

# Women in Ministry Newsletter ~ March 2021

## How May I Serve You?



*Save the Date*

*“Spring Forward” in God’s Faithfulness*  
Women in Ministry Fellowship Event

March 14th at 7pm in King Hall  
(and via Facebook Live)

Join us for a casual night of fellowship and encouragement as we hear from Stacey Pardue on her story of God’s faithfulness in her life. More details to follow.

**“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” He came to serve and give. God is committed to one major objective in the lives of all His people; to conform us to “the image of His Son.” ~ Mark 10:45**

In the corporate world, we look at successful businesses founded on Christian principles and probably our first thoughts go to Chick-fil-a where their greeting is always “How may I serve you?” Bring that same principle of serving back to the church and we hear our own Pastor Bill always greeting us with “How may I serve you?”

Weeks ago we sat down to discuss what the of our newsletter would be for March and we were drawn to those very words, serving or being a servant. We really didn’t know where God would lead us in this topic but our thoughts were affirmed after hearing Tommy Overton’s sermon on Valentine’s Day. We hope that what you read will inspire you to look at new ways to serve and consider your purpose in this church where God has placed you.

**Our greatest example of serving others is John 13:1-17.**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his powers, and the he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciple’s feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now that I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

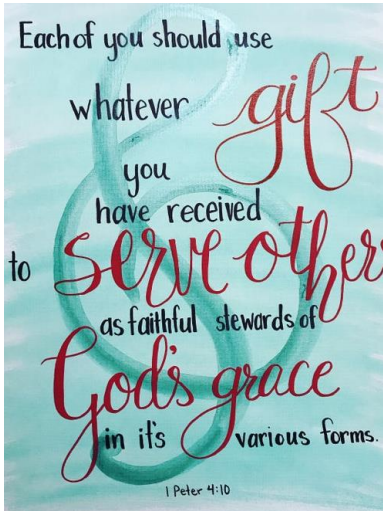
Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me” “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “Not just my feet but my hands and head as well.”

Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them. “You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

**Washing of the feet is to imitate the humility and selfless love of Jesus.**



## Finding Your Gifting in the Service of God ~ Natalie Pettegrew



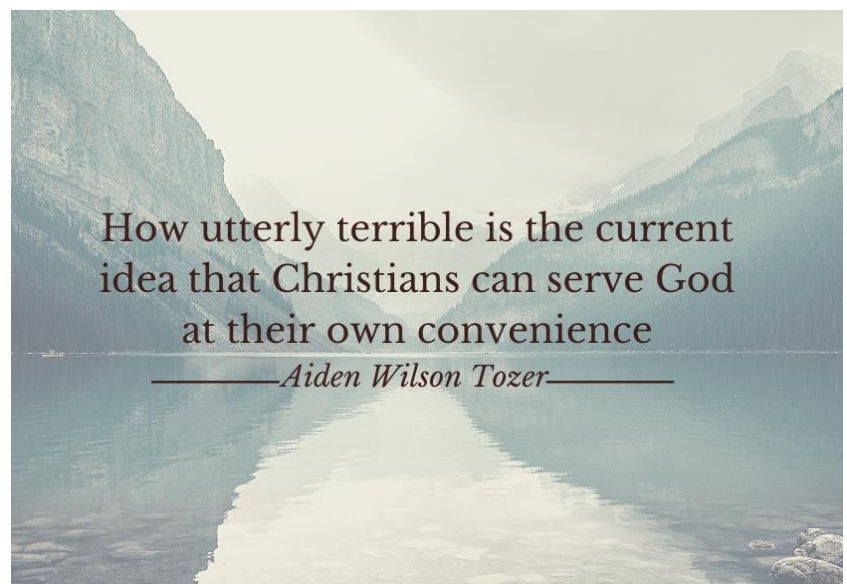
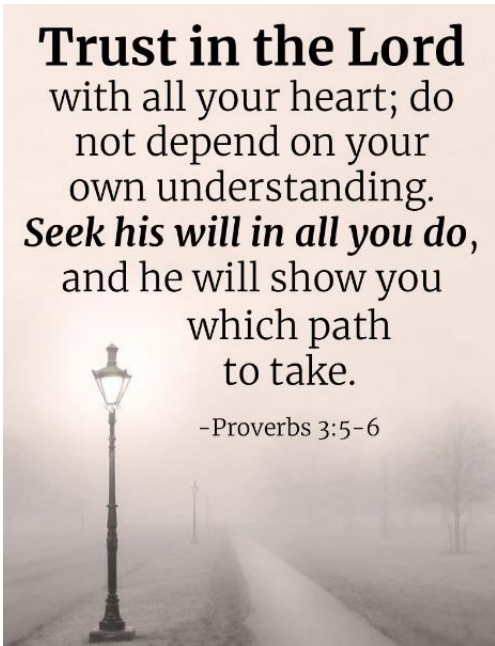
In Bruce Bugbee's book *What You Do Best in the Body of Christ*, he writes, "God has created and designed us with a purpose in mind. We are "wired" to care about some things more than others."

Nicole Unice (FPC's Women's Spring conference 2013 speaker and author of *Brave Enough*) furthers this thought by defining a calling as: "The place where your wiring and gifts align with God's expression of love to the world." She continues, "Imagine your calling as a prism. God is the source of light, and when His light hits that prism just right, it erupts in a glorious rainbow of color. A prism without the light is pretty enough, but when the light hits it, it comes alive. Calling is that intersection where God's light illuminates your soul, bringing life, vitality, and joy." 2 Corinthians 4:7 states, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." John 14:10 says, "It is the Father, living in me, who is doing the work."

Henry Blackaby reflects, "When members of a church begin to considering spiritual gifts, they sometimes run into difficulty by thinking God gave them a thing, like an ingredient called administration." He doesn't give a thing; He gives Himself. The Gift is a Person. The Holy Spirit equips you with His administrative ability, so His administration becomes your administration. When you see a spiritual gift exercised, you are observing a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit equipping and enabling an individual with His abilities to accomplish God's work." There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Utilize the **SERVE** profile on the FPC's home page to help clarify His calling and put you in contact with a pastor or ministry leader.

A blank journal page with a heart asking, "Lord, help me see how you have worked through me in the past" may open your eyes for ways to serve currently. Pray. Be still before the Lord and wait for His promptings. Search the Word of God. Ask someone close to you, "How do you picture me serving?"



## Serve and Love One Another ~ Holly Shadday (Co-Chair of Women's Ministry)

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us."  
1 Corinthians 12:4

What comes to mind when you hear someone mention serving the church? What do you think that really means? Would you consider yourself a servant of the church? I think we would all agree that we are called to serve and use our spiritual gifts but what does that look like? Of course the obvious things come to mind. Helping with babies in nursery, teaching Sunday school, working during Vacation Bible School, and serving on a committee are all great acts of service.

In a Google search I found a great list of 75 ways to serve your church. But if we are to fulfill our second greatest commandment to love one another, there is much more service needed from all of us.

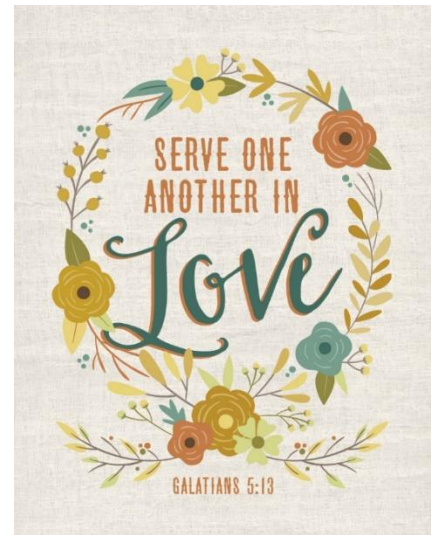
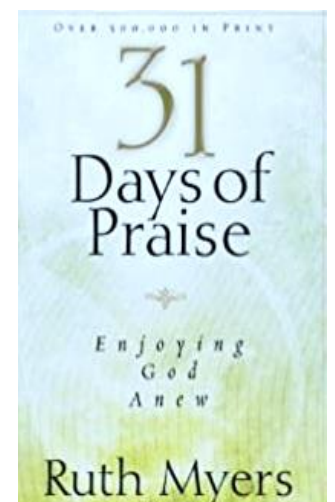
In Tommy Overton's sermon on Valentine's Day, I was intrigued by the passage he read from Romans 16 with all the names of all the people we usually skip over. I was particularly interested in learning more about Phoebe. Paul writes, "I commend you to our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in a way worthy of saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well." (Romans 16:1-2) Wouldn't we be thrilled beyond belief if Pastor Bill wrote something like this about each of us?!?! Phoebe was someone who had served and loved Paul well. She had the honor and responsibility of delivering his letter to the Romans, but it was her love and service to him prior to this that he wrote about. I think the heart of serving in our church is loving each other well. If we see a need, we try to do something about it. To do this, we need to really get to know one another. John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." I think by serving in the obvious ways and getting involved in church work, we are blessed by getting to know those members of our body that we might not necessarily have had the opportunity to spend time with otherwise. Then we are able to serve in a deeper and more intimate way.

***If you are interested in serving on the Women's Council please contact  
Holly Shadday at [hdshadday@gmail.com](mailto:hdshadday@gmail.com) or Natalie Stegall at [natalie.h.stegall@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.h.stegall@gmail.com)***

**Time for reflection:** We are set apart for God and he has a job to do through each one of us. Do we know what it is? Are we willing to step out and do it? ***Don't miss out on the blessings God has for you through serving.***

### **A Prayer from the Thirty One Days of Praise, Ruth Myers**

*Lord, I'm yours. Whatever the cost may be, may Your will be done in my life. I realize I'm not here on earth to do my own thing, or to seek my own fulfillment or my own glory. I'm not here to indulge my desires, to increase my possessions, to impress people, to be popular, to prove I'm somebody important, or to promote myself. I'm not here even to be relevant or successful by human standards. I'm here to please you. I offer myself to You, for You are worthy. All that I am or hope to be, I owe to You. I'm Yours by creation, and every day I receive from You life and breath and all things. And I'm Yours because you bought me and the price You paid was the precious blood of Christ. You alone, the Triune God, are worthy to be my Lord and Master. I consent to let You energize me... to create within me, moment by moment, both the desire and the power to do Your will. I give You my body and each of its members... my entire inner being: my mind, my emotional life, my will, my loved ones, my abilities and gifts.. my strengths and weaknesses.. my health.. my status, my possessions.. my past, my present, and my future... when and how I'll go home. I'm here to love You, to obey You, to glorify You. O my Beloved, may I be a joy to You!"*



## March Birthdays

March 1- Bobbie Garrett  
March 5 – Pam Gates  
March 6 – Susan Speed,  
Patti Maffett,  
Stacey Pardue  
March 7 – Sherry White  
March 8 – Linda Hine, Sarah Beth Kline  
March 9 – Katie Brewster  
March 12 – Gus George, Julie Barnes  
March 15– Evelyn Storey,  
Ruth Ann Cox, Jeannie King  
March 19 – Meghan Watters  
March 22 – Melinda Brown  
March 24 – Jill Graham  
March 26 – Teresa Puckett,  
Frances Ann Graham  
March 27 – Sadler Davis, Gina Robinson  
March 31 – Grayson Green

## *Present needs for service:*

*The Nursery Ministry is excited to be opening Nursery for all ages, 8 weeks through 5 years, during the 9:00 and 11:00 services. We need your help to make this possible! We need volunteers for the 4 and 5 years olds during the 11:00 o'clock worship service. Please contact Nell Milner through the church office at 706-291-6033.*

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*We have curriculum! We have Classrooms! BUT we still need teachers and assistant volunteers for Sunday School. We need teacher and assistant for 2 yr. olds, kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. For 4<sup>th</sup> grade we need an assistant; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade we need a male and female assistant. Show them Jesus and have fun with us! Please prayerfully consider where you can serve. Contact Mrs. Andrea ([andreas@fpcrome.org](mailto:andreas@fpcrome.org))*

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*Approved book for reading: Improving Your Serve  
by Charles Swindoll available on Amazon*



First Presbyterian

ROME

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"All Christians are but  
God's stewards.

*Everything* we  
have is on loan from  
the Lord, *entrusted*  
to us for a  
while to use in  
*serving Him.*"

- John MacArthur