

In Touch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC

First Presbyterian Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by expressing our love for Him and our neighbors through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, congregational care, and mission.



Sharing Our Gifts Table of Contents:

Pastor's Note	Page 2, 3
<i>Souper Bowl</i> /Sunday	Page 4
Concerns of the Church	Page 5
Lunch Bunch	Page 6
Movie Night	Page 6
Flowers	Page 7
February Calendar	Page 8,9
Message from Finance Committee	Page 10,11
February Birthdays	Page 11

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month I'd like to make you aware of how we finished up 2023 financially and also tell you about some projects pertaining to our church buildings. First, our finances - happily we ended up with a little over \$7000 extra for the year. This is due to generous giving and frugal spending. The Finance and Personnel Committee is waiting on all bills for 2023 expenses to come in before we calculate the exact amount of the overage. Once F&P knows the exact dollar amount it will make a recommendation to session for how it will be used. Typically we devote any overage to areas we know will be needing long-term funding in the future like our buildings and the pipe organ. We also have given end-of-year bonuses to the staff in recent years. I expect the F&P committee to do something similar this year.

But one thing it may not do this year is devote funds to the building fund, the reason being that we are in substantially better shape in that area than we ever have been. How did this happen? You may recall in a previous newsletter that I said we would likely pursue getting some roofs replaced on one or more of our buildings. In talking with the roofing contractor, he told us he thought there was some storm damage to the roofs. He suggested that we contact our insurance company. We did and they agreed. There is wind damage. As a result we have been given a claim check of over \$68,000 to repair the roofs of all our buildings. The Facilities Committee has recommended to the session that they replace the roof on the sanctuary and the Walker Building since they are currently showing some signs of leakage. The session has agreed. Work may begin on the sanctuary roof as early as this week. The rest of the money will be saved for replacing the Loy Building and Administration Building roofs when they show signs of leaking.

The means by which we received this extra money may seem quite ordinary, but that we received such a large sum makes me think that we have received a gift of God's

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

providence. I don't think the full impact of this gift has been realized by the church leadership yet. I share this news with you to say that we as a church have great reason to be thankful.

Also, I'm happy to report that the repairs to the Loy Building are complete. The contractor Bennie Garner did a fine job of matching the brick and the mortar color on the exterior of the building and repaired the interior of the men's bathroom so that it is virtually undetectable. We are very blessed by the conscientious care that went into these repairs.

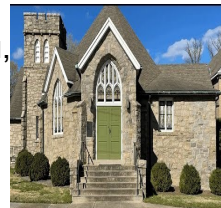
Looking towards the 2024 financial year, Jim Small, chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee has shared with us the plans for the 2024 budget in this issue of the newsletter. Forming a balanced budget this year required us to add close to \$5000 to an income category called "Faith Offering." This means that we hope that we will receive this income but have no indication that it will come. It is the second year we have done this, but the first time we have put a significant sum in this category. Please read Jim's great description of the 2024 budget later in this newsletter.

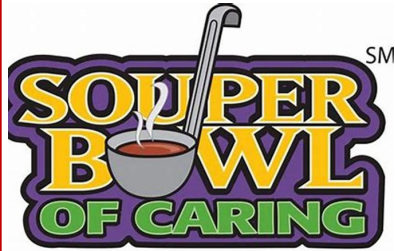
Altogether it seems that we are starting 2024 on a good foot. Let's remember to be safe, careful and to take care of each other. Our ministry to the world and our greater community depends on us to be healthy and strong.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your generous gift, which I received at the Christmas Eve service. I have already put it to use toward the purchase of a new laptop. With that computer I will be able to conduct church business, wherever I am. Thanks very much.

May God bless each and every one of you,

Joe





***Souper Bowl Sunday is
February 11th!***

We are collecting items for our Food Pantry. The need is great and our Food Pantry is definitely being used! Please help out by bringing some of the items listed below next Sunday! Please place your donations under the communion table in the front of the Sanctuary to be prayed over during the service.

List of suggested items:

**Packets of instant oatmeal or grits, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pastas,
Pop Tarts, Breakfast bars & Granola bars,
Soups/Chili/ Beef stew (pop tops)
Chef Boy-R-D/Spaghetti O's (pop tops),
Bottled Water, Juice Boxes, Boxed Milk,
Protein Bars, Vienna Sausages,
Canned Vegetables/fruits, Spaghetti Sauce,
(can openers may be needed for these!)
Canned or individual pkg. meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
Cheese/peanut butter filled crackers,
Individual Microwaveable Mac & Cheese and
Cup of Noodles,
Stove-Top Stuffings, Packets of instant potatoes,
Noodles, Rice, Oils
Salt & Pepper, Spices, Tea Bags, Coffee, Coffee
Creamer, Sugar, Flour, Crackers, Bread,
Cake mixes and Icings
Travel size or regular size-deodorants, shower gels,
shampoos, toothpastes, toothbrushes, feminine
products, band-aides, diapers, laundry and dish
detergent, toilet paper and can openers**

**Prayers for Healing of Friends &
Families of the Church**

Cindy Sherrel
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sandy Sandoval
G.C. Warren
B.T. Brown
Nancy Elias
Grace Fishel
Sheryl O'Neil
Rev. Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Debbie Allen

Bill Graham

Doug Hayes

Linda Ray

Ellie Parker

Margaret Biggs

Tony Martin, Jr.

Roger Fuester

Lee Cranford

Frank Lonesky

Bev Hummel

Kenny Phipps, Jr.

Matt Savage

Michael Shelby

Kim Owens (Noreen's sister)

Betty Keyes

Carolyn Crawford

Carol Crawford

James Spragins

Bob and Lisa Patterson

Jeanie White

Ken and Carol Whetzel

Matt Savage

Stephanie Rivers

Robin Gupton Clay

Janet & Simmie Isles

Marion Idol and family

Maddie Stauffer

WORLD CONCERNS

Victims of the war in Ukraine/Israel/Palestine

The Homeless

Victims of senseless gun violence

Those effected by natural disasters

**If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or
someone that needs to come off, please contact Susan Gaylor
at sdgaylor@outlook.com or call 678-4228.**

JOIN US FOR LUNCH BUNCH!!!

Join us each month at 12:30 pm (on a Wednesday) at a different restaurant in town to dine and have fellowship together. Everyone is welcome to join us for this “Dutch” affair.

We will meet at RUBY TUESDAYS on Wednesday, February 14, 12:30 pm.



MOVIE NIGHTS ARE HERE!



Join us for Movie Night on Friday, February 9 at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building with popcorn and drinks provided!

The movie this month is:

Seven Days in May



FLOWERS

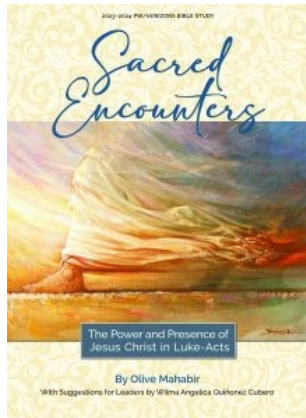
Flowers arrangements are needed for the Sanctuary on Sundays. These are the dates available for anyone interested:

February 18, 25; March 3, 1, 17, 31
and April 7, 14, 21, 28

Please contact Mary Small at movingmom@charter.net or 541-1265.



Please include your name, date of placing flowers and your phone number. Thanks! If you would like them in honor or memory of someone, please let Tammy know at firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com or 537-4018 by the Tuesday before your Sunday.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Will meet on Tuesday, February 6th in the Loy Building.

Morning Circle meets at 9:30 am with Pet Spears leading lesson #6.

Afternoon Circle meets at 1:30 pm with Ellen Burnett leading lesson #6.

All women are invited to join either circle!

Thanks to all the women that participated in the Soup Tasting Luncheon! We had a great time tasting all the different soups, sharing in a time of devotion, sharing recipes and playing games. There were 36 quarts of soup collected, with a promise of a few more quarts to come! We even shared some of our efforts already! Thanks again! It's a honor to work with you ladies!!



FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am Worship

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:30 am PW Morning Circle
12:30 pm Prayer Meeting
1:30 pm PW Afternoon Circle

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:00 pm Choir

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:00 pm Movie Night

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am Worship—Communion

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14



12:30 pm Lunch Bunch @ Ruby Tuesdays
3:30 pm Witness Committee
7:00 pm Choir

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel Committee

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 am Worship—Scholarship
Offering

6:00 pm Session



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00 pm Choir

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 Worship

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:00 pm Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 am Worship—Communion



**A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
–Jan 2024**

2024 has arrived and the Session has approved our budget for the year. That approved budget is printed below for your review and understanding. We are pleased that so many of the commitments we make to further the work of Christ in our community and in the world will continue to be strong. The F&P Committee would like to thank each of you for your response in submitting solid pledges for the year – and, as you know, the income from the pledges and other giving provides for our expenditures. . We know that each of you will continue to not only match or exceed your pledge, but also contribute with Special Offerings throughout the year.

FPC 2024 BUDGET

Expenses

Finance & Personnel	127,895
Facilities	29,050
Witness	5,000
Worship	3,650
Christian Ed	1,600
Stewardship	500
Session	300
Congregational Care	300
Total Expenses	\$168,295

The Finance & Personnel budget is slightly higher than 2023 due to increased insurance costs and some other cost increases.

The Facilities Committee is higher to accommodate increasing electrical costs.

The Witness Committee budget increased \$2,900 since that committee used over \$3,000 in 2023 from Special Offering money that is no longer available. For your knowledge, the Book Bag Buddies is not funded in our budget but there is over \$19,000 available in restricted/designated investments and money market funds which are used to support this essential program.

The above expenses are covered by our income projections of:

Income from Pledges	\$152,320
Non-Pledges/ Faith Offering	11,025
Loose Offering	1,200
Sales Tax Refund	750
Preschool Contributions	2,000
Facility Usage	1,000
Total Income	\$168,295

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
–Jan 2024 (continued)**

As usual, the expenses and income balance. But the Faith Offering income is highlighted to emphasize a need for additional income this year. There initially was a \$4,025 shortfall in meeting the expenses for the year - this amount was added to the Non-Pledges/Faith Offering line. Our congregation is known for being a very generous congregation – so in order to balance the budget this year we are requesting that you prayerfully consider making a Faith Offering - above your pledge commitment and special offerings - to meet this need. As Faye Brown has noted “Almost all of our income is a faith offering – faith that the pledge commitments are fulfilled”. Just note on the memo line “faith offering” when you give for this reason.

Please feel free to ask us for any clarification of this very important financial information for our church.

Moving Forward with Christ,
The Finance and Personnel Committee

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY



- Tom Waring—7
- Margaret Biggs—14
- Ginger Phipps—15
- Rachel Pate—16
- Cheryl White—16
- Jonathan Hayes—17
- G.C. Warren—19
- Cameron Pate—22
- Tammy Spragins—27

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

ROANOKE RAPIDS,

16 EAST 5TH STREET

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

E-MAIL

firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

fcprminister@gmail.com

Telephone - (252) 537-4018

FEBRUARY 2024

IN TOUCH

