

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

February 2025 Newsletter

God Is Love



It is February! It is the "love" month. Valentine's Day falls on February 14th. I'm good with calling this the "love" month. It gives me a reason, though I should never need a reason, to tell those I care about, "I love you." I realize that can be a loaded statement, meaning all kinds of things. Let's parse out what we believe according to the Bible. For our discussion, we are going to talk about the three that get most of the press. They are eros, philia, and agape love.

Eros love is the love we might first think of between people during the "love" month. It's a love that is physical or sexual in nature. It's the love we see during Hallmark movies or at least at the end of them. It seems they all end with a kiss. In the Song of Solomon, we encounter this love between two people, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine… "

Philia love is a love shared between friends. There was a great love between the future king, David, and the current King Saul's son, Jonathan. Jonathan saw how his father was treating David. Jonathan had great faith in God and saw that God was calling David as king. They could have hated one another but instead they shared a great love for one another. This love was a love between friends. Another example of love between friends would be that between Jesus and Lazarus. "Jesus began to weep. So, the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'"

Finally, there is agape love. It's the one we probably know most about. This love is seen as unconditional and sacrificial in nature. It's what we think of between God and us. Jesus Christ was willing to sacrifice Himself on the cross to save us from eternal damnation. We don't deserve this love but it is given to us. 1 Corinthians 13 is often called the love chapter. It's often used at weddings, but Paul didn't intend it for weddings. Paul wanted the people of Corinth to understand that our lives are to be focused on love, agape love toward one another. It's a love that we are still learning to emulate in our daily lives.

As we embrace or ignore this "love" month, let us be mindful of the type of life we are called to share with God and one another. Verses 4-7 in 1 Corinthians 13 are a mini recipe of how we are called to live. Come to church this Sunday and hear these wonderful words of God for our daily lives…to embrace and cherish and embody.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rick



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

David Casey
Barbara Danley and family in the death of her brother-in-law
Lee Edmonds
Carol Lucas
Geraldine Moore
Dennis Parks
Otis Patterson
Elizabeth Williams
John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Matthew Leonard
Nancy McKenzie
Pat Nugent
Phillip's Family in the Death of Megan's Mother
Phillip Warmbrod

Alma Baker
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*
Matthew Davis, *Jeanne Davis' son*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
*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*
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

December 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of December 1, 2024		70,933.65
Tithes and Offerings Received		+25,685.50
	Sub-Total	96,619.15
Expenditures		-24,575.93
Balance in checking account as of December 31, 2024 (Includes Oct-Dec '24 payroll Taxes Withheld: FICA 937.91; FW/H 122.00; SW/H 30=1,089.91)		72,043.22

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of December 1, 2024		70,061.15
Donations/offerings received: 2 Cents a Meal 119.57; Flower Fund 55.00; PW GF 85.00; Building Fund 25,255.00; Joy Gift 381; Memorial 50		+25,945.57
	Sub-Total	96,006.72
Expenditures: 2 Cents a Meal 299.83; Joy Gift 281; Balance on 2 HVAC Units for FLC 12,775.94		-13,356.77
Balance in Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2024		82,649.95

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	72,043.22
Building Fund: 28,639.09 - 12,775.94 + 25,255.00 =	+41,118.15
Restricted Funds Balance	+41,531,80
12/31/2024 Checkbook Balance	154,693.17

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 for the first time this year on January 19th. Committees are forming. Please reach out to an elder or Rick if wanting to serve.

The 175th Anniversary Committee will be working throughout the year as our big celebration will probably take place in September.

The session approved dates for Rev. Martindale to be on vacation in April and May.

February Birthdays



2	Nicholas Baker
2	Emma Leonard
5	Taylor Allred
5	Robert Gordon
7	Jennifer Thomason
11	Archie Kelly
13	Pat Jackson
13	Dell Wahala
15	Elizabeth Williams

FEBRUARY SUNDAY FLOWERS

Not Available at this time

2nd
9th
16th
23rd

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.

February Greeters

2nd	Sheree & Mike Kelly
9th	Lucinda & David Casey
16th	JoAnn Wahala
3rd	Ann & Tom Currie

December



Sunday School		Worship
1st Sunday	26	53
2nd Sunday	25	46
3rd Sunday	25	51
4th Sunday	30	62
5th Sunday	16	27
Average	24	48

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, February 2nd

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!

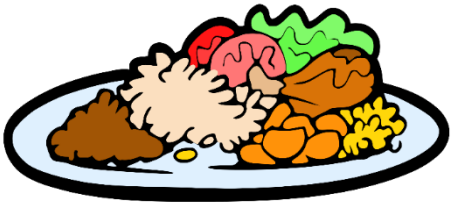
MEN'S GROUP

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.

PW Meal Ministry



February Meal Leaders

6th	JoAnn Wahala
3th	Gail Hardin
20th	Lucinda Casey
27th	JoAnn Wahala

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.

PW Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m. We will be studying Lesson number 5, chapter 8 in the book, "YOU ARE NEVER ALONE". All ladies are welcome to join the study.

PWCT meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 11:00 am.

Attention FPC high school seniors and full-time college students, you are eligible to apply for the Lorena Piner scholarship awarded annually to selected applicants. The form is located on our church's web-site or in the lower narthex. Completed forms and all required documentation must be submitted by midnight on February 15, 2025.

CHURCH CALENDAR February 2025

Saturday, February 1st	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank
Sunday, February 2nd	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Committee Meeting
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class, *youth room*
Monday, February 3rd	11:00 a.m.	Administrative Committee Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 4th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group, *conference room*
Wednesday, February 5th	10:00 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PWCT Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, February 9th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service /Souper Bowl Sunday
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting, *conference room*
Wednesday, February 12th	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, February 14th		**Happy Valentine's Day**
Sunday, February 16th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Communion
Monday, February 17th		President's Day, No School
Tuesday, February 18th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group, *conference room*
Wednesday, February 19th		**Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, February 23rd	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class, *youth room*
Wednesday, February 26th		**Distribute Church Mouse /Newsletter**
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Our confirmands will be joining the church on March 2nd.
We will have a covered-dish meal after worship to celebrate their joining the church.
Please make a special effort to attend worship on March 2nd.

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!