

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

December 2025 Newsletter

Be Still

As you all know, the Advent Season is upon us. It's the time of year when everyone is hurrying around! There are decorations to put up, shopping for gifts, food to prepare, visiting with family and friends as the list goes on and on. It's time for Christmas!!

Stop! Let us not forget the reason for this beautiful, joyous season. Christ was born! A gift from God! As we read the story in Luke let us be still. Imagine all Mary and Joseph endured to get to Bethlehem for our Savior to be born in a stable with only livestock to witness His amazing birth!

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Be still and thank God for all his love. He gave us His son to save us from our sins. Remember to be kind to all as Jesus taught us to love one another. Be still and remember to always be kind to our neighbors. Be still and see all of God's greatness.

Advent season is a time of getting ready for Christ's coming. Be mindful of this as we go through all the preparations to celebrate and remember, it's not all about the pretty packages, a mighty feast or all the decorations, it's about our Lord and Savior.

Enjoy this season together with family and friends. Remember those that are lonely. You never know where you'll see an angel.

Your Sister in Christ,

Gail Hardin



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

Elizabeth Barringer
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Geraldine Moore
Dennis Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Margaret Leonard
Carol Lucas
Marie Monroe
Pat Nugent
Otis Patterson
Elizabeth Williams

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*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret and Tom Leonard's nephew*
Megan Davis, *Jennifer Thomason's cousin*
Jane Hancock, *friend of the Casey's*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
*S*ean 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*
Antonio Wilson, *friend of Nancy Carter*

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 met on November 2, 2025.

- Sunday School will begin at 9am beginning on January 4, 2026.
- The 2026 budget was approved
- The youth group will be in Boone, NC, on December 13 to assist with the Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child project.
- New officers will be installed on January 4, 2026, during morning worship.

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.

December Birthdays



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.

This information will be available in the Bulletin on December 7th.

December Greeters

7th	Debbie & Robert Gordon
14th	Ann Key
21st	The Scott Phillips Family
28th	Michelle & Scott Tortora

July



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

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 Saturday, December 6th

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 FROM RICK MARTINDALE & FAMILY

On November 9th, we said good-bye to a very special family within our church, Rick, Kelly, Catherine and Elizabeth Martindale. We will miss them dearly, but we do wish them all the best. Please review the "Thank You" letter below and enjoy the photos taken during our so-long luncheon.

Dear Church Family,

Kelly, Elizabeth, Catherine, and I are very grateful for the wonderful celebration given for us on my last Sunday. Your kind words, your being present, your generosity, the food ☺, and so much more have touched our lives in ways we will not be able to properly articulate.

We are so grateful for the many gifts given to us. All the kind words shared with us in writing are now in their box on a shelf in Rick's office reminding us of your kindness. The beautiful glass Christmas tree is now on display in our living room. Yes, our Christmas decorations are up. Don't tell anyone! I'm also looking forward to wearing my new stole after the advent and Christmas season and the girls' cross necklaces were a nice touch (they also enjoyed the money as poor college students).

We are so fortunate and blessed that God brought each of us together twenty years ago. We give thanks to God for the amazing journey we shared together, and we could not have asked for a better church family.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the terrific service of recognition for our family and the wonderful gifts given to each of us. There is a special place in our hearts for each of you. May this advent and Christmas season be filled with many blessings knowing that God is continually at work in our lives.



Kelly and Rick Martindale









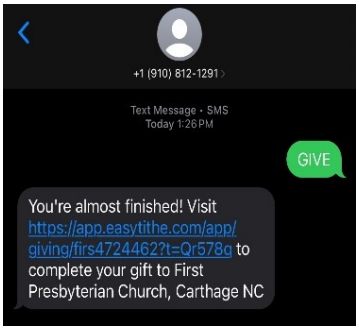
ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

The instructions for the new online giving are available in the bulletin, the Church Mouse / Newsletter and also our website at www.fpccarthage.com.

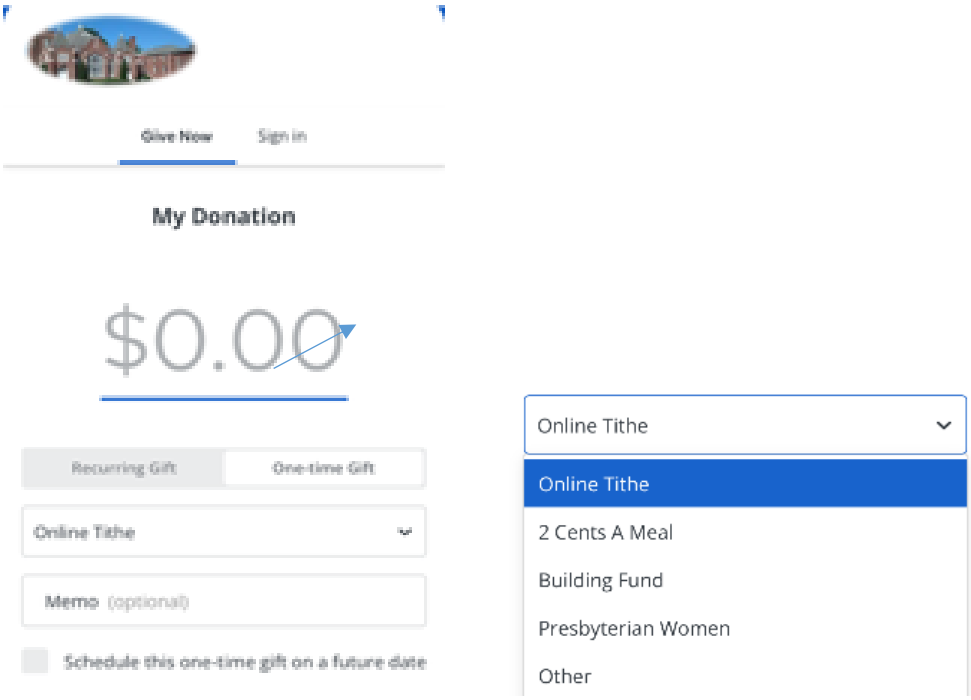
Finance & Stewardship committee introduces easyTithe, an online giving platform!
~easyTithe's online giving platform provides flexibility for contributing anytime, anywhere~

Easy as 1-2-3
Step 1: scan QR code with cell phone camera

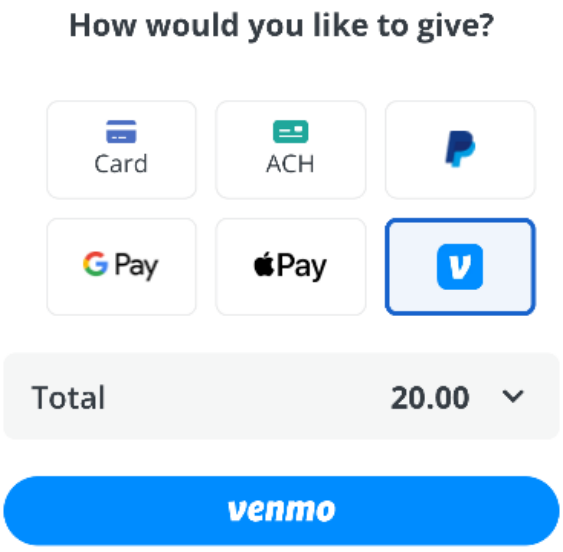
Or *Text the word "GIVE" to 910-812-1291 and follow prompt*



Step 2: enter donation amount (one-time or recurring gift) and select offering type (tithe, 2 cents a meal, building fund, presbyterian women, or other).



Step 3: All giving options are available! Confirmation is sent via text or email.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all for the Operation Christmas Child donations. The youth group filled 110 shoeboxes and will be traveling to Boone on December 13th to volunteer. Let's pray for them to have a safe trip.



POINSETTIAS

Sunday, November 30th, is the first day of Advent and we invite you to bring a Poinsettia to decorate the church during this season. If you bring them a few days before or the morning of the 30th, we will get them arranged and will tend to them throughout Advent. If you plan on placing a Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, please let Sonya Potter know so that the information can be added to the bulletin during Advent. Thanks!

YOUTH GROUP

On November 7th, the youth group enjoyed a fun-filled lock-in night, full of games, laughter, and maybe a few tears as this was the last night for our youth to spend with Rev. Martindale.



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**.

ANGEL TREE

Final days are approaching! The Fellowship and Missions Committee are sponsoring two families for Christmas from Carthage Elementary School. The Angel Tree is located in the upper Narthex. Please be so kind when gift is purchased to wrap and put angel tag on the gift. This project will run until December 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Monroe or Gail Hardin.

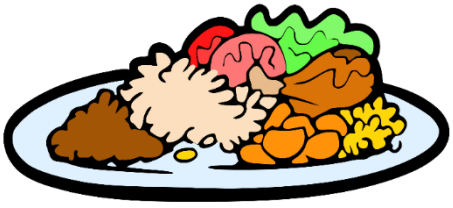
A special "Thank You" goes out to all that donated for the Angel tree. The youth group had a successful Target shopping trip on November 16th to purchase the gifts and while out, they enjoyed a delicious meal at Zaxby's.



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:

December 4th JoAnn Wahala
December 11th Gail Hardin
December 18th JoAnn Wahala
December 25th Christmas

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.

The annual PW Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The evening will begin with a 30- minute musical program by Robert Wilson, followed by a baked spaghetti dinner, and a visit from Santa. There is no charge for the meal, donations will be accepted for the Carthage Food Pantry. All are invited and encouraged to bring family or friends.

The PW will be collecting needed items for Carthage Elementary School during the month of December. A designated collection tote will be in the Family Life Center. Items needed are: Lysol spray; Lysol wipes; glue sticks; small boxes of crayons; and Kleenex/tissues. Thank you in advance for your support in this project that benefits our school and students at CES.

On behalf of the Presbyterian Women, I offer my sincere appreciation for the support shown throughout the year at scheduled events. Your generosity makes it possible for donations by the PW to charities and service organizations throughout the year. To the PWCT, ladies you are warriors who give so generously of your time and resources to ensure a continued functioning and successful Presbyterian Women group at FPC. Thank you one and all. JoAnn Wahala (PW Moderator).

CHURCH CALENDAR December 2025

Monday, December 1st	6:30 p.m.	PW Christmas Dinner
Tuesday, December 2nd	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, December 3rd	10:00 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PWCT Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, December 6th	7:30 a.m.	Robbin's Food Bank
Sunday, December 7th	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling -Youth Group – All are welcome to join
Monday, December 8th	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 10th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, December 13th		**Youth group travel to Boone – OOC Volunteering**
Sunday, December 14th	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday, December 17th		**Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter**

	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 21st	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata
Wednesday, December 24th	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve – Communion
Thursday, December 25th		**Merry Christmas – Church Office Closed**
Friday, December 26th		**Church Office Closed**
Sunday, December 28th	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday, December 30th	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
		Due to the Christmas / New Year Holidays – Distribution for the Church Mouse / Newsletter will be January 7th
Thursday. January 1st		**Office Closed/ Happy New Year**

The Session

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!