

February 2025



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Annual Report Submission Deadline
2 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Admin. Committee Mtg.-after worship (L)	3 10:30 Cong. Life Committee Meeting (L)	4 10am Bible Study (L) 2pm Missions & Outreach Committee Mtg. (P)	5 5:15pm Worship Committee Mtg. (L) 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	6	7	8
9 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	10 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	11 10am Bible Study (L)	12 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	13 11:30am Trinity Lunch	14	15
16 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Annual Cong. Mtg. & brunch - after worship	17 Newsletter Deadline-March	18 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Circle (L)	19 10am Home Goods Pantry 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	20 5:30pm WSO Rehearsal (S)	21	22 7:30pm WSO Concert (S)
23 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	24	25 10am Bible Study (L)	26 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	27 7pm WSO Rehearsal (S)	28	

S=sanctuary; L= library; P=parlor; FH=Fellowship Hall

Letter from the Pastor

Pastor Task Force Created

Who is First Presbyterian today?

What is our purpose?

What are the needs of our community?



These three questions remind me as a pastor just how important the ongoing work of discernment is for each and every church. For much of our lives, the answers to these questions were relatively straightforward. However, today's evolving culture and realities continue to change, and along with it, perhaps our responses to these questions.

First Presbyterian was "on the struggle bus" for a while a few years back. We might go as far to describe it as this church being in "survival mode" for a period. However, little by little, you all have discovered a strength and resilience that has brought you to a new, healthier, space. There is new life! We should celebrate this hard work!

That was hard work. Now comes the harder part. The next chapter in transitional ministry is moving beyond survival, to that of mission and vision.

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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

Letter from the Pastor

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Pastor Task Force Created

I have discussed this before, and now we have formal action to share with the congregation to accompany our conversations. In December, Session acted to create a task force which I describe as a Pastor Task Force (PTF). This group of five members, comprised of Stephany Morgan, Sam Clem, Dick Cox, Mary Meade, and Scott Wilson, have been tasked by Session to make recommendations for our congregation moving forward as it relates to the pastoral needs of this church.

One of the immediate recommendations is to understand that a contracted Covenant Pastor is needed in order to further the church's discernment on the identity, purpose, and ministry of the church moving forward. The PTF will continue to meet regularly and to share their findings and recommendations with Session and the congregation moving forward.

So, a few requests of you. Keep an eye out for opportunities to provide your own feedback in response to the three questions at the beginning of this article. And please keep these individuals in prayer as they help the entire congregation continue with the hard and faithful work of continuing to listen for God's calling in these ever-evolving days of living as witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church Info

First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA

Mission & Vision Statement

Adopted on September 10, 2024

We open our hearts and our doors to worshipping Christ in downtown Staunton as a visible witness to the Gospel.

We are called to be a congregation that...

1. Invites all people to faith in Christ.
2. Worships God in a vibrant community through discipleship, music, and fellowship.
3. Uses our resources, time, and talents in the service of the least of these.
4. Nurtures and strengthens those within and outside of our community.
5. Makes the best use of our historic downtown property to benefit others.

In Memoriam



Francis K. Wine

September 10, 1934–December 21, 2024

Frances Virginia Karicofe Wine, 90, of Staunton, passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at Augusta Health Hospice of the Shenandoah House in

Fishersville.

She was born on September 10, 1934, in Mt. Solon to the late Wilmer Davis and Iva May Todd Karicofe.

Frances grew up in Dayton, where she attended and graduated from Dayton High School in 1951. Following her education, she began her career at Shenandoah Electric Co-op before embarking on a new chapter when she married on June 21, 1958. In June 1960, she relocated to Staunton, where she continued her professional journey with the Social Security Administration, dedicating her skills and compassion to public service until September 1967. Frances returned to the workforce in 1978, this time making significant contributions to the Internal Revenue Service, where she served until her retirement in May 1999.

Frances was not only a devoted worker but also a devoted member of her church community. She was an active participant in the First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, where she shared her knowledge and faith as a former Sunday School teacher and as a member of the Presbyterian Women's Circle.

She is survived by her daughter, Kathryn Ann Wine of Staunton, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Franklin Wine, Jr.; her brother, John Davis Karicofe of Mt. Solon; and her sisters, Anna Pearl Karicofe Davis and Amy May Kiracofe of Dayton.

In lieu of flowers you may plant a tree in memory of Frances by visiting <https://www.henryfuneralhome.net/obituaries/frances-wine>

Church News

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Highlights of January 14, 2025 Session Meeting

- ◆ Session filled the positions of Clerk and Treasurers, with Martha Tillen, Scott Wilson and Amanda Avery all willing to return to their positions for another year.
- ◆ The corporation elected officers in keeping with Session positions.
- ◆ President of the Corporation: Stephany Morgan
- ◆ Vice President: Lucinda Cooke
- ◆ Secretary: Martha Tillen
- ◆ Treasurers: Scott Wilson, Amanda Avery
- ◆ Session set a date of February 16 for our Annual Congregational meeting. The Congregational Care Committee will host a pot-luck style brunch after the service that day before we start on the meeting.
- ◆ Session approved an annual pledge to Shenandoah Presbytery for 2025.
- ◆ Session approved a change in the inclement weather policy for the church office. If *Staunton City* offices are closed due to weather (not Staunton schools), the church office will close.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday, February 16, immediately after worship. After the meeting, we hope you can join us for brunch in the Fellowship Hall! Members of the congregation are asked to bring breakfast foods for the brunch. Drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to Heidi at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

Church News

Session Meeting Monday, February 10

There will be a Session meeting on Monday, February 10, at 5:15pm in the library.

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, February 3 at 10:30am in the library.

Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 4 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 5 at 5:15pm in the library.

Bible Study Every Tuesday at 10:00am!

Please join us for Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:00am in the library. Discussions are lively and refreshments are provided. All are welcome. Please join us!

Church Attendance for December 2024 - January 2025

(in person and online)

December 22	In person: 32	Online: 14
December 24	In person: 60	Online: 30
December 29	In person: 23	Online: 6
January 5	In person: 29	Online: 8
January 12	In person: 24	Online: 20
January 19	In person: 18	Online: 40

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 51

In Memoriam

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mother-in-law and special needs brother-in-law long after the death of her husband.

In 1987, Eleanor solicited the services of a realtor in selling her mother's home. She hired a long-time family friend who was a realtor in Staunton, VA. Not only did he sell the home, but on October 10, 1987, Sidney Marvin Supple and Eleanor were married at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church. They resided together in Staunton for thirty-seven years until Sidney's death on October 21, 2024.

Sidney was a perfect second husband as he and his adult children welcomed Eleanor into their family. A consummate southern gentleman, Sidney nurtured Eleanor through a series of knee and hip replacements. Once Eleanor mended, the couple embarked on many vacation excursions throughout the United States, The Caribbean and Europe, thus fulfilling Eleanor's dreams of traveling.

The Supples were active in the community and their church. Eleanor was especially active with her beloved Mary Baldwin College (now University). She developed a close friendship with Dr. Cynthia Tyson, then president of Mary Baldwin.

In 2017, at the age of ninety-six, Eleanor was selected as homecoming queen of Mary Baldwin, fulfilling another dream. She was absolutely radiant as she and Sidney presided over the festivities. More recently, Mary Baldwin honored the couple again by establishing the "Supple Society" as an inducement to encourage faithful annual financial support of Mary Baldwin.

Eleanor is survived by her nephew, William C. Leach, of Smith Mountain Lake, VA; her second family, a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Max Hirtriter, Jr. of Staunton; a son and partner, Stephen Supple and Gilbert Stratton of Charlottesville; a granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Stephanie and Brian Mitchell; and a great grandson, Bentley Sidney Mitchell of Zion Crossroads; a step-granddaughter, Pamela Scheider of Staunton; and special friends, including Martha Wray and Peggy James.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to First Presbyterian Church or Mary Baldwin University.

In Memoriam



Eleanor J. Supple

November 17, 1920–December 25, 2024

Eleanor Thompson Jamison Noblin Supple of Staunton, VA, passed away early Christmas morning, December 25, 2024.

She was born on November 17, 1920, in Belle Haven, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the daughter of The Reverend William Chalmers Jamison, a Presbyterian minister, and Carrie Elizabeth Thompson Jamison.

While Eleanor was a toddler, The Jamisons moved to Kannapolis, NC where her father pastored the First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis. In 1928, the Jamisons moved back to Virginia for her father to pastor the Hebron Presbyterian Church located out in the country just south of Staunton. Because of the isolation of country living, Eleanor read voraciously and spent much time with her mother learning to bake and cook, and listening to operas, symphonies and dramas on the radio. She dreamed of traveling the world and perhaps being a princess.

She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and attended Mary Baldwin College, where she majored in English and graduated in 1942. Eleanor was bestowed the lifelong nickname “Hi” by her older sister Carolyn, who died while of pre-school age. There was also a younger sister, Marianna Jamison (Leach). On June 23, 1951, Eleanor married Embra Yancy Noblin, Jr., in a double wedding ceremony with her sister, performed at the First Presbyterian Church of Staunton and presided over by her father and the father of her sister’s groom, The Reverend Harold Houston Leach.

Eleanor spent a majority of her working years teaching upper elementary students Geography, History and English at Wasena Elementary School in Roanoke, VA. She was an active member of the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church. In November 1973, her first husband died.

Eleanor was the caretaker of the family. She nursed her husband and her father as they battled cancer. She had her mother live with her for nearly a decade. She also assisted her

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Church News



Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, February 19

Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, February 19. Financial and product donations are always welcomed.

If you wish to donate items, there is a donation basket outside of the sanctuary for your convenience. For items needed, please visit our website at:

<https://1stpres-staunton.org/news-events/announcements>

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, February 18 at 12:30pm in the Library. Please respond to Alice Herbst if you can make it. And feel free to bring guests—all are welcome!



Congregational Life

Scott Wilson recently visited one of our VIPs, Opal Homan.



Scott Wilson & Opal Homan Singing Favorite Hymns

Newsletter Deadline for March 2025

The deadline for submissions for the March issue of First Impressions is Monday, February 17. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

Church News

Installation of Officers Sunday, January 13, 2025



Pictured: Martha Tillen, Pastor Jeff, Cindy Cooke, Lisa Caywood, Sharon Wilson, Barbara Richardson

**Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert
Saturday, February 22, 7:30pm**

Please join us for a concert performed by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, February 22 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome!



February Birthday List



- 15 W. Rader Dod, II
- 18 Alan Garrison
- 24 Hugh Sproul
- 26 Grace Clem



Church News

**Coffee & Cookies
Fellowship & Friends**

The Congregational Care Committee would like to enlist your help with our coffee hour after worship. We need volunteers to make coffee to be ready at 10:45 AM and bring it to the sanctuary, arrange cookies, etc., put out napkins and plates and clean up afterwards.

All coffee, cookies and paper goods are supplied.
Find a Sunday (or two) and sign up!

Date	Name
February	
02/02/25	Sharon and Scott Wilson
02/09/25	
02/16/25	Martha Tillen
02/23/25	Sharon and Scott Wilson
March	
03/02/25	
03/09/25	
03/16/25	
03/23/25	
03/30/25	
April	
04/06/25	
04/13/25	
04/20/25	
04/27/25	

-Thank you from the Congregational Care Committee