



THE CHURCH VOICE

A Publication of Shallotte Presbyterian Church



Vol. 36

December, 2024 No. 12

Growing up in the Chapman household, Christmas assumed the form of Moravian sugar cake, cookies, and classic Christmas movies. Myra's family would gather with neighborhood friends to recite Christmas poems. We all have our unique family traditions. And since celebrating Christmas is a global event, what's true for families is also true for cultures.

While Christians represent only about 1% of the population, Christmas remains a popular holiday in Japan. Since turkeys are rare, in 1974, Kentucky Fried Chicken began an advertising campaign *Kurisumasu ni wa Kentakkii*, or "Kentucky for Christmas". Today, roughly 3.6 million Japanese households celebrate Christmas with a bucket of KFC.



Colonel Saunders rings in the holiday for Japan.

In Central Europe, while Santa brings toys for good children, bad children are visited by the half-goat, half-man, *Krampus*, who would place them in his bag and carry them away. Some believe the myth to have pagan origins.

In Caracas, Venezuela, a popular tradition is to roller-skate to mass on Christmas morning. Some suspect that skating serves as a substitute for sledding, which can be admittedly difficult in a tropical climate.



Holiday skating in Caracas

Norwegians hide their brooms on Christmas Eve to prevent witches from stealing them. Some set out a bowl of porridge for the gnome *Nisse*, who protects the family farm. Another tradition is *Julebukking*, where costumed singers visit homes for treats while trying to get people to guess their identity.

In Ukraine, the spider-web is a popular Christmas symbol and considered a sign of good luck. According to tradition, a poor widow could not afford to decorate her Christmas tree, so a spider spun beautiful webs over the tree to reflect the morning light.



A Norwegian Nisse keeps watch over the livestock.

The people of Greenland celebrate Christmas with a traditional Inuit meal of pickled whale blubber (*Muktuk*) and fermented waterfowl (*Kiviak*). The Welsh festival of *Mari Lywd* parades a horse skull through town. In the Czech Republic, single women toss a shoe over their shoulder to see if they will find love that year. Oaxaca, Mexico celebrates the holiday season with an annual competition to make sculptures from radishes.

Such holiday traditions appear unusual, but then again, keeping a dead tree in your living room decorated with lights may also seem a bit odd to the uninitiated. Even so, the celebration of Christmas reminds us, no matter where we come from or how different we may appear, we are all beloved children of God!



Traditional Inuit Muktuk (just like Mom used to make!)

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples." – Luke 2:30-31

Grace, Peace & Merry Christmas! – George

Looking Ahead for Worship

1st Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

8:30 am Worship

11:00am Worship

Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13



2nd Sunday of Advent December 8th, 2024

ONE Worship Service

10:00am

Christmas Cantata!!



3rd Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

8:30am Worship

11:00am Worship

Luke 3:7-18; Isaiah 12:2-6

4th Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

8:30am Worship

11:00am Worship

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve December 24, 2024

6:00pm

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55



1st Sunday of Christmas December 29, 2024

11:00am Worship

ONE Worship Service

Luke 2:41-52; Colossians 3:12-17

BLOOD DRIVE at Shallotte Presbyterian Church



MONDAY
December 23, 2024
1-5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Advent in Plain Sight

**Mondays (Dec. 2, 9 & 16) 11:30 at the church
led by Mac McCall**

**Tuesdays (Dec. 3, 10, & 17) 1:00pm at the home
of Helen and Charlie Odum;
1782 Waterway Dr. SW OIB**

**Wednesday (Dec. 4, 11, & 18) 4:00pm at the
home of Lynne & Bill Young; 758 Creekway Cir.
SE Bolivia**

Shallotte Presbyterian Church Rev. George Chapman III, Pastor

The Session (Elders)

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Betsy Braddock	Kitty Green	John Cardwell
David Martin	Sarah Henry	Kim Smithwick
Scott Taylor	Rusty Russ	Steve Wingfield
Rich Winslow	Linda Stackhouse	Lynne Young

Kitty Green, Clerk of Session

The Board of Deacons

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Sarah Braddock	Barbara English	Lurae Albert
Deb Claxton	Carol Kauffman	Leslie Claiborne
Audrey Lee	Brenda Lewis	Tobin Henry
Mabel Winslow	Rosalee Rockafellow	Susan Lehmann

Deb Claxton, Moderator Audrey Lee, Clerk of Deacons



Sunday Worship Services

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

There will be only **ONE** service
December 8th at 10:00am with no
Sunday School. We will also have a
6:00pm Candle light service on
Christmas Eve. There will be only **ONE**
service December 29th at 11:00am

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

The **Nursery** is available during Sunday
School and 11am service.



A Special Advent Service

On **Sunday, December 8th**, at **10:00 am**, the Chancel Choir of Shallotte Presbyterian Church will present a Cantata of Carols in Four Suites entitled “**Christmas Canticles**” by Benjamin Harlan. The choir will be accompanied by a full orchestra. You are invited to come and pay homage to the Infant King who gave all. Our hope is to heighten your celebration of the Incarnation.

Sunday, November 3 we had a new member luncheon for those who joined us in 2024!!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24
6:00pm



Greeters & Ushers - December 2024 - Can you Volunteer?



Date	Greeters 11am	Ushers 11am
12/1	Audrey Lee & Joanne Prettyman	Barbara Montague & Linda Sing
12/8	Jeannie Curry & Carolyn Voorheis	Erskine Blount & Rusty Russ
12/15	Carol Kauffman	
12/22	Sally Gunn & Carol Vealey	
12/29	Linda & Mike Black	Susan & Eric Lehmann

Welcome Table - December 2024 -

12/1	Linda Stackhouse & Patsy Calhoun
12/8	Eric & Susan Lehmann
12/15	Bart & Janet Norwood
12/22	Mac & Martha Warner
12/29	Linda Stackhouse



Celebration Circle Update

Celebration Circle met on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Circle Moderator Debbie Wingfield opened the meeting with a prayer and the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Sarah Henry presented the Bible study lesson, "Food Justice," from this year's study, **Let Justice Roll Down.**

Following the Bible lesson, reports were presented from treasurer (Mindy Cardwell), secretary (Susan Alley), and mission representative, (Beth Spoon). The mission focus in October was BEMC's "Warm Homes, Warm Hearts" program. \$379 was collected by the women in support of this effort.

As part of the business meeting, the focus turned to the "Thank Offering" Program. Debbie Wingfield presented the program and video detailing the 8 recipients of this year's grants. These funds support programs in the United States as well as internationally. The group prayerfully dedicated offerings toward this effort.

Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious lunch and some great fellowship. Hostesses for the Thank Offering luncheon were Louise Durham and Pat McClure.

Our good friend and dedicated member, Beth Spoon, will be moving to Florida in December. We are so thankful for her presence, hard work, and service. She will be missed at Shallotte Presbyterian. We wish her the best.

Beth has been serving as the Mission Coordinator for Celebration Circle during the 24-25 year. Ruth Owens has agreed to take her place, serving on the Mission and Benevolence committee. We welcome Ruth to this position and to Celebration Circle.

If Thanksgiving is upon us, can Advent be far behind? There are some important dates in our future, and we will need lots of help. On Sunday, November 24 following the 11:00 worship, the ladies will be bringing down wreathes, garland, and window decorations from the attic. This effort is completed through an assembly line, where items are passed along. That way no one has to go up and down those steep attic steps.

Then, on Friday, November 29th (the day after Thanksgiving), the greening of the church will take place. We will meet at the church at 10:00 to decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Lots of hands will make light work, so please try to join us.

Another important date in our future is the December 11th meeting of the Celebration Circle. That is the date of our annual "potluck" luncheon. Hostesses for the December meeting are Linda Black and Linda Stackhouse. Gail Thomas will teach the Bible study lesson for December. Join us!



SMALL GROUP DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT

We will offer 3 small group opportunities -
Choose the one that best suits your schedule!
Small groups will meet as follows:

Mondays (Dec. 2, 9,&16) 11:30 am at the church led by Mac McCall

Tuesdays (Dec. 3,10,&17) 1:00 pm at the home of Helen and Charlie Odom,
led by Mike Claxton 1782 Waterway Dr. SW OIB

Wednesdays (Dec. 4,11,&18) 4:00 at the home of Lynne and Bill Young
758 Creekway Circle SE
Bolivia



You are invited to slow down during Advent, connect with fellow church members, and ponder the presence of God in our lives.

A Holiday Appeal: The 2025 Christmas Joy Offering

As we consider the giving and receiving of gifts this holiday season, let us also remember those people in our lives who have truly developed our faith. It may be a pastor or Christian educator, a youth minister or Sunday school teacher – devoted and caring leaders who lead us in the way of Christ. Church workers shape our faith as God's gifts to us. As we celebrate Advent and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the PC(USA)'s annual **Christmas Joy Offering** provides a way for us to offer a gift in response, especially for those church workers who may need assistance to pay bills or receive life-saving medical treatment. Our gifts through the Christmas Joy Offering help support these people who have given so much of themselves to Christ's church.

Even as we support our current and former church leaders and their families, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College, a Historically Black College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, are sustained through the generosity of Presbyterians through the Christmas Joy Offering, which means a brighter future for students, providing new paths of opportunity to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world.

Despite the business of this season, we may never be able to match God's perfect gift in Jesus, but through the Christmas Joy Offering, we can testify to how God is present and among us. Our perfect gift comes from above. Our gifts reflect God's generosity and grace. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world – past, present and future.

To learn more about the missions supported by the Christmas Joy Offering and learn stories of personal impact, please visit the website: specialofferings.pcusa.org.



Gabriel Shallotte Presbyterian Church's own Eagle Scout delivered **1700 books** to Matthew's Ministry. Thank you Gabriel, and all those who helped support this great ministry. Thank you to Mike & Deb Claxton and the Lord's Pantry for a donation of 120 books about nutrition and easy meal ideas for children.



Fill a Cruiser

Thank you to all those who took part in filling our Shallotte police cruiser with school supplies. You make a HUGE difference in our community.

Crop Hunger Walk

The 2024 CROP Hunger Walk was held on Sunday, November 3 at the Mulberry Park Pavilion, starting at 1:00pm. It was a beautiful day for a walk. Deb Claxton, Chairperson, reported that the Walk had 76 walkers and raised over \$14,000. Many thanks go out to all those who participated, whether you walked or supported a walker. A special thank you also goes out to the Sponsors who donated \$6,000 to help defray the costs of this year's Walk.





If you have placed a name on the list below and it needs to be removed, 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, Olivia Carelock, Pat Dobbins, Kimmie Durham, Nancy Elwell, Frances Farmer, Charles Greene, Michelle & Charles Griffin, Charlotte Guker, Rosemary Hall, Carole Harris, Richard Hilton, Christian Huffman, Mary Mac Holcombe, Lantz & Peggy Lackey, Josh Long, Bob Mayhew, Ann & Bill McPhaul, Chip & Jackie Montague, George & Barbara Montague, Maximus & Hendrix Montague, Laura Morrison, Sharon Nault, Pat O'Neil, Chuck Partridge, Anita Payne, Lee Rockafellow, Ann Sheeranne, Harry Simpson, Joe Simpson, Kaitlyn Smith, Donna Sullivan, Cindy Wilson, Lou Zimmerman.

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, 2024 with comparative amounts for 2023 and 2022.

	2024 <u>Actual</u>	2023 <u>Actual</u>	2022 <u>Actual</u>
Pledges & Other Offerings received	\$340,671.90	\$347,053.95	\$327,726.41
Expenditures:			
Staff Ministry	163,218.02	148,932.90	154,055.58
Local Program Ministry	15,686.14	12,050.36	9,604.01
Property and Grounds	103,543.61	124,079.56	89,435.81
Administration	17,880.77	17,468.56	17,945.87
General / Sessional	259.40	147.66	186.61
Missions and Benevolences	54,802.00	50,428.19	49,648.00
Total Expenditures	355,389.94	353,107.23	320,911.88
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	\$ (14,718.04)	\$ (6,053.28)	\$ 6,814.53

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



Shallotte Presbyterian Church is a member of the South Brunswick Interchurch Council who operates The Lords Food Pantry. Every Saturday, The Food Pantry addresses food insecurity by distributing food to area neighbors. SPC supports this mission by providing volunteers 6 times per year for two days: packing the grocery bags; and then distribute the food. This is a great way to meet your fellow SPC members and live our faith as we serve others. Please volunteer to join us.

Our Special “Thank You” to these SPC members who have helped this year:

Sue Anderson, Barry & Lynn Aumen, Erskine Blount, Myra Chapman, Mike & Deb Claxton, Chad Hammer, Sarah Henry, Molly Frederick, Wendy Hughes, Sandy Lacy, Eric & Susan Lehmann, Jenny Meekins, Joanne & Mike Prettyman, Gail Thomas & Dylan, Wayne Tillman, Steven Vattimo, Carolyn Voorheis

Looking for volunteers Friday, Dec 27 & Saturday, Dec 28th

Sandy Lacy Solacy2@gmail.com 540-664-7515

Eric Lehmann eslssl141@gmail.com 910-721-7463

*Thank
You*

Dear Special Congregation of Shallotte Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for all of the prayers, hugs, thoughts, cards, calls- your presence- earlier and on-going. Everything has been a great comfort to Ken, our other daughter Cheryl, and me. The loss of Charissa (Chrissy) has been a long time coming, but that has not made it any easier. Your caring and prayers have made this easier to endure. This has been a process I would not wish on anyone and Ken has been doing most of the estate work. Please continue to hold us and others in prayers and thoughts.

Love to All,

Jeanne & Ken Curry



Dear Shallotte Presbyterian Church Family,

My family and I were so grateful for the outpouring of love we received after Don's passing. The care and compassion, the thoughtful texts, sympathy cards and all of the heartfelt phone calls meant so much along with the prayers and hugs we received. The wonderful food that was brought to our home was delicious and very much appreciated with 14 people here for several days.

Rev. Chapman made his service light hearted but described Don so well. Tatyana Allston played just the right hymns along with Paul Freeman's arrangement of the music. Thanks to Rev. Bill Young who presided for the Committal.

The Mary Martha ladies served delicious refreshments as always. A special thank you to Steve Wingfield for streaming the service so our family and friends who could not see Don's service and to Christina Watts for the beautiful Memorial bulletin. I am so blessed to be part of a church family that is as caring and loving as you are. With all our hearts we thank you.

The Kauffman Family

**Please forgive me if I have left anyone out!*

*WITH
sympathy*

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the family of Shirley Zimmerman who passed away on Friday, November 22, 2024. Condolences may be sent to her husband:

*Lou Zimmerman
290 Woodland Way
Unit 9
Calabash NC 28467*



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

Non-Profit Organization
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ADDRESS RETURN REQUESTED
December, 2024



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



www.facebook.com/shallottepresbyterian



REMINDER
VICKI A. BLOUNT
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Application deadline is
February 14, 2025

Any deserving member of Shallotte Presbyterian Church who is trying to further his/her education, whether currently enrolled in a 4-year college, a community college, trade school, or a graduating High School Senior is eligible to apply.

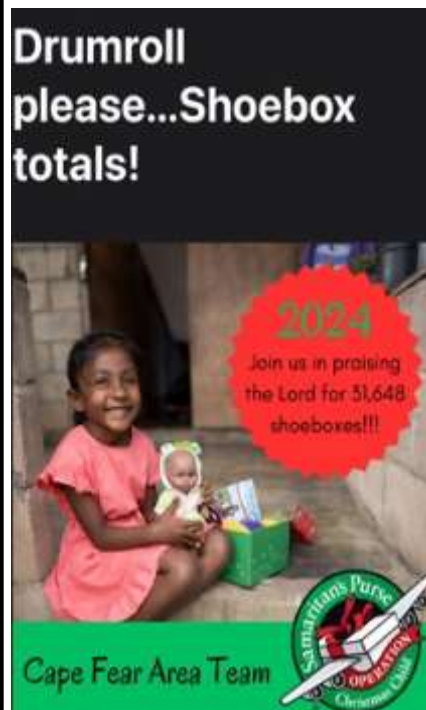
Applications are available in the church office or by email request to erskine.blount@gmail.com.
*Students with existing scholarships must reapply.

Erskine Blount, Project Chair



Samaritan's Purse

We collected over 2,000 shoeboxes this year at our SPC location, and our region collected nearly 32,000!



What a beautiful, tangible way to share the Good News of Great Joy with people around the world!

Thank you to all who packed shoeboxes, collected items throughout the year in our Narthex, worked at our church's Drop Off Location, provided snacks for our volunteers, loaded and drove trucks of packed cartons, and prayed for each shoebox recipient.

Merry Christmas!
Betsy