FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

March 2023 Newsletter



Lent and March Madness! A Winning Combination!

Lent is here! It is a beautiful time of the year when we are asked to focus on God more than at any other time of the year. Lent is the 40 days before Easter not counting Sundays. During Lent we are called to be more reflective and more active in our faith. During this time Jesus is heading toward Jerusalem and once there, He will make the ultimate sacrifice atoning for our sins and making us whole. It's that gift that Paul wrote about last week in worship.

What are we going to do during Lent? How are we going to reflect upon our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ? We can give something up…if we grasp the importance of Jesus in our lives. Our temporary sacrifices focus on the mighty acts of sacrifice performed by Jesus.

Another favorite option is to do something new or different. How can we contemplate upon the life of our Lord and Savior? This could be the season to read one of the gospels or all four of them. This could be the season to make very intentional our prayer life so as to take 30 minutes (or more) each day in prayer which includes both talking and listening.

I'm getting ready to seemingly change directions – hold tight! The NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments, March Madness, are getting ready to begin. Carolina, Duke, and State have won many titles between them. The first full day of the men's tournament begins on March 16th (I will hopefully be in front of a TV starting at noon 😊). It concludes with the championship game on April 3rd.

I love March Madness. I love that on almost any given game, anyone can win. The Goliath, big school, with all its big money, facilities, etc. can lose to the small school that struggles just to afford traveling from place to place. One great game by one team and a bad day by the other can mean certain elimination or advancement to the next round. The championship game takes place on Monday, April 3rd. We will be in Holy Week with Easter falling on Sunday April 9th.

With all that being said, the Youth Group, will again do a "March Madness" canned food drive for the Robbins and Carthage Food Banks from Wednesday, March 1st – April 2nd (Palm Sunday). Deposit your cans (cans only for this drive) close to where the other donated items are dropped off in the Family Life Center (look for the sign). Write your favorite team on the cans and the Youth Group will tally to see what team has the most cans. The real winners will be those who get the rewards of our labor plus ourselves in learning to become more generous. Lent is about becoming closer to God and one another.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



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

John Currie, *Tara Planation*
Lee Edmonds
Judi Kelly
Tom Leonard
Gail Meeks
Regina Nugent, *UNC, Hillsborough*
Megan Phillips
Barbara Danley
Robert Gordon
Matthew Leonard
Carol Lucas
Pat Nugent
Ina Sue Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

Artie Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Terry Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Abe Caviness, *great-nephew of Debby Albright*
Willis Clark, *brother of Elizabeth Barringer & Marie Monroe*
June Greeson, *Susan Cole's mother*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
Rexine Lloyd, *Kelly Martindale's mother*
Tyler Mabe
Jane Medlin, *Carol Lucas' daughter*
Johnny Meggs
Lisa Muller, *Cousin of Ina Sue Parks*
Johnathan Patterson, *Otis Patterson's Son*
Gordon Prescott, *Geraldine Moore's brother*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Sandy, *Marlene Riyevski's sister*
Emma Lee Upchurch, *Carson Kelly's sister-in-law*

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.



January 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of January 1, 2023		68,444.00
Tithes and Offerings Received (includes $500 Estate Bequest)		+18,827.00
	Sub-Total	87,271.00
Expenditures		-14,619.21
Balance in checking account as of January 31, 2023		72,651.79

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of January 1, 2023		42,783.29
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for January 2023		+631.87
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $109.28; PW Meal Fund $30; Flower Fund $46; Joy Gift $50; Love Offering $1,130; Memorials to PW $650; Cemetery Fund $325		+2,340.28
	Sub-Total	45,755.44
Expenditures: 2 Cents a Meal $109.28; Joy Gift $50; Truist broker fee $60		-219,28
Balance in Restricted Funds as of January 31, 2023		45,536.16

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	72,651.79
Building Fund: $1,621.08 - Truist broker fee $60.00 =	+1,561.08
Restricted Funds Balance	+43,975.08
	118,187.95
Oct '22-Jan '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 1,735.79; FW/H 378.63; SW/H 67.00) + .12 Adjustment	-2,181.54
1/31/2022 Checkbook Balance	116,006.41

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	22,151.75
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+197.56
	22,349.31

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The Ruling Elders are serving on the following committees:

Administrative – Lucinda Casey and Jackie Muse
Building and Grounds – John McDonald and Scott Phillips
Christian Education – Cristy Dean and Jennifer Thomason
Fellowship and Mission – Gail Hardin and Michelle Tortora
Stewardship and Finance – Nancy Carter and Paul White
Worship – Robert Gordon and Tom Leonard

If you would like to serve on a committee and haven't been asked please contact Rick.

March Birthdays



3rd	Ken Fara	21st	Margaret Leonard
4th	Joe Lynch	22nd	Ann Lynch
5th	Emily Muse	23rd	Maria Bigger
6th	Otis Patterson	26th	Susan Cole
8th	Joey Tortora	27th	Barbara Kelly
13th	Angie Medlin	28th	Lucinda Casey
14th	Jordan Smith	29th	Connor Lucas
15th	Peter Little	31st	Jackie Muse
17th	Mike Kelly	31st	Dennis Parks
19th	Tom Currie	31st	Christopher Phillips

MARCH SUNDAY FLOWERS

5th	JoAnn & Dell Wahala
12th	Debbie & Robert Gordon
19th	To be announced at a later date
26th	To be announced at a later date

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary please call Robert Gordon at (910) 947-3963, or Tom Leonard at (910) 693-3356.

March Greeters

To be announced at a later date

5th
12th
19th
26th

January



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	29	56
2nd Sunday	30	64
3rd Sunday	35	54
4th Sunday	25	38
5th Sunday	23	48
Average	28	52

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

Food Bank

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, March 4th
Saturday, April 1st
Saturday, May 6th
Saturday, June 3rd

two cents

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!

Regina Nugent: Regena Nugent's address is 430 Waterstone Drive, Room 4H206, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Let us encourage her with cards and mail as she continues to recover.



From the Anna Belle Campbell Family: The family of Anna Belle Campbell wishes to thank you for all the love, kindness, prayers and support you offered Anna Belle over the years as well as all the expressions of comfort and sympathy you have offered us. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and compassion and thank you sincerely. May God bless you.

The Anna Belle Campbell family

SUNDAY FUNDAY

On February 5th we had an amazing time preparing Valentine's for our Prayer List. As you can see from the happy faces, Sunday Funday was heartwarming for all.



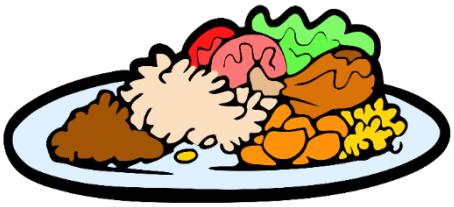
BACKPACK PALS

We are collecting peanut butter crackers and/or small boxes of raisins. Please place in the basket for Back Pack Pals.

Please continue to remember others by contributing to the various FPC Basket Ministries located in the Family Life Center.

Men's Group
The men of First Presbyterian Church conduct a Men's Bible study by Rick Warren entitled, What On Earth Am I Here For.
The men meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. of each month. All are welcome to come out and join us in this time of Fellowship and Worship!

PW Meal Ministry



March Meal Leaders:

2nd JoAnn Wahala
9th Gail Harden
16th Lucinda Casey
23rd
30th

If you would like to help with a meal or part of a meal please contact JoAnn Wahala at 910-947-3238.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Circle/Bible Study will meet on Thursday, March 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please come join the group for Fellowship and Study. All ladies are welcome to join.

You are encouraged to complete and return the Presbyterian Women survey currently in progress. New ideas and suggestions will assist in the continued success of the PW service to the FPC family and beyond.

Helen McDonald was honored by the Presbyterian Women with dinner and a gift on February 20th in appreciation for her service to PW and FPC. Thank you Helen for your approximately 50 years of service to FPC in many capacities: as Moderator of PW; as Sunday School teacher; Secretary of the church; service on numerous committees; as a Deacon and as an Elder.
Helen's vision, leadership skills and tireless efforts led the PW to successful contributions to mission works locally and worldwide and added joy and smiles to the FPC family and beyond. We wish you happiness and success in your continued service to God.

CHURCH CALENDAR

March 2023

Wednesday, March 1st	10:30 a.m.	Carthage High School Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Service / Mt. Olive AME Zion Church
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, March 2nd	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
Saturday, March 4th	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
	9:30 a.m.	Presbytery Meeting - Wallace, NC
Sunday, March 5th	9:00 a.m.	Building & Grounds Committee
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
	12:15 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12, Rec. Room, Southern Pines
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday, Ages 4 – 6th Grade
	5:00 p.m.	Stewardship & Finance Committee
Tuesday, March 7th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, March 8th	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Service / First Presbyterian Church
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, March 12th		**Daylight Savings Time Begins**
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Wednesday, March 15th	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Service / First Baptist Church
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, March 17th		**St. Patrick's Day**
Sunday, March 19th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
	5:00 p.m.	Youth group, Grades 7-12
Tuesday, March 21st	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, March 22nd	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Service / John Hall Presbyterian Church
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
Sunday, March 26th	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Committee
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Monday, March 27th	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee
Wednesday, March 29th		Distribute Church Mouse Newsletter
	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Service / First Missionary Baptist Church
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

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

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

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!