



May 2026

Words of Gratitude for Nearly Twenty Years of Love: 2006 - 2026

My Dear Friends,

As I prepare to step into retirement, I find myself reflecting on the gift of these past nearly twenty years we have shared in ministry together. I am leaving with my heart full of gratitude.



When I accepted the call to be your Pastor/Head of Staff, I could not have imagined then how profoundly you would shape my life. You welcomed me as your pastor with open arms, and together we have walked through seasons of joy and sorrow, growth and challenges, celebrations and grief. We have baptized children, buried saints, welcomed new members, and said difficult goodbyes. Through every season, your faithfulness and companionship have been an inspiration.

Thank you for trusting me to walk with you in sacred moments-at hospital bedsides, in counseling conversations, at gravesides, in worship, in study groups and in the everyday rhythms of life. At time I have stumbled and did not always get it right, yet you always showed me patience and extended grace.

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Summer Music!

We all look forward to summer breaks, and the choir uses this as a well-deserved time of restoration and renewal. Each summer we have special music offerings in worship and we are excited about the opportunities we will be able to offer this summer! Our first 4 weeks of summer music will be as follows:

June 21st

Ed & Lianne Martel

June 28th

Steve & Rebecca Lapping

July 5th

Ed Martel and Karen Lewis

July 12th

Dr. Jason Wright, guest organist

We will continue to feature current members of our music ministry along with guests to complete our exciting summer schedule!

Twenty Years of Love

Continued from the previous page

Of all our shared accomplishments, I am especially grateful for the ways you have lived out your faith beyond the walls of this church. You have shown compassion to those in need and remained committed to being a community shaped by love.

Whether we were feeding the hungry, supporting local families, working with youth at risk or traveling to Haiti or Africa, your hands were always ready to serve. Seeing the tangible impact we have had on our neighbors near and far has been one of the greatest rewards of my ministry. You have demonstrated that a congregation is best defined by the depth of its compassion and faithfulness to God's mission.

Post-retirement

So that you may form a vital pastoral relationship with the next shepherd called by God to lead you, my relationship with you must change. While still being able to enjoy our individual friendships, I will not be able to participate in worship, extend pastoral services including hospital visitations, or officiate at any special events of the congregation including weddings, funeral, baptisms, etc.

One of the jobs I will need to learn in retirement is to back off for a while and give Jesus a chance to exercise his Lordship over CPC without my help, advice, or meddling. A lot easier said than done.

What's next? Well, trips to Colorado to visit our daughter Christina will definitely be a part of Marsae's and my plans. Household jobs that I kept saying I would do when I retire will now come due. I will continue doing my ministry as a law enforcement chaplain, with hopes of expanding in that role. Future trips to Ukraine to work with the military chaplains are also on the agenda. As I have observed by watching many of you, there seems to be plenty to do in retirement to keep one busy.

As I step away from this role as your pastor, I do so with a full heart and deep confidence in who you are as a congregation. The same God who has guided us in our ministry and life together will continue to lead you forward. Your story of faith is still unfolding, and I am grateful to have been a chapter in it. Thank you for your kindness, your generosity, your faithfulness, and your willingness to share your lives with me. I love you deeply and sincerely. That love will not end with my retirement.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor, and your friend. With deep gratitude and affection, Rod



A Celebration Honoring Rod and Marsae Stone

Friday, May 29, 2026
6:00 p.m.

A Covered Dish Dinner
Main Course, Side Dishes, Salads and Dessert

RSVP with what you are bringing to Sally at (910) 295-6848
or sraynor@communitypres.com by Friday, May 22, 2026

Come join the fun and have a great CPC Dinner

CALL Update

CALL's tutors are always willing to do a project for the children of the program. The tutors assembled 34 Easter baskets for all the students. Each child went home with a basket filled with candy, bubbles, pencils, play dough, peeps, markers, etc. One of our goals is to touch the lives of students when they leave CALL they have a smile on their face. That day everyone did have a smile and some were skipping out the door to go home. It was a wonderful sight to behold!

In June seventeen students will participate in vacation Bible school at CPC. The theme is Rainforest Falls, exploring the nature of God. It should be an exciting event.

In July ten of our students will attend STEAM camp at SCC. The campers will explore the fields of science, technology, engineering, visual arts, culinary arts and math through fun engaging activities. Campers rotate through five sessions each day creating their own video games, completing engineering challenges using math and science concepts, learning creative tricks in the culinary arts kitchen, coding robots and using problem-solving skills to tackle real-world challenges.

In August all the students will have camp at CPC to get ready to go back to school. CPC has been a great supporter of CALL bringing backpacks and school supplies so they would be ready to start a new school year. The bins for the supplies will go out July 5th. CALL is so grateful for your gifts. Our theme for camp may be fabulous card games for kids that can teach our kids, and all while they have some fun! Most of our students have not had the opportunity to play any card games. From classics like Go Fish, Old Maids, Memory, and Crazy Eights to modern hits like UNO, these games provide kids with opportunities to practice math skills, enhance memory, and engagingly build social interactions. Some board games may be offered—checkers or chess. We will choose card games with easy-to-follow rules. These games allow the youngest kids to participate alongside their older siblings.

Our mission is for CALL's educational practice for each tutor to be one-on-one or with a very small group of students – designed to address specific learning needs through dialogue, questioning, and guided problem-solving. We use two websites, one for reading—kids A-Z and one for math—IXL. Every child has a reading folder where they record the book they read from for 20 minutes each day. The tutor checks the folder and the two of them talk about the book. Research shows if a student reads 20 minutes/day from kindergarten to eighth grade, they will be in the top 10% of their senior class. Reading is the best way to break the cycle of poverty.

Nursery Corner for April

For the next few weeks, we are learning to pray the way Jesus taught us. We made pictures to discover that we don't just pray in church, we can pray anywhere and anytime. As we learn the Lord's Prayer, we are also learning what the words in the prayer mean. We learned the story of Moses and the burning bush to discover what it means when we say that God is holy. Very soon, when we say the Lord's Prayer in church service, you might hear a little voice next you saying it too!



Youth Fellowship

This month, the CPC Youth have been very active in inviting new people to the Youth Group. Because of this, we have been able to make new friends and tell more people about Christ. For our April Outing, we traveled to Ravin Rock State Park. While there, we went on a fun hike and played in the water. We also talked about the beauty of God's creation. This May, we are super excited to welcome the up-and-coming 6th graders to join the Youth Group starting on the First Sunday of the month. I have had the privilege to work with Ms. Kirsten and the PAWS team every Wednesday and have gotten to know them and the PAWS kids well. We expect around 11+ of the graduating PAWS kids to join us in the Youth Group.

Kaleb

New Addition

Congratulations to Katie and Matt Weivoda on the birth of their son, Miles Graham born Thursday, April 23rd.

"Sometimes the littlest things take up the most room in your heart."

– A.A. Milne



Returning to Western NC: Hurricane Helene Mission Trip Asheville, NC

September 13th-18th, 2026



CPC will be returning to Western North Carolina this fall for Hurricane Helene relief work. Participants of all skill levels (ages 16+) are welcome! This year we will be hosted at New Hope Presbyterian Church, where we have sleeping and cooking accommodations. We will travel to Asheville on Sunday, September 13th after worship, and return Friday afternoon, September 18th. Monday through Friday morning we will partner with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to serve our neighbors with cleanup and rebuilding.

More details forthcoming in the June Trumpet. To register, contact Meg (mvail@communitypres.com) by Friday, July 31st.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Sandhills CROP HUNGER WALK

MARCH 29, 2026

MOORE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Thank You!

**Our 2026 Sandhills Crop Walk
raised \$28,057.43!!!**



The winning fundraising jar was **Jar 4: Game Night with Line Dancing!** This will be scheduled sometime in the fall at CPC. Stay tuned for details and to save the date!

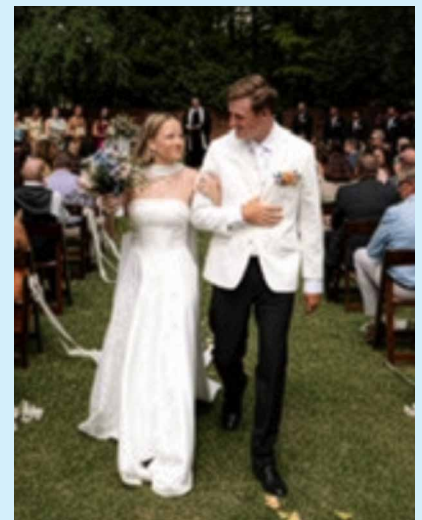
Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build 2026

CPC teams participated in the Habitat Apostle Build Thursday April 30th, Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd. We had some rainy days, but were still able to share God's love to make progress on the house.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Emma Lassiter & Zach Wittmer for their recent wedding on April 25th. We celebrate the love they share with one another.



Congratulations to the 2026-2027 College Scholarship Recipients

Celebrating Excellence and Promise in Our Church Community

We are delighted to announce the recipients of our church's annual college scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year. Each year, our congregation honors our outstanding young members who have demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to their faith and service to our church. These scholarships are awarded to support their pursuit of higher education and to encourage their continued growth as leaders in both our church and the wider community.

This year's recipients for the Joyce G. and Roger W. Johnson Scholarships are:

Evelyn Miller



Evie, as many people call her, has been accepted at James Madison University this fall and plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree through the School of Integrated Science while majoring in Intelligence Analysis. With minors in Political Communication and an Honors minor in Interdisciplinary Studies she will be well prepared to fulfill her passion of approaching complex problems from multiple perspectives. Evie graduates from Pinecrest with many honors and recognitions including a top 8% in her class of 577 students, President of her senior class, inducted into the National Honor Society, DAR Good Citizen Award for leadership and service, first place and state champion in the Tarheel Forensic League for original speech and these are just a few of her achievements. At CPC she has mentored and tutored disadvantage children, has served the nursery as assistant during church services and assisted in the PAWS ministry. Evie has volunteered and raised funds for First Health's cancer care fund and Sandhills Children Center. Evie's parents are Chris

and Helena-Wallen Miller.

Caroline Brewton



This fall Caroline will be entering her 6th and final year of Medical School at Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland. Since high school Caroline has been the top student in her class including two years at Pinecrest, two years at the NC School of Science and Mathematics where she was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and for the past three years she has received the Rector's Award for Academic Excellence, given to the top three students in a class. Caroline works two part time jobs: She is a medic in a mobile health clinic that serves the homeless population of Poznan and is an English language tutor. She volunteers in an Emergency Department at the public hospital of Koscian, Poland, is a virtual medical translator (Spanish to English) in a telemedicine clinic in Chulucanas, Peru, serves in a Crisis Intervention center in Poznan, is co-chair for Caprecon Green Innovations for vulnerable children in Bauchi State, Nigeria. When the school year is over for the past six years Caroline has spent most of the summers

continuing her humanitarian work in Mexico, the Dominican Republic and several Central American countries. She will continue this work again this summer. Caroline is the daughter of Scott and Sonja Brewton.

Receiving the Community Presbyterian Church Scholarships are:

Jacob Graham



Jacob will be entering the freshman class at Washington and Lee University this fall. After an outstanding high school experience he will focus on taking advantage of all that his college years will present to him. He now plans on a Finance degree while keeping his options open. He will be playing golf for W&L and is passionate about continuing to improve his game. Jacob is celebrated for his academic achievements and his steadfast involvement in church events such as a PAWS and on the youth worship and youth usher teams and completed his confirmation followed by his baptism. He has volunteered his time with Habitat for Humanity, Sandhills Children Center Festival of Trees and the Leadership Academy to develop his leadership skills. He has prepared himself very well for a successful college career. Jacob's parents are Chris and Lee Ann Graham.

Ella Jacoby



Ella is completing her undergraduate degree in May 2027 at The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a degree in Biology and German Language and Literature. After graduation Ella will take a gap year and work in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry in Germany, Switzerland or Austria. Her end-goal remains to return to medical school after gaining some hands-on experience in the medical field. She has had an excellent year scholastically as a repeat name on the Dean's List, a member of the Biological Honor Society and the German Honor Society. Ella's parents are Alexander and Amanda Jacoby

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these remarkable students and wish them continued success in their college journeys.

Thank you to everyone who supports the scholarship program through prayers, donations and encouragement.

Your generosity makes a lasting impact on the lives of our church's young people. Let us keep Evie, Caroline, Jacob and Ella in our prayers as they embark on their exiting new chapters.

PAWS Updates!

Our PAWS children have been busy this semester with regular rehearsals, singing in worship, along with participating in the Pinehurst Elementary School Musical! We will wrap up the Spring 2026 semester on Thursday, April 29th.

A highlight of our semester was singing at the Spring Fling held at CPC on April 22nd. The PAWS kids sang, played chimes, and beat drums for our guests and then went out into the crowd to teach others how to play the instruments. Watching how kind and patient our children were in their interactions was a beautiful thing. We are so proud of their growth as individuals and musicians in this past year.

On April 29th we will graduate 12 of our 5th graders and send them on to Youth Group! Please keep them in your prayers as they look forward to middle school and new experiences.



The PAWS kids waiting to sing at the Spring Fling



11 of our 5th grade PAWS kids.

Our Last PAWS of the School Year!!!!

We made PAWSprints to take home over summer – everyone can leave footprints, but we know that we are called to follow Jesus, and when we do, we leave our PAWSprints to help lead others! We graduated our largest class of 5th graders ever! 12 of them completed our PAWS program and are moving on to youth group! We are so proud of them!



We Welcome to Our Pulpit June 7th

Alexander "Sandy" Stewart, PhD.

In 2023, Dr. Stewart was named the third president in the 60-year history of Sandhills Community College. Sandy is a Moore County native graduating from Union Pines High School. Prior to his role at SCC Sandy served as assistant commissioner of agricultural services at the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services since 2018.



He holds master's and doctoral degrees in crop science from N.C. State University. Stewart previously directed the state agriculture department's research stations division, which is responsible for managing 18 agriculture research facilities in partnership with N.C. State and N.C. A&T State universities. He has also been a faculty member as an extension

tobacco specialist at N.C. State and as an extension cotton specialist at Louisiana State University and has managed crop research in the private sector.

Sandy is an elder at Union Presbyterian Church in Carthage where he frequently preaches. Sandy's father, Rear Admiral Bill Stewart, Jr. served this church after retiring from the Navy as a chaplain.

Sandy lives near Carthage on his family's working farm of nearly 250 years.

We Welcome to Our Pulpit June 14th

Major General Steven A. Schaick

Steven A. Schaick is a retired major general in the United States Air Force and an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), best known for serving at the Pentagon as the 19th Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Air Force from August 2018 until his retirement on July 2, 2021

In this senior role, Schaick advised the Air Force Chief of Staff on matters of religious, ethical, and moral welfare for over 770,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel worldwide, while



leading a Chaplain Corps comprising approximately 2,200 chaplains and religious affairs personnel. He also became the first Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Space Force upon its establishment in December 2019, extending his oversight to that branch's spiritual needs. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh (1983); a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary (1986); a Master of Business Administration from Webster University (1995);

and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary (2005), complemented by advanced military education such as the Air War College. Originally from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Steve married his college sweetheart Denise. They have been married for 41 years and have two married children and four grandchildren. He has recently concluded two Interim Senior Pastor positions, one at the Kirk of Kildaire in Cary and the second at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. They live in Chapel Hill, NC. As a hobby Steve and his wife take tandem bike trip on routes that take them around the world.

CPC Contact Information

Church Office

(910) 295-6848

Website

www.communitypres.com

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday

Church Office Closed

**If you need a pastor after
hours, the following can
be reached:**

Rod Stone

Pastor

(910) 585-0828

Meghan Vail

Associate Pastor

(732) 804-4907

Mailing Address

**Community Presbyterian
Church**

P.O. Box 1449

Pinehurst, NC 28370

Location

125 Everette Road

Pinehurst, NC 28374

Children's Church

April was an amazing month with the kids! Easter is such a fun time to explore the stories of Jesus and partake in such fun activities! We did an Easter egg hunt and had lots of yummy Easter treats! Emma will be gone the majority of April for her wedding, but Children's Church will continue with the help of our amazing volunteers!! There are lots of exciting plans for these days, summer will be here before you know it!!



Children's Message with Rod



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Matthew Best

Facility Manager

Evie Miller

Nursery Assistant

Terri Sinclair

Director of Music Emeritus

www.communitypres.com

Worship With Us!
10:30 a.m.



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