



First Presbyterian Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina

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Transitions

You might not know that Pepsi, Coke, and other soft drinks are carbonated at a temperature of about 38° Fahrenheit. Reason? Because that is when water is at its most dense state. I first learned about this when I worked with Pepsi's bottling plant in Newport News, VA. Without going into a lot of scientific detail, if you inject carbon dioxide at this temperature, you get more carbonation; hence more fizz!

Water density is something we don't think about a lot, but during the times Debbie and I sailed on Lake Ontario, we became familiar with how it works to cause the lake to change its "clothes" so to speak twice a year. The sun warms the surface water in the summer, but a few feet down the cooler, denser water temperature stays the same. The temperature gradient is called a "thermocline"—the level at where the temperature change occurs. You probably have experienced this—if you dive into a lake, quite often you'll get a surprise when you hit the "cold water" that is several feet below the surface!

However, in the spring and in the fall, the thermocline "inverts". This occurs when the surface water becomes colder than the water below and sinks. For several weeks this churns up the water so the lake looks odd—the water is turgid and has a different, tannish, murky color. After the changeover is complete the water returns to its normal color. But, on the Great Lakes during these times the weather is harsher, the winds stronger, and the waves bigger. These are times of significant transition.

For us, summertime often marks our personal transitions. For school kids—going to the next grade, or next school, or change of schools—these happen most often during in the late summer. For us adults? We go to the beach or the mountains, or take a long vacation, or go to a specialty camp—maybe golf or tennis. Or simply stay at home and sit on the back porch and read.

Sometimes transitions occur at times that are not "seasonal" or when we don't expect them. When we lose a loved one, or our job situation changes, or we start a new chapter in our lives—marriage, a new job, having a new baby to care for. And being in transition can be devastating. Or encouraging. Or most often, I believe, *faith building!* Let us never forget that God is with us at all times and that God is well aware of what our conditions are, what we are feeling, and whether we are wondering if we can continue to trust God.

The answer? Of *course* we can always trust God. Know that God is there. Know that God provides for us whether it is what we asked for or whether it is very different from what we asked for. And that is the mystery of God in our lives. There are those around us who care for us and want to reach out to comfort us in our times of unsureness, grief, and questioning.

But remember, during those times of transition in our lives, the one thing we can *always* count on is God's presence. So, friends as you go off on your own July odyssey this month, understand that time itself is a transition—because when you come back to where you were, things are different! But, none of those differences are anything that God can't handle!

Have a great summer, folks! Oh, and enjoy a Pepsi!

Grace and peace,



John



4	Mr. Scott Gibson	13	Mrs. Judy Taylor	21	Mr. Don Sutton
5	Mrs. Robin Wilson	16	Mrs. Addie Warren		Ms. Cam Malpass
6	Fred McCall, III		Mr. Lee Futrelle	23	Mr. John B. Parker
7	Mrs. Francis Batson	18	Ms. Brigitta Seymour	24	Mr. Jeff Barfield
	James Spicer IV		Dr. Bryson Bateman	25	Tripp Fidler, III
9	Mr. David Byrd	19	Ms. Wanda Starling	27	Mrs. Ellen Eubanks
11	Mr. Jimmy Doss	20	Mrs. Barbara Parker	30	Mrs. Betty Anderson
12	Katharine Eason		Matilda Parker	31	Vera Mae Blackburn
	Shane Rowan				



Please note that the church office will be closed
Monday, July 5, 2021
 The staff wishes you a Happy Independence Day.



FPC Confirmation Class will be offered to Rising 6,7,8 graders beginning in September through May. If you are interested in your child being in the class, please email Mary Taneti.

fpcgoldce@ncrbiz.com.



CALLED to CONNECT

2021 Montreat Youth Conference



After staying away from Montreat in 2020 going back was even better and more meaningful. A week packed with keynote, worship, energizers, small group, connecting group, fellowship, food and fun. Our FPC group of three adults and four youth had a blast. Every event brought us closer to God and each other. It was a faith rich environment and we thank everyone at FPC for giving these young people such a great privilege to attend Montreat each year. Thank you from FPC Team Montreat 2021: Annelise, Vismitha, Vismai, Sahil, Nathan, Debbie and Mary.





TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR THIS FALL:

10. You will have the best seats in the house in the choir loft!
9. Clothes will be provided. (We have a robe to fit every size and shape.)
8. You will learn to sing beautifully and read music quickly.
7. Refreshments and coffee are provided every Wednesday in the choir room for people who feel weak or need an extra boost of energy.
6. From the choir loft you can see who stays awake during the service.
5. What does the minister look like from behind? (It is not pretty...)
4. Discover that choir practice is fun and filled with laughter as well as expert instruction.
3. Meet new people who love to sing.
2. Experience the thrill of leading a congregation in song each week.
1. Music is the only art form that is given from heaven that we can take with us when we die. Why not make your gift of music even more beautiful by joining the choir and developing your skills while praising the Master Musician?



Join us this fall on September 8th at 7:30 p.m. when we will begin a new season of music at choir practice.

Attention All Past, Present, and Future Handbell Ringers!!



During the month of August, Chris will have a workshop for all ringers who wish to learn or review the art of ringing a handbell. Classes will be held August, 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the new handbell rehearsal room on the second floor. Please let Chris know if you wish to participate. All past ringers who will be ringing in the handbell choir when we start on September 8th, need to call Chris at the church and let him know that you plan to be a part of this wonderful group. He would like to go ahead and circle all your music so that we will be ready to go on the first night of practice in September.

ELDERS

DEACONS

July 4

Bill Royall

Nathan Johnson

July 11

Chris Martin

Elva Graham

July 18

Bill Stanley

Tim Haithcock

July 25

Sam Hunter

Toby Brown

