

# The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

May 2024

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

Volume XXXIV Edition 5

## From the Pastor:

### “Did We Have Revival?”

We just had a week of revival services, but did we have “revival”? Well, of course, if we judge revival by great revivals in the Bible and throughout church history, the answer seems to be no. We did not see mass numbers of people crying out for forgiveness of sins and coming to Christ. Yet it is not quite as simple as that. First, we don’t know how many people were converted and likely will not know until we arrive in glory. I know for a fact that there were people who were impressed that they heard preaching like they had never heard. Second, while there were apparently not mass conversions, I do earnestly believe that many, if not most of us, did experience conviction of sin and the blessedness of forgiveness (I know I did.) Third, just as with the awakenings on college campuses in the past year, the verdict is still out. So, how will we know if we have experienced revival, whether individually or corporately?

Let’s start with some quotes and illustrations. Derek Thomas states, “When revival comes there is an awareness of God’s presence, a responsiveness to Scripture, a sensitivity to sin, a joyful amazement at the generousness of the gospel, and a liveliness in church activity.” Ben Franklin, who to the best of our knowledge was never converted but was an admirer of the great evangelist George Whitfield (to the point of publishing Whitfield’s sermons) and an observer of the First Great Awakening, noted that subsequent to the conversions of the masses in the First Great Awakening psalm singing could be heard in every home in Philadelphia. Finally, Joel Beeke (on Ezra 6:14-22) writes, “When there is heaven-sent revival people go back to the word of God. No matter how much emotion or excitement or how large the crowds or impressive the acts of devotion, if there is no faith in and love for the scriptures there is no revival.” When revival truly comes, whether individually or corporately, there is a hunger and thirst for the Word of God and will to keep it.

We see this kind of thing happening in Acts 2. Just after 3,000 people are converted at Pentecost, we read in Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” We skip down verses 46-7a and read, “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.” The phrase “devoted themselves” is key. It has the sense of giving oneself wholeheartedly to something and staying with it. Individually or corporately, whether we have truly been revived will be evidenced by our hunger and thirst for more of the Word of God, our devotion to prayer (in our corporate meetings, in our family worship and in our prayer closets), and enjoyment of singing and fellowship with our brothers and sisters, our repentance of sin, and love for one another. Did we have revival? Let’s make sure we did individually and pray there is lasting evidence in the life of our church.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Stan

---

### 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



## WIC Update

The annual Women in the Church (WIC) Love Gift covered dish dinner was held Wednesday, April 10, at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The 2024 Love Gift will be given to the local Samaritan's Colony for the Women's Recovery Center scheduled to open this year. Lori Clark, Chairman of Missions to North America, introduced Mark Christopher, the Director of Samaritan Colony. He reviewed the current 12-step facilitation program for men, and the 14 bed facility under construction for women that is planned to be completed this year. The WIC Love Gift offering remained open through April.

After the dinner and presentation, the quarterly WIC meeting was held. President Beth Meacham thanked everyone who helped make the Valentine's luncheon a success. She thanked the men for the Easter Sunrise Service breakfast. Ladies were reminded that Revival begins Sunday with a covered dish luncheon hosted by the WIC after the morning service.

Historian Barbara Wagers reported that she has taken care of all 2023 reports and they have been filed with the church history. Beth Bryant reported for the Landscaping Committee that Duke Goodwin won the bid for landscaping and he is doing a good job.

There was discussion about the Samaritan's Colony Women's Recovery Center and there may be an opportunity for the WIC and/or Circle to minister to the women with sound doctrine. The group was encouraged to be thinking of ways to help this facility.

Beth Meacham, *WIC President*



Circle ladies met on Tuesday night, April 30th, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We had 9 ladies in attendance and we enjoyed a delicious meal provided by hostess, Ginny Layton with Beth Bryant providing dessert. Ladies enjoyed a season of prayer to start our meeting, Ginny presented a great study of "Gentleness and Power" from our study of the Fruit of the Spirit – Gentleness, based on 2 Corinthians 10:1-11. After our business meeting, Ginny Layton entertained us by playing her guitar while we all sang songs of praise.

Our past month was rather busy and the Circle ladies would like to thank all who attended our Love Gift meal and program in April and thank all who helped with making our Revival services a success. We had the best attendance since before the pandemic. We enjoyed the different speakers along with the special music each night. We especially thank our Choir for singing on Sunday morning and Sunday night and a special thank you to Ginny Layton for leading the Choir and to Donna White for providing our music.

We will be enjoying our May Outing and have tentatively set a date of May 21st. Once the date is set, more details will be shared in our bulletin – be on the lookout. This is always such a fun time of fellowship while enjoying a good meal out. We also discussed our upcoming Youth Sunday and have suggested the date of Sunday, May 19th, to honor our Seniors and host a covered dish lunch after worship service. This date is pending the approval of our Session. More details will be placed in the bulletin as soon as approval is granted.

We will be taking the months of June and July off – making our next meeting on Tuesday, August 27th, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall with Natasha Grotenhuis hosting. We will be starting our new study material – Fruit of the Spirit – Self Control. Please mark your calendar to join us.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

## Announcements

- If there are students graduating soon, please inform a Session member.
- We will be observing the Lord's Supper Sunday, May 5 in our 6:30 pm evening worship service.
- Due to family concerns, Timm Dazey is not presently pursuing seminary studies.



**PRAYER LIST:** President and other national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Christian Barrett, Jason Bennett, Daniel Brown, 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, Ruby Dunn, Ellerbe First Responders, Fred Fletcher, Mark Futrell, Mary Ellen Grotenhuis, Bella Haynes, Becky Henderson, Pete Herron, Melanie Johnson, Robert McCaskill, Donna McCormick, Bill McFayden, Patsy Dunn McIntyre, Julia McIntosh, Shannon McNeil, Jimmy Meacham, Mickey Meacham, Zachery Meacham, Peyton Monroe, Trevor Moss, Morgan North, Eddie Parsons, Elizabeth Potterfield, Sophia Potterfield, Doris Sears, Tina Sellers, Betty Smith, Jane Smith, Neil Smith, Amanda Watson, Christie Weatherly, Hayley White, Curtis Wright, Vera Wright, unspoken Requests



Happy Birthday 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

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>May 2024</b> <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</b>			1 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting	2	3	4
5 6:30 pm Worship Service & Lord's Supper	6	7	8 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Session Meeting	9	10	11 <b>7:00 am Men of the Covenant Breakfast</b>
12 6:30 pm Worship Service	13	14	15 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting	16	17	18
19 6:30 pm Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 6:30 pm Worship Service	27	28 <b>9:00 am Central at Carolina Presbytery Christ Covenant, Matthews</b>	29 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting	30	31	