

# Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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Dr. James A. Moran, Pastor

Volume XXXVIII, No. 2

February - March 2015

## OUR KNOWN ILL:

Katherine Stewart - Wilmington

Others:

Pat Whitfield - (Mother of Annette Newton)

James Faircloth - (Father of Nancy Johnston)

Angie Prucha - (Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Joyce Campbell - (Sister of Debbie Martin)

## AT HOME

Jimmy Naylor            Martha Dunn

Bill Peak                Don Wilson

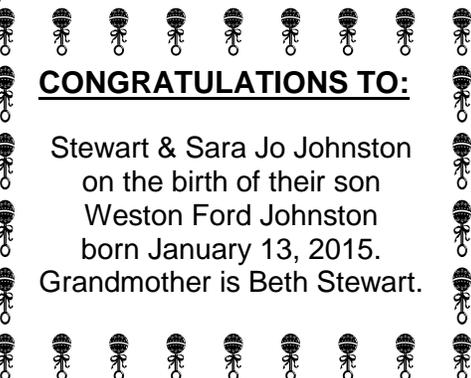
Burl Williamson        Barbara Kerr

## SYMPATHY TO:

*Beth Bryan and family* on the passing of her grandmother, Lula Womack Daniel.

*Ann Johnson and family* on the passing of her mother, Bettisue Hawes Tillman.

**Please continue to stop by the bulletin board outside the church office, for the latest updates/news from our missionaries, Andy and Ellen Collins in Chiang Mai Thailand.**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Stewart & Sara Jo Johnston on the birth of their son Weston Ford Johnston born January 13, 2015. Grandmother is Beth Stewart.

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

~**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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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!)

~March 6th 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 6th 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 7th 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 7th beginning at 8:00 a.m.** We should be working all morning, so please come for what ever time you can.

~Our **Annual Congregational Meeting and Pig Picking** will follow the church work day at 6:00 PM in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall on March 7th. The orders of business include: 1)Review of the 2014 Year End Financial and Statistical Report and 2)Election of the 2015 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.

~**Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church** will be held at Noon (each week through Wed., April 1st). The cost of lunch will be \$4.00 per plate. GMPC will host Lunch on the 18th of March. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and lunches for the community during the Lenten season.

~An **Officer Retreat** for all GMPC Officers will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2015 following worship. A catered lunch will be served.

~The **GMPC Talent Extravaganza FUN(d) Raiser** will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2015 beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and followed by performances at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Tickets will be available soon. \*If you have a talent that you wish to share as a contribution to this unforgettable event, please contact Glenda Underwood: [glenrich@embarqmail.com](mailto:glenrich@embarqmail.com), (Home)592-2827 or (Cell)910-409-1221.

**WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:**

My friends,

Five Sundays in Lent in March will guide us through Jesus' teaching about his suffering, death, and resurrection to the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. If we look closely at the Scripture readings on each Sunday, we can see a clear spiritual journey for us during these Lenten Sundays. You may be like me eager to arrive at Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus. There is nothing better than a joyous party, new clothes, and a feast of celebration, the Son lost, being found; dead, now alive. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the confirmation to the world that Jesus is the Son of God. The resurrection of Jesus, the first born from the dead, is our living hope for life eternal after our deaths; however, before we are raised from the dead, we live our routine, finite lives daily. These five Lenten Sundays guide us in our daily lives.

After Jesus rebukes Peter with "Get behind me, Satan!" Jesus teaches, "If any want to become my followers, let him/her deny themselves and take up her/his cross and follow me." Does Jesus mean that he does not bear his cross alone and that we take up the cross with him? Is he saying that we cannot follow him unless we pick up the cross? What kind of life do we live if we do deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus? We will also read Paul's writings a couple of Sundays. The reading from 1 Corinthians 1 talks about the message of the cross being both foolishness to those who are perishing and the power of God to those being saved. In Ephesians 2, Paul writes to the Gentile Christians, "You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived." Later he tells the Ephesians and us that our death is not the final word: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. .... For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." If you want to know how the season of Lent affects your life, come to worship on Sundays. If you feel that your life has no special purpose, no definite direction, then hear the Word of God these five Lenten Sundays and find out why you are.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus be with you,  
Jim

The **GMPC youth will host a Seder Service on Sunday, March 29, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.** The Seder is a Jewish service that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. The service is the retelling of the Passover, when the Jews were liberated from being slaves in Egypt. The Lord passed over the houses of the Hebrew slaves, but not passing over the Egyptians' houses, the Lord killed the first born in the tenth plague, as told in Exodus 12 and 13. Moses said, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand...." (Exodus 3:3) A meal will be served that represents what happened as the Israelites left Egypt.

## **OUR CHILDREN –**

~ **Children's Sunday school:** Interesting, activity based lessons are taught each week in the Explorers classroom (K, grades 1&2) 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 11th & Wednesday, March 25th. On the 11th we will learn about "The Greatest Gift of All" John 3:14-21 and on the 25th we will celebrate Easter with our Annual *PresbyCrew Easter Egg Hunt*. We will learn about "The Case of the Empty Tomb" Mark 15:1-39.... join us on the 11th & 25th 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 25<sup>th</sup> or you may bring them with you to PresbyCrew!

~ It's not too early to start thinking about **GMPC Vacation Bible School 2015** scheduled to be held June 22nd - 25th. Mark Your Calendars Now! Last years *Workshop of Wonders (WOW)*, under the direction of Joni Fay Fetterman along with all of her amazing volunteers, taught us how the ordinary becomes the extraordinary with God, the one who works wonders, as we used our imaginations and creativity to build our faith. I can not wait to see what we learn about this year! Details Coming Soon!

**Youth Groups** — *Special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for the time and energy they continue to put into our youth ministry program. It is truly appreciated! Thank you.*

Six of you; Eli, Hampton, Logan, Claire, Stephanie & Nancy, are in confirmation class. We ask for the rest of you to please pray for your sisters & brothers as they take this important journey in their life of faith. I know our youth group will be greatly enriched by what is learned and explored during this journey.

### Coming Events :

- ~ March 8th: Jr. High to Fayetteville: Light in the Dark
- ~ Middle School Retreat at Camp Kirkwood. \*March 14th-15th.(PYC will leave on the 13th) A super FUN weekend is promised!! Cost: \$25.00 per person. For more information contact Bonnie Barr.
- ~ March 22nd: Talent Extravaganza FUN(d) Raiser
- ~ March 29th: Congregational Seder Meal

**\*Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (weekly)**

**\*Sunday Night Youth 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (weekly)**

Sr. & Jr. High Youth gather weekly in the fellowship hall for dinner from 5:30 - 6 p.m., before separating into youth groups for various activities. Please plan to join us!

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

~ The Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting for March will be on the 8th, at 8:30 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: Kathy Peay)

Circle #1 will meet on the 2nd at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Bonnie Barr (308 Deer Track Trail);  
Circle #2 will meet on the 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room;  
Circle #3 will meet on the 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room.

~ The PW Quarterly Gathering / Birthday Observance will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m.

Program Coordinator: Dale Purcell

## OTHER NEWS:

~ **A heartfelt thank you to everyone** for the great response to *Operation Warm Winter*. Working together we were able to collect 105 blankets, to be donated to the Clinton Police Department, for those in need within our community. A special thank you to our youth for organizing this wonderful mission opportunity here at GMPC.

~ **A special thank you to GMPC's Presbyterian Women** for the delicious, homemade vegetable soup recently made and delivered to several of our members. Your gift of LOVE was greatly appreciated and perfectly timed! Thank you!

~ **The personnel committee ask** that you please continue to be aware of any possibility of recruiting a trained organist to Graves. Also, are there any pianists or musicians among us who would like to train on the organ? Sometimes "growing your own" is the wisest, most reliable strategy. Please consider any ways you can assist in continuing our tradition of beautiful worship music at our church services. Diane Viser, Personnel Chair

~ **SAVE THE DATE:** GMPC Yardsale ~ Saturday, June 6, 2015 ~ 7:00 a.m. - Noon!

~ 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 17, 2015.**

~ **YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITY:** (Sorting & packing food bags at the Christian Food Bank of Salemburg.) Sr. & Jr. High Youth meet on the Wednesday prior to the 3rd Saturday, monthly, at 6:30 p.m., in the GMPC parking lot. **Next opportunity: March 18, 2015.**

~ **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 21, 2015.**

~ **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.)

~ **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.

## EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARCH 2015:

<u>01</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>
<b>Crib Nursery: (Nancy &amp; Jack Perry, Claire Fox) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.</b>				
Lisa Green	Nancy Cowand	Lucy Lockamy	Anne Price	Jennifer Bradley
Olivia Sessoms	Olivia Williford	Elizabeth Coleman	Emily Wilmot	Nicole Spell
<b>Toddler Nursery: (Kathy Day &amp; Mary Doyne) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.</b>				
Darby Scott	Claire Fox	Charlotte Harrell	Isabella Faison	Mary Carol Todd
<b>Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)</b>				
Spencer Westerbeek	Melina Matthews	Walker Spell	Stephanie Prestage	John Barwick
Connor Johnson	Anna Perry Sinclair	James Carr	Nancy Beaujeu-Dufour	Will Dodson
<b>Worship Readiness: (Tami Warren) March Leaders: Claire Fox &amp; Jane Langston</b>				
<b>Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)</b>				
Tommy Newton	Ellen Tew	Anthony Sessoms	OPEN	Fifth Sunday
<b>Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)</b>				
Julie Stefanovich	Anne Price	Linda Williamson	Lee Howard	Fifth Sunday
<b>Young Adult Class:</b>				
Steve Stefanovich	Julie Stefanovich	Bill Scott	Ellen Tew	Anne Price
<b>PresbyCrew: (Mariana Sanderson &amp; Myrtle Petty) We always welcome extra volunteers ... come any time you can!</b>				
03/11 Team 1: Mariana & Myrtle, Mary Aycock, Bonnie Barr, Dorothy Sue Faison, Betty Blue Packard, Darby Scott				
03/25 Team 2: Mariana & Myrtle, Bonnie Barr, Mary Doyne, Kathy Peay, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt				
Snacks: 03/11 PW Circle #2 & 03/25 Diane Westerbeek				
<b>Meals-on-Wheels: (Nancy Perry)</b>				
03/03 Pieter & Diane Westerbeek				
03/17 Carl & Kathy Peay				
03/31 Don & Carol Wilson				
<b>Ushers: (Edwin Danford) Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office</b>				
Edwin Danford, Brooks Barwick, III, Fred Beaujeu-Dufour, Bill Fulton, Bill Miller, Bill Prestage				
<b>Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)</b>				
01 (Communion) Memorial for Mrs. Memory Motes MacQueen by Mrs. Parma Matthis Howard				
08 Memorial for Mr. Jim Hubbard by Mrs. Frances Hubbard				
15 Memorial for Mr. & Mrs. Carl H. Peay, Sr. & Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas A. Joseph by Mr. & Mrs. Carl H. Peay, Jr. & family				
22 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				
29 (Palm Sunday)				

### **Lectionary Text for March:**

**01) Ps. 22:23-31; Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38;**  
**08) Ps. 19; Exod. 20:1-17; Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22;**  
**15) Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22; Num. 21:4-9; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21;**  
**22) Ps. 119:9-16; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33;**  
**29) Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16**

### **Happy Birthday During March:**

01) Mary Goodwin; 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., Richard 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

**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.**

~ Sunday, February 15, 2015 ~

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

My Presence: Sunday School Attendance	54	~	Worship Attendance	99
My Gifts:			<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings			\$6,353.00	\$ 47,429.84
Building Fund Offerings			\$ 280.00	\$ 6,655.00