

# Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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**Dr. James A. Moran, Pastor**

**Volume XXXVIII, No. 12**

**December 2015 - January 2016**

## OUR KNOWN ILL:

### AT HOME

Barbara Kerr Tami Warren  
Martha Dunn Annabelle Fetterman  
Kathy Wall Don Hollingsworth  
Jean Parker Ted Lockerman

Doc Fields—Southwood; Rm. 403  
Fay Gaddy—Rolling Ridge, Newton Grove  
Frances Hubbard—Wake

### Others:

*Angie Prucha* -(Daughter of Edwin Danford)

*Billy Kerr*-(Brother-in-law of Dorothy Faison)

*Minson Sessoms - DUKE*

(Father of Deborah Hall)

*Beth White* -(Mother of Jody White)

*Wilma Gaylor*-(Sister-in-law of Alice Rose)

*Roland Heath*-(Father of Jeff Heath)

## SYMPATHY TO:

*Gary Wayne Hall and family* on the passing of his brother, William "Bill" C. Hall.

Don't forget that the church still has copies of the

**GMPC Cookbook**

**available,**

**More Delectable Blessings**

~ they make great gifts!

*On Sale through December*

*\$12 each or 2 for \$20!*

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](http://www.presbycc.org). You can also sign up to receive weekly updates at your email address.

**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 appreciate everyone's prompt response in pledging to the 2016 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.

Our **Lessons, Carols and Bells Service** will be held on Sunday, December 20th at 11 a.m. We invite you all to join us for our traditional program of scripture and music to ring in the Christmas season.

**GMPC's Youth invites you all to join them on December 20th for Caroling & Refreshments.** We will meet in the fellowship hall at 2:30 p.m., gather into groups to go caroling in the community, before returning to the church at 5:00 p.m. for more caroling with the GMPC Choir as we enjoy refreshments. Feel free to join us for the community caroling only or the choir caroling & refreshments only or both as your schedule allows. \*To help with refreshments contact Lou Johnson.

### **December 24th—Christmas Eve Communion Services,**

**5:00 p.m.:** A service of scripture, special music, and carols.

**11:00 p.m.:** A short traditional candlelight service.

**CANCELED: First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish** scheduled to be held on January 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. We will resume in February with our normal schedule. Thank you.

**GMPC and the GMPC Handbell Ensemble will join with St. Paul's Episcopal Church,** 110 W. Main St., Clinton, for an Epiphany service on Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. We invite you all to join us, as we gather, to celebrate this Christian holiday.

On Sunday, January 10, 2016, we will **Ordain and Install the Newly Elected Elders and Deacons of the Class of 2018 and one Elder of the Class of 2016.** We thank the Class of 2015 for their faithful service during the last three years!

**Adult Bible Study** will resume on Wednesdays beginning January 13, 2016, with the morning study being held at 10:30 a.m. and the evening study being held at 7:00 p.m., (7:30 p.m. on our First Wednesday Fellowship and Covered Dish Meal nights) as the schedule allows. The 10:30 a.m. study will continue to focus on the lectionary. The 7:00 p.m. study will be on "The Gospel of Luke: Good News for All," a kerygma study. Please sign up, for the evening study, in the narthex or outside the church office. Cost of study material: \$20.00. Mark your calendars.

**WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:**

Happy New Year!

January 3, 2016 will be our first worship together around the Table of our Lord for the New Year and set us up for the last day of Christmastide on January 6, Epiphany. We are joining St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7:00 p.m. to share in an Epiphany Worship and Communion Service at their church. Our handbells will be playing. Our preacher will be preaching at the invitation of the Priest, the Reverend Daniel Cenci. It has been a wonderful, blessed Advent and Christmas once again at Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church! You are a blessing to the Morans. I pray we all as Graves Memorial are a blessing to God Almighty.

On January 10, we begin "Ordinary Time" on the Sunday we remember the Baptism of our Lord. That First Sunday in Ordinary Time begins our look at Jesus in the Gospels. Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow Jesus? As Ordinary Time begins our New Year, we may also want to take a look in the mirror at ourselves. Who am I? Who am I as a Christian? Am I a good Christian? If I am, what does a good Christian look like? Liturgical Year: the Worship of God prepared by the Ministry Unit on Theology and Worship of the PC (USA) says:

Ordinary Time is the norm of time kept by the church. The Sundays of Ordinary Time celebrate the good news of Christ's death and resurrection, and the unfolding presence of the new creation. Ordinary Time presents us with an ongoing opportunity to witness to the living Lord who makes all things new. The standard time of the church is Ordinary Time. (50)

The liturgical term "ordinary" means that which is "normative," "usual," or "standard." We love the time of Advent and Lent, but we live mostly in the time of Ordinary. This liturgical understanding of our worship relates well to our normal, everyday lives. Life is ordinary. Day-in, day-out routine is what ordinarily happens to us. How do we live everyday with the time ticking away methodically in the routine of life? On those days that don't lead up directly to Christmas or bump up against Holy Week, how do we practice our Christianity? God is with us during Ordinary Time as closely as the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Are we as close to God during our ordinary routine of life? These questions only you and I can answer for ourselves. Take another look in the mirror. May you see yourself through the gracious eyes of our loving God, like God's Son Jesus.

May Peace with you in the New Year,  
Jim

**OUR CHILDREN:**

**-We thank all of you who were part of the Christmas Joy program. "The King Meets The King" was a true expression of joy!** You can not imagine what a amazing gift you gave to this church. Ms. Susan Bristow blessed us with a memorable musical interpretation of the Christmas story, for this we are so grateful. Many of us are already anticipating what will happen next year! Let us also remember to be thankful for all of Ms. Susan's wonderful volunteers who helped make this years program extra special. We also thank Ms. Mariana, Ms. Mary Carol, Ms. Natalie and committee for the delicious refreshments. A great and meaningful time was had by all. From our hearts to yours, (in our best Elvis voice), thank you, thank you very much!

**-PresbyCrew will meet twice in January. Put January 13th and 27th on your calendar.** New and exciting plans have been created just for you. Throw in the snacks and recreation and we know it will be a great time. Come right after school until 5:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

**-We hope to see all of you on Christmas Eve at 5:00. Let us all come together to give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus.**

**Youth Happenings for the FALL of 2015**

The GMPC youth have been extremely active this fall by participating and being involved in all aspects of the GMPC faith community. Since August the youth have assisted with the Community Gardens and handed out bottled water to the residents, they have extended their hands in outreach missions to our College Students, Faithful Friends, U-Care, and FalconChildren's Home. The youth participated in 2 Self-Defense classes and learned about how to protect themselves in emergency situations. They also have spent time each Sunday learning about what it means to lead a Christ disciples and how to work as a team. They enjoyed playing in two kickball games where the parents won by a narrow margin. For a final time together this year the youth have invited the congregation to participate in a church-wide Christmas Caroling outing.

Also, the youth and I want to thank the following people...Allison and Debbie Martin for providing us with wonderful meals each week. Bonnie Barr, James and Joy Dodson, Glenda Underwood, & Anne Wicke for their Leadership.

As the new person on the block I want to say "thanks" to all the parents for their support in getting their children here each Sunday and for helping out when we needed it. It has been a true joy for me to work with the youth and I look forward to many more meaningful times together. Thanks for a GREAT 2015! Look forward to 2016 with great anticipation for a wonderful New Year! To the youth who have not been so active we invite you to join us where youth are making a difference in the lives of others...

Peace and Blessings,

Ms. Lou

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS:

~The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** for January will be on the 10th, beginning 8:15 a.m., in the GMPC Fellowship Hall. We hope all men will join us as we combine with our neighbors from FUMC & 1st Baptist for a time of fellowship! Please contact Melvin Weaver to assist with preparations. Thank you.

~**January PW Circle Meetings** are as follows: (Diane Westerbeek will be our Bible Leader for January.)  
 Circle #1 will meet on the 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Darby Scott (104 Finch Street).  
 Circle #2 will meet on the 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the GMPC Memorial Room.  
 Circle #3 will meet on the 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the GMPC Memorial Room.

~A **PW Coordinating Team Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, January 7th at 7:30 p.m. and a **PW Quarterly Gathering** is scheduled for Monday, January 25th, also at 7:30 p.m.

### Pastor's Teaching Moment: The Communion Table in Worship

Growing up in the small town of Dublin, Georgia, I was blessed to be raised as a Presbyterian at Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church. I learned what it meant to be faithful in church with Sunday school attendance, what a good pastor was like, and what a welcoming, loving church was. The Communion Table was right in front of the pulpit on the same level as the congregation, not unlike the table in First Presbyterian of Andalusia, Alabama. On that Table went the flowers for worship and the offering plates, except on communion Sunday once a quarter.

In Seminary and in each of the churches I have served, I learned that the Communion Table can only have on it the symbols that represent Jesus Christ and the Lord's Supper. Therefore, when the Lord's Supper is not being observed, some of the things that can appropriately be placed on the Table are the two candles to represent the humanity and divinity of Jesus, or the Old and New Testaments, the chalice and the paten, the Bible itself, or the cross. The flowers for worship will now be placed in a prominent place, but not on the Table. The Cross, ordinarily, will be in its higher place. Let us joyfully celebrate each Sunday together!

## OTHER NEWS AND NOTES:

~ **Our Thanks** to everyone for the great response to the Annual Community Food Drive, all food & toiletry item donations at this year's Christmas Joy Program, and throughout the year, in support of the Christian Food Bank of Salemburg, Back Pack Buddies and UCare Domestic Violence Shelter. These local organizations are very appreciative of the constant support from our church and the community.

~ **DVD copies of this year's Christmas Joy Program, "The king meets The King" will be made available soon.** A Sign-up sheet can be found outside the church office. Cost: \$10.00 per DVD.

~ **Needed:** Someone to clip pictures, of GMPC members, from the local newspaper and submit them the 1st of each month to the GMPC office. Pictures will be used for the "Look Who's in the News" spot on the bulletin board outside the church office. Contact Melissa Griffin in the church office to share your willingness. Thank you!

~ Copies of **These Days**, January - March 2016, 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.

~ **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 8th, 2016 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 list will be mailed to all volunteers by February 1st.

~ A **Columbarium Development Committee** is being formed to explore the development of a columbarium here at GMPC. The term columbarium comes from the Latin word *Columba* (dove) and is defined as a place or niche for cremated remains. If you would like to serve as a member of this committee please contact Dr. Moran or the church office.

~ **We thank everyone who participated in this year's Feed the Community Day** held at First Baptist Church (900 College Street) on November 25th. Your donated cakes and/or pies were greatly appreciated. This year a total of 489 people were served (314 eat-in guest + 175 delivered plates to shut-ins). THANK YOU!

~ **CAKES NEEDED** for the January 14<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 13<sup>th</sup>. \*Please contact Annette Newton to sign up/place your name on the January list.

## EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JANUARY 2016:

<u>03</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>31</u>
<b>Crib Nursery: (Nancy &amp; Lauren Perry, Sarah Day) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.</b>				
Allison Brock	Wanda Coleman	Annette Newton	Dale Purcell	Mary Lou Faircloth
Holly Weaver	Elizabeth Coleman	Nicole Spell	Lizzy Tart	Isabella Faison
<b>Toddler Nursery: (Kathy Day &amp; Mary Doyne) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.</b>				
Bailey Spell	Melina Matthews	Olivia Williford	Jewell Carr	TBA
<b>Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)</b>				
Anna Perry Sinclair	James Carr	John Barwick	Walker Spell	Spencer Westerbeek
Holly Weaver	Julian Beaujeu-Dufour	Shawn Matthews	Jewell Carr	Connor Johnson
<b>Worship Readiness: (Hollis White) January Leader: Hollis White</b>				
<b>Pre-K &amp; Kindergarten Class: December Leader: Mac Spell</b>				
<b>1st &amp; 2nd Grade Class:</b>				
Computer Lab	Hollis White	Lucy Lockamy	Diane Viser	TBA
<b>Sr. &amp; Jr. High Class: (Bonnie Barr) December Leader:</b>				
<b>Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)</b>				
Melvin Weaver	Anthony Sessoms	Iva Miller	Ronnie Honeycutt	Fifth Sunday
<b>Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)</b>				
Jim Moran	Bill Scott	Ellen Tew	Julie Stefanovich	Fifth Sunday
<b>Corner Stone Class: (James Dodson)</b>				
Anthony Sessoms	TBA	James Dodson	Melvin Weaver	Anthony Sessoms
<b>Pathfinder Class: (Lucy Lockamy) TBA</b>				
<b>PresbyCrew: (Mariana Sanderson &amp; Myrtle Petty) We always welcome extra volunteers ... come any time you can!</b>				
01/13 Team 1: Mariana & Myrtle, Mary Aycok, Bonnie Barr, Betty Blue Packard, Darby Scott, Jan Tart & Diane Barwick, Jennifer Bradley				
01/27 Team 2: Bonnie Barr, Joan Carr, Lou Johnson, Annette Newton, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, Diane Viser & Dale Purcell, Anne Price				
Snacks: 01/13 P.W. Circle #1 & 01/27 Mary Lou Faircloth				
<b>Meals-on-Wheels: (Nancy Perry)</b>				
01/05 Molly Held & Ann MacGill				
01/19 Linda Williamson & Dale Purcell				
<b>Ushers: (Edwin Danford) Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office</b>				
Richard Bryan, John Fox, III, Ron Nimmo, Jack Perry, Warren Sinclair, Glenn Spell, Don Wilson				
<b>Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)</b>				
01/03 (Communion Sunday)				
01/10 Memorial for Mrs. Ressie Rose and Mr. Byron Rose, and in honor of Mrs. Alice Rose by George, Billy, and Joel Rose				
01/17 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				
01/24 Memorial for Mrs. Doris Butler Stewart and Mr. Henry Lafayette Stewart, Jr., by Ms. Beth Stewart and Family				
01/31 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:**

**03) Ps. 147:12-20; Jer. 31:7-14; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18**  
**10) Ps. 29; Isa. 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**  
**17) Ps. 36:5-10; Isa. 62:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11**  
**24) Ps. 19; Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21**  
**31) Ps. 71:1-6; Jer. 1:4-10; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30**

### **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) Billy Kerr, 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; 21) Clayton Dunn; 23) Christie Hensley, Corey Barnhill, Reid Walls; 24) Joy Dodson, Andrew Howard; 25) David Rives, Shawn Matthews; 26) Robert Adams, Jr.; 28) Neal Sinclair, Sarah Foster, Patrick O'Quinn, Jr., Olivia Sessoms; 29) Brooks Barwick, III; 30) Melissa Stephenson; 31) Gloria Williamson, Hampton Brock