

Celebrating 225 YEARS

A Pastoral Message FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

Celebrating 225 Years, To God be the Glory!

It's May! When you read this newsletter the end of the school year will be in sight, graduation for many will be around the corner, and summertime will be in the air. Allow me to remind you of a very special event while I still have your pre-summer attention.

Our congregation is celebrating its 225th birthday this year and we want you to be part of it! One of the major events will be our **All-Church Anniversary Picnic on Saturday, May 31st at Paradise Acres, from 11 am to 3 pm.** Full details can be found inside this newsletter. We want as many of our members as possible to attend.

This will truly be an event for everyone. In addition to a buffet picnic meal there will be plenty of opportunities for fun and fellowship for all ages. Let's celebrate the generations of faith and friendship that make us who we are.

Our theme verse for our anniversary year is from Psalm 145, verse 4:

“*One generation commends
your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.*”

Anniversaries are times when we remind each other where we've been, celebrate where we are, and tell each other our hopes and dreams for where we need to go. Whether your involvement at First Presbyterian is recent or began many years ago, your voice and presence are essential for remembering well and dreaming faithfully.

There will be more to say about our 225th Anniversary in the weeks and months ahead. But for now, mark your calendar for our All-Church Picnic on Saturday, May 31st. Come and let's enjoy the people that make us the body of Christ at First Presbyterian Church. Our Anniversary Celebration Team is making every effort to be sure a good time will be had by all!

Blessings,

Mike



Stay Connected at First Prez

Technology Help Session

May 18 at 10 a.m. in the Activity Room

Feeling overwhelmed by tech?

Don't want to miss anything happening at church?

Join us for a helpful and friendly tech session!

Learn how to access our app, newsletter, livestreamed services, event updates, access the church directory, online giving, and more! **Bring your questions—and your phone, laptop, or tablet with you.**

Our youth and staff are here to help!

To register, call the church office, scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/FPCTechHelp



SCAN ME



TRIVIA

Night at First Prez

Wednesday, May 21 - 5:30 p.m.

Family Friendly & Intergenerational
Trivia with Dinner, Prizes & Fun!



Please let us know that you plan to attend.

To register, scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/FPCTriviaNight or call the church office.

TRIVIA NIGHT



The Congregational Care Committee is reviving "Meals that Matter"!

We're excited to announce the revival and reorganization of "Meals that Matter", a heartfelt program that provides meals to church members who are ill or recovering from surgery to lighten their load.

This is a simple but powerful way to serve and support one another—and **we need your help!**

If you love to cook (or order takeout!), and have a heart for caring for others, we'd love to add you to our volunteer team.

To join or learn more, please contact:

Kellie Perkins at (910) 286-1147 or
Debbie Brock at (910) 977-7307.

Let's share God's love—one meal at a time.



Thank You for Your Generous Support!

We are so grateful for your donations and support that helped the Children's Ministry create Easter Baskets for the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation. Because of your kindness, children in the hospital were able to experience a little extra joy and hope this Easter season. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ in our community!





Congratulations to Our Catechism Group!

We joyfully congratulate all Noah, Bryson, John Cameron, Henry and Elizabeth who have completed their Catechism journey this season! Your dedication, faith, and commitment have been truly inspiring. May the truths you've learned continue to guide your hearts and lives. Also congratulations to Connor and Cayleigh for completing Get Ready! Get Set! Worship! We are so proud of you all. May God bless you always!

**Club 543 will meet on
Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m.
at a local restaurant.**



SCAN ME

Scan the QR Code
to RSVP to
Miss Britany.



Bowling at B&B Lanes

3003 Fort Bragg Rd

May 18 - 3 to 5 p.m.

Please register online
at bit.ly/KidzBowling or
scan the QR Code by May 14.



SCAN ME



Vacation Bible School

June 16 - 19, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**LIMITED SPOTS
AVAILABLE!**

**campers
REGISTER TODAY!**

Visit bit.ly/FPCTrueNorth
or scan the QR code.
For more info, contact
Britany Spivey at
britany@firstprez.com



**VBS DONATIONS
MADE EASY!**

AMAZON WISH LIST:
Scan this QR Code



KINGDOM KIDZ & S.U.R.G.E. YOUTH

WILL BREAK FOR THE SUMMER AND RESUME IN THE FALL.
But don't worry—there's still plenty of fun coming your way!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JUNE 8 - PENTECOST CELEBRATION ON THE PLAYGROUND

at 10 a.m. during Sunday School.

JUNE 13 - FAMILY NIGHT OUT AT THE BALLPARK

Mark your calendars! More details coming soon.

JULY 9 - MOVIE NIGHT

Get ready for a fun evening with friends and family. Stay tuned for the date!

COMING IN AUGUST - BASK AT THE POOL

We'll close out summer with a splash! More info coming soon!

Lend a hand during VBS Prep Day

Wednesday, May 28 - 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We're getting ready for an amazing Vacation Bible School, and we could use your help! Join us for VBS Prep Day as we organize supplies, set up decorations, and get everything ready for an unforgettable week.

***Want to lend a hand?
Let us know you're coming!***

Visit bit.ly/VBSPrepDay
or scan the QR Code.



VBS PREP DAY

VBS Needs You! - Supplies listed may be dropped off at the church office or outside of Britany's office. Monetary donations can be made to the church office. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Food Items:

- Fruit Snack Gummies
- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers (large container)
- Applesauce Cups
- Pretzel Rods
- Veggie Straws
- Goldfish Crackers
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (can be donated the Sunday before and Monday of VBS)
- Small Disposable Plates & Bowls
- Foam Plates (40)
- Ziploc Bags (gallon & sandwich)
- Napkins
- Small Disposable Cups

Items for Decoration and Activities:

- 2 Tailgating Tents (to borrow June 14-20)
- Cotton Balls
- Streamers (yellow, red, and orange)
- Plastic Tablecloths (a variety of colors)
- Bath Towels (6 earth-tone colors)
- Hydrogen Peroxide (2 bottles)
- Duct Tape
- Paint Stir Sticks (10-12)
- Rubber Mallet (to borrow)
- Wet Wipes
- Distilled Water (1 gallon)



GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU!

Recently, someone reminded me of a powerful truth — that God has a plan for each of us. But more than just a gentle reminder, it was a conviction: God has a plan for YOU! As I watch the children walk through the doors of First Presbyterian, I want each one of them to know — deep in their hearts — that God's love is personal, intentional, and unshakable. God has a plan for YOU, and God loves YOU.

But here's a question that sits heavy on my heart: Who and what are shaping our children's understanding of God's love and purpose for them?

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it." This verse is not just a biblical command; it's a sacred calling shared by parents, grandparents, guardians, and the church community. Together, we

are shaping the spiritual foundation and character of the next generation.

Over the past year in Kingdom Kidz, we've witnessed God's hand at work in beautiful ways. Our children spent the year diving into the Fruits of the Spirit and learning from the lives of biblical heroes. Week by week, they explored character traits like kindness, patience, courage, and faith — qualities that reflect the heart of Christ.

As we nurtured these Christ-like traits, we weren't just teaching Bible stories; we were planting seeds of biblical literacy and identity that will grow with them. My hope and prayer is that as they face life's joys and challenges, they will draw strength from what they've learned — that God's Word will be their compass.

We know it takes a village, and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and volunteers who have poured time, love, and wisdom into the children at First Prez. Your commitment makes a lasting difference.

As we head into the summer season and take a much-needed break, I invite you to pray with us — pray for rest and renewal for our volunteers and for continued spiritual growth in our children's lives. May the seeds planted this year continue to grow strong roots in God's truth and love.

With gratitude and hope,

Britany Spivey - Director of Christian Education and Children's Ministry



s.a.l.t.

Seasoned Adults Learning Together

Monthly Fellowship Breakfast & Excursions

S.A.L.T. fellowship breakfasts at JK's Deli
Tuesday, May 6 at 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Upcoming Trips

Wednesday, June 4

S.A.L.T. will visit Seagrove Pottery. We will depart the church at 8:30 a.m. We will have lunch during the tour. Please contact Ann Rowell (910) 391-1482

GRADUATE RECOGNITION & LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Join us as we honor our high school graduates and recognize our college graduates during the 11am Sanctuary Service.

A luncheon will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a side dish to share. Fried chicken, BBQ, and dessert will be provided. Register online by visiting bit.ly/GradLunch25 or scan the QR Code.



Graduate Info Due May 21st

High School Grads: Please submit your information and photos to Jessica Jones at youth@firstprez.com

College Grads: Please submit your information and photos to Nichole at nichole@firstprez.com



S.U.R.G.E.

Youth has had a fabulous year! Our youth have studied the Heroes in Judges, prayer, the fruits of the Spirit, and looked to the Bible for answers on some of their biggest questions. They packed, cleaned, organized, collected, and fund raised; making an impact in their community and the world in God's name. They dressed up, adventured, and tried to stay up all night. As we close this year, we give thanks to God for his many blessings, to our parents and volunteers for their time, and for the growth in Spirit and friendship we have experienced. We will be hosting some fun summer events and encourage everyone to...

....STAY PLUGGED IN!



SERVE & SHARE WITH FPC YOUTH!

July 14th-17th

FPC Youth are looking for church members to join them in serving the local community this summer for their Summer Mission Week. We need handymen, craftsmen, landscapers, and folks with trucks who are interested in teaching our youth how to use different tools and working alongside them to directly impact our community. Projects will include small outdoor home repair and clean up. Can't work outside? You can donate to help us cover supplies or help by providing lunch for our hardworking youth and volunteers.

Contact Jessica Jones at youth@firstprez.com for more information or to volunteer.

Confirmation Recognition

Our 2025 Confirmation Class has wrapped. They answered some BIG questions and are ready to take their place as members of First Presbyterian Church. Congratulations Confirmands, and thank you for your dedication to studying the Word, growing in Spirit, and your reflection through prayer.

We are proud of you!



Thank You!



Thank you to all those who supported our Car Wash Fundraiser. We could not have reached our goal without you!

Goal: \$500 Collected: \$528





2 Patrick McLaurin
 3 Mark DeSessa
 3 Colton Petti
 3 James Breswitz
 4 Marie Rouse
 4 Genevieve Rocker
 4 Reese Navejas
 5 Reese Farnham
 7 Julia Furman
 7 Mary Susan Megill
 7 Anne Evanco
 7 Barrett Stiehl
 8 Sarah Cotty
 8 Mary Heldreth
 9 Herma Delgado
 9 Angela Lenard
 9 Bruce McRae
 9 Alexa Walworth

10 Joyce Reid
 10 Doug Foster
 10 Allison Smith
 11 Michael Garrett
 11 Ashtin Midgett
 11 Rachel Hardin
 12 Meagan Kramer
 16 Susan Herrick
 16 Christopher Napoli
 17 Betsy Stiles
 17 Brantley Brock
 18 Amy Navejas
 21 William Duhon
 22 Gerald Montero
 23 Quincy Scarborough
 23 Amanda Walworth
 24 Brooke Johnson
 24 Jacob Campbell
 24 Bowdre Fortson
 25 Kim Hall
 25 Benjamin Napoli
 27 Emily Sasser
 27 Winnie Self
 28 Michael Ruff
 28 Graham Emerson
 29 Daniel Nickell
 29 Hayden Blue
 29 Elizabeth Ciccone
 30 Linda Anderson
 30 Milo McBryde
 30 Robert Mathews
 31 Lee Ann Fortson
 31 Sutton Hammond
 31 Ella Spinosa

A LOOK AHEAD...

May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Sunday • Confirmation Recognition • Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. Rock Climbing
May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement Committee Meeting • Mission Committee Meeting
May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.A.L.T. breakfast at JK's Deli • Congregational Care Meeting • Worship Committee Meeting • C. E. Committee Meeting
May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Circle
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha Circle • Finance Committee • Stated Deacons Meeting
May 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.A.L.T. trip to Hillsborough
May 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumberland Choral Arts Concert • AsOne Prayer Walk
May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology Help Session • Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. Bowling (3 to 5 p.m.)
May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David's Mighty Men • Personnel Committee Meeting
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club 543 Meeting
May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trivia Night
May 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowlanders Woodpeckers Game
May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COAP Meeting (Zoom)
May 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS Prep Day
May 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Church Picnic and Fun Day
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Recognition Sunday
June 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement Committee Meeting • Mission Committee Meeting
June 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.A.L.T. Seagrove Pottery Tour
June 7-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexico Mission Trip
June 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Ministry Meeting
June 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated Deacons Meeting
June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. @ Segra
June 16-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacation Bible School
June 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated Session Meeting
Sep 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225th Anniversary Celebration

Memorials

Carol Conklin

Sammy & Carol Short
 Joann Pearce
 Gillie Revelle
 Ann & Buzz Loyd
 Martha Circle
 Ann Eller
 Ralph & Linda Huff
 Ann Rowell

Skipper Smith

Ann & Buzz Loyd
 Patsy Markham
 Fred & Eliza Williams
 Ralph & Linda Huff
 Dan McInnis
 Ann Rowell

Ruth Prevatte Evans

Martha Circle

Barbara Qualls

Patsy Markham

Betty Harrington

Patsy Markham

Tom Langley

Patsy Markham



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PERIODICALS

All Church Picnic and Fun Day

AT PARADISE ACRES RESTAURANT

Saturday, May 31 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for an All-Church Picnic filled with fun, food, and fellowship!

Cost: \$5 per person (cash/check) or \$5.75 per person (online)

Enjoy a delicious hot dog and hamburger buffet, plus picnic fun.

Playground Games • Beach Volleyball • Basketball

Cornhole • Horseshoes • Races for all ages • Hymn BINGO

Train and Fishing Hole Attractions (1-3 p.m.)

and more surprises to come!



To register call the church office,
scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/FPCPicnic



PICNIC



Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to **serve** Jesus Christ and **share** His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.