FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Carthage, NC

A community cornerstone for Christ since 1850.

April 2023 Newsletter



Easter Is a Reminder of the Plate We Are Served

Their child had gotten into a horrible habit of coming in late from school. Every discussion the parents had with their child did not seem to change the habit. Finally, in desperation the child's parents sat him down and said, "The next time you come home late from school you will be given bread and water for dinner and nothing else. Is that clear?"

The child looked straight into his parent's eyes and nodded. He understood perfectly. A few days later the child came home even later than usual. His mother met him at the door but didn't say anything. He father met him in the living room but didn't say anything either.

That night, however, when they sat down for dinner, the boy's heart sank to his feet. His mother's plate was full of food, his sister's plate was full of food, his father's plate was full of food, but on his plate was a single slice of bread. Next to his plate was a solitary glass of water.

The boy's eyes stared first at the bread, then at the glass of water. This was the punishment his parents had warned him was going to happen. To make it worse, tonight he was absolutely starving.

The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then he quietly took the boy's meager plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own heaping plate of food and placed it in front of the boy.

Easter is almost here. God has warned each of us what would happen if we sinned. God has told us not to long after the belongings of others, say the Lord's name in vain, ignore those in pain, cause pain to others, or worry. God has told us to love one another but very often we haven't. We have been told that the outcome for our living and embracing sin is death, to live for all eternally in Hades. It's what God has told us would happen.

It's only when we truly grasp what should happen in our lives, can we truly grasp the importance of Jesus and what He has done for us. He took, upon Himself, the plate of bread and sin. He didn't need to because He was without sin but he did so because of a love which we still struggle to embrace.

The plate of sin is before us but Jesus is offering us something much more fulfilling. A life filled with the wonderful morsels of joy and peace even in our trials because God's love for us is great. It's time to see a plate that is mostly empty (only full of our sin) compared to the plate God is offering us which is full of God's love.

Grace and Peace,

Rick



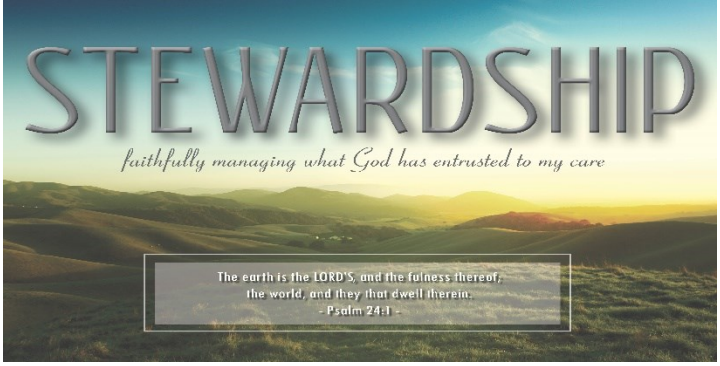
Remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ as they face difficult times.

John Currie, *Tara Planation*
Lee Edmonds
Matthew Leonard
Carol Lucas
Lee McCaskill, *First Health*
Pat Nugent
Ina Sue Parks
Barbara Danley
Judi Kelly
Tom Leonard
Gail Meeks
Nancy McKenzie, *Home*
Regina Nugent
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.



February 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING FUNDS:

Balance in checking account as of February 1, 2023		72,651.79
Tithes and Offerings Received		+13,666.00
	Sub-Total	86,317.79
Expenditures		-13,767.61
Balance in checking account as of February 28, 2023		72,550.18

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

Restricted Funds held in checking account as of February 1, 2023		45,536.16
Employee FICA & w/holding taxes for February 2023		+629.12
Donations/offerings received: 2¢ a Meal $145.90; PW Meal Fund $25; Flower Fund $23; Memorials to PW $100; Cemetery Fund $25; Withdrawal from Scholarship C/D $600		+918.90
	Sub-Total	47,084.18
Expenditures: Employee w/holding taxes: IRS $1,510.55 & NCDR $39; Love Offering for MacKenzie Smith $1,130; PW Memorials $450 & Food Fd $80		-3,209.55
Balance in Restricted Funds as of February 28, 2023		43,874.63

RECAP:

Operating Funds Balance	72,550.18
Building Fund:	+1,561.08
Restricted Funds Balance	+42,313.55
	116,424.81
Jan '23-Feb '23 Payroll Taxes on hand (FICA 970.99; FW/H 234.00; SW/H 56.00) + .12 Adjustment =	-1,261.11
2/28/2023 Checkbook Balance	115,163.70

OTHER REVENUES ON HAND:

Scholarship C/D with BB&T	21,552.86
Truist Financial Corp, Estimated value (4 shs)	+184.56
	21,737.42

Church Announcements

Birthdays
Sunday Flowers
Attendance
Thank You's & More!



- Our young adult Sunday school class is going to move in with the one in the Library.
- Sunday school will not meet on Easter Sunday.
- Our contemporary service (the first Sunday of the month) will begin in May or June. Stay tuned.
- Communion will return to the traditional style of disbursing the elements like before COVID.
- We will have our Spring Clean day at the church on April 22nd from 8 a.m. to noon.
- Flea Market approved for May 20th from 8 a.m. to noon.

April Birthdays



4	David Casey
5	Cindy Monroe
6	Katie Campbell Lucas
7	Shane Medlin
9	Judi Kelly
10	Reid Marshburn
11	Katie Kelly Crenshaw
11	Kayden Dean
11	Sharon McDonald
14	Michelle Tortora
16	Regena Nugent
18	Kelly Gordon
19	Ann Key
21	Lee McCaskill
26	Denise Bennett
26	Shirley Moore
30	Coy Oakley
30	Tina Stromko

April Greeters

2nd	Carol and Paul White
9th	Claudia McKenzie and Robert Hunt
16th	
23rd	
30th	

April SUNDAY FLOWERS

2nd	Ann Lynch
9th	Easter Lilies
16th	Doreen and Peter Little
23rd	Tracy and Bill Thomas
30th	Pat Jackson

Special Note: If you would like to place an Easter Lilly in the church April 9th in honor or memory of someone, please reach out to the church office by April 5th. Thank you!

February



	Sunday School	Worship
1st Sunday	23	59
2nd Sunday	28	52
3rd Sunday	24	50
4th Sunday	23	55
5th Sunday	0	0
Average	25	54

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, April 1st
Saturday, May 6th
Saturday, June 3rd

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!

Kathryin & Dale Buie are our newest members, please take a moment and welcome them as part of the First Presbyterian Church family!

"THANK YOU" CARD'S RECEIVED

Regina Nugent & Family: My family and I are so grateful for your continued thoughts and prayers. Please continue praying for a complete recovery if it is the Lord's will.

Barbara Danley: Dear Church Friends: I want to take this oppportuity to thank each and every one of you for the cards and kind thoughts but most of all for the caring prayers before, during, and after my recent surgery. I felt each of your prayers as the Lord stood by my bedside day and night. You are truly a cherished Blessing to me.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Sunday, April 2nd, there will be a special offering "One Great Hour of Sharing". This offering is a Presbyterian offering that will aid others in three ways: 1) "Disaster Assistance" in the event of natural disasters and to support refugees 2) "Hunger Program" to alleviate hunger and to find ways to permanently solve the problem, and 3) "Self-Development of People" to support those dealing with poverty, oppression, and injustice. Please consider making a difference in someone's life on April 2, Please Give!

BACKPACK PALS

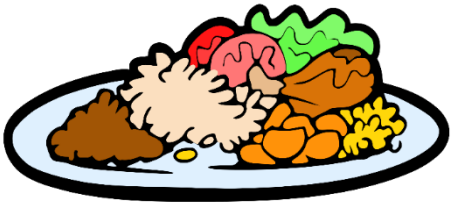
We are collecting peanut butter crackers and/or small boxes of raisins. Please place in the basket for Back Pack Pals.

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



April Meal Leaders:

6th JoAnn Wahala
13th Gail Hardin
20th
27th

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thanks to all who replied to the PW survey. Many helpful suggestions and ideas were shared for activities and fellowship activities and those ideas and suggestions are in discussion. As plans are confirmed, more information will be available. Currently craft classes are in the process of being scheduled and will be announced once scheduling is complete.

The PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the **Fellowship Hall**. All ladies are invited to attend. If you are a survey respondent that noted interest in the committee, please notify JoAnn Wahala (910-947-3238) and/or join this meeting.

The PW Circle/Bible study will meet Thursday, April 6, 2023 At 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. All are invited to attend.

The annual PW Birthday Offering will be collected on April 23, 2023. Information and envelopes will be provided.

The PW Coastal Carolina Spring Gathering "When Only Faith Remains" is April 22, 2023 at Red Springs Presbyterian Church, 115 N. Vance Street, Red Springs, NC. Amy O'Reilly, guest speaker and author will speak. There will be table displays from Camp Monroe, Children's Hope Alliance and more. Registration begins at 9:00 am. All are invited, if interested in carpooling from FPC, please notify JoAnn Wahala (910-947-3238).

CHURCH CALENDAR

April 2023

Saturday, April 1st	7:30 a.m.	Robbins' Food Bank, *meet 7 a.m. at FPC to carpool*
Sunday, April 2nd	9:00 a.m.	Administrative Committee Meeting
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Funday / Easter Egg Hunt
Tuesday, April 4th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	PW Coordinating Team Meeting
Wednesday, April 5th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, April 6th	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Morning Bible Study
Sunday, April 9th	7:00 a.m.	Easter / Sunrise Service / Breakfast
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
Monday, April 10th		Easter Monday – Office Closed
Wednesday, April 12th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, April 16th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship / Communion
	12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Youth group, Grades 7-12
Tuesday, April 18th	6:15 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, April 19th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday, April 20th		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
Saturday, April 22nd	8:00 a.m.	Spring Cleaning
	9:00 a.m.	PW Coastal Spring Gathering – Red Springs Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 23rd	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12
Tuesday, April 25th	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship & Mission Committee
Wednesday, April 26th	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday, April 30th	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Grades 7-12

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!