



First Presbyterian Press

First Presbyterian Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina

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Dear Friends,

Easter Monday is a different sort of day for a preacher. Sunday's hallelujahs have faded, leaving behind a kind of sadness that yet another Easter has come and gone and you have not done it justice. Our house, crowded with guests emptied out on Monday morning. Sally headed to Wilmington to tend to some trouble with a renter at our apartment. The house was quiet and I had the day off. After breakfast with some buddies, I settled in to read the news. Front and center was the Easter murder and maiming of Christians in Sri Lanka by radical Islamic terrorists. I grieved the cruel hatred that would kill someone as they worshipped. I prayed for the martyrs and for their families who must suffer terribly.

Digging further into the news, I found a reference to a New York Times piece by Nicolas Kristof, published on Easter eve. It was an interview with the Serene Jones, President of Union Theological Seminary, New York. I'm not a Times reader, but I found the interview online. I was stunned by Jones' answers to question after question. It begins with a denial of the bodily resurrection of Jesus, couched in a kind of clever vagueness. "For me, she opined, "the message of Easter is that love is stronger than life or death. That's a much more awesome claim than that they put Jesus in the tomb and three days later he wasn't there. For Christians for whom the physical resurrection becomes a sort of obsession, that seems to me to be a pretty wobbly faith."

Next, she dismisses the understanding of the death of Jesus as the atoning intention of God as "nuts" and equivalent to "child abuse." The Virgin Birth of Jesus she bins off as a "bizarre claim" that "has nothing to do with Jesus' message" and "is an idea that has led to centuries of oppressing women."

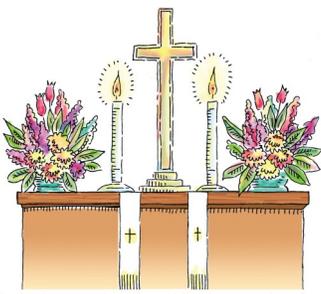
Such heresy is nothing new in Christian history. That it has risen to the helm of a once great Christian theological seminary astounded me. I suspect it would astound and horrify some of the great giants of Christian truth who have taught in Union's classrooms in the honored past: Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Tillich, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

I lay my computer down and looked back at pictures of Sri Lanka's Easter martyrs. I wondered what the President of Union Seminary would say of them, and of Paul's 1st century words to the church in Corinth, where some denied the truth of Jesus resurrection:

Now, since our message is that Christ has been raised from death, how can some of you say that the dead will not be raised to life? If that is true, it means that Christ was not raised; and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe. More than that, we are shown to be lying about God, because we said that he raised Christ from death—but if it is true that the dead are not raised to life, then he did not raise Christ. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost. If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world."

As I write, the funerals have begun. A Reuters photographer has captured the bereaved face of one of the mourners. Her brow is knitted with pain, but her tear-filled eyes look upward in prayer. She holds up a lighted candle in hope. Where does her hope lie? To whom is she praying? I imagine it is the Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered for her sake, and for the sake of her lost loved one, and has won the victory over such evil by rising from death, promising eternal life to all who believe. May God grant us all such "wobbly faith."

Love,
Bob



Worship Schedule

May 5	Rev. Bob Bardin
May 12	Rev. Bob Bardin
May 19	Rev. Bob Bardin
May 26	Rev. Bob Bardin



ELDERS

May 6	Lee Futrelle
May 13	Barbara Vinson
May 20	Sam Hunter
May 27	Dan Blackshear

DEACONS

Jason Blackburn
Jason Blackburn
Toby Brown
Toby Brown



Deacons-in-Charge: Pam Jeanette

Co-Deacon: Ellen Jordan

Ushers: John and Charlie Dees, Vismai, and Vismitha Taneti,



Sue Blackshear and Lynn Branch

Congregational Nurture Committee would like to thank Jason and Ali Blackburn for their generous offer to provide the food for our Family Fun Fest!! Jason also cooked the hotdogs on his new grill with the help of some friends. We appreciate this wonderful gift showing their generosity and their love for God, by sharing with others. What a wonderful example for everyone of all ages!!

Many thanks,
Congregational Nurture Committee



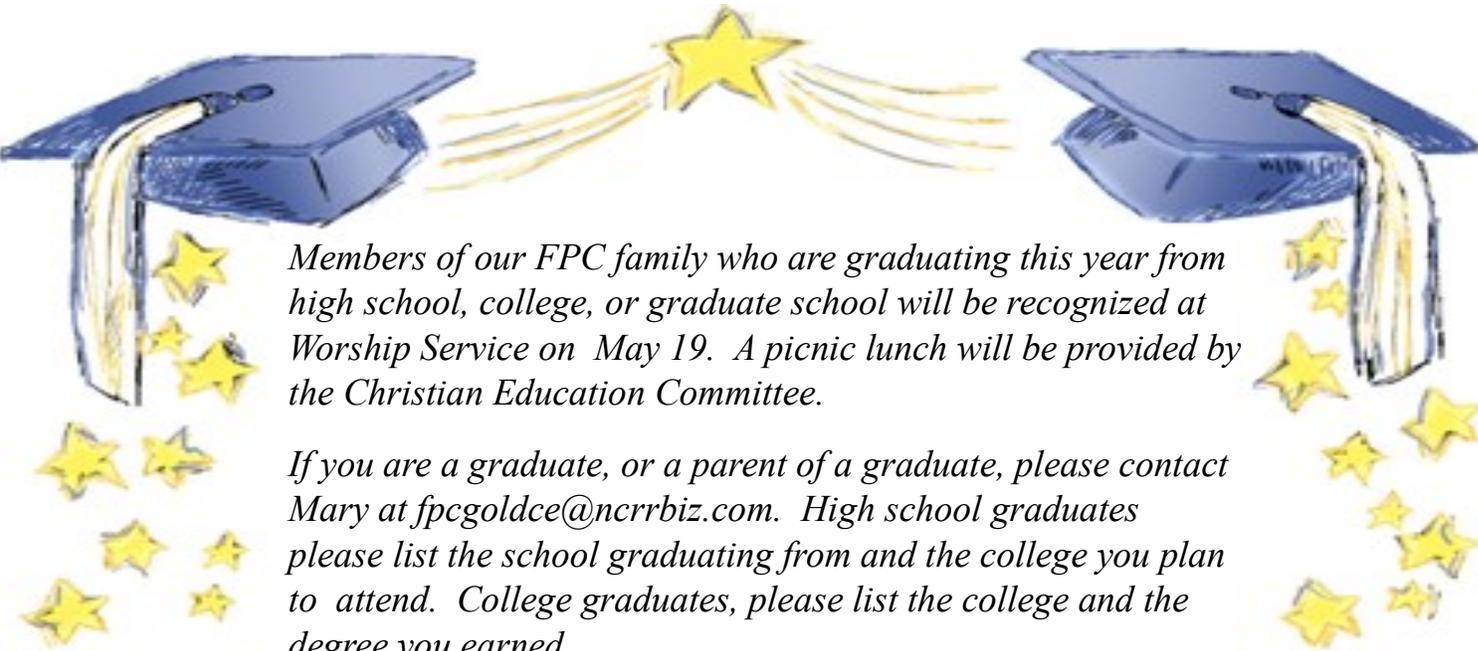
The 2019 Pig in the Park was a tremendous success for the **Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Wayne County**, selling out of fresh grilled barbecue before 1:00 pm. I was honored to have been chosen as one of five local "celebrities" to compete in the **Kiss the Pig** contest. I agreed to do so in honor of three **First Presbyterian Church** members who contributed so much to the clubs over the years: Sue Potter, deceased Nancy Smith and my father, Ed Bass, who passed away April 12, 2018.

I asked for your help and members of First Presbyterian Church contributed over \$1,500.00 to my donation of \$3,755.00 for the title of no trophy, but the honor of kissing the pig. Maxwell was a cute little pig and it was an honor to kiss the cute little piggy!

I am so grateful for your support and contributions.

Nancy, Sue and Dad, this was done for you!

Bob Bass



Members of our FPC family who are graduating this year from high school, college, or graduate school will be recognized at Worship Service on May 19. A picnic lunch will be provided by the Christian Education Committee.

If you are a graduate, or a 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.

The **First Presbyterian Church Education Fund** has been established to support FPC members 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 monies available and number of applicants selected. The application must be submitted to the church office by May 19. Please mark it to the attention of the Education Fund Committee. The monetary award will be mailed. No formal presentation will be made.

A special Education Fund offering will be received on May 19th.



Birthdays of the Month



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|----|--------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Mr. Bill Royall | 17 | Mary Scott Best |
| | Mr. Randy Sauls | 17 | Mrs. Sharon Stanley |
| 2 | Mr. Rick Sumner | 18 | Mrs. Michelle Phillips |
| 4 | Mr. Wiley Leonard | 19 | Mr. Brad Gurley |
| 7 | Mr. George Joseph | 20 | Mrs. Mary Taneti |
| 9 | Katie Graham | 31 | Karis Hawkins |
| 15 | Mr. Steve Jara | 31 | Mr. John Rowan |
| 16 | Charlotte Suddarth | | |





Sunday, 5-5	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Sunday School Worship/Sanctuary (Confirmation) Youth Group (Last one for the year)
Monday, 5-6	6:30 p.m.	Circle 4
Tuesday, 5-7	9:00 a.m. 10:00 7:00 p.m.	Troubleshooters (every Tuesdays) Circle 1 and 2 Committees
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Handbells (every Wednesday) Chancel Choir (every Wednesday)
Thursday 5-9	5:30 p.m.	Faith in Progress Spiritual Study
Sunday, 5-12	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship/Sanctuary (Blanket offering)
Tuesday, 5-14	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday, 5-15	6:30 p.m.	PW Celebration Dinner
Sunday, 5-19	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship/Sanctuary (Graduation Sunday)
Tuesday, 5-21	7:00 p.m.	Session
Sunday, 5-26	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship/Sanctuary
Monday, 5-27		Office Closed (Memorial Day)
Tuesday, 5-28	9:30 a.m.	PWCT



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
CELEBRATION DINNER**
**Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in
McChesney Hall**

Monday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. Circle 4
Tuesday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. Circles, 1,2
Tuesday, May 28, 9:30 a.m. PWCT

Bring-a-Salad-or-Dessert Menu
Honorary Life Member will be named.
Cynthia Williams will be guest speaker.
Nursery will be available.
Call the church office if needed.
Sign up at reception desk.
Come be a part of this special evening.