



TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Thank you, Susan! Page 12

Historical Society notes TPC's century of service

Sam Martin of the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society brought gifts to the Aug. 28 worship service – one with a family connection.

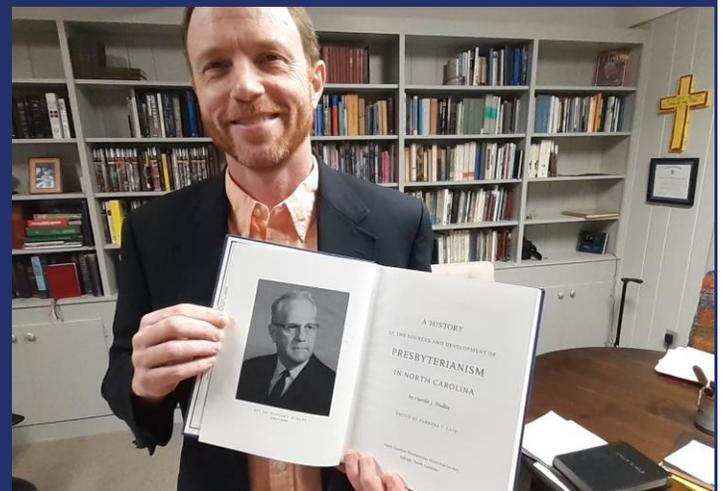
Sam presented a certificate recognizing TPC's "100 years of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" and a book titled "A History of the Sources and Development of Presbyterianism in North Carolina."

Gloria Underwood, chair of our Centennial Commission, accepted both on behalf of our church. Just before the Benediction, Pastor Allan Purtil revealed that the book's author, the late Harold Dudley, was his great-uncle. According to Sam, bringing the book to publication was a project "30 years in the making."

"I love it," said Allan, noting that his mother's uncle has been "in the Kingdom of Heaven" since 1999. "Thank you for being here and for continuing his work, and for reminding us of what God has been doing in this region," Allan told Sam.



Sam Martin presents certificate to Gloria Underwood.



Allan Purtil shows his great-uncle's book.

Dent Davis will preach at centennial service

Many TPC members will see a familiar figure in the pulpit Oct. 23 – their former pastor, the Rev. Dr. Dent Davis. He'll deliver the sermon for the centennial service.

"It's probably one of the greatest honors you could have as a pastor to be invited to preach at the service marking a church's 100 years," he says.

Dent and Mary live in Sarasota, Fla., but are happy to return for the occasion. Serving Tryon Presbyterian Church "was the finest experience of ministry I had in my 45 years as a pastor," Dent says.



Dent Davis will return to TPC Oct. 23.

Dent served TPC from 2009 through 2017, following Dave Hosick and preceding Allan Purtill. He pastored churches in Chapel Hill and Asheville, N.C., and Nashville and Knoxville, Tenn., and, for eight years before his call to Tryon, was Dean and Vice President of Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

It was there that he made his initial Tryon connection, just by picking up the phone. On the other end was the Rev. Mary Potter, who was then Minister of Christian Education and Pastoral Care at TPC.

"In the spring of 2008, Mary Potter called Columbia Theological Seminary (where I was serving as an officer and faculty member) looking for a Stephen Ministry retreat leader, and by the grace of God I answered the phone, filling in for one of the secretaries during lunch," he explains. "I listened to her invitation and was called to respond, even though I had never heard of Tryon. Later, when I arrived at the church to lead the event, I was struck by the church's unique architectural beauty and its beautiful natural setting. And still later, after spending a day teaching and learning with the retreat participants, I was amazed at the spiritual vitality of the people involved. I still am."

Of course, that later led to a formal affiliation. Dent's tenure was notable for the physical expansion of our buildings, for which he credits "the extraordinary generosity of the congregation and the success of the financial campaign that preceded it." But he clearly valued the human assets even more. Those included contributions of "numerous retired clergy and talented staff and officers who served the church over the years in different capacities. Their level of skill, leadership and spiritual maturity was extraordinary."

And then "the active involvement of the members of the church, young and old, was critical. I especially appreciated those who retired and moved to Tryon. The fresh ideas they brought from all areas of life. Their generosity, humor, patience and wisdom. When I would travel to other places and listen to some of the ageist platitudes about the need for fresh ideas from the young, I would just chuckle. Clearly those people had never been to Tryon."

In addition, "I have many fond memories of teaching Sunday School and other classes. It was always a delight to see how people wanted to deepen their faith through learning."

"The worship experience at TPC has always been unique," Dent observes. "The quiet beauty of the setting, the

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liturgy, the music, the structured informality, and the warmth of the congregation all come together in ways that are moving, inspiring and memorable, whether on Christmas Eve or the middle of July.”

Dent doesn't plan to devote much of his sermon to his own experiences here. After all, the occasion is meant to focus on the ministry of a Christian community over the past century. But congregation members may still feel the warm glow of memory – theirs and Dent's.

TPC history: Sen. Sam Ervin spoke at our 50th

Sen. Sam Ervin Jr. was still months away from achieving his greatest fame when he spoke at our 50th anniversary commemoration on Oct. 22, 1972, but he was well known to Western North Carolina Presbyterians.

An elder and lifelong member of Morganton Presbyterian Church, Ervin was firmly committed to the separation of church and state.

Ervin, often called Senator Sam, impressed millions of Americans as a folksy but shrewd small-town Southern lawyer when he chaired the Senate's Watergate committee in 1973 and 1974, helping to expose the corruption inside President Richard Nixon's White House. Yet, the former N.C. Supreme Court justice was such an expert on the Constitution that one biographer referred to him as “the last of the founding fathers.”

Ervin was invited to headline TPC's celebration not only for his political office but because of his Presbyterian affiliation. He was one of us. The topic of his address was perhaps his favorite subject: “Freedom of Religion and the First Amendment.”

There is no surviving copy of Ervin's remarks to our church, but Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill, which houses the Sam J. Ervin papers, sent us a copy of a speech on religious liberty that the senator delivered to the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1967. The text likely is substantially similar. And, despite the passage of 50 years, it remains timely.

Ervin began by presenting the historical context that influenced the Constitution's treatment of religion. Throughout Europe, religious strife had led to wars and persecutions. “Official” churches enjoyed the support of the state in European nations, with religious dissenters driven away or denied basic rights. People were “compelled to pay tithes for the propagation of religious opinions they disbelieved,” Ervin said in his New Orleans speech.

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Margaret and Sam Ervin; Maurine and John Smith.

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“The Founding Fathers were determined that none of these tragic historical events should be repeated in the nation they were creating,” he said. “To this end they inserted two provisions in the Constitution of the United States.

“The first of these provisions appears in Article VI and declares that ‘no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust in the United States.’

“The second appears in the First Amendment and states that ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.’”

Ervin explored the meaning of those words in light of events preceding the adoption of the Constitution and its Bill of Rights, including the “establishment” of state churches in several of the original colonies. “The people of these colonies were compelled by law to pay taxes for the support of these established churches, and in some cases to attend their services,” Ervin noted.

“Dissenters rebelled against these requirements,” Ervin said. “They believed it tyrannical for government to attempt to regulate by law the relationship between the individual and his God. ... So they demanded the separation of church of state.”

Ervin credited Virginia’s James Madison with pushing for inclusion of the First Amendment’s establishment clause. It followed similar protections adopted by the state of Virginia and, according to the senator, its meaning was clear: “There should be no official relationship of any character between government and any church, or many churches, or all churches, and no levying of taxes for the support of any church, or many churches, or all churches or any institutions conducted by any of them.”

Ervin went on to cite many Supreme Court decisions affirming this view, so he likely would be surprised – or shocked – that rulings rendered by the current court have taken a far different turn by allowing state support of church schools. But, apart from that discussion, if he were with us today, he surely would commend his fellow Presbyterians in Tryon for 100 years of ministry.

By Doug Clark

Our church library adds four new books to diverse collection

We have four new additions to our TPC library. Two are fiction, one is inspirational, and one is nonfiction. They are:

“Poster Girls” by Meredith Ritchie

“Run Rose Run” by Dolly Parton and James Patterson

“The Jesus I Never Knew” by Phillip Yancey

“The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels” by Jon Meacham

These books are placed on the small table by the window. Please check out these enjoyable and excellent reads.

By Carolyn Thompson

Presbyterian Women will hear Guatemala mission updates

Tryon Presbyterian Women will hear from two remarkable women at their fall luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

The speakers will be the Rev. Ellen Dozier and Mary Louise Forsythe, who will provide updates about mission projects in Guatemala.

Ellen is a member of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and a retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

“I served as pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville for 12 years and as both a volunteer (working with Presbytery’s Guatemala Partnership) and a Mission Co-Worker in Guatemala for a total of 12 years,” she says.

When asked what excites her about mission, Ellen explains: “Being with people, learning with and from



Mary Louise Forsythe, center, with program participants.



The Rev. Ellen Dozier, left, was a mission co-worker.

them; participating in the lives of others and so understanding the world, my faith and myself in new ways.”

Mary Louise, an elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, serves as Moderator of the Guatemala Microloan Task Force. She visited Guatemala as a member of the Task Force on a 2019 trip – with our Terri Hendrix, she notes.

“I was deeply inspired by meeting the women there and seeing their deep faith and gratitude to God, as well as by their hard work toward making a better life for themselves, their families, church and communities,” she says.

Women and men are invited to attend the noon gathering in the church Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.

Please indicate your interest in hearing and meeting these outstanding speakers by signing the sheet located on the narthex table or calling Lee Lindsay at 828-894-0773.

By the Presbyterian Women

TPC, Kennedys send supplies to Kentucky flood victims

On July 27 and 28, eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia and western West Virginia were hit with constant heavy downpours. Many of you saw the news reports of the flooding in the following days. Dot and I were particularly moved by the tragedy. We lived and worked in Knott County, Ky., from 1979-2007. I taught at Alice Lloyd College, located in Pippa Passes, and Dot taught in the public schools of Knott and Letcher counties.

We carefully followed the news reports, seeing many areas with which we are very familiar. Also, we received updates from friends in the area. One of those updates mentioned the need for mud boots and work gloves. Many of the volunteers and students had arrived with only regular shoes and, of course, no work gloves.

On Sunday, July 31, we talked with Pastor Purtill about letting the need be known to our church membership. He immediately agreed and asked that I send him an email with details. He sent the appeal for help on Monday, Aug. 1. On Tuesday afternoon we were at the church and were blown away by the early response. There were approximately 15 pairs of boots and many gloves and socks.

Donations continued to come in during the week. On Friday, Aug. 5, Dot and I went to pick up the donations. There were 30 to 35 pairs of boots and too many gloves and socks to count. Also, there were buckets and cleaning supplies. There was also a cash donation that allowed us to purchase some tools that we learned were needed.



Richard and Dot Kennedy loaded up donated supplies bound for flooded areas in Kentucky.

Since we had a trip to visit friends previously planned, we were able to pack the donations in our car for transport to Kentucky. We arrived in Kentucky on Monday afternoon. We met up with our friend and transferred the donations to his car. On Tuesday, Aug. 9, the donations were delivered to Knott County. He has since told us that they were quickly distributed and well received and appreciated.

We were astounded, though not surprised, by the response from Tryon Presbyterian Church. The needs in that area are great and will be for some time to come. Keep them in your prayers.

By Richard Kennedy

TPC dishes out assists for Friday Night Hoopz

TPC members didn't score baskets at Friday Night Hoopz, but they were credited with many assists during the summer programs at Harmon Field.



The kids were the winners.

"Sending love to the Tryon Presbyterian Church family," said Steve Martinez, director of Gather Community, which organized Hoopz.

"Rita and her team have been a vital part of our summer program and we are grateful for their generous support, not only for the financial donation and the snacks, but for their presence," Steve added. "It's important for our kids to see that others care."



Rita and Cleve Nichols serve snacks.

Rita is Rita Nichols, who heads TPC's very active Missions Committee.

In signing on as a Hoopz sponsor, the committee provided financial support but also snacks and refreshments for players and their families. The Fellowship and Membership committees also helped.

The Gather Community is a new, faith-based nonprofit in Polk County whose goal is to "help young people achieve a life of wholeness through sports, work and education."

Not only does TPC endorse that objective, but Hoopz fit perfectly into our Harmon Field outreach efforts. It was a privilege to participate in such a worthwhile program for kids in our own "front yard."

Plan for more Trunk or Treat fun

What could be more fun than TPC's first Trunk or Treat event last year? Maybe our second Trunk or Treat! Please plan to participate on Oct. 29 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The entire community is invited, and last year's staging saw dozens of excited, costumed children enjoying a safe Halloween experience in the church parking lot. We can have just as much fun by decorating our vehicles, dressing for the occasion and bringing lots of treats to hand out to the kids.

For more information, contact Susan Speight at 828-895-6511 or scspeight@windstream.net



Joanie Hosick portrays a good witch at Trunk or Treat 2021.

Meet the Session: Catherine Lynch

Catherine grew up in San Diego, Dallas and West Hartford, Conn. She and her husband moved to the Tryon area from Wilmington, Del., in 2013. Some members of our congregation will remember that Catherine first began attending TPC with her parents, Jim and Irene Hostetter. Jim and Irene lived at Tryon Estates and were both active in our church.

Catherine earned a BS in Education from Oklahoma State University and an MS in Non-Profit Management through Eastern University in Philadelphia.

Most recently, Catherine worked as a Funds Development Manager for Christiana Care Health Care System in Delaware and is currently working as an East Coast Development Specialist with the PCUSA Investment and Loan Program.

In her spare time, Catherine enjoys going to the gym, watching old movies, playing the piano and, “Hola,” learning Spanish. Some might be surprised to know that Catherine has resided in nine states: California, Texas, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Virginia, New York, Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina. Aren’t we glad that this talented lady landed here!

With her extensive financial and fundraising background, Catherine is working with our Centennial Commission to coordinate the campaign to raise funds for our congregation’s “celebration” gift to the community. Catherine will also chair our 2022 Annual Stewardship Campaign.

Catherine sees a bright future for TPC, with our congregation continuing to serve as Christ’s ambassador within our church family, out to our community and the world beyond.



Catherine will lead stewardship drive.

Meet the Session: Susan Speight

Susan grew up in Knoxville, Tenn., with many of her summer vacations, church and scouting activities being held in the Great Smoky Mountains. Even though she lived in South Carolina for much of her adult life, she carried a dream of one day owning a mountain house. That dream came true when she and her husband, Charlie, bought their stone cabin at Camp Skyuka on White Oak Mountain in 2004. They moved there permanently in 2006 from the Columbia, S.C., area. (No use for air conditioning on the mountain!)

Susan and Charlie have a blended family of six children, 14 grands and four greats. Some of her favorite times are making memories for the greats and grands on the mountaintop. It was these occasions that inspired her to publish two books about the history of the mountain.

Some might be surprised to know that Susan created and owned “Scooper’s, the Scooper, Duper Ice Cream Place” in Greenville, S.C., where she hosted many birthday parties and dressed up in costumes to entertain the

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children.

Her background is in program development and coordination, volunteer administration, event planning, marketing and public relations.

Susan is serving her second term on Session as chair of the Membership Committee. Her passion is welcoming the stranger to our church. Other activities of her committee include publishing the Trumpet, suppling the Tryon Daily Bulletin with articles about church activities, and placing ads for important church events. The committee sponsors three annual events: Trunk or Treat, the Hippity Hoppity Easter Egg Hunt and Lemonade at Harmon Field. It also assists with events sponsored by other committees. The committee holds luncheons or receptions for new members and frequent visitors, keeps the welcome packets up-to-date, and sends cards to each first-time visitor.



Susan with one of our Easter Egg Hunt participants.

As TPC begins the next 100 years, Susan hopes that we will be a church that welcomes *all* people; a church willing to support new ideas; a church that provides opportunities for spiritual growth so that members can better serve God, each other and our neighbors.

By the Membership Committee

Sunday morning classes for adults begin Sept. 11

Summer is over, which means it’s time for new learning opportunities.



Betsy Zeek leads Bible study.

In addition to the 12-week Discipleship study led by Dr. Purtil that began Aug. 28, Sunday morning classes for adults resume Sept. 11.

Betsy Zeek leads a study of 2 Peter at 9 a.m., while Mike Carruth will facilitate a discussion group examining how the Bible guides us in our lives. That will meet following the 10 a.m. worship hour.

We’re not forgetting the kids! After Time with Children during worship, preschool-aged children go to their classroom and receive a Bible study, followed by crafts. Alyssa Walker is our preschool staff member, and Loretta Mills is in charge of the nursery. Alyssa

also spends time in the playground with the children if the weather is good! **By the Christian Growth Committee**



Alyssa Walker is our Sunday preschool worker.

TPC class turns into a published study guide

Les Stobbe sees many “God Moments” in his own life and of course throughout the Bible. Last fall, he led a well-attended adult Bible study in our church looking at divine interventions in the Old and New Testaments.

Don’t worry if you missed it. Les, who serves as our Clerk of Session, has captured the course in a just-published six-lesson study guide titled “How God Works: God Moments that Transform.”

This follows the publication last year of Les’ memoir, “God Moments in My Publishing Life.”

We can’t call Les a retired Christian writer and publisher because he is still active professionally at age 92.

“Many years of preparing study guides for well-known authors has prepared me to help Christians anxious to understand how God has shown his love for those who trust God to be real in their life,” Les says. “Each lesson introduces two or three God Moments in Old and New Testament stories, joined by stories from life today.”

The guide has drawn favorable reviews, with Edie Melson calling it “one of those tiny gems that make life better.” Edie directs the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference. “The insightful questions are perfect for a group or an individual and are carefully created to lead us into a deeper walk with God.”

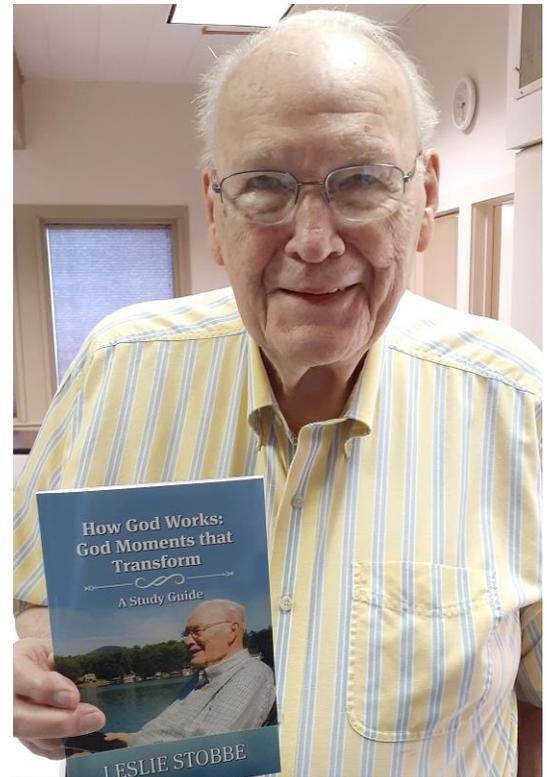
“I’m a big fan of ‘God Moments,’ and I’m a big fan of fellow Christian journalist Les Stobbe,” said James N. Watkins, author of “If You’re Not Dead, You’re Not Done!” “The prolific author writes with the precision of a hard-nosed reporter and the passion of a tender-hearted Christ-follower in this delightful, insightful study of how God meets us in surprising ways.”

The 56-page paperback version is available for \$10.99 from Amazon, entering Leslie H. Stobbe. The Kindle version is \$5.99 and can be downloaded to a smartphone or computer.

Volunteers needed for fall festival at Black Mountain Home for Children

TPC enjoys a great relationship with Black Mountain Home for Children and has a chance to strengthen those bonds in a fun, hands-on way next month.

Mike Carruth is seeking volunteers to help run the home’s fall festival on Oct. 8. The task involves setting up and operating games and marshalling other activities on the Black Mountain campus. It will take the whole day but will provide opportunities to get to know the kids, faculty and supporters of this fine organization. Please let Mike know if you can help: 828-859-9355 or mistermikecarruth@gmail.com



Les Stobbe stays busy in his 90s.

Sally Hursey reads for museum’s International Dog Assistance Week

International Dog Assistance Week was celebrated in mid-August at the Children’s Museum of the Upstate in Greenville. The museum scheduled visits from police dogs, therapy dogs and service dogs to increase awareness and educate children and the community about the various ways dogs provide assistance. The week was called the Dog Days of Summer.

TPC member Sally Hursey was invited to read from her first children’s book, “Molly to the Rescue: A True Story,” on Aug. 12. Kim Woods, Navy veteran, and her service dog Wrangell were also there to demonstrate the skills service dogs provide to help veterans suffering with PTSD.

Kim and Wrangell were featured in Sally’s third book, “Heroes of the Heart: Conversations with Veterans and Their Service Dogs.” The children learned that service dogs are working dogs and there are rules to follow when interacting with these well-trained canines. Wrangell, an American Staffordshire terrier and vizsla mix, performs nine tasks, but he also loves to greet people when Kim tells him to “make a friend!”



Kim Woods, Wrangell and Sally Hursey at children’s museum.

Turn Giving Tree’s green leaves orange and yellow

Autumn is fast approaching, Gloria Underwood reminds us. That means our Centennial Celebration Oct. 23 is only weeks away and that it’s time to revisit our gifts of 100.

Last winter, we wrote our promised gifts on green leaves and placed them on the Giving Tree in the narthex. But in autumn, green leaves turn to brighter colors, so Gloria has provided yellow and orange leaves. Those who have already fulfilled their promises are invited to write what they’ve accomplished on those yellow or orange leaves and attach them to the tree in place of the old green leaves.



Charlie Fisher, Nancy Mahler add new leaves.



That’s a colorful way to illustrate what we’ve collectively given to our church and community and another good way to begin our next 100 years of discipleship.

Susan Woodcock transformed our digital ministry

From the very beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, Susan Woodcock has worked and ministered tirelessly and creatively to bring us worship online, keep us connected through our website and emails, and help us reach out to the community through social media accounts. To say that she transformed our digital presence is an understatement.

As her business has grown and returned to more in-person events, Susan has decided it's time for her to step aside in her role as Director of Digital Ministry. She will not be easily replaced. Instead, it is her hope, and ours, that someone else will come along and build upon what she has created at Tryon Presbyterian Church.

We are ever so thankful for this new ministry she created for the church and community. We also want to express our gratitude to her best volunteer, husband Rodger Walker. Thankfully, both Susan and Rodger will continue to serve as volunteers in digital ministry here at TPC and look forward to training and working with the new director.



Rodger Walker and Susan Woodcock have earned our thanks.

Her last official Sunday on the job is Sept. 18. Personnel is already working at finding our next director. However, as an expression of thanks, please be sure to pass on how much you have appreciated the work she has done to bring worship into our homes and wherever our computers and phones go with us.

By Allan Purtil

Breakfasts for veterans resume following August cancellation

The next breakfast for veterans is Sept. 24 at 8 a.m.

Covid concerns forced cancellation of the August event, but cases have declined and local veterans' organizations have resumed their own activities, according to DeAnne Zaeske, the organizer of TPC's outreach to the men and women who served our country in the armed forces.

The original breakfast in July was well-attended and appreciated, and this one should be, too. Volunteers willing to prepare and serve the meal, and to clean up, are needed. Please contact DeAnne at 630-267-9848 or dzmombo@gmail.com.



Buechner's 'Sacred Journey' included a year living in Tryon

Author, theologian and ordained Presbyterian minister Frederick Buechner was baptized in Tryon at 13 years old – but not at our church. It happened instead at Holy Cross.

“Naya and I went to the Episcopal church together from time to time,” he wrote of his maternal grandmother in his memoir, “The Sacred Journey.”

Buechner, who died Aug. 15 at 96, experienced an unsettled childhood. His father's death by suicide in 1936 led his mother, Katherine Kuhn Buechner, to take him and his younger brother to live in Bermuda. The outbreak of World War II, however, forced them to evacuate the island.

“From Bermuda we moved to a small town in North Carolina called Tryon because Naya and Grandpa Kuhn had retired there from Pittsburgh and were living in a house in a valley ringed round by the Blue Ridge mountains where we went to live with them, pooling our resources with theirs,” he wrote. “In neither case did those resources amount to very much – Grandpa Kuhn had for the second time in his life lost most of his money and we had nothing beyond our allowance from Grandma Buechner – and what I remember in many ways best of the year we lived there with them was a rich and faintly comic sense of *making do*. In Bermuda, it seemed to me, we had lived like kings; in Tryon, we lived like kings in exile.”

Buechner's sojourn here was brief but apparently vivid in memory, according to “The Sacred Journey.”

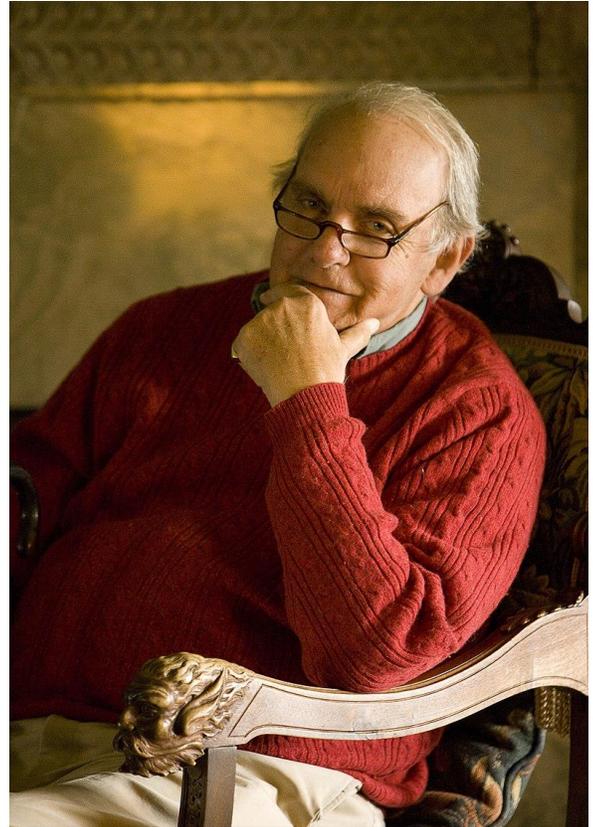
“Tryon in those days was a southern town full of elderly Yankees who had in one way or another made their marks on the world, many of them, and had then retreated from it down there. Naya with her taste for the bizarre had a heyday.”

In addition to colorful characters, Buechner recalled “the sour smell of fat pine and dead leaves in the woods that surrounded our house, the dogwood and mountain laurel that blossomed in the spring, the redbud and forsythia. There were cardinals in the bird feeder, and the high blue hills. There were sweet grass baskets that the mountain people sold on Trade Street on Saturdays and a drugstore called Missildine's that smelled of medicine and newspapers and cologne and where they made strong, dark cokes at the soda fountain and grilled cheese sandwiches as heavy and limp as dead birds.”

The attraction to Holy Cross had little to do with religion.

“As a fairly free-wheeling Unitarian, Naya had never been a churchgoer particularly, but it was something to do on a Sunday that did not cost much, a chance to see some of the Tryon eccentrics in another mode,” Buechner recalled.

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Frederick Buechner was baptized in Tryon.

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But church music stood out to the youngster, including a red-haired soloist chanting in a “stately croak of a baritone,” “Praise him and magnify him forever.”

“And I suppose in some way Naya and I praised and magnified him ourselves – praised and magnified something anyway: that though the world was at war, we were surviving, were making do. That there was love and lightness of heart enough from somewhere to keep our ship afloat, battered though it might be. And it was in that same church that my brother and I and a cousin of ours had ourselves christened one odd day. Somehow we discovered that it had never been done before, and less from any religious motive, I think, than from simply a sense that like getting your inoculation and going to school, it was something you did, we went ahead and did it.”

Buechner soon went away to school and later graduated from Princeton, studied at Union Theological Seminary and was ordained as an evangelist, or minister without pastoral charge, at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York.

In its obituary of Buechner, the Washington Post called him “a Presbyterian minister who found his flock not in a church but among the readers of his books, dozens of works of fiction, nonfiction, memoir and theology in which he sought to capture ‘the elusive presence of the holiness of God.’”

“The Sacred Journey” hints that he may have first realized that presence with his Naya in Tryon.

By Doug Clark

FPC Spartanburg Chamber Singers will perform here Oct. 16

The Chamber Singers from First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg will perform at TPC Oct. 16 as part of our centennial celebration.

The Chamber Singers is a 30-voice ensemble composed of both church members and singers from the area who enjoy learning and performing interesting and at times challenging sacred music from a wide variety of periods, styles and cultures. The group offers several concerts a year, often with orchestra, and staffs the church’s popular Moravian Love Feast each December. For many years, the Chamber Singers sang as part of the Biltmore House’s Candlelight Christmas Tours. More recently, the ensemble has performed at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C.



The concert is at 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend.