



# NEWSLETTER

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

[www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)

November 2022

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian,

We are in the middle of stewardship season, which should panic no one. Just give your best estimate of what you can give — but be honest: what can I actually afford to give? If you have some issue with the church, tell us. If you want something done, or not done, tell us; I am not guaranteeing you will get your way, but at the least, we will hear you out. We can have the conversation. Perhaps the thing you want has not been thought of by anyone else. Or perhaps it has been, and been rejected, for good reason. Either way, we can talk.

One time in another congregation we had a guest preacher one day; he was a leader in a mission organization that the congregation had deep ties with. He got up and said that he had missed a deadline on some federal grant money, that they depended on, and so, if anyone knew anyone in power, they sure could use some help!

The next day he called me up, screaming, “I don’t know what you did or who you know, but THANK YOU!” Once he calmed down I asked him what he was talking about. It turns out that one of our elders was in the state government, and literally had thousands of dollars to give away under his personal control. I don’t remember the details except that this government official had authorized payment to the mission organization of the amount of the grant they had hoped to get. As my friend said, “we had the money; he needed it; no brainer!”

I am not saying you will get whatever you want done simply by asking, nor even by dangling large donations in front of us, but I am saying that if you have a good idea, bring it to us. Talk to me. Let’s get this thing moving! I am hoping we can get Room In the Inn going again, with participation from the local churches. I am hoping we can improve the town’s treatment of the homeless, and the needy, but to do that, we need to be directly involved. We can do this!

You know, one thing that the pandemic hasn’t affected seriously is our giving. Now, you just got a letter from our treasurer indicating a shortfall over the last couple of years. Yes, that is true. But the giving keeps coming in, and each day’s mail brings more. It is as though not being able to worship together hadn’t stopped your giving! I know the electronic giving has helped; I set it up and for some reason went back in to fiddle with it. At the end of the year I realized I had set it up twice, so we had given almost twice as much as intended, and hadn’t missed it. It just vanishes, automatically, from the checking account, on the date you specify.

Some of you don’t trust computers. Some of you prefer to physically put the envelope in the plate. Others would rather it just happen, so you don’t forget. I can tell you that, however you choose to give, we do our best with what it. I think our leaders do a great job with what we have.

So, what are you going to do this year? That’s the question before all of us. If your income changes, and you have to make a change, we understand. Whatever you do is ultimately between you and the Lord. We hope you will pray about this as you fill out your commitment card this month. Thanks be to God for your faithfulness!

David Roquemore

## News of the Church Family

### **Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns**

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Frances Ennis, Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Sondra Phillips, Nancy Gargis, Laurie Joplin, Wanda Hicks, Ron Valentini, Ann White, Jim Teubner, the Foley family, Tom & Linda Witherspoon, Courtney Roquemore, Beverly McAlister, Bud Beers, Patty Valentini, Kay Long, Judy Fulton, Richard Hedrick, Melva Cooper, Jeannie Clark, Jim & Peggy Templeton, Gary McDougal, Betty Epps, John Taylor

**FRIENDS & FAMILY:** Zachary Ausel, Lisa Eaton, Maryia Johnson & family, Mary Lib Williams, Margaret Hale, Caitlan Reese, Keith & Shelly Moretz, Bobby Brown, Zak Kuhn, Cora Compton, Ken McColley, Tom MacLauchlin, Luke Ohman, Melanie Cranford, Alex Terry, family of David Crockett Long, Shirley Harwell, Geneva McGraw, Richard Odum



### **Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:**

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Dennis DeBalso, Betty Epps, Betty Fieselman, Johnsie Abernethy, Frances Inscoe

### **Prayers for those with Long-Term Health Concerns:**

Janet Drum, Richard Foley, Pete Keel, Robin Miller, Frankie Sigmon, Becky McRee

### **Congratulations:**

To Hayden & Maggie McGraw on their marriage October 8th.

### **Condolences:**

To Betty Epps & family on the death of Robert L. Boggs, Jr., Betty's brother, October 13th.

### **Prayers for those in Military:**

- John Hardin, U.S. Army, Ft. Sill, OK  
(Cindy Baldwin's nephew)
- Captain Joshua Smith, U.S. Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC  
(Brenda Smith's son)
- Captain Christopher Walker, U.S. Army, Fort Knox, KY  
(Tammy Walker's son)
- LTJG Max Morrill, U.S. Navy, Washington, DC  
(Joan Inscoe's grandson)

### **Prayers for Missionaries and International Faith Partners**

- Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley in Congo;
- Our partners at *Faith Ministry* in Reynosa, Mexico;
- Rev. Dr. John McCall in Taiwan;
- Eliane Menezes, Guatemala

### **Prayers for El Redentor, our Sister Church in Guatemala:**

- For the well being of all members of our sister church
- For all 20 scholarship students as they begin a new school year
- For Uzias Rodas, university scholar, who is in his 3rd year studying to be a teacher
- For Humberto Robles, elder, who is fulfilling requirements in secular education in order to continue his studies at the seminary.
- For Dayana Rojas, who is receiving a university scholarship to study nursing
- For Yesmi Monterroso, who will receive a university scholarship in 2024 to study business

## Financial Stewardship Report

2022 Pledge Budget	470,000.00
Pledge Budget through 9-30-2022	352,499.94
Pledge Receipts through 9-30-2022	336,634.42



### Care Team Changes!

The FPC Care Team will now meet four times per year on Mondays, rather than monthly. The schedule for 2022-2023 is as follows:

**January 9th**, April 10th,  
July 10th and October 9th, 2023.  
Meetings will take place at 5:30 p.m.

**The group will meet again on Jan. 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room.**

Care Team Members are:

<i>Sylvia Bajorek</i>	<i>Faye Morgan</i>
<i>Texie Doolittle</i>	<i>Sylvia Payne</i>
<i>Lottie Ethridge</i>	<i>Carole Roddy</i>
<i>Barb Forshey</i>	<i>Susan Roquemore</i>
<i>Robin McGraw</i>	<i>Penn Waldron</i>
<i>David Roquemore</i>	

The church office will send you emails keeping you apprised of pastoral care developments in the congregation, and I hope you will continue to call and send cards to folks. That is a very important part of what we do, and of the overall pastoral care of the congregation.

Pastor David is also revising and updating what the "Elder on Call" does each week, so that will cover some of the slack that this may seem to create.



### Newsletter Article Deadline

The newsletter is usually published *monthly* on the last Wednesday of the month. The deadline for articles is Wednesday noon prior to the Wednesday that it is published. This is a **FIRM DEADLINE**. E-mail articles are preferred. Send them to Kim at [kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.com). However, handwritten articles are welcome. **Our Visitors . . . If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time**, perhaps it is because we just heard that you had moved into our neighborhood or you have visited FPC. We would like to extend to you a warm welcome to this community and most especially to any activity in our church. If there is any way we can help you, please let us know.

### Community Sunday Suppers Sundays - 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

#### Hosts

<b>November 6th</b>	Beth Eden Lutheran
<b>November 13th</b>	Trinity Baptist
<b>November 20th</b>	FPC Staff
<b>November 27th</b>	Brad & Beth Huggins

**All Dinners Will be Carry-Out Only!**



### Adult Fellowship Dinner - October 6th

Fifty-five members enjoyed a night of food, fellowship and a fun program from Susan Knowles and Naomi East about their trip to Kenya. Thanks to Barb & Alan Forshey and Congregational Ministries for organizing this event.





2 Dwayn Butterfield  
Scott Smith

3 Lauren Hodges  
Paula Haissig

4 Mike McGraw

6 Katie Coffey  
Vickie Inscoe

7 Don Santman

8 Betty Fieselman  
Dina Snipes

9 Judy Fulton  
Randy Williams  
Amy Yenderusiak

10 James Philhower

11 Christian Kelly

15 Sylvia Bajorek

18 Gail Roscoe

19 Teresa Smith  
Charles Moody  
Angela Mauney

20 Keith Stuart  
Jay Wood

24 Jim Teubner

25 Sally Sigmon

27 Rob Inscoe  
Rachel Eneix

28 Cheyenne Radke  
Roosevelt Radke

30 Alistair LaPoint



Dear Church Friends,  
Thank you for the dental stuff & the books. They are greatly appreciated  
Dennis DeBalso



**2022 Camp Grier  
Church Retreat**

This year we had 45 in attendance!  
The group enjoyed fishing, the  
climbing wall, zip lining, s'mores by the fire pit  
and much more!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR 2023!  
Sept. 15-17, 2023**



**Don't Forget!!!**

**Sunday, November 6th  
Daylight Savings Time  
ends**

Remember to set your clocks  
back one hour Saturday  
night!



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## Youth Connections

### Upcoming Events

#### NOVEMBER 2022

##### Sunday - November 6th

Christmas Wishes Tree Project Begins  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Youth & Young Disciples Mission Project

##### Sunday, October 16th

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Hunger Walk

##### Sunday, November 13th

Noon - 1:00 pm - Youthsgiving

##### Sunday, November 27th

Matthew's Market Begins



### October Recap!

#### **October 2nd** - Hocus Pocus 2 Lunch and Movie

Our Youth and Young Disciples decided to get together and watch the new Hocus Pocus 2 movie together! We had yummy themed food and cupcakes and had a great time together!



#### **October 9th** - Youth and Young Disciples helped feed 74 meals on

October 9th! Thanks to the Philhower, Butterfield and Sparks families, as well as Ray Rhinehart! Thank you, Lord, for these young people and their servants hearts! If you would like to help our youth and young disciples serve dinner, let Laura Sparks know. We will be serving our next meal on Sunday, December 18th from 4:30 p.m. until 6p.m.



#### **October 17th** - Hunger Walk

Your gracious donations helped The Corner Table and ECCCM collect \$30,000! Thank you to all who donated, walked, and handed out water to those participating in the walk.



# MISSIONS

## Guatemala Scholarships

At a time when we are making decisions about our 2023 church budget, we want to share some feedback on the scholarships our church has provided for El Redentor, our partner church in Guatemala. This has been a line item in our church budget for many years.

One generation ago, it was very common for children in Guatemala to only study through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. While education is free in Guatemala, purchasing all the books, supplies and transportation needed is not, and is often prohibitive. Since beginning the scholarship program at El Redentor, it has been heartening to see graduation from high school become the norm for our scholarship students there. Their education is invaluable and can be transformative for individuals, families, and communities.

In addition, in 2019 we began funding university scholarships. Dayana Rojas has completed a technical certification in nursing and has 4 more semesters of study to receive her licensure in nursing. She is working in a clinic while she completes her degree. Uzias Rodas had been studying teaching but has stopped attending the university to work full time. Beginning in 2023 we will provide support for Yesmi Monterroso to study business at the university in Coatepeque. Yesmi is being raised by her grandmother and is very grateful for the opportunity she is being given. These university scholarships have been funded by Matthew's Market and by special gifts given for this purpose.

Last year we also funded a theological education scholarship through Matthews Market for an elder in the church, Humberto Robles, to take classes at the seminary. If God wills, he would like to continue his studies, but must take classes in order to complete his secular education first (obtain the equivalent of a GED). He will receive money from the regular scholarship program next year for this purpose.

God only knows the seeds that have been and are being planted through these scholarships. **Thank you** to all of you who support these efforts through your contributions to the budget and to Matthews Market. Below is a letter we received in September from El Redentor.

*September 29, 2022*

*To the Partnership Committee of North Carolina*

*Greetings from the Partnership Committee of El Redentor*

*We inform you that thanks be to God the children and youth scholarship students are making an effort in their studies despite the difficulties due to the pandemic. We inform you that this year we have three graduates with diplomas as indicated. They are:*

*Henri Guillen – bilingual secretary*

*Saul Campos – auto mechanics*

*Eli Soto – accounting (would like to continue his studies at university in 2024)*

*We ask for your prayers to continue our partnership. May God continue to bless your lives and your family. Thank you very much for the help you send with your love and heart to our scholars.*

*We continue to pray for you and the means you use to obtain funds.*

*Sincerely,*

Lilia Carlton, President, Alberto Rodas, Treasurer, Humberto Robles, Secretary

## Refresh and Renew Shower Ministry



The Refresh and Renew Shower Ministry is continuing at our church. On each Thursday afternoon, from 1PM-3PM, we open our shower facilities on the lower level of the church to members of the community who may not have access to regular bathing opportunities. Early on, we requested donations of lightly used clothing so our guests would not have to put on dirty clothes after showering. As usual, the congregation responded in a generous fashion.

As we enter the colder months, we would again like to collect some warmer clothing to offer our guests. Larger women's sizes are needed. If you have sweaters, sweatpants and tops or jackets and coats to spare, please bring them to the church office. Also, boot and shoes would be welcomed. We are well supplied with shampoos, conditioners, towels and wash cloths at this time.



## Stewardship Season

This year's Stewardship Season is focusing on each of the church's committees and learning more about their role in the church and their plans for us here at FPC Newton. As the November newsletter deadline approaches, let's quickly recap our first four "Moments for Mission."

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we heard from the Congregational Ministries Committee, who told us that they're like the Missions committee, except instead of taking care of the local and world community, they take care of US, the FPC Congregation. Congregational Ministries cares for us by bringing us together for Adult Fellowship Dinners; the Annual Church Luncheon/Rally Day; Time for Fellowship; the Care Team; Saints Alive and Women's Ministries.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, we heard from the Worship Committee. We learned what a vital role each committee member plays, bringing their gifts to make each Sunday's worship service special. We learned that we're almost back to a "normal, pre-pandemic" worship service, with ushers, greeters, lay readers and the choir back in the loft. Again, this committee and its members strive to make each Sunday meaningful while also offering different experiences, such as the AWE Service or worshipping once a month in our beautifully renovated Chapel.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, we heard from the Christian Education Committee, who keeps us all spiritually nurtured. As an infant, that means getting outstanding care in the nursery. As a young child, it means having Sunday school opportunities; Time for Young Disciples during the church service; and Mission activities, like Sunday Night Supper helpers. As a school aged child, it means all of those and additional opportunities for mission on trips and helping visit and serve homebound communion. As an adult, it means Sunday school and other Bible Study offerings.

And as I finish this article, this morning, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we heard from the Property Committee about what it costs to properly take care of our campus. Two things that were mentioned stood out to me, 1) there are many, many hidden costs to taking care of our campus – inspections of fire extinguishers, the hood over the stove, etc. and 2) we were told our insurance costs were going to go up 25% next year, but due to Charles Moody and some of the projects he's done on improvements like having our alarm systems updated, he was able to get that increase down to just 9%! However, it's still an increase and we'll likely see increases in other areas as well.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, we will hear from the Missions Committee and on November 6<sup>th</sup>, from the Personnel Committee. Then, on November 13<sup>th</sup>, we will dedicate our pledges for 2023. As we've heard from the committees so far, it's apparent we have so much to be thankful for at FPC Newton and much to look forward to, so prayerfully consider what you may be able to give. With grateful hearts, thank you! --Amy Yenderusiak on behalf of the Finance Committee



## Seniors Morning Out & Homebound Holiday Gift Bags

Catawba County Senior Nutrition Services is one of the services coordinated by the Catawba County Social Services Department. There are two related programs which serve our seniors. *Meals on Wheels* delivers meals to recipient's homes four days a week and are distributed out of our Fellowship Hall. Also, in our Fellowship Hall, approximately 30 seniors gather Monday through Thursday for fellowship, educational activities and a meal. This program is known as *Seniors Morning Out*.

The Christmas season is just around the corner! This year, we are providing goody bags to bring holiday cheer to some of our members at home as well. The Missions Committee is coordinating this project and plan to pack a total of 45 bags.

Below is a list of items that can be placed in the bags:

- Snacks (pudding, applesauce, cookies, peanut butter crackers, oatmeal or anything easy to chew or swallow)
- Toilet paper, Kleenex
- Lotion (unscented), Bath Soap
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Gripper socks
- Light flannel blanket
- Large Print Activity Books (Word Search)

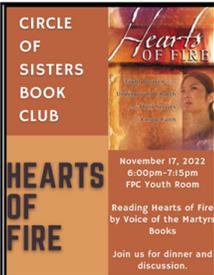
In order to properly assemble the goody bags, monetary donations will be welcomed and the Missions Committee will purchase needed items. Please make your check to FPC Newton and put "Holiday Goody Bags" on the memo line.



### November Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Circle 2 will meet Tuesday, November 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room and via Zoom.
- Circle #4** Circle 4 will meet on Monday, November 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor with refreshments. The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. Nancy Beers will be hostess.
- Circle #5** Circle 5 will meet on Wednesday, November 9th at 11:30 a.m. with pizza and salad in the High School Youth room.

### **Circle of Sisters Book Club**



Hello Ladies!

The Circle of Sisters Book Club invites all women to come to First Presbyterian Newton church on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022 from 6:00 pm until 7:15, for dinner and a book discussion! We will be meeting in the FPC youth room.

Please sign up and grab a book with our link or let us know you'd like a book! You can purchase a book by clicking on the link below. You can sign up at church or by calling the church office. Need more information?

Contact Susan Roquemore at 717-645-1220.

#### **“Hearts of Fire” by Voices of Martyrs**

“Hearts of Fire” Order Link Below: <https://www.amazon.com/Hearts-Fire-Underground-Church-Stories/dp/0882641506>

The Book Club meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Join in as your schedule permits. Please e-mail Becky McRee at [raiamnc@gmail.com](mailto:raiamnc@gmail.com) if you have questions about the Club.

**Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor.**

**“A Wolf Called Romeo”  
by Nick Jans**



### 2022 Chrismons

Chrismons are available for purchase in memory or in honor of your loved ones at various prices. Please see members of Creative Hands for further information and we want to thank you for your continued support.

#### Available 2022 Chrismons:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| “Kingdom Keys”<br>Made by: Kay Long        | “Epiphany Star”<br>Made by: Sherrie McCart          |
| “Unbroken Faith”<br>Made by: Kay Long      | “Star With Lily-4 Points”<br>Made by Sherrie McCart |
| “Victory Crown”<br>Made by: Sherrie McCart | “Daisy Star of Baptism”<br>Made by: Robin Waldron   |
| “Star Cross”<br>Made by: Robin Waldron     | “Calla Lily”<br>Made by Mitzi Moody                 |

Creative Hands members: Kay Long, Sherrie McCart, Mitzi Moody, Laura Sparks, Deb Wakefield & Linda Witherspoon



**"Well Isn't That Special?!" Ladies Lunch Group**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

**12:00 pm**

**Fresh Chef in Conover**

Come join "Well Isn't That Special", as we make lunch dates each month! Come to one, two or many! Just sign up each time so we can reserve seats! Bring friends! It's a special time!

Sign up using forms at church, or call the church office!

**Let's Blanket the World in Love**

CWS Blankets is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world. Your contributions provide the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simply struggling to put food on the table. For over 70 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- ◆ Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- ◆ Wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- ◆ Literacy training and micro credit for women struggling to feed their families.

**On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, Blankets+ offering envelopes will be available in the church bulletin. For example, \$50 will provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by a tornado or other disaster and \$110 can provide an emergency food package for a family of five for one month. Please consider making a donation and supporting this ongoing mission of Presbyterian Women.



**PW Thank Offering**

November is when Presbyterian Women celebrate the Thank Offering. At your November Circle meetings, you will have the opportunity to participate by giving whatever you can to this year's 10 grant recipients - 8 of the projects serve people in the United States and 2 are international. This year, one of the eight US projects is serving women in and around Raleigh. It's called the Women's Reentry Project (WRP) and it helps women prepare for and navigate life after incarceration by developing tools to forge new and better lives. The WRP combines housing – which is a significant barrier to successful reentry – with wraparound social and vocational support. To learn more about this organization and the other grant recipients, visit

[www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank)

Again, Thank Offering Envelopes will be available at November Circle meetings or in the church office the entire month of November. To have one mailed to you, simply call the church office at 828-464-0648.



**PLEASE SIGN UP!**

**Honoring Family & Friends at Christmas**

Your \$15 donation will be for the poinsettias in the sanctuary

In honor of:

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In memory of:

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

***The deadline date to be listed in the bulletin is Monday, November 21, 2022***

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**701 North Main Avenue**  
**Newton, NC 28658**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Place Address Label Here

**November 6th**

**22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

**November 20th**

**Christ the King Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
CWS Blanket Offering received  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

**November 13th**

**Consecration Sunday**

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 a.m. Worship, sanctuary  
Daily Change Offering received  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

**November 27th**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Worship, sanctuary  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

