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COLLEGE PARK
collage
a newsletter of
College Park Baptist Church • Greensboro, NC

April 2015
Number 224



With The Reverend
Monica Citty-Hix

Spring Bible Study

Wednesday Nights 6:30—7:30
April 22, 29, May 6 & 13
In Forest Chapel

Flunking Sainthood
*Discovering Spiritual Practices
Through Ordinary Faithfulness*



Archie Carter Memorial



What I like about Christianity is that it is primarily a faith about right practice rather right belief. The two are intertwined, naturally. What one believes leads to how one acts. But over and over again **Jesus emphasized that it's not primarily what we say we believe, but rather how our actions show what we believe.**

In the so-called sermon on **the mount in Matthew's story of Jesus, he ends his teaching to his friends by saying, "Not**

everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

Later in Matthew, Jesus will tell the story of two sons: **A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"** Again, an emphasis on doing the words of Jesus. Then, in the famous parable of the sheep and the goats, **which is Jesus' last public teaching before his death, the Big Judge says Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'** All of which reminds me of the Latin phrase *Esse Quam Videri*, "to be rather than to seem," the North Carolina state motto, which was chosen by jurist and historian, Walter Clark.

These words of Jesus are both terrible and comforting, especially for those of us who study his life and teachings. It will not be enough to know them and to hear them; we must do them.

I bring up these powerful passages because I think they are an appropriate summation of the life of Archie Carter, whose life we remember, celebrate, grieve, and give thanks for this afternoon. **I am blessed to be Archie's**

pastor. If I had a church full of men and women the likes of Archie, Greensboro would not be the same. He did **"small things with great love," to use Mother Teresa's phrase.**

Born in Eden in 1944 to a mother who worked in Fieldcrest Mills and a father who was a master carpenter, Archie was the oldest of two brothers. He grew up happy and active, playing in the band in Morehead High. He went to Roanoke National Business College, majoring in **what we'd now call accounting.** He loved numbers and the precision they demanded, and he loved helping people manage their money better.

He went to work doing the books for a trucking firm, then with Pilot Life for 11 years, but the corporate life was not really a good fit for him. So he left it for Arbor House; he loved the business end of it. He had the ability to see how money could be wisely used to help people. He branched out to other businesses too, and eventually he was keeping the books for his own clientele.

Earlier he wore a hairpiece to cover up his baldness. But one day while washing it, he decided enough was enough, and bald was beautiful anyway, and never wore it again. That took some courage, and his lovely pate was chic ahead of its time.

He helped Mike with his antique business, of course. Archie met the love of his life in Mike 44 years ago when they were both with friends at a bar—which was unusual for both of them at the time. They had lunch soon after they met, became good friends, then the friendship grew into a deep and abiding love that lasted through thick and thin, in sickness and in health, as long as they both lived. Archie loved to walk, and took long walks around their neighborhood. He and Mike had a small cabin right outside Hanging Rock State Park, and they spent many happy days there, and hiking around the woods there. It was their get-away place. And even after he became ill **with brain cancer, Mike would take him on "rollabouts" in a wheelchair.** Like Jesus, Archie loved to walk.

Tom Hardin was Archie's faithful friend for 40 years.

They had countless Sunday lunches at Fran's Front Porch in Julian and an enormous amount of their chicken pie. Tom is especially thankful to him for the generosity of adopting him into his and Mike's family at Christmas **for the past 20 years after Tom's parents died.** Tom was **always struck by Archie's honesty and trust.** He would give to those in need; he was generous always, sometimes to a fault.

I asked Tom about their lifelong friendship, and Tom wrote back: These words by George Eliot (whose real name was Mary Ann Evans) perfectly summarize my relationship with Archie:

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away.

What the rest of us here today wouldn't give for such a friend as Archie.

When Archie retired, he started working with the Greensboro Urban Ministry, also known as GUM, which is one of the most incredible ministries in our city. He started with one day a week, from 9 to 1. Soon it spread to two, then three, and finally four days a week, every weekday except Thursday. Mike Aiken, the executive director of GUM and a UCC minister, will tell you more **about Archie's important work there, but I want to share** with you my favorite story about Archie. On Sundays, after he and Mike were done with the News and Record, Archie would carefully comb through the want ads, reading them with his practiced eye, then select and cut out the ones he considers the best opportunities. Then he would take the ones he had cut out of the paper, arrange them on a page, then Xerox enough copies to hand out to clients and people at GUM the next week. This is a brilliant form of ministry. As I said he had the canny ability to make connections like this, to see how money **could help change a person's life positively.**

Archie had taped to his bathroom mirror in all caps: I am a child of God. Therefore I have the greatest power in the Universe inside me. He lived like that was true. **He was, in Mike's words, a good and decent** human, something we all realize is increasingly rare these days. Francis of Assisi said, *Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary use words.* Archie did this very thing, living out his faith. Like a tree lovingly planted, his love grows in us still, this child of God who life blessed all those around him.

Michael Usey
29 March 2015

Island of Ghosts
A Novel of Roman Britain

Mostly Men's Occasional Book Club



Next Meeting
Tuesday, May 12th
6:30 pm
Sticks & Stones

Gillian Bradshaw

April GUM Donation:

Canned Fruit (any type, any size)
Place donations in the wicker basket in the side foyer entrance (beside the bookshelves).



WOMEN OF VALOR

Next Book Discussion

Tuesday, May 5th
Beans Boro, 7:00 pm
2604 A Horse Pen Creek Rd.





Helping Hands Ministry Team

March 20 is the first day of Spring. YEAHHHH!!! Finally we can start getting back to doing the things we love to do in warm weather: lawn mowing, hedge trimming, gutter cleaning, trash removal, etc. The point is the Helping Hands team wants to hear from you about projects that we can take on that can help our members. We will be expanding on a suggestion presented by Brian Carden recently to compile our own "Angie's List" of handymen (church members or others), electricians, plumbers, etc. that can be a reference source for our members. If requests are outside our level of expertise or manpower, we will be glad to offer advice and direction in tackling the project.

Team members: Wayne Jones, Tim Lowrance, Donna Gregory, Caryanne Story-Bunce, Joel Rieves, Sterling Suddarth, Jenny Ward-Sutherland, Jerry Elkins, Kevin Short, Mike Kirkman, and Ronnie Brannon.

Giving In Three Voices

Three men were marooned on an island in the South Pacific. The first man said, "Don't worry-I'm a ham radio operator, and I brought one with me. But when he opened his suitcase, water rushed out and the radio was ruined. The second man said, "Don't worry--I packed a **flare gun for just this emergency.**" **But when he opened up his backpack, he had a flare gun, but no flares.**

The third man said, "Don't worry--I've been tithing at my **church.**" **The other two men said, "So, who cares? How are we going to get off this island?"** **The third man said, "Look, five years ago I made \$20,000 and I started tithing. The next year I made \$40,000 and I tithed that too. The third year I made \$80,000 and the fourth \$100,000, and I tithed both of those years too. Last year my business really took off and I made one million dollars, and, you know, I tithed on that too.**

The other two men were still puzzled, "That's all well and fine, but we still don't see how we are going to get off this island. The third man answered, "WHAT I AM TRYING TO TELL YOU IS THAT MY PASTOR WILL FIND US.

That pastor knew what the ministerial staff of this church does not know: namely, how much each person or family gives back to God through College Park. The reason I have chosen not to know is simple: I wish to pastor everyone fairly, not on the basis of financial giving.

However, I found myself wishing this week that I could bring different messages to different people about Christian stewardship. By trying to challenge some people to give more, I may create guilt for others. By congratulating some, I may induce false complacency for others. What I needed was three different stewardship messages: one for persons new to this congregation or new to the Christian life; one for those whose income and especially their interest have been growing; and another for those whose ability is no longer expanding but who have been consistent and faithful through the years. Stewardship of life includes much more than possessions, but it does include money. So here are three perspectives on one of Jesus' greatest proverbs. Wear the shoe that fits, even if it hurts a little.

For the New

First is a message to new members or new Christians: Stewardship is an important part of being a Christian. Jesus says in Luke in a passage we call "The Sermon on the Plain," *Give, and it will be given to you--a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with good measure you use, it will be measured to you.* Stewardship involves all we do with our life. It is expressed in church attendance. Being with God's people regularly is only the beginning, but it does represent a dedicated use of time. Stewardship is expressed in using our gifts and talents for God--singing in the choir, teaching children how to sing or adults about the Bible, welcoming visitors, playing an instrument, caring, helping a new family get settled, sewing a banner, organizing a yard sale, whatever. Stewardship is also expressed in our gifts of money, our financial support for the purposes and ministries of God. I want you to know that you belong to an active,

committed congregation. Over 180 families and individuals give almost a quarter of a million dollars for the expenses of this church and world outreach effort. Over \$200,000 from 180 families represents a strong commitment from a high percentage of our members.

Many of the church of which you are a part are deeply concerned persons who practice a regular discipline of giving, who make significant sacrifices for what they believe to be important. You are surrounded by people who take the church and the claims of God seriously. This is reflected in the stewardship of money. There are enough of us to do some very significant work, but there are not enough that we can say, *let someone else do it.* A friend of mine told me of his young son, who brought home from his church in Atlanta an Eastertide offering box from Sunday school. The son said, *Have you placed any money in it yet, Dad' No, I haven't* his dad said, *The money that goes in there will have to come from your allowance. NOT FROM MY ALLOWANCE!* his son shouted, and that ended the discussion. Like the boy, some of us want to fill our offering envelopes--but not from our allowances.

What you give is a decision that you and God will make. Your stewardship will be the result of gratitude and a desire to share. There is not coercion, no pressure, no comparison with others that should be allowed to rob you of your decision to be a good steward of your possession, along with all the rest of life. You and your conscience will wrestle with God. When we do wrestle with God, we end up giving more than anyone would ever dare to ask of us. As we said when we welcomed you, we hope your stewardship will be an example to the rest of us.

This is a message for the new in our midst.

For the Growing

There is also a message to growing Christians. Most of us have asked the question, *Why give?* We give not simply because the needs of our church are real, though they are. There are great possibilities in our budget for strengthening the witness of Christ in Greensboro, enabling the development and enhancing the growth of young and old alike; these are very exciting. But the basic issue is not *What is your share of the church budget?* but *What is God's share of your income?* Not *What does the church need?* but *What does God want?* "Everything we possess in life is on loan. It all could be stamped on consignment. Whatever we consume is gone; whatever we attempt to keep for ourselves will have to be given up in the end. The only thing we can really keep is what we give away. When you reach out and touch someone in need, you widen the horizons of your soul, expand your spiritual vision and understanding, increase your capacity for sympathy and love. Every time you give in Christ's name, your participation in the eternal life of the spirit and in the peace of God increases. You become more of a real person. Or, as Jesus said, *Give, and it will be given to you--a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

What does God want? A tithe, or 10% has been a plumb line since biblical days: sometimes the goal, sometimes

the norm, sometimes the base on top of which additional gifts are possible. It is no magic formula. God does not expect us to go hungry and build mammoth church buildings, nor is God happy when we tittle while squandering the other 90%. A coalition of 650 not-for-profit organizations, corporate foundations, and volunteer groups commissioned the Gallup organization to research American giving patterns. What they discovered was surprising: moderately poor families are more generous than upper-middle-class families. Those households with incomes of \$18,000 or less gave 2.8%--almost double the 1.5 percent of those earning \$50,000--75,000 a year. This study led the coalition to suggest a Give Five campaign: donate 5% of your income and 5 hours per week to a charitable cause. This is not a tittle, obviously, but for many it is a significant challenge. Each person and each family should try honestly and reverently to find and express God's will.

The easy way to give is this. When I was a boy, my parents gave me an allowance: a dollar when I was seven. I understood from my parents that a dime of that dollar was for the offering plate. In addition, I was expected to give something over and above at Christmas and on Easter--usually a dollar each holiday. The real test came when I got my first job at age 15 with a real paycheck. Would my childhood giving patterns prove to be only the result of maternal guidance? Would I continue to give a dime or a quarter? Or would I give a percentage of my income, which would grow as my paycheck grew? It is easy to begin early giving 10 percent or more and to stay with that. It is also easier when wife and husband have similar values. This is the easy way to give.

Another way to give is the Don't-wait-until-you-win-the-lottery way. Take your present giving as a base and then tittle the increases in your income. Simply give 1% of the added ability. Sure, it would be great to tittle suddenly cold turkey, but many think that is impossible, so they never get started with significant Christian stewardship. Take your present giving as the base and begin tithing the increased income that results through the rest of your career.

Still another way is the jerk and press method (I am talking about weightlifting, not the pastor): increase your giving by 1 percent (okay, one half percent) next year. This requires some resetting of priorities; it will be more feasible in some years than others; it will test commitment. Moving from 2.8 to 3.8%, from 5 to 6%, from 8 to 9% can be a thrilling part of a growing Christian life-- discovering that a *good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

For the Faithful

I also have a message for the consistent, sacrificing, generous stewards of the years: Thank God (literally) for what you have made possible because of your years of hard labor. Your faithful stewardship has been through years of schooling, through depression and recession, through the education of children, through the transition to retirement. Because of your

thoughtfulness in writing your last will and testament so as to provide for the church after your death, many will worship here and serve here long after you have gone on.

You have acted out the passage for this morning, which is one of my favorite lines in scripture. Jesus has just been talking about forgiveness, and being open-handed to people. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven; if you bless others, you will be blessed; if you empower and lift others up, you will be lifted up. If you give generously to God, "it will be given to you, in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over in your lap. The image is from the marketplace of the first century. People bought grain not in a bag or a box, but from the vendor's sack poured into their own container. Instead of being cheated or short-poured, the grain here is shaken together and pressed down, so as to get more in, and the large excess is poured into the person's lap. It's an image of super-abundance, like taking a child to Toys R Us, handing her the keys, and saying, it's all yours.

Some may wonder if their offerings on each Sunday **will do any good. Who can say they won't.** When we give, we join with millions of Christians who are giving to make God's grace visible. Who can say that our gifts do not help a Hungarian woman to see, a Cuban youth to cling to hope, a Romany child to read, or a Japanese mother to have a larger worldview? Who can deny that our gifts help people living with AIDS both in Zimbabwe and here in Greensboro to maintain their dignity?

Thank God for missionaries, for Habitat homes for the working poor, for church school classes where lives are molded, for the corner on which this church building sits which reminds thousands of passers-by of their Creator whom they cannot pass by forever. These are the miniseries you have made possible through your consistent, faithful, dedicated stewardship. Three messages for three different places in life.

A person is a Christian in that moment when he or she makes the first commitment of the self to God, but it takes a lifetime to become a follower of Jesus. I am told that if you fly over the North Atlantic Ocean, and carefully examine the icebergs floating in those frigid waters, you will see some icebergs moving in one direction, and other icebergs moving in another. The explanation is simple: the surface winds are driving the small icebergs, while the huge ones are controlled by deep ocean currents.

No matter which group you find yourself in, our lives are like those icebergs. We are driven by two countervailing forces. The shallow waters push us by the surface wind of selfishness, fear, and negativity. The deeper currents pull us towards love, grace, and blessing. In the last analysis, what you do with your money is not simply about supporting this church. It is a spiritual issue about you are and what you are becoming. Will you and I open the floodgates of grace and become a vessel of blessing? *Give, and it shall be given to you ...*

Michael S. Usey

College Park
An American Baptist Church
invites you to
the Ordination Council of
Austin Carty,
 M.Div. Candidate, Wake Forest Divinity
 Senior Minister Elect, First Baptist, Corbin, Kentucky

to the
Ministry of Word & Table

under the auspices of
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship,
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina,
 Alliance of Baptists

12 April 2015
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

RSVP to: cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net
Phone: 336.273.1779

1601 Walker Avenue
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403

Congratulations

Jodi Bartley has successfully defended her dissertation, "Touchstones of Connection: A Concept Mapping Study of Therapist Factors that Contribute to Relational Depth," and will receive her PhD in Counseling and Counselor Education on May 8. Jodi will start her new career as a counselor educator as an assistant professor at North Dakota State University in August 2015.

Three Nickels Campaign

The yearly goal of our Three Nickels fund is to have 100 College Park families or individuals pledge to give at least \$1 per week, which equals 15¢ (three nickels) per day. The money donated is given to ministries that operate outside North America, have been suggested by **church members, and College Park's Missions Committee** has found to be trustworthy and efficiently run. **In the past, we've supported Heifer International, Pennies for Peace, Haiti earthquake relief, Watering Malawi, Soles 4 Souls, Food for the Poor, Micro loans for villages in Northern Thailand, Operation Smile, and other worthy programs.**

In 2015, our Three Nickels fund will:

- Support Doctors without Borders in its work to stem the spread of Ebola and prepare for future outbreaks
- Aid Next Generation Nepal in its mission to rescue, rehabilitate and reconnect trafficked and exploited children with their families
- **Provide clean, sustainable drinking water to rural communities through Watering Malawi**

In order to have money to send to these programs, we need your support. Simply fill out a Three Nickels pledge form and place it in a Tessera offering box, in an 11 am worship service offering plate, or return it to the church office. Help fight poverty around the world by giving just three nickels a day.

NEW YORK CITY

Do you want to go to New York City this summer? Apartment is available again this year with dates in July and August and some other holiday weekends. Close to Times Square and Broadway. Contact Angela Brady-Fleming by phone: 336-501-0270, text, or Email: fleming1301@yahoo.com





APRIL 16 - 7:00 PM

Elon Community Church & Community Life Center
 (Please arrive on-site through the covered rear entrance.)

**Changing Our Mind:
 My Journey as a Christian Ethicist
 toward Full LGBT Acceptance**

Dr. David P. Gushee

Sponsored by the Youth Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society, and PFLAG Alamo

Dr. Gushee is speaking in support of a bill in the North Carolina State House to amend the state constitution to allow for the inclusion of transgender people in the definition of marriage.



Elon Community Church
 271 N. Williamson Ave., Elon, NC
 PFLAG Alamo: pflagalamo.org

Changing Our Mind:
 My Journey as a Christian Ethicist toward full LGBT Acceptance. Sponsored by PFLAG Alamo
 David P. Gushee
 April 16, 7 pm, Elon Community Church
 271 N. Williamson Ave., Elon, NC



Fighting Poverty Around The World With Just 3 Nickels a Day

I _____
 pledge to help fight poverty around the world by giving at least One Dollar per Week. I understand that this pledge is above and beyond my normal giving. I would like to make my donation as follows:

Single 2015 payment of \$52.00

Weekly payments of \$1.00

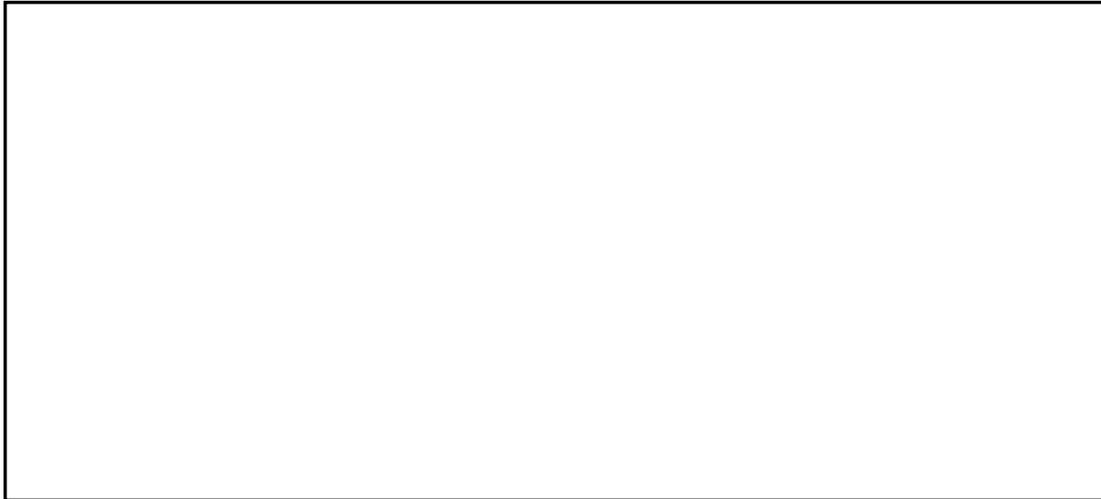
I'd like to give more: \$ _____ (specify amount)

Signature _____

***Be sure to write "Three Nickels" on your check
 memo line or giving envelope.***

College Park
An American Baptist Church
1601 Walker Avenue,
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403-2318

Return Service Requested



Looking Ahead-April

- 5 Easter—No Youth Activities
- 6 Girl Scouts-McIntyre 6:30 pm, FH
- 7 Girl Scouts-Herbenick 6:30 pm, FH
- 8 No Wednesday Night Activities
- 9 AI-Anon 10 am, FH
Zumba 6 pm, FH
- 10 AI-Anon Noon, FH
- 12 BRIGTH Sunday
CPR Preferred Childcare 2-5:30 pm, FH
Krishnan Daisy Troop 3:30 pm, Parlor
Carty Ordination Council 6 pm
- 13 Girl Scouts-McIntyre 6:30 pm, FH
- 14 **G'boro Children's Development Service**
Agency Meeting 8:30am-12:30pm, FH
- 15 Wednesday Night Activities
- 16 AI-Anon 10 am, FH
Forever 39 11:30 am, K&W
Zumba 6 pm, FH
- 17 AI-Anon Noon, FH
UNCG Fund Raiser, Pot Luck Dinner
4-9 pm, FH
- 18 Cook Day 11 am, FH
GUM Sunday
- 19 Krishnan Daisy Troop 3:30 pm, Parlor
G'boro City Safety Assessment 1-5 pm
- 20 Chapel & Fellowship Hall
Pendergraft Meeting 5:30 pm, Parlor
- 21 Girl Scouts-Herbenick 6:30 pm, FH
PFLAG 7:30 pm, Parlor
Wednesday Night Activities
- 22 AI-Anon 10 am, FH
- 23 Pendergraft Meeting 5:30 pm, Parlor
Zumba 6 pm, FH
AI-Anon Noon, FH
- 24 Youth Spring Trip (24-26)
- 26 Sunday Activities
Krishnan Girl Scouts 3:30 pm, Parlor
- 27 Girl Scouts-McIntyre 6:30 pm, FH
- 29 Wednesday Activities 5:30 pm

Church Telephone: (336) 273-1779; Fax: (336) 273-9637
www.collegeparkchurch.com cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net

Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches -
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

February/March Food Donations = 220 Pounds
2015 Total Food Donations = 269 Pounds

Every Member a Minister

Jodi Bartley, Professor to the Frozen Chosen
Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
Susan Finley, Handbell Director
Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
Darlene Johnson, Sexton
Keith A. Menhinick, Wake Forest Pastoral Intern
David Soyars, Organist
Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
Lin Story-Bunce, Associate Minister (On Maternity Leave)
Andrea Turner, Deacon Chair
Michael S. Usey, Pastor
Annette Waisner, Office & Media Manager
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Progressive - Diverse - Ecumenical