

Faith Speaks

So, if you haven't heard, Sara and I are having a baby boy. To say we are excited would be an understatement. We are painting a nursery, picking out names, doing doctor visits, and, I've noticed, making a ton of promises towards this kid. For example, we keep purchasing books for the baby. Well, that's a promise that we are actually going to read those books to him. But I'll also get down and speak to the baby in Sara's tummy sometimes. (We read that that's a good thing to do). I've noticed that most of what I say to him is promises about what we will do after he's born. "Buddy, you and I are going to be best friends, and I'm gonna teach you how to throw a ball and climb a tree one day." We're also praying that God would make us faithful parents who raise up this child in the fear of the Lord.

So, I know all that sounds really normal, but here's the thing that hit me the other day. None of these promises we're making towards this kid are dependent on him deserving these things or even

wanting these things. What if he doesn't want to read the books? What if he doesn't like throwing balls? What if he doesn't want to go to church? ... Well, too bad, we promised! This is actually a beautiful illustration of the covenant promises we have from God in scripture. The way in which God deals with his people is through covenant. God makes a promise to Noah that he will never again destroy the world with a flood. God makes a covenant promise to Abraham that he will make his children as numerous as the stars in the sky, and through him, he will bless all the nations of the world. God makes a covenant promise to the nation of Israel that he will be their God and they shall be his people, and he will make them into a holy nation of priests. And, of course, to David, God made the covenant promise that he would always have an heir upon the throne of Israel. Finally, in the New Covenant,

God promises to forgive his people once and for all and to change them from the inside out by putting his own Spirit within them.

Collectively, we call these covenants the overarching "Covenant of Grace." And what does every iteration in the covenant of grace have in common? All of these promises are one-sided! God makes these promises towards his people, and the faithfulness or the desire of his people is not a factor. For example, in Genesis 15, when God makes his covenant promise to Abraham, he literally has Abraham fall asleep, and while Abraham is sleeping, the Spirit of God, as a smoking firepot, passes between torn-apart animals. This was a suzerain treaty. It was a way for kings to say to each other, (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.

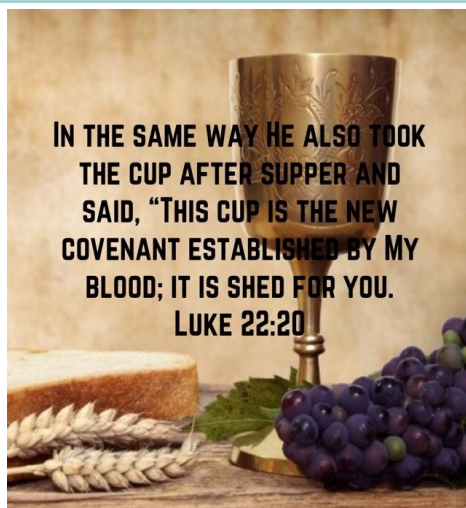
For the following, pray for health, comfort and fellowship with God during a period of sickness, that the Lord will give them faith, patience, joy and submission to his will.

- ◆ **Wylene Eason Family:** mourning
- ◆ **Kristi Bush:** Becky Fowler's sister
- ◆ **Jay Hilgeford:** cataract surgery 6/19-7/03
- ◆ **Michelle Burnham**
- ◆ **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**
- ◆ **Linda Thomas:** lung and liver cancer
- ◆ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ◆ **Peggy Savory:** liver cancer
- ◆ **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 Donna Criger

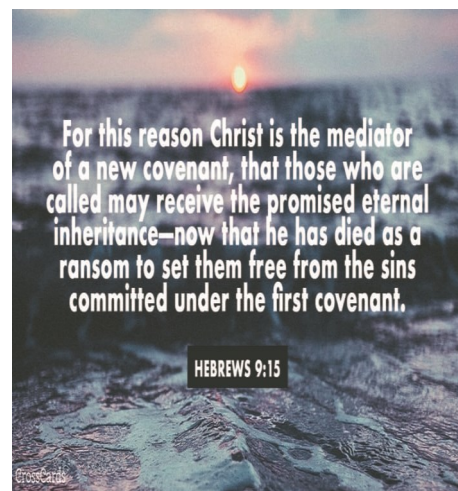
Please pray for our missionaries:

- ◆ 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 Sunday, June 30th.

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



(Continued from page 1)

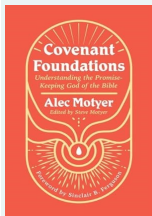
“If I break my side of the bargain, may I be torn apart like these animals.” But, Abraham didn’t pass through the animals! Only God did.

Beloved, God’s promises are not dependent upon our faithfulness. When God chooses to bless, he blesses. What is wise on our part is to believe his promises. In fact, this is the only way we can be saved: by believing God’s promises. In Genesis 15:6, the text says, “Abraham believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” But what if Abraham hadn’t believed the Lord? Would that have meant that God’s promises were now forfeited? Would God have rescinded his promise to bless all the nations through Abraham? No. Because our God is a faithful God. 2 Timothy 2:13 - “If we are faithless, he remains faithful; for he cannot deny himself.”

As I consider my son coming into this world, this is an encouraging and convicting thought. All that I have sworn to do for my son - to protect him, teach him, love him - all that will happen regardless of what my son desires or wants or deserves. Why? Because I love him. And if that is true of me as an earthly father who sins, how much more true must that be of our heavenly Father, who is perfect? Amen!

Pastor John

From the Pastor's Shelf...

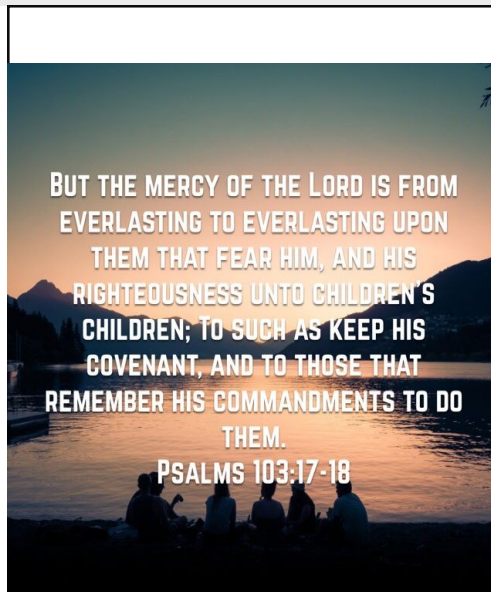


**“Covenant Foundations: Understanding the Promise-keeping God of the Bible
Alec Motyer**

One of the easiest ways to misunderstand God is by bringing him down to our level and making him like us. If we're not careful, we can make God seem fickle. But he isn't. Our God is faithful. All that he sets to do, he will do.

I don't think enough Christians understand God's covenant-keeping nature, which is really central to his character. If the religious customs, animal sacrifices, and strange monarchies of the Old Testament have ever left you scratching your head and saying, "Why does God allow this?" or "What is this all about?" I would highly encourage you to pick up this little book and give it a read.

Motyer is one of my favorite Bible commentators. He is filled with insight and can say so much with so few words. In this book, he unpacks what it means that our God is a "covenant-keeping God." This book is available for cheap in our bookstore. Grab one!



	<u>Women's Bible Study</u>		
	<p>Join us for a <u>Women's Morning Bible Study</u> in Genesis 12-50 called "God of Covenant" by Jen Wilkins. This is a 10-week study starting <u>Tuesday June 4th</u> at 10am and taking some breaks during the summer. Contact Tracy Cononge if you have any questions.</p>		
	<p>Join us for a <u>Women's Evening Bible Study</u> as we study an overview of the book of Isaiah. This study is called "Isaiah: The Holy one of Israel" by Sarah Ivill. This will be a 12-week Study starting <u>Tuesday June 11th</u> at 6:30pm and taking some breaks during the summer. Contact Becky Fowler or Pam Fraticelli if you have any questions.</p>		

Fellowship News

Girlfriends in Faith

Praise be to our Lord for His work that was done through the GOF in May.

We assembled 54 bags containing items needed for the Homeless Ministry of Henry County. Among the items, there was also placed a pamphlet of the Gospel message of salvation. Pray this seed will take root in the hearts of these women.

The GOF would also like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all members of the church who donated to the needs of the San family. May God receive glory and honor through their needs and your giving.

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, September 21.** Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Men's Book Study

Our Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. We are studying the book of James. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. Contact Gregg Coniglio for more information.

BOOK NOOK

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

The May regular Session meeting was held on Thursday, May 9th, at the church at 5:30 PM.

For the devotion, the Session read and discussed Ephesians 5 15-21.

Under New Business, the Session discussed Crown Springs Home-owners Association's request to use Faith Church Sunday School room for their annual meeting. Pastor John Cleveland will contact Crown Springs for more information on their request.

The Session discussed and voted to reinstate the Shepherding list. An elder or Deacon will contact each church member monthly to discuss prayer concerns and Thanksgivings.

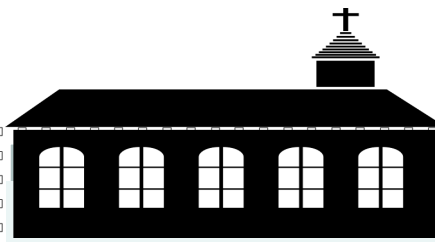
The Session reviewed and discussed a Presbytery Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope. Also, there was a discussion of the Lord's Supper and participation by children.

Prayer needs were discussed and lifted to God.

The next Session meeting will be on June 6th at 5:30 PM at the church.

Faith Presbyterian EPC Session

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



Calendar

- ◆ June 2 The Lord's Day
- ◆ June 2 Communion
- ◆ June 4 Ladies Bible Study
- ◆ June 6 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ June 8 Youth Hangout
- ◆ June 9 The Lord's Day
- ◆ June 11 Ladies am/pm Study
- ◆ June 13 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ June 16 The Lord's Day
- ◆ June 18 Ladies am/pm Study
- ◆ June 20 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ June 22 Youth Hangout
- ◆ June 23 The Lord's Day
- ◆ June 24/28 VBS
- ◆ June 25 NO Ladies Study
- ◆ June 27 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ June 30 The Lord's Day



May 2024 Financial News

Donations

\$24,975.45

Expenses

\$26,597.81

P.O.P. Fund

\$1,621.00

Mortgage Principal

\$756,108.73

We can find our firm foundation in a covenant contracted among the three Persons of the Tri-une God, even before time began. This plan to rescue and re-create damaged and guilty bearers of the di-vine image was initiated by the Father, to be executed by the Son, and to be applied by the Spirit to those very persons on whose behalf the Son would keep covenant.

Dennis Johnson

Reference:
Redemption Accomplished, Tabletalk, Feb. 2004, p. 13, Used by Permission.



Vacation Bible School

June 24-28

9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Ages 4-12

Register at

FaithMcDonough.com

Invite your Friends!

Outreach News

NEED HELP?

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



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!



Mission of the Month

Helping in His Name Food Pantry

helpinginhisname.org

NEEDS

boxed cereal, breakfast items, canned ravioli, spaghetti-o's, ramen noodles, vienna sausage, canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, crackers

Please place your donations in the box in the back of the sanctuary.

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



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's are on June 8th & 22nd at 6:00 pm At the Church Bring a friend!



Thank you to all who have submitted recipes for a church cookbook. So far, we've received 125 recipes from 25 people. Although that's a great start, cookbook publishing companies say that one key to success is the number of people submitting recipes, suggesting submissions from at least 50 people. We may not be able to reach that level, but hopefully, some of you who haven't yet sent in recipes will find some family treasures to share.

One category that could use more recipes is "main dish." Also, if we go with a company that uses traditional categories, we will need more in the appetizer/beverages section. Don't let that limit you, however, as all recipes from all members are welcome!

There are blank recipe cards in the church fellowship area, but we will also take them in whatever format is easiest for you. Thanks again for your participation.

UPDATE FROM
GRADY DAVIDSON

A group studying the doctrines of KNOWING GOD (T2 "Growing in Grace" workshop #1) in Sangrillo de Talamanca, Costa Rica



ers who help one another study, process, apply and grow.

3. The prioritization of DOCTRINE. For 3 decades or more in the States our churches were told that they have to do things to make church more interesting, more appealing, more attractive to "consumer" congregations. Let us affirm that nothing in the universe is more interesting, attractive and appealing than our Great and Awesome God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture!

the Lord as a missionary with Timothy Two? Give me a call!

Faithfully yours,
Grady Davidson
Global Instructor / ARD Latin America
grady.davidson@timothytwo.org
+1-423-339-7068 / Cell & WhatsApp



These two photos came to me yesterday via WhatsApp, and I just had to share them with my team of Intercessors and Investors who make this ministry possible. Pastor Odek was a student in the workshop KNOWING GOD in Bijagua, Costa Rica, in January. And here is a picture of the study group he's launched in his mountain congregation, studying these doctrines together. Several points for consideration and encouragement:

1. The prioritization of IMPACT. The T2 model is about multiplying impact, training pastors who will train others.
2. The prioritization of COMMUNITY. The T2 model is about teaching the essential doctrines of the Christian faith in the fellowship and community of other believ-

4. The prioritization of DISCIPLE-MAKING. To love, trust, and serve God, one has to know Him first. This workshop is all about knowing Him - his being, his trinitarian existence, his glorious attributes.

5. The prioritization of training the next "TIMOTHYS" in line (2 Timothy 2:2). Notice the presence of young people in this group. (Just say-in'.)

6. Does this jazz you or what?

7. First time Investor? Send your check to Timothy Two Project Int'l, 2017 Corporate Drive Suite 101, Wilmington NC 28405. (Write DAVIDSON on the memo line.)

8. Want to explore serving





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).



Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21



Nathan Echols	6/02
Peggy Fowler	6/03
Jane Ashmore	6/06
Mark Watts	6/08
Casady Billings	6/10
Wyatt Hawkins	6/10
Buddy Ashmore	6/14
Trinidad Nolasco	6/14
Allison Hawkins	6/18
Nancy Lowry	6/20
Kayla Hunt	6/26
Noah Skelton	6/26
Paula Patterson	6/26
Caylee Dennis	6/28
Kristin Burch	6/30

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!



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.

June 2024

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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