



# PeacePress

Official Peace Church Newsletter  
A Global Mission Church



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

## Church Staff

Reverend Tom Warren

- Ph. (919) 267-2836
- email: reverendtom65@gmail.com

Elisabeth Penry - Music Director

- Ph. (336) 887-6431
- email: elisabethcp@northstate.net

Anne Badgett - Church Secretary

- Ph. (336) 299-8663
- email: peaceucc2714@gmail.com

Ava Chambers - Consistory President

- Ph. (336) 788-0476
- email: acham78116@aol.com

Rachel Johnson - Nursery Attendant

Melinda Summers - Treasurer



# july

- Pastor's Perspective - 1
- A Note from Elisabeth - 1
- Mission of the Month - 2
- Thank you from Cuba Missionaries - 2
- Church Cuba Talk - 2
- Gisela Lavastida - 3
- Consistory Note - 3
- Summer Discussions - 4
- PeaceCare Update - 5
- History Room - 5
- Spirit Flames - 5
- Announcements - 5
- Finance Update - 6

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pastor Tom Warren



Dear Peace Church Family:  
As we begin our entrance into the so-called “dog days of summer”, I am reminded of the days of my youth when summer was a time of exploration, renewal, adventure, and freedom from school! Back in the late 1970’s, summer for me was a time of mostly unstructured activities, swimming, bike riding, and the catching of fire flies. Fond memories, indeed! Hopefully, summer 2021 can be a time of fun and renewal for all of us and our families. In the wake of the pandemic year, our summer season is desperately needed and will allow us time to reconnect with those things most important in our lives. Usually, those things “most important” include family. Jesus had an interesting notion of family. In Mark 3: 31-34, Jesus defines family in this way:

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters [a] are outside, asking for you.” 33 And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Jesus seems to downplay the centrality of the biological family, opting instead to define his family as those who do the will of God. Family is defined according to those most committed to God. Wow! The church – the members of the congregation – are what make up our faith family. This is a uniquely dedicated family, coming together to try and live a very peculiar life. To live life based on a Christian ethic and understanding, we need each other as our values are distinctly different from the world and often in great tension with the values of our world. Coming together for worship, fellowship, Christian learning, and spiritual growth are critical to the church family. It is what we do and what makes us who we are. May this summer be a time of renewal, rest, and re-creation for our lives and for our life together as Peace Church. Let us again, gather.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tom

## A NOTE FROM ELISABETH



I have heard quite a few comments since April about how wonderful it is to hear the organ in worship again. The Bible certainly contains numerous verses about music including the playing of instruments—not the organ specifically, but various other instruments are named. For example, read Psalm 150. It’s all about praising God with instruments, and the organ makes brass, flute, and string sounds. Some churches are using electronic keyboards or other forms of accompaniment during worship, but organ is still traditional for many. People particularly seem to think of organs when planning a wedding or funeral.

Peace has a wonderful organ. It is a joy to be able to play a real pipe organ with the full, clear sounds. Companies are contracted to build organs to fit the space and needs of a congregation. According to information on a small plaque on the left side of our organ console, it was built by the W. Zimmer's Sons, Inc. organ company in Charlotte in 1980. It also says “Opus 251.”

Several years ago we did have some renovations and updates on the organ. The work was done by what is now known as Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders which is still in the Charlotte area. As best I remember, the main work was replacing one set of pipes, and one stop was digitalized to improve sound and help it stay in tune.

I was so pleased when I came in and turned on the organ after months of it’s not being used, and it was as if no time had passed. Organs are affected by seasons and temperatures, but ours came right on and sounded fine. At Peace we are really blessed with a good quality, well-functioning organ! We do need regular maintenance to be sure the leather and other parts are still in good condition. I have heard varying estimates of how long organ leather lasts, and we are at 41 years. In the fall (after air-conditioning season), we will look into scheduling a tuning and upkeep, but we should be okay until then as we continue praising God with the organ.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

After over a year of providing only canned goods to homebound seniors due to the pandemic, Meals on Wheels resumed delivery of hot noontime meals on May 1, 2021. Volunteers delivered over 11,000 meals to 679 clients and more than 400 volunteers contributed over 1400 hours in May. In addition to providing hot food, volunteers offer a friendly greeting and check on the well-being of seniors, helping them live independently.

Financial support and volunteers are always needed. Deliveries take about an hour and a half. Please consider volunteering at least one morning a month. A driver and a runner work in pairs after picking up the food at Senior Resources on Benjamin Parkway. If you would like a preview of what is involved, you are invited to ride along on one of the routes. Contact Cindy Spillers for details at 336-420-1099. Monetary donations can be made through your Mission of the Month offering, designated for Meals on Wheels. Your generous response to our missions is a blessing to so many in need. Thank you.

## THANK YOU FROM KIM CHRISTMAN AND STAN DOTSON

Dear Peace UCC,

Many thanks to you all for the warm welcome, generous hospitality and connection of ministry and friendship that we experienced with you this past weekend. We were blessed to be with you on Saturday and Sunday and thank each of you for the various ways you contributed to our time together. Thanks to Anne for her technology wizardry on Saturday evening. Thanks to Elizabeth for sharing the music with us on Sunday morning. Thanks to Tom and Kim for sharing about your church's work in Cuba and for the generous hosting. Thanks to Deb for her wonderful mission sharing during the service. And thanks to all of you for your presence, kindness and friendship. May God continue to bless your church as you shine with the light of Christ and give hope to those in your community and beyond.

Blessings of Peace and Joy,  
Kim and Stan

## CUBA MISSIONS TALK AT PEACE CHURCH

On Saturday, June 19th and Sunday, June 20th, the Revs. Kim Christman and Stan Dotson from Asheville, North Carolina, shared their experiences as missionaries to Cuba. For most of the past six years, Kim and Stan have been living and working in Matanzas, Cuba, located about 2 hours east of the capital Havana.

During their presentation on Saturday, Kim and Stan talked about the work they do as pastors with the Cuban churches and the deep human relationships they have cultivated over the years through this work. They were passionate about the strength and dedication of the Cuban people, as they continue to live out their lives under a tremendously difficult situation related to the sixty year U.S. embargo of Cuba, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the near shut-down of their tourism industry which employed many Cubans in the private sector of their economy.

During Sunday's worship Stan and Kim blessed us with the gift of music. Kim has a beautiful voice and is gifted as a hammer dulcimer player, and Stan played guitar and also sang beautifully. Their message was one of love and brotherhood/ sisterhood through Christ with the Cuban people, calling us to "still the storms" that rage between our nations and work to build bridges of love.

We hope to have Kim and Stan back again in the future and are grateful for the time and wisdom that they shared with us and for their continuing work with our brothers and sisters in Cuba.



## CONSISTORY NOTE

We continue to navigate "post-pandemic" in our ministries here at Peace Church. Narcotics Anonymous has resumed meeting in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, New Arrivals Institute is once again holding their summer program also in the Fellowship Hall. NAI has installed WIFI in the Fellowship Hall which is greatly appreciated.

Our attendance at our Sunday worship services continue to grow, it is wonderful to see one another and worship together! We do have our pews taped off in order to social distance, hand sanitizer and mask are available for members who chose to wear a mask. Our plan is to continue to stream our worship services live on Facebook. The Consistory did vote to purchase a web camera to record our services. Volunteers are needed to assist on recording the service, if you are interested, please contact the Church Office.

September 12 is an important day in the life of Peace Church. A light lunch will be served immediately after our worship service followed by a Congregational Meeting. In order to prepare for the meeting, a letter will be sent to all members in July and another in August explaining the purpose of the meeting. Also, each member of your Consistory will be calling members to reach out to you and invite you to the Congregational Meeting. Please Save the Date of Sunday, September 12 - Rally Day.

Your Consistory wants to hear from you - we welcome your concerns, ideas, thoughts, prayer requests, whatever is on your heart.

Ava Chambers - President

Jeanne Bryan - Vice-President

Rick Owen - Secretary

Melinda Summers- Treasurer

David Murray - Assistant Secretary

Linda Forotan - Assistant Treasurer

Jean Jones

Harold Poffenbaugh

## UPDATE ON GISELA LAVASTIDA

Gisela Maria Lavastida, the daughter of Revs. Gisela and Elmer Lavastida, is continuing her seminary studies at Mantanzas Theological Seminary in Cuba. She is currently in her second year of studies.

Our support group for Gisela, made up of Rev. Curly Stumb, Debbie Kaynor, Cindy Spillers, and Rev. Kristen Gerner Vaughn, will be meeting with Gisela through Facetime video technology on Wednesday, June 30th. This support committee seeks to walk with Gisela as she navigates her seminary education as well as the hoops required to be ordained as a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

Please keep Gisela Maria in your prayers as she pursues her call from God to be a pastor in the United Church of Christ and as she lives out her unusual, but very important membership in Peace United Church of Christ..



# Faith's Call to the World: A Summer Discussion Series

*This program will meet each Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Wednesday, July 7th

Leilani Roughton, Executive Director, New Arrivals Institute  
Immanuel Baptist Church, Greensboro

Wednesday, July 14th

Rev. Julie Peebles  
Pastor, Congregational UCC, Greensboro

Wednesday, July 21st

Rev. Dr. David Hirano  
Executive Minister UCC Global Ministries, Ret.

Wednesday, July 28th

Rev. David Fraccaro  
Executive Director, FaithAction International House

Wednesday, August 4th

Rev. Frank Dew  
Executive Director, Greensboro Urban Ministries, Ret.

Wednesday, August 11th

Dr. Matthew C. Armstrong  
Professor of English, Guilford College  
Author: *The Mysteries of Haditha*

Presenters will share a scripture foundational to their faith journey and the work in the world that their faith has called them to.

## PEACE CARE

Connecting, Communicating, Caring



Doris Yeattes has resigned as a PeaceCare leader. We want to thank her for 6 years of faithful service. We are re-assigning Doris's members and making some other needed changes.

Please note in your PeaceCare booklets:

Trish Larimer    Add: Russ Haver    Remove: Dan Whitfield

Deborah Shiner    Add: Charles Webster    Remove: Lois Bell  
Remove: Rosina Whitfield

Larry Clapp    Add: David Fesperman    Remove: Ellen Mason  
Add: Linda Fesperman    Remove: Dale Starr

Jean Morgan    Add: Mike Williams    Remove: Lindsey Wilkinson

Sharon Mitchell    Add: Kentoya Savage

In His Service,

Theo  
PeaceCare Chair

## HISTORY ROOM UPDATE

The History Room Committee would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the donations received so far. The renovations and purchases have begun and donations are still needed to complete the work. Please consider making a donation in honor or memory of someone who has loved and worked for Peace Church. Send gifts to Peace Church and designate to History room and include person or persons that you wish to honor.

Gratefully,  
Nora Norred and Committee

## SPIRIT FLAMES

Have you "claimed your flame?" Our Narthex board is almost full of flames bearing the names of members and guests. Are you there?

Extra flames and the market are still on the Narthex table. Add your flame and be sure to look at the members surrounding you with Christian love. It is all about "Connecting." Let's enjoy the light of God in our lives.

Thanks,  
Theo



## ON THE CALENDAR!



- The Women's Fellowship is having its Summer Luncheon on July 6th at Bravos Italian restaurant in Friendly Shopping Center. Everyone is invited and can meet at the restaurant at 11:30 or at the church at 11:00 to carpool. Please join us for this fun event. Reservations are required and the deadline is July 5. Please respond to Abbie Wheeling by email or phone (abbiewheel@gmail.com or 336-708-6478).

## July Birthdays

- July 1st - Yvonne Smothers
- 5th - Jane Ford
- 6th - Dylan Myers
- 9th - Bryn Bowen
- 10th - Jason Haithcock & Ashley Pearsall
- 15th - Adam Saunders & Maria Smith
- 17th - Frances Johnson
- 19th - Elizabeth Pearsall
- 20th - Sean Bowen
- 21st - Christy Pope
- 24th - Karen Dodd & Elizabeth Hittetpole
- 25th - Eddie Myers
- 26th - Karen Haver



# FINANCE UPDATE

Quick Look of Finances as of May 31, 2021 (Treasurer's report is posted in the church hallway on the bulletin board)

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<i>Offerings</i>					
4001	Pledges	9,935.00	42,855.00	107,081.00	64,226.00
4003	Loose Offerings	110.00	353.00	250.00	(103.00)
4004	Initial offerings	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
4006	Non-Pledge Offerings	1,245.00	6,333.75	37,102.00	30,768.25
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Total Offerings</i>		<i>\$11,290.00</i>	<i>\$49,541.75</i>	<i>\$144,583.00</i>	<i>\$95,041.25</i>

April 2021 Offering Income	May 2021 Offering Income	April-May Difference Offering Income
\$9,204.00	\$11,290.00	+\$2086.00

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<b>May 2021 Income Total*</b>	<b>\$13,027.70</b>	<b>\$73,787.59</b>	<b>\$164,683.00</b>	<b>\$103,324.80</b>
<b>May 2021 Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$6,664.53</b>	<b>\$60,179.57</b>	<b>\$196,284.00</b>	<b>\$138,704.43</b>
<b>Income-Expenses</b>		<b>+\$13,608.02#</b>	<b>-\$31,601.00</b>	

\* Income does not include money received for the History Room project or oatmeal donations.

# The PPP loan was used to help defray the cost for Tom and Rachel's salaries for April as well as Tom's insurance and annuity. This is all part of payroll compensation. We also used the PPP loan to pay for our utilities. This is what helped our bottom line. Without the PPP loan funds, we would be in a deficit for May.

### Happy summer church family!

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through 2021! School is officially done for the kiddos and plans are being made for the summer. As you are thinking of your vacation plans, please remember to mail in or donate online if you will be out of town. Your giving is what helps keep our church fully operational. You may also donate to the history room project on our website through Vanco online giving. As of May 2021, \$2,075 has been raised for the history room. Each household will be receiving a mid-year giving statement by July 15 th . This is a good tool to remind you of your pledge for 2021. If you are a non-pledge giver (you did not return a pledge card to the church), your giving for the first half of the year will be noted. I cannot stress enough that we depend on these offerings to help keep the church fully operational. As you have seen in the monthly report, as of May 2021 we have \$64,226 dollars to go in annual pledges. Non-pledged offerings are based on giving from 2020. We have \$30,768 left for the year. That is a total of \$95,041 of giving from you, our church family, to meet our income budget of \$144,583.00 for 2021.

**Our budgeted total income for 2021 is much less than our budgeted expenses for the year.**

2021 Income \$164,683
-
2021 Expenses \$196,284
= -\$31,601.00

We have been blessed again with the Paycheck Protection Program loan for 2021. This is helping to keep us in the black at least through July. What happens to our bottom line after the loan is used and forgiven will be up to each one of us!

Thank you for your continued support of Peace UCC.  
--Melinda Summers, Treasurer.