FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

November 2023 Newsletter



Getting Lost in the Holiday Season

I can't believe that November is upon us. Where has 2023 gone? There have been so many wonderful things that have happened this year. We have been blessed in ways beyond our comprehension. We have felt the arms of God wrapped around us in those joys as well as in the trials.

Now we are heading into the "holiday season." That's what I sometimes call this time of pre-thanksgiving, Thanksgiving, Advent, and, of course, Christmas. It is two remarkably busy months for us. We are blessed with family time. We give thanks to God on Thanksgiving Day. During Advent we prepare to celebrate the impact of God taking human form in the Christ child as well as remembering that Jesus Christ will return one day in all His glory. It's a busy time that requires planning, organization, faith, and a little good luck. 😊

May this "holiday season" be a time where we focus on the lives of those around us and not simply on ourselves. This is key. Our Lord and Savior is challenging us to see beyond ourselves toward those in need, those hurting, those hungry or cold, those who are remembering loved ones no longer here, and those who do not grasp all that is coming before them. Let's make sure we are focusing on the things that are important to our Savior.

> "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." Proverbs 3:5

It's quite easy for us to get caught up in the chaos and busyness at this time of the year. It's essential for us to discover the peace of this season as well. Our Lord and Savior is offering it to us. This season we long for something different, something more meaningful. Being in God's presence erases the chaos and helps us to discover God's peace that is all around us. It's in our "God time" where we can we truly make the most of this season.

Slow down to smell the coffee, the delicious food, the sweet sound of laughter and familiar voices, the evergreen tree, and God's spirit moving in our lives. Our busyness impedes us from listening to God. Let's trust in the Lord instead of our limited insight. May this "holiday season" be different for us. It's time. It's time to trust God and not ourselves.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



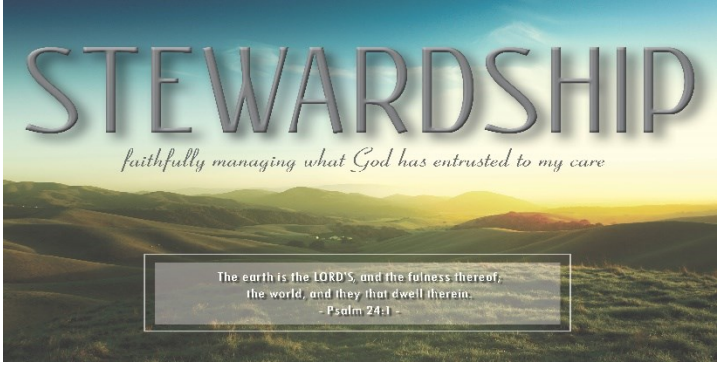
Remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ as they face difficult times.

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Carol Lucas
Nancy McKenzie
Regina Nugent
Dennis Parks
Otis Patterson & Family
Lee Edmonds
Gail Meeks
Pat Nugent
Coy Oakley's Family
Ina Sue Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

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*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Sandy, *Marlene Riyevski's sister*
Joseph Saluby, *Missionary to Guatemala*

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.



September 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of Sep 1, 2023		58,163.12
Tithes and Offerings Received		+13,971.00
	Sub-Total	72,134.12
Expenditures		-12,935.15
Balance in checking account as of Sep 30, 2023		59,198.97

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of Sep 1, 2023		45,794.88
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for Sep 2023		+610.24
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $100.39; Flower Fund $26; PW $130; Truist dividend $2.08; Memorial $25.00		+283.47
	Sub-Total	46,688.59
Expenditures: Unaccounted for expense (may be in payroll taxes)		-0.03
Balance in Restricted Funds as of Sep 30, 2023		46,688.56

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	59,198.97
Building Fund: $1,565.24 + Truist dividend $2.08	+1,567.32
Restricted Funds Balance	+45,121,24
	105,887.53
Jul-Sep '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 1,451.79; FW/H 351.00; SW/H 84.00)	-1,886.79
9/30/2023 Checkbook Balance	$104,000.74

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,980.38
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+109.28
	22,089.66

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session met on October 8, 2023. The following took place:

- In gratitude to Robert Wilson's service to FPC the session gave him a gift to Cokesbury as he moves forward in his new ministry
- Committee budgets for 2024 are due by October 8th
- Two AEDs have been acquired for our use.
- Fall Picnic was a success and grateful for everyone's help
- Adult Bible Study will begin on October 16th
- Discussed two upcoming classes 1) a CPR/AED training course and 2) Human Trafficking discussion
- Sunday Funday for ages 4 through 6th grade is taking place each Sunday at 4 p.m. for 6 weeks
- Jackie Muse was elected to be our representative to the October meeting of presbytery.

November Birthdays



1	Cody Adelmann
5	Scott Phillips
8	Jeff Medlin
10	Steve Ingold
12	Emily Tortora
15	Megan Phillips
20	Doreen Little
27	Cathy Campbell
29	Chad Thomason
30	Nancy McKenzie

November SUNDAY FLOWERS

5th	Ann Key
12th	Megan & Scott Phillips
19th	Gail & Keith Hardin
26th	Harvest Table

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

November Greeters

5th	Megan Phillips
12th	Doreen & Peter Little
19th	JD Monroe
26th	Geraldine Moore

September



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	20	40
2nd Sunday	18	45
3rd Sunday	22	42
4th Sunday	28	45
5th Sunday	0	0
Average	22	43

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

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:

November 4th
December 2nd
To carpool, meet in the FPC parking lot at 7 a.m.

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!

TARA PLANTATION CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the "The Tara Plantation Christmas Fundraiser" on November 11th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. This event will be held in the church parking lot. There will be a silent auction, hotdogs, chips, drinks, and a bake sale. All proceeds will go toward the Residents' Christmas Fund. Please join us in helping make the residents' Christmas very special. If you would like to donate silent auction items, chips, drinks, or cases of water, please contact Tiffany at 910-986-3275 or Patricia at 910-947-5888 at Tara Plantation.

ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is coming! Once again FPC will sponsor two families from Carthage Elementary that are in need for the Christmas season. The Angel Tree will be in the upper narthex starting Sunday, November 12th. All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 10th. If you would prefer to make a donation, the youth group is collecting money and will do the shopping for you. This is such a wonderful way of showing thanks for all of the blessings God had granted us. Help spread the joy of the Christmas season!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COVERD-DISH LUNCHEON

On November 5th we will have a covered-dish lunch after the contemporary service as an Operation Christmas Child kick-off. We are collecting items now through Nov 12th for shoeboxes. On Nov 25th the Youth Group will volunteer in Boone for Operation Christmas Child.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Mark your calendars! Come join us on December 10th for some fun and fellowship as we go Christmas caroling. We will leave the church at 2 p.m. Afterwards we will visit a live nativity production at Yates-Thagard Church. Hope you can join us!

MEN'S GROUP

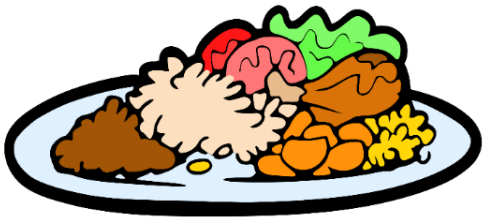
The men of First Presbyterian Church are conducting a Bible study on James. They meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome to come and join in this time of fellowship and study!

SUNDAY FUNDAY



Are looking for an exciting time of fun and fellowship for your child(ren) ages 4 – 6th grade? Come and join us at First Presbyterian Church for Sunday Funday. The kids will have the opportunity to enjoy activities such as crafts, games, and community projects. Snacks will also be provided! Sunday Funday will be held each Sunday from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. through November 19th. Bring the kids out and let them enjoy an amazing time with kids their age. All are welcome! We hope you can make it.

PW Meal Ministry



November Meal Leaders:

9th Gail Hardin
16th Lucinda Casey
23rd Thanksgiving (no meal delivery)
30th Marie Monroe

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

Bible study will be Wednesday, November 1st at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

The PW Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, November 6th at 6:30 pm. Ladies, you are invited to join the meeting. Your attendance and ideas are welcome and appreciated.

The PW Thank Offering will be collected on November 5, 2023. This offering supports charities in the United States and worldwide.

The PW Christmas gathering and meal will be on Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome and you are encouraged to invite a friend. There is no charge for the meal. Any donations are utilized to support the work of the PW and various charities. The Union Pines High School Chorus will be presenting a program of seasonal music. A special guest is also scheduled.

CHURCH CALENDAR November 2023

Wednesday, November 1st	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, November 4th	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, November 5th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Service / 2-Cents a Meal Children's Offering
	12:00 p.m.	Covered Dish Lunch – Operation Christmas Child Kick-off
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday – Ages 4 – 6th grade
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7th – 12th
Monday, November 6th	6:30 p.m.	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, November 7th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, November 8th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, November 11th	2:00 p.m.	Tara Plantation Christmas Fundraiser
Sunday, November 12th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday – Ages 4 – 6th grade
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7th – 12th
Monday, November 13th	6:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, November 14th	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship and Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 15th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, November 19th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday Ends Ages 4 – 6th grade
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7th – 12th
	6:00 p.m.	Community Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 21st	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, November 22nd	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
Thursday, November 23rd		Happy Thanksgiving
Saturday, November 25th		Youth Group – Boone OCC
Sunday, November 26th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday, November 28th	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 29th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		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*
Jeanne Dennis, *Interim 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!