

First Presbyterian Press

November, 2023

Hello Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

This is a celebration message. Praised be the Lord, for a wonderful congregation at First Presbyterian! We hosted New Hope Presbytery meeting with more than 200 people last Saturday, October 28. There were about 60 volunteers from this church who worked hard planning and leading this event. And the music of the choir and special musicians was fantastic. Thank you, Chris Watkins.

For people who might not be familiar with the Presbytery, it is the gathering of 111 Presbyterian churches all the way from Efland NC, Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Smithfield, Roanoke Rapids, Greenville, Wilson, Goldsboro, New Bern and Outer Banks. There are three meetings per year: one in February, one in July and another in October. They rotate meetings among different churches, each church sends their pastor and 1- 3 elder commissioners, depending how big the church is. The people who attended last Saturday were so appreciative of your smiles and your welcoming spirit. So, thank you, thank you! And then, Sunday, October 29, we organized our annual Trunk-or-Treat event. We were gladly surprised to have at least 300 children and their families who came to enjoy this festive event. This is what one of the leaders wrote on our church Facebook:

“WOW what an evening! Our Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success this year! Thank you to the 17 families who offered up their time and vehicles for trunks, to the Pattersons for cooking and giving away over 300 hot dogs, to the Staffords, Lancasters, and Nahunta VFD for providing the fire truck, to our pastor, Noé, or “DJ Chimichanga” as he called himself, and to so many others! None of this would have been possible without you! We are blessed to have this beautiful church building and grounds and to have each other!! If you have any pictures from tonight, please post them and tag us! The drawing for our basket raffle will be Tuesday, and the winners of our trunk competition will be announced Wednesday, so keep a look out!

Our next Trunk-or-Treat will be Sunday October 27, 2024, 4-6 p.m. Please go ahead and mark your calendars. We dream there will be hundreds of children enjoying candy and a great family-oriented community event.

This is also stewardship season. Sunday November 12, 2023 is our Stewardship Sunday (Consecration Sunday). We encourage you to bring your financial pledges

prayerfully and with a cheerful spirit. I know how generous and how dedicated this church is; no doubt we will meet our financial goals for next year. We give thanks to God that we have all the staff members, and they are doing a fantastic job; and of course, we want to continue being a mission-oriented church both locally and globally. Thank you for your contributions and for serving the Lord passionately.

I also want to thank Rev. Bob Bardin who will be preaching November 19th. I will be at the Society of Biblical Literature annual conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Lastly, it is Thanksgiving month. Let us thank God for all his blessing, *for God is good and his love endures forever*. We will have a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15th. Prior to dinner, we will share pictures and stories from our participants of our recent Mexico Mission trip, and we will let you know about our next mission trip. And thank you to those who are helping with the Turkey Giveaway Saturday November 18th. What a wonderful community of joy. Happy Thanksgiving and save me a turkey leg.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Noé Juarez

Officer Duties

	Elders	Deacons	Back Door Monitors
Nov. 5	Barbara Bradshaw	Demis Perez	Bud Fidler
Nov. 12	Meredith Gurley	Grace Foster	Ann Hunter
Nov. 19	Barbara Bradshaw	Randa Scott	Coleen Leeper
Nov. 26	Jason Blackburn	Bud Fidler	Tim Haithcock

Deacon in Charge: Marilyn Bateman
 Co-Deacon: Charlie Rouse



For the month of November 2023

Bryson Bateman, Kim Brogden, Philip Brogden

CONGREGATIONAL BOOK CLUB

The Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club. We will meet the first Thursday of the Month.

November 2nd - *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Vargas

Dec 7th - *A Pilgrimage to Eternity* by Timothy Egan

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our Men's Breakfast continues to meet weekly at 7:00 A.M. at the Lantern Inn. We are using the study guide, "The Gospel of John for Everyone," by N.T. Wright. This is a weekly event from September to May. All men are invited.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

Fall: September 13 - November 15 Winter: January 17 - March 20

Adult Bible Study: 5:30 - 6:15 Mission Trip Presentation: Nov 15th at 5:15

Choir Practice: 7:00 Thanksgiving Dinner: Nov 15th at 6:00

Turkey Giveaway

Our annual Turkey Giveaway will be on Saturday, Nov. 18th starting at 9:00 a.m. This year we will be giving away 150 turkeys with the fixings! In order to guarantee uniformity in the bags that we distribute, we are requesting donations of specific food items and sizes. These are the items needed for each bag:

- 28 oz. Green Beans
- 28 oz. Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- 28 oz. Corn
- 14-16 oz. Rice
- Box of Stuffing Mix
- Jar or Can of Gravy
- A pumpkin bar mix (or a similar bar mix) or brownie mix for dessert



Please consider donating food to fill a bag (or multiple bags) for a family. Food can be dropped off on the tables at the Ash St. end of the gym beginning Oct. 30th. If you would prefer that we do the shopping for you, we will gladly accept monetary donations. Please see Ann or Teresa if you'd like to make a monetary donation. The deadline for donating food items is Nov. 12th. Thanks for your help with this valuable community mission project!

TRUNK OR TREAT

On behalf of Youth, Children, and Christian Education, thank you so much to everyone who's helped make Trunk or Treat a success! Thank you for volunteering, cooking, supporting, and praying for this event! It would have been impossible without you!

AFTERSCHOOL SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

For November and December, we will be combining our pre-k and elementary groups so that we can have one larger group to work with! We will be meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45. Right now we have 11 children and have space for just a couple more! We would also love any volunteers that would like to come and play with us and learn Spanish! Just email Laurie Juarez at noeylaurie@gmail.com if you're interested.

FPC CHRISTMAS JOY PROJECT

We are preparing for the beauty of the Season with our annual FPC Christmas Joy Project. We will again be supporting families of children in the community. We will be able to share joy and love with these families by providing much needed clothes, food, other necessities, and a few special treats. Please be in prayer for how you can help with this outreach in the coming weeks. Detailed information will be available the week of Thanksgiving. The bulletin board in the main hallway next to the entry table will be ready with all the details. Please feel free to contact Lisa Royall at lisaroyall1111@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

ADVENT BAGS

This year, Family Advent Kits will be available for families to pick up in the lobby on Sunday, November 26th. These kits include an Advent calendar full of activities and everything you will need to do them as a family throughout the Advent season. The Family Advent Kits are geared towards young families, but anyone is welcome to pick one up! The purpose of this is to grow closer to your families this year as you also grow closer to God and celebrate the birth of our Savior! Please let me know if you have any questions! I look forward to this holiday season with you! ~Paige Corbett

Please visit our church website. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



November Birthdays!



1 Emily Byrd

1 Janis Dees

1 Beth Kannan

2 Elbert Brown

2 Gilbert Brown

4 Anna Best Lee

4 Sue Wooten

5 Melissa Warren

6 Ashley Jordan

6 Betty Rose Sutton

8 Tim Haithcock

11 Lisa Royall

12 Madelyn Percise

12 Richard Kruer, Jr.

14 Martha Ann Korschun

14 Doug Urland

18 Elizabeth Spicer

19 Carol Branch

20 Edwer Caceres

21 Nona Andrews

21 Rev. Noè Juarez

21 Beatrice Byrd

22 Teresa Smith

23 Georgia Dees

23 Susie Sumner

24 Frank Best

24 Eddie Radford

27 Grace Boros

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women and friends, please join us for Bible study and fellowship. Ms. Chris Martin will present our Bible study, "A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ" Luke 8:43-48. Evening circle, Monday, November 6, 7:00 p.m., parlor **or** Morning circle, Tuesday, November 7, 10:00 a.m., in the parlor. Come to whichever meeting suits your schedule. Our bake sale will be held on Sunday, December 3rd following the Children's musical.

A Thank You Note!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you, thank you for recognizing me with the Outstanding Older Adult Award. To worship and serve with you is a joy and a privilege. In this sacred place, FPC, I am at home.

At Presbytery's award service, I proudly but humbly represented our church where faith and love and gratitude abide, where Fred and I have been members for almost fifty years, where our children grew up.

Thank you for sharing God's love with our family. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Thank you again for this special honor.

In Christ's service,

Rosalyn Lomax



Poinsettias in Honor or Memory

If you would like to place a poinsettia in honor or memory of your loved ones, orders can be made by using the envelopes in the pews or by emailing your request to fpcgold@ncrrbiz.com. The donation is \$10 per name. The deadline is December 3rd.



Music Ministry

Notes from Chris Watkins



“Miracle at the Christmas Café”

Sunday Morning – December 3, 2023

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Followed by a Holiday Bake Sale in the Gymnasium by the WOC!

The nine-member Children’s Choir will present the musical of a small café in downtown Bethlehem who experience a rash of unusual diners who tell of strange happenings in the town one night.

Our children will be joined by members of Stage Struck Theater who will be the guests in the cafe. There is a strange man who is dressed in black who quotes Scripture continuously while enjoying the cuisine from Chef Mac N. Cheese and his wife, Tater Tots. The three sassy waitresses include Polly Porkchop, Mary Meatloaf, and Henrietta Hamburger!

Be our guest on the delightful musical! No reservations are needed!

The Music of Christmas

Sunday Night – December 10, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the second Sunday night in December! Your wonderful Chancel Choir, Choir Soloists, Guest Soloists, and Symphony Orchestra will present the third annual service of song – “The Music of Christmas” for the church and surrounding community. Following the service, a gala reception will be held in the gymnasium where the congregation and musicians will be able to greet one another and revel in the joy of the season.

Soloists include Ann Hunter, Lee Futrelle, Matilda Parker, Samantha Martinez, Todd Williamson, Evelyn Hagans-Jones, Katherine Lakoski, Reann Staab, Josh Allen, and Dale Stine. Guest reader for the evening will be our own Mary Taneti.

Many Christmas favorites, such as “Ave Maria,” “Joy to the World,” and “I Believe” will be sung, as well as new arrangements of music for the season.

The Chancel Choir has been working very hard to learn their parts during this busy fall season. Extra rehearsals have been called, and “Chris-in-a-Box” CDs have been played constantly in order for each singer to know their parts perfectly.

The doors of the sanctuary and balcony will be open to the public at 6:30 p.m. We are again expecting a full sanctuary so plan on coming early to get a good seat.

The Handbell Choir is Touring!

Bruton Parish Church
Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia
Friday Night, December 15th at 8:00 p.m.

The fourteen-member Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro will be presented in a command-performance concert at the famed Bruton Parish Church in downtown Colonial Williamsburg in December. Last December the choir was presented in concert in this church and received a two-minute standing ovation at the conclusion of their performance. The choir was asked to come back this Christmas and ring for the visitors and residents alike as part of the Candlelight Concert Series presented by the church.

Nine pieces have been selected to be rung for this performance. Arrangements of such classics as “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “We Three Kings,” “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” will be rung along with arrangements of Christmas carols for handbells and congregational singing. The concluding selection will be “Welcome Christmas” from “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

If you cannot come to Williamsburg to hear the Handbell Choir on December 15th, do not despair. The Handbell Choir will ring a 30-minute concert of prelude music prior to the morning service here at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 17th.