FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

July 2024 Newsletter



Heaven Isn't the Only Thing for Real

I was perusing my library this morning and came across the popular book (and movie), "Heaven is for Real." I have a library full of books proclaiming this amazing truth of Heaven. In this book a young family almost losses a child. It was in that instant that he went and visited heaven.

All of us have in our "library" at least one book that affirms that Heaven is for real. It is the best book of all, the Bible. It confirms through God's own Word proclaimed by numerous people throughout time including God's Son, Jesus Christ. It is the ultimate reality which should frame our lives.

If we affirm that Heaven is for real than we should also proclaim the other realities of God that are real too. Included in that list is the reality that we are created by God and, just as importantly, we are loved by God.

The people we see each day are loved by God…every single one of them. (Reread last sentence). As Christians, we struggle to offer that same love or kindness or even respect to those we encounter. Some don't deserve it, we argue. The person who wrongs us doesn't deserve our love. It's a fair argument. Yet we would argue that even the most misguided fool still deserves some sense of love, mercy, and grace. We realize this truth because we sin regularly and yet God doesn't give up on us. Can we give up on another?

We are required to offer grace but if something horrible happened to our child or grandchild it would be a different matter all together, right? We would say forget loving such a person, and instead, give them the electric chair. Forgiveness is a slippery slope. It is hard to practice when it affects our lives or those we love.

God is asking us, no, God is demanding us, to love those we encounter. God is pleading for us to embody a love that enables others to see the love of Jesus Christ. There are many who do not believe Heaven is for real and we must do something about that. There are many who believe Heaven is for real but live a very convenient faith and unwilling to explore the challenges of following Jesus, which includes loving one another and offering forgiveness. As we journey through this hot month of July let us explore the importance of embracing every part of what it means to love God and God's people.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick



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

Benny Cole
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Ina Sue Parks, *St. Jospeh's*
Phillip Warmbrod

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Sheree Kelly
Carol Lucas
Dennis Parks
Otis Patterson

Alma Baker
Terry Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret and Tom Leonard's nephew*
Abe Caviness, *Debby Albright's great-nephew*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Sue & Chuck Kelly, *Mike Kelly's brother*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
Angie Krappl, *friend of Gail & Keith Hardin*
Tyler Mabe
Lisa Muller, *Ina Sue Parks' cousin*
Marlene O'Hara, *sister of Regina Nugent*
Linda Phillips, *friend of Kay Patterson*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Renee & Phillip, *friends of the Nugents*
Sandy, *Marlene Riyevski's sister*

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.



This is the Financial Report for
May 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of May 1, 2024		68,223.31
Tithes and Offerings Received		+18,328.00
	Sub-Total	86,551.31
Expenditures		-14,210.20
Balance in checking account as of May 31, 2024 (Includes Apr & May payroll taxes Withheld: FICA $326.67; FW/H $68; SW/H $20=$414.67)		72,341.11

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of May 1, 2024		55,935.88
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $127.33; Flower Fund $41; PW GF $35; P/W B'day $10; Pentecost $241		+454.33
	Sub-Total	56,390.21
Expenditures: Tuning 2 pianos $300; 13 Book of Order & 4 Book of Confessions For Session $170.44; Senior Scholarships for Abbey & Joey $600	-	1,070.44
Balance in Restricted Funds as of April 30, 2024		55,319.77

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	72,341.11
Building Fund: $12,663.57 + $.52 (dividend) =	+12,664.09
Restricted Funds Balance	+42,655,68
5/31/2024 Checkbook Balance	127,660.88

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,681.49

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session approved/discussed the following items at our May meeting of the session:

- Approved a congregational meeting for June 23rd to approve the Nominating Committee
- Reading and Lunch dates for July are the 13th and 27th at Kiser Park starting at 10 a.m.
- Discussed recent presbytery meeting
- Considering names to help with our 175th anniversary next year
- Reach out to an elder while Rev. Martindale is gone

July Birthdays



1 Debbie Gordon
4 CJ McDonald
7 JoAnn Wahala
8 Jason Myrick
14 Susan Phillips
17 Geraldine Moore
18 Greg Riyevski
18 Marc Stromko
20 Emerson Dean
22 Carol White
24 Scott Tortora
26 Sawyer Dean
29 J.D. Monroe
31 Ina Sue Parks

July Greeters

7th Debbie Gordon
14th JD Monroe
21st Megan & Scott Phillips
28th Lucinda & David Casey

JULY SUNDAY FLOWERS

7th Sharon & John McDonald
14th Claudia McKenzie &Robert Hunt
21st Katherine & Dale Buie
28th Marie & JD Monroe

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary please call Debbie Gordon at (910) 947-3963

May2024



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	24	57
2nd Sunday	22	58
3rd Sunday	21	47
4th Sunday	17	47
5th Sunday	0	0
Average	14	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.

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

Come Join us this Saturday, July 6th.

In August we will meet on the second Saturday, August 10th.

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!

2024 GRADUATES

Congratulations to Abby Phillips and Joey Tortora! Abby and Joey graduated from Union Pines High School. We wish them both much success and happiness as Abby attends UNC Wilmington and Joey attends Clemson University. Let us keep them (and all our college students) in our prayers this coming school year!





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mom, Dad, Grandparents or friend, it is that time of year again for Vacation Bible School. All children ages 4 to rising 6th grade are welcome to come and join in on a weekend of fun, festivities and building that special friendship with God. Our theme this year is "SCUBA" diving into friendship with God. Please use the link provided to register. Plan to join us and bring a friend! The schedule is a little different this year, so please review the dates and times below. Friday, August 2nd, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Saturday, August 3rd, 9: a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 4th, participate in worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be a covered dish luncheon following worship service.

MEN'S GROUP

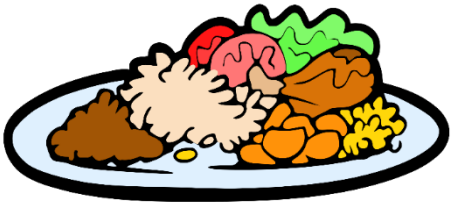
The men of FPC host a time of fellowship and Biblical Study. They are doing a study by Ray Vander Laan. They meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome to come and join in this time of fellowship and study!

The Men's Group will be collecting paper towels and feminine products for Friend to Friend. Donations may be left in the foyer. Please contact Keith Hardin with any questions at 910-603-0837. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thak you in advance for all your support of this group. It is much appreciated.

175 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Next year, 2025, FPC will be celebrating 175 years!! It's hard to believe! It seems like just yesterday! 😊 If you are interested in serving on this committee to prepare for our celebration, please let a member of the session know. Your help is essential for our celebration.

PW Meal Ministry



July Meal Leaders:

4th JoAnn Wahala
11th Gail Hardin
18th Lucinda Casey
25th 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

The PW Coordinating team will meet on Wednesday, July 17th at 10:00 a.m. There will be discussion (and selection) of the Bible Study for 2024-2025 which will include the PW Horizon's Study (Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation) and Max Lucado's, **You Are Never Alone**. To all women interested in joining this amazing group, please do not hesitate. We hope to see you at the next meeting.

The PW salad supper will be on August 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. We will begin the evening with a 30-minute program of secular and spiritual music performed by Scott Tortora on Sax, Ed Martel on Keyboard and Liane Martel, vocalist. Following the program, a salad super will be provided for all to enjoy as well as a time of fellowship with our musicians and guests. All are invited and are encouraged to bring a guest(s).

Ladies mark your calendars, the PW Annual Fall Gathering will be on August 17, 2024, at Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church. More information will be provided at a later date.

School supplies for Carthage Elementary School will be collected in July. Dates will be announced in the bulletins.

Thanks to all who visited or sent birthday cards to John Currie on his birthday. John is always glad to see us, and we are always glad to see John. An enjoyable and informative visit was had by all.



CHURCH CALENDAR July 2024

Monday, July 1st	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 2nd		**Church Office Closed**
	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 3rd		**Church Office Closed**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, July 4th		**Church Office Closed**
Saturday, July 6th	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, July 7th	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Praise Service / 2 Cents a Meal with Children
	11:15 a.m.	Hand Chime Practice
Wednesday, July 10th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, July 13th	10:00 a.m.	Reading & Lunch in the Park (Kiser Park)
Sunday, July 14th	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Lemonade on the Lawn
	11:10 a.m.	Hand Chime Practice
Tuesday, July 16th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Christian Education Meeting (VBS)
Wednesday, July 17th	10:00 a.m.	PW Coordinating Team Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, July 21st	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	11:10 a.m.	Hand Chime Practice
Wednesday, July 24th		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, July 27th	10:00 a.m.	Reading & Lunch in the Park (Kiser Park)
Sunday, July 28th	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:10 a.m.	Hand Chime Practice
Wednesday, July 31st		Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Dale Buie

Class of 2024
Nancy Carter
Robert Gordon
Gail Hardin
John McDonald
Jackie Muse
Michelle Tortora

Class of 2025
Dale Buie
David Casey
Margaret Leonard
Ann Lynch
Marie Monroe
Paul White

Church Staff

Ann Key, *Sexton*
Leon Monroe, *Receiving T*reasurer
Marie Monroe, *Dispersing Treasurer*
Rick Martindale*, Minister*
Jeanne Dennis, *Interim 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!