



The JPC Monthly

OCTOBER 2024

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY



Hurricanes Can't Stop the Love of God

Last week our state of suffered massive loss and devastation due to Hurricane Helene. When you think of Hurricanes you first think of the beach, but this time the damage occurred in the mountains. All over western North Carolina flood waters washed away homes, roads, businesses, and even individuals. For a season of time almost all the roads in that area were closed.

Places near and dear to the hearts of Presbyterians in our part of the world were damaged. Montreat was flooded and several roads and bridges were washed away to the point of not being passable. Camp Grier survived without damage to any main buildings, but both bridges allowing access to camp needed to be repaired before camp could be safely accessed. The hope is to clear the roads and fix the bridges so that Camp Grier can be used to house volunteers and other individuals coming to work in the area.

Some places have power while many don't. Some folks have been reached via text while others are still missing. Every day we see images on Facebook, the internet and television of utter turmoil. Individuals have made dramatic efforts to help others and people have worked around the clock to look for survivors or to help a neighbor in need. We all should pray continuously for those impacted by this storm. We should also lift up those families that have lost loved ones or are waiting for the news. In the days to come the Service Ministry Team will be meeting to determine how we will support those in need. I am certain that we will send financial support and look for ways to send supplies and maybe even send people to help. Stay tuned for more information, hopefully this week.

Considering this difficult time in our state, I thought I would take a moment to help you try and make sense of this and other tragic things that we hear about on the news almost every day. It is difficult for us to understand this world. We serve a loving God, and we think we have it all figured out. The reality is that we do not. When sin entered the world, it corrupted all of creation. This included the ground and plants and nature. This also included natural disasters. This explains part of it but it doesn't help us to understand how one person is lost or one home is lost or one tree is lost and another is spared. We really wrestle with this because we try and equate the human understanding of fairness with the Godly characteristic of justice. The world is broken and full of sin. God in response to the brokenness gave us a path to redemption. He did not remove sin from the world. He did not say that this creation would be changed. He said that we would realize a new heaven and a new earth when we were called home to Him. Just because we accept Christ and confess our sins doesn't mean that sin and struggle stops for us. This world is still broken, and bad things still happen.

This leads us to the next possible question, "Why does God spare some people and not others?" This too leads us errantly to questions of fairness. This is especially true when our friends are the ones lost. This is the wrong way of looking at it. When Christians are hit by disasters, we must trust that God can bring good from a bad situation. This should be our source of hope and resilience. Disasters should cause all of us to deeply think on what matters most in life. Disasters remind us that we are not in control of this world and will ultimately all face death.

God can and will bring good out of the bad. We can be a part of that transformation. Whether it is through prayer, physical items, or financial support we can all be a part. Pray for our state. Pray for God to reveal how we will be a part of the healing and the rebuilding. Focus less on what's fair and more on how we can advance the Kingdom even in the most difficult of times.

This summer was incredible at JPC. Average worship attendance was around 140. Thank you to all who went out of your comfort zone and attended the worship style that was not your usual. It was great to see those who prefer contemporary worship in the sanctuary and those who prefer traditional worship in the CLC. All the summer worship services, activities, classes, conferences, Presbytery meeting, picnics, and more, were successful events. Thank you to the many staff and volunteers who made it all happen.

CLERK'S CORNER

Membership Records
Polity

The **Faith Formation Ministry Team** is busy getting us back into two worship services every Sunday and getting us back into all the events and activities of the program year. Sunday School for children, youth, and adults is back in full swing. Youth Group is back to meeting Sunday evening, and there are many other programs, events, and activities happening too. Watch your Sunday bulletin, newsletter, e-blast, weekend reminder, and other emails for details about all the fall programs. There are many opportunities and, for sure, something for everyone! Come to worship, get involved in things happening --- and bring a friend.

The **Service Ministry Team** worked over the summer on the Sunrise Gap project doing many repairs (including a new roof) to a home in Greensboro. With the help of VBS children, 150 backpacks and a lot of school supplies were collected for organizations helping children get a good start at school this year. The JPC Garden has had another successful year. A Joy House Committee has been established. There is always a need for food pantry items, and I hope you were able to bring some grocery items by during the recent food drive. The Service team continues to see that JPC is involved in serving meals at Greensboro Urban Ministry. There are many opportunities for service -- come be a part.

If ever there is food involved at JPC, the **Congregational Care Ministry Team** is there. They do receptions and/or meals for the family when there is a funeral at our church. When there is a church picnic, a covered dish meal, or even if there is another group overseeing the food, the Congregational Care ladies are always there to help. They do many things of appreciation as well -- meals/receptions for the pre-school staff, they remember staff members on their birthday, they continue to visit the older shut-in members in the congregation, send cards and/or take food when there is an illness or death. They are always there to help. The Communications part of this team has brought in five new members so far this year. Sadly, six of our members have died in 2024. Our membership is now 328.

The **Operations Ministry Team** keeps us going. When our JPC Communications Specialist resigned early in the summer, Admin put together a team to assume responsibility and make sure things are "as they should be" on Sunday morning and to assure that our service is live streamed for others to be able to worship with us. They have been busy updating the JPC Administrative Manual and the JPC Personnel Manual. The Church Nominating Committee, established by Admin, has selected Elders for the Class of 2027. A special email introduced you to this new class of elders and they were elected at a congregational meeting on September 29th. Property has dealt with roof repairs/replacement issues, fire suppression problems, fire alarm control panel replacement, and air conditioning and elevator issues. All this, in addition to taking care of the regular maintenance involved in a building of our size, kept the property team very busy over the summer. Resource Management continues to monitor our financial situation very closely. Sometimes cash flow varies from month to month but, overall, we are on target for 2024. We have contributed over \$3500 to Orange Feather this year. Budget preparation for 2025 has begun.

Your Session has voted to endorse one of our own, Leah Robinson, in the first phase of becoming an ordained minister in the PCUSA. Leah will graduate from James Madison University in December and plans to go on to seminary. She will be working through Salem Presbytery and Anne Wright will be her liaison with our Session. This is an exciting happening for our congregation.

We hope you are enjoying the DID YOU KNOW articles in the monthly newsletter. These articles have been written by current Elders about their ministry team, upcoming events, and various programs/activities in the church. If you would like to be a part of these activities or join one of our ministry teams, please call the church office, or contact me. We have a place for you!

Please keep the JPC leadership teams in your prayers.

Becky Brown, Clerk of Session



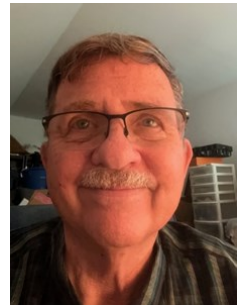
ELDER CLASS OF 2027

In case you missed it, please see the following bios on the six individuals who have accepted God's call to become a JPC Elder in the Class of 2027.

KIRK LESLEY I grew up in Jamestown. I graduated from Ragsdale High School in 1995, then graduated from Elon in 1999. I have been married for over 15 years. We have one daughter - Evy – who just started 6th grade at SW Guilford Middle School. I worked in the public safety software industry for about 17 years. Earlier this year I decided I needed to make a career change. I just recently started substitute teaching in Guilford County. I am grateful that my journey has brought me back to JPC and look forward to serving a community that has been a big part of my life.



JIM GONSIEWSKI I was born in Great Lakes, Illinois at the Navy Training Center Hospital. My father was a career Navy man. After I was born, we moved to New Orleans, Virginia, California, Hawaii, New York, back to Hawaii, California, Connecticut, then back to California when my father retired. I then entered college and received a B.S in Geology from Notre Dame and a M.S. in Geology from South Carolina. I spent 4 years of active duty in the Army and 23 years in the reserves and retired in 2001. Robin and I met while I was stationed in Oklahoma. We married in 1980 and lived in Oklahoma, Texas and Alaska while I was working for an oil Company. We moved to Greensboro in 1993. I worked as an environmental consultant for 22 years and worked for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality for 8 years. I retired last August. Robin is also retired from working in the accounting field. We have two children. Matt is a school psychologist in Lexington, Kentucky. He and his wife Julie have two children, Hazel (8) and Jude (6). Allie is an OR nurse in Charlotte. She and her husband Jon have one son, Van, who is 4. I was raised Catholic, so it took me a while to finally join JPC. I joined in 2012 and have previously served as a worship elder. I don't have any real hobbies yet. Retirement has been really busy for us. When I do relax, I enjoy watching all types of movies and college football. I also enjoy making chocolate chip cookies which people seem to like.



PEGGY MAYNARD I grew up in Greensboro where I attended Starmount Presbyterian Church and graduated from Grimsley Sr. High. At Virginia Tech I was active in the Presbyterian Group (Disciples Westminster Fellowship) and the Blacksburg Presbyterian church for all 4 years. I was very active in the church and church community until my mid-twenties, when there was no place for me as a young adult with no children. As an adult I have lived in 6 different states and Panama. I have worked in the Gift & Home Industry for over 40 years, from retailing through lots of positions to now being a national sales manager on the wholesale side. My second husband of 39 years was not a believer. God has been patient with me through these years. Since we have been in High Point at Pennybyrn, I have been hunting for a church congregation that was a good fit. I am so happy to have found JPC! I am looking forward to putting my energy, positive attitude, and living faith to work within this congregation!

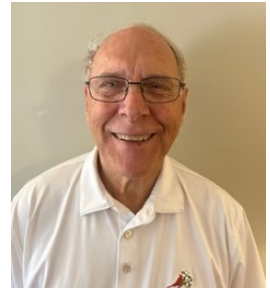


JENNY RATHJEN Jenny Rathjen is an active member at JPC. She serves on the Celebrate Committee, teaches a Sunday School class, attends the Women's Thursday Night Bible Study, and has attended both Pilgrimage and Arise. Jenny has been happily married to her husband Tony for 21 years. They have one son, Nate, who is a junior at NC State. Jenny is not only a proud PACK mom, but also an alumnus. She's been in the field of education for 20 years and recently took a new position as an AG teacher with Guilford County Schools. In her spare time she enjoys watching NC State games and Carolina hurricanes hockey games. She also likes to hang out with family and friends and loves all things dog! Jenny is looking forward to being an elder in this next class.



ELDER CLASS OF 2027 (con't)

KERRY MILLER My wife Joanne and I have been members of JPC for nearly 35 years. We recently moved to River Landing after living in Jamestown for over 45 years. I grew up in the Presbyterian Church in a very small, farming community in Northern Indiana. I graduated from Purdue University with an MS in Ag. Econ and then joined Ciba Geigy/Syngenta which eventually brought us to this area. Most of my career was in Marketing and I retired in 2008. We have 2 children, Brooke and Wes, who grew up attending JPC and we have 4 grandchildren. Our children and their families live in Raleigh and Carrboro, and we enjoy frequent visits with them. I tend to volunteer for many activities, and while in Jamestown I was active in Town Government (Town Council and Planning Board), Ragsdale YMCA (Board of Managers), Jamestown Civitan Club, and JYL. It has been my privilege to be active in the life of Jamestown Presbyterian Church. I have previously served on Session serving on both the Administrative and Finance/Resource teams while also serving as Clerk. I believe that time is one of the greatest gifts that God has given us and that the greatest expression of love for something is to give some of that precious time for service. A commitment to and dedication of time for the school, government, civic club or JPC, is so important and vital. And I have been blessed to get so much in return.



DICK WHITT I was born in Greensboro and attended Page High School. After serving active duty as a Marine, I was stationed in Camp Lejeune. I graduated from Guilford College with a degree in Health and Physical Education. I was a Guilford County school teacher and coach, and retired from the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department. Baseball has been a huge part of my life, having served as a volunteer on the International Board of Directors of PONY (Protect our Nation's Youth) headquartered in Washington, PA. I last served as Corporate Secretary. After volunteering with the organization for 51 years, I retired from PONY. While with them we traveled all over the United States and Puerto Rico for meetings and tournaments. Prior to joining JPC in January 2020, I was a member of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Greensboro since 1965. My wife Lou and I served many years as Youth Directors, I presented Sunday morning children sermons, served as both a Deacon and Elder for many years, and as Clerk of Session for most of those terms. I traveled on mission trips to Mexico twice and spent several years performing service at Appalachia Service Projects. Lastly, I served on four pastoral search committees. Lou and I have been married for 59 years and she has been by my side for all of the church endeavors as well as my volunteer work with PONY Baseball. She has been a loyal supporter sitting through as many baseball games as I had.



OUTREACH NEEDS FOR OCTOBER

For the month of October, Outreach will be collecting gently used or new sweatpants and shirts and new underwear for the children at Haynes Inman and Jamestown elementary.

There are times when school counselors need clothing for children and other members of the family. Sizes 4T - 12 youth. Donations can be dropped off at the box outside the church office or the inside donation areas. Thank you!



LIFE GROUP DINNERS

Get to know members of your Church family better! Sign up for Life Group meals! Sign-up sheets will be available at church services through 10/20/24. We will have a covered-dish dinner at 6:00 pm in the CLC on November 13 to reveal your Life Group. This is for everyone – singles and couples. Your Life Group will decide when and where you meet for a meal. Please join us!



JPC KIDS AND YOUTH CORNER



PRESCHOOL NEWS!

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year! The children are enjoying their classes, socializing with new and old friends and learning about God! We held most class picnics in the Fellowship Hall because of some rainy days. Fun was still had by all! We are excited for all of our fall activities including a trip to the pumpkin patch and dressing up for our Halloween parade!



FROGS / POLYWOGS NEWS!

FROGS

Our **FROGS** met at Build a Bear Workshop in Greensboro on September 29 to make bears for JPC's Outreach Ministry to give to resettled families with children. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, October 20.

YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH

We are still in need of volunteers for meals for Sunday evenings! Please, please sign up and help us out! Confirmation class will be Sunday 10/6 from 10:15am-12pm. Please be on time and bring your Big journals.



OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!



This is the perfect time to show Pastor Jay just what he means to us! Notes or cards of appreciation would be a wonderful gift to him for all he does for our congregation!

Thank you, Pastor Jay!



Year to Date Donations:

\$4554.82



Did You Know?

H5 is a small older men's group that meets regularly on Thursdays at 1pm at McAlister's Deli. It has been meeting for many years now. I took over the notifications a couple of years back. We have no agenda. No one seems to know where the name "H5" came from or what it means. The group hardly rates mentioning here but the idea does.

We're a small group of older Christian gentlemen, and we enjoy each other's company. We talk about stuff that's interesting to us. It gets us out of the house. And anytime a group of Christians get together something positive somehow gets done. Unplanned, an external problem presented itself and we solved it.

Ladies, gentlemen, or couples. If you have a friend or two or 5 try lunch (or dinner) as a group. Worst case you'll have a nice meal with nice people. Or you might develop a nice circle of friends and stumble across a problem you can solve. Can't hurt - might help.

George H. Wissmiller
george@wissmiller.org

JPC DRIVEWAY CHANGE!

Please remember, the church entrance on the Preschool side of the church will be ONE WAY ONLY onto Guilford College the following days and times:

Mondays - Fridays
 8:45 - 9:30 am

Mondays - Thursdays
 12:45 - 1:30 pm

Fridays
 11:45 am - 12:30 pm



Please use the entrance closest to the Sanctuary to access the property to come to the church during these times. Thank you for your cooperation!

LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

For those of you that are coming to The Barn Dinner Theater on October 22nd, we will leave JPC promptly at 1:00 PM. We will return to JPC about 6:00 PM. We are looking forward to this fun show and fellowship!



LADIES MORNING CIRCLE

The Ladies Morning Circle will meet on Monday, October 21st at 10:00 in Room 222. We look forward to planning the Christmas gift bags for the JPC "Grace Group." This is the main project of the year. If others would like to contribute to the activity, please let us know. We got off to a great start in September.



The lesson will feature the Syrophenician woman, a Gentile who asked Jesus to heal her daughter, from the series by Harper Christian Resources. We hope to see you there.

JPC COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



The garden is transitioning into fall plantings. Also the garden team is expanding with more gardeners! We welcome anyone who wishes to come by on Wednesday at 9am. Gardeners can just show up or email Nancy Seay at seaywhat7@aol.com with any questions. You are needed and will be valued on our team! It is a great time for fellowship.

We are finishing harvesting okra, cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash. Seeds were planted for Kale, cabbage, spinach and broccoli. Sorry to say that the bunnies got there first so a second round was planted. They like to visit with the gardeners too!

DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Joy House Fund
In memory of Jo Burroughs by
David & Nancy Farmer

Donation to JPC Music Fund
In memory of Andy Meehan by
Eleanor Schaffner-Mosh

Donation to JPC Leisure Fellowship Fund
In memory of Jo Burroughs by
Marilyn Bell

Donation to JPC Music Fund
In memory of Jo Burroughs by
Louise Monroe
Joanne Graham
John & Sharon Wilson
Cathy Durbin
Jean Holtzclaw
Wayne & Betty McCray

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund
In memory of Jo Burroughs by
Dave & Kim Schoepske
Evangeline Freeman
Quarterpath Trace Neighbors

Donation to JPC Pennies for Orange Feather School
In memory of Jo Burroughs by
Loyce Lesley

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Visit us on the Web
www.jamestownprez.org

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JPC SESSION

Class of 2024

Vivien Carson
Carlos Frontera
John Martin
Clayton Robinson
Brian Stroud
Joanne Vitelli

Class of 2025

Mike Bryant
Bill Carter
Charles Graham
Angelin Ham
Linda Honeycutt
Becky Robinson

Class of 2026

David Bean
Becky Brown
Nancy Seay
George Wissmiller
Anne Wright