

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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Dr. James A. Moran, Pastor

Volume XXXIX, No. 2

February - March 2016

OUR KNOWN ILL:

AT HOME

Barbara Kerr Frances Hubbard
Martha Dunn Ted Lockerman
Jean Parker Don Hollingsworth
Lauch Faircloth

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

Others:

Angie Prucha -(Daughter of Edwin Danford)

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

Roland Heath-(Father of Jeff Heath)

Joan Bartlett -(sister of Annette Newton)

Edna McKeithen

SYMPATHY TO:

Gene Freeman, Bonnie Barr and family on the passing of his sister, her aunt, Muriel Stein Shearin.

Allison Brock and family on the passing of her mother, Ruth Collie "Ruthie" Shelton.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

J. T. & Megan Newton
on the birth of their son
Jack Beckett Newton
born February 10, 2016.
Grandparents are
Tommy & Annette Newton.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

~ **Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church** will be held at Noon (each week through Wed., March 23rd). The cost of lunch will be \$5.00 per plate. **GMPC will host Lunch on the 2nd of March.** We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and lunches for the community during the Lenten season.

~ March 4th is **World Day of Prayer**. Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church encourages you to join Christians around the world affirming that prayer and service are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world. The GMPC Sanctuary will be open from 11 - 1 p.m. on March 4th for prayer. We encourage you all to stop by and light a candle to spread the light of Christ throughout the world.

~ The **Church Spring Work Day** is planned for Saturday, March 5th and we would like to 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. If that area is already covered please consider a common area that needs some work. Come out and help on **March 5th beginning at 8:00 a.m.** We should be working all morning, so please come for what ever time you can.

~ **We invite you all to take part in the Spring Cleaning of the Community Garden sponsored by GMPC,** located at 105 Royal Lane, on Saturday, March 5th beginning at 2:30 p.m. See you at the garden!

~ Our **Annual Congregational Meeting and Pig Picking** will follow the church work day at 6:00 PM in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall on March 5th. The orders of business include: 1)Review of the 2015 Year End Financial and Statistical Report and 2)Election of the 2016 Nominating Committee. This is also the time we look forward to recognizing and introducing all new members received and all babies and children baptized during the past year.

~ There **will not** be a First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish Meal for March, due to the Annual Pig Picking.

~ March 20th is **Palm Sunday**. We ask that all children who would like to participate in this years processional to assemble in the Banner Room, prior to worship on the 20th. 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.

~ March 24th is **Maundy Thursday**. Service will be held in the GMPC Sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend!

~ March 27th 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**, Elizabeth Coleman, Wesley Cowand, Ella Faison, Sim Green & Lizzy Tart, 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**.

~ **New Sunday School Class For All Ages Begins At GMPC**....Come and be a part of an exciting new class at GMPC! Led by Denise Moran, the New Class will take works of classical and contemporary fiction and interweave the themes, characters, and even plots with the Old and New Testaments, Christian doctrine & theology, and our confessions and creeds for application to real world living. Class format will be lecture and facilitated discussions. Along with the literature, don't be surprised to encounter music, poetry, movies and art designed to enhance learning and discussion opportunities. Do not miss this creative way of entering into God's World! Class starts February 21st!

WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

Do you ever sit down and watch one of those love stories on TV where a fiancé breaks up with his/her partner because of falling in love with another person totally different? Denise and I do. I am a sap for those stories and end up wiping away tears surreptitiously because I know the love I see in them in my relationship with Denise. This deep, abiding love is very much like the love God has for us and, in response to that love, our love for God.

In the Confirmation Class over the years I have used a story about the love of God not unlike the Prodigal Son story in Luke 15:11-32 (which surely focuses on the Father and can be better titled: "Loving Father and His Two Sons"). J. Wallace Hamilton tells this story in Horns and Halos in Human Nature, which I discovered recorded in Ginny Holderness's excellent, classic book on youth work, The Exuberant Years:

A friend of mine, the late G. W. Rosenbery, told me a story out of his early ministry. He was in a railway coach speeding across the state to attend a conference. Few people rode on trains in those days, and one boy in his late teens, apparently very nervous, attracted the attention of his fellow passengers. The boy was fidgety and restless. He would sit in one seat for a few moments, then move down the car to another.

The minister began to watch him and study him; finally he sat down beside the boy and said, "What's troubling you, son? Worried about something? Maybe I can help you. I am a minister, and if you feel like telling me, I should like nothing better than to help you if I can." "Sure, sure," the boy said, "I don't mind telling you. Are you acquainted in a little town named Springvale?" "Well, not exactly. I know of it. It is the next stop, isn't it?" "Yes," said the boy. "We'll be there in fifteen minutes. That's my home. I used to live there. My father and mother live there still, just a mile on this side of the town. Three years ago I had a quarrel with my father. I said, 'You'll never see me again.' I ran away from home. Three years, and they've been tough years. Sometimes I wrote to my mother. I wrote her last week and told her I would be on this train passing through. I told her if it was all right for me to stop, to hang something white outside the house so that I would know that father had agreed to let me stop. I told her not to do it unless father wanted it. She would do it regardless, you know, but I had to know how Dad feels."

The boy looked out the window, then started up excitedly. "Look, sir, my house is just around the bend, beyond the hill. Will you please look for me, see if there is something white? I can't stand to look. If there isn't anything white – you look, please!" The train lurched a bit as it made the slow curve, and the minister kept his eyes on the round of the hill. Then forgetting his dignity, he fairly shouted, "Look, son, look!" There stood a little farmhouse under the trees, but you could hardly see the house for white. It seems that father and mother had taken every bed sheet, bedspread, tablecloth, pillowcase, and even handkerchiefs, and hung them out on the clothes line and the trees. The boy's face went white, his lips quivered. He couldn't talk. His nervous fingers clutched the cheap suitcase, and he was out of the car before it had wholly stopped at the water tank. The minister said that the last he saw of him, he was running as fast as his legs could carry him, up the hill to the little house where the white sheets fluttered in the wind. (147)

That is how much our Father God loves us. I tear up every time I read this story. God has not hung out all the bed sheets and pillowcases, but God did hang on the cross all he had, the very Son of God Jesus. Holy Week, the rejection, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is all about God's love for the world. May the love and joy of Easter fill your home.

Peace, Jim

OUR CHILDREN –

~ **Children's Sunday school:** Interesting, activity based lessons are taught each week in the Explorers classroom (Pre-K - 2nd Grade) and Adventure classroom (grades 3 - 5). This is a great opportunity for children to learn about God's love for them, and to become familiar with Bible stories and characters. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School.

~ **PresbyCrew** will meet on Wednesday, March 9th & Wednesday, March 23rd. On the 9th we will learn about "Giving Him Your Best" John 12:3 and on the 23rd we will celebrate Easter with our Annual *PresbyCrew Easter Egg Hunt*. We will learn about "The Faces of Easter" Luke 24:6-7... join us on the 9th & 23rd and bring a friend!

***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, ect. (*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 before March 23rd or you may bring them with you to PresbyCrew!

~ It's not too early to start thinking about **GMPC Vacation Bible School 2016** scheduled to be held June 20th - 23rd. Mark Your Calendars Now! Last years *Clean Water for ALL God's Children!*, under the direction of Lisa Green along with all of her amazing volunteers, taught us what the scripture teaches us about water, our responsibility for the goodness of creation, and for the care of the physical health of others, as we built relationships with one another. I can not wait to see what we learn about this year! Details Coming Soon!

Youth Groups — All youth are invited to come join in the fellowship, outreach, service and study opportunities offered each Sunday evening. You are welcome to bring a friend! Hope to see you soon. Ms. Lou

February 21st – 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Service outreach to Til Her-ring. We will pick up pine cones and rake up pine straw. Bring a rake and gloves.

February 28th – 5:00 p.m. Begin planning for Youth Sunday.

March 6th – Outreach to our Faithful Friends - snack food project for 50 church members.

March 12th – 13th - Middle School Retreat @ Kirkwood.

Please submit registrations ASAP! Deadline is March 1st.

March 20th – TBA

March 25th - Winter Jam Christian Concert at the PNC Arena in Raleigh. We will leave from the church at 1:30 p.m.

March 27th – No Youth Meeting – Happy Easter!

“May God walk with you, work in you, and speak through you because of the life you live”.

GMPC youth are making a difference in the lives of others...



PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

~The **Presbyterian Men’s Breakfast Meeting** for March will be on the 13th, at 8:15 a.m. at First Baptist Church. We hope all men will join us as we once again combine with our neighbors from FUMC & 1st Baptist for a wonderful time of fellowship!

~**March PW Circle Meetings** are as follows:
(Bible Leader: Amelia Surratt)

Circle #1 will meet on the 7th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Joni Fay Fetterman;

Circle #2 will meet on the 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room;

Circle #3 will meet on the 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room.

~The **PW Quarterly Gathering / Birthday Observance** will be held on Monday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Program Coordinator: Annette Newton

Presbyterian Penny Pincher Project: A coin collection challenge to the GMPC congregation, for our annual March fundraiser, has been issued. Get your special “collection cup” from the church, put it in a prominent place at home and empty your pockets, purses and piggybanks every day for a month! Bring your cup of coins each week and dump it in the container located in the narthex, to be counted. This special project will end on March 31st. So start collecting loose change from the sofa, the car, the laundry room and *become a ‘penny-pincher’ every day!* Everyone can participate – it will be fun to guess the total amount we can raise for the building fund – every little bit helps . . . even pennies, dimes and quarters -lots of them, we hope! (Of course, bills and checks will also be accepted!)

OTHER NEWS:

~ **CAKES NEEDED** for the March 10th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 9th. *Please contact Julie Stefanovich to sign up/place your name on the March list.

~ **BIBLE STUDY:** weekly on Wednesdays, as the schedule allows, with Dr. Moran. 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.

~ **MEMBERS NEEDED:** A Columbarium Development Committee is being formed to explore the development of a columbarium here at GMPC. *Volunteer to serve on this committee by contacting Dr. Moran or the church office.

~ **Helping Hands of Sampson County,** is planning to provide a meal and entertainment for all Emergency Responders and their families on March 5, 2016 at the Agri-Expo Center. **What you can do to help:** *Make a donation. Sponsorship Forms are available in the narthex and church office. Please contact Annette Newton for more info. *Donate a cake and/or pie. Please contact Diane westerbeek to add your name to the list. Thank you.

~ The **GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry** meets monthly, on the third Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Do not worry if you can not sew, that is only one aspect of creating these amazing quilts. **Next opportunity: March 15, 2016.**

~ **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. *For more info. contact Chris Driver: cdriver82@gmail.com, cell #990-7436.

~ **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!* **Next Food Bank: March 19, 2016.**

~ **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.)

~ **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!** (*Food drop off container located in the Fellowship Hallway.)

EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARCH 2016:

<u>06</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>27</u>
Crib Nursery: (Nancy & Lauren Perry, Sarah Day) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.			
Wanda Coleman	Dale Purcell	Mary Lou Faircloth	Jennifer Bradley, Mac Spell
Elizabeth Coleman	Holly Weaver		Trish Sessoms, Diane Viser
Toddler Nursery: (Mary Doyne) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.			
Bailey Spell	Melina Matthews	Jewell Carr	Olivia Williford
Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)			
Spencer Westerbeek	Melina Matthews	Walker Spell	John Barwick
Connor Johnson	Anna Perry Sinclair	James Carr	Will Dodson
Worship Readiness: (Hollis White)			
Mary Aycock	Lucy Lockamy	Brenda Nordin	Lucy Lockamy
Pre-K—2nd Grade Class:			
Computer Lab	Darby Scott	Mac Spell	Hollis White
3rd - 5th Grade Class:			
Mary Lou Faircloth	Computer Lab	Kristi Williford	Crystal Faison
Sr. & Jr. High Youth Class: (Bonnie Barr)			
Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)			
Amelia Surratt	Nita Aiken	Anne Price	Anthony Sessoms
Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)			
Ronnie Honeycutt	Bill Scott	Lee Howard	Tommy Newton
Corner Stone Class: (James Dodson)			
Anthony Sessoms	TBA	James Dodson	Melvin Weaver
NEW Class: (Denise Moran)			
PresbyCrew: (Mariana Sanderson & Myrtle Petty) We always welcome extra volunteers ... come any time you can!			
03/09 Team 1: Mariana & Myrtle, Mary Aycock, Betty Blue Packard, Darby Scott, Jan Tart & Amelia Surratt, Linda Williamson			
03/23 Team 2: Joan Carr, Lou Johnson, Annette Newton, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, Diane Viser & Diane Barwick, Jennifer Bradley			
Snacks: 03/09 Linda Jewell Carr & 03/23 Diane Westerbeek			
Meals-on-Wheels: (Anne Price)			
03/01 Pieter & Diane Westerbeek			
03/15 Don & Carol Wilson			
03/29 Joy Prestage & Anne Price			
Ushers: (Richard Bryan) <i>Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office</i>			
Brad Spell, Brooks Barwick, III, Fred Beaujeu-Dufour, Bill Fulton, Matthew Fulton, Tommy Newton, Bill Prestage			
Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)			
06 (Communion) Memorial for Mrs. Memory Motes MacQueen by Mrs. Parma Matthis Howard			
13 Memorial for Mr. Lewis M. Fetterman, Sr., Dr. Lewis M. Fetterman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Burrows T. Lundy, Sr., Mr. B. T. Lundy, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. George H. Fetterman by the family			
20 (Palm Sunday) SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE			
27 (Easter) SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE			

Lectionary Text for March:

06) Ps. 32; Josh. 5:9-12;
 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 ;
13) Ps. 126; Isa. 43:16-21;
 Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8;
20) Palms: Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke
 19:28-40 ; **Passions:** Ps. 31:9-16;
 Isa. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11;
 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
27) Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-
 43 or Isa. 65:17-25; 1 Cor. 15:19-26
 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
 Luke 24:1-12 ;

Happy Birthday During March:

02) John Surratt; 03) David Brock, Madeline Pope; 04) Susan Bristow; Barry Almand; 06) Ellen Collins, Mary Carol Todd; 07) Ashton Apolinario; 12) Brenda Nordin; 13) Robert Sink; 14) Kayla Miller, Susan Westerbeek, Kendall Tidey; 15) Joni Fay Fetterman, Lenny Stephenson; 17) Marsha Prestage, Melissa Nimmo, Neill Westerbeek, Josie Butler; 18) April Sinclair, James Warren Sinclair; 19) Dan Aycock; 22) Gary Boone; 23) Hugh Barwick Jr., Trey Bryan, Rick Green; 24) Nancy Johnston; 25) Paul Viser, Brian Harrington, Ethan Donatelli; 26) Andy Woods, Austin Spell, Sawyer Miller; 27) Jase Westerbeek; 28) Molly Held; 29) Chris Bouchard, Iva Miller; 30) Barbara Taylor; 31) Jeff Vreugdenhil