



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

December 2023

153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.fpcrm.org
252-446-9121



THE STAFF OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
WISHES YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May your holidays be filled with the Hope, Peace,
Joy, and Love of Christ.

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
Intern for Youth & Technology: Zac Phelps



The Transition Committee met November 14 and elected Dan Crocker Chairman of that committee, reviewed the responsibilities of that committee with Rocky Stone and John Winings from the Presbytery COM. Laura Durham or her designated substitute will meet and greet each guest pastor that serves in the pulpit and the committee will provide monthly updates in the newsletter. It is good to inform the congregation that all pastor vacancies have been filled for each service for the remainder of this year, thanks to Kathy Johnson of the Presbytery. The committee looks joyfully toward fulfilling its responsibilities on behalf of the congregation.

KEEPING YOU Informed

The Administrative Committee is actively engaged with our staff to support their efforts during this time of transition. Many tasks formerly handled by our pastors are currently ending up on the desk of staff. For this reason, we are asking that our committees in the Diaconate and Session be mindful of managing what they are able, and that members of the congregation be thoughtful about requests for staff support, and in particular, use email when possible. Thank you for the kind words and deeds directed

to our staff as they go about the work of keeping First Presbyterian moving forward with purpose, faith and hope.

Again, here is a reminder of other committees helping handle church business during this time of transition:

Session—Session is working in consultation with Rev. Rocky Stone (pastor of FPC Farmville) who is FPC Rocky Mount's assigned liaison to the Commission on Ministry at Presbytery. Rocky will moderate session meetings and provide guidance to the session and Transition Team throughout the weeks and months ahead.

Pastoral Care— The Care Team on the Diaconate is undertaking a visitation rotation for members who are shut-in and/or facing acute health crises. If a new pastoral care concern arises, contact the Church Office. Dionne will let the Care Team know and they will follow up as soon as possible. Should a funeral request arise, the Transition Team can contact Presbytery for a presiding pastor.

Christian Education—Our Youth will continue to meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for dinner, fellowship, and devotion with Zac leading them. He has an awesome mission trip to Charlotte planned for December 1-3. Thanks to Dionne and a host of volunteers, Kiddos in the Kirk will continue on the 1st and 3rd Mondays where the kids will enjoy snack time, music with Mrs. Crocker, crafts, bible stories, and time to play.

MAKES CENTS

Merry Christmas! It's a joyous time of year when gratitude and love are in our hearts. Please consider this when sending in your pledge card.

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 October 2023
 Month – to – date \$ 18,870.00
 Year – to – date \$ 473,121.59

Expenses through October, 2023
 Month – to – date \$ 56,768.24
 Year – to – date \$ 540,112.52



Stewardship season is here! Each pledge is a blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for making your contribution:

- Sale of stock – Please notify Jeanne Shannon when you are planning to trade stocks for your pledge. She needs your name, stock names, number of shares and an expected trade time frame. **The stock sale process takes two weeks from initial trade date to receiving the check so it should begin in November to allow time to make the 12/31 deadline due to holidays.**
- Bank draft – This is a safe and steady way to consistently support First Presbyterian Church. It can be selected on your pledge card and attaching a voided check. The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25th of each month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, it is drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. The draft for your 2022 contribution would begin January 25th 2022. If you choose the bank draft, you can also stop it by contacting Jeanne Shannon in the church office 2 weeks before the 25th of that month.
- Envelopes – these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card
- Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line.
- Online giving – Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your pledge using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit www.fpcrm.org using the 'Online Payment' link in the top right corner to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

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



Merry Christmas

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for the Christmas Holidays.

STEWARDSHIP 2024 UPDATE

2024 Pledge Goal: \$630,000

2024 Total Pledges Received as of 11/27/2023: \$364,890

serving our neighbors!

Volunteers needed for the Annual Christmas Food Distribution!



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

9 AM - 12 PM

**PREPARE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION BY
PACKING FOOD BOXES
*GREAT FOR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS**

12:30 - 4 PM

**LOAD VEHICLES WITH FOOD BOXES
*ADULTS & YOUNG ADULTS**

GREAT FOR YOUTH THAT SEEKING TO FULFILL COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
SIGN-UP!



**ripe
revival**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
INFO@RIPEFORREVIVAL.COM

At right, Samaritan's
Purse Shoeboxes
from PW and
Handcraft
Ministry



Below, toys collected
for Peacemakers Toy
Store



Circle of Joyful Friends Donation of
Southside Academy Uniforms



PW Bedding Collection for
Sleep in Heavenly Peace



Above, Handcraft Ministry donated 50 comfort blankets and 10 fidget quilts to Pruitt Home Health and Hospice and below, a delivery of comfort blankets and fidget quilts to UNC Nash Healthcare



PW Collection of Cleaning &
Hygiene Supplies for My Sister's
House



Thanksgiving Meal Packing by FPC
Youth for Tar River Academy families



FPC Wine Tasting at Bin & Barrel



Serving each other!



Thank you to Catherine Lilley and Kate Herring for the lovely cornucopia in the sanctuary during Thanksgiving!



At right,
In-Betweens
Meal at home
of Pat Mauldin



Above, Youth Group with
Zac Phelps and at right,
Devo@Dunkin with Sara
Castellino



Music fun with Mrs. Crocker



Hannah's last Kiddos in the Kirk and the Handprint
Stole decorated by the kids

Presbyterian Women Update

Mark your calendar.....

The PWCT will host the Christmas Tea on Tuesday December 12th. There will be no program, just lots of holiday cheer. See the invitation in the newsletter for details.

In this season of giving, the Presbyterian Women have generously shared their time and talents with Peacemakers, Covenant Homes, My Sister's House, Southside Academy, Tar River Academy, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. In addition, the PWCT has continued its tradition of adopting a family for Christmas from My Sister's House. Items were thoughtfully purchased, wrapped, and delivered by the team.

In November, the PWCT recognized the Thank Offering with both the Circle and Congregation. We certainly do appreciate your thoughtful contributions!

- PWCT meet December 4th 10:30 History Room
- Circle of Joyful Friends gather for holiday cheer on December 12th at 10:30am (Session Room)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2023-24

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*

Sarah Gooding, *Historian*

Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

Linda Amerson, *Circle of Joyful Friends, Co-Leader*

Myra Richardson, *Circle of Joyful Friends, Co-Leader*



Presbyterian Women *Christmas Tea*

The PW Coordinating Team will host a
Christmas Tea gathering on
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
10:30 a.m. in the Session Room
No program, just lots of holiday cheer!



PW Thank Offering Gathering

November 14, 2023

Special Events!

In-Betweens



Christmas party!

TUESDAY **5** AT 5:00 PM

DECEMBER

TAVERN 19 - BELMONT LAKE GOLF CLUB

\$30 PER PERSON
RESPONSES WERE DUE BY
NOVEMBER 28 TO MARIE KEM AT
252-366-1343

At right, a free will offering will be collected at the concert to support a local charity. A reception hosted by our Deacons follows the performance and as always, the concert is free and open to the public.

ROCKY MOUNT CHAMBER CHOIR
AND COMMUNITY SINGERS



Christmas Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
153 N. Church Street • Rocky Mount, N.C.

[FREE ADMISSION]

- SELECTIONS TO INCLUDE -
JOHN RUTTER'S "GLORIA" WITH BRASS ENSEMBLE
CAROLS AND POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONGS WITH ORCHESTRA

WWW.ROCKYMOUNTCHAMBERCHOIR.COM



SIP & CHAT

A time for ladies to mingle and discuss a different podcast at each monthly gathering!

Thursday, December 14, 2023
5:30pm

Home of Emily Watson
[REDACTED]

Kindly inform Emily if you wish to be added to the current email distribution list!
[REDACTED]



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	Liturgist	Acolyte
December 3 Rev. Clayton Brooks	John Etheredge, Janice Smith, Linda Amerson, Ike Amerson	Anne Mosley	Margaret Barnhill
December 10 Rev. Gary Wires	Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Dillon Rose, Wicky Thorpe	Dan Crocker	Thomas Dill
December 17 <i>Rev. Joy Allridge with Communion served</i>	Sally Adams, Randy Adams, James Tharin, Kate Tharin	Jami Snow	Cate Powers
December 24 <i>5:15 pre-service music 5:30 Service of Lessons & Carols</i>	Ben Roberson, Valerie Roberson, Bridget Hathaway, Lige Daughtridge	John Etheredge, Anne Mosley, & more TBA	Elizabeth Chesnutt
December 31 John Etheredge, CRE	John Etheredge, Laura Dudley, David Dudley, Bobbie Lambeth	Meredith Cooper	N/A



Bible Studies

- Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in the FPC Session Room with David Drumel
- Our friends at West Haven Presbyterian would like to invite you to a Bible Study they currently are doing on the Disciples. They gather on Wednesdays at 11:00am in the gym (the building farthest away from their sanctuary) at 1001 West Haven Blvd.

Wednesday Night Fellowship



Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a covered dish meal at 6:00pm and then in the Session Room at 6:45pm for a program. We began a four week Advent Study on Nov. 29 based on Because of Bethlehem



KIDDOS IN THE KIRK

A time for kids 5th grade and younger to gather at the church, enjoy a snack, music with Mrs. Crocker, a bible story and FUN!
3:30-5:00

*December 4 - Advent Craft
Sun., December 10 - Sing in church!
December 18 - Honey Fun!*

Contact Dionne Seale if any questions!



Dec. 1-3

CROSS Mission Trip to Charlotte, NC

Dec. 10

Lunch and Gingerbread Workshop after worship

Dec. 17

Youth Group at 5:30 p.m.



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
December 12, 2023 at 8:30am

DEACONS
Assist with RM Chamber Choir
Reception, Dec. 17th at 4:00pm

SESSION
December 19, 2023 at 5:30pm

GINGERBREAD HOUSE FUN

Kids and Youth are invited to stay after worship for lunch and to decorate gingerbread houses that will be delivered to spread Christmas cheer to some of our members!

**DECEMBER 10, 2023
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
WORSHIP**



Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

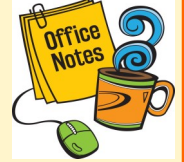


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc_rockymount

Contact Information Updates: Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org 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.



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*First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for the beautiful
flowers you sent in memory of our
dear mama. Our mama loved
serving your church and it was very
kind of you to remember her.*

Thanks again,

Chris Billups and Kim Billups Taylor

*Thank you so much for the lovely
flowers that graced the church
Sunday morning. I have enjoyed the
lovely fall colors that brought beauty
and joy to me each morning. This
small gesture makes me feel loved
and cared for.*

*Thank you again,
Hannah Diedrick*

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.

*Many thanks for
the lovely flowers.
I enjoyed my visit
with Martha and
the encouraging
letters from her
and Laura. I'm on
the mend now and
back to arranging
flowers.*

*Love,
Pat Judge*

*Dear Church
Friends,
Thank you for the
flowers, cards, and
prayers that I have
received through
the year. It means
a lot to me and I
appreciate your
kindness.*

*Sincerely,
Susan Yenney*



HONOR SOMEONE WITH A POINSETTIA

WE DECORATE OUR SANCTUARY BEGINNING DECEMBER 3 WITH BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS WHICH ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY YOUR DONATIONS TO HONOR AND REMEMBER SPECIAL FRIENDS/LOVED ONES. DONATION ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX OR CHURCH OFFICE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 12. A DONATION OF \$20 PER POINSETTIA IS APPRECIATED. ENVELOPES ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 15 AND CAN EITHER BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE ON SUNDAYS OR RETURNED TO DIONNE SEALE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. A SPECIAL BULLETIN REMEMBERS THE HONOREES ON CHRISTMAS EVE.



The 2024 Flower Chart for placing flowers in the sanctuary is available online at www.fpcrm.org or contact the church office for assistance.



- Family of Katherine Billups, former church secretary, who passed away November 3, 2023
- Catherine Liipfert and family upon the death of her mother and church member, Nancy Liipfert, on November 18, 2023
- Martha Barnes and family upon death of her mother, Marty Kincheloe, on November 19, 2023



our thoughts and prayers are with...

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- Dick Fountain

ROCKY MOUNT REHABILITATION CENTER

- Phyllis Goodwin

BREKENRIDGE—Rocky Mount

- Genevieve Batchelor

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- Betsy Boddie
- Cora Lee Gold

THE LANDING—Wilson

- Mary Watson

HARMONY OF FALLS RUN—Fredricksburg, VA

- Sue Jackson

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CONCERNS

Logan Barnes

Tucker Carrier (U.S. Army)

Earl Goodwin

Jeong Jin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

John Perry

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Maida Sessoms

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS



Join us on Christmas Eve,
Sunday, December 24, 2023.
Pre-service music begins at
5:15pm and the service will start
at 5:30pm.

*Please note: there will not be an 11:00am
worship service on this day.*

Welcome new member!



Trish Maxwell

Trish was born and raised in Rocky Mount. She is the oldest of five children and actually attended a year of kindergarten here at FPC (and has a photo to prove it)! Her parents built a house very near the newly established West Haven Presbyterian Church where she could sit on her tricycle and watch as the steeple was put into place. She attended and grew up in that church. She graduated from Meredith College and later earned a master's degree from ECU. Trish taught for 29 years in the local school system (grades 5-7 and a summer school stint at the high school level). She loves to read and frequently attends music concerts, plays, and baseball games. Trish also enjoys outings with friends & cooking if she doesn't have to rush! She has enjoyed participating in many FPC activities during the past several months!

Welcome new members!



Gene and Patty Prince

Gene grew in Rocky Mount, and retired from CSX railroad. He loves to fish and work on wood working projects. He has 1 brother and 2 sisters, all here in Rocky Mount. Patty grew up in West Palm Beach, FL. She moved with her 2 daughters to Wilson in 1984 and worked in Nursing for 8 years. Then, she went to BellSouth to work in marketing. Her older daughter is in chilly Minnesota. Her younger daughter, Elizabeth, is in warm, sunny, south Florida. She enjoys working in the yard, reading, and watching birds. They both love being outdoors, playing cards and spending time with friends. Patty and Gene are looking forward to worshipping and serving at FPC.