



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

February 2024

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

Hello, Folks,

This is my first monthly newsletter. I'm pleased to do so, because I can reach out to you differently from my Friday letters and Sunday services. That said, I'm certainly impressed with the energy and dedication I see among you. You try things, you pitch in, and you ask lots of questions. The rich tapestry of things you do brings the community of faith together. Many congregations today face severe issues relating to Covid's onset. Many stopped in-person worship for a whole year—meaning older people, young families, and the health-compromised dropped out.

Less so here I think. Last week I went to the potluck supper (delicious) and sat with the Choir singers. Lots of inside teasing and conversation—but I didn't at all feel like an outsider because they made me feel quite at home—explaining little nuances that I would have missed completely. Other examples abound. People stop in to introduce themselves and say hello—quickly adding that they don't expect me to remember their names, giving me the slack I need to get to know you. And Session, as they govern the church is careful to explain how FPC does things; but is quite open to my suggestions and new ideas. Why? They understand that "doing church" is very different from pre-Covid days. Before that famous saying, "15 days to stop the spread" came to haunt us as days turned into weeks and then into months as we watched the whole world come to a standstill. Yes, doing church is much different today.

Which brings me to the transition work before us. My job is to assist you in deciding what you want this church to become. Once determined, a church ministry profile will articulate the church to interested candidates. Certain pastors reading it will feel "tugged" by God and will be excited to talk further. And our pastor nominating committee will find the pastor God has already chosen to come lead you into an exciting and faith-filled future! So I'm excited for you and for our journey together over the coming months.

Grace and peace,

John

Transitional Pastor: John Winings, CRE, ACC

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

In-Betweens Fellowship
DINNER

Friday, February 23, 2024
5:00PM

**Covenant Homes
Dining Hall**

135 Covenant Court
Rocky Mount

Hosted by Janice Smith, Myra Richardson,
and Evelyn Reese

**No RSVP needed (Meat provided, please bring an
appetizer, side or dessert to share).**

It is time for some good
OLD FASHIONED
Fellowship...

**JOIN FPC FRIENDS FOR A BOURBON
TASTING!**



**STARTS
6PM**

FEBRUARY 15

Home of Anne and Mike Mosley

*Please bring an appetizer to share and if you don't
care for bourbon, feel free to bring a beverage of
your choice!*

Hosted by the Mosleys, Scotts, Watsons,
Turnages, Kinnairds, and Daughtridges

RSVP to Beth Turnage at (text) by
February 9, 2024

SIP & CHAT



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

Thursday, February 22, 2024
5:30pm

Home of Beth Turnage

*Kindly inform Emily if you wish to be added
to the current email distribution list!
emilybellwatson@gmail.com*

MAKES CENT\$

Greetings! 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 December, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 115,151.62

Year – to – date \$ 623,697.78



Expenses through December, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 45,379.39

Year – to – date \$ 627,201.23

Church office phone 252.446.9121

Jeanne's email jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30

STEWARDSHIP 2024 UPDATE

2024 Pledge Goal: \$630,000

2024 Total Pledges Received as of 1/29/2024: \$581,750

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FEBRUARY

Join us in the Session Room each Sunday in February to hear updates and ask questions of some of our community partners. Gather at 9:45AM and the program will begin at 10AM. Our guest speakers will also present a Minute for Mission during worship.

**SUN
04**

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Guest Speaker: Dorothy Hinton

BUILDING SHALOM

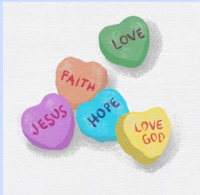
Guest Speaker: Lemanuel Williams

**SUN
11****SUN
18****TBD**

RIPPLE EFFECTS

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keisha Spivey

**SUN
25**



Serving our neighbors and each other!



These lap robes were crocheted by Georgia Stussie from West Haven Presbyterian. They each include the words Joy, Love, Peace and Faith in the lovely stitching. She crochets for the joy of doing it. It is her therapy! We are thrilled to have them for Handcraft Ministry!



Above, our Wednesday night regulars enjoyed a spontaneous fellowship meal at Pizza Inn on January 3, 2024.



Ripe For Revival Volunteers Needed!

TOGETHER, WE CAN
REVIVE
COMMUNITIES
THROUGH FOOD!

We are looking for volunteers to help bridge the gap between food excess and food access.

No experience needed!

ripe
revival



Volunteer Opportunities

- Mobile Market Program
- Cooking Cart Demonstrations
- Food Distributions
- Nutrition Education Activities

For more information, contact anneparker@ripe revival.com

2ND ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNT TRIVIA CHAMPIONSHIP

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR SOUTHSIDE ACADEMY

GOURMET DESSERT AND COFFEE BAR
SILENT AUCTION | CASH PRIZES

TEAMS OF 4 - \$100 ENTRY FEE
REGISTER AT [SOUTHSIDE.ACADEMY](https://southside.academy)

FEB 9
2024
7:00PM

@ RISE CHURCH
3520 BISHOP ROAD
ROCKY MOUNT, NC



Kiddos in the Kirk learned all about bees and honey from Andy Warner and our helper Lynn Warner on January 8!



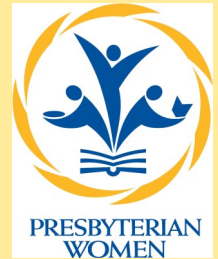
Presbyterian Women Update

With January in the rearview mirror, it's time to look forward to the sweetest month of the year! February is the time to celebrate love of family, friends, pets, ourselves and especially our neighbors. Let this year **leap** in your heart and give you one more day to live and enjoy life with loved ones and simply love one another (John 13: 34).

Attendance for Circle continues to be strong and participation in projects is outstanding. For their winter service project, the Circle will continue to support "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". If you haven't already done so, please bring either a twin size comforter set or pillow to the volunteer office. Monetary donations are also being accepted.

* Upcoming events: Easter Lily Sale

- PWCT will meet Monday, February 5th at 10:30 in History Room
 - Circle of Joyful Friends will meet Tuesday, February 13th at 10:30 in Session Room
- ** Bible Study Lesson 6 - leader Linda Amerson



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*



The Circle of Joyful Friends have been collecting bedding materials for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

PW Annual Report

First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount embraced challenges with change during the year of 2023. The growing needs of our community, church and congregation continued to be met with open hearts. 45 women pledged their support to the PW this year. For various reasons, it was decided that the existing two Circles would combine into one. Circle of Friends and Circle of Joy are now the Circle of Joyful Friends. Each month the members gathered to study, learn and to share in service to others. At least 22 women came together to study New Horizon's *Sacred Encounters*. We participated in the Birthday offering, the Least Coin offering and the Thank Offering. We supported our own through our card ministry, flower ministry, and handcraft ministry. We supported the Littrell – Thorpe scholarship fund through the sale of Easter lilies and were able to offer funds to 7 of our college students. Along with our church, food drives and supply drives allowed us to contribute to Peacemakers, Southside Academy, and United Community Ministries. We worked together and continued to meet the changing needs of our congregational family, the residents of Covenant Homes, the students and staff of Tar River Academy, the children at Peace Makers, the women and families at My Sister's House, and the missions of the Agape Village. We joyfully look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead.



January 9th
Circle of
Joyful Friends
Meeting—
always a
joyful time
together!





WORSHIP HELPERS

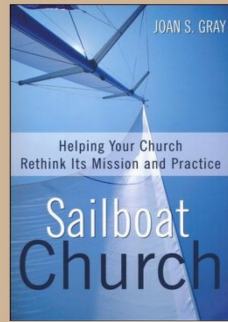
"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

| Date | Ushers | Liturgist | Acolyte |
|--|---|-----------|-------------|
| February 4 | Mike Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor, Betsy McLean, Sylvia Phillips | TBA | N/A |
| February 11 <i>Communion will be served</i> | Laura Dudley, Diane Dixon, Valerie Roberson, Ben Roberson | TBA | N/A |
| February 18 | Laura Durham, David Snow, Jami Snow, Dillon Rose | TBA | Cate Powers |
| February 25 | Katherine Fisher, Tom Steed, John Feagans, Jim Woodard | TBA | Thomas Dill |

Our Class of 2026 Officers were ordained/installed on Sunday, January 28th during worship.



Thank you to Rob Barnhill (Elder), Diane Dixon (Elder), Richard Hunt (Elder), Ann Dill (Deacon), Anne Kinnaired (Deacon) and Ben Roberson (Deacon) for heeding the call to serve.



Join us on Wednesday nights for a covered dish meal at 6PM in the fellowship hall followed by a program at 6:45PM in the Session room.

Starting February 7, we will begin discussing the book, Sailboat Church by Joan Gray, former moderator of the PCUSA. Books should be available for pick up on January 31st.



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!

February 5, 2024 - Diane Dixon assisting

February 19, 2024 - Janice Smith assisting



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 Lenten Bible Study they will have on the following dates: Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3rd. Plan to gather on Wednesdays at 11:00am in the gym conference room (the building farthest away from their sanctuary) at 1001 West Haven Blvd.**



2024

February 2-4

Youth Ski Trip to Wintergreen, VA

February 18

Youth Group in Youth Suite (5:30-7PM)
Sara Castellino - chaperone
Emily Watson - meal provider

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

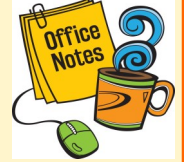


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



⇒ Sarah Bailey: please do not use Sarah's hotmail email address. She is in the process of getting a new email address.



- *To Mary Watson upon the death of her brother Jesse F. Rowland of Petersburg, Virginia on December 22, 2023.*
- *To the family of Char Mather who passed away on January 7, 2024.*
- *To the family of Leslie C. Mullins who died on January 25, 2024.*

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.



Stop by to meet our Transitional Pastor, John Winings, who is in the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays.



Starting February 18, donate towards a lily to celebrate a special loved one and/or special people in your life! The Presbyterian Women will place Easter lilies in our sanctuary on Easter, Sunday, March 31. Deadline is March 24! A donation of \$20 or more per lily is appreciated and envelopes can be found in the narthex or church office.



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

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

John Perry

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Maida Sessoms

Bobbi Weeks



THE 2024 SANCTUARY FLOWER
CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE IF YOU
WANT TO EITHER SIGN UP WITH DIONNE
IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OR VIA THE
WEBSITE FOR A SUNDAY TO
HONOR/REMEMBER SOMEONE AND
SUPPORT THE FLOWER MINISTRY OF FPC.



The Season of Lent

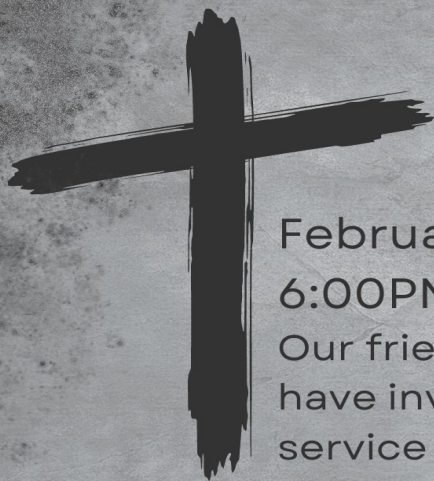
THE DEACONS INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER!

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, is a Christian holiday that falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

It is the last day before the start of the Lenten season, a period of fasting and repentance that lasts for 40 days. The day is traditionally celebrated by making and eating pancakes as a way to use up foods such as eggs and milk before the start of Lent.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6-7PM | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY FEB. 9
AT 446-9121, PRESS 2 OR EMAIL
OFFICE@FPCRM.ORG**



Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024

6:00PM

Our friends at West Haven Presbyterian have invited us to an Ash Wednesday service to be held in their sanctuary.

1001 West Haven Blvd.

No Wednesday Night Meal this evening.