



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

October 2021

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

Dear Friends,

Once again, we move into my favorite season of the year. The autumnal weather brings relief from the oppressive heat and humidity. The colors, flavors, and feel of fall all blend to create a season of peace before the isolation of winter sets in. I've especially enjoyed walking through the neighborhood, listening to music.

Life around the church belies the sense of peace in the weather. We have festivals, drives, parties, classes, special events, and more. Church feels more like a winter flurry than a calm autumn afternoon. To that end, I invite you to choose where you feel led to participate, knowing that participation in everything is impossible!

Of particular excitement is:

- *Worship- especially on 10/3 with our guest preacher and Stewardship Lunch.
- *Music- bell choir, choir, and a special evensong service in November.
- *Study- at the Mills, the church, and in homes.

Following Jesus is a continuing process of growth, grace, honesty, and love. These are best experienced in worship and communal activities. I pray that one or more of our offerings will suit your spiritual needs during this unique season of life. Our ultimate hope is a living, vibrant relationship with the crucified and risen savior.

Finally, not all of us find the change in seasons to be a relaxing and enjoyable experience. For some, it is a reminder that life doesn't always look the way we wanted it to. If you are struggling, please don't struggle alone in the silence. Reach out, and we'll meet you wherever you are.

God bless each and every one of you this season and always.

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

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR



When I worked as a college chaplain, my students came to me one day and said "we want to organize a Smile Campaign for all the helpers on campus." "Great, I'm in" I said—"What's a Smile Campaign, and who are the helpers you have in mind?" Turns out, a Smile Campaign was really Appreciation Drive and the helpers—well, they were the cafeteria workers and the grounds guys, campus security and the student health practitioners, our custodial staff and our library technicians. The helpers were the people in the background that didn't get the Thank You Notes or the publicity but whose service and personalities were crucial to the workings of the campus. The students contacted the list of each department, got the names of every individual, spent hours one weekend making cookies and writing hand written notes, and on that Monday, they organized a group of peers to trounce around campus in the rain delivering cookies and notes to all the unsung heroes who worked tirelessly in the background, making campus the safest, healthiest, and most beautiful it could be. My former students saw the act of appreciation to be a priority in how they spent their time and how they interacted with people around them. I learned a lot from them.

Appreciation is a life-skill, a practice, and a commitment. Appreciation is a spiritual discipline, modeled by God when God fashioned the sea and the sky and vegetation on land, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, land mammals and humans—God created, God appreciated, and God rested. Over and over again, God repeated "And it was good."

As such, appreciation is gratitude out loud. If gratitude is a feeling within us that wells up and makes us feel warm, appreciation is the action that is prompted from it. Appreciation names the good out loud; it acknowledges the other person's humanity; it proclaims to an individual that you see their worth, and that their existence matters to you. Appreciation says "I see you. I love you. Thank you—you make a difference in my life."

Moreover, appreciation is a gift simultaneously given and received. While it is a gift we give to others, appreciating others is also a gift we give ourselves. It retrains our eyes to focus on the positive, to practice grace, and to live with hearts wide open. When so much around us tells us to turn inward, to protect what is ours, to be leery and wary, practicing appreciation helps us to open ourselves up to our community and to relationship—appreciation helps us to live the way Jesus lived.

So as you read this little note and ponder gratitude, appreciation, and the like, who are the people in your day-to-day life who make a difference to you? Who are the people in the background that make your day-to-day life possible (i.e. grocery stockers, waiters and waitresses, custodial staff, housekeepers)? And how do you let these people know that they matter to you?

Because, after all, appreciation is the language of love. And love is our call.

Know that you are eternally loved. Your service to this church is appreciated. And you matter—not because of what you do, but because of who you are.

Hannah

MAKES CENTS\$

The church income and expense data for the month shown is available for review. 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 August 2021

Month – to – date \$ 23,559.31

Year – to – date \$407,347.01

Expenses through August 2021

Month – to – date \$ 45,242.41

Year – to – date \$383,676.05



Church office phone—252.446.9121, option 5

Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

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

IN-BETWEENS GATHERING

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Friday, October 15, 2021

5:00 pm

Home of Pat Mauldin

Rocky Mount, NC

**Chopped barbecue chicken and beef
will be provided. Please bring an
appetizer, side or dessert to share.**

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From your hosts:

**Attend only if you have been
vaccinated so we can enjoy a
mask free evening indoors.**



FALL @ FIRST PRES

SUNDAY SCHOOL



A time to gather at 9:45am to, study, learn, question, and grow in our discipleship as a community. Options include: PEP (Presbyterians Educating Presbyterians), Middle School Sunday School (Oct. 24, Nov. 28), High School Sunday School (Oct. 3, Nov. 14, Dec. 12)

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE TALK

Meeting at 10:30am over coffee and pastries, this is an informal time to gather in the fellowship hall each week for fellowship before the worship service. Come to belong and to claim each other; come to love and be loved.



KIDDOS IN THE KIRK



Running around, playing games, learning about Jesus and serving others, this is a time for our youngest members to form meaningful relationships with their peers, advisors, and pastors. This offering is open to all kids, Pre-K through 5th grade. Additionally, this group will go on a few fun outings throughout the fall—like reverse trick-or-treating on Oct. 28 and Christmas Caroling on Dec. 5! We will gather for our regular meetings from 3:30-5:00pm on Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 6 at the church.

YOUTH GROUP

Whether it's a 6:30am breakfast at the Highway Diner before school, Sunday School or lunch with the pastors, time to hang out and have fun, or time to serve, our youth have weekly opportunities to gather together, fellowship, and grow in their faith. A full youth schedule was given to parents and youth at the Sept. 12 Kick Off Party but check texts and emails often for schedule updates.



BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

Gathering every Monday at noon for a Pastor-led Bible study, Brown Bag is a time for fellowship, prayer, connection, questions, and study. It's a time to gather with friends to explore our faith and grow together.

TUESDAYS@ 2

Join Dionne and church friends on Zoom every Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 to practice mindfulness and meditation, tools for navigating life when it gets stressful, lonely, or uncertain.



HERETICS GROUP

Meeting at the outdoor courtyard at Rocky Mount Mills, this Heretics Group is a space to wrestle with big questions of faith and doubt and say the quiet parts out loud together, like: is the Bible still even relevant? What if God is not conscious? What does our faith mean in our modern reckonings of racism, sexism, and gender-identity? Can I be a Christian if I believe _____? Of course, this is best done over food and beer (for those who wish). Join for a spirited conversation of fun and fellowship!

Fall Dates: Sept. 16, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m.



SIP N'CHAT SMALL GROUP

The Sip and Chat Small Group will gather over wine and cheese in the homes of members to fellowship, commiserate, celebrate, pray, and learn together, centering conversation on a shared and agreed-upon book or podcast. Potential authors /thinkers include Rachel Held Evans, Anne Lamott, Glennon Doyle, Jen Hatmaker—and any others participants recommend!

Fall Dates: Sept. 23, Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11 & 23, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

FIRST OUT AND ABOUT

Join Hannah and community members at various small groups around town.

Depending on the setting and purpose, these small groups might involve worship, bible study, conversation, prayer, or fellowship.

Brookdale Senior Living: Sept. 13, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 13

Covenant Homes: Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Alternating between a bible study led by Senior Pastor Matt Baker and speakers from the church and community, this group gathers at 5:00pm on Wednesdays to study the origins of the Early Church and ponder what that means for the Church today. On alternating weeks, we will learn about things going on in the community, passions of our church members, and a little bit about our staff, too!

HANDBELLS

Meeting every Wednesday evening at 6:40pm, our Handbell Choir makes a joyful noise in rehearsal and occasionally in worship. Come experience how the spirit moves in song, and enjoy time with other ringers and our music staff!



CHOIR

Following Handbells, our vocal choir meets at 7:30 on Wednesdays and helps the congregation worship through song each with with introits, anthems, and hymns—oh my! We need more voices, we hope you (yes, you) will join us!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

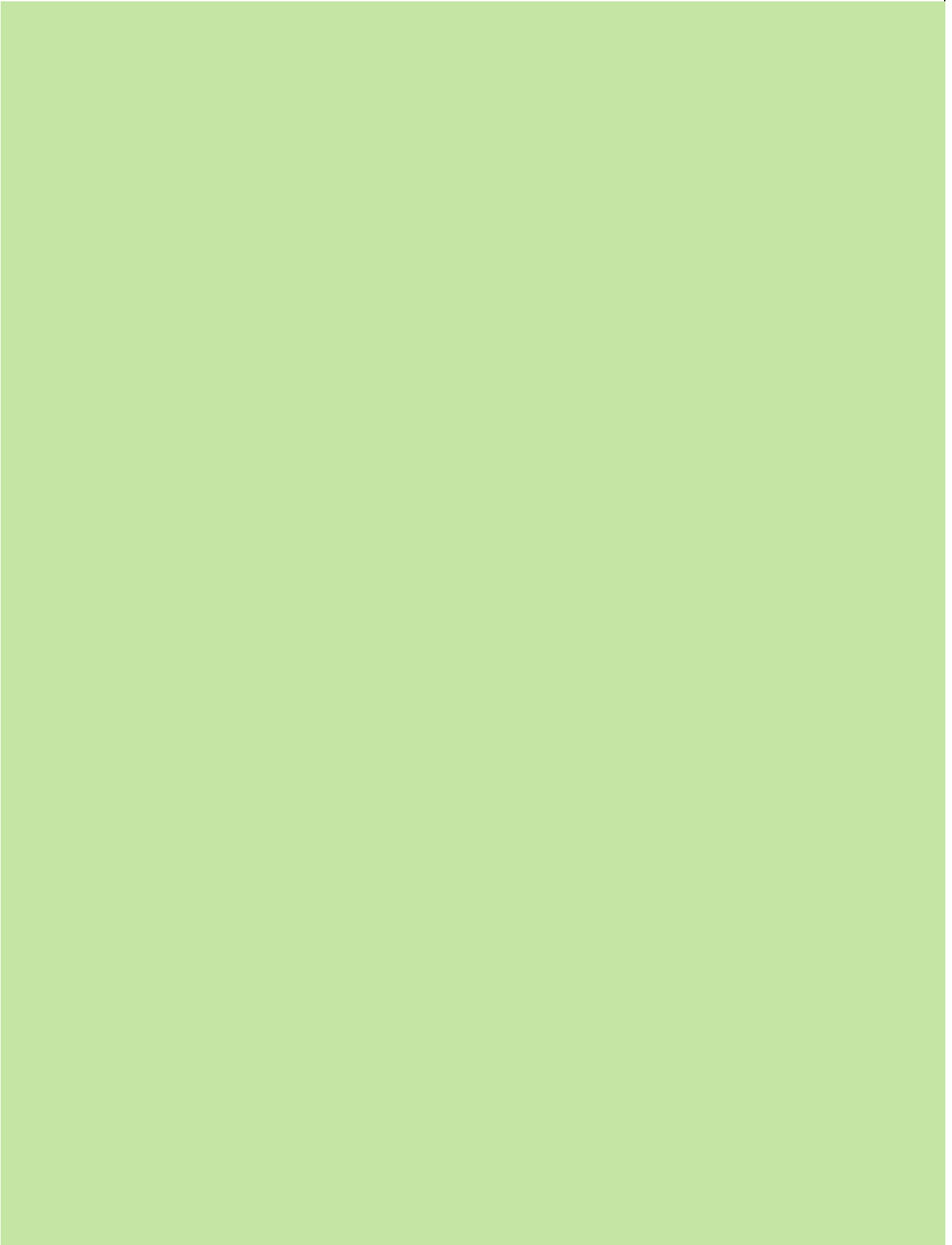
The Presbyterian Women are gathering monthly to study “Lessons My Grandmothers Taught Me.” With one circle meeting during the day and one at night, there is something for everyone. Come serve, learn, and fellowship together.



Community Partners October Focus: Agape Village Orphanage and School

A detailed list of items needed will be shared soon! Items can be brought to the big blue barrel located in the narthex vestibule outside the sanctuary.

We are grateful to support the ministry of the Agape Village Foundation!



Presbyterian Women Update

In September, the ladies met in their respective circles for Bible study. The circles are supporting the Community Partners fall service project : Peacemakers. In addition, the circles made flood buckets for those suffering damages from the recent storms.

It's never too late to join a PW circle - we cordially invite ALL women to join us each month as we gather together to glorify God through fellowship and to study God's word.

Please look for updates from your circle leader regarding circle meetings. Thank you for understanding that in the age of COVID, everything is subject to change.

- PWCT will meet Monday, October 4th in the History Room at 10 a.m.
- Circle of Friends will meet Monday, October 11th at 5:15 p.m. in the church parlor (**new time); lesson begins promptly at 5:30 p.m.
- Circle of JOY will meet Tuesday, October 12th in the Session Room at 10:30 a.m.

****Bible Study Lesson 2 "Tamar"**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2021-22

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*

Tempie Fuller, *Circle of J.O.Y. Leader*



SUNDAY 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	Children's Sermon
Oct. 3	John Turnage, Dee Whitley, Christie Sondergard, Paul Outlaw	Randy Adams
Oct. 10	Meredith Cooper, Diane Dixon, David Snow, Lee Scott	Hannah Trawick
Oct. 17	Lige Daughtridge, Annie Daughtridge, Rob Barnhill, Chrissy Barnhill	Matt Baker
Oct. 24	Vince Durham, Marianne Farris, Jep Rose, Chris Watson	Randy Adams
Oct. 31	Randy Evans, Linda Evans, Ben Roberson, Valerie Roberson	Hannah Trawick

Top Reasons for Being a Soprano:

- When sopranos want to sing in the shower, they know the tune.
- It's not like you are ever going to sing the alto part by accident.
- How many world-famous altos can you name?
- When you get tired of the tune, you can sing the descant.

Top Reasons for Being an Alto:

- You get really good at singing E flat.
- You get to sing the same note for 12 consecutive measures.
- If the choir really stinks, it's unlikely the altos will be blamed.
- Altos get all the great intervals.

Top Reasons for Being a Tenor:

- Did you ever hear of anyone paying \$1000 for a ticket to see The Three Basses?
- You can show the sopranos how it SHOULD be sung.
- When you get really good at falsetto, you can make tons of money doing voice-overs for cartoon characters.
- Gregorian chant was practically invented for tenors. Nobody invented a genre for basses.

Top Reasons for Being a Bass:

- You don't have to tighten your belt to reach your note.
- Action heroes are always basses. That is, if they ever sang, they would sing bass.
- You get great memorable lyrics like "bop, bop, bop" and "boom chick-a-boom."
- If the singing job doesn't work out, there's always broadcasting.

Join us!

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Handbell Choir

Wednesdays at 6:40 pm
beginning September 15, 2021

- ♦ Deacons—October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Session Room.
- ♦ Session—October 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Session Room.

WORSHIP UPDATE

Effective August 23, 2021

Session has voted to return to wearing masks when in the church. This is temporary measure, and we will continue full worship with singing. Thank you for your understanding.

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

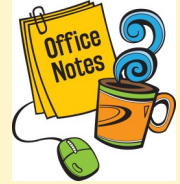


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



Thanks so much to FPC for the calls, cards, and flowers after my accident. I'm on the mend and getting out a little more.

Your thoughtfulness means so much.

*Sincerely,
Pat Judge*

Thank you so much for the flowers. They are lovely and I am enjoying them so much. They really should have gone to Betsy—she did all the work planning, keeping the pool clean, getting the food and making it a success. I just let you use my driveway. You are always welcome. Thank you again for the flowers.

*Fondly,
Hannah Diedrick*

The church building is accessible to visitors Monday—Thursday from 9:00-4:00 p.m.

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 afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Wednesday.

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 copy room. 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 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:

October 10, 17, 24, 31

Congratulation to the following:

- Nancy Richardson on the birth of her granddaughter, Reese Ann Richardson, on September 22, 2021. Her parents are John and Shellie Richardson of Raleigh, NC
- Laura Durham on the birth of her grandson, McCoy Garrett Oliver, on September 25, 2021. His parents are Ryan and Rachel Oliver of Nags Head, NC



our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

► Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

► Dick Fountain

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

► Betsy Boddie

► Mike Braswell

► Cora Lee Gold

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

L.M. and Margaret Barnes

Augusta Daniel

Mary Kathleen Duncan

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Phyllis Garriss (mother of Meredith Cooper)

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Emily Kicklighter (friend of the church)

Nancy Liipfert (staying with son in Winston-Salem)

Patsy Manning

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Gerry Niece (friend of the church)

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Anne Wilgus Podesta

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Hosia Smith (brother of Michael Smith)

Preston Smith

Scott Solether

Phyllis Toler

Alice Watson (daughter-in-law of Mary Watson)

Willette Williams (daughter of Charity Lodge)

Susan Yenney

Stewardship Sunday
Sunday, October 3, 2021

As we ask you to begin contemplating and discerning your pledge for 2022, we will have some special events. Johnny Evans, former NFL and Canadian League punter and quarterback and current radio sportscaster for Wolfpack football, will be our guest preacher. Following worship, there will be a taco bar lunch from Moe's Southwest Grill with PB&J for the kiddos. We hope that you'll join us as we worship our Lord, fellowship with one another, and celebrate God's love. Pledges will be dedicated during worship on October 24, 2021.