FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

January 2023 Newsletter



It's a New Year to Be Loved by God

If you saw my New Year's Day post on Facebook, you witnessed my wonderful plate of food. It was delicious! I had black-eyed peas, collards, stewed apples, pork, a corn bread soufflé, and mashed potatoes. It is the traditional meal that our family eats each New Year's Day. It is loved by some (the adults) and not completely by others (the children). We eat it because we want good luck and riches for the new year (of course some of us just love this meal!). 😊

Black-eyed peas symbolize coins or wealth. Collards represents money, specifically folding money and symbolize good fortune for the coming year. Pork is considered a sign of prosperity because pigs root forward. Cornbread symbolizes gold because corn kernels represent coins. Yet, cornbread is also essential with black-eyed peas and greens, so you can triple your luck with these natural complements.

I hope our New Year's Day meals bring lots of good fortune and amassing of great wealth to share with those in need. But most of us know we can't trust this fun tradition.

I'm going to place my trust, instead, in Jesus Christ. He will watch out for all our missteps and errors. He will protect us from sin that seems to hamper us at every intersection of our lives or even as we participate in some of our favorite hobbies.

I would love to have more good fortune out on the golf course this year. My golf ball, however, just loves sand traps! The ball sees those traps with beautifully raked, smooth sand and it dives right in (of course it has nothing to do with my golfing ability☺). By the time I have finished taking my shot(s), that beautiful sand trap (if there really is such a thing) has become a mess. But then I rake the trap and by the time I leave it, it is smooth again, almost like I had never been there at all…that's the way it's supposed to be. It's ready for the next person to enjoy!

That's how God works in our lives, whether we eat collards or black-eyed peas or not. God allows us to start over with a clean slate. God wipes away all our blemishes and faults and provides us with new opportunities to better ourselves. The really great news is that it doesn't just happen at the beginning of the year but at any time. Let's change our ways and do things differently in 2023. Let's practice more compassion, kindness, and love toward one another. Let's grow closer to Jesus and let us live life to the fullest. We are beautiful and God knows it. It's time for us to embrace this truth. May 2023 be a year full of growth and opportunity for each of us.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



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

Anna Belle Campbell's Family
Barbara Danley, *Pittsburgh Hospital*
Robert Gordon
Matthew Leonard
Carol Lucas
Gail Meeks
Dennis Parks
Megan Phillips
John Currie, *Tara Planation*
Lee Edmonds
Judi Kelly
Tom Leonard
Lee McCaskill
Pat Nugent
Ina Sue Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

Artie Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Terry Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Abe Caviness, *great-nephew of Debby Albright*
Willis Clark, *brother of Elizabeth Barringer & Marie Monroe*
June Greeson, *Susan Cole's mother*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
Rexine Lloyd, *Kelly Martindale's mother*
Tyler Mabe
Jane Medlin, *Carol Lucas' daughter*
Lisa Muller, *Cousin of Ina Sue Parks*
Jonathan Patterson, *Otis Patterson's Son*
Gordon Prescott, *Geraline Moore's brother*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*

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 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of November 1, 2022		72,272.98
Tithes and Offerings Received		+24,386.00
	Sub-Total	96,658.98
Expenditures		-27,911.82
Balance in checking account as of November 30, 2022		68,747.16

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of November 1, 2022		41,104.83
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for November 2022		+527.67
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $123.05; PW Meal Fund $50; Flower Fund $29; PW Thank $25; Memorial BF $500; Memorials Reg $500		
	Sub-Total	+1,227.05
		42,859.55
Expenditures: 2 Cents a Meal $105.90; PW 7/17-11/13/22 donations $525		-630.90
Balance in Restricted Funds as of November 30, 2022		42,228.65

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	68,747.16
Building Fund: $1,119.00 + $500.00 =	+1,519.00
Restricted Funds Balance	+40,709.65
	110,975.81
Oct.-Nov. 2022 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 856.52; FW/H 174.42; SW/H 26.00) + .05 adjustment	-1,065.99
11/30/2022 Checkbook Balance	109,909.82
Cannot find error to balance	- .07
Correct 11/30/2022 Checkbook Balance	109,909.75

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	22,151.75
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+168.32
	22,320.07

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session met on Sunday, December 11th. Fortunately is wasn't a long meeting. The hard work had been done before the 11th. We discussed Christmas and New Year plans, a possible Valentine dinner celebration in the future, a spring yard sale, and some changes to the administrative manual.

Thank you to all in the church that served on one of our committees and helps to make a positive impact upon the life of FPC!

Let us continue to pray for so many in our church family and beyond.

January Birthdays



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

JANUARY SUNDAY FLOWERS

1st Poinsettias
8th Carol & Paul White
15th Gail & Keith Hardin
22nd Lucinda & David Casey
29th Debbie & Robert Gordon

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary please call Debbie Gordon at (910) 947-3963, or Tom Leonard at (910) 693-3356.

January Greeters

1st Gerald Moore
8th Lee McCaskill
15th Otis Patterson
22nd Jackie Muse
29th Paul White

November



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	26	73
2nd Sunday	23	61
3rd Sunday	16	38
4th Sunday	21	48
5th Sunday		
Average	22	55

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.

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:

Saturday, January 7th.

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!

Our youth group went Christmas caroling on Friday, December 16th. This year was the first time since 2019 that our group was allowed to be inside to visit John Currie at Tara Plantation due to COVID visitor's restrictions. John loves to sing, he sang every word with us and picked all the songs! He sends his love to all his Church family… and believe us, he knows all your names.



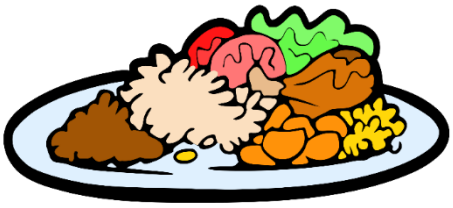
BACKPACK PALS

We are collecting peanut butter crackers and/or small boxes of raisins. Please place in the basket for Back Pack Pals.

FELLOWSHIP AND MISSION REPORT

Please continue to remember others by contributing to the various FPC Basket Ministries located in the Family Life Center.

PW Meal Ministry



January Meal Leaders:

5th JoAnn Wahala
12th Gail Harden
19th
26th Helen McDonald

If you would like to help with a part of one of these meals contact the person responsible for the meal that day. We will contact you at the beginning of the week with the number of meals that are needed for that Thursday.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women would like to thank all who participated in our 2022 activities and helped with our 2022 projects.

Presbyterian Women's Circle/Bible Study will meet on Thursday, January 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It is not too late to join the group.

Presbyterian Men's Group

The Presbyterian Men have begun a Bible study by Rick Warren entitled, What On Earth Am I Here For.

They are meeting on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. of each month.

CHURCH CALENDAR

January 2023

Sunday, January 1st	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Happy New Years
Tuesday, January 3rd	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study – New Opportunity for our men
Wednesday, January 4th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, January 5th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
Saturday, January 7th	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, January 8th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Monday, January 9th	6:00 p.m.	RACM Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th	6:30 a.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, January 15th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
Monday, January 16th		Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
Tuesday, January 17th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, January 18th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, January 19th		Deadline for February Church Mouse / Newsletter
Sunday, January 22nd	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Wednesday, January 25th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, January 29th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7 - 12

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Leon Monroe

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

Rick Martindale, *Minister*
Ann Key, *Sexton*
Marie Monroe, *Treasurer*
Robert Wilson, *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!