

# Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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**\*To receive Information and News from Our Presbytery Office via Email visit: <http://www.presbycc.org/>.**

## **Volume XXXX, No. 4**

**April - May, 2017**

### **OUR KNOWN ILL:**

#### **AT HOME**

Barbara Kerr            Linda Williamson  
Martha Dunn            Katie Brown  
Tink Purcell            Savannah Jackson  
Margaret Register    Geneva Matthis  
Doc Fields—Southwood; Rm. 109  
Margaret Faircloth—Mary Gran; Rm. 715  
Frances Hubbard—GlenAire  
Gene Freeman—Mary Gran; Rm. 101

#### **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:**

*Wanda Coleman, Dale Purcell, Kermit Williamson & families* on the passing of their aunt & GMPC member, Wanda Fay (Williamson) Gaddy.  
*Kathy Peay & family* on the passing of her husband & GMPC member, Carl Hubert "Bubba" Peay, Jr.  
*Mary Carol Todd & family* on the passing of her mother in law, Deborah Holland Nunnery.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Chris & Allison Driver  
on the birth of their daughter  
Spencer Marie Driver  
born February 24, 2017.  
Grandparents are  
Bill & Darby Scott.

Joshua & Cameron Ellis  
on the birth of their son  
Jackson Edward Ellis  
born March 31, 2017.  
Grandparents are  
Glenn & Mac Spell.

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** to the following young adults who recently completed confirmation by reaffirming their Baptismal covenant and publicly professing their faith: Ruth Ainsleigh Brock, James Edward Carr, Jr., Will Thomas Dodson, Isabella Reeves Faison, Shawn Mills Matthews, Holly Marie Weaver & Olivia Marie Williford.

### **UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:**

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 500<sup>th</sup> 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!

Don't forget the **May 3rd First Wednesday Fellowship and Covered Dish Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**, hosted by the Care Sunday School Class. This will be the last meal of the program season ... but Summer Picnics are coming soon and they are always a delight! We appreciate the Care Sunday School Class and all of the volunteers who took charge of the set-up and clean-up duties this month, and through out the year!

The **Church Spring Work Day** is planned for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. We encourage everyone to come out and be a part of our efforts. There should be something for everyone to jump in and help with. Please get together with your Sunday School Class or other groups within the church and work together to cover the room or area that you utilize. We will also be working on several group exterior and landscaping projects. If that area is already covered please consider a common area that needs some work. We should be working all morning, so please come for whatever time you can.

**Youth Sunday** - Our Youth will lead us in worship on May 7th. What a wonderful gift to have our youth share their faith as they lead worship. We hope that everyone will make a special effort to be here. Please keep them in your prayers as they plan and prepare for this special day.

A **Pizza Inn - Youth Fundraising Event** will be held on **Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Please come and support our GMPC Youth program by eating at the Pizza Inn of Clinton with your family and friends on May 22<sup>nd</sup>! 10% of all sales collected on this night will go towards the GMPC Montreat Youth Trip. We thank you in advance for your support!

**SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School will be held June 12th – 15th, 9 to Noon.** MAKER FUN FACTORY – Created by GOD – Built for a Purpose...\*Registrations are available in the church office. \*\*Interested in assisting or volunteering? ... contact Lou Johnson.

**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.

**UPDATE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION:** The Administrative Commission met on April 10th to begin drafting important recommendations for the life of the GMPC. We are now in the process of finalizing these and they will be communicated to your leadership when ready. In the meantime, your prayers and support of our work has been greatly appreciated. Please call Rev. Ron Stoker, AC chair, at 919-428-0530 or email at [ronstoker@bellsouth.net](mailto:ronstoker@bellsouth.net) if you have questions or concerns. It continues to be a pleasure and privilege to serve you!

### **PRESBYTERIAN MEN AND PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS:**

The last **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** before summer break will be on Sunday, May 21st, at 8:15 a.m., here at Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church. All men are invited, please join us for a time of fellowship! \*(Please note this is the 3rd Sunday, due to Mother's Day.)

#### **MAY Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings: Bible Leader: Diane Westerbeek**

**Circle #1** will meet on the 1st at Noon at the home of Linda Williamson for a Salad Luncheon.

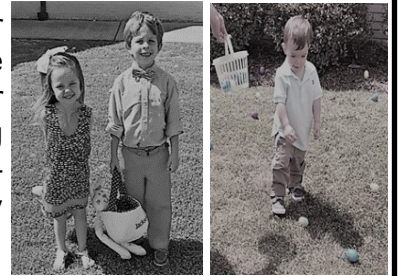
(Everyone is asked to please bring a salad to share.)

**Circle #2** will meet on the 2nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room.

**Circle #3 TBA**



Easter Sunday was a day filled with lots of excitement and learning for our children and youth. The Elementary classes learned about the "Easter Story" through the Resurrection Eggs while the youth hid Easter eggs for our little ones and watched the "He is Risen" video. Following Worship all the children gathered under the awning outside of the sanctuary to gather Easter Eggs as a way to celebrate the JOY of Easter Day together! *Lou Johnson, Director of Christian Education*



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



**Children's Spring Musical: April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the GMPC Sanctuary with cookies and punch to follow.** All PresbyCrew & PresbyMusic children will have a final practice on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> during the PresbyCrew time. Those participating on April 30<sup>th</sup> will need to be at the church by 2:00 p.m. for a final run through. We look forward to seeing everyone for this special time of music and talent shared by our GMPC children!

**Hard to believe we have come to the end of another PresbyCrew season.** There are so many folks to thank for their participation, **Team 1 & Team 2 Volunteers:** Mary Aycok, Penny Horne, Darby Scott, Mac Spell, Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart, Jan Tart, Annette Newton, Betty Blue Packard, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, & Diane Viser, **Station Activity Volunteers:** Beth Bryan, Beth Stewart, Lee Howard, Lucy Lockamy, Amelia Surratt, Linda Williamson, Dale Purcell, Anne Price, Susan Fox, Myrtle Petty, Kara & Adrian Donatelli, Jennifer Bradley, Diane Barwick, Charlotte Harrell & Mac Spell, **Transportation Coordinators:** Kristi Williford, Neal Sinclair & Allison Martin, **Snack Volunteers:** Glenda Underwood, Dorothy Sue Faison, Nita Aiken, Mary Lou Faircloth, Katie Brown, Diane Westerbeek, Anne Faircloth, Beth Stewart, Beth Bryan, Sr., Anne Price, Linda Jewell Carr & Mariana Sanderson, **Music Directors:** Sean & Lara Capparuccia, our **Extraordinary PresbyCrew Children**, and all other volunteers! THANK YOU! What a wonderful time we have had. You make this program the success it is. September will be here soon and we hope we can have the same level of participation. This was a wonderful season and we hope to duplicate it again next fall.

**Vacation Bible School: June 12<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>.** Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline to register is Thursday, June 1, 2017.

#### **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 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.**



## **Youth Events & Happenings...**

- May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Sunday will be held during the 11:00 Worship Hour. Come support our youth as they lead us in worship.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>** – No Youth – Celebration of Mother's Day
- May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Special Youth Event Planned! Time & Place TBA.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 5—9:00 p.m. Pizza Inn: Youth Fundraising Event
- May 28<sup>th</sup>** – No Youth due to Memorial Day Weekend

A **"Lost and Found"** Dishes Box is located in the Ice Room here at GMPC.

Please stop by and check it regularly for any of your dishes that you may have left behind.

This past Monday and Tuesday I enjoyed the peace of the waves lapping on the beach, the warmth of the sunshine and sand at my feet. As I had time to reflect, it occurred to me how much, in the months of May and June, our lives are ruled by closing activities, finals and the constant demands of the end of year routines. In the midst of our busyness we lose our perception of who we are and what we are called by God to do in the daily routines of life. If we would only take time to refocus our attention on God instead of ourselves and routines, then we could recapture the true purpose of our lives. It is when we acknowledge our hectic worlds that reality hits us. My recent change of pace reminded me of this story shared by a friend many years ago.

"I was dominated by "should's", "ought to's", and "must." I would awaken unrefreshed in the morning with a tired kind of resentment, and hurry through the day trying to uncover and meet the demands of others. Days were not lived but endured. I was exhausted trying to be a hope constantly, rekindled for others, straining to live up to their images of me. I had worked hard to develop a reputation as one who was concerned, available, and involved – and now I was being absorbed by it. Often I was more at peace in the eyes of others than my own. The peace I was trying to maintain had no rhythm and awe, no mystery and wonder. I barely had time to care adequately for friends or for myself. In order to keep up my incessant activity, God was simply reduced to fit my schedule. I suffered because he didn't fit into my schedule or life. Slowly, the flywheel was turning and I was discovering that if I wanted to be truly, radically committed to Jesus Christ, I would have to stop some of what I was doing in order to do the other part well, with a liveliness of faith and the sincerity of love. I had to choose between apparent 'success', which meant living up to someone else's standards, or true contentment in my own uniqueness, based on a deep and radical kind of self-acceptance imbedded in the unconditional love of Christ. I chose to believe, in more than just words, that what I am is more important than what I do."

In reflecting and in enjoying God's creation this week I challenge each of you to take a deep breath, pause, collect yourselves and be reminded of the scripture, which has helped me to refocus and reevaluate my priorities over the years... "Be still and know that I am God." **Psalm 46:10**. We will all make it through these next two months as we look to the future with discernment, hope, encouragement and God's wisdom! Peace, *Lou Johnson*

## **OTHER NEWS AND NOTES:**

~ **CAKES NEEDED** for the May 11<sup>th</sup> First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jan Tart to sign up/place your name on the list. We thank you in advance.

~ **Penny Pinchers 2017:** Working together we collected \$441.84 in coins this years to go towards the GMPC Building Fund.

~ **Words are inadequate to express our love and gratitude to our wonderful GMPC family** for your love, concern, prayers and support during the recent illness and passing of our beloved Carl (Bubba). We felt your love and prayers and knew you all were close in spirit even though we lived away. We appreciate the wonderful bereavement lunch provided by the ladies and served in such a beautiful fashion. Food for the body is also food for the soul when served with such bountiful love. We thank our church office and staff for handling the service needs so efficiently and with loving concern. We thank the choir director, organist, and choir members who provided the music to accompany our Bubba to his Heavenly home. Special thanks to Glenda Underwood for her beautiful piano music during the visitation and service. Most of all, we thank all of our GMPC family who were there to comfort us and who have sent cards, visited, and lifted us up in your prayers. We have truly felt your loving presence and arms around us in our time of great loss. We may no longer be in Clinton, but it is our home, and the members of GMPC are our family. With much love and appreciation, Kathy & Carl Peay & Ashley, Chuck, Hugh, Alex, & Carter Bettini

~ **Dear Friends and Family,** At this stage in my life I have decided to move to Mary Gran Nursing Care on April 19th. For many years I have enjoyed visiting friends there and even doing volunteer work. So, I am totally comfortable with this move. I do hope you will all keep in touch and visit when you can. I greatly look forward to seeing all of you who are so special to me. My address will be: Margaret Faircloth, Mary Gran Nursing Care, 120 Southwood Drive, Rm. 715, Clinton, N.C. 28328; phone number 910-299-3441. Love, Margaret Faircloth

~ **2017 Summer Camp Information:** Please visit the following links for camp details/dates:  
Camp Kirkwood: <http://www.campkirkwoodnc.org/summer-camps.html> (910)251-9622, ext. 223 or  
Monroe Camp & Retreat Center: <http://www.monroecamp.org/> (910)276-1654.

~ **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.)

~ **Mission Opportunity: 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.

~ **MISSIONS: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg,** every third 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!* \*Food drop off container located in the Fellowship Hallway. **Next Food Bank: May 20, 2017**

## EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAY 2017:

07

14

21

28

**Crib/Toddler Nursery: (Nancy & Lauren Perry, Mary Doyne, Sarah Day) 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

Mary Lou Faircloth	Deanna Weaver	Mac Spell	Mary Lou Faircloth
Mac Spell	Holly Weaver		

**Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)**

Ava Williford	Spencer Westerbeek	Anna Perry Sinclair	Silas Bradley
Melina Matthews	Jase Westerbeek	Connor Johnson	John Barwick

**Worship Readiness: May Leader: Tami Warren**

**Kindergarten—2nd Grade Class:**

Najshula Lassiter	Computer Lab	Darby Scott	Penny Horne
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**3rd—5th Grade Class:**

Computer Lab	Kristi Williford	Diane Viser	Linda Jewell Carr
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**Sr. & Jr. High Youth Class:**

Charlotte Harrell	James Dodson	Paul Viser	Diane Viser
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**Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)**

Glenda Underwood	Paul Viser	Melvin Weaver	Melvin Weaver
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**Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)**

Melvin Weaver	Amelia Surratt	Lee Howard	Linda Williamson
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**Literature Class: (Lauren Perry)**

**Meals-on-Wheels: (Anne Price)**

05/02 Jennifer Bradley & Susan Fox  
 05/16 Bonnie Barr & Diane Westerbeek  
 05/30 Beth Bryan, Sr. & Joan Carr

**Ushers: (Richard Bryan) Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office**

Matt Johnson, Mark Harrell, Henry Faison, John Fox, III, John Fox, IV, Jeffrey Howard, Mac Purcell, Billy Prestage

**Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)**

05/07 (Communion)  
 05/14 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. Floriadel Kennedy Bristow by Mr. and Mrs. Boyde Bristow, Mrs. Mary Dudley, Miss Christy Bristow and families  
 05/21 Upon remembering and celebrating the life of Dr. Lewis M. Fetterman, Jr., given in loving memory by his family, Joni Fay, Trey, Charlotte and Mark  
 05/28 Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warren and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Baughn and in loving memory of John Robert Rosario by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Warren and family

**Happy Birthday During May:** 02) Janie Faircloth; 03) Patrick O'Quinn; 04) Linda Lamb, Greyson Miller, Maddox White; 08) Pieter Westerbeek, Sr., Gib Palmer; 09) Kristi Williford, Will Newton, Elias Faison, Walker Spell; 10) Bill Miller, Anthony Sessoms; 12) Abigail Howard; 13) Lisa Spell; 14) Sarah Lane, Charlotte Harrell, Joanna Carlton; 15) Lauren Perry; 17) Bill Peterson, Silas Lockamy; 18) Cebron Fussell, Tim Pope, Alex Vreugdenhil; 19) Mary David Morris, Myrtle Petty, Wes Cowand, Katherine Harrington; 21) Leah Palmer, Anneyston Miller; 22) Elizabeth Oglesby, Julian Beaujeu-Dufour; 23) Jinx Foushee; 25) Darren Harrington; 27) Jennifer Bradley; 28) Eli Bradley; 29) Robin Palmer; 30) Carolyn Danford, 31) Jett Combs

**Lectionary Text for May:**

**07) Ps. 23; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-35; John 10:1-10;**  
**14) Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10;**  
*John 14:1-14;*  
**21) Ps. 66:8-20; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22;**  
*John 14:15-21;*  
**28) Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35; Acts 1:6-14;**  
*1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11*

Sunday, April 16, 2017

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

**My Presence:** Sunday School Attendance 35  
 Worship Attendance 152

<b>My Gifts:</b>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$4,858.00	\$103,119.97
Building Fund Offerings	\$ 510.00	\$ 18,348.83

<b>Needed for the Church Budget:</b>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Budget	\$4,504.63	\$72,074.08
Building Fund	\$1,525.38	\$24,406.08