



PeacePress

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A Global Mission Church

June, 2018

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The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.



We honor all the graduates associated with Peace Church this year! See the full list on page 3.

The Father's Day bulletin insert is sponsored this year by the Women's Fellowship and the proceeds will benefit the **Out of the Garden Project**, an agency that provides more than 1250 bags of food each weekend to students and families at nearly 60 elementary, middle and high schools here in the Piedmont Triad. Their statistics say that 2 out of every 3 children depend on subsidies to eat meals at school!



Sign up to honor or remember a special father in your life. Please give generously to help this worthy organization. **Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office by June 10th.**

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Minister of Music
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Mrs. Sherri Vestal

Secretary

Mr. Ted Wilkinson

Youth Director

Ms. Abigail Miller Warren

Nursery Attendant



Take a trip to the mountains, the beach, somewhere tropical or historical, but otherwise, make sure **YOUR** face isn't missing at church this summer!

Pastor's Perspective

I recently came across a proudly displayed church banner which read the following:

Be the Church: Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God. Enjoy this life.

I was intrigued. Nothing about Jesus, sin or redemption. Nothing about heaven or hell. Nothing about blood or suffering. Nothing about prayer or the wrath of God. Simply ten short, clear, pithy statements about how the church should act and be in the world.

Certainly, there is nothing wrong with any of the sentiments expressed on this church banner. In fact, I think they are correct. But from where do these notions come? Are they scripturally justified? Are they Christian or just secular values independent of any particular faith tradition?

Knowing the ground upon which we stand is important; perhaps more than ever. Thus, the ability to articulate the scriptural authority upon which we formulate opinions and engage in the work of the gospel is critical. So how do we know, for example, that “caring for the poor” is central to our faith?

Apart from the fact that Jesus begins his ministry with a proclamation in which the poor are prioritized (Luke 4: 18-19), concern for the weak and vulnerable were foundational to the Jewish faith. In particular, widows, orphans, and immigrants were accorded special protections (see Exodus 22: 21-22; Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 146:9). These commands, rooted in the priorities of Yahweh, anticipate a *social practice* in which the resources and energies of the strong are committed to the well-being of the weak and vulnerable. The social requirement commanded in Israel is linked to and grounded in a theological claim about God. In this way, the community of faith is reimagined, not as a competitive enterprise, but as a neighborly network that sustains people who

cannot sustain themselves. The outcome is a proclamation about God as a key player in social relationships who protects the unprotected and who commands that same protection be acted out within the community.

As I have said previously, we now live in a world where Christianity means anything and everything, and by implication, nothing at all. To navigate away from this moment of theological confusion we must, once again, begin to understand more deeply, and claim more passionately, the scriptural mandate which saturates our biblical story. In reclaiming, and understanding, our faith story, we will reclaim the integrity of our lives as people of faith. We will remember, in new and powerful ways, ‘who’ we are and ‘whose’ we are. We are God’s people, descendants of the Jews, redeemed through Christ, members of the Christian church, and thus called to care for the poor.

Thanks be to God!!

Pastor Tom Warren

Pastor Tom and Kim back on the Trail!

From Friday, June 15th through Saturday, June 23rd, Pastor Tom will be on vacation. For much of this time he and Kim will be hiking on the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina. Pastor Tom will be away on an unrelated outing on



Sunday, June 10th, and Rev. Dr. John Syster will be our guest preacher. On **Sunday, June 17th, Rev. Dr. William Chrystal** will be our guest preacher. Rev. Chrystal is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ who lives in Charlotte Court House, Virginia — about 2 hours north of Greensboro, and is one of the newest members of Peace Church! So come and be a part of both of these special worship services.





Greetings Peace Family! As I'm sure all of you have been doing already, Children's Chapel has been taking advantage of the wonderful weather to learn more about God. In the beginning of May, we played a game outside to learn about how through life's ups and downs God stays with us, and for Pentecost we played an outside game with balloons to learn why the Gospel of John compared the Holy Spirit to the wind (John 3:8). We've also done some fun crafts, such as making scripture jukeboxes and 'God loves you' cards for our families. As we move into the summer we will be learning more about the Fruits of the Spirit. Hope to see you there!

~ **Ted Wilkinson, Youth Director**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



We celebrate the 2018 graduates here at Peace Church and in our extended church family. We have a short list this year, but we are proud of each of them!

 **Elena Busch** graduated from Rice University in Houston, Texas with a B.S. in Particle Physics. She will spend the summer in France at the CERN facility as she has for the last several years. In the fall she will begin graduate studies in Physics, especially research, at Columbia University in NYC. Elena is the granddaughter of Jim & Mary Lillie.

 **Reva Fredricksen** completed her work at Sierra High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado at the end of May. Reva is also the granddaughter of Jim & Mary Lillie.

 **Leah MacDonald** graduated from Wando High School in Mt. Pleasant, SC. She plans to attend Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC in the fall. Leah is the granddaughter of Carol MacDonald.

 **Audrey Summers** will be promoted to sixth grade from Monticello Brown Summit Elementary School on June 8th. Audrey is the daughter of Chris and Melinda Summers.

With June comes Father's Day. The choir focus that day will be the anthem, *Be Strong in the Lord* by Linda Lee Johnson and Tom Fettke (© 1979 Main Stream Music, Hope Publishing Co.).



In this anthem you will hear Scripture references to the strength and protection that come from God.

Strength in the Lord and dependence on Him are our prayer for fathers and families. May we all keep the Bible and God's guidance as the center of our homes and direction for all of life.

Housekeeping note: there is a piano on the second floor that needs a permanent home. It has been in the hallway, but the new temporary space is in the choir room. Does anyone know of anyone who would like to have this piano?

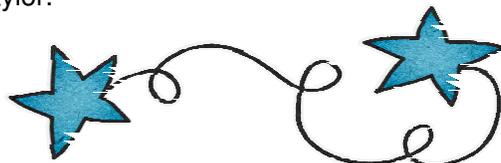
June is also the month when I ask that we all remember our school children as they get out for the summer and pray that they will find constructive ways to use their time. School is a place to be and a safety net for many of our young people. Please pray that there will be quality activities for our youth and food for them to eat.

And one final personal note about school – I'm done! I will be officially retired from public school life July 1, but the last work day is June 15. Lots of memories, but I'm really looking forward to whatever!

~ **Elisabeth Penry, Music Director**



Great picture of our handbell ringers! Left to right: Mary Lillie, Elisabeth Penry, Jane Ford, Doris Yeattes, and Becky Taylor.



Peace United Church of Christ

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Congratulations, Hands-On! We just celebrated 11 years, and continue to grow annually in production and membership. What a joy it is to gather for fellowship and true Christian purpose as we faithfully make our comfort pillows

Once again, we are the *MISSION OF THE MONTH*. While we receive donations throughout the year, this is the only time donations are solicited on our behalf. We are so grateful for your generosity which helps us sustain this ministry which creates and distributes nearly 800 pillows per year. We also remain grateful for the ongoing financial support of the Women's Fellowship as well. We would not be able to meet our expenses without its help.

Hands-On members are asked to attend extended sessions in June and July. This means we will meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 1:00-2:30. We never take a hiatus from our work, and we intensify when the need arises. So let's gear up for the times when members will be away due to summer vacations.

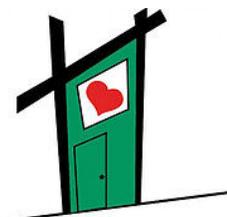
May God continue to bless all of you and our Hands-On family.



A great turnout for the 11th Anniversary Luncheon for Hands On, held on Wednesday, May 9th. Great food, fellowship and a productive work session. Happy Birthday Hands on!



The Tiny House Project we are building for a homeless veteran is moving forward and had its inaugural work day on **Saturday, June 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This is an exciting project for Peace Church which can involve everyone at some level.



We will be working on the Tiny House each **Saturday from 9:00 to 2:00 p.m. through the month of June**, depending on our progress.

Please contact **Dustin Hittepole** (dhittepole@yahoo.com) or **Melinda Summers** (summomom@nc.rr.com) for information.

PEACE

Connecting...



ARE

Communicating...

Caring...

Revised PeaceCare booklets will be available soon. New members have been added, and, for various reasons, some names have also been removed. Please take a moment to look over this information. Group lists are at the end of the individual roster.

A new feature is that birthdates are included. This was promised to PeaceCare leaders at the last leader meeting

A good deal of effort goes into preparing this list, and I ask that you be sure there is a copy in the home of every Peace Church member. Just keep it with your directory. As you hear of a concern and let the church or the pastor know, please also call the PeaceCare leader for that person. Of course, you will want to be sure that you have permission to share the information.

PeaceCare has been a wonderful ministry for many people in the past 3 years. I thank you for your genuine interest, support, and prayers.

Theo Scott
PeaceCare Chair



Mark your calendars for what promises to be a wonderful summer program for ALL AGES! Each Thursday in July, adults and youth will gather for a fun and stimulating program. The evenings will begin with worship and a hymn sing at 6:00 p.m., followed by a potluck meal at 6:30 p.m., and programs for youth and adults from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Here is what we have in mind:

Thursday, July 5th: Charles Bretan & Chris Henson to speak on “Faith & Mental Health”. Charles (Jewish) and Chris (Christian) are bloggers who write and teach on issues of interfaith relations. They also work in the field of mental health. Charles teaches at GTCC where he also is an adjunct instructor.

Thursday, July 12th: Max Carter will speak on “Jerusalem and Peace in the Middle East”. Max is the retired Chaplain at Guilford College where he served for over 25 years. He has led trips to Israel/Palestine each year since 1970 and will have returned from his most recent trip two (2) days prior to speaking with us.

Thursday, July 19th: Rev. Karen Richardson Dunn will be with us to speak on creation care and the different initiatives she is involved with as Director of the Creation Justice Network of the Southern Conference UCC.

Thursday, July 26th: Rev. Nancy Williams-Berry, Presbyterian Pastor and Chaplain at River Landing Retirement Community in Colfax, North Carolina. She will speak on and discuss “The Challenges of Senior Living”.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex throughout the month of June. Please plan to join us!





Peace Church Recipe Corner

STRAWBERRY PRETZEL SQUARES

2 cups finely crushed pretzels
 ½ cup sugar, divided
 2/3 cup butter, melted
 1½ pkg. (8 oz. each) cream
 cheese, softened
 2 Tbs. milk
 1 cup thawed COOL WHIP
 Whipped Topping
 2 cups boiling water
 1 pkg. (6 oz.) JELL-O Strawberry
 Flavored Gelatin
 1½ cups cold water
 4 cups fresh strawberries, sliced



Heat oven to 350°F. Mix pretzel crumbs, 1/4 cup sugar and butter; press onto bottom of 13x9-inch pan. Bake 10 minutes. Cool.

Beat cream cheese, remaining sugar and milk until blended. Stir in COOL WHIP; spread over crust. Refrigerate.

Add boiling water to gelatin mix in large bowl; stir 2 minutes until completely dissolved. Stir in cold water. Refrigerate 1-1/2 hours or until thickened. Stir berries into gelatin; spoon over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate 3 hours or until firm.

(Make it Easy: Substitute 1 pkg. (20 oz.) frozen whole strawberries, sliced, for the fresh strawberries. Stir into gelatin mix along with the cold water. Refrigerate 10 to 15 min. or until thickened; spoon over cream cheese layer. Continue as directed.)



We received this note from Hunter Bernhardt, recipient of the Peace UCC Scholarship at Catawba College this year...

I am a Catawba rising senior from Salisbury, NC, where I played baseball and football at West Rowan High School. I am majoring in Information Systems at Catawba.

I want to thank you for supporting my education through the Peace UCC Scholarship. I will continue to work hard to ensure yours is a good one! I truly appreciate your support.

Take me out to the ball game! Summer is coming and so is our annual baseball game outing! Mark your calendar now and plan to go with us for a church-wide outing to the Greensboro Grasshoppers' baseball game on **Monday, July 16th**. This annual event is sponsored by the Men's Fellowship.



This will be the Grasshoppers' Interfaith Night at the ballpark. Last year there were 20 churches represented in the Interfaith march around the park and we had nearly 30 people from Peace! Let's take at least that many this year, or more!

A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning June 24th. Tickets are \$9.00 each (a \$2.00 per ticket savings for a group ticket price). Please sign up in the Narthex or contact **David Murray** for more information.



OPEN & AFFIRMING TASK FORCE MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 24TH

Sunday, June 24th, at 12:30 p.m., you are invited to join the Open and Affirming task force for a meal (food prepared by Olive Garden), and a presentation by Dr. David Cunha, counsellor with "The Tree of Life Counseling Center", about welcoming LGBTQ persons in the church. Dr. Cunha, raised in the United Church of Christ, graduate of Elon College and Duke Divinity School and an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, will answer questions you may have about LGBTQ issues.

The Open and Affirming Task Force, established by the Consistory, hopes you will join us for this informational meeting. Because of the need to have a solid number for the amount of food to be brought from Olive Garden, we ask that you **sign up on the sheet available in the Narthex by June 17**. A basket will be available for any who wish to help to defray costs of the meal.



THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to the Mother's Day bulletin. \$270.00 was collected for Greensboro Tornado Relief. Thanks to all who supported the Mother's Day bulletin.



These pretty evergreen trees were purchased and placed at the main entrance of the church by the Women's Fellowship. Thank you!



A very Happy 102nd Birthday to **Gertrude Radford** on **Saturday, June 3rd!** Gertrude wishes to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, visits and the beautiful flowers she received.

It's a pretty big deal to be 102,
and she's sharp as a tack!

We celebrate you and love you Gertrude!

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 21-23, 2018



The *Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ* will be having its *53rd Annual Meeting* from Thursday, June 21st

through Saturday, June 23rd. The theme, "Renew! Restore! Refresh!" will be the central expression of this gathering that will be held at Canterbury School here in Greensboro. Our gracious host, the Western North Carolina Association, will prepare and join with us for what will be a fun, festive, and joyful occasion.

OUR COVENANT AS A GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH

In July of 2015, Global Ministries, a shared effort of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ denominations, honored our congregation with the status of being a **Global Mission Church**. With this honor, we are in covenant with Global Ministries to make the following commitments:

- ◆ **Pray regularly** for our international partners, missionaries, and the world.
- ◆ **Educate** our members about global issues from preschool age to adult.
- ◆ **Seek justice** for the "least of these" in the international community.
- ◆ **Receive the gifts** of the global church.
- ◆ **Give** to the work of Global Ministries.
- ◆ **Send our members** into the world to share the good news of Jesus.
- ◆ **Grow** in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

Let us continue to fulfill our Global Mission Church commitments and find ways to strengthen our efforts in these areas. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ!

Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet was a great success!

A big thank you to **Ava Chambers** who chaired the successful Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet, held on Monday evening, May 14th. Also, thanks to her committee and the church men for serving. Everyone enjoyed the message and musical program provided by Sister Katherine Francis. Thanks to all those who attended and brought friends. We already look forward to next year!

Memorials were given to honor the memory of **Dorothy Meeks, Nancy Peeler, and Doris Whitley** for their service to Peace Church. Money was sent by the Women's Fellowship to support the James Lightbourne Scholarship Fund for college students who are members of a UCC church in the Southern Conference.

Here are a few pictures from the event. Look closely, you may see Pastor Tom serving!



Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:

Lois Bell; Dale Benshoff; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Nan Buchanan; Ramona Griffin; Millie Harmon; Jim Lillie; Buddy Lippard; Carol MacDonald; Sally McGrogan; Sharon Mitchell; Marty Morgan; David Murray; Mary Ann Murray; Marcy Neal; Gertrude Radford; Becky Taylor; Lucille Waynick; Betty Webster; Buddy Webster; Marjorie Wegner; Kelly Wyrick.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Lyn Ann Bailey (niece of Harold Poffenbaugh); Chris Barnes (nephew of Harold Poffenbaugh); Katie Bowen (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); Eric Chapman (nephew of Jane Ford); Janet Faucette (sister-in-law of Yvonne Smothers); Todd Fedor (friend of Femi Quakenbush); Donna Green (friend of Maria Smith); Theresa Grill (neighbor of Sue Smith); Betty Larimer (aunt of Trish Larimer); Beatrice Rosenthal (mother of David Dole); Annette Sarty (sister of Yvonne Poffenbaugh); Michael Shoffner (grandson of Edith Sink); Tom & Rhoda Taylor (niece & her husband of Harold Poffenbaugh).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR MAY

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	REGULAR OFFERING	OTHER OFFERING
May 6		68	\$2,814	\$194
May 13		72	\$4,612	\$230
May 20	8	75	\$2,283	\$792
May 27	6	75	\$2,115	\$145

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

(Through April 30, 2018)

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts	17,726	69,591	61,494	8,097
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	12,942	64,168	66,796	(2,628)
Hands On, Barnabus Network, Mobile Meals,	276			



June Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Gary Blocker	2 Roger True
3 Dustin Hittepole Gertrude Radford	4 Jeff Hindson Hannah Summers John Syster	5	6	7 Richard Hearn	8 Jean Morgan	9 Susie Cressman
10	11 Sherry Barlow Amanda Hindson	12	13	14 Gabrielle Baker Emily Blocker Roy	15	16
17	18 Cassidy True	19	20	21	22 Ted Wilkinson	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

