

AUGUST 2025

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



MINISTRY UPDATES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

INSIDE: DETAILS ON MEETING CHURCH FACILITY NEEDS

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church Family,

I would like to give a brief update on what is taking place with our vision for the church facility. As mentioned previously, our property committee has put together a “punch list” of the various aspects of our facility that is in desperate need of attention. Additionally, there has been an expressed need for our leadership to consider direct handicap access to our sanctuary. With this all in mind, the session has put together a vision team to assess our perceived needs, communicate these assessments with the congregation, explore a potential capital campaign, and help prioritize a recommendation list of what aspects of this project should be addressed first. The group approved by our session to be on the vision team includes:

- Al White (elder, chair of property)
- Donna Welsh (elder, congregational care)
- John Robertson (elder, finance)
- “Tee” Stanley (property)
- Denise Tidball (personnel)
- Sue Stevens (finance; continuity with previous vision team)
- Liz Rader Lamadue (membership/outreach)
- Tom Kirkland (property; creator of “punch list”)
- Dave Rockness & Moses Camacho (pastors)

This vision team is being facilitated by Zach Miller (elder, chair of finance) and has now met twice for a total of 8-10 hours. Much progress is being made in regard to the scope of this project and prioritizing the “punch list.” Additionally, the group is assessing strategic ways of using our spaces as we seek to recommend needed improvements. The two spaces we are most focused on are the sanctuary and the CE building. Tee Stanley has prepared a Vision and Master Planning Questionnaire that is presently being filled out by our session and staff. It is a tool meant to spark creativity, encourage prayerful reflection, and gather valuable insight as we begin to discern how our physical spaces can better support the mission and ministry of our church. Once gathered, this feedback will be a valuable part of our master planning and discernment process at FPC Mooresville.

Please keep this process in prayer! If you have any questions or would like to provide any input, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the vision team listed above. It continues to be a privilege to serve alongside you in ministry!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness



STEWARDSHIP

GIVING YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENTS, AND YOUR TITHES TO GOD'S WORK...

PRAYER: *God, infuse my life with the light of your love.*

Where Knowledge Begins

Proverbs 1 : 1 - 7

Proverbs, a book of practical wisdom, contains a whole lot more than “common sense.”

As we see in *Proverbs 1:7* – which sets the theological tone for the book – the wise and disciplined life begins in an R & R (recognition of and relationship with God). Proverbs calls this the “the fear of the Lord.”

In the words of Christian apologist and novelist C. S. Lewis,

**“I believe in Christianity
as I believe that the sun has
risen, not only because I see
it, but because by it I see
everything else.”**

Knowledge begins with acknowledgment: we need to recognize God for who he is – Creator, Sustainer, Ruler and Redeemer – and respond by submitting all we are and have to him. Apart from this perspective, financial wisdom and true stewardship are impossible.

Preacher Oswald Chambers reflects on verse 7 ... *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline:*

Nightingales will not sing outside certain geographical areas, and that is an exact illustration of the frontiers of God. There is a place where God reveals His face, and that place has moral frontiers, not physical. We can blind our minds by perverse thinking; blind our moral life by crooked dealing in business, or by sin. We can never get away from God geographically, but we can get away from Him morally.

The writer to the Hebrews mentions the moral frontier:

***“Keep your lives free from the love
of money and be content with what
you have.” Hebrews 13:5***

Outside that moral frontier, God does not reveal His face. Let me become impatient, let me fix my heart on gain, and I do not see God. If I enthrone anything other than God in my life, God retires and lets the other god do what it can.

The majority of us do not enthrone God, we enthrone common-sense. We make our decisions and then ask the real God to bless our god's decision. We say, “It is common-sense to do this thing,” and God leaves us, because we are outside the frontier where He works.

Keep yourself from the love of money, and be content ... If I keep myself from covetousness, content with the things I have, I remain within the frontier of God. If I have the spirit of covetousness in my heart I have no right to say, “The Lord is my helper” – He is not, He is my destroyer. I have no right to say I am content and yet have a mood that is not contented. If I am ill-tempered, set on some change of circumstances, I find God is not supporting me at all; I have worried myself outside the moral frontier where He works and my soul won't sing; there is no joy in God, no peace in believing.

We have to watch that we are not enticed outside the frontier of our own control, just as soldiers have to watch. If they get outside the frontier of their strategy they will probably be killed, and so we have to watch that we are not enticed outside God's frontier.

Message from your Stewardship Committee
Excerpts from NIV Stewardship Study Bible
Preacher & author Oswald Chambers (Page 785)

Music Ministry

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee is our hymn for August 2025. Henry Van Dyke set the words to Beethoven's famous *Ode to Joy* from his *Ninth Symphony*. Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* is one of the greatest achievements in Western music. The famous tune closes the symphony with full chorus and soloists. Dyke's words marvel at God's creation. God is the giver of immortal gladness and life. All of His works are on display in creation. Christians are ever singing and marching as victors in Jesus Christ even in the midst of strife.

I am thankful to Robbie Pearson for filling in on the organ while Greg is gone to Salzburg. As many of you know Greg has been the Head of Staff Pianists at The Patti and Allan Herbert Frost School of Music program in Salzburg, Austria for a number of years. In fact, Greg and I participated in this program together in 1998. The program is through The University of Miami at Salzburg. Greg's responsibilities include teaching, coaching, and performing throughout Austria. We are blessed to call Greg our organist/pianist and friend.

Finally, I am grateful to have taught all of the children who participated in our Magnified VBS. It was a busy week with nearly 170 children rotating through bible, music, and crafts. The children had a lot of fun and learned a lot about music, but most importantly about Jesus and how to magnify Him in their lives every day. I am grateful to Melissa and the many volunteers who made the week meaningful and successful.

Youth Ministry

August 4th-8th... @6am Everyday / Week of Prayer and Fasting

We are starting off the school year strong in the Lord with a Week of Prayer and Fasting as a youth group! Everyday at 6am, we will be gathering in the church fellowship hall to pray for our families, schools, friends, and communities. Students, I am also asking you to discern what is one thing that the Lord wants you to "fast" from this week, so that your focus will be solely on Him. Sarah and I will be at the church from 6am-6:45am everyday, but students are free to leave whenever they need to in order to be at school on time. I recognize that not everyone will be able to attend the early morning prayer time because of various circumstances, and that is okay! If you are unable to attend in the morning, I still encourage you to find another consistent time throughout your week to join us in praying for the start of the school year.

August 10th.. NO Refresh Youth

We will not be gathering for youth group this Sunday night because Sarah and I will be out of town celebrating our wedding anniversary! Students, I still encourage you to meet on your own somewhere and read the bible/pray together.

August 17th.. @6:30pm-8:30pm Refresh Youth (COMBINED School Year Kick Off)

We are officially back for the school year starting August 17th!!! Join us this Sunday night at the church for dinner, games, worship, and fellowship! Bring your bibles/notebooks!

children's ministry

It's BACK TO SCHOOL already and we are excited! Our Teachers have met, had their volunteer training and are praying for their classes!

What's Happening This Month:

1. August 4th - Our fall Semester begins! Our Kingdom Kids will start in the Fellowship Hall and will be picked up in their classrooms on the 3rd floor.

2. August 31st - FAMILY SUNDAY!! There will be no Kingdom Kids. Children will attend the service with their families and enjoy a children's sermon. Activities, worship bulletins and sermon notes will be available at the 10am service at the door to worship.

Check in for Nursery - Highschool

Just a reminder, all children going to a Sunday School class, WNT or Youth group event should be checking in at our check in station. Children 5th grade and younger will get a name tag with a matching guardian name tag for secure pick up.

No name tags will be printed for our MS or HS students. Please be sure to check in your children before you take them to their class or meeting area.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sprouts Ministry (0 - Preschool) - 2nd floor
0 - 23 months - Nursery room

Toddlers (our 2's and 3's class) Duck room
(Teachers: Ms. Allison, Ms. Melissa)

Preschool (our 4-5 year olds) Bear Room
(Teachers: Ms. Margaret, Ms. Lily)

Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten - 5th grade)
Drop off - Fellowship Hall
Pick up - Fellowship Hall

K-1st Grade Room 322
(Teachers: Ms. Lucy, Ms. Andrea)

2nd-4th Grade Room 324
(Teachers: Mr. Rick, Ms. Denise, Ms. Kathryn, Brother Bill)

4th-5th Grade Room 309
(Teachers: Ms. Courtney, Mr. Will, Ms. Jodi, Hatten)





Children's Sunday School Hour: 10am - 11am

Sprouts Ministry is our Nursery - preschool

We love the playground! We have a great time getting outside, running, playing and building friendships. Please know that we aim to go outside weekly weather permitting.

Toddlers and preschoolers will participate in a time of music/worship as well as in a Bible lesson, activity and a visit to the playground if the weather is cooperative. We will provide a light snack.

Infants - young 2's will be in our infant room playing and being cared for by some wonderful volunteers. They will be provided a snack of cheerios and water or whatever you bring in their cup.

Please bring a cup for them if you are able, we have labels here for you to use to label your child's cup.

Check in will begin at 9:45 after the Sunday School teachers have prayed together. Please wait for the check in time to begin so that our teachers can pray and get to their classes before you and your children do.

Kingdom Kids is our Kindergarten - 5th grade

Elementary school classes will use the following schedule:

10:00 Kingdom Kids meet in Fellowship Hall for a time of worship, scripture memorization, games and more.

After we conclude our large group time together, the children will divide by grade to tables for their lesson time. We strongly encourage children to bring their bibles to Sunday School.

*****Please note- any children who have not been picked up by 11:10am will be brought to the second floor childcare room (Duck room) so that our teachers can get to church on time.**

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 6:30pm Session Meeting 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth	4 Preschool Teacher Work Week 8:30am Preschool Teacher breakfast 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	5 Preschool Teacher Work Week	6 Preschool Teacher Work Week 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm HS Refresh Youth Supper Club 6:30pm Inquirer's Class
10 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 6:00pm Worship & Music Committee 7:00pm Finance Committee	11 9:00am Preschool Sneak-a-Peek Orientation and Parent Meeting 7:00pm Personnel Committee 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	12 9:00am Preschool Sneak-a-Peek Orientation and Parent Meeting	13 First Day for MWF, TWTh, and 5-day Preschoolers 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm HS Refresh Youth Supper Club 6:30pm Inquirer's Class
17 Communion Sunday 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Meeting 5:00pm Congregational Care Council 5:00pm MS Refresh Youth 7:00pm HS Refresh Youth	18 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	19 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon	20 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Inquirer's Class
24 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 6:30pm Refresh Youth School Year Kick-Off	25 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	26	27 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Inquirer's Class

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

BIRTHDAYS

	1 HS Refresh Youth Mission Trip to Miami	2 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study
7 Preschool Teacher's Work Week 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering	8 Preschool Teacher Work Week	9 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study
14 First Day for TTh and MTTh Preschoolers 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering	15	16 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study
21 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering	22	23 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study
28 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering	29	30 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study

8/1- Fern Alexander, Beverly Chappell, Phil Heilman
8/2- Chloe Gildberg, Debbie Solomone
8/3- Evgenia Pankova, Alex Teeter
8/4- Stacey Faulkenberry, Phil Solomone, Carroll Teeter
8/5- Michael Culbreth
8/6- Hillary Cole
8/7- Emily Kirkland
8/8- Matthew Heilman, Joyce Lytle, Howard Stutts
8/9- Sue Telford
8/10- Jake Foulke, Pat Loftin, Jackie Webb
8/11- Clint Belk, Lynda Robinson
8/12- Curtis Crews, Bobby Hinson, Ruth Newell, Amy Petrenko
8/14- Eric Pluer, Graham Sledge, Grady Woodward
8/15- Braelyn Kate Campbell
8/16- Audie Seyller
8/17- Becky McIntyre, Sam Stranton, Savannah Stranton
8/18- Christy Floyd, Alan Sledge
8/19- Susan Smith
8/20- Jane James
8/21- Daniel Christman
8/22- Drew Teeter
8/23- David Ramey
8/24- Bill Harris
8/25- Sandy Bickett, Pat Campbell
8/26- George Baillie, Alice Chaplinsky
8/27- Anna McNeely, David Nelson
8/28- Kathryn Donelson, Paige Ladd
8/29- Mabel Culbreth, Mary Davidson, Grace Donelson
8/30- Neely Davidson
8/31- Andrea Abele, Will McIntyre III, Lee Rhyne

finance report

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The Budget for 2025 is \$1,163,198. You will note in the figures below that income represents 38% of the budget, but we have completed 50% of the year. Expenses represent 45% of the budget. Below are the figures for January through June 2025.

	2025	2024
TOTAL INCOME	\$499,366	\$406,982
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$526,712	\$506,328
NET INCOME	\$ -77,346	\$ -99,947

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Preschool: 704 664-7201

Website: www.mooresvillefpc.org
Email: office@mooresvillefpc.org

[mooresvillefpc@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/mooresvillefpc)

If you would like to be added to or deleted from
our mailing list, please send an email to
office@mooresvillefpc.org or call 704-664-5275

8:30 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Traditional Worship

August 2025



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians