

The MacPherson Press

May 2024

*God calls MacPherson Presbyterian Church
to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,
to make disciples, and to be His witness.*

Annual Mission Dessert Auction May 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm



Come bid on delicious cakes, cookies,
pies, and more to benefit:

Gate Beautiful
Cabell-Lincoln Mission Trip
MacPherson HVAC Fund

Bakers Needed!

Call or email the office
by May 10 if you would
like to contribute a
dessert or baked good
for the auction!



Beyond John 3:16

PASTOR JIM

I believe most people in our nation have heard of and could recite at least in part John 3:16, which reads, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” But, how many oth-



er 3:16's in the Bible are people familiar with? Probably not many people, if any at all, have ever read or know of these other 3:16's. There are numerous other 3:16's which also contain significant instruction for the faithful. The instruction in these verses includes topics like the necessity for proper use of Scripture, the need to encourage others, how God remembers those who revere and fear Him, the means of Baptism Jesus will use, as well as numerous other topics.

The four 3:16's I prayerfully selected for May's sermons are Joel 3:16, which speaks to God as a place of refuge in the midst of judgment; Acts 3:16, which addresses the power of faith in Jesus; 2 Timothy 3:16, which expresses the truth that all Scripture is inspired by God and how it can be used; and Colossians 3:16, which admonishes Believers to let Christ's words dwell in them so they become thankful and encouraging to each other in psalms and hymns.

Now you may be wondering: “Why is it necessary for me to hear about these other 3:16's?” It is necessary, no, it is essential for all of us to hear sermons on these other 3:16's in an effort to demonstrate to everyone there is more to Scripture than a few well known Bible verses. Are those well known verses important? Yes, of course they

are important; but, they are not the totality of important verses contained in Scripture. As 2 Timothy 3:16 reminds those who read it, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” If this is true, and I know that it is (since I have lived the truth of these words in my own life I no longer just believe, I know), then even the obscure, difficult, and confusing passages of Scripture have something to teach us. The real question is, “Are we going to listen to what the Lord God is saying or are we going to listen to what the world is saying?” The answer for me is the same as it was for Joshua when he spoke to Israel as they prepared to cross the Jordan River:

“Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:14-15)

In our lives we have served many other gods. Now it is time to put all those idols away, confess, repent, and return wholeheartedly to the Lord God Almighty. I am very excited to preach this series of sermons for a variety of reasons—



even more excited than normal. I ask each of you to pray each week about our worship services. Specifically, I want you to pray God will speak to each person and God will grant us a revival of faith, trust, service, and commitment to Jesus.

Until the nets are full,
Pastor Jim

May Sermon Information

I believe most people in our nation have heard of and could recite at least in part John 3:16. But, how many other 3:16's in the Bible are people familiar with? Probably not many, if any at all, have ever read or know of these other 3:16's. I identified sixteen other 3:16's that contain significant instruction. This instruction covers a variety of topics like the necessity for proper use of Scripture, the need to encourage others, how God remembers those who revere and fear Him, the means of Baptism Jesus will use, as well as numerous other topics. This month in our sermons we will take a serious and in-depth look at four of these 3:16's that contain valuable instruction for us.

More Than John 3:16

May 5: The Real Power of Faith

2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 3:16

May 12: The Refuge for Us

Hebrews 6:13-20; Joel 3:16

May 19: Using God's Word

Psalms 78:5-8; 2 Timothy 3:16

May 26: Admonish One Another in the Lord

Isaiah 35:1-4; Colossians 3:16

MacPherson Men Update

The MacPherson Men will meet next on Sat., May 11. All men and youth are invited to gather for a hearty breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 am, followed by a brief devotion and opportunities to serve the Lord. Please RSVP to the church office by Thurs., May 9 to let us know you plan to participate. Please update your calendars for future meetings: June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14. Questions or comments? Contact David Hesnard or Steve Thrasher.



MacPherson Night at Sweet Frog!

Tuesday, May 21
4:30-8:30 pm

Benefitting VBS and the
Christian Education Program at
MacPherson Church

Come out to Sweet Frog at 4191 Sycamore Dairy
Road in Fayetteville to support the MacPherson
VBS program and Christian Ed.

The more you spend, the more Sweet Frog donates!

JUST BE SURE to tell them your order is for
MacPherson Church before your purchase
is completed in order for MacPherson
to benefit from the sale!

sweetFrog[®]
premium frozen yogurt



VBS IS ON THE WAY!!!!
JULY 21-25



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ENROLL A
CHILD, ENROLL YOURSELF IN THE
ADULT CLASS, OR VOLUNTEER!



Here's HOW YOU can HELP!!!

SIGN-UP WITH THE QR CODE,
CALL RENE, OR CONTACT A
CHRISTIAN ED TEAM MEMBER!

Here's WHERE we need HELP:

- 1 REGISTRATION HELPER
- 2 ASSEMBLY HELPERS
- 4 MUSIC & WORSHIP HELPERS
- 4 BIBLE STORY HELPERS
- 1 SCIENCE HELPER
- 4 FOOD SERVICE HELPERS
- 5 GRADE-LEVEL HELPERS
- 1 NURSERY HELPER

WHENEVER I'M AFRAID,
I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU.
PSALM 56:3



In the Mail . . .

See paper copy for this content

Exciting News!

Beth Walters will begin leading the Chancel Choir on the fourth Sunday of each month, beginning in May.



The first practice will be Sunday, May 19 at 12:20, after the 11:00 service. Meet in the choir room! Plans are to sing in the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, May 26. All current choir members and any others also interested in making a joyful noise are invited! We are looking forward to seeing you! Contact Jeannie Jernigan with any questions.

Vases Needed

The church is always grateful when flower vases are returned after folks have enjoyed their bouquet. However, our cupboards are a little bare right now, especially medium sized vases. If you have any you would like to clear from your cupboards and shelves, please drop them by the office at your convenience!



From The Finance Team

Mary Groening, Chair

Just a quick note from the Finance Team. Our team is continuing to monitor the church expenses and budget. We are also in the process of refinancing our current building loan.

The team continues to research ways to raise extra funds for necessary projects while providing an outreach to the community. Hopefully, we will have a survey out soon that will ask for your input and thoughts. If you have any suggestions, please let one of our team members know, and we will include that info in our survey. This will provide our team with the understanding of what type of activities you would support and participate in. We realize that no matter how wonderful the plans, without your support and participation those plans are doomed to fail. But together we can accomplish much.

Do more than belong: participate.

Do more than care: help.

Do more than believe: practice.

Do more than be fair: be kind.

Do more than forgive: forget.

Do more than dream: work.

William Arthur Ward

From APP

Bill Groening, Chair

Great news! On April 16, the Manse was turned over to Guardian Property Management to be put on the rental market. Thanks for all who worked on the Manse! It was a team effort, and your help was greatly appreciated.



From Congregational Care

David Hesnard, Chair

It is May and we hear the crack of baseball bats and the sound of lawn mowers in our neighbor's yards. April showers have brought May flowers and life has returned to our yards and gardens. Two thousand years ago, life was given through the Holy Spirit to a group of believers whose hopes were dashed as they saw their beloved Jesus tortured, crucified, and buried. A small group was startled to see their resurrected Savior among them again, and as he reassured them, He was alive, He told them to wait for the promise of the Father when the Holy Spirit would baptize them.

We read in Acts where Jesus tells the believers, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Now two thousand years later, we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 19 as the birth of the Christian Church where we are called to be His witness to those in our area of influence, wherever that may be.

The question each of us believers struggle with as we pursue His will for our lives in service and devotion is: What do I do with this power to change lives in my normal everyday life? Perhaps working with the Congregational Care Team is one answer. CCT works to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational needs of our MacPherson Church family. If you see a need or feel led to participate in any of our ministry areas, please see myself or Tricia DeMann and we will assist you in that effort. Additional hands, thoughts, and ideas are appreciated and encouraged. We meet the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 pm, on Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us in the Lord's work.

~ ~ In Prayer and Service, David

Worship and Music

Mary Groening, Chair

“May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope.” ~ ~ Emily Brontë

Maybe Emily, like so many of us, planted a garden. If you did, you know the feeling of expectation, wishing and hoping that our efforts will pay off, that the weather will be favorable and we will enjoy the benefits of those efforts. It is a beautiful time of year— everywhere we look we see the earth declaring the majesty of God’s creation. Flowers are in bloom, the trees are green, the birds are singing, all created effortlessly by God.



This month we will celebrate Mother’s Day. Like May, motherhood is filled with expectation, wishes, and hope. As we celebrate our mothers, let us remember that we are all called to be positive influences, mentors, and guides for our young folk. Last month we learned about the enemies of faith, things that draw us away from Christ and destroy our faith. As we resolve to avoid those things ourselves, let’s also resolve to guide our youth and give them the tools needed to be successful in maintaining and maturing their faith.

May also brings Pentecost, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. This is the promise of Emmanuel; we are not alone, God is with us. We have the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit who is with us wherever we go. We are not alone, but we worship God alone.

One of the ways we worship is through music. We were blessed on Easter to enjoy the return of the Choir under the direction of Beth Walters. Please take the time to thank Beth for her dedication to MacPherson and her work with the choir. We are excited to announce that starting in May, Beth will work with the choir, and they will perform every fourth Sunday. If you would like to be a part of this exciting ministry, please let Jeannie Jernigan or me know. Jeannie will be working as our liaison between Beth and the Choir.

Music is such an important part of the worship service. The Worship and Music Team is always looking for your input and help in the music ministry at MacPherson. We can use your talents and your thoughts.

As you are no doubt aware, the Bell Choir did not perform on Palm Sunday. We would like to see the Bell Choir become an active part of our worship. In order for that to happen, we need people who are willing and able to commit the time and the effort to participate in the Bell Choir. You don't have to read music, you don't need any special skills; all you need is the desire to participate, to learn a new skill, to branch out. Please consider joining. In addition to your time and talents, we also welcome your thoughts concerning the music ministry. Let us know if you have ideas or suggestions that we might implement.



Let's make May a month full of worship and music. Let us:

*Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.*

Psalm 105:2

From Evangelism & Mission

Don Mollett, Chair

A Memorial Day Bible Verse: “Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.” Psalms 33:20-22

“And he said, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; and I am saved from my enemies.” 2 Samuel 22:2-4

Today we see so much pain and anguish for many all around us. Let us remember the sacrifice our Lord made on our behalf. We see violence and hardship across the globe and wonder if there is hope or if we shall ever see calm and peace again. As stated in 2 Samuel, the Lord is our shield and our stronghold. We must put our hopes and our trust in the Lord in these wearisome times and show all around us that in His grace we can find salvation and peace of spirit.

The annual Mission Desert Auction will take place following the Wednesday night Express Meal on May 15 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds of this year’s auction will support the Gate Beautiful Mission, the Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp Mission Team, and the MacPherson HVAC Fund. Please put the date on your calendar now and pass the word to family and friends who might be interested in a fun evening benefitting a good cause!



Also needed for the Dessert Auction: Bakers! Whether it's your famous brownies, lemon meringue pie, or a decadent chocolate cake—we need YOU to contribute desserts for the auction. Contact Rene in the office to sign-up and let us know what you plan to bring. May 10 is the deadline to sign-up.



Lastly, let's all be praying for the team heading to the Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp June 16-22. We currently have 10 individuals scheduled to attend. Please pray for them as they prepare to attend the camp. Pray for their success and support and wish them all the peace, joy, and satisfaction they will experience helping others. They depart on Father's Day, June 16, and return a week later. May their trip be safe and filled with an abundance of great moments and experiences.

Upcoming Events

May 15 (Wednesday)—The **Annual Mission Dessert Auction** at 6:00 pm in conjunction with the May Express Dinner.

May 17 (Friday)—**Operation Inasmuch MacPherson Breakfast Support** from 7:00 - 9:00 am. Volunteers needed. Please notify Don Mollett (910-624-2788) or email dmollett734@twc.com NLT 10 May if volunteering, or get in touch with one of the other E&M Team Members. If you wish to save this event to your calendar, the Inasmuch breakfast support is every other month on the third Friday of the month.

If you have ideas, concerns, or a passion for our outreach and mission efforts, please contact Barney Treneman, Bill Kern, Megan Schoff, Sharon Mazingo, or Don Mollett, or join us on Thursday, May 2 @ 7:00 pm, room 228, for fellowship and God's work with the E&M team.

MacPherson Presbyterian Church

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Session Team Meetings May 2 6:00 pm APP (FH) 6:00 pm E & M (#228) 6:30 pm W & M (224) 6:30 pm Christian Ed (P) 7:00 pm LPP (#233A) 7:00 pm Congregational Care (FH)		1 9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A) 4:30 pm McCoaters (FH) 5:00 pm Finance (FH) 6:00 pm BYOB & Bible Study (FH/K) 7:00 pm Freedom to Grow (#215)	2 Session Team Meetings See Box at Left 9:00-3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A) 6:00 pm Fireside Chat with David G Pastor Jim (You Tube) 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#215/Zoom)	3 6:00 pm Parish-Reserved Pastor 7:00 pm SOS Seekers of Sobriety (FH/K)	4 8:00 am Noon Happy Feet Soccer (Soccer Field) 11:00 am-9:00 pm FH Reserved Pastor
5 Communion 12:15 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K) 3:00 pm Piano Recital (S)	6 7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer Meeting (FH) 6:00 pm GS Troop 821 (#228, #233A) 7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)	7 5:30 pm GS Troop 888 (#127, #24) 5:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop 886 (FH/K, 233A, 224) 6:30 pm Bible III (#215)	8 9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A) 4:30 pm McCoaters (FH) 6:00 pm BYOB & Bible Study (FH/K) 7:00 pm Freedom to Grow (#215)	9 9:00-3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A) 10:00 am Circle 5 (FH) 6:00 pm Fireside Chat with David G Pastor Jim (You Tube) 7:00 pm Eagle Board of Review (Various Rooms) 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#215/Zoom)	10 7:00 pm SOS Seekers of Sobriety (FH/K)	11 7:30 am MacPherson Men (FH/K) 8:00 am Noon Happy Feet Soccer (Soccer Field)

<p>12</p> <p>Centennial Offering</p> <p>12:45 pm Session (#2105)</p> <p>12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer-Meeting (H)</p> <p>6:00 pm GS Troop B21 (#228, #233A)</p> <p>7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 pm SS Troop 886 Bridging Ceremony & Party (#12Z, #124)</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop 886 (FH/K, #233A, 224)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible 101 (#2105)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A)</p> <p>4:30 pm McCreathers (H)</p> <p>6:00 pm Express Meal & Dessert Auction (FH/K/Zoom)</p> <p>7:00 pm Freedom to Brew (#2105)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00-3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A)</p> <p>6:00 pm Fireside Chat with David G Pastor Jim (You Tube)</p> <p>7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#2105/Zoom)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 am OIAM Breakfast Support</p> <p>6:00 pm Parish Reserved Pastor</p> <p>7:00 pm SDS Seekers of Sobriety (FH/K)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bus Reserved Youth</p> <p>10:00 am Youth Canoeing on Cape Fear River</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer-Meeting (H)</p> <p>6:00 pm GS Troop B21 (#228, #233A)</p> <p>7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop 886 (FH/K, 233A, 224)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible 101 (#2105)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A)</p> <p>4:30 pm McCreathers (H)</p> <p>6:00 pm BYOB & Bible Study (FH/K)</p> <p>7:00 pm Freedom to Brew (#2105)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00-3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A)</p> <p>6:00 pm Fireside Chat with David G Pastor Jim (You Tube)</p> <p>7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#2105/Zoom)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 pm SDS Seekers of Sobriety (FH, K)</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Food Drive</p> <p>12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer-Meeting (H)</p> <p>Memorial Day Holiday OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible 101 (#2105)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A)</p> <p>4:30 pm McCreathers (H)</p> <p>6:00 pm BYOB & Bible Study (FH/K)</p> <p>7:00 pm Freedom to Brew (#2105)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00-3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A)</p> <p>6:00 pm Fireside Chat with David G Pastor Jim (You Tube)</p> <p>7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#2105/Zoom)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:00-1:00 pm Noon Classical Conversations Curriculum Swap (#2105, #212)/(FH/K)</p> <p>6:00 pm Parish Reserved Pastor</p> <p>7:00 pm SDS Seekers of Sobriety (#2105)</p>	

May 2024 – Life with the Holy Spirit

Verse 1 – The Holy Spirit Leads Us

Luke 4:1

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.

Verse 2 – God Gives to Those Who Ask

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Verse 3 – The Holy Spirit Teaches Us

Luke 12:12

... For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

Verse 4 – The Holy Spirit Fills Us

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Verse 5 – The Holy Spirit Teaches Hearers

Acts 10:44

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

Verse 6 – Pray for the Leaders of Habitat for Humanity, Operation Inasmuch & Our City

Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

May Birthdays

See paper copy
for this content





If you are interested in meeting for fellowship, conversation, and a dining experience in a local restaurant or a venue of your choice, contact the Congregational Care Team (David Hesnard or Tricia DeMann), or sign up on the sheet on the CCT bulletin board and join the festivity!

MacPherson Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. James W. Randall, Jr.

Church Secretary

René Bahrenfuss