



Volume 24, Issue 3, March 2022

Bright Spots In History

In the eighties PBS had a TV program called “The Day the Universe Changed”. It was a superb series that looked at breakthroughs in science, the arts, and literature during the Renaissance and before. This 20th Century “look-back” opened a fascinating window to an earlier time. One particular episode discussed how artists changed how they depicted buildings and landscapes. One artist made a “grid” of strings across his studio window as a way to improve perspective in his drawings. Later, the notion of segmenting a large panorama into small, equal-sized squares led to significant advancements in astronomy! A real historical bright spot.

During our own lifetimes, there have been these same kinds of breakthroughs in science and the arts that have broadened scientific understanding and improved our lives in a variety of ways. I recently read that the guidance system used to control the Apollo Mission landings on the Moon had only enough computer memory to store *this letter*, but no more! Plus, the device was 2 feet x 1 foot x 6 inches in size and weighed 65 pounds. Yet, the Moon landings were world history bright spots.

Remember, those of you old enough, when the lunar module went around behind the moon and all radio communication stopped? Scary, even if Walter Cronkite told us beforehand it would happen! Until we heard, “The Eagle has landed” in cryptic, static-y sounds.

Other things have changed the world in our lifetimes too, and it is hard to imagine what our children will witness during theirs. My dad was a little boy during the early days of air flight. Rural barns and corn cribs were built with big, double doors on each end so farm equipment could be stored in winter. And one of the early tricks was to fly bi-planes *through* the barns, doors open of course! That, by the way, originated “*barnstorming*” as an aviation term.

History is filled with incidences of breakthroughs; many occurring during wartime. The use of the longbow by the English caused incredible havoc when first used against

their enemies. Development of the French “trebuchet“ (a type of catapult) was an equally intimidating warring device, right up until the invention of gun powder. In my lifetime, nuclear war was born, the Cold War raged for forty-five years, and when the Berlin Wall fell and the USSR dissolved, we all looked forward to a “peace dividend.” It surely looks like, at the beginning of March 2022 that the peace dividend has ended. Perhaps this is another of those days when the world changes. The Russians, at this writing have invaded Ukraine and people are dying. Standing back to get a historical perspective on this is hard. Here’s what I see: it’s not clear yet what the *rest of the world* will do about Putin, the Russians, and Ukraine. If anything.

Our country is capable of struggling with many issues—all at the same time. Our country is resilient and strong. Our democracy lives on, and COVID is on a significant wane. That’s a real *bright spot* in our lives. Plus, the CDC is changing the way it evaluates mask-wearing mandates. This apparently means millions of us will no longer be required to wear masks at all. Also, our cold, cold winter will end this month! The days are getting longer, brighter. And the wonder, fragrance and splendor of North Carolina spring flowers are nearly upon us. What joy! What nice bright spots—*literally!*

But the *best* bright spot? Our lovely church will continue its work in Christ’s name in Goldsboro and elsewhere! Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter are late on the liturgical calendar this year—Easter isn’t till April 17th. Lent itself comes from an Old English word for Springtime. It is a time for spiritual renewal and faith growth—just like those springtime flowers—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and resurrecting of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So as we begin this Lenten month, let us maintain a historical context to our prayers, deeds, and preparations we make for the coming Easter. Keeping in mind the many ways that God is at work in the world to bring heaven on earth to those people God loves so much—even in places of horrid war, conflict, pain, and suffering. God is there for all of them. And us. And let us remember that of all the days of the universe through eons of history, the greatest *“bright-spot” day ever* was the day in ancient Palestine that that tomb was found empty and the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples! Have a great month.

Grace and peace,

John


Officer Duties

Elders

Mar. 6 Evelyn Rose
Mar. 13 Rosalyn Lomax
Mar. 20 Jason Blackburn
Mar. 27 Bill Royall

Deacons

Kent Warren
Teresa Smith
Tim Haithcock
Charlie Rouse

Deacon in charge: Emily Byrd
Co-Deacon: Christie Stafford



For the month of March

Harold Rose
Evelyn Rose
John Till

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

March PW Circle Time

Morning Circle – 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 1 in the parlor.

(If possible please stay after the meeting to help with clothing give away, sandwiches provided).

Evening Circle – 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 7 in the parlor.

PWCT – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 29 in the Parlor.

Mrs. Lynn Branch will present the Bible Study, *Jesus Prays for Glory*, (John 17:1-26) Chapter 10, of the study book, *The Heart of Prayer* by Jerram Barrs.



March Birthdays!



03 Mrs. Lauren Metzler

21 Mr. Michael Ellis

05 Mr. Sam Hunter

22 Mrs. Emily Sauls

05 Mr. Trotter Sumner

24 Mrs. Lynn Branch

09 Mr. Thomas Sumner

25 Mrs. Sandra Franklin

11 Mr. Sonny Wooten

25 Dr. Sherman Hawkins

11 Mrs. Meredith Gurley

26 Dr. Joe McLamb

14 Mrs. Elva Graham

26 Mrs. Ann Hunter

15 Ms. June Fields

26 Mr. Tom Shaw

18 Mr. Demis Perez

27 Mr. Clift McCall Jr.

19 Mrs. Hannah Rouse

28 Mr. Mike Richter

19 Mr. Philip Brogden

29 Mr. Bill Corbin

Christian Education

Events the month of March 2022

Sunday	Faith Formation Classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday March 13	Children and Youth Sunday
Sundays 13 & 27	Young Presbyterians in the Gym 4-6 p.m.
Sundays 6 & 20	Youth Group in the Gym 5-7 p.m.
Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	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.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The FPC Education Scholarship has been established to support FPC members needing financial assistance 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. Applications are available in the church office and must be submitted by May 23. Please mark your application to the attention of the Education scholarship. The monetary award will be mailed. No formal presentation will be made.

Please note that the Education Scholarship Fund is not in the budget and is solely dependent on congregational giving. Donations to the Fund are welcome at any time during the year, as well as on two designated Sundays, Graduate Sunday and Discipleship Sunday.

Music Ministry

Special Easter Music – On Easter Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. the Handbell Choir, Brass and Timpani Ensemble, and guest soloists will present a service of special Easter music prior to the regular 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The Handbell Choir will present three special arrangements of Easter hymns accompanied by the brass, timpani, and organ. Guest soloists will sing beautiful arrangement of sacred selections, and the organ, brass, and timpani will resound with festive works to fit the celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

Presenting this special music 30 minutes prior to the start of the regular service of worship will allow everyone to come and bring their blossoms to adorn the living cross on the front campus and come into the sanctuary to prepare their hearts and minds for the joy of Easter morning.

The members of the congregation are invited to ask their neighbors of other congregations to hear this special music which will be presented before the regular worship services of both our church and the other churches in town.

Please make a special note in your schedules to come early on Easter morning to be inspired by the sounds of triumphal music to glorify our Risen Lord!



Our Outstanding Handbell Choir Prepared for Easter: The fourteen-member Handbell Choir meets every Wednesday in the Handbell Room on the second floor of the church. For 90 minutes these outstanding ringers practice their selections for Easter Sunday. These selections include arrangements of

“Thine Is the Glory,” “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken,” and “An Easter Morning Fantasia” – all of which use all five-octaves of bells accompanied by the brass and timpani ensemble and organ!

Chris is thrilled with the musical progress that these musicians have achieved! They are mastering difficult handbell techniques and musical passages with ease while laughing and having a great time as a family of musicians who love to make music for our Lord.

Come and hear them on Easter morning! You will love the sounds of the bells and enjoy the wonderful smiles of the ringers as they play.

The Chancel Choir is Growing! As the members of the Chancel Choir are preparing their anthems for the Easter season, we have two new members to join us and have a soprano who has been on a sabbatical for two years as she has taken care of her growing family. What a wonderful gift God has given us to have these talented and personable singers join the wonderful musical family of the Chancel Choir!



The Chancel Choir will provide three special anthems on Easter Sunday accompanied by the brass and timpani ensemble. You will not want to miss their beautiful music! Make plans to come early on Easter Sunday morning to hear the special 30-minute presentation of music followed by the wonderful music of our Chancel Choir!



The Children's Choir will sing a special anthem for the Children's and Youth Sunday service on March 13th. These children meet every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. to learn the anthems for the upcoming services. The choir has grown in members and are learning their words and music very quickly!

The children will again sing on Palm Sunday and on Mother's Day in May. Regular attendance for each Sunday rehearsal is encouraged so that the children will know and understand the lyrics of each anthem in order to minister in song to the congregation.

If you know of a child who would like to join this choir, please bring them to the choir room on Sunday morning. We would love to see them there!

Day Light Savings Time is

Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2:00 A.M.** On Saturday night, clocks are set forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to "spring forward."



Mission Committee

Saturday, March 5 will be our 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 directly to the gym.

Mission Trip to Chiapas, Mexico is June 18-25 please save your spot by turning in your forms and deposit (\$300) by March 15. Total out-of-pocket expense per individual is \$600. Questions call or email Ann Hunter, Mission Committee Chair.

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER **Cast and Crew CALL**

The Living Last Supper will be the Maundy Thursday (April 14) worship service at 8:00 p.m.

The Cast is complete. If you would like

to assist in any other way please email Rosalyn Lomax @ rosalynlomax@gmail.com.



Memorial Bricks



Memorial bricks are available from the Memorials Committee.

They will be placed in the East Garden in honor or memory of a loved one. Cost is \$150 each.

Please call the church office if you are interested.

MEMORIALS

Andrey Brow – Undesignated – Lynn Ragsdale, St. Joseph Methodist Church, Wilson & Susan Stackhouse, Chris Martin

Music Fund – Susan Borden Discussion Class

Wiley Leonard – Music Fund – Wilson & Susan Stackhouse, Jason & Rebecca Clamme, Robert & Jannifer Register, Jay & Kathy Best, Russell & Anna Best Lee, Vicky Bailey, Bill & Lucy Warren, Ditty Whitford, Jim & Diane Barnwell & Employees of Huffman Oil Company, Thomas & Catherine Howell, Emily Byrd, Christine Bowsby, Thad & Barbara West, Toby Brown and David Carlyle, Judson Pope III, Harold & Jody Brashear

Larry McIntyre – Minister’s Study – Nancy Baillio, Audrey & Jimmy Black

David & Suzanne Jenkins – East Garden – Ditty Whitford

Anne Fidler – Anne Fidler Memorial Fund – East Carolina Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

William Wallace (Hettie Grisette’s Brother) – Undesignated – Wilson & Susan Stackhouse

Music Fund – Lee Futrelle

Mission Fund – Charles & Hannah Rouse

East Garden – Troy & Joyce Pate

Peggy Chappell (Troy Pate’s Sister) – Undesignated – Donna Hopewell, Barbara Ann Vinson

Ben Barnhill (Roselyn Lomax’s Cousin) – East Garden – Troy & Joyce Pate

Marsha Jarrell (Fred Lomax’s ½ Sister) – East Garden – Troy & Joyce Pate

Fred McCall, Jean McCall, and Randy McCall Byrd – McCall/Byrd Memorial Fund –
Frances McCall & Lawrence J. Boyce

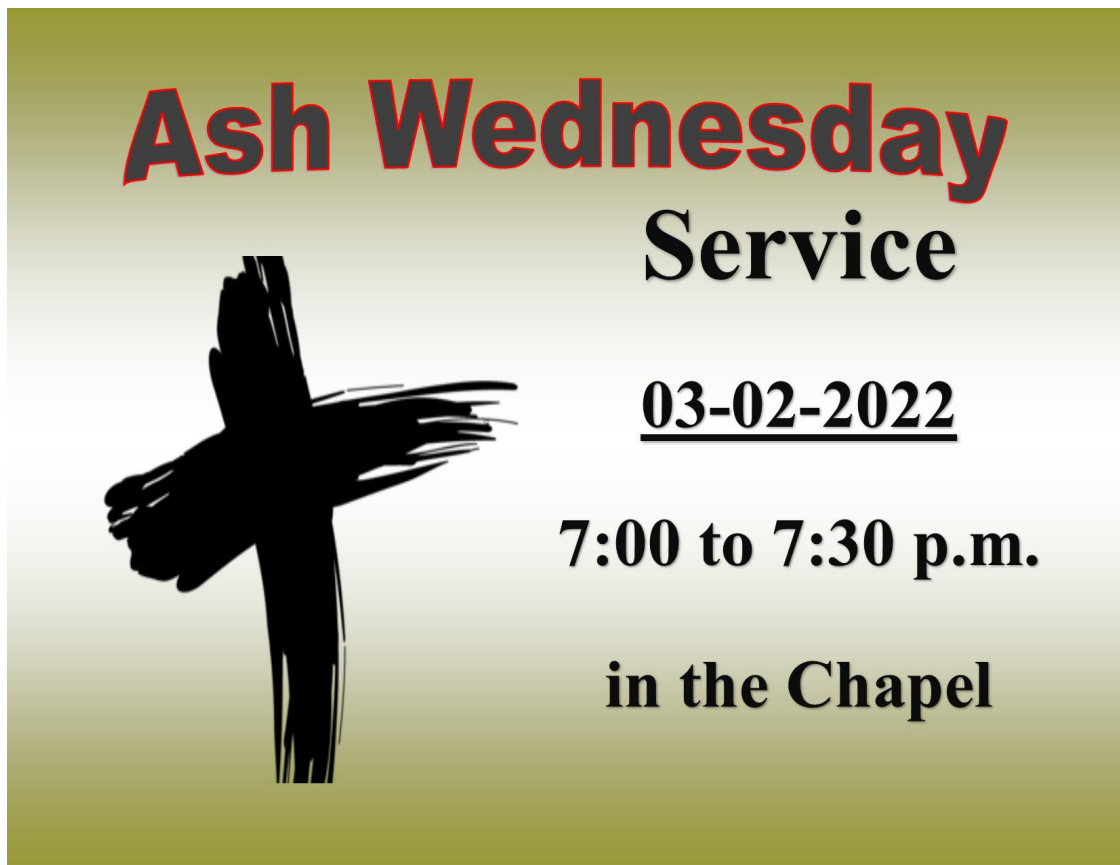
Anne Stark (Troy Pate's Niece) – Undesignated – Barbara Ann Vinson

Lawson & Emma Withers – Building & Grounds – Charles & Emily York


HONORS

Jason Blackburn – Undesignated – Audrey Brow

James & Kathryn Spicer – Music Fund – Greg & Eleanor Spicer Rice



Ash Wednesday
Service



03-02-2022

7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

in the Chapel

Prayer Requests

Please pray daily for your **PNC**. Members are Ali Blackburn, Shelby Benton, Barbara Bradshaw, Toby Brown (chair), Ann Hunter, Malcolm Shearin, and James Spicer.

Confirmands: Garrett and Worth

Congregation Members @ home

Mrs. Hope Derby, Mr. Jimmy & Louise Huffman, Mr. O. L. Starling, Phyllis Patterson, Curtis Stackhouse, Linda Stevens, Ken and Judy Taylor, Mrs. Jackie VanHoy and Mrs. Ditty Whitford.

Friends & Family

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

Ms. Beth Jennings, friend of Carol Branch

Rev. Jason Leonard, Wiley Leonard's son

Ms. Emily Lassiter, friend of Emily Byrd

Mrs. Jane Johnson, mother of Nathan Johnson

Mr. Bob Locket, friend of Ken Taylor

Mr. Phil Barbee, brother-in-law of Fred and Rosalyn

Ms. Lori Mobley, friend of Lisa Royall

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



FPC Calendar for March 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.