



First Presbyterian Press

**First Presbyterian Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina**

**Volume 24 Issue 5
May, 2021**

Hello Folks,

It is a beautiful spring day in Goldsboro as I write this, with the sun shining in the early afternoon off the remaining densely-packed sprays of multi-colored azaleas, intermixed with rhododendrons just coming into bloom with their stately flowers, perfect in symmetry, and reminding us of God's providence and the beauty of God's earth.

And it is the liturgical season of Easter, when we bask in the glory of the risen Lord and read in Acts of how the eleven disciples began carrying on the work Jesus had taught them so well; even though they didn't really "get it" until he was gone—understanding the resurrection and the sacrifice he made for them. And for us. And the rest is a magical story unique in the history of humankind.

Spring is a time of renewal and resurrection brings forth new life! This morning, while I was on a conference call, a parishioner stuck her head in my office door, waved hello and deposited a vase containing six home-grown roses—all yellow and tipped in red—vibrant and fragrant reminders of spring!

I'm hoping the renewal includes our being able to renew some semblance of normality in our lives and a respite from our Covid woes of the past year. Just today the Centers for Disease Control announced that it is no longer mandatory to wear masks when outdoors. This is good news, and a sign that there may be more easing of restrictions coming. Emma's school just this week stopped having to ask the mandatory "Covid Questions" and checking forehead temperatures for the first time since they went back to indoor classes in January. Kids may now simply get out of their vehicles, walk to the schoolhouse door, and go in for classes. I'm thinking the teachers must be loving it!

To come full circle I suppose, know that in first and second grades, I went to a one-room school out in the country in central Illinois. Our teacher was Mae Lang, and we had 17 kids in the class—first through eighth grades. I was most impressed with the seventh-grader, a boy, who raised his hand by putting one elbow on the desk and using his left arm to support his other arm; which seemed to me to stick out and up in the air with great magnificence. Oh, yes, and we learned a few other things, too!

And we had two recesses and a lunch hour—which was only about forty-five minutes but gave us ample time to play games in the schoolyard and get much needed exercise Mrs. Lang no doubt sincerely appreciated.

This month, we'll celebrate Graduate Day on May 23rd, also Pentecost Sunday, when all our pre-school, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School, High School, and College graduates will be recognized. This is more evidence of God's presence in our lives during times of transition—as the spring sends these young people to new venues where they will have new challenges and opportunities to serve in Christ's name!

And Pentecost is always a special day—the time when the Holy Spirit came to the gathered believers in the midst of fire, and smoke, and a cacophony of sound and voices. And Peter stood and explained the outpouring of God's Spirit, using the famous passage from the Hebrew Bible from Joel 2: 27-29. This is the one about a time our sons and daughters will begin to prophesy, old men dream dreams, and young men have visions—of a time when the world is at peace, and there is no more poverty, famine, hunger, or sickness. Pentecost is the day acknowledged as the Birthday of the Church when the Holy Spirit came to empower the eleven and then others as the church grew by stupendous leaps and bounds to create what provides all of us with spiritual sustenance as we live out our lives.

So folks, no matter what your heritage, or upbringing, or how old you are right now—whether you finished kindergarten this year and participated in Children's Sunday on April 18th, or whether you can harken back to the days when going to school meant walking to a one-room schoolhouse with a kindly, loving, tolerant teacher—springtime in Goldsboro brings the promise of new life, an abundance of sights, smells and sounds of God's providence, and makes all of us appreciate the wonder of this earth.

Have a good month of May!

Grace and peace,



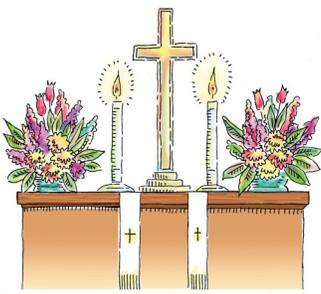
John



Young Presbyterians
(Pre-school thru Elementary age)
Saturday, May 22, 2021
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

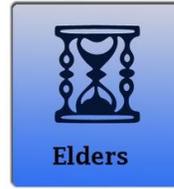


Youth Group
(6th grade to 12th grade)
Sunday, May 23, 2021
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Worship Schedule

May 2 John Winings
 May 9 John Winings
 May 16 John Winings
 May 23 John Winings
 May 30 John Winings



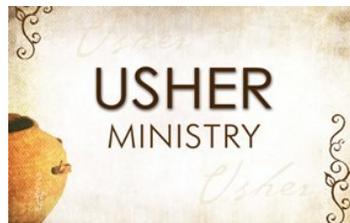
May 2 John Dees
 May 9 Michael Jordan
 May 16 John Parker
 May 23 Michael Jordan
 May 30 Borden Parker



Tim Haithcock
 Meredith Gurley
 Katherine Parker
 Tim Judd
 Nathan Johnson



Sue Blackshear
 Hettie Grisette



Brad Gurley
 Dean Gurley



Birthdays of the Month



1 Mr. Bill Royall
 Mr. Randy Sauls
 2 Mr. Rick Sumner
 4 Mr. Wiley Leonard
 7 Mr. George Joseph
 9 Katie Graham
 15 Mr. Steve Jara
 16 Charlotte Suddarth

17 Mary Scott Best
 Mrs. Sharon Stanley
 18 Mrs. Michelle Phillips
 19 Mr. Brad Gurley
 25 Mr. Chris Watkins
 31 Karis Hawkins
 Mr. John Rowan

PW Celebration

We invite you to join us for the
Presbyterian Women Celebration

Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 in the Sanctuary

The Honorary Life member will be announced!





Graduate Sunday is May 23, 2021.

We celebrate the milestones of our children's achievements.

All Pre-school, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, High school and College graduates will be recognized on this Sunday.

Please wear your cap and gown for this service.

Please email Mary Taneti with information of your child's graduation and plans for college.

Save the date: Graduate Sunday is May 23

If you are a graduate, or parent of a graduate, please contact Mary at fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com. High school graduates please list the school graduating from and the college you plan to attend. College graduates, please list the college and the degree you earned.

First Presbyterian Church
Presents:



May 1, 2021 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Hamburgers & Hotdogs
Lots of games & music
Cake Walk
Invite your friends to join us.
www.fpcgoldsboro.org



Memorial Bricks

Memorial bricks are available for purchase to be placed in the East Garden in honor or memory of someone.

Cost is \$150 each.

Please call the church office if you are interested. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Best Lee.

Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club.

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

is the book for the month. An in-person discussion is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in McChesney Hall.

The next book on the list is:

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Childcare will be provided upon prior request.

