

# Faith Speaks

When I was a teenager, I helped move a really large heavy icebox. I held my end with one hand and reached for a door handle with my other hand ... and POP... I felt something give in my back. Shooting pain! I immediately dropped the box and hunched over, feeling like I shouldn't even dare move or it would get worse. The chiropractor told me later that I had pulled some rib heads out and that, unfortunately, I was probably going to feel those little buggers slip out again from time to time for the rest of my life. How reassuring.

I was telling this story to a brother, and naturally, he told me all about his own physical ailments and issues. We both remarked, as Christian men want to do in these conversations, "Can't wait for the resurrection and that new body!"

Now, I know I'm too young to be talking like this. Apologies. But this is something I think a lot of us are familiar with - that longing for the return of Christ when we will be raised into a new body that is done away with death and all our aches and pains. Amen!

Maranatha! Jesus, come soon!

But, as we are longing for that future physical resurrection, let's not forget that, as Christians, we have already been given a spiritual resurrection. In Colossians 3, Paul says we have been "raised with Christ". In that chapter, Paul describes how we ought to live as spiritually resurrected children of God. What is somewhat ironic is that he actually uses our bodies as an illustration of how we should live this resurrected life, even though we have only been spiritually resurrected and not yet physically resurrected.

First, he says that we should seek the things above where Christ is, and our minds should be set on the things above. In other words, our resurrected eyes and minds ought to be fixated on heaven, on Christ, on things that are grander and much more delightful than the things of this world. Next, he says that our spiritually resurrected bodies

ought to be abstaining from things like sexual immorality and impurity. He even states something so obvious. Eph. 3:6 - "On account of these things the wrath of God is coming." Why would I want my newly-made-alive self to participate in something that invites death and destruction? In verse 8, Paul says our resurrected mouths should be free from anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, and lying. And in verse 12, our resurrected selves should even be clothed appropriately with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love.

It's so tempting, as Christians, especially when we live with debilitating ailments, to fixate on the waiting. We long to be free from this body of pain and death, but as we are longing and waiting, let's not forget (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

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## 2024

### Session Members

John Cleveland  
Gregg Coniglio  
Keith Lovern  
Andy Martin  
Dan Patterson

### Deacons

Jimmy Brock  
Alan Dennis  
Cameron Dennis

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
- ♦ **Chris Ober:** continued cancer treatment
- ♦ **Billie Miller:** healing and recovery
- ♦ **Dorothy Toal:** recovering from sickness
- ♦ **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**
- ♦ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ♦ **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**

Sympathy  
Family of Jimmy Carter

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**

IF THEN YOU HAVE  
BEEN RAISED WITH  
CHRIST, SEEK THE  
THINGS THAT ARE  
ABOVE, WHERE  
CHRIST IS, SEATED AT  
THE RIGHT HAND OF  
GOD.  
COLOSSIANS 3:1

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](mailto:faithepcrus@gmail.com)  
by Sunday,  
March 31st.

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

I have been crucified  
WITH CHRIST:  
it is no longer I who live,  
BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME:  
and the life which I now live  
in the flesh I live by faith  
IN THE SON OF GOD,  
who loved me and gave  
Himself for me

**GALATIANS 2:20**

(Continued from page 1)  
that we have already been set free from the power of sin. We have already been set free from spiritual death! Eternal life has begun, beloved. The resurrected life has already started. When Paul tells us to "set our minds on the things that are above," I don't think what he means is that we should sit idly, waiting to die and be with Christ in a new body. What he actually means is that, with our eyes on the finishing line of heaven, we ought to be living and walking **NOW** in a certain way - in a resurrected way.

We have been raised beloved, and one day, we shall be raised again. Let us practice now what we will experience fully when Christ comes to take us home.

**Happy Easter!**

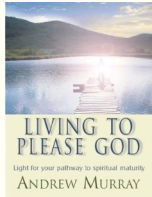
Pastor John

*The Christian life  
is a positive  
allegiance to Jesus  
Christ. It is  
becoming so  
occupied with Him  
that the values  
and standards of  
the world around  
us have little  
influence.*

**George Sweeting**

Reference: Who Said  
That? Moody, 1994, p. 146.

## From the Pastor's Shelf...



**“Living to Please God”**  
- Andrew Murray

If anyone can be said to have unlocked the devotional Christian life, Andrew Murray may have done it. A Scottish-born missionary to South Africa, the Dutch reformer Andrew Murray wrote over 240 books and tracts about Christian living and prayer. And most of those books are delightfully short and to the point. I enjoy reading Murray to refresh myself with simple bible truths. In “Living to Please God,” Murray explores the call on every Christian to live a spiritual life that honors the Lord. He answers questions like “How do I overcome sin?” “How do I know if God is happy with me?” “What is the role of the Holy Spirit in my life?” and much more. As an added bonus, Murray draws most of his practical lessons from the book of Ephesians, so it’s a great little book to read while we are in our sermon series on the same epistle.

## Fellowship News



## Holy Week Events

***Palm Sunday***

***March 24th***

***12:30 pm***

***Fellowship Meal***

***Egg Hunt***

***Maundy***

***Thursday***

***March 28th***

***7:00 pm***

***Good Friday***

***Prayer Vigil***

***March 29th***

***9:00 am—2:00 pm***

***Easter Sunday***

***March 31st***

***Sunrise Service***

***7:00 am***

***Breakfast***

***Sunday School***

***9:00 am***

***Fellowship Time***

***10:00 am***

***Worship Service***

***10:30 am***

## BOOK NOOK

### Girlfriends in Faith

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th at 10:00 am. We will share a brunch meal together, after which, Donna Crumbley will be the guest speaker. She will share her ministry to the homeless in Henry County and how our group can assist with this ministry. 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 are studying the book of James. We would love to have you join us at either study. Contact Sara Cleveland for more information.

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



The regular February Session meeting was held on Thursday, February 15th, at the church at 5:30 PM.

The Session discussed their book reading assignment for Fearless Faith, the story of John Knox.

The Session reviewed the weekly attendance registers and the active member roll of the church.

The Session approved the purchase of a Stop the Bleed Kit that would be used in the event of an Active Shooter on the premises. Also, plans are being made for a second training class with instructor Eric Phillips.

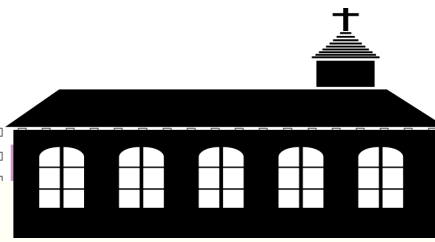
Also, the following events were discussed and scheduled:

- March 15th-Biscuit Day
- March 16th-Men's breakfast at Keith Lovern's house. There will be a sign-up list for those who wish to attend.
- March 17th-Elder Retreat at Nate Echol's house for all Elders, active and non-active
- March 22nd-Easter movie night at the church.
- Prayer needs were discussed and were lifted to God.

There was a called session phone meeting on Tuesday night, February 20th, at 6 PM to discuss an additional gift to Santosh John to purchase a vehicle. The Session approved a donation of up to \$2,500 from the budgeted Emergency Community Needs fund from budget line item 214.

The next Session meeting will be at the church on March 7th at 5:30 PM.

John Cleveland, Moderator  
Dan Patterson, Clerk  
Gregg Coniglio  
Keith Lovern  
Andy Martin



## Calendar

- ♦ March 2 Youth Hangout
- ♦ March 3 The Lord's Day
- ♦ March 3 Communion
- ♦ March 5 Ladies Study am/pm
- ♦ March 7 Men's Study
- ♦ March 10 The Lord's Day
- ♦ March 12 Ladies Study am/pm
- ♦ March 14 Men's Study
- ♦ March 15 Biscuit Giveaway
- ♦ March 16 Men's Breakfast
- ♦ March 16 Ladies Meeting
- ♦ March 16 Youth Hangout
- ♦ March 17 The Lord's Day
- ♦ March 19 Ladies Study am/pm
- ♦ March 21 Men's Study
- ♦ March 22 Movie Night
- ♦ March 24 The Lord's Day
- ♦ March 24 Potluck and Egg Hunt
- ♦ March 28 Maundy Thursday
- ♦ March 29 Prayer Vigil
- ♦ March 31 Sunrise Service
- ♦ March 31 The Lord's Day

## February 2024 Financial News

**Donations:**

**\$24,680.00**

**Expenses:**

**\$28,434.14**

**P.O.P. Fund:**

**\$835.00**

**Mortgage Principal:**

**\$763,376.45**

"Jesus said  
unto her,  
I am the  
resurrectio  
n, and the  
life: he that  
believeth in  
me, though  
he were  
dead, yet  
shall he  
live" John  
11:25

*The faithful, effective  
Christian life, however is  
not simply a great  
emotional adventure filled  
with wonderful feelings  
and experiences. It is first  
of all the humble pursuit  
of God's truth and will and  
of conformity to it.  
The obedient Christian  
experiences joy and  
satisfaction beyond  
measure, far exceeding  
that of superficial believers  
who constantly seek  
spiritual "highs." Life in  
Christ is not sterile and  
joyless. But true joy,  
happiness, satisfaction,  
and all other such feelings  
are by-products of knowing  
and obeying God's truth.*

**John MacArthur**

Reference: Galatians, Moody, 1987,

## 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



### Mission of the Month

## Jesus Place Inner City Mission

[jesusplace.com](http://jesusplace.com)

### Needs

Backpacks  
Dollar store  
reading glasses  
(all strengths)

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!

## Family Movie Night

### Faith Movie Night

Friday  
March 22  
6:00 pm  
Snacks &  
Drinks  
Provided

**Invite a Friend!**



### We are having a Biscuit Giveaway!

Friday, March 15th

7:00 am—9:00 am

We will need volunteers!

People to help hand out biscuits and people that will serve in the prayer tent.

Please be at the church at 6:30 am if you can volunteer!

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex



Are you a  
4th to 12th  
grader?

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

March 2nd & 16th  
at 6:00 pm  
At the Church  
Bring a friend!

## MEET

### GRADY DAVIDSON

Global Instructor with Timothy Two Project, International

**Grady is Faith's newest missionary that we support.**

**Ministry:** Teaching and training pastors and church leaders in the majority world, using the apostolic model taught in 2 Timothy 2:2 – “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

**Address:** 307 Pope Trail  
Wildwood, GA 30757-3743

**His Work:** Grady serves as a Global Instructor with Timothy Two Project, International. As a Global Instructor, Grady leads workshops for majority-world pastors and church leaders who have little or no formal theological education. There are four basic workshops in the T2 “Growing in Grace” curriculum, with each workshop running for around 3 days. Altogether, the four “Growing in Grace” workshops, taught in sequence six months apart, cover all the major headings of systematic theology, approximately the same as one year of theology in a typical seminary curriculum. In between the workshops, the pastors and leaders are then challenged to take the workbooks home and teach the material to their own congregations, continuing the cycle de-

scribed in 2 Timothy 2:2. As Grady enters his second year with Timothy Two Project, he is working with groups in El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Grady and Becky make their home in the beautiful community of Wildwood, just outside of Chattanooga Tennessee.

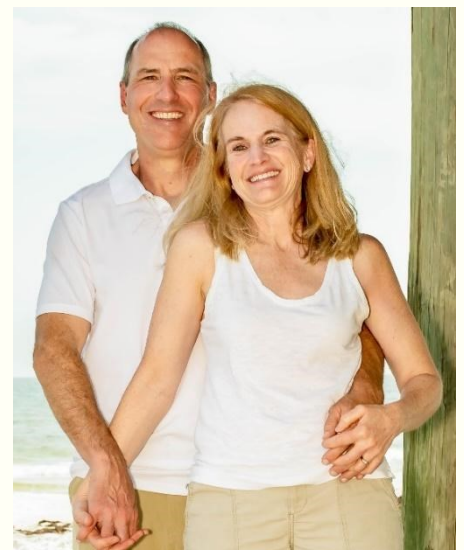
They are enjoying a new season of life as G-Pa and Granna to Miles, Becca Kate, Josiah, and Christopher; and as caregivers for Becky's folks, Tom and Kay.

- To receive Grady's monthly newsletter by email, send your request to [grady.davidson@timothytw2.org](mailto:grady.davidson@timothytw2.org)
- To join Grady's WhatsApp group and receive real-time updates and prayer requests while Grady is abroad, download the app, add him as a contact at +1 (423) 339-7068, and message him with your request.
- To partner with Grady in this ministry, scan the QR code below. (Want to make a 1-time gift? Most workshops cost around \$135 per participant. Consider sponsoring a student with a gift in the range of \$125-\$150!)



## Prayer Requests:

- For God's grace in sharing the T2 vision with individuals and churches, and in developing partners for this ministry.
- That he will continue learning the new skill sets required to serve the Lord well as a T2 Global Instructor.
- That he will be a blessing to the national pastors and church leaders whom he serves; and to his gospel partners on this end as well. That this work will bear multiplying fruit for all eternity.
- That he will be a fit instrument for the Lord's use (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
- For abundant health, strength, and travel mercies.







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](http://www.epc.org))  
and the Presbytery of the Southeast  
([www.epcsoutheast.org](http://www.epcsoutheast.org)).

**Our Church Website:**  
[www.FaithMcDonough.com](http://www.FaithMcDonough.com)

**Church Email:**  
[faithepcrus@gmail.com](mailto:faithepcrus@gmail.com)

**Church Phone Number:**  
770-648-5288

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



*For the love of  
Christ controls us,  
because we have concluded  
this: that one has died for all,  
therefore all have died;  
and he died for all,  
that those who live might  
no longer live for themselves  
but for him who for their  
sake died and was raised.  
From now on, therefore,  
we regard no one according  
to the flesh. Even though  
we once regarded Christ  
according to the flesh,  
we regard him thus no  
longer. Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ, he is a new  
creation. The old has passed  
away; behold, the new  
has come.*

**2 Corinthians 14-17**

## **CHOIR NEWS**

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

## **HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!**



Scott Rowan	3/02
Gray Brannan	3/04
Brett Hawkins	3/07
Mark Skelton	3/09
Laurie Brannan	3/09
Janet Dennis	3/11
Steve Norton	3/14
Mary Allsobrooks	3/15
Helen Copelan	3/16
Janice Lovern	3/16
Chris Ober	3/19
Sara Cleveland	3/27



## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

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.  
Please speak with the an Elder if you have any questions about joining.

# March 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2  <i>Youth Hangout 6:00 pm</i>
<b>3</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	4	5 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	6	7  7:00 Men's Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	11	12 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	13	14  7:00 Men's Bible Study	15 7:00-9:00 am Biscuit Giveaway	16 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Ladies Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Hangout
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	18	19 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	20	21  7:00 Men's Bible Study	22  6:00 pm Movie Night	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 12:30 Lunch and Egg Hunt	25	26 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	27	28  7:00 Maundy Thursday	29 9:00 -2:00 pm Prayer Vigil	30
31 7:00 Sunrise Service Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship						