

Faith Speaks

I've never been that great at throwing a football. I can kick one to the moon, but throwing one requires some technique I don't have. But, on that day in Kevin's front yard with lots of kids running around and yelling, enjoying the summer sun, I threw the perfect spiral. I was so amazed at how well that pig skin was flying that I didn't realize that Kevin (the friend to whom I was throwing the football) had not yet turned around. I yelled his name at the last second, but it was too late. My perfect spiral made perfect contact with the back of Kevin's not-so-perfect head.

Everyone laughed when Kevin was hit with my Tom Brady of a pass, and I didn't help things when I, too, laughed and said, "Dude, my bad ... but did you see that throw?!" Needless to say, Kevin was upset. He yelled at me while rubbing his head and stormed off into the house, embarrassed and furious.

"My bad" may be an admission of guilt, but it is a far cry from the repentance we are called to have towards our sin. The word repentance in the Greek is a simple

enough term that means "to change one's mind." In fact, sometimes, that definition of repentance is used to downplay repentance as something that's not that big of a deal. It's just agreeing with God that you did wrong. But, when we look at the text of scripture, we see that repentance is a call to a way of life. The Church Father, Tertullian, once said, "I was born for no other end but to repent."

In Acts 3:19, Peter was preaching in Solomon's portico and said, "Repent therefore, and **TURN BACK**, that your sins may be blotted out." When Peter gives the command to repent, he clarifies that what he means is more than just changing one's mind; it's changing one's life - the direction of one's life. "Turn back from what you're doing, from the life you're living, so that your sins may be blotted out." Ezekiel gives a similar command to Israel in Ezekiel 14:6, "Repent and turn away from your idols; turn away your faces

from all your abominations."

Paul tells us in 2nd Corinthians 7:10 that there is a godly grief which produces repentance. So, in other words, repentance is not just realizing that I made a mistake; it's born from an actual sorrow over my sin and even a loathing and hatred of my sin.

What we can surmise from all of this is that repentance is something that must be a gift from God, a result of him changing my heart. See, in that moment of hitting Kevin with my pass, my laughter and demeanor betrayed me. I wasn't really repentant from hitting Kevin. Was I sorry? Sure, I didn't want to hurt my friend. But, there was no sorrow; there was no frustration with myself. In fact, I was more frustrated with Kevin for making such a big deal out of it. (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
Randy Cononge
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.

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.

- ◆ **Kristi Bush:** Becky Fowler's sister
- ◆ **Elizabeth Bush:** aging issues
- ◆ **Jay Hilgendorf:** macular degeneration
- ◆ **Bob Brown:** chronic pain
- ◆ **Jimmy Brock:** cancer treatment
- ◆ **Chris Ober:** continued cancer treatment
- ◆ **Jimmy Cook:** cancer treatment
- ◆ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ◆ **Miles Pass:** 5y/o with leukemia
- ◆ **Jordan Israel**
- ◆ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ◆ **Peggy Savory:** liver cancer
- ◆ **Donna Criger:** Corticobasal Degeneration
- ◆ **Billie Miller:** cancer treatment
- ◆ **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**

Sympathy:
Family of Mary Long

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 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 Friday, May 31st.

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



(Continued from page 1)

Left to ourselves and our own motivations, we will tend to excuse our sin, downplay it, and make it seem less than what it is. Left to ourselves, we won't ever truly repent. We will only hope to escape the consequences of our mistakes.

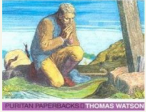
This is why we see several places in scripture where repentance, like Faith and salvation, is called a gift from God. Acts 11:8 - "Then to the Gentiles God has also granted repentance that leads to life." (See also: Acts 5:31; 2 Timothy 2:25). In other words, we need the Holy Spirit's help to have our eyes opened to just how serious our sin is and just how seriously we must take it.

Beloved, is there sin in your life at which you just shrug your shoulders and say, "My bad"? Is there sin in your life that you consider not that big a deal? Are there habits that you excuse as part of your upbringing or heritage? Remember, our sin is not just a football accidentally thrown at a friend. Our sin is a serious act of violence towards the will of God. It's an affront to the nature of our creator. Ask the Lord to show you his glory and beauty. Ask him to show you the truth of your behavior. Pray like David prayed: "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Psalm 139:23-24). Pray that the Lord would grant you repentance. Amen.

Pastor John

From the Pastor's Shelf...

The
Doctrine of
Repentance



**"The Doctrine of
Repentance"**
by Thomas
Watson

Thomas Watson was a 17th-century Puritan and was one of the leading spiritual guides of his day. He wrote with simplicity and directness, making him still very readable today. Repentance is a topic today that is so trivialized and ignored even among Christians today. Perhaps that is because Christians are called to repentance as a way of life, not just a one-time decision. This short book is a biblical course of repentance and how to apply it in your life today. Enjoy it and read it with care.

"Upon our turning to God, we have more restored to us in Christ—than ever was lost in Adam. God says to the repenting soul, "I will clothe you with the robe of righteousness; I will enrich you with the jewels and graces of my Spirit. I will bestow my love upon you! I will give you a kingdom! Son, all I have is yours!"

*Thomas Watson,
The Doctrine of Repentance*

Then Peter said to them,
Repent, and be baptized
every one of you in the
name of Jesus Christ for
the remission of sins...

—Acts 2:38



**Church
Work
Day**

**Join us on
Saturday, May 10th
beginning at 9:00 am
Church Work Day
There will be something
for everyone!
Contact
Alan Dennis
for more
details!**

Fellowship News

Girlfriends in Faith

The next brunch meeting will be Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 a.m., at which time we will complete the two mission projects put into place at the April meeting.

They are: Ministering to the needs of the San family through collected gifts and assembling GRACE BAGS for Henry County's homeless. This will be our last meeting until September. If anyone has questions or needs more information, contact Pam Fraticelli, Marcia Daniel, or Laurie Brannan.

Men's Book Study

Our Men's Bible Study is taking a break during the Pastor's study. We will resume on May 9th at 7:00 pm. 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

Our Tuesday morning and evening studies will pause during the Pastor's study. We will resume in June. Watch for details. We would love to have you join us at either study. Contact Sara Cleveland for more information.

BOOK NOOK

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

The April regular Session Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 2nd, at the church at 5:30 PM.

The Session discussed changes in social issues today and how individual scriptures address them.

The Session discussed procedures to assist church attendees with physical issues when the current handicapped parking spaces are full. The church is ordering 4 RESERVED signs to be posted on the 4 closest parking spaces to the Gathering area to use when the handicapped spaces are full. Also, the Deacons and Elders will be available to assist in parking for anyone needing assistance.

Prayer needs were discussed and were lifted to God.

The next Session meeting will be on May 9th at 5:30 PM at the church.

Faith Presbyterian EPC Session

John Cleveland, Moderator

Dan Patterson, Clerk

Gregg Coniglio

Keith Lovern

Andy Martin

THE LORD YOUR GOD IS
GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL

AND WILL NOT TURN
HIS FACE FROM YOU
IF YOU RETURN TO HIM.

2 Chronicles 30 : 9



Calendar

- ◆ May 1 Dinner/Pastors Study
- ◆ May 5 The Lord's Day
- ◆ May 5 Communion
- ◆ May 9 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ May 10 Biscuit Giveaway
- ◆ May 11 Church Work Day
- ◆ May 12 The Lord's Day
- ◆ May 16 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ May 18 Ladies Meeting
- ◆ May 18 Youth Hangout
- ◆ May 19 The Lord's Day
- ◆ May 23 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ May 26 The Lord's Day
- ◆ May 30 Men's Bible Study



April 2024 Financial News

Donations:

\$24,211.80

Expenses:

\$26,988.17

P.O.P. Fund:

\$1,471.00

Mortgage Principal:

\$757,923.29

We often hear the "Savior" characteristics of God stressed – His love, mercy, goodness and so on – but the matter of His lordship is absent. The distortion is particularly clear in evangelism. In modern practice the call to repentance is usually called an "invitation," which one can obviously accept or refuse. It is offered politely. Seldom do we hear presented God's sovereign demand to repent or His demand for total submission to the authority of His appointed king, Christ Jesus.

James Montgomery Boice

Taken from "Foundations of the Christian Faith-Book I" by James Montgomery Boice, page 120. (



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
Randy Cononge
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis

Mission of the Month

The Bridge Wellness South

supportthebridgewellness.org



Please pick up a baby bottle from the church and take it home and fill it with your loose change, dollar bills, or a check. 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!

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES

MORE RECIPES NEEDED FOR CHURCH COOKBOOK - MEN COOKS AND BAKERS INCLUDED!!!

Two ways to submit: Take and fill out a blank recipe card located in the narthex, OR, type it and print it, and return either to the designated basket, also in the narthex.



Next Biscuit Giveaway!

Friday, May 10th
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!



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

May 18th
at 6:00 pm
At the Church
Bring a friend!

UPDATE FROM GARY AND JACKIE BURNETT

Mentors and Mentored Growing Together:

Marilyn Davis (SIL International's coordinator of their trauma healing program in Latin America), on the right in the picture below, is Jackie's mentor in the Trauma Healing Institute's program and Jackie is mentoring Adriana Tapias, on the left. The three of us meet to share about the doors that God is opening and the new challenges those opportunities entail, as well as to pray together. Adriana and Jackie are now mentoring some of the women mentioned below and leading a monthly trauma healing Community of Practice meeting to support, grow, and encourage trauma healing facilitators.



Training facilitators in "Healing Children's Wounds of Trauma" in Monteria:

It is a special joy that 3 of these facilitators are teachers who come from one of the areas of armed conflict in Colombia and are working with children in their communities. We have walked alongside them for more than 7 years and they are currently part of the group that Jackie mentors to care for their own hearts and to nurture their relationship with God.



Our dear family, pastor Argemiro and his wife Karen: they have been like our children for more than 7 years. Argemiro is the pastor of the Nazareth Presbyterian Church in Valencia

Cordoba (North Coast). They have a passion and calling to evangelize and care for the children of the villages and towns and since last year they have been working with Compassion International. Jackie has been mentoring Karen who is also an Apprentice Facilitator for the Trauma Healing ministry.



Helping without hurting children during grief:

This is the most recent topic we have been discussing in our Community of Practice. The participation of 87 leaders, including Christian psychologists and counselors, exceeded expectations. Certainly, the need to help hurting children is very great. Our guest was psychologist and Master Facilitator in trauma healing, Lesbia Gonzalez. She will continue supporting us in May with the second part of training on this topic.



Planning a Retreat and Trauma Healing Ministry for the Women of the Synod of Reformed Presbyterian Churches of Colombia:

Doris Ramos (top left) is the leader of the women's ministries of the Reformed Presbyterian churches in the states of Choco and Antioquia, and Livys Lora (below) is the director of the synod's women's ministries in Colombia. They want to begin with the leadership retreat "When the soul become exhausted," because of the burnout that so many of the women leaders are experiencing.

We are also praying and planning with these leaders for a two-year process to establish a solid ongoing ministry of trauma healing for women. Our prayer is for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we walk alongside these sisters in Christ to grow together, become fruitful and faithful servants, and to finish the race well.



Mentoring the Process of Passing the Torch for the New Generation Foundation:

We continue mentoring the teachers who are promoting the vision and curriculum of "More than a Children's Teacher." These facilitators, from the 4 groups we have been working with, are taking the lead in multiplying the ministry among approximately 200 leaders in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

Praise and Prayer request: Thanks be to God our mother's health (Jessie and Lucy) has been stable. Jessie has applied and now waiting for approval to receive assistance from Medicaid. This will be essential for Gary to return to Colombia to be with Jackie. We are also thankful that since Jackie's return to Colombia last month, she has had time to refresh and pickup with developing new friends and ministry opportunities in the Quindio region where we now live.

Beloved family in faith, we appreciate your prayers for:

- The transition to accommodate Pastor Gerardo and his family at Gary's mother's house.
- Jessie's approval for Medicaid and Gary's return to Colombia.
- Initial trauma healing training to be held May 26-29 in Medellin.
- The pastoral care project for women of the Reformed Synod of Colombia.
- Our physical, mental and spiritual health in our new area, Armenia, where we have been received with great kindness.

Thank you for continuing to be part of this ministry for the Lord in Colombia. We are remembering you in our prayers with joy and gratitude.

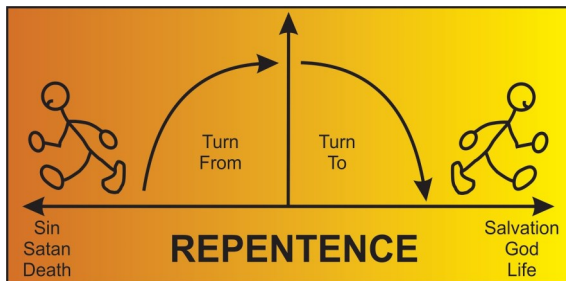
*Under His wings of Mercy
Gary and Jackie Burnett*



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).



*This is the message we have
heard from him and proclaim to
you, that God is light,
and in him is no darkness
at all. If we say we have
fellowship with him while
we walk in darkness,
we lie and do not practice
the truth. But if we walk
in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one
another, and the blood of Jesus
his Son cleanses us from all sin.
If we say we have no sin, we
deceive ourselves, and the truth
is not in us. If we confess our
sins, he is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse
us from all unrighteousness.
If we say we have not sinned,
we make him a liar, and his
word is not in us.*

1 John 1:5-9

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS!



Jimmy Brock	5/04
Tina Leake	5/05
Alan Hawkins	5/06
Dee Gredler	5/06
Aubrey Cooper	5/14
Jim Allsobrooks	5/16
Susan Norton	5/21
Shannon Glinski	5/23
Peyton McClendon	5/24
Mary Jane Murray	5/24
Asher Billings	5/26
Debbie Conner	5/27
Drew Martin	5/27
Joseph Hawkins	5/29
Mark Gredler	5/29



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.

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

CHOIR NEWS

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

May 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Dinner 6:00 pm -8:00 pm Pastors Bible Study	2	3	4
5 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	6	7	8	9 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	10 7:00-9:00 am Biscuit Giveaway	11 9:00 am Church Workday
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Mother's Day	13	14	15	16 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	17	18 10:00 am Ladies Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Hangout
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	20	21	22	23 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	27 	28	29	30 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	31	