



# Newsletter

September 2025



## Important Dates

### September

- 1** Labor Day - Admin Office Closed
- 2** Preschool First Day
- 7** Youth Sunday
- 8** Handbells & Choir Rehearsals  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Day Back (6pm & 7pm)
- 14** Youth Group (5:30-7:00pm)
- 15** Session Meeting 6:00pm
- 16** STKC Opening Night (5:30pm)
- 20** Meals on Wheels
- 21** Youth Group (5:30-7:00pm)
- 23** STKC (5:30pm-7:00pm)
- 28** Youth Group (5:30-7:00pm)
- 30** STKC (5:30pm-7:00pm)

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Dear Church Family,

September is here, and with it comes a fresh season of new beginnings and exciting opportunities! The leaves will soon begin to turn, and the air will grow crisp, and we will be reminded of God's faithfulness through every season of life. I'm especially grateful for the energy and hope that this time of year brings.

Our children and youth are heading back to school, and we pray for each of them as they get acclimated to their new classrooms and schedules, make new friends, and face new challenges. Let's remember to lift our students, teachers, and school staff in prayer as they embark on another academic year. We also celebrate the start of our church's Preschool Program, which kicks off this month! What a joy it is to welcome our little ones back into the building, filling our halls with laughter, learning, and the love of Jesus. Please keep our preschool teachers and families in your prayers as they guide these precious lives in their early growth.

We are thrilled to announce the return of Super Tuesday Kid's Club, beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This ministry is one of the highlights of our week—an energetic, joy-filled time where children from our church and community come together to learn about God, play games, and grow in friendship. It's a beautiful way to plant seeds of faith in young hearts.

Our Youth Group will also resume this month, as well, but now they will meet on Sunday evenings beginning September 14<sup>th</sup> with a night of fellowship as they welcome the new 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a vital time for our teens to grow deeper in their walk with Christ, ask big questions, and build lasting connections with one another. There are some great plans being made for this fall—Bible studies, service projects, and of course, a lot of fun! Please encourage the youth in your life to get involved and keep this ministry in your prayers.

As we begin this busy season, let's keep our hearts centered on Christ. Whether it's in a preschool classroom, a Tuesday night program, or a Sunday night game of tag, the work we do together in His name is never in vain. Let us walk into this fall with open hearts, ready to serve, learn, and grow as the family of God.

Blessings,  
Steuart

---

## TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

BY TOM SIDBURY

### Pastor Search Update: Help Shape Our Mission and Ministry

Session has completed its review of the 2022 Topsail Presbyterian Mission Survey. Many of those insights remain valuable and have guided updates to our ministry vision and future goals. However, some important areas require deeper input—particularly around emerging needs, shifting ministry priorities, and the qualities we seek in our next pastor and worship style.

To gather this input, the Transition Ministry Team (TMT) has been commissioned to conduct a new congregational survey. This survey will help us understand your expectations for our next pastor and clarify topics not fully addressed in the 2022 survey.

We invite you to participate in one of two ways:

- Online: Complete the survey at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeellsj0QBcqln-BuxPzk6QRPwozluHp\\_gyN5RdITsA7Ab8Xg/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeellsj0QBcqln-BuxPzk6QRPwozluHp_gyN5RdITsA7Ab8Xg/viewform?usp=dialog)
- On paper: Copies are available in the Narthex. Please return completed forms to the designated drop box.

---OR---

The survey takes about 10 minutes and will remain open through September 15th. All input will be anonymous to encourage open and candid feedback.

Once responses are collected, Session and the TMT will integrate your feedback into a comprehensive mission study—a reflection of who we are and a practical roadmap for where we feel God is calling us next. This mission study will form the foundation for a new Mission Statement and prepare us to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

Your Transition Ministry Team includes: Erica Talbert, Karen Stoops, Kitty Lamb, Russ Layman, and Tom Sidbury. They look forward to hearing your thoughts and insights.

Every voice matters—whether you've been part of Topsail Presbyterian for decades, have recently joined, or are a non-member who attends regularly. This is your opportunity to help shape our ministries, guide our mission, and influence the leadership we seek in our next pastor.

Thank you for taking part in this vital step in our church's journey.

---



## Falling Into a New Season of Faith, Fun & Fellowship!

As the school year begins, we are joyfully stepping into a fresh season in Children's Ministry. This time of year brings about new beginnings and we are so excited for all there is to come!

It is such a joy to have so many of our TPC children move up and welcome new members into their new Sunday School classrooms. We are delighted that we will be spending the year ahead "Digging Into the Life of Jesus." This inspiring curriculum by Group is grounded in the Gospels and will be the foundation of all of our children's programs during '25-'26. Together the children will experience a year-long journey through the stories, teachings, and miracles of Jesus. We can't wait to see how much they continue to grow in their faith and walk with Christ

## Mark Your Calendars!

### September 16 - Super Tuesdays Kids Club (STKC) Opening Night - 5:30 - 7 pm.

Registration is required. Our weekly Bible-based program includes participation in our Joyful Noise Children's Choir, weekly Bible lessons, crafts, games, and a yummy kid friendly dinner each week. We absolutely can't wait to welcome everyone back!

**October 28 - Trunk or Treat is just around the corner!** More details will follow in the weeks ahead but it's never too early to think about ways you can participate in this fantastically fun evening of costumes, candy, and community!

Ways to participate or help:

- Decorate a trunk and hand out treats
- Donate raffle items or themed gift baskets
- Staff concessions or the raffle tables, help with directing parking, set up and clean up crews.
- Be on the lookout for our clothesline wish list of items needed.
- Stay tuned for SignUp Genius in the days ahead.

This is just the beginning of our wonderful year ahead! **For our complete '25-'26 Children's Ministry Calendar, see it at our church website at [www.topsailpres.org](http://www.topsailpres.org).**

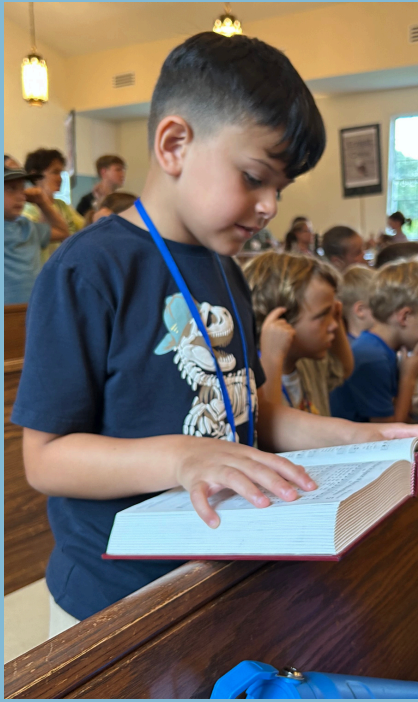
For more information about our programs or events, or ways to be involved in this incredibly rewarding ministry, please contact Dawn Frazier, Children's Ministry Director at [christianed@topsailpres.org](mailto:christianed@topsailpres.org) or 910-270-2312.





# CALENDAR ALERT: A TRUE NORTH CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 14! Our VBS and TPC children will be returning to the Alaskan tundra for a True North Christmas! This unforgettable journey to the heart of the season will delight the young and the young at heart as we celebrate Jesus' birth. Stay turned in the weeks ahead for the time and full details as we begin to prepare for their return!







## MEET OUR NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR: TPC MEMBER, LESLIE BLAIR

Hello! My name is Leslie Blair. I am excited to serve as the Director of Youth Ministry at Topsail Presbyterian Church.

I was born in Mobile, Alabama and grew up in a small town, Bay Minette, near Alabama's Gulf Coast. As a child, I attended First Presbyterian Church of Bay Minette. This is also the church where I was confirmed and participated in youth events, such as the summer Montreat Youth Conference. I graduated from Baldwin County High School (AL) and played volleyball and golf. I went on to obtain my Bachelors and Doctorate degrees from the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

My husband, Corbin, and I first moved to North Carolina in 2015. Both of our daughters, Madalyn (8) and Palmer (6), were born in Wilmington. After moving to Arizona in 2021, the Marine Corps finally moved our family back to the area in 2024. We are thankful to be back on the coast so we can enjoy the beach and boating. In addition to the summer months, I also look forward to the Fall for the cooler weather, pumpkin spice, and football (Roll Tide!).

Our family has been attending Topsail Presbyterian Church since the summer of 2024. We became members of the church earlier this year, and our daughters were baptized in June. We've participated in Super Tuesday Kids Club and Vacation Bible School. It has been a joy to worship at this church with such a supportive and caring congregation. I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve the youth group at TPC!



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND FAITH BY TOM SIDBURY

The topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) pops up everywhere—in the news, on social media, and in our daily lives. From online shopping suggestions based on browsing habits, to debates about its use in education, to movies imagining AI taking over society, it has quickly become part of both our routines and our language.

Recognizing AI's growing influence, the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) directed the Committee on Domestic Engagement to explore what responsible use of artificial intelligence should look like for the church and society. This includes examining AI's potential to disrupt employment, the economy, civil governance, and global stability, as well as its role in widening technological disparity. Importantly, the study will also consider the theological implications of AI for the life and work of the church.

As part of this effort, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy has been asked to draft a new Social Witness Policy on Artificial Intelligence and Faith. To guide their work, the Association of Mid Council Leaders (AMCL) is partnering with Research Services to gather input directly from congregations and mid councils.

Your voice matters. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey linked below. Your responses will help shape how the church addresses both the challenges and opportunities of AI in the years ahead. Click here for the survey: <https://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/AI-Faith>.



# ACCESSING THE MEMBER DIRECTORY: A QUICK GUIDE

BY TOM SIDBURY

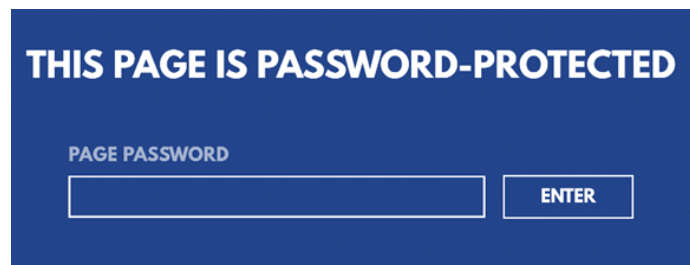
We have had a few questions lately about how to access the member directory on our website, so we thought it would be helpful to share a quick refresher on the tools available to members and options for accessing member information.

## Getting to the Member Area

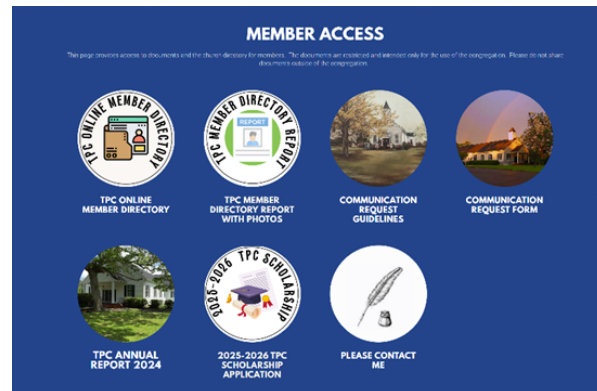
Start by visiting [www.topsailpresbyterian.org](http://www.topsailpresbyterian.org). The first page you'll see is the **Welcome** page. From there:

1. Hover your mouse over **Welcome** in the menu.
2. Click **I'm a Member**.

Enter the password when prompted.  
(Don't have it? Contact Aly in the church office.)



Once inside, you'll find several useful resources: the Online Directory, a printable Member Directory Report, Communication Guidelines and Request Form, the Annual Report, the Scholarship Application, and a Contact Request Form.



## There are two ways to access Member Information

- **TPC Online Member Directory** – This option links to our ENGAGE system, where you can log in to search for members and church officers, view up-to-date contact details, and update your own information (phone, address, email, photo, etc.). Login credentials are required. If you have not set up your ENGAGE account, it is quick and easy! Visit our Digital Ministry page (<https://www.topsailpresbyterian.org/ministries/digital-ministry#accordion-5700030>) and open the section “Online Directory and Giving Website” to get started today.
- **TPC Member Directory Report with Photos** – This easy-to-use report lists members and regular attendees who have opted to share their information, including photos when available. It's updated at least once a month and does not require a separate login.

**A Quick Reminder:** If you have not submitted a recent photo, please upload one to your ENGAGE profile or send it to Tom Sidbury.

We hope this guide makes it easier to stay connected. For questions or suggestions, contact Tom at [admin@topsailpres.org](mailto:admin@topsailpres.org).



# Prayer Requests

Bobbie Ruegner, Bruce Filer, Bonnie Miller, Nancy Lockamy, Janice Thomas, Donna Kraynick, Ann Henry, Charlotte Kelly, Mary Anne Matherly, Sally Ferrante, Ken Rice, John Stillgebauer, Brian Jones, Mary Rogers-Ellsworth, Carolyn Rice, Sharon Egan, Theresa Allen, Deliah Sitorus, Marcia Caison, Tom & Sue Feller, Linda Blount, Marjorie Gulliksen, the family of Charlie & Ginger Hardee, Jacqueline Kirksey, the family of Luke Hanson, the family of Marie Hufham, Wiley Lewis, Carol Campbell, Lee Porrazzo, Jerrod Lowry, Reynolds Johnson, Martin Padgett, the family of Michael Daniel, Vicki Hufham, Ronnie Edens, June Crosby, Jeanne Rick, Jeffrey Smith.



**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION - SEP 14**

**OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH**

**RSVP TO:**  
**CHERI HAIGHT 203-394-8304**  
**OR PASTOR LINK**

**11:30AM**  
**IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED**

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Kalfin	September 2
Barbara Ruegner	September 2
Margie Alber	September 4
Nancy Simon	September 4
David Askins	September 6
Skip Boe	September 6
Paige Brown	September 7
John Foster	September 8
Judith Scott	September 8
Jack Talbert	September 9
Diane Thomas	September 11
Jack Griffith	September 12
Emery Kennedy	September 12
Landon Consey	September 15
Giuliana Migliara	September 16
Leah Hemphill	September 17
Nicki Moss	September 18
Neil Thomas	September 18
Patrick Carroll	September 20
Elzaan Serfontein	September 25
Hannah Kirksey	September 26
Will Rand	September 26
Connor Bryant	September 27
Bryna Fair	September 28
Jacqui Kirksey	September 28
Howard Parkes	September 29
Esther Stillgebauer	September 29
Evelyn Carpenter	September 30

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Cody Chewning	October 2
Cam Crumpler	October 3
Nicole Demchok	October 5
Gianna Alber	October 6
David Garner	October 8
Jerry Adams	October 11
Victoria Elder	October 12
Marjorie Gulliksen	October 12
Divan Serfontein	October 12
Amy Garner	October 19
Eugene Noris	October 19
Sailor Thomas	October 19
Amy Coleman	October 20
Kitty Griffith	October 20
Harry Newton	October 20
Janet Fisher	October 28
Michelle Sanders	October 30
Donna Lewis	October 31
Gail Sabatura	October 31

## SEPT ANNIVERSARIES

Wiley & Donna Lewis	Sept 2
William & Amanda Rand	Sept 6
Joshua & Mary Waddell	Sept 6
Mitch & Janet Jenkins	Sept 7
Steuart & Sheila Link	Sept 16
David & Diane Hughes	Sept 17
David & Tanya Batts	Sept 24
Jaco & Elzaan Serfontein	Sept 25
Townsend & Amanda Link	Sept 26
Cody & Jessica Chewning	Sept 27

## PRESCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

**9:00AM - MON -THUR**

Please note that Preschool drop off and pick up have changed a bit this school year.

**Drop off will be 9:00AM and pick up will be at 12:30PM.**

Please plan accordingly.







# CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



4C's Food Pantry

"Give them something to eat"

Luke 9:13

TICKET  
**\$125**  
LUNCH  
INCLUDED



Olde Point Country Club

SHOTGUN  
9:00AM

**SATURDAY, SEPT.  
27TH**

REGISTRATION: Karen P. (910) 520-8008  
email: karen21554@aol.com

Sponsor a hole \$100<sup>00</sup>

Raffles