

# CLARKTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, No. 4

May 2015

### From the Pastor

*On the evening of [the day of resurrection], the first day of the week, the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the authorities; then Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,...*

*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit."  
John 20:19-22*

Grace to you, and peace, in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ--

The Easter season-- the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost-- is my favorite liturgical time of year. It's an exciting time, when we reflect on what it means to be and do Church; to be the body of Christ that bears witness to the resurrection. It's a time to celebrate new life, dream new dreams, and be renewed in our commitment to lives of discipleship. It's also a time to rest together in the gracious and loving presence of our risen Lord; to remember who we are and whose we are; to catch our breath, check our priorities, and take spiritual inventory. How well does what we do line up with what Christ calls us to do? Are we being the people (individually and together) that Christ calls us to be? Are we living lives of faith, hope, and love? Or, like the disciples after the resurrection, are we hiding these qualities behind walls of fear, anger, and doubt? When people from "outside" look at us, what do they see of Christ?

To help answer these questions, in the season of Easter and beyond, your session has designated the months of May-November 2015 as "A Season of Listening and Dreaming." We will be intentionally listening to you all and for the voice of God, and together we will seek to discern God's dream for Clarkton Presbyterian Church in our time and place. Soon you'll be receiving a letter that will describe this all in greater detail. Here, I simply want to highlight this as one particularly exciting way in which we're seeking to answer those Easter questions.

Another way that we'll be engaging with these questions of church, faith, and life, is by having Confirmation class. Confirmation class prepares young

people to *confirm* the promises of their Baptism by joining the church and committing themselves to the lifelong journey of faith and discipleship. But it's not just about the young people being confirmed. Confirmation is a joyous opportunity for us all to remember our baptismal promises and to recall what it means to be a member of the church. For me and those who will be helping lead the class, this is a great chance to revisit those things that are essential and foundational in our faith, to "get back to basics." The Christian Education committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to plan for the Confirmation Class, so more information will be coming out soon.

At a personal level, I'll be renewing my sense of call to ministry, developing skills to help me be a better pastor, and identifying growing edges, at the Presbyterian CREDO conference, May 12-18th. CREDO is an invite-only conference (and only 40 people are invited; which is to say, it's a pretty big deal!) conducted by the PC(U.S.A.)'s Board of Pensions that works with recently ordained pastors to build physical, financial, mental, spiritual, and vocational wellbeing. Based on the amount of pre-conference work I've had to do, CREDO is going to be a very demanding week, but everyone I know who has attended says it's completely transformed their ministry and given them new life in their calling. I'm really looking forward to this opportunity for development and renewal in my vocation, and I'm excited to share the things I learn with you all as I grow and mature in ministry.

The final thing to which I'd like to call your attention is sad, but no less an opportunity to reflect on a life of faithful service in the church. Mary McCall has worked for 48 years as the church's housekeeper; and while that is her paid position, she means so much more than that to this community of faith. As of the end of April, Mary will be retiring to spend more time with her family and to rest her weary body. Mary has worked REALLY long and REALLY hard here, and so we will be celebrating her and her many years of service in worship on Sunday, May 31st and at a covered dish luncheon after the service. I hope you can be with us on the 31st so we can let Mary know just how much she means to this church and how much we will miss her!

With all of these opportunities, how will you be and do Church in this season? How will you participate in our life as the Church together? As always, I'd love to talk through these questions with you. It's my great joy and privilege to be walking alongside you all as we journey together, ever deeper into faith and discipleship, seeking to be more fully the body of Christ in the world.

Shalom, y'all!  
Andy

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## OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR



Wednesday 6:00 pm - Children's Choir

Wednesday 7:00 pm - Adult Choir

Sunday 10:00 am --- Morning Assembly and Sunday School

Sunday 11:00 am --- Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

Sunday 5:00 pm --- Youth Choir

5:30 pm --- Youth Groups (K-12)

## In our Prayers

Kerry Priest, Emily Owen, Billy Whitehead, Jimmy Whitehead, Linda Howell, Ronald Tuton, Rebecca and Happy Lashlee, Marvin Burney, John and Mary Ward, Marion Hardee, Shirley McDonald, Eunice Singletary, Giles McAulay, Becky Singletary, Gerry Carey, Cody Clark, Bonnie Britt, Cheryl Brisson, Ken Boykin, Arsula Williamson, Brad Zimmerman, Donald Grainger, Glenda Nobles, G. C. Davis, Kelly Smith, Bill Jackson

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Circle 1** will meet 10:00 am on May 4th

**Circle 2** will meet on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church to go together to Lake Waccamaw to meet with Jo Ann Cox in her home at the lake.

The Presbyterian Women are reinstating their monthly food drive for the Bladen Crisis Center. For the **month of May**, the food item is **canned Pasta** (such as ravioli, spaghetti's, etc.).

## From the Session

The stated meeting of the Session was held Sunday April 26. The minutes were approved. A letter was received from the Board of Pensions concerning the CREDO conference that Andy will be attending May 12-18 encouraging us all to be in prayer for him during this time. As a tangible demonstration of our support of Andy, see the special notice elsewhere in the newsletter that explains how we might participate. A motion to approve Andy's participation in an 18 month continuing education program for a certificate in Transformational Ministry Coaching through Presbytery was passed. This involves one day a month commitment. The personnel committee met twice in March. A motion to honor Mary McCall, housekeeper, on May 31, upon her retirement after 48 years of service was passed. See this special item also in the newsletter for further details. George Barber and Chuck Heustess are the personnel team that will search for a new housekeeper. If you are aware of possible candidates, please share with them. Alicia Smith will serve as interim housekeeper. Bible school will be held June 15-18 from 9am to 12 noon concurrent with the Youth Mission Project. Allison Priest is director. Each Elder has received a list of members to whom they will serve as Shepherding Elder. Elders will be letting their members know who is specially assigned to their care. A letter will be sent from Andy and the Session to explain our hopes for visits that will take place this summer and fall. We are looking forward to listening and dreaming together as we seek to understand where God is leading us. On the calendar of special importance is the training, examination, ordination and installation of Allison Priest as Ruling Elder. We will be glad to have our table complete once again! The dedication of Ian's Tree will be held on Sunday, June 21, immediately following worship. Because of the busy month of May, business of the Session will be conducted as needed. The next stated meeting will be in June. As we know the needs of our congregation and the loved ones of our members are many. We encourage you to be in prayer for the concerns of which you are aware and also for those that are often hidden by a smiling face. We all stand in need of a tender touch of Grace.

.....THE SESSION

### Roxane is in the Office:

Monday and Thursday – 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Wednesday – 8:30 am to 11:30 am

but will be out of the office the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## May Service

Flowers: 3 – Faye Singletary

10 – Linda Carey

17 – Opal Smith

24 – Betty Ann Page

31 - Phyllis McDougald

Nursery: 3 – Camille Campbell and Kate Watts

10 – Kelli and Anna Grey Heustess

17 – Miller Heustess & Camille Campbell

24 – Sonya and Luke Barber

31 - Candice Ward and Emma Turbeville

Acolyte: AnnaGrey Heustess

Greeters: Dan and Julie Ward

Ushers: Chuck and Greyson Heustess

Dan Ward, Grey Caballero

Children's Sermons: 3 – Rusty Marsh

10 – Julie Cox

17 – Dan Ward

24 – Iris McEwen

31 - Barry Priest



## MAY CALENDAR

6 – Bible Study, 6-7 PM

10 – Mother's Day

20 – Bible Study, 6-7 PM

24 – Day of Pentecost

Pentecost Offering received

25 – Memorial Day (office closed)

27 – Bible Study, 6-7 PM

30 – Youth Car Wash 7:30 AM to 12:00

31 – Trinity Sunday

Bladen Parish 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship – Beth Car PC

Celebration honoring Mary McCall

## Take Note

Our choirs will be taking a well-deserved break for the summer, so we're looking for musically-inclined folks to help us glorify God through song for these months. If you can sing or play an instrument, and would be willing to lend your talent to our worship one (or a few) Sunday(s), please contact JoAnn Cox.

\*\*Did you know that our church has a website?

Take the time to check it out –

[www.clarktonpres.org](http://www.clarktonpres.org)



## *Congratulations to:*

### *Florence Cox!*

Florence has been nominated as Clarkton's "Faithful Saint" this year! She will be recognized along with the other Faithful Saints for the Presbytery at a luncheon on May 2.

### *Carey Cox!*

Carey Cox was the Tampa Bay Rays' Employee of the Year for 2014! To honor her hard work and dedication, the Rays have made a \$500 donation to a non-profit of her choice-- and that's us! Thank you, Carey, and congratulations!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

### **PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ANDY**

Andy has been invited to participate in Presbyterian CREDO on May 12-18. This is a conference designed especially for newly ordained pastors where he will reflect upon themes of spiritual identity, wellness and leadership with others and through his own study. The intent is for a minister to create a personal plan that is intended to keep his or her life and ministry grounded in God's calling. We as a congregation are asked to support Andy by keeping him in prayer throughout that week. A tangible way of showing our prayers and support is to write our prayers, or poems, or special scriptures – place them in an envelope- and leave them in the office by May 10. Andy will take these envelopes and open them during the week he is away. This can provide just a little encouragement from his home congregation on this journey.

**TO CELEBRATE 48 YEARS OF SERVICE AND  
HONOR OUR FRIEND  
MARY AGNES MCCALL**

As most of you know, Mary Agnes McCall, housekeeper of this church and trusted friend for 48 years, has retired as of April 30. On Sunday, May 31, during morning Worship we will recognize Mary for her many years of faithful service. We will do this with words, with a remembrance gift and a monetary gift from the congregation. Worship will be followed by a covered dish dinner where there will be opportunity to thank Mary individually. For those of you who would like to express your own thanks in a tangible way, donations to the financial gift would be most appreciated by the Session. These can be given to the church by May 25, and designated to honor Mary McCall, so Roxane can account for them. This tiny lady with boundless energy and beautiful smile will be missed for many days to come. As we all know, there will never be another Mary. We are grateful for the blessing she has been for so many years.

*Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide, as we in mission magnify the Crucified! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!" From Come Sing, O Church in Joy! - pg. 305 in Glory to God.*

**We will be receiving the Pentecost Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th.**

A gift to the **Pentecost Offering** helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. Please consider contributing to this very important Special Offering. More info:

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/)

- [Young Adult Volunteers](#)
- [Ministries for Youth](#)
- [Children-at-Risk](#)

