

February 2021

# The Lighthouse

## What's Happening 2021

There are some good things happening at FPC...

- We have a large number of officer nominees who are currently going through officer training. We should be ordaining and installing these additional officers by March.
- The deacons and other volunteers are leading an effort to clean out the church, especially upstairs. The boiler room and the store room across from the kitchen have already been cleaned out and reorganized.
- Repairs are being completed on the termite damage in the sanctuary and narthex.
- New, brighter, more efficient light bulbs are being installed around the church. Check out the lights in the kitchen for one of the best examples. The kitchen will be getting at least a new paint job this year.
- Renovations are progressing on the St. Paul manse. The McDowell's, missionaries from Canada will be living there a few weeks beginning in February.
- The paint on the church van has been touched up.
- Greg Mann, our newest member, is helping us put together a church building manual and inventory. Greg worked as a church administrator at Highlands PCA and is sharing his gifts and expertise to help us get organized. Getting the building organized will help us be more efficient and effective in our church ministries.
- We are working on clarifying our mercy ministry policies so we can more effectively help those in need inside and outside the church.
- Once we have our new officers in place, we will be reorganizing our shepherding groups so the church officers can better serve you.

A few weeks ago, I shared a quote by Herman Bavinck commenting on the Tower of Babel and confusion of languages that seems appropriate for our times: "Race instinct, sense of nationality, enmity, and hatred, these are divisive forces between peoples. This is an astonishing punishment and a terrible judgment, and cannot be undone by any cosmopolitanism or leagues of peace, by any 'universal' language, nor by any world-state or international culture. If ever there is to be unity among mankind again it will not be achieved by any external, mechanical rallying around some tower of Babel or other, but by a development from within, a gathering under one and the same Head (Eph 1:10), by the peacemaking creation of all peoples into a new man (Eph 2:15), by regeneration and renewal through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:15), and by the walking of all people in one and the same light (REv 21:24)

The unity of mankind which can only be restored by an internal operation, beginning within and working out, is, therefore, a unity which in the internal operation of that first confusion of tongues was basically disturbed. The spurious unity was radically upset in order that room

might be made for the true unity. The world-state was shattered in order that the Kingdom of God would come into existence on earth.”

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, one of the petitions is “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” I want to encourage us all to pray for revival this year in our daily prayers and at our prayer meetings. We need more participation in our prayer meeting on Sunday night at 5:00. It is our duty as Christians to pray in our closets and with other believers (as the church did in Acts). Please consider making the prayer meeting a part of your regular Sabbath worship.

I leave you with this account of the revival God granted through John L. Girardeau's ministry in the Anson St. Presbyterian Church of Charleston in 1859:

“The greatest event in his ministry was the revival in the later eighteen fifties. This began with a prayer meeting that constantly increased until the house was filled. Some of the officers of the Church wanted him to commence preaching services, but he steadily refused, waiting for the outpouring of the Spirit. His view was that the Father had given to Jesus, as King and Head of the Church, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that Jesus in His sovereign administration of the affairs of His Church, bestowed Him upon whomsoever He pleased, and in whatever measure He pleased. Day after day, therefore, he kept his prayer addressed directly to the mediatorial throne for the Holy Spirit in mighty reviving power.

“One evening, while leading the people in prayer, he received a sensation as if a bolt of electricity had struck his head and diffused itself through his whole body. For a little while he stood speechless under the strange physical feeling, then he said: “The Holy Spirit has come; we will begin preaching tomorrow evening.” He closed the service with a hymn dismissing the congregation, and came down from the pulpit, but no one left the house. The whole congregation had quietly resumed its seat. Instantly he realized the situation. The Holy Spirit had not only come to him — He had also taken possession of the hearts of the people.

“Immediately he began exhorting them to accept the Gospel. They began to sob softly, like the falling of rain, then with deeper emotion to weep bitterly, or to rejoice loudly, according to their circumstances. It was midnight before he could dismiss his congregation. A noted evangelist from the North, who was present, said, between his sobs, to an officer of the Church: 'I never saw it on this fashion.' The meeting went on night and day for eight weeks. Large numbers of both black and white were converted and joined the various churches of the city. His own was wonderfully built up, not only in numbers, but also in an experience that remained in the Church. It is in such events that 'Our God is marching on.' “

Grace & Peace,  
Tim

# MINISTRY TO STATE NORTH CAROLINA

*Reaching Those who Serve in Government with the Gospel*

**Darin Stone - State Capitol Minister**

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## What's happening with MTS - North Carolina?

**Everything is New:** January in state government is much like campus. Newly elected officials and staff are beginning work and learning the rhythm of things at the capitol. A number of senators and representatives have moved to new offices which has caused me to have to re-learn where everyone is working now. Just last week, a new state representative asked me where the House Chamber was, so he and I got to know one another as I walked him to his rightful place! I've had other staff ask me to help them find other places and rooms in the building. Who knew that one of the ways I would get to know people would be by helping new folks get oriented around the building?



**Ministry is Ramping Up:** With swearing in

new officials and the hiring of new staff, I have spent much of January reaching out to these "freshmen." Newly elected people tend to have fewer connections at the capitol, have fewer lobbyists seeking their attention, and be more open to forging new relationships. So seeking out these people has proven to be fruitful thus far. In January, I've met personally with nearly 20 new and veteran elected officials and staff. And I am making concerted efforts to connect with both Republicans and Democrats. Having the opportunity to get to know, pray for, and read Scripture with these individuals is a tremendous privilege and joy.



**Correspondence with Those Questioning:** A number of individuals from throughout North Carolina and the country have reached out to me seeking counsel as to how to think and live in this tumultuous political context. No doubt, these are troubling times; unprecedented for many of us. People are seeking biblical guidance and wisdom. As someone who is in the thick of both the church and the political world, I've been glad to minister to those questioning how navigate the murky waters of our cultural moment. If there is any way I can be of help to you, please feel free to reach out to me!

**Ministry of the Word and Prayer:** Prior to and following the election, I had the opportunity to preach at five different churches on the subject of the gospel and politics. Particularly, I preached sermons on [John 18:33-38, "My Kingdom is Not of This World"](#) and on [Titus 3:1-11, "Where Do We Go From Here?"](#) Also, we held an [Election Eve Prayer](#) night that was led by several pastors from throughout the Piedmont Triad and attended in person and online by folks from around the state and country. It was a tremendously sober, reverent, joyful, and necessary time for us as we approached the 2020 election.



**Resourcing the MTS for 2021:** I spent much of December working on securing the resources needed to fund MTS-North Carolina for 2021. By God's grace and your generosity, our funding goal for the end of the year was reached! Thank you to all of you who are new and continuing supporters. We now have just five percent more of our budget to be pledged in order to be fully funded for 2021.

Please know that your prayers and gifts are beginning to make a real impact for the

gospel amongst elected officials, legislative aids, policy advisors, and lobbyists at the North Carolina State Capitol. I do not take any of you for granted.

And if you're not yet a supporter and would be willing and able to help us close that five-percent gap, click [here](#) to learn how you can join our prayer and support team.

## Words to Consider



## Keep up with MTS - North Carolina

To learn more about MTS North Carolina, check out our website at [mts-nc.org](http://mts-nc.org) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/mtsnc](https://facebook.com/mtsnc).



# HAPPY BIRTHDAYS for FEBRUARY

Katherine Harrison 6th

Harriet O'Malley 19th

Jimmie Lynn Spinks 19th

Joan Gosnell 22nd

Joy Lynn Glidewell 24th

D'Andre Washington 25th

## Dates to Remember for February

February 3 Ladies Circle in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am

February 6 Men's Breakfast, 8:00am in the fellowship Hall

February 7 Communion