

# Heritage Presbyterian Church



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5 MAY 2017

5323 Bells Ferry Road, Acworth, GA 30102

Editor, Kaye E. Mero

Worship: Sundays 8:30 am  
11:00 am  
Sunday School 9:45 am

*Called by God's grace to make disciples, as we minister to the needs of a broken world*

## A Message from Pastor Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Have you ever made a pinkie promise? I remember linking little fingers with a friend as words were said about something one or both of us intended to do. In that moment, we were connected with each other and assure each other that we will follow through. Our lives are full of promises, big and small, and they often include some element of touch. Couples join hands and exchange rings to make promises at wedding ceremonies; teammates huddle up and put all hands in before a big game promising to do their best; a friend reaches out for a hand during a medical diagnosis as a sign that they are not alone.

On May 7, our new elders and deacons will stand before the congregation during worship and make some promises, answering 9 questions that all officers of the church have answered (myself included). In March and April, we spent time reflecting on these questions as a part of officer training. They include: do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior; will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline; do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church; and my favorite, will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? These questions are the foundations of how we believe God calls us together in community. They reflect our theology as well as our organization. They are attentive to our spiritual lives both as individuals and as a community together. Most of all, they are our promises to one another and to God about how we will be God's people here in this place.

After giving answer to these questions, we will seal them and our intentions in prayer. Those who have not been ordained will kneel and current and former officers will be invited to come and lay hands on them in prayer. This practice dates back to the early church and is a reminder of the Holy Spirit, who Christ promises will be with us as our guide and Advocate. This moment also reminds us that we are connected – quite literally – to one another. The promises aren't just for those who are leading, they are promises that impact the entirety of the congregation as we support and pray for our officers to live into their answers. This month, I encourage you to listen carefully to these questions, and consider how you might play a part in these promises, too. Include our new and returning officers in your prayers; consider joining a committee or offering your gifts as a volunteer in one of our ministries; take some time to find out what is happening in our Session or Diaconate meetings; say thank you to those who are serving.

God has called some incredible men and women to serve as leaders of our congregation, but they also need your support and encouragement in order to live into this call. May our promises to each other be made in prayer, trusting that God is with us and the Holy Spirit will guide us as we seek to live into them together, following Christ in all we do as a community of faith.

Peace,  
Elizabeth

## THANK YOU! DIACONATE AND SESSION CLASS OF 2017

The Session and Diaconate would like to express their appreciation to the outgoing class of 2017 for both Session & Diaconate officers. The below officers attended their last meeting in April. Their dedication to serving Heritage Presbyterian Church through worship, fellowship, mission & caring is a wonderful example of doing God's work. May God continue to bless and use each of you in his ongoing mission for Heritage.

### Elders

Kees de Vente - Finance  
Jordan Hofmeister -Worship  
Nikki Martin - Worship  
Beth Massengale - Nurture  
Jack Grisham - Nurture

### Deacons

Valerie Sudbury - Mission  
Lisa Nevitt - Communications  
Don Farmer - Food Pantry  
Martha Mock Francis - Worship



## WORSHIP

May 7, 2017  
Luke 24:13-35  
*Along the Road*  
Ordination and Installation of Officers  
*Watwood Window of Service*

May 14, 2017  
Acts 8:26-38  
*All Are Invited*  
Rev. Ken Terrell preaching

May 21, 2017  
Music Sunday  
*Graduate Recognition*

May 28, 2017  
Acts 17:22-31  
The God We Know



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE AND JULY

In April, our Worship and Nurture Committees jointly proposed a new Summer Schedule for June and July, which was unanimously approved by the Session. For these 9 weeks, we will have one worship service at 10:00 am. Praise Kids for children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will offer a special summer program each week from 11-11:30, while our youth take a break from meeting formally to have relaxed fellowship together following the service. Adult Sunday School classes will be deciding on their summer plans, which may include classes meeting at 9 or 11 am, or taking a Sabbath for these two months. There will also be new opportunities for fellowship.

The decision was made for many reasons, but the most important reason was the opportunity for us all to worship together as one church family and get to know others we do not ordinarily see on Sunday mornings. We are hopeful that this shift will allow us to experience God's presence in our church family in a new way over these summer months, and that we will be refreshed to begin the next school year doing the work God intends for us to do. Please make a note on your calendar and plan on joining us for worship at 10:00 am on June 4!



MUSIC SUNDAY  
MAY 21  
8:30 AND 11:00 AM

featuring the Chancel Choir, Angel Bells, Genesis Bells, Praise Kids and more!  
Join us as we worship through song.



The children were surprised April 23rd with **Breakfast with Jesus!**



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 11-15

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Don your cape and plan to soar in for Heritage Presbyterian's Hero Central Vacation Bible School June 11-15 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Dinner is served nightly at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for VBS, but donations are welcome.



Online registration forms for both participants and volunteers are available at <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/heritagepresacworth> Please register today and invite your friends and relatives to do the same. VBS is open to children Age 2 through completed 5th grade.

### CONGRATULATIONS ANDREA DEAN!

Congratulations to Andrea Dean, who was awarded Clark Creek Elementary School's volunteer of the year for her work establishing and maintaining the school food pantry. Andrea is one of God's gifts to HPC. She coordinates HPC's food pantry and the monthly Mobile Food Pantries that service hundreds of families in our community; writes grants to support the Food Pantry's efforts, speaks to schools and community organizations spreading the word about our pantry and it's projects, and is expanding HPC's outreach school by school as she established food pantries to help feed hungry children in our area schools. Congratulations on a well deserved award!



### GEORGIA BOY CHOIR AND SANTA'S CARAVAN BRUNCH

Once again, the Georgia Boy Choir added amazing music to HPC's April 23 services. The choir will be on a concert tour of Scotland and Ireland June 24-July 10, 2017, where they will be the choir in residence at the St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin Ireland during the last week of their tour. For more information about the choir visit [www.thegeorgiaboychoir.org](http://www.thegeorgiaboychoir.org).



Thank you for your generous support for last week's brunch. We raised more than \$1100 to support Santa's Caravan, which will go a long way to bringing joy to many children in need this Christmas.

### YOUTH SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP

From Katerina Massengale

When you commissioned our youth group for our spring break mission trip., you wished that we would grow in our faiths, spread God's love to those around us, and be the body of Christ. Oh, and also to have some fun while doing it. I think I speak for all of us when I say this week was one of spiritual growth, the strengthening of friendships, and lots of laughter.

Now, I have to be honest. When we left on Sunday afternoon, I was a little bit skeptical. We were only going to be gone for four days, and I wasn't sure I would love this mission trip as much as I've loved others in the past. However, I couldn't have been more wrong. Despite only being in Huntsville for four days, we achieved so much and had so much fun while doing it.

On Sunday, we began by spending time with the youth group at Faith Presbyterian Church and helping them pack food bags for the homeless. Trust me when I say this was a fun-filled night. The other group probably thought we were crazy with our amount of laughter. That night at devotion, we decided that we would focus on finding God in little places and being his hands and feet on this trip.

The next morning, we woke up and cooked lunch for disabled adults in a home called 305 8th Street. We visited the residents there and ate and talked with them, something that pushed a lot of us, myself included, out of our comfort zones. After that, we returned to Faith and packed hygiene bags for elderly citizens. Then we spent our afternoon on a food scavenger hunt and collected what seemed like a literal ton of food for Faith's food pantry and the Food Bank of North Alabama. Then we went back to Faith and organized the food for later use.

On Tuesday, we worked in the CASA Garden, which is like a large-scale Kevin's Garden that grows fresh produce year-round for elderly citizens in the community. We planted seeds, pulled weeds, and got our hands very dirty. That afternoon, we travelled around Huntsville delivering hygiene bags and food to elderly citizens.

On Wednesday, we had an early morning and were back in the kitchen cooking breakfast for a homeless shelter called First Stop. Then we served breakfast and ate with homeless people from around Huntsville. I and a few others were specifically touched by one woman named Cathy who said "God is good" I kid you not twenty times in ten minutes. Her faith in God and overall positive outlook on life despite her being homeless was truly inspiring to witness. After breakfast, we went back to Faith and packed food boxes for members of the community with the food we had previously organized. Then we packed up 700 pounds of food into our cars and delivered it to the North Alabama Food Bank, which was a perfect end to our week.

We managed to fit so much service into four short days and I hope that we showed God's love and power to numerous people throughout our trip. However, we also felt God's love through our service. I personally felt it in the Lovells' hospitality, the dedication of the members of Faith Presbyterian Church, Cathy, the constant laughter of my fellow youth members, and the care of our leaders. I wish I could communicate how much this mission trip has meant to me, but there are so many little moments that make a trip like this great that are almost indescribable. Little moments like late-night trips to the grocery store, casual talks with hard-working and kind people, forcing Christa to eat too many fruit snacks, seeing the selflessness of Faith's members, squeezing all of us onto one bed despite there being plenty of room on the floor, and so much more. These little moments have made this trip great, and I will always be grateful for such an amazing opportunity to serve God with this group I love. Thank you.



### HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GARAGE SALE

The Heritage Presbyterian Women's Annual Garage Sale was a huge success, netting more than \$2,100. Proceeds will be used for church, community and mission projects. Thank you so much to all of you who donated, organized and worked during this year's sale.



### HERITAGE SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

ages 4-11

Information is available at [heritagepres.com](http://heritagepres.com) under the Education tab.

For more info contact Debbie Boyd Heritage Handbell Director, 678-910-5384, [bells@heritagepres.com](mailto:bells@heritagepres.com).

Cherokee Presbytery

### SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

An opportunity for each Cherokee Presbytery church to share a musical offering presented by their choir (adult, youth, children, or bells), ensemble, or instrumental group.

Sunday, May 7

6 - 8 PM Festival Concert with Dessert/Coffee  
First Presbyterian Church of Marietta  
189 Church St., Marietta, GA 30060,

Contact Debbie Boyd for more information.



### Romeos

Tuesday, May 2  
11:30 am  
Marietta Fish Market  
Canton Hwy.  
Call 770-218-3474 for more information.



### Juliets

Thursday, May 4  
12:00 pm  
Reel Seafood  
8670 Main Street  
Woodstock  
Contact Carol Brown for more information.