

First Presbyterian Press

Volume 29, Issue 6, September 2023

Hello, Siblings in Christ at First Presbyterian Church Goldsboro,

We are getting super excited about our kick-off activities and programs that are coming up in September. As you can see in our announcements, there are a lot of things on the schedule! I just wanted to say how blessed and how happy I am to be part of this wonderful and vibrant congregation. On September 10 during worship, we will be welcoming new members, and in October, we will be baptizing young children. From music, children, youth, missions, Presbyterian women, committees, pickleball games and Presbyterian socials, I really see this Scripture coming alive with us: “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1). What a beautiful picture that you are embodying as a growing community of faith. Someone commented after the August 27 sermon that “I pray we cruise through this year at FPC with joy, kindness and love.” That is my prayer too. Sure, we are still searching for a director of Christian Education and the Office and Facilities manager, but we have promising candidates, and we trust that God will provide soon. In God’s providence even these challenges will be transformed as a pruning and testing time for all of us to grow and mature more in our faith. Keep praying hard.

I would like to thank you for your active participation in our events and for being great volunteers in needed areas.

Please look at our upcoming programs and events. I am very excited about *The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People* that will begin September 10. You can see a more detailed schedule in this newsletter, too. We are currently working on a new website, and we just upgraded our streaming devices, too. To God be the glory!

Here’s to smooth cruising in the ship of Jesus Christ this fall of 2023!

Sincerely,
Pastor Noé



The Story Bible: Sermons, Bible Studies & Sunday School
Sept. 10, 2023-Apr. 28, 2024

In the year 2022, I immersed myself into reading the whole Bible in one year. It was a big commitment yet very transformative and rewarding. I feel more grounded, and my faith is stronger because of it. By going through *The Story* as a congregation, we hope to become more grounded, deepen our faith, and let God infuse in us his great teachings and be inspired to go forward. There are 31 stories. We will start a new sermon series after Labor Day (Sept.10, 2023), take a break during Advent and Christmas, coincide the Resurrection story with Easter (March 31, 2024), and finish the remaining 4 stories by April 28, 2024.

The Story #	The Bible as One continuing Story of God and His People	Date (Sundays)
1	Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know it	September 10
2	God Builds a Nation (The Call of Abraham)	September 17
3	Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh	September 24
4	Deliverance and Freedom (Moses, Exodus)	October 1st
5	New Commands and a New Covenant	October 8
6	Wandering (The Wilderness Experience)	October 15
7 and 8	The Battle Begins (Joshua), A Few Good People (Combined)	October 22
9	The Faith of a Foreign Woman (Ruth)	October 29
10	Standing Tall, Falling Hard (Saul)	November 5
11	From Shepherd to King (David)	November 12
12	The Trials of a King	November 19
13	The King Who Had It All (Solomon)	November 26
	<i>Advent & Christmas Themes</i>	<i>Dec 3-Dec 31st</i>
14	A Kingdom Torn in Two	January 7
15	God's Messengers (The Prophets)	January 14
16 and 17	The Beginning of the End and the Kingdom's Fall (Combined)	January 21
18	Daniel in Exile	January 28
19	The Return Home	February 4
20	The Queen of Beauty and Courage (Esther)	February 11
21	Rebuilding the Walls: Nehemiah (First Sunday in Lent)	February 18
22	The Birth of the King (Jesus)	February 25
23	Jesus' Ministry Begins	March 3
24	No Ordinary Man	March 10
25	Jesus, The Son of God	March 17
26	The Hour of Darkness (Holy Week)	March 24
27	Easter: The Resurrection	March 31
28	New Beginnings (The Birth of the Church)	April 7
29	Paul's Mission	April 14
30	Paul's Final Days	April 21
31	The End of Time (Revelation)	April 28

**You may purchase a copy (50 available) of The Story from the office to read and follow the sermons. We encourage Sunday school teachers to follow this schedule and the study guide if they wish. There is also a DVD for adults and youth. The Wednesday Bible Study will focus on 10 stories in the fall (Sept. 13-Nov. 15) and 10 stories in the winter (Jan 17-March 21).*

Officer Duties:

Sept. 3	Evelyn Rose, Elder	Jordan Krutsch, Deacon
Sept. 10	Barbara Bradshaw, Elder	Randa Scott, Deacon
Sept. 17	Teresa Smith, Elder	Charlie Rouse, Deacon
Sept. 24	Tim Haithcock, Elder	Grace Foster, Deacon

Deacon in Charge: Emily Byrd

Co-Deacon: Jordan Krutsch

Ushers for September: Joe McLamb, Jason Blackburn, Mickey Nance

Church office will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 4. Have a safe holiday!

Kick-off Sunday – September 10

We will begin our new programs and activities with a great celebration! At 9:00 A.M. we will have Sunday School presentations for adults and children with doughnuts and coffee. Stay tuned for Youth Activities too. Our new sermon series from *The Story* will also begin. We will be immersed in 31 stories from the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. *The Story* is available for \$6.00 in the office.

Presbyterian Women

All women at First Presbyterian Church are invited to join us for worship, fun, and fellowship each month. We offer both morning and evening Circle meetings to accommodate most schedules. The same program is offered at both meetings. Starting in October, we will generally meet the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM and the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM in the church parlor. Free childcare can be supplied if you let us know in advance. Please join us and bring a friend!

Men's Breakfast

Our Men's Breakfast will begin Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 A.M. at the Lantern Inn. We will be using the study guide, "The Gospel of John for Everyone," by N.T. Wright. This is a weekly event September-May. All men are invited.

Wednesday Family Night

Fall: September 13 - November 15

Winter: January 17 - March 20

Adult Bible Study: 5:30 - 6:15

Dinner: 6:15 - 7:00

Choir Practice and Other Activities: 7:00

SAVE THE DATE!!! FALL 2023 PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL

Sunday, September 17, 5:00 ~ 7:00 P.M.

All adults are invited to join in the fellowship at our Fall FPC Social hosted by Neal and Shelby Benton. Their lovely home is in Walnut Creek at 608 Mill Road, Goldsboro. When you enter Walnut Creek off Hwy. 70 East, you will be on Walnut Creek Drive. Take the second left onto Mill Road and follow it until you cross the dam. Then, the Benton's will be the third house on the left. Arrangements have been made for food and beverages. You don't need to bring anything. Hope to see you there.

Book Club

FPC Book Club will meet on Thursday, Sept. 7, at 7:00. We will be discussing Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow.

Pickleball for Beginners

Pickleball for Beginners will be on Thursday, September 7 at 9:00 A.M. If you are interested, please call Lynn Branch at 919-922-3237.

Mission Yard Sale

If you or your friends have items to contribute to the Mission Yard Sale that will take place on October 7th, you may bring them to the container parked by the shed behind the kitchen from September 1st until the 30th. You will need to come during church office hours to get and return the key for the container lock. If you need to bring items outside of office hours, please contact Sam Hunter at 919-288-9332. The proceeds of the Yard Sale will be used for mission projects in our community and beyond. Thank you for your generous contributions and for your commitment to help sort and price the items it is always a blessing to the community when folks find what they need at a very affordable price.

We start setting up for the Yard Sale on Sunday, October 1 immediately after church (with pizza provided for lunch) and work Monday through Friday, October 2-6 from 9:00-4:00. The sale will take place on Saturday, October 7 from 8:00-12:00. Volunteers will also be needed that morning to welcome our guests and help them find what they need. Please sign up to help at the desk at our back entrance. We are Blessed to be a Blessing to others!

Back to School Bingo!

To kick off the school year, we invited our young Presbyterians and our new friends from VBS to a Back-to-School Bingo afternoon! We had fun school supply prizes and a healthy snack provided by Ali. We enjoyed hanging out and playing with almost 20 children and their families! What a fun way to start the year!



Notes from Chris

Chancel Choir News

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m.** in the choir room. We will begin work on preparing the music for the Presbytery Meeting in October, as well as both the Christmas music for December 10th and Sunday morning anthems for September through December.

Each singer will receive two packets of music to take home. One packet contains recordings of all the Sunday morning anthems with CD sets inside on which Chris plays a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass part and teaches you the music from your home or car. In the other packet of music, you will find all the Christmas anthems that will be sung on the night of December 10th for the annual “The Music of Christmas” presentation with orchestra and guest soloists. Again, a set of CDs will be found on which Chris will teach you your individual part. A second CD will be found on which a demo of each Christmas anthem is sung by a professional choir to allow the listener to hear the finished work with orchestra.

Please prayerfully consider joining this merry band of singers! There is no audition. You do not have to read music. You only need a desire to make a joyful noise, enjoy the fellowship of other musicians, and an appetite for refreshments to eat after the rehearsal and to take home to your family and friends.

Your place in the choir is waiting for you!

The Handbell Choir to Give a Command Performance in Colonial Williamsburg in December!

The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro presented a concert of music for handbells and handchimes last December in the historic Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. At the conclusion of their performance, the choir was given a two-minute standing ovation by the standing-room-only congregation!

This summer the Handbell Choir was extended an invitation to come back this December to perform again at the historical church of both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson! The ringers met with Chris and decided to accept the invitation. They will be performing in the church on the night of December 15th at 8:00 p.m. as part of the Christmas Candlelight Concert series.

Rehearsals for this choir will resume on the night of Thursday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m. We have fourteen ringers which includes five new ringers from the congregation! We are delighted to have enough ringers to play all the bells in the five-octave set, and the three-octave set of handchimes!

The Handbell Choir will repeat the piece that they will play for the congregation of First Presbyterian prior to the start of the morning worship service on December 17th.

Children's Choir

On Sunday morning, September 17th at 9:00 A.M. SHARP, the Children's Choir will resume rehearsals for the fall and Christmas season.

On the morning of December 3rd, the children will present the delightful musical, “Miracle at the Christmas Café!” Set in the town of Bethlehem, the chef and his two waitresses discover that something strange is going on. A man dressed in black is speaking about a baby who will be born, a group of shepherds are babbling about an angel appearing, and several customers want more food as they listen to the news and sing songs in response!

Every child will have something special to do or say in this musical. There are no starring parts. The music is fun to sing and easy to learn. A complete script and a CD of the musical will be given to each child to study at home.

Parents, wrap up your last trip to the beach and or vacation destination and bring your child to church on September 17th at 9:00 A.M. to participate in this once-a-year Christmas presentation.

Calling Writers, Artists, and Staff for *Advent Devotional 2023*

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to you! Please **volunteer to be part of the 2023 Advent Devotional by September 25** to rosalynlomag@gmail.com or bak.spicer@gmail.com or call or text Rosalyn at 919-344-2080. We look forward to hearing from you. **Writings and artwork will be due by October 17.** (Newsletter will provide more details.)

Each writing may be up to 350 words including a title, a Scripture passage (identify your Bible version), a short message, a closing prayer, and your name(s). Editing staff will prepare our devotional booklet to be published and distributed by the first Sunday in Advent! As you prepare, please ponder all the **Christmas memories and traditions** you hold dear. Review **Scripture passages** including Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1-15, 23, Luke 1:26-47, and Luke 2:1-20.

Here is a sample from the *2022 Advent Devotional*:

Not Just a Christmas Figurine

So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
Luke 2:16 (NIV)

Every year, after the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, we put our nativity set away in a “safe” place. Over the years, our safe place has changed many times. This has caused confusion and panic to ensue when we could not remember the latest safe spot when it was time to display it the next Christmas season. Fortunately, we have rediscovered it every year except for one—the year we refinished the hardwoods in the den. The house was topsy turvy with nothing seeming to be in the right place (literally)!

Often, we as Christians tuck our Savior away in our safe spot amidst the clutter and distractions of our daily lives. There Christ sits, safely tucked away until we need him. Christ is boxed up and put in that safe place like the nativity set. Unfortunately, confusion and panic occur when our need arises for our Savior in our lives. We frantically look for him amongst our clutter. We know he is there; now we must find him. He never went from us. We are the ones that put him away.

God sent his Son so that his light could shine in our lives each day of the year, not just during the Christmas season and other religious seasons. He wants to be there for us in our daily lives and not stuffed behind the decorations of the season. He is so much more than just a figurine to be brought out once a year.

Prayer: Dear Lord, as this joyous Christmas season comes upon us, may we be reminded to stop and reflect on the true meaning. It is your gift of Jesus Christ, his birth, his life, his death, and above all, his resurrection, that gave us eternal life and salvation. Amen.

Lisa and Bill Royall

FPC STAFF

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Chris Watkins – Music Director	Ext. 12	fpcgoldmusic@gmail.com
Jean Whitaker – Finance	Ext. 20	fpcgoldfinance@gmail.com
Dalton Bolles – Youth Director	Ext. 21	fpcgoldyouthdirector@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

Jimmy Huffman, c/o Cathy Huffman, 118 CP Sykes Road, Spring Hope, NC 27882

Ken and Judy Taylor, 904 Pittman St., 27530

Mrs. Jackie VanHoy, 508 N. Claiborne St., 27530

George & Addie Warren, 200 Deluca Road, 27534

Brigitta Seymour, 100 Tarklin Dr., 27530

Ric Wagner, Friend of Chris Watkins, Home

Fred Lomax, 204 S. Claiborne St., 27530

Buck Tate, 124 Clay Brook Dr., 27530

C. V. Sutton, 407 Tryon Dr. 27530

Emma Lee Jordan, 1300 Harding Dr, Unit 1301, 27534

Tom Shaw, 204 Walnut Creek Dr. 27534

Outreach

Mr. Gilbert Brown

Brookdale Senior Living, Room 704

1800 N. Berkeley Blvd., Goldsboro, NC 27534

Mr. Mike Pate

Brookdale Senior Living

380 Country Day Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Mrs. Madelyn Percise

Cypress Glen, Apt.A 202

100 Hickory Street, Greenville, NC 27858

Peggy Till

Bryan Center

Family and Friends of Members

Mr. Jeff Stanley, Son of Bill and Sharon Stanley (320 Whipple Ave. Batavia, IL 60510)

Ms. Beth Jennings, Friend of Carol Branch

Ms. Judy Britt, Friend of Carol Branch

Rev. Jason Leonard, Son of Wiley Leonard

Ms. Jane Yates, Friend of Toby Brown (Alleghany Center, 179 Combs Street, Sparta, NC 28675)

Devon Hughes, Niece of Randa Scott

Ms. Amy Hastings, Daughter of Charles and Nancy Hastings, Home

Oscar Lopez, Father of Jessica Lopez

Tommy Hawkins, Friend of Luke and Teresa Smith

Linda Brock, Mother of Elva Graham

September Birthdays



Sept. 1

Karen Haithcock

Mike Pate, Jr.

Sept. 4

Mun Best, III

Sept. 7

Nick Lancaster

Sept. 8

Mary Glenn Pittman

Sept. 9

Jackie Joseph

Sept. 10

Suzanne Blackshear

Sept. 11

Peggy Till

Sept. 14

Jerry Anderson

Laura Klepper

Curtis Stafford

Sept. 18

Tom Johnson

Sept. 19

Kathy Daniels

Susan Stackhouse

Sept. 20

Wendy Hicks

Sept. 21

Lucy Warren

Joyce Wooten

Sept. 22

Katina Holland

Randa Scott

Sept. 25

Joyce Keller

Sept. 26

Terry Cottle

Mary Ann Parker

Sept. 27

Nancy Hastings

Charles York

Sept. 28

Jerri Holland

Sept. 30

Emma Jordan