WMP CMONTHLY



White Memorial Presbyterian Church | July 2021

Looking Back, Looking Forward

As we reach the midpoint of summer, it is a good time to consider both the ministry which is occurring and the celebrations of the coming fall.

Worship continues at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. on our campus. Please see the website for specifics, but we are confident and hopeful in moving for a return to normal by the early fall.

We completed a Youth Mission trip to Appalachian Service Project (ASP) in mid-June. We have enjoyed a 30-year plus relationship with ASP and it was a resounding success as the youth and adults grew spiritually in faith and closer together as a group. Our Weekday School completed their summer camp ministry and many groups have resumed meeting on campus, though some still choose to meet over Zoom. As our church staff can help you schedule meetings on campus or online, please call us so we can make sure all is in order for your groups to have success in prayer, Bible study, or fellowship. Currently, only on-campus meals are suspended. We hope to resume meals in September. Our Session and ReOpening Task Group continue to monitor the notices from the Department of Health and Human Services. Please read our weekly emails and other communications for updates on the resumption of Sunday School, fall worship schedules, and Wednesday night (and other) meals.

As we look to the fall, I would highlight four important items for your attention:

- On September 12, we will celebrate Kickoff Sunday. This is the resumption of Sunday School for all ages and the kick-off of our fall ministry season.
- On **September 19**, we will look back with our 75th anniversary barbecue and the dedication of the Main Hall and our newly renovated spaces. We will thank God for the foundation upon which we are built and pledge ourselves to future ministry. It will be a grand celebration and you will receive details in August on the order of the day and how to RSVP for the church-wide barbecue.
- In the Jane Bell Gathering Space and in the connector between the renovated Geneva Hall and Edinburgh Building there will be historical exhibits and timelines highlighting the history of our church since 1946. I hope you will take a moment when you are on campus to see the exhibits and thank God for the history of our church and congregational family.
- **Major Mission** continues as we hope to raise upwards of \$100,000 dollars for the Tammy Lynn Center, or TLC. You can research TLC online and be confident that our Major Mission efforts will help them serve even more families in need as they celebrate their 50th anniversary and expand their facility to help families near and far care for their loved ones with severe disabilities.

I hope you will participate in all these opportunities to look backward in thanksgiving and forward in celebration. God has been good and faithful to us as we worship, embrace, and serve in the manner of Christ in the 21st century. Our prayer is that God will bless us as we continue to offer our very best in the name of the gospel and for the sake of the grace of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

May grace abound, Christophe

Christopher Edmonston

Pastor



SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. **In Person Worship** in Sanctuary

Live Stream and Facebook Live

OnPoint@1704 10:30 a.m. In Person Worship in the Main Hall

Live Stream

Virtual Adult **Sunday School** 9:30 a.m.

Nurserv 8:15 -11:45 a.m. Infants (L103) Through four-year olds (L102)

Church Office Telephone Number: 919-834-3424

Pastor-On-Call Telephone Number: 919-605-4593





text: wmpc app to 77977 to download app

whitememorial.org



IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Susan Spiller Burnette – June 3, 2021 WMPC family member: husband, Bill Burnette

Juanita Matthews Worsley - June 8, 2021

William Edgar "Dub" Graham Jr. - June 27, 2021

Christine "Chris" Williams Cherry - June 28, 2021

PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS TO

Rachel, Mark, and Madeleine Johnson, on the death of Rachel's father, Joseph Frederick Neely, May 12, Winston-Salem, NC.

Aimee and Brian White; Claire, Cary and Cary Grant; and Jeanine White and Jude, Vincent and Oliver Fedance, on the death of Aimee's father, René William Rizan, May 29, Abita Springs, LA.

Steve, Lynne, and Anna Ogburn, on the death of Steve's sister, Lyn Tatum, June 4, Marietta, GA.

Allison and Gabe Hajj, on the death of Allison's brother, James "Jay" Young Robinson III, June 16, Boulder County, CO, of Greensboro, NC.

Honey Music, on the death of her uncle, Charles Thomas Silk, June 21, Sun City Center, FL.

Frances Pearsall, on the death of her sister, Elizabeth "Betsy" Lamm Murphy, June 27, Greensboro, NC.

NEW PRESBYTERIANS

Winslow James Rollins, born March 25, child of Lacy and Matt Rollins, grandchild of Nancy and Jeff McClure.

Giada Scotlyn Vallecorsa, born April 16, child of Jessica and Kevin Vallecorsa.

Henry Allen Littlewood, born May 25, child of Scottie and Drew Littlewood, grandchild of "E" and Anderson Marlowe.

Adair Susanne Brooks, born June 4, child of Genevieve and Alex Brooks.

Decker Franklin Roach, born June 12, child of Caitlin and Davis Roach, grandchild of Stephanie and Gerald Roach.

Thomas Dorsett Levati, born June 14, Zürich, Switzerland, child of Elise and Marco Levati, grandchild of Wynn and Jim Dorsett, and great-grandchild of Anna Lee Dorsett.

BAPTIZED

June 6 – Elizabeth Westbrook Brown, child of Anderson and Campbell Brown, grandchild of Colin Brown.

June 6 – Catherine Lamm Caporal, child of Ginger and Matt Caporal.

June 6 – Elizabeth James Hamilton, child of Susan and Rob Hamilton.

June 13 – Elizabeth Joy Tyler, child of Emily and Bryan Tyler.

June 20 – Jackson Brooks Stanley, child of Blair and Jon Stanley.

June 20 - Liam Sears Coe, child of Pearce and Kenneth Coe.

June 20 – Edith Grey Smith, child of Meredith and Will Smith.

June 27 – Grace Elizabeth Bowen, child of Emily and John Bowen.

June 27 – Alice Elizabeth Collins, child of Sally and Clayton Collins, grandchild of Kay and Ed Coleman, and great-grandchild of Ann and Marvin Thompson.

MARRIAGES

Ashley Elizabeth Horne and Mitch Shortell, June 5, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC. Ashley is the daughter of Diane and Forest Horne.

Benjamin Scott and Mary Milazzo, June 6, Raleigh, NC. Ben is the son of Linda Scott.

William Gordon Jeffers and Marie Jennings Schacht, June 12, Urbanna, VA. Will is the son of Theresa and Rob Jeffers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Bill Lenox Baker, on the birth of grandchild, Evelyn Lenox Doak, born February 22, to Ally and John Doak, Raleigh, NC.

Lynn and Bob Womble, on the birth of grandchild, John Vardell Wells, born February 25, to Margaret and John Wells, Nashville, TN.

Marie Jones on the birth of great-grandchild, Sutton Grace Sidebotham, born June 16 to Greyson and John Reid Sidebotham, Raleigh, NC.

If you have experienced a birth, marriage or death you want to share with the church, email Rebecca Turner at rtmrer@whitememorial.org.

If you have a relative or church friend who is hospitalized, call the church office or email Amy Claprood at aclaprood@whitememorial.org so our pastoral staff can reach out. If you have a pastoral care need outside of regular business hours, call our after hours pastor on call at 919-605-4593.

CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 5 IN CELEBRATION OF THE 4TH OF JULY.

NURSERY IS OPEN ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We have two nurseries open on Sunday mornings from 8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (summer hours) for infants (room L103) through four-year-olds (L102).

YOU CAN FIND THE LATEST WORSHIP, HOSPITALITY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATES ON THE HOMEPAGE OF OUR WEBSITE. Throughout this newsletter you will see numerous events that require registration. Most registrations can be found on our website: www.whitememorial.org/register

noteworthy

CONGRATULATIONS COLLEGE GRADUATES!

On Sunday, June 27 we recognized two of our college graduates. Please join us in celebratory congratulations.

Patrick Bailey, Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, May 2021, son of Elizabeth and Bob Viohl.

Emilie Winston Hoke, Davidson College, May 2021, daughter of David and Julia Hoke.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

7:30 a.m. | Zoom | Registration required

Men of all ages are invited to Zoom and enjoy fellowship and Bible study. The preaching pastor of the week leads a short Bible study related to the upcoming Sunday sermon. Bible study, breakfast (bring your own) and prayer conclude around 8:00 a.m. each week. Contact for the group is Don Thompson, dthomps1@ncsu.edu.

WMPC STROLLER GROUP PLAYGROUND PLAYDATE



The WMPC Stroller Group for moms of little ones meets once a month. In July, instead of our typical neighborhood stroll, we will gather with moms, dads and kiddos for a playdate on the WMPC playground on Saturday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to connect and fellowship with other parents of young children! If you'd like to join us, please email Abby Timmerman ambreaux@ncsu.edu. All are welcome!



THE WEEKDAY SCHOOL IS HIRING!

The Weekday School is looking for lead and assistant teachers to work between two and five mornings each

week during the 2021-2022 school year. If you love children and want to work in a fun, exciting community, please contact Cynthia Baggett at cbaggett@whitememorial.org.



Memorial Day Weekend -Labor Day Weekend

SUNDAY, JULY 4 COMBINED HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

SUNDAYS JULY 11, 18, 25 & AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. | Main Hall | OnPoint@1704

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
COMBINED HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. | Main Hall



he Flower Guild of White Memorial invites members to dedicate flowers for Sunday worship in celebration of a baptism, birthday or anniversary; in thanksgiving for or in memory of someone special; or just because you enjoy the flowers.

To make a floral contribution, contact Rebecca Turner at rturner@whitememorial.org or 919-834-3425, ext. 222 to coordinate available dates. Rebecca can also provide a list of recommended florists familiar with our Sanctuary.

The deadline for requesting flowers and publication of the dedication in the bulletin is noon two weeks proceeding the Sunday being requested.

Thank you to all who support our Flower Guild ministry.



For the month of July we will have a snack collection for **Neighbor2Neighbor**. Items are listed below and can be left in the red bins in front of the Witherspoon building.

- Granola Bars
- Juice Boxes
- Crackers
- Applesauce pouches

THANK YOU!



T'AI CHI FOR EXERCISE

T'ai Chi is a gentle art that is physically rewarding and mentally stimulating, and brings a feeling of well-being, as well as relaxation, improved

balance, and coordination. Classes will run every Monday (except July 5, August 2, and August 16) through the summer from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Pickard Hall. Social distancing will be observed. For more information, contact Honey Music at honeyjmusic@gmail.com.

A/V VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Have you ever wanted to learn video, sound or lighting? We're looking for volunteers to help us stream sanctuary and OnPoint@1704 worship services. Experienced? Great. No Experience? No problem. We'll train. High schoolers are welcome to explore this opportunity. Check with your school to see if this qualifies for service hours. Contact Parker Gagnier at pgagnier@whitememorial.org for more information.



STEPUP GREETERS NEEDED!

StepUp is looking for smiling faces to welcome participants and volunteers as they attend Step 2 classes on Tuesday nights! Duties include greeting participants, offering hand sanitizer and masks,

answering questions and offering assistance with navigating the church grounds. All volunteers will also enjoy a meal and get to know the StepUp community!

About StepUp: Step 2 is a community program centered around supporting families in all walks of life. StepUp serves children ages 6 weeks to 21 years of age, singles, and entire multi-generational families. In Step 2, we offer classes like needs vs. wants, relationship building, budgeting and even networking. The children in Step 2 learn similar concepts as the adults who are enrolled, but on an age appropriate level. This is all done with the support of the StepUp staff and the encouragement of other community volunteers who attend class with enrolled families.

Timing: Starting September 14 from 5:15 until 6:45 for six sessions. The proposed dates are Tuesdays-September 14, 21, 28 and October 5, 12, 19. If volunteers are unavailable for any of the proposed dates, but still interested in taking part as a greeter, please contact Dayna Jameson, Volunteer Recruiter at djameson@stepupministry.org to discuss scheduling.

Location: White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Training: Training will be provided by StepUp prior to start date.

Summer explorations with Keenaaers

After 15 months of zoom meetings, the Keenagers decided to meet face-to-face at North Hills Park on May 27 for a bring your lunch and beverage outing! Twenty-five of us gathered for fellowship and laughter. This summer, we will meet over Zoom on the first Thursday of the month and meet face-to-face at a restaurant or park on the third Thursday of each summer month.

On June 17, we explored JC Raulston Arboretum and then had lunch at Neomonde on their spacious porch. Thirteen of us had a great time catching up with each other. I would encourage anyone who is able to visit JC Raulston Arboretum. It will lift your spirits. And what a wonderful day for the arboretum, cool and low humidity.

July 1 Keenagers will have a patriotic Zoom gathering at 10 a.m. to share memories of July 4th celebrations and anticipated 2021 celebrations.

July 15 We will share a meal at Relish on Creedmoor Road at 11:30. Come and join us. Please let Mary Ann Turner, maturner2.mat@gmail.com know if you plan to attend.

In August, Keenagers will have a Zoom meeting on **August 5** at 10 a.m. to share summer adventures. **August 19** will be our last summer outing. We are thinking of returning to North Hills Park for another picnic as our summer wrap-up. Please check the newsletter for details.

Keenagers are hopeful we will return to regular weekly meetings at WMPC in September. If you are interested in participating in Keenagers, contact Mary Ann Turner, maturner2.mat@gmail.com; Tonya Higgins, thiggins@whitememorial.org, or Jim Ferry at jferry@whitememorial.org.

Look forward to seeing you.

With gratitude, Mary Ann Turner



If you are 55 years old +, we invite you to join Keenagers this summer. No dues or membership information is required at this time. If you would like to know more (or receive Zoom information), please contact Tonya Higgins at thiggins@whitememorial.org.

SEE YOU ON ZOOM & LUNCH!



THE LITURGICAL ARTS GUILD PRESENTS:

The art of WMPC member Bruce Mullin

Recently, the Liturgical Arts Guild offered an open invitation for members to showcase their artistic talents. Over the summer we will be sharing some of their submitted features. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

A look into Bruce's Inspiration & Art

"My artwork comes from a lull in my life that needed to be filled. I've never thought of myself as that creative, but I gave it whirl back in the '90s. All my paintings are oil on canvas and take after the Bob Ross style. Before taking painting lessons, I dabbled in woodworking, particularly liked lathe turning and small box building. Lastly, I have settled down exploring hobbies and have found my calling to be in handwoven items. I weave on one of three looms and prefer household items and wearables such as table runners, placemats, napkins, blankets, towels, scarves and shawls. I have a studio in my basement where I weave. I do not sell any items but prefer to give them as gifts. I hope in the future to weave more liturgical items as well. - Bruce Mullin

Do you have an artistic talent you'd like to share with the congregation? Whatever your medium we'd love to see. Please send photo(s) of your work to Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts Eric Nanz at enanz@whitememorial.org.

GREATEST GENERATION

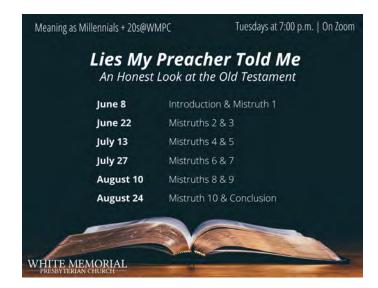
The Greatest Generation is meeting in-person on Sundays! This loving and faithful community of senior adults uses the quarterly resource, *The Present Word*, which explores biblical text. A rotating group of class members moderate the class each week. This class meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in W400. New members are always welcome.



MEANING AS MILLENNIALS SOCIAL

Join us Sunday, July 18 from 4-6 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Bowstring.

Meaning as Millennials is a social and study group for people in their late 20s to late 30s interested in exploring their faith and today's culture. To learn more and get connected, contact Pastoral Resident Anne Galliher agalliher@whitememorial.org.



MEANING AS MILLENNIALS + 20s@WMPC

Meaning as Millennials and 20s@WMPC are teaming up and spending the summer discussing the book Lies My Preacher Told Me by Brent Strawn. Reading along is encouraged, but not required to participate in the conversation. Whether you have been to one of these groups before, or you are joining for the first time, you are welcome and invited! We meet Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom for fellowship and engaging conversation. Stay tuned for other in-person social opportunities! If you have any questions or want to learn more, please contact Pastoral Resident Anne Galliher at agalliher@whitememorial.org



HEALING THROUGH GRIEF

Tuesdays | August 3 - August 31
7:00-8:30 p.m. | Zoom | Registration required
Led by Cate Church Norman & Jim Ferry

Grief touches us all at some point in our lives. No one ever has to feel alone during this difficult time. Whether you have suffered the recent loss of a loved one or are struggling with a loss in the past, you are invited to come together in August for a series of five sessions to help you along your journey of grief.

Each session explores different aspects of grief: from acceptance of your loss and working through its pain, to adjusting to a new way of being while honoring a very significant relationship in your life. Each session builds upon the other, so attendance is encouraged at each session. This class is led by Associate Pastor Cate Church Norman and Parish Associate Jim Ferry and will meet on Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30 p.m. from August 3-August 31. This class will be held virtually via Zoom, and space is limited. Once you register a link will be sent to you.

www.whitememorial.org/register

NAMI: NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

NAMI Basics | NAMI Peer-to-Peer NAMI Family-to-Family

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI works to educate, advocate, listen and lead to improve the lives of people with mental illness and their loved ones.

If you or someone you know is struggling, you are not alone. Visit https://nami-wake.org/ or call 919-848-4490 for more information on support groups and educational resources.



HAS SOMETHING TURNED YOUR LIFE OVER?

Has some life event turned your life upside down?
Has the life you had looked forward to suddenly
been torn apart? Life events such as an unexpected
medical diagnosis, a relationship break, a job loss or
even a pregnancy could cause an abrupt change in
your life. Would someone to walk with you on your
journey to provide companionship and support be
helpful? Stephen Ministers are trained to be
and want to be that Christian companion.
Please consider a Stephen Minister as you search
for a new normal for you. The relationship and
information exchanged is free and confidential, a safe
place to say aloud your thoughts and concerns.

To learn how you can receive a
Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact
Nancy Benninger at nmpeterson@gmail.com or
Cate Church Norman, Associate Pastor for Pastoral
Care at cchurchnorman@whitememorial.org.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
- Galatians 6:2



SPAGHETTI SUPPER COMING SOON!

On Wednesday, September 8 we are hopeful that we will resume fellowship and friendships through Spaghetti Supper. Stay tuned for updates.

2021-2022 CONFIMATION CLASS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Confirmation Class registration for 2021-2022 is open for all rising 8th grade students as of July 1, 2021 Link found at https://whitememorial.org/register/

COMMUNITY ALLOCATIONS APPLICATION PROCESS

The Community Allocations Committee of White Memorial Presbyterian Church allocates funds given by the congregation to agencies in Wake County that provide for the needs of individuals and groups in the community where our church has strong commitment and involvement. While no precise definition is possible in assessing need, we consider agencies that attempt to provide basic needs, teach life coping skills, and promote self-sufficiency. The Community Allocations Application process begins in September of each year and awards are announced in February. All grant applications are due Wednesday, September 1, 2020. If you have questions contact Gloria Johnson, gjohnson@whitememorial.org.



HAITI OUTREACH MINISTRIES WELCOMES OUR FRIEND NADEGE GAY FOR A VISIT

The Haiti Committee invites you to drop by Geneva Hall on Thursday, July 8 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for coffee and a visit with our friend Nadege Gay, from Haiti. At 10:00 a.m. Nadege will share a brief update on the work of our mission partner, Haiti Outreach Ministries – the expansion plans for the high school at Barye Fe, student sponsorship, and current conditions in Haiti. We hope you can come!



WMPC MAJOR MISSION 2021

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE AT LEAST \$100,000.00 FOR TLC, AND EVERY DOLLAR RAISED WILL BE MATCHED UP TO \$50,000.

Major Mission at White Memorial is a church wide fund-raising effort to help organizations in the community and the world that are in the process of building new facilities, renovating or undergoing expansion. TLC (Tammy Lynn Center) is our Major Mission for 2021. Since the early 70s, TLC has provided hospital-level care with 24/7 support within a home-like setting for children and adults with intellectual and development disabilities. In five years, their number of clients has doubled. By 2040, Wake County's rising population will have an estimated 38% increase in the number of people living with an intellectual or developmental disability. TLC's top priority is the construction of a new Intermediate Care Facility for the most medically fragile of their residents as well as repairing masonry and structural issues, outdated plumbing and sprinkler systems, inefficient living and working spaces, accessibility issues, and emergency access needs.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000.00 for TLC. Please join this effort in making TLC a caring and compassionate place to live.



Please make a gift to support WMPC's 2021 Major Mission Partner. You may also give online.



CHILDREN'S SONGS AND GAMES WEDNESDAY | JULY 21 | 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. | CAROL COPELAND COURTYARD

To an invite a vicinary day Fab and days to come anion singing in strumonts

The Children's Choir Music Team invites rising 1st-5th graders to come enjoy singing, instruments, musical games, and ice cream in the courtyard. We will move into Pickard Hall in case of rain. Masks optional for outdoors, required for Pickard Hall. Register online at www.whitememorial.org.

WEDNESDAY . JULY 28 7:00-8:00 P.M. CAROL COPELAND COURTYARD

The Youth Music Team invites rising 6th-12th graders to sing and play instruments in the courtyard. Bring your own chair and instrument if you play one. We will move into Pickard Hall in case of rain. Masks optional for outdoors, required for Pickard Hall. Register online at www.whitememorial.org.



Please contact Kelly Gold with any questions at kgold@whitememorial.org.

WMPC CHILDREN'S CHOIR IN PERSON THIS FALL! REGISTRATION BEGINS IN JULY

The WMPC Children's Choir will return to an in-person format this Fall. Children will be grouped according to age group and participate in weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 where they will learn music concepts and vocal technique and have an opportunity for faith formation and fellowship. The Children's Choirs will serve as worship leaders in both the Sanctuary and OnPoint services throughout the year and will participate in an end-of-year musical culmination in the Spring. Registration for Children's Choir will begin in July and is open to rising Kindergarten through 5th graders. Contact Kelly Gold at kgold@whitememorial.org with questions.

WMPC YOUTH CHOIR IN PERSON THIS FALL! REGISTRATION BEGINS IN JULY

The WMPC Youth Choir will return to an in-person format this Fall and will meet on Sunday afternoons from 3:45-4:50. Youth Choir will regularly serve as worship leaders at both the Sanctuary and OnPoint services throughout the year. Youth will learn music concepts and vocal technique and have an opportunity for faith formation and fellowship. Registration for Youth Choir will begin in July and is open to rising 6th-12th graders. Contact Kelly Gold at kgold@whitememorial.org with questions.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

We are looking for youth helpers and snacks for the VBS Children and helpers during VBS Monday, August 2 - Friday, August 6.

VBS YOUTH HELPERS

Middle and high school youth, join us August 2 - 6 for a fun week of growing

in faith with our younger church while earning community service hours! Most youth helpers are needed from 9:15 a.m. to noon, with some needed at 8:30 a.m. for early arrival and for the nursery. Please contact Ashley Silverman at silverman.ashley@gmail.com.

SNACKS FOR VBS CHILDREN AND HELPERS

Our Vacation Bible School children, youth and adults appreciate having their bodies and spirits fed with snacks during our fun week of growing in faith! This summer we will be providing purchased, individually packaged treats in adherence to safety protocols. We invite our church family to join in by purchasing items from our snack menu and delivering them the week before VBS. If you would like to help in this way, please sign up here. Information about dropping off the snacks is given on the sign-up. Please contact Betsy Green at bggreenjd@gmail.com if you have questions.



AN UPDATE ON IGLESIA SANTUARIO

Iglesia Santurio began as an independent Hispanic fellowship in 2013. They started out in east Raleigh using space in Milner Presbyterian Church, and because of such a strong ministry relationship with that congregation, they became one of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities within our denomination. Elbis Hernandez, its lay pastor, was appointed by the presbytery as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in 2015.



Iglesia Santuario's "new" church property on Carolina Pines Avenue

Sanctuary



Women's volleyball team

SUPPORTING THEM ON THEIR PATH

When Milner dissolved in 2019, the presbytery worked with Santuario to move them to a temporary home at Trinity Presbyterian Church in northeast Raleigh before helping them settle into worship space owned by the presbytery on Carolina Pines Avenue in south Raleigh. In addition to this support in finding available physical space, the presbytery's Church Development & Evangelism Committee works with Santuario to support them on their path to becoming a chartered congregation. A steering committee from the presbytery, led by associate presbyter Andy James, has been walking alongside Santuario's leadership team to help them establish milestones for their independence. All are hopeful that Santuario will become a chartered congregation of the Presbytery of New Hope at some point in the next 12-18 months, making it the second Spanish-language congregation in the presbytery.



Habitat volunteers from WMPC, Santuario and Healing Place



Members preparing Carolina Pines buildings for painting



Santuario volunteers working on a Habitat house



The women of Santuario hosted a conference and invited other women to join them.



Soccer match between Santuario and Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel of Durham



Christmas cantata

WMPC's first contact with Santuario was in 2016 when Christopher Edmonston and Gloria Johnson met with Ted Churn, the now-retired Executive Presbyter of New Hope, and Elbis Hernandez to hear a request for WMPC's support for presbytery's Hispanic worshiping community. Our involvement with Santuario was initially described by Gloria in the newsletter as a "Stay at Home International Mission." We are now approaching five years of ministry partnership with Santuario that have included annual budget support, service on presbytery committees providing oversight and guidance, a very active Habitat partnership, and special grants to start a soccer program in the past and to provide transition support for the move to the Carolina Pines property during the pandemic.

PARTNERING WITH US IN MANY WAYS

For several years Santuario has partnered with White Memorial on our Habitat projects. They have worked alongside our members on the Fiesta and Presbyterian builds and our annual wall builds. According to Harry Montgomery, Santuario members "have been invaluable in helping us accomplish our construction goals, and the friendships that have developed among members of our two congregations have been a testament to community building and cultural harmony."

The challenges faced by the Santuario congregation since 2019 have been extreme, even for these unusual times. Not only are they adjusting to a third physical location in less than three years, but the members have also used their own time, energies and talents to repair and refurbish the buildings and grounds during the pandemic, generally while holding down front-line jobs classified as "essential". After the suspension of normal congregational life for almost a year, Santuario has resumed adult Sunday school and worship services with reasonable precautions and will resume children's Sunday school in July.

Pastor Elbis Hernandez and members of this church family look forward to resuming all of the activities pictured here and others in their permanent home. They will continue to support each other and seek to be faithful disciples as they continue the journey toward becoming a chartered Presbyterian congregation.



Children and volunteers during Santuario's Vacation Bible School

For more information please contact Phil Lambert at philip.l.lambert@gmail.com