



First Presbyterian Church  
Goldsboro, North Carolina

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August, 2020

## What (Who) is mission?

I suspect that when you hear the word “mission” you immediately think of affable Christians going overseas to save other people. (And I know how disappointed many of you are that the Chiapas mission trip could not be done this year.) Many life-long Presbyterians can recall the *Women’s Mission Society* or giving money to the denomination’s agency for “missions.” The understanding was (and still is in the minds of many) that other people engage in mission. ... But consider this important statement that we Presbyterians make:

*“The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God’s mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God’s mission.”*

This paragraph comes from the very opening of our manual of Presbyterian polity, the BOOK OF ORDER (F-1.01, PCUSA). In fact, this statement about mission sets the foundation for everything else that follows in the BOOK OF ORDER ... a book that many groan about or ignore (except, of course, to gain clarity or direction in a disagreement or church emergency). My point is, the basic operating principles (or core values) of being a Presbyterian lie in this understanding that the Church is God’s mission.

In other words, YOU and I—the Church!—are agents of God’s mission in everything we say and do! Think about that. Each member, friend and partner of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN is used to accomplish God’s mission. With each act of caring, we live out God’s mission. In each word of comfort, we live out God’s mission. By sharing our joy, we live out God’s mission. Mission isn’t something someone else does or is paid to do. WE are God’s mission in everything we say and do. That’s how valued we are to God, such that God counts on us to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. The apostle Paul wrote: ***“We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal [to the world] through us!”*** (2 Corinthians 5:20)

The church Mission Study of 2015 is being updated by the recently elected Pastor Nominating Committee—how quick they are into their work! It will be presented to the session for approval at their August stated meeting, after which it will be communicated to the congregation at large. It will be instrumental in FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH’S search for its next installed Pastor, as it yield’s information about FPC’S history, how the church works and worships and plays and prays together, along with valuable information meant to help FPC discern how it will be God’s mission to this city and to the world. The search for a pastor will surely include asking those candidates who apply how they will lead and equip YOU to be ambassadors and missionaries of the grace, mercy and love of God. So please pray for the PNC, and pray that God would send YOU out into the harvest here in Goldsboro! Amen.

-Pastor Lonnie +

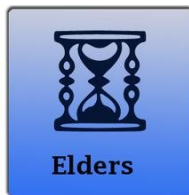
# 2020 Summer Sermon Series

August 2	Rev. Lonnie Darnell	Obadiah (440 words)
August 9	Rev. Lonnie Darnell	Philemon (335 words)
August 16	Rev. Lonnie Darnell	2nd John (245 words)
August 23	Rev. Lonnie Darnell	3rd John (219 words)
August 30	Rev. Lonnie Darnell	Jude (461 words)



This August FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH takes on all of the small, often forgotten books in the Bible. The series is called "One Hit Wonders." These books have few words (only a single chapter), but carry a heavy punch. Be ready to be inspired and informed by these books that you may not have studied in a long time or possibly not at all.

Invite friends and family members to come hear these fabulous, marvelous, chart-topping, God's Grammy nominations.



**Deacon in charge:** Toby Brown  
**Co-Deacon:** Coleen Leeper  
**Ushers:** Emily Byrd  
 Ellen Eubanks, and Nathan Johnson

Aug. 2	Harold Rose	Ellen Jordan
Aug. 9	Lee Futrelle	Meredith Gurley
Aug. 16	Suzanne Corbin	Teresa Smith
Aug. 23	Ellen Henderson	Coleen Leeper
Aug. 30	Lee Futrelle	Meredith Gurley



Barbara Bradshaw  
 Gail Shearin



## *Birthdays of the Month*



1	Hunter Wilson	11	Mr. Mickey Nance	22	Emily Benton
	Mr. C. V. Sutton, Jr.	13	Mrs. Sarah Casey	23	Sarah Gibson
	Dr. Oz Wilder		Mrs. Matilda Faircloth	24	Rory Blackburn
3	Mrs. Alice Huneycutt	15	Mr. Bill Stanley	25	Mr. Fred Lomax, III
5	Mr. Paul Hunter	16	Parker Faircloth		Mrs. Tanya Hawkins
6	Mrs. Joyce Pate	17	Mr. Michael Wilson	26	Mr. Dan Blackshear
	Mrs. Jane Richter	18	Mr. Phil Eubanks	27	Mr. Charlie Rouse
7	Mrs. Betty Wampler	19	Mr. Brad Graham	28	Mrs. Susan McCall
	Mr. Tim Judd	20	Mrs. Megan Suddarth		Katie Gibson
9	Mr. Jack Best	21	Sarah Best	29	Brooke Albertson
	Virginia K. Best	22	Mr. Tommy Franklin	31	Mrs. Susan Cottle
10	Mr. Bill Warren				Mrs. Sandy Jeffreys

# Children & Youth Zoom Schedule

**Starting August 2020...**

**Pre-school through  
Second Grade:**

**First Wednesday of the month  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**Grades 3 to 5:**

**Third Wednesday of the month  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**Youth Group  
(Middle and High):**

**First and Third Sunday  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Zoom links to all meetings will be sent via email to parents.  
Please encourage your child's/children's participation.**



Dear FPC family,

Thank you so very much for your thoughts and prayers. We truly appreciate all of your calls, visits, flowers, food, letters and friendships. It has meant the world to us.

Love always,  
Johnnie and Elbert Brown

Dear FPC family and friends,

I want to thank each and everyone who prayed for me and gave me your thoughts, sent cards and flowers, and texted me during my recent surgery and recovery. You made me feel loved by your expressions. I am feeling better each day. Glory be to God and thanks to you for your support throughout this time in my life. I am a blessed person to be privileged to work and minister at such a wonderful place.

Much love and many prayers,  
Ruth Smith



## Candidates to Be Considered for Nominations for Church Officers

Members of the congregation are asked to consider prayerfully and submit names of church members they recommend to the 2020 Nominating Committee as candidates for positions on the Session and Diaconate. The Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of five members of the church for election as Ruling Elders in the Session Class of 2023 and five members as Deacons in the Diaconate Class of 2023.

Ruling Elders and Deacons must be active members of First Presbyterian Church, may or may not have served previously on the Session or Diaconate, must be men and women of good character and strong faith who love Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and must be elected by the congregation. The spiritual and moral requirements and the duties of both offices appear in Scripture including I Timothy 3:1-13 and in the *Book of Order*. Officers may be elected to consecutive terms as long as their total continuous service does not exceed six years.

A practical step before submitting a member's name is to determine that member's willingness and ability to serve at this time. Every member may make single or multiple recommendations. Self-recommendations are encouraged.

Note: Because of restrictions imposed by the pandemic, members may submit recommendations by calling Rosalyn Lomax at 919-736-2116, by emailing [rosalynlomax@gmail.com](mailto:rosalynlomax@gmail.com), or by contacting any member of the Nominating Committee by phone or email. Members may also mail forms to the church. Nomination forms may be picked up at the church office. Forms are also available at the worship service in the Narthex.

**Deadline for submitting forms is August 16, 2020.** Election of officers will take place at a Congregational Meeting in October. The *Book of Order* permits nominations from the floor at the Congregational Meeting.



### THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*approved by Session in June of 2019*

Rosalyn Lomax, Chair

Ellen Best

Jason Blackburn

Lee Futrelle

Scott Gibson

Meredith Gurley

Kathryn Spicer

Rev. Dr. Lonnie Darnell, *ex officio*

Ali Blackburn  
Shelby Benton  
Barbara Bradshaw  
Toby Brown, chair  
Ann Hunter  
Malcolm Shearin  
Jamesie Spicer

The PNC is working to update and submit needed information to the Presbytery in order to begin our search for a new pastor.

We have met twice and will be gathering again Sunday afternoon.

