



Pastor Burnetta Armour

Pastor's Ponderings

Sometimes it's hard to listen to your voice

I love preaching. It is one of my favorite parts of my calling. I love the research that goes into a sermon, the listening for the urging of the Spirit, and the times when the words seem to flow from my heart to the page. Yet, it is not a task without its challenges.

In our Reformed tradition, preaching is God's word spoken over us, to us, and through us. It is God's word for you, the listener, and me, the preacher. It is easy for me to proclaim the good news to you, my beloved and the beloved of God. It's harder for me to hear it when I speak it. The problem is that sometimes I have a hard time listening to my voice.

This past week, May 13-16, I attended the Festival of Homiletics in Pittsburgh. In all honesty, I didn't know what I expected to get out of the festival. I knew that I was going to have a great time hanging out with my best friend from seminary, Rev. Karin Wright, but what I didn't know was how much I needed to hear the word preached over me and to me, so I might be renewed to have it preached through me.

I had the privilege of hearing some of the best preachers in the country who through sermons and lectures challenged, affirmed, and renewed me:

- ◆ Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis reminded me that a little faith is enough, even for pastors.
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim reminded me to see that which is of God in everyone.
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lewis reminded me that I am a bearer of living water to those who need it most.

There are so many other lessons I could share, but the biggest lesson I learned wasn't preached, it was inferred. It was this: the power of preaching and the need for it comes from our inability to hear our voice and our need to hear the voice of God spoken in another accent.

We need to take time to listen for God to speak to us — in our hearts, in our minds, and through our voices. Yet, if we are honest, it is so much easier to speak words of comfort to another than it is

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The VIEW

"We VIEW life through the cross"

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Pastor's Ponderings

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to hear those words spoken to us by God. The power of preaching is that we have the opportunity to hear and have affirmed over us God's word of hope. We have the opportunity to hear the good news we give to others spoken to us. We have the opportunity to have what we thought we knew challenged and a new Word placed in our hearts.

This is why we need each other in this life of Christian faith. On our own, we have trouble hearing our voice; we have trouble hearing God's voice speaking to us. We need preaching to open our ears to hear what God is speaking — over the din of the multitude of voices that vie for our attention; over our voice that tells us that God's truth is true for others, but not me; and over the worries that we carry into the sanctuary. We need each other to help us hear God's Word when it comes, to discern God's path for us and our congregation, and to enjoy the beauty of God's creation in the world outside our doors and in one another.

Do I believe that everything I say from the pulpit is the correct Word of God? No, I'm human. I get my signals mixed up. I mess it up. Yet, I do believe that God works even through the worst of sermons and the most fallible of pastors to bring a nugget of his truth to his people. It's not me. It's God.

You, too, are called to be preachers of the good news. You, too, are bearers of living water that this thirsty world needs. So, come hear the Word spoken over and to you that it might be spoken through you. This is my prayer for you and me. Amen.

*Peace and Love in Christ
Pastor Burnett*



This summer I accepted the challenge of preaching through the book of Ephesians. I want to encourage you to read through the book as part of your personal Bible study this summer. Below, you have both the scripture readings for the sermon (as well as the sermon title) and the scripture reading for your home study of Ephesians during the month of June.

Date	Scripture for Home Study	Scripture for the Sermon and Sermon Title
June 2	Ephesians 1:1-14	Ephesians 1:3-14 "Living for the Praise of His Glory"
June 9	Ephesians 1:15-30	Ephesians 1:15-23 "With Enlightened Hearts"
June 16	Ephesians 2:1-10	Ephesians 2:1-10 "The Gift of Faith"
June 24	Ephesians 2:11-22	Ephesians 2:11-22 "No Longer Strangers"
June 30	Reflect on the passages from Ephesians for this month. Re-read your favorite. Ask yourself the following questions: What passage challenged me or touched my heart? What was God's word to me in that passage?	



The next **Family Night Supper** will include Barbecue and Bingo!

Plan to attend on **Wednesday, June 19**, at 5:30 p.m. Please respond on the signup sheet in the Upper Narthex.

Our hill will be alive with the sounds of music

Nancy Webber

The FPC and the community at large will have the opportunity to enjoy classical music at two concerts to be held at the church in June. Both are free of charge and open to the public.

Adult Harp Ensemble

A dozen harpists will play at FPC on Friday, June 14, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The group will be capping off a week at the Adult Harp Retreat at Smithgall Woods. The annual retreat is attended by harpists who have learned the instrument as adults. They spend the week honing various skills and techniques with two professional harp instructors. The instructors this year are Ellen Foster and Dr. Molly O’Roark.

Foster serves as second harpist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Atlanta Opera, the Atlanta Boys Choir, and other orchestras throughout the United States. She is a graduate of Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., and holds a graduate certificate from Yale University.

O’Roark also attended Eastman School of Music and holds master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. She serves as director of the Urban Youth Harp Program, a nonprofit organization that offers free harp instruction to students in the Atlanta Public School System.

The concert will feature professional violinist Heather Strachan, who will play a piece with the harpists. She holds a degree in Music Performance from Ohio State University and teaches violin in North Georgia.

A reception will follow the concert.

Georgia Musicales Group

The Georgia Musicales Group (GMG) returns to FPC on Sunday, June 30, for an afternoon of classical music. The concert will begin at 1 p.m. after the Fifth Sunday potluck lunch and will be followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

The group last performed at FPC in Decem-



The harpists gave us a wonderful concert last June.

ber 2023. Those who braved the bad weather enjoyed the selection of vocal and instrumental pieces presented by the group’s talented members.

GMG was incorporated in 2016 as a non-profit organization. In the last several years, the group has experienced rapid growth with more than one hundred performers including pianists, various instrumentalists, and vocalists.

In addition to professional musicians, GMG members come from diverse backgrounds, such as scientists, medical doctors, lawyers, and teachers. Many of them were involved in music when they were younger but had to stop due to their careers. Their love of music remained, however, and GMG is a vehicle that allows them to pursue this love again.

This summer, in addition to FPC, GMG will hold concerts at the University of North Georgia and at St. Brigid Catholic Church in John’s Creek, Ga.



Older adults and the reality of change

Nancy Webber

Three of us were having lunch after the worship service on May 5, also known as Older Adults Sunday. With two of us in our 70s and one in our 80s, we definitely fit into the “65+” demographic. Our conversation turned to Pastor B’s sermon – specifically, to her observation that older people are better at accepting change.

“I don’t agree with that,” one of my lunch companions stated. “Older people hate change. They complain about it all the time.”

I could see her point. Older people can feel nostalgic about the past. When you’re over 65, it suddenly dawns on you that there are more years behind you than in front of you. Your body starts betraying you. Long-term planning becomes irrelevant. It is tempting to wish for a time when you were younger, healthier, and still optimistic about the future.

That temptation may be why older people often are characterized as clinging to the “good

old days” and hating change. This is an emotional response, of course. Intellectually, we know that change is inevitable, no matter how much we hate it and resist it.

But Pastor B also had a point. An older adult can see the “big picture” of their life and the world in general. It’s an advantage to have some perspective. For example, I don’t think I’d recognize the person I was when my first child was born 47.5 years ago. I was so clueless! And who was that highly stressed individual trying to meet everyone’s expectations in the early 2000s? I’ve changed since then, thank God. And I will keep on changing.

What do you think? Are we older folk more likely to be afraid of or angry about change? Or are we in the best position to see change as part of life and accept it as such?

If you’d like, share your thoughts in an email to fpccommunications@gmail.com so we can publish them in a future issue of *The View*.



Youth ... Our Future

Lily Geiger selected
for summer internship

Lily Geiger has just completed her freshman year at Davidson College and has been selected to participate in a summer internship sponsored by the college. She shared this information about her new adventure:

“I will be spending ten weeks in Charlotte, N.C., interning with a nonprofit called Roof Above. Roof Above works to provide care and assistance to homeless people in the greater Charlotte area. I will be working at their day services center in Uptown, helping neighbors with their daily needs like food, laundry, mail, etc.

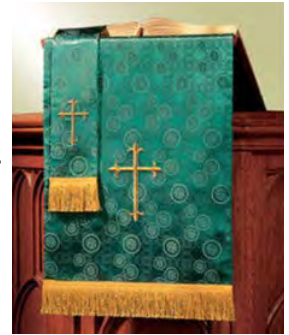
and also listening to their stories and getting to know them better.

“During my internship, I will also be working with pastors and chaplains both from Davidson and Charlotte to learn more about pastoral care amidst homelessness, and get a ‘crash course’ in chaplaincy, nonprofit work, and social work/advocacy. This internship is run through the Chaplain’s Office at Davidson and is a part of my discerning where God is calling me.

“Of course, all of these things are just as exciting as they are challenging, so prayers from my church family will be greatly appreciated.”



‘Ordinary Time’ is extra-ordinary



As of May 26, we entered a period of “Ordinary Time” on the church calendar. The following thoughts on Ordinary Time were shared by **Kathleen Long Bostrom**, a retired PC(USA) minister, in the July 3, 2020, issue of *Presbyterians Today*.

Ordinary Time comprises all the days not marked by a specific season in the church calendar. The longest period of Ordinary Time stretches on for 27 to 29 Sundays (not counting the Sundays of the Transfiguration, All Saints, and the Trinity), between Easter and Advent.

The name “Ordinary Time” does not mean ordinary as we use the word. It comes from the word ordinal, an adjective denoting a numerical position of an object. It’s “first, second, third,” instead of “one, two, three.” Originally, all the Sundays that weren’t contained in the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons were indicated by ordinal numbers, hence the designation. Ordinary Time is basically “counted time.”

Yet there is something about the word “ordinary” that fits. Not in the sense of boring or dull but as an “in-between” season, a time to breathe after the culmination of the celebratory days. Just as most of our days are lived between the big events, so the church year is

filled with more ordinary days than holidays. The holy days are the mountaintops, whereas Ordinary Time is the slopes, valleys, and flatlands. All are beautiful — and necessary.

The Scripture passages assigned to Ordinary Time set the tone. They focus on the day-to-day life of Jesus. We read what it means from a practical standpoint to follow Jesus and the social and practical implications of doing so. Scripture and sermons focus on building a community of believers, people who would be Jesus’ wounded hands, aching feet, awkward elbows, and soothing voice. Jesus told stories and broke bread with a few folks at a time, not always the boisterous crowds. He listened carefully and hung out with the no-names. He fell asleep in a boat during a storm. The ordinary abides in the extraordinary, and vice versa.

Ordinary Time is a time for us to discover that in Christ, our lives are filled with grace, forgiveness, and hope. We live as people of faith, “new creations in Christ,” not just on Christmas and Easter, but also during the times in between where most of life takes place.



As the last two outings of the Lunch Bunch were not well attended, the group is taking some time off during the summer. We hope to resume our social gatherings in the fall.

The purpose of the “bunch” is to meet at one of our local eateries for good food and conversation. Anyone who has a suggestion about good places to meet or has ideas for the group is encouraged to contact Rachel Romfo at 770-906-0266 or rachelromfo@yahoo.com.



Presbyterian Men

Bruce Morgan

The Presbyterian Men have accepted Hugh Walter's gracious invitation to visit Lake Hartwell for lunch and an outing on the lake on Thursday, June 20. This will be in lieu of our regular monthly get-together. There will be a signup sheet so we can plan for sub sandwiches and arrange for car pools. Save that date and thank you, Hugh!



Judy Winski

Knit & Stitch/Farmers Market

Knit & Stitch will not meet again on a weekly basis until September. Our next meeting is May 29 and we will be at the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 1.

Lunch 'n Lavender

On Tuesday, June 11, PW will be enjoying a day out with "Lunch 'n Lavender." All FPC women are invited to join us. Sign up in the Upper Narthex. We will meet at the church at 11 a.m. and carpool to Hofbräuhaus in Helen for lunch. From there we will travel the short distance to Lavender Lamb Farm. The cost for the farm tour and picking lavender is \$15 cash. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Motorized transportation to the field will be available.



Lindalee's Article

A copy of the article by Lindalee Walters that was published in *Horizons*, the PW magazine, is available in the Upper Narthex.



Belk Charity Coupon Days

We will be selling charity coupons at the Cornelia Belk on Friday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Coupons are \$5 and you receive \$5 plus an additional 25% off your purchases. Coupons can be purchased in advance from Lindalee Walters or Judy Winski. You can shop the weekend before the sale and Belk will hold your items until you pick them up during the sale. Shop early and get the best selection.

Receptions for Musical Events

We will be hosting receptions for two musical

events at FPC on Friday, June 14, in the evening, and on Sunday, June 30, in the afternoon. (See page 3.) Please help by signing up to bring cookies or to help host a reception.

Save the Date

Saturday, Aug. 3, is the date for our annual PW Thanks Y'all BBQ. It's a good time to invite friends or neighbors to enjoy FPC hospitality.



SAVE THE DATE!

Crafts & Car show

**Saturday
October 12, 2024
10 am to 3 pm**
(Crafters set up beginning at 8:30 am)

First Presbyterian Church
The Church on the Hill
147 N. Main Street / Cleveland, GA 30528
706-865-6499

<p>Craft Sale Indoors <i>Rain or Shine</i> Holiday Shopping Handcrafted Items Plants Wood Crafts Gift Baskets* \$25 per table space* Bring your own table LIMITED SPACE First come, first served. All sales belong to Seller.</p>	<p>Car Show Lower Level Parking Area Classic, Vintage, and other vehicles Display your vehicle or come and enjoy Gift Baskets* \$20/vehicle* pre-registration or day of show FOOD FAMILY FUN MUSIC</p>
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*Table space rental and registration proceeds to benefit LOCAL MISSIONS.

Contact the church office at 706-865-6499 or email at info@fpcclleveland.org for registration form



Cara Jackson

We have been celebrating the last month of school by talking about summer activities and hosting a

Mother's Day Tea for our wonderful and amazing mothers! Ms. Chloe and her little girl, Evie, came back to visit.

We have six preschoolers who graduated on Thursday, May 23. We will dearly miss our kiddos that are soaring to kindergarten!

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2024-2025 school year.



Two smiling ladies



If you go to Laurel Lodge, you will probably see Gemma Hines, daughter of Rev. Bill Hines, serving as an unofficial greeter. You can usually see her sitting in the main area and always with a big smile on her face.

Another friendly face belongs to Joyce Naivar, who loves to smile. She is no longer able to attend services at FPC and misses singing in the choir and helping with the flowers.

Welcome back!




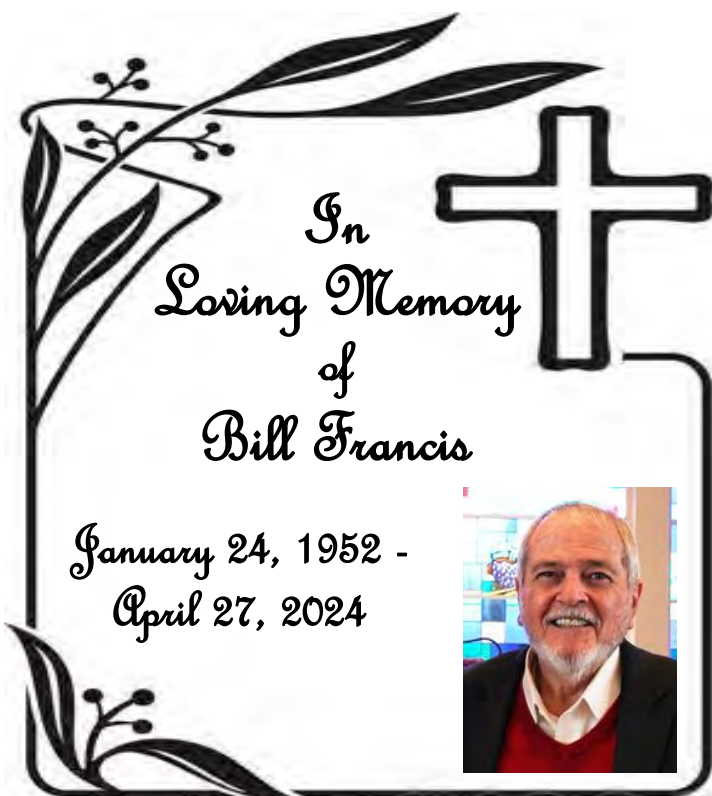
Jim Hiers' winsome smile was on full display on May 11, when he and his son, Bo, attended the Celebration of Life for Bill Francis.

Jim is enjoying his new life in the Renaissance on Peachtree senior living facility in Atlanta. Always an avid reader, he now enjoys audio books and continues to keep his mind active.

It was wonderful seeing them both again.

In
Loving Memory
of
Bill Francis

January 24, 1952 -
April 27, 2024

JUNE Birthdays

- KASEY ARVOLD
- PHIL BAUGHMAN
- MIL CLYBURN
- VIVECA COOPER
- VIRGINIA CRAWFORD
- GREYSON EKDAHL-MCBRIDE
- BETH EVERLING
- ELIN FRANCIS
- JEAN KELLY
- LINDA LESLIE
- CHRISTIE WALL
- JOSALYNNE WILEY



If we missed your birthday, let us know.



Ushers and Greeters for JUNE

JUNE 2Mary Ann and Mil Clyburn
 JUNE 9Becky Clark
 JUNE 16Penny Murdoch
 JUNE 23 Roy Ficklin
 JUNE 30Penny Murdoch

Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Liturgists for JUNE

JUNE 2 James Geiger
 JUNE 9 Nancy Webber
 JUNE 16 Rachel Ficklin
 JUNE 23 Bernice Rogers
 JUNE 30 Roy Ficklin

Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Elaine Wiegert

Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Coffee and Conversation. During June we will be discussing texts from Mark. The topics for discussion in June will be:

JUNE 2:
 Mark 2:23-3:6 *Doing Sabbath*

JUNE 9:
 Mark 3:20-35 *Confronting Satan*

JUNE 16:
 Mark 4:26-34 *The Parable of Growing Seeds*

JUNE 23:
 Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus Calms the Storm*

JUNE 30:
 Mark 5:21-43 *Restored to Life*



Discipleship

Elaine Wiegert

Wednesday Book Club

On Wednesday, June 5, we will begin a six-week study of the novel *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold* by C.S. Lewis. It retells the myth of Psyche and Cupid from the perspective of Orual, Psyche's sister. We will meet at noon. Bring your lunch and join us.



(Loose) Change Sunday

On Sunday, June 30, we will celebrate our first Change Sunday. If you have loose change lying around or weighing down your wallet, bring it to church on June 30. Bills and checks are also acceptable! The donations will benefit the Joyful Sewing School in Kenya. To learn more about this outreach, check out the display at the sewing machine in the Upper Narthex.



Session Summary

Bruce Morgan

At its meeting on May 26, your Session:

- Heard a report concerning the preservation of the Mauney House with action tabled until more information can be obtained;
- Approved the April Financial Report;
- Heard from those who attended the Presbytery meeting in May;
- Allocated a portion of the Jan Christie Williams Memorial Fund;
- Transferred the membership of Jean Kelly to her new church in Arkansas;
- Heard plans from the Membership Team about improving visitors' packets; and
- Prayed for needs in the church family and set the next meeting for June 23.

From God's Garden

Thank you to those who have contributed flowers and displayed them, brightening the sanctuary for our Sunday worship services. If you'd like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please sign up in the Upper Narthex. A special thanks to Polly Woods for volunteering to be Flower Coordinator.



These beautiful flowers on April 28, were from the Celebration of Life of Jan Christie Williams.



The flowers on May 19, Pentecost Sunday, were donated by Elaine Wiegert, to the Glory of God.



These roses were given so each woman could take one in celebration of Mother's Day, May 12.



These flowers on May 11, were from the Celebration of Life for Bill Francis.



Memorial crosses line the major streets in Cleveland in honor of deceased veterans. Among them are memorials for Lindalee Walters' brother, Phillip Richardson, and Judy Winski's husband, Ron.

The crosses are a project of the Masons Yonah Lodge 382. They will remain in place until July 5.





SUNDAYS

Coffee & Conversation 10 am
Worship Service 11 am

(In the sanctuary and on Facebook)

Hospitality Hour after worship the first Sunday of the month
Valet Parking available Sunday mornings starting at 10:45 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	3	4	5 BOOK CLUB Noon, Fellowship Hall PW CT Meeting 2 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	6 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	7	8 Antipoverty Workshop Covenant PC
9 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	10	11 <i>Lunch n Lavender</i> PW Day Trip	12 BOOK CLUB Noon, Fellowship Hall Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	13 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	14 Harp Concert 7 p.m.	15
16 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	17	18	19 BOOK CLUB Noon, Fellowship Hall BBQ & Bingo 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	20 PM Day Trip Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	21	22
23 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	24	25	26 BOOK CLUB Noon, Fellowship Hall Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	27 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	28	29
30 C&C, 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online Potluck Lunch, noon Musical Concert 1 pm						

THE VIEW

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