FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

December 2022 Newsletter



New Friends

Advent is upon us. It is a wonderful time of the year as we again prepare for the birth of Jesus as well as His return. It's a great time to decorate, share Christmas wishes, celebrate with family and friends, and spend time building our relationship with Jesus.

One way to build our relationship with Jesus is to spend time reading and contemplating during devotion time. My oldest devotion from nearly 20 years ago is entitled, "100 Meditations for Advent and Christmas."

Let me share one devotion entitled, New Friends. It begins with Matthew 25:40, "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

"As I came down the railway platform slowly, with my bag on my left shoulder, I saw a beggar playing with a stray dog at the corner of the last step. The beggar needed a friend and the dog, an owner. Now when I go for my walking exercises, I wrap wheat bread for the dog and two slices of yeast bread with butter or jam for the beggar.

We three have become friends, and we are growing in love and fondness for one another. Each time I near the platform, I notice the dog wagging its tail and a smile creasing the face of the beggar. Leprosy has taken fingers from his hands, and the dog is lame. We three have one common characteristic: we cannot run. We share another characteristic: we love one another. When I see my friends, my heart warms, and I can walk faster than usual.

When we bestow God's love on others, we are blessed. The dog and the beggar are now friends. And I have two new friends."

The prayer is, "Dear Lord of all creation, help us to spread Your love to all people and creatures, regardless of caste, color, creed, or status. Bring all people to awareness of Your love and care. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Who near me needs to see my expression of God's love?"

The author of this devotion lives in India and thus his use of the word "caste" in his prayer. We can follow in the footsteps of the Author of love. Take time this Advent to come closer to Jesus. As you do, you will become closer to those around you and different from us.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



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

Debby Albright
Lucinda Casey
John Currie, Tara Planation
Lee Edmonds
Robert Hunt
Tom Leonard
Lee McCaskill
Pat Nugent
Ina Sue Parks
Phillip Warmbrod
Anna Belle Campbell
Benny Cole
Barbara Danley
Robert Gordon
Judi Kelly
Carol Lucas
Gail Meeks
Dennis Parks
Megan Phillips

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.



October 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of October 1, 2022		80,429.92
Tithes and Offerings Received		+14,696.00
	Sub-Total	95,125.92
Expenditures		-22,852.94
Balance in checking account as of October 31, 2022		72,272.98

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of October 1, 2022		41,890.32
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for October 2022		+538.27
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $105.90; PW Meal Fund $55; Flower Fund $42; Honorarium $100; Memorial BF $25; Shoebox $150		+477.90
	Sub-Total	42,906.49
Expenditures: Rose Bud Vase $22.42; 2 Cents a Meal $185.24; Payroll taxes $1,594		-1,801.66
Balance in Restricted Funds as of October 31, 2022		41,104.83

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	72,272.98
Building Fund: $1,094.00 + $25.00 =	+1,119.00
Restricted Funds Balance	+39,395.83
	113,377.81
Oct. 2022 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 438.06; FW/H 87.21; SW/H 13.00) + .05 adjustment	-538.32
10/31/2022 Checkbook Balance	112,839.49
Cannot find error to balance	-.07
Correct 10/31/2022 Checkbook Balance	112,837.42

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	22,151.75
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+174.64
	22,326.39

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The following was approved at the November 6th meeting:

- The 2023 Budget
- Covered dish meal on December 4th
- Congregational meeting for December 4th to hear a report from the Nominating Committee and act upon Rev. Martindale's terms of call
- Men's group to begin (probably January)
- The Christmas Eve service will be December 24th at 9 p.m.

December Birthdays



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

Poinsettias

This Advent season, poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of and in honor of:

In Memory of:	**By:**
Loved Ones	JoAnn and Dell Wahala
Leona Patterson	Otis Patterson and Children
Judy Phillips	Kelly and Rick Martindale
Tom Stewart	Kelly and Rick Martindale
Linda McCaskill	Kelly and Rick Martindale
Grandparents	Denise and Lee Edmonds
Margaret and Cleet Cleetwood	Nancy Carter and Family

In Honor of:	**By:**
Ina Sue and Dennis Parks	Denise, Lee, Justin, and Sarah Edmonds
Women of the Church	The Edmonds and Parks

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.

December Greeters

4th	Ann Lynch
11th	Ann Lynch
18th	Lucinda Casey
25th	Ann Key

October



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	33	60
2nd Sunday	21	57
3rd Sunday	26	45
4th Sunday	27	48
5th Sunday	22	32
Average	26	48

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 at any upcoming dates you're available:

December 3

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!

ANGEL TREE

Thank you for money donations for Youth to shop for remaining items.
Sunday, December 4th we will have an Angle Tree gift wrapping party and covered dish lunch following Worship.
JoAnn and Helen will be delivering gifts to families after we finish wrapping. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP REMINDERS

Sunday, December 4th – At 12:00 p.m. - Angel Tree wrapping party immediately following Worship Service. This will be a covered dish lunch and a chance to see the items purchased on November 20th – we will eat, wrap presents, and get everything ready for delivery to families!
At 6:00 p.m. – Meet at Church - Highlanders Farm Youth Group Night – Drive through Christmas light show and ice cream afterwards.

Sunday, December 11th – regular youth at 5pm – **Cristy** brings the meal.

Friday, December 16th – Youth Lock-In starting at 5:00 p.m. We will start the evening with Christmas Caroling, then back to Church for a night filled with food, fun, and fellowship.

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

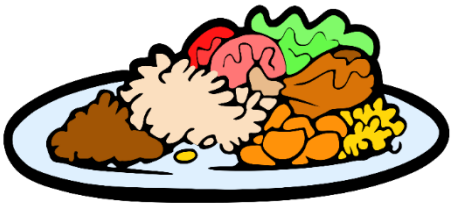
Please continue to remember others by contributing to the various FPC Basket Ministries located in the Family Life Center.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Thank you for everyone's support this shoebox season. We delivered 213 shoeboxes to our location collection site. Youth will hear from a Missionary Sunday, November 20th who delivered shoeboxes in Africa with Samaritans Purse.
We volunteered at the processing center in Charlotte Friday, November 25th. It was a great experience.



PW Meal Ministry



December Meal Leaders:

1st JoAnn Wahala
8th Gail & Keith Harden
15th
22nd Helen McDonald
29th

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's Circle/Bible Study will meet on Thursday, December 1 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. It is not too late to join the group.

CHURCH CALENDAR

December 2022

Thursday, December 1st	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
Saturday, December 3rd	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, December 4th		Angel Tree Gifts Due
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Congregational Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Covered-dish Luncheon and Wrapping of the Angel Tree gifts
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Tuesday, December 6th	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 7th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 11th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7 - 12
Wednesday, December 14th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, December 16th	5:00 p.m.	Youth Lock-In
Sunday, December 18th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Christmas Cantata
Tuesday, December 20th		Deadline for December Church Mouse / Newsletter
Wednesday, December 21st	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, December 24th	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 25th		Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday, December 26th		Church Office Closed
Tuesday, December 27th		Church Office Closed
Wednesday, December 28th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday, December 31st		New Year's Eve

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Leon Monroe

Class of 2022
Debbie Gordon
Ann Key
Elizabeth Martindale
Angie Medlin
Leon Monroe
Marie Monroe

Class of 2023
Lucinda Casey
Cristy Dean
Tom Leonard
Scott Phillips
Jennifer Thomason
Paul White

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!