

# GARP *now*

The Greenville ARP Church Newsletter  
July 2018



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REV. BRANDON BARRETT'S  
*Message*

## THE VALUE OF TOGETHER

For many of us who have children in the house, summer is a non-stop scheduling game of Tetris. The activities and responsibilities are coming at us fast and furious, and we're trying to make all the pieces fit together. And truthfully, the school year isn't much easier. And you don't even have to have kids or be married to be up to your eyeballs with competing demands and a crazy schedule. Crazy is the water most of us are swimming in.

When we, and the people we love, are moving at this kind of pace, one of casualties is time together. Whether that's with your kids, your spouse, or your friends, it's hard to be together and run in separate directions at the same time. So we try to protect some time for evening meals together, or Sunday afternoons to rest with each other, or moments during the week when we can reconnect. However we may find ways to value togetherness, we know that it matters. We know that families can't be close without a lot of shared life and time. That friendships can't flourish and grow without being together. That a marriage can't be intimate without being watered by time and more time.

This morning I happened to read two of my wife Liz's favorite Old Testament verses, Leviticus 19:9-10.

*"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God."*

These verses are about care for neighbor—for those who are needy. Instead of using up for ourselves all the resources God has given us, we are to use some of our resources to care for and bless others. And in our day and age, time is one of our most precious, and most guarded, resources. If we are constantly "reaping to the very edges" with our time, there will be no time left to share, to enjoy together, to bless others. And as a result, our relationships will wither.

There are all kinds of ways we can apply what God says here about not reaping to the edges. There's just one, though, that I want to highlight. All these relational dynamics of time are true not only for our relationships with family and friends, but are also true for us as a church family. And that is what we are—a family. In Christ we are sons and daughters of God, united into a new people, a new family. Have you noticed in the New Testament how often believers are addressed as 'brothers' (which in Greek covers 'sisters' too)? Paul uses the term over and over again in his letters. James uses it. So do Peter and John in their letters.

### We, as a church, are a family together.

And because we, as a church, are a family together, we have to be together. We have to be together enough to really know each other, to share life together, to grow together. One of the most fundamental ways we do this is by worshipping together on Sunday mornings. When we gather for worship, we're not just coming in for a personal spiritual tune-up or recharge. We are actually doing something. We are, together, worshipping God. And the togetherness of worship is vital. In a church our size, though we're not huge, we are big enough to come into worship and get the sense that we're not actually needed there. That the church doesn't need our presence in worship. That the congregation doesn't need our voice lifted up in singing. That the people to our right and left don't need the reminder, as we say the words of the confession of sin, that we're all in this struggle of life together. That the kids up front for the children's sermon don't need our kids seated right there next to them.



Well, it might seem that way, but it's not true. We actually do need each other. We do need the whole congregation gathered together. We do need our brothers and sisters in the Lord right there beside us. And we need each other as we walk out of the worship service as well. We need each other's prayers. We need each other's friendship. We need to be stretched beyond our own narrow slices of life by the wider body of believers with their different gifts and struggles and passions and needs.

### We need each other's prayers. We need each other's friendship.

We need each other, and that means over the summer, too. So in the midst of all the traveling and camps and craziness, remember to be together. You need your brothers and sisters. And we need you. So keep carving out time, valuing our shared calling as the people of God. Be there for Sunday worship whenever you possibly can. Invite some church folks over to cook out. Maybe invite some of your non-believing friends over at the same time and help them begin to connect with other Christians. Let's live out our calling to love Greenville with the gospel by doing so together.

Grace to you,  
Brandon

## Financial Update

Year-to-Date May 2018	Actual	Budget	Prior Year
Total Receipts	\$430,090	\$457,513	\$401,159
Total Disbursements	\$391,946	\$390,404	\$401,754
Totals	\$38,144	\$67,109	\$(595)

Contributions through May are 7.2% ahead of the prior year but below budget \$27,400. Typically, a large portion of our contributions are received at the end of the year. The current year budget is approximately equal to 2017 actual receipts.

Expenses in total are slightly over budget year-to-date. Higher utility costs, supply pastor travel, family retreat costs, and new church software were offset by the open youth ministry position and the timing of other items.

If you have any questions, please contact Chip Smith or one of the deacons.

## PASTORAL Cares & Concerns

### Remember these members in your prayers.

Billie Brady  
Wayne Brady  
Sylvia Crosby  
Alice Eidson  
Carole Ellis  
Renaie Farish  
Dimmie Grier  
Rhett Leonard  
Lila Long  
Sloan Milling  
Janet Mitchell  
Marie Robinson

Let **T.J. ELLIS** know if you would like your name published on the prayer request list. (tj@greenvillearp.com)

Contact **REV. GRIFFIN** if you would like to receive the Prayers for the People email. (davidg@greenvillearp.com)

# JULY Calendar of Events

## SUNDAY, JULY 1

● **6:00 PM** Dinner and Devos/Members' homes

## MONDAY, JULY 2

● **7:00 PM** Hope Circle/Members' Homes

## TUESDAY, JULY 3 – THURSDAY, JULY 5

● **Widow's Ministry – High School Mission Trip/Honea Path, SC**

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY

**CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

## THURSDAY, JULY 5

● **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study/Parlor

## SUNDAY, JULY 8

● **5:00 PM** Just Joy Worship Service/Fellowship Hall

● **6:00 PM** Dinner and Devos/Members' homes

## MONDAY, JULY 9

● **7:00 PM** Hope Circle/Members' Homes

## TUESDAY, JULY 10

● **10:00 AM** Together Tuesday/Fellowship Hall

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

● **3:00 PM** Workmanship Wednesday/Fellowship Hall

## FRIDAY, JULY 13

● **6:00 PM** Parents Night Out/Fellowship Hall

## SUNDAY, JULY 15

● **6:00 PM** Dinner and Devos/Members' homes

## MONDAY, JULY 16

● **7:00 PM** Session & Diaconate Meeting/Fellowship Hall

● **7:00 PM** Hope Circle/Members' Homes

## TUESDAY, JULY 17

● **10:00 AM** Together Tuesday/Fellowship Hall

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

● **3:00 PM** Workmanship Wednesday/Fellowship Hall

● **6:30 PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

CALENDAR KEY ● general ● children ● youth ● just joy ● women ● senior

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

● **6:00 PM** Dinner and Devos/Members' homes

## MONDAY, JULY 23

● **7:00 PM** Hope Circle/Members' Homes

## TUESDAY, JULY 24

● **10:00 AM** Together Tuesday/Fellowship Hall

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

● **3:00 PM** Workmanship Wednesday/Fellowship Hall

## SUNDAY, JULY 29

● **6:00 PM** Dinner and Devos/Members' homes

## MONDAY, JULY 30

● **7:00 PM** Hope Circle/Members' Homes

## TUESDAY, JULY 31

● **10:00 AM** Together Tuesday/Fellowship Hall

## Every Sunday

Morning Worship/Sanctuary **8:30 A.M.**

Sunday School **9:45 A.M.**

Fellowship Time (Fellowship Fare)/Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

**10:30 A.M.**

Morning Worship/Sanctuary **10:55 A.M.**

## Quick Reminders

### JULY 1

**Fellowship Fare** Julie Harbin

**Friendship Cultivation** Susan Oliver

**Ushers** Will Barron, J. B. Garrett, John Fort, Mack Hunt

### JULY 8

**Fellowship Fare** Erica Wingate

**Friendship Cultivation** TBD

**Ushers** Will Barron, J. B. Garrett, John Fort, Mack Hunt

### JULY 15

**Fellowship Fare** TBD

**Friendship Cultivation** Nell Ranew

**Ushers** Will Barron, J. B. Garrett, Dick Kale, John Hornby

### JULY 22

**Fellowship Fare** Carrie Gamble

**Friendship Cultivation** TBD

**Ushers** Will Barron, J. B. Garrett, Dick Kale, John Hornby

### JULY 29

**Fellowship Fare** Sara Jane Bostick

**Friendship Cultivation** Jamie Meachum

**Ushers** Will Barron, J. B. Garrett, Jake Kunz, TBD

## Birthdays

Madeline Meachum ('10)..... 1  
Caroline Van Hook

Bill Crosby ..... 3  
Gwynn DuBose  
Robbie Ellis  
Emily Hood ('08)  
Dean McDonald

Mack Hunt ..... 4  
Jennifer Richardson  
Doug Worthington

Sabrina Ferguson ..... 6  
Pat McDonald

Dick Mitchell ..... 7  
Larry Pabst  
Barbara Rose

McCarley Lewis ..... 8

Bryant Aughtry ..... 9  
Adrianna Lynch  
Steve Newman  
Emery Rikard

Susan McDaniel ..... 10  
Rolla Oliver

Camden Cremmins ..... 11  
Ann Rose Conner ..... 12  
David Revels  
Wendy Smith

Spencer Page ('09) ..... 14  
Nell Ranew

Sam Evans ..... 16  
Wes Page  
Beverly Terlizzi

Sharon Griffin ..... 18  
Marie Robinson

Tommy Brady ..... 20  
Jenks Petty

Elizabeth Coleman ..... 21  
Shirley Helms  
Wanda Wirthlin

Duncan Reid ..... 22

Nancy Feemster ..... 24  
Daniel Hood

Cal Garrett ..... 25  
Davis Miller ('13)  
Susan Oliver  
Melinda Walker

Jamie Meachum ..... 26

Maggie Mae Cain ('11) ..... 28  
Sam Milling ('09)

John Hornby ..... 30

Aiden Mackey ..... 31

## SENIOR Moments

### Flower Calendar

The 2018 Flower Calendar is posted outside the church office. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for a particular Sunday, please sign up on the calendar.

We use **Barrett's Flowers** in Taylors for our church florist. Once you sign up for a particular Sunday, you would then call them (268-7563) to place your order. Then, you'll submit a short blurb to T. J. (tj@greenvillearp.com) for the bulletin, stating whom the flowers are in memory or honor of. The price of an arrangement varies depending on what type of flowers are used, but typically ranges from \$85-\$125. You may pay the florist directly or bill through the church.

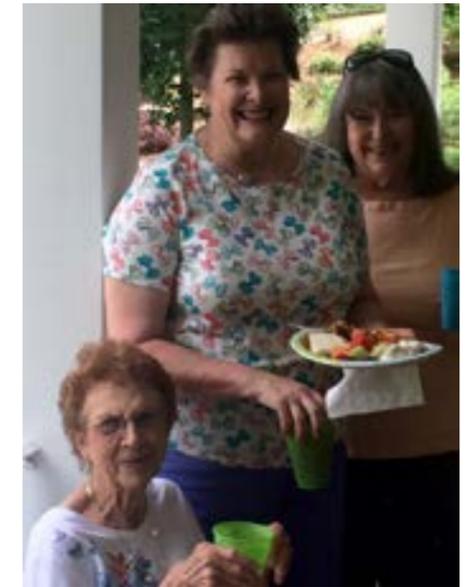


### Session Highlights

At it's June meeting, the Session:

- Spent time in prayer for the congregation
- Approved a motion to discontinue using the Friendship Cultivation Pad in our worship services
- Approved a new system of elder pairs meeting with people as they finish the membership process
- Completed a discussion about the age of children going through the Communicants' Class process. We approved the following summation:

*The Communicants' Class is for children in the church who would like to go through the process of becoming communing members. In general, the class is for children in the fifth grade. If you have questions, please speak with one of the pastors.*



  
**GREENVILLE ARP CHURCH**  
*Associate Reformed Presbyterian*

**HIGH SCHOOL  
MISSION TRIP**

**JULY 10-12**

**WIDOWS' WATCHMAN MINISTRY  
IN HONEA PATH, SC**  
 For Rising 9-12th Grade Students  
**DEADLINE TO REGISTER June 10 COST \$30**  
 Contact Rebekah Harkins for more information.  
 (rebekah@greenvillearp.com)

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." —James 1:27

"As an Erskine student, I had the opportunity to spend time serving widows in the Due West and Honea Path area through the Widow's Watchman Ministry. Bill May, founder of this ministry, is one of the most humble and genuine servants and he has had a lasting impact on that community. Erskine RUF did a great deal of partnering with Bill May to form an outreach and care of widows in their need for spiritual nourishment- love, presence of friends, sharing the love of Christ, as well as physical needs like building a ramp for them to get into their house or planting flowers for them. I loved having these ladies in my life and spending time with them is something that I will never forget. My hope is for the high school students to get to experience this ministry and to be able to implement it within our own church family. It will just be our church and we will stay in the housing provided by Widow's Ministry. Each day we will spend time with and work with the widows who are in great need in that area and in the evenings." — Rebekah Harkins

We had a great time at Quest, the middle-school summer camp! Rev. Evan English was our speaker and he focused on the "I am" statements of Jesus during our Bible studies that week. Our youth group particularly enjoyed learning and discussing Jesus' **"I am the resurrection and the life"**.

**Check out some of our photos from the week!**



# CHILDREN'S Ministry



## 2018 Summer Activities!

What's new this summer for the children?

### Together Tuesdays – July 10, 17, 24, 31

Fellowship and fun on Tuesdays this summer! All ages (including parents!) are welcome to join and invite friends! This will be a weekly activity from **10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** Activities include walking on the Swamp Rabbit Trail to the park, meeting at the zoo, and other exciting activities. *Plan to join us!*

### Workmanship Wednesdays – July 11, 18, 25

Loving others specifically in our church family and community for God's glory... having eyes to see and hands to serve... this is what we're doing on Workmanship Wednesdays! Students in grades 1–5 are invited to join!

### Parents Night Out!– July 13

**YOU MUST RSVP TO ATTEND THIS EVENT**

All ages are welcome! Parents, drop your kids off at **6:00 p.m.** the church and enjoy a night out! If you would like for your child to eat the provided supper, the cost is \$5. Drop your kids off in the Fellowship Hall and pick them up by **9:00 p.m.** in the Educational Building.

## Upcoming Dates in August

**Workmanship Wednesday  
AUGUST 1**

**Ladies and Little Ladies  
Tea Party  
AUGUST 7**

**Family Camp  
AUGUST 8**

**Parents Night Out  
AUGUST 24**

**Rally Day/Promotion Sunday  
AUGUST 26**

If you have signed up for any **Bonclarken camp** this summer, please let **Beth McCary** and **Rebekah Harkins** know.

If you are interested in your child attending a camp and Bonclarken, please visit [bonclarken.org](http://bonclarken.org)!



## STAFF Contact

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