

JUBILATION

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him, and make Him known.

Living Legacy

One generation will commend
Your works to another; they will tell of
Your mighty acts.
Psalm 145:4



Charlene Booth

Charlene Booth began her faith journey at the tender age of two years old. That's when her grandfather, a devout Christian and huge influence on her faith journey, insisted that she begin attending Sunday School. Growing up, Charlene was involved in her church and knew God; but she remembers truly accepting Christ's salvation after a guest speaker visited her youth group when she was 12 years old. She was baptized at 13.

That child-like faith was tested in adulthood. Charlene married when she was 19 years old, and soon became a mother to 6 children – 3 boys and 3 girls. When her youngest child was only 6 months old and the oldest was 12, Charlene's husband left their family. His sudden departure left Charlene feeling rejected and worthless, then dejection set in. She says of that time, "I

kind of lost my faith." Having no idea what God's plan was, Charlene focused on her family. While she took her children to Sunday School, she only went to church occasionally. Her grandfather, who at one time was her "rock," was no longer alive to encourage her. God was not at the forefront of her life.

Charlene went about raising her family in northeast New York State and worked for the New York Department of Motor Vehicles for ten years. Then Art Booth, a man whom Charlene had dated briefly when she was 17, came back into her life. Like Charlene, Art was divorced. They began seeing each other and were married in July of 1979. One month later, Art's job with IBM relocated them to North Carolina. Having worked before, Charlene didn't like the idea of being a stay-at-home mom. So she took a job with Cabarrus Bank, where she met Steve Goodnight. Steve began asking if Charlene and Art had found a church home and invited them to First Presbyterian. Charlene was drawn in by the friendly congregation and became dear friends with many members who have since joined the church eternal.

Back in church regularly, Charlene's faith found her increasingly influenced by Art. Charlene describes him as a "gentle man" who loved her children. As they found their places at First Presbyterian, church became a big part of the life they made. Both Charlene and Art served on various committees and as Elders in the church. Charlene, who likes to work behind-the-scenes and organize, has served on the Worship Team and preparing Communion. She also organized the Bereavement Meal schedule as we know it. Charlene grew up in a big family – she had seven brothers and sisters – and knows that when families are grieving, they can't always enjoy a meal together comfortably in someone's home. That's why she loves providing a space that families can gather, share each other's company, and be fed. She has been blessed by the way such a simple gesture touches families mourning the loss of a loved one.

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CELEBRATE



Men's Fellowship is off to a great start! Almost 40 men gathered for a delicious grilled dinner on January 26. Guest Speaker Stockton Perry, operator of Chick-fil-a in Concord, gave an inspiring word.

The JOY group is going strong in 2023. On January 27, they enjoyed a covered dish lunch, while Roxanne Spencer delighted the group with a reading. Their next meeting on Friday, February 24 featured barbeque and sides. Carol Lowder offered a time of devotion.



Wednesdays in the Word kicked off on February 8th with a church-wide study of the Ten Commandments!

Adults, led by Pastor Eddie, and Journey Youth, led by Michelle and Irene, will continue for 7 weeks. Fellowship meals are provided each week beginning at 5:30pm on a donation basis. Menus are announced in the Sunday bulletin. PraiseMakers Kids' Choir rehearses from 6-6:30pm. Don't miss this opportunity to "dig deeper" into God's Word!



Thanks to all who gave canned/dry goods or money to our Souper Bowl of Caring drive! 136 pounds of food and \$341.64 were collected. All donations went to Cooperative Christian Ministry to help our neighbors in need.

2022 Highlight: Missional Giving!

In 2021, the budget First Pres allotted to Missions was \$8,250. In 2022, Session increased that amount, allowing the Missions Team to designate roughly \$21,000 to our various missions. Here's a rounded breakdown of how that money was spent:

- \$5,000 to Cooperative Christian Ministry
- \$5,000 to Sitpatch Church School
- \$5,000 designated towards future Mission Trip
- \$2,000 to Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association
- \$1,000 to Cabarrus Women's Center
- \$1,000 to Samaritans Purse Disaster Relief
- \$1,000 to Feeding Kannapolis Hunger (\$50 gift cards for 20 Christmas blessing boxes)
- \$500 to Good Samaritan Fund (gift cards for individuals in need)
- \$500 to Homebound Meals (ministry of Tony Sherrill)



But your giving didn't stop there! Special Offerings, given to missional outreach in 2022, were *"immeasurably more than all we [could] ask or imagine."* (Ephesians 3:20) Your generosity included:

- \$49,352 for construction of a Sitpatch Church School
- \$6,149 for our 400 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (409 total donated)
- \$3,465 to Samaritan's Purse for Ukraine Relief
- \$2,470 to 10 Cents a Meal (divided between CCM, Compassion Int'l, and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels)
- \$2,129 to Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association
- \$1,551 to New Hope Presbyterian for Hurricane Ian Relief
- \$1,376 to Good Samaritan Fund
- \$1,175 to Habit Missions (Watchmen of the Streets)
- \$1,000 to Moscow Evangelical Seminary
- \$1,000 to Cooperative Christian Ministry
- \$935 to Kannapolis City Schools for students in need
- \$779 to Gideons International
- \$725 to Hamilton's GEM Mission
- \$640 to Cabarrus Women's Center
- \$200 to Kannapolis/Concord Watchmen of the Streets
- 144 pounds of food + \$176 collected for CCM during Souper Bowl of Caring
- \$100 to Homebound Meals (ministry of Tony Sherrill)
- \$30 to Angel Tree Collection



That's a whopping \$73,252 in special offerings!

Together with the Missions Team Budget spending and ECO dues, the total missional spending of First Presbyterian in 2022 equaled \$97,037 - almost 25% of the amount of total giving!

**THANK YOU for answering the call to proclaim the Gospel and
be the presence of Christ in our community
and around the world!**

UPCOMING



FEEDING
KANNAPOLIS
HUNGER

We are excited to partner again with Feeding Kannapolis Hunger for a Health & Wellness Market, while we also debut Linda's Closet - a clothing closet named in memory of Linda Sampson.

Linda's Closet



Anyone who has two shirts
should share with the one
who has none.

Luke 3:11

Both events will take place in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 4th. The Market will feature healthy eating tips, wellness checks, recipe samplings, and a produce/egg giveaway. Shoppers at Linda's Closet will be able to choose up to 10 winter/spring items. Volunteers are needed for

prep on Friday, March 3rd from 6pm-9pm, and on Saturday, March 4 beginning at 8:30am. The event will conclude by 12:00p.m. See Jenna Baker or Cindy DeVoe for more information.

First Presbyterian will host Samaritan's Table at Kimball Lutheran on Thursday, March 9.

The congregation is invited to help prep to-go meals at First Pres at 4:00pm. We will transport the meals to Kimball and pass them out beginning at 5:00pm. Please see Phil McLain if you are willing to volunteer!



Village Chapel of Kannapolis is hosting a Community Prayer Walk on Saturday, March 25th.

A welcome breakfast will begin at 9:00am followed by worship and prayer time. Each participating church will then chart its own Prayer Walk. First Pres will walk in the area

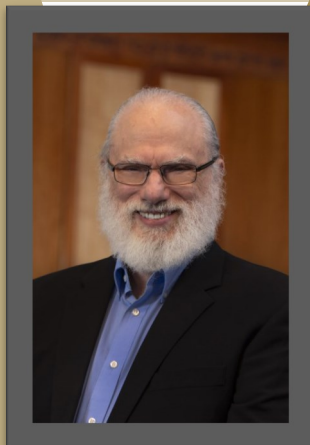
around our property. So that we may RSVP for breakfast, please sign up in the Narthex if you wish to participate!

Mark your calendars for a special event!

On Wednesday, March 29th, we will gather for a Seder Meal presentation and tasting with **Word of Messiah Ministries!**

As we approach Holy Week, this will be a memorable time of reflection and appreciation for the Passover meal Jesus would have shared with His disciples on Maundy Thursday.

Sign up to attend in the Narthex!



The Messiah in the Passover Participation

Sam Nadler

Word of Messiah Ministries

Sam Nadler is a Jewish believer in Jesus, who has been in Jewish Ministry for over forty years. He is the founder and President of Word of Messiah Ministries. Sam is an internationally recognized conference speaker having authored books on theology and discipleship. Sam conducts evangelism, discipleship and congregation planting in Jewish communities worldwide.

To learn more about Sam visit:
www.wordofmessiah.org.



Women of all ages are invited to a special luncheon with Chelsea Cooley Clark, former Miss North Carolina and Miss USA, on **Saturday, April 1.** Chelsea will speak on her walk

with Christ and what it means to be *Authentically Loved*. The cost to attend is \$25, which includes an *Authentically Loved* Journal with passages by Ms. Clark, lunch, and desserts. Please register via the announcement on our website by March 20th.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week services will be held in conjunction with Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church on **Maundy Thursday, April 6, and Good Friday, April 7.** Join us as we focus our hearts and minds on Jesus' love and sacrifice.



Let's go out to the ballgame! First Pres has secured group tickets for Sunday, April 23 at the 1:00pm CannonBallers game versus Charleston. Your ticket cost is \$11.00, which includes \$2.00 worth of "Baller Bucks," to be used in the stadium. See Michelle Walker to secure your spot!



Event Calendar



MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Wednesdays in the Word!	2	3 Market/ Closet Prep	4 Wellness Market & Linda's Closet
5	6	7 Session	8 Wednesdays in the Word!	9 Samaritans Table	10	11
12 Holy Communion	13	14	15 Wednesdays in the Word!	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Wednesdays in the Word!	23	24	25 Community Prayer Walk
26 10 Cents a Meal	27	28	29 Seder Meal Presentation	30	31 Joy Group	

APRIL 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Women's Spring Gathering
2 Palm Sunday & Holy Communion	3	4 Session	5	6 Maundy Thursday Service	7 Good Friday Service	8 Journey Youth Easter Celebration
9 Easter	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 Cents a Meal/ CannonBallers Game	24	25	26	27	28 Joy Group	29 Wedding/ Reception
30 Mexico Trip Commissioning						

March Birthdays

3/5 Kay Yates
 3/6 David Reed
 3/12 Mike Lowder
 3/13 Fred Caskey
 3/13 Richard Griggs
 3/13 Bobby Hallman
 3/18 Steve Hodge
 3/18 Linden Hamilton
 3/19 Matthew Pless
 3/21 Judy Hammond
 3/22 Sam McAllister
 3/24 Ryan Walker
 3/25 Emily Watkins
 3/27 Linda Bost
 3/27 Michael Eilers
 3/30 Todd Pless
 3/30 David Ellington

Wedding Anniversaries

3/14 Peggy Barnhardt
 3/16 Bob & Shirley Faust
 3/27 Edward & Jessica Bell

4/2 Bill & Janice Jolley
 4/22 George & Kaitlyn Maxwell
 4/30 Frank & Peggy Gibson

April Birthdays

4/2 Bruce Pruett
 4/3 Brian Efird
 4/6 Jessica Bell
 4/6 Gip Rumble
 4/7 Mary Elizabeth Jacobs
 4/10 Daniel Pless
 4/11 Tom Cavin
 4/12 Kathy Rumble
 4/12 Betty Sechler
 4/15 Mal McDaniel
 4/16 Abigail Malinovsky
 4/16 Toby Caskey
 4/19 Bill Jolley
 4/20 Danny Bost
 4/21 Kay McAllister
 4/22 Barbara Wise
 4/23 Whit Whitaker
 4/24 Charles Seaford
 4/24 Presley Baker
 4/25 Steve Goodnight
 4/27 Abby Vriesema



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Charlene has felt that loss herself. In July of 1996, Art was diagnosed with brain cancer. He passed away in January of 1997. Those 6 months, Charlene wasn't physically able to come to church; but she remembers how her church came to her. Every Tuesday, members faithfully delivered meals to their home. One group of friends that had planned a trip to New England and Nova Scotia even sent postcards to the Booths from every location they visited, essentially allowing them to travel along from home. "Church is family," she says, and she's always felt that way about First Presbyterian. It meant a great deal to Charlene that she and Art were not forgotten in

their absence.

When reflecting on her time at First Presbyterian, Charlene recognizes that the church has been through its own share of ups and downs. At times, Charlene honestly wondered if the church would survive. But she compares those trials to refining by fire, and truly believes First Pres is stronger as a result of them. Expressing a love of the church and its people, she says it's "nice to see the church come alive, be alive...to do the things it was meant to do."

Charlene's wish for First Pres is not simply growth in numbers, but growth in faith. That's one reason she believes Pastor Eddie has been a perfect fit for our congregation. He is able to draw people because he is real, down-to-earth, personable, and human. He also knows scripture – something she has clung to when life wasn't so easy. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," has comforted her on more than one occasion. (Philippians 4:13) Pastor Eddie's compassion has meant a great deal to her, as well. He regularly visits her daughter, Eva, who has been battling MS for 27 years and now lives in a nursing center.

Though First Pres is a small congregation, Charlene doesn't see our size as a hindrance. In her view, a small number of members all willing to work and make the church successful is preferable to a large number of members just sitting in the pews. That's not to say that Charlene envisions us remaining the congregation we are now. She believes the growth around us is an opportunity to reach new individuals. "God has us here in the center of Kannapolis for a reason," she says. In a time when people seem increasingly isolated and alone, craving relationships and searching for something, she considers making connections and learning more about one another as essential to our outreach. Charlene hopes that drawing people in will allow them to see what she sees - "Jesus lives in our sanctuary."



GIVING OPPORTUNITY

In the Spring of 2022, a wonderful First Presbyterian couple presented an idea of a shelter, or pavilion, to our Session. In addition to the idea of the pavilion, they committed a large financial gift to fund it. From the time of the original proposal to the present, the cost of building supplies increased. After a lot of planning and discussion, our Session enthusiastically committed to the construction of the pavilion. The couple is committed to funding \$150,000 of the project and the Session voted to seek to raise \$50,000 toward it's completion.

In addition to expanding our ministry and fellowship opportunities, the pavilion will be dedicated to the Dr. Joe Crawford and his wife, Diane. Joe faithfully served our church from 2000-2009. Tragically, his ministry and life were cut short by a devastating illness. This project will be a great way to remember and celebrate their legacy.

I hope you will support and give to this project. We hope to have it constructed by this summer. The pavilion in the picture is similar to one we will have. It will be located adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.



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First Presbyterian Church
201 Vance Street
Kannapolis, NC 28081-4383

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