

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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Dr. James A. Moran, Pastor

Volume XXXIX, No. 3

March - April 2016

OUR KNOWN ILL:

Barbara Kerr
Frances Hubbard
Jean Parker

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)

Janice Pope -(Mother of Jan Faison)

Joan Bartlett -(sister of Annette Newton)

SYMPATHY TO:

Kristi Williford and family on the passing of her grandmother, Marie Zuconi Kozel.

Sallie Adams and family on the passing of her aunt, Dorothy Johnson Smith.

The family on the passing of Edna Guin McKeithen, wife of former minister, Dr. Leighton B. McKeithen, Pastor Emeritus.

Debbie Martin and family on the passing of her sister, Iris Rose Spell Cooper.

David Price and family on the passing of his mother & former GMPC member, Helen Jean Sanders Price

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

March 20th is **Palm Sunday**. We ask that all children who would like to participate in this year's 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.

Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church will conclude at Noon on Wednesday, March 23rd. The cost of lunch is \$5.00 per plate. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and lunches for the community during the Lenten season.

March 24th is **Maundy Thursday**. Service will be held in the GMPC Sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please plan 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** as they reaffirm their Baptismal covenant and publicly profess their faith during our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Lizzy Tart to be received on Sunday, April 3rd.). Special envelopes will be available for receiving the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**.

First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish will be hosted by the Presbyterian Men on April 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dishes to share! We thank the Congregational Care Committee and all Volunteers!

Parenting Seminar – Parenting with a Pause and in the Pause with Gail Richardson on April 13th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm here at GMPC. Gail is a parenting coach who enjoys teaching parents how to empower, encourage and equip themselves to be calm, capable and connected parents who deeply connect and effectively communicate with their children in a positive and confident manner. Good strong relationships are built upon good communication skills which allow parents to reduce the challenge and increase the joy of being a parent! Parents will also learn how to encourage misbehaving children and discipline through choices and consequences. **Registration will begin on April 1st**. Contact Lou Johnson if you are interested in learning more or if you would like to participate.

Our Youth will lead us in Worship on **May 8th—Youth Sunday**. Please keep them in your prayers as they plan and prepare for this special day.

COMING SOON... On Sunday, April 24, 2016, GMPC will welcome Missionaries, Andy & Ellen Collins, their son Jonathan, and the CCI Thai Dance and Drama Troupe. Time TBA. The troupe is a team of dancers and actors from the Christian Communications Institute (CCI) of Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand who will share with us the beauty of Thai classical performing arts. Their performance promises to be lively, entertaining and a blessing for all ages! This will be an experience you will not want to miss! Mark your calendars now!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: Contact the church office to share your willingness.

Housing needed for 11 (3 Collins, 4 women, 4 men). Possibilities for hosting are:

- 2 host families: 7 and 4 (3 Collins + 4 women / 4 men)
- 3 host families: 3, 4 and 4 (3 Collins / 4 women / 4 men)
- 5 host families: 3, 2, 2, 2, 2 (3 Collins / 2 women / 2 women / 2 men / 2 men)

WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Easter is a glorious day. Spring has charged the birds to sing us awake each morning. The budding leaves of trees and plants remind us of the world bringing forth annual new life. Daffodils, lilies, and tulips beautifully flower God's creation and are adorned with prettier raiment than even Solomon in all his glory. Spring brings us all back to life after winter's deathly grasp. The seasonal cycle of life marks our time on earth. We compare the seasons to the cycle of life for humanity. There are a number of similarities between the seasons and the cycle of life, but the Resurrection of our Lord is different from the passing of the seasons. Our Lord lived, suffered, died, and was raised only once. We live, die, and are raised only once. Our lives end. Our resurrection comes after our death. We are raised by the power of God to live eternally in heaven. The circular pattern of life for the seasons can point us to the renewal of our lives after being dead in our sins, but it is not the ultimate plan for our lives as Christians, which we remember in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Knowing that being human means we have an end, death, helps us to focus our lives with purpose. The Jew Saul, who sought to keep the Jewish religion pure and free from falsehood, righteously persecuted the early church. Saul desired so vehemently to ravage the church that he breathed threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord. (Acts 8:3, 9:1) God had other plans for Saul. The Lord blinded him on the Damascus Road: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." (9:4-6) The Apostle Paul, also known before as Saul, later wrote in a letter to the churches of Galatia: "But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being...." (Galatians 1:15, 16) God had planned for Saul's call to be the one sent to the Gentiles thank goodness, since the Gentiles are we. As we study "The Acts of the Apostles" for the next month and a half, consider God's call to you. Most of us do not have a Damascus Road experience like Saul, but all Christians have a call from God, which is your testimony about your faith in Jesus. What is God's call to you? What are God's plans for you? Paul had a compelling testimony. What is your testimony?

May the joy of Easter be yours,

Jim

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 piggy banks every day for a month! Bring your cup of coins each week and dump it in the container located in the narthex. **This special project will end on March 31st.**

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

~**PresbyCrew** will meet on Wednesday, April 13th & Wednesday, April 27th, following school from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. On the 13th we will learn about "Safe in His Hands" John 10:27-29 and on the 27th we will learn about "Peace of Mind and Heart" John 14:27-28a. The 27th will be our last meeting of the spring. Bring a friend!

Be sure to tell Ms. Mariana Sanderson, Ms. Myrtle Petty, Ms. Lou Johnson, Dr. Jim Moran, Ms. Mary Aycok, Ms. Joan Carr, Ms. Annette Newton, Ms. Betty Blue Packard, Ms. Nancy Perry, Ms. Darby Scott, Ms. Amelia Surratt, Ms. Jan Tart, Ms. Diane Viser, Ms. Kristi Williford, Ms. Mary Carol Todd, Ms. Lisa Green and all of our other amazing volunteers what a wonderful time you have had with them this year. ~*Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.* 1 John 3:18

~**SAVE THE DATE: 2016 Vacation Bible School will be held June 20th - 23rd, 9 to Noon.**

Deep Sea Discovery- GOD IS WITH ME WHEREVER I GO! Dive Deep into God's Presence

Daily Themes: Day 1— GOD KNOWS ME!, Day 2— GOD HEARS ME!, Day 3 - GOD STRENGTHENS ME!, Day 4—GOD LOVES & SENDS ME! Registrations will be mailed/available April 5th.

***Adults/Youth: Interested in assisting or volunteering ... contact Ms. Lou Johnson.**

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

Youth are invited to join in the fellowship, outreach, service and study each Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and program until 6:00 p.m. You are welcome to bring a friend!

March 20th – 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Preparation

March 25th – Winter Jam Christian Concert, PNC, Raleigh

We will leave from the church at 1:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon and return late that evening. If you are not out of school that day we will make plans to get you to the concert at a later time if you would like to attend.

March 27th – No Youth Meeting – HAPPY EASTER!

April 3rd – 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Preparation

April 10th – 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Preparation

April 17th – 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Preparation

April 24th – 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Preparation

7:00 p.m. CCI Thai Dance & Drama Troupe

May 1st – 5:00 p.m. Final Youth Sunday Preparation

May 8th – 11:00 p.m. Youth Sunday (No 5:00 p.m. Youth)

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

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

PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

~ The **Presbyterian Men’s Breakfast Meeting** for April will be held on Sunday, April 10th here at GMPC, beginning at 8:15 a.m. We hope all men will join us as we once again meet with our neighbors for a wonderful time of fellowship!

~ **April PW Circle Meetings** are as follows:
(Bible Leader: Darby Scott)

Circle #1 will meet on the 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Tew (106 Finch Street);

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

~ The **PW Quarterly Gathering / Birthday Observance** will be held on Monday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. (*Please note new day & time.)
Program Coordinator: Annette Newton

OTHER NEWS:

~ **BIBLE STUDY:** 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.

~ **We thank our Presbyterian Women** for the wonderful job they did preparing and serving lunch at the FUMC Lenten Luncheons on March 2nd. Dr. Moran’s message was inspiring, and the meal was delicious as always.

~ **We would like to thank all of our volunteers** who helped at this year’s Church Spring Work Day. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

~ During the Congregational Meeting on Saturday, March 5, 2016, the 2016 **Nominating Committee** was elected. They are as follows: Carl Barr, Chair (Elder), Bill Scott, Vice-Chair (Elder), Richard Bryan & Charlotte Harrell (Deacon Representatives), Stan Mertz (Presbyterian Men Rep.), Ann Johnson (Presbyterian Women Rep.), Holly Weaver (Youth Rep.), Bonnie Barr, Henry Faison, Dale Purcell (Congregational Members)

~ 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 or contact the office to get a prayer started.

~ **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.

~ Copies of **These Days**, April - June, are available in the Narthex and outside the church office.

~ Copies of the **GMPC Newsletter** are always available outside of the church office for your convenience.

~ **2016 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/summer> (910)276-1654.

~ **DVD copies of this year’s Christmas Joy Program, “The king meets The King” are now available in the church office.** Cost: \$10.00 per DVD.

~ The **GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry** meets monthly (September-April), 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: April 19, 2016.

~ **CAKES NEEDED** for the April 14th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 13th. *Please contact Dale Purcell to sign up/place your name on the April list.

EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR APRIL 2016:

<u>03</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>
Crib Nursery: (Nancy & Lauren Perry, Sarah Day) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.			
Allison Brock	Anne Price	Charlotte Harrell	Laurie Vreugdenhil
Ruthie Brock	Addie Sessoms	Isabella Faison	Claire Tart
Toddler Nursery: (Mary Doyne) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.			
Bailey Spell	Jewel Carr	Olivia Williford	Lizzy Tart
Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)			
Julian Beaujeu-Dufour	Olivia Williford	Holly Weaver	Isabella Faison
Silas Bradley	Ava Williford	Addie Sessoms	Ruthie Brock
Worship Readiness: (Hollis White) April Leader: Linda Jewell Carr			
Pre-K—2nd Grade Class:			
Computer Lab	Lucy Lockamy	Diane Viser	Darby Scott
3rd—5th Grade Class:			
Mary Lou Faircloth	Computer Lab	Kristi Williford	Lou Johnson
Sr. & Jr. High Youth: (Bonnie Barr)			
Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)			
Melvin Weaver	Jim Moran	Iva Miller	Boyde Bristow
Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)			
Julie Stefanovich	Nita Aiken	Linda Williamson	Anne Price
Corner Stone Class: (James Dodson)			
Paul Viser	Joel Coleman	Pat O'Neal	Hollis White

NEW Class: (Denise Moran)

PresbyCrew: (Mariana Sanderson & Myrtle Petty) We always welcome extra volunteers ... come any time you can!

03/13 Team 1: Mariana & Myrtle, Mary Aycok, Betty Blue Packard, Darby Scott, Jan Tart & Lou Johnson, Iva Miller

03/27 Team 2: Joan Carr, Lou Johnson, Annette Newton, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt, Diane Viser & Charlotte Harrell, Mac SPell

Snacks: 03/13 Hollis White & 03/27 Nancy Perry

Meals-on-Wheels: (Anne Price)

04/05 Bonnie Barr & Diane Westerbeek

04/19 Bonnie Barr & Delores Murphy

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

Richard Bryan, Chris Berendt, Chris Bouchard, Michael Bradley, Plato Faison, Wyman Faison, Harry Sinclair, Aaron Viser

Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)

04/03 (Communion) Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Barwick, Sr., Mrs. "Boo" Graham, Mrs. Rachel Cozart Barwick, LTC James MacGill and Ms. Susan Barwick MacGill by Mrs. Ann MacGill

04/10 Memorial for Mr. Sam Foushee, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Foushee and Dr. and Mrs. W.T. Woodard by Mrs. Jinx Foushee

04/17 Memorial for Mr. John T. Denny, III, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Denny, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lester Fulghum by Mrs. Lois Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. James Dodson and Grandchildren

04/24 Memorial for Mrs. Laura Campbell Ray Walls and Mr. Louis Jackson Walls, Jr. by their children

Happy Birthday During April: 01) Burl Williamson, Ronnie Honeycutt; 02) Fred Beaujeu-Dufour, Anne Wicke, Elizabeth Williamson; 04) Ryan Nimmo; 05) Matthew Fulton, Lizzy Tart; 06) Fay Gaddy; 07) Gary Wayne Hall; 08) Eastin Ammann, Brooks Barwick, IV; 10) Evan Lamb; 11) Andrew Lamb; 12) Andy Rives; 13) Hollis White; 14) Annabelle Fetterman, Carol Fussell, Nancy Cowand, Amaya Apolinario; 15) Jimmy Sinclair, Alice Rose, Corkey Boyette; 16) Richard Bryan; 17) James Hardee, II; 18) Karen Shankweiler; 19) Lee Howard, Shannon Sinclair; 20) Kitty Peak; 23) Linda Williamson; 24) Holly Weaver; 25) Lynne Pridgen; 26) Anne Kerr, Ben Harrington; 27) Erin Spell, Katie Brown; 28) Trent Williamson; 29) Debbie Sinclair, Isabella Faison; 30) Natalie Berendt

Lectionary Text for April:

03) Ps. 118:14-29 or Ps. 150; Acts 5:27-32;
Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31;

10) Ps. 30; Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Rev. 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19;

17) Ps. 23; Acts 9:36-43; Rev. 7:9-17;
John 10:22-30;

24) Ps. 148; Acts 11:1-18; Rev. 21:1-6;
John 13:31-35;

Everyone loves a race whether it's the Olympics, NASCAR, the Derby, Tour de France, a triathlon, or simply a high school track meet. Now a race is coming to GMPC! Can you sense the anticipation, hear the cheering, and see the speed, effort, and endurance? More details to follow.

Your Stewardship Committee,
Nita Aiken, Lucy Lockamy, Trish Sessoms, & Trey Fetterman