



# From the Rafters

Vol. X  
Issue 10  
November  
2023

## Our Mission

We are a people rooted in worship, branching out into the world.

### Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

Below you will see a picture of the newest addition to our outdoor space! Over the past couple of years, we have worked hard to improve our outdoor space for our community, both for the church and our neighbors! We acquired more green space, we removed the Resurrection House to create more green space, we revamped our community garden to include new benches, we created our labyrinth in honor of Teedie Radford, we have maintained and improved our prayer garden, and finally we completed the outdoor altar. In November of 2022, we installed the outdoor altar in thanksgiving for Noonie and Joe Fennell. The final step for the outdoor altar is now complete, a credence table. We were able to use all the funds donated in memory of Joe to complete this final step. I know Joe is smiling down on us! I look forward to more outdoor events and services. I can imagine weddings and gatherings! I am so thankful we have been able to honor Noonie, Joe and Teedie.



I also wanted to update you on the columbarium in our courtyard. We purchased the necessary pieces for 32 additional spaces (our current columbarium is sold out). We are having trouble finding granite to match what is currently there. We are being patient and want to find the perfect fit!

Please mark your calendars for many upcoming important events: our Parish Retreat; celebrating

40 years of Donna Brooks' ministry; Advent events, including our annual meeting on December 3rd; and Anthony Price from Pathways House preaching on December 10<sup>th</sup> (Pathways House will receive our Advent giving this year). There is so much to celebrate and thank God for!

Even though our Stewardship Campaign has officially ended, we have not heard from some of you, and we are short of our goal. If you have not turned in your pledge cards, please do that as soon as possible. If you feel you can give more, please let us know. Our financial giving is so vital to keep the church functioning, to provide help for those in our community and within the church and to do so much more.

As always, you are so loved by me, but most importantly God!

Love, Mary Balfour+



## Faith

In the time it takes church bells to chime, I have poured a strong, dark coffee and arranged myself at the desk in my office, ready to write. Our chocolate lab



Hazel curls onto her bed beneath. The task at hand is to articulate how and why I keep on. My wife is a priest, and it seems that the parishioners need some sort of explanation for my absence. The medical details given are more confusing than explanatory, and regardless, the real question is, how do I find it in myself to press on?

Perhaps you need more information. I was in a car crash about 15 years ago. I was instantly coma-bound followed by a year of wheelchair. Now, free of such madness, I still endure a severe brain injury -for which there is no cure. The drama, from time to time, is pain. At this point, it stems from a broken pelvis that never healed properly. X-rays, an MRI, and CT scans showed the problems, but honestly, there is no end in sight. I find this terrifying.

A diversion, the thing that no one talks about - because it has nothing to do with anything, is tinnitus. No one can properly describe it, much less explain... Basically, there is noise in my ears -- 24 hours a day. It does not end. Ever. I shower with tinnitus, I eat with tinnitus, I speak with tinnitus, and I sleep with it too. It is like having a personal entourage of crickets at the ready, on demand, always. You do not get a break. Good times, and of course, the bad. Tinnitus. Yes, it started at the wreck, but in 15 years, my only step forward is acknowledging no one really understands it. In fact, I realized this morning that the real reason I spend so much time blowing leaves off our porch is not cleanliness, as we had assumed, but it is that the sound of the blower covers the buzzing in my ears entirely.

But the wreck was 15 noisy years ago, and the pain comes now? Yep. You just never know. Perhaps the tinnitus is psychological pain, but the physical pain may stop you as well. My hips gave me trouble, but after several doctors and several

more tests, my pelvis is at the root. I have not had the strength to attend church for the last four Sundays in a row. My absence is noticed. I must explain.

With a bit of patience, I sat next to my wife as we successfully made a podcast that might alleviate some of the inevitable repetition. We assured them I would be fine. I hope that is true. What I am in disbelief over is the first doctor missing the pelvis entirely and giving me a second steroid shot to the hip that did nothing, -twice! So -of course, we moved on and now feel like we are with the correct doctor and the correct plan.

The real issue at hand is faith. I don't want to turn all high and mighty on you -or anything like that, but this really might basically come down to whether or not I truly believe. If I am able to find it in myself that God really does care, that I am worth saving, and that He has given those around me the power to take away my pain.

I am just back from a place called Cook Out where I ordered and received some of the best french-fries in town. All of this went smoothly. But then I got home and was forced to stand and ascend the stairs to our back door. If I sit for any amount of time, my pelvis/hips/hamstrings all lock together like a ring of poisonous snakes. And let me tell you, they bite. This pain defies description but could not be stronger -just from sitting in my car for ten minutes.

Poisonous snakes might help explain how control comes into play. I guess an utter lack of control is more to the point. When your path has been taken from you without permission, control is lost. My car crumpled, steel and glass were stirred up like a milkshake, and there was not anything remotely resembling control left. My car was blue, and the color was the only remaining recognizable detail. Control that. And the sound of a thousand pounds of metal twisting the wrong way.

The issue may be as simple as allowing my faith to push to the front of my brain and satiate the indelible nerve endings with love. A love for my wife -and hell, a love for God. Perhaps I'll have faith in the doctors' minds, my wife's heart, and God's love will shine through the madness.

Maybe then I can enjoy a bit of peace. If I am able to have faith then I can take on some peace, breathe a sigh of relief, and stretch my heart to love everyone in this quaint, quiet little town.

For the record, I am in enough pain and confusion, and am able to contribute so little to this world, that were it not for the loving support of my aunt and brother, and above all –my impossibly excellent wife, then this battered life would not be worth living.

So please, feed your faith, but not your fear.

That may be just the sound I've been looking for.

~ Murray Dunlap

## Life After Death

You're probably receiving this newsletter on or very near Halloween or All Hallow's Eve. I love Halloween. I love being spooked by the idea of ghosts haunting the earth and all the possibilities of the unknown. You may not enjoy the holiday particularly, but as my fellow Episcopalian, you quite likely accept the notion of an afterlife.

Whether the spirits of those passed still interact with the material world is a different question, but you've probably heard that being visited by a cardinal is a sign that a deceased loved one is still watching over you. Perhaps you've even had an experience in which you'd swear someone you loved and lost seemed very present with you. Such ideas bring us great comfort.

Comfort aside, the existence of an afterlife is a common theme among Christian traditions. I long accepted the idea as a given and assumed throughout my evangelical upbringing that it was a biblically-supported truth. After all, didn't Jesus promise *eternal* life? Didn't he visit the disciples several times even after his death? I recall a passage in the gospel according to Matthew (27:51-53) where he writes an account of Jesus' death:

At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

We should be careful not to project our modern notions onto these ancient texts, however. According to Bart Ehrman, professor of religious studies at UNC Chapel Hill, the Jewish people of biblical times, Jesus included, did not understand the separation of body from soul as we do.<sup>1</sup> To them, when the physical body died, the soul did too. Their concept of a soul was very different from ours. In the Jewish culture, a person came alive when a spirit entered it. Recall the second story of creation, God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."<sup>2</sup> According to Ehrman, the Jewish culture believed that our breath-spirit comes from God and inhabits our bodies, and when our bodies die the spirit doesn't go anywhere. Life just ends.

The notion of eternal life made possible by the resurrection and promised by Jesus as a reward for faith, to the Jewish audience, meant a *physical* life on earth in a *physical* kingdom of God. Many of New Testament times expected an end time when a new kingdom of God on earth would be created. This ideology emerged around 200 B.C. and assumed there would be an apocalypse when God would restore his reign on earth and conquer all forces of evil. Jesus was born into that ideological structure, and as the gospels recount, he preached that the end times were near. Eternal life would be the time spent with God after this apocalypse. The dead are raised from the grave to abide physically with God in the New Jerusalem.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ehrman wrote *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife*. The information I provide comes from an interview of Ehrman about this book.

<sup>2</sup> The term "breathed" in this passage is translated from the Hebrew word *ruach*, which can mean spirit, among other things.

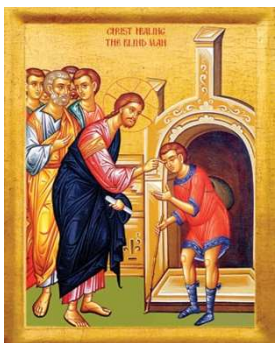


Many years after his death, when Jesus' followers began to realize that the end times were not so near – at least by their definition of the word – they rationalized the delay through the existence of an afterlife before the end times. Ehrman asserts this shift in ideology is a consequence of Greek philosophy merging with early Christianity. Greek philosophy, going back to the time of Socrates (470-399 BCE), assumes the existence of an immortal soul separate from the body. To Greek Christians in the early church, the soul continues beyond death. If the person lived as a child of God, at death he/she would be rewarded by abiding in God's presence while we all – living and dead – await the end times.

As Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we continue their tradition. We profess a belief in “the communion of saints ... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” I, for one, place my hope in the communion of saints. Even if Jesus may not have understood the afterlife in the same way that I do, I hope that the human spirit lives on in some way, whether as a legacy of love, or as a supernatural presence that interacts with the physical world. My hope is being affirmed just now. As I write this article, I am alone at church, and a beautiful cardinal is pecking at the window of my office.

~ Elizabeth Floyd

### Upcoming Events and Opportunities for Ministry



Our monthly service of Holy Eucharist and Healing will be on **Wednesday, November 1**, at noon.



Our monthly service of Holy Eucharist at Wesley Commons will be **Tuesday, November 14**, at 11:00.

## Parish Retreat

**November 4, 2023**  
9 am to 9 pm




Join your church friends for a Saturday of worship, learning and play!

We will be retreating on the grounds of our lovely parish, indoors or out, as the weather permits.




General Agenda:  
Breakfast, Small Groups, Recreation, Lunch, Games / Football, Small Groups, Dinner, Bonfire and Compline




## Celebrating 40 years of service



**DONNA BROOKS**

Please join us as we honor and celebrate the ministry of Donna Brooks, who has dedicated forty years to our parish, serving in many capacities and always sharing her authentic love for us and for her Savior!

..... 12 .....  
Sunday November at 10:30 am  
..... 2023 .....

Reception will follow the service.

*Second Sunday*  
November 12, 2023



Supporting the Race to be Thankful!



Please bring:

- Granola bars
- Fresh fruit
- Muffins or breakfast breads
- Gatorade / Water

Please volunteer:

- To staff the registration table
- To point the path to the participants
- To get sponsors!

Please leave your donations (except fresh fruit) on the designated table in the Gathering Space. Fruit may be delivered to the parish kitchen the Tuesday before the Race.



**Thanksgiving Day Race to be Thankful 5K Run / Walk**  
Organized by the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

**November 23, 2023 at 8:00 AM**  
**Gatewood Subdivision**  
Race starts at the clubhouse:  
114 Club Drive, 29646

Register now using this QR code:

Cost to participate is \$25.00  
100 % of the proceeds are donated to local charities!



**Altar Arrangements:**

**November 5-** to the glory of God and in memory of Janet McCabe and Baby Yochum, Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCabe, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Legare Kizer by the McCabe and Yochum Families.

**November 12** – to the glory of God and in honor and loving memory of Dick Reeves and all who have served to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy by Barbara Reeves.

**November 19** – The Thanksgiving Altar is given to the glory of God by the members of the altar Guild, in thanksgiving for the people of the Church of the Resurrection and in thankfulness for the ministry of Mary Balfour and Murray Dunlap.

**November 26** – to the glory of God and in memory of Thomas Barry Brooks, Shirley Mims

Brooks, and Roland Alfred Snelling, Sr. by Laura Beth Brooks.

**The Presence Candle in September** is given to the Glory of God and in memory of Ron Little, beloved father, and in thanksgiving for parents everywhere by Jennifer and Adrian Little.

**Parish Connections**

Music	Donna Brooks 992-3738 dbrooksgwd@gmail.com
Altar Guild	Beverly Wilson 374-3507 bhallwilson@gmail.com
Acolytes	Mary Balfour Dunlap 615-900-6191 marybalfour@episcopalgreenwood.org
Christian Formation	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Daughters of the King	Summer Booker (512) 417-5897 summer.b.booker@gmail.com
Readers/ EMs/Ushers	Denise Brown 223-5426 denise@episcopalgreenwood.org
Giving Records	Laurie Smith 223-5426 finance@episcopalgreenwood.org
Columbarium	Dean Faden dfaden@hotmail.com
CO3R Tutoring	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Online Directory	Jo Ann Brewer 941-7199 <a href="mailto:joannbrewersc@gmail.com">joannbrewersc@gmail.com</a>
Youth Group	Diana Carver 993-4665 Mary Balfour Dunlap 615-900-6191

## November 2023 Ministry Schedule

If you cannot fill the position assigned, please make arrangements for your replacement,  
and let the Parish Office know of the change. Thank you!

	<b>November 5 All Saints Sunday</b>	<b>November 12 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 27</b>	<b>November 19 The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 28</b>	<b>November 26 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King Proper 29</b>
<b>Vestry of the Month</b>	Charlie Long and Deb Maschoff			
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Connie Hammett (Chair), Anne Magruder, Susu Wallace, Donna Holtzclaw, Jennifer Little			
<b>Readings</b>	Revelation 7: 9-17 Psalm 34: 1-10, 22 1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12	Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78: 1-7 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13	Judges 4: 1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30	Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46
<b>8:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite I</b>				
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson and Psalm</b>	Mary Bright	Josie Ryan	Stephen Tucker	Chuck McDonnell
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson and Prayers of the People</b>	Mary Bright	Emily Wallace	Dean Faden	Chuck McDonnell
<b>E.M.</b>	Mary Bright	Tom Rohrer	Sara Contakos	Chuck McDonnell
<b>Usher</b>	Paul Criswell	TBA	Walker Moore	Ken Rogers
<b>10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II</b>				
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</b>	Shana Southard-Dobbs	Mary Charles Haigler	John Maschoff	Celie Mescall
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson and Prayers of the People</b>	Jane Merrill	Ryan Floyd	Jon Newlon	Catie Robertson
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Laura Beth Brooks Frank Wideman	Cindy Hughes Beverly Wilson	Adrian Little Norm Fawcett	Connie Hammett Trisha Craven
<b>Crucifer</b>	Leslie Juul Merrill	Cannon Wooten	Julia Donaghy	Lila Eisenreich
<b>Book Bearer</b>	Catie Robertson	Will McMillan	Rebecca Merrill	Annie Eisenreich
<b>Torchbearers</b>	Chloe Normandia Maggie Rochester	Henry McMillan William Wooten	Chloe Normandia Maggie Rochester	TBA
<b>Ushers</b>	Albert Merrill Rebecca Merrill	David Dougherty Allen Hughes	Dan Hobbs Tom Cobb	Summer and Archie Booker
<b>Nursery</b>	Marty Cobb Mary Bright	Celie Mescall Mary Bright	Nancy Leonard Mary Bright	Rebecca Long Mary Bright
<b>Hospitality</b>	Lisa and Lucas McMillan	Fellowship Committee	Beverly and Barry Wilson	Kim and John Russell
<b>Blessing Box</b>	Floyd Family	Floyd Family	Floyd Family	Floyd Family
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Helen Nazzaro	Barbara Cameron	Ginger Long	None Needed
<b>Acolyte Leader</b>	Ken Rogers	Jennifer Little	Adrian Little	Ken Rogers
<b>Laundry Love</b>	Susie Hinkle	Sandy Moore	Sarah Contakos	Celie Mescall

## RESURRECTION CELEBRATES WITH YOU

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES
3 – Catherine Sexton	18 – Susie Snipes-Rochester	22 – Mary Van & Phil Ellenberg
3 – Nancy VanWaldick	18 – Cannon A. Wooten	24 – Nancy & Jon Newlon
8 – Diana Carver	19 – Eliza Cathcart	
8 – Mary Jane Mobley	19 – Catherine Howell	
13 – Mary Van Ellenberg	20 – Barry Wilson	
15 – Joseph Kocik, Jr.	21 – Stephen Davis	
16 – Laura Ann Thompson	21 – Dorothy Anna Russell	
17 – Donna Holtzclaw	27 – Marion Mescall	
	27 – Susu Wallace	

**Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families:** Bill Arnold, Paul Criswell, Carol Dean, Steve Driskell, Albert Faden, Joe Ferguson, Jim Gobble, Nan Hines, Diane Lawson, Rita Marshall, Mary Jane Mobley, Erich Normandia, Bette and Burl Ricker, Domer Ridings, Mary Jo Tolbert, Carol Wynne, Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell’s sister), Michael Dunlap (Murray Dunlap’s brother), Riley Gillam (Sandy and Chuck Gresham’s niece), David Hammett (Connie Hammett’s brother), Norton Hughes (John Hughes’ brother), Cheri Hutchison (Jo Ann and Bob Brewer’s daughter), Ian Kelso (Karen Bright’s brother), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little’s mom), JoAnn Lindsey Myers (Mirta Lindsey’s daughter), Carol Myers (Leslie Brooks McDonnell, Gerald Brooks, and Laura Shealy’s aunt), Carol Ann Pry (Susie Hinkel’s niece), Wick Scurry (John Scurry’s brother), Mason Shirley, Stacey Spillum (Jo Ann Brewer’s niece), Bruce Stanley (Michael Whitfield’s nephew), and Marion and David Waters (Camilla Cathcart and Richard Cathcart’s aunt and uncle).

**And for these persons:** Lester and Cindy Farmer (Kim Russell’s friends), Vicki Hart (Bob and Jo Ann Brewer’s friend), Melody Johnson (Renee Love’s friend), Nancy May (Cindy Hughes’ friend), Jenny Perkey (Cindy Hughes’ friend), Gary Roper (Tom Stevens’ friend), and Sandy Wilkie (Ross Ann Steifle’s daughter’s father-in-law).

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list or family news and prayer concerns to Denise at [denise@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:denise@episcopalgreenwood.org) or call 223-5426.

	Pledges (Actual)	Pledges (Budgeted)	Unpledged/Plate (Actual)	Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)	Expenses (Budgeted)
<b>Month as of 10/20/23</b>	\$13,550	\$34,530	\$985	\$1,458	\$4,189	\$35,178
<b>Year as of 10/20/23</b>	\$347,288	\$346,300	\$15,385	\$14,433	\$343,986	\$375,470

**We give thanks for your generosity, which makes the ministry of Resurrection possible!**





*From the Rafters*

PO Box 3283  
Greenwood, SC 29648-3283

Phone: 864-223-5426  
Website: [www.episcopalgreenwood.org](http://www.episcopalgreenwood.org)  
Email: [cor@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:cor@episcopalgreenwood.org)

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 119  
GREENWOOD, SC

[Address Service Requested]

Place label here

## Church of the Resurrection

### **Vestry Members**

Karen Whitfield, Senior Warden  
Jim Nazarro, Junior Warden  
Eddie Barber  
Gerald Brooks  
Diana Carver  
Salley Cathcart  
Phil Ellenberg  
Mary Charles Haigler  
Charlie Long  
Deb Maschoff  
Albert Merrill  
Stephen Tucker  
Adrian Little, Vestry Clerk  
John Scurry, Treasurer

### **Clergy and Staff**

Mary Balfour Dunlap, Rector  
Al Hipp, Deacon  
Donna Brooks, Director of Music Ministry  
Denise A. Brown, Administrative Assistant  
Elizabeth Floyd, Associate Lay Minister for  
Families and Outreach  
Cox Accounting, Financial Contractor  
Mary Bright, Nursery Attendant  
Catherine Brooks Sexton, RN, Parish Nurse