



THE CHURCH VOICE

A Publication of Shallotte Presbyterian Church



Vol. 36

September, 2024 No. 9



This summer saw the 226th meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly – a biannual gathering of commissioners from across the nation for the purpose of discussing and voting on questions relevant to the governance and mission of our denomination. This year's GA, themed "Live into Hope", convened in Salt Lake City, Utah, from June 25 to July 4. Here are some highlights from this year's session:

- In total, 12 proposed changes to the *PC(USA) Book of Order* were passed, affecting ordination standards, nondiscriminatory practices, temporary and installed pastoral relationships, and vulnerable adult protection policies. The changes are now referred to the presbyteries for approval. If a majority of presbyteries agree, the changes will be incorporated in the 2025-2027 edition of the *Book of Order*. A joint ecumenical statement with the Episcopal Church will also be up for consideration.
- Jihyun Oh was elected as the new Stated Clerk of the denomination. Oh, the former director of Mid Council Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly, replaces interim Stated Clerk Bronwen Boswell, who assumed the role after Dr. J. Herbert Nelson's II resignation last year.
- Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson were elected Co-Moderators of the General Assembly for the upcoming two-year term. Both pastors hail from the South Carolina Low Country and are the fifth consecutive team of Co-Moderators to be elected to that position.
- The GA voted 389-24 to include "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" to the list of the "rich diversity" of the church identified in F-1.0403 of the *Book of Order*, alongside race, ethnicity, sex, disability, geography, and theological conviction. A narrower vote of 297-130 authorized presbyteries to consider a candidate's views on diversity when seeking ordination in the PC(USA).
- By a vote of 264-146, commissioners rejected an overture for the immediate divestment of PC(USA) financial holdings from fossil fuel companies in favor of a strategy of prolonged corporate engagement.
- The GA reaffirmed a resolution from the 216th General Assembly (2004) that declared Christian Zionism to be inconsistent with Reformed theology, and endorsed the creation of study materials to educate Presbyterians as to what Christian Zionism is, and the obstacle it poses to the creation of a lasting peace in the Middle East.
- A decision to recognize the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches (NCKPC) as an official caucus in the PC(USA) was postponed until the next stated meeting of the GA due to concerns over the organization's treatment of women pastors.
- The Assembly voted to reduce the current number of annual Special Offerings from four to three for 2026. The Pentecost Offering will be phased out with supported ministries incorporated into the Christmas Joy Offering. The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be changed to the World Communion Offering with proceeds distributed by grants instead of percentages allocated through presbyteries and synods.
- The GA unanimously approved a resolution calling for action to reduce gun violence affecting children through the encouragement of gun safety, proper storage, and personal accountability.
- The GA clarified current boundaries among the PC(USA)'s 16 synods and authorized the creation of a permanent Administrative Commission on Mid Councils that would be charged with evaluating and reorganizing the geographic boundaries of synods and presbyteries without the need for a full vote of the GA.
- The GA voted overwhelmingly to accept the invitation of the Presbytery of Milwaukee to host the 227th General Assembly from June 23 to July 2, 2026.

Looking Ahead for Worship

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024



8:30 am Last Beach Worship

11:00am Indoor Worship

II Kings 4:8-21, 32-37; 1 Timothy 6:3-16



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

Rally Day 9:45am

One Worship Service at 11:00am

James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

8:30am Worship

11:00am Worship

Proverbs 1:20-33; James 3:1-12

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

8:30am Worship

11:00am Worship

Mark 9:30-37; Proverbs 31:10-31

***Congregational Meeting**

Following the 11am Service



19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

8:30am Worship

11:00am Worship

TBD



We are collecting monthly for Operation Christmas Child

There is a collection box in the Narthex for your donations.

For **September**, we are collecting **Small Stuffed Animals, Soccer Balls with pumps, and personal notes.**

Thank You!

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

Sept. 1- Last Beach Service

Sept. 8- Rally Day- 9:45am
One Worship Service at 11:00am

Sept. 15- Regular Worship Services Begin at the church

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.

Adult/Children Sunday School begins on Sept. 15 from 9:45-10:30am

(Continued from front cover)

For a more detailed review of the week's deliberations, please check out the website of the 226th General Assembly: ga-pcusa.org.

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore, my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope." – Acts 2:25-26

Grace & Peace,

George



From the Session:

- **Tim & Ruth Owens, Billy & Connie Payne & Joanne Prettyman** were joyfully received as new members.
- Scout **Gabriel Hughes** brought before Session her Eagle Scout project which involves collecting new books to be given to underprivileged children at Christmas. Session approved placing a collection box at the church.
- **Wayne Tillman** shared information from this year's very successful golf tournament as well as the 14 local charities who are recipients of funds.
- **A Congregational Meeting to be held following the 11am worship service on September 22, 2024 for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2027.**



What a joy to see little ones in the halls on Sunday morning! We are so fortunate to have Jessica O'Connor and Anna Stewart. Our Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy (posted on the Session Bulletin Board in the

hall) requires that we have 2 adults attending in each room with children and youth present. Therefore in addition to our paid child care providers, we have a group of volunteers who rotate (about once every 7 or so weeks) to help with coverage for our children. If this is an area where you would like to serve -- with the bonus of getting to know some very awesome children, please call Christina in the church office or Kitty Green (910-512-5489).

Thank you to all the volunteers who have faithfully served as well as to YOU for considering this important ministry to the smallest of God's children!



Wonderful Wednesdays for the summer culminated on Aug 21st with a hot dog supper & Sunset Slush social to celebrate Pastor George & Myra's 2nd year with us!

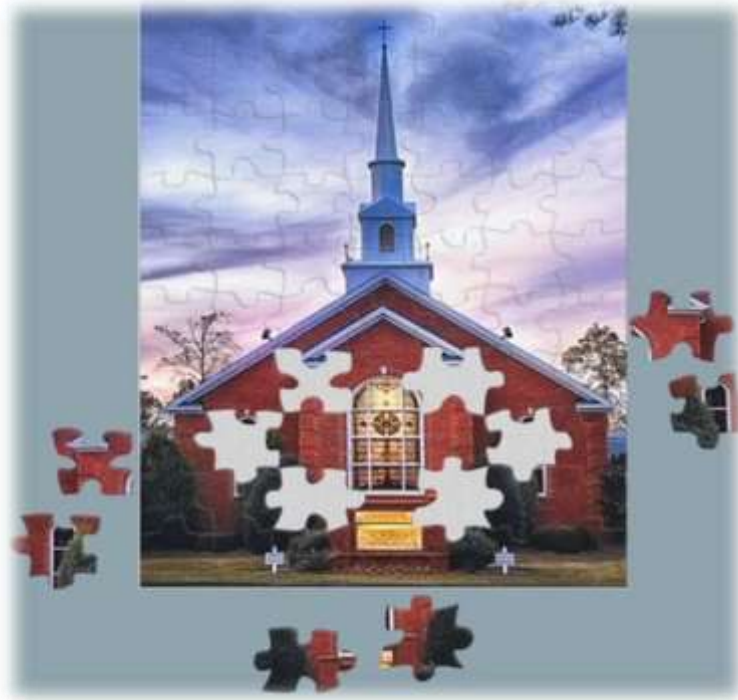
Thank you to the Christian Education and Fellowship Committee for working on our Potluck dinner, for planning the many volunteers for helping with food and activities and to all of you for your participation to make this a Wonderful Summer!



Greeters, Ushers & - September, 2024 - *Can you Volunteer?*

Date	Greeters 11am	Ushers 11am
9/1/24		Ersine Blount & John Cardwell
9/8/24	Steve & Debbie Wingfield	
9/15/24	Brenda & Don Lewis	
9/22/24	Sarah & Jim Braddock	Betsy Braddock & Kim Smithwick
9/29/24	Kitty & Dave Green	Linda Stackhouse

YOU COMPLETE THE PICTURE AT SHALLOTTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!



RALLY DAY
SEPTEMBER 8
9:45 AM

Puzzles can be a “fitting” analogy for the church. You know how frustrating it can be when you can’t seem to find the right piece for that one spot! Sometimes, all it takes is stepping back to look at the big picture to realize that each piece of the puzzle has its own place where it fits perfectly. And every single piece is crucial to creating the whole!

Church is a little like a puzzle in that there are many of us working together to bring the big picture into focus. Have you ever stopped to think about how many volunteers it takes to make our Sunday School and worship services happen? Well, upwards of 40 is the answer on a typical Sunday and even more for Communion Sundays, special services and the Beach Service. Think about that, it takes a lot of people in many different roles every single Sunday!

Each of us has been given special gifts to offer to the glory of God through the life and ministry of SPC. How do you fit in the picture?

Rally Day, Sunday, September 8 marks the beginning of a new year on the Christian Education calendar. We will gather for a **Biscuit Breakfast** and old-fashioned hymn sing at **9:45 A M in the Fellowship Hall**, followed by **one worship service at 11:00am**. We look forward to seeing YOU as we work together to complete the puzzle!

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” I Corinthians 12:27



Why would I spend the money now instead of when I actually need a niche?

Making plans for yourself is a way of making your intentions known to 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.



MISSION AND BENEVOLENCE: SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION Communities in Schools

Shallotte Presbyterian Church supports Brunswick County schools through donations from the Mission Committee budget to Communities in Schools Brunswick County (CIS). The CIS mission is: To surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

One of the Brunswick County CIS programs is called **Action for Success** which is an evidence-based drop-out prevention program in all Brunswick County middle schools, Lincoln Elementary, Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary, Supply Elementary, and Waccamaw School that works by building relationships that remove the barriers to learning and improve ways our community responds to needs of at-risk students and their families.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Mentor a student
- Tutor a student
- Donate needed school supplies
- Read to or listen to a reader
- Furnish clothing for children in need
- Join a child for school lunch (Lunch Buddy program)
- Participate in Career Day
- Donate financially to support the program



If you would like to volunteer with CIS, you must complete a volunteer application and background check form. If you're interested in volunteering for the Action for Success Program, call Mallory Wells at (910) 351-8007.

Do you love to shop and want to give back to schools? You can shop and/or donate to the CIS Thrift Stores. They are located in Boiling Springs Lakes, Southport, Shallotte, and Sunset Beach. The stores help raise funds to support CIS dropout prevention programs. Services provided include academic tutoring, mentoring, behavior interventions, attendance interventions, social skills/character development, basic need items, club activities, case management, and linkage with community resources to support student and family needs.

Call Emily Luther at 910-351-8007 or email eluther@cisbrunswick.org if you are interested in volunteering your time and talents to a CIS Thrift Store.



Please put **Sunday, November 10** on your calendar for the annual **Consecration Sunday luncheon in the Fellowship Hall**.

After we ask the Lord to bless our financial pledges for 2025, we will gather after our **ONE service at 10:00am** for a wonderful lunch provided by Jerome's restaurant. You won't want to miss this meal as we gather together as a congregation!



Focus On Mission Medical Device Lending Closet

Many of us can no longer be described as spring chickens. That means sooner, rather than later, we might need the use of some assistive devices to make it easier to get around. SPC has a lending closet of items such as elevated toilet seats, walkers, rollators (supercharged walkers), canes, etc. that you can borrow. If you need for such items, please call Christina at the Church office if you have a need.



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, Marlena Braddock, Olivia Carelock, Pat Dobbins, Nancy Elwell, Charles Greene, Nancy & Bob Gorman, Michelle & Charles Griffin, Charlotte Guker, Richard Hilton, Christian Huffman, Mary Mac Holcombe, Lantz & Peggy Lackey, Josh Long, Bob Mayhew, Ann & Bill McPhaul, Chip & Jackie Montague, George & Barbara Montague, Chuck Partridge, Anita Payne, Rick Payne, Harry Simpson, Kaitlyn Smith, Lee Sullivan, Donna & Roy Trest, & Cindy Wilson, Lou & Shirley Zimmerman.

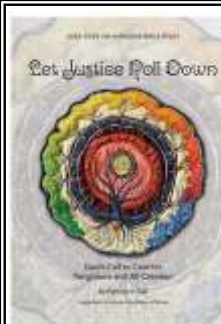
A Note from the Stewardship/Finance Committee

The following is a brief summary of our giving and related expenditures of the Operating Fund for the 7 months ended July 31, 2024 with comparative amounts for 2023 and 2022.

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>
Pledges & Other Offerings received	<u>\$248,186.43</u>	<u>\$249,496.58</u>	<u>\$240,023.73</u>
Expenditures:			
Staff Ministry	112,459.25	109,871.37	104,459.78
Local Program Ministry	10,279.41	8,441.58	5,848.65
Property and Grounds	65,386.54	89,963.65	51,978.40
Administration	12,285.05	11,289.01	11,009.92
General / Sessional	102.06		
	0.00	0.00	
Missions and Benevolences	<u>35,525.66</u>	<u>34,629.19</u>	<u>32,935.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>236,037.97</u>	<u>254,194.80</u>	<u>206,231.75</u>
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>\$ 12,148.46</u>	<u>\$ (4,698.22)</u>	<u>\$ 33,791.98</u>

A thought to consider....

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
Winston Churchill



Celebration Circle will hold its first meeting of the 2024-25 year on Wednesday, September 11 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. Celebration Circle meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30am, so be sure to save those dates on your calendar.

The Bible Study for this year is ***Let Justice Roll Down – God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*** by Patricia K. Tull. Carol Kauffman will be the Bible Study Leader for September when the focus will be on “Environmental Justice.” Carol always does an awesome job, so please join us.

The study books will be available in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 worship on August 25, September 1, and September 8. So please stop by and pick up your study book. **No payments will be collected until the first circle meeting.** Bible Study books are \$10 and Presbyterian

Women allotment is \$7 for a total of \$17. Checks may be made payable to SPC-PW.

The PWCT met during July to update the handbook. Those additions and corrections are being finalized. The handbooks will be available at the first meeting.

Hope to see you at Celebration Circle in September!!!

SHALLOTTE PRESBYTERIAN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Charity Golf Tournament celebrated our 16th year by making over \$16,000, thanks to the very generous players, hole sponsors and local businesses that donated many in-kind items to be auctioned off. Over \$200,000 has been donated in previous years. The tournament was held on Monday, June 24th at Carolina National Golf Club in Bolivia, and we thank Brown Management and Dixon Golf for their generous support of our event again this year.

On Friday, July 26, 2024, Wayne Tillman, Director of the Shallotte Presbyterian Charity Golf Tournament, presented a **\$3,000** donation to Stephanie Bowen, Executive Director Brunswick Family Assistance.

On Wednesday, August 21, 2024, Wayne Tillman, Director of the Shallotte Presbyterian Charity Golf Tournament, presented a **\$1,000** donation to Anne Hewett, Director of Fundraising, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare in Bolivia. This donation was in loving memory of our beloved church and choir member, Ralph Benoy, who recently passed away. His



family, Dana and Michael Roland in Virginia, were very honored to hear of our tribute to Ralph. This represents just a portion of the \$16,000 from the tournament and more donations to other Brunswick County non-profits will be issued soon. Many thanks to the sponsors, players and volunteers that made the tournament so successful again this year.



Recent Pictures can be found at our website www.ShallottePresGolf.org . For further information, please contact the Tournament Director, Wayne Tillman at (732) 306-0426.

To our Church Family

So many of you have shared with us over the last seven weeks that you do not know “what to say.” I am now in the same situation. I am afraid I cannot express myself enough to tell you how much we appreciate all the visits, calls, notes, words of comfort, monetary generosity, hope through special scripture, and visits that you have shared with us during the darkest time of our lives. Your friendships have helped sustain and guide us.

As Pastor George says each Sunday, “There are different ways to serve the ministry of this church”, and you have certainly shared the love of God with us. Our deepest thanks.

The Montague Family

Update: Our son’s family is continuing to progress as the weeks go by. Chip’s arms and hands are healing, and he has full use of them. Maximus and Hendrix have been released from the Pediatric Vanderbilt services. This will be a long journey with many visits back to Vanderbilt as they heal, and the boys love being home! Please continue to pray for their emotional and physical healing.

Thank you.
Barbara

Ways you can help:

- **PRAY**
- A “love offering” has been established for the Montague children. Checks made out to Shallotte Presbyterian with “Montague” or “Love Offering” in the memo section.



Shallotte Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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www.shallottechurch.org

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September, 2024



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Vicki A Blount Scholarship

It's that time of year and our young adult church members are back at school working hard to better themselves through education. They have their dreams and career plans, and we want to have their backs.

As the new school year begins, I ask each of you to do two things. First **PRAY** for a successful year for each of our Scholarship winners (Audrey, Salem, Katie, Lena, Christian, and Will). Second please take one of the Blue envelopes in the back of the pew and make a **FALL donation** to the SPC scholarship fund. Please remit to **Shallotte Presbyterian Church** with "**Scholarship**" noted in the memo line of the check and mail to PO Box 3256, Shallotte, NC 28459 or simply drop the envelope in the offering plate.

Thanks so much,
Erskine Blount, SPC Scholarship Chairman

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT SPC?

For anyone considering membership at Shallotte Presbyterian Church, **NEW MEMBER CLASSES** will be offered **October 20 & 27** following worship (around 12:15 or so). These classes are **NOT** required to join the church, nor is there an obligation to join should you choose to participate; these classes merely present an opportunity for folks to learn more about the history, polity and theology of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and explore the ways one can use their gifts to serve the mission of this congregation. Lunch will be provided.

If you're interested in learning more about membership or what's involved, please contact the church office. (The process is easier than you might think!)

(910) 754-6929 or, church@atmc.net.