

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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April - May, 2015

OUR KNOWN ILL:

Katherine Stewart - Wilmington

Others:

James Faircloth - (ffther of Nancy Johnston)

Angie Prucha - (Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Shirley Poston - (Mother of Pam Langston)

Margaret Williamson - (Mother of

Wanda Coleman, Dale Purcell & Kermit Williamson)

AT HOME

Jimmy Naylor

Barbara Kerr

Martha Dunn

Pam Langston

SYMPATHY TO:

Annette Newton and family on the passing of her mother, Patty Stancil Whitfield.

Julie Stefanovich and family on the passing of her sister, Dorothy Purvis Campbell.

Stop by the bulletin board outside the church office to view recent Information and News from Our Presbytery Office.

To view the Coastal Carolina Newsletter visit www.presbycc.org. You can also sign up to receive weekly updates at your email address.

CONGRATULATIONS ...

To the following young adults who recently completed confirmation by reaffirming their Baptismal covenant and publicly professing their faith: Eli Battle Bradley, Hampton David Brock, Logan James Dodson, Nancy Monahan Beaujeu-Dufour, Stephanie Kay Prestage and Mary Claire Tart.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

Don't forget the **May 6th 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!

Our Youth will lead us in worship on May 10th - **Youth Sunday**, as they focus on THE COVENANT OF GRACE. Youth Sunday is also Mother's Day. What a wonderful gift to have our youth and children share their faith as they lead worship. We hope that everyone will make a special effort to be here. We ask that you please keep them in your prayers as they plan and prepare for this special day.

GMPC's Youth will kick-off a churchwide H2O Mission Fundraiser on Youth Sunday, May 10, 2015. Bottles of water will be handed out, by our youth, following worship. They ask that you drink the water, then fill the empty bottle with dimes, and return your filled bottle back to the church by June 21st. Their goal is to raise \$1,250.00, to send to the PCUSA/ Presbyterian gifts, to purchase a well that provides clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation to an entire community. Start saving your dimes today!

GMPC's Handbell Ensemble will travel to St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Sunday, May 17, 2015 to play during their worship service. We ask that you please keep them in your prayers as they plan and prepare for this event.

GMPC Vacation Bible School 2015: June 22nd -25th: Clean Water for All God's Children! Mark Your Calendars Now! Our Vacation Bible School will end with a covered dish dinner, Picnic #1 at 6:30 p.m. on the 25th to celebrate all the children have learned. VBS does not just happen. It needs volunteers. ***We need: Teachers, Recreation Leaders, Craft Leaders, Snack Providers, Sound Techs ...*** Please call Lisa Green or the church office and volunteer today!

Looking Ahead ... Our **graduates will be honored during worship on Sunday, June 7th, 2015** and prior to worship the Graduate Breakfast for the seniors, their families, and all of the middle and high school youth will be hosted by the Moran's at the GMPC Manse with breakfast provided by the Presbyterian Women. If you are interested in helping to plan or prepare/serve breakfast, contact: Bonnie Barr or the Church Office.

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.

WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:

My friends,

The birthday celebration for the Church is Pentecost Sunday, which is May 24 on the liturgical calendar. It is also the day that the youth sets up the summer lemonade between the fellowship hall and sanctuary buildings. There is nothing better than lemonade as the days get hotter to enhance good summer fellowship. Please take some time to slow down, have some lemonade, and fellowship with one another. The Apostle Paul writes, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:14) We are all God's children and brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. We are connected by the Holy Spirit, which we have been gifted in our baptisms. If we can build relationships on this intimate spiritual connection we already have as Christians, then we can create sustaining friendships. I have found in each church I have served that a vital piece of being a church is the friendships we make. Lemonade on a hot Spring day as we fellowship with one another creates good friends.

One of my friends I made a year and a half ago my first Sunday at Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church was Amelia Surratt. I first encountered Amelia in the hallway of the education building at the bottom of the stairs. Amelia wanted to make sure that Denise, Alex, and I made our appointment for our church directory pictures. With a finger point for emphasis and a loving smile, Amelia said, "You and your family need to go ahead and make an appointment for your pictures." I knew she meant what she said and not to put it off, but I also felt that she cared deeply about her responsibility to create a wonderful directory and also about the Moran's as new church family members. Amelia shows her love for her Lord and her church by her enthusiastic service and faithfulness in the choir, Sunday school, Presbyterian Women, and leadership roles. Well deserved, Amelia is our faithful saint for 2015. On May 2 a contingent from our church Amelia's family will honor Amelia as our "Faithful Saint" in Wilmington at a luncheon hosted by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. I am grateful that Amelia, who is surely led by the Spirit of God, is a faithful servant in Graves Memorial.

May the peace of God be with all of you,
Jim

***Summer Adult Sunday School!** "What **DO** Presbyterians Believe?" will be the focus of our class this Summer. I have been asked that question regularly by both our Christian non-Presbyterian friends and our own officers in the church. In order to make my mentor in my pastoral work proud, I respond, "The central affirmation of the Reformed faith is the sovereignty of God." It is a question Dr. Crowell would ask every candidate or minister who entered the Presbytery of South Alabama in his booming god-like voice. This summer we will talk about the beliefs of the church: Bible, our Triune God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church, Atonement, etc.

OUR CHILDREN:

Hard to believe we have come to the end of another PresbyCrew season. There are so many folks to thank for their participation, **Co-Directors:** Ms. Mariana Sanderson & Ms. Myrtle Petty, **Team 1 & Team 2 Volunteers:** Ms. Mary Aycock, Ms. Bonnie Barr, Ms. Dorothy Sue Faison, Ms. Betty Blue Packard, Ms. Darby Scott, Ms. Mary Doyne, Ms. Kathy Peay, Ms. Nancy Perry & Ms. Amelia Surratt, **Puppets:** Susan Bristow, **Carpool Coordinator:** Kristi Williford, **Volunteers for Snacks:** Ms. Sanderson & Ms. Petty, Ms. Hollis White, Ms. Erin Spell, Ms. Suzi Matthews, Ms. Mac Spell, Ms. Diane Westerbeek, Ms. Lisa Spell, Ms. Nita Aiken, Circle #1. Ms. Beth Bryan, Sr., & Nancy Perry, and to all of the other amazing volunteers who helped thru out this season! THANK YOU! What a wonderful time we have had. You folks 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.

That Said, in a month it will be time for Vacation Bible School.

****Attention Children Age 4 thru Grade 5 (by August 15th)** ... You will not want to miss out on GMPC's Vacation Bible School 2015: June 22nd -25th: **Clean Water for All God's Children!** This years thoughtful curriculum will encourage you to use your imaginations as you reflect upon Bible stories and mission activities. Together we will learn what scripture teaches us about water, and about our responsibility for the goodness of creation, and for the care of the physical health of others, as we build relationships with one another. Registrations will be available soon ... and don't forget to invite your friends!

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

## **Youth Groups Info.** YOUTH MINISTRY... PUT SUNDAY NIGHT ON YOUR CALENDAR! INVITE A FRIEND!

Let's give a big hand to Eli, Hampton, Logan, Nancy, Stephanie and Mary Claire for completing confirmation class and joining the church on Easter Sunday. We are all so proud of you! We also thank Boyde Bristow for co-teaching the class with Dr. Moran and Ms. Bonnie Barr for helping when needed. It is always a remarkable experience to see these young people explore and grow in their faith.

Do not forget Youth Sunday is May 10th. Our final practice will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at regular Youth time, 5:30 p.m. We can not thank you enough for sharing YOUR love, for our amazing God, with all of us. See you at practice!

### **Coming Events/ Looking Ahead:**

- ~ **May 10th - Youth Sunday / H2O Mission Fundraiser begins thru June 21st**
- ~ **May 13th - Christian Food Bank of Salemburg.** We will meet in the GMPC parking lot at 6:45 p.m. to carpool.
- ~ **May 30th - Senior High Youth Trip:** More info. coming soon.
- ~ **May 31st - Youth & Youth Parent meeting** to discuss illuminate 2015 possibilities.
- ~ **June 7th - Breakfast for our Graduates.** All of you are invited. Invitations coming soon.
- ~ **Mission Opportunity:** June 22nd-25th, GMPC VBS Volunteer. We need your help!
- ~ **June 14th - 19th - Raleigh Youth Mission Trip** for those who have pre-registered.
- ~ **July 26th - August 1st - Montreat Youth Conference.** \*Registrations will be sent soon to rising 9th -12th graders.

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

The last **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** before summer break will be on Sunday, May 3rd at 8:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church (208 Sampson Street). All men are invited, please join us!

\*(Please note this is the 1st Sunday, due to Mother's Day.)

### **PW Circle Reminders for May.** Bible Leader: Diane Westerbeek

Circle #1 will meet on the 4th at 12:00 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 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room.

Circle #3 will meet on the 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room.

Our **PW Missions Committee** will meet in the kitchen on Tuesday, May 12 to make pasta salad for our shut-ins and others in need of "extra care". Please contact Anne Price or Mary Aycok if you are interested in helping with this project. We thank all of our P.W. volunteers for making this years missions projects such a success.

## **OTHER NEWS AND NOTES:**

~We would like to thank our amazing cast, crew, volunteers, and audience for making the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual **GMPC Talent Extravaganza FUN (d) Raiser**, held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, such a huge success. Together we were able to raise over \$3050.00 for the GMPC Building Fund. Thank you!

\*Plans are underway to make DVD copies of the performance available for purchase. More info. coming soon.

~**Penny Pinchers 2015:** Working together we were able to collect \$711.00 in coins this years to go towards the GMPC Building Fund.

~**2015 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.

~**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 10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. \*10:00 - 4:30: Cooking, 4:30 - 7:00: Serving, 7:00 p.m. - until: Clean-up. (Volunteer for the whole day or as your schedule allows.)

~**CAKES NEEDED** for the May 14<sup>th</sup> First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Julie Stefanovich to sign up/place your name on the list. We thank you in advance.

~**Requested Address:** Ardella & Vickie Boyette; 1701 Ozzie Road; Clinton, N.C. 28328

~**To: the members of GMPC and the work of the PW & prayer quilt ministry - THANK YOU.** Your many intercessory prayers represented by the string knots in the blanket uplifted me in the most life-giving and beautiful ways. The blanket covered my legs on five of the six nights I spent in Duke Hospital. It was a powerful reminder of your ongoing affection. The many, many cards from the GMPC family likewise carried me onward and forward. Surely from all of you, it has been "grace upon grace". Grace & Peace, Bill Hawkins

## EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAY 2015:

| <u>03</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>10</u>          | <u>17</u>           | <u>24</u>         | <u>31</u>            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Crib Nursery: (Nancy &amp; Jack Perry, Claire Fox) 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Allison Driver                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Diane Viser        | Paulette Wilmot     | Diane Barwick     | Kristen Cummings     |
| Isabella Faison                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Holly Weaver       | Emily Wilmot        | Claire Tart       | Nancy Beaujeu-Dufour |
| <b>Toddler Nursery: (Kathy Day &amp; Mary Doyne) 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Elizabeth Coleman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Suzi Matthews      | Stephanie Prestage  | Addie Sessoms     | Diane Viser          |
| <b>Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Bailey Spell                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Will Dodson        | Anna Perry Sinclair | Silas Bradley     | Walker Spell         |
| Melina Matthews                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Spencer Westerbeek | Stephanie Prestage  | Shawn Matthews    | John Barwick         |
| <b>Worship Readiness: (Tami Warren) May Leader: Linda Carr</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| <b>Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Ronnie Honeycutt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | OPEN               | Boyde Bristow       | OPEN              | Fifth Sunday         |
| <b>Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Amelia Surratt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Anne Price         | Linda Williamson    | Lee Howard        | Fifth Sunday         |
| <b>Young Adult Class: (Lee Howard)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Jim Moran                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Amelia Surratt     | Joel Coleman        | Julie Stefanovich | Jim Moran            |
| <b>Meals-on-Wheels: (Nancy Perry)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/05 Bill & Tamara Peterson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/19 John & Amelia Surratt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| <b>Ushers: (Edwin Danford) Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| Mat Johnson, Henry Faison, John Fox, III, John Fox, IV, Jeffrey Howard, Alex Purcell, Mac Purcell, Jimmy Sinclair                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| <b>Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/03 (Communion)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/10 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 |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/17 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                                                                                                                                              |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/24 Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warren and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Baughn by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Warren and family                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |                     |                   |                      |
| 05/31 In loving memory of Glen Wilson "Pete" Lovell and Myrtle June Lovell by Glenda Lovell Underwood and family                                                                                                                                                                                      |                    |                     |                   |                      |

GMPC will hold a public **"Yard Sale"** in our fellowship Hall, **Saturday, June 6th, 2015. 7:00 AM-NOON** again this year. All proceeds will benefit our Building Fund.

So ... clean your attic, garage, closets, etc. & bring any items you would like to donate to the Fellowship Hall beginning the week of Mon., June 1st. *Items accepted: gently used children's clothes (NO shoes or adult clothing), Books (No magazines), household items, furniture, dishes, pictures, decorative items, etc.* We are in need of lots of volunteers in organizing this event as we get closer: sorting, pricing, arranging items, advertising, attendants, clean-up. Please contact Brenda Nordin 990-1668 to assist in this project or if you need assistance in getting your items to the church the week of the 1st.

**Sunday, April 19, 2015**

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

My Presence: Sunday School Attendance 61  
Worship Attendance

My Gifts: Weekly                      Year-To-Date

|                         |  |              |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Tithes and Offerings    |  |              |
| \$ 2,598.00             |  | \$ 89,244.58 |
| Building Fund Offerings |  |              |
| \$ 3,450.24             |  | \$ 24,695.02 |

**Lectionary Text for May:**

**03)** Ps. 22:25-31; Acts 8:26-40;  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8;

**10)** Ps. 98; Acts 10:44-48;  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17;

**17)** Ps. 1; Acts 1:15-17. 21-26;  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19;

**24)** Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14; Rom. 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15;

**31)** Ps. 29; Isa. 6:1-8; Rom. 8:12-17;  
John 3:1-17

**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) Maurice Faircloth; 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