

# The First Edition

## First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

March 2024

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

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### From the Pastor:

#### “It All Started with a Prayer Meeting”

Just to remind you, our annual Revival meetings are scheduled for April 14—17. Our keynote speaker this year is Dr. O. Palmer Robertson, a founding member of the Presbyterian Church in America, perhaps most well-known for his classic book *The Christ of the Covenants*. For our theme Dr. Robertson has chosen “Praying for Revival,” with Psalm 85:6 being our theme verse – “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? (ESV)” With that in mind I am looking at various passages which somehow relate prayer to revival. For March I want us to consider Acts 1:12-4.

Here we basically have a prayer meeting which occurs shortly after Jesus’ ascension. And I want us to answer several questions. First, who is at this prayer meeting. For starters we have the church’s ordained leaders, which at this point is the apostles. But you also have some devoted women, likely many of the women who followed his ministry and stayed devoted throughout his death and resurrection. Mary his mother is there, as well as “his brothers,” at least some of whom are apparently converted now.

Second, we could ask “Why are they praying?” The likely answer to this question is found in Acts 1:4-8. Jesus had told his followers to wait in Jerusalem and promised them that not many days later they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, he had promised them that when the Holy Spirit did baptize them that they would be given power to be his witnesses, extending “to the ends of the earth.”

Third, notice how they are praying. We are told in verse 14, “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, ...” First, note there is a unity that goes along with their praying together. They are praying “with one accord.” Second, note that it says they “were devoting themselves to prayer.” The apostles use the same language in Acts 6:4 to explain why they need helpers to take care of the needs of the widows – so that they could devote themselves more fully to “prayer and the ministry of the word.” The word “devoted” carries the idea of giving oneself wholeheartedly to something and persevering in it. How often we give up quickly if God does not answer our prayers quickly? Yet scripture consistently tells us that God waits to act in favor of those who wait on him (Is. 30:18).

Fourth, we might ask, “What are they praying?” Likely they are praying Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit. He had promised them that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and empower them to be his witness. It was a promise and because Jesus always keeps his promises they might have reasoned – “Well then, we have no need to pray; Jesus will send his Spirit whether I pray or not.” Yet that is not the way they reasoned because that is not the way God acts. He not only ordains the end; he also ordains the means. He often accomplishes his purposes in answer to the prayers of his saints. It is also helpful to remember that God loves nothing more than having his word brought back to him in the form of prayer. We see the apostle Paul doing that very thing in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21.

Finally, we ask, “Did the Lord answer their prayers?” The answer is a huge “YES!” In Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, three thousand people are saved. If that is not enough, in Acts 4 five thousand more are saved. And the rest of Acts as we see the gospel leaving Jerusalem heading through the rest of Judea into Samaria and unto the known world, we see “mini-revivals” breaking out here and there. And as the gospel went forth God used ordinary men and women to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6b). And it all began with a humble prayer meeting in some “upper room” in Jerusalem with probably less than 25 people.

Now of course, God does not tell us how when his Spirit will move in a mighty way and bring revival; yet we do know that he does work through prayer. And he especially works through prayer meetings. So, when is our church having prayer meetings? Well, it begins in corporate worship. If you have noticed, I am praying for our revival each week in the pastoral prayer. Another opportunity is our Wednesday night prayer meetings. Third, we will be having prayer meetings at noon on Monday through Wednesday of Revival week. Fourth, we will be having a pre-service prayer meeting at 6:30 PM each night of Revival week. Finally, we will be having an area pastor pray for revival as one element of our evening worship service during our Revival week. And of course, all of us are encouraged to pray on our own, individually and in families. So, let’s start praying and just wait to see what the Lord does.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Stan



## WIC Update

The annual church membership directory has been published and copies are available in the vestibule. There will be a covered dish dinner on Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 6:00 pm with the Circle hosting it prior to the service. There will also be a breakfast served by the men after the Easter sunrise service on Sunday, March 31 at 7:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend both of these events.

Beth Meacham, *WIC President*



Circle ladies met on Tuesday night, February 27th, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. President Sandra Futrell welcomed everyone and opened with prayer. After a delicious meal prepared by hostesses Donna White and Beth Bryant, Beth presented lesson five from our book **Fruit of the Spirit – GENTLENESS** entitled, “The Gentleness of Wisdom” based on James 3:13-18. In this lesson we learn that there are two kinds of wisdom – there is earthly wisdom that causes chaos in our lives and there is Heavenly wisdom that provides the good fruits. Beth provided handouts with various Biblical cross-references related to our lesson and gave us a little history on the book of James, quoting some of the more well-known versus. She spoke of “Pura Vida” which is the national motto of Costa Rica that means the good life. For our lesson she referred to it as Pura Vida in Christ.

The Circle would like to thank all who helped with our Valentine’s luncheon and especially to Tim and Virgie Clark for cooking. We have had several comments on how good the food was and everyone was so appreciative for the meal.

Lori Clark delivered the food donations to Our Daily Bread. They were very thankful for all the food and especially for the sugar free items as they would serve diabetic recipients well. Thank you all for your donations to such a needed cause in our community.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be having our annual Salad Supper and invite all ladies to attend and bring their favorite salad to share. We will also be making plans for the annual Easter Egg/Scavenger Hunt as well – be on the lookout for more information coming in the bulletin soon!

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

## Announcements

- Our Revival services are scheduled for Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Our keynote speaker this year will be well known pastor, theologian and author, Dr. O. Palmer Robertson. Dr. Robertson will be teaching Sunday School on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as preaching in our morning and evening services on the 14<sup>th</sup>. All evening services will begin at 7:00 PM and will be preceded by a prayer meeting at 6:30 PM. We will have men from our presbytery preaching in the evening services Monday through Wednesday. We will also be having a noon prayer meeting on Monday through Wednesday. Everyone is encouraged to mark these dates on your calendars now and make plans to attend as many services as possible
- Pastor Stan will be away on vacation March 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Timm Dazey will be filling the pulpit to preach and lead worship in both the morning and evening services on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be no prayer meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Church Officers:

#### Ruling Elders

- Austin Bryant
- Bill Carter, Elder Emeritus
- Tim Clark
- Rickie DeWitt
- Richard Smith
- Jimmy Wagers
- Tony Yates

#### Deacons:

- Patrick Bryant
- Tim Grotenhuis
- Chris Meacham
- Jesse McQueen
- Buck Smith
- Kevin Stivers
- Tommy White

#### WIC Officers

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



**Happy  
Birthday  
March**



**PRAYER LIST:** President and other national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Christian Barrett, Jason Bennett, Austin Bryant, Donna Buckeridge, Neal Cadieu, Billy Carter, Mary Ellen Carter, Ted Carter, Vera Carter, Vergie Clark, Kevin Conner, Ronald Lee Cook, Tom Covington, Kevin Craven, Tony Craven, Alli Cundy, Cindy Daniels, Sharon DeWitt, Scott Dunn, Ellerbe First Responders, Fred Fletcher, Mark Futrell, Mary Ellen Grotenhuis, Bella Haynes, Becky Henderson, Pete Herron, James Heywood family, Melanie Johnson, Pam Lynthacum family, Robert McCaskill, Donna McCormick, Bill McFayden, Patsy Dunn McIntyre, Lee McKenzie, Julia McIntosh, Shannon McNeil, Jimmy Meacham, Mickey Meacham, Zachery Meacham, Peyton Monroe, Trevor Moss, Morgan North, Doug Parsons, Eddie Parsons, Elizabeth Potterfield, Sophia Potterfield, Doris Sears, Tina Sellers, Betty Smith, Jane Smith, Katie Tyson, Amanda Watson, Christie Weatherly, Jewell Weatherly, Hayley White, Curtis Wright, Vera Wright, unspoken Requests

- 1 Jesse Futrell
- 7 Patricia McCormick
- 10 Barry McCormick
- 15 Alex Bryant
- 24 James Meacham
- 27 Jay Wagers

**Happy  
Anniversary  
March**



- 23M/M Richard Smith
- 23M/M Tom Covington

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 2024	<b>Sunday School Assembly is in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, classes are at 10:15. Worship service is at 11:00 am Sunday mornings in the sanctuary.</b>				1	2
3 5:30 pm Evening worship service	4	5	6 6:00 pm Bible study/ prayer meeting 7:00 pm Deacon's meeting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 5:30 pm Evening worship service	18	19	20 6:00 pm Bible study/ prayer meeting	21	22	23
24 5:30 pm Evening worship service	25	26 6:30 pm Circle meeting, fel- lowship hall	27 6:00 pm Bible study/ prayer meeting 7:00 pm Session meeting	28 <b>6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Dinner &amp; Service</b>	29	30
31 <b>7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service &amp; breakfast</b> <b>10:30 am Worship Service</b> <b>(no Sunday school)</b> 5:30 pm Evening worship service						