



THE CHURCH VOICE

A Publication of Shallotte Presbyterian Church



Vol. 36

December, 2023

Number 12

Every few months or so, new offering envelopes will mysteriously appear in our Sunday bulletin. Not everyone is quite sure what these offerings are for, or what causes they support (and I confess that I don't always do a great job explaining it). Those envelopes are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Special Offerings that help to fund a variety of outreach and mission activities through our denomination. There are four special offerings throughout the year.

Typically received during Lent, the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering mainly supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a relief organization that responds to the needs of communities affected by natural or man-made disasters; the Presbyterian Hunger Program that supplies nutritional support for food-insecure households; and the Self-Development of People, that provides resources and advocacy for underserved communities.

Received the Day of Pentecost, the **Pentecost Offering** supports initiatives aimed at children, youth, and young adults. It helps to finance the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program that sends recent college graduates into mission fields around the globe, as well as the Presbyterian Youth Triennium – the largest gathering of Presbyterian youth held every three years. The offering also engages in outreach toward at-risk children and families, including the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” initiative that advocates for quality public education.

Collected in the fall, the **Peace & Global Witness Offering** funds a variety of initiatives that are aimed toward finding peaceful resolutions to conflicts stemming from systematic injustice, both locally, and around the world. Local congregations retain 25% of the offering to support peace advocates at home; another 25% supports such efforts regionally, and the remaining 50% helps to support global peace initiatives through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Last, but not least, is the **Christmas Joy Offering** (the next to be collected). Received during the season of Advent, this offering provides financial support to church workers and families facing economic hardship through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Through a variety of grants and scholarships, it also helps to fund scholarships and grants for minority students who attend Presbyterian Church (USA) affiliated colleges and universities.

I hope this clears a few things up. Of course, for a far more detailed explanation, I encourage you to visit the PC(USA) Special Offerings website to learn more about how your contributions are making a difference in people's lives both at home and around the world. Check it out at: specialofferings.pcusa.org.

“If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” – James 2:15-17

Grace & Peace,


George

Looking Ahead for Worship



1st Sunday of Advent

December, 3 2023

8:30am & 11:00am Worship 
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

8:30 am & 11:00am Worship
Isaiah 40:1-11 and Psalm 85:1-2,8-13;2
Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

8:30 am & 11:00am Worship
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Psalm 126
John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday of Advent

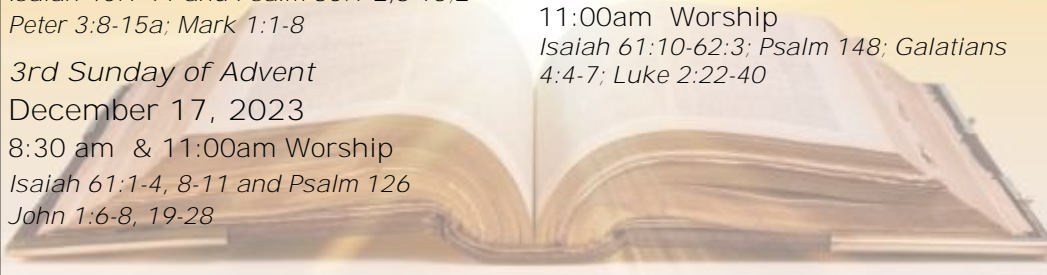
December 24, 2023

11:00am Worship
 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

11:00am Worship
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



Christian Education



Small group “Devotions with Friends”

Monday, Dec 4 at 11:00, Church Parlor

Wednesday, December 6

& Wednesday, December 20, at 4:00 - Lynne & Bill Young’s house

Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00 - Helen & Charlie Odum’s home

Shallotte Presbyterian Church

Rev. George Chapman, Pastor

The Session (Elders)

| <u>Class of 2023</u> | <u>Class of 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Susan Alley | Betsy Braddock | Kitty Green |
| Ed Carter | David Martin | Linda Stackhouse |
| Barbara Montague | Scott Taylor | Rusty Russ |
| Ryan Smithwick | Rich Winslow | Sarah Henry |
| Rev. George Chapman, Moderator | Mike Claxton, Clerk of Session | |

The Board of Deacons

| <u>Class of 2023</u> | <u>Class of 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sally Gunn | Deb Claxton | Brenda Lewis |
| Charlie Libert | Donna Crews | Barbara English |
| Susanne Pierce | Mabel Winslow | Ann McPhaul |
| Marvin Stackhouse | Audrey Lee | Nancy Gorman |
| Marvin Stackhouse, Moderator | Susanne Pierce, Clerk of Deacons | |



Sunday Worship Services

Services are offered at the church at 8:30am and 11:00 am.

There will only be one service at 11am Christmas Eve, December 24th and December 31st with No Sunday School. We will also have a 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

The 11am service is streamed live on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel.

The Nursery is available during the 11am service.

Adult/Children/Tween Sunday School is offered from 9:45 - 10:30.

Calendar Notes:

December 3- Fellowship Breakfast, 9:15am, FH

December 4- Deacon/Session, 5:30pm, FH

December 6- PWCT 10:00am, CR

December 13 - Celebration Circle, 10:30, FH covered dish luncheon

December 18 - Blood Drive, 1:00-5:30pm, FH

December 22 - Sisters of Strength, 11:30am Boundary House

**December 24— One Worship Service at 11a.m. No Sunday School
Christmas Eve Service at 6:00pm**

**December 31 -- One
Worship Service at
11:00am**



Welcome to SPC

Staff Highlights

Thank you Shallotte

Presbyterian for the heart-warming welcome to your church. My husband John and I moved from Lake Wylie, SC to Whiteville, NC, where we now reside.



I have a background in education and Office Administration. I very much enjoyed teaching technology to pre-k thru fifth at Bethel Elementary in Clover, SC until the covid year 2020. With my previous experience as the Office Manager of River Hills Community Church for six years I am very excited to be here with all you. If I can help you in any way, please let me know. I look forward to getting to know all of you.

-Christina

**“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” --
Ephesians 2:8-10**

December Greeters and Ushers - December, 2023 SPC is now using SignUp Genius for Ushers and Greeters.

Signup links are available on the Church Website:
<https://shallottechurch.org/connect/articles-newsletters/welcome-team/>
Scroll down and choose “Sign up to Volunteer”

| | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Greeters</u> |
|----------|--|--|
| 12/3/23 | Betsy Braddock Rich Winslow | Sarah Henry Tobin Henry |
| 12/10/23 | Scott Taylor Rusty Russ | Marvin & Linda Stackhouse |
| 12/17/23 | Patsy Calhoun Dave Green | Marvin & Linda Stackhouse |
| 12/24/23 | Betsy Braddock Davis Milligan Barbara Montague Betsy Braddock | Jim & Sarah Braddock Jim & Sarah Braddock |
| 12/31/23 | | Eric & Susan Lehman |



What is the purpose of the Columbarium?

The Columbarium consists of niches, uniform in size of the capacity to hold the cremated remains of 1 or 2 people. Each niche is covered with a granite plate, uniform in size, with a cast bronze name plaque with the name (s) and dates of birth and death of the deceased. Cremation after death is an increasingly popular choice considering lack of land for cemeteries and sustainable land use. If you want more information, please see Betsy Braddock or any other member of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden Committee.





Celebration Circle News

Forty-one ladies attended our Celebration Circle's October meeting. Iva Miller, Circle Moderator, lit the Christ candle and led the meeting. Our hostesses, Carol Kauffman and Debbie Wingfield, decorated our tables and provided a luncheon for the Thank Offering meeting.

**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

We continued our Bible Study from Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Joyce Winkler led our study of Lesson Three: "A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ." Jesus calls us out of the shadows and claims us as His own. The bleeding woman believed that if she could just touch the hem of the robe Jesus was wearing, she could be healed of her infirmity. Though she was scorned for doing so by the crowds, she reached out and was healed immediately. Jesus's love and compassion are available to all who believe in him. Thanks be to God!

The Secretary's report by Susan Alley was approved. Mindy Cardwell provided the Treasurer's update.

Deb Claxton provided our Mission report and identified the Thank Offering as the November Mission of the Month. The Thank Offering provides financial support programs that address agricultural development, childcare, violence, women's concerns and hospitals throughout the world. Last month's Mission, Warm Hearts Warm Homes raised \$410.00. There are 40 Angel Tree tags available in the Narthex. Please sign the registration list and return unwrapped gifts by Nov. 29th. The CROP Walk was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 5th with 66 walkers and over \$15,000 raised so far. Blood Mobile is scheduled for Dec. 18th. The Silent Auction and Bake Sale for Community Counseling Center was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to co-chairs, Donna Trest and Myra Chapman, for this fundraiser which contributed approximately \$3,000 for CCC.

Molly Fredrick will head the Sunshine Friends group who will assist with those in our congregation that could use a card, visit or phone call and in some cases, a meal. Let Molly know if you can help with this PW mission.

Celebration Circle ladies will be decorating the Chrismon tree in the Sanctuary, the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall, plus wreaths and greenery around the church building beginning at 10:00 AM, Nov. 28th. Please plan to help with the "greening of the church" if you are able!

After our PW business meeting, Hostesses Carol and Debbie led a simple Thank Offering ceremony with musical accompaniment from Molly Frederick and Gail Thomas. We concluded our Celebration Circle with a delicious luncheon provided by our hostesses. Thank you for a lovely meal and beautiful decorations this month. Our December meeting will be followed by a covered dish and hosted by the PW Coordinating Team. The Mission of the Month is The Lord's Food Pantry (\$ or food donations).

All women attending SPC are invited to come and be a part of Celebration Circle. We are happy to assist with transportation to meetings if you are no longer able to drive. Simply call the church office a few days before the monthly meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Together we can make a difference!



Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

The flowers will be on display December 17th thru 24th. If you ordered flowers for a loved one, you may pick yours up following the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



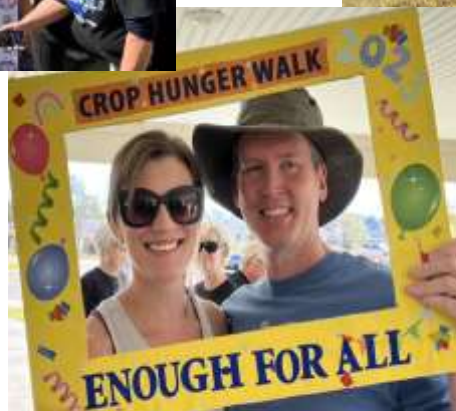
The Shallotte/South Brunswick CROP Hunger Walk was held on Sunday, November 5, 2023. The SPC Team had 14 Walkers who themselves brought donations of over \$5,000. Amazing!

Looking to make a difference in our local community and in communities worldwide, a total of 66 Shallotte/South Brunswick CROP Hunger Walkers raised over \$15,000 to help end hunger and poverty through long-term sustainable approaches to significantly reduce or eliminate hunger. A portion of the funds raised here in Brunswick County will come back to The Lord's Food Pantry, a mission of the South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC).

This year Shallotte/South Brunswick County and some 1,000 other communities nationwide are joining together in interfaith CROP Hunger Walks around the theme "Ending hunger one step at a time." Many of the Walkers wore new t-shirts proclaiming their solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live -- as well as with the millions served by local food pantries, food banks and meal sites here in the U.S. These local ministries share in the funds raised by CROP Hunger Walks.

From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks are Fighting Hunger One Step At A Time. Thank you for your support of the CROP Hunger Walk again this year.

And look out next month for the announcement of the church who will win the BIG CROP TROPHY!





If you have placed a name on the list below and it needs to be removed, or if you would like to add a name please call or email the Church Office, 910-754-6929, church@atmc.net



Please Pray for the Individuals Below and Their Families:

Pat Bell, Bella Black, Cynthia Boland, Marlena Braddock, J.C. Brooks, Olivia Carelock, John Carr, Larry Cook, Pat Dobbins, Sheila Ehgott, Charles Greene, Marie Harrison, Richard Hilton, Mary Mac Holcombe, Scott Outlaw, Lantz & Peggy Lackey, Juanita Latham, Josh Long, Bob Mayhew, Lucie Oakley, Anita Payne, Carole Stephenson, Lee Sullivan, Jim Townsend, Roy Trest, Cindy Wilson

If you know of anyone serving in the military that we can add to our prayer list, please let Christina know.

A Note from the Stewardship/Finance Committee

The following is a brief summary of our giving and related expenditures of the Operating Fund for the 10 months ended October 31, 2023 with comparative amounts for 2022 and 2021.

| | <u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u> | <u>2022</u> <u>Actual</u> | <u>2021</u> <u>Actual</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pledges & Other Offerings received | <u>\$347,053.95</u> | <u>\$327,726.41</u> | <u>\$348,664.08</u> |
| Expenditures: | | | |
| Staff Ministry | 148,932.90 | 154,055.58 | 136,549.30 |
| Local Program Ministry | 12,050.36 | 9,604.01 | 12,596.60 |
| Property and Grounds | 124,079.56 | 89,435.81 | 73,796.26 |
| Administration | 17,468.56 | 17,945.87 | 15,897.57 |
| General / Sessional | 147.66 | 186.61 | 157.34 |
| Missions and Benevolences | <u>50,428.19</u> | <u>49,648.00</u> | <u>44,583.00</u> |
| Total Expenditures | <u>353,107.23</u> | <u>320,911.88</u> | <u>283,580.07</u> |
| Revenues over (under) Expenditures | <u>\$ (6,053.28)</u> | <u>\$ 6,814.53</u> | <u>\$ 65,084.01</u> |

A thought to consider....

“Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost”

Ignatius of Loyola
Jesuit Founder

Dear Presbyterian Friends,

We are so grateful for the many prayers, calls, cards and delicious gifts of food during our recent health issues. Your thoughtfulness lifted our spirits during a difficult time. Much love to all of you.

Thank You

Chuck & Carol Partridge

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT SPC?

If you're interested in learning more about the church or the membership process, please contact the church office. (The process is easier than you might think!)



(910) 754-6929 or,
church@atmc.net.



Operation Christmas Child We had an incredible week at our church as a Drop Off Location during National Collection Week!



Betsy Braddock reports that we had 30 volunteers who gave over 300 hours of service for OCC. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this mobile ministry! We delivered **28,000 shoeboxes** to Wilmington on November 21st. About 111 of these shoeboxes were from our congregation! **29% more than last year congregation!!** On Second Sunday Funday, our youth packed 28 shoeboxes using the gifts we collected in the Narthex all year! Good News, Great Joy. Our god is so so Good!



Blood Drive!

at Shallotte
Presbyterian Church

MONDAY
December 18
1:00-5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please call the Church Office for more information on scheduling your blood donation or for other ways you can volunteer to help!

910-754-6929

IT'S CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE TIME!

ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE



The Brunswick Family Assistance's Christmas Angel Tree went up in early November and y'all took the tags for boys, girls and senior citizens. As you have done in the past, you have made their three wishes (and more) come true for our neighbors in need. The gifts began piling up around the tree within a week of the tree's installation.

The gifts will be taken to BFA on Friday, December 1st; so, please consider returning the unwrapped gifts under the SPC tree by Wednesday, November 29th to allow them to be taken to BFA in time.

Thank you so very much for supporting the BFA's Christmas Angel Tree again and for being an ANGEL yourself. You've made a more Blessed, Happy Christmas for 40 of your Brunswick County neighbors. Merry Christmas to you!

Shallotte Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
P. O. Box 3256
Shallotte, NC 28459
Phone: 910-754-6929
E-mail: church@atmc.net
www.shallottechurch.org

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Permit #140

ADDRESS RETURN REQUESTED
December, 2023



Scan with your Smartphone to Access
our NEW Online Giving Web Portal!



www.facebook.com/shallottepresbyterian

YEAR END CLOSE

As we prepare to close out our calendar year, we think about many things. We think about our Blessings that God has given us like the birth of our savior, **Jesus Christ**, like family and friends, like our health, our safety and security, and the great country in which we live. We also have to think about our financial responsibilities and what type of last-minute gifts we want to make at the end of the year.

As businesses prepare for their fiscal year-end close, we as individuals also prepare for our calendar year-end close. First, obviously, we want to make sure we have covered our commitment to the church and then if we have some left over, we could contribute to our own **SPC scholarship fund**. This is an investment in the future of our youth and in our church. If you are able to do so, **Please** make your check out to Shallotte Presbyterian Church and put in the corner of the check for the Scholarship fund. You can then mail your check to Shallotte Presbyterian Church or place your check in the offering plate. There are **Blue envelopes** in the pew racks to enclose your gift as well.

THANKS SO MUCH for your continued support of our Scholarship Program, and don't forget the next application deadline for the 2024/2025 school year is February 13, 2024.



Erskine Blount, Project Chair



MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

This is a part-time position regularly scheduled to work up to 10 hours per week as agreed upon between the incumbent and the Pastor. Set up, video and stream worship services on Sunday mornings and other special services. Any change in schedule must be approved by the Pastor. Contact Shallotte Presbyterian Church (Church@atmc.net) for detailed job description or to submit a resume.

****We are also looking for volunteers who can help with live streaming services on a rotating Sunday basis until we hire a specialist. Please contact the office if you would be willing to help. ****