

# The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

June 2024

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

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## From the Pastor:

### “The God Who Answers Imperfect Prayers”

Have you ever prayed for something and weren't so sure God would answer because there was a large part of you that didn't really believe he would? Most of us have probably been in that situation. So, is there any hope that God may just answer prayers offered with such imperfect faith? Yes, there is. Though we are to grow in our belief that God will answer all our prayers which are in accordance with his will, the good news is that God may well answer our prayers even when we are doubtful that he will. Such was the case for those who gathered to pray for Peter's release from prison in Acts 12.

It all began when Herod decided to get violent with some members of the Jerusalem church. He put James, the brother of the apostle John, to death and imprisoned Peter, likely intending to put him to death as well (Acts 12:1-4). So, we read in Acts 12:5 – “So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” Prayer is being made to God by the church. God's people are praying, and unbeknownst to them, God is working. We are told that when Herod was about to bring Peter out, even as Peter is asleep right between two Roman soldiers, on that very night, the Lord sends his angel who taps Peter on the side and tells him to get up and dress because it is time to leave. By the time the angel has led Peter out, Peter figures out that this is not a dream and that the Lord has sent his angel to rescue him (12:6-11).

Peter goes straight to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where those believers of verse 5 are praying for his release. In fact, we are told that “many were gathered together and were praying” (12:12) Not knowing the Lord has answered their prayer, they hear a knock on the door and send a servant girl named Rhoda to answer the door. She hears Peter saying, “Please let me in,” recognizes his voice and is so excited she forgets to let him in; rather she goes to tell the others the good news. They tell her that she must be out of her mind and suggest that a more plausible explanation is that this mystery man at the door is “his angel.” It is really getting humorous now. The servant girl is excited that the Lord has answered their prayer, but the others who are praying for his release think it more likely that an angel is at the door. At any rate, Peter keeps knocking until she goes back to the door and lets him in. He comes in and tells them what has taken place and then moves on to somewhere else (12:13-7).

So, these believers were praying for the Lord to release Peter from prison; yet when the Lord answers their prayer, they are slow to believe he has actually done what they had asked. This of course begs the question of whether or not they really (or fully) believed the Lord would answer their prayer. The good news is that the Lord answered their prayer, even though they seemingly had some doubt that he would actually do so. That teaches us two things. First, the Lord does answer our prayers, especially when his people are united in prayer for persecuted believers. And second, the Lord's ability and willingness to answer is not dependent on the perfection of our faith. That should give us confidence to pray and know that the Lord may just say “yes” even when we have a bit of doubt mixed with our faith. Or as Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20-1, our God is able to “do far more abundantly than all we ask or think.”

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



Circle ladies met at the church on Thursday evening, May 23rd, to travel to Rockingham for our May outing. We had 8 ladies to meet at Hitchcock Pub and Grill on Washington Street. We enjoyed a good meal and even better fellowship. We will be breaking for summer and our next meeting will be the last Tuesday in August.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*



## WIC Update

The Love Gift offering for the Samaritan's Colony Women's Recovery Center totaled \$1,280. Thank you to everyone who donated to this local facility.

Youth Sunday is June 2 and a covered dish meal will follow the service at Noon. High School graduate Knox Layton will be honored during this time.

Mark your calendars now for the next quarterly Women in the Church meeting on Tuesday, July 9th at 7:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Chairman of Missions to the World, Chrystal Weatherly, will have the program. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

Beth Meacham, *WIC President*

## Session Update

The May 8, 2024 Session meeting was opened with prayer by Richard Smith. The latest Deacon and Session meeting minutes were read and approved. Pastor Stan reviewed visits/contacts he had made with sick and home bound members. He also reviewed the Covenant Theology class. The Central Carolina Presbytery meeting is May 28th at Christ Covenant Church.

The Men in the Covenant Breakfast was held Saturday, May 11th at 7:00 am in the fellowship hall and 13 men attended. Mother's Day gifts of ink pens and bookmarks were distributed to all ladies during the May 12th worship service.

The Revival Committee Report was reviewed. Pastor Stan shared a revival article, Shepherding the Lambs. Youth Sunday was discussed and it will be held June 2nd. Graduates will be honored during this time.

Pastor Stan is on vacation May 20th-26th. New pew Bibles have been placed in the sanctuary. The Women in the Church will donate the older pew Bibles to the Samaritan's Colony. The meeting closed with prayer by Tony Yates.

Richard Smith, *Ruling Elder*

## Announcements

- June 2 is Youth Sunday and the Women in the Church are hosting a covered dish meal after the worship service. As a recent high school graduate we will be recognizing Knox Layton during the morning worship service and presenting him with a Bible.
- Extra copies of *A Way to Pray* by Dr. O. Palmer Robertson are available in the vestibule.



**PRAYER LIST:**

President and other national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Richard Barber, Christian Barrett, Daniel Brown, Austin Bryant, 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, Susan DeWitt, Scott Dunn, Ruby Dunn, Ellerbe First Responders, Fred Fletcher, Mark Futrell, Mary Ellen Grotenhuis, Bella Haynes, Becky Henderson, Pete Herron, Ken Hill, Melanie Johnson, Donna McCormick, Bill McFayden, Patsy Dunn McIntyre, Julia McIntosh, Shannon McNeil, Jimmy 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, Mica Way, Amanda Watson, Hayley White, Jo Wilson, Curtis Wright, unspoken Requests



Happy Birthday June

**June Anniversaries**

- 7 M/M Ricky Monroe
- 9 M/M Alex Bryant
- 15 M/M Tim Clark
- 26 M/M Tony Yates
- 28 M/M Andrew Snead

- 1 Patrick McCormick
- 2 Barbara Wagers
- 3 Beth Meacham
- 3 Ricky Monroe
- 13 Janie Carter
- 16 Bill Carter
- 17 Kellie Sears
- 17 Beth Bryant
- 17 Amanda N. Moore
- 18 Kristi Wagers
- 19 Mary Nell Watson
- 26 Joleen Moore
- 27 Clay Wagers
- 29 Marion Covington

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>June 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 mornings in the sanctuary.</b>					1
2 <b>Youth Sunday</b> 12:00 Covered dish meal 6:30 pm Worship service	3	4	5 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting	6	7	8
9 6:30 pm Worship service	10	11 PCA General Assembly, Richmond, VA	12 PCA General Assembly, Richmond, VA	13 PCA General Assembly, Richmond, VA	14 PCA General Assembly, Richmond, VA	15
16 <b>Father's Day</b> 6:30 pm Worship service	17	18	19 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Session	20	21	22
23 6:30 pm Worship service	24	25	26 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting	27	28	29
30 6:30 pm Worship service						