



APRIL 2023  
EDITION

# The Chimes

SHARING STORIES AND NEWS FROM  
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHAPEL HILL



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT UPC

Everything we have planned for  
that week! | p. 3-4

## CELEBRATING 50+ YEARS OF UPPS

Help us celebrate and prepare  
for the next 50 years | p. 8

## SPRING 2023 THOMAS BROWN RECITAL

Welcoming Kirsten Homdrom  
on May 6 | p. 10

## In this Edition...

Created to Worship.....	2
Holy Week Plans.....	3
Celebrating Easter at UPC.....	4
More Opportunities in April.....	5
Opportunities to Learn.....	7
50+ Years of UPPS.....	8
Vacation Bible School 2023.....	9
2024 Holy Land Trip.....	9
Thomas Brown Recital on May 6.....	10
Presbyterian Women.....	11
PCM Update.....	12
Register for the Congregational Retreat.....	13
Meet our New Members.....	15
Global Partner, Medical Benevolence Foundation..	17
What is a Stephen Minister?.....	18
Opportunities to Serve.....	19
Session Update.....	19

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**Jarrett McLaughlin**, Co-Pastor  
**Ryan Byrnes**, Director of Operations  
**Johnny Clay**, Sexton  
**Erin Collier**, Dir. of Communications & Stewardship  
**Peter Costa**, Financial Manager  
**Bob Dunham**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Joey Fala**, Director of Music Ministry  
**Berry French**, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry  
**Hadley Kifner**, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture  
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Many thanks to our youth who led worship on March 19, including the seven seniors who preached (pictured here)! To view more pictures from Youth Sunday, visit [upcch.smugmug.com](http://upcch.smugmug.com)

Photography credit: Brian Vandersea





*As many of you know, I have been working my way through the process that leads to ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Part of that process includes taking ordination exams. Below you will find a newsletter article I wrote recently as part of the Worship & Sacraments exam, including rationale for and encouragement of regular participation in the church's worship.*

Greetings, Family of Faith!

One of my favorite moments of the week is on Sunday mornings when members of our church family start streaming through the doors, ready for worship. It feels like a family reunion to me. We have gone our separate ways during the week, some returning on a weekday for a committee meeting or a church volunteer task. Some of us have passed in the grocery store or have gathered at the soup kitchen to serve a meal to our homeless neighbors. The Book of Order, the constitution of our denomination, reminds us that "the faith, life, and worship of the Church are inseparable." (DfW, Preface, 74) We believe that every part of our life together – worship, fellowship, study, and service – is connected to every other part. And on Sunday morning, we are here together for worship, ready to glorify God and ready to respond in gratitude.

One of the confessions of our denomination, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, says, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." (7.001) We were created to worship God! And that is not something we can do on our own. Worship is a communal act, which means we show up to worship together! It is my hope that worship does not feel like something you have to do but rather like something you get to do. We were people created to worship, so it feels like a natural thing in which we take part.

If you are here regularly on Sunday mornings, I encourage you to keep coming. If you have taken a pause from weekly Sunday worship, we would love to see you back in the pews on a regular basis. If it has been a while since we have seen you at all, please join us. We would love to have you return to our midst. If you are looking for a church home, I hope you will give this church a try. Regardless of who you are or when the last time was that you came to worship, you are welcome here. You are welcome with your certainties and with your doubts. You are welcome with your questions and your wonderings. You are welcome just as you are, and you are a vital part of this faith family. We are not the same without you!

For those of you who have children, please bring them with you to worship! God created children with their wiggles, laughs, and cries. It does not matter if your children are on their best behavior; we want them here! I hope you will make the effort to get out the door to church each Sunday. We learn to worship by imitating. Just as we learn to walk and talk by watching, listening, and imitating others, we learn to worship by watching, listening, and by participating in it. Children will learn about our central act of worship – and will learn how to worship – by being present with the community of faith.

As you know, once we gather for worship, we do not stay here. The gathered people are equipped to go out into the world. The good news is too good to keep to ourselves! So we gather around Word and Sacrament, are refreshed and renewed for our calling and our work in the world around us. There is no place we can go that God has not already been. God is with us in the walls of this church, and God is with you in your office, at the dentist, and on the playground. God is everywhere. May we make it a priority to gather each Sunday as a community of faith – together – to do what we were created to do as we worship. May it be so.

*Nancy*

# Holy Week



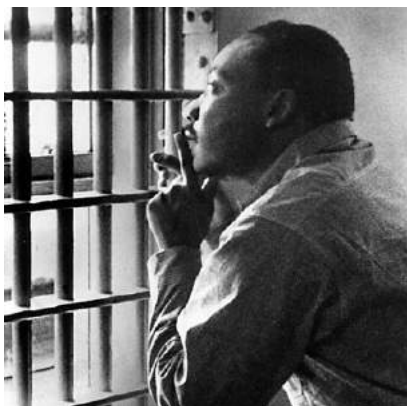
## Palm Sunday (April 2)

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Join us for worship as we wave palm branches and worship together!



## Maundy Thursday (April 6, 7:30 pm)

Maundy Thursday is the day during Holy Week that commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples, when he washed their feet and gave them the commandment (mandate, where we get the word Maundy) to love one another. Join us in the Sanctuary for a contemplative service, including Holy Communion, to reflect on how Jesus proclaimed the gospel through service and love.



## Good Friday Peace Walk (April 7, 10:00 am)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of MLK's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, written after he was arrested on Good Friday. Several Chapel Hill churches will commemorate this anniversary with a Good Friday peace walk and reading. Beginning at St. Pauls AME, the walk will conclude at University Baptist Church, where Chapel Hill clergy will read from the letter. All are welcome.



## Good Friday Worship (April 7, 7:30 pm)

On the Friday of Holy Week, we will worship together in a Service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is the Latin word meaning darkness. Sometimes we learn things in the dark, in the shadows, that we could have never learned or appreciated in the bright light of day. On Good Friday, we will read the story of Jesus' passion (his suffering and death) and extinguish lights until we leave the sanctuary in complete darkness, awaiting the glorious light of Easter morning.

# Celebrating Easter at UPC (April 9)

## Easter Sunday Worship - 8:30 & 11:00 am

We'll worship together at 8:30 and 11:00 am on Easter Sunday. Both services will be in the Sanctuary; only the 11:00 service will be livestreamed. Instead of Sunday School on that day, we will have a potluck brunch.

## Potluck Easter Brunch - 9:45 am

Join us for a potluck Easter Brunch at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall! Beverages will be provided; please bring a breakfast dish to share (quiche, muffins, fruit, etc.). Savory breakfast dishes are greatly appreciated. Please remember to label your dishes and serving spoons with your name if you'd like to have them back, and pick them up following the brunch. If your contribution contains allergens or is suitable for those with special dietary needs, please add labels such as "gluten free," "contains peanuts/tree nuts," or "vegetarian."

## Egg Hunt - 10:15 am

Children (walkers-3rd grade) are invited to join us on the front lawn at 10:15 am for an Easter Egg hunt. Don't forget to bring a basket to collect your eggs!



## Flowering the Cross

Like last year, our cross will already have flowers on it and be outside all morning (great for your Easter Sunday family photos). If you'd like to bring more flowers from home to add to it, please do! We will not have extra flowers available.

## Easter Offering

It is our tradition for Easter to collect an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports several PCUSA initiatives to help our neighbors in need. To give, visit [upcch.org/give](https://upcch.org/give) and select "One Great Hour of Sharing," or write a check to UPC with "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line.

## Easter Gifts of Beauty and Bounty

Purchase a lily or give to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in honor or memory of your loved ones! Visit [upcch.org/easter-beauty-bounty](https://upcch.org/easter-beauty-bounty) to learn more, or pick up a paper form in the narthex. The deadline to give is Friday, March 31. The names of those honored and remembered will be in the Easter bulletin on April 9.





# More Opportunities in April

There's a lot happening in the month of April! Here's what to expect in the weeks after Easter:

## Taizé Worship (April 11, 7:00 pm)

Lasting about 30 mins, a Taizé service includes chant-like simple songs sung repeatedly, surrounded by brief periods of silence, Scripture, and prayer.



## Nuria Shin Recital (April 14, 6:00 pm)

Since 2021, UNC vocal performance major Nuria Shin has been a vital part of the UPC music program, serving as one of our inaugural choral scholars and Children's Music Assistants. She has contributed to our weekly worship singing as a section leader in the Chancel Choir and has inspired our next generation of music makers, leading weekly rehearsals with the Alleluia Choir. On Friday, April 14, Nuria will be performing her senior recital in the sanctuary. With an emphasis on arias and art songs from the Romantic Period, this recital will also feature works by Handel, Donizetti, and Stravinsky. All UPC family and friends are welcome and invited, with a reception to follow. *Program to last 50 minutes.*



## Sunday, April 16

Worship on this day will include an Earth Care emphasis, in anticipation of Earth Day on Saturday, April 22. In addition, there are several opportunities that afternoon:



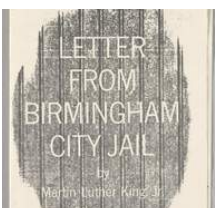
### Ordination of Kim Rubish (2:30 pm at UPC)

All are invited to celebrate the Ordination of our own Kim Rubish to The Ministry Of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, April 16 at 2:30 pm, with a reception to follow. A member of UPC since her teenage years, Kim is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and has served as both the PCM intern and the PCM Pastoral Resident. Please join us as we ordain her and bless her in this new chapter of ministry.



### Parents of Young Presbyterians at Broken Spoke Farm (2:30 pm)

Plan to join us at Broken Spoke Farm (5601 St. Marys Road, Hillsborough) on Sunday, April 16, at 2:30 pm for soft serve ice cream and fellowship with other UPC families with children! We'll have a few games planned so people can get to know one another better.



### Letter from a Birmingham Jail Reading (3:30 pm at the Chapel Hill Library)

Join historian Dr. William Sturkey for an afternoon of history and reflection on the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Students from UNC and CH/Carrboro City School will read from the letter. After the reading, several students will offer reflections.

## Earth Day (April 22)

Earth Day is approaching! First celebrated in 1970, this day offers an opportunity for individuals and organizations to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

The Earth Care Team is working on plans for suggested ways to observe the day; stay tuned for details!

*Pictured: Members of the Earth Care team helped Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation clean a section of Bolin Creek as part of the 33rd-annual Haw River Assembly Clean-Up-A-Thon.*



## Sunday, April 23



### Easter Lessons and Carols (11:00 am)

Christmas Lessons and Carols is a beloved tradition at UPC. This year, the music ministry will introduce a new special music Sunday. On April 23, all four of our choral ensembles will come together to tell the story of Resurrection and God's love for the world through word and song. This festival service will be at 11 am worship only; 8:30 worship will continue as usual.



### Celebrating 50+ Years of UPPS (11:00 am)

2022 marked the 50th anniversary of UPPS...and we want to celebrate! Part of our 11:00 worship will include a celebration of UPPS and all of the staff and families who have been part of its important ministry, and there will be a reception on the front lawn following worship. To learn more about this celebration and ways you can participate, see the flyer on page 8, or visit [upcch.org/upps-50](http://upcch.org/upps-50).

## Sunday, April 30



### Confirmation Sunday (11:00 am)

At 11:00 worship, we will confirm our confirmands! Since September, these 8th graders have been learning about faith and the Presbyterian tradition. In April, each student in the class decides if they would like to officially join the church and complete the confirmation process, confirming the vows made on their behalf at baptism.

# Adult Ed. Opportunities in April

Classes meet at 9:45 am on Sundays. **There will be no Sunday School on Easter (April 9).**

## Dunham Hall Class (*Bible Study/Spiritual Formation*)

### April 2: Faith in Plain Sight — A Lenten Journey of Storytelling

Join us on the final day of our Lenten Series as we hear the stories of fellow church members as they are articulate where their faith and life have been woven together. Our storyteller will be Wood Burns.



### Beginning April 16: The Ten Best Ways: A Study of the Ten Commandments

Together, we'll consider two commandments each week. Join us for all 5 weeks, or pop in as you can.



## Vance Barron Hall Class (*Topical Studies/Learning*)

### April 2 & 16: Living Into our Earth Care Pledge

Presented by UPC's Earth Care Team, each class will explore different aspects of Creation care and the climate crisis, including ways that we as both individuals and a congregation can most effectively and joyfully continue living into our Earth Care Pledge. Class schedule:

- April 2: Environmental Justice
- April 16: Hope, Resources and Preparation for Earth Day (Saturday, April 22)



To learn more about our Earth Care program, visit [upcch.org/EarthCare](http://upcch.org/EarthCare).

### April 23: Guest Speaker Dr. Douglas Lungu

Dr. Lungu is the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of International Operations of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, one of UPC's Global Outreach Partners. To learn more about MBF, see page 17.

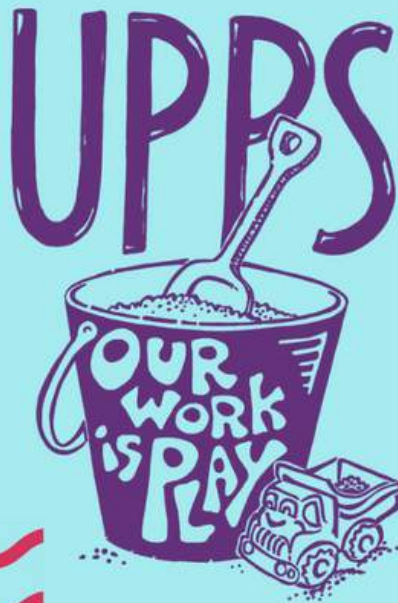


### April 30: Guest Speaker Dr. Carson Brisson

Dr. Brisson is Professor of Bible and Biblical Language at Union Presbyterian Seminary and will be leading our Holy Land trip in the spring of 2024. Come hear more about the Holy Land and what you can anticipate on this trip.







# Celebrating 50+ years of UPPS!

**Calling all current and former UPPS students & their families!**

Have you or someone you love ever been a Turtle Two?

A Threes Bees, Bluebird, Jackrabbit, Alpaca, Moose, or Superhero?

Please join us in celebrating over fifty (50!) years of UPPS in these 3 ways:



**1.) SEND IN PHOTOS FROM YOUR UPPS DAYS.**

We're looking for pics of crafts, playground shots, vintage t-shirts—you name it! Email photos to [preschool@upcch.org](mailto:preschool@upcch.org).



**2.) CELEBRATE WITH US AT 11:00 AM WORSHIP ON APRIL 23.**

We'll be officially recognizing all who have been a part of our preschool over the years, with a celebration on the church lawn afterward.



**3.) GIVE \$50 IN HONOR OF 50 YEARS.**

To help us continue our commitment to being a part of the community for another 50 years, we are asking all UPPS alumni and friends to contribute \$50 to the program. Donations may be made by cash or check, and also on University Presbyterian Church's website at [onrealm.org/upcch/give](http://onrealm.org/upcch/give). Just choose UPPS-50 on the drop-down menu!

**We look forward to seeing you in April!**

*(And, please spread the word with other UPPS alumni families you know!)*



Coming Soon



## Vacation Bible School 2023

June 26-29  
*New Hope Camp*

[upcch.org/vbs](http://upcch.org/vbs)

## Holy Land Trip

*April 30-May 11, 2024*

Plans are still unfolding for this trip. Visit [upcch.org/holy-land](http://upcch.org/holy-land) to indicate your interest, and be sure to attend the Vance Barron Hall Class on April 30 to hear from our trip leader, Dr. Carson Brisson.

# Thomas Brown Recital (May 6, 4:00 pm)

## the THOMAS BROWN RECITAL SERIES

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In the Fall of 2022, we celebrated the ministry of former UPC Music Minister Thomas Brown with the gift of a new Steinway B piano and the establishment of the Thomas Brown Recital Series. A gifted recitalist, Tom blessed the church and larger community during his tenure with concert presentations of great piano masterworks. This spring, we present the second installation in this series. Pianist Kirsten Homdrom will present a program entitled "There is peace even in the storm," featuring works by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Germaine Tailleferre, Takashi Yoshimatsu and W. A. Mozart.

American keyboardist Kirsten Homdrom's performances span both the solo and collaborative realms, with repertoire ranging from the 1600's to the present. She has premiered new works by composer Keane Southard for both piano and organ and enjoys playing standards in the classical repertoire as well as hidden gems both old and new. Homdrom has performed in venues throughout the United States, as well as in England and the Czech Republic.

Equally at home in the world of sacred music, Homdrom is committed to sharing the gift of music with others through education and worship. She served as Trinity Scholar at Christ Church Episcopal in Hudson, Ohio, Director of Music at Venice Presbyterian Church in Ross, Ohio, and currently serves as Associate Director of Music at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Homdrom holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance, Magna Cum Laude, from Baldwin-Wallace University Conservatory of Music, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Primary teachers include pianists Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff, Robert Mayerovitch, Sungeun Kim, and Carla McElhaney; and organists Michael Unger, Roberta Gary, and Margaret Scharf.

This concert is free and open to the public.



# Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women are gathering in April for their monthly meetings. All women are welcome!

**Circle # 1:** Wednesday, April 5 at 10:00 am  
*at the home of Shipley Jenkins*

**Circle # 2:** Monday, April 10 at 10:00 am  
*in the Game Room at Carolina Meadows*

**Circle # 3:** Tuesday, April 4 at 10:00 am  
*at the home of Marian Johnson*

**Circle # 4:** Tuesday, April 4 at 3:15 pm  
*by Zoom*

**Circle # 5:** Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm  
*at the home of Kathy Culley*

**Circle # 6:** Thursday, April 20 at 10:00 am  
*in the Heron Room at Carol Woods*

Dear Members of UPC,

Thank you so very much for once again holding a diaper collection drive for refugee families served by the Refugee Support Center in Carrboro. We have had so many parents asking for diapers that we almost ran out at the end of last month. Your collection came just in time. I also appreciate that you focused on collecting the exact sizes we needed. Thank you on a multitude of levels.

Families from Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Syria and Ukraine are the current recipients of our monthly diaper distribution, and all are so grateful. Each time we give out a bag of diapers, I like to think we are distributing community good will as much as we are distributing diapers. Thank you for showing your welcome to a population to whom that is not always conveyed.

In gratitude,

Flicka Bateman, *Refugee Support Center*



# PCM Update

**By Kim Rubish, PCM Pastoral Resident**

While we normally use this space to focus on all the amazing things going on at PCM (which we still will in a moment—stay tuned), we wanted to start first and foremost by saying THANK YOU. Thank you, UPC, for supporting the worship leadership, musical talent, preaching, and presence of PCM students in the sanctuary and pulpit. We have barely come down from the utter delight of PCM Sunday, and YOU are so much to thank for that. Without the support of UPC, we couldn't do what we do, and we couldn't provide opportunities for students to grow in their faith and leadership, and explore their own identities. Thank you for your presence, your emails, your love, and your endless support for PCM, and for seeing the students as the mature, wise worship leaders they are.

So, that is much of what PCM has been up to! PCM Sunday was a whirlwind of planning, liturgy writing, sermon-analyzing, and, most importantly, laughing and spending time together. We got to experience the incredible gifts that Reed Frellick, Rachel Halcomb, and Lillie Chilton had to offer in their sermons. We got to soak up the gifts that PCM Music Team brought to the worship space (clapping and dancing in church? Wild, I know.). All this to say, PCM Sunday is one of my favorite events of the year, and, in my opinion, they knocked it out of the park this year and I cannot wait to see how PCM continues to grow in worship leadership.



As I write this newsletter, I am taking a few moments of quiet wifi-connected solitude at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, where Berry, Alli, and I are on a Spring Break retreat with seven PCM students. So far, we have spent a day exploring Santa Fe, we have hiked in canyons and on top of mesas until our legs were jello, we have taken a horseback trail ride through Georgia O'Keefe country, and, most of all, we have rested. In between all of this, around campfires and breakfast tables, we have walked through Nadia Bolz-Weber's *Shameless* together, focusing on healthy relationships and intimacy, and moving forward in relationship with God without the clouding and weight of shame. This is all ramping up as we prepare to shuffle sleepily out of Ghost Ranch at 6:15am tomorrow for a day of skiing (where four of us, me included, will be absolute beginners.) Look out for pictures of how that goes for us!

PCM is so grateful for UPC, and we are delighted by all the ways PCM and UPC continue to be able to come together. We could not spend a week in New Mexico exploring faith, shame, and rest without such significant support.







# REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2023 Congregational Retreat

September 8-10

Montreat, NC

*A weekend away for all ages and  
stages of life!*

Visit [upcch.org/retreat](https://upcch.org/retreat) to learn more  
and register today



## Featuring Keynote Speaker, Rodger Nishioka



The Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka believes that because God created us all for relationship, discovering how to follow Jesus Christ happens best in community. He currently serves as Co-Pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Springs, KS. Born in Honolulu and raised in Seattle at the Japanese Presbyterian Church, he has also taught at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta as the Benton Family Professor of Christian Education and was director of youth and young adult ministries for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rodger is a graduate of Seattle Pacific University (BA), McCormick Theological Seminary (MATS), and Georgia State University (PhD.). The son of a minister, he is evidence that you can be a pastor's kid and still love Jesus and the church.



# Why do UPC members love the retreat?



“ —

I love that our church and leadership is so welcoming of ALL members of the community. It means a lot to me and my family that everyone can take part in communion and our pastors are intentional about saying everyone is welcome. The speakers, songs and experiences throughout the weekend reinforced that, and it makes me even more invested.

-Beth Keith

”

“ —

I met SO many new friends this weekend! And I feel more connected to friends that I already know.

-Kelli Smith

”



## Retreat FAQ

### **Q: What should I expect on the retreat?**

A: The weekend will include *keynote addresses* from Rodger Nishioka; *workshops* including pottery, hiking, prayer, and more; *campfire* and *barn dancing*; *time away* to rest and relax and fellowship with your UPC family.

### **Q: Is this retreat for families only?**

A: No! UPC members of all ages and stages of life attend and enjoy the congregational retreat.

### **Q: How are the accommodations?**

A: We sleep in the Assembly Inn hotel, a beautiful stone building with all the creature comforts we're used to having.

### **Q: How's the food?**

A: Montreat's Galax Dining Room offers a variety of options at meals and can accommodate food allergies.

### **Q: What about childcare?**

A: Childcare for birth-preK is available during keynote addresses, workshops, chatter groups, and worship.

### **Q: Is there financial assistance?**

A: We have a retreat scholarship fund. If cost is a barrier, we will confidentially work with you to determine how we can best meet your needs. Visit [upcch.org/retreat](http://upcch.org/retreat) for the request form, or you may email a church staff member.

# Meet our New Members



## **Jacob & Taylor Garner (Grace, Hayden)**

Jacob and Taylor Garner live in Pittsboro and transferred their membership from Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. They have an infant daughter, Grace, and an almost-three-year-old son, Hayden.



## **Blaine Hall**

Blaine has lived in Fearington Village since 2010 and Pinehurst before that. He looks forward to being a member of UPC's spiritual family.



## **David & Cynthia Hilliard**

David and Cynthia Hilliard moved to NC five years ago from Colorado to be near their son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. Both are retired: David was a public school administrator, and Cynthia was an IT executive.



## **Becka and Cole Huckabee**

The Huckabees have lived in Chapel Hill for 28 years. Becka has been a realtor for over 20 years. Cole was a golf pro for over 30 years and is currently a salesman at The Appliance Center. They have two children (both UNC grads) and a dog, Sherlock.



## **Lizzie Lange (Harper, Hudson)**

Lizzie enjoys spending time with her family and friends, exploring the North Carolina wilderness, cheering for UNC and other favorite sport teams, and being outside in nature. She is a children's book author and a Professor in Exercise and Sport Science.



## **Courtney & Paul McBride (Jhoana, Alexander, Nelson, Hayden, Cristian)**

The McBride family has 10 children, ranging in age from 28 to 9. They feel truly welcomed in this church and look forward to getting involved in the wide variety of programs.



### **Gregory Pitcher**

Gregory lives in Raleigh and works as a software developer. He moved to the Triangle from Baton Rouge, LA ten years ago and has been active with the young adult group for quite some time.



### **Bob & Cheryl Richardson**

Bob and Cheryl retired to Pittsboro from Fairfax, VA in 2016, where they raised their family and were very active in Fairfax Presbyterian Church. They moved to be near their son and his family in Durham and their daughter and her family in Winston-Salem.



### **Meg & Jonathan Robinson (Helen, Julia)**

The Robinson family moved from Decatur, GA, in 2022. Jonathan is a financial advisor; Meg works as the Director of Social Impact at Replacements Ltd. Their family loves hiking, reading, college basketball (some years more than others), and family movie nights.



### **Grant & Evans Sutton (Miller, Pearce)**

Grant and Evans have a blended Christian background and instantly felt welcomed at UPC. They are excited to raise their two daughters in a warm church home and grow in this community.



### **Amy & Matt Wilson (Zack, Grace)**

Amy and Matt have been married for 20 years and have two children, Zack (17) and Grace (14) and three dogs (Ben, Fynn, and Sunny)! They live in Briar Chapel after moving to North Carolina in 2014 and work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Pfizer.



### ***This could be you!***

Our next meeting to welcome new members is Sunday, April 30 at 12:00 pm. If you are interested in joining UPC, or simply want to know more, please contact Meg Peery McLaughlin ([meg@upcch.org](mailto:meg@upcch.org)).



# Global Outreach

**By Jack Benjamin, UPC Global Outreach committee member**

In 2007, as I was preparing to retire as a pediatrician, I asked Bob Dunham whether there were any groups within the Presbyterian Church that were involved in mission work. He suggested that I call the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) and get on their board, which I did. The board was comprised of a vibrant group of ministers, lawyers, engineers, social workers – not just doctors. Many board members had done extensive faith-based international missionary work.

MBF began with missionary doctors in the early 1960s, and then expanded in an effort to strengthen local leaders who oversee hospitals, clinics, and nursing schools. Much of their Christ-driven work is done in Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, and Kenya, but they are involved in many other countries as well. MBF staff gets to know the local leaders of the church and medical communities, thereby finding out what they need most to become more successful medically. The money raised by MBF then gets applied to the stated needs of the local medical personnel.



For three years, I served on the main MBF board, and then served several more years on their executive committee. I ultimately became their official photographer and travelled to each of these countries named above. I have enjoyed sharing my slides at UPC after a number of these trips. The pictures I took have been used for marketing, enhancing the MBF website, and in presentations to help explain the needs of the people MBF serves.



Through the Global Outreach Committee, UPC has supported MBF financially every year since 1976. In 2018, UPC also gave additional money to help support an amazing MBF initiative – The LifeSavers program. Groups of three people were trained in a separate facility and then funded by groups such as MBF to visit rural clinics in Malawi. MBF hired one such group comprised of an RN, a person familiar with pharmacy issues, and a person to oversee quality of care. The results of this educational initiative have been

astounding. A few years after the initiation of this country-wide intervention, data was collected from all the teams visiting rural Malawi clinics. Merely by teaching those people who delivered babies basic information about resuscitation techniques and treatment of post-partum hemorrhage, over 300 babies' lives had been saved! An amazing result. Another recent initiative has been to fund the development of a surgical residency program at one of the larger hospitals in Malawi. The goal of this program is to recruit students who plan to remain in Malawi. In Malawi alone, MBF supports 5 hospitals, 4 nursing schools and 24 outlying clinics.

**An Announcement:** On April 23, several members of the MBF staff will be visiting UPC! They will be presenting information about their organization at the adult education hour on April 23 between 9:45 am and 10:45 am. Dr. Douglas Lungu, an accomplished Malawian surgeon and Chief Medical Officer for MBF, will be here. I hope you will come and learn more about the life-saving work of MBF and church's rich history of supporting healthcare abroad.

# What is a Stephen Minister?

In March UPC commissioned two new Stephen Ministers, Dana Greenwood and Milton Reid, to join the cohort of previously trained Stephen Ministers at our church. Perhaps you have heard of Stephen Ministry, but you are asking yourself: "So what is a Stephen Minister?"

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those who are experiencing a difficult time in life. Grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, etc. are some of the common life stressors that bring people to seek the cost-free confidential care of a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Stephen Ministers participate in a specific 50-hour Christ-centered training that equips them with essential caring and relating skills.

UPC has been a Stephen Ministry Congregation since 1991 and has trained well over 100 members to serve as Stephen Ministers. Currently, our congregation has 13 active Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, or if you, or someone you know, might like to learn more about having a Stephen Minister, contact Hadley Kifner at 919.929.2102 x 113 to discuss your interest further.



*New Stephen Ministers, Dana and Milton*



# Opportunities to Serve

## Office Volunteers (ongoing)

Would you like to help in the church office with welcoming visitors, answering the phone, and simple clerical tasks? Become an office volunteer! Open shifts are 1st & 3rd Thurs., 12:30-4:00 pm. Free parking included. To volunteer, or to sign up to be a substitute, please contact Shelley Adams (shelleyhadams@gmail.com; 919-942-2525).



## VBS Volunteers (June 26-29)

Our theme "Great Big Beautiful World" will help us explore, celebrate, and care for God's good creation. Adult and youth volunteers are needed! Visit [upcch.org/vbs-volunteers](https://upcch.org/vbs-volunteers) to sign up.



## Session Update

At their March meeting, the UPC Session:

- Heard a report from Scott Singleton on the 118th Stated Gathering of New Hope Presbytery
- Approved the Earth Care team soliciting members for subscription to CSA boxes through Garden at Spring Forest in conjunction with Chapel of the Cross
- Heard an update on the 50 plus Years Anniversary Fundraiser for UPPS
- Approved the 2023/24 UPPS calendar and changes to the UPPS Scholarship Policy
- Heard from the Property Committee on scheduling the repair of the flat side roofs over the sanctuary for this summer as well as looking into replacement of the temperature control system in the church
- Received the Treasurer's Report
- Was updated on the Vision Team's work in beginning to prioritize the needs of the church



A PC(U.S.A.) Congregation



209 East Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
(919) 929-2102  
[upcch.org](https://upcch.org)