

The Informer

May 2025



Saint James Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

A "Matthew 25" Congregation

820 Ross Avenue • Greensboro, NC 27406 • 336-273-6658 • www.stjamespresby.org

"Centered in Christ, Inclusion and Justice!"

Reverend Dr. Phanta I. Lansden, Senior Pastor

Welcome to the PASTOR's Desk

Greetings Beloved!

As we continue to celebrate the beauty of God's grace and power working through us, we give thanks for a spirit-filled April and the vibrant ways the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst. The Lenten season deepened our faith, sharpened our focus, and reminded us of the strength we carry together. We concluded Lent with purpose and passion during our Black Lent Link-up rallies, culminating in a powerful Holy Week finale featuring Rev. Dr. Jamal Bryant as our keynote preacher. His message, encouraging us to see life's challenges as just a *"bump in the road,"* still echoes in our spirits, offering us strength for the journey.



We remained intentional in our support of Black-owned businesses, buying farm-fresh foods, cosmetics, clothing, and more as an expression of community empowerment and economic justice. We witnessed the power of resurrection as we gathered on Resurrection Sunday for a glorious celebration of life, hope, and renewal, being reminded that *"nothing will stop us from rising."* Our handbell choir, WoP, and worship leaders lifted our hearts and voices in a moving experience of praise.



This season has also marked a time of visioning and forward movement. We are in the process of refreshing our ministry's branding—new logos, a new website, and most importantly, a renewed sense of mission and vision that reflects where God is leading us. We welcomed four new members into the fold with the right hand of fellowship, and we continue to serve our community through our Blessing Box ministry, which has become a lifeline to many during times of need.



God is doing great work among us, and we should be proud of how we are showing up as a church. ***We give God praise!***

Looking ahead to May, we are preparing to honor and celebrate our Older Adults and Mothers, whose wisdom, faith, and love anchor our community. We also continue to build momentum behind our visionary teams as we seek to manifest the future God is calling us

toward. Whether it's through ***Housing, Emerging Leaders, Expansion, or Diverse Relationships***, there is space for your gifts, your voice, and your leadership.

Please pray about where God might call you to serve in this new season. When we move together in faith, we are truly unstoppable. Together, we are building something beautiful, bold, and transformative. We can do it together!!



In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Phanta Lansden, BSW/DMin

Senior Pastor, Saint James

Pastoral Schedule Updates

New Sabbath Day – Mondays off

Work Schedule: Tuesday – Fridays (sermon writing) and Sundays

Pastor's Contact Information:

Contact Information

Email: stjpastor820@gmail.com | Cell: 336-365-2805 | Church: 336-273-6658

Scheduling appointments

To schedule an appointment with Pastor Lansden please use the calendar link below.

www.calendly.com/plansden

Simply click on the link and choose the day and time that works best for you. You can also reach Pastor Lansden via cell phone, email, or call the front office to schedule an appointment.

Our Purpose Statement:

Saint James Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered, missional church called to be relevant, spiritually healthy, inclusive, and dedicated to serving God & one another through vibrant worship and intergenerational ministry that glorifies God and transforms all things and all people.

Connect With Us!

Office Phone Number: **336-273-6658**

Like us on Facebook: **www.facebook.com/stjamespresby**

Follow us on Instagram: **[@saintjamespresbync](https://www.instagram.com/saintjamespresbync)**

Visit our website: **www.stjamespresby.org**

Join us for in-person worship!

Virtual service options are also available!

You can also join us live on our YouTube Channel:

[Saint James Presbyterian Church YouTube Page](#)

Facebook

www.facebook.com/stjamespresby

To visit our Facebook page:

or visit **www.facebook.com**

Go to the search bar and type in "St. James Presbyterian Church"

Click on the picture of our logo!

Visit our website to sign up for email updates.

www.stjamespresby.org

The St. James Presbyterian Church Office Staff

**Portia Griffin,
Office Manager/Pastoral Assistant**

Aubrey Scruggs, Media Specialist

Elder Andrea Russell, Business Manager

Elder Karen Watts-Yehudah, Treasurer

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WORSHIP

Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.

Order of Worship:

Countdown

Announcements

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Prayer Response

Welcome/Greetings

Passing of Peace

Call to Offering

Offertory Prayer

Doxology

Sermonic Selection

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Holy Communion on First Sundays

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Benediction & Closing Song

May Participants:

Worship Leader:

Rev. Dr. Phanta I. Lansden

Worship Elders:

Elder Cynthia Latham

Karen Watts-Yehudah



Musicians

Mr. Shawn Gunthrop, Minister for Music

Dr. Ronald Campbell, Keyboardist

Mr. Nick Hayes, Percussionist

May Lectionary

Let's continue reading together! As we journey into the month of May, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by reading the scheduled lectionary texts each week. The texts are listed below. Before you read each text, practice a few minutes of centering prayer to clear your mind. Pray for clarity and focus. While reading, physically or mentally take notes so that you can summarize what the scripture is saying. Finally, go back and pick out any themes or recurring ideas that may be relevant to your personal life, Saint James or the church at large. Close your reading time with a Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's word and revelation.

1st Sunday

2nd Sunday

3rd Sunday

4th Sunday

Revelation 5:11-14

Revelation 7:9-17

Revelation 21:1-6

Revelation 21:10



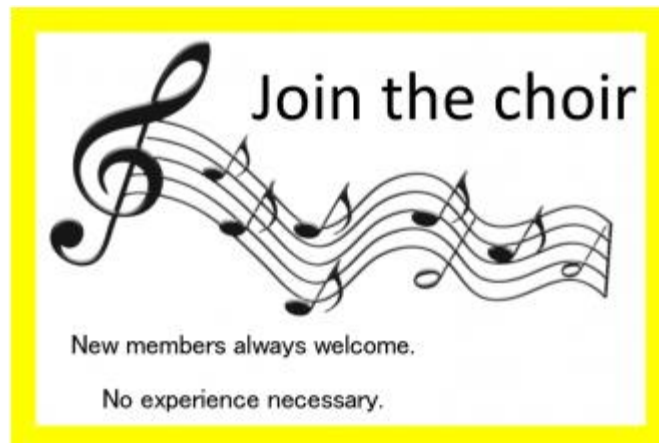
WORSHIP *Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.*

Serve Around the Church



Ushers

Would you like to serve on a phenomenal team? We are looking for volunteers to serve as Ushers for our Sunday morning services. Please reach out to any usher on Sunday or contact the church office for more details!



Choir

Can you sing? Join the choir! We are looking for people to share their musical talents with us. Choir rehearsals are held every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. See any choir or praise team member for more information on joining.

COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month*

WE CELEBRATE OLDER ADULTS AND MOTHERS

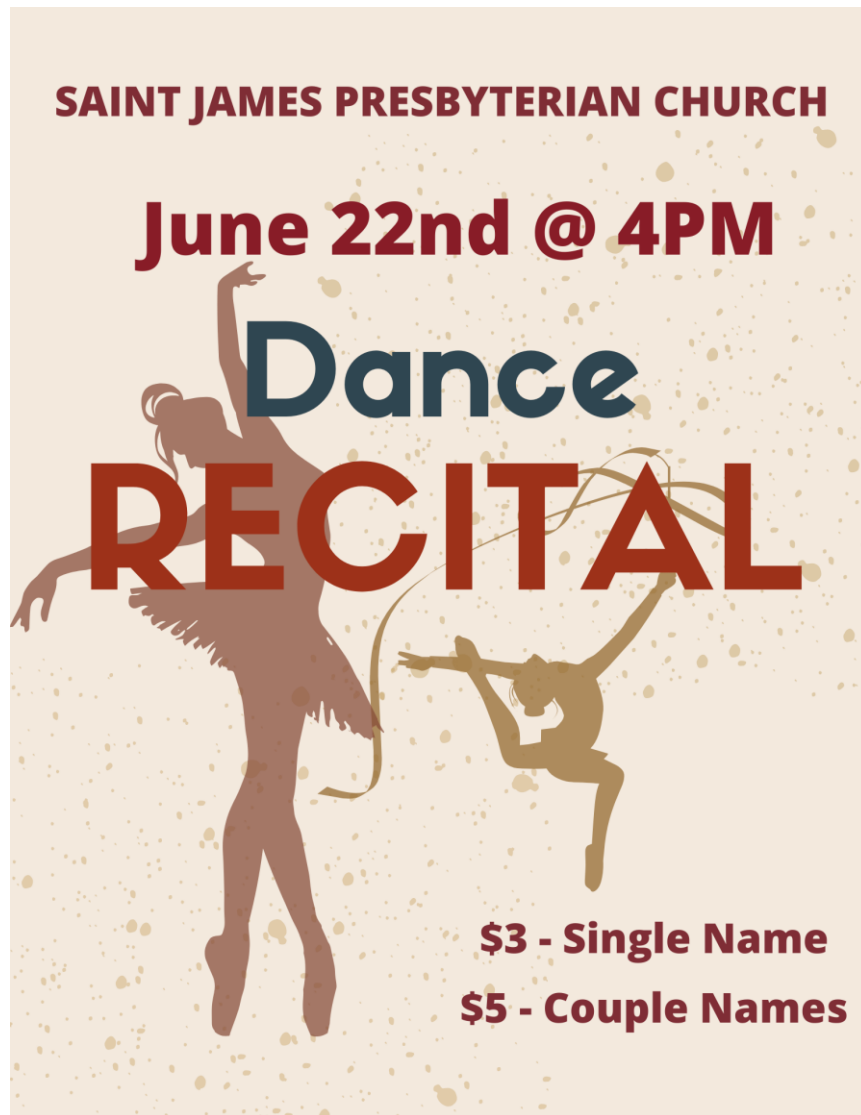


In the month of May, we celebrate the extraordinary strength, resilience, and love embodied by older adults and mothers everywhere. Your guidance, care, and life experience enrich our lives in ways beyond measure. To our older adults, thank you for the legacy of wisdom you share, and to our mothers, thank you for your unconditional love, tireless dedication, and nurturing spirit. You are the foundation of families and communities, and today—and every day—we honor you.

COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month cont*



COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month cont*



Saint James will be holding a dance recital on June 22nd at 4PM! For patrons, a single name is \$3, and a couple names are \$5. Come and witness the dedication the dancers put into their craft!

Mission of the Month

Blessing Box

This month, as you are grocery shopping, consider picking up a few extra items for our blessing box. The box provides essential items like food, toiletries, and other necessities for those in need. Donating Non-Perishable Foods like Canned goods, pasta, rice, and snacks is always appreciated. Contributing Toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products can make a big difference.

Every small contribution helps make a big impact. Let's come together to support our neighbors and show that we care! Drop off your donations at the front of the church or in the boxes in the Narthex and Simkins room. Thank you for your generosity!



DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings*

The Essie B. Meares Circle has ended lessons until September. Members are encouraged to continue supporting PWC programs and projects. Thank you.

Demetra Barnwell, Co-Moderator

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) is planning a fun day on Sunday, May 18th after service. More information is coming soon.

The Sara Barber and Eaton/Laney Circles will meet jointly on Sunday, May 4 at 2 pm at the K&W Cafeteria in Friendly Shopping Center. From the study guide, Let Justice Roll Down, lessons seven through nine will be discussed by the members based on assignments made by Co-Moderator, Dr. Adnee Bradford. The scriptures come from many books of the bible. Members are asked to review them for the lessons. We look forward to this time of fellowship as we end this year's bible study.

Linda Adams, Co-Moderator of Sara Barber Circle

DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings cont.*

The John Erwin Sunday School Class continues to use the Present World Adult Bible Lessons. We speak of ideas and situations that are in the news today. In the current study the authors use scripture to show how the thread of hope works in transforming the lives of the early Christian church. If you would like to join us, call the church office for a book 336-273-6658.

Elders Adnee Bradford, Marie Martin and Linda Randall, Co-Moderators



The Older Adult Ministry

If you need help getting to Sunday Worship, please call the church office by Tuesday of the week (336) 273-6658.

COVID-19 is still with us; check your shot record.

Elders Marie Martin & Pauline McNair, Co-Moderators

For Older Adults who need assistance in the home

PACE of the Triad is still enrolling new participants. PACE provides medical care and support services to older adults. Services may include, but are not limited to, a health aide for those who qualify, medical transportation, medicines, supplies, therapy, respite, and an optional day program. If you or a loved one can benefit from PACE services, contact PACE at 336-550-4046 for a free assessment or more information. A doctor's referral is not needed. PACE of the Triad is located at 1471 E. Cone Blvd. Greensboro in the Roses Shopping Center. Schedule a tour or free consultation today. Call 336-550-4046 or visit the website www.pacetriad.org/help.

DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings cont*

Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men's Council will meet on the third Saturday of the month at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. ~Saint James Presbyterian Men~

Bob Powell, Moderator

SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MEN

OUR MISSION

The mission of Saint James Presbyterian Men's Ministry is to lead men into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their spiritual and personal lives.

WHO WE ARE

For over 150 years Saint James Presbyterian Men have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into the community and the world, bearing witness to Christ's saving love. Today the Holy Spirit is still present, calling us to share in what God is doing in our lives to make the world a better place for all people.

WHAT WE DO

- We involve Presbyterian Men in worship and service to God.
- We invite all men of the congregation and men from the community to worship.
- We fellowship, worship and support church activities.
- We support the ministries of Saint James and the greater church community.
- We train and develop Presbyterian Men to be leaders.
- We are active participants in numerous communities such as Nomination, Pastor Nomination, Social Justice, Bible Studies, Fund Raisers ...

Saint James Presbyterian Men are working to make better communities by strengthening the faith of our brother and sisters in Christ and to make new disciples in Christ.

Several Presbyterian Men have become ministers, including Rev. Dr. Carl Manuel, Rev. Jimmy Hawkins, Rev. Juan Guthrie and Rev. Rodney Collins.

CURRENT OFFICERS

Elder Robert (Bob) Powell	Moderator
Elder Charles Burns	Secretary
Deacon Gary Williams	Treasurer
Trustee Tommy Gillespie	Chaplin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Former Moderators)

Elder Charles Knox
Elder James Neal

Elder Jerry Young

Elder Oscar Reid

Deacon Freddie Click

ADMINISTRATION *Church Business & Office Information*

Office Hours

The church office is open from 10:00am-5:00pm Monday - Thursday. Phone: 336-273-6658.

Monthly Informer Article Deadline

Please feel free to mail or e-mail: stjpresby@gmail.com. Articles can be sent prior to the deadline with the subject: **“June Informer.” The Final Deadline for articles is Monday, May 19, 2025, by 12:00 noon.**

Update on Printing through the Office

Implementation of copy codes and limits has been updated. There will be a cost for printing in the church office. Every ministry will receive a printing allotment for the year. Prints over the allotted amount will be billed to each ministry. Contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Due to the cost of printing, only **STJPC ministry-related photocopies** will be printed by the main office. Please adhere to the yearly allotment for each ministry listed below:

Yearly Allotment per Ministry: Black & White Copies: **100**, Color Copies: **100**

Printing Charges: Black & White: \$0.012 per letter-sized impression

Color: \$0.06 per letter-sized impression

Tabloid: Each 11x17 impression counts as two letter-size impressions.

Contact Information Updating

Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Did you know that you can send update your contact information anytime? Our contact information form is always available online. To fill out the form online, please click:

<https://forms.gle/ie6YDkwR4yqffr9c9>. Your information will remain confidential.

ADMINISTRATION *Church Business & Officer Information (continued)*

Congregational Care Ministry! This is an integral part of Saint James Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the Congregational Care ministry is to care for our congregation by providing presence, prayers, calls and cards during times of illness, medical procedures, health crisis, and transitions. Our Pastor is the primary provider for end-of-life care, bereavement, and funerals. Our Congregational Care team provides presence for ongoing care concerns. The foundation for this ministry is in scripture. Just as Moses was admonished to appoint elders to assist with the care of God’s flock (Exodus 18); and just as the early church provided people to care for widows as the apostles gave themselves to prayer and the teaching of the word (Acts 2), our church stands in a biblical tradition to commission people of faith to provide for the care of God’s people.

How does Congregational Care Work?

To help ensure that everyone has an Elder, including those on the Forget Me Not List, our congregation is divided into groups based on the first letter of your last name. Each member of the congregation has been assigned a Congregational Care team member as seen below. Some examples of when to contact the church include but is not limited to prayer, notice of a medical procedure or surgery, notice of a current or past hardship. Please call the church office at 336-273-6658 or email stjoffice820@gmail.com. The office will notify the Pastor and your Congregational Care Provider immediately. If there is an end-of-life situation, the Pastor is the primary provider. All information is private unless permission is given to share with the entire church during prayer and/or through the Forget Me Not list. The Congregational Care Team is eager to serve, so do not hesitate to share your needs.

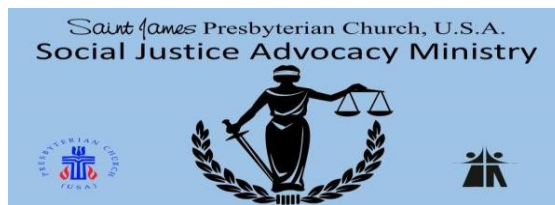
Congregational Care List 2025 (subject to change)

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Members of the Congregation</u>
Tyrone Collins	A, B
Cynthia Latham	C, D, E
Gloria Washington	F, G, H, I
Marcia Bellamy	J, K, L
Mildred Powell	M, N, O
Cynthia Latham	P, Q, R
Chuck Wallington	S, T
Marcia Bellamy	U, V, W, X, Y, Z

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Chairs, Lolita Watkins, Christina Yongue

The Social Justice
Black & Brown



Advocacy Ministry and the
Women's Voting

Initiative organized a successful Get Out the Vote Campaign 2024 through our Adopt a Precinct voter engagement strategy. With this community voter strategy, we focused on establishing relationships and sponsoring events in the historic Warnersville community, the oldest African American planned neighborhood in the City of Greensboro. Our group partnered with the Warnersville Community Association and planned various events which enabled our Adopt a Precinct Committee to share voter education information , register individuals to vote, and establish relationships to build from in supporting this close knit community. Student leaders from Bennett College and North Carolina A&T State University participated in phone banking, neighborhood canvassing, event planning, and verifying voter registration as these were key areas of our focus. On Sunday, March 30, 2025, these young adult student leaders were recognized in our 10:00 am worship service by our Pastor Reverend Dr. Phanta Lansden and received certificates of appreciation in a reception held in the fellowship hall. Two middle school voter advocates, Kendall and Kora Emly and high school advocates, Cyrah and Victoria Hardy were also recognized for assisting with voter look-up verification after worship on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

The Adopt a Precinct Committee and the Black & Brown Women's Voting Initiative are involved in planning next steps in supporting our Warnersville neighbors and friends. Contact our church office at (336)-273-6658 for information about the Adopt a Precinct Committee and the Black & Brown Women's Voting Initiative.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Accomplishments of Triad Black Faith Leaders & Black Farmers Network 2024:

Officially became a 501 (C) non-profit organization, Established leadership council, by-laws and received funding from the USDA, Cone Health Foundation, Second Harvest Food Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro Men's Club, Saint James Presbyterian Church and several donors, Sponsored our second successful community farmers' market at Hayes Taylor YMCA on Juneteenth 2024, Assisted farmers in our Network in participating in a festival in High Point, North Carolina, Provided holiday fresh produce for the second year to over 500 individuals and families in Greensboro in December of 2024, Connected farmers in our Network with the NC Extension Office: Guilford County, Greensboro Housing Authority, and Greensboro NC Chapter of The Links, Inc. in providing fresh boxes of produce and prepared meals to 75 senior citizens in Greensboro, Sponsored a successful holiday mini-fresh produce market in the fellowship hall on Monday, December 23, 2024.

FAITH POINT FELLOWSHIP *Young Adult and College Ministry*

Faith Point Fellowship (Young Adult Ministry)

Faith Point Fellowship will return next semester in September.



FORGET ME NOT LIST *Remember to pray for those who cannot attend worship*

Mr. Shaquille & Ms. Sheryl Davis	3938 Eastland Ave., 27401
Mr. Clarence Durham	3313 Janet Ln., 27405
Mrs. Emily Goodman	Guilford Health Care Center, 2041 Willow Road, Greensboro, NC 27406
Mrs. Shirley Barnes	2219 Lakeland Road, Greensboro, NC 27405
Mrs. Willie “Peggy” Meachem	Call the church office
Mr. Oscar Reid	3834 Riceland Pl. Charlotte, NC 28216
Mrs. Amryl Ward	8100 Grahamson Ln. Charlotte, NC 28269
Mrs. Katherine Maynard	412 Stewart St Greensboro, NC 27401
Mrs. Thelma Williams	1907 Belcrest Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406
Mr. Frank Woods	4704 Sharon Donna Drive Greensboro, NC 27406
Mrs. Margaret Spinks	4512 Lawndale Drive Apt. 244, Greensboro, NC 27455
Ms. Lynette Hawkins	C/O Fredericka Charity, 1212 Swan Creek Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

OUTREACH MINISTRY *We are busy serving the community- Join Us!*

Stephen Ministry

There are trained congregation members who can provide one-to-one care to those experiencing difficulties on life's journey.

Do you need someone to listen, to care, to encourage and to provide emotional and spiritual support? If so, please call a Stephen Leader: Adnee Bradford (336)202-6989, Yvonne Patterson (336) 375-0122, Cynthia Latham (336) 324-7252.

For at home care assistance, please see ***The Older Adult Ministry***

SJPC Housing Resource Directory

Family Support

SJPC Affordable Housing Committee along with West Market St UMC assisted our first family with moving from Pathways to a permanent residence. We were able to provide rental assistance to a single dad with 3 children living in transitional housing at Pathways to move into their own apartment.

IAHI Support

A special thanks to Session for approving the use of funds to assist IAHI with their non-profit application. At the March IAHI workgroup meeting we were advised that IAHI had received approval for its 501(c)3 non-profit status. This will allow for donations to be tax deductible and position IAHI for filing for grants.

Winter Shelter

Four IAHI participating churches provided nightly winter shelter and meals to 57 people experiencing homelessness during the months of December - March. This was the result of a partnership with Greensboro Urban Ministry and the City.

STEWARDSHIP *Monthly collection and stewardship opportunities.*

God invites us to worship Him in many ways. This includes the giving of our Tithes and Offerings. Here's what that means. The Old Testament reminds us to "bring ye all the titles into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:20 (KJV). Similarly, the New Testament reminds us that the Lord loves a "cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV), and all that we have already belongs to the Lord. It is in this spirit that we invite you to support the work and the ministries of St. James Presbyterian Church through the consistent and cheerful regular giving of your tithes and offerings. Thank you.

Your financial commitment to St. James Presbyterian Church in 2024 supported church leadership, staff, building maintenance as well as many ministries that work tirelessly to address the growing needs of our community. None of this could happen without the love you express through your giving.

We must work diligently at getting ourselves into "good trouble."

Current SJPC Officers

Elders

Lucia Ward-Alexander – Discipleship

Marcia Bellamy – Fellowship and Congregational Care

Freddie Click- Trustee Liaison

Gary Halley – Assistant Clerk of Session

Dr. Vanessa Haygood – Outreach, Social Justice Advocacy and Emergency Assistance

Marsha Knox – Clerk of Session and Discipleship

Cynthia Latham – Worship and Evangelism

Mildred Powell – Outreach, Social Justice Advocacy, Emergency Assistance and Deacon Liaison

Chuck Wallington – Stewardship

Gloria Washington – Children, Youth, Young Adults and Deacon Liaison

Karen Yehudah – Worship, Evangelism and Human Resources

Zaiah Wadelington- Youth Elder

Deacons

Melvin Alexander

Regina Artis, Co-Moderator

Charlene Bowden

Lula Burns

Russell Burris

Otelia Spinks-Fitch

Cedric Jarman

Tracey Jarman, Co-Moderator

Ava Neal

Sonia Boakyewaa Osei-Okyere

Dr. Kim Pemberton

Dr. Ina Siler

Daydra Wilks

Trustees

Demetra Barnwell
Terry Bellamy, Moderator
Brandon Herring
Stephanine Horton
Charles Knox
Carrie Ledbetter
Donald Lindsay
Marie Martin
Donald Miller
Saundra Peterson
Bob Powell
Annie Purcell
Eugenia Turner
Victoria Hardy - Youth Trustee



Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission