



# First Presbyterian News

Aiken, SC  
PC(USA)

May 2024



Adding New Chapters to an Old Story...

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde  
 Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough  
 Director of Operations and Media Joanna Hamilton  
 Director of Christian Education Tamra Erde  
 Director of Music Daniel Hamilton  
 Director of Finance Cassie Buchanan  
 Preschool Director Mary Maddrey  
 Office Manager Debby Dugan  
 Organist/Accompanist Kathy Clark  
 Finance Suzanne McCleod  
 Address: 224 Barnwell Avenue NW, Aiken, SC 29801  
 Phone: (803) 648-2662  
 E-mail: [aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org)  
 Website: [www.aikenpresbyterian.org](http://www.aikenpresbyterian.org)  
 Directory: If anyone would like an updated directory with names and addresses please email, call, or come by the office

### PUBLICATIONS:

The deadline for the June 2024 monthly newsletter is 12:00 PM on Wednesday May 15th. We would love to hear your story! Please send your information via email to **Joanna Hamilton** at

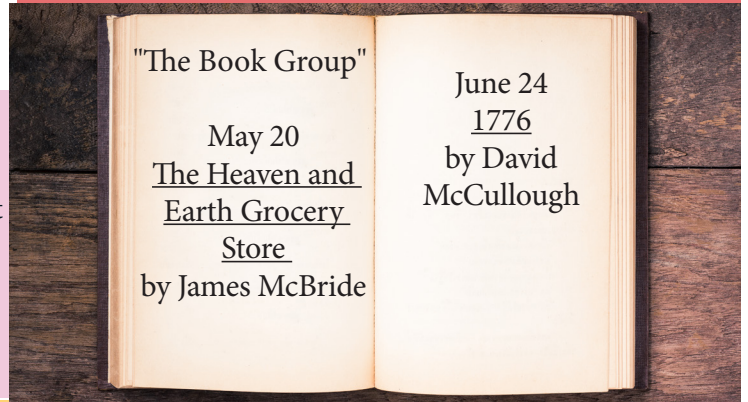
**[joannah@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:joannah@aikenpresbyterian.org)**

Watch for Weekly Updates in your email!

Please follow the church:

Facebook - **[facebook.com/aikenpres](https://facebook.com/aikenpres)**

Instagram - **[@aikenpres](https://instagram.com/aikenpres)**



## Montreat Women's Connection August 9-11, 2024

### "In the Arms of God"

Our God scoops us up and holds us tight, even in the midst of all that life throws at us. "In the Arms of God", offers the chance to retreat from the day to day, take a deep breath of the Spirit, gather in community with other women

of faith, and leave with a heart full of hope.

Please contact Tamra Erde no later than May 15 if you are interested in going. The conference is \$247 plus food and lodging.



### Wednesday Dinner -

May 1st 5:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall

### Thursday Lunch Bunch -

May 9th 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

### Church Picnic -

May 26, 2024 after Worship in the Fellowship Hall and on the West Lawn.

Please bring a side dish to share.

*Stewardship* is not just about giving money to the church. It is about living a life that is pleasing to God and that makes a difference in the world. This is a reminder noting the words from the hymn.



**HERE I AM LORD:**

Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
will hold your people in my heart.

## Mwandi Updates:

There is a lot to report on this quarter so I'll try to condense this by using excerpts from Dr. Haamumba's Facebook post and Keith and Ida's "Partner's Plan".

Dr. Haamumba announced the coming of Dr. Peggy Scrieber and her team of surgeons. They will be in Mwandi for thirteen days in mid-April for a combination American Board meeting and her annual round of surgeries. Among the surgeries conducted will be Ear Nose and Throat, General Vascular Surgery, Rectal Surgery and Gynecology. He also praised Peggy for her long-time dedication to Mwandi. She has brought surgery teams to Mwandi for over twenty years and is currently the chairperson of the American Board. For more on Peggy copy and visit this web site <https://intermountainhealthcare.org/careers/residencies-training/medical-resident-fellow-training/saint-joseph-hospital-general-surgery-residency/global-surgery-program/>

Good news!! The hospital has finally achieved Level II status. The impact of this is that they will be considered for more extensive support from the Zambia Health organizations and patients will no longer have to be sent to Livingston for more advanced treatments. Faced with traveling over the rotten road to Livingston and the additional expense to the patient's family, usually the patient just went home. Achievement of this status has been brought about largely by completion of the Diagnostic Center (X-ray, ECG, CT-Scan, and ultrasound), installation of an oxygen generation and distribution system, and receipt of a suction machine and hookups for ten beds from the Czech Embassy. However, this equipment is awaiting installation.

Kieth Wadell reports that they have had to lay off, or reduce hours, of some of the block makers as demand for their product has diminished. The blocks they make are of high quality, made with crushed rock trucked from miles away. The cost of 22 tons of the rock and transport to Mwandi is \$940, and this cost is on top of that for the inferior blocks made of just sand and cement. The blocks are therefore more expensive and only the hospital and a few NGOs constructing public buildings can afford to purchase them.

Kieth also reports that they have put another 1000 Tilapia fingerlings in one of the fish ponds. They also have two groups of so-called layer chicks but they have yet to be segregated by sex so there may be any number of broiler chickens on the way.

As mentioned previously, the impact of El Nino has been devastating this year with only 50% of normal rainfall and temperatures about 50% higher than normal. The crops are dead and in the Mwandi region about 85% of households are facing food insecurity. The draught is nationwide and has caused the power company, ZESCO, to enforce 8hr daily rolling power outages. Not enough water is flowing down the Zambesi River to allow generation from the small hydro plant in Livingston or for the full generating capacity at the Kariba Dam generators. Fortunately, the hospital has some solar power and a petrol fired generator that allows them to operate at reduced efficiency during these blackouts.



Keith writes "The situation in Mwandi District is dire with 85% of households facing food insecurity from crop failure and 90% of the crops destroyed. We have supported World Renew here in their proposed food relief program and we have also through a supportive church in the USA been awarded a grant to go towards a nutrition program for malnourished patients in the hospital and also to provide a standard food package for selected vulnerable patients on their discharge". This situation has deprived many mothers of adequate nourishment to produce milk and has prompted our church's sending additional Formula for Life funds as formula is not a crop and can be purchased.

We in America should count our blessings and thank God for the abundance we have. Is it any wonder people from all over are wanting to enter our country.  
By: Bruce Eberhard



Darryn & Donna Roasa  
206 Quiet Oak Court  
29803



Lisa & Bret Evans  
300 Live Oak Road  
29803



Ann Dodson  
129 Summer Winds Circle  
Aiken SC 29803



Lorraine Seeby  
4015 2nd Ave, Apt 251  
Summerville 29486

# New Members

## Confirmands and Covenant Partners:



Mary Irving Calfee & Cindy Ploeger



Ryland Crenshaw & Bill Tucker



Calla Dawsey & Julie Taylor



Jake Dugan & Reggie Ebner



Will Simons & Clarke McCants



Joshua Wood & Mike Hearn

Welcome to the newest members of FPCA who completed a yearlong confirmation class and joined the church April 28th. Many thanks to our confirmation leaders-Rob and Amy Gray, confirmation partners, the many volunteer class speakers, the Brown family for the use of the lake house for the retreat, and of course the parents!



Rob & Amy Gray



First Presbyterian Church  
Mission for Restoration and Outreach

### UPDATES!

The Mission for Restoration and Outreach committee is grateful for the congregation's support, and we are excited by the changes and updates to our church building that are underway.

Total donation currently: \$515,614.00  
Total Family Promise donation: \$51,961.00  
Projects:

- Plumbing has been finished inside of the church.
- The Backflow system is being added next week.
- HVAC units have been ordered, work to install them will start in June.
- A roof company has been contracted; this work will be done once the HVAC units are installed.

## The Giving Together Store

which is located at ACTS, was started by this church in 2015. Donations from church members, community individuals, and other organizations have allowed this project to serve over 1200 children by helping their parents buy nice, new gifts for a minimal amount of money. Just this past Christmas, we helped 85 families and 261 children. Since Christmas, 37 children have received our birthday gifts. This store really has made a difference in the lives of people in need.



Beth Beckham has been the facilitator of this project since its inception. She has had a wonderful group of volunteers who have given much help. After 10 years and prayerful consideration, Beth has decided to step down from this role. In that light, the Mission committee is asking for an INDIVIDUAL, a COUPLE, or a SMALL GROUP to take over responsibility for the store. Please prayerfully consider whether you might be the one to continue this ministry.

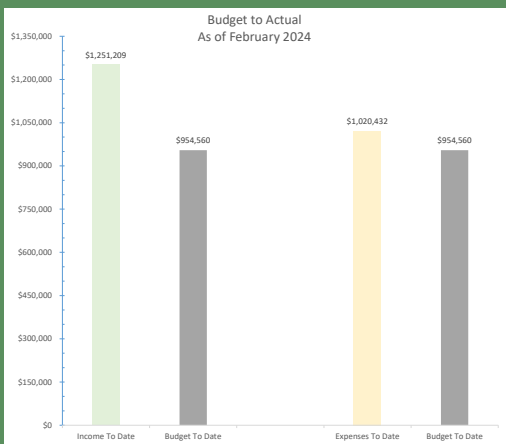
For additional information contact:  
Beth Beckham (803) 646-3429  
or Chuck Dynarski (803) 646-2607.



In support of the annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering, we are offering beautiful Mother's Day, birthday, and assorted note cards for purchase before and after worship on Sunday on the following dates: April 21, April 28, and May 5. The cards are handmade

by Nancy Corbett and Ray Kent and are available for \$5 each. Thank you for supporting our missions locally, nationally and worldwide. The cards are also available in the office during the week.

## FINANCE UPDATE FROM FEBRUARY :



Note: Annual Budget is \$954,560  
As of February 29, Income exceeded Expenses.  
If you want more detailed information,  
please contact Kim Abney.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls will be dedicated during worship on Mother's Day, **May 12th**. Please plan to turn in any completed prayer shawls by Wednesday, May 8th, so they can be included. Please join us for one hour on the third Tuesday of each month. We will be meeting from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the PW Productions Room (#27) on May 21st. We can get you started on making a prayer shawl while we share ideas, tips, fellowship, and prayer! You can also be a part of this ministry

through your handwork at home. Please call for details. Prayer shawls are available to give to anyone -- church members and those who are not members of our church. We continue to pray for all those who have received a prayer shawl. Please let us know of someone who might enjoy receiving this special gift from our church.

Please contact Robbie Knox to ask about getting a prayer shawl or to see how you can help!

# Christian Education

## Sunday Night Youth:

Let's celebrate a great year! Join us for our year end party Sunday, May 5th.

## Baccalaureate Sunday:

We will honor our graduating seniors during worship on Sunday, May 19th.

Please stop by the narthex and leave a message in the Blessing Jars for each graduate.

Our High School Seniors are:

Katie Brown, Tripp Calfee, Bryant Ford Crook, Bayer Dawsey, and Robert Girardeau, Jr

\*Please contact the church office if you have a student who is graduating from college.

## Thornwell Supply Drive:

\*New Items Only Please

During the month of May and at VBS, we will be collecting needed items for Thornwell, focusing on: Individually wrapped snacks, craft supplies, linens (towels/pillows/sheet sets, etc), outdoor toys/sports equipment, age appropriate books, pool toys, or hygiene products (ie: body wash, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, lotion, razors, etc)

Our high school kids will deliver our collection to Thornwell in Clinton on their way to Montreat Youth Conference on June 8.

## SCUBA Vacation Bible School:

June 3rd - 7th (Monday - Friday) 9am - Noon  
Rising 4k - 5th graders

Dive right in and register now! Forms available in the narthex or sign up online at [aikenpresbyterian.org](http://aikenpresbyterian.org) (click on Scuba/Christian Education>>>), then click online registration)

Sign up before May 15 and get a free Scuba T-shirt! Each morning will begin in the Fellowship Hall with Sing & Splash where they will learn exciting songs and will be introduced to the Bible Point and Bible Memory Buddy to start the day!

Kids will rotate daily Monday through Thursday to different stations that will engage them in varieties of ways to connect and experience the Bible lessons for the day. The stations include: Crafts, Deep Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Sticky Scripture, Reef Rec, Tidal Treats, and will conclude with a Fin-Tastic Finale. Friday we will have water day on the West Lawn!

Contact Tamra Erde or Mary Fran Crook for more information. VBS Volunteer Opportunities (Contact Tamra Erde in church office or email [christianeducator@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:christianeducator@aikenpresbyterian.org))

-Want to have a whale of a time with your own small group of kids? Crew leaders needed Mon-Fri  
-Not able to be here daily? Send in a snack for the adult break room

-Have a creative spirit? Come to help set up decorations! (May 13-30/ when you can)

## Caring Tip

from Stephen Ministries

Check out the Stephen Ministry bulletin board (hallway past the kitchen) for our new Caring Tips From Stephen Ministries!

We are all called to care for one another with empathy. This month we feature "Empathy with Adult Siblings".

## Music:

It's hard to believe that summer is almost here! We will begin our summer choir in June and continue through August. Summer choir is open to all ages 3rd grade through 100! A need to read music is not needed. Most of the anthems for summer choir are familiar hymn tunes or

simple melodies. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:45 am in the choir room. I hope to see you there!

**Summer  
Choir Dates:  
June 2 and 16  
July 7 and 21  
August 4 and 18**

For the 40 days of Lent, we prepared for Holy Week. During Holy Week we traveled from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and at last we arrived at Easter Sunday, together we experienced the Grace of the Risen Lord! So, now that Easter has passed on our calendars, what's next? Well, today, tomorrow, and forever is next!

Easter is our new beginning. Easter prepares us for our todays, tomorrows, and forevers. Easter means that our future has been secured by Christ, Easter means that no trouble we experience can take that future away from us. Easter means that the worries of tomorrow are just inconveniences to be handled the best we can, they cannot take away God's promise through Christ. Easter means that each today, should be lived as well as we can live it, loving God, loving neighbor, and embracing the many gifts of life!

# Minister's Thoughts

Friends, Easter may come at the end of Lenten preparation, and at the end of Holy Week, but Easter isn't the end; Easter is our Beginning! Celebrate the gift of Easter everyday, love well, live well, and be thankful always! Happy Easter, today, tomorrow, and forever!

Peace, Chris



Dr. Macie P. Smith has more than 20 years working in social work with vulnerable adults. She has a commitment to helping families navigate the sometimes murky waters of memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's. In partnership with Trinity on Laurens, we will have the unique opportunity of hearing Dr. Smith share her knowledge in our

fellowship hall on Wednesday, August 28 at 12:00 noon. Stay tuned for more information as the date nears!

Enjoy these wonderful days of spring. Beth



# May 2024

## Wednesday, May 1, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells  
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday Dinner  
6:15 PM - 7:00 PM Children's Activity  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

## Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM South Boundary

## Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

## Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery  
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth

## Monday, May 6, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Covenant Evans  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hunter Covenant Group  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Leaders

## Tuesday, May 7, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry

## Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PW Gathering/  
Lunch  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

## Thursday, May 9, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Thursday Lunch Bunch  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Preschool Board  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM South Boundary

## Friday, May 10, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

## Sunday, May 12, 2024

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Men's Breakfast  
9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery  
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

## Monday, May 13, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Covenant Evans  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Covenant Britt

## Tuesday, May 14, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

## Wednesday, May 15, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

## Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM South Boundary

## Friday, May 17, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

## Sunday, May 19, 2024

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery  
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

## Monday, May 20, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Spring Program Practice  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Covenant Evans  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hunter Covenant  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Leaders  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Book Group

## Tuesday, May 21, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Spring Program Practice  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry

## Wednesday, May 22, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Spring Program Practice  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 5K Graduation Brunch  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Teacher Appreciation Lunch  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Celestial Circle Presbyterian Women  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

## Thursday, May 23, 2024

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM South Boundary

## Sunday, May 26, 2024

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery  
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship  
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Mem. Day Church Picnic

## Monday, May 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office CLOSED

## Wednesday, May 29, 2024

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

## Thursday, May 30, 2024

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM South Boundary

If you have any calendar questions, please contact the church office at (803)648-2662  
Monday - Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM and Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM.

## First Presbyterian News

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