

APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 37

PEACEPRESS



Pastor's Perspective

Yesterday, there was yet another mass school shooting in our nation, this time in Nashville. It is now normal: Sad, but the norm. Kind of like the cross that we bear almost on a daily basis. As our Lenten season comes to a close and we enter into the celebration of Easter, let us pause for a moment to reflect upon the often stated idea that “without the cross, there is no Easter.”

The cross, often in our contemporary society identified with a shiny piece of jewelry or with the suffering that God somehow intended for Jesus on our behalf, was, first and foremost, a form of Roman capital punishment. This mode of death was reserved for chronically defiant slaves and those who challenged Roman rule. If the Jewish authorities

alone had wanted to kill Jesus, they would have used stoning. Instead, Rome nailed Jesus, along with perhaps thousands of others in the first century, to a cross.

Crucifixion was designed to be very brutal and very public. The victim was naked and most often took many days to die. Historians of the Roman Empire tell us that many times the body of those crucified was dragged off the cross and eaten by packs of wild dogs. Jesus could have been quietly killed in a back alley or a prison cell if the Roman authorities simply wanted to get rid of him. But Jesus was crucified because it made a public statement; it said to others who might be tempted to step out of line “this is what we do to those who oppose us.” It was state-sponsored terrorism, torture, and death as a social and political deterrent.

The fact of the matter is that Jesus’ passion got him killed. His passion for the kingdom of God on earth is what led to

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his suffering and death. In this way, Jesus did not die **for** the sins of the world but was killed **because of** the sins of the world. The injustice of the Roman domination world. The injustice of the Roman domination system killed him. In the life and teachings of Jesus, the justice and compassion-filled kingdom of God ran smack into the greed, violence, hatred and death of Rome.

On Easter morning, the powers of death were defeated, and the promises of resurrection live. Yes, without the cross, there is no Easter. Let us live our lives, basking in the light of resurrection. In these days, where the deeply disturbing has become the norm, perhaps this is our only hope. Christ is risen!

Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth

April and Easter are here! The season of resurrection is such a joyous and celebratory time, and how wonderful that it is not just one day. The Easter season is fifty days leading to Pentecost. Beyond that, I was taught that every Sunday is a "little Easter." We celebrate Jesus's resurrection and remember His overwhelming personal sacrifice for us every week (every day!) as we worship. So now is the time for singing Alleluias with gratitude and praise to God.

But before we come to Easter we also remember and observe the Last Supper and Good Friday.

Mark 14:26, which is at the end of the Last Supper passage, says: "When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." (NIV)

Jesus Himself, together with His disciples, set the example for singing. True worship through music is a connection with God – an opportunity to

hear from Him deep in our souls. They sang, even as the horror of the crucifixion was right before them. There can be no excuse for our not singing with our whole hearts and voices.

May we all experience His presence through the music of worship!
Have a blessed Easter!

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship is planning a guest speaker for the May 2 meeting. We are finalizing plans to have a representative from the Interactive Resource Center (IRC), an amazing organization which addresses HOMELESSNESS in Greensboro. Our last presentation on Recycling was amazing, but we did not get the additional attendees we had hoped for. Watch for further details and plan to join us to support this prominent concern to us as pilgrims in the journey to help the homeless.

Here is a brief profile of the Interactive Resource Center. (IRC)
"Located in downtown Greensboro, one block from The Depot, the IRC is a place for people experiencing homelessness to congregate in a safe space, connect with important services, and join in fellowship with one another. No matter what challenges our community members are facing, our first priority is helping to end homelessness. Our staff, partners and volunteers all share this commitment."



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 9th - Gabby Goode
- 10th - Greg Haver
- 13th - Avery Dole
- 16th - Nan Buchanan
- 18th - Rachel Johnson
- 20th - Theo Scott
- 22nd - Lucille Bennett
-Norra Norred
- 25th - Brady Dole
- Mitchell Hughes
- 29th - Sharon Mitchell

Thanksgiving and Celebration

Our history room is finished up to the present. Let's continue to make history as we seek to fulfill our vision and mission. Much appreciation goes to the hardworking committee, Pastor Tom and all those who contributed labor and money for the renovation and supplies and those who donated materials and memories, and all the Saints who are with the Lord but carefully labored here and preserved materials and pictures.

Committee members are:
Darrel & Janie Clark, Doris Yeattes,
Jeanne Bryan, Larry Clapp,
Ava Chambers, Pastor Tom Warren,
& Rev. Jimmy Norred (deceased)
Co-chairpersons: Cindy Spillers & Nora Norred.

The former library has been completely renovated: new floor, new framed in metal bookcases, window air conditioner and dehumidifier, walls and ceiling repaired and painted, and a new lighted curio cabinet added.

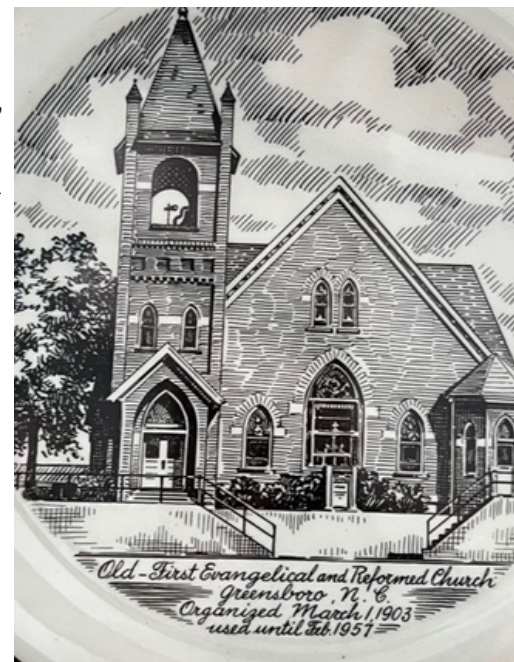
This Church has had a wonderful history of service to the Lord for 120 years! It started by meeting in the home of George Clapp with 17 charter members under the leadership of Revs. J. C. Leonard and J. D. Andrew. They soon moved to the lot on the corner of West Lee and South Spring Streets as a Reformed Church. It



became an Evangelical and Reformed(E&R) in 1934. In 1957 it became a part of the United Church of Christ. In 1964 it became a part of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. In 1963 the name was changed to Peace United Church of Christ. This Church has had wonderful hard-working pastors and dedicated members.

Peace has always had a respected place in the Southern Conference; noted for its generous contributions to the Conference and national Church, its support of the institutions of the conference: Catawba and Elon Colleges, Blowing Rock and John's River, Lancaster seminary, Nazareth and Elon homes for children. Let us give thanks and glory to God as we continue in God's service!

by Nora Norred



Mission of the Month: GUM Food Drive

The Spring Grocery Store Food Drive for Greensboro Urban Ministry will be **Saturday, April 22**. Peace Church is scheduled to work at Harris Teeter, Adams Farm Shopping Center on West Gate City Blvd. from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Sedgefield Presbyterian Church will finish the day from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Please note that our traditional Friday schedule is not a collection day so we are sharing Saturday with Sedgefield Prebyterian Church. Volunteers, working in pairs, greet shoppers with a list of needed items and then collect the food items from shoppers.

Please contact Cindy Spillers to schedule a time to work. 336-852-0478

“The Sacred Depth of Nature”: A Program for Study & Reflection

The Rev. Jay Abernathy will be leading a Soup & Study program based on Dr. Ursula Goodenough’s book called *The Sacred Depth of Nature*. This four-part series encourages discussion of the dramatic effects of modern science on our understanding of religion in our modern world. We will use Professor Ursula Goodenough’s book as both resource and inspiration.

The four sessions are:

Wednesday, April 19th: “From Nothing to Something.”

How physics explains how the universe is put together

(Intro, Ch. 1-2).

Wednesday, April 26th: “From Something to Life.”

How parts of the inanimate world came to life—the inspiring story of biology (Ch. 3-7).

Wednesday, May 3rd: “From Life to Human Beings.”

How evolution led to a totally new creature, distinct in certain ways from all other creatures (Ch. 8-10).

Wednesday, May 10th: “From Humanity to God.”

Since “humans are made in the image of God,” what all this science tells us about God (Ch. 11-12).

The short introductions will set the stage for discussion, moving through the text, covering the parts that interest those in attendance. The book is available from Amazon and other choices as a trade paperback. Please note that this will be a “soup & study” format with soup/bread served at 6:00pm with study/conversation beginning at 6:30pm, in the Preparation Room. Please sign-up in the narthex.

Rev. Dr. Jay Abernathy is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister, ordained in 1974. His degrees are from Anglican (Canada) and Episcopalian seminaries, but they are not totally to be blamed for his various heresies. For decades he gave 2-3 sermons a year on topics relating science and religion, as he tried to grapple with those ideas that distinguish modern religion from ancient religion. Dr. Goodenough’s book deserves some study, but don’t get bogged down in the biochemistry details; get comfortable with the big picture first.

Hands-On Needs Help!

Due to the recent loss of two members (Dorothy Pauli moved; Don Willoughby passed away), we now have only 2 in session stuffers. This is a huge imbalance since we have 7 hand sewers to close the pillows. We need to have more volunteers with us at 1 PM on the second Wednesday to

stuff for an hour and a half. Alternatively, you can pick up supplies, stuff at home and bring the pillows back to church.

Hands-On is one of the few continuing active groups in our church. We continue to produce the same quantity of pillows with half the membership we used to have. We need to have more participants. See Theo for details, or call her at 336 299-0644.



We will soon be revising our PeaceCare rosters. I encourage Leaders to touch base with their members. This is very necessary since many have not returned to church services.

Thank you, PeaceCare Leaders, for all you do. I am sure our congregation appreciates your efforts.

Theo Scott , Chair

Investing in our Planet

The theme for Earth Day 2023 is “Invest in Our Planet”. What does invest in our planet mean? Investing doesn't always mean a monetary donation to an environmental organization. We can dedicate our time, resources, and energy to solving climate change and other environmental issues.

Here is one way we can invest in our planet that we may not have thought about. Clothing. The following is information from EARTHDAY.ORG on how we can make a difference in our habits for the earth. Fast fashion has completely revolutionized the apparel

industry, but not for the better. Behind every piece of clothing in a store, there is an industry stripping the Earth of its limited resources and exploiting the labor force that works in its garment factories. Tremendous waste characterizes this industry as it depletes healthy soil, contaminates fresh water sources, pollutes the air we breathe, defiles our oceans, destroys forests and damages eco-systems and the health of their biodiversity. **Sustainable fashion** refers to a clothing supply chain that is ecologically and socially responsible. It aims to reorient the industry and consumers away from the fast fashion model and toward sustainable practices in sourcing, production, distribution, marketing, and consumption.



GET THE FACTS

- The fashion industry produces 150 billion garments a year and 87% (40 million tons) end up in a landfill where they smolder and pollute the air or an incinerator.
- Only 1% of all discarded clothing is actually recycled.
- The average person today buys 60 percent more items of clothing than they did 15 years ago but keep them for only half as long. The average garment may be worn as few as ten times before disposal.
- Fashion is one of the most polluting of all industries. Clothing is manufactured with highly toxic dyes and heavy metals that are flushed into clean water streams, rivers and aquifers where they sicken people and animals, harm ecosystems, and cause biodiversity loss.
- Non-organic cotton farming heavily depletes and degrades soil. It is one of the world's most pesticide intensive crops. These affect the health of farmers and populations nearby. The toxic farm runoff contaminates fresh waters, wetlands and aquifers and threatens biodiversity and eco-systems. 62% of all clothing is made partially or entirely of synthetic fibers such as polyester which is a crude oil derivative. Petroleum is a non-renewable resource with significant negative impacts on the environment.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Educate yourself about sustainable clothing.
- Buy less and shop for quality over quantity.
- Choose natural materials – organic cotton, linen, or hemp.
- Buy 100% recycled fabrics – 100% recycled polyester, viscose (rayon), etc.
- Research brands to identify those that are ethical and practice transparency and sustainability.
- Buy secondhand clothing.
- Swap clothes with a clothes swap group or start a swap yourself.
- Learn how to repair your clothes yourself. The longer clothes are kept, the lower their emissions footprint.

Important Dates



- **Sunday, April 2nd**

Congregational Meeting to discuss Solar Panels will be held after service.

- **Thursday, April 6th**

Maundy Thursday Worship Service on April 6th at 6 p.m. in the Narthex and will be a dinner worship meal.

- **Friday, April 7th**

Good Friday Service on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

- **Sunday, April 9th**

Easter Morning Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m. and Easter Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. on April 9th.

- **Wednesday, April 12th**

Hands-On will have their regular meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

- **Sundays!**

The Choir practices Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!



Peeps Triple Chocolate Cake

INGREDIENTS

- PAM® Baking Spray
- 1 package (15.25 oz each) Duncan Hines® Classic Devil's Food Cake Mix
- 1 cup water
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 container (16 oz each) Duncan Hines® Creamy Chocolate Frosting
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips, divided
- 1/3 cup heavy (whipping) cream
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 drop green food coloring
- 9 PEEPS® Delights™ Marshmallow Chicks
- 1/2 cup jelly beans

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray two 8-inch round pans with baking spray.
- Blend cake mix, water, eggs, and oil in a large bowl with an electric mixer on low speed until moistened, about 30 seconds. Beat on medium speed 2 minutes. Pour into pans.
- Bake 24 to 28 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack 15 minutes, remove from pans and cool completely.
- Place one cake layer on serving plate. Frost top with about 1/2-cup chocolate frosting. Top with second cake layer and frost entire cake with remaining frosting. Refrigerate 15 minutes.
- Place 1/2-cup chocolate chips in small bowl. Microwave cream in a separate small microwave-safe bowl 30 seconds, until steaming hot. Pour hot cream over chocolate chips, let stand 30 seconds, whisk until smooth. Pour ganache on top of cold cake and use a spoon to push the ganache to the edge and drip down the sides. Refrigerate 15 minutes.
- Place remaining 1/2-cup chocolate chips in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave 30 seconds, stir. Continue microwaving in 15-second increments until melted, stir until smooth. Spoon chocolate inside a large two egg-shaped silicone mold halves and use the back of the spoon to push it up the sides. Refrigerate 10 minutes, until firm.
- Place coconut and a drop of green food coloring in a resealable food storage bag, seal and shake until coconut is dyed green. Spread coconut over top of cake.
- Unmold chocolate egg and place in the center of the cake. Place PEEPS® Delights™ Marshmallow Chicks around the top of the cake. Decorate with jelly beans, slice and serve!

Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC
Treasurer's Report as of February 2023 for General Fund

**Tuesday, March 21,
2023**

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	8,738.50	20,319.65	117,110.00	96,790.35
4003	Loose Offerings	215.00	345.00	500.00	155.00
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non-Pledge Offerings	375.00	1,470.00	25,870.00	24,400.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total Offerings	\$9,328.50	\$22,134.65	\$143,580.00	\$121,445.35
Fundraising					
4102	Jambalaya	3,120.00	3,160.00	4,000.00	840.00
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4121	History Room	300.00	300.00		
	Total Fundraising	\$3,420.00	\$3,460.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,840.00
Special Offerings					
4009	Communion	10.00	10.00	100.00	90.00
4108	Birthday/Thank You	0.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
4114	Memorials	(300.00)	840.00	0.00	(840.00)
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Special Offerings	(\$290.00)	\$900.00	\$350.00	(\$550.00)

<i>Other Services</i>					
4118	Weddings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>					
<i>Facility Use Donations</i>					
4124	New Arrivals Institute	0.00	0.00	30,360.00	30,360.00
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	150.00	3,000.00	2,850.00
4128	Alliance Church	0.00	500.00	3,000.00	2,500.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Total Facilities Use Donations	\$75.00	\$650.00	\$37,360.00	\$36,710.00
4122	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Miscellaneous Income	\$75.00	\$650.00	\$37,360.00	\$36,710.00
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4111	Flower Fund (Covid Worship)	200.00	200.00		
4115	Community Event Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Offering Income	\$12,733.50	\$27,344.65	\$188,290.00	\$161,445.35
<i>Expenses</i>					
<i>Missions</i>					
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	210.00	210.00	400.00	190.00
5005	Community Outreach Events	0.00	37.85	150.00	112.15
	Total Missions	\$210.00	\$247.85	\$550.00	\$302.15
<i>Consistory</i>					
5101	PeaceCare	64.43	64.43	350.00	285.57
5103	Membership Growth	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5104	Membership Support	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
5105	Worship Committee	412.95	423.45	1,700.00	1,276.55
5106	Stewardship	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
	Total Consistory	\$477.38	\$487.88	\$3,800.00	\$3,312.12
<i>Christian Ed</i>					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	0.00	30.00	400.00	370.00
5119	Youth Fellowship	24.28	74.43	500.00	425.57
	Total Christian Ed	\$24.28	\$104.43	\$900.00	\$795.57
<i>Property</i>					
5210	Janitorial	700.00	1,400.00	8,800.00	7,400.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	833.34	5,417.00	4,583.66
5214	Property Insurance	1,243.91	2,182.11	16,000.00	13,817.89
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	443.38	523.38	10,000.00	9,476.62
5217	Boiler Maintenance	0.00	728.04	15,000.00	14,271.96
5219	ADT Security	48.86	97.72	600.00	502.28
5221	Supplies	100.48	160.43	1,000.00	839.57
	Total Property	\$2,953.30	\$5,925.02	\$56,817.00	\$50,891.98
<i>Administration</i>					
5401	Postage	124.22	186.26	1,300.00	1,113.74
5403	Office Equipment Lease	356.16	529.90	4,000.00	3,470.10
5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	53.36	53.36	1,000.00	946.64
5407	Telephone/Internet	249.18	502.36	3,100.00	2,597.64
5409	Office Supplies	129.70	194.80	1,500.00	1,305.20
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	69.45	69.45	1,000.00	930.55
5412	Bank Charges	49.78	91.43	600.00	508.57
	Total Administration	\$1,031.85	\$1,627.56	\$12,500.00	\$10,872.44
<i>Utilities</i>					
5301	Gas	1,499.00	2,998.00	15,000.00	12,002.00
5303	Electricity	811.51	1,563.36	11,500.00	9,936.64
5304	Water	369.92	739.84	7,000.00	6,260.16
	Total Utilities	\$2,680.43	\$5,301.20	\$33,500.00	\$28,198.80

		Total Utilities	\$2,680.43	\$5,301.20	\$33,500.00	\$28,198.80
Pastoral Compensation						
5501	Cash Salary	2,790.84	5,581.68	33,491.00	27,909.32	
5503	Housing Allowance	1,416.66	2,833.32	17,000.00	14,166.68	
5505	Social Security Reimb.	338.76	660.64	4,065.00	3,404.36	
5507	Annuity	336.60	673.20	7,069.00	6,395.80	
5509	Insurance	1,745.37	3,490.74	23,000.00	19,509.26	
5510	Medical Reimb.	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
5511	Mileage Reimb.	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
Total Pastoral Compensation		\$6,628.23	\$13,239.58	\$87,625.00	\$74,385.42	
Personnel						
5601	Organist/Dir of Music	1,000.00	2,400.00	15,600.00	13,200.00	
5603	Secretary	1,494.00	2,934.00	18,720.00	15,786.00	
5605	Nursery Attendant	72.00	124.50	1,800.00	1,675.50	
5607	Youth Leadership	720.00	1,386.00	9,360.00	7,974.00	
Total Personnel		\$3,286.00	\$6,844.50	\$45,480.00	\$38,635.50	
Personnel Benefits						
5612	Social Security Exp.	251.37	523.59	3,479.00	2,955.41	
5614	Worker's Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
5618	Conference & Meetings	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
Total Personnel Benefits		\$251.37	\$523.59	\$4,879.00	\$4,355.41	
Fundraising Expenses						
5701	Jambalaya Expense	200.00	200.00	1,500.00	1,300.00	
5703	Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
5705	Brunswick Stew Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	
Total Fundraising Expenses		\$200.00	\$200.00	\$3,300.00	\$3,100.00	
Total Expenses		\$17,742.84	\$34,501.61	\$249,351.00	\$214,849.39	
Difference		(\$5,009.34)	(\$7,156.96)	(\$61,061.00)		

Income-Expenses for February 2023 **\$ 12,733.50 – \$ 17,742.84 = -\$ 5,009.34**

Income-Expenses Year-to-date **\$ 27,344.65 - \$ 34,501.61 = -\$ 7,156.96**

Income-Expenses Budget 2023 **\$188,290.00 - \$249,351.00 = -\$61,061.00**



Jambalaya Sale

A hearty thanks to all who participated in the jambalaya sale. This venture would not have been successful without all of your hard work and dedication!!

The final numbers are in!!!

\$3,200.00 in sales.

\$1,288.46 in expenses.

Total community donation to the church **\$1,911.54.**