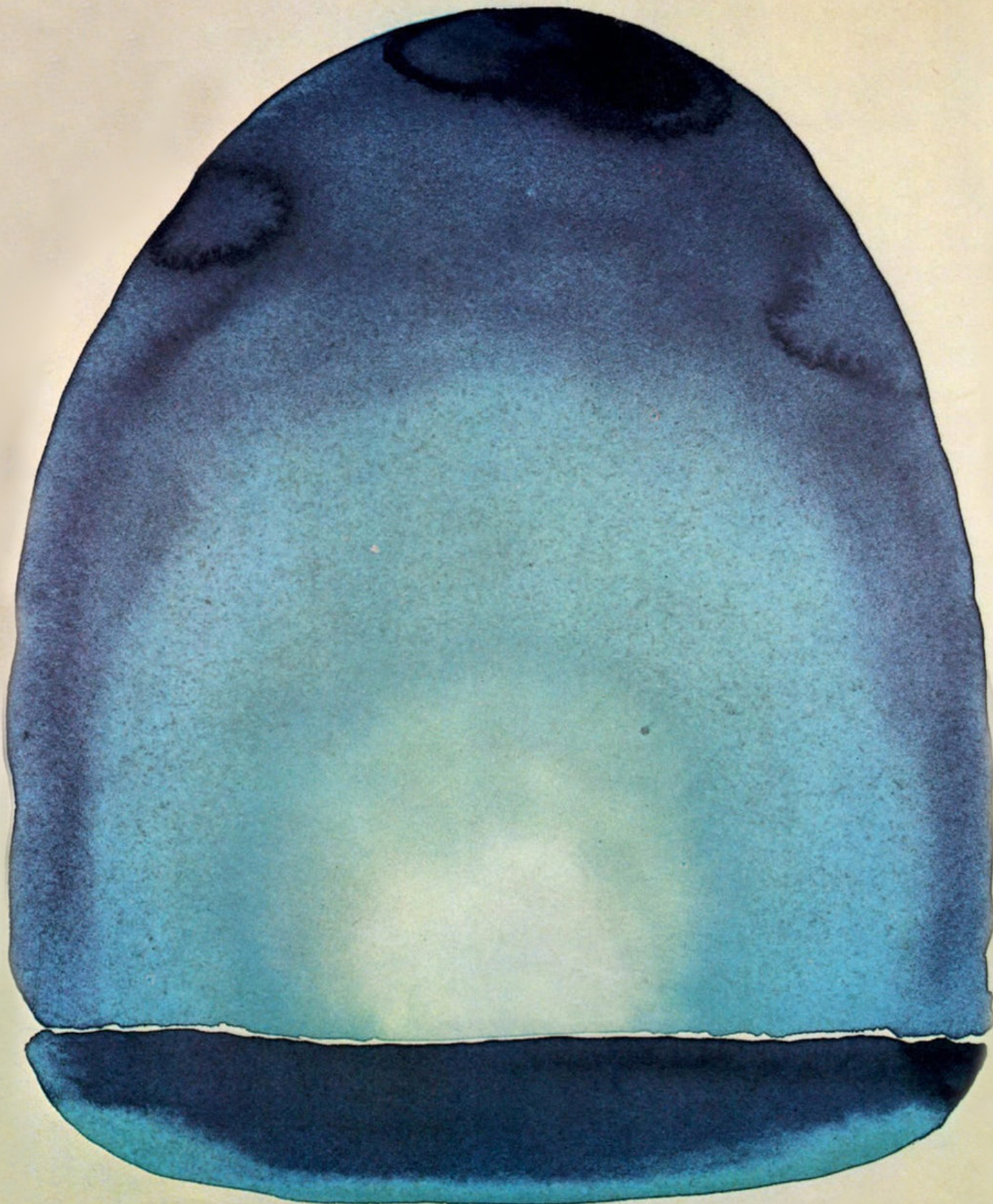


WMPCWORD

WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SPRING 2021





Dear members and friends of White Memorial...

WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, THE ROCK-N-ROLL ROOTS BAND THE GRATEFUL DEAD was all the rage. Even though I did not like the music as much as most, I heard the song,

Truckin' all the time walking through the dormitories at Davidson. I learned the words by phonic osmosis.

*Truckin', like the do-dab man
Once told me, "You've got to play your hand"
Sometimes the cards ain't worth a dime
If you don't lay 'em down
Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me
Other times, I can barely see
Lateh, it occurs to me
What a long, strange trip it's been.*

Over the last year we, at WMPC, have certainly played the hand we have been dealt. And it has been a long, strange trip since we closed our campus in March of 2020. On **March 21, 2021 at 12:15 we will have our Annual Meeting of the Congregation** via Zoom where you will hear reports on the past year and the 2020 Annual Report will be presented. 2020 was a wilderness year at our church: we felt lost at times. But like all wilderness experiences, we had the choice to trust in God and push ourselves to innovate and try new expressions of ministry we would not have imagined before the pandemic. While 2020 was a strange year – *"what a long, strange trip it's been"* – it was also a historic year at our church. God guided us to a successful year even in light of the challenges. I am especially proud of our staff. I am also very proud of our Stewardship Team and of our inspiring support of Outreach partners both through our increased financial commitments and our record collections of items such as food, diapers, and other essentials for our neighbors in need.

In this edition of the WMPC *Word* magazine, you'll read about what we are currently doing to offer gospel ministry. I hope you will read these stories and find guidance through the Holy Spirit and prayer about how you might not only support these efforts but pray for them.

Our congregation continues to witness to the grace of Jesus Christ as we mark a year since everything changed, as we witness to the grace of Jesus Christ in our midst, and we hope and pray to begin opening our campus soon. Our call to ministry and service remains steadfast and true. We are grateful for your prayers and support: as you have shared them over the last year and you share them in the months to come.

May calming grace abound,

Christopher H. Edmonston
Pastor, WMPC

WMPC WORD is written, designed and edited by the Communications Department and members of the church staff and congregation. For questions regarding this publication, contact Kathy Howell at 919-834-3425, ext. 236, or khowell@whitememorial.org. For address changes, contact Elizabeth Viohl at ext. 206, or eviohl@whitememorial.org.

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Additional Editors:
Colleen Aguirre, Karen Haneline and Elizabeth Viohl

Cover: Georgia O'Keefe, *Light Coming on the Plains*, 1917

Thank you to those who shared their stories for publication in the *WMPC Word*.

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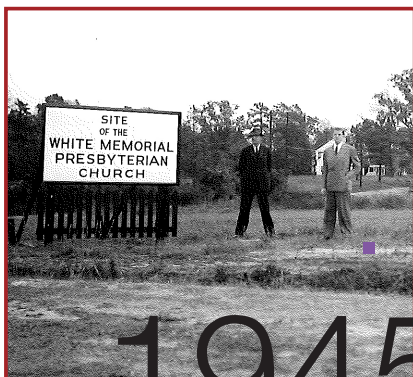


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IN 2018 THE PROGRAM STAFF AT WHITE MEMORIAL MET AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RALEIGH FOR A PLANNING RETREAT. AFTER LUNCH, CHRISTOPHER EDMONSTON ASKED US TO JOIN HIM IN THE CHAPEL WHERE HE POSED THE QUESTION “IN THIS SPACE ALMOST 75 YEARS AGO OUR FOUNDERS HAD THE VISION TO FORM A NEW CHURCH - OUR CHURCH - WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD THINK OF WHITE MEMORIAL TODAY?” WHILE THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENVISION LIVE STREAMING, ZOOM MEETINGS, AND WEBINARS, THEY WOULD SURELY SEE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND THE HAND OF GOD AT WORK.



March 9, 1945

A group of 10 Presbyterians from First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh met to discuss the feasibility of forming a new Presbyterian Church

May 1945

“Friends of the New Church” purchased property at Oberlin Road and McDonald Lane For \$9,500.00

1945

Seventy five years 1946-2021

To the Glory of God Alone

| BY KATHY HOWELL, COLLEEN AGUIRRE & ELIZABETH VIOHL |

Photography from archives and Karen Haneline

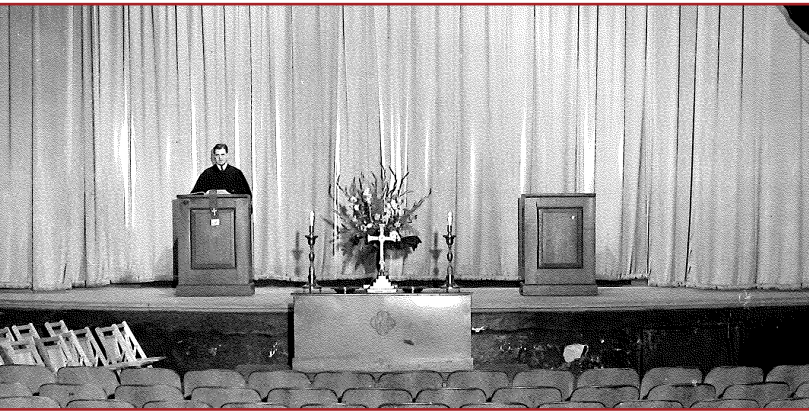
On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, White Memorial Presbyterian Church will joyfully rejoice in seventy-five years of ministry. The milestones along the way are many, far too many to capture here, but throughout the year you’ll hear stories from legacy members; and our newly formed 75th Anniversary Committee is busy planning celebrations. To kick off Pentecost Sunday, Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary and New Testament scholar will deliver the sermon.

Many of the highlights presented here are from WMPC member Charles Latimer’s infamous red book “*The History of White Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1946-1996*.” In his dedication, he writes: “White Memorial Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, NC, a history of its first-half century, is dedicated to all the women and men and young people who, with the love of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, have built this community of faith. Special reverent dedication is set apart for the charter members; they left the comfort and security of the known: they were called by God into the unknown “wilderness” to create a new church, and they did!”

And seventy-five years later, Christopher’s Lenten message is *Hearing God’s Word in the Wilderness*.



1946-48



February 1946

White Memorial Presbyterian Church name selected in honor of the Reverend William McClanahan White, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh

May 19, 1946

White Memorial Presbyterian Church organized by the Commission Granville Presbytery

October 1946

First regular church service at Colony Theatre

December 1946

Reverend Charles Lynnwood Brown called as first pastor

June 1948

First WMPC daily Vacation Bible School

1950's

50 September

First day of WMPC Kindergarten

October

Construction began on sanctuary

52 March 10

Consecration of the sanctuary

53 March

Start of Lenten Wednesday Evening Services

54 February

Weekly newsletter began

November

Growth milestone: 1,000 members

57 November

Kitchen completed



Family Night Dinner - Oct. 1957

This timeline barely scratches the surface of all the worship, music, children, youth and adult ministry programs, congregational care, outreach, and mission trips WMPC has offered over 75 years. More has been left out than included but every program, every ministry throughout WMPC's history has touched lives, impacted the community and fostered faith.

60's

64 May

Women collected green stamps to purchase station wagon for use in ministering to migrant workers

September

Schantz pipe organ was dedicated

66 July

The Reverend Howard Edwin "Ed" Pickard, called as the second pastor in the life of WMPC

67 March

Growth milestone: 2,002 members

69 January

First radio broadcast

- 71 **May**
The Celtic Cross graces our sanctuary
- 75 **November**
Keenagers program started
- 79 **December**
WMPC members welcomed at the Governor's Mansion open house of affiliate members Governor and Mrs. Hunt
- 81 **March**
WMPC Outreach dedicates "The Ark" shelter of the Urban Ministry Center
- 82 **June**
Flower Guild formed
- 87 **July**
Fire in the sanctuary; damage is held to a minimum but sanctuary is closed for repairs
- 88 **November**
First Wednesday Night Supper - pancakes!
- December**
Session approves WMPC to enroll as a Stephen Ministry church

1970's

80's

90's

- 90 **January**
First Stephen Minister commissioned
- 91 **December**
Growth milestone: 4,010 members
- 92 **December**
Christmas Share project started by Presbyterian Women
- 93 **July**
Glenaire opens in Cary
- September**
StepUp breaks ground on its duplex
- 94 **January**
New member "New Beginnings" orientation classes begin
- June**
Art Ross called to be WMPC's third pastor in a span of 48 years
- 96 **May**
Session approves construction of WMPC Memorial Garden
On May 29, held Fiftieth Anniversary worship
Theologian-in-Residence Program commenced
- November**
First Evensong Service
- 97 **March**
Dedicated the H. Edwin Pickard Memorial Garden
- May**
The first annual Stewardship Devotional booklet "Grateful Hearts. Faithful Lives" was published
Shared our sanctuary with Temple Beth Or during their renovations
- 98 **March**
Developed our first website
- November**
Kicked off the *Sowing Seeds for the future, Reaping the Harvest of Faith* Capital Campaign
- 99 **February**
Started Sunday Shuttle Services
- June**
Installed new hearing aid system in the sanctuary
- December**
Ceremonial ground breaking for the Witherspoon Building



00 **2000 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Safechild**

March

Vision 2000 Taskforce created

01 **2001 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Food Runners**

July

Calvin Building reopened with Computer Lab

02 **2002 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Haiti**

August

Published first *"Guide to Life at White Memorial"*

03 **2003 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Food Bank of NC**

04 **2004 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Healing Place**

10 **2010 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: StepUp Ministry**

11 **2011 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Boys & Girls Club**

July

Christopher Harlan Edmonston called as WMPC's fourth pastor

October

First Blessing of the Animals

Presbytery of New Hope moved to our campus



2000 and beyond



05 **2005 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Urban Ministries**

February

Began community worship services with the Oberlin Road Churches on Ash Wednesday

May

StepUp moved into the newly renovated 1701 Oberlin Road

Founded Engaged Disciples Ministry

First Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Opened Counseling Center Office staffed with pastoral counselors

06 **2006 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Hospice of Wake County**

07 **2007 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Interact**

08 **2008 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN:**

Alliance Medical Ministry

Launched the Pastoral Residence Program

09 **2009 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN:**

Habitat for Humanity of Wake County

March

Organized the first WMPC Middle East trip

November

Launched a new church website

Certified as Earth Care Church

12 **2012 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN:**

Building Up the World's Youth

May

Purchased duplex at 2003-2005 St. Mary's Street

13 **2013 MAJOR MISSION CAMPAIGN: Let's Finish the Job**

September

First issue of WMPC *Word* magazine

14 **September**

Opened the Way Station

November

Purchased property at 1700 Oberlin Road (future site of the Edinburgh Building)





15 March

Session appointed the Imagine Capital Campaign Committee

Building Committee approved by Session

16 February

Youth held their first “*Community Table: Good Food, Good Company*” fundraiser which sold out

April

First OnPoint@1704 Worship service in Pickard Hall

September

Chapel renovation with installation of Labyrinth

17 September

Kicked off the *Imagine* Capital Campaign

Website revamp

18 April

First Men’s Retreat

May

Ceremonial groundbreaking for the Edinburgh Building

June

Christopher went on sabbatical

Launched weekly email newsletter

September

Started Sounds on Oberlin concert series

December

Changed Advent liturgical color from purple to blue

19 August

Moved to a new church database called CCB

September

Began 20’s@wmpc for the 20-30 age group

Moved to Rotation Stations for Sunday School

WMPC develops first app

November

Installed solar panels on Luther and Knox Buildings

20 February

Installed digital signage throughout campus

First meal in the Main Hall of Edinburgh was Community Table

March

First OnPoint@1704 service in the Main Hall

Church campus closed due to COVID-19 pandemic

Begin Live Streaming all services. No in person worship

We learned to do drive through events

June

Participated in 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge

September

Began offering in-person worship with registration

21 MAY 23, 2021 75TH ANNIVERSARY!



A FORCE OF NATURE

| BY JUDY TARDIFF |

Ordination photography by Steve Haneline



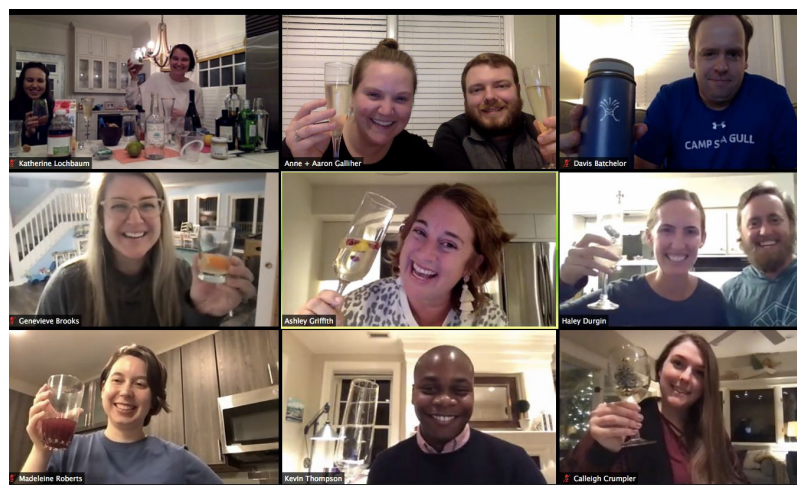
IF YOU'VE MET PASTORAL RESIDENT ANNE GALLIHER,

WHETHER IN PERSON OR THROUGH A ZOOM WEBINAR,

YOU'VE EXPERIENCED FIRST HAND HER DEEP FAITH, BOUNDLESS ENERGY,

INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND CONTAGIOUS SMILE

(WHICH BY THE WAY SOMEHOW COMES THROUGH WITH OR WITHOUT A MASK!)



Above left: Anne facilitating Zoom webinar: *Possibility and Peril: A conversation about Hope* in September 2020.

Above right: Anne and Aaron (top center) ring in the New Year with WMPCs Meaning as Millennials group. Cocktails and Mocktails via Zoom.

It was Tuesday, March 10. Anne Galliher flew into Raleigh as a candidate for the Pastoral Resident position at White Memorial Presbyterian Church. What a busy day: face-to-face meetings with staff, touring Raleigh, and dinner at a Raleigh restaurant with search committee members Cate Church Norman, Eddie Williford (chair), Gray Glover, Jeb Jeutter, Janet Kelleher, Lily Kate Tollison, and Judy Tardiff. We found Anne to be friendly, thoughtful, and comfortable to be around. We were all impressed. But who could have guessed that within a few days our world would change to one of face masks, restaurants closed, non-essential businesses closed, stay-at-home orders, and Zoom?

Anne grew up in Statesville, where she attended First Presbyterian Church. She graduated from Appalachian State

University with a major in Social Work and received her Masters of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. In 2017 she married Aaron, her high school sweetheart. She was ordained on September 20, 2020, in a service at White Memorial.

Anne began her position at White Memorial on July 7, 2020, during the pandemic. She participated in her first service the following Sunday, and since then has been a familiar face in numerous services and events. She has participated in lots of other activities. Among the activities are Confirmation, the Middle School Leadership Team, pastoral care, worship, Meaning as Millennials, contemplative retreats, Healing Through Grief, the Diaconate (Growing Families and more recently New Members Care >



Anne's ordination on September 20, 2020



Above left: Anne and Aaron enjoying an outdoor meal. **Above middle:** Anne with her family, from left to right Kathy (mom), Anne, Elizabeth (sister), Alan (dad). **Above right:** Rev. Ann-Henley Nicholson, Pastoral Resident Anne Galliher and Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care Cate Church Norman September 20, 2020.

Teams), young families (stroller group and Faithful from the Start event with Gwen Whiteman), the Mental Health and Wellness Ministry, Stephen Ministry, church-wide Bible study. She has quickly become a familiar face on streaming and Zoom.

As the church reopens Anne is looking forward to Wednesday Night Dinners coming back. She has heard so much about them and can't wait to share meals with our church family. She's also really looking forward to being able to do more in-person with Meaning as Millennials and hoping to do more with in-person retreats. Overall, Anne is excited for the days when she can experience a more "typical" Sunday morning at WMPC, with a bustling campus and full worship services. ■

.....

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.....



MORE

MINISTRY TEAM

BY GRIER BOOKER RICHARDS

Over the summer, nearly 200 members and friends of White Memorial participated in our *21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge*, with one member even passing along the Challenge to 50 of his coworkers. The *21-Day Challenge* consisted of a media bank of podcasts, articles and videos posted on our website which told stories and addressed issues of systemic racism, injustice and racial equity in a myriad of ways. Zoom small groups were then

set-up as a way of providing structure for participants to reflect, listen to others, and share about their journeys through the *Challenge*—all in an effort to discern what our next most faithful steps might be as a community of faith.

For observable, faithful, long-lasting transformation to occur, it became clear that simply offering more programs or studies about racial justice at White Memorial was never >

going to bring about the systemic changes many of us had come to believe that God was calling us to. Instead, those who participated in the *21-Day Challenge* began to see that this work of seeking justice must permeate every area of our church and common life together. The question then became: *Well, how do we make this happen?*

ENTER THE M.O.R.E (MINISTRY ON RACIAL EQUITY) TEAM.

This ministry team was formed at the beginning of February, under the leadership of ruling elder and Faith Formation Chair, Erin Duffy, and seeks to take prayerful and humble steps towards becoming “MORE inclusive, MORE aware, MORE loving, MORE healing, and MORE like Jesus” through its racial equity work.

The short-term goal of the MORE Ministry Team is to create the framework and process by which every committee and subcommittee at White Memorial Presbyterian Church will be empowered, equipped and charged to undergo a thorough examination of their ministry work and operations, in order to identify the ways in which we may unconsciously participate in embedded racism within our various church systems, and to identify ways we can do better. The MORE team is actively working on this guiding document as we speak and will be bringing the final version to Session for approval and adoption within the month.

The long-term goal of the MORE ministry team is to aid and support all areas of ministry at White Memorial—worship and music, congregational care, administration, communications, discipleship, faith formation, youth and outreach—in their efforts to identify areas of racial injustice, racial inequity, and covert/overt racism, so that concrete and identifiable changes can be made. Ultimately, we will be asking all committees and subcommittees to identify at least three substantive changes they can make, in areas of racial justice, that will yield visible, measurable outcomes. Examples could include making sure the artwork hung on the walls in our Sunday School rooms reflects diverse races and ethnicities, remembering to seek bids from contractors of diverse racial backgrounds when doing building and maintenance projects, and considering speakers of diverse racial backgrounds when hiring for special events (Women’s Retreat, Theologian-in-Residence, etc.)

The MORE Ministry Team is aware that some members and staff of White Memorial have been working long and hard in the struggle for racial justice for many years and that they have perhaps been wondering where everybody was. Please know that our Team sees you, and we thank you, and we apologize if you have felt alone in your work. We are here with humility and a sincere desire to join you.

We also know that we are going to get a lot of things wrong as we go about this work and that there will be times when we have to ask for forgiveness from each other, and from our brothers and sisters of color. As we have had many discussions about the journey ahead, Erin and I have taken

great comfort in the words of research professor and author, Brené Brown who reminds us that when it comes to this hard and vulnerable work of self-examination and communal transformation, it’s not about “*being* right,” but wanting to “get it right,” even as we will surely get a lot wrong in the process.

Ultimately, we believe that systemic racism is a spiritual problem that we as Christians must address, as Jesus teaches us that we must bring equality and justice to all people: it isn’t a liberal or conservative “issue.” In the words of our 2020 Theologian-in-Residence, Dean Jonathan Lee Walton, “Either we work actively each day to flatten the curve of systems, structures and daily behaviors that reinforce inequality, or we contribute to the community spread of racial injustice.”

None of us has single-handedly created the system of injustice we find ourselves in, but we have participated in it—it is “the water we swim in,” and we are responsible for working to change any unjust systems that adversely affect our brothers and sisters.

.....

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.....

In her book, *Dare to Lead*, Brené Brown goes on to say that, “While armor is our greatest barrier to being brave, grounded confidence is the heart of daring leadership.” Grounded confidence, which Brown defines as “curiosity + the willingness to rumble with vulnerability + practice.” And this very much describes where we are in the process: curious about how we can be more faithful disciples and a more faithful expression of Christ’s church; willing to lean in to difficult conversations, truths and feelings as embodied expressions of our faith; and grounded in the confidence that God has indeed called us to this time of exploration and transformation, that Christ will surely lead us in the direction of faithfulness, and that the Holy Spirit is most certainly at work among us, offering abundant grace and strength for the journey ahead.

If you are interested in being part of the MORE Ministry Team, we welcome you. Simply contact Erin Duffy or myself and we will get you plugged in. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Erin Duffy at erinduffy211@gmail.com
Grier Booker Richards at grichards@whitememorial.org

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

USING THE ECUMENICAL TRANSLATION
OF THE LORD'S PRAYER
FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

| BY KARL ZINSMEISTER |

For the season of Lent 2021 we will use the ecumenical translation of The Lord's Prayer in both Sunday and midweek worship, and over the course of our midweek Lenten worship services we will reflect on this translation, one section per week. This article briefly explains the origins of this translation and opportunities for our spiritual development.

WHAT IS THE ECUMENICAL TRANSLATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER?

You can find this translation on page 11 of our *Glory to God* hymnal. (It also appeared in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, published in 1990.) It is included in our denomination's *Book of Common Worship*, a resource for pastors and worship planners prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The prayer reads (broken here into five sections as they will be examined in our midweek Lenten services):

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WHY FOCUS ON THIS TRANSLATION FOR SIX WEEKS?

I had a professor once who, commenting on the placement of artwork, said, “Pieces take on enhanced meaning when you change their location. If you pass by the same painting every day, eventually it can simply blend into the surroundings; but when you rotate pieces, suddenly you become more aware of what is there.” Indeed, things that are routine can be a comfort for their familiarity, but they can also become rote and stagnant. Do we run this risk in our recitation of the Lord’s Prayer each week? Join us during Lent as we explore and use the ecumenical translation of the Lord’s Prayer and discover new meaning in a beloved traditional text.

WHAT DOES OUR DENOMINATION SAY ABOUT THIS TEXT?

Our denomination encourages us to explore the prayer in this new version: *From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular—in the common language of the people of God. Yet many of us continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when we pray the prayer Jesus taught. This liturgy presents the “Our Father” in our mother tongue, using a translation developed by the English Language Liturgical Consultation in the 1980s. We hope that, by using this ecumenical version in contemporary English, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. You may always choose to pray “in the words closest to your heart,” but congregations should consider using this version of the prayer for certain services (e.g. a contemporary service or World Communion Sunday) or seasons (e.g., the time after Pentecost).*

-from the PC(USA) website, www.pcusa.org

WHERE DOES THIS TRANSLATION COME FROM?

This translation comes from the English Language Liturgical Council (ELLC) established in 1985. The work of this body was begun by the International Consultation on English Texts (ICET) established in 1969. Common liturgical texts including those for the sacrament of communion were prepared by specialists in the fields of pastoral liturgy, languages, and related disciplines. Together they produced a booklet, *The Prayers We Have in Common*, published in five editions between 1970 and 1975.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “ECUMENICAL?”

Being ecumenical means adopting the goal of promoting unity among the world’s Christian Churches. According to *The Dombres Group* (established in 1937 comprising twenty Catholic and twenty Protestant theologians) as reported by *The Institute for Ecumenical Research*, churches have reached a point of ecumenical stagnation. We at WMPC work to move beyond that point. One example of our efforts and our ecumenical spirit is our connection with the Oberlin Road Churches. During this six-week exploration of the ecumenically adopted Lord’s Prayer text, hearing the familiar prayer in new ways, we have an opportunity to think outside of ourselves: for a true ecumenical stance focuses less on “rightness” and “wrongness” and more on seeking what the Spirit is asking of us when we are open to the thoughts and ways of others. ■

THIS LENT...

“..... as we pray the prayer Jesus taught, may the ecumenical translation reveal new meaning. May it make us mindful of the broader Christian community, help us in our spiritual journey through the wilderness of Lent, and enrich our prayer life.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Read these versions of the prayer as found in Matthew 6: 9-13; Luke 11: 2-4; *Didache* (Greek for *The Teaching*) found at www.didache.com/didache-and-lord's-prayer-1

Quick bits

News and happenings at WMPC



DR. BRIAN BLOUNT

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 23**, **Dr. Brian Blount** will deliver the sermon. Brian Blount is President and Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC. An M.Div. graduate of Princeton Seminary in 1981, he obtained his B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1978. After graduating from Princeton Seminary, he went on to become the pastor of the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia from 1982-1988. William and Mary's first African-American to receive membership in the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society he received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Emory University in 1992. He returned to teach at Princeton Seminary the same year. He served as the president of the Society of Biblical Literature from 2017-2018. He served as the president of the Association of Theological Schools from 2018-2020.

Professor Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics. He is the sole author of six books

COMMUNITY TABLE-T A SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Community Table-T. Fundraiser dinners sold out and our youth served 193 dinners! These funds will support youth trips to Appalachia Service Project (ASP), Massanetta Middle School Conference, Montreat Youth Conference, Asheville Youth Missions and Montreat Music and Worship Conference. Thank you for supporting our youth!



LEND AN ARM FOR THE BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will be on site Monday, April 19 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. in Pickard Hall to collect donations.

Reservations are required and can be made online at redcrossblood.org/give. Contact Ruth Landers at ruth@landers.me for details.



WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

We invite you to take a lunch break and join us for two more virtual concerts live streamed from WMPC's website and on Facebook Live. On **Wednesday, May 5**, the *Lyricosa Quartet*, (Carol Chung, Julia Reeves, violins, Simon Ertz, viola and Rosalind Leavell, cello) a vibrant new string quartet in Raleigh, will share their beautiful, rich tone and stylish phrasing with us.



Then, on **Wednesday, June 2**, LaToya Lain, soprano and Casey Robards, piano, will present their captivating and critically acclaimed program *Narrative of a Slave Woman: Songs of Suffering, Hope, and Freedom*.



THANK YOU, GWEN

After serving as Director of Young Children's Ministries for over twenty years, Gwen Whiteman will be retiring at the end of March. In that time, Gwen has gifted many families with her smile, compassion, and dedication to the faith development of children. Luckily, while we will miss Gwen as a member of our staff, she will still be a part of our church family, exploring new avenues of ministry. You can drop off a note or card for her in the Witherspoon lobby. You can make a gift in her honor by check or online at www.whitememorial.org/register. Please note that these gifts are not tax-deductible.

4th Annual Men's Retreat Zoom and In-person

deeper
discipleship

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 23 & 24

All men are invited to join us on April 23 and April 24 for a special hybrid version of the Men's Annual Retreat. Guest speaker Pastor Franklin Golden is back with us again this year. Franklin is the pastor of Durham Church (PCUSA) and last year he encouraged us to explore 'What it means to live the life of Jesus.' Stay tuned for details on this year's topic.

There will be a time of gathering on Friday, April 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and discussions/break-out groups from 8:30 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 24. Cost is \$25 and registration is required. www.whitememorial.org/register

The future of the church...



...through their gifts and their voices.

NICK DEMUYNCK AND MOLLY SMERKO ARE TWO OF THE YOUNG ADULTS WITH WMPC TIES THAT FOLLOWED A CALLING TO PRACTICE MINISTRY. WE RECENTLY CAUGHT UP WITH THEM TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING. >



Nick and his wife Savannah

THE GREATEST JOY I HAD WAS GOING THROUGH SEMINARY WITH MY WIFE. BEING ABLE TO SHARE THAT TIME WITH MY PARTNER AND GROW IN OUR FAITH AND SKILL SET TOGETHER.

Nick Demuynck

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AT WMPC?

Some of my favorite memories at WMPC have to be on the ASP trips. Getting out of the city and humbling ourselves, in order to serve God and God's children as the Body of Christ, is something I will never forget and am thankful to have participated in the experience.

HOW/WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO GO INTO MINISTRY?

I first knew I wanted to go into ministry in some capacity during my college internship at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church while I was at NCSU. I wasn't sure exactly what that looked like, or what this calling I was feeling truly was, but I knew I was where I needed to be. It wasn't until WMPC, and having extensive talks with Catherine Devins, that I understood where this calling was eventually leading me to. Catherine encouraged me to ask the questions I was feeling and guided me as I prayerfully searched for the answers.

"There was no training in how to be a Zoom moderator/teacher/crowd control person in seminary, but it is a skill set many of us have quickly had to adapt to doing."

WHERE WILL YOU BE SERVING THIS SUMMER? WHAT WILL BE YOUR PRIMARY ROLES?

I am currently serving at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC as their Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. In this role, I primarily focus on leading their vibrant High School youth program, weekly college studies for USC students, and weekly faith formation for the younger adults of the church.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE GREATEST CHALLENGE NAVIGATING THROUGH SEMINARY? WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING?

Well, COVID was never something I thought I would have to navigate through when I first entered seminary, so I would say that has been the most surprising part of this call so far. There was no training in how to be a Zoom moderator/teacher/crowd control person in seminary, but it is a skill set many of us have quickly had to adapt to doing. >

But in saying this, I have also found the most joy watching how this congregation has been able to continually adapt to our current climate. How they have jumped fully in on the various programs offered, and actively respond to the ways God is calling them to serve during this time.

The greatest challenge to navigating through seminary was balancing my full-time youth director position and my studies. I had to quickly learn how to balance my work, school schedule, and family life so the least number of things fell through the cracks. The greatest joy I had was going through seminary with my wife. Being able to share that time with my partner and grow in our faith and skill set together, is something I know isn't common for most of my colleagues in ministry, and something I count myself very lucky to have been able to do.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T DOING CLASSWORK?

Outside of working in the church, I like to hang out with friends, watch sports, go to breweries, and play disc golf with Lucas Jones at the local courses. It has been hard to get to know the city too much during COVID, but we have tried to get out and explore the city as much as we can, safely.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SCRIPTURE?

My favorite scripture is Matthew 25:31-46. I love the way it calls us into actively caring for our neighbor and living out our faith as we have been cared for by our God.



Molly at Union Presbyterian Seminary

Molly Smerko

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AT WMPC?

My favorite memories from my time at White Memorial are the youth trips I went on in high school. I went to the Montreat Youth Conference for three consecutive summers and ASP for two summers in a row! These youth trips helped me to bond with my church family and learn how to be a leader. I stayed local for college and went to Meredith College, so I had the privilege of volunteering with WMPC's youth ministry throughout college. It was so special to me to give back to the program that was so pivotal to my spiritual formation.

HOW/WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO GO INTO MINISTRY?

This is a long story! The short version is that my whole life, I had the dream of being an elementary school teacher. At the Montreat Youth Conference the summer before my senior year of high school, I was part of a special vocational discernment small group. This group allowed me to do a lot of behind-the-scenes worship prep, as well as serve as a liturgist during keynote and evening worship. One night, while serving as a liturgist in worship I felt a wave of peace rush over me. I normally would not have loved speaking in front of a crowd so big, but God's peace went with me and I felt an immediate sense of calm and God's presence with me. One of my youth leaders suggested that I should consider going into ministry, and that planted the seed. >

"...God's peace went with me and I felt an immediate sense of calm and God's presence. That's when the seed was planted to consider going into ministry."



Molly (second from right) at ASP

LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US LOVE,
NOT IN WORD OR SPEECH, BUT IN
TRUTH AND ACTION.

- 1 JOHN 3:18

(Molly's Favorite Scripture)

I ignored this for a few more years and entered college as a Teaching Fellow. However, by my sophomore year of college, I couldn't ignore God's nudging any longer! I withdrew from Teaching Fellows and was able to take more classes in my Religious and Ethical studies major. By then, I knew that I wanted to go to seminary right after college and that God was calling me to be a pastor.

WHERE WILL YOU BE SERVING THIS SUMMER? WHAT WILL BE YOUR PRIMARY ROLES?

I am so excited to share that after I graduate from Union Presbyterian Seminary in May, I will be moving to Charlotte to serve as the Pastoral Resident for Young Adults/Education at Covenant Presbyterian Church. This is a two-year, ordainable position and I am looking forward to the opportunities for learning, leadership, and growth. My primary responsibility will be planning fellowship, education, and service events for Covenant's thriving young adult group. The remainder of my time will be spent participating in worship leadership for Sunday worship and assisting with pastoral care needs.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE GREATEST CHALLENGE NAVIGATING THROUGH SEMINARY? WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING?

The biggest challenge for me (pre-COVID) was learning how to navigate life and graduate school in a new city. Since I stayed in Raleigh for college, I did not have that experience during my undergraduate career. In our current COVID era, the biggest challenge has been adapting to a completely virtual seminary! The most rewarding experiences have been making new friends and having incredible internship opportunities. I have served as a pastoral intern at two different Presbyterian churches in Virginia and served as a chaplain intern at Rex Hospital this past summer. It has been so rewarding to study what I love in such a supportive, caring, and fun community!

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T DOING CLASSWORK?

When I'm not studying, I'm playing and training with my eleven-month-old German Shepherd puppy, Ginny! I also love to paint, spend time outdoors, and hang out with my friends and family.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SCRIPTURE?

1 John 3:18.



Above: Nora Miller, AMM's Garden & Wellness Coordinator

ALLIANCE MEDICAL MINISTRY

Working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic

| BY MELANIE RANKIN |

Photography provided by Alliance Medical Ministry

In the late 1990s, First United Methodist Church of Cary member Dr. Charlie Mann attended a training conference where he learned about a unique health clinic that served low-income adults. Coming back to Cary, he felt a tug, which he recognized as God calling him to serve and found a clinic that could truly treat “the whole person.” In 2003, Dr. Mann joined other church members to do just that. Together, they founded a clinic that would provide holistic care—combining

primary healthcare, specialty medical services, lab work, pastoral care and counseling, health education, and wellness programs—for the most vulnerable members of their community. They made sure that this clinic, Alliance Medical Ministry (AMM), was located in a zip code that would be accessible for those most in need. The AMM clinic is located near downtown Raleigh on New Bern Avenue and serves 2,000 working, uninsured adults per year. >

“We wrap around the entire patient. We try to figure out what it is that’s going on in their life that might make it difficult for them to treat their chronic disease and what we can do to make it easier.”

- Dr. Sheryl Joyner, Senior Physician and WMPC member

At the time of AMM’s founding, the largest healthcare gap in our community was low-income working adults--those who did not qualify for government support but could not afford private health insurance. Eighteen years later, that healthcare gap continues to exist, as more than 115,000 Wake County residents had no health insurance at the end of 2020.

AMM’s approach to health is straight forward – treat the whole person. Health is a huge driver in helping a person reach his or her potential. AMM recognizes the essential connection between body, mind, and spirit and wants to help each patient grow stronger and healthier in all ways. AMM Senior Physician and member of White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Dr. Sheryl Joyner explains the holistic approach, “We wrap around the entire patient. We try to figure out what it is that’s going on in their life that might make it difficult for them to treat their chronic disease and what we can do to make it easier.” AMM’s holistic approach integrates medical care, social work, behavioral healthcare, nutrition and exercise.

The majority of AMM patients live with two or more chronic diseases and fall into at-risk groups for COVID-19. Due to the ongoing pandemic, AMM has had to quickly pivot in how it delivers all its services. AMM became the second non-profit health clinic in North Carolina to offer telehealth services. Since implementing telehealth, primary care appointments have increased by 15% and mental health appointments by 35%, while the number of no-show appointments has been reduced by 60%. AMM also opened a medication drive-thru during the pandemic so patients could continue to receive life-saving medications, such as insulin, safely. This past year, AMM dispensed nearly \$4.35 million in medication at no cost to their patients. >



Above top: AMM nurse practitioner, Josh McConaghy, is one of many bilingual clinic staff. More than 55% of AMM clinic staff are Spanish- speaking, which helps build trusting relationships with patients and makes the healthcare more accessible.

Above bottom: Telehealth is a HIPPA compliant virtual appointment and allows Senior Physician, Dr. Sheryl Joyner, to see a patient and their medical records at the same time.

AMM'S APPROACH TO HEALTH IS STRAIGHT FORWARD – TREAT THE WHOLE PERSON.



Above: AMM's on-site garden provides 2,000 pounds of fresh produce distributed to patients and used in Cooking Matters classes.

AMM's patients are low-income, uninsured and are among those most susceptible to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The pandemic has highlighted existing disparities in health care: people of color are four times more likely to be hospitalized and three times more likely to die from COVID-19. Fifty-five percent of AMM patients are Hispanic and 27% are Black.

In early 2020, AMM was preparing to launch a fundraising campaign to expand capacity and meet existing demand. Prior to the pandemic, AMM had a waiting list of more than 400 people. Now, the need is greater than ever, and AMM has

recently relaunched the Health & Hope Now campaign. The campaign will raise \$1.3 million and allow AMM to hire a full-time medical provider, medical support staff, and a full-time bilingual mental health provider and expand overall capacity by 24.5% and add 450 new patients over the next three years.

"The Health & Hope Now Campaign is a clear healthcare solution during a major health crisis," said AMM executive director Pete Tannenbaum. "We must respond to this call to improve the health and the lives of people who live and work right here in our community." ■

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
ALLIANCE MEDICAL MINISTRY CONTACT
MELANIE RANKIN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OR
PETE TANNENBAUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WWW.ALLIANCEMEDICALMINISTRY.ORG



*“So many
have benefited
from Liisa’s
wisdom,
research, and
experience.”*

| BY JEAN WILLIAMS |

AGING WELL CLASS
LED BY LIISA OGBURN

A positive program amid a time of anxiety

FROM THE CALM CADENCE OF HER VOICE TO THE INTENTIONAL CHOICE OF HER SPEAKERS AND TOPICS, LIISA OGBURN HAS BEEN EASING THE ANXIETY OF OUR SENIORS ATTENDING HER AGING WELL CLASS. >

Aging Well provides a forum where participants can approach some of the most pressing questions which arise as we age. While for many, aging may reflexively signify fears of loss or the unknown, here in community at White Memorial, there is space to discuss both our joys and our concerns, sorrows and unanticipated growth. Experts such as psychologists, physicians, pastors and lay people share what they have learned about the aging process. All are welcome.

Liisa often begins her class with meditation and a breathing exercise that relaxes and prepares us for taking in the wisdom shared in the programs.



HERE IS WHAT A FEW ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY:

"So many have benefited from Liisa's wisdom, research, and experience. Though I have not seen all the presentations, I know they have covered a wide variety of topics that are timely and so useful for us. She brings in guests that have so much to offer us, including Dr. Colvin, Art Ross, and Landy Anderton, each addressing aspects of our life during COVID-19. I thought her discussion of area retirement communities was excellent. Her information was concise, organized, and thorough; yet she added so much thoughtful, practical advice that one would not get from other sources. We are very grateful to her for sharing her expertise with our congregation and the community."

- Lindsay Jordan

"Liisa Ogburn's classes on Sundays and on Zoom during the pandemic have been excellent. The information she shares and the speakers she has had are outstanding. Liisa gave a talk recently on all the CCRC's in the Triangle and was very specific about how they are different in price and organization. Best of all, when I was wandering online trying to get an appointment for a vaccine, she sent me to an excellent site and I now have had both my shots. She is a jewel to all in our church and community."

- Charlotte Newby

"The information regarding COVID-19 in the first session of Aging Well helped me to understand about the virus and the why and how a vaccine could be developed in record time. Further the contact information that Liisa shared with Aging Well participants allowed me to schedule both my mother's vaccine and mine quickly when we were eligible. All of the programs were wonderful, thoughtful and informative on many levels: factual, emotionally supportive, and spiritually affirming."

- Mary Ann Turner

These wonderful programs have been recorded so that we all can benefit from them. They can be found on the WMPC website at <https://vimeo.pro.com/whitememorialnc/aging-well>. It has even been recommended that we change the name of Liisa's program to "Living Well," because the information can benefit everyone at any age. ■

One of the many Aging Well Zoom webinars

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR NEXT AGING WELL ZOOM MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20 AT 1:00 P.M. TO REGISTER VISIT: [WHITEMEMORIAL.ORG/REGISTER](https://www.whitememorial.org/register)

LIVING TO THE EDGE OF THE FRAME-- EVEN AS THE FRAME NARROWS

As we age, our abilities may decline. However, our life need not become smaller. How do we continue to live a full life in spite of constraints (both those we individually experience, but also those necessitated due to the pandemic)? This presentation will feature stories of seniors who are doing just that as a way to expand our imaginations.

A LITTLE ABOUT LIISA:

In addition to her facilitation of the class, Liisa writes twice-weekly online articles for WRAL called "Aging Well" which are filled with the same timely and positive information.

<https://www.wral.com/agingwell>

Her firm, Aging Advisors NC, focuses on helping individuals and their families plan for or respond to the needs that arise during the last years of life.

<https://agingadvisorsnc.com/>



GOD'S WORD IN THE *wilderness*

| BY CHRISTOPHER EDMONSTON |

In a recent sermon I said, “The wilderness is wild and uncontrolled. In the book of Exodus, the Israelites are never really comfortable the whole time they are in the wilderness. They complain. They lose faith. They grouse. They flat out wonder if life wouldn’t have been better had they stayed as slaves in Egypt. From Exodus onward in the Bible the wilderness becomes both a place and a metaphor where people of faith are tested: even Jesus is tempted and tested in the wilderness on the opening pages of the gospels.”

This Lent – always with an eye toward Easter – we are talking about the wilderness because much of the last year has felt like a wilderness. The wilderness can be isolating: and we have been isolated from one another during the pandemic. The wilderness can be frightening: and we have been scared by the scenes of violence on city streets and in our country’s Capitol. The wilderness can confuse and dislocate: and awareness and revelations about racial mistrust and injustice have made us all have to consider the hard parts of history present in our country, state, and neighborhoods. The last 12 months have been full of wilderness moments.

But at the same time the wilderness can be instructive. The wilderness can sharpen both the courage within us and the faith that sustains us. This is certainly the case with Moses who becomes a more confident and effective leader throughout his 40 years in the wilderness. It is true

with Jesus as he is sharpened and tested during his 40 days in the wilderness. Jesus’ 40 wilderness days are part of the theological and liturgical underpinnings of the 40 days of Lent. The examples of Moses and Jesus serve as a theological and ethical compass for those of us who still follow them today. Namely that while the wilderness (real or metaphor) is a place of challenge, it is often a place of growth as well.

As we read the “wilderness” stories of the Bible we discover that God is always present with the people of God while they are in the wilderness. When God says to Moses, “I will be with you” (Exodus 3:12) this is a promise that, by extension, God is also making to us. Our first calling as Christians is to be followers of Jesus. But we also, as people of the Abrahamic faiths, give heed to the promises and example of Moses. Just as God was with Moses and Jesus in their wildernesses, so too does God stay near when we are in ours.

As Lent comes to its end, we turn our gaze to Jesus who faced his greatest wilderness moment when he was crucified. This is good and right to do. But as we approach the cross, let us offer to God our own wilderness moments. Let us give thanks to God that we are not alone when we grieve, when we are lost, when we are confused, or when we are afraid. And let us remember that God is speaking words of hope and light, even in our darkest days and during our longest nights. ■

WHITE MEMORIAL

—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

1704 Oberlin Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27608

(919) 834-3424 | whitememorial.org



[whitememorialnc](https://www.whitememorialnc.org)



Service Times

Live Stream, FB Live & In-person with registration

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. | OnPoint@1704 | Main Hall

Adult and Children's Sunday School

9:30 a.m. | Virtual Classes

Change Service Requested

