

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Easter Monday, Pope Francis, 88, died after 12 years as Bishop of Rome. His public ministry and writings inspired and influenced me in my own faith journey.

I mourn his death because he was something unique to me among Christian leaders. He was humble and yet, he always said what he felt was right, regardless of whether it was popular or not. Thus, many saw him as a hero or a villain, or fluctuated in their opinion depending on the topic. One Cardinal compared him to a Rorschach test – an inkblot which everyone interprets differently.

Jesus is also a Rorschach test for us. Christians battle over Jesus's teachings and often, faithful Christians see our Lord in very different ways, choosing different teachings to emphasize or ignore. Likewise, it has been said that in the "search for the historical Jesus," the Jesus of history always resembles the scholar writing that history.

This is why I emphasize that the challenge of engaging scripture means seeking transformation, not confirmation. If the Old and New Testaments do not challenge us to reconsider our worldview, then we are not reading them correctly. Sometimes, scripture may tweak how we see the world. Sometimes it may lead us to overhaul our views. We must all be open to the Holy Spirit to be at work upon us through the text.

Francis wrote that the taunts of "save yourself" at the crucifixion, reflect a desire to prefer a God who works miracles, not a God who is compassionate. At times, we want our God to communicate power, show might and do away with those who may wish us harm. But Francis wrote that this is not the God we see in Jesus, but our own ego. He said rightly, "We want a God who looks like us, rather than us having to become like God."

Remember, God loves you as you are, but God in Christ calls us to take up our cross and follow him. In Jesus, we see God. Faith in Christ challenges us to lay down our identity and turn from sin. It calls on us to be open to the Holy Spirit transforming us, so that we will love as Jesus has loved us – with compassion, service, and humility.

Shelby Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours: 9:00-4:00 Mon-Thurs;
9:00-12:00 Fri.

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Minister of Christian Ed. &
Families: Carol Ann Hoard
carolanneshelbypres.org

Church Administrator:

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Emily Monroe emily@shelbypres.org

Choir Director: Bruce Moser

bruce@shelbypres.org

Nursery Director: Lilly Hamilton

Nursery Assistants: Maggie Hohne

Rainbow Connection Director:Abby Goins 704-487-7075
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From the Desk of Carol Ann

More Like Her Than I Knew

Proverbs 31 paints the picture of a virtuous woman—strong, wise, diligent, and deeply loved by her family. For a long time, I didn't think my mom fit that mold. She didn't have a spotless house or a color-coded planner. But the older I get, the more I see it: maybe she was more like that woman than any of us realized. And maybe I'm more like her than I thought.

She had a way of making people feel at home. Her laugh was loud and unfiltered—the kind that made you laugh too, even if you didn't know what was funny. Her door was always open, whether the dishes were done or not. In her house, you didn't have to be perfect. You just had to be yourself.

And yes, she sewed. She was known to buy a bolt of fabric and use every last inch—there are plenty of photos of us four girls in matching homemade dresses. I wouldn't trade those for anything. That creativity, humor, and resourcefulness? That was her strength.



Proverbs 31:25 says, "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." That verse makes me think of my mom every time. She wore strength like Wonder Woman's cape—bold, fearless, and ready for whatever life threw her way. Her dignity was quiet but unshakable. And her laugh? Unforgettable.

Her house may have been messy, but her heart was always in order. She didn't live to impress she lived to love. That's its own kind of holiness.

She may not have checked every box on the Proverbs 31 list, but she lived the spirit of it: welcoming, generous, joyful, and full of life. And now, as I raise my own (mostly grown) boys and find scraps of grace from one long bolt of love, I realize—I want to be more like her.

And I thank God for that.





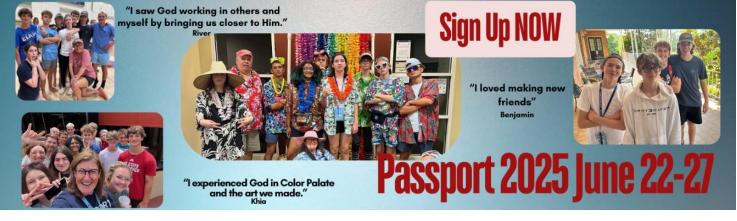
CHIOREN'S 200 MM SANDAY 'E MAY 4

Join us as we celebrate the faith, joy, and talents of our children during this special service. It's a wonderful time to support and encourage the youngest members of our church family!











TARTAN ORDERS

Although Heritage Sunday is not until September, now is the perfect time to place orders for items such as ties, sashes, and scarves, to wear during the service. It's also a great opportunity to order fabric for a flag made from your family's tartan. If you need assistance in locating your family's tartan, please reach out to Mary Conner at 704-300-1109 or the church office. To ensure that all materials arrive in time for Heritage Sunday, please submit your order by May 15th.



enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship for all

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Donations will be collected for the Mission and Ministry Committee to purchase items for

gift baskets for the Abuse Prevention Council



Cooper is the son of Angus and Ally and little brother to Nora. Overjoyed grandparents are Thomas and Emily Monroe and great grandparents Billy and Carolyn Cooper.

Thanks and praise to God for this new life!

MAY EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, May 1st. Men's Breakfast at 7:00 am at Ken and Mary's Restaurant, 1628 S. DeKalb St.

Sunday, May 4th: **Children's Sunday,** our children will lead worship.

<u>Wednesday, May 7th:</u> **Wednesday Night Supper,** the men with provide dinner and we will have fun filled evening of BINGO!

<u>Thursday, May 8th:</u> **Rainbow Art Show,** come share the evening will our Rainbow families and the children's beautiful art work.

<u>Thursday May, 15th</u>: **Circle of Friends** will meet at Pfeiffer's Café for lunch at 11:00. If you can attend, please call or text Nancy Blackley at 704–692–8095.

<u>Tuesday, May 19th:</u> **Newsletter articles** are due to Miranda, <u>miranda@shelbypres.org</u>.

<u>Tuesday, May 20th:</u> **Holmes Hotdogs!** Road Trip with Carol Ann to enjoy the best hotdogs. **Celebrate Rainbow's** class of 2025 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary.

Monday, May 26th: **Church Office Closed** for Memorial Day.

Sunday, May 25th: **Senior Sunday** with reception in the Courtyard.



ages.

Please let the church office know if you have someone graduating from college this Spring. We would like to congratulate them in the June newsletter.

Email Miranda (<u>mirandaeshelbypres.org</u>) by <u>Monday,</u> May 19th.







THE RAINBOW CONNECTION PRESCHOOL

I can't believe it's already May! This is our last month of Rainbow, and we will start a new school year in August. April was such a busy and fun time! Easter parties, egg hunts, plenty of sunshine, and exploring spring!

We are having our graduation ceremony in the sanctuary on May 20th for our graduating 4s and 5s classes. It is always bittersweet to say goodbye to another group of children I have watched grow over the years, but I am excited for their new adventures!

We are so blessed to be a part of the SPC community, and we are so thankful for all of the support we are given.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6)











MONTREAT

SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

September 12-14, 2025

The weekend has something for everyone – families, singles, and couples alike! If you're seeking spiritual growth or just a weekend to connect and relax, this retreat at Montreat is the perfect place for you!

Sign up with \$100 Deposit per Room

All room reservations are for two nights.

Standard - **\$260*** (\$280 after 5/25) - Queen, King, or Two Twin Beds. Connecting rooms are available.

Suite (2 Rooms, 1 Bath) - \$410* (\$430) - Queen Bed and Two Twin Beds

Select Rooms Also Available - Several unique rooms may be available. Please contact the office for more info.

Meal Plans - \$65 or \$35 (11/under)

Meals are separate, but paid for by the Lacey Fund for Montreat. You can make a tax-deductible donation to this fund to cover your meals and/or the meals of another attendee.

Morris and Mabel Lacey created **The Lacey Fund for Montreat** in 2021. This fund has made it possible to keep the cost of the Montreat retreat down by paying for meals and providing assistance on an as-needed basis. All donations to this fund are tax-deductible and your gift will keep this fund strong for years to come.

Questions: Please contact SPC Church Administrator Miranda Wood, at (704) 487-8503, or email at miranda@shelbypres.org.

To Register: Send Miranda the names of participants with shirt size and room preference by email, mail with your deposit to PO Box 1444, Shelby, NC 28150, drop it off with Miranda, or put it in the Sunday offering marked, "Montreat."



GROCERY BAGS

The SPC Food Ministry wants to THANK YOU for your grocery backdonations. Keep them coming!

Please be sure to only donate clean GROCERY/SHOPPING BAGS. We CANNOT use vegetable bags, hospital bags, bread bags, or food storage bags.

Thank you again for supporting the SPC Food Ministry.

ARE YOU ON DUTY IN MAY?

<u>Deacons Taking Up Offering</u> & Ushers

May Beth Phillippi, captain Michael Pruitt May Reed Trey Warrick

Wednesday Night Elders & Deacons

May 7 Carolyn Jackson Tom Martin Alison Moore Zion Roberts

Worship Liturgist

May 4 Children's Sunday

11 volunteer needed

18 Marlene Lovelace

25 Michelle Moser

Sanctuary Worship Guild

May 4 Barbara Blackburn Barbara Hannah

11 Paul & Joyce Couey

18 Harriette Beam Laura Beam

25 Judy Greer Rachel White

Sound & Video Teams

May 4 John Brotherton Mike Jackson

> 11 Chip Blackley Mike Jackson

18 David Grose Joe Petrilli

25 Chip Blackley
Joe Petrilli

Sanctuary Flowers

All Sundays in May are available.

**A Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board at the Harris Street entrance outside the fellowship hall. If there is a Sunday that you would like to reserve, please call the church office and we'll sign you up.

May Mission Focus

During the month of May, the Mission and Ministry Committee is highlighting the Abuse Prevention Council - a local organization within Cleveland County that assists women and children who are victims of abuse.

Because all people have the right to live safely and with dignity, the APC provides professional, non-judgmental services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. APC seeks to foster public compassion through a proactive community that empowers and supports all. The APC provides emergency services, shelter, legal and medical advocacy, counseling, and education. Through community support, these services are always free of charge for anyone who needs it.

The APC is currently in need of supplies to provide care and comfort for its shelter guests. During the month of May, Shelby Presbyterian will be collecting items to help stock the shelter with necessary goods. Items can be brought to church where there will be collection baskets in the narthex and outside of the office/Ellis Hall. Please see the list below for needed items:

- Sports bras various sizes
- · Women's underwear various sizes
- Women's deodorant
- Women's body wash
- Women's shampoo and conditioner

Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase items.

There are many ways that individuals can support the Abuse Prevention Council, and the women and children they serve. For more information, or any questions, please check out their website: https://www.abusepreventioncouncil.org/







COMMUNITY FRIDGE

SCAN THIS OR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR A DAY IN MAY TO ADD THINGS TO THE COMMUNITY REFRIGERATOR!

SUGGESTIONS: FRESH FRUIT AND VEGGIES. HALF GALLONS OF MILK, EGGS (CUT THE CARTONS IN HALF IF POSSIBLE), CHEESE STICKS, PACKAGES OF NUTS, PACKAGED LUNCHEON MEAT, BREAD, ETC.

THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY FOR LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE, QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANNA AT ANNASCHWEPPE29@GMAIL.COM * YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP USING BIT.LY/FRIDGESTEWARD



MISSION & MINISTRY MARCH '25 REPORT

\$3,097

YOUR GIFTS TO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

(5 CENTS A MEAL, MEMORIAL GIFTS, CHRISTMAS EVE



ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN MARCH TO HELP INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ESCAPE CRISIS



HOUSEHOLDS AIDED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2025 ANNUAL TOTALS

YOU GAVE: \$18,472* AID GIVEN: \$18,471 THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. WHAT YOU GIVE PRIMARILY GOES DIRECTLY TO ASSIST NEIGHBORS WHO ARE DISABLED, ELDERLY, AND/OR WORKING BUT STILL UNABLE TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS. BECAUSE OF YOU, THEY REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES.

🔼 FOOD MINISTRY & BACKPACKS



NEARLY 50 HOT LUNCHES SERVED IN ELLIS HALL WEEKLY



AS MANY AS 45 FAMILIES RECEIVED GROCERIES FOR HOME EACH WEEK



17+ STUDENTS AT TURNING POINT RECEIVE FOOD FOR THE WEEKEND

*This total includes an \$11,621 carryover from 2024

Thank you to the many members of our congregation who donated pancake syrup during our March collection for Feeding Kids Cleveland County. With the help of Rainbow Connection, who collected pancake mix, and Turning Point Academy teachers and staff, who added to our donation drive, we were able to provide over 260 local families with these special breakfast items for their Spring Break deliveries. We are grateful for the constant generosity of our congregation, and for commitment that SPC has to helping those in our community who are in need.



The goal of the Member Life Ministry Committee is to extend love and care to all of our Shelby Presbyterian Church Family. If you find anyone in need of attention in our church family, in your neighborhood, or beyond, please contact Mike Alexander, Member Life Ministry Chairperson, at 704-487-6119 or mwalexander9@gmail.com, or the church office 704.487.8503. Please include the following in your prayers:

Lyric Atkins John Auten JoAnn Beattie Ed & Janice Blake Becky Boinest & Family Betty Bowling Sid Bridges Jo Ann Callahan Hannah Carpenter Karen Carpenter Myra Carpenter Matthew Carpenter Sandy Carpenter Conway Carter Rylan Carter Betty Clark Kay Clark-James Randy Derwin - Clark Bert & Joy Cushman Lou & Judy DuBois Al Eatman

• Children and Staff of Turning Point Academy

• Medical research, caregivers, and patients

Our brothers & sisters of Monte los Olivos

• Christians who are persecuted for their faith

• All disaster victims (volcanoes, floods, fires, etc.)

All those serving in the military

Local & National Leaders

Debbie Ferrell Melton Gardner Barbara Ghigo Tim Hamrick Ina Harrington August Hohne Scot Horton Andi Houser Joan Hunt Kevin Jones David Kelley Chuck Laughlin David LeGrand Doug Little Paul Luisi Cheryl Lutz Amy Mananum Brooke McCurry Yvonne Couey Miller Susan Melton & Family Lisa Perkins-Dodrill

Pauline Persing Ann Pharr Clay Pruett Susan Reed Dot Roark Lin & Blannie Robinson Jo Rolling & Family James Salvator Larry Stern Beverly Styers Bill & Patty Thorne Tiffany Timson Mason & Jill Venable Amanda Warfield Jackie Weathers Jack Weller David Wilkison Stephanie Williams Teresa Wingo Diane Windham

- Racial injustices
- U. S. Economy
- John McCall in Taiwan
- Food Ministry
- Rainbow Connection
- All refugees
- All victims of violence

Thank you for expanding your prayer list to include specific children and youth each month. During May, pray for our **Infants to Two-year olds:** Penelope Blount, Julian Brown, Max Coker, Dax Dry, Eliza Martin, Cooper Monroe, Nora Monroe, Kyla Roberts and **Three & Four-year olds:** Margot Blount, Aurora Dry, Brent Martin, Carter Sauve, Eliza Stern, Annie Kate Brown, Vashti Bryant, Victoria Couch, Viv Dow, and Theia Stern.

Happy Birthday!

	Marie Jackson
May 2	Florence Brooks
May 2	Braxton Clifton
May 2	Marlene Lovelace
May 3	Jeff Jones
	River Harrill
May 4	Michael Pruitt
May 5	Willow Dry
May 5	Alex McIntyre
May 5	David Persing
May 5	Beth Phillippi
May 5	Beverly Styers
May 6	Angus Monroe
May 7	Corban Stern
May 11	Tucker McIntyre
	Mary Ann Weber
May 12	Jeff Roark
May 13	Robert Burns
May 14	Fred Harrill
	Mills Bryant
May 15	Heidi Steeves
May 15	Brock Taylor
	Laura Beam
	Jodi Galla
	Robin Holland
	Kathy Allison
	Jennifer Ormand
	Ali Aguirre
•	Pat Morgan
	Jack Brownlee
	Nicole Haydon
May 23	Lillian Moore
May 24	Lyn Huston
May 26	Jean Canipe
May 26	Catherine Couch
May 26	Anna Dow
May 27	Ben Brown
	Debbie Demo
	Bly Borders
May 31	Jeannie Moore

Prayers and Sympathy

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the friends and family of Elaine Cerwin in her passing on March 16, 2025. Elaine had been a member of SPC for 9 years.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Margaret Almeida and family in the passing of her husband Tony on March 26, 2025.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Trip Boinest and family in the passing of his stepson Joseph McCraw on March 27, 2025.

SPC Reports & Minutes

SESSION MEETING MINUTES - March 18, 2025

RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS

Kyle & Raven Childers; Sponsors: John & Mystie Brotherton
Frank Newton; Sponsor: Mike Alexander

Alex & Meredith Rowe; Sponsors: Bruce & Michelle Moser
Wil Sarkos; Sponsor: Steve Sisk

Pastor Drew presented the prospective members and they each shared a little about themselves. Motion to accept all into membership was approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

<u>Clerk</u> – Tom Martin read a note from former pastor Fred Rose thanking SPC for our hospitality in providing a meeting space for officers of Good Shepherd Presbyterian.

<u>Diaconate Report</u> – Deacon Chair Michelle Moser—Craft Night is coming up this Sunday, Game Night was successful last month, and Wednesday Night Supper in April will feature a traditional Guatemalan national dish. Members of the Media Committee presented instructions on downloading and using the MinistryOne app at WNS last week. The deacons discussed ways to be active in neighborhood groups. Michelle encouraged elders to be in contact with deacon partners. Mary Conner noted the pew directory is too outdated to be useful. Michelle will have the deacons remove them.

<u>Pastor</u> – Drew Mangione—He is excited to see visitors continually coming to worship and members engaging with them.

ONLINE VOTES & MINUTES

Ratify Online Votes: N/A

Session Meeting February 18, 2025—approved unanimously.

COMMITTEES

<u>Finance</u> – Richard Dedmon – Update—Pledged offerings received are 41% of the budget for the period, but this is typical. Total expenses were also below budget for the period. Revenue from all sources exceeded expenses, so we're in good shape. Drew explained that former choir director George Cribb had created a sizable fund to be given to SPC upon his death. This gift must be used only to benefit traditional music programming at SPC and will be presented to the church at this funeral on March 29.

<u>Property</u> – Bill Jobe – The public adjuster completed a much better examination of the roof damage, and we expect his assessment in a couple of weeks. The sanctuary side of the church building has been insulated. Narthex parlor lighting has been switched to LED. Reminder that the resource room attic space must be cleared for insulation to be installed in the education wing. Courtyard sodding and brickwork repair has been completed. Wood shelving in the vault will be replaced with metal shelves spaced to accommodate archive boxes. More exterior security cameras are being installed. Hoping to repair main sanctuary doors where wood is deteriorating. The exterior of some windows needs recaulking. Recommendation to approve the purchase of two new round tables for Ellis Hall using undesignated Memorial funds. Question was raised about how much shipping might increase if we ordered three tables. After discussion, the motion to order three tables was approved unanimously.

Rainbow – Tom Martin – Update – Tom reported that the Rainbow Board approved increasing tuition by \$10/month beginning fall 2025.

OLD BUSINESS – Drew—We and former John Knox members are going to submit a letter to presbytery requesting \$40,000 to be used to improve the food storage environment in the Harrill house.

NEW BUSINESS — Drew—People are hanging around the church, and one man in particular has been disorderly and disrespectful to staff without provocation. Police have been called with no action taken. Discussion. Drew will seek counsel from some officers he knows. Mary Conner recalled that presbytery may have an environmental steward designation with available funds for churches trying to improve their energy efficiency. Drew will investigate.

APRIL 2025 STEWARDSHIP REPORT								
2025 Operating Budget		\$692,364.00						
Needed Weekly								
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APR. 6:	Received\$ 21,294.00	Worship152	Livestream ViewNo Broadcast					
APR. 13:	Received\$ 2411.00	Worship147	Livestream Views105 5¢-A-Meal\$ 410.50					
APR. 20:	Received\$ 12,111.80	Worship276	Livestream Views130					
APR. 27:	Received\$ 2,628.37	Worship150	Livestream Views111					

SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				• 7:00 Men's Breakfast		Youth – Adventure Day @ Camp Grier
				• 11:00 Member Life		
				• 4:00 Ellis Hall Reserved		
				• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon		
3 rd Sunday of Easter 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Five-Cents-A-Meal Offering	• 9:30 Hot Lunch	• 10:30 Staff Meeting	• 11:00 Rainbow Cmte.	• 12:00 Finance Cmte.		
Children's Sunday9:00 Sunday School10:00 Worship in Sanctuary	• 6:00 Discipleship Ministry	•12:30 Clerk's Council • 7:00 Worship & Music	• 1:00 Ellis Hall Reserved	• 6:00 Mission & Ministry		
& livestreaming on YouTube	• 7:00 Boy Scouts		•5:00 Property	•Rainbow Art Show		
& Facebook. • 5:00 Youth Bible Study & Dinner	• 8:00 AA		• 6:00 Wed. Night Supper	• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon		
			• 7:00 Choir			
4 th Sunday of Easter 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day • 9:00 Sunday School	• 9:30 Hot Lunch Ministry	• 10:30 Staff Meeting • 5:30 Personnel	• 7:00 Choir	• 11:00 Circle of Friends	• 5:30 Girl Scouts	
•10:00 Worship in Sanctuary & livestreaming on YouTube	• 7:00 Boy Scouts	• 6:00 Fellowship		• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon		
& Facebook.	• 8:00 AA	• 6:30 Joint Session & Diaconate Meeting				
5 th Sunday of Easter 18	Newsletters Due 19	20	21	22	23	24
• 9:00 Sunday School	• 9:30 Hot Lunch	• 10:30 Staff Meeting	Rainbow Teacher Workday7:00 Choir	Rainbow Teacher Workday		
 10:00 Worship in Sanctuary & livestreaming on YouTube & Facebook. 5:00 Youth Bible Study & Dinner 	Ministry	• 10:45 Holmes Hotdogs				
	• 7:00 Boy Scouts	• 6:00 Rainbow		• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon		
	• 8:00 AA	Graduation in Sanctuary				
6 th Sunday of Easter 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Senior Sunday • 9:00 Sunday School	MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	• 10:30 Staff Meeting	• 7:00 Choir	• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon		
•10:00 Worship in Sanctuary & livestreaming on YouTube	• 7:00 Boy Scouts	• 6:30 Media				
& Facebook. • 11:30 Senior Lunch in Ellis Hall	• 8:00 AA	erica .		, dire		
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