

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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Dr. James A. Moran, Pastor

Volume XXXIX, No. 12

December 2016 - January 2017

OUR KNOWN ILL:

AT HOME

Barbara Kerr Margaret Register
Martha Dunn Diane Westerbeek
Tink Purcell

Doc Fields—Southwood; Rm. 109
Fay Gaddy—Rolling Ridge, Newton Grove
Frances Hubbard— GlenAire

Others:

Angie Prucha -(Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Lucille Sessoms-(Mother of Deborah Hall)

Brad Campbell-(Nephew of Debbie Martin)

Betty Hairr-(Mother of Vickie Pope)

Charles Davis-(Brother of Lara Capparuccia)

Catie Ross-(Friend of Lou Johnson)

William Dodson-(Father of James Dodson)

SYMPATHY TO:

The family on the passing of GMPC member, Lillian Fraley Long.

Sarah Foster, Rainey & Ian Parker, and family on the passing of their mother, grandmother, and GMPC member Jean Elizabeth Gale Parker.

Trey Cummings and family on the passing of his father, Harry Hodges Cummings, Jr.

Melissa Griffin and family on the passing of her mother, Betty Ann Zeigler.

Sue Harding and Ellen Collins and family on the passing of her husband, her father, Dr. John William Richard (Dick) Harding.

Don't forget that the church still has copies of the **GMPC Cookbook available, More Delectable Blessings** ~
\$12 each or 2 for \$20!

The Church Staff Sends Each of You Wishes of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love During this Christmas Season And Throughout the Coming New Year!

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

The **Stewardship Committee and the Treasurer** greatly appreciates everyone's prompt response in pledging to the 2017 budget. If you have not pledged, please consider doing so at this time. Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex and outside the Church Office.

December 24th — Christmas Eve Communion Service, 5:00 p.m.

A service of scripture, special music, and carols.

December 25th – Christmas Day Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

(Please note there will be no Sunday School on the 25th.)

We will resume our **First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish Meals** on January 4th 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 for this time of fellowship!

Host: K - 5th Sunday School Class.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed: To volunteer your time, to this wonderful mission opportunity here in the Clinton community, please contact the church office before January 6th, 2017, to be added to the GMPC Annual Volunteer list. (Volunteers are placed in pairs and typically serve two or three times annually on the 1st, 3rd or 5th Tuesdays. Meals are picked up from Byron Butler Court on Warsaw Road between 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. on your assigned day(s).) *Completed schedule will be mailed to all current and new volunteers, by February 1st.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 W. Main St., Clinton, invites you to their Epiphany service being held on Friday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. Join us, as we gather, to celebrate this Christian holiday.

On Sunday, January 15, 2017, we will **Ordain and Install the Newly Elected Elders and Deacons of the Class of 2019 and one Elder of the Class of 2017.** We thank the Class of 2016 for their faithful service during the last three years!

The Community Service Committee asks that you please consider giving regularly to one or more of the many mission opportunities here at GMPC: **Back Pack Buddies** (weekly food donations), **Clinton Crossings/Courtyard** (community garden volunteers & bingo prize donations), **Diaper Bank of Sampson County** (diaper & wet wipes donations), **First Baptist Church Soup Kitchen** (cakes), **Helping Hands & Hearts** (Wheel Chair Ramp builder volunteers), **Meals on Wheels** (meal delivery drivers), **Prayer Quilt Ministry**, **Presbyterian Women's Projects**, **Presbyterian Men's Projects**, **Salemburg Food Bank** (weekly food donations), **Southeastern Carolina Crossroads** (new/gently used men's clothing donations), **UCare, Inc.** (food, toiletry items & house hold staples donations)

WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:

My Dear Friends,

It is the New Year and, as difficult as saying goodbye may be, there is much for which to be happy and even thankful. In my first November (2013) at GMPC, I wrote in the Newsletter that I was deeply grateful for God's "innumerable blessings": You, my loving, serving new church family; my personal family with my wonderful wife, Denise, and our gold-hearted son, Alex; the community of Clinton, NC; and a God who is gracious and merciful, as revealed to us in Jesus Christ. I wrote that my hope was for us to seek to live daily in gratitude to our God and Lord. The words I penned were true, then, and remain true now. Thank you for the many blessings you have given the Moran family and for the good service we have enjoyed together to glorify our Lord.

Many of us believe our time was too short, but in God's time, that "*Kairos* time", we have and are doing what we were called to do in looking to the future of our church. The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina will continue to work with the Session of Graves Memorial to guide the church through the transitional weeks and months ahead. There is much good work to do.

Both Graves Memorial and the Morans will be going through what I call an "in-between time", where wondrous works will be done and also dangerous waters will be navigated. The easy journey will be to seek the secure and familiar and, out of fear, to listen to the loudest voices, which may not be God's voice speaking. There are dangers "in-between"; however, may we seek the greatest *potential* in us, ponder the wondrous *possibilities* for our journeys into God's future, and till the soil of *creativity* and *innovation* in the "in-between" places of our journeys. (pp. 41, 42; Preaching Fools: The Gospel as a Rhetoric of Folly, Dr. Charles L. Campbell and Dr. John H. Cilliers)

Today, we may feel that we have been left alone and without direction. I hope you remember what I have often said: "We are not alone. God is with us." Denise, Alex, and I have both known great joy and overflowing love and experienced with you great sadness and grief at Graves Memorial. God has been with us all the way!

I send all of you the love, joy, and peace of God,
Jim

OUR CHILDREN:

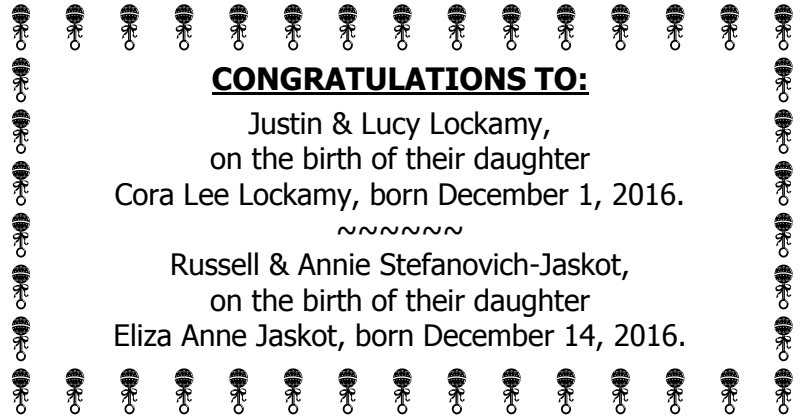
PresbyCrew and PresbyMusic: We had a wonderful fall with these two programs and finished up with a fantastic Children's Christmas program on December 11th in the sanctuary! We are looking forward to the New Year and hope we can continue with the momentum right into the winter and spring of 2017!

PresbyCrew is for children Kindergarten – 5th grade and PresbyMusic is for children 3rd - 8th grade.

Sign-ups for these two programs are under way!
Registrations will be sent out on December 21st.

PresbyMusic will begin on Wednesday, January 4th & PresbyCrew will begin on Wednesday, January 11th. Both of these programs meet from 3 to 5 p.m. every other Wednesday. We encourage your children to bring a friend so please share the registration forms.

If you would like to help with either of these programs contact Lou Johnson: loujohnson@embarqmail.com and she will get you signed-up to help! **We are in need of people to sign up for PresbyMusic snacks.** ~Ms. Lou

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Justin & Lucy Lockamy,
on the birth of their daughter
Cora Lee Lockamy, born December 1, 2016.

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Russell & Annie Stefanovich-Jaskot,  
on the birth of their daughter  
Eliza Anne Jaskot, born December 14, 2016.

**Youth Happenings:**

The youth had a wonderful progressive dinner with 17 youth participating. Thanks to all the wonderful host for our drinks, appetizers, soup and sandwiches, and desserts! A great time was had by all who attended. We missed those who were sick. ~Ms. Lou

**Looking Ahead:**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** – Youth will not meet due to Christmas Vacation.  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>** – 5:00 p.m. - Youth will gather to talk and plan for a youth ski trip and other winter events.  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>** – 5:00 p.m. - Youth will meet at church.  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 2:30 p.m. - Youth will meet to go bowling.  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>** – 5:00 p.m. - Youth will meet at church.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS:

~The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** for January will be on the 8th, beginning 8:15 a.m., at 1st Baptist Church. We hope all men will join us for breakfast and fellowship with the men of FUMC & 1st Baptist! Please mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance. Thank you.

~**January PW Circle Meetings** are as follows: (Amelia Surratt will be our Bible Leader for January.)  
 Circle #1 will meet on the 2nd at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Margaret Faircloth (309 Fayetteville Street).  
 Circle #2 will meet on the 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the GMPC Memorial Room.  
 Circle #3 will meet on the 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the GMPC Memorial Room.

~A **PW Coordinating Team Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 p.m., and a **PW Quarterly Gathering** is scheduled for Monday, January 23rd, also at 7:00 p.m.

## OTHER NEWS AND NOTES:

~ **Our Thanks** to everyone for the great response to the Annual Thanksgiving Community Food Drive, and throughout the year, in support of the Christian Food Bank of Salemburg, Back Pack Buddies, the Diaper Bank of Sampson County, and UCare Domestic Violence Shelter. These local organizations are very appreciative of the constant support from our church and the community.

~ **Memorial Gifted to GMPC:** On behalf of the Johnston & Stewart Family, GMPC has been gifted a custom awning to provide cover and shade extending from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall. The awning has been designed to be in keeping with the church architecture, and was given by Edward F. Johnston, III, in "Memory of his father – Edward Franklin Johnston, Jr." Edward, III is the son of Elizabeth Stewart (Beth) who is a member of GMPC, and the late Reverend Edward Johnston, Jr. who was Minister of GMPC from 1972-1980, and was Minister Emeritus until his passing in January of 2013.

~ The **Young@Heart** committee will be getting together soon to start planning up-coming events for January, February, and March. We will plan events for offsite, as well as, for here at the church. If you have any suggestions please pass them along to the following committee members: Joni Fay Fetterman, Lou Johnson, Peggy Lindsay, Myrtle Petty, Mariana Sander-son, Amelia Surratt, and Linda Williamson. Watch for upcoming dates and times of events. ~Lou Johnson

~ Copies of **These Days**, January - March 2017, are now available in the narthex and outside the church office.

~ 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.

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

~ **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)* \*Food drop off container 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 for the whole day or 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 GMPC fellowship hallway for your convenience.

~ **GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry** (monthly, on the third Tuesday's, at 9:30 a.m. in the GMPC Fellowship Hall) will resume their regular schedule on January 17, 2017. Do not worry if you can not sew, that is only one aspect of creating these quilts.

~ **Working Together to Make a Difference...** A special thank you to the many GMPC volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes to make a difference. Their mission efforts truly reflect the spirit of our community. Thank you!

~ **GMPC Fun Facts:** 1) Fresh produce donated by a local farm is picked up and delivered weekly to the elderly living at Clinton Crossing. 2) Turkeys and pre-paid food vouchers were recently donated to the 1st Baptist Soup Kitchen by a GMPC member to help with their incurred expenses.

~ **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. (A box for food donations is placed in the

## EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JANUARY 2017:

| <u>01</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>08</u>             | <u>15</u>          | <u>22</u>     | <u>29</u>          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <b>Crib/Toddler Nursery: (Nancy &amp; Lauren Perry, Mary Doyne, Sarah Day) 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</b>                                                                                                                         |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Wanda Coleman                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Crystal Faison        | Deanna Weaver      | Deborah Hall  | Mary Lou Faircloth |
| Elizabeth Coleman                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Isabella Faison       | Holly Weaver       |               | Melina Matthews    |
| <b>Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Ushers                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Will Johnson          | John Barwick       | Walker Spell  | Ava Williford      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Julian Beaujeu-Dufour | Spencer Westerbeek | Jewell Carr   | Connor Johnson     |
| <b>Worship Readiness: January Leader: Sara Rosario</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |                    |               |                    |
| <b>Kindergarten—2nd Grade Class:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Mary Lou Faircloth                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Computer Lab          | Darby Scott        | Penny Horne   | Mac Spell          |
| <b>3rd—5th Grade Class:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Computer Lab                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Kristi Williford      | Diane Viser        | Lou Johnson   | Mary Lou Faircloth |
| <b>Sr. &amp; Jr. High Youth Class:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |                    |               |                    |
| James Dodson                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Lou Johnson           | Charlotte Harrell  | Diane Viser   | Paul Viser         |
| <b>Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Happy New Year!                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Glenda Underwood      | Anne Price         | Tommy Newton  | Fifth Sunday       |
| <b>Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Happy New Year!                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Boyde Bristow         | Melvin Weaver      | Bill Scott    | Fifth Sunday       |
| <b>Corner Stone Class: (James Dodson)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Joel Coleman                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Anthony Sessoms       | James Dodson       | Melvin Weaver | Paul Viser         |
| <b>Literature Class: (Denise Moran)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |                       |                    |               |                    |
| <b>PresbyCrew:(Lou Johnson)</b> We always welcome extra volunteers...come any time you can!                                                                                                                                   |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/11 Team 1: Mary Aycok, Penny Horne, Darby Scott, Mac Spell, Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart, Jan Tart, Jennifer Bradley, Diane Barwick                                                                                             |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/25 Team 2: Annette Newton, Betty Blue Packard, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart, Diane Viser                                                                                                           |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Snacks: January 11th: Anne Faircloth & January 25th: Beth Stewart                                                                                                                                                             |                       |                    |               |                    |
| <b>Meals-on-Wheels: (Anne Price)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/03 Molly Held & Ann MacGill; 01/17 Linda Williamson & Dale Purcell; 01/31 Piet & Diane Westerbeek                                                                                                                          |                       |                    |               |                    |
| <b>Ushers: (Richard Bryan)</b> <i>Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office</i>                                                                                                                  |                       |                    |               |                    |
| Richard Bryan, John Fox, III, Ron Nimmo, Jack Perry, Warren Sinclair, Glenn Spell, Don Wilson                                                                                                                                 |                       |                    |               |                    |
| <b>Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/01 (Communion Sunday)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/08 Memorial for Mrs. Ressie Rose and Mr. Byron Rose, and in honor of Mrs. Alice Rose by George, Billy, and Joel Rose                                                                                                       |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/15 Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Faircloth, Sr., Mr. J. B. Faircloth, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William Holt Faircloth, Mr. Haywood Alexander Faircloth, Ms. Anna Margaret Faircloth and Mrs. Julie Faircloth Best by the Family |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/22 Memorial for Mrs. Doris Butler Stewart and Mr. Henry Lafayette Stewart, Jr., by Ms. Beth Stewart and Family                                                                                                             |                       |                    |               |                    |
| 01/29 Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. James Barefoot, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Williamson, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Williamson, Jr. and family                                                                                     |                       |                    |               |                    |

### Lectionary Text for January:

**01) Ps. 148; Isa. 63:7-9;**  
*Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23;*  
**08) Ps. 29; Isa. 42:1-9;**  
*Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 3:15-17;*  
**15) Ps. 40:1-11; Isa. 49:1-7;**  
*1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42;*  
**22) Ps. 27:1, 4-9; Isa. 9:1-4,**  
*1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt. 4:12-23*  
**29) Ps. 15; Micah 6:1-8;**  
*1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matt. 5:1-12*

### Happy Birthday During January:

1) John Barwick; 02) Brooke Sauer; 03) Christy Bristow, Wesley Cowand, Evie Walls; 04) Vicki Pope; 06) Pat O'Neal, Allison Driver, Julie Hensley; 07) Wanda Coleman; 08) Robin Sink; 09) Jackson Johnston, Jan Tart; 10) Samantha Pope; 11) Dale Purcell, Alana Carlton; 12) Connie Williamson, Audry Kerr; 13) Tripp Williamson, Weston Johnston; 14) Lauch Faircloth; 15) John Fox, III; 17) Joel Rose, Christian Peterson; 19) Alex Tirado; 20) Mark Harrell, Gabriel Capparuccia; 21) Clayton Dunn; 23) Christie Hensley, Reid Walls; 24) Joy Dodson, Andrew Howard; 25) Shawn Matthews; 28) Neal Sinclair, Sarah Foster, Patrick O'Quinn, Jr., Olivia Sessoms; 29) Brooks Barwick, III, Penny Horne; 30) Melissa Stephenson; 31) Gloria Williamson, Hampton Brock

## **Music Notes... from Sean & Lara Capparuccia, Directors of Music**

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." No one can deny it; Christmas is the most beautiful of all seasons. And not only because it is generally filled with Family get-togethers when relatives near and relatives distant make their annual pilgrimages to be with each other, but because in the midst of it all we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Well, at least Christians do. Sadly, the unbelieving world is content with seeing family. But we see the Christ. We welcome the Light who has come to fill our darkness. We are the Church. So what does this have to do with Music? Well, it has a lot to do with Worship. As Presbyterians we are considered "liturgical" and at Graves, especially, we are quite liturgical (which is awesome as far as we're concerned.) And as "liturgical" we find that observing the *special* beauties in each Sunday throughout the year are important. We are not content being Christmas and Easter Christians with 50 ordinary Sundays in between. All this is to say that during the four Sundays of Advent we see the beauty in the liturgy of "waiting, hoping, longing, and preparing" for Christmas - the Incarnation. Advent is a different season, as is the season of Lent, and Easter, and Pentecost, etc. Thank you to so many of you who expressed appreciation for the change in the service music during this season. It is indeed a wonderful way to expand our repertoire as a congregation, to observe our Church seasons more effectively, to foster a sense of patience while waiting for the seasons to change, and to not get complacent in our worship. As followers of Christ we need to be on our toes and changing service music is one way we can do that. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas.