FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

November 2024 Newsletter



Vote for Jesus Christ Every Day

As Americans we love our election time. We get to support the candidates of our own choosing. No one determines who we vote for except ourselves. It something we take great pride in in the U.S.A. We pick the leaders who will guide us at the national, state, and local level.

We also struggle with election time. We endure countless ads from candidates that are full of half truths and promising things they can't insure. We encounter a time when families, church families, friends, co-workers, neighborhoods, and entire communities are divided.

What makes our country, and us, so wonderful is that we can agree to disagree and still come back together as a family, church family, friends, and so forth. The challenge during every election season is our ability to come back together. This will be our challenge again this year. We probably know someone who has deleted "friends" from Facebook just because of their political stance. Can we elevate what brings us together over what divides us?

Many, if not most, of us have already voted. We know North Carolina is a battle ground state so we are trying to get our vote in as soon as possible. We know about half of us are voting for Kamala Harris and the other half for Donald Trump. The determining factor will be those who are truly independent and do not base their decision on political party but true qualifications. In other words, it's going to be another close election.

Jesus is very clear in Mark 12:31, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." In other words, it means that we love those who vote differently than ourselves. We love those who have been very passionately campaigning as well as those who have been private in their choices.

We are not perfect. We mess up on a regular basis. Our elected officials are far from perfect as well. They also wrestle with power that often corrupts them from truly loving and caring for the people they are elected to serve. While often making decisions without turning to God for guidance. Nonetheless, God is still in control, even when we don't think so. God is transforming the world to God's glory.

After the elections, about half of us will be upset and maybe even angry. We might think all is lost. It's not. The beginning of Luke 12:22-34 goes something like with a couple of creative changes, "Jesus said to His disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear or *about who wins an election, what they will do*.'" Jesus knows what we need and He will care for us. He tells us to stop worrying and instead place our faith and trust in Him.

Jesus is still Lord and Savior of our lives, no matter who is elected to the school board, or state house, or even President of the United States. Who do you treasure? That's who we trust.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick



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

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Sheree Kelly
Carol Lucas
Dennis Parks and Family
Phillip Warmbrod
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Ots Patterson

Alma Baker
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret and Tom Leonard's nephew*
Abe Caviness, *Debby Albright's great-nephew*
Hoke Currie's family, in his sudden passing, Tom Currie's brother
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
September 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of September 1, 2024		64,169.09
Tithes and Offerings Received		+19,086.00
	Sub-Total	83,255.09
Expenditures		-11,939.47
Balance in checking account as of September 30, 2024 (Includes Jul-Sep payroll taxes Withheld: FICA $957.08; FW/H $107.00; SW/H $20=$1,084.08)		71,315.62

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of September 1, 2024		54,385.84
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $118.46; Flower Fund $65.05; Pres Women GF $35; BF Memorial $50; Reg Memorials $350		+618.51
	Sub-Total	55,004.35
Expenditures: None		-0.00
Balance in Restricted Funds as of September 30, 2024	Sub-total	55,004.35

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	71,315.62
Building Fund: $12,664.09 + $50.00=	+12,714.09
Restricted Funds Balance	+42,290,26
9/30/2024 Checkbook Balance	126,319.97

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 met on October 13th. Discussion and action included:

- Approved gifts of $1,000. to Western North Carolina and $1,000 to Red Cross for all hurricane disasters this year.
- Individuals needed to serve on the 175th Church Anniversary Committee
- Approved a congregational meeting for Oct. 27th to hear from the Nominating Committee
- Heard report from presbytery meeting including about the installation of Robert Gordon as Moderator for 2025.

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

3rd Debbie & Robert Gordon
10th Harvest Table by Presbyterian Women
17th Harvest Table by Presbyterian Women
24th Church at John Hall Presbyterian Church
(no service at First Presbyterian)

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

November Greeters

3rd Susan & Benny Cole
10th Dale Buie Family
17th Claudia McKenzie & Robert Hunt
24th Church at John Hall Presbyterian Church
(no service at First Presbyterian)

October 2024



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	16	46
2nd Sunday	n/a	42
3rd Sunday	24	45
4th Sunday	22	48
5th Sunday	55	29
Average	23	47

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, November 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!

THANK YOU

Dearest Brothers & Sisters of First Presbyterian Church. Alan and I would like to "Thank" each of you for your Prayers, cards and calls. The love and support we have received during this time of my back surgeries is appreciated more than words could ever express. God Bless you and "Thank You" from the bottom of our hearts. With Love, Sonya & Alan Potter

The family of Ina Sue Parks gratefully acknowledges your kind expression of symphany. To our church family, Thank you can not express how much we appreciate all of the visits, calls, cards, gifts, memorials, and food during mom's sickness and the funeral. Mom loved her church! We are truly blessed to be a part of this church! Love, Ina Sue Parks Family

HURRICANE RELIEF

The PW led a wonderful relief effort so we could send much needed supplies to the western part of the state. The session through the Fellowship and Mission Committee, very quickly after the hurricane, sent a check to Samaritan's Purse as did the PW. The session then sent a $1,000. check to western North Carolina as well as another $1,000 check to assist those throughout the country that are picking up their lives from this year's hurricanes. Let us continue to keep these areas in our prayers and be attentive to ways we can help.

ONLINE DIRECTORY

If you have been waiting to do this ….it's now time! Directory sheets are located in the upper and lower narthex. Please fill out and return to Michelle Tortora. Email the information and a clear, family appropriate picture to her at mrstortora@hotmail.com.

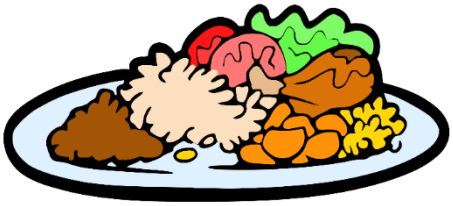
175 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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.

POINSETTIAS

We will again have poinsettias in the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. If you would like to place one in honor or in memory of someone, please let the church office know by November 27th. Thanks!

PW Meal Ministry



November Meal Leaders:

7th JoAnn Wahala
14th Gail Hardin
21st Lucinda Casey
28th 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

The PW Bible Study will be on Wednesday, November 6th at 10:00am. We will be studying lesson 3, chapters 5 & 6 in the book **You Are Never Alone** by Max Lucado.

Thank you to everyone who donated items collected for the hurricane victims. Your support and generosity to those impacted by the hurricane is very much needed. The PW would also like to thank you as we appreciate your support of this project.

The PWCT will meet at 11:00 am on Wednesday November 6th.

Save the date:

The PW Christmas meal and program is scheduled for Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. A baked spaghetti meal will be served. Any and all donations collected are for the Carthage Food Pantry. The Union Pines Orchestra is scheduled to 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 are encouraged to bring a friend (s).

We will also have a raffle drawing and a 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 November 2024

Saturday, November 2nd	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, November 3rd	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service with John Hall Church / Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Covered-dish Luncheon
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Monday, November 4th	6:00 p.m.	RACM Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 5th		Election Day
	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, November 6th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PW Coordinating Team Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:00 p.m.	Choral Preparation for Christmas Cantata
Sunday, November 10th	10:15 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*
Wednesday, November 13th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:00 p.m.	Choral Preparation for Christmas Cantata
Sunday, November 17th	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Stewardship/Commitment Sunday
	12:10 p.m.	Hand Chime Practice
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Monday, November 18th	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee Meeting, *conference room*
Tuesday, November 19th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, November 20th		**Deadline for Church Mouse**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:30 p.m.	Choral Preparation for Christmas Cantata
Sunday, November 24th	**8:30 a.m.**	**Worship at John Hall Church, *520 Dowd Road***
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	**Community Thanksgiving Service,** Carthage United Methodist Church, *401 McReynolds Street*
Tuesday, November 26th	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee, *conference room*
Wednesday, November 27th		**Church Mouse Distributed**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:30 p.m.	Choral Preparation for Christmas Cantata
Thursday, November 28th		**Thanksgiving – Church Office Closed**

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!