



NEWSLETTER

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dr. Philip K. Gladden, Minister

MARCH 2021

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor

MINISTER ON CONTINUING EDUCATION LEAVE

Philip Gladden will be on Continuing Education leave Monday - Friday, March 21-25 at Cedar Cross Retreat Center outside of Louisburg, North Carolina. This will be a time for sermon planning and preparation and personal study. In the event of an emergency, please contact Cheryl Brinkley in the church office (285-2808) or Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull (910-284-2813).



PREACHING DURING LENT

On the Emmaus Road: Life Together in Christ

The sermons during Lent and on Easter Sunday will be based on the story of Cleopas and his companion encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus on the first Easter afternoon. You will want to read the story in full in Luke 24:13-35 during Lent. Also, you will want to read the sermon texts provided below as you prepare for worship during this holy season of Lent.

LENT 1	March 6	Luke 24:13-17	Talking about what had happened
LENT 2	March 13	Luke 24:17-21a	"But we had hoped . . ."
LENT 3	March 20	Luke 24:21b-24	"Some women astounded us..."
LENT 4	March 27	Luke 24:25-27	How slow of heart to believe
LENT 5	April 3	Luke 24:28-32	Their eyes were opened . . .
PALM SUNDAY	April 10	Luke 19:28-40	"Blessed is the king!"
EASTER SUNDAY	April 17	Luke 24:33-35	"The Lord has risen indeed!"



Birthdays In March

Happy Birthday to You!

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 4- Dana Myrick | 21- Emily Saunders |
| 5- Battle Holley | Susan Carone |
| Natalie Gladden | Amanda Shea |
| 6- Earleene Southerland | 24- Adlyn Jo Casteen |
| 12- Hattie B. Farrior | 25- Dotsie Caproni |
| John Ludlum | 26- Whit Newkirk |
| 16- Mary Kate White | 27- Miller Ludlum |
| 19- Netti Batchelor | 28- Susie Bullard |





ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

At the Tuesday, February 15, 2022 session meeting, the elders and minister:

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and continues through Saturday, April 16, the day before Easter. The forty days of Lent call to mind the forty days of the great flood in Genesis, the forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, the forty days Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh, the forty days Moses was on the mountain when he received the Ten Commandments, the forty days the prophet Elijah fasted in the wilderness, the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness as he fasted, prayed, and was tempted, and the forty days between Jesus's resurrection and ascension. The Sundays in Lent are not included in the reckoning of the forty days.

According to our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission website, "The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him."

My Lenten preaching schedule is outlined on the front page of this newsletter. This year I am doing something different. My sermons for March 6 (the first Sunday in Lent) - April 17 (Easter Sunday), with the exception of Palm Sunday, will be based on the Emmaus Road story in Luke 24:13-35. While at first it may seem strange for me to preach during Lent from a story that takes place on the first Easter afternoon, Luke's story about Cleopas and his companion encountering the risen Jesus incorporates many of the themes of the season of Lent: the self-reflection of Cleopas and his companion; their crushed hopes following Jesus's crucifixion; the witness of the scriptures to Jesus's death on the cross leading to his victory over death; and the believers' "eye-opening" experience as Jesus breaks bread with them.

I encourage you to read the Emmaus Road story several times during the season of Lent. You also have the opportunity to join your fellow church members in weekly Bible study (Monday night and Wednesday morning) and in our Lenten study of this story (Monday morning, Wednesday and Thursday nights) as we talk about and incorporate this

- * conducted the meeting as a worship service;
- * were led in an opening devotion and prayer by Elder Fred Burroughs;
- * read God's Word in Psalm 46, watched a video "Healthy Church Leadership in Uncharted Territory" and talked about "What is our church's deep why?";
- * approved a request from the minister to use Continuing Education time and funds to go to Cedar Cross Retreat Center, Louisburg, NC during the week of March 21-25 for sermon preparation and personal study and to attend (virtually) the annual Sprunt lectures at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA May 2-4;
- * approved the 2021 annual Church Statistical Report;
- * approved minutes from January 18, 2022 stated session meeting
- * approved a recommendation from the Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team and Personnel Ministry Team to distribute an anonymous monetary gift to the church staff members in appreciation for their work and leadership during the pandemic;
- * approved a recommendation from the Christian Education Ministry Team to purchase a dry erase board and two smart TV's for the children's Sunday School classrooms;
- * revised the COVID-19 worship protocols to make mask wearing optional and to return the Friendship registers to the pews;
- * approved two requests from the Sills family: (1) to use the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, April 3, 2022 for the Eagle Scout ceremony for James Sills and (2) to host a congregational "meal-to-go" fundraiser following worship one Sunday in the spring to secure funds to pay for the AED equipment in the Fellowship Hall (part of James's Eagle Scout project);
- * prayed for members of our congregation, community, nation, and world;
- * were led in a closing prayer by Elder Fred Burroughs.

CHURCH NEWS . . . For Your Information

- * **The season of Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2.
- * **We will receive** our quarterly P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering during worship on Sunday, March 6. Please see the article in the newsletter for more information.
- * **The session** will meet Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or the minister.
- * **Philip Gladden** will be on Continuing Education leave March 21-25. In the event of an emergency, please contact Cheryl Brinkley in the church office (285-2808) or Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull (910-284-2813).
- * **We will receive** the monthly (school year) Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering during worship on Sunday, March 27.



P.A.T.H. OFFERING
Presbyterian Answer to
Hunger
Sunday, March 6



We will receive our quarterly (March, June, September, December) P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering during worship on Sunday, March 6. This offering supports the Hunger Program of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina which, in turn, funds feeding programs for children in Haiti and Malawi. The Hunger Program also provides funds for congregational food ministries such as our Helping Hands Food Pantry.



**FEED OUR HUNGRY CHILDREN/
BACKPACK MINISTRY OFFERING**
SUNDAY, MARCH 27



We will receive our monthly (school year) Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering during worship on Sunday, March 27. This offering is an extension of Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries and provides lunches and weekend food for students in Duplin County Schools. You may contribute to the offering in worship, by mailing a check to the church at P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466, by dropping your contribution through the mail slot of the front door of the church office building, or by giving online at www.wallacepresbyterian.com.



March



03/06: Nell Sloan & Harriet Farrior
03/13: Reese & Noel Blue
03/20: Danielle & James Sills
03/27: Emily & Hayes Ludlum

Sam Rose Jason Rouse
Dave Wells

OPENING CHURCH BUILDING

March 1-15: Jason Rouse
March 16-31: Dave Wells

story into our own lives and faith journeys.

In these incredibly challenging times, the admission from Cleopas and his companion on the road, "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel," might echo our questions and doubts and concerns as people of faith. The Emmaus Road story can open our eyes to the good news of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection, as we make our journey to Easter on the Emmaus Road and, indeed, as we make our journey through life itself.

In Christ,

Phil



The session has made the decision that masks will be optional in worship services. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free to do so.

As always, the session encourages you to take care of your health and that of your fellow church members. If you are not feeling well, you are encouraged to stay home and participate in worship via the livestream on our church's website.



Hospital & at home:
Cathy Wells (Pender Memorial Rehab)
Judy Robinson (home)
Dan & Eva McLaughlin (The Gardens)

Verlie Wells (The Gardens)
Bruce Lyon (Dayspring)



A Message from
Dustin and Sherri Ellington
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers
in Lusaka, Zambia

February 2022

Dear Friends,

Sherri and I have some big news to share with you. In recent years, we've had a growing sense that God is tugging on our hearts to return and do mission service in the Arabic-speaking world again.

Many of you will remember that we served in Egypt from 2005 to 2009. It was invigorating to be learning Arabic, building trust on behalf of the gospel in a Muslim setting, and training people for Christian ministry in that region. We had thought we were called there long term, and were deeply saddened when we were forced to leave. It felt as though our ministry, dreams, and future were taken from us – though in the end we landed well and have deeply appreciated our 11 years in Zambia.

When the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Lebanon began inviting me to teach short intensive courses in Arabic, starting in 2015, it felt redemptive and exhilarating to get to use the experience and skills I had gained in Egypt. Upon return from that first trip to Lebanon, I remember telling friends that it was either the experience of a lifetime to get to do that again, or that I'd be going back for more when I could. I did keep going back to offer short courses. I had students from all across North Africa and the Middle East, and to my surprise, lots more Presbyterians and Anglicans than Baptists.

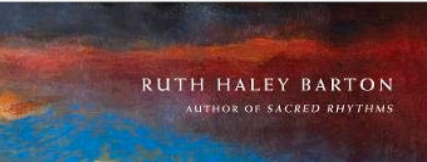
ABTS also began asking if I would consider joining their full-time faculty long term. Sherri and I have been wrestling with and answering some questions: What do we, in particular, need to do on behalf of the gospel and the world within this limited lifetime? Where and when do we most come alive in serving what is good for the kingdom of God and the progress of the gospel? As much as we love Justo Mwale and Zambia, answering such questions has helped us to trace God's hand pointing us back to the Arabic-speaking world.

We have a sense of unfinished work to do, and the move to Lebanon also feels like wise stewardship. Sherri and I spent thousands of hours studying Arabic in the past. In Lebanon, I can use both my training as a New Testament scholar *and* my training in Arabic. I feel if I were to live a long life, but didn't do my best to return to the Middle East, it would be something I'd regret. Sherri would love the gift of time to refresh her Arabic and be prayerfully present in the Middle East, to discern a path of ministry while being there on the ground. She's excited to get to



LIFE TOGETHER
IN CHRIST

EXPERIENCING TRANSFORMATION
IN COMMUNITY



Our 2022 Lenten Study will be based on Ruth Haley Barton's book, *Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community*. Based on the story about Cleopas and his companion encountering the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus on Easter afternoon, this book is designed to help you find a deeper life with Christ in the company of others.

Are you ready to encounter Christ — right where you are on the road of real life? The study will be offered three times weekly (same content each time) during the season of Lent (except for the week of March 21-25). If you need to, you may attend different sessions from week to week. The schedule is below. An email with weekly information and the Zoom links will be sent at the end of each week for the following week. If you plan to participate, please purchase a copy of the book online.

Day of the Week	Time	Format
Monday , February 28 March 7, 14, 28 April 4, 11	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	In person (Room 304) and via Zoom
Wednesday , March 2, 9, 16, 30 April 6, 13	7:15 - 8:15 p.m.	Via Zoom
Thursday , March 3, 10, 17, 31 April 13, 14	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Via Zoom



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Dan and Tanya Robinson and their family on the death of their grandson, Payton Mann, on February 8.



**THE PRESBYTERY
OF COASTAL
CAROLINA TO MEET
Saturday,
March 5, 2022**



The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina will hold its 124th stated meeting on Saturday, March 5 in person at the First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, NC and via Zoom. Teaching Elders (ministers) and Ruling Elders from Presbyterian congregations across southeastern North Carolina will gather for worship and to conduct the business of the church. Please keep elders, ministers, and presbytery staff members in your prayers as they seek to discern God's will for our common ministry as the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.



**Congratulations to
Garrett Bullard
on his graduation from
Army Basic Training
at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma
on March 12.**



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING OFFERING = \$402
All money will support our Helping Hands Food Pantry.
Thank you!**

have a ministry of presence and ask open questions about what God is doing there and how she might fit.

We've felt a sense of redemption as this seminary in Lebanon has reached out to us. Only God owns the future, and we feel he is giving a part of ourselves back to us as we begin to make this move to serve that part of the world again. Something feels really right for us to be living, praying, and doing mission service again in the Middle East. Trusting in God's provision, we hope to move to Lebanon this fall. We can imagine some questions coming to your minds. *Isn't Lebanon in turmoil?* Yes, Lebanon is going through tough times politically and especially economically. While this is sobering, ABTS still believes it's good for us to join them there, and we appreciate prayers for God to prepare us to live there and to be an encouragement. *What about Zambia and Justo Mwale University?*

We've had happy years serving in Zambia since 2010. Sherri has enjoyed coordinating the Young Adult Volunteer site, among her other forms of service. Teaching at JMU has been some of the happiest work of my life. Zambia has been a good place for us as a family. Our sense of pull to the Middle East does not arise from thinking that training people for Christian ministry in Zambia and surrounding countries, as JMU does, is less necessary or less important than in the Middle East. JMU is uniquely positioned for training Reformed and Presbyterian pastors for numerous African countries, and few settings provide a similar opportunity to walk with and touch such a huge piece of the African church as Justo Mwale. We want to stay engaged with JMU. It's still at the exploratory stage, but the president of the seminary in Lebanon has offered that I can teach an intensive course each year in Zambia, even as JMU allowed me to do in Lebanon.

What does this mean for our relationship with Presbyterian World Mission? We are very thankful for our 17 good years serving through Presbyterian World Mission, but we need to share that we are ending our service with PWM on May 15. Though we are closing our time with PWM, we invite PCUSA churches to be involved in its work. The new funding model still allows you to develop a relationship with a Mission Co-worker and give "in honor of" him or her. If you are looking for a new mission co-worker to support, we recommend Rev. Paula Cooper, our colleague and supervisor, who is Regional Liaison for Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Kenya and who lives on the Justo Mwale campus.

Sherri and I are excited about our future mission service and long to lean into this new direction as faithfully as possible. We would love for you to continue walking with us and praying for us. We intend to be sent through an organization called The Antioch Partners. As you can imagine, 2022 is going to be a major year of change for us. We very much appreciate your prayers as we step forward toward ministry in Lebanon.

Yours in Christ,

Dustin and Sherri

P.S. Please feel free to be in touch with questions or to process anything. Our personal emails are:

Dustin: ellingtondustin@gmail.com

Sherri: so.ellington@gmail.com

March 2022

- Holidays in United States
- WPC Calendar
- drphil@wallacepresbyterian.com
- cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com
- cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com Home



February 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28					

March 2022

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April 2022

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, in person & Zoom, Room 304 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)/Feed Our Hungry Children Backpack Ministry Offering	28 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	1 First Day of...History Month	2 Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Lenten Bible Study via Zoom	3 7:15 PM Lenten Bible Study via Zoom	4	5 9:30 AM Meeting of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina at First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville and via Zoom
6 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, in person & Zoom, Room 304 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)/P.A.T.H. Offering	7 10:00 AM Lenten Study, Room 304 and via Zoom 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	8 10:30 AM Circle #3: Fellowship Hall 10:30 AM Circle #4: Fellowship Hall	9 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Lenten Study, via Zoom	10 7:00 PM Lenten Study via Zoom	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time starts 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, in person & Zoom, Room 304 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	14 10:00 AM Lenten Study, Room 304 and via Zoom 10:30 AM Circle #1: Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	15 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom	16 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Lenten Study via Zoom	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 PM Lenten Study via Zoom	18	19
20 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, in person & Zoom, Room 304 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	21 Minister on Continuing Education Leave 10:00 AM No morning Lenten Study 7:00 PM No Zoom Bible Study	22	23 10:00 AM No Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM No Wednesday night Lenten Study	24 7:00 PM No Thursday night Lenten Study	25	26
27 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, in person & Zoom, Room 304 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)/Feed Our Hungry Children/Back-	28 10:00 AM Lenten Study, Room 304 and via Zoom 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	29	30 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Lenten Study via Zoom	31 7:00 PM Lenten Study via Zoom	1	2