



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Our Mission Statement

In response to God's love and grace, we proclaim the good news of the Christian Gospel and strive through word and deed for a fuller expression of God's Kingdom on earth.

First Presbyterian Church
1604 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557
252.247.2202
252.247.1872 fax
www.firstpresmhc.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTORS



Thank you for visiting with us at First Presbyterian Church. We hope that our worship has been meaningful and our welcome has expressed the warmth of Christ's love and the joy of God's presence and power.

First Presbyterian is a dynamic congregation of disciples following Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our life and ministry together lead us into many avenues of praise, study, prayer, mission and service in the community. Our church members and friends are engaged in so many vibrant activities that proclaim the truth of God's Kingdom present in our world. It is a delight to see the Lord at work bringing growth and vitality to His people.

There is something here for everyone, and we would love for you to bring your faith and doubts, your gifts and needs, and join us in the journey of discipleship. You will find information regarding our ministry, mission and beliefs inside this booklet, as well some timely event details on the table outside the sanctuary. Use this information to find your place and step into a deeper relationship with Christ and this congregation.

We realize that we are all at a different place on this lifelong journey of faith. The important question is how do we gauge how far we have traversed and where we need to next journey? Perhaps it would be helpful even now to take a moment and look at the **Tree of Faith** located on page 9 of this booklet. Where do you see yourself? Where do you want to be? Then ask yourself if this church might be a strong partner and advocate for you during your journey. We hope the answer is a resounding "Yes"!

Of course everyone is welcome to participate in all the activities of the church. Yet God is a God of covenants and community, always inviting His people to make public affirmations of their faith as a sign of their sincerity and commitment both to Christ and to the Church, the Body of Christ on earth. In Jesus' name, we invite you to consider making First Presbyterian your church home. Come encounter Christ in meaningful fellowship, grow in your faith and offer your spiritual gifts in service to the Lord.

Those considering membership are encouraged to attend a New Member/Inquirer Class, which is offered several times during the year. These classes offer you an opportunity to meet and get to know a group of fellow visitors and prospective members, as well as church members and staff. We will explore the history, organization and essential beliefs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and will discuss the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

To find out more, just contact the church office at 247-2202.

In Christ,

Tim Havlicek

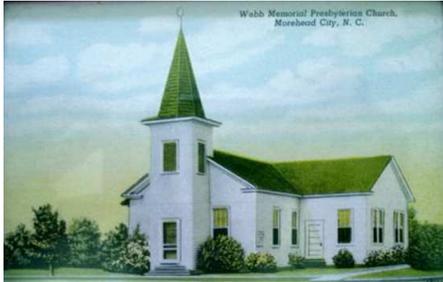
Matt Henderson

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A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1926 Wilmington Presbytery purchased a little frame house on the corner of 24th and Arendell Streets for a Presbyterian Chapel. Sunday School was held weekly, with worship once a month.



On May 5, 1929, First Presbyterian was organized with 13 petitioners and 41 charter members. The congregation relocated to its present location, building the original sanctuary (current office complex) in 1956. The church expanded with the completion of the education wing (1963), the sanctuary (1982), and Westminster Hall (2003).



Today we are a church of almost 600 disciples seeking the next step in our faith and life together.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church offers a variety of worship opportunities ranging from traditional Sunday services to more intimate Bible studies. Additionally, we host a series of music concerts and offer members a chance to use their talents to contribute to the worship experience.



Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary is at 8:30 and 11:00am. These services include the church's chancel choir and the music of a beautiful pipe organ.

Contemporary Worship in Westminster Hall is at 10:40am.



The Bridge is a casual service built on a vision and desire to expand the praise and glory of the Lord by reaching out to those who would be drawn into a new or deeper experience of Christ through a different style of worship. The service incorporates the best of Reformed theology and tradition with a non-traditional church setting.

Other Opportunities

- Choir Practice Thursday, 7pm
- Seasonal Services and Events
- Men and Women Ensembles Thursday, 6pm

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF ENRICHMENT

Sunday School

Sunday School classes for children are held each Sunday at 9:40am-10:35am.

- Nursery, Toddlers, Pre-K
- K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-5th
- Mid Highs, Senior Highs
- Adult Bible Study, Sojourners, Covenant, At Home in Faith, and Adult Sunday School

Bible Studies

- Tuesday Evening Bible Study for Men - 7:30pm, 2nd & 4th Tuesday in the youth room
- Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study at the church - 10:00am
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study at the church - 7:00pm

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND MISSION OUTREACH

The outward focus on service and missions is a priority of First Presbyterian. Our members serve within the community and beyond through global programs. Areas of involvement include:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Interfaith Refugee Ministry
- Interfaith Disaster Relief
- Global Missions Ministry
- Adult/Youth Mission Trips
- Broad Street Clinic
- Hope Mission Christian Ministries
- Appalachia Service Project
- Coastal Pregnancy Care
- Hispanic Ministry
- Family Promise
- New Horizon's Friendship Club
- Project Christmas Cheer
- Domestic Violence Shelter
- Martha's Mission
- Meals-on-Wheels
- Rape Crisis Center
- Special Assistance Fund

Project Christmas Cheer

First Presbyterian plays elf and host to approximately 86 senior citizens who are in need during the Christmas holidays. The project culminates in mid December with an incredible Christmas feast for the seniors with gifts, food and entertainment! It is a blessed event for all who participate!



Family Promise

We are proud to serve as one of 13 host churches in Carteret County who host families at the church for one week each quarter while they seek meaningful employment and permanent living arrangements.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARING AND FELLOWSHIP

First Presbyterian strives to be a caring congregation where members and staff respond to those experiencing life issues and transitions. Our fellowship gatherings and ministries enhance the bonds of Christian friendship.



- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Visitation Ministry
- Caring & Sharing Support Group
- Health Advocates Program
- Presbyterian Women
- Presbyterian Men
- Beach Weekend
- Supper Club
- ARK – Adults Raising Children
- Monday Morning Prayer Group

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children are our most precious resource and are the future of our church. There are many programs available for children from infant nursery to youth and college-age activities.



- Preschool
- Weekday Stay & Play Program
- Nursery
- Children's Choir
- Vacation Bible School

- Presbyterian Youth Connection
- Youth Conferences, Retreats, Missions
- M.O.R.E. Program (hosting youth mission teams from churches around the country)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) has been a woman's organization in First Presbyterian Church since 1929. All women are members of PW.

Presbyterian Women support the missions of the General Assembly and the work of PW on the presbytery, synod, and church-wide levels. We also contribute to agencies providing local social services.

Fellowship among women is important for spiritual growth. The Circle is the basic unit of PW as an organization. Circle membership provides friendship and a unique emotional connection that is not found with spouses and children, or friends who do not share our faith.

We have five circles meeting at various times. All women in the church are invited to join a Circle. They are friendly, social groups who gather for fellowship and Bible study.

They are:

- **Mary-Martha** - 1st Monday of each month at 11am in the church meeting room.
- **Circle 3** - 1st Tuesday of each month at 12pm at a member's home.
- **Circle 4** - 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the church meeting room.
- **Circle 5** - 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:45am in the church meeting room. Childcare is available.
- **Evening Circle** - 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the church youth room.

Hands at Prayer

This group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month to work on knitting (or similar hand work) for special church projects, including Appalachia Service Project, Prayer Shawls, and Baby Blankets.

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

The First Presbyterian Preschool is rated one of the finest in the county. This morning program accepts toddlers for Stay and Play, and three, four and five year olds for preschool classes.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 8:30am 9:40am 10:40am 11:00am 5:30pm	Sanctuary Worship Sunday School <i>The Bridge Service</i> Sanctuary Worship Youth Group
MONDAY 9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Prayer Group Circle (1st Mon.) Hands at Prayer (2nd & 4th Mon.) Cards & Games (1st & 3rd Monday) Circle (2nd Wed.)
TUESDAY 8:45am 11:00am 12:00pm 12:00pm 12:00pm 4:00pm 6:00pm 8:00pm 7:30pm	Circle (1st week) Circle (1st week) Circle (1st week) Men's Lunch (3rd Tues.) Share & Care (3rd Tues.) Girl Scouts (1st & 3rd Tues.) Literacy Tutoring AA Men's Bible Study (2nd & 4th Tues.)
WEDNESDAY 9:00am 10:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm	Hope Mission Volunteers Women Bible Study Wed. Night Dinner Bible Study
THURSDAY 10:15am 5:00 pm 5:30pm 6:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	New Horizons (1st & 3rd Thurs.) <i>The Bridge Practice</i> Girl Scouts Literacy Tutoring Men/Women Ensembles Choir Practice Al-Anon
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY 9:00am 5:00pm	Radio Society (bi-mthly) Bridge Jam Session

A STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

First Presbyterian Church, Morehead City, NC

- **We Worship The Living God.**

God Almighty, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the world. This Triune God is the one true and living God, who will be the center of our devotion, worship and service.

Matthew 3: 16-17, Matthew 28: 19, 2 Corinthians 13: 13/14, Psalm 96: 4-5, Acts 17: 29

- **Jesus Is Our Life.**

God's love came to earth in Jesus. Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus restored the relationship with God which sin had broken. Salvation comes by grace through faith in Christ. He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus is ruler of heaven and earth. We will dedicate our hearts to Jesus as Lord.

John 1: 1-10, John 3: 16, Luke 2: 11, 2 Corinthians 5: 19, Philippians 2: 10, Ephesians 2: 5, 8, Acts 4: 12, John 14: 6

- **The Bible Is Our Source of Truth.**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God. They serve as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, and are our source for doctrine, for guidance, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. We will read and study these Scriptures, for they are our only rule of faith and life.

2 Timothy 3: 16, Psalm 119:105, John 20: 30-31, Isaiah 40: 8, Psalm 19: 7-11

- **Faith Will Transform Our Lives.**

God loves us, accepts us as we are, and transforms us into the people we were intended to be. As disciples of Christ we are to lead a life worthy of our calling, as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. We are to bear the fruits of the Spirit, expressing love through service in God's kingdom and seeking obedience to God's will. We will strive to grow in understanding and faithfulness, adjusting our lives to reflect God's glory.

Ephesians 4: 1, Romans 12:1-2, John 15: 10, Galatians 5: 19-23, Colossians 3: 5, 1 Timothy 1: 10, Romans 1: 26-27

- **We Are Part of a Christian Family.**

Each person who confesses faith in Jesus as Lord receives new life and salvation. Faith is a personal decision, but it is not a private event. Christians are called to become actively involved in the Christian community through the Church, the Body of Christ on earth, and to make their faith public to the world. In thought, word and deed, we will declare our commitment to Christ through the community of the Church.

Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 12: 27, Acts 2: 42-47

- **The Spirit Guides Our Mission to the World.**

The Holy Spirit gives individuals within the Body of Christ a variety of gifts to equip the Church for its work and ministry. God intends us to be the light of the world, sharing the love of Christ so that all might come to a fuller knowledge of God's eternal purposes. We will use our gifts to build a Church that is known for its love, marked by its unity, and determined to have an impact on the world through its outreach and mission.

1 Corinthians 12: 2-4, Ephesians 4: 5-6,12, John 13: 34-35, John 17: 20-26

- **We Have a Long Way to Grow.**

As God's elect, holy and beloved, we are to clothe ourselves with kindness, humility and meekness, for we still sin and fall short of God's glory, and cannot claim to know the will of God fully. We are to study and pray, worship and serve, and together discern what God is calling us to do. In love, we will run this race of faith, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, always looking to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Corinthians 13: 9-12, , Colossians 3: 12-17, Romans 3: 23, Hebrews 12: 1-2

DREAMS AND VISIONS STATEMENT

For First Presbyterian Church, Morehead City, NC

From the Officers' Retreat - October 13, 2007; Revised March 2008

These are the desired outcomes for our congregation during the coming years.

1. **Children and youth who attend this church will grow to understand and be committed to a life of discipleship in which they will discover the pure joy of loving and serving Jesus as Savior and Lord.**
 - A strong spiritual foundation will be provided for all children and youth.
 - This ministry will be Bible-based and will emphasize the importance and power of Scripture.
 - The best educational materials and equipment available will be sought out and used.
 - Parents will be well grounded in scripture and be taught how to play the central role in the Christian formation of their children.
 - Committed and loving teachers, advisors and care group leaders will participate in a team ministry approach to faith development.
 - Youth will offer their skills and insight as full participants in the committees and governing boards of the church and presbytery.
 - The entire family will be lead into a deeper and richer relationship with the Triune God.

2. **In worship, hearts will be moved and minds enlightened as we reach out to more people in the community and invite them to experience the presence of the Living God.**
 - A variety of worship styles and settings will be offered in our attempt to proclaim the gospel message to a broader audience.
 - Worship will be designed with thought given to bridging generational, cultural, racial and economic lines.
 - Greater emphasis will be placed upon the importance of the sacraments.
 - Congregational participation will be encouraged in all aspects of worship/worship leadership.
 - Hymns and other musical selections will be selected and taught in ways that will encourage the congregation to sing with energy and gusto.
 - The musical talents and gifts of persons in the congregation and community will be encouraged and shared in our worship and fellowship gatherings.
 - Opportunities will be given for persons to share with others their stories of God's grace.
 - A Third service offering another opportunity for and style of worship will be initiated.
 - More opportunities for bringing worship into the home will be developed.

3. **People in the congregation will be equipped to fulfill their role as full time disciples and ministers of Jesus Christ.**
 - We will become a congregation comprised of small groups that meet regularly to learn and love, support and serve in the name of the Lord.
 - The educational program will concentrate on proclaiming the basic message of the Christian faith and the Presbyterian/Reformed heritage so that all people will have a solid foundation upon which to base their beliefs.
 - Classes and study groups will move beyond the presentation of information about God and focus on leading persons toward forming relationships with God and others and God's creation.
 - Teachers and leaders will have received training that encourages their competence and confidence and leads them toward conveying the unity and vitality of the congregation.
 - A variety of educational experiences will help lead us to better understand teachings of Jesus.
 - Members will understand and cherish their role as providers of pastoral care to those in need in the church and community.
 - The Stephen Ministry program will provide training to a new generation of church members and will actively engage in supporting persons with spiritual ministry. *[Program not presently used... 3/2013]*

- 4. Those outside the congregation will view the church as providing a critical service and being a vital part of the health and well being and spiritual direction of the community.**
 - Our love will lead us to expand our mission opportunities in the community and world.
 - Ministry to those outside the church walls and beyond the membership roles will be the focus of our concern and our giving.
 - Members will find their faith leading them into organizations and positions of leadership where they can positively impact the quality of life in our area.
 - The church will use its skills, knowledge and resources to identify and meet the needs of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world.
 - Language, cultural and lifestyle differences will become less important as we engage in caring communication and emphasize the bond of Christ that holds us together in unity.
 - Christmas Cheer will be expanded so as to involve other groups at times throughout the year.

- 5. An atmosphere in which the gospel is naturally exhibited in daily life and persons in the community are consistently invited to become part of the family of Christ will permeate the congregation.**
 - The members of the church will be as friendly and welcoming to strangers as they are to one another.
 - Guests in worship will be warmly received and embraced in the church fellowship .
 - A well planned program for identifying, greeting and assimilating guests into the life of the church will help our guests feel more comfortable and appreciated.
 - Our guests will be blessed by receiving a personal note indicating the church's joy over their presence.
 - Our members will develop the ability and desire to seek out and relate to unchurched people and share their stories of faith with others.
 - The fruits of the Spirit will be witnessed in the life of the congregation.
 - Our basic mission will be to share Christ with the world.

- 6. People will experience the reward, blessing and spiritual strength that comes when they utilize all their resources in the development of their faith journey.**
 - An attitude of gratitude will pervade the entire congregation.
 - A deep connection will be made between faith and finances leading people to discover financial freedom in Christ.
 - People will discover how to move beyond a lifestyle that is chaotic, disconnected, and distracted by temptations toward materialism, consumerism and busyness and learn to give priority to the things that matter most in life.
 - Time commitments and daily scheduling will be examined and rearranged in light of Christ's desires.
 - Members will understand that tithing is not a fund-raising device but an act of faithfulness expressing our love and dedication to God.
 - Persons of all ages will discover, claim and use both their spiritual gifts and natural talents as they exercise their ministry with joy and passion.
 - Those with accumulated assets will recognize their calling to support the future ministry of the church of Jesus Christ through special gifts and bequests.

- 7. All members will grow toward a deeper recognition of the importance of prayer in their lives and the Christian community, and they will yearn for a vibrant prayer life.**
 - Education in the basic ministry of prayer will be emphasized.
 - The church will be known in the community as a church with a strong and meaningful prayer ministry.
 - More persons in the church will be involved in small groups with prayer as a focus.
 - Members will learn how to build a ministry of prayer in the workplace, school and neighborhood.
 - Offering public and spontaneous prayer will be something that becomes more and more comfortable as people practice their skills in communicating with God.
 - Special services of healing and wholeness will be offered to the church and community.
 - Those who are homebound will be included as prayer participants as well as prayer recipients.

STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLES, PURPOSES AND MISSION GUIDING OUR CHURCH

First Presbyterian Church Morehead City, NC

The session of First Presbyterian Church, Morehead City, seeks to provide clarity as to the principles that will guide our congregation during a time when certain actions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) have raised questions, concerns and confusion regarding the beliefs, practices and future direction of the denomination. These issues particularly focus upon the unique role of Jesus Christ in salvation within a pluralistic world, upon the authority of Scripture, and upon ordination standards for officers in the church.

Our desire as the spiritual leaders of the church is to glorify God through Jesus Christ, provide spiritual direction based upon our best understanding of the essential tenets of our Biblical and Confessional heritage, and build a Christian fellowship that maintains the unity of the faith under those essentials and promotes an attitude of grace among differing opinions regarding the non-essentials. Toward these ends, the session commits itself in repentance and prayer to seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom, and adopts the following statement reaffirming the principles, purposes and mission guiding our church:

1. We will uphold the Church's historic, orthodox, Biblical and Confessional teaching that Jesus Christ alone is the only means of salvation for all people.
2. We will promote understanding, respect, peaceful interaction, loving community and mutual mission among people of all faiths who seek to worship and serve the one God of all creation.
3. We will express a lavish grace and joyous hospitality that welcomes into the fellowship of the church all persons seeking faith, welcome as members of the church all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and encourage all members and guests to use their gifts and talents for the sake of the Lord and His church as brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. We will teach the essential tenants of the Christian faith as revealed in Scripture, defined by the confessions of our Reformed theological tradition, and outlined in the "Essential Tenets and Reformed Distinctives" document adopted by the session of this church.
5. We will offer a strong and clear affirmation of the Church's historic, orthodox, Biblical and confessional teaching regarding morality and sexuality: that God intends the gift of sexual intimacy to be expressed within a lifelong covenant of marriage between a man and a woman.
6. We will elect as officers of the church those members who are able to affirm the vows of ordination and the "Essential Tenets and Reformed Distinctives" adopted by the session, who abide by the ordination standards of our constitution, and who express their faith and commitments by living in fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman or living in chastity in singleness.
7. We will acknowledge that faithful Christians can question and disagree with certain non-essential aspects of Biblical interpretation, and that the church is to offer a place of understanding and embrace when differing interpretations are voiced in ways that are gracious and supportive of the church.
8. We will continue to explore ways that we as a church can best affirm our connections to and within the Presbyterian Church (USA), using our participation, energy, and resources to focus efforts on promoting the Kingdom of God through the denomination.
9. We will continue to explore ways that we as a church can best affirm our connections to and within the global church when those extended connections allow us to offer our highest and best in the service of Jesus Christ through other avenues of mission and service.

A CHRISTIAN DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

“As we celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, entering the third millennium, we pledge together to honor the Lord by committing ourselves afresh to God’s first institution – marriage.

“We believe that marriage is a holy union of one man and one woman in which they commit, with God’s help, to build a loving, life-giving, faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime. God has established the married state, in the order of creation and redemption, for spouses to grow in love of one another and for the procreation, nurture, formation, and education of children.

“We believe that in marriage many principles of the Kingdom of God are manifested. The interdependence of healthy Christian community is clearly exemplified in loving one another (John 13:34), forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:32), confessing to one another (James 5:16), and submitting to one another (Ephesians 5:21). These principles find unique fulfillment in marriage. Marriage is God’s gift, a living image of the union between Christ and His Church.

“We believe that when a marriage is true to God’s loving design it brings spiritual, physical, emotional, economic, and social benefits not only to a couple and family but also to the Church and to the wider culture. Couples, churches and the whole of society have a stake in the well being of marriages. Each, therefore, has its own obligations to prepare, strengthen, support and restore marriages.

“Our nation is threatened by a high divorce rate, a rise in cohabitation, a rise in non-marital births, a decline in the marriage rate, and a diminishing interest in and readiness for marrying, especially among young people. The documented adverse impact of these trends on children, adults, and society is alarming. Therefore, as church leaders, we recognize an unprecedented need and responsibility to help couples begin, build, and sustain better marriages, and to restore those threatened by divorce.

“Motivated by our common desire that God’s Kingdom be manifested on earth as it is in heaven, we pledge to deepen our commitment to marriage. With three quarters of marriages performed by clergy, churches are uniquely positioned not only to call America to a stronger commitment to this holy union but to provide practical ministries and influence for reversing the course of our culture. It is evident in cities across the nation that where churches join in common commitment to restore a priority on marriage, divorces are reduced and communities are positively influenced.

“Therefore, we call on churches throughout America to do their part to strengthen marriage in our nation by providing:

- Prayer and spiritual support for stronger marriage
- Encouragement for people to marry
- Education for young people about the meaning and responsibility of marriage
- Preparation for those engaged to be married
- Pastoral care, including qualified mentor couples, for couples at all stages of their relationship
- Help for couples experiencing marital difficulty and disruption
- Influence within society and the culture to uphold the institution of marriage

“Further, we urge churches in every community to join in developing policies and programs with concrete goals to reduce the divorce rate and increase the marriage rate.

“By our commitment to marriage as instituted by God, the nature of His Kingdom will be more clearly revealed in our homes, our churches, and our culture. To that end we pray and labor with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

“May the grace of God, the presence of Christ, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit be abundant in all those who so commit and be a blessing to all whose marriages we seek to strengthen.”

Your Tree of Faith



Drawing by George Marsden

Which character reminds you the most of yourself in your spiritual life right now?

Why?

Which character represents where you want to be in your spiritual life?

What goals can you set to accomplish that?

WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN?

A Presbyterian is a Protestant who belongs to a particular form of church government. The word "Presbyterian" refers not to a special system of doctrine or worship but to a representative form of church government. In Greek, presbyteros means "elder."

The Presbyterian Church is governed by two types of elders:

- Teaching Elders who are ordained ministers.
- Ruling Elders elected from the ranks of the Church.

In each congregation these elders, with the minister at their head as moderator, form the "session" with authority in all spiritual matters of the local church. (Review some oversight committees)

There are two additional boards in each congregation:

- Deacons – Have responsibility for ministries of visitation and fellowship.
- Trustees – Have the responsibility for the legal matters of the corporation. In our case, the Session also serves as the Board of Trustees.

WHAT IS THE BASIS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CREED?

In 1643 the Parliament of England appointed 151 laymen, clergymen and church scholars to draw up a system of Reformation doctrine and government. They labored for six years, holding 1,263 sessions, and produced among other important theological works the Westminster Confession of Faith, which is recognized as the basic creed of English-speaking Presbyterians.

Presbyterians accept other creeds as well, as contained in our Book of Confessions. These include two of the earliest creeds adopted by the early church - The Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed.

WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE?

Presbyterians believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and "the only infallible (incapable of error in proclaiming doctrine of faith and morals) rule of faith and practice" and that they are the source of those truths by which all people live. They believe in the "inspiration" of the Scriptures: that God spoke to and through people whose minds and hearts He had touched, and that the Word of God is revealed through their worship on Scripture.

DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE IN HEAVEN AND HELL?

Yes.

WHAT SACRAMENTS DO PRESBYTERIANS OBSERVE?

Only two: Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper) and baptism. Along with most Protestants, Presbyterians believe that Jesus instituted only two sacraments.

Do Presbyterians Believe That Christ Is Physically Present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

No, Presbyterians believe that Christ is spiritually present in the Lord's Supper.

DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE THAT BAPTISM IS NECESSARY TO SALVATION?

Presbyterians believe that Salvation is by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is an outward sign of the inward grace of God at work in life, and is therefore very important. But salvation is not dependent upon baptism.

DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD?

Yes.

DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY?

Yes. The Trinity is frequently invoked in worship, at every baptism, and in the benediction at the close of each service. When God is spoken of as three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Presbyterians do not think of Him as three individuals. They think that one God reveals Himself in three manifestations.

DO PRESBYTERIANS ACCEPT THE VIRGIN BIRTH?

Yes. A majority of Presbyterians undoubtedly believe that the entrance of Jesus into our world was by a miraculous birth as related in the scriptures in the books of Matthew and Luke.

DO PRESBYTERIANS EMPLOY THE CONFESSIONAL?

Not in the same sense that Roman Catholic or High Church Episcopalians. Believing in "the priesthood of all believers," Presbyterians make their confession directly to God – without a human intermediary.

WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT SALVATION?

They believe that salvation is not earned by good works but is the gift of God. (We are saved by Grace through Faith) Good works are the fruit of salvation, evidence that we are growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION?

Yes.

WHO WAS THE FOUNDER OF PRESBYTERIANISM?

John Calvin, who broke with the Church of Rome at age 24, did more than any other man to set forth the principles upon which modern Presbyterianism is built. Known as the "Father" of Presbyterianism, Calvin developed the Reformed Theological Doctrines and the church government that has guided Presbyterianism throughout the ages.

Another prominent figure in the early years of the denomination was John Knox. Originally a Catholic Priest in Scotland, he was exiled from Scotland and went to Switzerland to study under John Calvin. Upon his return to Scotland, Knox became the most powerful single force in establishing Presbyterianism in Scotland, where it is still the most dominant church.

HOW IS THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GOVERNED?

Through a representative form of government similar to that of the United States of America.

WHAT ARE THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

There are four: a) the session b) the presbytery c) the synod d) the general assembly

All of these bodies are made up of teaching elders (ordained pastors) and ruling elders (lay members of the church currently serving on the session.)

HOW MANY PRESBYTERIANS ARE THERE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD?

In the PC(USA), there are about 2 million. There are about 2 million more in other Presbyterian denominations in US. Presbyterians in other countries number over 20 million.

WHAT ROLE DID PRESBYTERIANS PLAY IN ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY?

Much – John Witherspoon the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence was Presbyterian and thirteen of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Presbyterians.

TELL ME ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S CHURCH GOVERNANCE

- The Pastor of First Presbyterian Church is the Reverend Timothy J. Havlicek. He is a Teaching Elder and Moderator of the Session.
- Reverend Matt Henderson joined our staff as Associate Pastor October 1, 2013. He will lead our weekly contemporary service, *The Bridge*, and will assist Pastor Havlicek in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.
- Our Session has 15 Ruling Elders - the Clerk of the Session is Richard Stanley, Esq.
- Our Diaconate consists of 9 Deacons.
- Our Elders and Deacons serve as Moderators of the following committees: Christian Discipleship, Congregational Care, Constitution, Finance, Missions, Physical Plant, Stewardship, and Worship.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRESBYTERY?

- Our Presbytery is the **Presbytery of Coastal Carolina**, located in Elizabethtown, NC.
- Within the PC(USA), there are 173 Presbyteries.
- There are 5 Presbyteries in North Carolina.
- The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina consists of and serves 189 churches.

THE SYNOD?

- Our Synod is the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
- Within the PC(USA), there are 16 Synods.
- The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic is located in Richmond, VA.
- The Synod consists of 14 Presbyteries, 1,460 Churches, and 322,499 Church Members.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

Consists of Pastors and Elder Representatives and meets every two years.

General Assembly Office is located in Louisville, KY.

MEMBERSHIP

First Presbyterian Church encourages visitors and prospective members to attend New Member/Inquirer Classes, which are offered several times throughout the year.

These classes give you a chance to meet and get to know a group of fellow visitors and prospective members, as well as church members and staff. We will explore the history, organization and essential beliefs of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

New members join in one of three ways:

I. PROFESSION OF FAITH

Those entering into the membership of a Christian church for the first time are asked to make their "Profession of Faith" by affirming the following vows:

1. Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**
2. Do you intent to follow Jesus as a faithful disciple, obeying His word and showing His love? **I do.**
3. Do you admit your own sinfulness before God and affirm your dependence upon God's grace for life and salvation? **I do.**
4. Will you seek the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit through prayer, Scripture and fellowship in the body of Christ? **I will.**
5. Will you promise to serve Christ as a faithful member of this congregation, supporting and participating in its worship and work to the best of your ability? **I will.**

(Baptism is required of all who have not previously been baptized.)

II. CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER

We will receive into our membership by a church letter anyone who is in good and regular standing in any Christian church that grants letters of transfer. We accept as valid any previous baptism administered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The church will be happy to write requesting your letter of transfer.

III. REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Those who cannot secure a certificate of transfer (some denominations do not grant letters to churches outside their own communion.), or who have been inactive in church life for a while and wish to make a fresh beginning by rededicating themselves to God, are received as they reaffirm their faith in Christ, using the vows listed above.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor

- ◆ Reverend Tim Havlicek

Associate Pastor

- ◆ Reverend Matt Henderson

Director of Music

- ◆ Sunnie Gail Ballou

Bridge Music Director

- ◆ Paul Welsler

Program Director

- ◆ Paula Stewart

Administrative Manager

- ◆ Susie Boartfield

Secretary, Part-Time

- ◆ Kate Hutaff

SESSION

- Richard Stanley, Moderator
- Alan Blankenship
- Amanda Boyette
- John Crown
- Bill Gilbert
- Gail Howard
- George Marsden
- Jerri Oehler
- Beth Palmer
- Jim Storholt
- Mark Vandersea
- Sally Walczak
- Skeet Woolard
- Robin Hunt
- Steve McPhail

DIACONATE

- Leigh Crown, Moderator
- Marlo Fredeen
- Trent Gerrans
- Sue Havlicek
- Jeff Krohn
- Candi Stewart
- Kathe Storholt
- Lou Ann Taylor
- Dave Walczak
- Sarah Grade, Youth

CORPORATE OFFICERS

- Gail Howard, President
- Jim Storholt, Vice President
- Bill Gilbert, Treasurer
- Beth Palmer, Secretary