

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

May 2025

www.pcanet.org
Church Website: www.ellerbepca.com

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From the Pastor:

“The Christian and Spiritual Warfare”

The apostle Paul begins verse 10 of chapter 6 with the word “finally.” I wonder what his readers were thinking when they heard that word. “Finally” does not always signal he is nearing the end of his letter (Phil. 3:1). Here it does. The apostle is about to “land the plane” and does so in a surprising, interesting, and strategic way. He begins in verses 10 by informing the Ephesians that they are engaged in spiritual warfare. They need to “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might” because their struggle is not against mere human powers but against spiritual forces, Satan and his minions. The church and Christians need to be aware of this. The church needs to realize that it is engaged in spiritual warfare. Believers need to know the same.

Isn't it interesting where this comes in this letter. It is after Paul has spent two and a half chapters instructing and exhorting the Ephesians how to “walk worthy of the calling to which you have been called ...” (4:1). They are to “be imitators of God as his beloved children...” (5:1). They are no longer to walk as the world around them walks but rather live holy, upright lives (5:3-14). They are to walk wisely not foolishly (5:14-21). Of particular note is 5:21—6:9 where the apostle explains how the Ephesians are to submit “to one another out of reverence for Christ” (5:21). That includes marriage relations, parental relations, and labor relations. What does that mean? It means that if you try to live out the biblical principles for marriage in a culture which opposes those principles you can expect Satan to do his best to bring strife to your marriage. It means that if you want to raise your children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord” you can expect Satan to do his best to cause trouble. It means you decide that you are going to live by biblical principles in the workplace Satan will oppose you. In other words, when you decide you are going to try extra hard to live for Christ in this fallen world you should expect opposition from the evil one. Don't be surprised by it.

So, what is the Christian to do? He is to put on “the whole armor of God” so that he can “stand against the schemes of the devil” (6:11-8a). Most importantly, the believer is to give himself to prayer (6:18b-20). He is to pray for pastors and missionaries; he is to pray for other believers; he is to pray for the church. Christians often set out anew to serve the Lord only to be surprised that they meet trouble at every turn. We ought not be surprised. The apostle Paul warned us that it would be that way. Yet he also told us what to do – fasten on the belt of truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, shod our feet with the gospel of peace, take up the shield of faith and take the helmet of salvation (6:14-8a). And put on each piece with prayer (6:18b-20). Expect spiritual opposition and prepare for the battle. In the word of George Duffield, “Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone; the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own. Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer; where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there” (*Stand up, Stand up for Jesus*).

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Stan

From the Session

Rev. Layton called the stated meeting to order on Wednesday, April 9. Tommy White opened with prayer. A quorum was declared by Rev. Layton and his scripture reading came from Acts 1:6. All members of the Session were present. Usual perfunctory Session business was held and then proceeded to our ongoing and new business.

The Session received the following reports: 1) Church Treasurer's monthly report; 2) Mr. Layton's monthly report.

A season of prayer was held for the sick and bereaved in our congregation and our communities, thanking God for his tender mercies and continued help and guidance.

The following occurred during new business:

- A thank-you was given to the Clerk of Session for his passing of the recent Sessional Records Examination.
- Approval of a Facebook page for the church.
- Approval of a speaker from JAARS for the Women's Ministry meeting on April 29.
- Approval of the annual church report to be sent to Presbytery.
- Approval of the church obtaining a credit card to be used for ordering materials, etc.

The next stated meeting will be May 14, 2025. The meeting adjourned and closed with prayer by Rickie DeWitt.

Jimmy Wagers, *Clerk of Session*

Congratulations

Sydney Claire McInnis was born to Ryan and Caitlyn McInnis on March 17th at 5:13 am, weighting 2 lbs. 9 oz. and 15 in. long Syndey is the granddaughter of Dale and Thomassa McInnis.

Women's Ministry Update

April was a busy month for the Women's Ministry (WM). Thank you to everyone who helped with the covered dish luncheon on March 30th for Revival and the Maundy Thursday covered dish meal on April 17th. The annual Easter Egg and Scavenger hunt on April 19th was a success and the youth enjoyed pizza after the hunt. A special thanks for the men for cooking breakfast for the Easter Sunrise Service on April 20th.

The WM monthly meeting is April 29th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Chairman of Christian Growth Beth Bryant has a presenter from the Jungle Aviation and Radio Service (JAARS) who will share information about their worldwide ministry. JAARS uses aircraft, boats, and off-road vehicles to spread God's word to unreached people. The WM has supported JAARS for many years with financial donations and prayer. Everyone is invited to the presentation at 6:30 pm. The WM business meeting will follow the presentation. There will not be a meal. For more information about the JAARS ministry, visit www.jaars.org.

The May meeting is Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Patricia McCormick will provide a meal and will lead lesson 5, Controlling Our Finances, from the study book *Fruit of the Spirits; Mastering Our Passions*. All ladies are welcome to come!

Beth Meacham, *WM President*

Church Officers:

Ruling Elders

- Bill Carter, Elder Emeritus
- Tim Clark
- Rickie DeWitt
- Chris Meacham
- Richard Smith
- Mark Tyson
- Jimmy Wagers
- Tommy White
- Tony Yates

Deacons:

- Patrick Bryant
- Tim Grotenhuis
- Jesse McQueen
- Buck Smith
- Kevin Stivers

WM Officers

- Beth Meacham, President
- Chrystal Weatherly, Vice-President
- Jan Stivers, Secretary
- Patricia McCormick, Treasurer
- Barbara Wagers, Historian
- Sandra Futrell, Mission to the World Chair
- Lori Clark, Mission to North America Chair
- Beth Bryant, Christian Growth Chair

May Anniversaries

1 M/M Caleb Smith
14 M/M Patrick Bryant
15 M/M George Bolger
26 M/M Kevin Stivers
26 M/M John Schrenker



27 M/M Matthew Blades
30 M/M Ronnie McLendon
31 M/M Chris Meacham
31 M/M Mike Wagers



Happy
Birthday
May

1 Matt Wagers
1 Connie McLendon
2 Jim Watson
7 Steve Bryant
8 Timm Dazey
8 Stan Layton
11 Jan Stivers
12 Jimmy Richardson
12 Caleb Smith
15 Meg Burton
20 Mike Wagers
21 Mitchell Carter
26 Dusty Stewart
26 Chris Richardson
26 Chris DeWitt
30 Ruby Dunn



PRAYER LIST: President and other national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Glenda Allen, Steve Allen, Samuel Austin, Beverly Sears Barber, Christian Barrett, Daniel Brown, Tess Bryant, Billy Carter, Mary Ellen Carter, Ted Carter, Vergie Clark, Kevin Conner, Ronald Lee Cook, Kevin Craven, Tony Craven, Alli Cundy, Cindy Daniels, Nancy Daugherty, Barry Dawkins, Sharon DeWitt, Ruby Dunn, Ellerbe First Responders, Carsyn Faile, Fred Fletcher, Mark Futrell, Deborah Greene, Jessica H., Becky Henderson, Pete Herron, Joey Jernigan, Melanie Johnson, Shirley Lovin, Bonnie Mabe, Jerry Mabe, Donna McCormick, Bill McFayden, Patsy Dunn McIntyre, Julia McIntosh, Barbara McInnis, Caitlyn McInnis, Sydney McInnis, Shannon McNeil, Jerry Meacham family, Ricky Monroe, Trevor Moss, Morgan North, Leo Poole, Sophia Potterfield, Daniel Ryne, Janie Rhyne, Barbara Sears, Doris Sears, Tina Sellers, Herman Stutts, Tim Ward, Tony Ward, Mica Way, Amanda Watson, Christie Weatherly, Donna White, Hayley White, Curtis Wright, unspoken requests.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May 2025 Sunday School Assembly is in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, classes are at 10:15. Worship service is at 11:00				1 7:00 pm Choir Practice	2	3
4 5:45 pm Called Session meeting 6:00 pm the Lord's Supper & Worship Service	5	6 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting	7 6:00 pm Prayer meeting	8 7:00 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9	10
11 Happy Mother's Day! 6:00 pm Worship Service	12	13	14 6:00 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting	15 7:00 pm Choir Practice	16	17
18 6:00 pm Worship Service	19	20	21 6:00 pm Prayer meeting	22 7:00 pm Choir Practice	23	24
25 6:00 pm Worship Service	26	27 6:30 pm Women's Ministry Bible Study & meal 7:00 pm CCP meeting at Christ Covenant PCA	28 6:00 pm Prayer meeting	29 7:00 pm Choir Practice	30	31