

Faith Speaks

I have raked in more stump holes than I care to count. As a teenager, my father owned a stump grinding business, and rather than let me get a job at McDonald's, Dad put me to work. He paid me, though - ten bucks an hour! Which was a good wage for any teenager back then. Now, don't get me wrong, I cherish those memories of working with my father, but I did not love the work. It was grueling hot afternoons in the sun, and even though I was getting paid, I often dreaded coming home from school to hear my father say, "Get your boots on, we've got a job."

I was reflecting on all this just this past year when a bunch of us church members were outside working on the playground. If you participated, you know that was grueling work, as well. Whether it was holding heavy poles in place, shoveling dirt, or building scaffolding, we were all sweaty and tired by the end of the day. But, strangely, I enjoyed it. In fact, I think all of us did. And here's the interesting thing, none of us were getting paid!

So, why is that? Why

is it that the work for which we get paid can become so unenjoyable, but the work for which we volunteer can feel so fulfilling? The answer is purpose.

In Colossians, Paul gives the Church an important lesson about work and service. He addresses bondservants - slaves. These were men and women who, because they were in debt, had no choice but to work off their debt by becoming servants to a master. He tells these bondservants this in Colossians 3:22, "Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

You see, when it comes to work, we normally don't have the freedom to just change our job - change the work. We

may not be able to change **WHAT** we're doing, but we can change **WHO** we're doing that work **FOR**. We can change the purpose of our work. Money is a fickle master. If we choose to work for its pleasure alone, we will only find ourselves being upset that it hasn't changed our lives as much as we'd hoped. But God is our creator. When we choose to work for his pleasure and his glory, no matter what the task, there can be fulfillment.

I am bringing all of this up, beloved, because I want to remind you that as a Christian, you are in service to the Lord.

Whatever your occupation, whether it's running a company, loading boxes, answering phones, being a stay-at-home parent, or even just volunteering within the Church (Continued on page 2)



Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. John Cleveland

Church Administrator

Melinda Hawkins

Music Director

Nancy Lowry

Financial Secretary

Brooke Echols

Treasurer

Ronnie Burch

Inside this issue:

Prayer & Praise	2
From the Pastor's Shelf	3
Fellowship News	3
Financial News	4
Session News	4
Outreach News	5
Missionary News	6
Birthdays	7
Choir News	7
Calendar	8

2024

Session Members

John Cleveland

Gregg Coniglio

Keith Lovern

Dan Patterson

Mark Watts

Deacons

Jimmy Brock

Alan Dennis

Cameron Dennis

Zohrab Najarian

Pray that the Lord will bless the preaching and teaching ministry of the church to gather and build up the saints, that God's word will grow and multiply, and that our witness, love, and holiness will increase by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask the Lord to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit for counsel, wisdom, understanding, and the fear of the Lord, that we may share in our Savior's life and grace.

For the following, pray for health, comfort and fellowship with God during a period of sickness, that the Lord will give them faith, patience, joy and submission to his will.

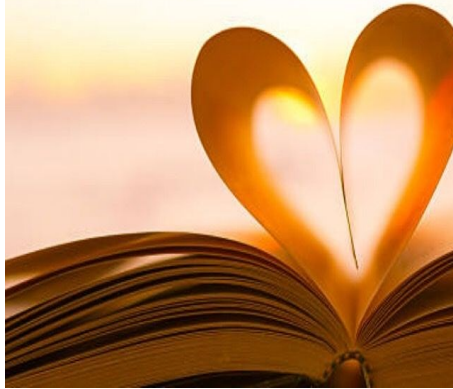
- ♦ **Bob Brown:** chronic pain
- ♦ **Jimmy Brock:** cancer treatment
- ♦ **Jimmy Cook:** cancer treatment
- ♦ **Nicole Curry:** radiation for breast cancer
- ♦ **Teresa Harvey:** cervical radiculopathy
- ♦ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ♦ **Miles Pass:** 5y/o with leukemia
- ♦ **Jordan Israel:** recovery from surgery
- ♦ **Clara Poteat:** recovery from broken hip and rehab
- ♦ **Becky Fowler:** safe travels to England 2/09
- ♦ **Communicant Candidates:** Class 2/04
- ♦ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ♦ **Chris Ober:** continued chemo treatments
- ♦ **Peggy Savory:** (Sara Cleveland's mom) liver cancer and chemotherapy
- ♦ **Donna Criger:** Corticobasal Degeneration
- ♦ **Wilson Station EPC in Tennessee**
- ♦ **Children in Foster Care**
- ♦ **Our Shut-Ins**
- ♦ **The Lost**
- ♦ **Our Elders and Deacons**
- ♦ **President Biden and Congress**
- ♦ **Supreme Court**
- ♦ **Persons serving in our Military**
- ♦ **Law Enforcement Officers**
- ♦ **Emergency Responders**
- ♦ **Our Nation**

Please pray for our missionaries:

- ♦ **Phil and Diane Thrash**
- ♦ **Gary and Jackie Burnett**
- ♦ **Santosh John**
- ♦ **Keith and Rachel Keller**
- ♦ **Jeff & Veronique Kim**
- ♦ **Jenny Coon**
- ♦ **Mike Rasmussen**
- ♦ **Grady Davidson**

For God is not unjust: He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints — and you continue to serve them.

Hebrews 6:10



If you have a prayer request or a praise report that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please email them to:

faithepcrus@gmail.com by Thursday, February 29th.

This would include any NEW or OLD requests that you would like to have included. This section is renewed monthly.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 2:4-5 KJV

@hannablutler



(Continued from page 1)

- even if that occupation does not seem "spiritual," you need to know it is immensely spiritual. Why? Because the Lord has given you the Holy Spirit as a helper to enable you to will and to work for His good pleasure. And scripture calls us servants (slaves) of Christ (1 Peter 2:16). Whatever your job, whoever your boss, whatever your pay ... remember that you are not working for man or money; you are working for the Lord. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17). It is only when we shift the purpose of our work to where it ought to be that we will find the joy and fulfillment God wants us to have.

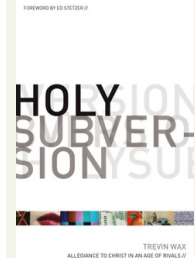
Pastor John

One of our greatest rewards as Christians is to serve people. If the result is watching them draw closer to Christ through the Spirit's blessing upon God's Word and our efforts, what more could we possibly ask for?

Joel Beeke

Reference: Feed My Sheep, ed. Don Kistler, Soli Deo Gloria Ministries, 2002, p. 123.

From the Pastor's Shelf...



"Holy Subversion" - Trevin Wax

Serving God in our world can be a tricky thing. Jesus knew that; he even promised it when he said, *"In this world you WILL have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33).

In this helpful little book, author Trevin Wax explores how God wants us to approach serving him in the hostile age we find ourselves in. The answer Wax draws out from scripture is not that we should avoid the world or hide from it but that we should subvert it. As the Christian lives for Christ in all he does, he ought to live a life that subverts expectations and runs counter-cultural. His love should be remarkably different and strange. His giving should be different. His free time should be different.

Wax explores several life topics in this way, providing many judicious insights and aptly identifying the idols of our time that keep us from serving God as we ought. If you're looking for a quick read that will challenge you to examine your approach to the everyday, this is a book you should pick up.

Girlfriends in Faith

Our first meeting of the new year was held on Saturday, January 20. Plans for the coming months were discussed. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 17, at 10:00 a.m. We will share a brunch meal together, after which, Lori Hendrix will share what the Lord has done, in her life, and through the events and writing of her book, When The Healing Doesn't Come. We hope all ladies will join us! Contact Laurie Brannan or Marcia Daniel for more information.

Men's Book Study

Our Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. We are studying 2 Corinthians.

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. Contact Gregg Coniglio for more information.

Ladies Bible Study

We have a study on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am. We are studying Genesis 1-11. Our Tuesday evening study meets at 6:30 pm and we will begin a study of James on February 13th. We would love to have you join us at either study.

Fellowship News

The idea that the service to God should have only to do with a church altar, singing, reading, sacrifice, and the like is without doubt but the worst trick of the devil. How could the devil have led us more effectively astray than by the narrow conception that service to God takes place only in church and by works done therein... The whole world could abound with services to the Lord...not only in churches but also in the home, kitchen, workshop, field.

Martin Luther

BOOK NOOK

Check out the bookshelf in the Narthex. We have excellent books available for your Christian growth.

The January regular Session Meeting was held on Thursday, January 4th, at Keith Lovern's house. The church's financial secretary, Brooke Echols, attended and reviewed 2023 contributions and expenditures. A meeting by telephone conference was held on January 10th to finalize the budget, and it was passed.

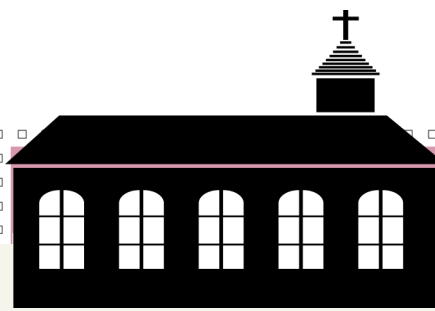
The presentation to the congregation was made on Sunday, January 21st, following worship. At this meeting, the Terms of Call for our pastor, John Cleveland, was presented and passed unanimously.

The next Session meeting will be at the church on Thursday, February 1st at 5:30 PM.

John Cleveland, Moderator
Dan Patterson, Clerk
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Mark Watts

As each one
has received a special gift,
employ it in
serving one another
as good stewards
of the manifold
grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10-11 NASB



Calendar

- ◆ February 1 Men's Study
- ◆ February 4 The Lord's Day
- ◆ February 4 Communion
- ◆ February 6 Ladies Study am/pm
- ◆ February 8 Men's Study
- ◆ February 11 The Lord's Day
- ◆ February 13 Ladies Study am/pm
- ◆ February 15 Men's Study
- ◆ February 17 Ladies Meeting
- ◆ February 17 Youth Hangout
- ◆ February 18 The Lord's Day
- ◆ February 18 New Member Class
- ◆ February 20 Ladies Study am/pm
- ◆ February 22 Men's Study
- ◆ February 25 The Lord's Day
- ◆ February 27 Ladies Study am/pm
- ◆ February 29 Men's Study



January 2024 Financial News

Donations:

\$30,415.00

Expenses:

\$25,646.26

P.O.P. Fund:

\$800.00

Mortgage Principal:

\$764,676.45

Whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to
God the Father.

Colossians 3:17

*Do all the good
you can, by all
the means you
can, in all the
ways you can, in
all the places you
can, at all the
times you can, to
all the people you
can and as long
as you can.*

John Wesley

Outreach News

If you have a need that arises, or know of anyone that is in need, please reach out to our Deacons for assistance. They have the ability to reach out to the congregation on your behalf as well as physically meet your needs, or they can point you in the right direction for help.

Deacons of Faith

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian



Mission of the Month

The Refuge Pregnancy Resource Center

refugeconyers.org

Needs

size 4 & 5 diapers,
baby wash &
baby shampoo

Please place your items in the mission box in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for always giving so generously to those in need!



Volunteers Needed For Fellowship Time!

If you would like to provide refreshments, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Speak to a Deacon if you have any questions!

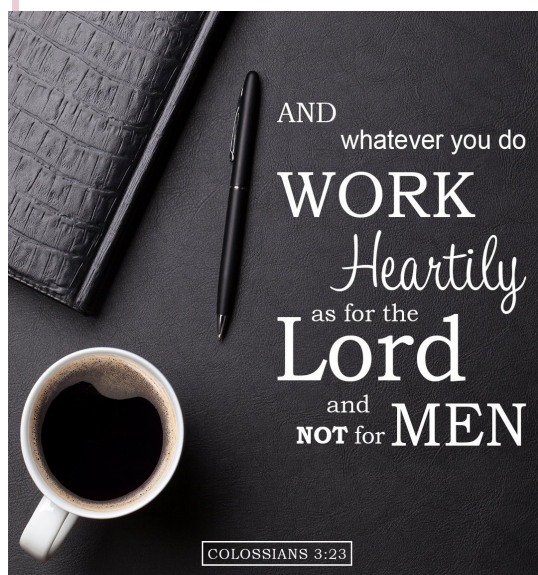


Children's Sunday School

We have Sunday School classes for all ages!

We are in need of teachers!

Contact Susan Jones if you are interested in serving the children of Faith!



Are you a 4th to 12th grader?

You don't want to miss out on the fun and excitement of our hangouts! Our next hangout is

February 17th
at 6:00 pm
At the Church
Bring a friend!

UPDATE FROM JENNY COON

Marhaba!

I looked at my schedule for the day and saw that my first three patients were all widows. "Susan" is slowly losing her eyesight and we are currently trying to help her with some funds for surgery. Walking is very difficult for her because of her eyesight and her severely bent spine, and yet she tells me her goal in therapy is to be able to continue to walk up the hill to church every Friday and Sunday with a steadfast faith that inspires me sometimes. "Jamila" recently lost her son to cancer and is in tears most of the time I see her. She worries about her remaining son as he suffered a head injury and has never fully recovered. "Nada" is alone as her son and daughter live overseas and she loves to use our time together to tell me stories about her village in the south and their olive trees. Olive trees that will not be producing fruit this year due to the war...

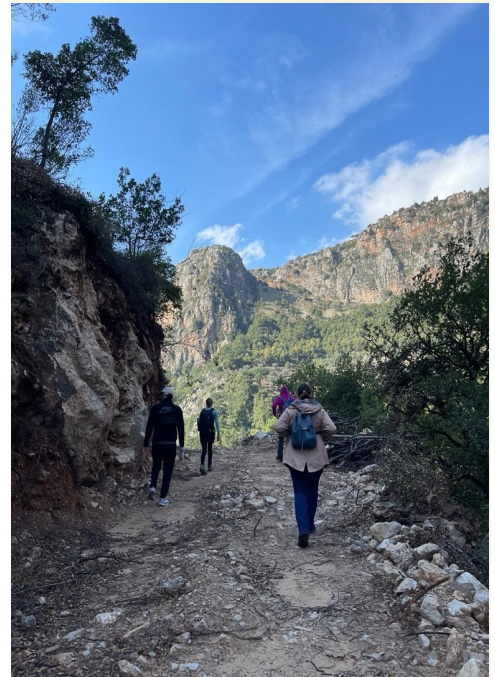
"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress" James 1:27

I have dreams for what I want our clinic to be. I want us to be able to help fulfill the vision of the local church. I want to see us expand in Lebanon and then in Syria. But some days, the task is simple. It's caring for the widows like these precious ladies that are in front of me. Loving them, weeping with them, laughing with them, and praying their comfort would abound through Christ.

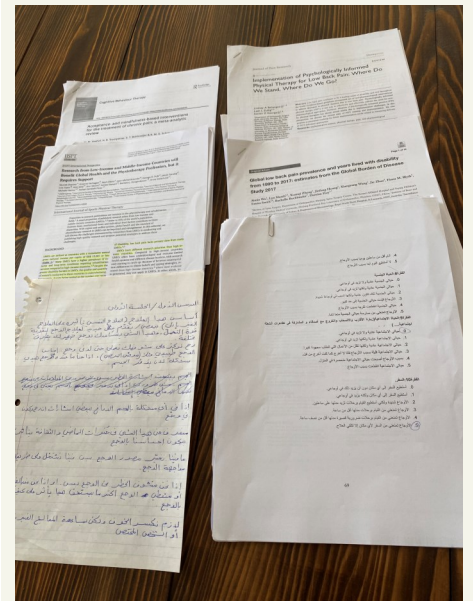
Join with me in praying for the widows this month. The widows from the war in Syria, the war in Gaza, and the ones here in my community.

As always, I am so grateful for each and every one of you and how you pray, support, and encourage the ministry here in Lebanon as well as me personally.

With gratitude,
Jenny



Hiking with our new German nurse. She has been a welcome addition to the clinic team. We appreciate her skills, eagerness to learn and help, humility, and gentle spirit.



I am hard at work on my case report / thesis for my doctorate now that I enter my final semester! My topic is the effects of psychologically informed physical therapy on chronic low back pain in a low income, Middle Eastern country.



To the glory of God,
Faith Presbyterian Church
has been called together to
faithfully proclaim the
Gospel, to make and equip
disciples for Christ, and to
advance God's Kingdom
in our families, community,
and world.



Faith Presbyterian Church is a
congregation of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
(www.epc.org)
and the Presbytery of the Southeast
(www.epcsoutheast.org).

Our Church Website:
www.FaithMcDonough.com

Church Email:
faithepcrus@gmail.com

Church Phone Number:
770-648-5288

Mailing Address:
Faith Presbyterian Church EPC
1185 East Lake Road
McDonough, GA 30252



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

Matthew 23:35-40

CHOIR NEWS

If you would like to join
our choir, contact Nancy Lowry!
We would love for you to join us!

If you are interested in joining Faith Presbyterian Church (EPC), you may do so by a profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, by a re-affirmation of your faith, or by a transfer of your membership from another church.
We are having a New Member Information Class on February 18th.
Please speak with the an Elder if you have any questions about joining.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!



Heather Skelton	2/03
Andy Martin	2/04
Don Brannan	2/05
Luke Skelton	2/10
Ronnie Burch	2/11
Frank Fraticelli	2/18
Carrie Ann Cooper	2/22
Kim Gilbert	2/22
Randy Daniel	2/25
Emma Hawkins	2/28



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

February 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 <i>Presbytery Meeting In Dalton, GA</i>
4 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	5	6 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	7	8 7:00 Men's Bible Study	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	12	13 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	14	15 7:00 Men's Bible Study	16	17 <i>10:00 am Ladies Meeting</i> <i>Youth Hangout 6:00 pm</i>
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 12:30 New Member Class	19	20 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	21	22 7:00 Men's Bible Study	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	26	27 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	28	29 7:00 Men's Bible Study		