



THE CHURCH VOICE

A Publication of Shallotte Presbyterian Church



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Number 2

Have you ever wondered why Easter falls on a different day each year? The answer is an odd confluence of mathematics, astronomy, tradition, and history. For all Christians, Easter is a movable feast, that is to say, the date can vary according to the lunar cycle. Many early Christians first celebrated Easter on the traditional Passover date of Nissan 14 on the Hebrew calendar, the first full moon of the spring equinox. Others celebrated the following Sunday (since technically Christ was resurrected *after* Passover). Still, others argued for a fixed date – the result being, that different churches were celebrating Easter on different days. The controversy wasn't resolved until the Council of Nicaea in 325^{AD} mandated that the whole church would follow the practice of bishops in Alexandria, Egypt, who set the date for Easter on the first Sunday after the paschal moon – a full moon falling on or after the spring equinox, March 21 ("paschal" deriving from the Aramaic word for Passover).

Even so, this date can still vary, depending on whether one's church follows the Julian calendar or the Gregorian calendar. The Julian calendar was mandated in 46^{BC} by Julius Caesar, establishing a 365-day year with one leap year every four years. The continued until 1582, when, due to advances in mathematics and astronomy, Pope Gregory XIII issued the Gregorian calendar, reducing the year from 365.25 days to the more accurate 365.2425 days (as compared to an actual solar year of 365.2422 days). While the difference is minuscule, that extra 11.52 minutes per year means that the Julian calendar observes leap years more frequently than the Gregorian (every four years without exception, versus every four years except years divisible by 100, but not 400). That adds up over time. There is presently a 13-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars. As I write this on January 26 according to the Gregorian calendar, it's January 13 on the Julian. Obviously, a gap of almost two weeks can make an enormous difference when calculating the date for Easter relative to the spring equinox.

The vast majority of Christians go by the Gregorian calendar, yet some Eastern Orthodox traditions maintain the Julian. This means that Easter on the Julian calendar will always come after the Gregorian. Typically, this is a difference of only a week, but it can sometimes be a month or more. (In 2024, Easter on the Gregorian was March 31, while for the Julian it was May 5.) Every three years, or around 30% of the time, the date for Easter on both calendars align, as they did last year. Since we go by the Gregorian calendar in our tradition, this means that Easter will fall on April 5 this year, which is on the early side. The most common date for Easter is April 19. The next time Easter will fall on the latest possible date, April 25, will be in 2038 (the last being 1943 – a 95-year gap). However, the next time Easter will fall on the earliest possible date, March 22, will be 2285 (the last being 1818 – a 467-year gap)!

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." – Psalm 118:24

Grace & Peace,

George

Looking Ahead for Worship

4th Sunday after Epiphany
 February 1, 2026
 8:30am Worship
 9:45-10:30am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship



5th Sunday after Epiphany
 February 8, 2026
 8:30am Worship
 9:45-10:30am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship

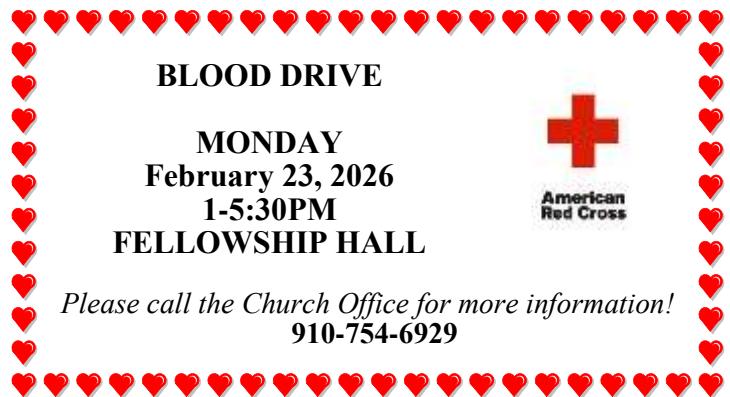


Transfiguration of the Lord
 February 15, 2026
 8:30am Worship
 9:45-10:30am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship

Ash Wednesday
 February 18, 2026
 11:30am Worship



1st Sunday in Lent
 February 22, 2026
 8:30am Worship
 9:45-10:30am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship



Shallotte Presbyterian Church
 Rev. George Chapman III, Pastor

The Session (Elders)

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
John Cardwell	Patsy Calhoun	Sandy Lacy
Kim Smithwick	Mike Clawson	Mac McCall
Steve Wingfield	Eric Lehmann	Jeannie McLeod
Lynne Young	Mac Warner	Laura Thompson

Jenny Meekins, Clerk of Session

The Board of Deacons

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Lurae Albert	Linda Black	Paul Marlow
Leslie Claiborne	Sarah Braddock	Tim Owens
Tobin Henry	Sarah Cook	Joanne Prettyman
Susan Lehmann	Bart Norwood	Tom Tart

Tobin Henry, Moderator Susan Lehmann, Clerk



Sunday Worship Services

8:30am
 11:00am

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.

Special Service this month

February 18- Ash Wednesday 11:30am



Celebration Circle – January Meeting

Our January SPC Celebration Circle meeting was held on January 15th. Thank you to our hostesses Linda Black and Barbara Montague. Our Mission of the month was Streetreach with their mission of support to the unhoused neighbors in our county.

Lynn Auman was our Bible study leader on the lesson, “The Gift of the Woman who was Poor” from Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. We are searching for leaders for the next Circle and Coordinating Team. If you are interested in serving, please contact a member of the Coordinating Team.

The planning for the Gifts of Women Service which will be on Sunday, March 1st, is underway. Finally, votes for the next Life Membership were cast and will be counted at the next PWCT meeting in February. Many thanks to all who helped with the “undecorating” of the church and stored the decorations. We hope to see YOU at our next Celebration Circle on Wednesday, February 11th at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall.



Recognizing the Gifts of Women

On Sunday, March 1st, Shallotte Presbyterian Church will be recognizing the Gifts of Women during the 11:00am worship service. This day of recognition has become a tradition throughout the Coastal Carolina Presbytery. The Reverend Ann Jahnes will lead and SPC women will be engaged in all aspects of our worship service. There will be one worship service that day. Sunday School will meet as usual at 9:45am.

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team encourages all women who attend Shallotte Presbyterian to participate in this day of recognition by volunteering to greet, usher, read liturgy, or sing in the Women’s choir on March 1st. If you are reluctant to volunteer, simply show your support for the many ways in which women serve in the work of the church by wearing pink that day. We look forward to participating fully in this recognition of Women in church.

ATTENTION!



WARMING FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Open anytime temperatures drop below 40 degrees.

Check-in: 5 p.m. Call: (910) 287-4357

Rose House for women

545 Hickman Rd NW, Calabash, NC 28467

Grant's Harbor for men

520 Mulberry St, Shallotte, NC 28470

Bryant's Orchard for families

433 Tarklin Ct NW, Shallotte, NC 28470

Requirements

- Sober
- No weapons
- No illicit substances
- Tobacco free (NRT Available)
- Independently mobile

While you're here, ask us about taking a step into long-term housing stability. We can help!

**WARM PLACE TO SLEEP
HOT MEALS
CLEAN LAUNDRY
SAFE TRANSPORTATION**

THE LORDS FOOD PANTRY STATS

FOR

January 2026

**Number of People Served
(Includes TEFAP)**

Children	756
Adults	1,159
Seniors	566
Total	2,481



On behalf of the entire team at Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity, we sincerely thank you for your donation to our second annual November Calendar Fundraiser. We are thrilled with the support from our faith community. Your support plays a crucial role in helping deserving families in Brunswick County secure a safe and affordable home. **SPC raised a total of \$407.33 for Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity.**

-Sandy Lacy



CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Walk – It's more than just a trophy signifying raising the most money (but SPC won it for the 4th consecutive year).

With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are “viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks.” On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP – and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 68 years of working in partnership around the world.

The South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC) will host its annual CROP Walk for Hunger at Mulberry Park in Shallotte tentatively scheduled for on Sunday, Nov. 1.





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:

Farah Abosapa, Pat Bell, Shawn Brockney, Mindy Cardwell, Bill Coggins, Cindy Davis, Pat Dobbins, Shaundra Durham, Debra Freeman, Terry Gavin, Geoff Goetz, Bob Gorman, Diane Bonds Haley, Robert Hasting, Peggy Hughes, Susan Honeycutt & Anna Puser, Wray King, Rev. Jerrod Lowry, Bob Mayhew, Chip & Jackie Montague, Maximus & Hendrix Montague, Carol Partridge, Colin Prettyman, Nessa Rouff, Harry & Suzanne Simpson, Kaitlyn Smith, Cindy 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 12 months ended December 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>\$477,944.41</u>	<u>\$434,647.70</u>	<u>\$441,016.16</u>
Expenditures:			
Staff Ministry	208,089.81	197,036.70	179,083.92
Local Program Ministry	26,235.29	21,150.79	17,203.89
Property and Grounds	137,018.24	122,993.67	146,386.50
Administration	25,476.50	20,921.00	21,258.98
General / Sessional	1,151.18	250.00	706.82
Missions and Benevolences	<u>62,250.00</u>	<u>62,250.00</u>	<u>60,200.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>460,221.02</u>	<u>425,567.48</u>	<u>424,840.11</u>
Revenues over Expenditures	<u>\$ 17,723.39</u>	<u>\$ 9,071.22</u>	<u>\$ 16,176.05</u>

A thought to consider....

“No person was ever honored for what he received.

Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”

Calvin Coolidge, 30th US President



Sunday, January 18th we welcomed our 2026 SPC Leadership From left to right

**Paul Marlow- Deacon
Joanne Prettyman- Deacon
Tom Tart- Deacon
Laura Thompson- Elder
Sandy Lacy- Elder
Mac McCall - Elder
Jeanne Mcleod- Elder
Tim Owens -Deacon**



GSMA Lenten Worship Service
Wednesday's, 12 Noon

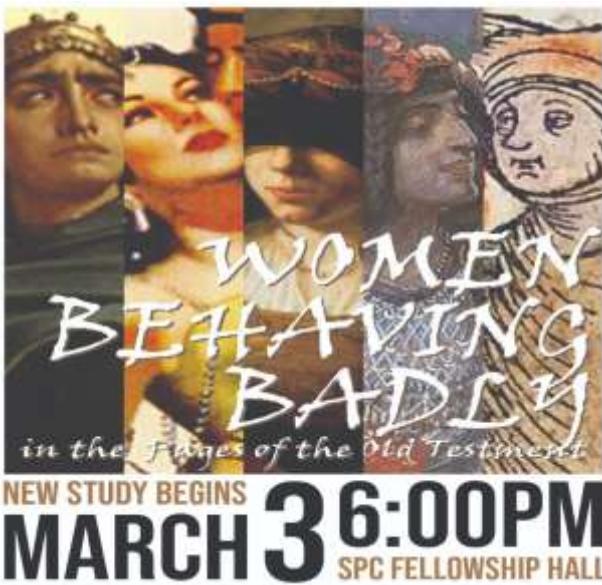
February 25; Calvary Baptist Church; Clay Parker

March 4; Shallotte Presbyterian Church; Matt Farabow

March 11; Camp United; Joe Needham

March 18; Seaside United Methodist; Katherine Moore

March 25; St. Luke; Fran Salone-Pelletier



Dear Congregation,

2025 will not be a year that Debra and I will remember fondly. We had many health challenges for us both, but mostly Debra. But we know in our hearts that many of you also had difficult challenges. It is part of life. That is why we all depend on the comforting spirit of God to see us through. We have felt the love and prayers of this congregation in the form of cards, flowers, food, text, emails, etc. Thank you for all your kindness.

With Christian Love,
Paul & Debra Freeman



Our family would like to thank our church family and friends for the many cards, phone calls and prayers *during Charles' illness and at the time of his passing*. Your kindness, love, and support have meant more to us than words can express and have brought us comfort during this difficult time. -Charles Greene Family

BECOME A CHANCEL COMMITTEE TEAM MEMBER

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.

Come join our team and feel good about your efforts in preparing our church for worship. Please call or email Wayne and Linda Tillman at 732-306-0426 or hwaynet01@gmail.com



Important dates you don't want to miss!

- February 7 — Souper Bowl Saturday**
- February 8 — Souper Bowl Sunday after 11 am Worship Service**
- February 14 — Chuck Partridge Memorial, 11:00am**
- February 15 — Vicki A Blount Scholarship Application due date**
- February 18 — Ash Wed. Service 11:30am**
- February 23 — Blood Drive 1-5:30pm, FH**
- February 24 — Session 6:30pm, FH**
- February 26 — The Lord's Pantry - Packing**
- February 27 — Sister's of Strength, 11:30, Eggs Up**
- February 28 — The Lord's Pantry - Distribution**



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Shallotte, NC
Permit #140

ADDRESS RETURN REQUESTED
February, 2026



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



www.facebook.com/shallottepresbyterian

Scholarship Challenge Sunday- March 8. 2026

(In memory of Vicki Ann Blount)

Please come prepared to donate to the scholarship fund in person or by mail as our challenger will match all donations received up to \$2000.

Please support our youth as they pursue their educational dreams!



REMINDER
SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER
Application *deadline* is
February 15, 2026

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 Christina. Students with existing scholarships must reapply.

Erskine Blount, Project Chair



Our nursery is a special place where our youngest members are cared for while their families attend the 11:00am service. We have two paid nursery attendants who rotate Sundays, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to help them occasionally during these services. You don't need special training - just a caring heart and a willingness to serve. Volunteers serve on a rotating bases so no one is asked to commit to a Sunday every month. In fact, you could serve every 2-3 months.

Jesus reminded us how deeply children matter when He said, *"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"* (Matthew 19:14)

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Linda Stackhouse. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can support this important ministry.

Shallotte Presbyterian Church celebrates January 25, 2026

Rev. John N. Causey awarded title of Pastor Emeritus



The portrait of Rev. John N. Causey hangs modestly in the main hallway along with all the former pastors of SPC. However, if you look closer, you will notice that John's has a new plaque proclaiming him as our new Pastor Emeritus in recognition of and appreciation for his many years of faithful service to the congregation of Shallotte Presbyterian Church. A modest tribute for a modest servant of God.

Pastor Emeritus is a title conferred upon an honorably retired pastor in recognition of their faithful leadership and spiritual guidance to a particular congregation. The concept is grounded in biblical principles of honoring those who faithfully proclaim the gospel and shepherd believers in the way of the Lord (II Timothy 4:7). Bestowing this title is a meaningful way of showing our respect and gratitude for the years of service John, and his wife Margaret, have given to Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

John's 14+ years at SPC are marked by many achievements. John initiated the Annual Report, developed the Deacons and Elders, created new ministries like the Food Pantry and Scholarship Program, and fostered the growth of the PW Circle. Under his leadership SPC retired the debt early for the new Sanctuary, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the congregation and the Beach Service ministry, dedicated the Columbarium in 2016, and enhanced SPC's reputation for outstanding worship, music, Youth and Christian education, and mission outreach. Perhaps some of the most memorable moments of John's ministry at SPC, are the times he would dress in character



and deliver God's Word in the first person... much to the delight of members and visitors!

With all of these achievements, John's SPC ministry is most remembered for his love for this congregation and his pastoral presence in the lives of its many members over the years.



A Day of Ceremony and Celebration

Members, Family & Friends Celebrate Rev. John Causey



The Worship Service featured Rev. Bill Young as Liturgist...who graduated from Seminary with John. Our new Pastor Emeritus Rev. John Causey regaled us with a story as he presented Prayers Of The People and led us in The Lord's Prayer...as family, friends, and members hung on every word. The hymn "Lift High The Cross" was a perfect ending to a most meaningful worship service.

Extreme winter weather could not dampen the spirits of those gathered to celebrate Rev. John N. Causey's ministry with the presentation of the title Pastor Emeritus. Elder Eric Lehmann read the Resolution, and all in attendance rose for Helen Odum to make the presentation while Pastor Chapman and Margaret Causey look on.



Hostess Helen Odum and many helpers had Fellowship Hall bedecked for the Celebration Reception, with Mike Clawson as the Emcee. Remarks were given by Barry Auman, Patsy Calhoun, Mike Claxton and Rev. Phil Gladden (read by Mike in Phil's weather absence). Barry reminded us of John's motto to "live simply so that others may simply live". The Celebration continued as Margaret presented John with his new "Pastor Emeritus" nametag and celebrated with a kiss. Sarah Henry presented Margaret with SPC's gift of our appreciation for her many years of service. Pastor Emeritus Rev. John Causey shared final thoughts as the party wound down.



So, take a moment to view John's portrait and whisper a prayer of thanks for his time among us, just as he has said prayers for all of us. And know that a laminated duplicate of his Pastor Emeritus Proclamation is mounted on the back of his portrait, serving as a tribute that all of us at Shallotte Presbyterian Church will always be behind him in gratitude for his years of faithful leadership and spiritual guidance.

