A welcoming, worshipping, transforming, and serving community of faith.

Catherine Parker and sister Margaret assist with refreshments in the Welcome Center.
RULING ELDERS
Veronica Allen
Chris Baker
Patti Bates
Allison Bryan
Steve Buckley
Kent Byrd
Chan Chandler
Cindy Cothran
Hugh Cummings
Susan Davis
Trip Durham
Bill Francis
Eddie Gant
Gene Grimley
Bill Haslam
Lavane Herman
Jim Johnson
Toby Jones
Happy Kearns
Susan Kirkland
Wendy Lunsford
Steve Matthews
Mindy Nye
Paul Reeves
Amy Richardson
Barbara Roberts
Bruce Shields
Elizabeth Stanfill
Gavin Stevens
Edith Vann
Hal Vincent
Avery Wagoner
Cathy Wall
Tom Whitaker
Stephanie Williams
Nan Wooten

MINISTERS & STAFF
Ron Shive,
Pastor and Head of Staff
Taylor Barner,
Associate Pastor
Carrie Tuttle,
Parish Associate
Norman Whitney,
Parish Associate
Charlotte Allbright,
Church Educator
Patrick Murphy,
Organist/Choirmaster
Daria Hedrick,
Director, Child Development Center
Tracey Barker,
Director, Playschool
Kathleen Seagroves,
Office Administrator
Lacey Way,
Financial Administrator
Jane Cunningham,
Communications Director
Boyce Bishop,
Building Superintendent

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Visit us on Facebook
Dear Friends,

The arrival of this magazine might bring a surprising smile to your face. You might be asking, “What is this?” “Why is my church doing this?”

Every week, your church staff and leaders search for the most effective and engaging ways of communicating with you. A week does not go by that we don’t ask the question, “What can we do to most effectively get the word get out about this inspiring and incredible opportunity?”

You are already aware that since August 2019, we no longer produce a monthly newsletter. Rather we are hoping that you are picking up your news of upcoming ministries and events through:

- The Sunday bulletin
- The Thursday e-blast
- Facebook posts
- Our website: www.fpcburlington.org

What we have realized though is that there is no vehicle by which we can communicate what the Spirit is doing through the variety and diversity of all the ministries of First Presbyterian Church – Burlington.

This magazine, which will be mailed every January and August, is an attempt for us to clearly communicate with you and let you know how lives are being transformed and our world impacted through our combined faithful efforts and your abounding generosity.

You are an amazing community of faith—and this magazine is a clear reflection of that truth!

Best wishes in 2020,
Ron
EDITOR’S NOTE
The following is a true story from a recent Furniture Ministry delivery day. The names of the families have been changed to maintain privacy.

On the morning of Saturday, November 9, the temperature was hovering around 30 degrees as the volunteers for the Furniture Ministry delivery day began gathering in the warehouse. Many quickly snagged cups of coffee and a donut to keep their hands and stomachs warm. The box truck was already being loaded for delivery to two Latino families who lived near each other in the same Burlington mobile home park.

Eleven families were scheduled for delivery that day and four were expecting donation pick-ups. There was the usual concern about whether there would be the right number of trucks and volunteers. Many prayers of gratitude were whispered as members of the Elon men’s tennis team, recruited by Bob Carter, drove into the parking lot. Seven strong young men, accompanied by two of their coaches, joined the crowd of volunteers, which fortunately also included Ethan Batchelor, nephew of Dan and Leslie Hardie, as well as a ninth grade student from Burlington Christian Academy.

After the opening prayer circle, Eddie Gant and Dan Hardie enlisted four members of the tennis team—two of whom were fluent in Spanish—to join them in making the deliveries to the two Latino families.

THE VEGAS FAMILY
Mom and Dad, daughters ages 10, 13, and 15 and sons ages 12 and 11, were eagerly awaiting their arrival. The home was neat but basically empty. The few pieces of broken down furniture they had owned had been removed and piled by the street.

The entire family joined in to help to unload the contents of the truck.

A sofa and chair, end table, and lamp were neatly arranged in one end of the small living room. A table with seven chairs fit snuggly in the other end for dining.
INTERESTED IN WARMING YOUR OWN HEART ON A CHILLY SATURDAY MORNING?

Join the Furniture Ministry’s work days which are held the second Saturday of each month, from 9:00 am–12 Noon. (Due to the Easter holiday, the April workday will be held on April 18, 2020.)

Coffee and doughnuts, laughter, fellowship, and heartfelt moments included!

Meet at the Furniture Ministry workspace on the church campus across from the Scout Hut.

For more information, contact: furnmin@fpcburlington.org

The rooms were full of chatter—some Spanish and some English—as the father and children all helped to set up the beds. In one room, a full bed and dresser for the parents; in another, one full bed and one twin for the three girls; in the third, two twin beds for the boys. As soon as a bed was set up the children plopped down to try it out—so glad to be rid of the air mattresses they had been sleeping on for weeks.

Each bed came with a mattress pad, pillows, sheet set and blanket or comforter. And each child received a mesh bag with new pajamas, socks and underwear from Peg’s PJs.

The scene was so happy that everyone was a little reluctant to say goodbye, Eddie Gant snapped a farewell photo of the children with the team members.

THE RODRIGUEZ FAMILY

Leaving the Vegas family, the volunteers drove only a few spaces away to deliver to the Rodriguez family. Mrs Vegas and Mrs. Rodriguez are sisters, they had learned. Here the joy was repeated. The family—two parents, a daughter 7 and a son 3—had had no beds, no dresser, no sofa and no money with which to buy those much needed items. Now they had received it all.

The Furniture Ministry delivery team always asks a family if they would join them in prayer before they leave. Mrs. Rodriguez—who spoke no English—eagerly said yes! The family and the volunteers all joined hands, and Mrs. Rodriguez led the prayer. According to the volunteers, they did not need to understand the words to know that she was pouring out her heart in gratitude as tears ran down her cheeks.

Heading back to the warehouse to load up another delivery, the members of the tennis team began to discuss how cold it had been in the Vegas home. If there was a source of heat, it certainly didn’t seem to be working well. Thinking of all the comforts they enjoyed, this thought continued to nag as they made other deliveries in the frigid temperatures. As they were leaving the workday around noon, they made a decision—they pooled their money, bought a space heater, and took it back to the very surprised and grateful Vegas family.

Temperatures may be frigid on Furniture Ministry delivery days, but hearts are always warm and flowing. To that end, it’s never too cold to deliver furniture!
As a part of deacon and elder training, candidates for these positions are each asked to write a faith statement, declaring their beliefs. The following statement of faith has been graciously shared by Gavin Stevens, Elder Class of 2022.

What does my faith mean to me? To be honest, this is not a question I’ve ever asked myself before. Throughout my life, my faith has always been a feeling—not something I discussed much internally or out loud. I have friends who are very vocal about their faith and their belief in Jesus Christ. Sit next to them at lunch or ride in a car together for ten minutes and you’ll know exactly where they stand. That’s never been my way, though. For me, faith is a deeply personal experience that differs for each one of us. Instead of talking about it as a subject, I’ve always preferred to try to live it through my actions. That’s what makes it so beautiful—we can each hold true to our beliefs in whatever way feels right for us. We can choose to shout it from the rooftops or only let it show through our actions. I believe that all of those ways of experiencing faith are right and unique for each of us.

When I say my faith is more of a lifestyle, I mean that I try to let my belief in a higher power guide my actions on this earth, our island home. I believe that in creating us, God put his faith in our ability to learn and to love one another. I believe that he sent Jesus to set an example for us—to show us that humans can live together as one on earth and carry out God’s teachings through their interactions with one another, this place, and this life. More than focusing on worshiping Jesus as an individual, I am focused on learning from his actions. I strive to be kind, thoughtful, selfless and understanding. I am never perfect at any of these, but I keep working towards them. I think God knew in creating us that we would be flawed and incapable of ever truly reaching perfection in our thoughts and deeds. In my mind, though, it’s meant to be about the journey and not the destination. If I were always good and kind and full of empathy and the right words at the right moment, then I would never have to think about the importance of those things. I would never have to remind myself why it is imperative for me to work towards them.

As the inhabitants of this fragile earth, I think we humans are called to love and respect one another. I believe that he sent Jesus to set an example for us—to show us that humans can live together as one on earth and carry out God’s teachings through their interactions with one another, this place, and this life. More than focusing on worshiping Jesus as an individual, I am focused always seeking to learn and become a better version of herself. I want to teach her to be grateful, for the gift of this earth and our time here on it. The best way I can think to teach her all these things is through example by doing and living them myself.

The greatest tool I have found to help me accomplish this is to surround myself with a community of people who are also trying to live in the world as Jesus demonstrated—people who recognize their flaws and are working to become better. For me, my church homes have provided that community. As a child and young adult, I was fortunate that my parents found church homes for our family that felt like the right communities for me, too. As my husband and I began to grow our own family in Alamance County, I felt that a church community that shared our beliefs and welcomed us as we were was the main piece of the puzzle that was still missing. I am grateful to have found FPC Burlington and to be building relationships here that can help me work towards becoming a better advocate for the life and way of Jesus Christ in our community and our world.

I believe that my calling in the church is meant to serve both the church and me. First, I believe that I have been called to contribute my energy and experiences to the church in order to help it continue to provide a stable and welcoming church home for many generations to come. I also believe that this calling will help me to become a more thoughtful community member; to live with more grace, acceptance, and understanding; and to continue to work towards setting the example I hope to set for my daughter. I look forward to continuing my spiritual journey in the role of Elder because I don’t believe we are ever finished—this is just the next step on my journey to understanding my faith.
SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST
My Youth Mission Experiences

While in high school, I have been fortunate enough to attend service trips with my church every summer. Last summer, we went to Pittsburgh to assist with construction projects and make a difference in the lives of those we helped. Participating in this trip gave me an appreciation for what I have and for the opportunity to give back. This trip enabled me to reflect on past experiences and look at them with a more mature, understanding perspective.

The summer after my freshman year, I went on my first mission trip to the village of San Joaquin in the country of Belize. About forty other high school students also went on the trip, as well as ten adults. While in Belize, we held community events, started the construction of a new house for a community member, and explored the culture of the country. When we returned from the trip, all that anybody could talk or post about were their experiences in Belize. But, at the time, I didn’t share those feelings. The trip felt dull and underwhelming to me. In my mind, the only reason why it was special to anybody was because it was international. I didn’t build any serious relationships with anybody that I met there; I didn’t believe that anybody could have in the one week we were there. The work that we did felt average at best, so I couldn’t understand the impact it seemed to have on others. Mostly, I felt as though they talked about the trip simply to brag that they had this opportunity. This feeling never left me as I went through my sophomore year, my second mission trip to Tennessee, and during my junior year.

When I traveled to Pittsburgh after my junior year, however, my perspective changed. During my time in Pittsburgh, I was able to work on something that actually felt like it had meaning. The founder of Open Hand Ministries, a construction service that helped give homes to those in need, delivered a presentation to us. He described the history behind the housing crisis: a serious issue in the community where we worked. He explained how discrimination led to the government encouraging banks to prevent minorities from purchasing houses in the area, thus blocking them from being able to accumulate wealth. Hearing this gave the construction meaning, it revealed to me why the work that I was doing was important and inspired me to accomplish as much as I could. Seeing the purpose for our work and that work come to fruition in just one week had a special impact on me. It helped me realize why these trips meant so much to those involved, and why everyone felt such an impact after our trip to Belize. It made me understand why our work was necessary and that those who we were helping would truly benefit from our efforts.

The impact that Pittsburgh had on me will continue to affect who I am and what my values are. My experiences in Pittsburgh forced me to stop judging people before learning their stories. It made me appreciate what I have and have empathy for those who are less fortunate. It helped me to look at myself and realize that I still have a lot of growing to do. I’m extremely thankful to be a part of a church that understands the importance of exposing young Christians to mission work. Mission work has without a doubt shaped my character and my faith for the better and I expect that every youth in the youth group at FPC would say the same. As I look towards my last youth mission trip as a senior, I can only imagine what amazing and life changing experiences await me!
We were born in The Garden; All of us.
At one with our Maker; A part of the whole.
We didn't know it then, But we felt it
In the love of our mother's arms, The safety of our father's warmth.

Then one day we discovered That we were free to leave.
And we saw beyond The Garden; Somewhere east of Eden.
Temptations that beckoned, That called out to us,
To spread our wings And discover who we were.

And so we left The Garden In the springtime.
Down unknown paths, Not knowing where they would lead.
Each of us searching; To know ourselves. And, when we thought we knew,
We forgot The Garden.

We wandered through lands of Nod, Until we found our place.
Confident in ourselves Comfortable in our own creation.
With knowledge, we found our calling; With passion, we found love and family.
And we believed that was who we were; Content in the summer of our lives.
But our journey was not complete; It had only just begun.
And, as the chill winds of autumn Rustled the leaves high in the trees,
It stirred a memory in our soul Of when we were one with the trees; A part of something bigger; More than our little self.

So we set out once again; Down uncertain paths.
With a hope that this journey Would lead us to the place we belonged.
We tried many roads in our quest; Some leading nowhere; Others offering a flicker of truth.
But always we continued to wander.

Then one day, we glimpsed across a river The misty memory of a place forgotten. Some days almost clear enough to grasp, On others, shrouded by dark clouds.
But, as we continued our second journey, The hope grew ever stronger That one day, when we crossed the river, The Garden would be waiting.

Bruce Shields
A Jewish dermatologist, a Palestinian activist and a Christian pastor. An unlikely trio to say the least. And as I sat in Calvin Hall listening to their discussions, my thoughts drifted back to a time a year earlier when Nan and I rode through the Israeli and Palestinian regions of the Holy Land. We were with a group from our church and a few other churches and were led by our senior pastor, Dr. Ron Shive. It was a trip of a lifetime, and I remember thinking how blessed we were to be members of First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, with such outstanding leadership and such a vast array of adult opportunities to foster our lifelong spiritual growth.

But there was a disturbing side to our journey. While we rejoiced in deeply spiritual moments, like standing in the Garden of Gethsemane, looking across the Kidron Valley toward the ancient city of Jerusalem, or watching the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee, or renewing our baptismal vows with Ron beside the River Jordan, where John may have baptized Jesus, we also experienced moments of despair in witnessing how people treat each other today. It is common knowledge that the Palestinians are marginalized by their Israeli neighbors, and yet it was not until we saw firsthand how they get the wrong idea about each other and how sitting down together in honest and open discussion – as the three did in our church – can lead to mutual understandings and hopefully a better future for all.

I don’t know that we came away from that series of discussions with a greater sense of hope for the Israeli-Palestine conflict, but we certainly had a better understanding of the issues, which I suppose is the first step toward formulating opinions and maybe even actions that we can take. In any case, I’m pretty sure we came away with a heightened appreciation for the in-depth adult studies that our church offers. The following Sunday, most of us would be starting the new season in one of three adult Sunday School classes – The Point, The John Knox Fellowship or the Enrichment Class – or would be participating in our adult choir, in which Patrick Murphy teaches far more than singing alone. In one of these four offerings, and other periodic Sunday classes, we would be continuing on our path of spiritual nurture and faith development.

But the opportunities for adult Christian study and growth in our church are not limited to Sunday mornings. They are available in a wide variety of offerings during the week and throughout the year. There is, for example, Dr. Shive’s Mid-Week Bible Study on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, in which portions of scripture are explored in depth, considering the historical and theological background and always coming away with a suggestion of how the words can be applied to our daily living. I suspect that I speak for the vast majority of attendees in saying that this is a highlight each week in our spiritual journey.

Other offerings include the Lunch Bunch Book Club, which meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month, and a Faith and Poetry group in partnership with our sisters and brothers at First Baptist Church on Apple Street, which meets during certain months at noon on Thursdays. And a major new direction for our faith journey is the Contemplative Ministry, offering many opportunities for spiritual growth that are described in detail in a separate article.

Charlotte Nance-Albright, our Director of Christian Formation and Education, works closely with the staff and leadership of our church to nurture and grow these adult studies programs. She has put together an excellent pamphlet, Adult Studies 2019-2020, which is available around the church and provides further details about the wide range of offerings at our disposal. I recommend that you take a look at the pamphlet and highly encourage all of us to take advantage of these opportunities provided by our church to learn and to expand our Christian faith.
Well, we can officially say that we survived our first ‘season’ of accompanying U.S. church teams in their accompaniment of our Peruvian partners. Hallelujah! We, of PERUSA, are so very grateful for the churches who traveled here to work and walk with our partners in the many, different expressions of partnership—medical missions, land labor, planting and simply being with and learning from our partners.

Our final team from First Presbyterian Church Burlington (NC) arrived in early August. They have had a long-term partnership with institutions in Moyobamba, a city in the jungle area of northern Peru in the Department of San Martin. For this year’s mission...
experience, the nine-member FPC Burlington team literally learned that words are not needed to communicate. We spent our days with children of the School for the Deaf in Nueva Cajamarca, a district just outside of Moyobamba city. As I have found throughout my years of mission service, it is usually the people who are experiencing so many challenges, struggles and setbacks who are the ones who truly show you what joy is.

Our van drove up to the two-classroom school, in the outskirts of the town, and we were overwhelmingly greeted by all of the children, anxious to get to know us, spend time with us, and sign to us, even when we did not know a single bit of sign language to sign back. There was no need to hear screams or words of welcome fanfare; the giant smiles on their faces and the energy exuding from them were more than enough.

We began our time in one of the two classrooms, where all of the children introduced themselves, while one of their teachers translated their signs for us. Each student had a simple sign for his/her name – perhaps equivalent to a nickname. Each group member then introduced himself or herself, and the students, after much debate at times, gave each member a simple sign/nickname for their name. And just like that, we all knew at least one word of sign language.

The focus of this mission experience was not to construct something. There was no final objective or goal to be achieved. The purpose was simply “to be” with these children by sharing our love, time and attention with them. And we did just that. We played various, silly get-to-know-you games outside of the school. My hero that day was Rodrigo (name changed for privacy), a boy probably about 10 years old, somehow getting around with a walker on the rocky, dirt school grounds. But was that a deterrent to him while playing the chasing game of cat and mouse? Oh no. When looking for the next ‘mouse’ (the chasee), to escape from Taylor, the tall, young guy from the U.S. who had caught the rest of the ‘mice’ (and also FPC Burlington’s Youth Pastor, thus a professional at these games), Rodrigo walked right into the middle of the circle, an excited grin on his face, ready to play with no doubts or fears. If only we all had courage like him.

We accompanied the children in creating more life around their school by planting students’ personal flowers, brought from home, in tires, that they had donated as well. The students chose team members and they went off to find a place on the border of the grounds to begin planting. While gathering dirt, planting, placing the fertilizer and hay, and creating beauty for the school, we made connections and friendships, all without words.

One hard worker, who especially caught my heart, was Miguel (name changed for privacy). As he worked with Pastor Ron Shive, he was diligent, kept to the task, and supported his team and others in any way possible. We later learned that Miguel did not go to public school, but worked with his family at home and in their agricultural fields, only attending the School for the Deaf. Without this school, Miguel would not be receiving any formal education.
Charles & Melissa Johnson, supporting these children in difficult circumstances, is a project of Paz y Esperanza (Peace and Hope), a member of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network. The school was founded years ago, in order to advocate for these students, given that Peruvian law only allows inclusion in public schools, but does not provide special education teams to support these students. Thus, they go to school to just sit, watch and learn nothing. This school, currently neither public nor private, but solely supported by donors, offers these students who are deaf an education that is relevant to their life circumstances, while also providing a safe environment to learn among friends, as all children deserve.

We met the three teachers of the school. Diego is a mild-tempered young man, with great rapport with the students, and is paid by the municipality. Yannet is a volunteer, but provides her energy and support unconditionally. They are both deaf. Jessy is a young woman whose life was changed after taking a sign language course in Colombia years ago. She taught at the school a year ago, but then had to accept a government teaching job, due to the lack of school funds to pay her. Though, after months in her government job, she bravely decided that she needed to be with these students, providing the support that they lacked from the government, even though she would not receive a steady salary.

These three teachers support the school’s parents’ association that is advocating for the approval of an education code by the Ministry of Education to become a fully-funded government school. This has been an ongoing, bureaucratic battle, as they submitted their documents months ago, which were archived without notice. They continued in their advocacy and, thankfully, their voices were heard, and the case was re-opened for review. Though now waiting for months for a response, the parents tirelessly visit the Ministry of Education office to be sure their children’s case is not forgotten. A U.S. church team even joined in on a visit this past summer!

We closed our time with these joy-filled and energetic students by sharing our experiences, feelings and hopes for the future. They gifted each of us a personalized, decorated banner with our names and a laminated paper with the sign language for our name attached to a pipe cleaner butterfly. Perhaps the world was not changed during this week or a project was not completed; but new life, as symbolized by that butterfly, was definitely felt and experienced.

This special time reminded me of one of my favorite quotes by St Francis of Assisi, “Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.”

May our love for neighbor and our actions for justice be what move us beyond words to positive and long-term change. Please keep the School for the Deaf in your prayers as they continue their daily advocacy to achieve the passing of the education code. We, as PERUSA, will be walking beside them and it is your support and prayers that make it all possible. Thank you for accompanying us!

First Presbyterian Raises Money for Zambian Tractor

Bob Hill

During this past summer, Charles and Melissa Johnson, who are Presbyterian Missionaries in Zambia, visited our church to tell about their work in the country. Charles shared that one of their dreams was to have a tractor that would aid their work to provide food for the seminary students they are supporting. Much of the farm work is being done by hand which is not only labor intensive, but is also very inefficient. Working through the Partners in Mission Committee and with the approval of the Session, a short fund-raiser was carried out this fall to help in the effort.

Thanks to the generosity of 21 family units in the church, we were able to raise $13,445 towards the goal of purchasing a tractor and associated equipment. The total need is around $75,000, but those participating in the fund-raiser made a significant contribution towards the goal. We are so appreciative of the spirit of giving that is so prevalent in our church.
If you are new to FPC-Burlington, or even if you’ve been here a while, you’ve probably noticed that music is big here. With five choral groups, (four vocal groups and one bells and chimes group), music plays a significant role in the life of this church. What is even more special is the bond choir members form with each other, and the passion they have for their music and the messages it brings. Listening to them during any worship service, you can just feel it.

Liza Southard has been singing in a choir since high school. When she and her husband Gregg moved to this area in 2009, they began the search for their new church home. Liza says that regardless of where they ultimately attended, she wanted to be in the choir. “During our search for a church home, we were drawn to First Pres and a big reason was the music,” she says. “We loved the organ, the choirs, and we felt that ‘this was where we are supposed to be.’” They joined FPC-Burlington in 2010.

Gene Grimley says that his parents supported his choir participation early in life. He’s always enjoyed and participated in choirs as an activity to learn of Christian religious beliefs, practices of praise through music, and worship. “The music that we sing emphasizes the many Biblical teachings that are appropriately chosen for the liturgical calendar. It reminds us of the right paths of living based on the Old and New Testaments, especially of the life and teachings of Jesus.”

“My hope is that what we feel inside when we sing comes across to worshipers when they hear the music,” Liza adds. “We want to bring them to a ‘thin place’ between Earth and Heaven where they can sense and feel God’s presence. That ‘shivers down your spine’ feeling. It’s a very special moment when that happens.”

Under the directorship of Patrick Murphy, the Chancel Choir, (in which Liza and Gene participate), practices weekly. They sing at the 11:00 am worship service between Labor Day and Memorial Day. In the summer months, the Summer Choir takes over. In addition to the Chancel Choir, FPC offers a Carol Choir, (Kindergarten–Grade 1), a Covenant Choir, (Grades 2-5), and the Carillon Choir (bells and chimes for High School–Adult). If you have ever felt the call to participate in a choir, know that you are most welcome. Both Liza and Gene liken the Chancel Choir to an extended, loving family. As Gene claims, “Although there are many talented musicians who provide a solid base, great patience and instruction are always available for people like me who enjoy worshipping through singing, but are not formally trained in music. It is the fellowship in a common cause that is most important.”

Questions about any of the musical or liturgical arts programs at FPC? Contact Patrick Murphy at 336-228-1703 or pmurphy@fpcburlington.org.

Feeling God’s love through our choirs’ music— it’s an experience that is more than just listening.
This North Carolina native grew up in Concord, NC with a younger sister and hard-working parents who raised her in the Baptist Church. An excellent student, she pursued a microbiology and medical technology degree at Appalachian State University and then her Master’s Degree in Public Health focused in Epidemiology.

She met her husband-to-be while working in a lab in Winston-Salem, and they married in Augusta, Georgia, while he was stationed at Fort Jackson. The couple then moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where two of their daughters were born. From there they moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, for his residency, and during these years of Army life, our honoree dedicated her life to her husband, family and her faith. Her second daughter recalls, “Our mom was a steadfast support and faith friend to Dad in those busy years. She was a selfless mom who always did what was best for her family, and taught us to put family first, always.”

A few years later, the couple had their third daughter when stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, NC. The couple finally moved to Burlington in 1994, and soon joined First Presbyterian Church. She became actively involved as a Nursery volunteer, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, as well as a Deacon. She supported the Youth Group by making countless Sunday night dinners and traveling to Mexico for the Senior High Service trip. She led PTA projects and got to know the community through her time in the Alamance-Caswell Medical Society Alliance, Children’s Theater, and Children’s Museum as a founding Board Member. She became a member of a church Circle and to this day is always willing to help prepare food, set up or wash dishes to make sure a church program is a success.

Today, the Funeral Guild counts on her calm and reassuring presence as director whenever needed. As a Missions Chair for the Presbyterian Women, she secured speakers and prepared food for the annual program. She also coordinated the shoe box packing party for Operation Christmas Child. Currently, she serves as the Spiritual Enrichment Chair and uses her research background to find thought-provoking, meaningful devotions to begin each meeting.

Her friends know her as someone who is reliable, good-humored and thoughtful. Now a doting grandmother, she is also a Master Gardener, Alamance Arts supporter, and a member of a book and garden club. All three daughters attended UNC-Chapel Hill and got (or are in the process of receiving) graduate degrees there. The youngest daughter said, “My mom walks with a personal and quiet confidence in her relationship with the Lord. She lives out her faith through action, and raised us in the church just like her parents raised her.” She is a compassionate, calm person with great insight and a true sense of right and wrong. Her oldest daughter said, “My mom’s faith is at the center of her decisions, both big and small. We love our mom so much- and the example she sets for us.”

We are excited to honor this humble, fine woman, Wanda Jordan.
Born in Selma, NC, our recipient was the youngest child and only daughter with two older brothers. After their father’s death when she was less than three years old, her mother moved to Burlington, closer to extended family, to raise her children. Upon graduating high school she took business courses at Elon College, married, and joined First Presbyterian Church. She worked for Burlington Mills until starting a family in 1954 and then was a home maker and mother of a son and daughter. Once her daughter started college, she began a nearly 20-year career in retail sales. What a treasure!

She has been a member of this church for over 70 years, but hey, who’s counting? She has served as an usher, Welcome Center hostess, active circle member and PW Historian. One of her most cherished possessions is her copy of My Utmost for His Highest, and she has annotated special events and times in her life when her faith gave her great strength and comfort. A life-long learner and avid reader, she finds it important to continue growing in her faith and embracing the differences in people.

The final results of our 2020 annual stewardship campaign are still being tabulated at the time of this writing. But we can be proud of what we have achieved and excited about how we will be able to carry on Christ’s charge to love and serve others through our financial gifts to FPC-Burlington. We are about $182,000 off our target of $1.2M in terms of total pledges, with roughly 53% of our 422 total giving units, participating in the campaign.

To all of you who made a pledge for 2020, the Gratitude & Generosity Committee sincerely thanks you.

From supporting outreach programs in Moyobamba, Peru, Zambia, Africa and Taiwan, Republic of China, to assisting children and families here in our local community, your pledge dollars make a difference. They also support our own church family by sustaining a vibrant church campus, a dedicated staff, Christian programming for all ages, meaningful worship services, and the list goes on. Want further proof of the impact of your financial gifts? Just look through the pages of this magazine for a glimpse into the welcoming, worshiping, transforming, and serving community of faith that is FPC-Burlington.

If you have not yet made your 2020 pledge, please contact Lacey Way in the church office: 336-228-1703 or by email: lway@fpcburlington.org. You may also pledge online by visiting www.fpcburlington.org. Click on “Serve & Give,” then “Give” then the blue “Pledge Only” button.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

On Sunday, October 27th, we celebrated the dedication of our 2020 pledges with a church-wide cookout lunch and a baking contest. One thing is for certain: our church is full of excellent cooks and bakers. All in all, we had 24 entries – applause to all our participants! Folks tasted and tested the many pies, cakes, cookies and other goodies, then placed their votes.

HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF SOME OF THE WINNING RECIPES: (next page)

People’s Choice: Patrick Murphy - Buttermilk Pound Cake with Custard Sauce
Silver Spatula: Naomi Fisher - Colorful Macaroons
Bronze Baking Sheet: Ron Shive - Ocracoke Fig Cake
Youth: Oliver Adams - Tar Heel Pie
Most Instagram-worthy: Jan Scott - Candy Apple Pie
**BUTTERMILK POUND CAKE**

1 1/3 cups butter, softened
2 1/2 cups sugar
6 large eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

**BUTTERMILK CUSTARD SAUCE**

2 cups buttermilk
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
3 large egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325°F. Beat butter at medium speed with a heavy-duty electric stand mixer until creamy. Gradually add sugar, beating at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating just until blended after each addition.

Add flour to butter mixture alternately with buttermilk, beginning and ending with flour. Beat at low speed just until blended after each addition. Stir in vanilla extract. Pour into a greased (with shortening) and floured 10-inch (16-cup) tube pan.

Bake at 325°F for 1 hour and 5 minutes; remove from pan to wire rack, and cool completely (about 1 hour). Serve with Buttermilk Custard Sauce.

Make the Buttermilk Custard Sauce:

Whisk together the buttermilk, sugar, cornstarch, and egg yolks in a heavy 3-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, whisking constantly, and boil 1 minute. Remove from heat, and stir in vanilla extract. Store warm or cold.

Store leftovers in an airtight container in refrigerator for up to 1 week.

Garnish cake with blueberries, raspberries and mint sprigs.

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**OCRACOKE FIG CAKE**

3 large eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 cups fig preserves, chopped (my fig preserves has ginger and lemon slices)
1/2 cup applesauce
1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts, toasted
Chopped walnuts, toasted, for garnish
Few figs, for garnish
Cream Cheese Frosting (see below)

Beat first 3 ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until blended. Add buttermilk and vanilla; beat well.

Combine flour and next 5 ingredients; gradually add to buttermilk mixture, beating until blended. Fold in fig preserves, applesauce, and toasted walnuts. Pour batter into 2 greased and floured 8-inch round cake pans.

Bake at 350°F for 35 to 40 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire racks 10 minutes; remove from pans, and cool completely on wire racks.

Spread Cream Cheese Frosting between layers and on top and sides of cake. Store in refrigerator. Garnish with toasted walnuts and a few figs.

**CREAM CHEESE FROSTING**

2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
2 sticks butter, softened
4 teaspoons vanilla extract
8 cups powdered sugar
2 cups chopped walnuts, toasted

Beat cream cheese, butter, and vanilla at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating at low speed just until blended. Blend in walnuts.

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**CANDY APPLE PIE**

Dough for (1) double-crust 9" pie (home-made or store-bought)

**FILLING**

2 cups apple cider
1/2 cup unsalted butter
1/4 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 pounds tart apples, peeled and thinly sliced

Egg wash, (1 beaten egg mixed with 1 tablespoon water, cream or milk)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Roll out half the dough in a circle about 11 inches in diameter. Transfer it to a 9 inch pie plate. Trim the overhang to 1 inch and refrigerate the crust.

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan over high heat, cook the cider until it’s reduced down to 1/2 cup. Lower the heat to medium-high, melt the butter in the cider syrup, then whisk in the brown sugar, cream, ginger, cinnamon and salt. Bring the mixture to a gentle boil and cook for 7 – 10 minutes, until it is dark, thick, and glossy. Remove it from the heat and allow it to cool to just warm.

Layer the apple slices in the pie plate, and pour the caramel sauce over. Brush the pie shell edges with egg wash.

Roll out the second half of the dough into a circle about 11 inches in diameter. Lay it over the filled pie plate, and press the edges down to seal. Trim the overhang to 1 inch, and roll the edges of the dough inward or outward. Crimp the edge into whatever pattern you like, and brush the top with egg wash.

Put the pie on a baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes, rotating it once halfway through. Lower the temperature to 350 degrees and bake for an additional 30-40 minutes, until the crust is golden and the juices are thickened. Remove it to a wire rack to cool completely.

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**WINNING RECIPES**

**CANDY TOPPING**

1 cup granulated sugar
2/3 cup light corn syrup
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
10 to 15 drops red food coloring
1/2 teaspoon cayenne (or more to taste)

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, heat the sugar, syrup and water over high heat. Cook until the syrup reaches 300 degrees on a candy thermometer. Remove the pan from the heat and whisk in the candy from hardening too quickly. If it becomes difficult to use, heat it gently over low heat to soften it again.

This pie is best served shortly after it’s made or store-bought.

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**STEWARDSHIP**

½ cup unsalted butter
2 cups apple cider
FILLING

2 cups apples, sliced
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup water
1 tablespoon cinnamon

Make the Filling:

Boil 1 minute. Remove from heat, and stir in cinnamon. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake for 35 minutes.

Place apples and sugar in a 3-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over low heat to soften it again. If it becomes difficult to use, heat it gently over low heat to soften it again.

The pie is best served shortly after it’s made or store-bought.
Throughout history, people around the world, from different faith traditions, have turned to personal prayer and the practices of silence, stillness, and meditation to be open and present to God’s call. Richard Rohr, the contemporary theologian, writes “How can we use sacred texts, tradition, and experience to lead people into new places with God, with life, with themselves?” In this uncertain world, living out God’s call to love Him, to love others, and to love ourselves, is often challenging. In the organized church, Contemplative Ministry events provide opportunities and experiences for followers to be open to the presence of God in all things.

At FPC-Burlington, the Contemplative Ministry program seeks to deepen our awareness of God’s presence within us and in the world around us, enabling us to be present to God’s call as followers of Christ. The program offers opportunities to enhance one’s faith journey. These experiences focus on relationships with God and one another. They support and encourage openness to the presence of God in all things through attention to heart, mind and body. This ministry incorporates the spiritual practices of silence, stillness, prayer, mindfulness and meditation to equip us to respond in the world as followers of Christ.

A small planning team provides organization and direction to the contemplative program offerings. More information about this ministry and the current program events can be found at www.fpcburlington.org/contemplativeministry or by calling Charlotte Nance-Allbright, Director of Christian Education and Formation, at 336-228-1703.

A Journey to Connect with ‘the Still Small Voice’ of God (1 Kings 19:12)

Peggy Harrelson

These contemplative opportunities are offered throughout the year:
- Meditation Group
- Taize Service
- The Inward Journey of Faith/Second Breath course
- Women’s Retreat
- Labyrinth Walk
- Yoga
- Sacred Walking Groups
- Contemplative Writers’ Book Study
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Contemplative Workshops (Zentangle, Enneagram)
- Contemplative Retreat
- Adult Spiritual Formation classes
- Quiet Spaces for Advent
- Prayer Centers
WELCOME (BACK), CARRIE!

We are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Carrie Rhoads Tuttle back to the FPC-Burlington family! Carrie served as Associate Pastor of Youth, College and Families here for 5 years before relocating to Durham, NC, in November 2008. For almost 10 years Carrie did LOTS of supply preaching, some ministry consulting, and she led retreats, workshops and women’s groups while also being a stay-at-home mom. Carrie most recently has served as Chaplain at Glenaire Retirement Community in Cary, NC, and she leads a women’s group at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, NC. She lives with her husband, Chris, pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and her three children—Ella Brooks (14), Heath (11), and Wilson (6) in Durham, North Carolina.

Carrie will be working with the Diaconate, preaching, and conducting pastoral care. Be sure to introduce yourself or give her a welcome back hug!

NEW MEMBERS

- Lydia Allen
- Philip and Melissa Allen
- Bill and Sarah Blake
- Eddie Bryan
- Elizabeth Byars
- Libby Conde
- Barry & Helen Eckman
- William Finigan
- Fred and Christine Fischer
- Timothy Hackman
- Chuck and Marcia Hendron
- Phil and Carol Johnston
- John and Kim Love
- Keith and Mary Lou Massie
- Bob and McNair Maxwell
- Micah McCravey
- Andrew Parker
- Johan and Aletta Prinsloo
- Griffin Shively
- Randy and Jane Wellford
- Brian and Jennifer Wells
- Tom and Sheryl Williamson

RECORDS & DETAILS

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2019 BIRTHS

Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.
Matthew 18:5

April 5  Ellie Claire Powell
April 29  Brooks Gerald Lindley
May 30  Olivia Grace Richardson
July 8  Eliza Grace McCravey
July 21  Ava Joe Lambeth
July 21  Beckett Yates Lambeth
Aug. 21  Grant Allen Beam
Nov. 26  Ladd Elias Ray Hubbard
Dec. 4  Evan Ingram Chandler
Dec. 12  Jonathon Jackson Bowers

2019 DEATHS

Death has been swallowed up in victory.
I Corinthians 15:54

Jan. 14  Ann McKenzie
Feb. 11  Elizabeth Severance
Feb. 14  Jessie Marvin Coggins, Jr.
Mar. 11  Brenda Hay Tipton
Mar. 28  Doane Herring Warren
April 6  Grace Joy Sailer
April 19  Michael Dee Walsh
April 21  Barbara Colby Lackey
May 3  Helene Musser
May 9  Mary Helen Wilson Long
May 18  Russell Read Wilson
May 24  Ann Smith Anders
June 10  Dora McGill
Aug. 8  Rollie George Seel
Sept. 2  Helen Wilson Jones Daniel
Oct. 1  Frederick Daniel Frissell III
Oct. 14  William Lloyd Churchill
Oct. 14  Ralph Manning Holt
Oct. 23  James Thomas Lindley, Sr.