

The 2025 Women Build Homeowner

Meet Clara, a devoted mother and in-home healthcare worker who spends her days caring for others. Before joining the Habitat program, she and her 12-year-old son lived in Section 8 housing that didn't meet their needs. Now, they're building a future filled with hope, stability, and the promise of a true home.

Habitat Women Build
379 Sky South Dr., off Union Street, Kingsport.

To volunteer, visit <https://www.holstonhabitat.org/womenbuild> or call Volunteer Manager Mandy Hood Penz at 423-239-7689, ext 801. Invite others to join you, even if not FPC members.

You can do something constructive to lift up a mother and her son!

Schedule: Oct 8-Oct 11 siding; Oct 29-Nov 1 paint, install window trim, caulk; Nov 12-15 install doors and base trim, caulk and paint touch-up; Nov 19-22 bathroom fixtures, appliances, closets and landscaping.

Gary Tucker, FPC Habitat Volunteer Coordinator



First Presbyterian Church

The First Press

Seeking to see the Face of Christ... Striving to be the Hands of Christ

Vol. 542, Issue 10

October 2025

Mark Your Calendar

10-17 Chamber Players Concert

10-19 Combined Worship & Potluck

10-23 Newsletter Deadline

10-29 Trunk or Treat

Weekly

Sunday

Worship

8:30 a.m., Chapel

10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Tuesday

Knuckleheads Men's Bible Study

12:15-1:15 p.m.

History Room

Thursday

Balance Class

1:15 p.m.

Fellowship Center



First Presbyterian Church

100 W. Church Circle
Kingsport, TN 37660

(423) 245-0104

office@firstpreskingsport.org

www.firstpreskingsport.org

A New Season

Hello, friends!

It's hard to believe that October is upon us, when it seems like Summer was yesterday. Fall is my favorite season for so many reasons. When I think of Fall, I think of a new school year, setting new goals, and looking forward to the Holiday season. I am particularly excited about the holidays this year, because this will be my first holiday season in Kingsport. I am so excited to start working on Advent and Christmas music with our Chancel Choir, and our Bell Choir has already begun working on literature for Advent. Our two groups are a blast to work with, and I would like to extend a special invitation to all of you. I would like to invite you to join one or both of our groups. Our Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., and we will start working on Advent and Christmas anthems in the coming weeks. Our Bell Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., with some of our rehearsals being held on Wednesday evenings at 6:15. If you have ever thought about joining one or both of our ensembles, but you haven't yet joined, you are always welcome to come for one rehearsal and see how it goes, or maybe you'd just like to sing in choir for Christmas and Advent, or perhaps join bells and play in Advent (December 7). If you would like to participate in choir and/or bells but you cannot commit to a rehearsal every week, what better way to celebrate the upcoming seasons, than to sing or play music!

For more information on how you can be a part of our music ministries, you may contact me at asmith@firstpreskingsport.org.

Blessings,
Amy Smith
Director of Music Ministries

College Care Gift Cards

We are planning to again send "Care Packages" to our college students to let them know their church family is thinking of them. If you are interested in contributing to this project, we will be accepting donations at anytime prior to November 30. We are asking for gift cards such as Starbucks, Dunkin, Chick-fil-A or any other restaurants of your choice including Pal's dollars. You can also make a monetary donation to be used for purchasing gift cards. Contributions can be dropped off in the church office or given to Claudia Byrd. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Claudia at (423)963-4754 or claudia@bristolmotorspeedway.com. Thanks for your support of this project!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 W. Church Circle
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-0104

On the Menu in October!

Please join us for Church Night Supper in October, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. After dinner we will have a Vespers service at 6:20 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. The deadline for reservations for dinner is noon on the Tuesday before the dinner each week. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10, with a family maximum of \$25.00.

Reservations may be made on the church pew pads, by calling Vickie at 423-245-0104, through the church Website, or through your REALM account. Reservations for each CNS opens at 8:00 a.m. the Saturday before the upcoming CNS date.

October 1

Italiano's Pizza, salad and dessert.
Worship Committee serving

October 8

Food City – Fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, peas, carrots & dessert.
Finance Committee serving

October 15

Food City – Baked potato bar, salad and dessert.
The Administration Committee serving

October 22

Food City – Breakfast for dinner.
Christian Education Committee serving

October 29

Italiano's Pizza, salad and dessert
Outreach Committee serving



October 3: Allen Wright

October 4: John Newell, Pat Bryan,
Rebecca Quillen

October 5: Don Osborne, Tal Francisco

October 6: Leola Campbell, Matt King

October 7: Ellen Sims, Taylor Bunch

October 9: Ian Ward

October 10: Morris Hadden

October 11: Marthe Kincaid

October 12: Neely Mink

October 13: Beth Amstutz

October 14: Arlee Mott

October 15: David McBee, Pamela Babb,
Steve Miller, Alex King

October 16: Don Good

October 17: Jim Amstutz

October 18: Duncan Harker, Owen Heindselman,
Jack Addleburg

October 19: Cheryl Ann Hess

October 21: Bo Grover

October 22: Michael Holt, Alyson Argabrite,
Anna Hagan

October 26: John Alan Smith, Jacqueline Buckles,
Leslie Light

October 31: Betsy Boyd, Tonya McInturff,
Wes Argabrite, Sharon Amstutz

New Photo Display In the History Room

FPC has been having church picnics for many years. The bulletin board outside the History Room shares candid photos from many of them. Choir picnics, Sunday School Class picnics, BBQ picnics, Square Dancing, and much more. We have gathered at Allandale, Warrior's Path State Park, on the church lawn, and in member homes. Stop by and see if the photos bring back memories of our times together in Christian fellowship.



Next First Press Newsletter Deadline

October 23
November Newsletter

Potluck Lunch ~ October 19

Our last Potluck Lunch of the year will be held after the 10:30 a.m. combined service on October 19 in the Fellowship Center. Remember to bring anything of your choosing, except meat, to the Fellowship Center kitchen as early as 10 a.m. You'll need to indicate your intentions of attending the lunch by **Tuesday, October 14**, so the CF&N Committee will provide enough chicken fingers. You may make your reservation on the sign-up sheet in the foyer, call or e-mail Vickie at the church office, or register on the church Website or through your Realm account online. We're looking forward to having a large crowd for this time of great home-cooked food as well as time for fellowship with other church members! Amen, let's eat!



Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 29

- 5:00pm Organ Concert in the Sanctuary
- 5:30pm Church Night Supper
(sign up by Tuesday the 28th)
- 6:15pm Parade of Costumes
- 6:30-7:30pm Trunk or Treat
in our parking lot

Adults: Let Russ know if you can bring your car and pass out candy. You can also donate candy ahead of time to help out. Drop off in the foyer.

Kids and Youth: Dress up, bring a bag for candy, and come ready to have fun!

All are invited to attend the dinner at 5:30pm. If you can't come to dinner you can still come to Trunk or Treat!



More from the Second Harvest Workday





Grab & Go Breakfast Ministry

The **Grab & Go Breakfast Ministry** is an outreach opportunity where members from First Presbyterian and our friends from First Broad Street United Methodist work together to help meet the nutritional needs of the homeless and hungry in our community. We provide bagged breakfast meals and water to our guests on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM. The Methodist volunteers prepare sausage and biscuits so we are able to provide a hot food item in each bag. First Pres volunteers prepare the bags which include a fruit cup, crackers, a pastry or snack, the hot biscuit and a bottle of water; and then distribute the bags along with hot coffee to our guests. Travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, soap/body wash, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, washcloths) and cold weather items (blankets, gloves, socks, toboggans, Hot Hands) are frequently requested items and we try to provide these when available. **Volunteers are needed** and there are several opportunities to help during the week and weekends. Anyone interested in learning more about the program and associated volunteer opportunities, please contact Sarah Good (423-967-3148) or Becca Wright (423-963-9617).

Waverly Road Food Pantry Item of the Month

**Pasta & Canned Sauce or
Mac & Cheese**

Please drop donations in the basket outside the chapel door or in front of the stained glass on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

Clothes Closet Needs

The Clothes Closet is changing from summer to fall/winter clothing shortly. We are in need of blankets/throws, jackets, coats, sweat shirts (hoodies), athletic shoes and socks, wool hats, gloves and toiletries. Thank you for your continued support.

Second Harvest Food Bank

Many thanks to all who participated at Second Harvest in September! Mark your calendars for our next scheduled day of service on **October 15**. Contact Bob Stoots by email or call or text (423-782-6280) to register for the session of your choice: morning (9:00-11:00 a.m.) or after-noon (1:00-3:00 p.m.).



Wednesday Vespers

Vespers Services and other events will begin
at **6:20pm** in the
Fellowship Center.



Why 6:20pm? Great question!

1. It got your attention
2. We will use parts of Psalm 62 each Vespers service to gather ourselves and remind us of our hope in God

What are Vespers? Another great question!

Vespers are evening prayer services with a little music, a little prayer, and a little reflection and are open to all ages and faith journeys.

Bolded events below take the place of Vespers services

All are welcome to come any week you can! Come early and sign up for dinner at 5:30pm

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| • October 1 | Vespers @ 6:20pm |
| • October 8 | No Program (Fall Break) |
| • October 15 | Vespers @ 6:20pm |
| • October 22 | Vespers @ 6:20pm |
| • October 29 | Trunk or Treat (Church parking lot) |
| • November 5 | Vespers @ 6:20pm |
| • November 12 | Vespers @ 6:20pm |
| • November 19 | Thanksgiving Dinner. Vespers @ 6:20pm |
| • November 26 | No Dinner or Vespers (Thanksgiving Week) |

(For December Wednesday programs look for Christmas trivia, Christmas Songs, and a special Advent Vespers. More info in later newsletters.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| • December 3 | Christmas Team Trivia |
| • December 10 | Christmas Songs |

A Huge Thank You

The history room recently received a wonderful collection of photos from Olivia Baker Zahler. She shared this comment –“ so many of these photos were just too memorable to toss out” – and she was right. Bea Rigby’s birthday celebration, Marjorie Watford’s birthday, goodbye luncheon for Beth Yarborough, and numerous other photos of past and current FPC women. Most photos we did not have.

Recently, John Porter shared photos and other memorabilia from a youth mission trip he and Marcia had chaperoned some years ago. Again, we did not have much on this mission trip to Arizona.

Please do not assume we have photos, clippings or other items related to the history of FPC. If you are cleaning out remember us! Leave items in the History Basket near Vickie’s desk.

The History Committee

The History of Our Church

In 2004, Bill Adams initiated and fostered the columbarium concept where ashes of members could be inurned on church grounds in much the same way as old cemeteries had adjoined churches in the past. Al Dryden created the circular design. It took more than 3 years from concept to reality. Many church members were involved in the project – Bill and Marion Adams, Al and Frances Dryden, Gerry and Wanda Mayberry, Gerry and Mary Ann Morie, Barbara Lovelace, Bill Ring, Liza Howle, Peggy Smith, Vivian Crymble, and Jane Boyd. The columbarium inspired one of our youth and an Eagle Scout candidate, Charlie Compton, to design and construct the prayer labyrinth that exists today. He raised the funds and led church members and other scouts in completing the project that was dedicated in 2014.



The vault of the columbarium which contains the individual niches is lowered into place



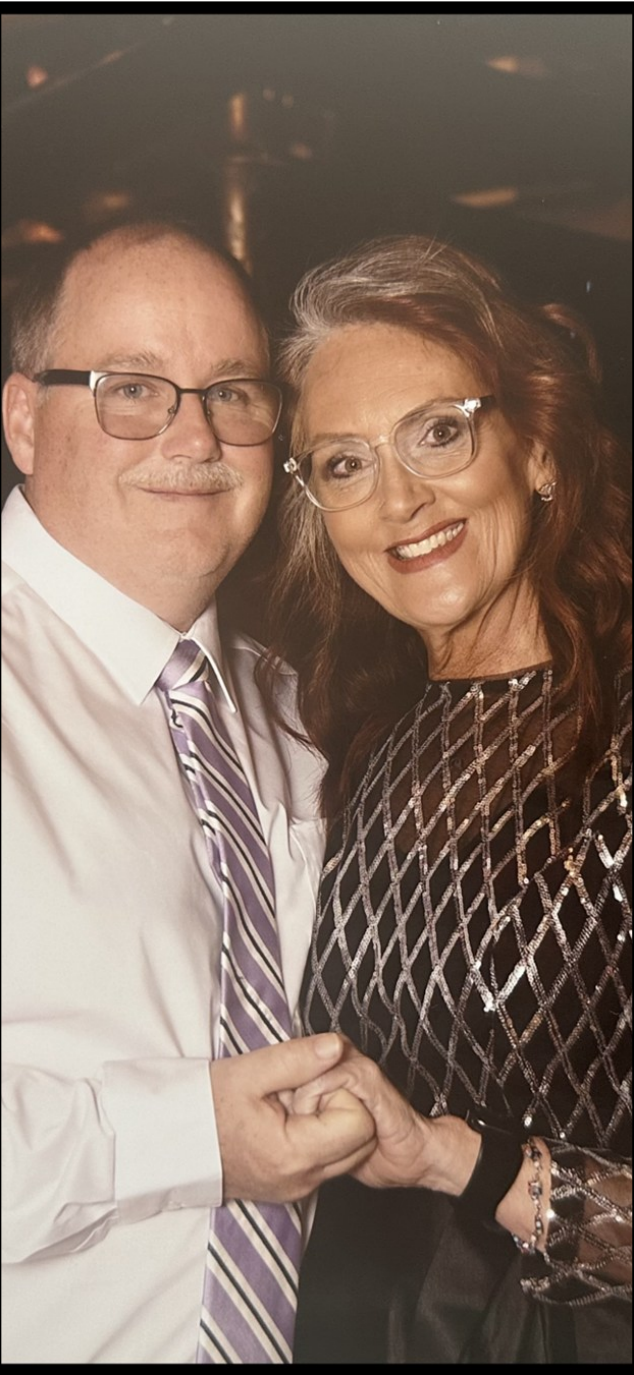
David Cagle at the Columbarium Dedication in 2010



The prayer labyrinth

One of many

Orris and Candi Harker



The Harker's joined FPC 27 years ago when Gary Bullard was pastor. They are a busy couple. Orris works shift work at Eastman and Candi teaches cosmetology at West Ridge High School. But over the years they have made participation in church activities a part of their family life.

During the years that they had children at home, Candi taught Sunday School and they both participated in Vacation Bible School and served as Youth Advisors. Orris recalls spending the night in the Fellowship Center with the youth and then rising early for a day of skiing at Banner Elk. He enjoyed working with the other church members as advisors and stayed in touch with many of the youth for years. Orris says another memory was working with Wayne Dinsmore to hang an airplane in the Sanctuary! This was for decorations for Vacation Bible School. I wish I had seen that! He is definitely creative; and knows how to make things happen.

Candi is also a very creative person. She recalls teaching Sunday School during one of the periods when we had a large group of boys. You had to have lots for them to do or they would do things that were not in the plans!

This past summer, Candi spent a week at Montreat with the youth and cooked all their meals. Cooking for 16 is no small task. While at camp, Candi and Russ planned the activities for Vacation Bible School. Candi had creative craft ideas and Russ ordered the supplies she needed. She was very complimentary of the Bible School this summer – it was different as Russ developed the curriculum instead of ordering a paid program. His program fit our group well and certainly was better for the budget. Aren't we lucky to have this team working on our Vacation Bible School! Orris and Candi developed all the decorations for an ocean/beach theme.

They made surfboards, waves and other decorations to set the stage for a productive week. We are indeed lucky to have these two creative individuals among our membership.