

# First Presbyterian Press

First Presbyterian Church  
Goldsboro, North Carolina

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## Graduating to Summer Learning

This is the season of graduation where many young folks enter new transitions in their lives and when the possibilities seem both broader and more challenging. This is true for everyone, as the church with all its possibilities can become the vehicle for opening new doors to our minds, particularly this summer.

At the end of my second year at the University of Illinois, another student and I had an opportunity to meet with the president of the Student Government Association. He said he was glad that we were done with our “survey courses.” I asked him what he meant. He told us that the first two years in college merely is a grounding in the basics in a variety of subjects—learning how to think. This was fine, but beginning in the fall we would have the opportunity to take many more elective courses to balance our core curricula. He suggested we take courses taught by renowned professors rather than just our personal interests! He said really good professors would expand our minds far more that way.

And so I took some courses over the next two years that I still remember to this day. Ancient and Modern Philosophy, The Psychology of Learning, Advanced North American Geography, Abnormal Psychology and “How To Lie With Statistics!” But easily the most fascinating was the year-long course in American History from the Civil War to Today. Taught by Norman Graebner—class membership was done by lottery because it was so popular—but I was lucky enough to get in. Dr. Graebner was famous as having been an assistant to George F. Kennan. (I know, I know—just Google these guys!)

But, the whole world came alive as he talked. His World War II lectures were really something. Separated into European and Pacific Theaters, we moved the class into the University Auditorium, which held 3,000 people—who came from all around just to hear him! Four lectures of three-hours each—and every seat was filled! The first two rows were for our class. Those nights are etched in my memory as his soaring rhetoric formed much of my interest in history, which still continues today!

The reason I tell you this story is that we are all fortunate when memorable people create lasting impressions that affect us for a lifetime. This is true of the church as well. It is one thing to read the Bible, check out devotional materials, or do self study. But it is quite another to come face to face with people who are engaging and enthusiastic in their love for God. We get swept up in the excitement and the chance to broaden our minds, to open up new doors to wisdom and understanding.

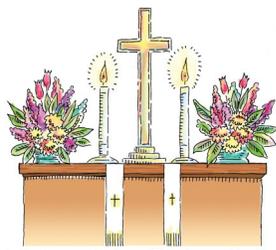
For example, there is a new Sunday School class that will begin this summer. Taught by Bill Royall, it will focus on the book, “If God Has A Refrigerator, Your Picture Is On It” by James W. Moore. Our Congregational Book Club continues also, right now reading “*The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop*” by Fannie Flagg, who wrote *Fried Green Tomatoes*. There are other classes, too, of course. And, no doubt you have a book list to take to the beach this summer. Or to camp. Or just to read on your back porch in the mornings before the heat gets too stifling.

My list? How about *Bonhoeffer* by Eric Mataxis, The Knightsbridge Series of books by Ken Follett (historical novels by a spy-thriller author), *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, *1491* and *1492* by Charles C. Mann, *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande (about end of life issues), *The Year Without a Summer* (1816) by William & Nicholas Klingaman, *Waiting for the Morning Train* by world-famous Civil War historian Bruce Catton. And of course, there’s *Mountain Majesty*, a trilogy by your Bridge Interim Pastor! This isn’t your normal pastor’s list, right? And it mirrors my interest in science and history—but reflections on your life in the context of broader things will move you closer to God! I guarantee it.

All these things are ways to enhance our minds. And in the process, allow God’s Holy Spirit to work within us to strengthen our faith and trust in God. God’s wonder is awesome through Jesus Christ. Let this be a learning and faith-building summer!

Grace and peace,





Worship Schedule

June 6 John Winings  
 June 13 John Winings  
 June 20 John Winings  
 June 27 John Winings



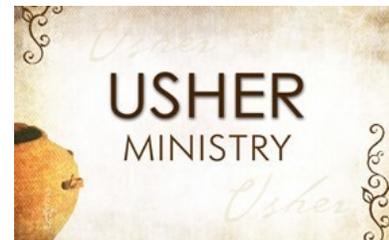
ELDERS

DEACONS

June 6	Ellen Henderson	Emily Byrd
June 13	Barbara Bradshaw	Teresa Smith
June 20	Suzanne Corbin	Toby Brown
June 27	Bill Stanley	Joyce Wooten



**June Deacon-in-Charge:** Toby Brown  
**June Co-Deacon:** Teresa Smith



**June Ushers:** John Dees, Charlie Dees,  
 and Ellen Eubanks



**June:** Anna Best Lee and Emma Jordan



4	Dr. Robert Campbell	14	William Lewis	22	Mrs. Marilyn Bateman
6	Mr. Samuel Best	15	Mr. John Dees	24	Mrs. Karen Jones
8	Davis Paul Hunter		Mr. Nathan Johnson	25	Mr. Bob Kemper
	Mr. Jim Butler	16	Mr. Robert Richter	26	Mrs. Ditty Whitford
9	Mr. Harold Rose		Catherine Jordan		Mrs. Lynne Shaw
10	Mr. Will Faircloth	18	Madison Bryan	27	Mrs. Ellen Jordan
14	Mr. Curtis Stackhouse		Ms. Sharon Crawford	30	Mrs. Barbara Ann Vinson

# Outstanding Older Adult Recognition



**Dan and Sue Blackshear**

Dan and Sue have been faithful members of First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro for 10 years. They have taken on so many roles in the church and participated in almost every aspect. It has been said that ninety-percent of “serving” means just showing up. Dan and Sue have certainly shown up. Because of the Covid-19, the Presbytery was unable to honor our recipients last year; therefore, we decided to submit their names again. The Covid may have stopped some activities, but it did not stop Dan and Sue from serving the Lord and our church.

Dan has served as a Deacon, Elder, member of the PNC committee, member of the IPNC committee, and has served three years on our Presbytery’s COM committee. A sought-after church member, Dan has served and often chaired our Finance, Building and Grounds, and Personnel committees. This past year, during the pandemic, Dan headed up the committee to raise funds to replace all the windows in the sanctuary, chapel, and gym. Dan was up to the task, and we now have beautiful new windows. Dan’s skills as a successful businessman have been a tremendous asset to the church. His love of Christ is apparent in all that he does.

Sue has also lived her faith. She is involved throughout the church. She helps organize meals, visits, and sends cards to church members and their extended families. She is currently a vital member of the Congregational Nurture Committee, always present and always willing to lend her ideas, her time, and her energy to whatever project is at hand. She takes particular interest in our A-Day-Away program. She recently designed and purchased a sign which will make our community aware of the program. In the past Sue has served on the Chancel Guild, the Funeral committee, and has served as co-chair of Presbyterian Women’s Nurturing committee. Her contributions to our church are endless.

Together, Dan and Sue have enhanced our church in beautiful ways. They have welcomed the church members into their beautiful home for fellowship. They are always planting pansies, tulips, or hydrangeas to greet people as they enter the portico of our church. They have set up and decorated the Christmon tree, painted lines in the parking lot, and given generous gifts to our minister, staff, and A-Day-Away staff.

**Summer Sunday school:** 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.

**Susan Borden Discussion** class in the conference room

**Adults** Sunday school class meets in the library

**Young Adults** class meets in room #215

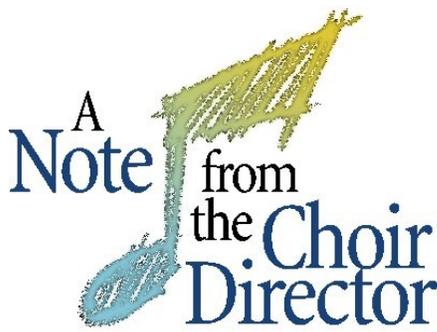
**Combined children** and youth meets in the gym

Questions about Sunday school email Mary Taneti at [fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com).

## Thank you note:

It is with glee that I have received so many nice prayers, gifts, and love during my long absence. Thank you. I have missed you so much. I am proud to be in this church family since 1955.

With love,  
Audrey Brow



## Chancel Choir Rehearsals to Start in September

On the evening of Wednesday, September 8th, the Choir Room doors will be flung open to welcome back everyone who would like to make music for the Lord! The rehearsals will be every Wednesday from 7:30—9:00 p.m.

There are many of you in the congregation who would like to join the choir but feel that you do not have a good voice. Some of you think that you need to read music. Others think that they will have to audition for acceptance in the choir.

There is good news for everyone. First, there are no auditions to join the choir. Secondly, you do not need to know how to read music because Chris is making individual practice CDs for each section of the choir for all the anthems that will be sung for the next several months and for all the Christmas music. All you have to do is listen to these recordings and Chris will teach you your part in the privacy of your home or car.

Finally, Chris can teach a rock to sing! If you can hum, breath on a regular basis, and have a pulse he will teach you how to match pitch sing with the other members of the choir, and enjoy the fellowship and joy of singing for the Lord. Music is the only art from that is given from heaven that we are allowed to take with us to Paradise. Let Chris give you the experience of learning how to sing before you die and join the heavenly choir!

Come to the first practice. See if you like it and want to remain with us. There is no obligation to join. You will not be fitted for a robe until you are ready to sing. There will be coffee and homemade treats to eat and take home each week! Do not miss this opportunity to have fun. Plan on joining us for our first rehearsal on September 8th!

## Handbell Choir News



### **HANDBELL CHOIR**

If you heard the ringers of the Handbell Choir on Easter Sunday you received a wonderful blessing. These thirteen ringers rang beautifully and impressed everyone who heard them with their talent and newly-learned handbell techniques.

Would you like to join the Handbell Choir this Fall? We have room for you. Please let Chris know as soon as possible so that he can start preparing all the music for the fall and Christmas season for the bells to ring. He will be happy to start another Beginning Handbell Class in August if there are enough people who would like to learn the art of ringing bells and reading music. The fun of ringing bells awaits for you! Rehearsal will start on September 8th at 6:00—7:00 p.m., in the new handbell room on second floor.