

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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Dr. Stephen H. Wilkins, Pastor

Volume XLI, No. 3

March - April 2018

OUR KNOWN ILL:

Martha Dunn	Margaret Register
Ardella Boyette	Julie Stefanovich
Tim Shankweiler	Ted Lockerman
Beth Stewart	Don Wilson

Doc Fields- Southwood; Rm. 109
Margaret Faircloth- MaryGran; Rm. 701
Betty Heaton- MaryGran; Rm. 204
Frances Hubbard- GlenAire
Tink Purcell- The Cardinal at North Hills

Others:

Betty Hairr-(Mother of Vickie Pope)
Juawese Franklin-(Mother of Melissa Nimmo)
Christine Stacey-(Mother of Lara Capparuccia)
Joe Kozel-(Father of Kristi Williford)
David Askins-(Former member)
Kathryn Whitley-Jordan-(Former Choir Dir.)
Hewitt Fulton-(Father of Bill Fulton)
Bobby Stanley-(Brother-in-Law of Ted Qualls)
Vivian Someliana-Lauer

SYMPATHY TO:

Louie Andrews, III and family on the passing of his father,
Rev. Louie V. Andrews, Jr.

Ted Qualls and family on the passing of his brother, Billy Joe Qualls.

Hallie Parker and family on the passing of her husband, and former GMPC member,
James Howard "Jim" Parker.

Jack Perry and family on the passing of his brother, Allen H. Perry.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish will be hosted by the Presbyterian Men & Friends In Faith Ministry on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dishes to share!

March 25th is **Palm Sunday**. We ask that all children who would like to participate in this year's processional to assemble in the Banner Room, prior to worship on the 25th. Palm fronds will be passed out at this time. (*Children will return to sit with their parents after the processional.) We thank you in advance for your participation.

Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church began on February 14th at Noon, and will be held weekly through Wednesday, March 28th. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and luncheons for the community during the Lenten season.

March 29th is **Maundy Thursday**. A worship service, modeled after a traditional Tenebrae service, will be held in the GMPC Sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. The service will take us chronologically through the last evening of Jesus with his disciples—his last meal with them, his washing their feet, his prayer at Gethsemane, his arrest by the authorities and abandonment by his friends, and the threefold denial of Jesus by Peter. As the evening progresses, candles will be extinguished, symbolically taking us into darkness. Please plan to attend. Bring a friend.

March 30th is **Good Friday**. First Baptist Church, 900 College Street, invites you to join them at noon for a worship service, "The Seven Last Words". Rev. Wilkins will be one of the participants in the service. Plan now to be in attendance.

Presbyterian Penny Pincher Project: GMPC's coin collection challenge, for our annual March fundraiser, will end on March 31st. The coin collection container will be located outside the church office beginning Monday, March 26th for those last week deposits. We thank you for your contributions!

April 1st is **Easter/Resurrection of the Lord**. We will begin our day with an **Easter Sunrise Service** to be held at the Clinton Cemetery beginning at 7:00 a.m. *(Note change in time.) We will also **Recognize Our Confirmands**, as they reaffirm their Baptismal covenant and publicly profess their faith during our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Special envelopes will be available for receiving the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**.

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, we will **Ordain and Install the Newly Elected Elders**. We thank the Class of 2017, for their faithful service during the last three years!

GMPC's Prayers For All may be initiated (or updated) by anyone, for any GMPC member or non-member and/or their immediate or extended family. Out of respect for privacy, it is the responsibility of the person who initiates the request to obtain the permission or consent directly from the person (or family) for whom the prayers are intended. Prayer requests may be submitted through the church office or by filling out a Prayer Request Card, located in the pews, and placed in the offering plate. Each request will be sent to the entire congregation via group email and/or phone tree. Praying for each other and our neighbors is an important ministry of the church. Anytime, anywhere, God's people can pray. Your prayers matter! ~ "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God". Philippians 4:6

PASTORAL PONDERING... *“As it is, there are many parts, but one body.”* (1 Corinthians 12:20)

Dear Friends,

One of my very favorite images of the church is the one Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12 as the “Body of Christ.” It is also one of the passages that has, over the years, influenced my notion of ministry as a partnership in which we all share. Paul reminds us that all the parts of the human body are important, and that each part does something the other parts can’t do. Only when the body has all the parts working together is the body truly functioning as God designed it.

The same goes for the church. God has put us all together, and has given each of us spiritual gifts and passions, so that each of us has an important part to play in the overall functioning of the Body of Christ, the church. In the same way that an eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you,” so it is in the church – every person is important and indispensable to the working of the church. We cannot say “I don’t need you” to anybody else in the church.

I mention this because as we have restructured our Session and Diaconate into one board, there is increased importance for every member of the church to participate in the work of ministry. Each one of you is indispensable.

Each. One.

Around the middle of April the Session will distribute “Ministry Partnership” forms. The forms will list the volunteer needs that we have in every ministry area, including serving on the steering ministries to plan and coordinate our ministries alongside our Session members. We hope that you will prayerfully consider how God has equipped you to serve in our various ministries – there are opportunities for everyone to serve.

On another – but related – note, it’s hard to believe that Vacation Bible School is rapidly approaching. I have always enjoyed interacting with the children and VBS leaders in every church I have served, and I plan on doing so here at GMPC. I hope you will, too. It’s going to be a lot of fun, but it’s also going to take time and commitment from people like you. Tami Warren will have information and materials available soon.

In the Body of Christ, we need each other. Always have, always will.

Faithfully,

Steve

OUR CHILDREN — DON'T FORGET SUNDAY SCHOOL EACH SUNDAY AT 9:45 a.m.



PresbyCrew Easter Egg Hunt: What better way to celebrate Easter than having an Easter Egg Hunt! Once again we are asking for donations of plastic eggs filled with 1 piece of candy, gum, Bible verse, sticker, etc. (*More than one item per egg is okay but not necessary!)

***Please bring your donations (at least one dozen per child) to the church office by March 28th.**

PresbyMusic: Cherub Choir (PreK-1st Grade: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-4:30 p.m.);
Children & Youth Choir/Handbells (2nd-8th Grade: Wednesdays, 5-5:45 p.m.);

PresbyCrew: (2nd & 4th Wednesdays, from 3–5:00 p.m., going with the school calendar, for K – 5th grade) meets April 11th & 25th. The 25th will be our last meeting of the program year. Invite a friend!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Sunday, June 17th – Wednesday, June 20th, 5:30—8:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! *Registrations and more information coming soon! If you are interested in assisting with this year’s Bible School please contact Tami Warren #910-337-2186 or clogmama_82@yahoo.com.

MISSION BUDDIES: (PreK—12th Grade, 3rd Sunday’s monthly, as part of Sunday School)

April Mission: BIRTHDAY BOXES! (Please submit supplies by Friday, April 13, 2018.)

A Birthday Box is a “party in a box”, given to families with children who may not otherwise have a celebration on their special day. The Christian Food Bank of Salemburg will distribute the boxes providing children-in-need with Happy Birthday’s!

ITEMS NEEDED: Cake Mix, Frosting, Packs of Birthday Candles, Birthday Cards, Bags of Balloons, Party Favors (Hats, Noise Makers, Birthday Banners), Birthday Wrapping Paper, Small Toys for Boys & Girls (*Quality Toys that are well crafted/constructed.) ***A Mission Buddies donation bin is located in the fellowship hall.**

PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

~ The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** for April will be held on Sunday, April 8th here at GMPC, beginning at 8:15 a.m. We hope all men will join us for a wonderful time of fellowship! Come show your support!

~ **April PW Circle Meetings** are as follows: (Bible Leader: Marsha Prestage)

Circle #1 will meet on the 9th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Myrtle Petty (112 Vista Drive);

Circle #2 will meet on the 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room;

Circle #3 will meet on the 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room

Youth 411: *Youth Group (6th-12th grade) meets Sundays at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Youth at GMPC are "ON THE MOVE!" We would like to include YOU(th) in our "instant updates - what's happening - let's go" group text message! Please send Wanda Coleman a text to join in on the AMAZING fun! #910-590-7453

OTHER NEWS:

~ During the Congregational Meeting on Saturday, March 3, 2018, the **2018 Nominating Committee** was elected. They are as follows: Bill Aiken, Chair (Elder), Diane Westerbeek, Vice-Chair (Elder), Melvin Weaver (Presbyterian Men Rep.), Susan Fox (Presbyterian Women Rep.), Elizabeth Coleman (Youth Rep.), Jack Perry, Carol Wilson, & Linda Williamson (Congregational Members).

~ **We thank our Presbyterian Women** for the wonderful job they did preparing and serving lunch at the FUMC Lenten Luncheons on March 21st. The meal was delicious as always.

~ **CAKES NEEDED** for the April 12th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 11th. *Please contact Dale Purcell to sign up/place your name on the April list.

~ The **GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry** held their last meeting of the program year, on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. It is with grateful hearts that we thank the many volunteers that faithfully gather throughout the year to make this ministry a special part of GMPC. The idea behind these quilts is simple, yet powerful. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered and symbolically tied into each quilt. Each "comforter" is a gift of love, a statement of faith and a testimony to our belief in God and the power of prayer. *A Prayer Quilt may be requested by anyone, for any GMPC member or non-member and/or their immediate or extended family. Out of respect for privacy, it is the responsibility of the person who initiates the request to obtain the permission or consent directly from the person (or family) for whom the Prayer Quilt is intended. Prayer Quilt requests may be submitted through the church office or through anyone serving on the Prayer Quilt Ministry.

~ **Sampson Community College invites everyone to their ART Show** on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 from 4:00—6:00 p.m. The open house will include all of the arts: Cake Decorating, Creative Art, Floral Design, and Photography—Levels 1, 2, & 3. Several members of GMPC will have their work on display. They look forward to seeing you there.

~ **Graduation Time** is approaching ... Don't forget to call the church office to share the news. We love announcing all high school, college and graduate school scholars.

~ Copies of **These Days**, April - June, are available in the Narthex and outside the church office.

~ Copies of the **GMPC Newsletter** are available in the Narthex & outside the church office for your convenience.

~ **Backpack Buddies Program:** Volunteers meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Sunset Avenue School to pack food bags for over 250 "food insecure" Clinton City School children, ages Pre K - 8th grade. What you can do to help: *Volunteer Your Time! Donate Food Items! (canned soups, juice boxes, raisins, fruit cups, pudding cups, granola bars, pop tarts, trail mix & individual cereal boxes)* *A collection bin is located in the fellowship hallway.

~ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** at First Baptist Soup Kitchen (408 College Street) on Thursdays, Weekly from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. *11:00 – 3:00: Cooking, 3:00 – 5:00: Deliveries, 5:00 – 7:00: Serving. (Volunteer as your schedule allows.)

~ **Diaper Bank of Sampson County:** Donations of diapers (all brands and sizes, to include adult diapers), diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are collected. *A collection bin is located in the fellowship hallway.

~ **MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg.** Every 3rd Saturday, monthly, bags of food are given to those in need beginning at 9:00 a.m. **What you can do to help:** *Volunteer Your Time! Donate Food Items!* Dried Beans, Peanut Butter, Breakfast Items, Can Soup, Can Vegetables, Rice/Pasta, Can Fruit. (.) *Recycled grocery bags in bundles of 50 are also needed! *A collection bin is located in the fellowship hallway. **Next Opportunity: April 21, 2018**

EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR APRIL 2018:

<u>01</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>
Crib/Toddler Nursery: (Nancy & Lauren Perry: 2nd & 4th Sundays, Mary Doyne & Claire Tart: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays) 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.				
Susan Fox	Mac Spell	Nita Aiken	Anne Wicke	Nancy & Wesley Cowand
Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)				
Julian Beaujeu-Dufour	Ava Williford	Connor Johnson	Rebekah Bryan	Holden Spell
Melina Matthews	Jewell Carr	Will Johnson	Trey Bryan	Jase Westerbeek
Worship Readiness: (Tami Warren) April Leader: Tami Warren				
Pre-K—2nd Grade Class: (Hollis White)				
Darby Scott	Brooke Morkos	MISSION BUDDIES	Najshula Lassiter	Darby Scott
3rd—5th Grade Class: (Hollis White)				
Hollis White	Diane Viser	MISSION BUDDIES	Lucy Lockamy	Hollis White
Sr. & Jr. High Youth Class: (James & Joy Dodson)				
James Dodson	Charlotte Harrell	MISSION BUDDIES	Paul & Diane Viser	James & Joy Dodson
Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)				
Melvin Weaver	Ronnie Honeycutt	Paul Viser	Anne Price	Fifth Sunday
Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)				
Linda Williamson	Nita Aiken	Melvin Weaver	Amelia Surratt	James Dodson
Pathfinders Class: (Lauren Perry)				
PresbyCrew: (Mariana Sanderson & Myrtle Petty) We always welcome extra volunteers ... come any time you can!				
04/11 Team 1: Mary Aycock, Bonnie Barr, Betty Blue Packard, Darby Scott, Jan Tart; & Charlotte Harrell, Mac Spell				
04/25 Team 2: Mary Doyne, Dorothy Sue Faison, Annette Newton, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, Diane Viser; & Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart				
Snacks: 04/11 Nita Aiken & 04/25 Dorothy Sue Faison				
Meals-on-Wheels: (Anne Price)				
04/03 Jennifer Bradley & Susan Fox;		04/17 Bonnie Barr & Diane Westerbeek		
Ushers:				
Richard Bryan, Robert Giehls, James Dodson, Will Dodson, John Surratt, Neal Matthews, Shawn Matthews				
Lay Readers:				
Bill Scott	Glenda Underwood	Tommy Newton	Wesley Cowand	Stan Mertz
Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)				
04/01 (Easter/Communion) SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE				
04/08 Memorial for Mr. John T. Denny, III, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Denny, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lester Fulghum by Mrs. Lois Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. James Dodson and Grandchildren				
04/15 Memorial for Mrs. Laura Campbell Ray Walls and Mr. Louis Jackson Walls, Jr. by their children				
04/22 Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Bristow, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kennedy, Sr., Mr. A. E. Kennedy, Jr., Aaron E. Kennedy, III and in loving memory of Mr. Monte B. Bristow, Sr. and Mrs. Floriedel Kennedy Bristow by Mr. and Mrs. Boyde Bristow, Mrs. Mary Dudley, Miss Christy Bristow and families				
04/29 In loving honor of Florence B. Latimer and Mary Helen Horne by Lyman and Penny Horne				

Happy Birthday During April: 01) Burl Williamson, Ronnie Honeycutt; 02) Fred Beaujeu-Dufour, Anne Wicke, Elizabeth Williamson; 04) Ryan Nimmo; 05) Lizzy Tart, Sean Capparuccia, Cindy Byrd; 07) Gary Wayne Hall; 08) Eastin Ammann, Brooks Barwick, IV; 10) Evan Lamb; 11) Andrew Lamb; 12) Andy Rives; 13) Hollis White; 14) Annabelle Fetterman, Carol Fussell, Nancy Cowand, Amaya Apolinario; 15) Jimmy Sinclair, Alice Rose; 16) Richard Bryan; 18) Karen Shankweiler, Steve Wilkins; 19) Lee Howard, Shannon Sinclair; 20) Kitty Peak; 23) Linda Williamson; 24) Holly Weaver; 25) Lynne Pridgen; 26) Ben Harrington; 27) Erin Spell, Katie Brown, Larisa Capparuccia; 28) Trent Williamson; 29) Debbie Sinclair, Isabella Faison; 30) Natalie Sanderson

Lectionary Text for April:

- 01)** Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9;
 1 Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8;
08) Ps. 133; Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31;
15) Ps. 4; Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48;
22) Ps. 23; Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18;
29) Ps. 22:25-31; Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Sunday, March 18, 2018

I will be loyal to GMPC and support it with ...

My Presence: Sunday School Attendance 53
 Worship Attendance 92

My Gifts:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$10,206.95	\$75,264.95
Building Fund Offerings	\$0	\$10,900.00

Needed for the Church Budget:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Budget	\$5,942.00	\$65,362.00
Building Fund	\$ 660.00	\$ 7,260.00