

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

October 2025 Newsletter

Embracing Who Matters

I tend to be a positive person even as I wrestle with some negative thoughts from time to time. I want to think the best of people. I hope for the best. I even think, as a State fan (go Pack!), that they can actually win games even though I wonder why I think so. I guess growing up as a Chicago Bears fan has prepared me for being a State fan. Like a State fan, I hold on to those remarkable seasons. I think we all do, some just have more of them! I hold on to the 1985 Bears (15-1 during the regular season, going all the way to the Super Bowl, and destroying the New England Patriots 46-10). It was an amazing year!

As Christians, we hold on to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It's our strength, no matter our natural tendency. God's love is great. In Paul's letter to the people of Rome 15:13 he declares, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." It's easy for us to get down during challenges in our lives, but even in our doubt, which we all embrace at times, God's love is still greater. It's God love that brought Jesus into our lives as a people so long ago and that same love that brings Jesus into our lives today. In Christ we have a new hope for tomorrow. This love of Jesus may not swallow all our fear. We have had a lifetime of bad habits that allow fear and doubt to burrow into our lives. As disciples of Jesus Christ, however, we know where our strength comes.

If you want to learn about faith and the opportunity presents itself, talk to a parent who has lost a child and ask them how they still have faith in God. You will be a part of a very healing and eye-opening conversation. God allowed Jesus Christ, God's Son, to be mistreated, tortured, and die a humiliating death on a cross. This is how much God loves us.

Friends, we walk in faith because if we don't, we are lost. A faith in Christ awakens us to see and understand the world around us. A faith that opens our eyes to the wrongs of the world. A faith that emboldens us to face fear and not be overcome. Our faith holds dear to those important moments that cannot be squashed. It is faith that allows us to see what tomorrow can become.

As I begin wrapping up my ministry at FPC, your ministry at FPC continues. Much has been accomplished in 175 years, and we expect much to continue to happen. FPC is a light to Carthage, Moore County, and beyond because we hold on to Jesus without letting go even when our doubt causes us to question our actions. May we continue to spread God's love and bring others into the joy and eternal love of our Savior.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick



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

Elizabeth Barringer
John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Margaret Leonard
Carol Lucas
Marie Monroe
Pat Nugent
Otis Patterson
Phillip Warmbrod

Buie Family
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Geraldine Moore
Dennis Parks
Sonya Potter
Elizabeth Williams

Mason Alder, *Gail & Keith Hardin's nephew*
Shirley Allen, *member of Union Presbyterian Church*
Tom Brady, *member at Priest Hill Church*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret and Tom Leonard's nephew*
Megan Davis, *Jennifer Thomason's cousin*
Jane Hancock, *friend of the Casey's*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
Jerrod Lowry, *General Presbyter of our Presbytery*
Tyler Mabe
Lisa Muller, *Ina Sue Parks' cousin*
Marlene O'Hara, *Regina Nugent's sister*
Linda Phillips, *Kay Patterson's friend*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Renee & Phillip, *friends of the Nugents*
Scottie Scott, *Ann Lynch's brother*
Ginny Stone, *Rick Martindale's aunt*
Marie Walton, *Diane Pangborn's mother*

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, Quinn Wicker, and Robert Wilson.

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.

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session met on September 21, 2025.
We are looking for a new nursery attendant.
We will soon provide on-line giving.
We discussed changing the time of worship but will wait till next month to decide.
Approved dates for the Presbyterian Women for 2026.
Rev. Martindale shared with the session that he has accepted a call to First Church, Sanford.

October Birthdays



2	Angie Prevost
4	Laura Gordon Faircloth
6	Catherine Martindale
6	Elizabeth Martindale
7	Dale Buie
9	Ben White
13	Bill Thomas
15	Leon Monroe
15	Matthew Monroe
16	Jennifer Prevost Kennally
21	Caroline Carter Reynolds
21	Mack McDonald
24	Kim Kelly
27	Elizabeth Barringer
27	Gabe Phillips
31	Hammond Bennett

OCTOBER SUNDAY FLOWERS

5th	Lucinda & David Casey
12th	Ann & Tom Currie
19th	Debbie & Robert Gordon
26th	Carol & Paul White

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please Call Ann Key at (910) 947-5476.

October Greeters

5th	Jackie & Jim Muse
12th	Karen Helms
19th	Kay Patterson
26th	Denise & Lee Edmonds

July



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	n/a	n/a
2nd Sunday	n/a	n/a
3rd Sunday	n/a	n/a
4th Sunday	n/a	n/a
5th Sunday	n/a	n/a
Average	n/a	n/a

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.

Food and double-bagged plastic grocery bags can be placed at the donation station in the FLC.

Come Join us Saturday, October 4th

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!

THE FELLOWSHIP AND MISSION COMMITTEE

The Fellowship and Mission Committee has 4 "basket ministry" bins in the Family Life Center. Each month for the remainder of this year, one ministry will be a focus, **but everyone can continue to donate items to any of the ministries each month**. The schedule for highlighted ministries each month will be as follows:

October: Pinelake Nursing Home: For the month of October, we are collecting the following items: lotion, body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, back scratchers, blankets, socks, various size pajamas and sweats, bird feeders, small radios, coloring supplies, puzzles, word searches, and other games.

November: Backpack Pals

December:

MEN'S GROUP

The men of FPC host a time of fellowship and Biblical Study. They 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!
Currently we are discussing Tony Dungy's book, Leaning on the Promise of God for Men.
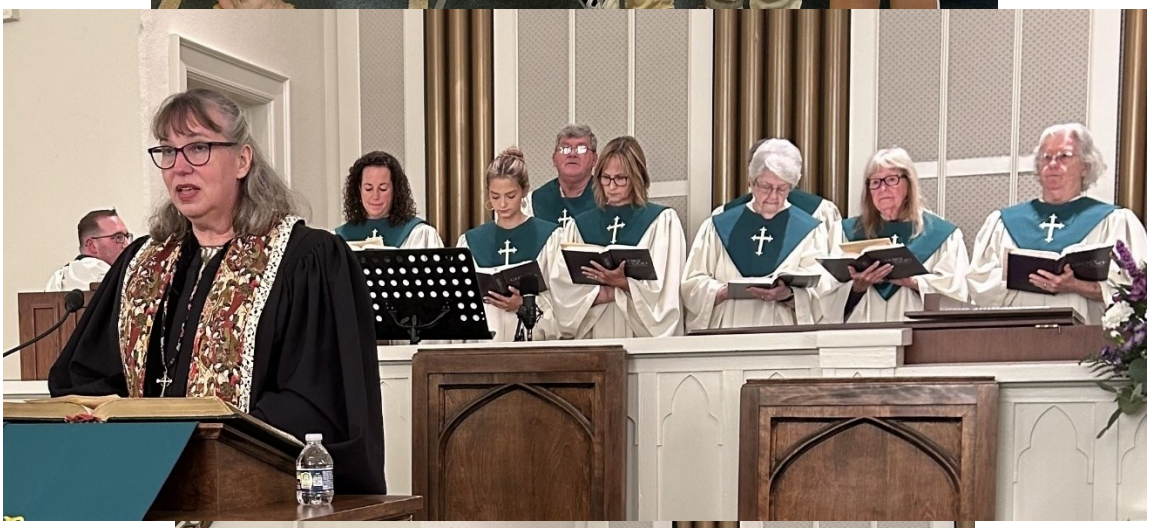
175th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

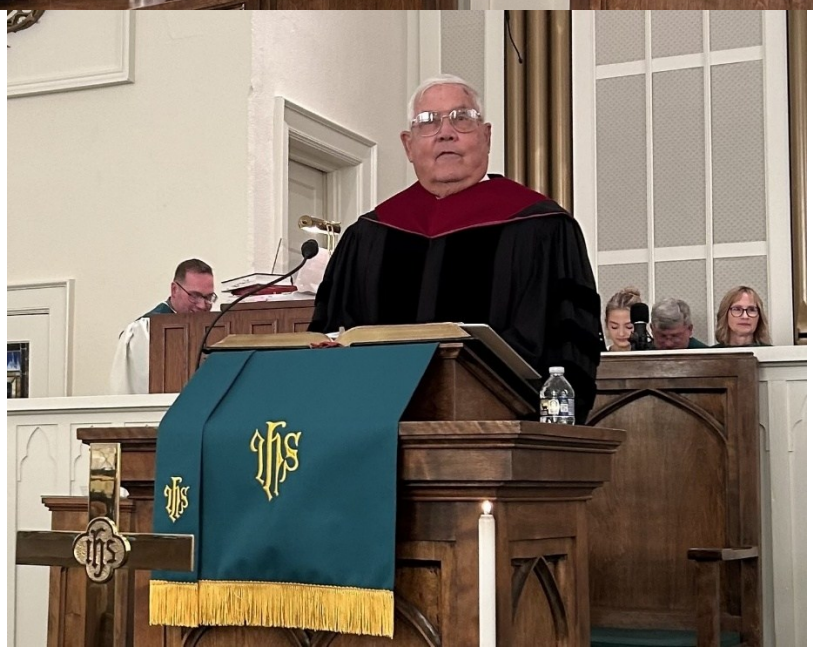
The 175th Anniversary Weekend Celebration was nothing less than a huge success. Thank you to each of you that attended and celebrated this milestone with us. Please enjoy all the pictures provided below as we celebrated our "175th Anniversary".
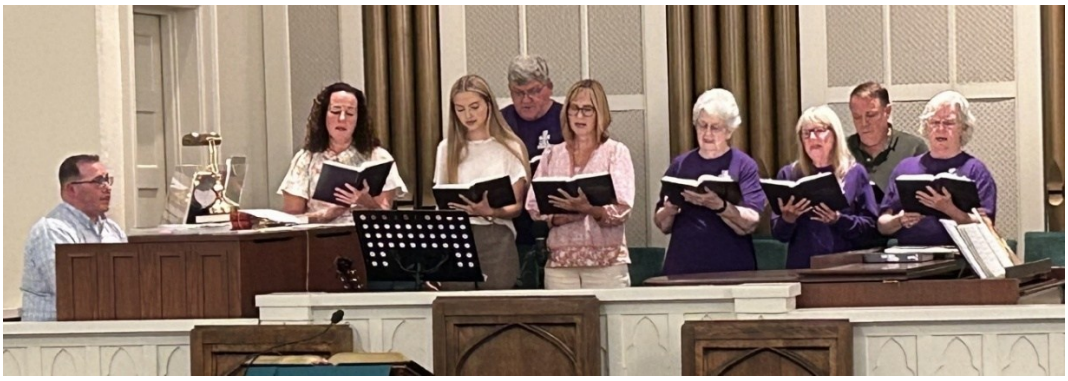




















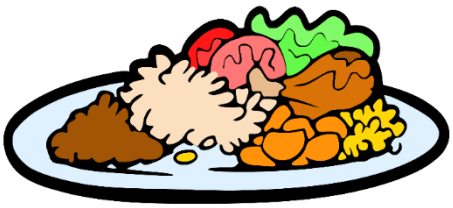
Thank you to our 175th Anniversary Committee for all their hard work and dedication that made this 175th Anniversary Celebration a success. From left to right: David Casey, Robert Gordon, Gail Hardin, Keith Hardin, Ann Lynche, JoAnn Wahala, Kay Patterson, Pat Jackson, and Marie Monroe (not pictured Rick Martindale).

And to all of those who worked "behind the scenes" in preparation for the celebrations: Paul & Carol White, Steve Ingold for all the yard work, Joe Lynch for table set up, etc., Leon Monroe for preparing the photo slide show; and to all who prepared foods for the multiple events, thank you one and all. Thank you to Robert Wilson and the choir for such beautiful musical programs.
To those whose names I have not listed here (omissions were not intentional, so your forgiveness would be appreciated), Thank You! My heartfelt appreciation to all, JoAnn Wahala.

Just Reflecting

What a beautiful celebration of First Presbyterian Church we enjoyed last weekend. I don't think I've ever been more thankful or proud to be a member here until I was seated and listened to Kathryn set the tone of the weekend with her beautiful "The Eye is on the Sparrow", Leon and Tom with their duet and Robert and the choir sounding so pretty. The congregation singing sounded like days and years had gone by.
Serving on the Planning Committee was just a pleasure and pure joy (MOTT). Our committee was perfect, often having some good fun, but never losing sight of our God which was to plan a special event that everyone enjoyed and that would honor and bring glory to God. I believe we did that. JoAnn is a wonderful leader who deserves credit for bringing everything together. Those behind the scenes were Sonya Potter, who did the brochures, and the clerical work, Owen Thomason, our own artist in residence, who did the amazing art on the t-shirts. A special thanks goes to the Ministers and Elders who helped with the Sunday Worship service and to Robert and our wonderful choir.
I also think about those who came before us and how much they added to the life of our church. So many were active years back and I'm sure they would have enjoyed this celebration. I can hear my dad now, "Man, Wilbur, they sure know how to put on a spread (a variety and a lot)". Pop loved to eat, especially to "a feed" in church. He always said, "I just love groceries".
To all who gave of their time and planned for our celebration, and all who attended, I say it was a job well done… a true labor of love. Kay Patterson

PW Meal Ministry



October Meal Leaders

2nd Lucinda Casey
9th Gail Hardin
16th Jackie Muse
23rd JoAnn Wahala
30th JoAnn Wahala

If you know of someone who needs assistance, please contact JoAnn Wahala (910 947-3238). If you would like to assist with this PW ministry or assist with a meal, please let JoAnn know.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Thank Offering will be collected on October 19, 2025. Grant recipients for 2025 include synods in Washington State, Nebraska, Kentucky, Virginia, New York, Wyoming, and Texas. Also, Presbytery of the Peaks in Virginia, Presbytery of New York City and Presbytery of Louisiana. More information will be posted in the narthexes, and at the family life center door.

The Presbyterian Women are seeking ladies to join this amazing group; all ladies are welcome and encouraged to consider joining in this ladies ministry on behalf of FPC. New officers for 2025-2026 are needed and are to be determined soon.

CHURCH CALENDAR October 2025

Wednesday, October 1st	10:00 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PWCT Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, October 4th	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank
Sunday, October 5th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / World Communion Sunday / 2 Cents a Meal
Monday, October 6th	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship and Mission Committee, *conference room*
Tuesday, October 7th	11:00 a.m.	Administrative Committee, *conference room*
	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, October 8th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, October 9th	6:00 p.m.	Mural Committee using the Family Life Center
Sunday, October 12th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting, *conference room*

Monday,* October *13th	6:30 p.m.	Anniversary Committee Meeting, *conference room*
Wednesday, October 15th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, October 19th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Communion / PW Thank You Offering
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, October 21st	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, October 22nd		**Church Mouse / Newsletter Deadline**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, October 26th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, October 28th	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 29th		**Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Dale Buie

Class of 2025	**Class of 2026**
Dale Buie	Gail Hardin
David Casey	Ann Key
Margaret Leonard	Claudia McKenzie
Ann Lynch	Leon Monroe
Marie Monroe	Scott Phillips
Paul White	Jennifer Thomason

Church Staff

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