

June 2020

editor Daisy Wilson

# Spreading the Good News



First Presbyterian Church  
Douglas, GA.



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Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11 AM  
912-384-1503 [www.1stpresbyteriandouglas.com](http://www.1stpresbyteriandouglas.com)  
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## From Tears to Cheers

The way we do life right now has drastically shifted. And as it continues to change, it can be helpful to acknowledge the grief we are feeling.

Grief is the process of your brain trying to adapt to the loss of a resource that is missing. Sometimes we think of grief as the loss of something or someone from the past. But grief can also go into the future. We can grieve what could have been. We grieve the things that have been lost as well as the things that could have happened but now won't – at least in the way we had previously hoped.

With so many changes going on in our lives right now, our brains have been working overtime to adjust. However, when we slow down, identify, and acknowledge our losses, this begins the process of helping the mind to adapt and the soul to heal. Sometimes it brings tears.

In grief, we know that God sees each one of our tears. "*You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book*" (Psalm 56:8). God promises to be with us in difficult times. "*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*" (Psalm 34:18).

Many of us are grieving the loss of our normal church services and are brokenhearted to not see and touch our church family that we love so dearly. We all long to return to worship as usual. Some are pushing to get back to normal church while most are playing it safe at home, afraid to venture out any more than necessary. Is it time to come back to church? The President has declared church to be an *essential business*. *Hip, Hip, Hooray!* Our tears are transitioning to cheers!

Even with prospects of reopening as soon as possible, many churches are choosing to delay so as to protect those with health issues that render them more vulnerable to COVID-19. We all long to return to church, but the decision of when to reopen church services is a big decision. Of course, there are local, state, and federal guidelines for this. The question of how to do it is pretty straight forward, too. There are CDC and State Board of Health guidelines for that. Additionally, we have the history of how these decisions of church leadership impacted society during past pandemics over the past several centuries; this gives us the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

A brief survey to take the pulse of the congregation has been emailed to each church member. (I hope you will respond if you haven't already.) In addition, below are two links to articles you are urged to read while the Session is deciding when to reopen our worship services. These articles have been recommended to all churches in Savannah Presbytery to provide some perspective as we consider reopening.

I encourage you to click on the following links to read them:

<https://journal.praxislabs.org/leading-beyond-the-blizzard-why-every-organization-is-now-a-startup-b7f32fb278ff>

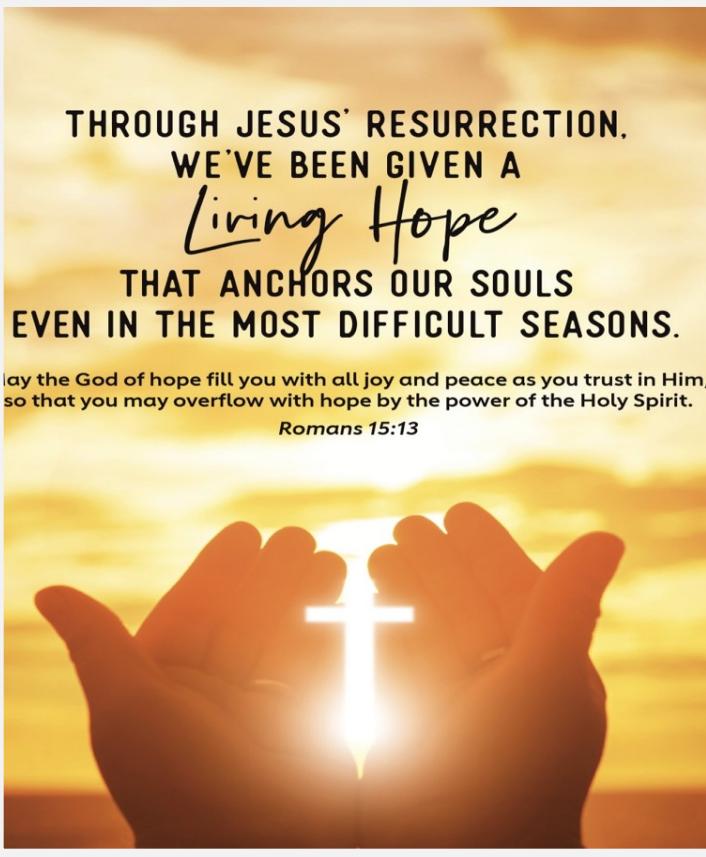
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/church-dont-let-coronavirus-divide/>

Let's continue to pray for one another during this time of grief and suffering, for better days are ahead!

Blessings, Pastor Mark

YOUNG  
&  
OLD  
GATHERED  
TO  
CELEBRATE  
WITH  
MS. DOT





**Melinda Phillips** (our faithful nursery worker) has taught Special Education for 30 years and is retiring from the Coffee County School System. Her husband Stacy works for PCC Airfoils and they have 3 sons (Brian an EMT at CRMC, Denton a 2020 graduate, and Keller a sophomore). They also are blessed to have 2 grandchildren (Brianna and Kaegan). Her plans for retirement include beach trips, gardening, antiquing, reading and spending lots of time with her family.

**We wish her the Best!!!**

She began working in our nursery over 25 years ago and doesn't plan to leave us!!!.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Remember when...*

Volume 4

Douglas, Georgia

September-October 1997

## COLLEGE GRADUATES!

May: Holly Hoyle  
B.S. in Biology  
Salem College  
Winston Salem, N.C.

June: Rob Stubblefield  
B.S. in Industrial  
Engineering Technology with  
Quality Assurance  
Southern Polytechnical  
University-Kennesaw, GA.

August: Ard James  
M.S. in Physical Therapy  
Armstrong Atlantic State  
University-Savannah, GA.

*Remember when...*



# Women of the Church

Brunch Bunch:

Although we are house-bound  
please continue to stay in touch with your group through  
birthday cards and thinking of you notes.

Matt 6: 34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.  
Today's trouble is enough for today."

**There** comes a time in your life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad and focus on the good. Love the people who treat you well, pray for the ones who don't.

Life is too short to be anything but happy.  
Falling down is a part of life, getting back up is living.

**Quote:** "Today may there be peace within.

May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in yourself and others.

May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content with yourself just the way you are.  
Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.  
It is there for each and every one of us."

