



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

## *First Pres News*

**January 2024**

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



Welcome to our new transitional pastor—  
John Winings!

We look forward to John starting with us the  
week of January 15th!

John Winings brings a variety of both industry and church experience to First Presbyterian Church. He served in sales/marketing, technology licensing, and manufacturing capacities before coming to North Carolina in 1990 to work as a change executive in a variety of venture-backed firms. He comes to us from First Presbyterian Church of Wilson, having guided them through the process of securing an installed pastor. Prior to that he assisted in similar transitions at FPC Goldsboro and Mount Olive Presbyterian Churches. Now in his 11<sup>th</sup> year in pastoral ministry, pastored Butner Presbyterian Church and started what became Discovery Church in Archer Lodge.

John and his wife Debbie live in Wake Forest where they were charter members of Wake Forest Presbyterian Church. They currently are members at White Memorial in Raleigh. They have three grown children, five grand-children, two great-grandchildren and are overjoyed to be raising eleven-year-old granddaughter, Emma! Following his call to Clayton, John was called as director of a New Hope Presbytery validated ministry in Haiti called CODEP, an environmental reclamation/reforestation project in Haiti. Debbie and he lived there for five years following the earthquake, learned the language, and he later wrote a three-volume history of the project. Also during this time he served as Interim Executive, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, PCUSA. A certified coach in the International Coaching Federation, John is active serving the presbytery, currently as co-chair of the Commission on Ministry.



*Transitional Pastor:* John Winings

*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



**Adult Female Chaperone needed for Youth Ski Trip!**  
**Wintergreen, VA**  
**February 2-4, 2024**

- Preferably with an SUV to transport luggage
- All expenses covered including fuel and a private bedroom with a queen bed at the house being rented.
- If you ski or snowboard, the cost of rental equipment and lift ticket will be covered as well.
- Safe Sanctuary Background check required if you have not done so already.
- Notify Zac Phelps at [zac.phelps@fpcrm.org](mailto:zac.phelps@fpcrm.org) asap if available!

## MAKES CENT\$

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, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 35,424.57

Year – to – date \$ 508,546.16

2024 Budget Goal \$ 630,000



Expenses through November, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 41,709.32

Year – to – date \$ 581,821.84

Church office phone 252.446.9121; press 5 for Financial Secretary

Jeanne's email [jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org)

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

## WORSHIP LIVESTREAM ISSUES

We are aware that the  
livestream audio has not been  
working properly and there is a  
team working to find a solution.

Thank you for your patience  
as we hopefully find a  
resolution soon!

The church office  
will be closed January 1  
for the New Year's Day  
holiday and  
January 15 for the Martin  
Luther King, Jr. holiday.

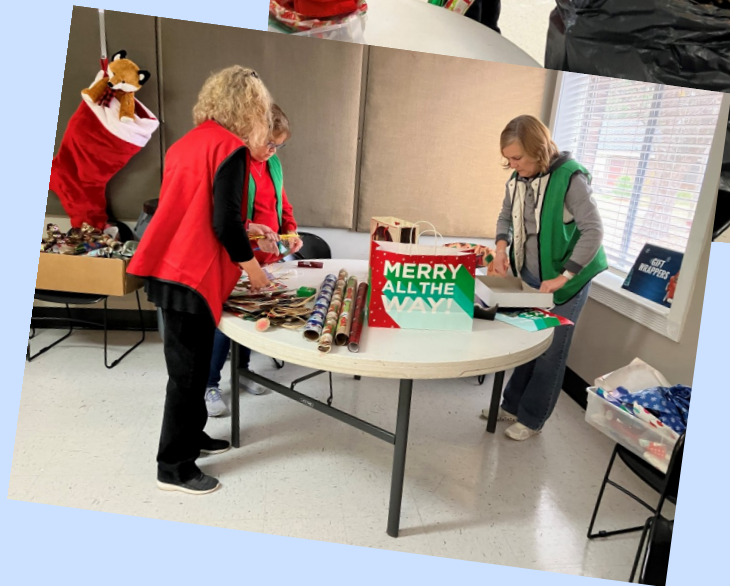




# Serving our neighbors and each other!



Peacemakers  
Toy Store



Covenant Homes  
Christmas Party







FPC Youth  
CROSS  
Mission Trip  
Dec. 1-3



Above, Kiddos in the Kirk fun  
on Dec. 4 and below,  
Gingerbread  
Workshop & lunch on Dec. 10



In-Betweens  
Christmas Dinner  
Dec. 5





## Presbyterian Women Update

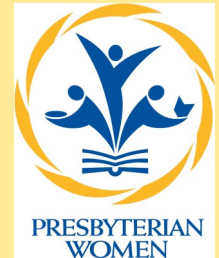
Happy New Year!

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.

The Presbyterian Women celebrated the Christmas Season with generous hearts and busy hands. They faithfully supported the Church, Peacemakers, Covenant Homes, My Sister's House, Southside Academy, Tar River Academy, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. For the December Tea /Circle Meeting, the PWCT set the mood by turning the ho-hum session room into a festive space. Linda Amerson and Myra Richardson graciously led the meeting. The ladies had a grand time celebrating the season with Janice Smith's delicious apple cider and lots of yummy holiday goodies. And of course, everyone enjoyed the traditional reading of a heartwarming Christmas story by Roz Gragg and the thoughtful party favors from Laura Dudley!

- PWCT will meet January 8th at 10:30
- The Circle of Joyful Friends will meet January 9th at 10:30 (Lesson 5)

Note: January Project is Sleep in Heavenly Peace



### 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*



PW elves  
wrapping gifts to  
help those in  
need!





PW Christmas Tea  
December 12, 2023





## 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
January 7 Rev. Joy Allridge	Ben Roberson, Joe Brown, Julia Brown, Janice Smith	TBA
January 14 Rev. Kimberly Rubish	Vince Durham, Dee Whitley, Tricia Vestal, Chris Watson	TBA
January 21 John Winings, CRE, ACC	Randy Evans, Linda Evans, Bobbie Lambeth, John Turnage	TBA
January 28 John Winings, CRE, ACC Ordination/Installation of New Officers	Russell Proctor, Nancy Proctor, Ann Dill, Jep Rose	TBA

*Thank you to Anne Mosley and the Worship team helpers who did such a beautiful job with decorating our sanctuary and surrounding areas during Advent. Thank you also to John Etheredge, Jim Smith, Jennie Vance and ALL who made the Christmas Eve service so special!*





**2024**

**January 21**

Youth Group in youth suite (5:30-7pm);  
dinner provided

**February 2-4**

Youth Ski Trip to Wintergreen, VA



**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!*

*January 8, 2024 - Kate Tharin  
assisting*

*January 21, 2024 - Lynn Warner  
assisting*

*Thank you to all who volunteered to  
help in 2024! All dates are filled!*



**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.**



**Resumes January 10, 2024!**

Covered dish dinner at 6:00pm and  
program in the Session Room at  
6:45pm.

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

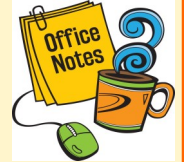


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



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*Sue Jackson would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of her First Presbyterian Friends who gave her all the wonderful gifts. Two of her Rocky Mount friends drove up to her new apartment in Fredericksburg, VA and delivered the gifts. She appreciates all the thoughtfulness, prayers and love!!*

*Sincerely,*

*Marie Kem on behalf of Sue Jackson*



*Thank you, my First Presbyterian Church, for loving me and holding me up in prayer! I am planning on winning this wicked battle with cancer!*

*God bless you all,  
Bobbi Weeks*

*Dear Church Family,*

*I didn't think it was possible but Hannah has outdone herself again. What a beautiful birthday cake—adorned with a lovely pink camellia.*

*The icing on the cake (pun intended) was a delightful visit with Beth High.*

*Thank you so much for continuing to be such a loving church family.*

*Mary Lou Fountain*

## 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.





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.



- Family of Susan Yenney who passed away on November 30, 2023
- Family of Amy Braswell Boyd of Youngsville, NC who died on December 3, 2023. She was the daughter of the late Miley (Mike) Braswell.
- Mike Mosley and family upon the death of his mother, Juanita Mosley on Dec. 5, 2023.
- Kay Wester upon the death of her brother Clarence Williams of Wilson, NC on Dec. 8, 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



# CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

