

The Quarterly Journal



A Note of Heartfelt Thanks: The Impact of NPC Scholarships

by Nate Yaeger

The scholarship I received from Newnan Presbyterian Church has truly been a blessing - but that is just the simplest way to describe this gift. It is difficult to describe the impact of a scholarship like this because it doesn't have just one impact. It eases the financial burden of school, of course, but it might also allow my peers or me to purchase the tools we can use to succeed. It eases my stress about the cost of school, allowing me to focus more on the enjoyable, first-time experiences. Possibly most of all, it allows me to think less about the worries of present-day costs and more about my future and how I may be able to give gifts of similar significance through education.

I speak for both myself and those who also received this scholarship when I say our gratitude is great for the Doris and J.W. Johnson Endowment Fund. In just a few weeks, we will be in a new environment, carrying the lessons, gifts, and blessings from this community forward. While this congregation may not be a part of these experiences, I am thankful to have received a gift that shows the faith people have had in us as students and members of this congregation. This gift and others remind me of the light I have found from this congregation; and this form of light is certainly hard to forget, so I am confident that it will be carried forward in scholarly habits, in fellowship, and in every action we take.

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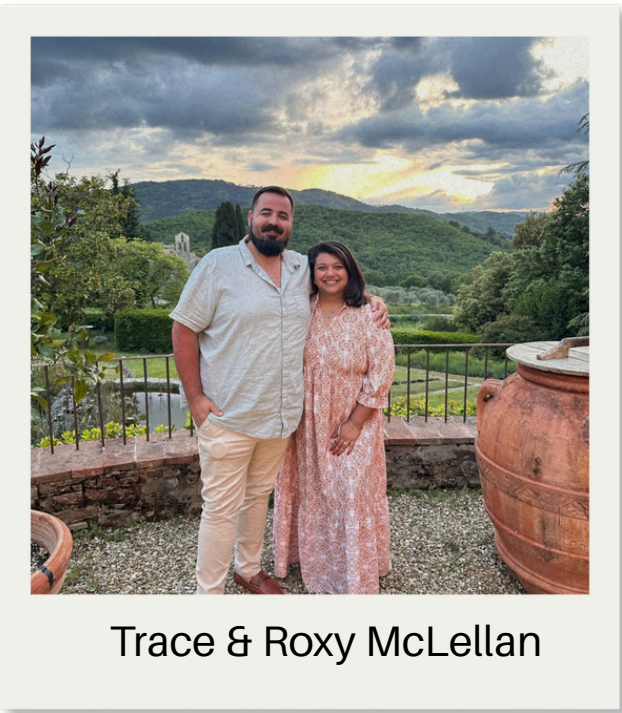
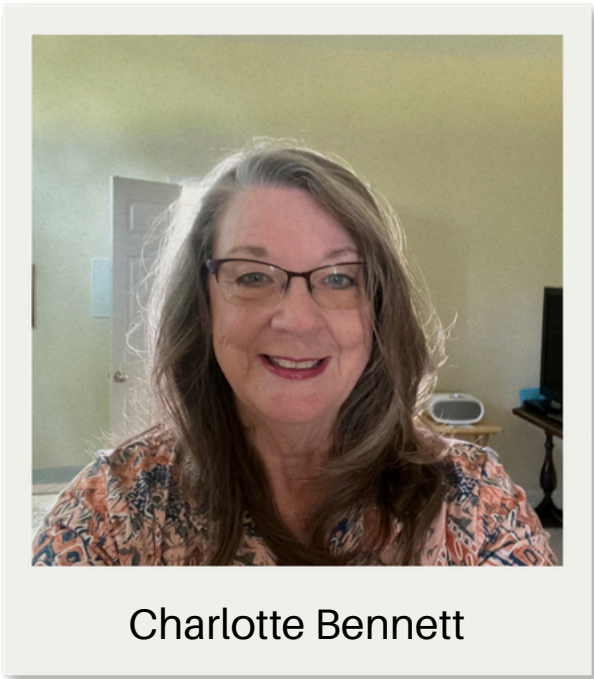
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Life Events

Deaths:

- William Wilkins Kirby, Jr., May 24, 2026
- Paul Lane Ellen, June 4, 2026
- Arlin Tolsby Larson, June 21, 2026

New Members



It’s Magic, You Know: NPC Sponsors

Latest CORRAL Arrival

by Suzy Royal

Exactly one hundred and one years ago, in 1925, - four years before the Great Depression devastated the country - charming eccentric Wayne P. Sewell took a chance and built the Southwest’s “largest and finest barn”. Sixty-two years later, in 1987, his chance metamorphosed into something he likely never could’ve imagined but would no doubt be proud of; Mr. Brown and Mrs. Marie Powell bought the historic, brownish-grey barn and transformed it for its second act, serving children with physical and intellectual disabilities: the Coweta Organization for Riding, Rehabilitation, and Learning.

Programming began with a duo of horses serving two riders before the CORRAL Hall of Fame roster expanded to nine total, including Trigger, Hobby, George, Mozzy, and others. In the early aughts, it included Trooper, the Connemara I took some of my first walker-assisted steps to ride. When Trooper passed on to those rolling green pastures beyond at over 40 years old, I went through a regular equine roulette for years until I met Indy, the now-27-year-old bay quarter/Morgan gelding who remains my partner-in-crime to this day. The care rate is \$2,500 per horse; CORRAL is the July Outreach Ministry spotlight organization. All donations go to their general fund, allowing them to continue their meaningful work in our community. Donations may be made at any time through their website or the church website.



Author Suzy Royal pictured at CORRAL



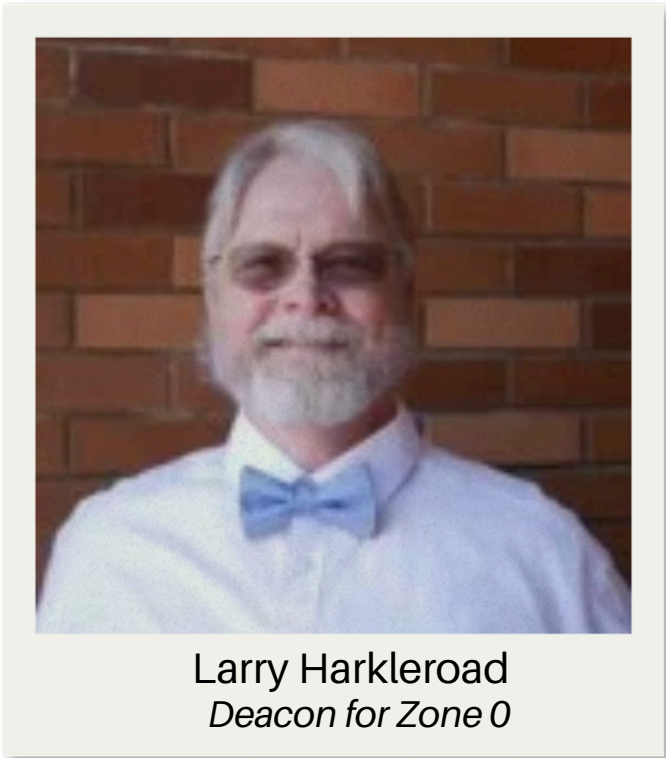
CORRAL Barn

This spring, the barn was imbued with a well-placed bit of Magic with the arrival of the 18-year-old Paso Fino, a skilled endurance rider who underwent extensive desensitization training with his former owner and mom, including police training exercises. His gentle temperament, combined with his smooth acceleration from a slow walk to a fast walk and trot, makes him an ideal CORRAL horse. His slender physique makes him especially ideal for me. He truly is magic! Visitors are welcome to witness the magic in action, as well as the rest of the herd, during CORRAL’s fall session and spring session and partake in the beloved tradition of the live Nativity each December. Volunteers are always needed! Email the church office (npcadmin@newnanpres.org) to connect you with CORRAL.

CORRAL is far more than an equine therapeutic organization; it is a communal institution whose far-reaching benevolence is felt by many and appreciated by all. Thank you for your generosity, and God bless CORRAL.

Deacon of the Quarter

Larry Harkleroad, Deacon for Zone 0 takes care of church members living in retirement communities, assisted living facilities, or who are homebound. He also takes care of our non-resident members. Regularly Larry visits with members, bringing light and laughter. He’s faithful in his service to our church as both a deacon and as an integral part of our youth program. If he’s not visiting folks, he’s working with the youth – transporting them hither and yon on the church bus or serving as chaperone. Larry is a bright light in our church!



Larry Harkleroad
Deacon for Zone 0

My name is Larry Harkleroad, and my hometown is Douglas (Coffee County), Georgia. I graduated from Coffee High School, South Georgia State College, and Mercer College of Pharmacy. I moved to Newnan in 1988 and worked for the Kroger Company as a pharmacist until my retirement in 2019. My wife Melanie is from LaGrange, Georgia and we were married in 2018. I have four daughters, and she has a son and a daughter. Together we share seven grandkids.

I ride a Harley Davidson “Road King,” and it is billiard red (like the # 3 billiard pool ball.) I like all social activities, being outdoors, and college football. (Go Mercer Bears and Georgia Bulldogs!) I enjoy road trips and discovering new restaurants.

I have been a member of Newnan Presbyterian Church since 1998. I serve on the Diaconate and the Youth Ministry. The students call me Lar Bear. Being a deacon has allowed me to be the “Hands and Feet of Christ” for my church family. Serving as the “Body of Christ” has strengthened my faith.



Larry’s Road King

Unfurling the Natural Melody: Creative Wisdom from My NYC Days

by Cliff Brock

When I was in my early 20s, I dropped out of UGA, packed up my little Ford Escort, and moved to Brooklyn, NY. It was the most transformative experience of my life for many reasons, many of which I won't get into, but I'd like to talk about a few of the musical influences that have stuck with me.

Luckily, I was able to quickly find a job as a church organist at a tiny Episcopal church in The Bronx. It was an hour subway ride from my home in Brooklyn. It was my first encounter with the Anglican/ Episcopal tradition, and that in itself was eye-opening. But to make it even more special, this church was made up of around 90% immigrants from the West Indies. The food was amazing, btw: the ox tails, the rice and beans... they ate a meal after every service.

After a few months living in NYC, I decided I should probably continue my education, especially if I ever wanted to become a musical theatre composer, which was my dream at the time. So I applied to the Steinhardt School of Musical Theatre at NYU and somehow got in, even though I really hadn't written much by that point. I now understand they probably were happy to take my money.

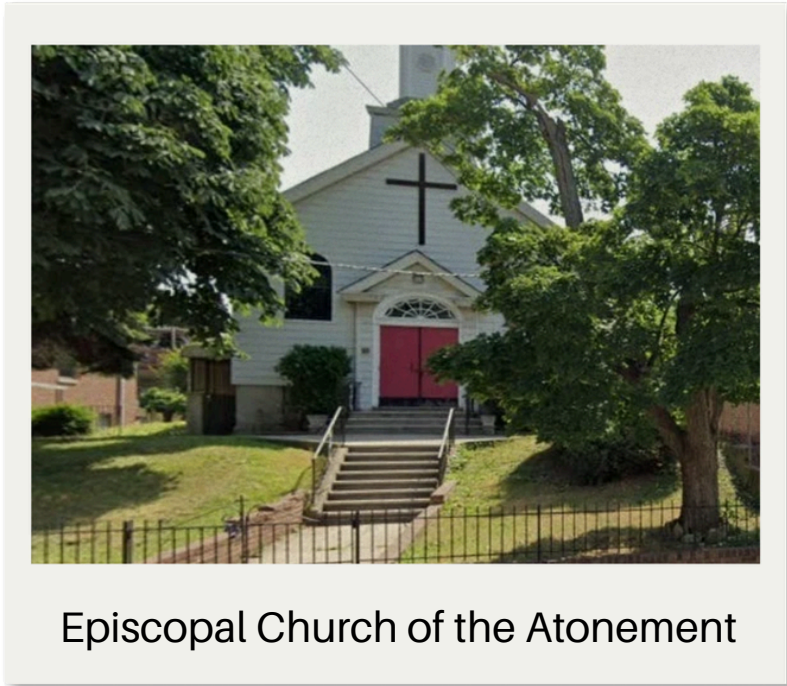
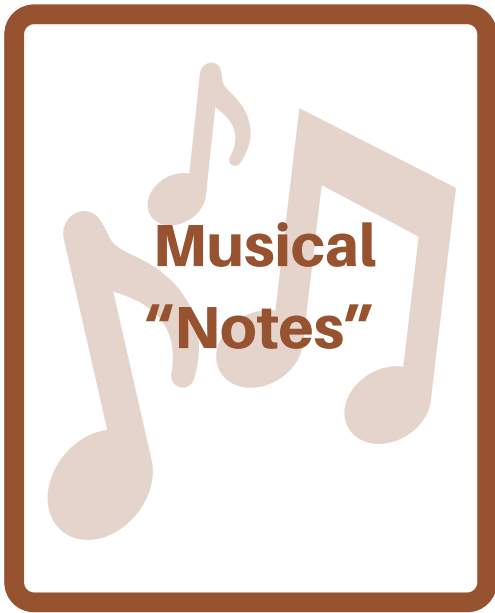


NYU Steinhardt

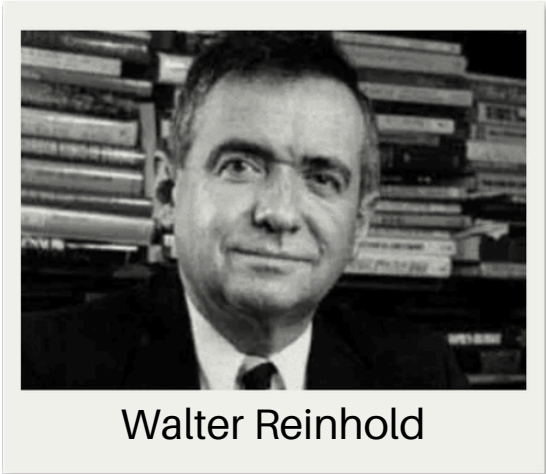
I took out a lot of private loans, which took me a decade to pay off, but I digress. I don't want to complain, because I don't regret my decision to attend NYU. I had one of the best music history teachers I could imagine; Walter Reinhold (1940-2006) was the wittiest professor I ever had. He was a tour de force of intellectual prowess, and I still occasionally read his textbook. He taught music history from a cultural perspective; looking at the whole historical context of the composer, the philosophy, the visual arts, the political stuff going on...

Yet I was SO scared and intimidated by him. He would start every class with rapid-fire questions. He'd call out a random name on the roll (it was like 100 of us) and ask a question. He only called on me once, and, of course, my mind went blank, and I didn't know the answer. But the fear of public humiliation forced me to read and study the material before every class. Fear is a good motivator, but, for the first time in my life, I found studying history exciting.

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Episcopal Church of the Atonement



Walter Reinhold

Continued, from page 5

Another memorable musical experience from my time there was a special lecture by Alan Menken, the famous composer of *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*, and so many others- one of my heroes, actually. I'll always remember 2 things Menken said about writing music: Don't let yourself get too attached to a melody or a phrase if it isn't working, so you must not be afraid to cut it out. This suggestion sounds too simple, but if you've ever written something, like a melodic phrase or a particular chord progression, that you've "fallen in love with", you know how hard it is to throw it out. But that's an essential part of creating something that flows, that has inner momentum and continuity.

He also said something like this, "Let the music write or unfurl itself in a natural, organic way." This is almost a magical process when it happens and very rare for me! I try to keep these two suggestions in mind every time I write something. And while I'm by no means a great composer, I feel like I've developed my own compositional style, a fingerprint of who I am as an artist. And more importantly, I think I'm continuing to learn and improve, albeit in fits and starts!

So, that's a little taste of my life in NYC way back in 2003/04. It was such an impressionable period of my life.

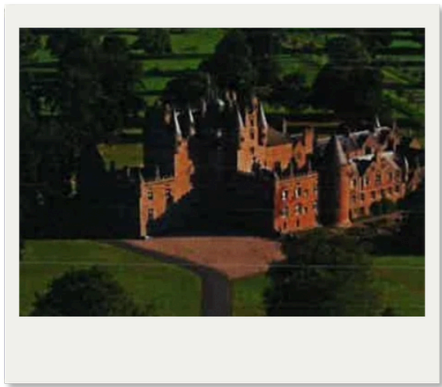


Interested? Questions?

Check out NPC's website for more details, including a detailed itinerary of this 11-day trip, planned in conjunction with Luther Tours, a Christian Travel Planners since 1965.

I would love for you to prayerfully consider joining NPC on this unforgettable journey through Scotland in July 2027. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of the Scottish Reformers, worship in sacred places like Iona and St. Giles Cathedral, learn about Robert Burns as we visits Newnan's sister city, Ayr, and experience the breathtaking beauty and rich Christian heritage of Scotland. This trip is much more than sightseeing; it is an opportunity for spiritual renewal, fellowship, and a deeper connection with our Presbyterian roots. From the Highlands and Loch Ness to the inspiring legacy of John Knox and Robert Burns, every part of this pilgrimage promises meaningful memories that will last a lifetime. I hope you will join us for this incredible adventure of faith and discovery.

-Greg Shivers, Trip Coordinator



Farewell My Friends

A Message from Beth Royal

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your church secretary for 11 years. You’ve been a wonderful church family to me, and I appreciate your kindness and support over the years. Thank you for all the retirement well-wishes, flowers, cards, and gifts.

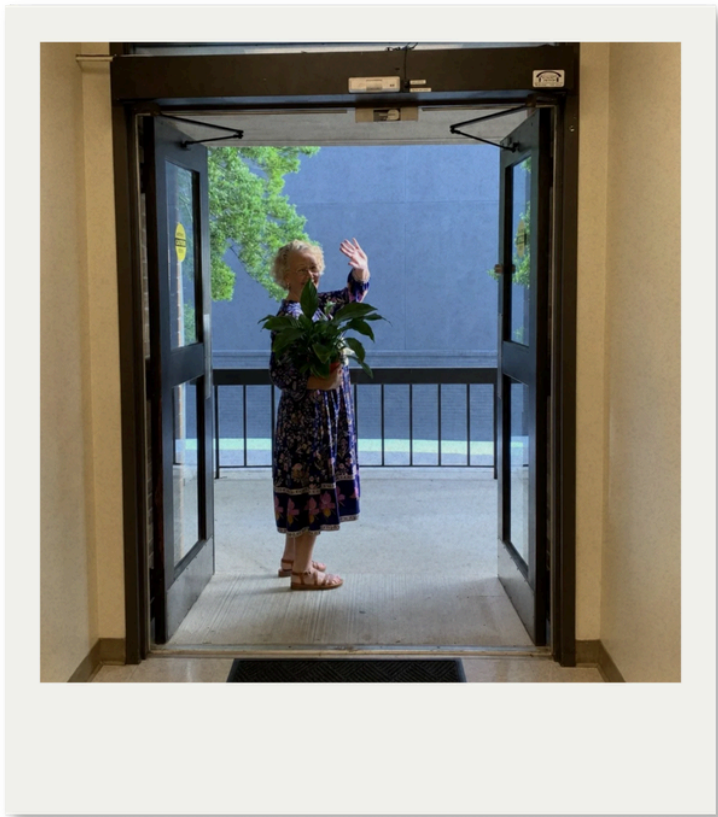
In the spring of 2015, my friend, Erin Boyd (your former church secretary), contacted me and asked if I would like to interview for her job – she and her family were moving to Athens. I had been praying for the Lord to lead me as to next steps, as I had been a stay-at-home mother with our twin daughters since their birth in 2001. The afternoon of my interview, I pulled into the parking lot and the only space available had a sign that said, “Reserved for Church Secretary.” As you Presbyterians would say - it was providence! That day, I interviewed with Dr. Harry Barrow, Rev. Leigh Campbell-Taylor, Sue Reece, and Hans Boesing. I was offered the job soon thereafter. I spent several days training with Erin. She told me it would not take long to learn how to spell Chiostergi, Kazmierczak, Kookogey, Kantorczyk, and Vasconcelles, or to fall in love with the people of NPC. She was right! I have loved my time here.

Every day when I ascend the steps to the Church Office, I whisper this prayer - *“Thank you, Lord, for my job at Newnan Presbyterian Church”*- 10 words for 10 steps. I am so very grateful that God called me here to serve in this season of life. My time here has been meaningful and life-giving.

When I was younger, I felt God was calling me into ministry. The call was clear. God called me to serve those who serve him. I’ve had terrific places of service including the Chaplaincy Division of the Baptist Home Mission Board, Wesley Woods, First Methodist Church, and here. (Presbyterians are the most fun!) This has been a sweet season, made sweeter by serving alongside Dr. Harry Barrow, Rev. Leigh Campbell-Taylor, Rev. Susan Haynes, and Rev. David Jones. I enjoyed working with associate pastors Rev. Micah Nutter-Dowling and Rev. Tyler Brock.

Some dear souls have passed in my time here. I was especially fond of Ruth Schroeder. Jan Bowyer and Linda Hubbard were so dear to me, as was Millie Coggin. I miss Walter Krauth, who would call me on late Friday afternoons to: 1) make sure I was still at work and 2) tell me awful jokes. I miss these dear saints.

I will miss you. Thank you for being my “bonus” church family.

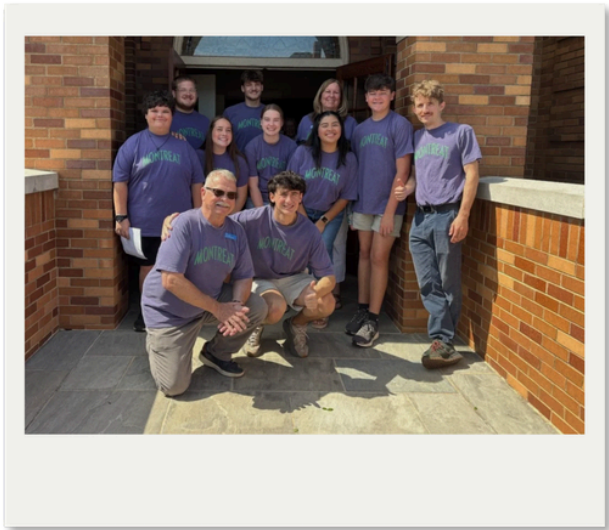


High School Montreat 2026

I’ve attended High School Montreat for 4 years. Montreat is one of the most special places in my heart. Making some of the best memories and some of the greatest friends that I still talk to today. Montreat is a youth conference where multiple presbyterian churches from places as far as Michigan come together and learn more about our faith. The greatest moments in my opinion at Montreat was the Candlelight every year. I remember every Candlelight and I picture every year extinguishing my candle when the different grades are called. When they congratulated the class of 2026, it was one of the most special moments of my life that I will never forget. Every great memory I had flashed before my eyes.

The most memorable year was my senior year. I tend to have some bad social anxiety and I don’t care to meet new people. This year however, I decided to be talkative and meet and talk to more people. Not only did I make more friends than previous years, I was able to learn their path with God. Learning their path inspired me to take my path more seriously. In my life, I never truly put God first and took much consideration in my faith. The late conversations with the greatest back home leader ever, the greatest back home leader’s husband (Nick), and Will made me want to further my connection with God. I’m excited to continue my faith and I encourage everyone to attend Montreat.

— Charlie Caswell





Newnan Presbyterian School Introduces Panther C.L.A.W. Learning Model for 2026-2027



Newnan Presbyterian School is excited to announce an innovative academic enhancement for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a strong Christian education and preparing students for future academic success, NPS will be implementing a subject-based teaching model for upper elementary students. This new approach is centered around our Panther C.L.A.W. philosophy:

C – Connect

Students will build meaningful relationships with multiple teachers and classmates while making connections between different subject areas.

L – Learn

Teachers will focus on their areas of expertise, providing high-quality instruction and engaging learning experiences in each subject.

A – Achieve

Specialized instruction will allow teachers to better meet individual learning needs and help students reach their full academic potential.

W – Win

By developing confidence, responsibility, and a love of learning, students will be equipped for success both academically and personally.

Our teaching team for grades 3-5 will include:

- English Language Arts: Jackie Anderson
- Mathematics: Rebekah Summerell
- Science & Social Studies: Maddy Green
- STEAM Lab & Lead Teacher (Grades 3-5): Carmen Davis

Students will rotate between teachers for their core subjects, allowing them to benefit from the strengths and expertise of each educator while remaining in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. This new model reflects Newnan Presbyterian School's dedication to academic excellence, innovation, and the development of the whole child. We are excited about the opportunities Panther C.L.A.W. will provide as we continue to help students connect, learn, achieve, and win.

We are grateful for the continued support and prayers of the congregation as we prepare for another exciting year of ministry through education.

C.A.R.E. Group Recap

Connecting with each other, Affirming our faith,
Restoring our soul, and Engaging with the world



Calvin’s Crew in July

Question: Since we have the New Testament, why do we need the Old Testament?



Presbyterians, with other Christians, affirm that both the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and the New Testament are the Word of God and are essential for the church's life and belief. Early in its history, the church rejected the views of those like Marcion who argued that the Old Testament was not necessary for Christian understanding.

Both testaments are vital to understanding who God is and what God has done. The Old Testament is the witness to Israel's faith in the God who liberated the people from Egypt, called them into a covenantal relationship, and gave the Law as a guide for doing God's will.

This God of Israel had made a covenant with Abraham and Sarah to be the God of their descendants and to make them numerous (Genesis 17). God's covenant promises were affirmed in other places, with other persons, such as David, to whom God promised a dynasty (2 Samuel 7:1-17; 23:5; Psalm 89:3) and what later became the "messianic hope" of the prophets (Isaiah 11:1-9). God will send a promised "Messiah" to be God's "anointed one" (the meaning of the term), who as king will perfectly represent God and establish God's reign at the end of time (Jeremiah 23:5-6; Zechariah 9:9-10).

So the Old Testament, with all its narratives and rich teaching, is the context out of which Jesus emerged. Followers of Jesus believe that he is the promised Messiah, from the line of David, and that he in himself fulfills the promises made by God in the various covenants of the Hebrew Scriptures. The word "testament" comes from the Latin term *testamentum*, which means "covenant." So to say the "Old Testament" is also to say the "Old Covenant."

Theologically, the Old Testament provides the "promise," the New Testament the "fulfillment" (Hebrews 6:13-20). Thus, there is an important relationship between the two testaments. One cannot be fully understood without the other. Presbyterian Christians have maintained that the "substance" of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant are the same, but God's covenant relationship with the people of God has been expressed differently in different periods. The final and definitive expression of this covenant relationship is in Jesus Christ, who is the "new covenant," the fulfillment of God's promises (Jeremiah 31:31-34; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

-Donald McKim, *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*