



Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2022

Moving the Church

This title of this note was chosen deliberately, in part because it is confusing. There are **lots of similar statements that come with “baggage” because they hark back to times in the church where conflict caused rifts, dissension, and schism.** For example, last summer I preached about the **“filioque” a three word phrase, “and the Son”** as part of the Nicene Creed that caused the Eastern and Western branches of Christianity to split apart in 1054—a situation that still exists today! Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches are separate forms of Christianity.

And our own Protestant Reformation came about because a priest named Martin Luther objected to the sale of indulgences by the Pope to **substitute for repenting of one’s sins through penance.** Fascinatingly, the root word for penance in Latin is: *paenitentia!* **Now, no doubt, it’s clearer. And the church and its worship was ‘reformed’ in a manner that still continues today.** We believe that through **scripture, our faith, and God’s grace** that the church is reformed and always being reformed. This means God is changing the church (and us) all the time.

There are many other examples of the church being moved, or moving, or changing. But the point is that **despite peoples’ normal resistance to change, including change in the church, it is God who is changing the church.** God brings new people to the church. Those new people have new ideas. God inspires our nominating committee to consider a range of members (both new and longstanding) to become new church leaders—some as elders, some as deacons. They are called by our congregation through the nominating committee (which is also called by the congregation), and as they discern **their calls, it is God’s grace** that causes them to accept the call and be ordained and installed into service before the congregation, in a worship service gathered to glorify God!

This is why we love our Presbyterian church—because of the steeped traditions

and polity that govern us through our Book of Order and inspire us through our Book of Confessions, a compendium of our beliefs, tied directly (as is the case with the Book of Order) to scripture. And it is the love of our church that moves the church—inspired by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

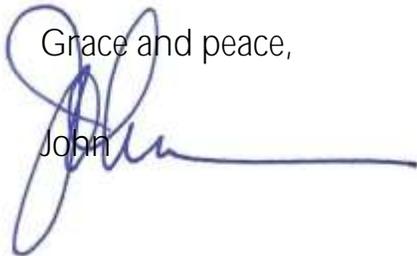
So, right here in Goldsboro you might be surprised to learn that, on February 13th, **I will begin my second year as your pastor!** And, believe me, I've seen lots of change occur. Change in you. Change in me. Change in all of us. One of the most significant things we did was to conduct coached retreats for the Session and Diaconate where we **discussed three important topics in the church's future: Involving Young People, working as Disciples, and a 10-Year Look at Stewardship.**

I think it's fair to say that both the Diaconate and Session came away from those retreats excited about the possibilities for the future of this church. And, they've already been making progress. Our formal report to presbytery for calendar 2021 showed a net gain of four members during the year! We are a congregation of 315 people as of the end of 2021, and there are new possibilities going forward. New possibilities coming from **the Diaconate and Session, from our existing membership, from those five 'brand new' members coming on board, from our two confirmands, and from potential new members we'll find out there in Goldsboro.**

And all of it will bring change—slow, deliberate, planned and executed change. **But, get ready, because God already knows where we're headed, and God will decide how best to inspire us in the changes that occur. And we, as Christian disciples in the Reformed Tradition know that. Why? Through our faith, God's grace, our new understandings of scripture every time we read or re-read a Bible passage. All in combination with Christ's working through us, with God's glory surrounding us, that we will be "Moving the Church" in ways we never might have expected!**

Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda. The church reformed, always being reformed. Our church changes because God is involved in all our lives!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'John', written over the text 'Grace and peace,'.

John

Officer Duties

Elders

Feb. 6 Ann Hunter
Feb. 13 Chris Martin
Feb. 20 Ann Hunter
Feb. 27 Toby Brown

Deacons

Tim Haithcock
Christie Stafford
Tim Judd
Emily Byrd

Deacon in charge: Meredith Gurley
Co-Deacon: Charlie Rouse



For the month of February

Brad Gurley
Sam Hunter
Jason Blackburn

The First Presbyterian Church Foundation

The Foundation of First Presbyterian annually provides gifts and support for benevolent causes, and it is time for all interested parties to make application for this support. The Foundation funds cannot be used for the operating expenses of the church. Only benevolent and non-operating “causes” can receive gifts, such as local and foreign missions, Christian educational support, and special music worship enhancement. All requests should be submitted using an FPC Foundation Grant application. Applications are available from the church office and on the church website (fpcgoldsboro.org). All requests should be submitted **no later than March 31, 2022** to The Foundation of First Presbyterian Church, C/O First Presbyterian Church, 1101 East Ash Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Presbyterian Women

February PW Circle Time

Morning Circle – 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 1 in the Parlor.

Evening Circle – 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 7 in the Parlor.

PWCT – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 22 in the Parlor.

Mrs. Betty Rose Sutton will present the Bible Study, “The Heart of Prayer: What Jesus Teaches Us” Chapter 9, “Father Glorify Your Name” (John 17:1-26).



February Birthdays!



02 Mrs. Hope Derby

22 Mrs. Kim Kruer

02 Mrs. Leslie VanHoy

22 Mrs. Ali Blackburn

04 Mrs. Jewel Sauls

23 Mr. Jim Parker

05 Mr. Borden Parker

23 Mr. Bob Warren

06 Mr. Bob Bardin

23 Mr. Roy John Parker V

06 Ms. Vismitha Taneti

24 Ms. Marlowe Ellis

07 Mrs. Katherine Parker

24 Mr. Troy Pate Jr.

11 Mrs. Christie Stafford

24 Dr. Charlotte Campbell

15 Mrs. Kathryn Spicer

24 Ms. Jean Whitaker

16 Mr. Morgan Jeffreys

25 Mr. James Spicer III (Will)

18 Mrs. Mary Hope Crocker

27 Mr. Gary Patterson

19 Mrs. Leslie Hunter

28 Mrs. Ellen Henderson

28 Ms. Caroline Suddarth

Christian Education

Events the month of February 2022

Sunday	Faith Formation Classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 20	Young Presbyterians in the Gym 4-6 p.m.
Sunday 20 & 27	Youth/Parents Meeting 3-4:30 p.m.
Sunday 27	Youth Group in the Gym 5-7 p.m.
Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23	Independent Prayer Time in the Chapel 5-6 p.m.
Wednesdays 2 and 23	Confirmation Class of 2022 in the library 3:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School will be hosted at FPC Monday thru Friday, July 25-29, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. We will need the help of many youth and adult leaders please sign up by emailing Mary Taneti.



Music Ministry



Continued Success in the Handbell Choir: each week the ringers of the Handbell Choir are learning difficult music with ease and confidence. The fourteen ringers are preparing difficult pieces to be rung on Easter Sunday when they will be accompanied by the sounds of brass, timpani, and the organ.

If you would like to join this wonderful group of women and men, please call Chris at the church and he will prepare a part for you. You will have fun, laugh, and love one another as you glorify God with the sound of bells.

The Choir Loft is Calling You! There are many of you in the congregation who have sung with the Chancel Choir in the past. It is time that you returned to your place in the choir loft as we prepare for the Lenten and Easter season with beautiful music. We have a special need for alto, tenor, and bass voices. There is no audition! Chris will work with you and teach you your parts until you feel confident with your notes.



The members of the Chancel choir want to welcome you with open arms and loving hearts. You will have a fun time learning the music and sharing the fellowship on Wednesday nights at 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the choir room. There is a place in the choir loft with your name on it! Join us this Wednesday night!



The Children's Choir will begin their spring choir rehearsals this coming Sunday, February 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room. The children will be learning anthems for the Children and Youth Sunday in March, Palm Sunday in April, and **Mother's Day in May. All children are invited to sing with us!**

You will have a fun time learning to make music for Jesus!

From the Finance Office

Special offering will be collected on Sunday, February 13 during worship. To support Protestant Pre-school and Kindergarten (PPK). Please make all checks payable to PPK.

Mission Committee

Sunday, February 20th at 11:15 a.m. in the Church Library – There will be an “interest meeting” for anyone wanting to learn about the proposed June 18-25, 2022 mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico. No obligation is required.

Saturday, March 5 will be our next Clothing Give Away, workdays will be Monday, February 28 through March 4th prior to the Give Away. Clothing should be clean and in good shape. Children’s clothing is especially needed. Clothing may be in boxes or on hangers in plastic and may be brought and stored in room #219.

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER Cast and Crew CALL

Session has approved *The Living Last Supper* as the Maundy Thursday (April 14) worship service.

If you are willing to participate as one of

the cast of 14 men, please respond to Rosalyn Lomax by February 6: text or call 919-344-2080, call 919-736-2116, or email rosalynlomax@gmail.com.

We’ll also welcome volunteers to assist with the drama.



Save the Date: Valentine Bingo! Sunday, February 6 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. All are invited. Bring your family and friends. 

FPC Calendar for February 2022

Sundays	Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Young Presbyterians 4-6 p.m. (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) Youth Group 5-7 p.m. (1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Sundays)
Mondays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Goldsboro Bridge Club 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Troop 3 at 6:00 p.m. Scouts Troop 3 at 7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle (first Monday)
Tuesdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Morning Circle (first Tuesday) Committee Meetings (first Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting (second Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting (third Tuesday) 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Independent Prayer in chapel 5:00 p.m. Hand bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Congregational Book Club 7:00 p.m. (first Thursday) Goldsboro Bridge Club 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Fridays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturdays	Church office closed

For a detailed weekly calendar please visit the church website.