

# The First Edition

*First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC*

January 2025

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

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**From the Pastor:**

## **“A Worship Resolution”**

By the time you read this, Christmas will be past and perhaps all the decorations will even be put up (or perhaps not). You may have stayed up to ring in the new year or perhaps have simply gone to sleep at your normal time in 2024 and awakened in 2025. At any rate, we are quickly approaching 2025 and a new year. And as another new year begins, so also do New Year’s resolutions, at least for many. New Year’s resolutions can be good because they force us to take stock of our lives and challenge us by God’s grace to improve in ways we see the need for improvement.

One resolution we can all make is to make sure we prioritize corporate worship. Even as his readers are facing persecution and the temptation to return to Judaism the writer of Hebrews exhorts them, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Corporate worship is intended to be a primary means the Lord uses to encourage us to live for him and face the week ahead. Not only do we sit under the read and preached Word and seek the Lord in prayer, we partake of the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:17-34). By professing our faith in the form of creeds, we remember that we are not alone but stand together with believers throughout history and around the world who profess “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Furthermore, we encourage one another through song. The apostle Paul writes, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:18-20).

If you resolve anything for the new year, resolve to worship God. If you already make corporate worship a priority, then resolve to experience a greater blessing from it in the coming year and to bless others through it. We will be observing the Lord’s Supper on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Make plans to partake of the means of grace. And in an effort to prioritize worship and help you keep the Sabbath Day holy, we will be resuming evening worship. If you are able, double the corporate worship on the Lord’s Day and double the blessing. There is no better resolution we can make for the new year than to prioritize worship.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Stan

## **New Members**

We gladly welcome the Johnson family. Please give a warm First Presbyterian Church welcome to David and Ashley, Haydanne, Payton, Holden, Gunnarr, and Charlotte (Lottie).

## From the Session

Mr. Layton called the stated meeting to order on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 and declared a quorum. Tim Clark had the opening prayer. The reading of the Scripture came from Mark 10:45. Usual perfunctory session business was held and then proceeded to the ongoing and new business.

The first order was receiving the David Johnson family into membership of our church by transfer of letter from the Sandhills Presbyterian Church in Moore County. Each of the seven members gave their testimony on their love for Christ and answered in the affirmative the five questions for membership. Our new members are David (father), Ashley (mother), and children Haydanne, Payton, Holden, Gunnar and Charlotte (Lottie). We welcome the Johnson family as members of our First Presbyterian Church.

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 our church and community and the Church World Wide.

Items of discussion and approval included the following:

- Vacation request from Mr. Layton approved for 12/23/24 thru 01/01/2025
- Approval for Daniel Hoffman to fill the pulpit on 12/29/24.
- Approval for Sunday evening worship to begin on January 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
- Approval for Pastor 2025 manse allowance of \$7,000.00.
- Approval of 2025 Twin Lakes fellowship 4/21/25 thru 4/24/25.
- Approval to recommend trustees for year 2025: Patrick Bryant, Rickie DeWitt, Richard Smith
- Approval to move stated session meeting from Jan. 8 to Jan. 15, 2025.
- Approval of Christmas gift list.
- Acceptance of Austin Bryant's resignation from eldership due to illness.
- Approval to grant Elder Emeritus Status to Austin Bryant.
- Approval of bid \$2,950.00 from Garcia Contractor for repair of church manse.
- Next Stated Session Meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

Rickie DeWitt offered the closing prayer.

Jimmy Wagers, *Clerk of Session*



## WIC Update

The annual Women in the Church (WIC) annual business meeting and installation of officers was held Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Pastor Stan installed the new officers for the 2025-2026 term and the WIC/Women's Ministry 2025 plan was finalized. Copies of the plan are in the vestibule.

As mentioned in a previous article, the WIC and the ladies Circle are being combined in 2025 with the new name of Women's Ministry (WM). Meetings will be held the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Specific details are in the 2025 plan. The first meeting is Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall and this is the annual Love Gift program and covered dish dinner. Everyone is invited to attend. Lori Clark, Chairman of Missions to North America, will have the program.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the *O Holy Night Around the World* nativity display a success. It is a lot of work setting it up and taking it down, but it is worth it to share this joyous event with the community about the birth of Christ.

Also, thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church and fellowship hall for Christmas. The decorations will be taken down on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm and everyone is invited to help.

Seven ladies are attending the PCA Women's Ministry *Made for More* conference in Charlotte on Saturday, February 1. If you are interested in attending and did not register, there may still be spaces available with a \$25 late fee. You can check online for this or contact Jan Stivers, Secretary for the WM.

Beth Meacham, *WIC President*



The Circle enjoyed a great meal and fellowship on Friday evening, December 13 in the fellowship hall. Nineteen people attended and the ladies exchanged Christmas ornaments.

Patricia McCormick, *Secretary*

**Announcements**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** The next edition of the church membership directory will be published in January 2025. If there are any edits that need to be made to your listing, please contact Women's Ministry Secretary Jan Stivers at [kevinandjan90@gmail.com](mailto:kevinandjan90@gmail.com) or text/call 910-995-3975.

**NEW STUDY IN PRAYER MEETINGS:** Starting in January Pastor Stan will be leading a devotional study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism in the Wednesday night Prayer Meetings, utilizing the devotional book *Glorifying and Enjoying God*. This book is a series of brief devotions covering one or more of the catechism questions in each chapter and covering the whole Westminster Shorter Catechism in one year. Pastor Stan will be summarizing the devotions, and it will not be necessary to read the book. However, if you would like a copy of the book, let Pastor Stan know and he will order you one. Make plans to come, study the catechism and pray if you are able.

**LORD'S DAY EVENING WORSHIP:** One of the best ways to ensure that we keep our focus on worship on the Lord's Day is to bookend the day in corporate worship. Thus, we will resume Lord's Day evening worship on Sunday, January, 5<sup>th</sup>. Evening worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> will begin at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to the manse afterward for chili and cider.

**COPIES OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM:** Copies of the 2025 Women's Ministry Program are available in the vestibule.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** The Christmas decorations will be taken down on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate.

**LOVE GIFT DINNER AND PROGRAM:** The Women's Ministry Annual Love Gift covered dish dinner and Love Gift program will be Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lori Clark, Chairman of Missions to North America, will have the program. Everyone is invited to attend.

**REPAIRS TO COLUMNS:** Aside from the Ingathering offering, anyone wishing to give toward the repair of the columns in the front of the sanctuary should designate their check "church columns."

**AID TO HURRICANE RELIEF:** Our denomination's Mission to North America Disaster Response provides help to those devastated by natural disasters. If you wish to help relieve victims of the recent hurricanes you may designate your check "hurricane relief" and the funds will be used to facilitate the movement of mission critical assets.

**Church Officers:**

**Ruling Elders**

- Austin Bryant, Elder Emeritus
- 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



**RAYER LIST:** Families affected by school shooting, President and other national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Samuel Austin, Beverly Sears Barber, Christian Barrett, Daniel Brown, Austin Bryant, Billy Carter, Mary Ellen Carter, Ted Carter, Vera Carter, Vergie Clark, Kevin Conner, Ronald Lee Cook, Kim Covington, Kevin Craven, Tony Craven, Alli Cundy, Cindy Daniels, Sharon DeWitt, Ruby Dunn, Ellerbe First Responders, Carsyn Faile, Fred Fletcher, Mark Futrell, Deborah Greene, Jessica H., Becky Henderson, Pete Herron, Ken Hill, Lowell Hill, Melanie Johnson, Louise Lucas, Donna McCormick, Bill McFayden, Patsy Dunn McIntyre, Julia McIntosh, Shannon McNeil, Trevor Moss, Morgan North, Leo Poole, Sophia Potterfield, Barbara Sears, Doris Sears, Tina Sellers, Tony Ward, Mica Way, Amanda Watson, Donna White, Hayley White, Jo Wilson, Curtis Wright,



Happy Birthday  
January

- 7 Ron Wall
- 9 Vera Carter
- 15 Jayden Richardson
- 18 Ronnie McLendon
- 20 Jackson Carter
- 24 Jeanine Wall
- 26 Sara Covington
- 28 Lori Clark
- 29 Tim Clark
- 31 Bennett Street



**January  
Anniversaries**

- 6 M/M Billy Ray Dunn
- 12 M/M Austin Bryant
- 20 M/M Ted Carter

**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.**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>January 2025</b>			1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2	3	4
5 11:00 The Sacra- ment of Holy Communion 6:00 pm Worship service	6	7 7:00 pm Take down Christ- mas decora- tions	8 6:00 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 Deacon's meeting	9	10	11
12 6:00 pm Worship service	13	14	15 6:00 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 Joint Deacon/ Session meeting 7:20 Session meeting	16	17	18
19 6:00 pm Worship service	20	21	22 6:00 pm Prayer meeting	23	24	25
26 6:00 pm Worship service	27	28 6:30 pm Love Gift covered dish dinner/ program	29 6:00 pm Prayer meeting	30	31	Feb 1 <b>WM Made for More Conference, Charlotte</b>