

First Presbyterian Press

Volume 25, Issue 3, March 2023

Hello Friends at FPC Goldsboro,

One of my fond memories as a child growing up in a Presbyterian home in Peru is learning how to sing the Bible. The Scottish missionaries in Peru brought their heritage of singing Bible verses and particularly the Psalms. I remember waking up to my mom Gloria and my dad Santiago singing these Psalms early in the morning. As we begin Lent and seek new ways to deepen our relationship with God and with each other, I would like to share some of those Psalms with you.

Recently, I have been reading the writings of Eugene Peterson - yes, the pastor who translated the whole Bible into a colloquial contemporary English that we call the Message. In his biographical book, *A Burning in My Bones* written by Winn Collier, there is an inspiring story: When Eugene finished graduate school in Semitic Languages at John Hopkins University, he was invited to write a Bible commentary on the book of Psalms. Excited with the idea, he began researching the Psalms, and started reading Bible Commentaries and taking notes. Suddenly, after months of this work, he was notified that the project had been canceled. Dr. Peterson was sad and disappointed, but his notes stayed with him. Some years later after becoming a pastor of Christ our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air Maryland, the first book he translated into the "Message Bible" were the Psalms. He didn't give up. He continued preaching, learning, and writing and now we have this beautiful gift for all of us. I had the honor to meet and have lunch with pastor Peterson in Charlotte back in 2009 when I was in Seminary. What a sweet and kind person, he listened to us and genuinely talked with us about ordinary things as gifts from God. Eugene died in 2018 but his writings, his sermons and the Message Bible will stay with us forever.

In this Lenten season, may you and I learn from Pastor Peterson - that even when life has detours and unexpected disappointments, there is a bigger picture. Where God is weaving something greater for our own good and for the sake of the world for God's glory.

And in this season, as I share some of my favorite verses from the Psalms in the Message version, may you and I be inspired to pray honestly in joy, anguish or desperation like David, Moses and others who wrote these beautiful poems, songs, and lyrics:

"You're a tree replanted in Eden bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom" - Psalm 1:3

"God's a safe-house for the battered and the poor, a sanctuary during bad times. The moment you arrive, you relax; you're never sorry you knocked" - Psalm 9:9

“God, you serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.” Psalm 23:5

“Harass these hecklers, God, punch these bullies in the nose” – Psalm 35:1

“Generous in love - God, give grace! Huge in mercy – wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry” – Psalm 51:1

And **“I thank you, high God – you are breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration – what a creation” – Psalm 139:14**

Welcome to Lent and I invite you to keep praying the Psalms. Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Noé Juarez

Officer Duties

	Elders	Deacons
Mar. 5	Phyllis Patterson	Carol Branch
Mar. 12	Evelyn Rose	Marilyn Bateman
Mar. 19	Lee Futrelle	Emily Byrd
Mar. 26	Bill Royall	Elva Graham

The deacon in charge: Charlie Rouse

Co-Deacon: Marilyn Bateman



For the month of March 2023

Bryson Bateman, Teresa Smith, and John Dees

CONGREGATIONAL BOOK CLUB

The Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club. "[Mad Honey](#)" by Jody Picoult. Leader: Mrs. Lynn Branch

The in-person discussion is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

McChesney Hall. Childcare will be provided upon prior request.

Christian Education March 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, March 12 and 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Youth Group (sixth through twelfth grade)

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

Confirmation Class

Sundays, March 19 (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.

Vacation

Bible School

July 24-28

9:00 a.m. to Noon



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.



March Birthdays!



3 Mrs. Lauren Metzler

18 Mr. Demis Perez

3 Ms. Grace Evans

19 Mrs. Hannah Rouse

5 Mr. Sam Hunter

22 Mrs. Emily Lewis

5 Mr. Trotter Sumner

24 Mrs. Lynn Branch

9 Mrs. Sarah Evans

25 Dr. Sherman Hawkins

9 Mr. Thomas Sumner

25 Ms. Anna Kate Leonard

11 Mrs. Meredith Gurley

26 Dr. Joe McLamb

11 Mr. Sonny Wooten

26 Mrs. Ann Hunter

12 Mr. Dalton Bolles

29 Mr. Bill Corbin

14 Mrs. Elva Graham

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women and friends, please join us for Bible study and fellowship. Karen Haithcock will present our Bible study, "Sabbath and Hospitality," Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

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

Easter Lilies: if you would like to purchase Easter Lily in memory or honor of your loved one for Easter Sunday, the cost is \$10 for each name. The envelopes will be in the pew racks and you may also email the church at fpcgold@ncrbiz.com. **The deadline is March 26th.**

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Dear Friends, please bring your clothing to the FPC gym anytime during church office hours this week and until Noon Friday, March 10th.

This Sunday, March 5th, members are invited to a pizza lunch in the gym and are asked to help set up tables and bring clothes down from upstairs storage. Many hands make light work! It is amazing what can be done in an hour! Childcare will be provided.

Please come sort the clothes anytime during office hours next week and especially come SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 11th to help our guests find what they need. The most sought-after garments are children's clothing so ask your friends and relatives if they have those to contribute!

This church is so blessed to always, year after year, have clothing to share with folks in need. You never cease to amaze me with your generosity.

Thank you!

Ann Hunter

Save the Date Mission Trip to Chiapas, Mexico June 24-30, 2023.

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 donation of books for "Linda's Library."



Music Ministry

Notes from Chris Watkins

The Chancel Choir

The singers of the Chancel Choir are hard at work learning anthems for the month of March and all the special music for the upcoming Lenten and Easter observances. Each section of the choir has been given their “Chris-in-a-Box” 4-disc CD set to help them learn their voice parts for all the anthems from now until the end of May.

We are so thankful to Tim Judd who has joined the choir as our newest bass singer. More men are needed. Please contact Chris and let him know that you are interested in singing with the choir this spring. What a blessing you will be to all of us!

Thank you all for attending the Valentine Sweetheart Banquet served by the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir on February 15th! We had 75 people to come to this special meal to feast on the dishes prepared by the musicians and revel in the spirit of love during the meal! This is the most people who have ever come to a Wednesday night supper!

The Children's Choir

Did you hear your children sing on February 12th? They were wonderful! They will sing again to the glory of God on Sunday morning, March 12th during the Children and Youth Service. They will also be singing on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who bring their children to our 9:00 a.m. rehearsals each Sunday morning in the choir room.

Handbell Choir

We are very fortunate to have three new ringers who have agreed to help ring bells during the spring season. Thank you, Joan, Nancy, and Jane for helping us during this season of music.

The Handbell Choir will be offering their music on Sunday, March 5th for the morning worship service.

An iPad is Needed!

The beautiful pipe organ in the sanctuary has the ability to record Chris and play back his music when he needs to be away or when he would like to move from the console to direct the choirs. The only piece of equipment that is needed to help the organ accomplish this task is an iPad. (The iPad will be connected to a transmitter in the organ which will allow the music to be recorded and played back easily.)

If you have a gently used iPad that you would be willing to give to the church, please contact Chris at your earliest convenience. (A new iPad can cost from \$450 - \$1,000. If someone has an iPad that they would let us use, it would save us the cost of this expensive item.) The organ tuner will be happy to make the connection as soon as all the parts are ready. We only need an iPad to make everything work. Thank you for your help.



Have you seen or borrowed this cooler from the church kitchen? If yes, please let us know if you have it and kindly return it when you are done using it.

Thank you,
Mary Taneti

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