



Church Chatter

April 2019

On Sunday, April 21, 2019, we will celebrate the Resurrection or Easter Sunday. But did you know that Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a *season*. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a “week of weeks”), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord.

Of course, Easter really isn't just a *season* either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11), called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for fifty days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter — as we await its completion in the fullness of Christ's reign.

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 117)

For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we acclaim the resurrection of Christ by the power of God. The period of seven weeks of jubilation can be traced back to its Jewish roots of the fifty days celebrated from the day after Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Exodus 23:16). For Jews, the Feast of Weeks closed the season of harvest, which had been initiated by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In a similar manner, early Christians observed a fifty-day period of celebration from Easter to the Day of Pentecost. To underscore the uninterrupted rejoicing of these fifty days, fasting and kneeling in prayer were forbidden at least as early as the end of the second century. On the *pentecoste* (“fiftieth”) day, not only was the fifty-day period concluded, but a festival with its own proper content was celebrated. The Jews observed a feast of covenant renewal and eventually commemorated the giving of the Law. Christians celebrated the gift of the Spirit as preparing the way for the day of the Lord.

The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church.

I pray that you and your family will experience this joy in all its fullness.

Blessings and Peace. Pastor Olive

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/season-easter>)



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the 4 special offerings supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA). During Lent, we intentionally focus on aligning our lives with God's calling for us. This special offering provides an opportunity to become, as Isaiah proclaims, repairers of the breach. Presbyterians have joined together for 70 years in this effort to share God's love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry, and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. There are 3 programs within One Great Hour of Sharing:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which receives 36% of the gifts
- The Presbyterian Hunger Program, which receives 32%
- And Self-Development of People, which also receives 32%

All of these work in different ways ranging from initial disaster response to ongoing community development. Over the next few weeks we will hear more about the impact this offering has had, and will continue to have, on those who rely on these life sustaining gifts.

If we all do a little, it adds up a lot. Please join with Presbyterians worldwide in answering God's call – to open our hearts and share what we have with those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is our direct response to the ways in which God has called us to share.

The Church officially receives this offering on Easter Sunday. Please be in prayer for ways God can use each of us through One Great Hour of Sharing, to enable us to bear witness to the presence of Christ in the midst of chaos and give generously.



Journey of The Backpack

The “Journey of the Backpack” begins with you. When you are asked to bake cookies, brownies, buy soft drinks, or bottled water, the stage is set for the next step. These items are brought to the church and sold at the concession stand during each performance of the Front Porch Players. The emcee of each play explains how the concession funds are used to buy food for the Backpack Ministry.

Next, volunteers work the concession during the plays. The items are sold for \$1.00 each and donations are always welcome. After each production, the money is counted and deposited in the bank. It is recorded as a “designated fund” known as Backpack Ministry.

Next, the money is used to purchase food items. Food is then picked up at Food Depot (aka All American Quality Food Corp.) in Lovejoy, where the church has a billable account. We get 10% off the total price rather than added on.

Next, the food is unloaded and placed on the shelves in our kitchen. An inventory is taken to make sure there is enough for each week. On Tuesday of each week, the food is organized and covers 4 meals (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches/dinners and 2 snacks). Items may vary from 6 to 7 each week.

Next, every Wednesday before choir practice, the items are bagged and placed in tubs. Kristen and Bill Rhinehart arrive at church, roll the cart down the hall, load their trunk, and drop off the tubs at Suder Elementary. (Betty Bush, who volunteers at Suder on Tuesdays, sees that the tubs are returned to the church.)

Next, the tubs are placed in a private room. The school social worker then takes the plastic bags with food from the tubs and distributes the bags on an individual basis to each needy child. The food bags are placed in the child’s backpack. This guarantees the children have food for the weekend. Currently we serve 60 children.

So, now you know the journey. It all started with you! We look forward to your continued support.

Thank you from the Outreach Committee!



Save the Date for The Front Porch Players

You Can't Take It with You
Directed by Elton Todd & Danny Cook
May 3, 4, 5 & 10, 11, 12

" Sweet-natured Alice Sycamore falls for banker's son Tony Kirby. But when she invites her snooty prospective in-laws to dinner to give their blessing to the marriage, Alice's peculiar extended family--including philosophical grandfather Martin Vanderhof, hapless fledgling ballerina sister Essie, and fireworks enthusiast father, Paul--might be too eccentric for the staid Kirbys."

Tickets

Reserved Seating: Adults - \$15 Seniors - \$12 Children - \$12
General Admission: Adults - \$12 Seniors - \$10 Children - \$10
Season Passes: Adults - \$52 Seniors - \$42 Children - \$42
Group rates available; call 770-897-1404

Show Times

Fridays/Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. & Sundays: 2:30 p.m.

Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter @frontporchplyrs
Call us at 770-897-1404
E-mail: thefrontporchplayers2@gmail.com

Quotable Quotes (Taken from *Presbyterian Today* Magazine March/April 2019)

One of the hardest things to communicate in a church setting is not to put pressure on people to join. Be open and welcoming, and let visitors know how glad you are they are visiting. But give them time and space to evaluate your church and if it is right for them. They might be better off at another church. Or they may be coming from a difficult experience somewhere else that they don't need to relive.

The best church members are the ones who join for the right reasons. It's a fine line to draw, but it reminds us that our focus is on what people need spiritually and what the larger community needs, not what we want to accomplish institutionally.

The Rev. Jim Moss

Cane Presbyterian Church, Summerville, SC

Newly Baptized Member at FPCJ

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered to Levi Hard-en Porter during our Sunday morning worship. Levi is the son of Solomon and Jordan Porter and the great-grandson of John and Suzanne Anzalone. During the sacrament, Dr. Mahabir reminded worshippers that in Baptism we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and grafted into Christ.

It was a wonderful celebration of faith that was witnessed by over 45 church members, and approximately 30 members of the Porter and Anzalone families.

We give God thanks for the Porter family and pray that God continues to bless them.



Levi, Jordan and Solomon
Porter



Dedication of *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*

On Sunday March 31, 2019 , First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro dedicated their new *Glory to God Hymnals. The Presbyterian Hymnal* (now referred to as the 'old hymnal'), was published in 1990 and enhanced the Presbyterian worship experience for more than two decades. But in 2004, the General Assembly of the PCUSA gave authorization to the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to research the feasibility of a new hymnal together with the PCUSA's Office of Theology and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. In 2012, a collection of hymns was presented to the General Assembly and it was commended for use in the Church.

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal represents a diversity of authors, composers, and sources. It is worth noting that there are 27 listings under "African American spiritual" and 24 hymns listed after the name of noted Taizé composer, Jacques Berthier. The Genevan Psalter, Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), and Brian Wren (b. 1936) each garner 11 entries. J.S Bach and Marty Haugen (b. 1950) each have 13 entries, just barely topped by Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, and David Gambrell (b. 1972) who each have 14.

Top honors, however, fall to Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953), the chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song that created this hymnal (20 entries), British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (22 entries), and American composer Alfred Fedak (b. 1953), who provided 25 harmonizations and hymn accompaniments, including the much-beloved, much-maligned choice "Here I Am, Lord" (#69).

Switching to the Topical Index, the category of "Justice" (which had only nine hymns in the old hymnal) contains 28 selections. There is also a section of the hymnal identified as "Justice and Reconciliation" that holds another 25 hymns. That's almost a six-fold improvement over the previous hymnal. Glancing over these works, well-known contemporary authors like Shirley Erena Murray, Fred Kaan, and Erik Routley lift up important themes related to social justice.

The well-known hymn setting of Micah 6:8, "Come, Live in the Light" (#749), finally makes its way inside a Presbyterian hymnal, as does a lovely hymn called "Goodness is Stronger than Evil" (#750) with text by Bishop Desmond Tutu.

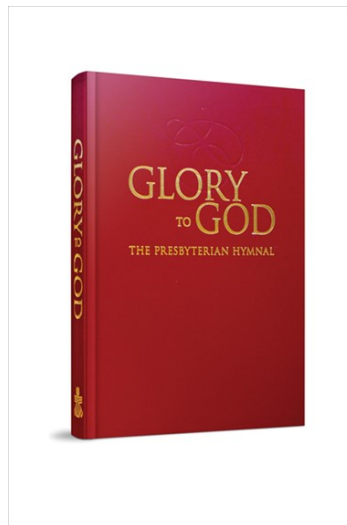
(Continued page 7.)

Dedication of *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*

Another important justice topic is how well our church liturgy reflects the changing configurations present in families, especially in same-gender households. Under the explicit category of “Family,” there are six hymns listed that show some sensitivity to this theme. For example, the second verse of David Mowbray’s “Bless All Who Trust in God” (#47) offers this prayer: “Let families be strong and sparkle bright as wine; let partners and let children thrive and flourish like the vine.”

Similarly, among the ten hymns listed under the category of “Wedding,” there is a 1998 hymn called “Unseen God, Your Hand Has Guided” (#685). In this day of marriage equality, here is a wedding song that is not limited by language of male and female, of husband and wife: “Unseen God, your hand has guided these two lives on separate ways till they heard your call to travel hand in hand through all their days.”

For the past four years, our Music Director Blake Hardy, has gradually introduced us to hymns in the *Glory to God Hymnal* and this has been a wonderful and joyous experience. For the past year however, hymns from the *Glory to God* outnumbered the old hymnal at Sunday worship services. Instead of continuing to print these in our bulletin, the decision was made after prayerful consideration to purchase these new hymnals.



If you would like to donate toward the hymnals, please complete the form inserted in the Sunday bulletin and include your donation of \$20 by April 14. Or, you may mail your check to the Church. Hymnals can be purchased in ‘honor of’ or in ‘memory of’ a loved one.

(See pictures of the dedication on page 8.)

Dedication of *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*



Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir leads the congregation in the prayer of dedication for the new *Glory to God Hymnals*.

Members of the congregation hold the new hymnals during the prayer of dedication.





April

4/01 - Jackson Hudalla
 4/04 - Nancy Parkhouse
 4/05 - Stan May
 4/11 - Blake Hardy
 4/21 - Alex Westervelt
 4/24 - Gwen Taylor
 4/26 - Katie White



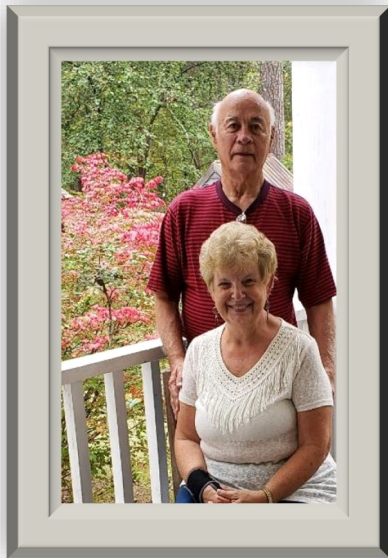
April

4/21 - Elaine & Ronnie Piper
 4/21 - Laura & Mike Wigington
 4/24 - Susan & Raymond Baggarly

Mission Trip 2019

"Time to get off the mountain: to leave and make a difference." Pastor Olive, March 3, 2019.

That opportunity for members of the church will be June 2-8, 2019 in Columbia, SC. We will be staying in the Eastminster Presbyterian Church and working with SBP. This will be the first time we have stayed at the Eastminster Church but is our second time working with SBP. SBP is a highly organized and well-equipped group. If you would like to go and make a difference (and have a good time) see Alan Bergmann for details.



You are invited to the Wedding Ceremony
for Melissa Ham and Walter Harryman
Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 2 pm at FPCJ.
Reception to follow in the FLC.



Please Join Us.



Sunday, April 7th

Lenten Choir Cantata 10:30 AM

Sunday, April 14th

Palm Sunday Service of Passion 10:30 AM

Thursday, April 18th

Maundy Thursday/ Last Supper & Tenebrae 7 PM

Sunday, April 21st

Easter Sunday/ Service of the Resurrection
Sacrament of Holy Communion 10:30 AM

A pot luck meal will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 6 pm in the FLC. Please bring enough to share with others (casseroles, salads, meats). This will precede our service at 7 pm.

There will be a breakfast Easter Sunday, April 21st at 9:00 am in the FLC. All are invited, If you wish to make a donation it will go toward the mission trip in June. See Jane or Carol Abdo if you have a question. Invite a friend, all are welcome.

The Presbyterian Women's' Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Eloise Belle Isle's home and will be followed by an outing for lunch. The Evening Circle will meet Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Both Circles are studying from *2018/2019 Horizons Bible Study* – Morning Circle is on Lesson 4, "*God with Us When We Seek God*" and Evening Circle is on Lesson 5, "*God with Us When We're Powerless*," so please try to read the lesson before the meeting.

Presbyterian Women will be providing the wedding reception for Walter Harryman and Melissa Ham and will begin setting up the FLC on Friday, April 12, 2019 at 9:00 AM. Please join us if you are able.



Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express the love and comfort that I felt from the cards, texts, phone calls, and your presence at the visitation and funeral during the recent passing of my brother. It is overwhelming to know that your love and caring are always here to help carry each of us onward during difficult times in our lives. I could not be more blessed. I love you all dearly.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Traci White and family

April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Breakfast Club 9 am Chick Fil A Choir 7 pm	4	5	6
7 Choir Cantata 10:30 am	8 PM and PW 6:30 pm	9 PW Morning Circle 10 am Eloise Belle- Isle Home	10 Choir 7 pm	11	12	13 Ham Wedding 2 pm 
14 Palm Sunday Book Study After worship	15	16	17 Choir 7 pm	18 Maundy Thurs- day Meal 6pm Service 7 pm	19 Good Friday	20 Great Virgil of Easter
21 Easter Sunday  Holy Communion	22	23	24 Choir 7 pm	25 Book Club 5:30 pm Office	26	27
28	29	30				

Church Member

Sue Alford
Raymond and Susan Baggarly
Eloise Belle Isle
Betty Bush
Faye Callina
Carolyn Fox DuPree
Mike and Ronda Fox
Carol Francis
Brienne and Kevin Graham
Mike and Julie Hancock
David Harland
Carol Hatfield
Julie Hester
Mary Huie-Jolly
Jane and Billy Luetkemeyer
Stan and Mona May

Ronnie and Elaine Piper
Bill and Barbara Rhinehart
Keith and Jennifer Taylor

Walt and Gwen Taylor

Brian and Deanie Turner
Laura and Mike Wigington
James and Traci White
Ruby White
Pat Wood
Debbie Woodard

Extended Prayer ListPray For:

Richard Baldwin, Paul Brueckner
Rodney Mitchell, Kim Farmer
Stacey Luedtke, Simone Luedtke, Colton Jones
Marilyn Vaughan
Pat Goggin
Randy Bradley
Stephen Mitchell, Nikki Holcomb,
Francine Walker
Libby Graham
Pat Hunt-Nelson, Henry Hancock, Donna Pratt, Kenny Edmondson
Jen Adorno, Pat Melarango
Ryan Patterson
Lauren Parker
Lucie Huie
Kent Alvis
Karen Pearce, Tony May, Damon Wallace, Ferri Blackmon
Greta Weyant, Paul Carrington-May
Luke Gilman, Linda Harris, Nichole Bryson, Chloe Piper
Rocky Boulware
Bruce Andrews, Cheryl Denny, Roger Moore,
Scott Betsil, Lauren Hutchinson, Barbara Lacey, Barry Smith,
Sandy Hawkins
Dewey Ellenburg, Betty Lovon, Sarah Corley, Charles Kelley,
Mike Pickett, Nancy Hendrix, Laura Etheridge, May Etheridge,
Robert Kelley
Parker Johnson, Glenn Adams
John and Carol Abbott
Brenda Henson and Family
Dorothy Kobus, Chris Lizama
Randy Clokey, Bob and Charlotte Roach
Sandra Ellard, Howard Marsh, Rebecca Browning

Military Prayer List

Jason Ali-Talha, John Ham, Philip Ham, Josh Hamby, Chris Harvill, Daniel Hudalla, Kyle Hudalla, Austin Kobus, Logan May, Paul Weathers.

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

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Committee Chairpersons

Administration	Julie Hancock
Building & Grounds	Laura Wigington
Christian Education	Carol Abdo
Congregational Care	Jane Luetkemeyer
Outreach	Melissa Ham
Stewardship & Finance	Brian Turner
Endowment	Keith Parkhouse
Worship	Debbie Woodward
Treasurer	James White

Cyndi Smith — Clerk

SESSION

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir
Moderator
Carol Abdo
Julie Hancock
Jane Luetkemeyer
Brian Turner
Laura Wigington
Debbie Woodward

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir
pastorfpcj@gmail.com

Music Director/Organist

Blakely Hardy
BlakelyHardy@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Toni Wilkerson
secretaryfpcj@gmail.com

At First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,
we believe Jesus calls us to **love** *wholly*, **connect** *fully*, and **serve**
abundantly each and every day; spreading the Good News of God's
redeeming love by act, word, and deed.