

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

November 20, 2025

Stated Session Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025

The session met on Tues., Nov. 18, 2025, for a Stated Meeting at 5:15 in the Vereen Parlor. The following elders were present: Laura Hall, Melody Jenkins, Dan Jeter, Aileen McNair, Joan White, Elaine Barber, Laura Johnson, Marshal McCranie, and Brooks Sheldon. Visitor present was Jim Soos. Rev. Dr. Hugh Ward (the appointed moderator) called the meeting to order and gave an update on Henry Klar and Chuck Bannister and their recent medical situations. Brooks Sheldon opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer. The minutes of October 21, 2025, Stated Meeting were approved as submitted. The following items of business and reports were presented, discussed, and acted upon as needed:

Vital Statistics - Melody Jenkins reported there were no vital statistics to report.

Calendar - The events on the attached calendar were referred to the attention of the elders.

Committee Reports

- **Finance** - Laura Johnson reported that income was high in September and low in October. In order to meet the expected income for the year, giving must be \$65,000 each month for November and December. She pointed out that Rebecca Brinson had been informed that spending for the Music department is \$1,970 over budget. Finance asked that choir members raise funds to cover this overage. The church has paid backpack ministry expenses from designated donations so far this year and will now switch to using the \$1,500 in the budget for backpacks. Leroy Jones, part of the janitorial staff, will not be able to continue his duties due to medical conditions. He will be paid for November & December, but after that time, a new hire will be necessary. The Stewardship campaign results were reported as follows:
 - 30 pledges were received totaling \$272,650 (51% of the asking pledge income)
 - 14 pledges same as last year, 13 pledges increased, 2 givers from last year became pledgers, and 1 pledge decreased.
 - 15 more pledges are expected to be turned in.Dan Jeter presented information about the trust funds that are available to the church. There are sufficient funds to help with a shortfall in pledges. However, the elders agreed that it is the responsibility of each generation to pay for the operation of their church.
- **Spiritual Growth** - Laura Hall reported on the Youth Bake Auction and the Advent Festival that are coming up in the next 2 weeks.
- **Christian Service** - Aileen McNair reported:
 - \$5,000 from the Mildred Jordan fund had been sent to the Food Bank
 - Operation Christmas Child is almost complete and has been very successful
 - The Tuesday Time for Reflection & Prayer has not been well attended so far. Only 1 person has attended. It will continue until January, and the committee will re-evaluate at that time.
- **Presbytery Meeting Commissioner Report** - Melody Jenkins reported on the November 1st meeting (ZOOM) as follows:
 - Recognition of pastor ordination anniversaries - Hugh Ward 50 years
 - Praise for the Music in Moultrie event
 - Reports on small church activity
 - New Hope Church building in Columbus (church now defunct) was deeded to the Korean Presbyterian Church.
 - Per Capita and Presbytery Pledge amounts were explained and have been included in the 2026 asking budget.
- **Pastor Report** - Dr. Ward reflected on his ministry at MFPC. His hope is that this church can overcome the problems that some members have and continue to grow. He will be preaching in Tifton one Sunday each month. This will be his last meeting as moderator.
- **New Business**
 - Dan Jeter reported that some members had asked if MFPC had a Gun Policy for the church grounds. Several elders recalled a Wednesday night meeting concerning church safety that was presented by one of the Colquitt County deputies. The elders agreed that we should investigate options.
 - Melody Jenkins presented a proposal from the Presbyterian Women as a motion for consideration. The women want to use the mission funds in their budget to provide a soup kitchen in the Fellowship Hall once a week during December for needy families. They will work with Denise Pope to identify families. Aileen McNair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Unfinished Business** - Laura Johnson presented a summary report of the responses at the listening sessions that were held in October. She thanked all facilitators, notetakers, and those who attended or responded to the online survey. 72 out of 202 members attended sessions (36%). 4 members responded to the survey. The session agreed that it is important for the membership to receive the information in the report. It will be distributed by email and hard copies will be available in the office. Laura also distributed a time line related to the discernment process. The possibility of a taking a non-binding straw vote on the issue was brought up in several of the meetings. It was the unanimous feeling of the elders that the discussion about discernment should be suspended during the advent season so the church could concentrate on the coming of Christ and his meaning for our lives. The session will discuss how to proceed after the first of the year.

Rick Douylliez, our transitional minister, will preach his first sermon on November 30th. He and his wife, Cathy, will be moving to Moultrie during Thanksgiving week, and will stay in the Jeter's Gin House until their permanent rental is ready in January or February. Rick has requested a change in the date for the December Stated Session meeting so that he can attend the Cornerstones Christmas Party. The elders agreed to change the meeting to Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 5:15 PM. Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Ward.

Melody S. Jenkins, Clerk of Session

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

501 First Street, S.E., Moultrie, Georgia 31768

Email us at firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-5 and Friday 9-4

To all who are weary and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are lonely and need friendship, to all who are glad and would serve others, to all who are complacent and need disturbing, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its door in the name of Christ, and bids you welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS Sunday, November 23 THORNWELL OFFERING

NO WATCH on Wed., Nov. 26 & office closed Nov. 27 & 28

Sunday, November 30 Rick Douylliez will lead worship

Monday, December 1 at 10 a.m. PW BOARD

Tuesday, December 2 at 9 a.m. ADVENT STUDY (at Shalom Cafe)

Tuesday, December 2 from 11:30 am-2 pm PRAYER & REFLECTION

Wednesday, December 3 at 4 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL

Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, December 4 at 4:30 p.m. Cornerstones Christmas Lights Tour

Sunday, December 7 at 8:30 a.m. MEN'S BREAKFAST at FMC

Sunday, December 7 at 3 p.m. ADVENT FEST followed by supper

Sunday, December 7 at 6 p.m. CHRISMON TREE LIGHTING SERVICE



Welcome
Cathy & Rick Douylliez
on November 30th.
Rick will be preaching Nov. 30,
as he begins his tenure as
FPC's Transitional Minister.

DEADLINES!! OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2025



Join us as we partner with Samaritan's Purse to demonstrate God's love to children in need. A list of gift ideas is available in the lobby.

Money (\$25 per box) is due by TOMORROW, Friday, November 21 for FPC Youth to shop for & fill the shoeboxes for you.

If you want to fill your own shoebox, those are due by **this Sunday, November 23rd** (identify boy or girl and the age range, either 2-4 years old, 5-9 years old, 10-14 years old).

A NOTE FROM FINANCE:

We appreciate all those who have already donated the full amount of their pledges for the current year. To reach our budgeted goals and meet our commitments in 2025, the church needs \$65,000 in donations this month and \$65,000 in donations in December as well. ***Please complete your giving and 2025 pledge commitments by December 15th.***

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Advent Festival

3 PM CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

5 PM SUPPER

potluck soup provided by congregation
and sandwiches provided by church.
Homemade bars and squares (brownies, etc)
for dessert also needed.

6 PM
CHRISMON TREE LIGHTING
SERVICE

*Remember
to bring candy
donations this
week for
gingerbread
houses!*



**THORNWELL
OFFERING
THIS SUNDAY:**
**Nov. 23, FPC will be
taking up a special
offering for Thornwell.
Join with us to help
Thornwell in their mis-
sion to serve children
and families with
Christ-centered care.**

ROOTED IN FAITH
THORNWELL EMPHASIS MONTH

PARTNER WITH US to help children and families! Give, volunteer, pray, and learn more or give now at Thornwell.org.

Thornwell
BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES



2026

FLOWER CHART

Holly Beard is working on the flower chart for 2026. If you are interested in a particular Sunday, please call or text her at 229-798-0669.

Dates will be first come, first serve.



Presbyterian Points of Pride

Frances Bius recently competed with the Colquitt County High School A Cappella Choir at the Cultural Arts Choir Festival in Dothan, Alabama. Under the direction of Mr. Jimbo Jarvis, the A Cappella Choir brought home 1st Place in Division 1 (High School Mixed Choir, 40+ students) and earned the Best of Festival award for the highest overall score. *(Frances pictured at right)*



The next Colquitt County High School Choir concert is December 13th at Withers Auditorium. Several First Pres youth will be performing- **Frances Bius, Leila Hall, Catherine Cannon, and Allie Cannon**. Tickets may be purchased in advance from these girls or at the door.

Congratulations to **Krysta Porteus** for completing the New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 2nd! Krysta was also recently selected to serve on the State School Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (PAC), a group that collaborates with the Georgia Department of Education to strengthen schools and support families statewide. *(Krysta pictured at left.)*



Congratulations to **Wyatt Lasseter** for earning a spot alongside big brother, Jackson, on the Middle School baseball team! Amazingly, Wyatt hit a **GRAND SLAM** In his very first middle school baseball tournament in Waycross, GA! The regular season will begin in February 2026, so stay tuned for a schedule. *(Wyatt and Jackson pictured at right.)*



Trey Davis received the Star Student award for RB Wright Elementary at the November Colquitt County Board of Education meeting! *(Pictured at left with his family.)*

Please help us support and celebrate these individuals! Please email or text **Katie Cato** with any points of pride. (katiercato@gmail.com or 706-202-0145)

First Presbyterian Church

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W.A.T.C.H. SUPPER

*Wednesday Nights at the Church
at 5:30 p.m.*

*NO WATCH NEXT WEEK!
Enjoy Thanksgiving with your
family & friends.*

MENU: Wed., Dec. 3, Casserole Night

Everyone: Baked Ziti, Chicken-Broccoli-Rice,
Turkey Pot Pie

Dessert: Lemon Cake, Cookies & Ice Cream

Make your reservation

Email firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

Call 229-985-3158

HELPING HANDS COLLECTION BOX

This quarter, First Presbyterian is collecting money and food for the Colquitt County **FOOD BANK**. Bring in non-perishable items like canned food and peanut butter.

The Food Bank can maximize food purchases with dollar donations during this critical time. If you would like to donate money to feed local people in need, just write a separate check to FPC and put "Food Bank" in the memo line.

