



AUGUST 2022
EDITION

The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



CELEBRATING DENNIS DALLKE

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service at UPC | p. 2-3

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You're Invited

Honoring Dennis Dallke
Sun., Aug. 28 at 11 am

At the end of July, Dennis Dallke retired from full-time work at UPC, after 30 years as our Property Manager. (Check out p. 2-3 for more about his 30 years of ministry here.) But, it's not goodbye just yet! He will stay on for a few more months on a part-time basis to continue to assist with transitioning his responsibilities. To honor Dennis, we are collecting love gifts (you can give online or via the offering plate - just mark your gift "Dennis Love Gifts"). We will also be celebrating Dennis and his ministry after worship on Sunday, Aug. 28 - we hope you will join us on that day to give thanks for Dennis and all he has done for UPC!

Our Staff

Meg Peery McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Jarrett McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries

Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries

Joey Fala, Director of Music Ministry

Berry French, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

Hadley Kifner, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture

Erin Collier, Dir. of Communications & Stewardship

Ellen Parker, Director, UPPS

Ryan Byrnes, Director of Operations

Sara Richard, Office Administrator

Peter Costa, Financial Manager

Melani Willhite, Financial Assistant

Dennis Dallke, Operations Assistant

Johnny Clay, Sexton

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Cover Photo: *Youth participants at Appalachian Service Project in Carter County, TN, sitting on a ramp they helped build for a family.*



Celebrating Three Decades of Dennis Dallke's Ministry as Property Manager

60,000 square feet, 1 boiler room, 3 kitchens, 6 preschool classrooms, 1 steeple, 2 elevators, 1 playground, 1 sanctuary with a 39-year old organ, 2 choir rooms, 32 sinks, 25 toilets, 23 closets, 1 fire-proof safe room, 12 Sunday School spaces, 9 offices, 1 garden including memorial ashes, surrounding landscaped grounds, 1 parking lot, 13 external doors, 1 recycling and composting center, 1 church mouse apartment, and too many light bulbs to count: this is the house that Dennis keeps. And it is not just any house but, as he is quick to point out, God's house.



Church buildings give a common meeting place for worship, fellowship, and ministry, and they invite us into a space that gives us a sense of awe and reverence for the magnificent presence of God. As we know, the Church is not a building but rather the group of people who identify as the body of Christ. Yet we can all agree that the building in which we gather plays a significant role in shaping our community activities and nurturing our collective and individual spirits.

For the past three decades, Dennis Dallke has served as the UPC Property Manager, and his work keeping up the building is connected to the nurture of our spirits. Even though his efforts are mostly during working hours on weekdays, his presence has been an integral part of our community life. As he transitions into part-time ministry beginning in August, let's reflect with him on what it is like to be the "keeper of God's house."

Dennis was born and raised in San Diego, CA. His father was a United Methodist pastor, so church buildings and grounds were like second homes in his early years. The church was part of the familiar rhythm of his life, and, to this day, Dennis says, "church people have always been the best people for me. They are kind, hard-working, family-focused, and positive."

After graduating from San Diego State University, Dennis conscientiously objected the Vietnam War. Once his draft board approved his service, he moved to Oregon and worked in hospitals and on the railroad. He and his first wife moved to Alaska, where their daughter was born. When it was time for a new adventure, they boarded a renovated school bus and traveled to California, Florida, and ultimately ended up in North Carolina, where his wife was invited to serve as the resident artist for a river village. After she died of cancer, Dennis began to feel called back to the church. He married his second wife, Becky, in 1987, and while working as an orderly at UNC Hospitals, Dennis' pastor at Orange United Methodist Church encouraged him to apply for a job opening at UPC. He did just that and he has been here ever since.

Dennis joined the UPC staff just after Bob Dunham came on as senior pastor. The Terrace Room had just been added (1992) and during the next two decades, Dennis would be part of two more significant additions: Vance Barron Hall (1998) and Dunham Hall (2014-5). He knows every nook, cranny, closet, wonky doorway, and secret passageway in this place!

Dennis identifies more as a housekeeper than a property manager, and his insight about how his behind-the-scenes work is an important part of the life of our church community invites us all to consider how our work, in whatever field it is in, can be a vocation, a lived-out expression of the gifts God has given each of us to use to better the community. While Dennis takes his work seriously and experiences pride when the church looks its best, he admits that it is not about him. "The trap is to think that these are 'my' floors or 'my' bathrooms and then get worked up when they get dirtied (ctd., p. 3)

or need to be cleaned again. But the purpose of my work is not for the church to be a clean, empty building; the purpose is to create a space where people come to make decisions about their lives – how to spend their money, how to be in their relationships, how to walk with God.”

Dennis also believes that the work of keeping the church building is his primary responsibility but takes the work of a team: “I have always talked about ‘our’ church or ‘our’ work or ‘our’ cleaning schedule because it has never just been me....It takes more than one person to keep a building this size and age running smoothly.”

The most meaningful part of his job has always been preparing for baptisms, weddings, and funerals because “they are gatherings where God is right there.” In keeping with his belief that “time spent at church should feel like time being spent away from the world,” he works hard to be a good steward of the space, paying attention to how it can function most fully and therefore glorify God most deeply.

The pandemic was hard for Dennis in a professional way that he couldn't anticipate. Working remotely was possible for some of Dennis' tasks but keeping up a house requires, well, being at the house. But, there were long months of no programs or gatherings to prepare for, no spaces in need of cleaning, no weddings or funerals, no second Sunday lunch tables needing to be put away. Dennis' sense of purpose was challenged. The hardest part was realizing that what motivated him to work hard – preparing the building for people to come - was no longer true. During that time, he focused on cleaning parts of the church that hadn't been given regular attention for some time and made notes about maintenance that could be more easily tackled with a less-occupied building.

With the doors having been back open for a while now, Dennis is back in his familiar groove: cleaning, fixing, ordering, preparing. Leading up to his retirement from full-time ministry this summer, slate tiles on the roof have been replaced, solar panels have been installed, the waterproofing project has begun, the church mouse apartment renovation nears completion, and every single floor is being waxed. Dennis wants to leave this house, God's house, in shiny, tip-top shape.

When asked if there was a particular place at UPC that he liked the best, he replied: the sanctuary. For years, on Monday mornings, the very last thing Dennis would clean in the sanctuary was the pulpit. Sunday morning's sermon notes would still be there. He would pick them up, take them to a pew, and sit down to read them in the silence of the morning.

Anticipating time to rest, heal, and go to the beach with Becky and his children and grandchildren, Dennis looks back on his time at UPC with gratitude: “The graciousness and quality of character of the people here is the best. It has been a blessing to have a job that uses my body and keeps me upright and active, and one that matters to the people who love God. I feel very good about handing things off to Johnny Clay and Ryan Byrnes. That makes it a bit easier to leave.”

Dennis, thanks be to God for this special place that is the UPC building and grounds, and thanks be God for your faithful, humble service in caring for it for these past 30 years.



Pictures from Appalachia Service Project

In mid-July, 30 youth and adults traveled to Carter County, TN to serve with Appalachia Service Project. It was a full week of building and repairs. We're grateful for all who gave of their time and talents to serve!



Reflecting on UPC Summer Trips

Trips are officially back! Our groups had a wonderful summer traveling to Montreat, Massanetta, and Carter County, TN, to learn, sing, serve, and fellowship together. Here are a few reflections from some of our participants:



When I went to Massanetta I had no idea what to expect and these are some experiences from the trip. I will always remember how many outdoor activities they had and how much fun I had making friends with people from other churches. At Massanetta we had keynotes which were super great because our keynote speaker was funny and I felt like I understood her. On the trip I saw God in nature and in the keynotes. In all I really loved Massanetta and I want to come back.

-Maisy Kavanaugh

Montreat Youth Conference is so important to me because of all the youth activity and involvement. It's one of the best trips for youth-to-youth interaction because of the small group based classes and the free time provided to do things with your back home group around the house. Montreat Youth helps me become more connected to my faith and God by first helping me become more connected with other kids my age and the faith of those around me.

-Zane Buckner



Being in the mountains at Montreat Worship & Music made me feel closer to God because of its peacefulness. When we did the Taizé services, it made me think that Jesus probably worshiped the same way with his disciples. I also liked going to the swimming hole with the entire group. Everyone was laughing and participating in the plunge that Joey said reminded him of his baptism.

-Hogan Martin



Appalachia Service Project was such a great opportunity

to learn about things I never had the chance to experience before. The adults in my team not only taught me important skills surrounding construction but also lessons about their faith journeys. I really loved gaining these new skills and views while also having a great time with my friends. Something so special about this trip is how willing everyone is to try new things. In faith and in service, I learned how to be open to new ideas and really tuned in to listening to what others who might have more experience than me had to say. God was so present on this trip which made it truly special! I noticed God when talking to the owners of the house we worked on, when connecting with friends I hadn't seen in months, and when sitting in silence or pondering stories and verses that were being shared. It was amazing to hear how everyone saw how prominent God had been throughout their week as well in the share circle on Friday. I hope to experience more moments like those in my day to day life! Thank you, ASP!!

-Laura Aycock



On our last day at ASP, the executive VP of Appalachia Service Project met up with the UPC group to recognize our church's 30-year relationship with ASP. That's 30 years of working with hammers, nails, caulk, paint, pipes, saws, and so much more in Appalachian communities to help make homes warmer, safer, and drier.



This Month at UPC

August Sermon Series - The Games People Play

Perhaps it is the long days where daylight lingers later or maybe it's just the oppressive heat, but more than any other season, summer is when I find myself playing games - board games; card games; all kinds of games. In these dog days of summer, we will have a sermon series called "The Games People Play." We'll preach sermons drawing on some of the classic board games and we'll have some games set up on the porch so you can play a round with friends new and old. So come early or stay after worship to roll the dice in one of these classics.



Congregational Meeting - Sun., Aug. 21

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on August 21, 2022 for the purpose of voting on the slate for the Class of 2025 Elders and Deacons, the Class of 2024 Nominating Committee members, and the replacements for Hannah Starr (Elder Class of 2023), Sarah Owen (Elder Class of 2024), and Day McLaughlin (Deacon Class of 2023).

Presby 101 - Sun., Aug. 28

Join us at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for a class on Presbyterian Polity and Theology. This is a great class for newcomers and old-timers alike. Co-Pastors Meg and Jarrett will be leading. All questions are welcomed.



Name Tag Order

Did you miss the last sign-ups for a name tag? Do you have an old name tag but want to have a new one to match all the others? Have you started actively attending UPC and need a name tag? We're placing an order for more name tags to have ready for the new program year and would love to order one for you! Visit upcch.org/nametag to request your (free) name tag today. Please fill out the form separately for each individual in your family. Deadline to request a name tag is August 15.

Punch on the Porch

Sign up to host this wonderful fellowship opportunity after worship on the portico during the summer months. All supplies are provided; simply add your smile and hospitality! This is a great way to get to know our members during the summer. Visit upcch.org/summer-worship to sign up.



Meet our 2022-2023 Music Resident

As we head into a new program year, I am excited to share that Caroline Polito will be joining our staff as Organ Scholar under the newly formed UPC Sacred Music Resident program. This is an exciting continuation of our teaching commitment to engage the university community in our music and worship tradition following the introduction of our Choral Scholars program last year.

Last fall, we began envisioning a more unique use of the church apartment and how our instruments and facilities could be an invaluable resource to a dedicated student with sacred music interests. With the help of our Property Committee (special thanks to Jeff Howard and Mike Edmiston for their generous gifts of time and labor), a once dark and cramped office-bathroom space has now been transformed into an airy and open studio apartment on Franklin Street. This space will well serve our "Music Resident"--a UNC student who has a keyboard background and is interested in honing their skills as a church musician.

What is an "organ scholar?"

The term "organ scholar" originates from the cathedrals and collegiate chapels of England where organ students would typically serve a church music apprenticeship under the director of music. We are fortunate that Caroline, our inaugural Music Resident, is an experienced organist and will serve her residency in this capacity. We will hear Caroline's artistry weekly in worship as she offers organ voluntaries, hymn leadership and choral accompaniments. While benefiting from coaching and practical experience in service playing, Caroline will be a great asset to our music ministry as she helps with our children's choirs, assists with administrative facets of our program and most importantly allows us the flexibility of having a separate accompanist and conductor on occasion.

A word from Caroline:

"I look forward to expanding my organ repertoire, learning more about conducting and accompanying, and gaining more service playing experience. I'm also excited to join the UPC community and meet all of you!"

I am excited to have Caroline on board and ask that you join me in warmly welcoming her to UPC when she begins at the end of August.

Faithfully,

Joey Fala, Director of Music



About Caroline:

Caroline grew up in Apex, NC and started piano lessons at age 7. She began her organ studies in high school and decided to pursue music in college. Caroline attended Oberlin Conservatory for two years, where she was a double degree student in organ performance and French language. She transferred to UNC Chapel Hill and graduated in May 2022 with a B.A. in French and Francophone Studies. Outside of her role as Sacred Music Resident at UPC, Caroline currently works in an administrative support position at UNC Hospitals.

Save the Date this Fall for...

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event - Sept. 18



Date: Kickoff Sunday - Sept. 18

Time & Location: 9:45 am-10:45 am, Fellowship Hall

For: all ages (nursery care available for young children)

Sign up: required (link below) We need 150 folks!

events.riseagainsthunger.org/UPCCH

As we kick off the program year on Sunday, Sept 18, join your UPC family for a meal packing event to help tackle world hunger. Rise Against Hunger meal packing events provide a fun, educational way for our church to literally lend a hand to people facing hunger across the globe. Rise Against Hunger combines an assembly line process with an educational experience not only to make a huge impact worldwide, but to help us all understand how serving our neighbors is a meaningful experience. This is a truly intergenerational event, enabling people of all ages to serve. Sign up at the link and help us reach our goal of 150 participants. Together, we'll pack over 12,000 meals in an hour!

Documentary Screening with the Racial Equity Team - Oct. 15

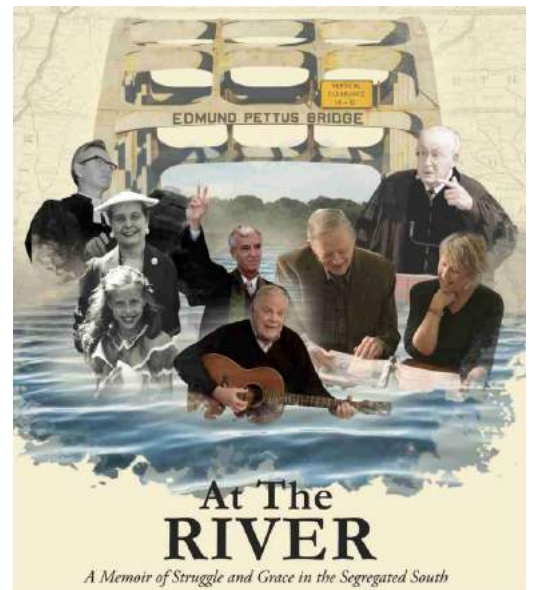
Date: Sat., Oct. 15

Time & Location: 3:00 pm at UPC

For: high school youth-adults (childcare available for younger ages)

Sign up: required; registration will open in mid-August

At The River is a feature-length documentary about a certain time and place in the deep south. In the Civil Rights era of the 50's and 60's, most Presbyterian ministers stood on the banks of the cultural river of segregation and white supremacy and opted not to speak out. However, a few young southern Presbyterian ministers did brave those currents through their sermons, community organizing and participating in marches and protests. They faced dangerous, hate-filled consequences for these actions. *At The River* chronicles their lives and their decisions, as well as director Carolyn Crowder's first-hand experience as a young white southern girl from Montgomery, Alabama.



Join us at UPC at 3 pm on Sat., Oct. 15 to watch *At the River* together (2 hours) and then participate in a discussion facilitated by director Carolyn Crowder. A catered meal from Mediterranean Deli (suggested donation \$5/person) will be provided after the program. Registration will open in mid-August; watch the bulletin and emails for the registration link.

Ways to Connect this Fall

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Circles begin gathering monthly in September and continue through May. Won't you join us if you have not already?

Circle 1 is newly formed and will meet every first Wednesday at 10:00 am at members' homes. (Contact: Diane Rizzo at rizzod1970@gmail.com or 919-357-6128.) **Circle 2** will meet every second Monday at 10:00 am at the Carolina Meadows Game Room. (Contact: Shelley Adams at shelleyhadams@gmail.com or 919-942-2525.) **Circle 3** will meet every first Tuesday at 10:00 am at location TBD. (Contact: Gail Norwood Kinder at gailnorwood@me.com or 919-259-5955.) **Circle 4** will meet every first Tuesday at 10:00 am at location TBD. (Contact person: Susie Smith at syncks@gmail.com or 757-274-2551.) **Circle 5** will meet every first Wednesday at 7:00 pm at members' homes. (Contact: Mary Ellen Olson at maryeolson27@gmail.com or 919-302-1426.)

At the monthly meetings, PW women meet socially and engage in a course of study. This fall the circles will be studying *CELEBRATING SABBATH: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* by Carol M. Bechtel. If you are not sure which Circle would be best for you, please feel free to attend a few different ones and see where you feel the most at home. All circles are open to all women!

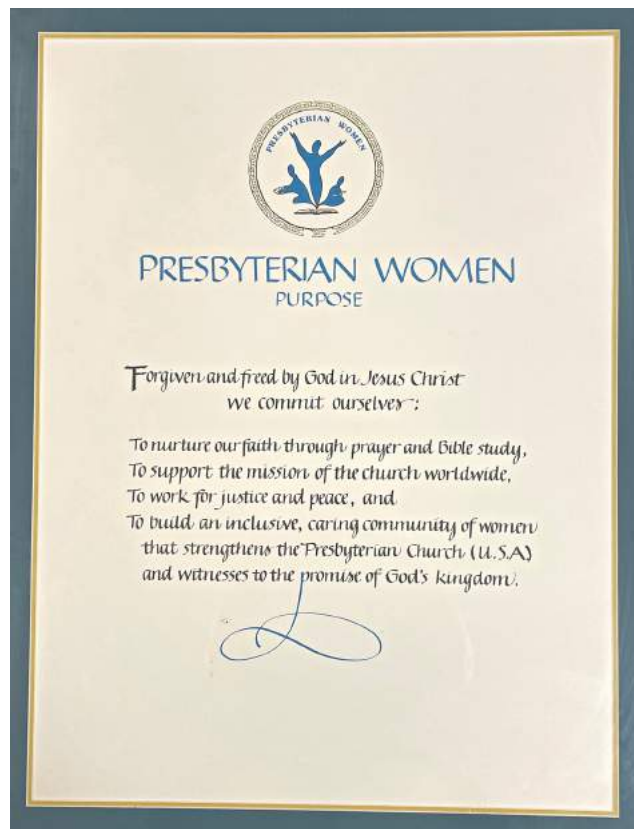
The suggested \$25 annual pledge by each member is collected and used as a donation to Children's Hope Alliance and Camp New Hope, among other groups. In addition, this year the organization donated to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund which disbursed the funds to Ukrainian relief and to the local Durham Afghan family that UPC has been supporting. The diaper drive for the Refugee Support Center is also a venture that PW women have very successfully sponsored over the last few years.

Small Groups

Every time the Session welcomes new members into the life of this church, we admonish the spiritual practice of finding a small group. This can be the choir, a Women's Circle, or the Youth Group Advisors—any place where if you forget to wear your name tag, your friends will still know you by name.

At the beginning of the pandemic, this church began a church-wide effort to offer small groups that gathered for fellowship and faith formation. They would discuss Sunday's scripture and sermon, and life's highs and lows. A number of those small groups are still meeting today.

We'd like to open the opportunity for a new group or two to join. If you are interested in participating, please email meg@upcch.org and we will begin the process of calling forth leaders and sorting out times.

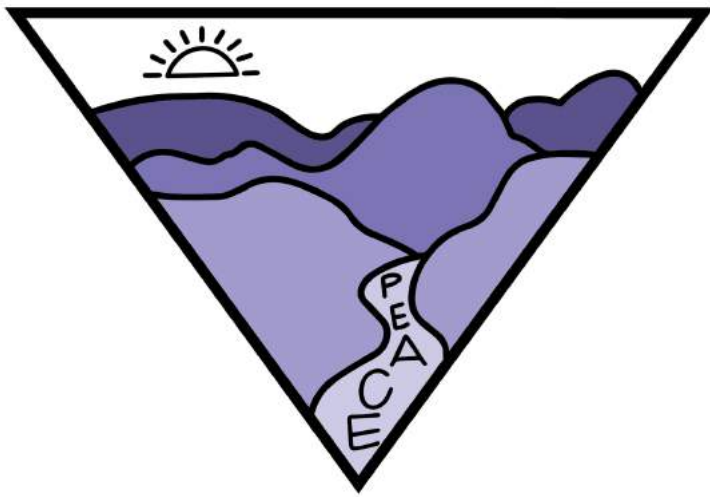


Last Chance to Register for the Retreat!

Join us for a weekend away for all ages and stages of life!

September 9-11, 2022 in Montreat NC

Final Deadline to register: Aug. 7



What to expect at the retreat:

- keynote address
- chatter groups
- workshops
- concert
- barn dance
- campfire
- fellowship
- time with your UPC family



For details and to register, visit [**upcch.org/retreat**](https://upcch.org/retreat).



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation

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