FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

December 2023 Newsletter



The Gift of Jesus

My yearly physical took place yesterday. All went well. Of course, they were running late. It happens. No matter the situation, we can get angry or we can offer some grace, whether it's deserved or not. I finally got into a room where I was again waiting. The nurse took my vitals and then apologized for the doctor running late. He would be in shortly. I translated that into "it will be a while."

I could have stayed on my phone which I had been on while waiting out in the lobby but I knew there was something better to do. I started praying. I started praying for those seeing my doctor and the other doctors. I prayed for the nurses and those working there that day.

While praying I heard of a man named, "Frank" who was hard of hearing. His wife was with him and he had recently gotten out of the hospital. I spent some time praying for Frank, his wife, and family. I prayed that their support system would help them in the days and weeks ahead.

My doctor, finally, came bursting through the door and as we greeted one another he apologized for his tardiness. He had obviously been busy and I could have complained but what good would that do? Life is messy sometimes. I was simply grateful that God reminded me to spend my time in prayer.

It is very easy for us during this Advent and Christmas season to be consumed in worldly matters instead of God. We become consumed with our own wants and desires and forget the One who has given us everything.

Advent reminds us that our focus should be on something much different than ourselves. It's not about our schedules but on serving God's will. It's not about our happiness and joy but that of embracing God's direction for our lives. It's not about buying the best gifts but truly embracing the best Gift given to us in the life of Jesus Christ.

As we get bogged down in this hectic season let's not lose focus on the gift God has given us. Jesus has blessed us in ways we can only begin to comprehend. He has given us the gift of life! He has given us everything we need!

Merry Christmas,

Rick



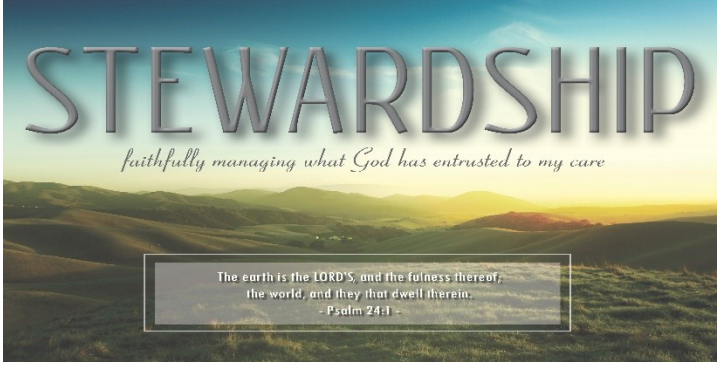
Remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ as they face difficult times.

John Currie, *Tara Plantation*
Carol Lucas
Nancy McKenzie
Regina Nugent
Ina Sue Parks
JoAnn & Dell Wahala
Lee Edmonds
Gail Meeks
Pat Nugent
Dennis Parks
Otis Patterson & Family
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*
Jake Currie's Family
Ginny Currie, *Ann and Tom Currie's daughter-in-law*
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.



October 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of Oct 1, 2023		59,198.97
Tithes and Offerings Received		+17,029.00
	Sub-Total	76,227.97
Expenditures		-21,598.93
Balance in checking account as of Oct 31, 2023		54,629.04

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of Oct 1, 2023		46,688.56
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for Oct 2023		+220.06
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $130.72; Flower Fund $41; PW $150; Building Fund $1,000; Memorial to Men's Group $25		+1,346.72
	Sub-Total	48,255.34
Expenditures: 3rd Qtr '23 Employee taxes: IRS $1,802.79 & NCDR $84; 2 Cents a Meal, Sep & Oct '23 donations $231.11		-2,117.90
Balance in Restricted Funds as of Oct 31, 2023		46,137.44

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	54,629.04
Building Fund: $1,567.32 + donation $1,000	+2,567.32
Restricted Funds Balance	+43,570,12
	100,766.48
Oct '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 220.06; FW/H 0.00; SW/H 0.00)	-220.06
	$100,546.42
10/31/2023 Checkbook Balance	

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,980.38
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+124.76
	22,105.14

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



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:**
Margaret & Cleet Cleetwood	Their Children & Grandchildren
Ann Lucas	The Martindale Family
Lee McCaskill	The Martindale Family
Coy Oakley	The Martindale Family
Rexine Lloyd	The Martindale Family
Glenn David Lloyd	The Martindale Family
Larry Martindale	The Martindale Family
Max Muse	Jackie & Jim Muse
JoAnn Thompson	Gail & Keith Hardin
Juanita & Hardin Crouch	Gail & Keith Hardin
Sarah Stancil	Gail & Keith Hardin
Margaret & Cleet Cleetwood	Lucinda & David Casey
Miriam & Joseph Casey	Lucinda & David Casey
In Honor of:	**By:**
Lucinda Casey	Sunday School Class
Youth Group Leaders	Church Members
The Martindale Family	Carter & Reynolds Families
First Presbyterian Church Choir	Carter & Reynolds Family
Roberta Martindale	The Martindale Family
Addison, Carter, Russell, Hartley, Blakeley, and Wrenley	Grancy
In Gratitude of:	**By:**
The Church Yard Crew	Church members

December Greeters

3rd	Otis Paterson
10th	Barbara Danley
17th	Ann Lynch
24th	Jennifer Thomason
31st	Pat Jackson

October



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	20	54
2nd Sunday	22	43
3rd Sunday	N/A	31
4th Sunday	17	56
5th Sunday	17	48
Average	19	46

Send church news and announcements to FPC
by calling or emailing the church office at (910) 947-2924 / infofpc397@gmail.com.Fin

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:

December 2nd

To carpool, meet in the FPC parking lot at 7 a.m.

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!

TARA PLANTATION CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church hosted "The Tara Plantation Christmas Fundraiser" on November 11th. As a result of so many generous people, a generous amazing amount of money was raised to help get all the residence of Tara Plantation gifts for Christmas. Thank you to everyone that participated and to all those that opened their hearts to provide for these amazing people.

ANGEL TREE

Time is running out to participate in the Angel Tree and assist our two families. Sunday is your last chance to donate money for the youth to purchase gifts from the Angel Tree. Please place your Angel tag on the wrapped gift upon return. All gifts must be returned next Sunday, December 10th.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY UPDATE

Our youth group packed 170 shoeboxes this year! We want to thank everyone for participating and also for donating items and money to purchase items. Below you will see the youth praying over the boxes. On November 25th, the youth volunteering in Boone for the Shoebox Ministry.



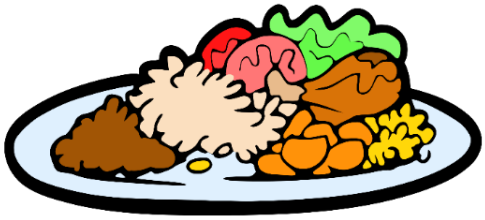
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Mark your calendars! Come join us on December 10th for some fun and fellowship as we go Christmas caroling. We will leave the church at 2 p.m. Afterwards we will visit a live nativity production at Yates-Thagard Church. Hope you can join us!

MEN'S GROUP

The men of First Presbyterian Church are conducting a Bible 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 would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations to Friend to Friend during this Winter season. Any and all donations will continue to be appreciated.

PW Meal Ministry



December Meal Leaders:

7th JoAnn Wahala
14th Gail Hardin
21st Lucinda Casey
28th Claudia Mckenzie

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

PW Bible Study will be held Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m. Lesson 5 will be the study for December. The ladies will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall

A baked spaghetti meal will be served at the PW supper on Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge for the meal and all are welcome to attend and bring a friend. Any donations received will be used for PW work and/or donations to charities throughout the year. A program of seasonal music will be presented by the Union Pines Chorus. Santa plans to visit also.

The PW would like to share with our church family some of the projects accomplished and charitable donations made during the 2023 year: Meals/foods for the shut-in and during bereavement times; collection of school supplies for Carthage Elementary School; special offerings & donations of supplies for those less fortunate supported by the CCPW; contact via greeting cards and/or "treat" bags for shut-ins.
Monetary donations to the following: Children's Hope Alliance (formerly Barium Springs); Camp Monroe; Arise Collective (formerly Interfaith Women's Prison Ministry); Friend to Friend; Family Promise; Carthage Food Bank/Pantry; and a member of the FPC church family.

The work of the PW is possible through the dedication of the team members and through the support and assistance by the FPC family. We offer our sincere appreciation to all.

CHURCH CALENDAR December 2023

Saturday, December 2nd	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool.*
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
Sunday, December 3rd	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Service / 2-Cents a Meal Children's Offering
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7th – 12th
Monday, December 4th	6:30 p.m.	PW Christmas Dinner
Tuesday, December 5th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, December 6th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 10th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7th – 12th
Wednesday, December 13th	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 17th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group – Grades 7th – 12th
Tuesday, December 19th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday, December 20th		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 24th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 25th		Merry Christmas / Church office closed
Tuesday, December 26th		Church office closed
Wednesday, December 27th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 31st		New Year's Eve
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service

Presbyterians hard at work!





The Session

Moderator:
The Rev. Rick Martindale

Clerk:
Tom Leonard

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

Class of 2024
Gail Hardin
Robert Gordon
Jackie Muse
John McDonald
Nancy Carter
Michelle Tortora

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!