FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

December 2024 Newsletter



The Light Is Coming

Advent begins on December 1st leading us up until Christmas on the 25th. Then we begin the 12 days of Christmas until January 6th which is Epiphany of the Lord.

Our Christmas Cantata will be Sunday morning the 22nd. It will be a wonderful time of music and celebration. Our Christmas Eve Service will take place on the 24th at 9 p.m. Children (and those young at heart) are invited to wear their PJ's. We will have two Sundays (instead of just one) for the Christmas season! I'm so excited!

I am looking for families, friends, or whomever to light the Advent wreath. If you are interested please, please reach out to me ASAP.

Advent is a time to prepare, to begin to see, and to understand the importance we play making God's world God's and not ours. Advent points us toward Jesus Christ. It is very easy for us to get caught up in the busyness of this remarkable time of the year. We probably will feel overwhelmed a few times between now and January 6th. Yet Jesus confirms that we are not to worry. We shouldn't stress or feel overwhelmed. Jesus is Lord and Savior of our lives.

We are called to love God and one another. We are called to set our focus not in the darkness around us but in the Light that is coming into the world. That's what's important for us to embrace. When others turn us toward what isn't important, God is directing us back to the Light of God's Son, Jesus the Christ.

Often the church can add more to our already busy lives. I hope that that won't be the case this year. Yes, activities are taking place but hopefully they will bring joy to our lives and the lives of others. Let's walk with those historic figures who encountered something beyond amazing…the birth of the Messiah, the Christ Child. Christ continues to open our eyes to see beyond our limited scope of vision.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick

There is a little more time to get your Poinsettias (and in honor or in memory of someone) in the bulletin. You have until December 4th.



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

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Otis Patterson, *First Health*
Lee Edmonds
Carol Lucas
Dennis Parks and Family
Phillip Warmbrod

Alma Baker
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret and Tom Leonard's nephew*
Abe Caviness, *Debby Albright's great-nephew*
Matthew Davis, *Jeanne Davis' son*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
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*
Marie Walton, *Mother of Diane Pangborn*

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

October 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of October 1, 2024		71,315.62
Tithes and Offerings Received (includes Truist Bank Credit $3,035)		+15,722.00
	Sub-Total	87,037.62
Expenditures (includes Truist double-debit for property insurance $3,035)		-24,643.86
Balance in checking account as of October 31, 2024 (Includes Oct '24 payroll taxes Withheld: FICA $311.28; FW/H $34.00; SW/H $10=$355.28)		62,393.76

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of October 1, 2024		55,004.35
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $161.55; Flower Fund $34.00; PW Thank $5; PW GF $470; Playground Equip Mem $250; Reg Memorials $250		+1,170.55
	Sub-Total	56,174.90
Expenditures: Hurricane Helene disaster relief donations to American Red Cross $1,000 & Black Mountain Presbyterian Church $1,000 (paid From Memorial Fund); Sep & Oct '24 2 Cents a Meal to Presbytery $280.01		-2,280.01
Balance in Restricted Funds as of October 31, 2024		53,894.89

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	62,393.76
Building Fund: $12,664.09 + $50.00=	+12,714.09
Restricted Funds Balance	+41,180.80
10/31/2024 Checkbook Balance	116,288.65

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,681.49

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



Recent actions of the session include:

- Elder-elects have gone through officer training
- The financial budget for 2025 was approved
- Laura Gordon Faircloth, Steve and Tanya Adelmann have transferred their church membership
- Dr. Rev. Tom Currie was approved to preach on December 29th

December Birthdays



5 Kelly Martindale
7 Nicholas Carter
14 Abby Phillips
16 Jim Muse
16 Linda Myrick
22 Brandon Kelly
24 Pat Burt
24 Tom Pangborn
31 John McCaskill

Poinsettias

During Adent poinsettias are given in loving memory and in honor of loved ones.

Deadline for Poinsettias is December 4th, please notify the church office or email Sonya at www.infofpc397@gmail.com

This information will be available in the Bulletin on December 8th.

December Greeters

1st Ann & Tom Currie
8th Geraldine Moore
15th Diane & Tom Pangborn
22nd Nancy Carter & Family
29th Lucinda & David Casey

October 2024

Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	24	44
2nd Sunday	21	52
3rd Sunday	17	38
4th Sunday	22	45
5th Sunday	0	0
Average	21	45

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, December 7th

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.

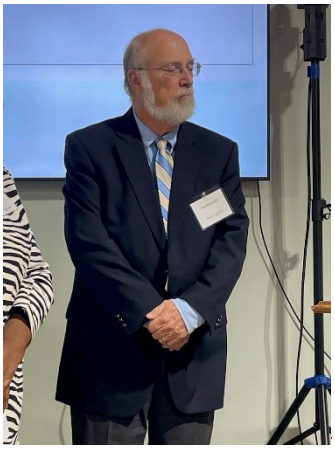
Our children are now collecting this offering during the Moment with our Children.

A little bit can go a long way!

MR. MODERATOR

We would like to take a moment to congratulate Robert Gordon. Robert was installed as moderator of the presbytery for the coming year. Congratulaitons Robert!





ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is located in the upper narthex. We are sponsoring two families. Please take an angel or two. The deadline for returning gifts is Dec.15th. Please leave your wrapped gifts with the angel attached to the package. Monetary gifts are accepted. Please contact Marie Monroe and Gail Hardin with any questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity in making Christmas great for these children.
Fellowship and Mission Committee

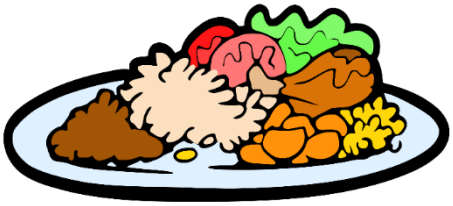
ONLINE DIRECTORY

Please send a directory sheet and picture to Michelle before it is too late.
Her email is mrstortora@hotmail.com.

175 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Next year FPC will be celebrating 175 years!!
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



December Meal Leaders:

5th JoAnn Wahala
12th Gail Hardin
19th Lucinda Casey
26th Claudia McKenzie

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

PW Bible Study: Wednesday, December 4th at 10:00 am. Lesson 4 is the study this month, Chapter 7 in the book **You Are Never Alone** by Max Lucado. All ladies are invited to join the study group. We would love to have you.

PWCT meeting on Wednesday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Thank you to all who supported the PW Thank Offering in October.

Mark your calendars! The PW Soup Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025**, following the worship service. Hope to see you there.

The PW Christmas meal and program will be held on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. A baked spaghetti meal will be served. All PW donations collected are for the Carthage Food Pantry. The Union Pines Orchestra will present a 30-minute program. Our meal will follow the orchestra presentation and there will also be a visit from Santa. All are invited and encouraged to bring a friend(s).

We will also have a raffle drawing and silent auction. There will be a table of items to raffle, tickets are $1.00 each. The F & M Committee will have a silent auction table. All proceeds from the raffle and silent auction tables will be donated to charities as well as to the flood victims in Western, NC. We hope to see you there.

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!

The men feed the women and children of Friend to Friend once a month.

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. Thank you for your support. It is much appreciated.

CHURCH CALENDAR December 2024

Sunday, December 1st	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting
	12:10 p.m.	Hand Chime Practice
Monday, December 2nd	6:30 p.m.	Presbytery Woman Christmas Dinner
Tuesday, December 3rd	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group, *conference room*
Wednesday, December 4th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PW Coordinating Team Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, December 7th	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank
		Youth Travel to Charlotte to assist with Operation Christmas Child
		Family Life Center Reserved
Sunday, December 8th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:10 p.m.	Hand Chime Practice
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting, *conference room*
Monday, December 9th	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship and Mission Committee, *conference room*
Tuesday, December 10th	6:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Committee, *conference room*
	6:30 p.m.	Administrative Committee, *conference room*
Wednesday, December 11th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, December 14th		Family Life Center Reserved
Sunday, December 15th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class, *youth room*
Tuesday, December 17th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, December 18th		**Deadline for Church Mouse**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, December 20th		Youth Lock-In
Sunday, December 22nd	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Christmas Cantata
Tuesday, December 24th	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 25th		**Merry Christmas!**
Thursday, December 26th		Church Office Closed
Sunday, December 29th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday, December 31st		Distribute Church Mouse /Newsletter

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!