

# Faith Speaks

Talk of the Devil and spiritual warfare makes some people roll their eyes. We live in an age of particle accelerators, microchips, and organ transplants. The Devil? Why, he's nothing more than a medieval superstition created to scare naughty children. We can't take any of that seriously.

Martin Luther would have disagreed. He took it very seriously and wrote often of his ongoing battle with the Devil. He was very aware of the forces of evil. Most of us have heard the story about Luther throwing an inkwell at the Devil. Whether truth or legend, such an act would not have been out of character for Luther. It is also well known that Luther believed in using contempt to fight the Devil, and some of the things he said to and about the Devil were colorful, to say the least.

According to the skeptics, Luther may have meant well, but his encounters with "the Devil" say more about his fragile mental state than they do about reality. This is what our demythologized world would have us believe, and, frankly, it is what the Devil himself would have us believe. As the French poet Charles Baudelaire said, "The devil's best trick is to persuade you that he doesn't exist!"

Luther's language about the Devil wasn't always crude. Sometimes he was more tactful. His hymn, "A

**Mighty Fortress Is Our God**" is a magnificent description of spiritual warfare and our place in it.

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.*

The Devil is quite real, and there is a spiritual war going on every minute of every day (Rev. 12:17). It was foretold by God when He cursed the Serpent and said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring" (Gen. 3:15). This war is not a dualistic Manichaean battle between two essentially equal forces, good and evil, light and darkness. Satan is not omnipotent or omniscient. God alone is sovereign and all-powerful. All that the Devil does is done only by God's permission and ultimately will be used by God for His own purposes.

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of*

*God's own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His Name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.*

It is important for believers to understand that the outcome of this war is not uncertain. As God also said to the Serpent, "He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." The decisive battle has already been won at the cross. The Devil may have thought he had won when Jesus was crucified, but this was actually the point in redemptive history when his head was crushed. It was by means of His death on the cross that Jesus destroyed the Devil (Heb. 2:14).

Some theologians have used World War II as an analogy of what happened. The cross was D-Day in the spiritual war. It was the decisive assault that sealed the doom of the enemy. The final victory, analogous to VE-Day, occurs at the final judgment when the Devil is cast into hell. Christians today live between D-Day and VE-Day. (continued 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.

- ◆ **Samuel Cleveland:** in NICU
- ◆ **Bonnie Turner:** gallbladder cancer
- ◆ **Billie Miller:** fighting cancer
- ◆ **Jay Hilgefjord:** answers and healing
- ◆ **Jimmy Brock:** cancer treatment
- ◆ **Chris Ober:** continued cancer treatment
- ◆ **Faith Strickland:** emphysema
- ◆ **Richard Ingram:** esophageal/liver cancer
- ◆ **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**

**Praise:**

**Bob Brown - pain relief and return to worship**  
**Jerry Carter - home and doing well**  
**Kathy Rewerts - home and doing well**

**Please pray for our missionaries:**

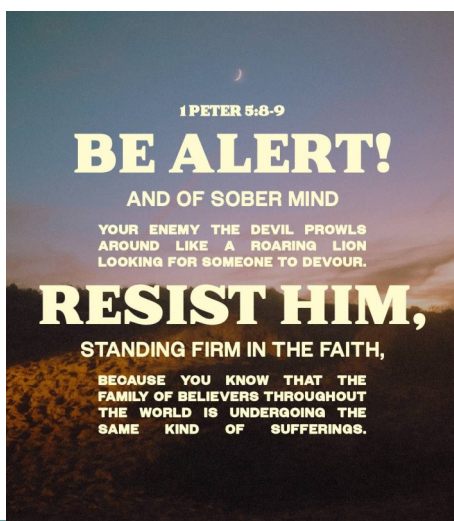
- ◆ **Phil and Diane Thrash**
- ◆ **Gary and Jackie Burnett**
- ◆ **Santosh John**
- ◆ **Keith and Rachel Keller**
- ◆ **Jeff & Veronique Kim**
- ◆ **Jenny Coon**
- ◆ **Mike Rasmussen**
- ◆ **Grady Davidson**

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

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 Saturday, August 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)

During this time, the armies advance against the enemy, slowly but surely, in a bloody and painful battle until Christ has put every last enemy under His feet. Some days see advances while other days see retreats, but overall there is an advance until the last day, the day of the enemy's complete surrender.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

The fact that we live between the decisive battle and the final battle explains why Peter must still warn his readers that the Devil prowls around like a lion seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). The Devil has suffered a fatal wound, but he is not dead. He remains dangerous, and we must remain watchful against his schemes. He does not always come at us looking as evil as he is. He and his servants can disguise themselves as angels of light (2 Cor. 11:14). In spite of this, because we are united with Jesus Christ, the One who crushed his head, we can resist the Devil, and he will flee from us.

Keith Mathison  
 Tabletalk Magazine  
 May, 1, 2011

From the Pastor's Shelf...



**"The Screwtape Letters"  
C.S. Lewis**

Written as a fictional conversation, the letters from Screwtape to his young demon apprentice are quite entertaining and especially thought-provoking. Because of the point-of-view the book is written from, the main character, in an uncommon twist, refers to Satan as "Our Father" and to God as "the Enemy." When informing young Wormwood about prayer, Screwtape instructs, "The best thing, where it is possible, is to keep the patient from the serious intention of praying altogether. When the patient is an adult recently reconverted to the Enemy's party, like your man, this is best done by encouraging him to remember, or to think he remembers, the parrot-like nature of his prayers in childhood..." (pg. 15). Any reader will be able to relate to many of the temptations that these devils throw at their "patient," and it will strengthen your own walk as you consider where the temptations in your own life may have originated.

C.S. Lewis masterfully uses this unique style of writing to present many of the common weaknesses in a Christians life and then gives the reader encouragement to endure common temptations to which Christians often surrender. Lewis is known as a skilled writer and may be a little difficult at first to get acquainted with the scholarly English prose, but this will only benefit the growth of the reader. The Screwtape Letters cleverly exhorts Christians to righteousness without coming across as "preachy." Important doctrinal themes and stern rebukes of sinful actions and attitudes are addressed by making the devils the bad guys instead of a stuffy, old author. It is a nice change of pace from reading the regular doctrinal exposition type writings or the standard "how-to" books for Christians. Lewis provides a provocative challenge in a short, amusing read and reminds us that we are in a spiritual war.

ebcrochester.org/misc/resources/BookReviews

**Girlfriends of Faith**  
**Our monthly brunch meeting will be starting again soon! Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 am.**  
**We will be discussing our annual Operation Christmas Child project, as well as, other possible ministry projects.**

**Women's Bible Study**  
**Join us Tuesdays at 10:00 am for our Women's Morning Bible Study in Genesis 12-50 called "God of Covenant" by Jen Wilkins. Jump in anytime! Contact Tracy Cononge if you have any questions.**

**Our Women's Evening Bible Study is taking a break and will resume on 8/13. We are studying an overview of the book of Isaiah using "Isaiah: The Holy one of Israel" by Sarah Ivill. Contact Becky Fowler or Pam Fraticelli if you have any questions.**

**Men's Bible Study**  
**We will resume on 8/08. 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.**

Fellowship News



**Girlfriends of Faith**

The Girlfriends of Faith are excited to announce a **BABY SHOWER** for Baby Cleveland and his beautiful parents, John and Sara. As members, and /or regular attendees, you are invited to join this happy event.



**GIFT REGISTRY:**  
 (click the link)  
**Amazon: Baby Registry**  
 \*Gift cards or other "non-Amazon" gifts are also welcome

**"Rejoice with those who rejoice..."**  
**Romans 12:15**



**BOOK NOOK**

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

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

For the devotion, the Session read John 2:13-17, Ephesians 4:25-27, and Psalm 69:9.

Final plans were made for Homecoming Sunday, July 14th. The church will have a fish fry, and the congregation will be requested to bring side dishes.

The Session discussed the actions taken at the EPC Assembly business meeting held on June 19th in Tennessee.

The Session discussed Vacation Bible School, which was held in June. 43 registered, 34 attended, and three youth volunteers.

The Session discussed future sermon series.

Prayer needs were discussed and lifted to God.

The date for the August Session meeting has yet to be determined.

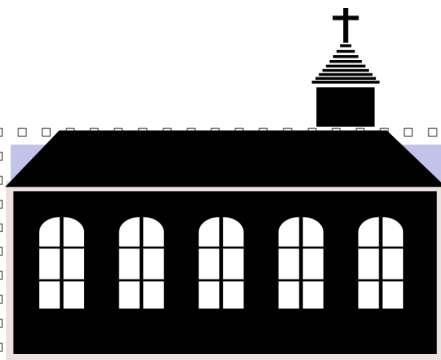
Faith Presbyterian EPC Session

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



“THE SAFEST ROAD TO HELL IS THE GRADUAL ONE—THE GENTLE SLOPE, SOFT UNDERFOOT, WITHOUT SUDDEN TURNINGS, WITHOUT MILESTONES, WITHOUT SIGNPOSTS.”

- C.S. LEWIS,  
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS



Calendar

- ◆ August 4 The Lord’s Day
- ◆ August 6 Ladies am Study
- ◆ August 8 Men’s Bible Study
- ◆ August 9 Biscuit Giveaway
- ◆ August 11 The Lord’s Day
- ◆ August 13 Ladies am/pm Study
- ◆ August 15 Men’s Bible Study
- ◆ August 18 The Lord’s Day
- ◆ August 20 Ladies am/pm Study
- ◆ August 22 Men’s Bible Study
- ◆ August 25 The Lord’s Day
- ◆ August 27 Ladies am/pm Study
- ◆ August 29 Men’s Bible Study



July 2024  
Financial News

Donations

\$28,290.00

Expenses

\$30,457.02

P.O.P. Fund

\$886.00

Mortgage Principal

\$743,865.89



**Our Next  
Biscuit  
Giveaway!**

**Friday, August 9th  
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  
6:15 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 every 2nd  
and 4th Saturday at  
6:00 pm

**Our hangout’s  
are postponed  
The Next hangout is  
September 14th!**

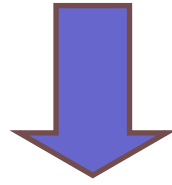
## Outreach News

### 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



### Mission of the Month



### Operation Christmas Child

[www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

### Needs

You can find the list of approved donations on the table in the back of the sanctuary or make a monetary donation designated for OCC. We are gathering gifts to fill our shoeboxes in November.

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!

*Satan wants us to laugh at sin rather than mourn over it, and to rationalize it rather than confess it and bring it to the Lord for forgiveness. He seduces us to become so used to sin in us and around us that it no longer bothers our conscience.*

**John MacArthur**

Reference:  
Ephesians, Moody,  
1986, p. 351.



### 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!

*Satan, like a fisher, baits his hook according to the appetite of the fish.*

**Thomas Adams**

A Puritan Golden Treasury, compiled by I.D.E. Thomas, by permission of Banner of Truth, Carlisle, PA. 2000, p.

**UPDATE FROM THE BURNETT'S**

Dear Family in the Faith and partners in ministry:

Jackie and I would like to give thanks to our Lord Jesus and to you for your love, prayers and your generosity which allowed us to share with six special sisters in Christ during our recent mentoring retreat in Rionegro (June 17 to 20).



These sisters are all leaders in their churches and from the

states of Antioquia, Cesar, and Cordoba. Three of them have been mentored by Jackie for several years and the other three began the process more recently. The purpose of this retreat was for coming together, creating special time and space to listen to God, each other, and to rest.

Four of the ladies (at their request we are using different names) Clau, Ne, Na and Su have been key leaders involved with Trauma Healing Ministry through our ministry working in the north coast. This retreat was the first occasion for them to all come together.

**We would like to share this testimony having their permission:** In the afternoon on the second day after lunch, we were sharing at the table when Na, Ne, and Clau (all displaced from the war and from the same state) shared the trauma they experience as children where the dominant guerrilla group (left or communist) came to their villages to take control. In the process, the guerrillas killed many people. The attacks included churches where the guerrillas entered and killed some of the Christians. They had to flee to

protect themselves. They shared that there were some in their families who were either killed in the takeover or kidnapped and later killed.

We remember previously where one of their pastors shared with us that there was one small congregation (13) where all had “disappeared”. No one has ever found out what exactly happened to them. The next day it was Su’s turn to share her story. Her father was a leader over one of the guerrilla groups. When Su was a child, she remembered one day hearing her father talking and making plans with his squad to go to a nearby town the next day to kill people there. She also said she pleaded with her father to not do this, but it was useless. Su started crying and asking for forgiveness from Na and Ne. The town was the town where they both lived.

It was a time of forgiveness and reconciliation that our Lord had planned. Su has been keeping that secret wound for years and the Lord is still healing her, Ne, and Clau as well. Even though we first began our work with three of the same women in the context of helping in Christian Education with their churches some eight years ago, it was the first time they have been able to share together more deeply about their personal suffering from the war here in Colombia. Another experience they shared was their towns regularly being sprayed with machine gun fire from military helicopters. Clau shared that in her village, eventually everyone fled from the attacks. It



took many years for some to return (like our good friend Pastor Pi.) and many have never returned.

Please keep praying for Su who has been close to being killed in the past

and now is in her recovery process from depression and burnout. What really touched our hearts the most in our experience, was to see these sisters in Christ come together, embracing one another, praying, and worshipping the Lord together.

**Church Planting:**

Choosing a new church, we thought, might be difficult. However, just days before my arrival, Jackie learned of a new church plant here from a church we often visited in Rionegro. It was a church with which we had established our ministry and made many friends. We started meeting with Pastor Andres and his family in his home and since then we have never felt anything but the Lord saying this is where I want you. So now, we are officially members of Redil Armenia. The church now has some new believers and we are seeing a rapid need for a larger space, glory be to God!



**So blessed to be part of the team:** we meet weekly for praying and serving!

Thank you for her loving partnership in this ministry of emotional healing and restoration of the lives of leaders and missionaries who will in turn be channels of proclaiming the Gospel of restoration in their churches and communities where trauma has also broken hearts and divided families due to cycles of violence and lost.

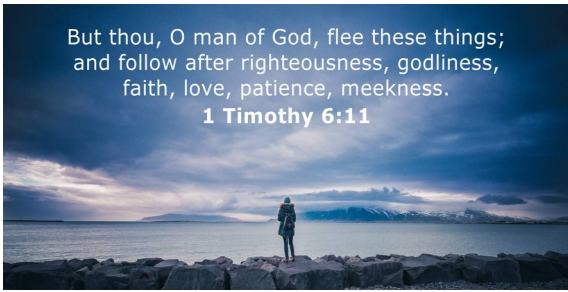
Under His wings of mercies,  
Gary and Jackie



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)).



But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.  
1 Timothy 6:11

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

*Ephesians 6:10-13*

# HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!



Chris Harper	8/01
Garrett Burch	8/02
Sandy Jo Hilgeford	8/03
Tina Coniglio	8/06
Kipp Echols	8/09
Laura Clotfelter	8/09
Ayla Burch	8/14
Kinsley Leake	8/19
Myra Glinski	8/20
Chevinie Echols	8/27
Sydney Norton	8/28
Rhett Cooper	8/29
Linda West	8/29

**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

## 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.

# August 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
<b>4</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Ladies Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	<b>9</b>  7:00-9:00 am <i>Biscuit Giveaway</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Ladies Bible Study  6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>