

FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



A pastoral message FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

It is the season of pomp and circumstance, transition and change. From kindergarteners to college graduates, robes, diplomas and tassels are making an appearance. It's the often hopeful, occasionally terrifying time when we talk about what comes next.

We are grateful to God for all in our congregation who have achieved important milestones – personal, academic, or professional. They remind us of something that while not always obvious is always true. **We are always in transition. We are all moving on.**

The Christian faith has long seen it as the sometimes mysterious process of becoming like Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul looks at his life and announces what is next:

I want to know Christ – yes to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so somehow to attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Phil. 4:10-11)

But Paul is smart enough to know we don't graduate from the school of Christ-likeness all at once. **We pass through it in stages.** So he offers us a word of realism about how to move on:

Brothers and sisters I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (4:13-14)

Now that is a graduation speech all of us could stand to hear regardless of age or stage of life. **Some things are to be left in the past, forgiven or healed by the grace and mercy of God.** And some things are to be eagerly and courageously sought because God has called us to them. The constant factor as we move on is the presence of God with us. Paul says memorably:

... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

What a wonderful way to understand our many commencements and graduations. Young or old God has taken hold of us and will bring us to the place we are called to be.

That's the true graduation gift, the living presence of Christ with us. I hope no matter what you are heading toward you will take hold of the gift. It's comfort for anxiety about what comes next. It's also the strength to pursue it.

Don't be a stranger in the months ahead. When you are in town come to worship! We need each other's encouragement as we move on.

Sincerely,



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This Year's Stewardship Scripture and Theme

The Stewardship Committee has chosen Romans 12:4-8 for its scriptural anchor this year with the theme of **"Humble Service in the Body of Christ."** We will be broadly focusing on the 3 aspects of stewardship: the giving of our time, talents, and treasure in gratitude for God's grace.

While stewardship is often narrowly perceived as giving of our treasure to support the church and God's work, we are all endowed with spiritual gifts that are gifts of grace. Giving of our time and talents are valuable acts of stewardship.

Romans 12:4-8, (NIV)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.



Carnegie Hall 2017 trip



Carnegie Hall - 'Requiem for the Living' - June 27, 2022

A group of 14 Celebration Choir members and friends will be traveling to New York City on June 24 to sing "Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest under the direction of Dr. Pearl Shangkuan in a mass choir concert sponsored by Manhattan Concert Productions. The concert date is Monday, June 27 at 8 p.m. in Carnegie Hall. This is the third trip to the Carnegie Hall stage for First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, NC. In 2013, a small group of 5 singers sang the Brahms' "Requiem" under the direction of John Rutter. In 2017, 24 singers and friends participated in the New York premiere of "Jubilate Deo" by Dan Forrest under the direction of Henry Leck. Each time, this trip provided an opportunity for those who have never stepped on that stage to experience making music in this beautiful and famous hall. Our first time Carnegie Hall singers this year are: Kimberhly Hopkins, Erin Jackson, Sue Cartee, Jennifer Godman and Tim Lloyd. Sponsorships given by members of our congregation make this trip a reality for some of these singers. Thank you so much for your generosity! For those who may wish to attend the concert and are not traveling with the group, there is a special discount for tickets available.

Contact Dr. Marcia Mervin for more information.

Did You Know . . .

Fayetteville Urban Ministry's Emergency Assistance program houses a food pantry, clothing closet, and a financial assistance service for families and individuals in crisis, all made possible by community partners, like First Presbyterian, who donate non-perishable food items, new & lightly used clothing, hygiene items, household goods, and money. In 2020, they served more than 11,000 people, over 500 homeless, and 632 military-affiliated lives.

The funding that we provide The Fayetteville Family Life Center is used to offer quality faith-based counseling to the individuals, families, and children of Cumberland County. Born out of local faith congregations here in Fayetteville, and still supported by local congregations, the Center is staffed by licensed mental health professionals, who have strong faith backgrounds. The counselors at the Center help neighbors of our community with issues such as depression, spiritual issues, poor school performance, marriage issues, ADHD, grief, divorce, anxiety, anger management, and substance abuse issues.

According to the 2020 Census, a little more than 18% (60,000 people) of the residents of Fayetteville and Cumberland County are living at or below poverty. Many of those people have to rely on our Mission Partners for food, medical care, rental and utility assistance and clothing each month to survive.



CONGRATULATIONS

to the Presbyterian Women

who were honored on Sunday, May 15th

for outstanding service to our church!

Presbyterian Honorary Life Membership Award Honoree, Sarah Peterson Cromartie



The Presbyterian Honorary Life Membership Award is given annually to women in recognition of faithful service in some area of the work of the church. Congratulations to **Sarah Peterson Cromartie** who was honored with the 2022 Award. Sarah has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for over 50 years and is a faithful member of the Martha Circle. She serves as Mission Chair and personally telephones each circle member monthly with circle updates and reminders. Sarah serves as Committee Chair of Community Affairs for the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team. In this leadership role, she interviews charitable organizations in our community and selects those most appropriate for PW Monthly Mission Projects. She works with each organization to determine their needs. She and her husband Alva pick up our donations and deliver to the designated recipient each month. In addition, she serves on the SALT Planning Team. She has previously served on the Diaconate, the Service, Historical, Witness, Nominating and Congregational Care Committees and assisted the Worship Committee with communion preparation.

We are privileged to honor three ladies with the 2022 Presbyterian Women Service Awards.

Angela Lenard joined our church in 2017 and became very involved in the children's ministry at First Presbyterian. She teaches the third through fifth grade Sunday School class where her passion and dedication to Bible literacy are evident. Angela currently serves as a Deacon and serves on the Offertory and Ushering and the Vacation Bible School Committees. She previously served on the Christian Education and Children's Ministry Committees.



Ann Macon McRae joined our church in 2018 and became very involved in Christian service to our church almost immediately. Ann is very active in the Martha Circle and provides leadership for the Newborn Welcome Committee for Presbyterian Women. Ann is currently serving as a Deacon and serves on the Service, Property, and Growing Young Steering Committees. She has previously served on the Food Service, Congregational Care, and Christian Education Committees. In addition, Ann served on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and assisted in Children's Sunday School. Ann is an active member of the Wired Word Sunday School Class.



Catherine (Kitty) Hubbard Petti is a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church. Kitty is very active in the Children's Ministry. She has taught Kindergarten through second grade Sunday School for over 40 years. Her love and enthusiasm for the children is not only evident in Sunday School but in Vacation Bible School. She is affectionately known as the "snack lady" and takes great pride in purchasing and serving snacks to the children at Vacation Bible School each year. Kitty also assisted with various activities during the Wednesday Together Program. Kitty often accompanies children to the worship service for parents who have other responsibilities during the service. In addition, she updates bulletin boards for the children's classrooms.



Presbyterian Women is an organization dedicated to Bible study, prayer, Christian fellowship and service to our church and community. First Presbyterian women provide Bibles for our high school graduates, Biblical storybooks and personalized Baptismal towels for newborns, comfort meals for families after the funeral of a loved one and meals to the Care Clinic. Homebound members are remembered with calls, visits, and cards. Community service projects include donations of needed items for our community mission partners. These partners include Connections of Cumberland County, Better Health of Cumberland, Operation Inasmuch, and Children's Hope Alliance, Fayetteville Urban Ministry, and Operation Blessing. One agency is selected each month for donations. In addition, Presbyterian Women assist with Advent decorations in the Chapel and Sanctuary.

In Loving Memory of members who have passed in 2019 to 2022:

Shirley Holstad, Nancy Thompson Willetts, Oneida Bain, Gayle Williams Martin, Aleda Moeller Peters, JoAnn Davis Ruff, Anne McMorrow Oliver, Nancy McColl Thompson, Hilda Blount Rachels, Susan Mae Hubbard, Emily Lucas Revels, Francis McKay Mintz Hasty, Mary Powers James, Gladys Zelczak, Margaret T. Dunn, Louise K. Rahilly, Dana Holliday Ward, Nina Prescott Godwin, Peggie Anne Williford Faircloth, Betty Cornelia Scarborough, Barbara H. Dobbins

Congratulations

TO OUR GRADUATES!



Cheyenne Campbell



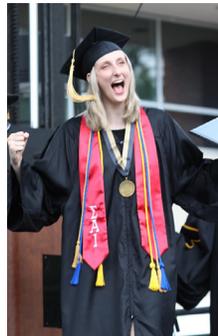
Erin Holmes



Reese Farnham



Callie Elizabeth Davis



Lauren Holmes



Angela Lenard



Maria Reid



*Clayton William
"Will" Deaton 1999*



Christian Barkman



*Miss Paige and Miss Katy's
Kindergarten Transition Academy*



Miss Pat and Miss Kayla's PreK

A shared word from Pastoral Care

by Rev Mitch Watson

Graduation is a high point for families. It is a family landmark of transition. The family home will be forever changed, it is the beginning of a new chapter. May Patterson is a contributing writer to Crosswalk.com and several other publications. May is most proud to be a mom of three children that have transitioned graduations as a family. With some of her insight and my personal shared thoughts about dealing with for this transitional time that has come. There are offers for all family members.

A. OFFERING FOR GRADUATES

1. Changing friendships. Moving on from High School and home means that you are leaving the only social world you have ever known. Yes, one can always keep in touch via social media yet how that is done will change. Dating relationships will come with the realization they are ending or becoming deeper. All these come with real-life emotional loss and gains. It transitions to your life-long friends and one you choose to marry.

2. Change of Freedom (a.k.a no more free ride!) This may seem totally wrong to you. Wait! I am moving out of the house and can do whatever I want, FREEDOM! (I internally shouted this as I drove away to college and cranked up the radio!) I like the first Marvel Spiderman movie's most famous quote that Peter Parker's (a.k.a. Spiderman) Uncle Ben gave: "With power comes great responsibility" Like it or not with adulthood "power", society will look at how you handle responsibility. The key is to keep growing. Do not give up!

3. Parents will be a most dependable resource to count on We will always have our parents' ear when we need dependable advice. At first, I did not call on my parents much. As time went on I found they were always there to offer their thoughts. Their only bias, they loved me.

B. OFFERINGS FOR PARENTS (AND GRANDPARENTS TOO)

1. Letting go. Every parent whose child grows up will face the fact. "A day will come when my child who will always be my child will no longer be one." (quote Rev. M.Watson) Accept this new season of life for your child, the family, and yourself. Grandparents, your time with a grandchild is already limited. It now becomes even more so. Failure to do so will only achieve will only create emotional separation or an adult child who becomes a co-dependent and is lost when you are gone one day. What can you do? That is the next parental point.

2. Be an Encourager. Something that will never change for a parent or grandparent your encouragement will mean far more regardless of how old your child is. Even as an adult they will thrive on your spoken "well done". May Patterson's son Bryant's move to college was 1,000 miles away. She encouraged when she got the sporadic phone conversations, on social media, and via postcards. This impact will never fade if you take it seriously.

C. EVERY FAMILY MEMBER

1. Emotional Boundaries. May Patterson wrote well on this. She wrote about emotional adjusting with her college-bound son: "Bryant's life represents who he is, not who I am. He has the right to choose for himself where and how he will live. He no longer has to answer to me; he has to answer to God. This takes the pressure off of me—which in turn, takes the pressure off of our relationship. Every family member, including a graduate, needs to give space for a redrawing of emotional boundaries. It is a process where friction can occur but even that can be acknowledged as a growth edge for everyone."

2. Cling to God. God designed us all for the seasons of life. He did not design a family to remain in the same season of life. Family and graduates can feel the absence of the empty chair at the family dinner table. (yes graduates and siblings you miss them!) Keep in mind what Psalm 63:8 says: My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me. Acknowledging God's presence helps the family to adapt to the changing seasons of life that graduation brings. God designed family life changes for all to grow from it! It is God who ultimately binds the family together no matter which season of life each person is in! God is the purest binding emotional glue. Cling to Him. He helps the family manage all life's seasonal transitions: births, graduations, marriages, and our loved one's partings well!

God Bless

Pastor Mitch, Director of Pastoral Care

The Officer Nominating Committee requests your assistance in the nominating process for elders and deacons to serve on the Session and Diaconate. Seven persons are needed for the Session Class of 2025.

Ways to submit your nominations:

- complete the form in Sunday's bulletins; place completed forms in the baskets located at the main entrance to the Sanctuary; return completed forms to the church office by June 26;
- call the church office at (910) 483-0121;
- use the following link - <https://bit.ly/FPCOfficerNom>
- or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

Did you know the Church has a birthday? It does!



The Church's birthday is called Pentecost. Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit came to the early believers. The Bible describes it like this:

"When the day of Pentecost has come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like a rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,

and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:1-4). What an exciting day that was! The people heard all the different languages being spoke, they felt the rush of the wind, and they saw a miracle that looked like fire.

Today, we experience the Holy Spirit as God's presence in our lives. Have you ever felt a strong idea about how to love or care for someone else? That's the Holy Spirit. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as a *helper* in the book of John. He says, "The Holy Spirit... will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you" (John 14:26). Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, treat everyone fairly, and look out for those who need assistance. The Holy Spirit helps us do this. I wonder how the Holy Spirit helps you every day?

Here is a simple prayer of gratitude for the gifts of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit:

"Thank you, God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit who is our helper, and a reminder of your presence wherever we go. Please help us to remember the Holy Spirit in the gifts of wind, fire and doves. May we listen to the Holy Spirit's voice in our lives. Amen."



Join us as we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 5th.

Don't forget to wear something red!

This Faith Formation information is brought to you by Traci Smith www.traci-smith.com in partnership with First Presbyterian Church.

MONUMENTAL VBS AT FIRST PREZ VBS NEEDS YOU!



Supplies listed below may be dropped off at the church office or outside of Britany's office. Monetary donations can be made to the church office. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Fruit Snack Gummies
Graham Crackers
Applesauce
Juice Boxes or Pouches
Rice Chex Cereal
Pretzels
Goldfish Crackers
Popcorn
Mini Muffins
Napkins

Chocolate Pudding Cups (60)
Paper Towels
Cups – 3 & 9 oz.
Hand Sanitizer
Small Disposable Plates & Bowls
Ziploc Storage Bags (gallon, quart, and sandwich sizes)

These fresh items need to be dropped off on Sunday morning, June 12:

Carrot Sticks
Apples
Celery
Ranch Dressing
Strawberries
Clementine's or Cuties



Save the date!

Fellowship Dinner & Worship

Wednesday, June 15th

Dinner 5:30pm • Worship 6:45pm

in Fellowship Hall

Specialty Pizzas & the sweetFrog Truck!



Scan the QR code to register online!



CROSS CREEK
Summer Series

You are invited to join us every THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month through the Summer for Cross Creek Worship!

This sermon series is based on the book *Not A Fan* by Kyle Idleman.

June Birthdays

1 Brennan Blue	17 John Rose Jr.
1 Erin Jackson	17 Kate O'Keefe
3 Scott McRae	18 Chloe Galt
4 Gillie Revelle	18 Matthew McMahon
4 Barbara Alexander	18 Elizabeth Hammill
5 Terrence Tedder	19 Miguel Allen
6 Tom McCutchen IV	19 Dianne MacIlwinen
6 Jeremiah Datkuliak	19 Jason Myers
7 Diane Fanning	20 Malachi Jackson
7 Cindy Dewey	22 Patty Murray
8 Levi Dunn	22 Julia Mulvey
9 Seven Pridgen	24 Anna Margaret Boyette
11 John McFadyen	25 Wendy Galt
11 Nichole Russ	25 Kevin Dunning
12 Austin Brown	25 Lisa Atkinson
13 Lauren Duhon	26 Erin Holmes
15 Pat Jones	27 Drew Baker
15 Kitty Petti	27 Connor Spencer
15 Jennie Dwyer	27 Daina Byrd
15 Rodney Baker	28 Jeb Cleveland Jr.
16 Judy Blecker	28 Danielle Struck
16 John McCauley	30 Ann Eller
16 Timothy Datkuliak	

A Look Ahead...

- Missions Committee Meeting, June 6
- Stephen Ministry Meeting, June 12
- VBS, June 13-17
- Cross Creek Service, June 15
- Music Ministry Trip to Carnegie Hall, June 24-28
- David's Mighty Men Meeting, June 27
- Mission Trip to Mexico, June 26 - July 2
- COAP Meeting, June 28
- YouthWorks Mission Trip, July 10-15
- Cross Creek Service, July 20
- Cross Creek Service, August 17

Memorials

Paul DeSessa
Josh & Mary Jon Barkmon
Sharon & John Buroker

Lou Gutheil
Sharon & John Buroker

Jesse Byrd
Cornelia Holmes



Sanctuary Flowers

June & July

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



MEXICO MISSION 2022

June 26-July 2

Attending: Matt Thorley, Jacob Regensburger,
Diane Regensburger, Debra Chestnutt,
Amelia Chan and Flora McRae

We would love to have people match up
with each person going on the trip as a
Prayer Partner. You can write small notes
for the person going on the trip and pray
for them while they are on the trip!