



First Presbyterian Church Mount Airy

The Grapevine

March 2022

This publication is put together by the Communications and the Administration Ministry Teams with help from the office staff. If you have questions, concerns, or something to add, contact Beth Pequeno at beth.pequeno@gmail.com

Session News:

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** has been rescheduled to March 20th due to the 13th being on MACS's spring break. The meeting will be held after our worship service and cover God's faithfulness in our finances in 2021 and our budget for 2022. Also, the congregation will vote to approve changes in Griff Gatewood's terms of call (3% cost of living raise). We hope you will be there. This is also a meeting of our church corporation (which is a legal entity the state requires the church to have). We will need to formally elect the corporation's officers.

COVID-19 Precautions Updated: The Session recommends wearing masks, but it will no longer be required. Starting in March, there will also be an option to receive traditional Communion elements in front of the sanctuary during observance of the Lord's Supper. The prepackaged servings will continue to be available in the pews.

Congregational survey update: Members of the Session would like to thank you for taking the time to complete and submit the recent survey. We heard you and have already put some of the suggestions into action.

Responses are grouped into 5 Headings: Worship, Activities (other than Sunday Worship), Communication, Renovation and Leadership. This resulted in suggestions to improve our church as well as criticisms. The responses to the suggestions are in *italic*.

Worship: Suggestions included holding traditional communion and also having individual packets available. *Starting this month, there will be an option to receive traditional Communion elements in front of the sanctuary during observance of the Lord's Supper. The prepackaged servings will continue to be available in the pews.*

Activities: The surveys revealed that more fellowship activities were wanted including a Women's Bible Study, Sunday School classes, and community service activities. *Starting March 13th, David Rives will lead an adult Sunday School class at 10am. Details are in this newsletter. A fellowship meal is also being discussed.*

Communication: Respondents requested that the church's financial condition be publicized at least on a monthly basis. *Barry Schneider will be reporting on our budget and finances at the annual meeting on March 20th. We hope to be able to provide regular reports after that.*

Continue to improve communications. Reach out to members more, especially those in our elder community and those not in worship service. *Beth Pequeno has been working on improving our email list and will continue to keep members updated with the renewed Grapevine. We will also be mailing copies of the newsletter to those unable to attend. If you, or someone you know needs a copy mailed to them, please contact the church office.*

Renovation: Provide the wrap-up information on the renovation to include the hidden damage costs as well as the value added to our church from the renovation. *On Sunday, March 6, Gene Rees, Mike Branch, and Griff Gatewood will present a ReNew Renovation Update at 10am in the sanctuary. Come hear an update about the accomplishments and finances of our recent renovation. If you are unable to attend, please reach out to one of these men with your questions.*

Leadership: Responses on our children's programs were very positive.

In areas where criticisms were aired, we will work with the individuals to reach reconciliation. *Nelson Clark, Margaret Cockerell, Joy Barlow, and Marinda Rives make up the survey review committee and are available if you have concerns or something to share.*

Your Session Members:

Moderator: Pastor Griff Gatewood

Clerk of the Session: Bob Keck

Elders:

Class of 2022: Mary Ellen Goad, Joy Barlow, Nelson Clark, and Valerie Parker

Class of 2023: Will Sheppard, Margaret Cockerell, and Beth Pequeno

Class of 2024: Barry Schneider, Lydia Taylor, and David Rives

Ministry Teams:

Music and Worship

Children's Discipleship

Adult Discipleship

Financial Oversight

Personnel

Buildings and Grounds

Contact:

Margaret Cockerell, Valerie Parker

Loida Slate, Valerie Parker (Youth)

TBD

Barry Schneider

Nelson Clark

Will Sheppard, Lydia Taylor

First Steps
Congregational Care
Missions
Communications
Administration (for Session)

Nicole Harrison, Christie Sheppard
Margaret Cockerell, Mary Ellen Goad
Beth Pequeno
Joy Barlow
Beth Pequeno

Ministry Teams Reports

Missions Ministry Team would like to invite you to participate in the following:

- **Yokefellow:** Our food for the month of March is peanut butter and crackers.

Donations of any non-perishable food are welcome. A collection basket is located in the hallway.

- **Pennies for Hunger** will be collected on March 6.
- The Beacon's are starting to collect items for the **Shepherd's House**. For March, they are collecting toilet bowl cleaners. A collection basket will be located in the area outside the sanctuary.
- **Do you knit or crochet?**

We are collecting scarves to donate to local charities like Surry Medical Ministries and the Shepherd's House. Hospice is also in need of lap quilts (3'x3'). Contact Beth Pequeno for more information. beth.pequeno@gmail.com

The Worship and Music Ministry Team announces that member led music practices are occurring on Sunday nights at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. If you have musical talents that you would like to share with the church, please reach out to Anna at the church or anna@fpcma.com Chancel Choir practice continues to be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

Stewardship letters will be mailed very soon. Please be watching the mail for yours.



Volunteer Opportunities

First Steps News: Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is now open for all families. A \$150 fee is required to hold your spot for the coming year. An enrollment form must be completed and turned in along with the fee. Enrollment forms can be found on our [website](#) or picked up in the church office.

First Steps is hiring teachers and subs for the coming school year. These positions are part time. Interested applicants can send their resume to firststeps@fpcma.com.

Lastly, we are hiring a long-term substitute to cover during a maternity leave in a two-year-old classroom for the months of April and May. Please contact Christie Sheppard for more information at firststeps@fpcma.com.



Worship Volunteers Needed! There are lots of ways to get involved during Sunday morning worship. We need scripture readers, flowers for the Sanctuary, worship greeters, nursery and Little Church helpers. Please take the time to sign up for one of these positions on the sign up sheets in the hallway, or by reaching out to Anna at office@fpcma.com.



Prayer List: The family of Mae Turpin, Mike Shumaker, Mark Johnson, Daphne Ayers, The Tate family, Tammy Moore, Kayla Keller, Mary Higgs, Acacio Pereira, Kelley Jackson, Laura Brown, and those serving in the Military and their families.



Live Streams of Worship Services

We continue to provide live streaming of worship services through our Facebook page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access. To see past or live streams, use this link:

https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMtAiry/live_videos/



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 2: Ash Wednesday: Worship will be at 7pm. There will be a brief children's service at 5pm.

Sunday, March 6:

10am: ReNew Renovation Update: Come hear an update about the accomplishments and finances of our recent renovation. Gene Rees, Mike Branch, and Griff Gatewood will be there to go over the project and answer your questions. We will meet in the sanctuary.

11am: Pennies for Hunger will be collected.



Starting **Tuesday, March 8** For Lent this year, Griff will be leading a devotional and during a walk on the Greenway. We will read *Backyard Pilgrim* by Matt Canlis and gather for a weekly walk on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss a question a week. Contact Griff (by phone or griff@fpcma.com) if you are interested in joining and purchasing the book.

Sunday, March 20:

Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the worship service. (Details in Session News section above.)

FPC Children and Youth Discipleship:

Older Beacons (7th-9th grades) meet on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Scout Hut for a weekly Bible study and fellowship time.

New Beacons (5th-6th grades) meet on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 5pm when the older Faith Friends are also meeting in the Scout Hut for their new Bible study/confirmation class.

Godly Play (ages 3 yrs-1st grades) meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 5-7pm in the Scout Hut for Godly Play Bible stories, curriculum, Bible verse memorization, and time for song and dance.

Faith Friends (ages 2nd-5th grades) meet on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 5-7pm in the Scout Hut for SPARK Rotation Bible stories, curriculum, Bible verse memorization, songs, games and activities. Connect with us on Instagram at

Connect with us through Beacons and Faith Friends on Realm:

<https://onrealm.org/fpcma/Account/Start?ReturnUrl=%2Ffpcma%2FTextNotifications%2FSetup>

For more information on monthly events or the activities listed above, contact Loida Slate at the church or loida@fpcma.com.

Adult Discipleship

Announcing a **New Adult Sunday School Class starting March 13** at 10am in the Ladies Parlor. David Rives will lead the class which will initially run for six weeks. The class will use The Bible Project as it's curriculum (found at <https://bibleproject.com/bible-studies/reflections/>) The Bible Project has paired a video with passages to read and discussion questions to walk through as a group. We hope you will join us for this unique study. Each lesson stands alone, so join us when you can.

Odds and Ends Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10am in the classroom located across from the upstairs restrooms.

The complete church calendar can be found at [News & Events](#)



March Birthdays:

4- Andrea Kniskern
6- Daniel Pike
11- Mary Higgs
12- Patrick Belk
21- Joy Barlow
Mary Planer
Carole Simpson
23- Sandy Bowers

23- Lydia Taylor
24- Katherine Burke
Anna Draughn
25- Annette Lowe
26- Mary Ellen Goad
27- Laura East
29- Lauren Youell
Maddie Youell



March Anniversaries:



19- Blanton and Lauren Youell

28- Delane and Amy Heath

Useful Links:

Church Calendar: [News & Events](#)

Church website: www.fpcma.com/

Office Email: office@fpcma.com

Bulletins: www.fpcma.com/worship.html

Facebook: [@FirstPresMtAiry](#)

Instagram: [fpcmountairy](#)

Live Stream videos: https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMtAiry/live_videos/

Realm Connect:

<https://onrealm.org/fpcma/Account/Start?ReturnUrl=%2Ffpcma%2FTextNotifications%2FSetup>

326 South Main Street ☪ P. O. Box 1286 ☪ Mount Airy, NC 27030
336.786.2803

Pastor: Griff Gatewood
Office Administrator and Music Director: Anna Bush
Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship: Loida Slate
Director of First Steps: Christie Sheppard

***The deadline for submitting information for the April Grapevine is March 23.
Please send to beth.pequeno@gmail.com.***