



## A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

**Mission trips change lives**, most often our own. Whether we visit another country or a city not so far from us, what we see and who we meet can change us forever. If we are fortunate we come home with an altered point of view. It's one thing to read about poverty, it's another to work with people for whom it is everyday life. It's one thing to recite the Apostles' Creed where it says, "I believe in the holy catholic (of all times and in all places) church." It's another to see that church's different skin tones, hear its different languages, and listen to its many concerns which are often very different from our own. What happens to us when we realize these folks are just as much chosen and beloved by God as we are? A great Christian teacher, the late John R.W. Stott said:

**We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.**

Missions can rock our world in the best sort of way. This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the mission of the church and to the trips and experiences of our people that have happened this summer. We hope you will read, be inspired, and perhaps sense a call to God's mission for you.

In addition, we will be having a **"Mini Mission Conference"** on Sunday, August 14th during both worship services and adult Sunday School. We will hear from mission participants and leaders in our congregation. Our 11 am service will be followed by a fun hotdogs and ice cream congregational lunch. Please come!

**Looking ahead to the fall we will reintroduce adult Christian Education options on Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 14.**

I'll be offering a class called *Being Christian in Public*. The class will cover how a Christian uses the bible, the teaching of the church, and our personal faith as we engage some of the difficult public issues and questions of our time. There will be plenty of room for conversation as we work through it together. More details will come shortly. We'll have a lot more to say about spiritual growth opportunities for adults in the coming weeks.

May God bless you with time for refreshment this summer. When you're in town, come to worship. We'll save you a seat!

Blessings, *Mike*

CONNECT WITH US





From June 26 to July 2, we traveled to Reynosa, Mexico to work with Faith Ministry to build houses for the locals. We worked with the locals to help build 2 houses in a timeframe of only 3 days.

We worshipped, worked, and lived with the locals to help not only build houses, but build relationships with each other.

The time spent in Mexico helped to truly live out Faith Ministry's moto, "Making a difference, one at a time."





The youth traveled to Philadelphia, PA with Youthworks to help with food insecurity and fight hunger for the locals in Philadelphia. While we were there, we worked with the Eliza Shirley House with the Salvation Army, a transitional house that works with homeless women and children to help get them into a house for themselves. We also worked with a few local community gardens, helping to provide food for the community of Philly. The youth and I all grew in our relationship with God as we discovered what it meant to love authentically, as Christ calls us to do.



# A shared WORD

From Pastoral Care

What do we think of first when we think of self-care? A "spa day", laying by the pool, being on the beach, on the rail of a boat watching the water, casting out line from the fishing pole, ATVing, or sitting on a tree stand in the woods? All of these are great examples of self-care. These are good for the mind, body, and soul. I want to offer today another angle on self-care that you may have done but never thought of; caring for yourself. This is very biblically based on the Great Commandment that Christ offered to us in Mark 12:30-31

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.  
31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

**Discover Mood and Anxiety Program**, is a mental health company that promotes what Christ told and knew. In helping others we become renewed in Spirit. They call this self-care, "community care". **Community care is defined as any care provided by a single individual to benefit other individuals in their life. Community care can be as simple as doing someone's dishes or running someone's errands when they are taking care of their kids during a tough time. It could also entail reaching out to friends who need to talk, or organizing neighborhood watch groups, community support groups, or neighborhood events. Sometimes self-care means helping others, and by lending a helping hand, you can feel rejuvenated and fulfilled.** Here is a list of a few examples of Community Care. They range from direct care to indirect care:

- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or a thrift store • Donate toys to a local homeless shelter, toy drive, or children's home • Donate food items to a food drive
- Donate warm clothes to charities in need • Donate pet food, blankets, and beds to your local animal shelter
- Volunteer with high school students to help them prep for their college applications • Help a neighbor

### Community brings people close together

I lived next to senior adults and single parents here in Fayetteville. One thing I had done is roll their wheeled trash bins to the road for pick-up day. Who does not like someone else taking out the trash! My neighbors appreciated this and many of them would roll back our empty trash bins in return. I got to know neighbors better in a time when many people do not associate with those they live near. It provides an opportunity for feeling a safe space at home.

### Community Care is good for mental health

Giving or helping unconditionally can be a very liberating activity. I have been able to participate in the packing of the food bundles that we do once to twice a year. When I looked out and saw the church family doing the ministry in the Fellowship Hall I see genuine care and charity love that spills over to all who are helping.

### Community is fun

Charity can be a two-edged sword in that there can be peer pressure that can make it a burden instead of uplifting. I have been in the corporate world where the pressure to participate took out the joy. Parents having to push the school fundraiser is good but can become joyless. I encourage you to find something that has no attachment but just pure giving. I volunteer at Cape Fear Hospital and find it very rewarding with experiences that I will treasure.

When I write this I try to imagine what someone who is struggling may say: "This is Pastor Mitch's way to con us into doing more social ministry." You are right! I experience how doing pastoral care (which is a form of community care) uplifts others and in return uplifts my spiritual well-being as well.

So in transparency, on August 14th at worship, you will get to see members of our church family share how community care has benefited and blessed them. In this month's newsletter are international, national, and community opportunities for community care. We are looking at starting small groups at church and offering to start one can be also rewarding.

I hope that you will look out in these stressful times for each of us and our communities and that you will see caring for others will help us to fully understand what Christ saw; that better caring for each other benefits everyone's mental health and honors what God created us to do.

God Bless, Pastor Mitch

## A Special Thanks to Our Church's Stewards Working with Our Missions

This year First Presbyterian is emphasizing the fullest dimensions on *stewardship* which encompass the giving of one's time, talent and treasures (financial resources). Christian living involves Christian giving. Stewardship is a spiritual matter. Stewardship has to do with how we live and our daily commitments to Jesus Christ.

As a church we focus on our mission of spreading the word of Christ and living and promoting Christian values. We send our people on work trips around the country and abroad. We work within our church and with organizations within our community. When we only give our money, we give very little. When we give of ourselves we truly give.

We need to learn stewardship and to discover the joy of giving. While we need to give our money, we also need to give of our time through volunteer service within the church and to mission programs supported by the church.

We wish to honor all of those volunteering their time and talents to support our church missions. We recognize them all as Christian stewards, who offer themselves and their God given talents to further God's work. Thank you for being good stewards of what God has given you!

*"Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God."*  
Hebrews 13:16



♥ WE GO TOGETHER

♥ MOPS MEETING

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs) and MOPs next, is a group of moms of children ages 0-10. We meet twice a month to share in fellowship and discuss topics of all ranges in our walks of life. Free childcare and refreshments are provided (and don't worry, we aren't going to follow you to the bathroom and you don't have to share your food!). This is a time for Moms to take a break and take time together without judgement! Our theme this year is "We Go Together" and as mother's, although it may feel like a one woman tribe, you aren't alone! We will be hosting our first kick off on August 14 at 4:30 PM in the Activity Room of Eller Hall.



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# Back to School Blessing

August 28 at 11 a.m.

We want to pray for you, support you, and we want you to know that you are loved. Every child, teacher, administrator, and school staff member will receive a Back to School blessing, along with a special reminder to take with.

**\*Children will make a special gift that day during Sunday School and Children's Church to give to their teachers.**

Don't forget to stay for the Parent's Information Meeting after Worship!



Do you know that saying "team work makes the dream work"? Well, our dream in children and youth ministry is to surround these children in love and nurture in all of our programming. So we need your help to make all the things we have planned for these young people to come to fruition!

**It takes a team!** Teammates to teach Sunday School, host meals, co-lead youth group, lead special events and much more. Serving in these ministries allows you to get a glimpse into their lives, to truly know them and in turn gives you opportunity to share your faith. Bottom line... **servicing on God's team by servicing kids is fun, rewarding and life changing!** Pray about seeing where God is leading you to give of your talents. Is it once a month or maybe once a week to these ministries? Pastor Matt or Britany would be happy to talk with you about a spot on our teams!



**Christian Education Committee recently hosted a few small group interest meetings where lots of ideas, support and even some leaders have developed!**

Based on the feedback from the Christian Education Survey this past spring and these recent meetings we would like to ask you where your interest may lay. Please take a moment and give us your thoughts. When we have our fall kick-off we hope to highlight our existing small group ministries and bring to life new ones. We hope that small group ministry will help meet you where you are in your life with the schedule that you have and offer opportunity to surround yourself with people who will encourage, support, and change you to grow in your relationship with Christ.

**Be in prayer for the Christian Education Committee:** for the planning process, the leaders and facilitators, for future success of groups we already have and to leave room for the Lord to work among it all!



Scan the QR Code or go to [bit.ly/3S0Y1L8](https://bit.ly/3S0Y1L8) to share your interests.

## CLEANING & ORGANIZING DAY IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ORGANIZING CLASSROOMS & SUPPLIES CLOSETS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

DROP IN ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 A.M. TO NOON OR 5:30 TO 7 P.M.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP AND INDICATE WHAT TIME YOU PLAN TO COME

4:30-6:30PM EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11TH



### First Prez Kingdom Youth

For 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders looking for a time of fellowship, friendship, food & fun! Explore what it means to look at the Bible in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as we answer the big question, "How can we apply the Bible to our lives today?"



### First Prez Kingdom Kidz

For ages PreK 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Children will explore music through singing and instruments, along with engaging Bible Stories through crafts and mission projects and enjoy a fellowship meal together.



Parent's information meeting following worship on August 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be addressing the schedule, vision & purpose of Children and Youth ministries. If you can attend this meeting, please register by August 26<sup>th</sup>. Food will be provided!

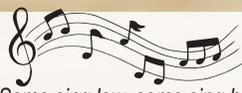


## Fellowship Meal

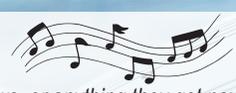
Enjoy food, family & friends on Wednesday Evenings, followed by Adult Education Dr. Garrett 6:30 p.m. "Being Christian In Public"

Nursery provided for young children. Study hall, followed by social time, provided for school age children.

Additional details coming soon!



# "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir!"



*Some sing low, some sing higher. Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their hands or paws, or anything they got now!"*

Wouldn't you love to sing in a choir? You are invited to come join in musical fun and fellowship, either as a returned singer or for the very first time. First Presbyterian Music Ministry needs you to share your God-given musical talents, returning to Him what he has gifted to you in worship as an offering. Musical groups are available with a variety of commitment level and interests. Which of these might work best for you? Please contact Dr. Marcia Mervin today to join in the song!

**The Men of God and Women's Ensembles:** Beginning this fall, these groups will rehearse on Monday afternoon (Women, 5:00 to 5:45 pm) and Tuesday afternoon (Men, 5:00 to 5:45 pm). Singers are kindly asked to attend at least two rehearsals each month. However, rehearsals will be held every week. A musical selection will be presented in both worship services (9 a.m and 11 a.m.) once a month, October through March.

**The Chapel Choir** is for the singer who has no time for rehearsals. This fall, the Chapel Choir will re-convene for the first time post-pandemic to sing an anthem once or perhaps twice a month at the 9 a.m. worship service. This group requires no rehearsal apart from a half hour rehearsal prior to worship on the Sunday morning in which it sings. Music recordings are sent via email prior to the Sunday in which this group sings. The music is more simple in nature so that it can be easily learned with a limited rehearsal time.

**The Celebration Choir** is for those who seek to grow musically. This group is for the dedicated singer, and all new members interested are asked to join us for a "trial period" of three weeks to determine if this group is a good fit. Commitment level is high. This fall there will be TWO rehearsals per week, one on Sunday from 2:30 to 4:00 pm and another on Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. Singers are asked to attend at least one of these rehearsals per week, and if they desire to regain their singing voices post-pandemic they are encouraged to be present at both! Anthems are prepared for each Sunday, as this group leads worship at the 11 a.m. service. This group will also be singing the "Juilate Deo" by Dan Forrest with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra in January 2023.



**The Junior Usher program** gives 3rd through 5th Graders the opportunity to take ownership of being part of the church family. Junior Ushers have responsibilities as greeters and ushers during the time before the 11:00 AM service. Their main goal is to greet all who come to worship, making them feel welcomed! They also pass along Children's Worship Bags to other children.

**Junior Usher Training**  
Sunday, September 18  
at 10 AM.

On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>,  
we will celebrate the

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN *Mission Outreach!*

Sunday, August 14th, we will celebrate the First Presbyterian Mission Outreach! We will hear about all the ways that First Presbyterian is "Serving and Sharing" in our community and in our world during both Worship Services and adult Sunday School.

As part of our Mission Outreach Celebration, Congregational Care will host a Hot Dog Luncheon with all the trimmings after the 11 a.m. Worship Service.



Please register by Wednesday, August 10th.  
Scan the QR Code to register online now!



### ALL FIRST PREZ WOMEN:

Presbyterian Women offers you the opportunity for Christian Fellowship and Bible Study.

**Celebrating Sabbath:** Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight is our study title this year. Using passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke and Acts we will consider the Sabbath:

- as a celebration one day a week
- as God's intent for all of creation and that includes busy women
- as a time to surrender busyness and instead trust that God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives.

**Ultimately Sabbath reminds us to honor God by giving a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.**

Presbyterian Women offers 2 groups that meet once a month (September-May):

- Hannah: 2nd. Thursday at 6:00PM
- Martha: 2nd. Tuesday at 10:00AM

Call Melanie Strickland at 910-484-5905 for further information.

### Children & Youth Ministries

## Back to School Bash

# FAMILY POOL PARTY

August 10th 5-7:30pm

**\$10 PER FAMILY, INCLUDES DINNER!**



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO REGISTER ONLINE!**

### Fayetteville Area OPERATION INASMUCH

—Matthew 25:40



If you would like to help serve breakfast at Operation Inasmuch please contact Labinda Bryan (910) 484-1908 7am on the 4th Monday of each month in August, October and December.

# August Birthdays

- 1 Bella Gutierrez
- 1 Susannah Atkinson
- 2 Alan Ray
- 2 Alex Hammill
- 3 Tad Prewitt
- 3 Brooke Deaton
- 3 Bowen McRainey III
- 4 Shirley Stevens
- 4 Amanda Viverette
- 5 Pamela Chan
- 5 Madison Spivey
- 6 Connor Barnes
- 7 Harvey Oliver Jr.
- 7 Pam Senter
- 7 Chris Foster
- 7 Casey Yates
- 8 Crawford MacKethan Jr.
- 9 Claire Galt
- 9 Lillian Deaton
- 10 Grant Stiles III
- 10 Andy Napoli
- 11 Brad Richter
- 12 David Allred
- 12 Richard Sneed Jr.
- 12 Kyle Bisbee
- 12 Jordan Brown
- 14 Buddy Wilkins
- 15 Al Cromartie II
- 16 Sandra Herndon
- 16 Lauren Holmes
- 16 Donald Wherren
- 16 Sean Kelly
- 17 Matthew Sparzak
- 18 Julia McFadyen
- 19 Jackson McBryde
- 19 William Hathaway
- 20 Mary Beth McCoy
- 20 Terry Plummer
- 20 Austin Taylor
- 20 Matt Thorley
- 21 Roger Holmes
- 21 Chris Aul
- 21 Serriah Ciccone
- 21 Gerald Montero
- 22 Amanda Holmes
- 22 Marilyn Britt
- 22 Mary Kelly Smith
- 23 Terry Sasser
- 24 Steve Horosko III
- 24 Clayton Kaminska Jr.
- 26 Jeanne Harbison
- 27 Art Bisbee
- 27 Lilly MacKethan
- 27 Randa Dunn
- 28 Vicki Kelly
- 28 Bruce Carlton Jr
- 28 Ashley Baltz
- 29 Tyler Blue
- 30 Shannon Strong
- 31 Beverly Stewart
- 31 Dilia Allen



# Memorials

**Jesse Byrd**  
Millie & Jim Keener  
LaMar & Debbie Williams  
Marilyn Britt

**Paul Desessa**  
LaMar & Debbie Williams

**Mary Huffstetler**  
LaMar & Debbie Williams

**Betty Lindsey**  
LaMar & Debbie Williams

**Betty Scarborough**  
A Friend



# Sanctuary Flowers

August & September  
Schedule a Sunday honorarium or memorial  
flower arrangement by contacting  
Debra Chestnutt (910) 818-9006 or  
Debra@Chestnutt.com

# A Warm Welcome to our newest member!



**Briana Lauren Brown**



Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to **serve** Jesus Christ and **share** His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.

## A Look Ahead

- Pool Party, August 10
- Mission Event, August 14
- Stephen Ministry Meeting, August 14
- MOPS Meeting, August 14
- Cross Creek Worship Service, August 17
- David's Mighty Men Meeting, August 22
- Presbyterian Night at the Ballpark, August 26
- Back to School Blessing, August 28
- First Day of Public School, August 29
- COAP Meeting, August 30
- Lafayette Society Concert, September 8
- Rally Day, September 11
- S.A.L.T. Fall Kick Off Dinner, September 19
- S.A.L.T. Southern Supreme Fruitcake Tour, October 18
- S.A.L.T. Cedar Creek Gallery Trip, November 2

## Save the Date!

### FRENCH MUSIC CONCERT

September 8 at 7:00 p.m.

A concert of French Music is being organized to celebrate the birthday of the Marquis de Lafayette (9/6/1757-5/20/1834). The concert will be presented by local area musicians, including Dr. Gail Morfesis, vocalist and Dr. Marcia Mervin on the organ. The concert will feature classical music, the annual "Name that tune" featuring a French song which later became a popular American remake and the French connection which this year features the French support of American Jazz.

This Lafayette Society concert will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with sponsorship from the Arts Council of Fayetteville, NC ArtsCo., American Guild of Organists Fayetteville-Sandhills Chapter, and The First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, NC.

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