

GREENE COUNTY

First Presbyterian prepares for new year

On the final day of 2023, the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro held a brief ceremony to welcome new members Mary and Buzz Bowers, Jay Mayo, and Barbara Robbins into its church family. One week later, Sunday, Jan. 7, the church ordained two new elders, with Jocelyn Clark tasked with leading church communications efforts,

including managing its new website, and Spencer Hinds charged with duties related to member outreach, including continuing production of weekly Sermon Preview videos. Greensboro's First Presbyterian Church (117 S. Main St.) holds weekly Sunday service at 11 a.m., preceded by Bible study at 9:45 a.m.

-Contributed



L-R: Buzz and Mary Bowers, Elder Meg Mayo, Jay Mayo, Barbara Robbins, Rev. Meg Jackson Clark, and Elder Barbara Allen. First Presbyterian in Greensboro welcomed the Bowers, Mr. Mayo and Ms. Robbins as new members in an end-of-year ceremony.



L-R: Rev. Meg Jackson Clark, Elder of the Month Barbara Allen, new Elder Jocelyn Clark, and new Elder Spencer Hinds.

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GWM Q&A with author Hank Phillippi Ryan

The new heart-racing, cat-and-mouse thriller *One Wrong Word*, from author Hank Phillippi Ryan, will be the centerpiece of the next Meet the Author event at Georgia Writers Museum (GWM), Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., with doors open at 6:30 p.m.

GWM recently conducted a brief interview with the *USA Today* best-selling writer.

GWM: Your books are psychological thrillers. What is it about this type of literary genre that most appeals to you?

Ryan: I love the power of words – and how words can be devastatingly destructive and infinitely violent. I'm not a fan of graphic gore on the page, but I revel in mind games, gaslighting, deception, and revenge. Harlan

Coben once told me to write the kind of book you love to read, so that's what I do. *One Wrong Word* is a twisty cat-and-mouse thriller – but which character is the cat, and which character is the mouse?

GWM: What is your favorite mystery movie?

Ryan: This is way too difficult! North by Northwest. The Verdict. Charade. The Usual Suspects. A Few Good Men. Oh, and Witness for the Prosecution! They're fair, propulsive, smart, surprising, and infinitely human.

GWM: You have been an award-winning investigative and television reporter for many years. How has that background helped your writing?

Ryan: It's the best possible

training! I've learned a good story calls for a character you care about, a high-stakes problem that demands to be solved, where the good guys win, and the bad guys get what's coming to them. And in the end, there's justice and the world is changed.

That's the key to a terrific investigative story, and to a killer novel as well. It's just that in writing crime fiction, I had to learn to make stuff up. I've also learned to write fast – and that it doesn't have to be perfect on the first draft.

GWM: What is the most difficult part of writing fiction?

Ryan: Two parts. One is coming up with the initial gorgeous gem of an idea. And

two, because I don't use an outline, is being patient enough to let the story show me the ending. I never know what's going to happen until I write it, and I surprise myself every time. And that is part of the magic.

Tickets to see Ryan speak about *One Wrong Word* are \$45 (\$40 each for two or more), or a table for six can be reserved for \$200 (a savings of \$40). The event will include clever decorations and amazing hors d'oeuvres. Contact Georgia Writers Museum or visit georgiawritersmuseum.org online for reservations and to pre-order Ryan's newest book. She will sign books following her presentation.

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