



From Pastor Jean

Summer and Ordinary Time and Green and rain - all seem to be linked oh so closely this year. Green is the color of Ordinary Time in the church seasons. It reminds us of new life, new growth, health, abundance, and hope. This spring and now summer were especially rainy - no, stormy might be a better description. The weather alerts still sound regularly, the information crawls at the bottom of the television screen with warnings of danger, and the weather apps show various alert areas. Still, even with the storms, or maybe because of the storms, the fields are showing lush growth. Here, our gardens are growing, even those we didn't plant this year. Abundance is right around the corner. Aren't you looking forward to all the locally produced fresh vegetables, fruits, and berries?

Still Ordinary? Sounds like a letdown after the celebrations of Easter and Pentecost, doesn't it? It's so common, so unexciting, it's just so ORDINARY. We tend to look for mountaintop experiences - grand vistas, magnificent scenery, and glorious waterfalls. We look for the unusual, the different, the extraordinary. That's especially true when we go on vacations - we want to see different people or places or things - whether it is a national park, a big city, or a family's homeplace. Rarely do we seek out everyday places. Yet if we are honest, that is exactly where we are called to live. It was likely the same for the early believers. We see the events surrounding Pentecost and try to imagine the excitement. Tongues of fire flickering, the roar of the wind, speaking in others' languages for the message to be understood. The excitement surely continued as the early church grew - but then the more mundane began to intrude - how do we make sure the poor widows receive food; where do we go now to share the Gospel; how do we accept Gentiles; do we continue to worship in the synagogue?

Sounds pretty ordinary, doesn't it? But those questions were vital to the early believers as they began to live and serve as servants of their risen Lord. Similar questions are being asked today in our congregation (and in many others) - what is the Lord calling us to be and do here in Sanford and beyond?

Abundant life can be found in the life of the believer. Sometimes it's very obvious, and other times it may be hidden deep in one's own heart. Sometimes it's joyful like the hymn "*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*"; other times it is with the wonder of "*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*" [Chris Tomlin]; still others it's in recognizing God's love, "*How Great Is Our God*". While I have named songs, this is only one expression. Perhaps the way you experience abundance is in the joy you feel when working with others or conversely, when you are alone reflecting on what you have read in the *Bible* or a devotional. Maybe it's when you see flowers blooming or fields bursting with produce. Can't think of any particular abundance? Then take some time to look around - I'm confident you will discover riches you have never seen before. In any case, let's take time to thank God for everything He has placed in our lives.

We continue our faith journey together. Remember to be aware of those without a church home or who need special encouragement. Pray, think, and act as you are struck by the name of someone who really needs to hear the Good News of our risen Lord and Savior. Who are you going to invite to go on this faith journey as we grow together? Are **YOU** ready for this journey of new life in Him? The journey is an exciting one and lasts beyond life itself. Come, let us see what the Lord is doing.

In His Love, Pastor Jean

Announcements and Events this Month

***Presbyterian Women in
the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
will hold their 2025 Fall Gathering at
Pocket Presbyterian Church in
Sanford on Saturday, August 16.
Registration begins at 9:00 am and
the Plenary will begin at 10:00 am.
More information will be available by
the first of July.***





Congratulations to Donna Jackson, our recipient of the Faithful Saint Award!





The recipients of the Barbara Jackson Scholarship were, Gabe Jastzabski, Kate Jackson, Luke Jackson, Cameron Hill, and Olivia Stephens (not pictured)



Gabe Jastzabski recently graduated from high school and received a Bible from the Presbyterian Women.



Ivy Stephens was in a dance recital recently through Kelly's Dance Studio.



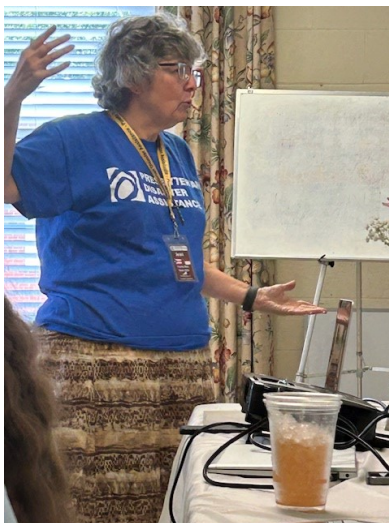
Daniel Thompson and his team won 2nd place in the division through Northview Optimist Baseball.



Kaylee Hill made the 2025-2026
Varsity JV Cheerleaders



Hayley Covington and Carter Cummings shared
information and pictures from their mission
trip to the Dominican Republic they recently
took through Grace Christian School.



Pastor Jean and Mike Spivey shared information and pictures
from their mission trip to Puerto Rico they recently took
through the Presbytery.



7/3 Judy Cole



7/11 Terry And Sue Parrott

7/24 Larry and Carol Wilson



*Bill and Pam Stephens celebrated
their 59th Wedding Anniversary
June 24th!*

Liturgists

6th Gary
13th Ronnie M.
20th Matthew
27th Lisa S.

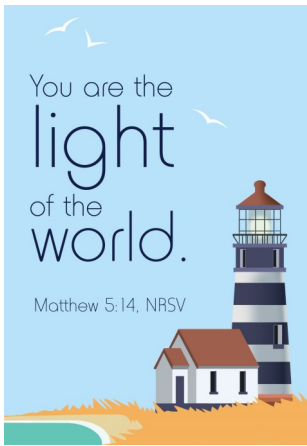
Ushers

6th Lawanda & Kaylee
13th Audrey & Hayley
20th Nicole & Daniel
27th Thomas & Judy

JULY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Happy INDEPENDENCE Day!	5
6 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 CUOC Sunday Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	14	15 Shirley Watson Dinner	16	17	18	19
20 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Session Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	28	29	30	31		

Fun Facts about Lighthouses



In the beginning, there was a fire on a hill. The fire burned from rocky outcroppings or sandy swales, from the Caribbean to the Caspian Sea, from ancient Thule to the latticework of coastal rivers that poured from the Carolina wilds. These fires were the first lighthouses, blazes built as high as a man could climb. And wherever they burned, out on the margin between land and sea, the meaning of their lights — peril, port, enemy, home — depended entirely on the designs of the men who searched for their flickering above the waves.

It was only a matter of time before the fires were raised as high as a man could build a tower. The first lighthouse known to historians was the Pharos of Alexandria, a 400-foot-tall spire of white marble that rose over the ancient Egyptian port. It was a day-night beacon of the first order. At night, massive fires could be seen for 30 miles. By day, plumes of black smoke rose high above. Considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, it stood for nearly 1,600 years until felled by an earthquake in 1375.

North Carolina's oldest standing lighthouse is the venerable Old Baldy. Built in 1817, the Bald Head Island Lighthouse replaced that first of the Carolina lights that rose above the dreaded Frying Pan Shoals in 1797. Squat and octagonal, Old Baldy peers from atop its grove of live oaks, its light accessed by ancient steps of yellow pine. With its stucco walls mottled like the shell of an old loggerhead turtle, the lantern room curiously offset like a hat on a rapper's head, Old Baldy is a quizzical

The next oldest lighthouse along the North Carolina shore, Ocracoke Island Lighthouse, is even shorter than Old Baldy. It rises only 75 feet above Silver Lake Harbor .

Meanwhile, Cape Lookout Lighthouse soars 156 feet above wild dunes and maritime forests. Lit on November 1, 1859, the brick tower received its distinctive black-and-white checkered pattern in 1873. But those diamonds aren't just for jaunty looks. When sailors saw the white diamonds, they knew they were sailing east or west. With the black diamonds fully visible, they were assured the ship was sailing north or south. Open to the public in the spring, summer, and early fall, climbing the lighthouse's 207 steps — equivalent to a 12-story building — brings the visitor to a view of the grand sweep of the southern Outer Banks, Morehead City, Bogue Sound, and beyond.

Visitors can climb the 1875 Currituck Beach Lighthouse, as well, corkscrewing up its 214-step spiral staircase, stepping into the wash of sunlight, a panorama of Currituck Sound and Back Bay and the Virginia Tidewater at your feet. Its million bricks have never been painted, a rarity along the Atlantic shore. But it's hardly the most famous brick lighthouse. The nation's tallest brick lighthouse is also its most recognized. The current Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was activated on September 16, 1870. Built a third of a mile from the sea, the Atlantic Ocean advanced to within 150 feet of the lighthouse base by 1930. When the entire lighthouse was lifted and moved in 1999, it captured the imagination of the country.