

# Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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Dr. James A. Moran, Pastor

Volume XXXVIII, No. 1

January - February 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:

~The Hobbs family on the passing of their mother and GMPC member, Ruth Elaine Betts Hobbs.

~Erma Faircloth and family on the passing of her sister, Creola Williams Lewis.

~Kathy Peay and family on the passing of her brother, Charles "Chuck" R. Joseph.

~Wes Cowand and family on the passing of his grandmother, Mary Davis Hubbard.

**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.**

**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.**

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY:** GMPC's Jr. High Youth will be holding a blanket drive, "Operation Warm Winter", January 25<sup>th</sup> - February 8<sup>th</sup>. Their goal is to collect 100 blankets. Bins for your donated blanket(s) are located in the Narthex and Education Building. Monetary donations will also be accepted and greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance for your participation.

Please join us for the **First Wednesday Fellowship & Covered Dish** on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. This month's host will be the Memorial Room Sunday School Class. Bring your favorite dishes to share! We thank the Congregational Care Committee, the Memorial Room Sunday School Class and all Volunteers!

**Boy Scout Troop 27 and Cub Scout Pack 27 invite you to join them in a celebration of 50 years of Scouting at GMPC.** On Scout Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Scouts will be participating in the 11:00 service and serving a spaghetti lunch following worship in the GMPC Fellowship Hall. Lunch is free, but donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new troop trailer. You can help by notifying any former troop members you know. We would like to have as many Scouts and leaders here as possible. Thanks for all your support.

**The Columbarium Committee:** Bill Scott, Raymond & Delores Murphrey, Curtis & Peggie Lindsay, Beth Bryan, Sr., Ellen Tew and Matt Johnson have begun exploring the possibilities for GMPC to build a memorial columbarium. It is not too late to join the discussion. Please speak to Bill Scott or any of the committee members to show your willingness to serve. We plan to meet monthly, with the next meeting being held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m.

**Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church** will begin on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon (each week through Wed., April 1<sup>st</sup>). The cost of lunch will be \$4.00 per plate. GMPC will host lunch on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and lunches for the community during the Lenten season. Come out and show your support!

Please join us on Wednesday, February 18, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. for **GMPC's Ash Wednesday Service**, as we begin our journey through the lent season.

**The Church Spring Work Day is planned for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning 8:00 a.m.** This is a great opportunity to change bulletin boards, clean out Sunday School room closets/supplies, tidy up "forgotten" areas, try out your green thumb... the possibilities are endless. No reservations required, just show up and jump right in. Donuts and coffee to be served!

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting and Pig Picking** will follow the church work day at 6:00 PM in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall on March 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**WORDS FROM DR. JIM MORAN:**

My friends,

We've all stood in the shoes of the Babylonian exiles in the sixth century B.C.E.: despair, grief, great loss. The second Sunday in February we will read from Isaiah 40:21-31, the words of the prophet Isaiah spoken to the exiles in Babylon shortly before 539 B.C.E. This prophecy was made not long before their being freed to return to their homeland at the proclamation of their liberator Cyrus, King of Persia. (Jim Newsome, The Hebrew Prophets, 139-140) The people of Judah were exiled in a foreign land for about forty years. Foreign gods worshipped by the Babylonians surrounded them. Their God who was to protect them from the Babylonians failed miserably. The Temple and the City of Jerusalem had been destroyed. They believed that their God obviously was not the most powerful of the gods. Defeated, hopeless, the exiled Israelites were engulfed by despair. Exile to them was like "being orphaned." (Walter Brueggemann, Cadences of Home, 5). Homeless and lost, the exiles felt a great death had happened, or maybe a great divorce in which the exiles were the children caught in the middle. Despair was their coffee in the morning and their milk at bedtime. The Israelites whined, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God!" (Isaiah 40:27)

Despair weighs on us when a loved one dies, divorce darkens the day, a long-loved job is lost, or depression settles in for a season. Whatever drought of despair you and I experience may drive us to the edge of hopelessness, but despair is not the last word. The time of exile by God is not final. The final words of the prophet Isaiah remind us that God will not forsake us. Our everlasting God and Creator "does not faint or grow weary; (God) gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:28b-31) Never lose hope in the Lord God. In the darkest hour of our lives, God does not leave us alone.

May the joy of God be with you,  
Jim



## OUR CHILDREN:

PresbyCrew (2nd & 4th Wednesdays going with the school calendar from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) will meet twice in February.

Put February 11th & 25th on your calendar.

Your PresbyCrew newsletter will have all the exciting details! We hope to see you all here on the 11th & 25th! Bring a friend!

Joy Ringers: Children's Handbell Choir

Will not meet during the month of February.

All Children will need to be picked up at 5:00 p.m. following PresbyCrew. Thank you.

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

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN OR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS:

~The Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting for February will be on the 8th, 8:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church (208 Sampson Street). We graciously extend an invitation for all men to join us in February, as we combine and gather for breakfast and fellowship with the men of FUMC & 1st Baptist.

~February PW Circle Meetings are as follows:  
(Bible Leader: Linda Williamson)

Circle #1 will meet on the 2nd at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Tew (106 Finch Street);

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.

## Youth Groups

What a busy yet exciting schedule we have before us! Beginning on February 8th, Sr. & Jr. High Youth will meet on Sundays at 5:30 p.m., in the GMPC fellowship hall for dinner, before splitting into Youth Groups. We encourage you all to bring a friend(s) to all meetings.

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

**\*Sunday Night Youth 5:30-7 p.m. Sr. & Jr. High (weekly)**

### LOOKING AHEAD:

~ **February 1: Confirmation Class begins at 9:45 a.m.** with Mr. Boyde Bristow & Dr. Jim Moran. Confirmation Class is a eight week study held annually for ninth graders. The study prepares for examination by the session for reception into active membership in the life of the church. We ask that you pray for your fellow youth as they take this important journey in their life of faith.

~ **February 1:** (5:00 p.m.- Halftime) Sr. High Youth will meet at the home of Aaron Viser for a Super Bowl Party.

\*NO JR. HIGH YOUTH on February 1st.

~ **February 8:** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Sr. & Jr. High Youth Groups

~ **February 15:** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Sr. & Jr. High Youth Groups. Preparing Palms for Ash Wednesday.

~ **February 18:** 6:30 p.m. meet in GMPC Parking lot to travel to the Christian Food Bank of Salemburg.

~ **February 22:** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Sr. & Jr. High Youth Groups

### Looking Ahead:

Presbytery Middle School Youth Retreat at Camp Kirkwood: Saturday, March 14th - Sunday, March 15th.

We will leave the GMPC parking lot at 8:15 a.m. on the 14th and return home 11:30ish on the 15th.

\*(PYC to leave on 13th) Please let Ms. Bonnie know if you are interested in attending. Cost: \$25.00

## OTHER NEWS AND NOTES:

We need an organist! Pam Langston is leaving us for a wonderful opportunity. As we wish her well and thank her for her good work here, we are looking for a replacement, and the personnel committee needs the help of the congregation. Please 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

Mark your calendar for Presbytery's HOLY CONVERSATIONS. Before we debate and vote at the March 7th Presbytery meeting on the General Assembly's actions regarding same-sex marriage, pastors, Jim Randall and Ernie Thompson will share their perspectives on same-sex marriage and the church and engage in such a holy conversation. For more information, go to <http://presbycc.org/2015/holy-conversations/>. You are invited to join any one of the gatherings on the following Sundays. (All are at 3:00pm - ending by 4:30pm). \*Contact the GMPC office to share which gathering you plan to attend. - February 8 - at Community PC, Pinehurst, West Community; - February 15 - at MacPherson PC, Fayetteville, Central Community; - February 22 - at Wallace PC, Wallace, East Community

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: February 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: February 21, 2015.

"Cooking For Kyle" Fundraiser: Will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Southern Smoke BBQ in Garland. Cost: \$8.00 per BBQ plate. \*ITEMS NEEDED: Canned Drinks & Bottled Water. Donations will be collected in the GMPC office thru February, Monday 23, 2015. For more info. or to purchase a BBQ plate ticket, \$1.00 50/50 or Raffle ticket, or \$10.00 TEAM KYLE PRAYING HARD yard sign, please contact Deanna Weaver #592-3527.

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.)

## EDUCATIONAL / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEBRUARY 2015:

01

08

15

22

### **Crib Nursery: (Nancy & Jack Perry, Claire Fox) 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.**

Mary Lou Faircloth

Darby Scott

Stormi Moore

Kathryn Jackson

Isabella Faison

Holly Weaver

Claire Tart

Nancy Dufour

### **Toddler Nursery: (Kathy Day & Mary Doyne)**

Diane Viser

Elizabeth Coleman

Robin Palmer

Stephanie Prestage

### **Acolytes: (Brenda Nordin)**

Olivia Williford

Addie Sessoms

Ruthie Brock

Will Dodson

Holly Weaver

Isabella Faison

Bailey Spell

Wesley Cowand

### **Worship Readiness: (Tami Warren) February Leader: Iva Miller**

### **Memorial Room: (Dorothy Sue Faison)**

Tommy Newton

Amelia Surratt

Bill Scott

Diane Westerbeek

### **Care Class: (Brenda Nordin)**

Kathy Peay

Melvin Weaver

Paul Viser

Ronnie Honeycutt

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

02/11 Team 1: Mariana & Myrtle, Mary Aycock, Bonnie Barr, Dorothy Sue Faison, Betty Blue Packard, Darby Scott

02/25 Team 2: Mariana & Myrtle, Bonnie Barr, Mary Doyne, Kathy Peay, Nancy Perry, Amelia Surratt,

Snacks: 02/11 PW Circle #1 & 02/25 Beth Bryan, Sr.

### **Meals-on-Wheels: (Nancy Perry)**

02/03 Molly Held & Ann MacGill

02/17 Linda Williamson & Dale Purcell

### **Ushers: (Ed Danford)** Note: A yearly list is posted on the bulletin board outside the office

Matt Johnson, Danny Aycock, Ed Carr, Tommy Newton, James Register, Chuck Spell, Jody White

### **Flower Committees: (Mac Spell)**

01 (Communion)

08 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

15 In loving memory of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Fields by Mr. D. B. Fields, Sr. and family.

22 Memorial for Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Barwick, Sr., Mrs. Rachel Cozart Barwick, Mrs. "Boo" Graham, Mr. James MacGill and Ms. Susan MacGill by the family

## **Happy Birthday During February:**

01) Ann Johnson; 02) Paulette Wilmot; 03) Allison Brock; 04) Boyde Bristow, Alex Moran, Denise Moran; 05) Jan Faison; 08) Pat Rose, May Barwick, Holden Spell; 09) Brad Spell; 10) Mary Doyne; 12) Sammy Bristow, Jody White; 13) Noah Tidey; 14) Peggie Lindsay, Diane Westerbeek, Alex Purcell, David Masterson; 15) Edward Johnston, III; 17) Julie Stefanovich; 18) Debbie Martin; 19) Amelia Surratt, Missy Packard; 20) Tammy Honeycutt; 21) Geraldine Caruso, Debbie Owens; 25) Grady Broadwell; 26) Carol Wilson, Emma Rosario; 27) Tami Warren, Ed Carr, John Nordin; 28) Melissa Fulton, Houston Bouchard, Payton O'Quinn

**Save the Date:**  
**GMPC YARDSALE,**  
**Saturday, June 6, 2015**

**9:00 a.m. - Noon**

For more info. contact:  
Brenda Nordin #910-990-1668.

## **Lectionary Text for February:**

**01)** Ps. 111; Deut. 18:15-20;

1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

**08)** Ps. 147:1-11, 20c; Isa. 40:21-31

1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**15)** Ps. 50:1-6; 2 Kings 2:1-12;

2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**22)** Ps. 25:1-10; Gen. 9:8-17;

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15