

SUMMER 2022

First Presbyterian Church Kannapolis

# JUBILATION

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

## Living Legacy

One generation will commend  
your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.  
Psalm 145:4



## Ron & Alpha Barger

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At age 13, Alpha Carter walked into Faith Baptist Church and saw a young man sitting in the back, wearing a white shirt and a black suit and tie. She thought to herself, "That's the handsomest guy I've ever seen." Alpha and her family had just moved to the Faith, NC area. Ronald Barger - the handsome guy - had grown up in Faith.

The two dated before Alpha went to college and Ron joined the Air Force. When both returned home, they resumed their relationship and were even engaged for four months. A squabble led Ron to tell Alpha, "You can't tell me what to do," whereupon Alpha gave Ron his engagement ring back. But two years later, Ron was still pursuing - "Because I loved her," he says. When he stopped by Alpha's house one day, she had every intention of telling Ron to just leave her alone. But the words that came out of her mouth were, "When are we going to get married?" That was January, 1965. They wed in May of the same year. Ron and Alpha use their union as one example of how God has worked in their lives. Alpha had prayed about marriage - she didn't want to be an old maid, after all! - but after Ron's visit in January, she had no doubt about their union. Both Ron and Alpha came from households of faith. Church was a priority for their families and almost everything they did revolved around church activities. They weren't just "sent" to church, Alpha says, they were "taken." And they both remember their own professions of faith - Alpha just before she turned 6, and Ron as a young teenager. Alpha has "never doubted" that God was with her and believes that God prepares you for events in your life. She remembers as a child the death of her uncle in WWII. Her grandmother had previously lost two young children to diphtheria and Alpha wondered at how she managed to make it through.

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# CELEBRATE



The 20<sup>th</sup> presentation of *The Last Supper* was a dramatic reminder of Jesus' sacrifice during Holy Week. Our deepest gratitude to all who participated, whether behind the scenes or on stage. Your service was truly a blessing to our church and our community, as over 350 individuals attended the presentation. To God be the glory!

## Our children had an opportunity to "Walk with Jesus" this Easter season!

By visiting 5 stations of Holy Week, they examined the significance of Jesus' words and deeds. An easter egg hunt and lunch capped off a fun day!



## The Women's Council Spring Gathering did not disappoint!

Women of the church were treated to a pound cake bar and refreshments, before learning more about some of our favorite hymns. The "piece de resistance" was a Fashion Show to end all Fashion Shows! First Pres's very own women showed off the very best (or worst!) in foolish fashion. Kay Yates' ideas and script had the audience howling. Thank you to all those who dedicated time and energy to make this event so enjoyable!!!



## The men of the church gathered for a delicious steak/chicken dinner and great fellowship

on Thursday, April 28. Mike Taylor – Pastor, Chaplain, and founder of Shield-a-Badge with Prayer – spoke about his ministry and gave a stirring devotion. Thanks to all who helped cook or clean up!



## Our Spring Fun Fest

definitely brought the fun!!! Church members, friends, and family enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of food and fellowship plus fun games, a bounce house, and awesome treats. We are so grateful to our Fellowship Team for their service and hospitality!!!



## MISSIONS UPDATES

Thank you for your faithful support of our Missions Team and Missions Partners! Your generosity has been amazing and has allowed us to contribute to the following organizations:

- **KBTA:** \$1,336 (matched in a fundraising campaign)
- **Gideons:** \$779
- **Shield-a-Badge with Prayer:** \$106
- **Ukraine Relief:** \$3465.00 (matched donation)

## The Sitpatch School Missions Challenge

continues! Rev. Don Wehmeyer, our missionary partner in Mexico, is leading the construction of a school to serve the Sitpatch community in the Yucatan. A generous donor has agreed to match contributions made up to \$35,000. Based on Missions Team commitments and the congregation's generosity, we have collected **\$7,152.00** thus far. If you would like to contribute, please make your donation to First Pres and designate your gift for the "Sitpatch School." We hope to participate in a mission trip later this year.

First Presbyterian is able to offer **bereavement meals** to families who have lost loved ones due to the generosity and service of our members. Four Bereavement Groups alternate providing meals when a death in our church family occurs. Some provide financial contributions to purchase meats, while others contribute salads, vegetables, and desserts. When the need for a meal arises, Pastor Eddie notifies one of the Bereavement leaders, who then contacts the next group in rotation. Group members drop meals off at the church and help serve as able. If you aren't sure if you are in a group, or if you would like to join one, please contact the church office or Charlene Booth. Thank you to all who provide this valuable service to our church family!!!

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YOU!  
know



# UPCOMING

## FEATURED FELLOWSHIP

**Women Without Reservations** is a fun-loving group of friends who cherish their time together – whether in fellowship or Bible study. Their name derives from Proverbs 31:25 (ESV): “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.” They hold no reservations at living their lives as women of God, nor do they require reservations to join them! Prior outings have included meals at local restaurants and painting at an art studio. Bible studies have ranged from an Advent series to books/guides by Proverbs 31 Ministries. Their next gathering is a couples’ pool party at the Swaringen’s home on Saturday, June 11. The party begins at 4pm, and dinner will be served around 6pm. See Raegan Swaringen or Michelle Walker for more information!



**Youth Sunday will be celebrated on June 5<sup>th</sup>!** Our children and youth will lead our worship service, the PraiseMakers will present a “mini-musical” entitled *Heaven’s Kitchen*, and Pastor Eddie will bring the message. We will also recognize our graduating high school seniors – Malaina Meeks and Katie Satterfield. The congregation is invited to a reception in their honor immediately following the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.



**First Pres will host a “Summer Bible Adventure” for our children!** Meetings will take place on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am from June 15 through July 13. Each week will involve a Bible lesson, as well as a mix of crafts, music, or Bible memory challenges! Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch and the Church will provide a treat. Some weeks, we may even work on a service project or have a fun outing. Please let Michelle Walker know if you are interested!!!

# Family Fun Days around this summer!

Watch the bulletin and weekly email for details as we continue to plan fellowship opportunities.

## OUTINGS SCHEDULED THUS FAR ARE-

- JUNE 4:** Putt-putt at Jocko's Mini Golf
- JUNE 12:** Cannon Ballers game
- JUNE 18:** Crowder, We the Kingdom, Anne Wilson and Patrick Mayberry Christian Music Concert in Greensboro
- JUNE 25:** Painting class with Allison Hammett
- JULY 1:** Fireworks Viewing at Research Campus



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VBS

From Sunday, July 31 through Thursday, August 4, we will journey through "Jerusalem Marketplace," learning more about Jesus along the way! Dinner will be served nightly at 5:30p.m. Kids' activities will run from 6pm-8pm, and an adult class will be available. Register at [www.myvbs.org/fpck](http://www.myvbs.org/fpck).





# Daily Thoughts for Christ-Followers

FROM PASTOR EDDIE

**Live out our gospel identity.** The Christian, united to Christ by faith, has been given an entirely new identity. We are the beloved Bride of Christ who *"...loved the church and gave Himself up for her..., to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."* (Eph. 5:25, 27) We should daily preach the gospel to ourselves, which means we remind ourselves, whether we feel like it or not, just *"how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ"* for you. (Eph. 3:18)

**Commit to a life of spiritual surrender.** *"I tell you the truth,"* Jesus says, *"unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."* (John 12:24) What is true in the science of agriculture is true in the realm of the Spirit. When a seed dies, the potentiality of the seed explodes. Christ chose, in obedience to the Father's will and out of love for us, to be the Seed who died to achieve our salvation. In our daily Christian life, it is spiritual surrender to Christ which grows the seed of trust in Christ into the harvest of a transforming hope and love in us. The ascended Christ says, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in your weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*" (II Cor. 12:9)

**Spend time with our Heavenly Father.** Commit to a daily appointment with God. Declare personal and spiritual warfare on anything that keeps you from intimate fellowship with the Almighty. The frenzied pace of life is a great enemy of our soul. "Keep them busy" is the mantra of Hell itself. Life's pace not only steals time from spiritual devotion, but it is also a barrier to spiritual humility. The faster we go, the more self-reliant we become. The result is a spiritually superficial life, often coupled with a spiritual callousness to the brokenness around us. Spiritual disciplines – namely Bible intake and prayer – will cultivate intimacy with the Almighty and develop a heart for other people.

**Intentionally grow a large heart for people.** Do we have a heart for the spiritually lost? Do we even notice the brokenness that surrounds us? Remember the "priest" and "Levite" in The Parable of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:25-37) They not only refused to help the dying person along the road; they did not really even see him. Jesus is very clear that the priest and Levite observed the injured man, yet casually passed by on the other side. How could they notice, but not "see" him? An enlarging heart sees the pain of others. "Our neighbor," writes Hadden Robinson in his sermon on this parable, "is anyone we see, whose need God has put us in the place to meet."

How does your "sight and compassion quotient" measure up these days? True, if we grow large hearts for people, our lives might become far more complicated, yet joyfully meaningful. However, if we choose to narrow our heart towards others, either out of selfishness or past hurts, the danger is grave. As C. S. Lewis profoundly notes,

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. . . The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers . . . of love is Hell."

**"Seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."** (Matt. 6:33) "These things" are God's good gifts to be enjoyed in this world. Pursue first things first.

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## June Birthdays

6/2 Ron Barger  
6/3 Dave Argabrite  
6/3 Cierstyn Lowder  
6/4 Kelly Semcho  
6/7 Wren Philpot  
6/8 Shannon Sechler  
6/12 Jill McLain  
6/13 Sharon Stricker  
6/14 Peggy Barnhardt  
6/25 Richard Little  
6/26 Jenna Baker

## July Birthdays

7/1 Alpha Barger  
7/3 Laura McLain  
7/6 Chariti Lowder  
7/11 Carla Efird  
7/11 Lily Watkins  
7/11 Loretta Young  
7/13 Camryn Lowder  
7/16 Hannah Efird  
7/17 Michelle Walker  
7/18 Mark Goodnight  
7/20 Renee Goodnight  
7/20 Greg Taylor  
7/21 Donna Mauldin  
7/22 Amy Hallman  
7/22 Jennifer Linn  
7/25 Opal Hallman  
7/25 Carol Lowder  
7/26 Kaitlyn Maxwell  
7/31 Shirley Faust

## Summer Anniversaries

6/3 Ryan & Michelle Walker  
6/16 Charles & Becky Seaford  
6/19 Dave & Jane Argabrite  
6/19 Adam & Tracy Caskey

7/2 Bill & Bonnie Goodnight  
7/16 Brian & Hannah Efird  
7/21 David & Amy Hamilton  
7/27 Hank & Sharon Cranford  
7/31 Gip & Kathy Rumble

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But she also remembered that she never walked into her grandmother's house without her Bible being open. When Ron and Alpha lost their oldest son, Jonathan, in a car wreck his sophomore year in college, Alpha realized how her grandmother had persevered – her faith had sustained her. Ron relied on Alpha, his “rock,” and God to get him through that time, too. They chose not to blame God, clinging to Jonathan's birth and his salvation as miracles from God. Time has helped heal their grief, as has realizing there are so many who have faced similar losses. Alpha and Ron have faced other challenges, too, like the joys and heart-aches of raising 17 foster children or the amputation of Ron's leg. But there has never been a time when their church family wasn't there to provide what they needed or just be there with them.

Ron and Alpha joined First Presbyterian in 2007. They have served and attended many churches, but felt at home here after only two visits, when people welcomed them and later remembered them. Ron has twice served as an elder, and has worked to do repairs and woodwork for the church. He is especially grateful for the opportunities for spiritual growth that First Presbyterian has made available. Alpha is a consistent leader of preschoolers and kindergarteners in Bible Study, VBS or Sunday School. She is also active in the Ladies' Bible Study and on the Women's Council. Both enjoy delivering meals to our homebound on Wednesday evenings.

The Bargers have seen the importance of a faith-based upbringing in their own lives and in the lives of their extended families. Their wish for First Presbyterian is likewise – to see our children regularly fellowshiping, learning that which is of lasting importance and eternal value, while adults of all ages lead and guide them. Ron and Alpha dearly love Pastor Eddie and are excited for the opportunities for growth in our church, in turn allowing us to be a greater blessing to others. Alpha has felt God saying little things to her throughout her life. Here at First Presbyterian, the Bargers' quiet, humble, selfless service and their unwavering devotion to God and His word speak volumes!



Pursue kingdom priorities and you will enjoy many earthly amenities. Pursue earthy things first and you will never know the spiritual satisfaction of God's kingdom. C. S. Lewis said it this way. "Aim at heaven and you get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither." Sadly, many in this world and the Church, live very tragic lives because of misplaced priorities.

"I counted possessions while God counted crosses.

I counted gains while God counted losses.

I counted honors and sought degrees. He counted the hours I spent on my knees.

I never knew until one day by the grave, how vain are the things we spend our life to save."

Anonymous

**Live beyond our comfort zones.** A simple prayer for the Christ-follower:

"Disturb us O Lord when we are too well pleased with ourselves,

When our dreams come true only because we have dreamed too little,

When we arrived safely only because we sailed so close to the shore.

Disturb us O Lord, when with the abundance of things we lose our thirst for God;

When in loving the earth we cease to dream of eternity,

When with desire to build on earth, we have lost our vision of a new Heaven."

Anonymous

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