

## **“Baptism: A Sacrament for the Generations”**

*“One of those listening was a woman Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The lord opened her heart to respond to Pau’s message. Then she and members of her household were baptized, and she invited us into her home.”*

*Acts 16:14-15*

*“At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.”*

*Acts 16:33*

Dear Friends,

Sunday we celebrated with the Nichols family when we witnessed Hughes’s baptism. Mary Duke, his grandmother and an elder here at New Wappetaw, asked the questions of the congregation. In two weeks we will have another child being baptized, then on Palm Sunday a baby will be baptized. You may remember in February we had an adult baptism. In the Presbyterian church, baptism is one of our two sacraments, along with communion. Simply defined, a sacrament is “an outward sign of God’s inward grace.” Baptism itself is defined as “admission into the Christian church.”

The baptismal font at New Wappetaw is a little bent and it is tarnished past the point of polishing because the inscription on it says 1879! I can’t begin to imagine how many covenant promises this congregation has made the last 150 years when we have celebrated, as generations of families have presented their children for baptism.

I realize not all churches “believe” in infants or children being baptized, but Presbyterians rely on scripture and there are several references to children being baptized in the New Testament. I feel blessed to be in a church that includes children in our sacraments and I take seriously the promises I have made as a pastor and as a member of our church family to “nurture our children in the faith.”

My prayer is that each of you will take your promises seriously also!

It’s a joy to be your pastor.

Blessings,  
Mike

### **Upcoming Events**

Lenten Study and Meal, Wednesday, March 15, at 6:30 PM

Lenten Study and Meal, Wednesday, March 22, at 6:30 PM

Water Missions Walk for Water, Saturday, March 25

Lenten Study and Meal, Wednesday, March 29, at 6:30 PM