



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

## *First Pres News*

**January 2023**

153 N. Church Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
[www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org)  
252-446-9121



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I pray that you and your family had a safe and lovely Christmas. It is a magical time of year around the church, in the community, and in our homes. I hope that the celebration of Jesus' birth was especially meaningful for all.

Life around the church eases into the New Year. Folks are tired from the Christmas rush. The weather is cold and often wet. It is a tough time of year to get up the grit to go out and participate, so we are taking it easy for the first couple of weeks as we prepare for an exciting and uplifting spring semester.

Looking forward, we are anticipating: resuming our small groups, beginning a new small group or two, participating in worship, putting together another Evensong worship service, holding youth and kiddos events, and enjoying one another's company. The Spirit is moving and active in our church, and we are all excited about what might come next.

It is my prayer this month that you will experience rest and renewal. I hope that the short days and long nights provide you good sleep and a renewed sense of purpose and mission as we move through the winter months. If the winter blues get you down, don't hesitate to reach out. I'd love to brighten your day with a visit, a funny story about life at the Baker house, or a listening ear.

God bless you this January and all of 2023. May this year be one of hope, peace, joy, and love as we carry the Christmas spirit forward.

With love and gratitude,

Matt

*Pastor:* The Rev. Matthew Baker

*Community Pastor:* The Rev. Hannah Trawick

*Church Ministry Coordinator:* Dionne Seale

*Financial Secretary:* Jeanne T. Shannon

*Director of Music:* Jim Smith

*Organist:* Virginia Vance

*Sexton:* Michael Smith

*Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:* Charity Lodge

*Nursery Attendant:* Mary Hilliard

## Community Connections:

*We are the church in the community and the community in the church. This spot highlights a community initiative in Rocky Mount or a church mission at FPC that needs its story told. If you know of an organization, program, or person that our church should know about, please contact Pastor Hannah. And, know that this space is always an invitation. If you see something highlighted here that awakens your sense of call, reach out to Hannah—you never know how the spirit is moving!*

I read somewhere recently that North Carolina is the tenth highest state in our nation for people experiencing *food insecurity*, a term used to define the situation individuals and families find themselves in when they do not know where their next meal will be coming from or have very limited control over what it will be and the nutrients it will or will not contain. Approximately 20 percent of Nash County's population and 26 percent of Edgecombe County's faces food insecurity. There is a great need for affordable, healthy, and nutritious food to be dependably available and accessible in our town.

Enter Ripe Revival. You may know the name in relation to its founder, Will Kornegay, or perhaps one of their local produce or meat boxes arrives on your doorstep each week. Or, perhaps, more recently, you've seen one of their outfitted busses parked around town to host what they call a Mobile Market. Early in December, I met with Mike Avery, Community Cultivation Coordinator for the non-profit side of Ripe for Revival. Seated across from me in the big yellow chair in my office, Mike told me about these Mobile Markets, which began running in Rocky Mount just this past July, with the goal of reviving communities through locally sourced, affordable, nutritious food.

The Mobile Market is exactly what it sounds like—old buses are tricked out and outfitted to be mobile grocery stores filled with fresh produce and meat. Ripe Revival works with community partners to drive into the parts of town most affected by food insecurity. As folks shop, they visit with volunteers, have the dignity of picking their own nutritious, local foods, and learn potential recipes—would you buy an acorn squash if you didn't know what to do with it? The coolest part about it, I think, is the mobile markets embrace a pay-what-you-can model. At the cash register, shoppers are told what their market rate would be, and they pay what they can toward that total. It's a model that prioritizes dignity and grace.

It costs \$1000 for the Mobile Market to "show up" in a neighborhood. Churches and organizations front the cost for the mobile market to be able to do what it does. And the more often it shows up in a given location, the more trust it builds among the locals there. More lasting relationships are built, reviving a sense of cherished community.

When Mike left my office, I looked out at the big parking lot across the street from the sanctuary—one that sits empty all week long until Sunday morning. As I drove home later that day, I looked down Franklin Street and Grace Street and all the homes up Thomas Street. So many people live within a one-mile radius of our church, and we don't know them. I thought about how the church door bells have been ringing more and more recently with folks asking for food, and how I pack a bag of processed chips and crackers for them, knowing it will take away the pang of hunger, but do nothing to heal their malnourished bodies.

What would it look like for FPC to host a Mobile Market in our parking lot? What would it look like to host several a year? What would it look like to invest in the neighbors around our church, to form genuine relationships with them? To work with them toward their flourishing. It's not often that you see a burning bush these days, but I think the Spirit is at work through Ripe Revival, through First Presbyterian, and through the people of Rocky Mount. Perhaps we are being called into partnership?

With love,  
Hannah

## MAKES CENTS

Happy New Year! Please review the below church income and expense data for the month shown. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions.

Pledges and Loose Offering through November, 2022

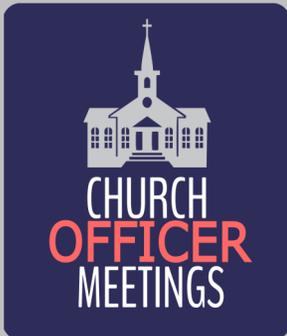
Month – to – date	\$ 28,108.55
Year – to – date	\$ 524,007.56
2022 Budget Goal	\$ 609,743



Expenses through November, 2022

Month – to – date	\$ 44,158.04
Year – to – date	\$ 575,865.73

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office by phone at 252.446.9121 or by email at [jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org). Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 -2:30 PM.



New Officer Ordination/  
Installation will take place  
Sunday, January 8, 2023 during  
worship.

**DEACONS**  
January 10, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

**SESSION**  
January 17, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

The church office  
will be closed January 2  
for the New Year's Day holiday  
and  
January 16 for the Martin Luther  
King, Jr. holiday.



# Holiday Blessings with our First Presbyterian Family...



In-Betweens  
Christmas Dinner  
December 6, 2022



Jack Perry was honored at Covenant Homes on December 4 with the naming of the Jack Perry Activity/Fitness Center in honor of his dedicated service! He was truly surprised!





Joy was abundant at the Joy Gift Music Program during worship on December 11, 2022

Sweet cherubs on the right!



Thank you to all who helped light the Advent Wreath candles this Advent Season. Above, Mary Ann and David Drumel on December 18th.



At right, our youth enjoyed a Christmas party at the home of Mari Robin and Frances Tharin on December 11, 2022.



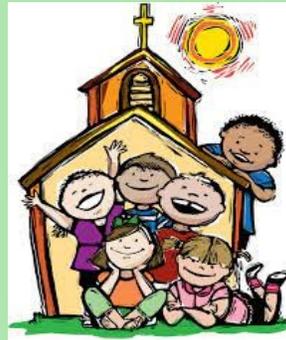
### Christmas Eve 2022



# *Mark your calendars as we ease into January!*

- ✓ January 6: Youth Breakfast @Dunkin
- ✓ January 8: Officer Installation, YG, Youth Parent Mtg.
- ✓ January 9: PWCT & Jt. Circle mtg on Jan. 10
- ✓ Brown Bag Bible study resumes Jan.9
- ✓ Tuesdays@2 resumes January 10
- ✓ January 10: Deacons Meeting
- ✓ Wed. Night activities resume January 11
- ✓ January 17: Session Meeting
- ✓ January 18: Handcraft Ministry
- ✓ January 19: Men's Breakfast Fellowship
- ✓ January 24: Christian Ed. Committee
- ✓ January 25: Community Engagement

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
FUN TO COME IN  
FEBRUARY!**



**KIDDOS IN THE KIRK:** On the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 3:30-5:00 p.m., our kids come after school for a time of music, wonder, and play! Structured like a mini VBS, we enjoy a healthy snack, singing, bible lessons, and recreation. Open to all kids in the community, this opportunity is a chance for our children to grow in relationship to one another, with the God who loves them, and with adults who care for and cherish them.

**Upcoming Dates:** Kiddos in the Kirk resumes February 6 and 20



**Youth Breakfast at Dunkin (on Sunset Ave.) - Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:45 a.m.**

**Youth Group—Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. (Youth Suite)**

**Youth Parent Meeting—Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Session Room**



**Youth Ski Trip is scheduled for January 20-22, 2023 at Wintergreen, Virginia**

## Presbyterian Women Update

The Presbyterian Women celebrated the Christmas Season with generous hearts and busy hands. They faithfully supported the Church, Peacemakers, Covenant Homes, and My Sister's House. The women decorated the church, collected and sorted goods, purchased, wrapped, and delivered gifts, and prepared and delivered food. They also celebrated each other with punch and goodies in the parlor. Good work, ladies!

The hearts of the Presbyterian Women are filled with hope for what is to come and pray that we all have a new year filled with joy, love, good health, and happiness.

- PWCT will meet January 9th at 10 am
- There will be a JOINT CIRCLE meeting January 10th at 10:30 am; Matt Baker will lead Lesson 5

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2022-23

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*

Sarah Gooding, *Historian*

Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*

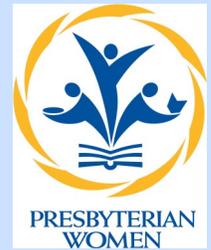
Myra Richardson, *Circle of Friends Leader*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

Martha Tesoro, *Together in Service*

Linda Amerson, *Circle of J.O.Y. Leader*





## WORSHIP HELPERS

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another  
with whatever gift each of you has received."  
1 Peter 4:10*

Date	Ushers	Time with Children
January 1	John Etheredge, Laura Dudley, David Dudley, Bobbie Lambeth	Matt Baker
January 8	Betsy McLean, Sarah Bailey, John Feagans, Virginia Feagans	Hannah Trawick
January 15	Linda Evans, Randy Evans, Jim Woodard, Vince Durham	Randy Adams
January 22	Laura Durham, John Turnage, Russell Proctor, Nancy Proctor	Matt Baker
January 29	Katherine Fisher, Paul Outlaw, Stephen Chesnutt, Chris Watson	Hannah Trawick



### Rocky Mount Chamber Choir Christmas Concert

December 18, 2022

*What a blessing for  
the community!*



# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

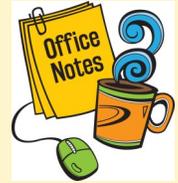


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc\_rockymount

**Contact Information Updates:** Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or [dionne.seale@fpcrm.org](mailto:dionne.seale@fpcrm.org) of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date. Church office hours are 9:00-4:00 PM Monday-Thursday.



*On behalf of the children of Nenyo Haborbor and myself, Ms. Florence, we say a very big thank you for presenting a computer to us. We appreciate your efforts to support us. The children are happy to have a computer at the center to boost their computer learning. Brother John Etheredge, God Bless you and bless all your church family. We are hoping to see you in Ghana again.*

(Since John Etheredge's service in Ghana was interrupted due to the pandemic, money that had been set aside to assist this effort was used towards purchasing a computer for the youth there.)

## Communications Deadlines

- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoons. The weekly email deadline is noon on Wednesday.



*THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to Chris Watson, Lige Daughtridge, and the Daughtridge Sales employees who helped with the Chrismon tree delivery and setup! Please thank them when you see them too! What a blessing to have these helpers!*

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for all the wonderful ways you made my birthday so memorable. I appreciate the cards, the phone calls, and the beautiful cake created by Hannah.*

*Every day I give thanks that I am blessed with such a caring church family.*

*Love,  
Mary Lou Fountain*



Honor someone or mark a special occasion in the coming year by signing up by the date you prefer on the flower chart that is posted on the bulletin board

outside the church office. Dionne Seale can place the order on your behalf at a cost of \$75 that will be billed to you or contact her for names of **approved** floral arrangers that you can contact and pay directly. Not only do we enjoy these flowers during worship, but they are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to those in need of cheer or celebration the following day.

**\*\*Donations are also accepted to the flower fund so the church can provide flowers on dates that are not assigned.**

*These upcoming dates are currently available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:*

*January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29*



The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Nancy Proctor and family upon the death of Nancy's sister, Charlotte (Charley) Ward on December 13, 2022 in Richmond, VA.



Congratulations to Beth and Tom Steed on the birth of their granddaughter, Sydney Elizabeth Shepherd, on November 8, 2022. Her parents are Paton and Ben Shepherd of Raleigh, NC and she has a proud big sister named Wynn.



*Our thoughts and prayers are with...*

**THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro**

▶ Tom Dill

**CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh**

▶ Dick Fountain

**ROCKY MOUNT REHABILITATION CENTER**

▶ Phyllis Goodwin

**THE LODGE—Rocky Mount**

▶ Sandra Luther

**BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount**

▶ Betsy Boddie

▶ Mike Braswell

▶ Cora Lee Gold

**TRINITY ELMS ASSISTED LIVING—Clemmons**

▶ Nancy Liipfert

**ADDITIONAL MEMBER CONCERNS**

Logan Barnes

Margaret Barnes

Tucker Carrier (U.S. Army)

Herman Ferguson

Earl Goodwin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Nancy Proctor

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Nancy Richardson

Maida Sessoms

Mark Stuart

Phyllis Toler

Mary Watson

Kay Wester

Susan Yenney

# More Community blessings during the holiday season...



Laura Dudley wrapping gifts at the Peacemakers Toy Store.

At right, PW Sponsored gifts for My Sister's house all wrapped and ready to go! Sarah Gooding and Martha Tesoro pictured.



Food Bag distribution at Tar River Academy



Covenant Homes Christmas Fun above with Tricia Vestal, Janice Smith, David Gooding and Nancy Richardson.



A big thank you to Stephen, Mary Powell and Elizabeth Chesnutt for helping distribute food boxes at Covenant Homes!

