# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

*A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.*

***January 2024 Newsletter***




## *2024 Is Here!*

Who's wrestling with New Year's resolutions already? New Year's resolutions are not simple or easy. Praying each day may not be much of a resolution for us. Dedicating a specific time to pray each day might be. Changing our lives for the better is often challenging. Eating less ice cream for me (and some others) is a challenge 😊. Maybe you have decided to spend less time on your phone or at least when around others (giving them the attention). Whatever our resolutions we hope to succeed.

Instead of using the term "resolution" some might use the term "goals." The purpose, no matter our terminology, is to better ourselves. We are trying to better ourselves physically, socially, fiscally, spiritually, etc. We might want to be more like Jane or Fred in some aspect of our lives. It would be better, however, to like Jesus. Jane and Fred might have some good habits but their failures are just as many. They might struggle in areas where we succeed.

When it comes to being more like Jesus, we must understand one simple truth…we can't be like Jesus. On earth we will never be like Jesus because sin infects every part of our being. If we were like Jesus, we wouldn't need the Lord and Savior of our lives. Jesus longs for us to embrace God's love and peace in our everyday lives and refrain from the sins that plagued us last year. The good news is that Jesus loves and cherishes us.

Our resolutions or goals will better ourselves. We can lose those stubborn twenty pounds. We can read our Bibles more often. We can be kinder. We can be more generous. We can develop new patterns of living that proclaim our love for Jesus and create a better lifestyle for our family and ourselves. We can make positive changes to our lives.

What happens if we fail after several tries? We might already be faltering in 2024. Should we give up? No. If we are faltering, our new ways will resemble our old ways. Our old unhealthy habits are still less than what we want from ourselves. They still separate us from being in a closer relationship with Jesus. We can't give up trying. Jesus will not give up on us. Let's not give up trying to build new habits and discarding old ones.

As we attempt new resolutions or goals for 2024 know that Jesus Christ is with us. He is encouraging us as we become the best possible versions of ourselves. He loves that we keep trying to change ourselves for Him. Ultimately, we must remember, His love is not contingent upon our successes or failures. His love for us is forever. Let us make the most of 2024 with God's help!

Grace and Peace,

*Rick*



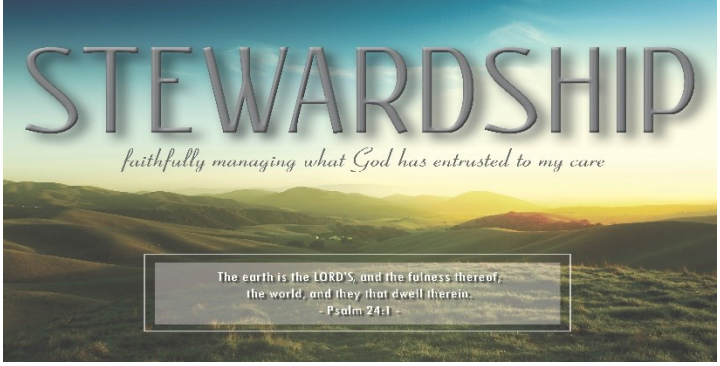

*Remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ as they face difficult times.*

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Carol Lucas
Nancy McKenzie
Regina Nugent
Ina Sue Parks – St. Jospeh's
Phillip Warmbrod
Lee Edmonds
Gail Meeks
Pat Nugent
Dennis Parks
JoAnn and Dell Wahala

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*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Christian Huffman, *friend of Kelly & Rick Martindale*
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*
Linda & Tommy Phillips, *friend of Kay Patterson*
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.*




*November 2023*

**FINANCIAL REPORT – Currently Not Available!**

# Church Announcements




The session met on December 10, 2023. The following actions took place:

- Placed a pause on our contemporary service (which was being held on the first Sunday of the month)
- Approved the 2024 Church Budget. Rev. Martindale's Terms of Call will be approved by the congregation on January 7th
- Approved Rev. Martindale's vacation from December 27th – 31st
- Approved Rev. Dr. Tom Currie to preach on December 31st

## *January Birthdays*



9 John Baker III
10 Alma Baker
12 Paul White
13 Hal Meeks
14 Duncan Kelly
14 Keith Hardin
16 Robert Hunt
16 Tom Leonard
24 Riley Medlin
25 Carson Kelly
26 Ali Smith
29 Pat Nugent

## January Greeters

7th Regena and Pat Nugent
14th Caroline and Ben Reynolds
21st Otis Patterson
28th Ann Lynch

*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:

January 6th
February 3rd

*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!

# THANK YOU NOTES:

**From Dell & JoAnn Wahala**

Dell and I would like to thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, cards and calls after the recent MVA we experienced. By God's grace, love, and protection we are recovering. We are so blessed and thankful for God's never-ending love for all, for life and for friends. I want to thank everyone who worked so diligently to prepare for and ensure the success of the PW gathering on December 4th. My sincere appreciation to Gail Hardin, Lucinda Casey, Marie Monroe, and Jackie Muse for taking on the extra responsibilities and work needed to prepare for the evening. Along with all your family and personal responsibilities during the Thanksgiving season, you took on the work of extra shopping, food preparation, and set up and clean up for the event. To Keith Hardin and Paul White thank you for all that you did with the set up and clean up and for your support to the PW. You are so willing to lend a hand and do so without complaint. "Thank You" seems so inadequate but please accept my sincere appreciation to each and everyone one of you. If I have failed to mention someone by name, forgive the oversight and I thank you sincerely.

**From Carthage Elementary School**

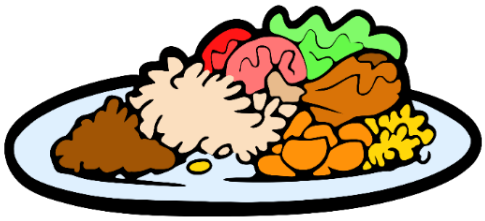
Thank you to all for your gracious generosity for the monetary donations and gifts for the Angels on the Angel tree this year. The donations and gifts presented were very heart warming and appreciated by all those that received per Andrea Taylor of Carthage Elementary School. Everyone went above and beyond to make sure those that were in need had a very special Christmas. Thank You, All!

# MEN'S GROUP

The men of First Presbyterian Church host a time of fellowship and Biblical Study. They are finishing a 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!

The Men's Group would also like to thank everyone for their generous winter coat donations to Friend to Friend during this Winter season. All donations continue to be appreciated.

# PW Meal Ministry



January 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 attendance at the baked spaghetti supper and entertainment on Monday, December 4th was a blessing. Friends from several local churches were in attendance along with FPC church members, and their friends and families from the community. The Union Pines chorus provided a wonderful program of seasonal music enjoyed by all. Santa's visit was a hit with all the young people as well as the "young at heart" older folks. The generous donations received were sent to the Carthage Food Pantry making available extra funds for those in need of food this holiday season. The PW convey our sincere gratitude to all in attendance and the generosity shown for this needed service.

PW Bible study will be on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Lesson 6 is the study lesson for January. Anyone wishing to join the study is welcome and invited to attend.

The PWCT will meet on Wednesday, January 3rd after Bible Study (11:00 am).

On January 21, 2024, the PW will be hosting our annual soup lunch following church services. We look forward to seeing you there and invite you to bring friends. Renea Henderson will be our guest speaker and will be presenting one of her Christian Bag Lady ministries.

The spaghetti supper was a great success, thank you all!







# CHURCH CALENDAR January 2024

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Monday, January 1st** | | Happy New Years Day / Church Office Closed |
| **Tuesday, January 2nd** | 6:15 p.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| **Wednesday, January 3rd** | 10:00 a.m. | Ladies Morning Bible Study |
| | 11:00 a.m. | PW Coordinating Team Meeting |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| **Friday, January 5th** | 6:00 p.m. | Removal of Christmas Decorations |
| **Saturday, January 6th** | 7:30 a.m. | Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool* |
| **Sunday, January 7th** | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship / 2 Cents a Meal - Children |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group, Grades 7-12 |
| **Wednesday, January 10th** | 6:30 a.m. | Choir Practice |
| **Sunday, January 14th** | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| **Monday, January 15th** | | Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday – No School |
| **Tuesday, January 16th** | 6:15 p.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| **Wednesday, January 17th** | 6:30 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| **Sunday, January 21st** | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship / Communion |
| | 12:00 p.m. | PW Soup Luncheon |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group, Grades 7-12 |
| **Wednesday, January 24th** | | Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| **Sunday, January 28th** | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group – Grades 7 - 12 |
| **Wednesday. January 31st** | | Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter |
| | 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**

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!