



THE CHURCH VOICE

A Publication of Shallotte Presbyterian Church



Vol. 38

January, 2026 No. 1



Piero della Francesca,
Baptism of Christ, c. 1450

Piero della Francesca was born in Sansepolcro, Italy, around 1415 to a noble family in the region of Tuscany. After the death of his father, he was raised by his mother. Like many nobles, he received education in art, mathematics, and the humanities. He apprenticed under a Sienese painter, Antonio di Giovanni d'Anghiari, before relocating to Florence in 1438 to work with other notable artists, such as, Fra Angelico, Donatello, and Brunelleschi. In 1442, he returned to Sansepolcro. Upon receiving master status, he began work on his first commission for an altarpiece, the *Madonna della Misericordie*.

By 1449, della Francesca's reputation as a painter was well established. In 1452 he initiated a series of frescoes at the Basilica San Francesco in Arezzo, which many consider his masterpiece. In 1459, della Francesca was summoned to Rome by Pope Nicholas V to paint frescoes in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore and the Vatican. From 1469 and 1486, della Francesca was employed by noted art patron Count Federico III da Montefeltro of Urbino. As his vision began to deteriorate in his later years, della Francesca shifted his attention to writing, publishing several treatises on painting technique and mathematics. He died in 1492 in Sansepolcro.

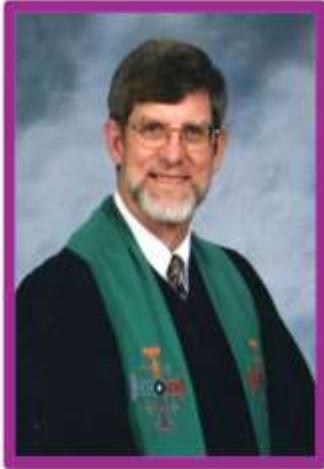
Della Francesca's artwork remained in relative obscurity throughout the Italian Renaissance, largely overshadowed by giants such as Michelangelo and Raphael. Indeed, he was better known as a mathematician than an artist. Not only are mathematical formulas present in della Francesca's use of perspective and scene composition, he, as with other artists in the Italian Renaissance, believed these principles could also be applied to human anatomy to achieve ideal physical proportions. Della Francesca frequently employed Euclid's "Golden Ratio" ($a+b$ is to a as a is to b , or a ratio of 1.61803398875) in his paintings and frescoes.

The Baptism of Christ was painted by della Francesca for the Camaldolese monastery in Sansepolcro. Originally a triptych, the work is egg tempera paint on poplar panels. The work was commissioned to celebrate the Council of Florence (1431-1445) – a half-hearted attempt to reunite Eastern Orthodoxy with Roman Catholicism to bolster European support for the declining Byzantine (Easter Roman) Empire prior to its collapse in 1453. While the effort failed, Della Francesca's centerpiece endured as a visual reminder of how those of a common faith are gathered by Christ to receive God's gift of grace. Since the late 19th century, it has been on display in the National Gallery of Art in London.

"When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God." – Colossians 2:12

Grace & Peace,

George



*Please join us
during worship
on Sunday,
January 25 at
11:00am, as we
celebrate the
ministry of*

Reverend John N. Causey

*through the awarding of the title
Pastor Emeritus
for his years of faithful service to
Shallotte Presbyterian Church*

*A reception will follow in the Fellowship
Hall after the service.*

*Please note that there will be only one
service that morning!*

Please pick up your 2026 giving
envelopes, they are in the Narthex.



The 2026 Flower Calendar has ARRIVED!

The flower signup calendar is in the Narthex, and providing flowers on a Sunday is a wonderful way to adorn our Sanctuary. A flower arrangement can be given in honor or in memory of loved ones or for a special occasion. Several florists in our area are familiar with the proportions of our worship space and frequently create and deliver arrangements to our church including Bloomers, Shallotte Florist and others. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two this year!



Session Highlights -

- Held annual joint meeting of Session and Diaconate to complete review of church rolls
- Annual staff evaluations are in process
- January 18, 2026 New Officers will be ordained and installed at the 11:00 am worship service
- **Approved motion to hold the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25 following the 11:00 am worship service for the purposes of:**
 1. Receiving the annual statistical report
 2. Approving 2026 budget
 3. Revision to pastor's Terms of Call
 4. Elect member-at-large from the congregation as the 6th member of the 2026 Nominating Committee
 5. Annual meeting of the Corporation

Ed Carter, President
Ryan Smithwick, Vice-President
Linda Rowell, Treasurer
Jenny Meekins, Clerk of Session

Date	Ushers	Liturgist	Greeters	Welcome Table	Acolyte
1/4	Mac Warner & Bart Norwood	Sue Andersen	Jeanne McLeod	Linda Stackhouse	Mary Grace Carter
1/11	Rusty Russ & Lurae Albert	Deb Claxton	Jeanne Curry	Eric Lehmann	Penny Nemrow
1/18	Steve Wingfield & Tim Owens	Scott Taylor	Brenda Lewis	Bart Norwood	AJ Pendergrass
1/25	Mike Clawson, Patsy Calhoun, Wayne Rowell & Scott Taylor	Lynn Young	Erskine Blount Linda Rowell Carol Vealey	Mac Warner	Steven Vattimo

Celebration Circle December



The December meeting of the SPC Celebration Circle was held in the fellowship hall with 47 attendees. Thank you to our hostesses Debbie Wingfield and Linda Sing for beautiful Christmas decorations and especially the handmade gift boxes by Debbie. We enjoyed a delicious covered dish luncheon. We are glad Pastor George, Kitty Green, Linda Rowell, and Christina Watts joined us for lunch as we welcomed guests, Alisa Biache and Sylvia Norwood. A special presentation of a framed picture of the beautiful stained-glass arch located behind the choir was given to long time member, Betty Dattler who is moving to Wilmington. We will miss her and wish her well. Our Mission of the month was The Lord's Food Pantry with monetary and food donations.



Myra Chapman led our lesson, "The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent" from Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ which also told the story from a female perspective. Reading the parable from Luke, she told us that "the father welcomed his prodigal son home with compassion and joy. And when we think about how God shows that compassion, forgiveness, and love so fully and freely to God's children, we can start to contemplate how we can show that same compassion, love, and forgiveness to others. And even

sometimes let ourselves be the recipient of that."



The members of the Celebration Circle want to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and to share some photos from our Christmas luncheon.

Join us for our next meeting on January 14th at 10:30am

A Festival of **Lessons & Carols**

The 2025 Advent Season featured the presentation of Lessons & Carols by the Chancel Choir and invited orchestra guests. Attendees were treated to an inspiring start to the Christmas holiday season.



The event featured the combined vocal talents of the Shallotte Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and the mellifluous skills of the orchestra members, gifting everyone with an experience that touched the hearts and souls with the holiday spirit! Special Appreciation to Paul Freeman for his leadership in planning and presenting this moving performance, and to the Chancel Choir and orchestra musicians for their many hours of practice to give us this celebration of the Christmas Season.



Let's Go Caroling

Thank You!

Thank you to all the SPC members who gathered to spread holiday cheer at Autumn Care of Shallotte Saturday December 13th.



In addition to the music, SPC members delivered Christmas cards for every resident, and 18 residents received either a goody-filled Christmas Stocking or Prayer Shawl thanks to the SPC Quilters!

Carolers enjoyed an abundance of amazing potluck food and seasonal fellowship back at SPC.

Thank you Paul & Lynn for leading our caroling celebration!





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, Shawn Brockney, Bill Coggins, Cindy Davis, Pat Dobbins, Shaundra Durham, Debra Freeman, Terry Gavin, Geoff Goetz, Bob Gorman, Robert Hasting, Diane Bonds Haley, Peggy Hughes, Wray King, Rev. Jerrod Lowry, Bob Mayhew, Chip & Jackie Montague, Maximus & Hendrix Montague, Chuck & Carol Partridge, Colin Prettyman, Nessa Rouff, Harry & Suzanne Simpson, Kaitlyn Smith, Linda Tillman, Linda Wortman, Cindy Wilson & 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 11 months ended November 30, 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>\$442,365.95</u>	<u>\$373,278.50</u>	<u>\$385,357.07</u>
Expenditures:			
Staff Ministry	187,853.82	179,064.67	162,437.55
Local Program Ministry	25,501.36	20,584.00	15,523.63
Property and Grounds	122,558.57	114,011.92	133,842.83
Administration	22,258.33	19,025.14	18,884.42
General / Sessional	1,151.18	259.40	147.66
Missions and Benevolences	<u>57,732.00</u>	<u>58,251.00</u>	<u>53,711.19</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>417,055.26</u>	<u>391,196.13</u>	<u>384,547.28</u>
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>\$ 25,310.69</u>	<u>\$ (17,917.63)</u>	<u>\$ 809.79</u>

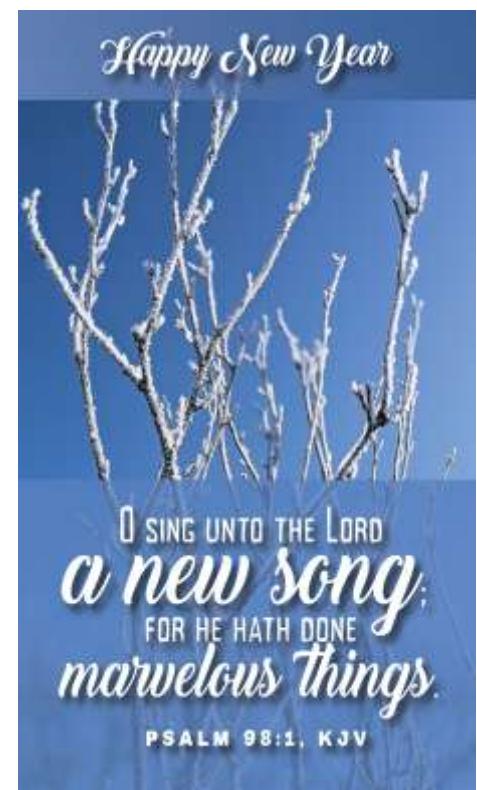
A thought to consider....

Seek joy in what you give, not what you get.



On Sunday, November 30th many of our congregation joined to sing carols, eat cookies and make oyster shell nativities for the start of Advent.

Made by Declan





Santa at the Friendship Sunday School Christmas

Our Christmas Party for the Shallotte Group Home was a huge success! They made crafts, sang carols, played games, and of course opened gifts. Santa stopped by and gave them all a thrill!! You made Christmas just a little more special by your donations! Thank you!

Happy New Year!



The South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC) has been looking for a permanent home for The Lord's Food Pantry for several years. Every place the Pantry has "lived" has been temporary. From its beginnings in the old courthouse building in Bolivia to the basement of Camp United Methodist Church (24 years), as the Pantry has

**MISSION AND BENEVOLENCE:
SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION**
In search of a Home

grown along with the need to serve food insecure people, the need for a permanent home has always existed. We need your help to reach this goal! SBIC has made a major step in acquiring land at 605 Holden Beach Rd. (next to the CRCI Thrift Store. We **will be building a structure that meets the Pantry's** needs and provides for growth in the years to come. A Capital Campaign has begun to raise funds for this endeavor. If you would like to help make this dream a reality contact Mike Claxton, SBIC President, at Mikeclaxton50@gmail.com



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E-mail: church@atmc.net
www.shallottechurch.org

Non-Profit Organization
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Shallotte, NC
Permit #140

ADDRESS RETURN REQUESTED
January, 2026



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



www.facebook.com/shallotepresbyterian



REMINDER
VICKI A. BLOUNT
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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 erskine.blount@gmail.com.

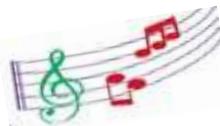
*Students with existing scholarships must reapply.

Erskine Blount, Project Chair

**LORENA CLARK PINER
SCHOLARSHIP
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL
CAROLINA**

Each year Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina offer scholarships to an accredited institution of higher learning. Any deserving full-time student from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina who is a member of a Presbyterian Church (USA) of proven scholastic ability, who needs financial assistance to further his/her education will be considered. Preference will be given to students attending Presbyterian colleges. Scholarship guidelines can be found online and are due on February 15, 2026.

“Breaking Up Is Hard To Do”



Yes, we older folk will remember that Neil Sedaka song first released in the early 60's as a guy/girl romance break up ballad. So, please allow me to manipulate the original meaning of that tune. Very close church family friendships develop over periods of time, sometime decades. When the friendships are disjoined by one party moving away, usually to a distant location, the close bonds of seeing and being with that person practically every week (frequently multiple times a week) are, well, “broken”. The process is more emotional for some than others and can, occasionally, create a void. Most recently, David and Kitty Green shared with us they were moving to South Carolina to be close to their grandchildren. Furthermore, longtime church and former staff member, Betty Dattler, announced she will be moving in mid-January to Wilmington to live with her son, Eric, and his family another shock to the “break up” psyche.

Betty's association with SPC runs deep and long. She came to SPC in 1992, accompanying her husband, Lester, who had been called to be the church's third Pastor. This followed pastoral stints for the couple in South Carolina, Charlotte, Virginia and, just prior to SPC, Carthage, NC. They settled on Ocean Isle Beach and became comfortable and loved in the community and church. Betty immediately began her vigorous involvement with SPC joining the Presbyterian Women's Circle becoming their Secretary/Historian, assumed the Secretary staff position in 1993 when that position opened, immediately began singing in the Chancel Choir and, for a while, participated in the SPC Handbells. Her engagement with SPC activities only expanded as she served in helping maintain the music library for choir and handbells, designed and crafted Chrismons for the SPC Chrismen Tree (repaired/maintained them) and served in other volunteer capacities too numerous to mention here. She also volunteered at the OIB Museum and joined the resident Church Bridge Club to be with her female friends. She remains a voracious reader, utilizing the church library to the fullest extent sharing reading materials with her shut-in neighbor.



MAUNDY-THURSDAY
Seder Service - 1997



CHURCH SECRETARY
July 1995

On a more somber note, Betty and her church suffered an alarming tragedy when Pastor Dattler passed away in 1997 from health related complications. Needless to say, Betty's strong faith coupled with the endearing support of her church helped her recover and flourish. She moved to the Sugar Sands section of Sea Trail from OIB and has remained there ever since. She continued in her position as Church Secretary retiring after approximately 17 years, maintained her dedication to the Chancel Choir and Presbyterian Women completing 33 years of membership and service in those groups and sustained a volunteer presence by assisting with various administrative duties including labeling, sorting and mailing the newsletter every month up until her move. Perhaps the greatest compliment one could give Betty is that her character exemplifies that of her church. She completed her official and volunteer duties with a quiet and respectful efficiency, never seeking praise and

adoration for her talents and accomplishments, serving the church and community in her own gentle way. Betty explained that her first challenge following her move will be to find a church home for her, Eric and his family. She further stated she appreciates all SPC does and loves its congregation.

Separating (breaking up) from you, Betty, is hard to do. We love you and will miss you terribly. God bless you in your new environment and in your adventures with son Eric and his family. Please come back and visit often.

Barry Auman

This is my tribute to Betty Dattler,
And I'm not trying to be a tattler,
But some of y'all are new round here
Need to know why we hold Betty so dear!

Betty's been here even longer than me.
Some info came from others, you see.
She came here as the preacher's wife,
Right here, she and Lester made a life.

Lester in the pulpit, Betty down the hall,
Readyng the bulletin, answering the call.
Enlisting greeters to serve each Sunday,
Serving the church in her own quiet way.

At SPC, an institution she's been,
Guiding pastors with what to do, and when.
Kept things running like a well-oiled machine
Of office administrators Betty is queen!

She helped out in the choir room, too
By stamping the music when it was new.
All numbered for the choir to sing, and then,
She'd file them, so we could find them again.

And when Betty retired some years ago,
She stayed around to help, you know.
Getting the newsletter ready to go,
Those zip codes must be arranged just so.

Betty also trained others to fill her shoes,
As she showed the way, how could we lose?
Brea, Casey, Stephanie, too,
Kathy and Christina, you know it's true!

For years Betty kept up the church history,
And did a great job, that's no mystery.
She's been a dedicated member of the choir,
We weren't about to let her retire.

And now as I think about my friend,
Organized, efficient, and neat as a pin...
I could go on and add to the list,
But Betty Dattler will surely be missed.

Sometimes things change and it makes us sad,
Change is hard, but I'm trying to be glad,
As Betty settles into life with her son,
I'm wishing her loads of fun.

And to Betty,
Even though your moving makes me feel blue,
I'm a better person having known you!

Love you, Betty
Your friend,
Gail



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
LIFE MEMBERSHIP - BETTY DATTLER
JANUARY 24, 1999



Newsletter Team:
Betty Dattler, Andrea
Smith and Doris Greene



