

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year

As we enter 2026, I'd like to wish "Happy New Year" to everyone. To others I say, "Joyous Kawanza" (December- January 1). To those celebrating the Epiphany on January 6, I say "May this Epiphany bring you peace and joy".

I am sure that I am not alone in making lofty, sincere resolutions for the new year. Am I always successful in keeping or maintaining these resolutions? Not so much! It does me good though, even if my only success comes from making an honest self-appraisal. For me, this year has included a personal profession of my Christian faith.

I never knew that I'd be called on again so soon to serve my church as an elder. As unsure as I am, at times, about my ability to meet session responsibilities, I knew that Rick would always be there to go to with questions. Clearly, my decision to accept the nomination was made before I knew that he had accepted a call to serve a different church and congregation. Now, I find myself following his directive that sometimes we can only "go forward with faith". I am thankful, however, that my knowledge of church operations really grew during my prior service. I have a greater understanding of what needs to happen for our church to support and minister to our church family, local community, and the wider communities.

I recognize that session members will need to really "step up "during this time of transition from our former minister to the eventual calling of our new pastor. The good news is that we haven't lost the actual, true leader of our church and congregation. That is God. He is always with us. Matthew 28:10 "*Before Jesus left this earth, he spoke the following words to his disciples, and behold, I am always with you, to the end of the age".*

For me personally, a priority, at this time, is to improve my prayer life. I need to strengthen my practice of seeking God's will. This is not always easy for me because I can be very strong-willed and opinionated. Also, I want to be of greater service to others instead of always basing my actions and decisions on what's best for me. My faith journey will be lifelong. It will be a journey of progress, not perfection.

In closing, I want to share a prayer that has become extremely important to me. The first verse is familiar to many; the longer version is just as powerful.

Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment a time; Accepting the hardships as a pathway to peace; Taking as He did, this sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right, If I surrender to His will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next, Amen.

My prayer for us all during 2026 is to always remember "*I can do all things through him who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4: 13).

May you find Him now, Nancy Carter



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
Elizabeth Williams
Chris Casey
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Geraldine Moore
Dennis Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

Shirley Allen, *member of Union Presbyterian Church*
Lester Bailey, *member at Union Presbyterian Church*
Tom Brady, *member at Priest Hill Church*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Jo Ellen Caulder, *sister of Keith Hardin*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret & 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, *Cathy Prickett's brother*
Renee & Phillip, *friends of the Nugent's*
Scottie Scott, *Ann Lynch's brother*
Marie Walton, *Diane Pangborn's mother*

Please take a moment and review the prayer list. We are happy to keep anyone on the list in need of prayer, but if you have anyone on the list that can be removed, please contact Sonya Potter at the church office or send her an email.

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 meeting minutes from the December meeting is not available.

If any church member has an emergency or needs assistance, please contact an elder. Each church member has been assigned an elder to assist them with their situation. It is very important that we maintain good communication during this period. The elders are here to assist all of our church family.

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 SUNDAY FLOWERS

4th Poinsettias
11th Jennifer and Chad Thomason
18th Nancy Carter
25th Pat Jackson

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

January Greeters

4th Carol & Paul White
11th Karen Helms
18th Claudia McKenzie & Robert Hunt
25th Lucinda & David Casey

December



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	n/a	n/a
2nd Sunday	n/a	51
3rd Sunday	n/a	52
4th Sunday	n/a	55
5th Sunday	n/a	n/a
Average	n/a	53

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, February 7th

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!

OFFICE HOURS FOR JANUARY

The church office will be open on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sonya will be working from home on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and can be reached by email at infofpc397@gmail.com. If you need assistance after these hours, please do not hesitate to send an email as emails are checked periodically.

THE FELLOWSHIP AND MISSION COMMITTEE

The Fellowship and Mission Committee has 4 "basket ministry" bins in the Family Life Center, **everyone can continue to donate items to any of the ministries each month**.

YOUTH GROUP – CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On December 7th, the youth group and members of First Presbyterian Church gathered and provided a joyous evening of Christmas caroling with some of our shut-ins and sick. It was an amazing time of fellowship for all.





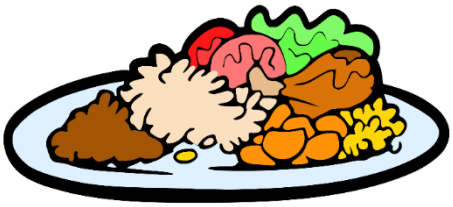




MEN'S GROUP

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!

PW Meal Ministry



Meal Ministry:

Meal Ministry continues on scheduled days and as needs are identified. Please share any needs with JoAnn.

January 1	JoAnn Wahala
January 8	Gail Hardin
January 15	JoAnn Wahala
January 22	TBD
January 29	TBD

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 would like to express their appreciation for the donations received for Peak Resources residents' free shopping day. Those donations gave the residents the opportunity to shop for gifts for their loved ones, friends, or own selves, at no cost to the residents.

The annual PW Soup Lunch is planned for Sunday, January 11, 2026, after Church services. All are welcome and encouraged to bring family or friends to enjoy this time of fellowship and good food.

The PW Bible Study is held the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and the PWCT meeting will be held the first Wednesday of each month following Bible Study at 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH CALENDAR January 2025

Thursday, January 1st		**Church Office Closed**
Friday, January 2nd		**Church Office Closed – No School**
Saturday, January 3rd	7:30 a.m.	Robbin's Food Bank
Sunday, January 4th	8:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Ordination/Installation of Officers / Rev. Karen Allen
Tuesday, January 6th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, January 7th	10:00 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PWCT Meeting
Sunday, January 11th	8:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Rev. Kathryn Dudley
	11:15 a.m.	Session Meeting
Sunday, January 18th	8:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Communion / Rev. David Dudley
Monday, January 19th		**MLK – No School**
Tuesday, January 20th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, January 21st		**Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter**
Sunday, January 26th	8:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Dr. Edna Ann Loftus
Tuesday, January 27th	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 28th		**Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter**

The Session (Will be Updated in the February Issue)

Moderator:
The Rev. Karen Allen

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*

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!