

# *First Presbyterian Press*

Volume 25, Issue 2, February 2023

Hello, Friends,

Happy Valentine's Day and Black History Month!

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, it is a good opportunity to share with you my personal love story:

It was a breezy summer of 2001 in the tropical city of Moyobamba, Peru. I had just graduate from college and started teach social studies at Annie Soper Christian School. One ordinary day when we were celebrating Teachers' Day, a beautiful American girl sat next to me during lunch. She had gone to Iquitos, Peru for a week the previous year. She now wanted to spend her summer break in Moyobamba as a missionary. She was a special needs teacher from Greensboro, North Carolina.

Obedying God's word to be welcoming and hospitable, I introduced myself in Spanish, "Hola, mi nombre is Noe, cual es su nombre." She looked at me and said, "No hablo mucho Espanol." She didn't speak much Spanish, but with the help of sign language and my basic English that I had neglected to learn in high school, I began to have a conversation. That day we became friends.

The celebration of Teachers' Day continued the next day with a teachers' field trip to the Hot Springs. Again, practicing the gift of hospitality, I offered to go by her house so that we could go together. She lived with another teacher-couple near my house. When I arrived at her house, a raining "cats and dogs" storm began. We could not go anywhere, so I went into her house, and we talked four hours. She showed me pictures of her family. We kept talking and getting to know one another for hours.

It was too late to go on the field trip with the other teachers, but we went anyway. That was the best field trip I ever had! We talked and laughed, and we knew that something special had happened that day.

Days later, we began dating and continued getting to know each other with the help of an English translator friend. The following year, I asked her to marry me. She said yes, and on August 2, 2003, we got married in the Presbyterian Church of Moyobamba. The following week we got married again at the Alamance Presbyterian Church in Greensboro.

This August we will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I have become a better human being because of Laurie. The *Agape* love of God continues to sustain us. Our children are Peruvian-American, so in this Black History Month their mixed international heritage reminds us to celebrate and embrace all cultures and all languages.

Let us keep striving for love and reconciliation of all communities in the US and the World. Let us keep living the vision of John in the Book of Revelation, "After this, I looked, and there before me, was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." (Rev. 7:9).

What is your love story? I would love to hear it . . . . . !

Sincerely,  
Pastor Noé Juarez

## Officer Duties

### Elders

Feb. 5 Rosalyn Lomax  
Feb. 12 Bill Royall  
Feb. 19 Meredith Gurley  
Feb. 26 Jason Blackburn

### Deacons

Charlie Rouse  
Bud Fidler  
Coleen Leeper  
Nathan Johnson

The deacon in charge: Coleen Leeper

Co-Deacon: Nathan Johnson



### For the month of February 2023

Eddie Radford, Sam Hunter, Tim Haithcock

## CONGREGATIONAL BOOK CLUB

The Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club. "[Booth](#)" by Karen Joy Fowler. Leader: Mrs. Lynn Branch  
The in-person discussion is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. McChesney Hall. Childcare will be provided upon prior request.

## Christian Education February 2023 Events

**Sunday School** – Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday school 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

**Young Presbyterians** (pre-school through fifth grade) Sundays, February 12 and 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Youth Group** (sixth through twelfth grade)

Sundays, February 5 and 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Confirmation Class**

Sundays, February 5 (combined with the youth group), 12, and 26 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Family Night** (for all ages)

From 1-18-2023 through 3-22-2023

5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Children's program; youth conversations and mission activities;

Pastor's Bible study

6:15 to 7:00 p.m. Family Fellowship Dinner in the gym.

**Save the date:** Children and Youth Sunday will be Sunday, March 12 our children and youth will lead us in Worship. Please attend to support them.

## Presbyterian Social!!!

Presbyterians Adults! Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Spring Presbyterian Social coming up Sunday, March 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Barn on the Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield. It's a great opportunity to learn some local history as well as fellowship and get better acquainted with your Presbyterian friends. We are adding a slight twist to this time with a chili supper and finger desserts. Heading up the event are Jewel & Randy Sauls, assisted by Debbie & Bobbie Richter and Marilyn & Bryson Bateman.

Directions to the Battlefield: Take 117 South (George St.) off East Ash Street. Follow 117 S. until you cross the Neuse River. Once you cross the river take the first left onto Old Mt. Olive Hwy. (It's at a stoplight.) Follow Old Mt. Olive Hwy for about a half mile and you will see the Barn on the left.



## *February Birthdays!*



2 Mrs. Hope Derby

2 Ms. Leslie VanHoy

4 Mrs. Jewel Sauls

5 Mr. Borden Parker

6 Rev. Bob Bardin

6 Ms. Vismitha Taneti

7 Mrs. Katherine Parker

10 Mrs. Laurie Juarez

11 Ms. Christie Stafford

15 Mrs. Kathryn Spicer

18 Mrs. Mary Hope Crocker

19 Mrs. Leslie Hunter

22 Mrs. Ali Blackburn

23 Mr. James Parker

23 Mr. John Parker V

24 Mr. Troy Pate Jr.

24 Dr. Charlotte Campbell

24 Mrs. Jean Whitaker

25 Mr. James Spicer III

27 Mr. Gary Patterson

28 Mrs. Ellen Henderson

28 Ms. Caroline Suddarth

## *FPC Foundation Applications!*

The FPC Foundation annually awards grants to organizations for the purpose of promoting the mission of the church, "With Christ our Savior as model and the Holy Spirit as guide, we gather to worship God, and go forth to serve, sharing our faith and God's love." fulfilling the teachings of Scripture (Deut. 6:4-6; Micah 6:8; Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; and James 1:27).

The FPC Foundation applications are now open and are available on the church website and the church office. **The last date to turn in your application is Friday, March 31.** Please share this information with our community.



## Music Ministry

*Notes from Chris Watkins*

### **The Chancel Choir**

The Chancel Choir has returned to rehearsals in preparation for the music for the months of February-June. Included in the anthems for each Sunday are the special anthems for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday! Chris is finishing the multi-packet of “Chris-in-a-box” CDs that enable the singers to learn their parts in the privacy of their homes or cars. This is a wonderful way for singers who do not read music to learn their parts by hearing their vocal line played over and over until they are familiar with each melody! Chris is also available to work with each singer privately to help them vocally and to have more confidence.

The Choir is still in need of more men! We have only two basses in the choir! Too often one of these gentlemen have to be away and this puts a strain on the one bass who is left. Men of the Church, please prayerfully consider attending one rehearsal on a Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. You will enjoy yourself while singing with the other delightful members of the choir. If you do not feel comfortable in a musical setting, you will not have to join. However, if you come to one rehearsal you may find that you like it! Come and experience the fun of making music for the Lord!

### *The Children's Choir*

Each Sunday morning at 9:00-9:30 a.m. in the choir room, children from the ages of 4 to 6<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to come and learn music to be sung in February, March, and April. We have three fun and easy anthems to sing using tambourines, hand clapping, and flutes to enhance the sounds of our children's voices.

We need each parent to make an effort to get your child to each 30-minute rehearsal every week. Please make plans to bring your child each Sunday for this fun time together. The children love to sing and be with one another as they make music together. Following each rehearsal, the children are taken to their Sunday School classes for Bible teachings, crafts, and games to give them spiritual food for their Christian walk with Christ.

Please note these three Sundays that Chris would like for your children to sing for the morning worship service: February 12<sup>th</sup> – Morning Worship; March 12<sup>th</sup> – Children and Youth Sunday; April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Palm Sunday

### *Handbell Choir*

After the critically acclaimed Christmas presentation in Williamsburg, Virginia in December, and their musical offerings on the morning of December 18<sup>th</sup> before the Sunday worship service, three of our ringers had to take a hiatus from weekly rehearsals.

The ringers are preparing music to be rung in March and for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. The sound of brass, organ, and timpani will accompany the handbell choir on April 9<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord that morning! What a wonderful addition this music will be for our services!

If you would like to join the handbell choir, there is always a place for you! **We still need one new ringer to help perform our music for Easter. If you can read music in the Treble or Bass Clef, we need you!** The Handbell Choir practice each Thursday at 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the handbell room on the second floor of the church. Stop by and experience the joy of ringing bells!

### *Sweetheart Banquet*

**Wednesday Night – February 15<sup>th</sup> – 6:15 p.m.**

Please bring your loved ones to a delightful evening of love, romance, music, and wonderful food presented by both the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir! Fried



chicken with all the trimmings and mouth-watering desserts will be served in the gymnasium on this night. Dinner music and entertainment will be provided by the singers of the choir as you dine by candlelight.

Make plans to come to this free evening of fellowship and romance on this special once-a-year event.

### **Attention – All Chancel Choir Members!**

You will not have choir practice on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> because of the special Ash Wednesday Service at Faith Presbyterian Church. Instead, you will have choir practice on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Please mark this change on your calendar for this one night only.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women and friends, please join us for Bible study and fellowship. Beth Kannan will present our Bible study, “Sabbath and Servitude,” Genesis 2:15, 3:17-19, Exodus 31: 12-18, 35: 1-29, 36: 1-7

Evening circle, Monday, Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m., parlor or Morning circle, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m., parlor

### **FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE**

**Mission Trip** interest meeting will be held on Sunday, February 19 right after worship. Please attend.

**Save the date:** the clothing giveaway will be held on Saturday, March 11, please bring your gently used clothes (all ages) to donate.

### **YOUTH/CONFIRMAND MISSION PROJECT**

Please support our Youth and Confirmands in their current mission project. They are collecting new or gently used children’s books. The youth will be helping the children choose their favorite books to make their own during our Clothing Drive on

March 11. This will be a great time to go through your bookshelves, attic, and garage. etc. to find these hidden gems that will bless the children of our community. Our very own Linda Brown started this beautiful mission years ago and our youth are going to carry on her legacy. Please begin bringing your contributions to the church and placing them in the book basket located in the back hallway. Thank you for your support.

## Prayer Requests

### Congregation Members @ home

Mrs. Hope Derby, Jimmy Huffman, Ken and Judy Taylor, Mrs. Jackie VanHoy, George and Addie Warren, Peggy Till, and Brigitta Seymour.

### Friends & Family

Mr. Jeff Stanley, (son of Bill and Sharon Stanley)

Ms. Beth Jennings, a friend of Carol Branch

Rev. Jason Leonard, Wiley Leonard's son

Mr. Ric Wagner, a friend of Chris Watkins

Ms. Jane Yates, a friend of Toby Brown

Ms. Mary Elisabeth Hopkins, great aunt of Hadley Bolles

Mrs. Peggy Wilder, mother of Dr. Oz Wilder

Mrs. Ana Rosa Cavaria, daughter of Dr. Salvador and Mrs. Irma (Chiapas, Mexico).

Dr. Salvador De La Torre, Chiapas, Mexico

### Outreach

Mr. Gilbert Brown @ Brookdale Senior Living on Berkley Blvd.

Mr. Mike Pate @ Brookdale Senior Living on Country Day Road

Mrs. Madelyn Percise @ Cypress Glen, Greenville, NC

Mrs. Jane Johnson @ Willow Creek, Goldsboro, NC

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Please visit our church website. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

To send information via the church newsletter email Mary Taneti @ fpcgoldce@ncrbiz.com

