FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

May 2023 Newsletter



Pray First

Easter is behind us. Christmas seems light years away. Summer, however, is quickly approaching with temperatures rising, vacation plans being formed, and our children and grandchildren preparing for school to be over. What should we do? Keeping in mind that we have lots of opportunities to serve God and FPC in the months ahead.

The Men's Group has started a new Bible study entitled, Pray First by Chris Hodges. It's a simple idea for us to put into practice each day…pray first. When you get up in the morning, reach out to God in prayer. Now I wish I could tell you about all the exciting things he recommends but I've only read one chapter of the book and quickly learned from our Bible study that I'm already four chapters behind. 😊

Chris Hodges is the senior pastor at Church of the Highlands in Alabama. His suggestion for us is to simply pray first. But this praying first doesn't mean only when you first get up. He is talking about praying first before you go into a meeting, before you sit down with a person or someone who is struggling, before you eat, before you go to bed, before you get into your car or go on a walk or hike. In other words, pray before you do anything. It sounds impossible, doesn't it? But is it?

In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul is encouraging the people of Thessalonica in his final section of his letter to respect others, love those who work for God, offer peace, and encourage the faint hearted. Then we come to 5:16, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." It's a great verse. Instead of complaining and griping about everything…let's rejoice. We rejoice because this is God's will for our lives. God knows best.

We read the words, "pray without ceasing." What does this mean? Do we pray our entire lives long and never answer the phone or talk to another individual again? We can't go through life saying, "Sorry, I can't talk right now, I'm talking to God." Maybe we should simply take Chris Hodges' approach by praying first before we do something.

Our prayer life needs to be something done hourly. It needs to be something that we can do for 30 minutes or an hour at a time. It needs to be as simple as, "Jesus, give me the wisdom to help a friend" as we prepare to ring the doorbell. Instead of simply trusting that we can make all the right decisions in our lives, ask God for help. As we prepare for a major decision, let's get God into the equation through prayer.

Our lives are better when we place Jesus first in our decision making, in times of gratitude, and in times of great concern and anxiety. Jesus should be a part of every aspect of our lives. Prayer is important. Are you ready to pray first before everything that happens? Begin this new spiritual habit of praying first and discover what happens.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



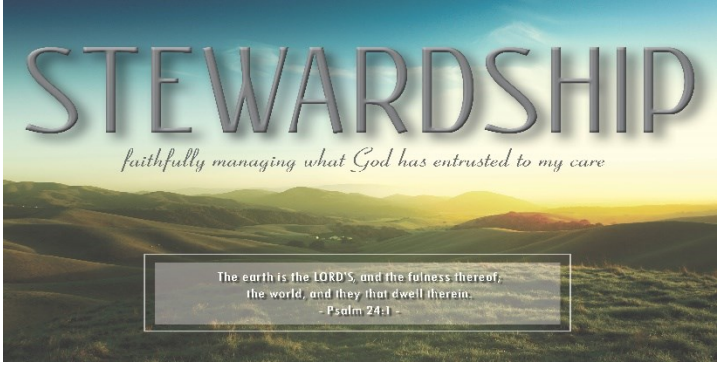
Remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ as they face difficult times.

John Currie, *Tara Planation*
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Gail Meeks
Nancy McKenzie
Regina Nugent
Kay Patterson
Barbara Danley
Judi Kelly
Carol Lucas
Lee McCaskill Family
Pat Nugent
Ina Sue Parks
Phillip Warmbrod

Terry Barber, *friend of the Monroes*
Bonnie Brown, *friend of the Edmonds*
Rayona Cash, *Otis Patterson's daughter*
Abe Caviness, *great-nephew of Debby Albright*
Willis Clark, *brother of Elizabeth Barringer & Marie Monroe*
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*
Johnny Meggs
Lisa Muller, *Cousin of Ina Sue Parks*
Johnathan Patterson, *Otis Patterson's Son*
Gordon Prescott, *Geraldine Moore's brother*
T Prickett, *Lyn Austin & Cathy Prickett's brother*
Sandy, *Marlene Riyevski's sister*
Morgan Thomas, *Tracy and Bill's daughter*
Emma Lee Upchurch, *Carson Kelly's sister-in-law*

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.



March 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of March 1, 2023	72,550.18
Tithes and Offerings Received (includes voided ck #18369 dtd 11/21/21 $400)	+12,553.00
Sub-Total	85,103.18
Expenditures (includes $.07 adjustment; unable to find here or in prior reports)	-20,070.62
Balance in checking account as of March 31, 2023	65,032.56

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of March 1, 2023	
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for March 2023	43,874.63
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $154.36; PW Gen Fund $110; Flower Fund $20; One Great Hour of Sharing $12; Truist dividend $2.08; Lost/Voided Sr Scholarship ck #18493 dtd 5/29/22 $300 …	+635.63
Sub-Total	+598.44
	45,108.70
Expenditures: Replace lost Sr Scholarship check $300; 2 Cents a Meal $300.26;	-600.26
Balance in Restricted Funds as of March 31, 2023	44,508.44

RECAP:

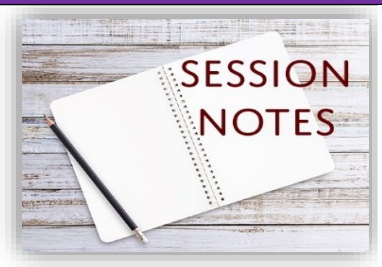
Operating Funds Balance	65,032.56
Building Fund: $1,561.08 + Truist Brokerage dividend on 4 shs $2.08=	+1,563.16
Restricted Funds Balance	+42,945,28
	109,541.00
Jan '23-Mar '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 1,461.62; FW/H 351.00; SW/H 84.00) + .05 Adjustment =	-1,896.67
3/31/2023 Checkbook Balance	107,644.33

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,552.86
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+136.40
	21,689.26

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



The session's decisions included the following:

- Return to using the Ritual of Friendship Pads during worship
- Summer schedule (10 am worship) will begin on June 4th – August 27th
- Approved the PW Salad Supper on August 7th, Christmas meal on December 4th, and a soup luncheon on January 21st, 2024
- Scott Phillips will be the delegate to the May presbytery meeting
- Robert Gordon will be the delegate to General Assembly in either 2024 or 2026

May Birthdays



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

MAY SUNDAY FLOWERS

7th Barbara Danley
14th Claudia McKenzie and Robert Hunt
21st Diane and Tom Pangborn
28th Debbie and Robert Gordon

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please call:
Debbie Gordon at (910) 947-3963,
or Tom Leonard at (910) 639-3356

May Greeters

7th Kathryn & Dale Buie
14th J.D. Monroe
21st Elizabeth Barringer
28th Claudia McKenzie & Robert Hunt

March



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	27	66
2nd Sunday	25	58
3rd Sunday	27	57
4th Sunday	27	49
5th Sunday	0	0
Average	27	58

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 on:

Saturday, May 6th
Saturday, June 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" CARD'S / EMAIL'S RECEIVED

Mackenzie Smith & Meredith Marshburn: Dear FPC Family, We would like to express our most sincere gratitude for your generous contributions, love and prayers during our time of need. Your support means so much to our family! Thank you for always being there during our times of loss and grief. Sincerely, Mackenzie Smith & Meredith Marshburn

Susan Cole: Dear Church Family: Thank you all for your prayers and concerns during my Mother's health issues while residing at TerraBella Assisted Living these past months. She lived a long and good life. Your phone calls, visits and cards meant so much to me, especially in providing comfort in the loss of my Mother. When the Lord calls our loved one's home, he leaves a gift of memories which will guide me during this time of sadness. We cannot feel life's losses without first feeling the blessings of its fullness. Thanks again as I take comfort in the love of my church family, friends and foremost, my family.

BACKPACK PALS

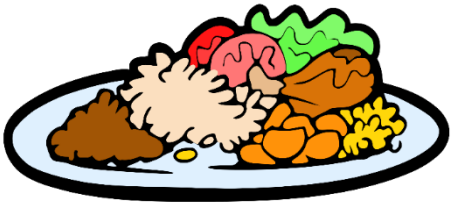
We are collecting peanut butter crackers and/or small boxes of raisins. Please place in the basket for Back Pack Pals.

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

MEN'S GROUP

The men of First Presbyterian Church are conducting a Bible study on prayer which will begin in April. The men meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. of each month. All are welcome to come and join us in this time of fellowship and study!

PW Meal Ministry



May Meal Leaders:

4th JoAnn Wahala
11th Gail Hardin
18th
25th Claudia McKenzie

If you would like to help with a meal or part of a meal please contact JoAnn Wahala at 910-947-3238.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW officers for 2023: Moderator-JoAnn Wahala (Interim moderator)
Vice Moderator-Claudia McKenzie
Secretary-Lucinda Casey
Treasurer-Marie Monroe

Searches for PW Coordinating team members and a moderator continue. Please notify JoAnn or Claudia if interested in joining the team.

The PW Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. Any ladies that are interested are invited and welcome to attend.

The PW circle will now be known as the "Women's Group" and the circle/Bible study as book study. The curriculum for 2023-2024 is under discussion. Information will be available prior to start of the new study. If you have a preference for a specific Bible or book study please notify any member of the PW officers. Any suggestions for day(s) and time(s) to schedule the studies are welcome, to make the study times accessible to all who are interested. All ladies are invited to attend.
The current study will end on May 4, 2023. All ladies are invited to attend.

Thank you to all who assisted with the family meal for the Lee McCaskill family after Lee's service.

Thank you to Keith and Gail Hardin, Nancy Carter, Lucinda and David Casey for their donations of the TV, DVD player and table for the Fellowship Hall for gatherings held for the ladies. Thank you to Keith and David for installing all the equipment.

Three stained glass classes have been scheduled to date, with 2 of the classes completed. 11 church members attended those 2 classes; with a full class scheduled for April 23rd. A fun time and fellowship was enjoyed by all attending. Additional classes for stained glass, basket making, soap and candle making or other projects of interest can be scheduled as interest/requests are received.





CHURCH CALENDAR

May 2023

Monday, May 1st	6:30 p.m.	PW Coordinating Team meeting
Tuesday, May 2nd	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, May 3rd	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, May 4th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
Saturday, May 6th		Presbytery Meeting (Zoom)
	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, May 7th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / 2-Cents a Meal Children's Offering
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group Grades 7-12
Wednesday, May 10th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, May 14th		Mother's Day
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday, May 16th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, May 17th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, May 21st	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	(Last) Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Tuesday, May 23rd	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 24th		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
Sunday, April 28th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Graduation Sunday / Covered Dish Luncheon
Monday, May 29th		Memorial Day
Wednesday, May 31st		Distribute Church Mouse / Newsletter
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Tom Leonard

Class of 2023	**Class of 2024**
Lucinda Casey	Gail Hardin
Cristy Dean	Robert Gordon
Tom Leonard	Jackie Muse
Scott Phillips	John McDonald
Jennifer Thomason	Nancy Carter
Paul White	Michelle Tortora

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!