



# JUBILATION

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him, and make Him known.

April/May 2022

## LIVING LEGACY

### Tony Sherrill

Tony Sherrill was born into the family of First Presbyterian Church. He officially became a member upon his baptism and confirmation around age 12. And when he entered the Youth Group in High School, he says Don and Iris Efird helped to get him on the “right path” as a teenager. That path is one that Tony is adamant God has directed. In fact, he says he’s “never made a major decision that stuck – that didn’t get changed.”



One example of God’s leading came when Tony decided to find a career outside of Cannon Mills. Refrigeration and Air Conditioning was becoming popular in homes, and Tony decided to pursue classes in that vein at Rowan Tech. But an aptitude test led his advisor to recommend Tony follow a business course, which then was only offered at Central Piedmont Community College. Tony listened.

God also led him back to his high-school sweetheart. While Tony stepped away from the church in his late teens, he returned around age 25 or 26. Shortly after, his first love Carolyn came back into town. Tony notes that he and Carolyn had been convinced in high school that they were meant to be together. The timing of her moving back and re-connecting with Tony is “no coincidence,” he says, adding, “these things don’t just happen.” **Continued on page 7**

## Holy Week

We have special activities planned for all ages during Holy Week! Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds to receive God’s glorious gift of Easter.

### Saturday, April 9

10:00am-12:00pm

Walk with Jesus Family Event, with egg hunt and lunch \*Register Online\*

### Sunday, April 10

10:00am  
11:00am

Sunday School  
**Palm Sunday Service** Palm Sunday Service with special music from Alleluia Ringers, Men’s Ensemble, and the PraiseMakers  
20th Presentation of The Last Supper drama with guest musicians Halle Dunn and Randy Childers

7:30pm

### Thursday, April 14

7:00pm

**Maundy Thursday service** at Kimball Lutheran, with combined choir from First Pres

### Friday, April 15

7:00pm

**Good Friday Service** at First Pres, with combined choir from Kimball Lutheran

### Sunday, April 17

10:00am  
11:00am

Sunday School  
**Easter Resurrection Service**, with Flowering of the Cross and special music



# CELEBRATE

## *The Lord's Prayer Study*

Approximately 95 people, spread over 6 small groups and two kids' classes, enjoyed our recent study of The Lord's Prayer. Over 7 weeks, we learned from Pastor Eddie and each other the 7 petitions within the prayer, and found new meaning in its words and application to our lives. Thanks so much to our Facilitator, Judy Goodnight, and the group leaders (Dave Argabrite, Alpha Barger, Danny Bost, Sharon Cranford, Irene Davis, Vickie Ellington, Phil & Jill McLain, Lynn Sechler, Roxanne Spencer and Michelle Walker)!



The *children* cooked up lots of fun at *Flour Power Studios* on March 19th. They loved creating their own pizzas and making homemade chocolate chip ice cream cookie sandwiches!



*Women Without Reservations* shared lunch on Sunday, March 20 at Chophouse 101.



First Presbyterian was proud to host the South Piedmont Operation Christmas Child Volunteer Team celebration on March 22. The Team gathered for food and fellowship, praising God for the 26,443 shoebox gifts that were collected this past year in Iredell, Rowan, and Cabarrus counties, and planning for an even greater harvest in 2022!



Middle and Senior High Youth experienced "Defeating Diavolos" – a Bible-based escape room challenge – on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Pizza, fun and fellowship were enjoyed by all!



### "Featured Fellowship" – JOY Group

First Presbyterian's JOY Group is made up of "Just Older Youth" who meet monthly for fun and fellowship. These friends enjoy covered-dish lunches or eating at local restaurants, and their gatherings often include a devotional program or entertainment. Short trips have been enjoyed in the past, and will hopefully be possible again soon. The group is self-supporting, and uses offerings collected at their meetings to support local organizations like Cooperative Christian Ministry or Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association. Anyone 55 or older is welcome to join the JOY Group at any of its gatherings! Their next event is lunch at Johnny's Farmhouse on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00p.m. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For more information on the group, see Alice Jeanes or Charlene Booth.



# UPCOMING

*The Last Supper –  
Leonardo da Vinci's  
famous painting –  
springs to life*

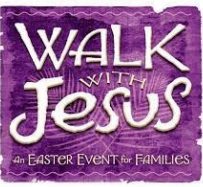


A 61-year tradition enters the spotlight again when First Presbyterian Church presents "The Last Supper," a living tableau of the last gathering of Christ with His disciples before His crucifixion. Captured on stage, daVinci's famous *Last Supper* painting springs to life when Jesus says "One of you will betray me..." Sitting or standing motionless at a larger-than-life size table, members of First Presbyterian Church - the disciples each in turn voice private thoughts generated by the Master's shocking announcement. The church sanctuary is transformed into that "upper room" and the result is a breathtaking backdrop for a series of monologues that will arouse the conscience and touch the heart.

Performed every few years since 1961, this will be the 20<sup>th</sup> performance of the "The Last Supper" by Ernest Emurian. The presentation, which has become a community tradition, is open to the public. Invite friends and family to join us as we honor the Savior, Jesus Christ, with this special service on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 7:30 p.m!

## *Women Without Reservations*

Women Without Reservations has made plans for spring! On Saturday, April 9, we will serve dinner to *The Last Supper* cast and crew prior to their dress rehearsal. On Friday, May 13, we will host a Hip Hip Hoowray party at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. For \$50 participants will be able to paint a pre-cut sign or door decoration. Couples are invited to a Pool Party and Cookout at the Swaringen's home on Saturday, June 11th. See Michelle Walker for more information or to sign up for an activity!



*Families are invited to the "Walk with Jesus" Easter event* on Saturday, April 9 at 10am! We will travel through 5 stations of Holy Week, discovering more about Jesus along our journey. We'll end with an Easter egg hunt and lunch. Please register online or see Michelle Walker!



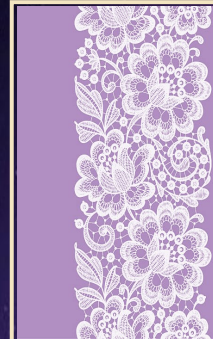
*Saltshaker's Women's Bible Study* continues meeting via Zoom. Their current focus is on the book of Galatians, which will continue through April 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting on April 11. All women of the church are invited – see Judy Goodnight or Sharon Cranford for more information.





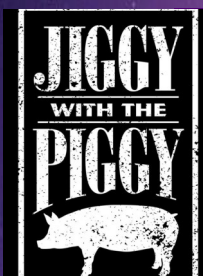
### *All men are invited to a Fellowship Dinner*

on Thursday, **April 28<sup>th</sup>**! Michael Taylor, Pastor of Phaniels Baptist Church in Rockwell, Chaplain for the Rowan County Sheriff's Office, and founder of Shield a Badge with Prayer, will be our guest speaker. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Narthex!



### *The First Presbyterian Women's Council will host a Spring Gathering*

on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00p.m. All women of the church are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a "Pound Cake Bar" featuring homemade pound cakes, toppings, and punch. Join in worship as Kay Yates shares the inspiring true story behind several beloved hymns we'll sing together. Then enjoy a Fashion Show you've never seen the likes of before! Mark your calendars for this afternoon of fun and fellowship! Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.



### *Let's get "jiggy"! First Presbyterian will host a booth at this year's "Jiggy with the Piggy" festival.*

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth on **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-9pm and Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 5pm.** We will hand out bottled water and other First Pres merchandise. Please let Debbie McDaniel or Michelle Walker know if you can help!



### *Mark your calendars for a Spring Fun Fest!*

Invite friends and family to worship with us on **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Stay after church for lunch on the front patio, live music, fun, and fellowship! Please sign-up in the Narthex so we are sure to have sufficient supplies!

*Moms in Prayer* meets weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30a.m. Join other moms in the area as we lift our children in prayer!



### *Session Highlights*

Beginning in March, Holy Communion will be observed during the worship service on the first Sunday of every month. A donation was made for the purchase of 3 additional picnic tables, which have been delivered and assembled. A designated gift has been made to fund the following:

- Address electrical/wiring needs in the office
- Replace the Fellowship Hall water fountains with a chilled, water bottle filling station
- Replace kitchen window serving doors
- Repair kitchen refrigerator

A committee has been designated to formulate applications for Cannon Grants, which will cover capital building improvements. Potential projects may include: new flooring in office and office hallway; remodeling restrooms; HVAC replacement; and front patio brick replacement.

# Ramifications of the Resurrection



What difference does the resurrection make? What does a dead man, who claimed to be God and then validated His claim by rising from the dead, have to do with my life?

**If Christ rose from the dead, He really is who He claimed to be.** Jesus, by all human and historical standards, lived a remarkable life. He was known for compassion, powerful teaching and miracle working. People marveled at His zeal, were amazed by His grasp of truth, and stood awed in His personal presence. And yet, many religious leaders have left such a legacy. If He had remained in the grave, Jesus would have been exposed as a religious con man or a wannabe messiah – one more self-appointed prophet with a God complex.

Jesus claimed He would die and then rise from the dead. *"'We are going up to Jerusalem,' He said, 'and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles, who will mock Him and spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. Three days later He will rise.'"* (Mk. 10:33-34) Christ's bodily resurrection is the historical validation of all His claims. The disciples who witnessed the actual resurrection of Jesus would spend their lives preaching the gospel of the Resurrected Christ, many of them dying for the veracity of the claim.

**If Christ arose from the dead, defeating the power of death, we should look to no other for answers to everlasting life.** Who has the answers to what happens when we die? Other religions and philosophies give insights into life, suffering and death. But which religious founder and spiritual guru can speak authoritatively about life after death? The Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, and Moses have one thing in common: they all died, their ashes remaining in a tomb. Many people speculate about life after death. Only Christ defeated death.

Jesus Christ came from heaven humbly, lived on earth perfectly, died on the cross sacrificially, rose from the dead gloriously, ascended to heaven victoriously, and promises to come again triumphantly. The night before He died, Jesus said, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.'* Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (Jn. 14:1-6) As Christ alone arose from the dead, defeating the power of death, we should look to Him alone for answers to life everlasting.



## April Birthdays

4/3 Brian Efird  
 4/6 Jessica Bell  
 4/6 Gip Rumble  
 4/7 Mary Elizabeth Jacobs  
 4/10 Daniel Pless  
 4/11 Tom Cavin  
 4/12 Kathy Rumble  
 4/12 Betty Sechler  
 4/15 Mal McDaniel  
 4/16 Toby Caskey  
 4/16 Abigail Malinovsky  
 4/19 Bill Jolley  
 4/20 Danny Bost  
 4/21 Kay McAllister  
 4/22 Mark Linn  
 4/22 Barbara Wise  
 4/23 Whit Whitaker  
 4/24 Presley Baker  
 4/24 Charles Seaford  
 4/25 Steve Goodnight  
 4/27 Janice Jolley

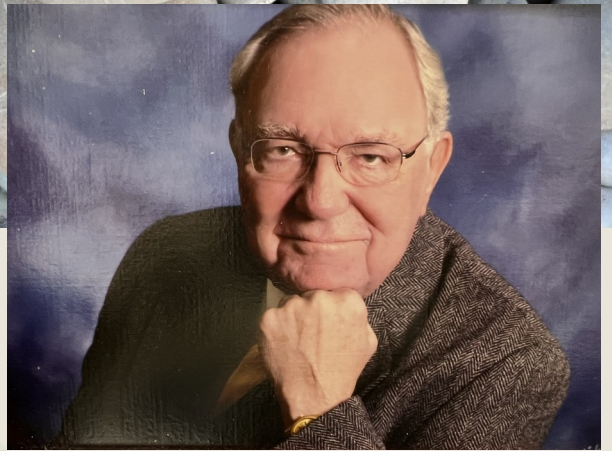
## May Birthdays

5/3 Judy Hunter  
 5/5 CJ Semcho  
 5/7 Debby Baker  
 5/8 John Roberson  
 5/11 Joyce Deal  
 5/13 Larry Efird  
 5/15 Raegan Swaringen  
 5/23 Virginia Maguire  
 5/23 Landon Walker  
 5/23 Noah Walker  
 5/26 Chris Lowder  
 5/30 Melba Funderburk

## Wedding Anniversaries

4/2 Bill & Janice Jolley  
 4/22 George & Kaitlyn Maxwell  
 4/30 Frank & Peggy Gibson

5/2 Larry & Carla Efird  
 5/3 Chris & Chariti Lowder  
 5/6 Mark & Renee Goodnight  
 5/6 Jeff & Christy Heintz  
 5/7 Richard & Risa Little  
 5/7 Todd & Karen Pless  
 5/8 Ronald & Connie Lisenby  
 5/13 Bill & Sharon Stricker  
 5/26 Tony & Judy Hunter  
 5/29 Ron & Alpha Barger



Continued from page 1: Living Legacy Tony Sherrill

Carolyn, an ER nurse, and Tony, still attending classes, found themselves now leading the Youth Group at First Presbyterian. Soon, jobs in mortgage banking led them out of town and out of state. And while they attended other churches, Tony never moved his membership. Even the timing of their return to Kannapolis seemed ordained. Only a couple years after they built a house, Carolyn's dad had a stroke. Tony and Carolyn were able to move her mom into their home to care for her.

While his life hasn't been immune from its share of tragedy, Tony's faith has never wavered. 1993 saw the death of his father in September, and the loss of his son, Tony, in December. Ten years later, his granddaughter Heather, whom he and Carolyn had helped raise, was killed in a car accident. And ten years after that, Carolyn succumbed to dementia. In spite of it all, he sees himself as "lucky," and "blessed" with friends and family that love him. He also sees God continuing to work. When Heather's mom Faye lost her mom, Tony says he and Carolyn informally "adopted" Faye as their own. She moved into their home, and now helps look after him.

Tony chooses not to focus on the pain of his losses, but the pleasure that his loved ones brought him. And he is grateful for the church that "has always been there." Tony has served that church well – leading Wednesday Night meals, starting a coffee fellowship, and now cooking for those who are sick or shut-in. He loves the collaboration of church members and how an idea that one person has can blossom when others join in. His hope is that First Presbyterian continues with the fellowship and outreach of a "great church" with "great people." He shares words of wisdom handed down by his mom: "Relax and let the Lord do His work!"

# HOPE FOR OUR WORLD

Conrad Adenauer was elected to help rebuild West Germany from the ashes of physical and spiritual ruin following WWII. He once met Billy Graham. Adenauer asked Graham a strange question, considering Graham's evangelical convictions. Adenauer said, "Mr. Graham, do you believe in the resurrection of Christ from the dead?" Billy Graham answered, "Of course I do." Chancellor Adenauer said, "Mr. Graham, outside the resurrection of Christ, I do not know of any hope for this world." It was true in war-torn Europe in the 1940's and true today.

**The risen Christ is our hope!**

## JUBILATION

First Presbyterian Church  
201 Vance Street  
Kannapolis, NC 28021-4383

