

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

May 2025 Newsletter

Where Is Your Hope?

The other day I was reading a passage from John 5. In it included the story of Jesus healing a man who had been "ill" for thirty-eight years. That's a long time. The gospel writer doesn't tell us what's wrong with him. We know, however, many who sat around this pool were blind, lame, or paralyzed. They waited around this pool because occasionally the pool would bubble or stir with activity and the legend was that whoever got into the pool first after this stirring would be healed. The man is placing his hope on getting there first. It's seems crazy to place the hope of healing in such a thing but it's the only hope the man still has.

We are often no different. We place our hope on normal things, like family, friends, money, or countless other things. Some of these things make sense and many of them don't but we cling to some type of hope no matter how "normal" or strange it might appear.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we know that our hope should be placed in the living God. God conquers our sins and fears. God can make us well. God uses us and others to make a difference in the life of those around us. God is our hope.

In John's story, Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to be made well?" The man replies, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." The man places his hope on some legend instead of the author of hope. As we journey through this week and month may we be mindful of where or in whom we place our hope. There is only one Lord and Savior of our lives. There is only One who can transform our lives…without changing one thing. God is that amazing!

Jesus heals the man on the Sabbath (part of the Ten Commandments) breaking rules that the religious leaders had tweaked but doing so Jesus communicates that we are more important, more valuable, more loved than not working on the sabbath. The sabbath is important but in the eyes of Jesus…we are so much more!

God is too amazing for words. God is the one who awakens a hope that is more than a fanciful desire but a hope grounded in reality. May our lives be forever changed because we know where to place our hope and how our hope in Christ can transform the lives of those around us.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick



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

Elizabeth Barringer
John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Debbie Gordon
Carol Lucas
Marie Monroe
Kay Patterson
Phillip Warmbrod
David Casey
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Dennis Parks
Otis Patterson
Elizabeth Williams

Alma Baker
Tom Brady, *member at Priest Hill Church*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Daniel Cartwright, *Margaret and Tom Leonard's nephew*
Abe Caviness, *Debby Albright's great-nephew*
Bill Creech, *Dennis Parks' brother-in-law*
Megan Davis, *Jennifer Thomason's cousin*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Family of Christian Huffman
*S*ean 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*
Ginny Stone, *Rick Martindale's aunt*
Marie Walton, *Diane Pangborn's mother*

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.



This is the Financial Report for

January – March 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT / QUARTERLY REPORT

<u>OPERATING FUNDS</u>:

Tithes and Offerings Received	+47,336.22
Expenses	- 43,109.02
Net Income	+ 4,050.28

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session met on April 13th for their regular monthly meeting. We discussed or approved the following:

- We distributed nearly $700 to worthy local charities
- Discussed anniversary plans
- Approved our summer worship schedule of moving the time from 11 a.m. to 10 a.m. for the months of June, July, and August.
- We will not be doing a contemporary service during any of that time.

May Birthdays



1	Damon Dean
2	Ella Gilliam
12	Miranda Estep
12	Scott Rives
12	McKenzie Smith
13	Hartley Carter
13	Tucker Medlin
16	Tracy Thomas
23	Owen Thomason
23	Roger Ingold
24	Andy Marshburn
28	Lee Edmonds
29	Kay Patterson
29	Nancy Carter
30	Ryan Gordon

MAY SUNDAY FLOWERS

4th	Ann Key
11th	JoAnn Wahala
18th	Carol & Paul White
25th	Lucinda & David Casey

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary please call Paul White at (910) 783-7868.

May Greeters

4th	Dennis Parks
11th	Megan & Scott Phillips
18th	To be determined
25th	Jennifer Thomason & Family

March



	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.

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, May 3rd

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!

THE FELLOWSHIP AND MISSION COMMITTEE

The Fellowship and Mission Committee has 4 "basket ministry" bins in the Family Life Center. Each month for the remainder of this year, one ministry will be a focus, **but everyone can continue to donate items to any of the ministries each month**. The schedule for highlighted ministries each month will be as follows:

May: Robbins Food Bank: non-perishable foods and plastic grocery bags
June: Nursing homes: Tara Plantation (socks, sweaters, sweatshirts, pajamas) and Peake Resources / Pinelake (socks, sweaters, puzzles, crayons, colored pencils, construction paper, large print word search, books)
July: Carthage Elementary (crayons, pencils, notebooks, Chlorox wipes, etc.)
August: Backpack Pals: raisins (individual-size boxes) and peanut butter and jelly crackers

September: Robbins Food Bank: non-perishable food and plastic grocery bags
October: Nursing Homes
November: Backpack Pals (see items listed above)
December: Carthage Elementary School (crayons, pencils, notebooks, Chlorox wipes, etc.)

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!

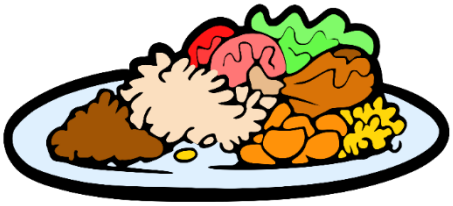
175 YEARS STRONG

A survey seeking your feedback and suggestions is included with this issue of the mouse. The 175th Anniversary Committee asks that you assist in the planning process by completing this survey and returning it via email to: **infofpc397@gmail.com** or placing in the boxes located in the church narthexes. Thank you everyone for your assistance.

175th Anniversary Committee's next meeting is May 19, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the conference room.

Attached is the survey, approved by use and distribution to the congregation at the last meeting on March 31, 2025.

PW Meal Ministry



May Meal Leaders

8th JoAnn Wahala
15th Gail Hardin
22nd Lucinda Casey
29th

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

Easter Baskets were made and delivered to 11 FPC shut-ins and friends.



PW Bible Study will be held on May 7th at 10:00 am. This is the final lesson (lesson #6, chapters 11 & 12) of You Are Never Alone by Max Lucado. All ladies are invited to attend.

PWCT meeting on May 7th at 11:00 am.

The annual PW Birthday Offering will be collected on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The recipients for 2025 are 2 U.S. organizations providing housing for families. The Birthday grant to **Leland Presbyterian Church** in Leland, Mississippi will help build a housing facility at their location offering safe and comfortable accommodations for members of their community who need a temporary place to stay and for volunteer groups who come to aid in disaster recovery efforts. The second recipient is **Red Cloud Renewable** in Pine Ridge, S.D. The funds are to be used to construct dome homes for families needing a home.

CHURCH CALENDAR May 2025

Saturday, May 3rd	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, May 4th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / 2 Cents a Meal – Children
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Monday, May 5th	11:00 a.m.	Administrative Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 6th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, May 7th		**Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter**
	10:00 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PW Coordinating Team Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Saturday, May 10th		Buggy Festival
Sunday, May 11th		**Happy Mother's Day!**
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday, May 14th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, May 18th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School (last day for our children and youth)
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion / PW Birthday Offering
	12:10 p.m.	Hand Chime Practice
Monday, May 19th	6:30 p.m.	175 Anniversary Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 20th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, May 21st		**Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, May 25th	10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday, May 26th		**Memorial Day – Church Office Closed**
Tuesday, May 27th	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 28th		**Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Dale Buie

Class of 2025
Dale Buie
David Casey
Margaret Leonard
Ann Lynch
Marie Monroe
Paul White

Class of 2026
Gail Hardin
Ann Key
Claudia McKenzie
Leon Monroe
Scott Phillips
Jennifer Thomason

Church Staff

Ann Key, *Sexton*
Leon Monroe, *Receiving T*reasurer
Marie Monroe, *Dispersing Treasurer*
Rick Martindale*, Minister*
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!