



From Pastor Jean

In June, we reflected on the season of Pentecost, recognizing it as an opportunity to witness God's active presence in our world, even amidst the world's skepticism. Then last month we took a detour or did we? We reflected on the 250th anniversary of this country and the important place that faith played in its founding.

August presents a blend of the ordinary and the extraordinary, a sentiment that can be attributed to every month. Soon, school will begin, and this year, as in all years, carries the anticipation of both fear and joy. Fear arises from the prospect of new experiences, both small and large, such as new teachers, classrooms, schools, and increased challenges. On the other hand, joy lies in the prospect of reuniting with old friends, forging new connections, embracing new challenges (yes, I know I mentioned that under fear), and expanding our knowledge through learning new subjects or deepening our understanding of existing ones. It's natural to experience butterflies in our stomachs when contemplating something new, regardless of our perspective, whether fear or joy or something else. The answer? How about a hymn we all learned as children - "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" - with its continuing refrain "Take it to the Lord in prayer."

Before anyone questions the appropriateness of prayer in public schools, it's important to remember that prayer can be practiced anywhere and at any time, deep within our hearts. We don't always need to close our eyes as we lift our concerns to the Lord, most especially when we're engaged in activities like riding a bike or driving a car. Many of you may have encountered the bumper sticker that reads, "When I hear a siren, I pray." That is a good time. So is when we get up, prepare for the day, sit down for meals, go to school and work, or get ready for bed. And there are a whole lot more times I can think of - I bet you can too.

Some of you may recall a class that used the book, *"Praying With Eyes Wide Open"* by Sherry Harney. In it, she reminded us of Paul's injunction to the Thessalonians: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

How would our lives transform if we made a conscious effort to seek guidance and blessings from the Lord first? By taking time to ask for His wisdom, express gratitude, offer praise, and genuinely listen to His voice, our relationship with Him would undoubtedly deepen. This shift in perspective would also enhance our interactions with others, as we begin to see them through the eyes of the Lord.

The ordinary and extraordinary coexist in our lives. As we continue on our faith journey, I encourage you to seek out those who may not have a church home, particularly those who need the Good News of the Gospel. Demonstrate your faith through your actions, the One whom you follow, and the positive impact you can have on their lives, always doing so with humility and kindness. Invite them to join worship services and any other activities, allowing them to experience the joy of our Saviour and Lord.

Our faith journeys bring us new ways of serving our Saviour. Are you excited yet?
In His Love, Pastor Jean

Announcements

From your Session:

To provide our members opportunities to share their compliments, concerns, & suggestions, please use the designated box in the Narthex. Open communication is a key to a vibrant church. You are welcome to use the forms in the Narthex next to the suggestion box if you wish. Compliments will be posted on the bulletin board. Concerns & suggestions will be read & discussed at the Session meeting each month.

If you have immediate needs, please contact the Elder on Duty.

August–David Thompson

September–Jessica Jackson

October–Ronnie McQueen

November–Crissy Jastzabski

December–Lisa Stephens

Below you will find the list of committee chairs.

Worship–Jessica Jackson

Witness–Mike Spivey

Christian Education–Crissy Jastzabski

Building & Grounds–Ronnie McQueen

Commitment–David Thompson

The 2026 Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina is Saturday August 29th at Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. All women are invited. If you would like to attend, please let Nicole know by August 23rd.
Thanks!

Missions

Our church has been asked to participate in the 12 Month of Blessings with the CUOC. Each month we are to bring special items along with our normal monthly food donations. These items will be taken on the 2nd Sunday of each month with the regular CUOC collection.

Please see chart of items we were asked to bring each month.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Witness Committee

12 MONTHS OF BLESSINGS

January Toothbrushes & Toothpaste	July Canned Vegetables
February Beans	August Canned Soup
March Canned Meat	September Pasta Noodles
April Pasta Sauce	October Toilet Paper
May Bar Soap/Deoderant	November Breakfast Items
June Peanut Butter & Jelly	December Fruit



Session Minutes

A quorum was declared. Members present were Lisa Stephens, Pastor Jean Sparks, David Thompson, Jessica Jackson, Janice Thompson, Ronnie McQueen, Mike Spivey, Kaye Morgan, and Crissy Jastzabski. David read devotion and prayer. Copies of minutes for June meeting and July called meeting were reviewed by session. Ronnie made a motion to accept the minutes as written and seconded by Janice. Motion carried. The pastor's report was also reviewed by session. Motion to approve the pastor's report was made by David and seconded by Janice. Motion carried.

Communications

Lisa reminded everyone of the now expired opportunity for scholarship through Presbytery. This was emailed to the congregation earlier in the month. Discussed that there was little notice given about this scholarship opportunity by Presbytery. Additionally, discussed that a family had reached out to us on Facebook asking for help with food and supplies for their family of five. Through coordination with Pastor Jean and a couple of members, we were able to help this family twice until they could contact other organizations for long term aid.

Financials

Income statements reviewed by session for May and June. Large expenditures are expected in these months due to Presbytery Giving and insurance premiums. Additionally, deposits are lower in Summer due to lower attendance. Jessica made a motion to accept the reports and Kaye seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

The old stove has been carried away from the manse and dumped. Some repairs are needed on the HVAC units in the fellowship hall. There were some repairs already completed at a cost of \$1,700. More repairs expected and may require replacing the older unit. Working on estimates now with Suretemp.

Christian Education

No Business

Commitment

No Business

Witness

No Business

Worship

Jessica presented a copy of the new church marriage policy. This included some wording changes and fee changes. Jessica also needs a copy of the furniture moving policy from the Clerk. As recommendation from a committee, the motion carried and all approved. Another recommendation from committee was the update to the funeral policy. Much feedback received on this subject during the congregational surveys. Recommendation is that a session member or elder accompany Pastor Jean while meeting a family to discuss funeral arrangements. David and Jessica have both expressed interest in volunteering to go with Jean on these meetings. The motion carried with all approving. Lastly, a recommendation from committee was presented to change the date of the Hymn Sing to Aug. 30th in the afternoon at 4pm. Ice cream will be served after. Motion carried and all approved.

New Business:

Prior to session meeting, members were given copies of the surveys completed by the congregation. Jessica as Chair of the Worship Committee discussed the findings and recommendations that have been implemented and discussed. Jessica wanted our thoughts to take back to committee for the meeting they have on Aug. 4th. We discussed as a group the takeaways from these surveys and what things we have been able to change so far. We talked about the need for open dialogue between members and the session. Keeping that communication open is of utmost importance. While reaching out to our community and trying to attract new members is an excellent idea, it may be more important to handle the needs of the members we have now. We decided as a group to implement an Elder on Duty for each month starting in August. The elder will be available to the congregation for any discussion, special needs, etc. Additionally, the elder will be standing with Jean at the end of Sunday's service. We will also implement a box that will hold compliments, concerns, suggestions, etc. The congregates can include or leave out their name when leaving the note. The plan will also include having feedback cards that will be placed in the pews with pencils. Those cards can be placed in this box for session to read at each meeting. David volunteered to be the Elder on Duty for August.

A recommendation was presented by the Harvest Sale Committee. This includes:

- Date for the sale will be October 24, 2026

- Food served will be BBQ, chicken & dumplings, slaw, hushpuppies, and desserts

- Cost will be \$12 per plate and BBQ \$12 per pound

- Time will be 11am-2pm with silent auction and country store 11am-2pm

Motion carried with approval from all.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 23rd at 6pm. Ronnie volunteered for devotion and prayer. Janice made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Lisa seconding the motion.

Meeting adjourned with prayer from Pastor Jean.



8/9 Eddie Brannan

8/15 Tom Cameron—100th!!!

8/17 Emily Thompson

8/26 Christin Cummings

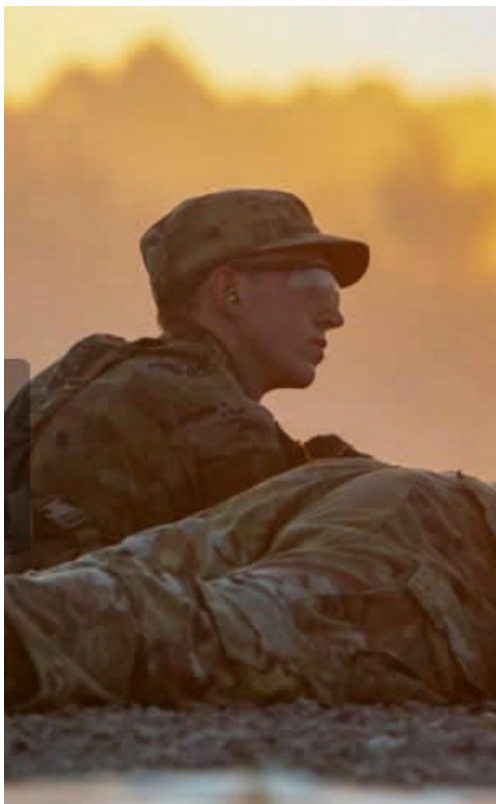
8/26 Pam Stephens

8/30 John Parker

8/31 Lisa Stephens

Cameron Hill completed his 31 day CST Advanced Camp Officer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This completion gets him closer to the 2nd Lieutenant rank once he graduates from ECU in May. He said this was very hard physically and mentally but he learned a lot. He had to pass Fire Arm Qualification, Land Nav, Gas Chamber, 10 days in the field and a 12 mile ruck, just to name a few.

Cameron, your church family is very proud of you and we are praying for you through this journey!



Liturgists

8/2 Lisa M
8/16 Matthew

Ushers

8/2 Gary & David
8/9 Bill & Pam
8/16 Ronnie & Lisa
8/23 Duane & Matthew
8/30 John & Karen

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 CUOC	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 2 Cent a Meal	24	25	26	27	28	29 PW Fall Gathering Fayetteville, NC @ 9:00 am
30 Hymn Sing & Ice Cream 4:00pm	31		Each Sunday:	Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am NO YOUTH THIS MONTH		