

The Informer

March 2025



Women's Herstory Month

Saint James Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

A "Matthew 25" Congregation

820 Ross Avenue • Greensboro, NC 27406 • 336-273-6658 • www.stjamespresby.org

"Centered in Christ, Inclusion and Justice!"

Reverend Dr. Phanta I. Lansden, Senior Pastor

Welcome to the PASTOR's Desk

Greetings Beloved!

As we step further into 2025, we continue to manifest the vision God has placed before us, rooted in faith, justice, and collective empowerment. February was a month of deep celebration and reflection, and we give thanks for the experiences that enriched our spirits.



We were blessed with powerful Black History Month presentations, where we explored the rich legacy of Black architecture in the historic Benbow Park neighborhood. This journey into our past reminds us of the creativity, resilience, and brilliance that have built our communities and continue to inspire us today.

Young Adult Sunday was a joyous occasion as we lifted up the Faith Point Fellowship Young Adult Ministry. We are grateful for the passion, energy, and leadership our young adults bring to the church, strengthening our collective witness and service.

Another highlight of this season has been the launch of the GSO Black Lent Link-Up rallies. These gatherings are mobilizing support for Black-owned businesses while building excitement around our shared activism. It is an honor to collaborate with local pastors to bring these efforts to life, ensuring our Lenten journey is one of faith-filled action and communal uplift.



GSO Black Lent: 40 Days of Resistance and Support for Black Businesses™
BLACK CHURCHES BUYING BLACK, ONE BLOCK AT A TIME
BUILDING BLACK POWER

GSO BLACK LENT Link-Up

Empowerment Thursdays come hear the Call to Action with Speakers and Live Music. Every Thursday Throughout Lent/ February 27 - April 17th, 6pm Nightly.

FEB 27th	MARCH 6th	MARCH 13th
Providence Baptist Church 1166 Tusculum St Greensboro, NC 27406	St James Presbyterian Church 620 Ross Ave Greensboro, NC 27406	Trinity AMEZ Church 431 E Florida St Greensboro, NC 27406

MARCH 20

BREAKING BREAD 5-6PM	JOIN US TO BUY DINNER FROM BLACK VENDORS
5 PM - EARLY DINNER VENDORS 6 PM - COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT MASS CHOR & CALL TO ACTION EVENT 6PM BUY IN CALL TO ACTION 7:30 PM - BLACK MARKET, FOOD & VENDORS	

ARE YOU A BLACK ORG., BIZ OWNER OR VENDOR?
LOG ON TO: BLACKLINKUPGSO.ORG | CONTACT: ARCHITECTOFBLACKSPACE@GMAIL.COM
TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MARKET

Speaking of Lent, don't forget our Lenten Fast! We are standing in resistance against the

oppressive orders of our current administration by fasting from Target for 40 days. You can pledge your commitment at targetfast.org. Let us stand firm in our faith and convictions, using our economic power as a tool for justice.



As we move into March, we look forward to celebrating Women's History Month. I am honored to invite you to join me at Union Presbyterian Seminary as I launch the Critical Conversations on Curriculum workshop. I will be the opening preacher on Thursday, March 13th, at 12 noon. Your prayers and presence are most welcome as we engage in this important dialogue.

Exciting developments are also underway with our new brand identity! We are working on fresh colors, a new logo, and a soon-to-be-launched website. Please keep our design team lifted in prayer as they craft a vision that represents who we are and where we are going.

Together, let's continue manifesting God's vision in 2025. May our faith remain steadfast, our activism bold, and our love abundant.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Phanta Lansden, BSW/DMin

Senior Pastor, Saint James

Pastoral Schedule Updates

New Sabbath Day – Mondays off

Work Schedule: Tuesday – Fridays (sermon writing) and Sundays

Pastor's Contact Information:

Contact Information

Email: stjpastor820@gmail.com | Cell: 336-365-2805 | Church: 336-273-6658

Scheduling appointments

To schedule an appointment with Pastor Lansden please use the calendar link below.

www.calendly.com/plansden

Simply click on the link and choose the day and time that works best for you. You can also reach Pastor Lansden via cell phone, email, or call the front office to schedule an appointment.

Our Purpose Statement:

Saint James Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered, missional church called to be relevant, spiritually healthy, inclusive, and dedicated to serving God & one another through vibrant worship and intergenerational ministry that glorifies God and transforms all things and all people.

Connect With Us!

Office Phone Number: 336-273-6658

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamespresby

Follow us on Instagram: [@saintjamespresbync](https://www.instagram.com/saintjamespresbync)

Visit our website: www.stjamespresby.org

Join us for in-person worship!

Virtual service options are also available!

You can also join us live on our YouTube Channel:

[Saint James Presbyterian Church YouTube Page](#)

Facebook

www.facebook.com/stjamespresby

To visit our Facebook page:

or visit www.facebook.com

Go to the search bar and type in "St. James Presbyterian Church"

Click on the picture of our logo!

Visit our website to sign up for email updates.

www.stjamespresby.org

The St. James Presbyterian Church Office Staff

**Portia Griffin,
Office Manager/Pastoral Assistant**

Aubrey Scruggs, Media Specialist

Elder Andrea Russell, Business Manager

Elder Karen Watts-Yehudah, Treasurer

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WORSHIP

Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.

Order of Worship:

Countdown

Announcements

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Prayer Response

Welcome/Greetings

Passing of Peace

Call to Offering

Offertory Prayer

Doxology

Sermonic Selection

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Holy Communion on First Sundays

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Benediction & Closing Song

March Participants:

Worship Leader:

Rev. Dr. Phanta I. Lansden

Worship Elders:

Elder Cynthia Latham

Karen Watts-Yehudah



Musicians

Mr. Shawn Gunthrop, Minister for Music

Dr. Ronald Campbell, Keyboardist

Mr. Nick Hayes, Percussionist

March Lectionary

Let's continue reading together! As we journey into the month of March, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by reading the scheduled lectionary texts each week. The texts are listed below. Before you read each text, practice a few minutes of centering prayer to clear your mind. Pray for clarity and focus. While reading, physically or mentally take notes so that you can summarize what the scripture is saying. Finally, go back and pick out any themes or recurring ideas that may be relevant to your personal life, Saint James or the church at large. Close your reading time with a Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's word and revelation.

1st Sunday

2nd Sunday

3rd Sunday

4th Sunday

5th Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Isaiah 55:1-9

Joshua 5:9-12



WORSHIP *Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.*

Serve Around the Church



Ushers

Would you like to serve on a phenomenal team? We are looking for volunteers to serve as Ushers for our Sunday morning services. Please reach out to any usher on Sunday or contact the church office for more details!



Choir

Can you sing? Join the choir! We are looking for people to share their musical talents with us. Choir rehearsals are held every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. See any choir or praise team member for more information on joining.

COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month*

WELCOME TO LENT



We enter the season of Lent, a time for reflection, growth, and renewal. Lent invites us to step back from the busyness of life and focus on our spiritual journey. It's a time to embrace self-discipline, prayer, and acts of kindness. Whether you are giving up a habit, taking on a new practice, or simply dedicating more time to reflection, Lent is an opportunity to deepen your connection to your faith and to those around you.

COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month cont*



Mission of the Month

Blessing Box

This month, as you are grocery shopping, consider picking up a few extra items for our blessing box. The box provides essential items like food, toiletries, and other necessities for those in need. Donating Non-Perishable Foods like Canned goods, pasta, rice, and snacks is always appreciated. Contributing Toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products can make a big difference.

Every small contribution helps make a big impact. Let's come together to support our neighbors and show that we care! Drop off your donations at the front of the church or in the boxes in the Narthex and Simkins room. Thank you for your generosity!



DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings*

The Essie B. Meares Circle will meet in the Conference Room, Saturday, March 15th at 12 noon. Lindell Mills will preside. We will be discussing Lesson 9 (Sustaining Creation's Health for All). Following our opening activities, we look forward to hearing from each member during our discussion. We extend a warm welcome to visitors to join us. Please contact the office for additional information.

Demetra Barnwell, Co-Moderator

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) Plan to join Presbyterian Women in the Congregation and the Roxie McNair Circle following our worship service, Sunday, March 9, 2025, for a Legacy Day Celebration in honor of the women for whom our nine circles are named: Mrs. Sara Barber, Mrs. Grace Brown, Mrs. Estelle Eaton, Mrs. Lucy Laney, Mrs. Essie B. Meares, Mrs. Estelle Miller, Mrs. Roxie McNair, Mrs. Marie Florance, and Mrs. Susan Young.

DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings cont.*

The John Erwin Sunday School Class continues to use the Present World Adult Bible Lessons. We speak of ideas and situations that are in the news today. In the current study the authors use scripture to show how the thread of hope works in transforming the lives of the early Christian church. If you would like to join us, call the church office for a book 336-273-6658.

Elders Adnee Bradford, Marie Martin and Linda Randall, Co-Moderators



The Older Adult Ministry

We will meet On Wednesday, March 26 at 2:15 PM in Classrooms 1 and 2. If you need help getting to Sunday Worship, please call the church office by Tuesday of the week (336) 273-6658.

COVID-19 is still with us; check your shot record.

Elders Marie Martin & Pauline McNair, Co-Moderators

For Older Adults who need assistance in the home

PACE of the Triad is still enrolling new participants. PACE provides medical care and support services to older adults. Services may include, but are not limited to, a health aide for those who qualify, medical transportation, medicines, supplies, therapy, respite, and an optional day program. If you or a loved one can benefit from PACE services, contact PACE at 336-550-4046 for a free assessment or more information. A doctor's referral is not needed. PACE of the Triad is located at 1471 E. Cone Blvd. Greensboro in the Roses Shopping Center. Schedule a tour or free consultation today. Call 336-550-4046 or visit the website www.pacetriad.org/help.

DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings cont*

Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men's Council will meet on the third Saturday of the month at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. ~Saint James Presbyterian Men~

Bob Powell, Moderator

SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MEN

OUR MISSION

The mission of Saint James Presbyterian Men’s Ministry is to lead men into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their spiritual and personal lives.

WHO WE ARE

For over 150 years Saint James Presbyterian Men have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into the community and the world, bearing witness to Christ’s saving love. Today the Holy Spirit is still present, calling us to share in what God is doing in our lives to make the world a better place for all people.

WHAT WE DO

- We involve Presbyterian Men in worship and service to God.
- We invite all men of the congregation and men from the community to worship.
- We fellowship, worship and support church activities.
- We support the ministries of Saint James and the greater church community.
- We train and develop Presbyterian Men to be leaders.
- We are active participants in numerous communities such as Nomination, Pastor Nomination, Social Justice, Bible Studies, Fund Raisers ...

Saint James Presbyterian Men are working to make better communities by strengthening the faith of our brother and sisters in Christ and to make new disciples in Christ.

Several Presbyterian Men have become ministers, including Rev. Dr. Carl Manuel, Rev. Jimmy Hawkins, Rev. Juan Guthrie and Rev. Rodney Collins.

CURRENT OFFICERS

Elder Robert (Bob) Powell

Moderator

Elder Charles Burns

Secretary

Deacon Gary Williams

Treasurer

Trustee Tommy Gillespie

Chaplin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Former Moderators)

Elder Charles Knox
Elder James Neal
Elder Jerry Young
Elder Oscar Reid
Deacon Freddie Click

ADMINISTRATION *Church Business & Officer Information*

Office Hours

The church office is open from 10:00am-5:00pm Monday - Thursday. Phone: 336-273-6658.

Monthly Informer Article Deadline

Please feel free to mail or e-mail: stjpresby@gmail.com . Articles can be sent prior to the deadline with the subject: **“April Informer.” The Final Deadline for articles is Monday, March 24, 2025, by 12:00 noon.**

Update on Printing through the Office

Implementation of copy codes and limits has been updated. There will be a cost for printing in the church office. Every ministry will receive a printing allotment for the year. Prints over the allotted amount will be billed to each ministry. Contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Due to the cost of printing, only **STJPC ministry-related photocopies** will be printed by the main office. Please adhere to the yearly allotment for each ministry listed below:

Yearly Allotment per Ministry: Black & White Copies: **100**, Color Copies: **100**

Printing Charges: Black & White: \$0.012 per letter-sized impression

Color: \$0.06 per letter-sized impression

Tabloid: Each 11x17 impression counts as two letter-size impressions.

Contact Information Updating

Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Did you know that you can send update your contact information anytime? Our contact information form is always available online. To fill out the form online, please click:

<https://forms.gle/ie6YDkwR4yqffr9c9>. Your information will remain confidential.

ADMINISTRATION *Church Business & Officer Information (continued)*

Congregational Care Ministry! This is an integral part of Saint James Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the Congregational Care ministry is to care for our congregation by providing presence, prayers, calls and cards during times of illness, medical procedures, health crisis, and transitions. Our Pastor is the primary provider for end-of-life care, bereavement, and funerals. Our Congregational Care team provides presence for ongoing care concerns. The foundation for this ministry is in scripture. Just as Moses was admonished to appoint elders to assist with the care of God's flock (Exodus 18); and just as the early church provided people to care for widows as the apostles gave themselves to prayer and the teaching of the word (Acts 2), our church stands in a biblical tradition to commission people of faith to provide for the care of God's people.

How does Congregational Care Work?

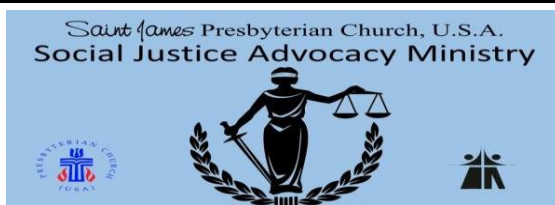
To help ensure that everyone has an Elder, including those on the Forget Me Not List, our congregation is divided into groups based on the first letter of your last name. Each member of the congregation has been assigned a Congregational Care team member as seen below. Some examples of when to contact the church include but is not limited to prayer, notice of a medical procedure or surgery, notice of a current or past hardship. Please call the church office at 336-273-6658 or email stjoffice820@gmail.com. The office will notify the Pastor and your Congregational Care Provider immediately. If there is an end-of-life situation, the Pastor is the primary provider. All information is private unless permission is given to share with the entire church during prayer and/or through the Forget Me Not list. The Congregational Care Team is eager to serve, so do not hesitate to share your need.

Congregational Care List 2025 (subject to change)

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Members of the Congregation</u>
Tyrone Collins	A, B
Cynthia Latham	C, D, E
Gloria Washington	F, G, H, I
Marcia Bellamy	J, K, L
Mildred Powell	M, N, O
Cynthia Latham	P, Q, R
Chuck Wallington	S, T
Marcia Bellamy	U, V, W, X, Y, Z

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Chairs, Lolita Watkins,



Christina Yongue

Our Social Justice
the umbrella of the

Advocacy Ministry under
Black & Brown

Women’s Voting Initiative has been active since February 2024. Our church hosted the kickoff event of our voter engagement outreach and we have been meeting every month since that meeting. Our partners in in our voter campaign to educate, encourage, register, and provide assistance in getting our neighbors to the polls during early voting or on Election Day are our founding co-partner, Beloved Community Center, Tau Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Micah Connections of Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Market Street United Church, Bethel AME Church, Warnersville Neighborhood Community Association, Advance Carolina, and the Greensboro Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.

The Triad Black Faith Leaders & Black Farmers Network was established as a coalition of faith leaders, faith organizations, and Black Farmers in 2023, in providing access to fresh produce and supporting Black Farmers in our community.

Members of our organization locally as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

New Hope Community Development Group, Poplar Grove AME Church, Positive Direction for Youth & Families (Evangel Fellowship Church), Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saint James Presbyterian Church, Saint Matthews United Methodist Church, Saint Phillip AME Zion Church and Shiloh Baptist Church.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Accomplishments of Triad Black Faith Leaders & Black Farmers Network 2024:

Officially became a 501 (C) non-profit organization, Established leadership council, by-laws and received funding from the USDA, Cone Health Foundation, Second Harvest Food Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro Men's Club, Saint James Presbyterian Church and several donors, Sponsored our second successful community farmers' market at Hayes Taylor YMCA on Juneteenth 2024, Assisted farmers in our Network in participating in a festival in High Point, North Carolina, Provided holiday fresh produce for the second year to over 500 individuals and families in Greensboro in December of 2024, Connected farmers in our Network with the NC Extension Office: Guilford County, Greensboro Housing Authority, and Greensboro NC Chapter of The Links, Inc. in providing fresh boxes of produce and prepared meals to 75 senior citizens in Greensboro, Sponsored a successful holiday mini-fresh produce market in the fellowship hall on Monday, December 23, 2024.

FAITH POINT FELLOWSHIP *Young Adult and College Ministry*

Faith Point Fellowship (Young Adult Ministry)

Text FPF to 844-233-6202 and receive words of inspiration on Motivational Monday. If you are on FB, please join our chat group. Look for us on Facebook and Instagram social @FaithPointFellowship.

Internship Opportunities - Faith Point Fellowship will hire college students for the 2024-25 academic school year to serve as Evangelism Interns. Interns must be at least a sophomore in a local college with a B average and active in campus activities. Interns are expected to invite students to ministry events, assist in leading ministry activities, and identify community service projects for the ministry. For more information, contact Dr. Ina Siler at 551-655-4612 or email us at faithpointfellowship@gmail.com.



FORGET ME NOT LIST *Remember to pray for those who cannot attend worship*

Shaquille & Sheryl Davis	3938 Eastland Ave., 27401
Clarence Durham	3313 Janet Ln., 27405
Emily Goodman	Guilford Health Care Center, 2041 Willow Road, Greensboro, NC 27406
Shirley Barnes	2219 Lakeland Road, Greensboro, NC 27405
Willie “Peggy” Meachem	Call the church office
Oscar Reid	3834 Riceland Pl. Charlotte, NC 28216
Fannie Scales	Guilford House 5918 Netfield Rd. Greensboro, NC 27455
Amryl Ward	8100 Grahamson Ln. Charlotte, NC 28269
Katherine Maynard	412 Stewart St Greensboro, NC 27401
Mrs. Thelma Williams	1907 Belcrest Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406
Frank Woods	4704 Sharon Donna Drive Greensboro, NC 27406
Mrs. Margaret Spinks	4512 Lawndale Drive Apt. 244, Greensboro, NC 27455
Ms. Lynette Hawkins	C/O Fredericka Charity, 1212 Swan Creek Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

OUTREACH MINISTRY *We are busy serving the community- Join Us!*

Stephen Ministry

There are trained congregation members who can provide one-to-one care to those experiencing difficulties on life's journey.

Do you need someone to listen, to care, to encourage and to provide emotional and spiritual support? If so, please call a Stephen Leader: Adnee Bradford (336)202-6989, Yvonne Patterson (336) 375-0122, Cynthia Latham (336) 324-7252.

For at home care assistance, please see ***The Older Adult Ministry***

SJPC Housing Resource Directory

Housing Resource Directory

The committee created an online Housing Resource Directory that contains some community information to assist those in need of housing; home repairs; rental assistance; utility assistance; eviction assistance; and more. Click here [HousingDirect \(1\).xlsx](#)

Pathways Partnership

SJPC is now in partnership with Pathways to assist families moving from their transitional housing program to permanent affordable housing. Our church will assist families who need household supplies and move-in financial support as they transition to affordable housing.

Guilford County Schools Homeless Services & Community Support

As a member of the Interfaith Affordable Housing Initiative (IAHI) our SJPC Affordable Housing Committee collected Food Lion gift cards for children in Guilford County Schools experiencing homelessness. Special thanks to PWC, Presbyterian Men and others for making this a very successful project.

STEWARDSHIP *Monthly collection and stewardship opportunities.*

God invites us to worship Him in many ways. This includes the giving of our Tithes and Offerings. Here's what that means. The Old Testament reminds us to "bring ye all the titles into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:20 (KJV). Similarly, the New Testament reminds us that the Lord loves a "cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV), and all that we have already belongs to the Lord. It is in this spirit that we invite you to support the work and the ministries of St. James Presbyterian Church through the consistent and cheerful regular giving of your titles and offerings. Thank you.

Your financial commitment to St. James Presbyterian Church in 2024 supported church leadership, staff, building maintenance as well as many ministries that work tirelessly to address the growing needs of our community. None of this could happen without the love you express through your giving.

We must work diligently at getting ourselves into "good trouble."

For those of you who **give online**, please indicate the nature of your **Special Giving**.

Initial Offering is \$4.00

Per Capita is \$25.00

Offering Envelopes will be available on Sunday, January 19, 2025 in the George Simpkins Room.

Current SJPC Officers

Elders

Lucia Ward-Alexander – Discipleship

Marcia Bellamy – Fellowship and Congregational Care

Freddie Click- Trustee Liaison

Gary Halley – Assistant Clerk of Session

Dr. Vanessa Haygood – Outreach, Social Justice Advocacy and Emergency Assistance

Marsha Knox – Clerk of Session and Discipleship

Cynthia Latham – Worship and Evangelism

Mildred Powell – Outreach, Social Justice Advocacy, Emergency Assistance and Deacon Liaison

Chuck Wallington – Stewardship

Gloria Washington – Children, Youth, Young Adults and Deacon Liaison

Karen Yehudah – Worship, Evangelism and Human Resources

Zaiah Wadelington- Youth Elder

Deacons

Melvin Alexander

Regina Artis, Co-Moderator

Charlene Bowden

Lula Burns

Russell Burris

Otelia Spinks-Finch

Cedric Jarman

Tracey Jarman, Co-Moderator

Ava Neal

Sonia Boakyewaa Osei-Okyere

Dr. Kim Pemberton

Dr. Ina Siler

Daydra Wilkes

Trustees

Demetra Barnwell

Terry Bellamy, Moderator

Brandon Herring

Stephanine Horton

Charles Knox

Carrie Ledbetter

Donald Lindsay

Marie Martin

Donald Miller

Saundra Peterson

Bob Powell

Annie Purcell

Eugenia Turner

Victoria Hardy - Youth Trustee



Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission