



THE BRIDGE BUILDER

Changing lives. Making a difference.

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, it is a perfect time to reflect on the connection between this cherished holiday and the core principles of church stewardship. Thanksgiving is a time for us to gather with loved ones, count our blessings, and express gratitude for the abundance in our lives. These same values resonate with the spirit of church stewardship, which is deeply ingrained in our faith community.

Thanksgiving encourages us to acknowledge our blessings and inspire acts of charity and community service. Likewise, church stewardship calls on us to recognize the abundance of gifts and resources we have been entrusted with by God, and we are to give of them generously. Whether through financial contributions, volunteering, or offering our unique talents, these acts of stewardship help ensure that our church remains a vibrant and welcoming place for worship and community.

Furthermore, our church's commitment to responsible stewardship extends beyond the walls of our congregation. Just as we give thanks for the natural world and its resources, we must also act as responsible stewards beyond our church walls sharing with others in our community.

This Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to reflect on the deep connection between gratitude and stewardship. As we gather around our tables to give thanks, may we also remember our commitment to the church community. Our contributions, whether through our time, talents, or financial support, play a crucial role in maintaining and improving our church for current and future generations.

In this season of thankfulness, let our hearts be filled with gratitude for the gifts we have been given, and let our actions demonstrate our dedication to Christ our Lord. Together, we can ensure that our EPC remains a source of inspiration, support, and love.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving!

Session Highlights from October 2023
Moderator – Reverend Dayton Wilson
Clerk of Session – Lisa DeVane
Assistant Clerk of Session – Elizabeth Cole

Mission & Education: Rev. Dayton Wilson announced that Wednesday night Bible study has resumed. Both adults and children will have the chance to engage in mission work during these Wednesday night gatherings.

Finance Report: Greg Martin reported:

General Fund Balance as of September 30, 2023: \$316,490.93

Special Funds Balance as of September 30, 2023: \$285,347.45

Total Offering Received for September 2023: \$24,139.49

Total Budget Expenses for September 2023: \$20,497.59

Net Income for September 2023: \$-21,582.93

The finance committee met and developing an asset inventory to help with the planning process. Stewardship season is approaching and Stewardship Sunday will be November 19th.

Worship: Hayes Petteway reported Connor Bullard is the head usher for October. The worship committee will be meeting to discuss Hanging of the Greens.

Operations: Chris Campbell provided an update, indicating that the generator remains unrepaired. Unfortunately, the ordered part did not resolve the problem, but the generator can still be operated manually. The committee will persist in its efforts to address the issue.

Endowment Committee: Hayes Petteway reported the endowment fund balances as of August 2023: Scholarship fund: \$1,017,622; Family fund: \$231,132; Regular fund: \$667,808

Congregational Care- Willie Kay McDuffie shared the latest news regarding individuals on the prayer list and emphasized the importance of continuing to keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

Personnel Committee: Elizabeth Cole stated that the committee met with Pastor Dayton and discussed several items.

Pastor Report: Reverend Dayton Wilson addressed the church's security concerns, emphasizing the importance of keeping all doors locked at all times. During the session, there was a discussion about replacing the iPad in the narthex with a wall-mounted monitor, allowing ushers to easily monitor security cameras during worship.

In addition, Rev. Dayton expressed his desire to form a task force to explore the church's future. He has already approached several individuals to join this committee. The session suggested that younger church members and even youth should be included in this committee.

Pastor Dayton read scripture, and stated the each member of the church has different talents, thoughts, and needs. He posed the question to the session: "What are you willing to do to bring about change?"

The session will meet again on November 12, 2023.



We will pack Shoeboxes for Operations Christmas Child on Wednesday, November 8th after the Wednesday Together Meal. We need bars of soap, washcloths and small toys for children.



Children's Choir

We have been busy learning new songs to sing in worship.

Parents: Please mark your calendars!!

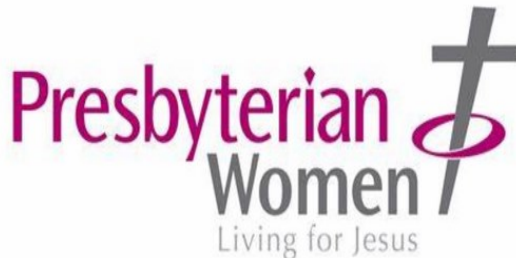
We will sing on Sunday, November 19th, and Sunday, December 10



Time is flying and Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. The choir is working hard on the Christmas Cantata and new music and we would love to have you join the choir, especially for the cantata!!! We practice on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. The cantata will be on Sunday, December 17 at 11 a.m and 7:30 p.m. Please tell your family and friends!!!

Blessings,

Sylvia



Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet on November 7th at 6:30 p.m. This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Since we are only doing one circle, if you need a ride, let Teri or Mary know.



Food Collection

We are collecting items for the weekend backpacks for students. If you would like to donate items, please bring pop-top cans of food, fruit, etc. Also donate pop tarts, any items that kids can eat or warm up easily.



Wednesday Nights Together



Adult Bible Study will begin at 5:00 pm

Children's Choir at 5:15 pm

Dinner is at 5:45 pm

Special Time Together at 6:30 pm

Adult Choir Practice at 7:15 pm

November 1st: No Special Time Together

November 8th: Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party

November 15th: Thankful Fellowship

November 22: No Wednesday Night Gathering

November 29th: Making Chrismon Ornaments



deliver a difference

During the summer I was asked to coordinate a team of volunteers from Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church to participate in the delivery of Meals on Wheels in Elizabethtown. This service is provided through the Bladen County Division on Aging. The response was over and above what I expected. Within 24 hours volunteers stepped up to fill the positions needed for our participation.

Each Monday morning our volunteers deliver hot meals in the community. What better way to start the week than to deliver nourishment and a friendly greeting. The team is met with lots of smiles and thankful hearts.

Many thanks to the EPC team consisting of Kaye Dennis, Niki Dennis, Teri Hawley, Trish Inscoe, Kathy Page, Hayes Petteway, Susie Prevatte, Hank Roberson.

Susie Holland



We need volunteers to please sign up to feed our youth on Sunday Nights.

The dates are:

November 5th

November 12th

November 19th

I would love to have a parent volunteer to host a Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10th

Youth, College, and Adults

Interested in a possible mini mission trip located in the mountains of NC?

Dates would be sometime between December 18th -21st (two night stay)

Working on plans right now and will have more details coming soon!



Congratulations to Reese Hester on being the Waccamaw Conference 1A tennis singles champion!!



The Youth made "BOO bags" for our disciples in college as a way to say "BOO We miss You! Keep up

College Addresses Needed

Our college students LOVE mail from the congregation. Parents of college students, please send your student's address to elizabethtownpc@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER



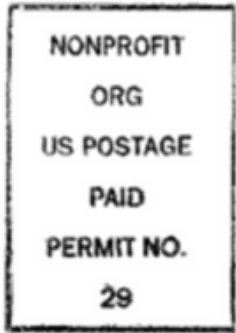
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
29	30	31	1 Sylvia Campbell Anna DeVane Blair Felder Bailey Riley	2
5	6 Merle Graham	7	8 Carlie West	9
12 Will Inscoe	13 Carla Priest	14	15 Gail Hutchinson Chloe Roberts	16
19 Marley Ketterer Bruce Barbour	20 Jamie Brice	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30



ER 2023

Thu	Fri	Sat
"D" Wilson	3 Ritchie Priest Paige Fisher	4
Emily Scott Trish Inscoe	10	11 Robby Priest
	17 Judith Scott	18
Elizabeth Cole Elizabeth Priest	24 Joyce Tedder	25
	1	2





Head Usher : Marc Edge

Date	Acolytes	Nursery Volunteers	Children's Church
11/5	Ryne Priest	Claire DeVane	Hawley Hunt
11/12	Carter DeVane	Lisa DeVane	Lauren Campbell
11/19	Emily Campbell	Lillian & Julianne DeVane	Mary Hill
11/26	Cates Sutton	Doll Priest	Teri Hawley