



# Kingston Chronicles

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## SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Kingston family,

It seems the older I get, the faster time seems to go. I cannot believe as I sit here typing this article, this is the last day of August. In most churches, fall is kind of like a new year in the church. Most churches in the south slow down a bit in the summer. I think every Presbyterian church I've served has their session and deacons take a break from meeting in July. Summer is a time to vacation and enjoy the pool or the beach.

In our house, school is a welcome return because it gets everyone (including Holly and me) back on a routine. For us at Kingston, fall is the return of covered dish luncheons, Wednesday night suppers, youth bible studies, and children's programming. I say all that to say, fall is a great time to invite someone to church. I know we hear that all the time, and I know that's what you expect me to say; however, it really is a great time. Who are those people in your life you should invite? Do you know someone who does not have a church home? Do you know someone who has a church home but rarely, if ever, attends? Do you know someone who was hurt by their previous church and is looking for something different? Do you know someone new to the area? Inviting someone to church need not be awkward. I am not asking you to go try and save anybody. As Presbyterians, we believe that is God's job. I am not asking you to impose any beliefs on anyone.

As your pastor, the reason I encourage you to invite someone to Kingston this fall is because I really like what we have going on here and I want others to come be a part! After 2 years of ministry here, we have added over a dozen new members and only 2 have left. I am fully aware that a church cannot be all things to all people, no matter how hard we try. That's why there are so many different traditions. I love the environment here during worship. I love the hospitality during Wednesday night suppers (and the food), and I love the fellowship that takes place during covered dish luncheons on the first Sunday of the month.

One of my former professors from Columbia seminary, Dr. Ralph Watkins, recently conducted research on what people are looking for in a church, post pandemic. What his research found is that people are not looking for great preaching, outstanding music, a close parking spot, a bustling youth program, a cool website, or really good food. Now his research did find those things are important, but they are not what is *most* important now. What Dr. Watkin's research found is that what people are looking for in churches post pandemic is *warmth*.

(continued on page 2)

*Blessed*  
THE CHEERFUL GIVER



Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.  
Pastor

Holly Bannan  
Director of  
Discipleship and  
Communications

Bradley Hardee  
Music Director

Mary Alwine  
Administrative  
Assistant

David Moore  
Sexton

Kira Hamilton  
Emma Hamilton  
Nursery

By warmth he means that something very specific has to happen when a new person comes to worship. Someone has to *talk* to them and welcome them. Now, if you are like me, the first place your mind goes is: That's great Robert, that is why we have ushers and greeters at the door. Not so fast! Dr. Watkins research found that greeters do not count. In the kingdom of heaven, yes they count, because they are God's children, but in this research, they do not count. Why? People in the research said it is because it is their *job*. They expect ushers and greeters to say something, they say something to everyone who comes in the door, or at least they should. In order for a church to feel warm, someone, other than an usher or greeter, has to make an effort to talk to them and it feels authentic.

The conclusion was post pandemic, people are desperate for authentic relationships. That is what a warm congregation feels like. Now, do not hear this as me trying to say we are not warm. I think we are one of the warmest congregations I have ever been a part of; however, the research is clear, people are looking for a church home these days that feels warm. Other words I might use are inviting, authentic, relational, and welcoming. All of those fall under the umbrella of being warm. New people are going to come in our doors this fall. It is going to happen because people are looking for a church to call home. Whether you invite someone and they show up or you see a random person who very well maybe giving this whole God and Jesus thing one last shot, remember, they are looking for warmth. We are coming out of a two year stretch where people have been very isolated, alone, or even afraid. This is all complicated by a news cycle and political climate that says if you have a differing opinion not only are you not welcome, you might just be of Satan! People are looking for God to give them that warm, human connection that we all so desperately need, especially now. So let's be warm to a world that is so often cold and bitter. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,



# September Menu

**Sept 13**

*Hamburger Supper Kickoff*

**Sept 20**

*Mississippi Pot Roast*

**Sept 27**

*Taco Night*

## **C.A.P. Thanksgiving Dinner 2023**

CAP will once again give out 300 Thanksgiving meals to our neighbors in need. CAP will purchase the items and put the bags together at CAP. We will include a \$15.00 gift card so a turkey or ham may be purchased. We are asking each church (through SS classes, individuals, women's group, men's group, etc.) to collect money to sponsor a family and/or families. The cost per family is \$25.00.

Please make check out to CAP and send in anytime beginning now through November 11th. Thanks for supporting this ministry.



## **CONWAY HIGH HOMECOMING PARADE**

Conway's Homecoming Parade will take place on Friday, September 15th. All are invited to John & Mary Kendall's home at 3:30pm for the Parade which will start at 4pm. Go Tigers!

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There is a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 following worship for the purpose of electing our 2024 Officer Nominating Committee.



*Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry*

YOU GAVE ME COMFORT



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume monthly meetings Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00PM in the Kingston Bldg. We need new members desperately, as it is difficult for 2 or 3 to do all the work. If you have interest in knitting, crocheting or hand work such as bindings for the blizzard flannel

blankets, please come and join us. We have a member who can teach knitting or crocheting and we have materials available to use, so just bring yourself!! It is a very rewarding ministry and one needed by many.

Any questions, contact Peggy Hayes at 843-333-3083.

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### Custom Invite Link:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/kingstonpc>

**Text Code:** Text the keyword **Text KPC to 49775**

**QR Code:** scan the QR code on the right



You can also find our RightNow page on the church website. Get this useful resource today!

## September RightNow Media Spotlight



### Living for Christ in a Culture that Doesn't

What is God's will for our lives, and why is it important to know? In this eight-session series, Pastor Ben Stuart shows us that Jesus calls us to live our faith openly, letting the world see our allegiance to him. When we are being faithful, pressing against culture, others can't help but notice. As we live confident of our good future in God's kingdom, we show the world where—and in whom—their hope lies.

# SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Youth Breakfast @ 7am	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service@10:30am	<b>4</b> LABOR DAY  Office Closed	<b>5</b> Youth Bible Study 5:30-7:30 in Gore House Community Svc & Mission @ 6pm in KB	<b>6</b> Worship Committee Mtg @ 5pm in Parlor Choir @7:15pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Youth Breakfast @ 7am	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Pray-n-Play Preschool @ 9:45am Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service@10:30am With Communion and Preschool Bible Presentation STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY	<b>11</b> CE Mtg @ 6pm in the Parlor ASL Classes 6-7pm in Gore House KPW Bible Study @ 7pm in KB	<b>12</b> Youth Bible Study 5:30-7:30 in Gore House  Session Meeting @ 6pm in KB	<b>13</b> Kingston Kids Program 6-7pm Wed. Night Supper @ 6pm in FH Choir @ 7:15pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Youth Breakfast @ 7am  Conway High Homecoming Parade @ 3:30pm by the Bittle's	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Men's Breakfast @ 8:30 in FH Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service@10:30am CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	<b>18</b> ASL Classes 6-7pm in Gore House	<b>19</b> Youth Bible Study 5:30-7:30 in Gore House  Session Meeting @ 6pm in KB	<b>20</b> Kingston Kids Program 6-7pm Wed. Night Supper @ 6pm in FH Choir @ 7:15pm	<b>21</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 6pm In KB	<b>22</b>  Youth Breakfast @ 7am	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service@10:30am	<b>25</b> ASL Classes 6-7pm in Gore House	<b>26</b> Youth Bible Study 5:30-7:30 in Gore House Cong. Care & Outreach Mtg @ 6pm by Beth Healy	<b>27</b> Kingston Kids 6-7pm Wed. Night Supper @ 6pm in FH Choir @ 7:15pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Youth Breakfast @ 7am	<b>30</b>



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Ken Richardson  
Linda Towns  
Cheryl Barefoot
- 6 Susan Haskin
- 7 Teresa Hardee
- 9 Brad Courtney, Jr.  
Corbyn Gaddy
- 11 Pat Fatz
- 12 Jay Dennis
- 13 Sis Ramsey
- 16 Joe Burroughs, Jr.
- 17 Cindy Check
- 18 Lindsay "Niki"  
Murphy-Young
- 20 Alys Lawson
- 22 Randy Gatesman
- 23 Sara Jean Sasser
- 24 Ballou Skinner
- 28 Kathy Mauldin
- 29 Tara Broughman

# ASL CLASS

KINGSTON PRESBYTERAN CHURCH

*Our fall ASL classes begin in September. The class will be taught by our member, Scott Eller, on Monday evenings in the Gore House. Please call the office to sign up.*

## SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

**Head Usher:**  
Gerry Wallace

**Ushers:**  
Bill Sutton  
Clayton Mauldin  
Ed Gillis

**Counters:**  
Paul Reed  
Peggy Hayes



## Monthly Bible Study will resume in September.

September 11th at 7pm we will meet in the Kingston Building to start *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. This study is open to all women and we hope you can join us to kick it off with a great start!

## WACCAMAW YOUTH CENTER BIRTHDAYS

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Cathy Beverly. For one of the boy's birthdays, you will need to bring a homemade cake, a tub of ice cream, 16 candles, 16 napkins, 16 plates and potato chips.



## **Have you seen??**

Every week we will have office hours posted by the front door of the office.

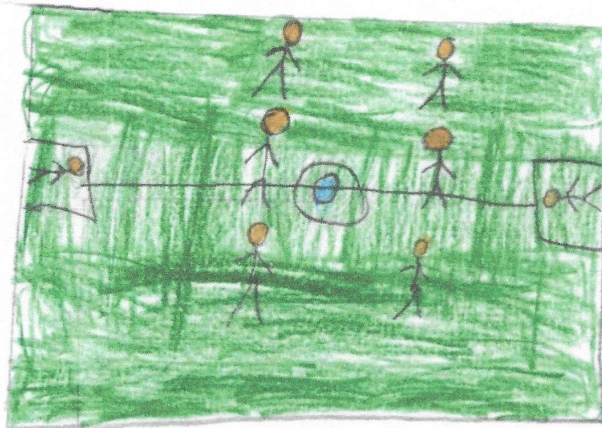
Whether a member/visitor stops by, there will be no doubt as to whether the office is open or not. We will also change the signage for holidays or times when the program staff may be in the office later in the afternoon.

# Compassion Child Update:

Jhonson, age 7, is one of the children that we support in Bolivia. He wrote the letter on June 22, 2023 and tells us about his Church. The church is called The Assembly of God Church Esmeralda and Madureira Ministry, and it is located in La Paz, Bolivia. La Paz, Bolivia is located near the western border of Bolivia adjacent to Peru. Esmeralda & Madureira ministers to 526 children and Jhonson has 98 children in his class. Jhonson walks to his church. His favorite activity when he attends is reading the bible and drawing. He wrote us a letter: *(response to a letter sent to Jhonson from Paul Reed)*

Greetings to you with God's Peace. Thank you so much for the letter and pictures. It is cold here as we have the season of winter. I enjoyed seeing your pictures. Your plants are very beautiful and I would like you to spend time with me and my family. Congrats on fifty years of marriage to your wife. God's blessing to you.

Jhonson asks if we would pray for his Grandpa who is leading the church. In closing he says, "Goodbye with lots of love." Sincerely, Jhonson.



(right) a picture Jhonson drew of him playing soccer



The following are immediate needs CAP has as they can't get from their main source (Lowcountry Food Bank):

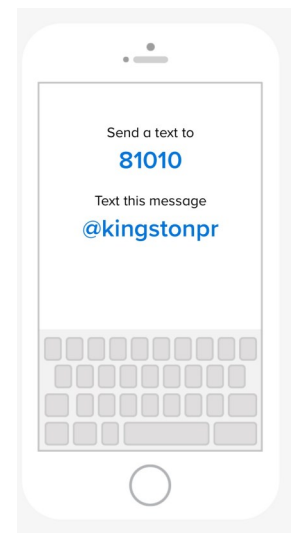
Boxed Cereal  
Jelly (Plastic Jars)  
Pancake Mix  
Syrup  
Grits  
Oatmeal  
Boxed Potatoes  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish Detergent  
Baby Diapers  
(4, 5, 6)

## STAY CONNECTED

Parents, if you are not signed up for our Remind app, please text 81010 to join and type in the code below (example on the right).

Preschool parent: **@kingstonpr**  
Elementary age parent: **@kpck**  
Youth parent (middle/high): **@kpcyou**

The Remind app is a wonderful tool, and Holly uses it to send reminders of events, locations, and any changes to the schedule. If your child/student has a phone, they can join, too!



# PLAY-N-PRAY

SEPTEMBER 10

9:45 AM



Our first gathering is at 9:45 a.m. in the room adjacent to the nursery. Our first lesson is called "Let's Learn to Share!" We will hear how a boy shares with Jesus, and Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Kingston KIDS

Wednesdays | 6-7pm

FROM A TO Z

Learn about the bible + memorize scriptures from A to Z

Bring your bible with you on Wednesdays!

Bible Study begins Tuesday, September 5, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. We are starting our 4-week study on being **“United in a Divided World,”** looking at some of Paul’s New Testament letters and discerning what Paul meant by “having the same mind.”

## Youth

# TUESDAY NIGHT YOUTH UNITE

# united IN A DIVIDED WORLD

We are also picking up Friday Youth Prayer Breakfast! See you at 7:00am!

Don't forget to sign up for a Tuesday night meal and to be a youth shepherd during Bible Study!

See your weekly email from Holly for the link.