

Corporation Annual Report
First Presbyterian Church Spruce Pine
March 2, 2025

The Trustees met on the morning of March 2 and elected the following officers:

President: Sheila Robinson, Class of 2027

Vice President: Courtney Mauzy, Class of 2025

Treasurer: David Geouge, Class of 2026

Secretary: Irvin Barksdale, Class of 2028

The report of the corporation for the year 2024 is hereby given:

First Presbyterian Church continues to be a witness to Christ's love here in the heart of Mitchell County. At the end of 2024, we had 83 active members with approximately a dozen non-members who participated regularly in our church services and events. We received 2 new members (Morgan Flanagan and Sandi Singleton) and celebrated 2 baptisms (Weston McCool and Olive Eller). We grieve the loss of many faithful members of our church family who died in 2024: Geraldine Buchanan, Geraldine Canipe, Otis Fulmer, Emma Geouge, Richard Griffin, Kay Masters, Roger Merrill, Howard Sparks and Sadie Thompson.

Our congregation continues to serve as a multi-generational community, seeking to share the love of God through all of our ministries. Each Sunday one or more of our choirs (Adult, Joyful & Ukulele) lead us in offering praise and thanksgiving. The Word of God is read and proclaimed each week, challenging us to be the hands and feet, the heart and voice of Christ in our lives.

In July members of our youth group participated in a mission trip to Charleston, SC. Our youth continue to lead us in implementing the Blessing Box ministry which meets the needs of many of our neighbors. This summer we participated in an ecumenical Vacation Bible School with leaders from SPUMC, Central Baptist and Trinity Episcopal. The theme was "Fruits of the Spirit" and many of our children, youth and adults enjoyed the collaboration.

Members of the *Creating For A Cause* ministry continued their good handiwork, creating items for premature babies, children, the elderly, people with illness or those in need of prayer. Highlights of the church year include the Mayland Fellowship Holy Week services, a church picnic at Springmaid Mountain, and our community-wide

Blessing of the Animals on our front lawn. In December we held our annual Living Nativity, with new participation from several young people from SPUMC.

On September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene brought catastrophic flooding, mudslides damaging winds and destruction throughout Western North Carolina, the likes of which we had not seen in over 100 years. We are still feeling the impact of such loss on all levels. However, the devastation was matched by an outpouring of love and support from people and churches both near and far. Ten days after the storm we held a Sunday morning gathering in the Fellowship Hall, accompanied by members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) mission who offered prayers and support. The Session has discerned a call to accept the invitation to serve as a PDA host site for mission teams beginning this spring.

We trust that our future is in the hands of our Savior. We give thanks to God's provision this past year and look forward to new opportunities in ministry this coming year!

- *Report presented by Sheila Robinson, on behalf of all the Trustees*

