FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

February 2024 Newsletter



February Is the Love Month

This month we celebrate lots of different days including Groundhog Day, Camp and Retreat Sunday, the Lunar New Year, National Send a Card to a Friend Day, National Pizza Day, President's Day, Leap Day and of course the most popular Valentine's Day.

There is one more holiday that we can't forget as well, Ash Wednesday which falls on Valentine's Day. I haven't even mentioned birthdays, anniversaries, or other days that are important to many of us.

As we celebrate National Pizza Day (which is February 9th, just in case you had forgotten), it's Valentine's Day which receives the most pomp and circumstance this month. It's a day to show our love for those special to us. Of course, we should be doing that every day, right?

As we prepare for Valentine's Day let us not forget that Ash Wednesday focuses us on a love much greater than ourselves. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. As we contemplate these two holidays on one day, reflect upon 1 Corinthians 13, often known as the love chapter. We are reminded that true love is patient, kind, not envious, boastful, or rude. It does not insist on its own way, is not irritable, resentful, and love doesn't rejoice in pointing out someone else's mistakes.

Paul wrote these words so we can reflect on how we are to live our daily lives as followers of Jesus. We aren't His followers if we can't love one another. Now we aren't perfect by any means, but we shouldn't have any doubt about what and who is our goal.

Paul tells us that faith in Jesus is important. Faith keeps us grounded in what we believe even when it doesn't make sense to do so. Paul tells us that we must live with hope. Hope is the realization that even as Jesus Christ died on the cross for us, we rely on a future that is much greater than ourselves and all humanity.

Finally, Paul tells us that though faith and hope are vital for our daily living, nothing is more important than love. Love opens our eyes and the eyes of those we encounter each day. We have seen Jesus' many acts of love including His dying on the cross for each of us. Jesus is the embodiment and author of love. It should be so with each of us.

As we celebrate all those holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and special days including Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, let us be mindful of the love that Jesus embodied and the love we are called to share with one another. This month is a month to love one another as is every other month as well.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



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

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Carol Lucas
Nancy McKenzie
Regina Nugent
Ina Sue Parks – St. Jospeh's
Lee Edmonds
Gail Meeks
Pat Nugent
Dennis Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

Terry Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Abe Caviness, *Debby Albright's great-nephew*
Willis Clark, *Elizabeth Barringer & Marie Monroe's brother*
Ann Herndon, *Kay Patterson's sister*
Christian Huffman, *friend of Kelly & Rick Martindale*
Sue & Chuck Kelly, *Mike Kelly's brother*
Sean Kennally, *Angie Provost's son-in-law*
Angie Krappl, *friend of Gail & Keith Hardin*
Tyler Mabe
Lisa Muller, *Ina Sue Parks' cousin*
Linda & Tommy Phillips, *friend of Kay Patterson*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Sandy, *Marlene Riyevski's sister*
Joseph Saluby, *Missionary to Guatemala*

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

November 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of November 1, 2023		54,629.04
Tithes and Offerings Received		+23,109.00
	Sub-Total	77,738.04
Expenditures		-14,410.36
Balance in checking account as of November 30, 2023		63,327.68

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of November 1, 2023	46,137.44
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for November 2023	+211.20
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $127.94; PW $155; Flower Fund $42; PW Thank Offering $230; Credit for Voided Ck #18701 lost by recipient $300	+854.94
Sub-Total	47,203.58
Expenditures: Shoebox Ministry restricted funds approved by Session $200; 32 plastic boxes for Shoebox Ministry $42.80; 2 Cents a Meal $127.94;	-370.74
Balance in Restricted Funds as of November 30, 2023	46,832.84

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	63,327.68
Building Fund: $2,567.32	+2,567.32
Restricted Funds Balance	+44,265.52
	110,160.52
Oct – Nov '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 431.26; FW/H 0.00; SW/H 0.00) +	-431.26
11/30/2023 Checkbook Balance	$109,729.26

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,980.38
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+137.72
	22,118.10

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The Ruling Elders are serving on the following committees:

Administrative – Gail Hardin and Jackie Muse
Building and Grounds – Dale Buie and Margaret Leonard
Christian Education – John McDonald and Michelle Tortora
Fellowship and Mission – Nancy Carter and David Casey
Stewardship and Finance – Marie Monroe and Paul White
Worship – Robert Gordon and Ann Lynch

If you would like to serve on a committee and haven't been asked please contact Rick.

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

4th To be announced at a later date
11th To be announced at a later date
18th To be announced at a later date
25th To be announced at a later date

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary please call Margaret Leonard at (910) 639-2318, or Tom Leonard at (910) 693-3356.

February Greeters
(To be announced at a later date)

4th
11th
18th
25th

November 2023



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	24	55
2nd Sunday	22	55
3rd Sunday	21	39
4th Sunday	26	55
5th Sunday	0	0
Average	23	51

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.

Five items still needed include: beans, vegetables, tomato products, soups, and tuna (chicken) in cans. Please, no big cans.

Food and double-bagged plastic grocery bags can be placed at the donation station in the FLC.

Come Join us this Saturday, February 3rd.

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!

THANK YOU NOTE:

From Kay Patterson

I would like to thank the congregation and those Prayer Warriors from the Adult Sunday School class for your thoughts, prayers, calls, cards, etc. during my bout with pneumonia. As usual, God was listening, and I am Blessed to feel so much better. Thank you all so much.

Next special thanks and appreciation goes to JoAnn and the incredible Presbyterian Women "Angel Food Ladies" who provided a delicious meal for everyone on the 21st. Those who should be recognized are JoAnn, Gail, Jackie, Marie, Lucinda, Ann L., and Janet S. from Priest Hill and any others I've missed. Also special thanks to Keith, the men and youth for cleaning up and putting things back in their places. The entertainment was fabulous, and Rene' brought us such a powerful message.

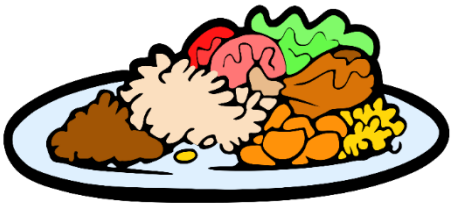
Prior to the luncheon, we had a wonderful worship service with great music, communion and installation of our elders. What a special day we had on January 21st at First Presbyterian Church on Ray Street.

MEN'S GROUP

The men of First Presbyterian Church host a time of fellowship and Biblical Study. They are finishing a study on James. 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's Group are now collecting bathrobes in all sizes for Friend to Friend. We all know how the chill can set in during the evening and afternoon hours and the bathrobes will come in very handy. Thank you in advance for helping these ladies stay warm.

PW Meal Ministry



February Meal Leaders:

8th Gail Hardin
15th Lucinda Casey
22nd Claudia Mckenzie
29th Marie Monroe

If you would like to help with a meal, part of a meal or know someone who needs assistance please contact JoAnn Wahala at 910-947-3238.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women Lorena Clark Piner Scholarships are open to high school seniors and students currently enrolled in colleges. The scholarship applications can be found on the Coastal Carolina Presbytery website, under Presbyterian Women, click on scholarship application. **The applications must be completed with all accompanying documents and submitted via email no later than February 15, 2024.** FYI: FPC is in the South West Region for that line on the application form.

Bible Study will meet Wednesday, February 7th at 10:00am.

PWCT will meet Wednesday February 7th at 11:00 a.m. following Bible Study.

Thank you to all who assisted with the Soup Luncheon on January 21st. Attendees for the meal and program enjoyed a good meal and a presentation by "The Bag Lady" which concluded with Scriptures and song. The PW are thankful for those attending from FPC and the community and joyful to share food and fellowship with all.

PWCT officers for 2024:

Moderator: JoAnn Wahala
Secretary: Lucinda Casey
Treasurer: Marie Monroe
At-Large: Gail Hardin
Jackie Muse

All ladies are invited to join the PWCT meetings, your input and ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Please enjoy the photos from the January 21st Soup Luncheon provided below!









CHURCH CALENDAR February 2024

Saturday, February 3rd	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, February 4th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / 2 Cents a Meal - Children
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Tuesday, February 6th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, February 7th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PW Coordinating Team Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, February 11th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday, February 14th		Happy Valentine's Day
	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Series Begins (Carthage U.M.C.)
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
		Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, February 18th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Monday, February 19th		President's Day
Tuesday, February 20th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, February 21st		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Series (FPC)
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, February 25th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday, February 28th		Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter
	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Series
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:

Class of 2024	**Class of 2025**
Nancy Carter	Dale Buie
Robert Gordon	David Casey
Gail Hardin	Margaret Leonard
John McDonald	Ann Lynch
Jackie Muse	Marie Monroe
Michelle Tortora	Paul White

Church Staff

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