount of money available and the number of applicants selected. Applications are available in the church office and must be submitted by May 23. Please mark your application to the attention of the Education scholarship. The monetary award will be mailed. No formal presentation will be made. Please note that the Education Scholarship Fund is not in the budget and is solely dependent on congregational giving. Donations to the Fund are welcome at any time during the year, as well as on two designated Sundays, Graduate Sunday and Discipleship Sunday.



## Music Ministry

### Rise Up, O Men of God . . . and Sing May 8<sup>th</sup>!

On Sunday morning, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. all the men and boys of the church will meet in the choir room to go over a special song that they will sing to the women in the church for Mother's Day. We will be singing "Faith of Our Mothers" which is sung to the tune of "Faith of Our Fathers." You do not have to be a great singer or need to read music. You just have to sing the words and enjoy serenading the ladies with your gift of music. **This will not be an audition to join the choir! Chris will not draft you into the choir after this Sunday.** It will merely be a lovely tribute to the women in your life.

(On Father's Day in June the women of the church will sit in the choir loft and sing "Faith of Our Fathers" to the men of the congregation.)

Please come and join Chris in the choir room for this once-in-a-lifetime song fest for the Lord and the ladies.

### The Children's Choir will Sing on Mother's Day

The wonderful singers of the Children's Choir will sing the anthem "This Time" on Sunday morning, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that your child comes to all the remaining rehearsals in the choir room each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.



This will be the last time that the children will sing until the fall when the choir will resume in September. We will begin rehearsals on our Christmas musical, "Once Upon a Star" to be presented on Sunday morning, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Thank You, Singers, Ringers, and Children

Dear Wonderful Singers, Ringers, and Children,

Thank you for all your hard work, talents, and determination to offer the most beautiful Easter music the church has heard in many years. For months you have been learning the difficult anthems and handbell arrangements in order to glorify the Risen King on Easter morning. Each week you struggled to learn the words and notes and to understand each little nuance of the selection. Your hard work was rewarded with one of the most outstanding presentations of music on Palm Sunday and Easter morning that I have ever heard! You are blessed with wonderful talents and beautiful personalities that magnify themselves whenever you sing. I am so blessed to be able to work with you and accompany you each Sunday.



**The Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals in the early fall. The Children's Choir**



**will sing on Mother's Day** and resume weekly Sunday rehearsals after Labor Day. The Chancel Choir will continue their rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. until May 25<sup>th</sup> and sing once more on May 29<sup>th</sup> before going on hiatus until the Wednesdays after

Labor Day.

Have a blessed summer! I cannot wait to see you all again at church and when rehearsals begin again in the fall.

Love, Your Director



## FPC Calendar for May 2022

Sundays	Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Young Presbyterians 4-6 p.m. (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) Youth Group 5-7 p.m. (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)
Mondays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Goldsboro Bridge Club 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Troop 3 at 6:00 p.m. Scouts Troop 3 at 7:00 p.m. <b>Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle (first Monday)</b>
Tuesdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Morning Circle (first Tuesday) Committee Meetings (first Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting (second Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting (third Tuesday) 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Independent Prayer in chapel 5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.
Thursdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Congregational Book Club 7:00 p.m. (first Thursday) Goldsboro Bridge Club 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Fridays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturdays	Church office closed

For a detailed weekly calendar please visit the church website.