

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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March - April 2017

OUR KNOWN ILL:

AT HOME

Barbara Kerr Carl Peay
Martha Dunn Katie Brown
Tink Purcell Geneva Matthis
Margaret Register Linda Williamson

Doc Fields—Southwood; Rm. 109
Fay Gaddy—Southwood; Rm. 302
Frances Hubbard— GlenAire

Others:

Angie Prucha -(Daughter of Edwin Danford)
Betty Hairr-(Mother of Vickie Pope)
Catie Ross-(Friend of Lou Johnson)
William Dodson-(Father of James Dodson)
Joyce Carlton-(Former GMPC member)
Joe Butler-(Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)
Juaweese Franklin-(Mother of Melissa Nimmo)

SYMPATHY TO:

The family on the passing of GMPC member, Ila Swanson Buckthal.

Nancy Johnston and family on the passing of her mother, Mavis Earlene Pope Faircloth.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

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 27th for those last week deposits. We thank you for your contributions!

First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish will be hosted by the Presbyterian Men on April 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dishes to share! We thank the Congregational Care Committee and all Volunteers!

Young@Heart Upcoming Events: Friday, April 7th: "The Message of Easter" is a 90 minute outdoor drama in Williamston, NC. The performance begins at 8:00 p.m. If interested please let Lou Johnson know ASAP so she can make arrangements for our group to attend.

April 9th 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 9th. 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 March 1st at Noon (each week through Wed., April 12th). Cost: \$5.00 per plate. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and luncheons for the community during the Lenten season.

April 13th is **Maundy Thursday**. Service, lead by Rev. Joe Ward, will be held in the GMPC Sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend.

April 16th 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 6:30 a.m. 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**.

A **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** will be held following worship on **Easter Sunday**, April 16, 2017, here at GMPC, for the children of the church, visiting children and anyone who would like to participate. The children will be asked to wait under the awning for instructions, then a whistle will be blown to indicate the HUNT can begin. Bring an Easter basket to collect your eggs in! Happy Easter!

A **Children's Spring Musical**, performed by GMPC's PresbyMusic and PresbyCrew children, will be held on April 30, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the GMPC Sanctuary, with cookies and punch to follow. The Musical theme is based on scripture songs and the importance of memorizing scripture. This year is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and one of the tenets of the Reformation is 'Sola Scriptura' or Scripture alone. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend this special performance here at GMPC!

UPDATE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION: In the last few months, the Administrative Commission (AC) has conducted listening sessions with staff, church leadership, and the congregation. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you and especially your love for Graves Memorial. These sessions have been very helpful as the AC begins to formulate recommendations that will help your church move forward. Although, no such recommendations have been made, the AC will be gathering in the coming weeks to put together some action steps. When these steps are in place, we will let you know. It's important to us that we are as transparent and process-oriented as possible. Keep the AC and Graves in your prayers as we discern together God's exciting future. If you have any questions or concerns about our process, please call Rev. Ron Stoker, Chair of the AC, at 919-428-0530 or email him at ronstoker@bellsouth.net

PRESBYTERIAN MEN *OR* PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

~ The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** for April will be held on Sunday, April 9th at FUMC, beginning at 8:15 a.m. We hope all men will join us as we meet with our neighbors for a wonderful time of fellowship!

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

Circle #1 will meet on the 3rd at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Amelia Surratt (804 Coharie Drive);

Circle #2 TBA

Circle #3 will meet on the 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room

Youth Group— GMPC youth have been busy during the month of March. We had two go skiing & two youth council members participate in the middle school retreat at Kirkwood which were both great successes. We had one youth on the State Championship team for the women dark horses. Another one of our youth competed in the Geography Bee & is continuing on in competition. Six of our youth baked cookies with notes of "thanks" that were given to members as a way of saying we appreciate all you do and have done for GMPC over the years. There were 8 youth that helped clear & clean the playground area to make it safer for our PresbyCrew & PresbyMusic kids each week. ~ Ms. Lou

April Youth Group Schedule:

April 2 – Youth will look at Worship as we begin planning for Youth Sunday.

April 9 – Youth will look at Prayer as we plan for Youth Sunday.

April 16th - No Youth due to Easter vacation and spring break.

April 23rd – Youth will look at Music as we plan for Youth Sunday.

April 30th – Youth will finalize Worship Service plans for Youth Sunday upon approval from the worship committee for May 7th.

Youth are invited April 7th at 6:30 p.m. Clinton High School's Fellowship of Christian Students would like to invite you to Uplifted: A Night at the Cross. This event is FREE and open to the public. It is for all denominations. The event will be held in the auditorium at Clinton High School on **Friday, April 7th, 2017** and the program will begin at 6:30 P.M. This will be a night of Worship, Fellowship, and Music. Uplifted: A Night at the Cross will feature Elevated (Clinton Community Church), The Voices of Grace (young female Christian vocal group from Sampson County), The Arts Company of Faison, as well as other inspirational speakers.

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

~ **PresbyCrew** (2nd & 4th Wednesdays going with the school calendar from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) will meet on April 12th & 26th. The 26th will be our last meeting of the spring. We hope to see you all at PresbyCrew!



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 April 12th.**

~ **PresbyMusic** (1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays going with the school calendar from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) will meet on April 5th for our last meeting of the spring. We hope to see you all at PresbyMusic! Bring a friend!

~Vacation Bible School – June 12th - 15th – Mark your calendars! *Registrations are now open!

MAKER FUN FACTORY – Created by GOD – Built for a Purpose...

This VBS is where kids will learn they were created by God and built for a purpose! It will be an amazing adventure that will help kids begin or deepen their faith by discovering our loving God made each of us. It will Ground kids in the solid foundation of Jesus's love, a love that gives our lives an incredible purpose and meaning.

Day One – God made you.

Day Two – God is for you.

Day Three – God is always with you.

Day Four – God made you for a reason and will always love you.

****Adults/Youth: Interested in assisting or volunteering ... contact Ms. Lou Johnson.**

What does the Cross mean to you this Lenten season?

So what have you given up for Lent? That is a normal question that we hear this time of year. Are you sacrificing and giving up your favorite food, letting go of a bad habit or “taking on something” that will give you a better understanding of what our Savior did on the cross for each of us. The idea of “taking on something” is a new way of looking at this penitential season. It helps us think of how we might do something for others or ourselves as a way of sharing who we are with one another, reminding us of God’s grace and what our Savior is calling us to do and be in this world.

As we take the time during this Lenten season to examine our rebellious nature and the ways we have strayed from our God we are afforded the privilege of digging deeper into our own souls as we seek His will for our lives. Drawing closer to our Savior can be an eye opening experience if we truly expose our hearts and minds desiring a change in our lives. Being open and honest with our God and our true selves can create a wonderful desire for us to live out our Christian faith joyfully as we keep our eyes focused on the Cross and the meaning of life it holds.

Even though Lent is a time of intense sorrow where we have the opportunity to look deeply inside of our sinful selves and contemplate the agony that our Savior experienced on those two pieces of wood those many years ago. We are thankful that these 40 days of lent which allow us to move forward from this place of despair into the hope of the Resurrection day and the joy of experiencing eternal life with Him.

So what will you do for the rest of this Lenten season? Will you focus on the Cross? Will you give up something to remind you of the sacrifice He made for us? Will you take on something that you are willing to give away to better the kingdom? Will you draw closer to our Savior?

Blessings to each of you this Lenten season as you search for the meaning of the Cross for you and your life.

Lou Johnson, Director of Christian Education

OTHER NEWS:

~ **We thank our Presbyterian Women** for the wonderful job they did preparing and serving lunch at the FUMC Lenten Luncheons on March 22nd. The meal was delicious as always.

~ **To my dearest church friends & family** – Thank you! As I reflected on the past seven weeks, the innumerable acts of kindness shared with the Brown Family were an act of love and bountiful blessings. Your cards, meals, prayers, telephone messages, & visits were an inspiration to expedite the healing process. The meals were absolutely delicious and always arrived at a favorable time. Truly, after days of being confined in the hospital and at home, I looked so forward to the visits and arrival of the food. It was really a catalyst to lift my spirits & a wonderful conversation piece. Based on the acts of love exhibited during my illness, Mike & I, as well as our children, will forever be grateful to each of you! Again, thank you for being near & dear to help us through this challenge! With love in Christ... Katie Brown

~ **We would like to sincerely thank GMPC** for the kindness shown to our family at the death of Lara’s brother Charles. We have been overwhelmed by the cards, calls, and texts and so appreciate this outpouring of love and generosity. Please continue to pray for us. In Him—The Capparcias

~ During the Congregational Meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2017, the **2017 Nominating Committee** was elected. They are as follows: Diane Westerbeek, Chair (Elder), Bill Aiken, Vice-Chair (Elder), Beth Bryan & Beth Stewart (Deacon Representatives), Melvin Weaver (Presbyterian Men Rep.), Suzi Matthews (Presbyterian Women Rep.), Olivia Williford (Youth Rep.), Jack Perry, John Surratt & Carol Wilson (Congregational Members)

~ **Sampson Community College art class invites everyone to their art show** on Sunday, April 4, 2017. Art will be on display from 2—4:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served. Several members of GMPC will have paintings in the art show. They look forward to seeing you there.

~ **A Spaghetti Fundraiser to benefit Margaret Register will be held at GMPC on Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 11:00—7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in helping with this event please contact the church office. Cost: \$8.00 per ticket

~ **CAKES NEEDED** for the April 13th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 12th. *Please contact Dale Purcell to sign up/place your name on the April list.

~ The **GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry** (September-April) will meet for their last meeting before summer break, on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. in the GMPC Fellowship Hall.

~ GMPC’s **Prayer Request Cards** are located in the pews for your convenience. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the prayer request card and place it in the offering plate or contact the office to get a prayer started.

~ **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 always available in the Narthex & outside the church office for your convenience.

EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR APRIL 2017:

<u>02</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>
Crib/Toddler Nursery: (Nancy & Lauren Perry, Mary Doyne, Sarah Day) 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.				
Beth Bryan	Linda Williamson	Mary Lou Faircloth	Mariana Sanderson	TBA
Rebekah Bryan			Grant Sanderson	
Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)				
Julian Beaujeu-Dufour	Ava Williford	Connor Johnson	Rebekah Bryan	Holden Spell
Austin Spell	Jewell Carr	Will Johnson	Trey Bryan	Bailey Spell
Worship Readiness: April Leader: Tami Warren				
Kindergarten—2nd Grade Class:				
Penny Horne	Computer Lab	Darby Scott	Penny Horne	TBA
3rd—5th Grade Class:				
Computer Lab	Kristi Williford	Diane Viser	Linda Jewell Carr	TBA
Sr. & Jr. High Youth Class:				
Charlotte Harrell	Diane Viser	Lou Johnson	Diane Viser	Paul Viser
Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)				
Amelia Surratt	Anne Price	James Dodson	Melvin Weaver	Fifth Sunday
Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)				
Ronnie Honeycutt	Melvin Weaver	Bill Scott	Paul Viser	Fifth Sunday
Literature Class: (Lauren Perry)				
PresbyCrew:(Lou Johnson) We always welcome extra volunteers...come any time you can!				
04/12 Team 1: Mary Aycok, Penny Horne, Darby Scott, Mac Spell, Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart, Jan Tart, Jennifer Bradley, Diane Barwick				
04/26 Team 2: Annette Newton, Betty Blue Packard, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart, Diane Viser, Charlotte Harrell, Mac Spell				
Snacks: April 12th: Diane Westerbeek & April 26th: Mariana Sanderson				
Meals-on-Wheels: (Anne Price)				
04/04 Jeff Warren & Anne Price;		04/18 Melissa Griffin & Jan Tart		
Ushers: (David Brock) <i>Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office</i>				
Whit Tart, Lawton Eure, Brad Spell, Eli Bradley, Michael Bradley, Plato Faison, Harry Sinclair				
Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)				
04/02 (Communion)				
04/09 (Palm Sunday) SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE				
04/16 (Easter) SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE				
04/23 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				

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; 06) Fay Gaddy; 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; 17) James Hardee, II; 18) Karen Shankweiler; 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 Berendt

Lectionary Text for April:

02) Ps. 130; Ezek. 37:1-14; Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45;
09) Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Matt. 21:1-11; Phil. 2:5-11;
 Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54;
16) Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6; Col. 3:1-4
 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matt. 28:1-10;
23) Ps. 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31;
30) Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23;
 Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, March 19, 2017

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

My Presence: Sunday School Attendance 64
 Worship Attendance 93

My Gifts:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$5,351.00	\$83,852.14
Building Fund Offerings	\$1,070.62	\$15,267.61
Needed for the Church Budget:		
Operating Budget	\$4,504.63	\$54,055.56
Building Fund	\$1,525.38	\$18,304.56

**(\$20,830.00 was deducted from Year-To-Date total as this was a 2016 end of year deposit, not 2017.)*