FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

September 2023 Newsletter



The School Year Has Begun, What Does That Mean for Us?

It's a new year! Now I know it isn't January first but for all those who work in the school system and those who are students, parents, and grandparents with the end of August and the beginning of September this is a new year! Some have been doing this "school thing" a long-time including students and of course teachers and staff. Others, like one of my nieces, is starting her first year as a teacher. I'm very excited for her and praying for her. The students are returning to familiar schools while others are beginning at a brand-new school, whether it is a middle school, high school, college, or beyond. It is most definitely a time of new beginnings for them.

One thing is for certain, any day can begin the start of something different and new. As we are entering September, our lives can change. As we go to bed tonight and wake up in the morning, our lives can be different. We don't need January first rolling around or the beginning of a new school year. We can begin something new, and it begins now, with us.

To begin anew, simply requires us to place our footsteps, our decision making, our prayer life, our priorities, our hopes and dreams, and so forth in a new direction. We begin by shaking up our lives and changing our priorities. Each day provides a new opportunity for us to change and to become better people, better citizens, and most definitely better Christians.

Make a list. What are the things you want to change? What are the things you don't really like about yourself? Maybe we are too judgmental and not forgiving enough. What are the habits that you want to discard? Maybe we spend too much time on our phones or other digital devices.

What do you want to do differently? What are some good habits to start embracing every day? It might be things like eating better, less sugar, less bread, etc. It might be taking 30 minutes a day to walk. It might include sending one letter or email or text to a friend you haven't talked to recently. It might include extending your prayer life or beginning each day with prayer or during your meals or as a big decision is being made. It might include taking the time to thank God each day for the many blessings that have come your way. It might include taking some time, even if it's 15 minutes to read the Bible, maybe starting with the gospels.

It is time for us to start anew and create a new beginning. This new life opens the door for us to make a substantial difference each day! My father, when he had terminal cancer, became a part of a group called "Make Today Count." The person with terminal cancer was reminded to make the most of every single day. This holds true for each of us. Let's make a positive difference each day for us and the world around us. What will you change tomorrow and everyday moving forward?

Grace and Peace,

Rick



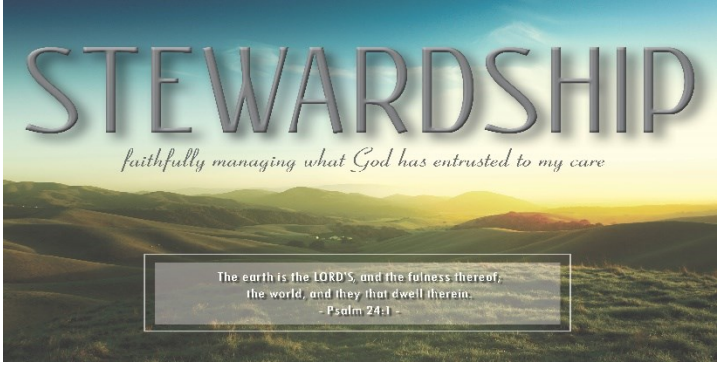
Remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ as they face difficult times.

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Carol Lucas
Gail Meeks
Pat Nugent
Dennis Parks
Phillip Warmbrod
Barbara Danley
Ella Kate Gilliam
Margaret Leonard and Family
Kelly Martindale and Family
Nancy McKenzie
Regina Nugent
Ina Sue Parks

Terry Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Abe Caviness, *Debby Albright's great-nephew*
Willis Clark, *Elizabeth Barringer & Marie Monroe's brother*
Jake Currie's Family
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Sue & Chuck Kelly, *Mike Kelly's brother*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
Tyler Mabe
Johnny Meggs
Lisa Muller, *Ina Sue Parks' cousin*
Johnathan Patterson, *Otis Patterson's son*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Sandy, *Marlene Riyevski's sister*
Joseph Saluby, *Missionary to Guatemala*
Tommy Walters Family, *Diane Pangborn's brother*

All of our military men and women and their families, especially the following:
Jonathan Baker, Kyle Bryant, Cody Fitzgerald,
Chris Mohan, Patrick Mohan,
Greg Riyevski, Michael Schwartz, and Quinn Wicker.

If you would like to add someone, or remove yourself from First Presbyterian's Prayer Requests, please contact the church office at (910) 947-2924 or infofpc397@gmail.com.



July 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of July 1, 2023		
Tithes and Offerings Received (includes West Community Grant $450)		62,893.26
		+14,975.00
	Sub-Total	77,868.26
Expenditures		-19,007.45
Balance in checking account as of July 31, 2023		58,860.81

RESTRICTED FUNDS: (Funds designated for specific projects, etc.)

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of June 1, 2023		46,768.69
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for July 2023		+640.34
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $120.90; Flower Fd. $47; PW $250		+417.90
	Sub-Total	47,826.93
Expenditures: 2nd Qtr. 2023 Employee taxes $1,885.36; Drug Free Moore County, Inc. donation $300		-2,185.36
Balance in Restricted Funds as of July 31, 2023		45,641.57

RECAP:	58,860.81
Operating Funds Balance	+1,565.24
Building Fund: $1,565.24	+44,076,33
Restricted Funds Balance	104,502.38
July '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 495.34; FW/H 117.00; SW/H 28.00) + .03 Adjustment =	-640.37
7/31/2023 Checkbook Balance	$103,862.01

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,552.86
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+126.92
	21,679.78

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session met on August 13, 2023. The following took place:

- Received a grant of $450. from the West Community that will be used for evangelism
- Portraits of the last three ministers are almost completed and will be hung
- Staff evaluations will be done soon and members will be asked for comments
- Vacation time for Rick (in August) was approved
- The contemporary service will continue through December.

September Birthdays



5 Diane Pangborn
10 Justin Edmonds
13 Ali Wadsworth
15 Nathan Phillips
17 Catherine Monroe Collins
18 Nancy McClendon
21 Tracy Ingold
22 Ian Estep
30 Gail Hardin

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY FLOWERS

3rd Ann Lynch
10th Denise & Lee Edmonds
(In honor of Justin's 25th birthday)
17th Gail & Keith Hardin
24th Ruby Ingold

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please call:
Margaret Leonard at (910) 639-2318,
or Tom Leonard at (910) 639-3356

September Greeters

3rd Nancy Carter
Carolyn & Ben
& Addison Reynolds
10th JoAnn Wahala
17th Lucinda & David Casey
24th Jackie Muse

July



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	12	38
2nd Sunday	11	56
3rd Sunday	12	52
4th Sunday	11	32
5th Sunday	10	48
Average	11	45

Send church news and announcements to FPC
by calling or emailing the church office at (910) 947-2924 / infofpc397@gmail.com.

On the first Saturday morning of the month,
FPC friends and family meet at the Robbins' Food Bank
of Robbins Area Christian Ministries from 7:30-10 a.m.
to serve our friends and families in need.

You can help by donating non-perishable foods
and double-bagged plastic grocery bags at our
Family Life Center Basket Ministries Donation Station, and/or by
joining us on:

Saturday, September 2nd
October 7th
November 4th
December 2nd

Don't forget to give us your "two-cents" the first Sunday of every month as we continue to support our Children's 2-Cents-a-Meal Offering.

Our children are now collecting this offering during the Moment with our Children.

A little bit can go a long way!

THANK YOU

Kelly& Rick, Elizabeth & Catherine Martindale: The Martindale Family would like to express our sincere appreciation for the love and support we have received from our church family over the past few weeks in the passing of our mother, mother in law, and grandmother. We cannot say thank you enough for all of the cards, food, calls, texts, those that came to her service, and all of the prayers we have received. We also thank the women of the church for the wonderful dinner that they prepared for us. It was delicious and so greatly appreciated. We are so grateful for our church family and thankful to have all of you as a part of our lives.

Otis Patterson: A special "Thank You" to Otis Patterson for repairing the water fountain in the Sunday School building. We are very appreciative of Otis and his many talents.

SEPTEMBER FOCUS

Our September focus will be BACK PACK PALS. Please leave your peanut butter crackers and/or small boxes of raisins in the basket for Back Pack Pals. School for students begins August 28 and the program begins when school starts. We will collect these items during the school year so children will have food over the weekends.

FPC ANNUAL COOKOUT

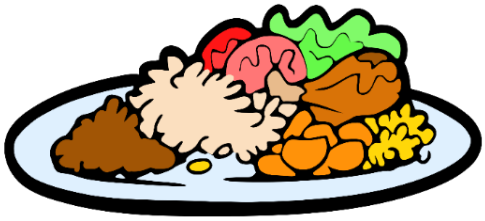
FPC Annual Cookout will be held on Sunday, September 24th at 5:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be available for volunteers are in the lower narthex. Hamburgers, hotdogs and homemade ice cream provided. Everyone is welcome to attend!

MEN'S GROUP

The men of First Presbyterian Church are conducting a Bible study on James. The men meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome to come and join in this time of fellowship and study!

The Administrative Committee will soon be conducting yearly reviews of church staff. We would like to give church members the opportunity to provide feedback that will help in our conversations with the following staff: Avery Smallwood (nursery attendant), Ann Key (sexton), Sonya Potter (Administrative Assistant) and Rick Martindale (Pastor). You may send in your comments to Lucinda Casey at lccasey1@gmail.com or Jackie Muse at jmuse4@aol.com, or place comments in our mailboxes in the Family Life Center workroom. Please include your name. Your name, however, will not be shared with staff. The deadline for sharing information is Monday, September 11th.

PW Meal Ministry



September Meal Leaders:

7th JoAnn Wahala
14th Gail Hardin
21st Lucinda Casey
28th Claudia McKenzie

If you would like to help with a meal, part of a meal or know someone who needs assistance please contact JoAnn Wahala at 910-947-3238.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Two craft classes were completed in August with 8 church members making a stained-glass piece of their choice. Items made included an Angel, mountain range, and blue birds. Classes for the opportunity to make a Christmas ornament are planned for later in the year.





Sacred Encounters is the book study for the 2023-2024 year. The group will meet monthly with the second lesson presented on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Study books are still available for $10.00 each. To obtain a study book, please contact Marie Monroe or JoAnn Wahala. The study is based on the New Testament books of Luke and Acts. A DVD presentation by the author of the series is presented for each lesson along with group discussions. All ladies are invited.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the school supplies needed for Carthage Elementary School.

The PW assembled and donated 32 CWS period packs at the August 19, 2023, Coastal Carolina PW gathering. The packs contain personal products, soap, hand sanitizers, wipes, etc. and will be shipped to ladies in need in the United States and other countries. This project was one of the recent mission projects of the CCPW.



Cheryl Gilmore was guest speaker at the PW salad supper on Monday August 7, 2023. Cheryl's presentation was based on scriptures from Luke and Acts, scriptures being studied in the current book study. The teapot ministry, food and evening were enjoyed by all attending.



CHURCH CALENDAR

September 2023

Saturday, September 2nd	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, September 3rd	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Service / 2-Cents a Meal Children's Offering
Monday, September 4th		**Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed**
Tuesday, September 5th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, September 6th	6:00 p.m.	Christian Education Committee Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, September 7th	2:00 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study
Sunday, September 10th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7-12
Monday, September 11th	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, September 17th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7-12
	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Tuesday, September 19th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 20th		Deadline for Church Mouse Newsletter / Mouse
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
Sunday, September 24th	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Robert Wilson's last Sunday
	5:00 p.m.	Fall Picnic
	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 26th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 27th		Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Tom Leonard

Class of 2023	**Class of 2024**
Lucinda Casey	Gail Hardin
Cristy Dean	Robert Gordon
Tom Leonard	Jackie Muse
Scott Phillips	John McDonald
Jennifer Thomason	Nancy Carter
Paul White	Michelle Tortora

Church Staff

Ann Key, *Sexton*
Leon Monroe, *Receiving T*reasurer
Marie Monroe, *Dispersing Treasurer*
Robert Wilson, *Choir Director and Organist*
Sonya Potter, *Administrative. Assistant*
Avery Smallwood, *Nursery Attendant*
Rick Martindale*, Minister*

Newsletter Feedback…

We'd like your feedback on how to improve our
Church Mouse Newsletter
for Fpc members, friends and family! Share your thoughts with us at
infofpc397@gmail.com
or (910) 947-2924.
We look forward to hearing from you!