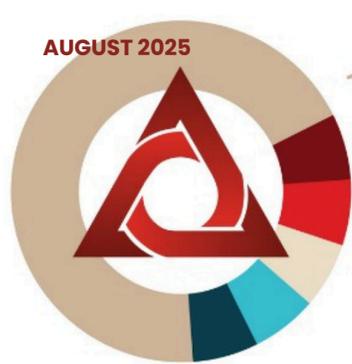


AUGUST 2025

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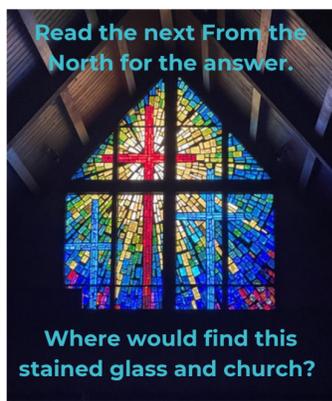
from the...

NORTH REGION

To all Teaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors, and Ruling Elders: We invite you to share how God is at work in your ministry settings! Whether it's through community outreach, worship innovation, or the rhythms of congregational life, we want to hear your stories. "From the North Region" is a space for connection and encouragement among the leaders of our churches. It's an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing through you— and to inspire one another through shared experiences and creative ministry.

Together, we reflect the diverse and faithful witness of Christ across our region. Let's continue to learn from and support one another in this shared calling. Share your story by emailing: lisa@gracepresbytery.org.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Lisa Wraith
North Region Ministry Associate



Teaching Elder and Commissioned Pastor Lunch

North Region Gathering: North
August 27 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

North Region Gathering: South
September 10 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

North Region Gathering: North
September 24 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Interested in Hosting a Lunch?

Do you enjoy bringing people together over good food and conversation? We're looking for volunteers to host upcoming lunches in the North Region! If you're interested in hosting a future lunch, please reach out to [Lisa Wraith](mailto:lisa@gracepresbytery.org) via email. We'd love to hear from you!

Open Gate

Written By: [Rev. Dr. Paul M. Burns](#)
[Pastor at St. Mark Presbyterian Church & Eastminster Presbyterian Church](#)

For the first year of my ministry with St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Dallas the only time I heard about activity in the courtyard was when kids would sneak in for illicit purposes. The question was "How do we keep these kids out?". Our custodian told me that dozens of kids from the nearby high school walked through our campus everyday that he would talk to them. The two of us began to imagine what a courtyard filled with high schoolers could be like. All we had to do was open the gate and find out. We named the ministry The Open Gate and we committed to opening the gate every Thursday after school. We sat up a table at the gate with drinks and sandwiches made by one of our neighbors. We put up a chalkboard with a question for the week that they had to answer to get their refreshments. We passed out prayer cards and prayed for students on the spot. Another of our neighbors who speaks Spanish joined us and helped draw kids from the sidewalk to our open gate. Very quickly we were seeing over 100 kids a week. Other members joined the effort. We began grilling hot dogs. We furnished a game room that was open to the students. Parents who were waiting for their kids started hanging out with us with their younger children. They began helping as well. Santa Claus even came and asked them what they wanted for Christmas. For our final Thursday of the school year we purchased 150 New Testaments and stamped our church info on the inside to give out. The final chalkboard question was "Do you want to follow Jesus?" (in English and in Spanish). 133 high schoolers said, "Yes/Si!" and we gave them the New Testaments and challenged them to read it over the summer and come back and see us in the Fall. We can't wait to see their faces when the next semester begins! We will be stamped our church info on the inside to give out. The final chalkboard question was "Do you want to follow Jesus?" (in English and in Spanish). 133 high schoolers said, "Yes/Si!" and we gave them the New Testaments and challenged them to read it over the summer and come back and see us in the Fall. We can't wait to see their faces when the next semester begins! We will be open the gate.



Who is New to the North

Rev. Caroline Grindrod serving at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church as the Associate Pastor for Young Adults, Developing Families, and Connection grew up in Annapolis, Maryland in evangelical non-denominational churches. She received her BS in Management from Boston College, where she spent most of her time being a Young Life leader. In her senior year of college, she felt called to ministry, a call that also required her to leave evangelicalism to find a church more aligned with her sense of calling and understanding of the expansiveness of the kingdom of God. She became a Presbyterian after moving to Charleston, SC and joining Parkside Church.

"After a year of ministry, I still am thrilled to go out to coffee with a new member, plan a retreat, break a loaf of bread, sprinkle water, and believe it's all a reflection of God's love. I can't believe I get to be a pastor, and I'm so grateful to be a pastor at Preston Hollow and in Grace Presbytery. I feel supported and energized by these communities."



Caroline and Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth Snyder, a cradle Presbyterian who grew up at First (Scots) Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, is passionate about connecting faith with the rhythms of daily life. After earning her BA in Christian Leadership with a minor in Communication Studies from Belmont University in 2022, she went on to receive her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in May 2025. Now serving as a Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) and pursuing a call as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, Elizabeth is deeply committed to walking alongside people in both their spiritual and everyday journeys. She is thrilled to serve as the Monie Pastoral Resident at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church for the next two years. Elizabeth is excited to be a pastor because she finds deep joy in witnessing moments of transformation, walking with individuals through seasons of challenge and growth, and helping others encounter the grace of God in the ordinary and extraordinary parts of life. She believes the church serves as a beacon of hope and belonging, and she is excited to actively participate in that mission.

Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors

Support When You Need It For Your Mental Well-Being

Your mental health matters. That's why [Spring Health, the provider of your Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#), offers confidential, high-quality support — all at no cost to you. Available to pastors and staff members enrolled in the Board of Pensions benefits. What's Included:

- 📞 Dedicated Mental Health Navigators Get connected to the right resources and treatment options for your needs.
- 🧠 Up to Six Clinical Therapy Sessions Meet with a licensed Spring Health provider for personalized care.
- 💬 Unlimited Virtual Coaching Access professional coaching sessions with certified wellness coaches.
- 🕒 24/7 Crisis Support Speak with a licensed professional anytime — day or night.
- 🏠 Work/Life Resources & Referrals Receive assistance and referrals for child care, elder care, legal help, financial planning, and more.

The Planned Giving Event

Tuesday September 9th from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Presbytery Office located at 6100 Colwell Blvd #100 Irving, TX 75039. Here is the link to register: <https://gracepresbytery.regfox.com/planned-giving>



Grace Presbytery

missional. relational. connectional.

- Visit the [website](https://gracepresbytery.org/) for more information about Grace Presbytery and its programming
- Explore the [calendar](https://gracepresbytery.org/events/) for a comprehensive list of presbytery-wide events
- Subscribe to the Grace eNews for weekly updates and resources bit.ly/3OzSbkn
- View the Grace eNews archives to access recent issues bit.ly/4lWfTWw
- Check out the North Region page for a Directory of member churches and our regional news archive <https://gracepresbytery.org/north-region/>