

The First Edition

First Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC

March 2025

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

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From the Pastor:

“Jesus, the Friend of Sinners”

“Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul; Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole. Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end. Jesus! what a Strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him; Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my vict'ry wins. [Refrain] Jesus! what a Help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll, Even when my heart is breaking, He, my Comfort, helps my soul. [Refrain] Jesus! what a Guide and Keeper! While the tempest still is high, Storms about me, night o'ertakes me, He, my Pilot, hears my cry. [Refrain] Jesus! I do now receive him, More than all in him I find, He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. [Refrain] Those are the words of J. Wilbur Chapman, a Presbyterian pastor, turned traveling evangelist who toured with the great D.L. Moody. They are also the lyrics of one of my favorite hymns. More importantly, they tell the story of every Christian.

The fact that Jesus is a friend of sinners is at the heart of every true revival. Revival is a time when vast numbers of sinners come to see Jesus as their friend. That includes some of the most unlikely people because of their notorious lifestyle, as well as many upstanding church members whom no one suspected to be lost. In times of revival all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds come to see Jesus as a friend of sinners.

Such was the case during the ministry of Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Lloyd-Jones was a physician (assistant clinician to Thomas Horder, the physician who served the royal family in Britain) turned pastor best known for his twenty year ministry at Westminster Chapel in London. However, Lloyd-Jones' first pastorate is more closely linked to revival. Transitioning away from medicine and with no formal ministerial training, Lloyd-Jones began as a lay pastor at a Calvinistic Methodist chapel in Sandfields, Aberavon, a residential district of Port Albot in the south part of Wales. He ministered there during the Great Depression from 1927 through 1938. Through the prayers of the saints and the powerful preaching of the Word many of the most unlikely people came to Christ, as the Lord wrought a mighty revival during Lloyd-Jones' Sandfields ministry. Lives were changed and the small community was transformed as sinners came to Christ.

Yes, we are quickly approaching our annual Revival services which are scheduled for March 30th through April 2nd. Our speaker this year is Dr. Neil Stewart, also a physician turned pastor. Neil has pastored churches in Mississippi, Georgia, and North Carolina and is now the senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Dr. Stewart has chosen the theme – “Jesus, the Sinner's Friend” and will be teaching and preaching from Luke 5:12-32. The titles for his messages are – “The Outcast Made Clean,” “The Helpless Made Whole,” and “The Traitor Brought Home.” Our weeknight speakers will be the following: Rev. Juan Rodriquez, the Reformed University Fellowship minister at UNC-Charlotte; Rev. Bo Collins, the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines; and Dr. Greg Salazar who is the organizing pastor of Myers Park Mission Church. Special music will include a combined choir of our Richmond County PCA churches, the Crestview Baptist Church choir, the First Baptist Church choir, and the Cameronian Boys. Mark the dates on your calendar now (March 30th through April 2nd) and start praying that God would indeed bring a mighty revival to Ellerbe.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Stan

From the Session

Mr. Layton called the stated meeting to order on Wednesday, February 12 and declared a quorum. Rickie DeWitt had the opening prayer. Scripture reading came from Jeremiah 29:11. Usual perfunctory session business was held and then we proceeded with our ongoing new business.

The Session received the following reports:

1. Church Treasurer's monthly reports.
2. Mr. Layton's monthly report.

A season of prayer was held for our congregational needs and concerns; prayers for our upcoming revival and our revival speakers, prayers for our Presbytery and General Assembly, praying the Lord's will be done in our congregation.

Other business:

- Approval of the presentation of the memorial for Austin Bryant to the Central Carolina Presbytery in February 2025.
- Approval for the choir anthem list of music.
- Receipt of the revival committee report.
- Approval of a vacation request from Mr. Layton March 3-9, 2025.
- Approval of the following ministers for our March revival that will be joining Neil Stewart who is the keynote speaker on Sunday morning and evening. Weeknight ministers are: Greg Salazar; Juan Rodriguez and Bo Collins.

The next stated meeting is March 12, 2025. The meeting adjourned with Tim Clark offering the closing prayer.

Jimmy Wagers, *Clerk of Session*

Announcements

CHURCH PICTURES: Church pictures will be taken immediately following the March 2nd worship service. Pictures will be taken of church officers (elders and deacons), Women Ministries officers, Sunday School teachers, Choir Members and Musicians. Pictures will be taken by Hayley White Chavis.

FIRST SUNDAY LORD'S DAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP: Everyone is invited to the manse following evening worship on March 2nd for food and fellowship.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY: Mark your calendars for a church clean-up day, Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 am. The Town of Ellerbe will have a dumpster truck at the church. Everyone is welcome to participate.

REVIVAL SERVICES: Mark your calendars now. Our annual Revival services are set for Sunday, March 30th through Wednesday, April 2nd. Our speaker this year is Dr. Neil Stewart, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC and this year's theme is "Jesus, the Sinner's Friend." Please begin preparing now by planning ahead and praying for these services.

NURSERY STAFFING: The Women's Ministry is developing a calendar for staffing the nursery. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the information on the form that is in the bulletin and place this paper in the offering plate by March 30th. Thank you.

PRAYER WITH THE PASTOR: Each Wednesday (except for March 5th) from 6:00 – 6:55 PM Pastor Stan will be in the conference room for prayer with anyone who would like to join him. This time will be dedicated to praying for the church, including its members, officers, meetings, ministries, services, etc.. During February and March, a significant

EVIDENCES OF A BACKSLIDDEN CONDITION / REVIVAL PRAYER GUIDE: Our annual Revival services are scheduled for March 30th – April 2nd. As we look forward to these services, we encourage everyone to utilize the preparation guide located in our vestibule - "Evidences of a Backslidden Condition" / "Revival Prayer Guide." Together these are a valuable tool for diagnosing one's own spiritual condition, as well as that of our church, and also provide guidance in how to pray specifically for Revival.

Women's Ministry Update

On February 1, seven ladies traveled to Christ Covenant PCA church for the Christian Discipleship Ministries *Made for More* Conference. It was a blessing to all of us and it was especially heart-warming to see approximately one third of the ladies being age 20 and under.

Seven ladies traveled to Solus Christus on February 22 where we delivered gently used clothing, hygiene products, and 21 hygiene bags filled by church members. In addition, the total Love Gift offering for Solus Christus was \$865.00 and we also delivered that. The residents did a skit, provided brunch and a tour of the house. We saw Jesus working through the lives of these women to transform them from a life of addiction to a life of living for Christ. If you have Facebook, Solus Christus posted 15 pictures of our visit on their Facebook page.

We would like to give a special thank-you to Tim Clark for cooking the food for the annual Valentine's luncheon after the worship service on February 16th. It was a good time of fellowship and the first time the meal has been held in the fellowship hall since Covid. Thank you to those who delivered meals to our shut-ins.

Souper Bowl nonperishable food items for the local food pantry were collected through February and will be delivered to the local food pantry.

The Women's Ministry (WM) monthly meeting was held on February 25 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Ten ladies attended and we enjoyed "breakfast for dinner" that I provided. After the meal, I lead the lesson *Controlling Our Appetites* from our study guide Fruit of the Spirit. The lesson was from Proverbs 23: 20-21, 29-35; 28:7. These scriptures focus on gluttony and/or alcohol which are both alluring and deceptive. They can cause health problems, destroy relationships, and cost time and money. We need to increase our appetite for God.

The WM has placed bricks in memory of Austin Bryant and Naomi Stutts in the memorial garden beside the church.

Upcoming events:

- There will be a covered dish lunch after the morning Revival service on Sunday, March 30. Everyone is invited to attend.
- A church clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 am. The Town of Ellerbe will have a dumpster truck on site. We plan to start by cleaning a Sunday School class downstairs from the sanctuary where furniture, etc. will be removed.
- The next WM meeting is Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. This will be a salad supper and all ladies are invited to attend. A devotion will be held (there will not be a lesson) and then we will make preparations for the annual Easter Egg and Scavenger hunt. Ladies can bring Easter eggs and candy to this meeting.

Beth Meacham, *WM President*

Congratulations

We rejoice with Victoria and George Bolger over the birth of Banks McCoy who was born February 11. We join big brother Miles in welcoming this joyful addition to the family.

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



RAYER LIST: President and other national leaders, the Persecuted Church and Christians worldwide, Steve Allen, Samuel Austin, Beverly Sears Barber, Christian Barrett, Daniel Brown, Billy Carter, Mary Ellen Carter, Ted Carter, Vera Carter, Vergie Clark, Kevin Conner, Ronald Lee Cook, 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, Nancy Wallace Hunter, Melanie Johnson, Shirley Lovin, Donna McCormick, Bill McFayden, Patsy Dunn McIntyre, Pat McGrath family, Julia McIntosh, Barbara McInnis, Shannon McNeil, Ricky Monroe, Trevor Moss, Morgan North, Leo Poole, Sophia Potterfield, Barbara Sears, Doris Sears, Tina Sellers, Herman Stutts, Tim Ward, Mica Way, Amanda Watson, Donna White, Hayley White, Alan and Tanya Williams, Curtis Wright, unspoken requests.



Happy
Birthday
March

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

**March
Anniversaries**
23M/M Richard Smith



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 2025	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.					1
2 10:30 am Called Ses- sion meeting 11:00 am Ordination/ Installation service 6:00 pm Worship Ser- vice	3	4 7:00 pm Deacon's meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 6:00 pm Worship Service 7:00 pm Session meeting	13	14	15
16 6:00 pm Worship Ser- vice	17	18	19 6:00 pm Worship Service	20	21	22 9:00 am Church clean-up day
23 6:00 pm Worship Ser- vice	24	25 6:30 pm Women's Ministry meeting salad dinner	26 6:00 pm Worship Service	27	28	29
30 12:00 Covered dish lunch 5:30 pm Revival Pray- er Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	31 6:30 pm Revival Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Revival	April 1 6:30 pm Revival Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Revival	April 2 6:30 pm Revival Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Revival			