



THE CHURCH VOICE

A Publication of Shallotte Presbyterian Church



Vol. 37

December, 2025 No. 12

Nicholas of Myra was born to a wealthy Greek family in southwest Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) in 270^{AD}. His name Nicholas derives from two Greek words, *νίκη* (*nike* = “victory”) and *λαός* (*laos* = “people”), meaning, “victory for the people”. Unlike many leaders in the early church, Nicholas was born and raised a Christian. Greatly influenced by his uncle, the Bishop of Patara, Nicholas would be ordained as a priest in 289, and was imprisoned during the persecution of Christians by Roman Emperor Diocletian in 303. Nicholas was highly respected because of his refusal to recant his faith. He was released after the ascension of Constantine as emperor in 312, and following a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Nicholas was consecrated Bishop of Myra in 317 upon his return.

According to tradition, Nicholas arose to prominence at the Council of Nicaea arguing against the influence of an Egyptian priest named Arius, who taught that Christ the Son was a created being and was therefore subordinate to the Father. At one point the debate became so heated that Nicholas allegedly struck Arius in the face! The council would uphold the orthodox understanding of the Trinity, Father and Son being “coequal” and “consubstantial” with the formulation of the Nicene Creed in 325.

There are several legends attributed to Nicholas. The most famous involves Nicholas using his inheritance to provide for a poor man with three daughters who could not afford a dowry. As such, the daughters risked being sold into prostitution. Nicholas goes to the house at night to throw purses filled with gold coins through the window of the home, one for each daughter, over three consecutive nights. After the second, the father resolves to keep watch to discover his mysterious benefactor. Nicholas, however, learns of this and drops the third bag down the chimney instead, which falls into the stocking of the third daughter who had set it above the embers of the fireplace to dry.

Nicholas of Myra died December 6, 343, which would be established as the saint’s feast day. The exchange of gifts would become a customary practice for the celebration. As the patron saint of Amsterdam, St. Nicholas would become known to the Dutch as *Sinterklass*, who would journey from Spain each year to deliver gifts and oranges to children on the night before his feast day. During the Reformation, Martin Luther moved the observance to coincide with Christmas, in an effort to move Protestants away from the Catholic practice of venerating the saints. Even so, *Sinterklaas* would remain a popular figure, migrating to American shores with the settlement of New Amsterdam (now New York City) in the 17th century. As the tradition gained popularity among English settlers, *Sinterklass* would become Anglicized to the more familiar, “Santa Claus”.

“Love the Lord, all you his saints. The Lord preserves the faithful. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.” – Psalm 31:23-24

Grace, Peace & Merry Christmas!

George, Husband of Myra

Looking Ahead for Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
ONE Worship Service
10:00am Lessons & Carols
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Sunday of Advent
Wear Pink
Pantry Sunday
December 14th, 2025
8:30am Worship
11:00am Worship
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11



4th Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025
8:30am Worship
11:00am Worship
Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
6:00pm



1st Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025
11:00am Worship
ONE Worship Service
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

BLOOD DRIVE at Shallotte Presbyterian Church

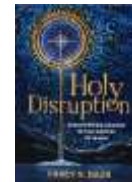


MONDAY
December 22, 2025
1-5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Holy Disruption

Advent Bible Study

Mondays (Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22) 10:30am at the church led by Mac McCall



Shallotte Presbyterian Church
Rev. George Chapman III, Pastor

The Session (Elders)

Class of 2025

Kitty Green
Sarah Henry
Rusty Russ
Linda Stackhouse

Class of 2026

John Cardwell
Kim Smithwick
Steve Wingfield
Lynne Young

Class of 2027

Patsy Calhoun
Mike Clawson
Eric Lehmann
Mac Warner

Kitty Green, Clerk of Session

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2025

Barbara English
Carol Kauffman
Brenda Lewis
Rosalee Rockafellow

Class of 2026

Lurae Albert
Leslie Claiborne
Tobin Henry
Susan Lehmann

Class of 2027

Linda Black
Sarah Braddock
Sarah Cook
Bart Norwood

Tobin Henry, Moderator Susan Lehmann, 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 7th at 10:00am with no
Sunday School. We will also have a
6:00pm Candlelight service on
Christmas Eve. There will be only **ONE**
service the Sunday after Christmas
December 28th at 11:00am

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

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

Worship & Music news



Advent Schedule

Nov. 30th Hope Candle

reminds us of the hope of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Dec. 7th Peace Candle

reminds us of the peace that enters our lives when we experience the presence of Jesus Christ

Dec. 14th Joy Candle

reminds us of the joy the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born.

Dec. 21st Love Candle

reminds us of the love that God shares with the world through the birth of Jesus.

Dec. 24th Christ Candle

reminds us that Jesus Christ, the true light of the world, has come.



Dec 24th Christmas Eve
6:00pm

Candlelight Service & Communion

Merry Christmas



Sunday, November 2 we had a new member luncheon for those who joined us in 2025!



Volunteers - December 2025 -

Date	Ushers	Liturgist	Greeter	Welcome Table	Acolyte
12/7	Rusty & Polly Russ	Kim Smithwick	Rosalee Rockafellow	Linda Stackhouse	AJ Pendergrass
12/14	Rosalee & Lee Rockafellow	Mike Claxton	Tom Tart	Eric Lehmann	Steven Vattimo
12/21	Linda Stackhouse & Helen Odum	Ryan Smithwick	Joanne Prettyman	Bart Norwood	Seamus Smithwick
12/24	Doug Baxley & Audrey Smithwick	Ed Carter	Declan Smithwick	Eric Lehmann	Seamus Smithwick
12/28	Mac McCall & Sandy Lacy	Martha Warner	Jeanne McLeod	Mac Warner	Declan Smithwick



Celebration Circle November

The Presbyterian Women's Celebration Circle met on November 12th. Margaret Causey opened the meeting by lighting the Christ candle and led us in reciting the Presbyterian Women's Purpose. Hostesses were Lynn Auman and Deb Claxton. Carol Kauffman led the Bible study from Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. The lesson, Jesus Is Tested, was based on Scripture: Luke 4:1-13. The artwork is "The Temptation in the Wilderness" by Briton



Riviere. What Jesus did was force the church to put people above policy, to seek justice, and to care for marginalized people, including women, whom Jesus healed, talked with, shared meals, taught, and showed great grace and love. This month the Circle meeting's Mission project was the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. We learned about the Thank Offering grants that were given to worthy projects and programs this year. Lynn Auman described the Thank Offering's ability to fund these worthy causes and Margaret Causey offered a prayer for the donations collected from our Celebration Circle members. Additional information about the Thank Offering and the video describing this year's recipients can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTCfizCT-PM>



BECOME A CHANCEL COMMITTEE TEAM MEMBER

Have you ever wondered who sets up communion or who keeps the alter candles filled? Have you thought about who changes the paraments on the alter and pulpit? Well, you can be part of the team of people that love doing those easy tasks.

The Chancel Committee is in need of some new volunteers to join our team and be part of the fun in preparing our sanctuary for worship. All new team members will be trained and will receive easy to follow directions documents.

Come join our team and feel real good about your efforts in preparing our church for worship.

Please call or email Wayne and Linda Tillman at [732-306-0426](tel:732-306-0426) or hwaynet01@gmail.com.



Angel Tree

Thank you SPC Angels! ALL the tags were taken and gifts were placed under the Christmas tree. With your help, Brunswick Family Assistance program 'Fill The Sleigh' is fulfilled for children ages 1-16 and seniors 60+ in our community. Shining faces will glow when they receive your gifts. Merry Christmas!



The Nominating Committee extends our sincerest gratitude to these members who have answered the call to serve as officers. We thank them for their willingness to contribute their gifts and talents to Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

A Congregational Meeting was held on October 12 after the 11:00am worship service. This meeting was held for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2028 which are as follows:

Elders: Mac McCall, Laura Thompson, Jeannie McLeod, Sandy Lacy

Deacons: Tom Tart, Tim Owens, Paul Marlow, Joanne Prettyman





The Shallotte Presbyterian youth took the items donated by the congregation throughout the year and assembled 36 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes during their youth time.

MISSION AND BENEVOLENCE: SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for always making our OCC Collection Week so special here at SPC. Thanks to the co-ordination of Betsy Braddock, Sarah Braddock, Mike Clawson and 25 other dedicated SPC volunteers who donated 123 hours of their time to collect, pack and transport 2,553 shoeboxes in 162 cartons to the collection center in Wilmington. From there they were then sent to OCC distribution center in Charlotte. In a massive effort to provide Christmas cheer for children around the world.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: November 30 – December 21



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership, but those leaders often need support from their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we support our church leaders – past, present and future – who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and their families who have faithfully guided us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders by equipping communities of color with leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to God.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. **We again invite you to faithfully consider your contribution to the 2025 Christmas Joy Offering through the Presbyterian Church (USA).** Please be on the lookout for promotional materials in your church bulletin this month, or search for more information online at: pcusa.org/special-offerings/christmas-joy-offering



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, Bill Coggins, Pat Dobbins, Shaundra Durham, Albert Evans, Debra & Paul Freeman, Bob Gorman, Charles Greene, Robert Hasting, Terry Gavin & Diane Bonds Haley, Peggy Hughes, Judith & Craig Huffman, Barry & Amy Hulsey, Wray King, Rev. Jerrod Lowry, Bob Mayhew, Chip & Jackie Montague, Maximus & Hendrix Montague, Chuck & Carol Partridge, Colin Prettyman, Ness Rouff, Harry & Suzanne Simpson, Kaitlyn Smith, Linda Tillman, Cindy Wilson, Robin Wilson, Linda Wortman & Bill Young.

A Note from the Stewardship/Finance Committee

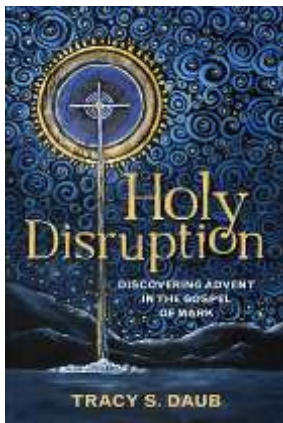
The following is a brief summary of our giving and related expenditures of the Operating Fund for the 10 months ended October 31, 2025 with comparative amounts for 2024 and 2023.

	2025 <u>Actual</u>	2024 <u>Actual</u>	2023 <u>Actual</u>
Pledges & Other Offerings received	<u>\$387,712.62</u>	<u>\$340,671.90</u>	<u>\$347,053.95</u>
Expenditures:			
Staff Ministry	170,851.70	163,218.02	148,932.90
Local Program Ministry	21,524.84	15,686.14	12,050.36
Property and Grounds	111,671.69	103,543.61	124,079.56
Administration	20,586.32	17,880.77	17,468.56
General / Sessional	1,051.86	259.40	147.66
Missions and Benevolences	<u>53,575.00</u>	<u>54,802.00</u>	<u>50,428.19</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>379,261.41</u>	<u>355,389.94</u>	<u>353,107.23</u>
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>\$ (8,451.21)</u>	<u>\$ (14,718.04)</u>	<u>\$ (6,053.28)</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



HOLY DISRUPTION Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity story – so where's the Advent message? It's in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond. God's coming to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die is what we celebrate at Christmas, and Mark shows us just how radical and celebration worthy it is!

So, join us at the church beginning Monday, December 1st at 10:30am as we start an Advent Study which will present to us a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas as we experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world.

We have some books for this study in the Church office so stop by and pick one up from Christina.



Loving Friends,

Our family will always be grateful for the multitude of ways you embraced us with your love during Charlie's journey with dementia. Special thanks to Rev. George Chapman III, Rev. John Causey, violist-Lynn Auman, cellist- Chad Hammer, accompanist-Tetyana Allston, music director-Paul Freeman and office administrator- Christina Watts, for their contributions to Charlie's beautiful celebration of life. Deep gratitude to the entire Mary Martha team for the lovely reception. Thank you for being part of God's comfort in our lives.

With thankful hearts,
Helen & family

On Saturday, November 15th beloved pets along with their owners met at the picnic area of the church to receive a blessing from Pastor George. George's blessed new best friend's include: **Fig, Drake, Atticus, Petie, Mookie, Georgie, Snickers, Cammie, Timber, Tinkerbelle and Lady.** All got along so well, and were even vocal for the singing of our hymns. The fur babies (kiddies) are looking forward to next year.



Is anyone available to speak with me/and or my family about my plans?

I just don't how to begin making decisions.

Yes, Our Pastor, George Chapman III, and any member of our Columbarium Committee is willing to meet with you and your family. This subject can be a delicate one, and families may have difficulty discussing plans for after death. Yet, most people cannot predict the circumstances of their deaths. Reservation for inurnment in a niche or for a memorial plaque could be greatly appreciated by your family. If you would like to speak with someone about your plans or your questions, please call the church office or Betsy Braddock to arrange a time to meet.

Niches are available for one or two sets of cremated remains. \$1500-\$2,000

Memorial Wall plaques can be reserved in honor or in memory of someone, \$750-\$1,000

We also have large shrubs with plaques in memory of loved ones, \$350

Questions? Call Betsy!
404-281-5242



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Non-Profit Organization
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Permit #140

ADDRESS RETURN REQUESTED

December, 2025



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



www.facebook.com/shallottepresbyterian

**COMING
THIS
MONTH!**

Dec. 1 —Advent Small Group Bible Study, 10:30

Dec. 3 —PWCT, 1:00pm

Dec. 7—Lessons & Carols, ONE Service, 10:00am

Dec. 8—Advent Small Group Bible Study, 10:30am

Dec. 8—Pastor George's Bible Study, 6:00pm, FH

Dec. 9— Combined Session/Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm, FH

Dec. 10—Celebration Circle, 10:30, FH

Dec. 10—SPC Youth Group, 3:30, FH

Dec. 13—SPC Caroling, 2:00, FH

Dec. 15—Advent Small Group Bible Study, 10:30

Dec. 15—Group Home Christmas, 4:00pm, FH

Dec. 16—Pastor George's Bible Study, 6:00pm

Dec. 17—SPC Youth Group, 3:30, FH

Dec. 22—Advent Small Group Bible Study, 10:30

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve, Candlelight Service, 6:00pm

Dec. 28—ONE Service at 11:00, Sunday School



Let's Go Caroling

All SPC members please join us...

Saturday December 13th
2:00pm Fellowship Hall

We will spread holiday cheer at
Autumn Care of Shallotte

*Potluck fellowship after caroling
to celebrate the Christmas Season*

All skill levels wanted — even NO skill level!