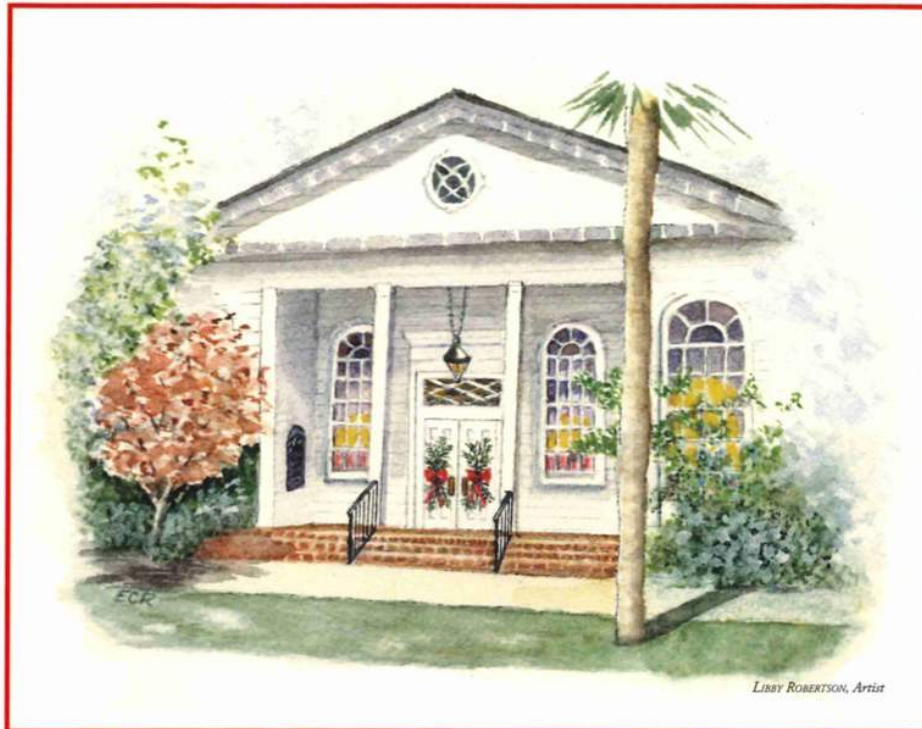




# First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort

A Service for the Worship of God  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 2021  
11:00 AM



*To all who are weary and need rest,  
To all who mourn and need comfort,  
To all who are lonely and need friendship,  
To all who are glad and would serve their neighbors,  
To all who are complacent and need disturbing,  
To all who sin and need a Savior,  
This church opens wide its doors  
In the name of Christ and bids you welcome.*

**Sanctuary:** 410 Church Street

**Office, Education & Outreach Building:** 1201 North Street

[firstpresbeaufort.org](http://firstpresbeaufort.org)  
[www.facebook.com/firstpresbeaufort](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbeaufort)

843-524-3051  
[info@firstpresbeaufort.org](mailto:info@firstpresbeaufort.org)



## Striking of the Hour

Prelude ..... *No Wind at the Window*  
Vic Varner, *Music Director* JOHN BELL  
Lily Cooper, *Organist*  
Meredith Halopoff & Jordan Plair, *Cantors*

Opening Words & Call to Worship ..... Geneva Baxley

*Not in the mighty places of power,  
But in little Bethlehem,  
In a room out back:*

**The Messiah is coming.**

*Not born in nobility and wealth,  
But of Mary and Joseph,  
Who pondered and planed wood:*

**The Messiah is coming.**

*Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings.  
But by two women  
Who were first to know:*

**The Messiah is coming.**

*Nothing will be impossible for God,  
But when we least expect it,  
Look among the straw and the stars:*

**The Messiah is coming.**

+\*Hymn..... *Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -  
her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness  
and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heaven and na - ture sing,  
and heaven and na - ture sing,



#### Prayer of Confession

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

(Let us continue in prayer silently)

Congregational Response Carol ..... *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

*May we who kneel before the Lord,  
 Whose hearts confess our sin,  
 Find peace that comes from God alone,  
 As Jesus enters in.*

*Hear us, O God of grace and love,  
 As humbly now we bow,  
 Incline to us and wash us clean,  
 Reign in our hearts right now.*

#### Declaration of Forgiveness

\*Gloria

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Lighting the Advent Wreath ..... Leslie and Mac Mitchell

*Watch and wait for Christ's coming!  
 Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
 remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

*We light this candle in hope.*

*We light this candle for peace.  
 We light this candle in joy!  
 We light this candle with love.*

*Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17  
 The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will  
 quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will  
 exult over you with loud singing.*

*Let us pray:*

*God of hope, God of peace,  
God of joy, and God of love,  
Teach us how to love one another  
as reflections of your light in the world.*

**God of promise, God of love,  
into our darkness come.**

\*Hymn..... *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Children's Sermon.....Dr. Patrick Perryman

*(During Advent we will dismiss the children  
while singing the refrain from The First Nowell.)*

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel***

Anthem.....Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day  
Vic Varner, *Music Director* TRADITIONAL ENGLISH  
Lily Cooper, *Organist*  
Meredith Halopoff, *Cantor*

Gospel Lesson..... Luke 1:39-55

Sermon ..... **My Soul and Spirit Sing**  
Dr. Patrick Perryman

\*Apostles' Creed

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that God has come to us;  
that God brought us into being,  
that this God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;  
that God is not happy to leave us alone,  
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,  
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph  
will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us;  
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

**Amen**

Giving and Receiving

Offertory.....*Ave Maria*

Vic Varner, *Music Director*

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH

Lily Cooper, *Organist*

Jordan Plair, *Cantor*

\*Doxology and Litany of Dedication

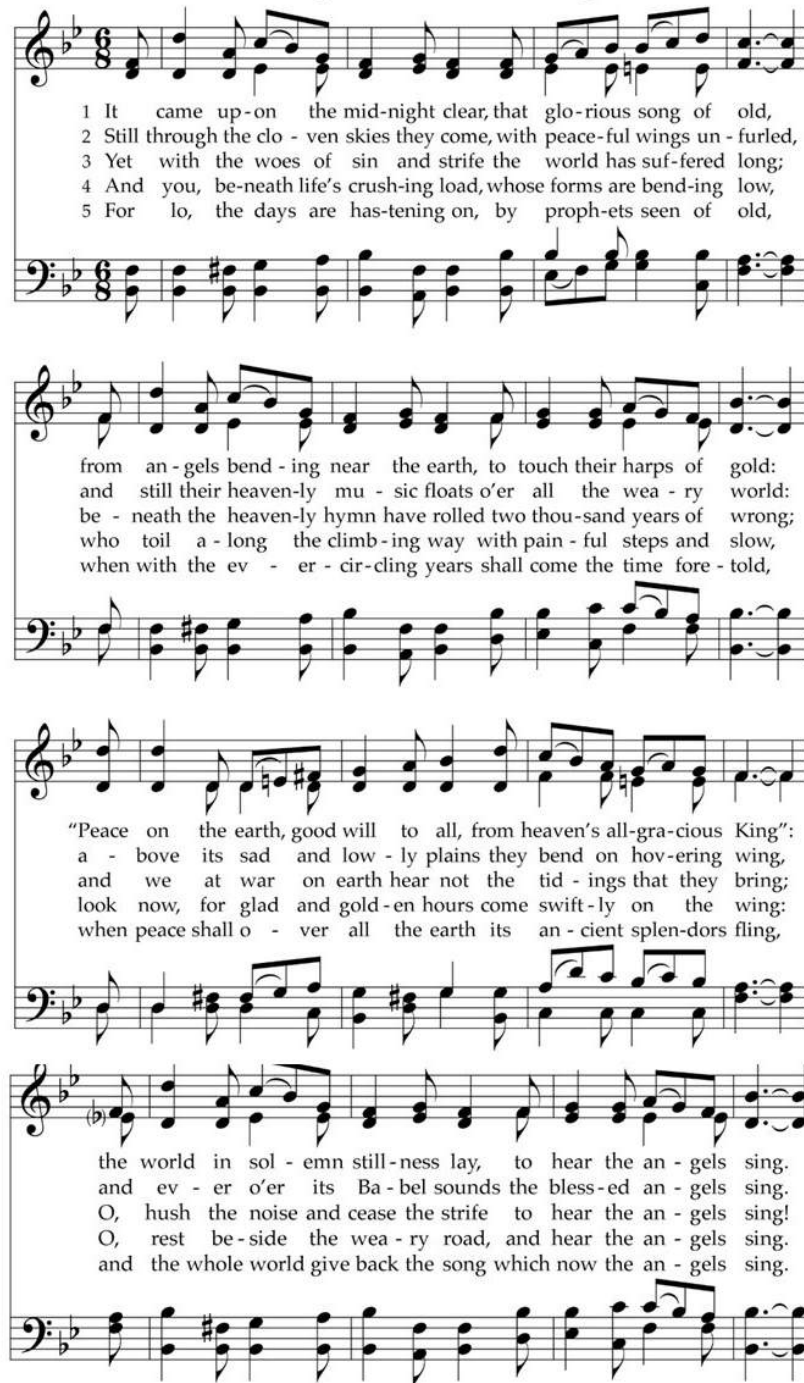
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, ye heavenly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Hymn..... *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,  
 from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,  
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,  
 the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

\*Benediction

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers

Postlude..... *Gabriel's Message*  
 ARR. PETTMAN & WICKHAM

\*All Who Are Able Please Stand | + Ushers Will Seat Latecomers



## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME to all who join us for worship today.** If you are without a church home, you will be warmly welcomed into our fellowship. We are glad you are here! Please like us on Facebook and visit our website at [www.firstpresbeaufort.org](http://www.firstpresbeaufort.org) for sermons, news, and current events.

**TODAY THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN** to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Advent Season.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIVITIES FEATURED THIS SUNDAY:**

All nativity sets depict the same beautiful story of the birth of Jesus, yet each nativity has its own beautiful personal story to tell as well. Manufactured in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during the depression era, this wonderful nativity crib set was discovered at a yard sale. The original owner purchased it for \$1 before 1940 at her local Kresges Store and from the diary she kept written in the box it was one of her favorites, displaying it every Christmas for over 60 years. We may not know her by name but after reading the account of some of her yearly thoughts and feelings she had as she packed her treasured nativity away for another year she becomes a close friend. She filled both the top and bottom of the box it came in as well as 3 sheets of paper on both sides with family loves and losses. It is truly a gift from God that this scene, so dearly loved and treasured by the original owner, found its way here to First Presbyterian Church where it can continue to be loved and shared. We like to think she is looking down with a smile knowing it has found a new home. This nativity was graciously gifted to the PW Permanent Nativity Collection.

Handcrafted by a local folk artist in Bat Cave, NC. This nativity is created from old industrial spools as the base. The artist creates the clothing from recycled and natural materials. The hair and beards are made from real lamb wool. The creative use of natural materials adds to the uniqueness of this nativity, shared today by FPC member Donna Lee Sheetz.

**THE ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will resume their Monday evening session on **January 10** with a weekly study of the Parables of Jesus. Sessions take place in the Education Building from 7:00-8:30 PM. This study will conclude in March. If you cannot attend the first session on January 10 you are welcome to drop in at any session. The sessions are related to each other but each discussion works as a stand-alone so you cannot really "fall behind" as in a traditional class. To pre-enroll in the group send an email to Bert Owen at [bandbert@gmail.com](mailto:bandbert@gmail.com). We hope you will join us.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS:**

Awakening the Spirit in us to become more compassionate.

"THE WOODS WOULD BE SILENT IF NO BIRDS SANG THERE,  
EXCEPT THOSE WHO SANG BEST." - UNKNOWN



*You're invited  
to our*

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



DECEMBER 19TH  
4PM

FPC SANCTUARY

*All are welcome!*

In lieu of a ticket, please bring sweatpants, sweatshirt or slippers for Bayview residents who are in need of these essentials.

## Pajama Drive

M, L, XL

**NEW**

Sweatpants.  
Sweatshirts.  
loungewear.  
nightgowns, etc.

For the residents of Bayview Nursing Home





First Presbyterian  
Church of Beaufort

JOIN<sup>o</sup> US  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**

A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE FOR ALL AGES

**5 PM**

NURSERY AVAILABLE  
FOR CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER

## A NOTE FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thanks to you and your generosity, there were a lot of happy children at NOC's Marsh Point Learning Center on Wednesday, December 15. They had their holiday party and each child received the item(s) they requested on their angels as well as a Wal-Mart gift card to be shared with their family. Time and time again you have answered the call to serve those in our community and we are most thankful. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". Matthew 25:40 With deepest gratitude, your Outreach Committee





## **IMPORTANT NOTICE - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to Elect Officers and At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee to **be held following worship on today.**

### **Candidates for Elder**



**AnnMarie Bowden** grew up in picturesque Maine, surrounded a loving family and the rocky coastline of New England. She ventured south to attend college, earning education degrees from Clemson and UGA. After teaching in Atlanta for 10 years, she and her husband, Brad, left their city life behind them, choosing Beaufort as the place to raise their two children, Claire and Charlie. AnnMarie assisted Brad in opening the Beaufort branch of Gooding Contractors and then turned her attention back to education and helped found Riverview Charter School, where she spent the next decade focused on teaching and learning. She has served on the Youth Committee at First Presbyterian since 2013 and has had the privilege to travel with the youth on many mission trips. AnnMarie and Brad knew they found their church home at First Presbyterian the first time they heard Dr. Perryman preach, and they are eternally grateful for the love and support the church has given their family over the years.



**AK Harper** grew up in Macon, Georgia and has lived in Beaufort since 1996. She joined First Presbyterian Church shortly after moving to town. AK has served as a Deacon, Elder and Member of the Youth Committee. Ak has two children, Kate (16) and Henry (19). She taught special education in Beaufort County Schools for most of her career, and currently serves as Special Services Coordinator at Riverview Charter School. She enjoys shelling, boating, running, reading and spending time with family.



**Donna Lee Sheetz** and her husband Steve moved to Beaufort 11 years ago from Cape May, NJ. They share 3 daughters and a son who have blessed them with 11 grandchildren and recently a great grandson. From the warm greeting she received on her very first visit to FPC she knew she had found a new church family. A past Deacon, Donna Lee is a member of TNT Circle and the Bell Choir. She is a member of the PW coordinating team and has served as PW Mission Coordinator, Vice Moderator, Moderator and Nativity Committee Coordinator.



**Gene Rugala** is a retired Special Agent of the FBI and prior to his retirement, he was the Unit Chief of the Behavioral Analysis Unit, (BAU), made famous in the movie "Silence of the Lambs" and television series "Criminal Minds" and "Mind Hunter". He is President of Eugene A. Rugala and Associates LLC, a behavioral consulting business for the past 16 years which he runs out of his residence here in Beaufort.



Gene and his wife Edie Smith have lived at 2003 North St for almost 17 years and have been members of First Presbyterian for 4 years. At First Pres, he has been on the Outreach and the Mental Health Committee. Gene And Edie have four children spread throughout the country and 6 Grandchildren.

Gene has been on a variety of non-profit boards and commissions over the years to include Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail and Hopeful Horizon. Gene has been a past member of Beaufort County's affordable housing consortium, the city's redevelopment commission and was co-chair of the City's Short term rental task force and downtown parking committee to name a few.

### Candidates for Deacon



**Penny Abbott** is a native of St. Simons Island, GA and a graduate from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism. She and her husband Will moved to Beaufort from Atlanta to operate their own Hospice agency in 2010. Penny became a stay at home Mom after the birth of their first son, Wilson (7) in 2014 and they welcomed their second son Charlie (3) into the world in 2018. The Abbott family joined First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort in December of 2019 and have enjoyed participating in the multitude of family oriented activities such as VBS, Anchor Kids and Grace Circle. Penny has served on the Children's Ministries and Membership committees and is currently volunteering as one the lead teachers for Anchor Kids. She also enjoys teaching group fitness classes, spending time outdoors and anything music related. The Abbotts appreciate being welcomed into First Presbyterian with open arms and Penny is looking forward to serving as Deacon to give back in service and further enhance her relationship with God and this congregation.



**Shep Caldwell** grew up in Macon, GA. He graduated from Stratford Academy and then attended The University of Georgia. After graduating from UGA, he bounced around a little bit and then settled in Savannah, GA. While living in Savannah he did a good bit of work in Beaufort and always loved the town. His wife Shannan and he visited several times while they briefly lived in Charleston and ultimately decided to make Beaufort their home sooner rather than later. After visiting FPC a few times, they were drawn by the message and the family that makes up the church. They were proud to have their daughter, Marion Faye, Baptized here in 2018. He looking forward to further serving the church and the community.





**Ben Coppage** grew up in rural Ware County, Georgia with his loving, patient, and relentlessly devoted parents. He was blessed to be surrounded by great church families in Methodist churches in Waycross, Georgia, Clemson, and Macon, Georgia. He is grateful to have found the same at First Pres. He is constantly in awe of and inspired by his wife, Allison's, sedulous dedication to and love for her family and community, by his son, Harris's, knowledge of nature and compassion for others, and his daughter, Bette's, wit and determination. He practices law and enjoys playing music.



**John Myrick** is originally from Allendale, SC. He graduated from Allendale Academy and has a psychology degree from the University of South Carolina. John Married a native Beaufortonian Sandra Aimar in 1993, and they have an amazing Daughter Frances. He has been an insurance agent for 24 years and is a Certified Senior advisor and is certified in Long Term Care. He is employed by Turbeville Insurance Agency on Lady's Island. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, reading and travelling. John regularly travel's to his family's property in Ulmer, SC on the Salkehatchie river. John has previously served as a Deacon and an elder.

### **Candidates for Nominating Committee – At-Large Members**



**Wm. Swinton Anderson, Jr.** was born, raised in a Baptist family and graduated from John's Island school then attended Clemson University attaining a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering, started a career at the Charleston shipyard assigned to Polaris missile submarines as a civilian.

After marriage to then Beverly Ballentine in the Batesburg Presbyterian church, joined the Second Presbyterian church in Charleston and were blessed to have two wonderful, sons.

In 1965, relocated to Spartanburg, SC for employment at Kohler Company became active in the Westminster Presbyterian Church as a Deacon and Elder plus Youth Club co-director, coaching youth teams, mobile meals, Sertoma Club.

In 2005 they moved to Distant Island, and joined First Presbyterian Church. In 2009 Beverly passed away. Two and half years later, he was blessed to meet Lynn Free thru her niece Mary Tatum (matchmaker of the first out of 100 tries) and was married at FPC by Dr. Perryman.

Switon, has been involved at FPC doing video recording of services, serving on

Property Committee, Second Helping, mission trips to West Virginia, and Mobile Meals- going for over 38 yrs.

The most rewarding experience in all the years in the church was serving on the pastor search committee which lead to the selection of Dr. Perryman to come to



FPC. It was such a wonderful year working with fellow church members and had a successful ending by bring Dr. Perryman into our church family

**MJ Simmons** is a lifelong Presbyterian growing up in this church, and recently served as a Deacon. Born and raised in Beaufort she loves now raising her children here. She and her husband Rob have 3 children; Marion (10), Wallace (7), Julia (5).MJ works at USCB in the Osher Life Long Learning Institute and is on the

board at Riverview Charter School. She loves the summer and spending time on Edisto Beach with her family. She is an avid little league baseball fan and nothing brings her more joy than watching her boys play!



**Kim Cope** was born in Fayetteville at Fort Bragg to an army helicopter pilot and middle school teacher, grew up in Greenville, SC where both large families (mom and dad) are from; blessed w a grandmother, aunts and uncles living

within walking distance on family land. I went to Wade Hampton High school in Greenville then on to the College of Charleston and finished w an art degree from USC. I bought worked as a graphic designer there until I married Lee Cope who started his own law firm on Johns Island. We lived on very rural Wadmalaw Island and transformed from Southern Baptists into good Presbyterians, attending Rockville Presbyterian Church. Four years later we moved back to Lee's hometown of Hampton and Grace appeared. Our 3 kids are Gracie Landon (19), a sophomore at USC; Sarah Annslee (almost 13!) and Gibbs Deer (10), both of which attend Holy Trinity Classical Christian School in Beaufort. We live in Seabrook and Brunson, SC. We loved FPC the first time we visited and knew it was the place for us! Lee and I are both ordained elders in the Presbyterian Church having previously attended Estill Presbyterian.