



**May 2024  
Volume 18 Issue 5**

*From the Pastor's heart...*

Do you know anyone named "Dorcas"? Perhaps you've read the story of Dorcas in Acts 9 and remember she is also known as Tabitha. For the next few months, our worship and sermons will feature themes like grace, gratitude, friendship, and courage...with Biblical characters who demonstrate these themes.

Sometimes we think people in the Bible are superheroes, but the truth is they are just regular folks like you and me. Their stories are included in God's Word to help us learn more about what it means to belong to God, and to see ourselves as part of God's Story, too.

So, here's a little "matching game" contest for you to solve. On the left column, you will find the Bible characters featured in our upcoming sermons. On the right column, you'll find the themes. See if you can guess which person belongs to which theme and draw a line to connect them. Full disclosure: some characters could fit several themes so in those cases, try to guess what I picked! Let me know your answers because the winner gets a prize!

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| AGING            | David & Jonathan |
| ENCOURAGEMENT    | Joseph           |
| PRAYER           | "those people"   |
| COURAGE          | Simeon & Anna    |
| FRIENDSHIP       | Esther           |
| LOSS             | Dorcas           |
| SPIRIT POWER     | Daniel           |
| GRATITUDE        | Stephen          |
| GRACE            | Job              |
| COUNTER-CULTURAL | Barnabas         |
| FORGIVENESS      | Rahab            |
| PERSEVERENCE     | Gideon           |

Blessings & love,  
Holly

- May 1  
Diane & Sarah's Online Concert  
Choir Rehearsal 4:00
- May 8  
Men's Breakfast 8:30  
HCM Pantry Drive-Thru  
Choir Rehearsal 4:00
- May 9  
Endowment Team 1:00  
Finance Team 2:00  
Mountain Munchers 6:00  
Southern Porch—Canton
- May 12  
MOTHER'S DAY—All Day
- May 13  
SESSION 1:00
- May 15  
Choir Rehearsal 4:00
- May 16  
Women's Retreat  
Black Mountain 10:00  
9:00 Carpooling from FPCW
- May 19  
Library Grand RE-Opening
- May 21  
Fundraising Team 11:00
- May 22  
Choir Rehearsal 4:00
- May 23  
Mission Team
- May 27  
MEMORIAL DAY  
Office Closed
- May 28  
Discipleship Team
- May 29  
Choir Rehearsal 4:00



# **HAYWOOD COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER GRADUATION**

**Melonie Gross**

**The Mission Team asks you to consider sponsoring a graduate  
from Haywood Community Learning Center (HCLC).  
Graduation is June 6 and will take place at Haywood Community College.**

The cost of a full sponsorship is \$55 per student, which includes the cap, gown, tassel, diploma and diploma cover. However, any amount you care to donate will be greatly appreciated! In the memo portion of your check, please indicate "HCLC graduation," or if giving online, scroll down to Special Donations and then click on HCLC graduation.

**The deadline for donating is Sunday, May 26.**

Some background information from Nancy Medford,  
HCLC's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Case Manager/Assistant Director:

The Haywood Community Learning Center was founded in 2009 to help curb Haywood County's rising high school drop-out rates. Their program operates Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 - 2:00. The students use an online platform called Edgenuity but are still required to come in person all three days to receive assistance and a sense of community.

They currently have 37 students who are scheduled to graduate this year - as long as they stay on track (19 boys, 16 girls and 2 non-binary). There are a few more students who might be able to finish the graduation requirements by the May 16th deadline.

Some of the reasons students are at HCLC rather than their home schools are attendance, lack of engagement, lack of sufficient credits, not successful in the traditional setting, unplanned teen pregnancy, justice involvement, mental and physical health, needing to work full time to provide for their families, young mothers/fathers, and students who are referred to HCLC by their homeschool who think HCLC would be a better environment for them. As of right now, out of their 37 potential graduates, 10 students plan on enrolling at a community college, and 13 plan to seek workforce certifications. There are a total of 75 students who are enrolled at HCLC and they span grades 9-12 with a small fifth-year cohort. To be enrolled at HCLC students must be between the ages of 16 and 21. There are a total of 9 staff members who work at HCLC - 4 part time teachers who are licensed in each of the four content areas (math, English, social studies and science), one Exceptional Children teacher and Job Coach that works with Occupational Course of Study students, and three office staff members (the director, the receptionist/bookkeeper and the assistant director).

**We will be providing lunch for the graduates following their graduation rehearsal at  
Haywood Community College on Thursday, June 6.**

**Because the lunch will take place at HCC, it will be simple.**

**If you would be interested in making sandwiches or providing chips, please sign up on the sheet  
that's on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the kitchen.**

If you have any questions, please contact Melonie Gross. THANK YOU!!!



**LUNCH for**  
**HAYWOOD COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER**  
**Melonie Gross**

**Many thanks to Andrea Croskery, Peggy Jones, Sheri Melton and Janie Oakley for each making a Cheesy Angel Chicken and Rice Casserole (which smelled divine!), and to Nancy Thompson for providing the salad.**

When I dropped off the baked beans at Haywood Christian Ministry in April, they had just received 100 cases containing four half-sheet cakes each from Sam's and graciously provided me with a case, which I promptly put in the church freezer to be used for fellowship or HCLC, so thanks to HCM for providing the dessert on Wednesday, April 24!

Our next lunch day is **Wednesday, May 22**. This is the final hot lunch for the 2023-24 school year! Please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. I hope you will sign up and help provide a hot lunch that is very much appreciated! **The May lunch is going to be a taco bar**, which is something the staff has advised is a favorite of the students.

*This should be easier than doing casseroles.*

If you're willing to provide fixings for a taco bar, please sign up on the sheet, and once everyone is in place, I'll contact you to see what you're willing to provide. We'll need ground beef tacos, shredded chicken tacos, hard and soft taco shells – flour and corn, shredded lettuce, chopped tomatoes, shredded cheese, sour cream, salsa. Anything else? Dessert can be homemade or store bought - cookies, brownies, bars, candy, whatever - to feed 40.

Items need to be at church by 10:30 a.m. on the 22nd so the meats can be heated up and then I deliver everything to the school by noon.

If you have any questions, recipes or ideas, please let me know.

Thank you!! HCLC SO appreciates our cooking!

**Haywood Christian Ministry Pantry Stocker**  
**DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION IS BACK!!**

**For our April food drive, we collected 125 cans in various sizes of baked beans, along with 5 boxes of macaroni and cheese. Thank you to those who donated!!**

For our next food drive on **Wednesday, May 8**, Haywood Christian Ministry is asking for something brand new to FPC – **cornbread mix!** And we will once again be **collecting outside on May 8 from 10:00am until noon!** Or you may bring your boxes/bags of cornbread mix to church any time prior. Baskets are conveniently located by the door downstairs at the elevator entrance off the rear parking lot, by the sanctuary entrance off the upper parking lot and by the entrance to the offices/classrooms, or you can also leave it on the counter in the upstairs kitchen.

As always, thank you for your continued generous giving. This monthly mission project is definitely filling a huge need in our community. HCM used to be able to buy cornbread mix/cornmeal in bulk but that has not been an option for several weeks.



# Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering April 20th @ Montreat

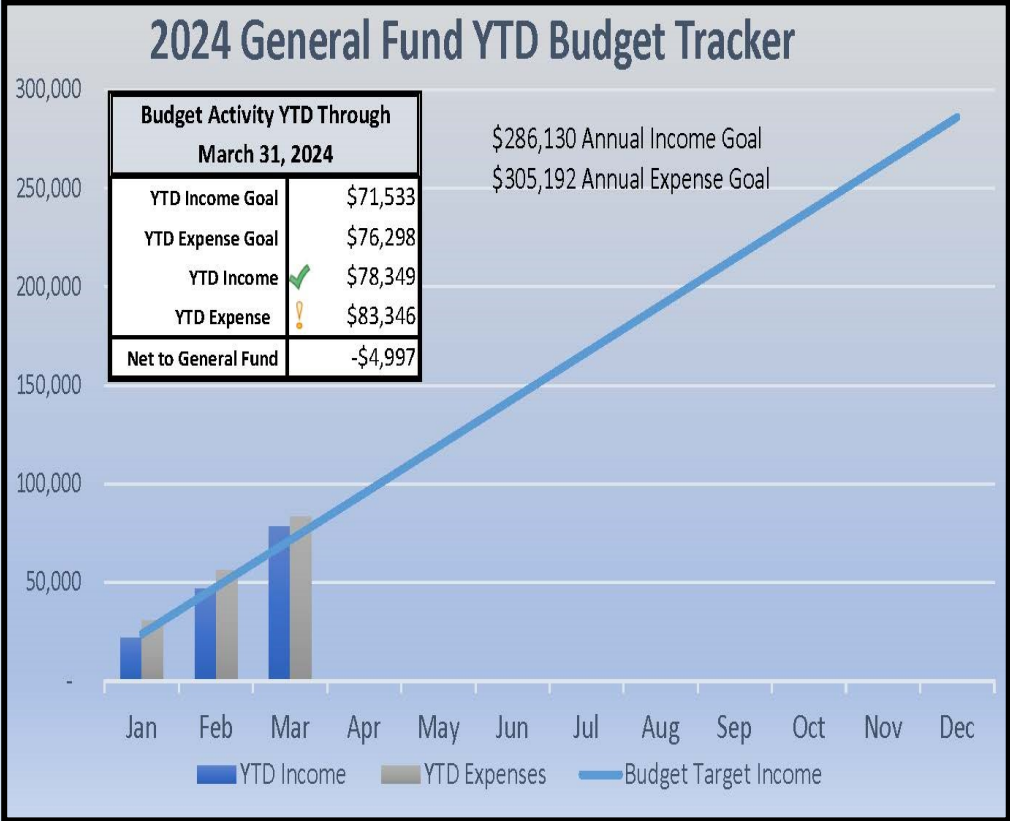
The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina held their Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Montreat, NC.  
**Charlotte Casey and Pat Parker**  
represented PW of Waynesville Presbyterian Church.

Over 100 women attended to enjoy wonderful fellowship, meaningful education, and the beautiful setting of Montreat. The Gathering included a business meeting and introduction of scholarship winners. The main speaker was Nancy Midgette whose topic title was “Celebrating Presbyterian Women, Hallie Paxson Winsborough, the first PW moderator.” After new officers were installed, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch before departing.

**God is certainly evident in the wonderful and meaningful work done by women throughout our presbytery.**



- Church Elders**  
 Stan Briggs  
 Charlotte Casey  
 Rick Croskery  
 Melonie Gross  
 Beth Johnson  
 Wes Lee  
 Mike McKinney  
 Pat Parker  
 Ron Tingle,  
 Clerk of Session
- Deacons**  
 Stan Briggs, Moderator  
 Kate Bailey  
 Sherry Blount  
 Lee Hutchison  
 Ann Kline  
 Sylvia Lonnee
- Church Staff**  
 Holly Davis, Pastor  
 Diane Combs,  
 Co-Director of Music  
 Dr. Allison Thorp,  
 Co-Director of Music  
 Kristi Siplon,  
 Office Manager  
 Tony Caldwell, Sexton  
 Morgan McNeil, AV Tech



# SESSION MEETING

## April 8, 2024

### Ron Tingle, Clerk

Pastor Holly called the meeting to order and opened with prayer at 1:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. Attending were Stan Briggs, Melonie Gross, Mike McKinney, Ron Tingle and Pastor Holly Davis. Voting online: Rick Croskery, Laura Janson, Wes Lee and Pat Parker.

For informational purposes and church records:

In-person Worship Attendance in **March**: 3<sup>rd</sup>: 69, 10<sup>th</sup>: 58, 17<sup>th</sup>: 51, 24<sup>th</sup>: 69, 31<sup>st</sup>: 96.

10¢-a-Meal offering: \$327 for the Daily Change hunger program  
\$327 for Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi

Pastor Holly led the elders in an opening prayer and a devotional discussion of the spiritual roles of elders and of the Session, as presented in JoAnn Gray's book *Spiritual Leadership*. Discussion focused on serving God out of gratitude, not duty. Stan brought congregational prayer needs from the Board of Deacons and the elders prayed together. Clerk Ron Tingle declared a quorum. The agenda was approved, as were the Minutes, as amended.

Finance chair Mike McKinney presented financials through March 31<sup>st</sup>. March income was \$31,521 with expenses of \$27,304, for a monthly net income of \$4,217. This puts us right back on target with our year-to-date budget. In March we were able to pay \$4,000 extra towards principal on the Elevator & Parking Project bank loan. This is in addition to the scheduled monthly payment of \$2,677. After discussion of other details, Mike's report was approved.

Session discussed Kathi Armstrong's need to step down from the newsletter editorship after the May issue. Using Sunday announcements and written notices, the elders will spread the word regarding the immediate need for replacement. Kathi's shoes will be hard to fill, as the newsletter was so well received during her years at the helm.

There will also be a vacancy at the Treasurer's position, as Nancy Thompson will be stepping down December 31<sup>st</sup>. Session discussed its methodology for filling the vacancy, whether to hire someone or to consider a volunteer from the congregation. In either case, recruitment should begin soon to allow for a turnover/learning period for the candidate.

Melonie Gross proposed that our church play a larger role, beyond serving lunch once a month, in support of the students at Haywood Community Learning Center. One idea is financial support for the graduation ceremony. Some students find it difficult to afford the \$55 cost of cap & gown, diploma and its cover. If we offer support, the funds would be needed by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Mission Team could place an appeal for sponsorship in an April worship bulletin. Melonie also suggested we provide a cold luncheon for the graduating students on June 6<sup>th</sup> between their dress rehearsal and graduation. Mission Team will gladly take this on. Finally, Melonie suggested we provide a red rose to each graduate, purchasing four dozen roses from Worship Team's floral fund. Session concurred and will move forward on this issue. After review of upcoming events, Session adjourned. Pastor Holly led the group in a closing prayer.

# ENDOWMENT TEAM

## Melonie Gross

*These are the last articles highlighting 2023's recipients of \$500 College Education Awards from our church's endowment program. They are all quite remarkable young people!*



*Here's what Lily Siplon, a freshman at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, and granddaughter of Office Manager, Kristi Siplon, shared with us:*

The past few years of Lily's life have taught her so much and she's learned many valuable lessons. Some of her goals have definitely changed with time along with learning what is best for her, but the one she's always held close and stuck to has been to keep pursuing her love for writing no matter what. And she hopes to try something new everyday to extend her experiences in hopes to learn more about herself. But Lily has known writing is something she's wanted to pursue further all throughout high school and to be a writer after graduating has always been her dream.

When Lily was looking at colleges, she knew a good English program was a key point to pay attention for. [Georgia Southwestern State University](#) has a huge literature department so she went and toured the campus and fell in love with the simplicity and comforting feel of it and the friendliness of all the people. Lily knew this was the college she wanted to go to when it checked off the boxes of her interests in English and good environment.

In the past year Lily has had 2 jobs and both helped her gain experience. Lifeguarding taught her the importance of medical skills and putting others before herself. Her second job was being a part of the sustainability team at Ameris Bank Amphitheatre where she helped divert recyclable materials from landfills for the betterment of our earth. Both of these jobs helped Lily apply her faith to personal endeavors.

Through volunteering at the First Redeemer Church in Cumming, Georgia, Lily has learned how to apply her faith to young kids through Sunday and vacation Bible schools. The classes taught kids how to put God first and it helped her to put God first as well. First Redeemer was a big foundation in Lily's journey of finding her relationship with God. She made so many friends from their youth group, and she would love to continue growing her relationship with God into college. With many clubs at her disposal at Georgia Southwestern, Lily is so grateful.

Lily has many interests and hobbies to explore going into college, but her passion for writing and her relationship with God are something that will help her grow more within her community, along with a healthy mentality going into her first year of college.

***Here's what Trudy Brement, granddaughter of Janie and Larry Oakley, shared with us:***

**Trudy is a freshman at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina.**

Home is Crozet, Virginia, northwest of Charlottesville. She is a passionate student who is eager to learn new things. She excels in math and science and finds herself skilled in her organizational and communication abilities. Beyond the classroom, she spends her time in the theater, both performing



on stage and working on technical components behind the scenes, and she also enjoys creating music: singing, and playing the piano and guitar.

She also loves crocheting!

Trudy began to discover these things about herself at the start of her freshman year in high school. Just the year before that, she participated in her first musical theater production at a community theater. Within a year, she was performing in back-to-back productions and was selected into the Youth Leadership Program at DMR Adventures as an intern. Through this internship, Trudy learned how to complete basic office tasks and discovered her abilities in organization and communi-

cation, which eventually led to discovering her passion for stage management. From there, and into her sophomore year of high school, she stage managed countless productions. Companies such as the Virginia Theater Association began reaching out to Trudy because of how highly others spoke of her hard work. During sophomore year she was also elected to the executive board of the Youth Leadership Program and got to work more closely with DMR's production manager to plan shows and events. Outside of the theater, Trudy would pick up other jobs babysitting and pet sitting for

Going back to school after the pandemic and into Trudy's junior year were when things got more academically serious and she had to begin thinking about her future. College was definitely on the table, so she dropped some of her outside obligations to prioritize her academics. Trudy resigned from her positions at DMR to spend more time at school. That's when she began participating in her school's drama department. She picked up jobs tutoring young students at the middle school and probably learned just as much from them as they learned from her.

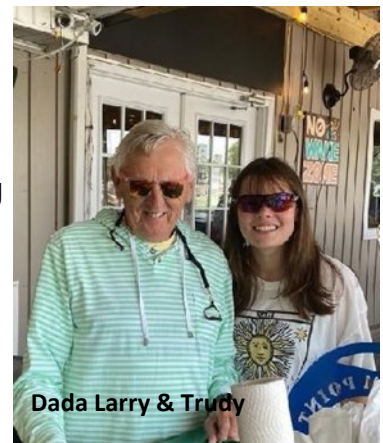
The summer before Trudy's senior year she got her first job lifeguarding at a state park, and from there got another job lifeguarding back at home, which she worked into her senior year. It was a juggling act on top of theater, but the extra money helped. At the beginning of her senior year, Trudy founded a chapter of the International Thespian Society at her high school and was appointed president. She worked closely with the theater director and other student officers to run the drama department and organize events to bring the community together. Through this experience, Trudy got to improve her organizational and communication skills. She also started a mentor program to help with the transition for incoming freshmen. Trudy emerged as a leader in the drama department, not only running the Thespian Society, but also starring as the leading woman in her school's Spring musical. Trudy was also a leader of her school's acapella group, arranging and performing songs for audiences. By the end of her senior year, and into the summer, she was appointed head lifeguard at the pool she's been working at, scheduling 40+ guards and ensuring duties are performed around the pool deck.

Trudy started her college search during the spring of her junior year and had all her applications in by September. Through research, she discovered a liberal arts education is what she wanted. Trudy thrives in environments with smaller class sizes and is enthusiastic about having a more individualized education. That helped narrow down her search, but what also helped was she didn't want

## Trudy Brement . . . continued

anywhere too far from home, and wanted somewhere she was familiar with. This is what made Elon the perfect fit for me. It's a liberal arts institution located in Burlington, North Carolina, which is where Trudy's mom grew up. Trudy spent her childhood traveling to Burlington to visit her grandma, so was already familiar with Elon University and the area around it. What also appealed to Trudy about Elon was its fellows' program. Trudy applied and got accepted to the Elon College Fellows program, which is an arts and sciences program which emphasizes undergraduate research. On top of the various opportunities this program will give her, it also creates a community of like-minded individuals in which she will thrive.

Trudy doesn't know what she wants to study or what her plans are for the future. She plans to continue following her passions in the theater as a hobby and will most likely end up majoring within a STEM field. Most medical professions have always intrigued her. Trudy plans to spend her first year of college feeling it out, exploring her options, and determining where she feels she will fit best. Trudy would like to attend graduate school and find a job fresh out of school. Both her parents are very successful entrepreneurs, and she hopes that one day she will be just as successful as both of them!



Dada Larry & Trudy

\* \* \*

**If you would like to help FPC continue to provide awards  
in future years to undergraduate college students,  
please consider a donation to the  
Education Fund of the Endowment Program.  
No amount is too small!**

**If you have any questions,  
please contact Hughes Roberts or Nancy Thompson.**

**Thank you, as always, for your support!**



