

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On November 20, with temperatures around 32 degrees and winds about 30 miles per hour, reports said that 11,000 brave runners began the Philadelphia Marathon – about 2,600 would not finish.

Among the finishers was my amazing wife Claire, who ran the full 26.2 miles. To say that a marathon is difficult, seems obvious. I've known marathoners, but until I lived with one, I had no idea. Difficult is an understatement.

Since January, Claire has run nearly 600 miles. She religiously tried to follow a program, building up from just a mile run. She made mistakes, missed workouts, and nursed injuries. She battled through COVID, strep, the flu and other illnesses. Yet, she got back up and on track, even waking up at 4 am to avoid the summer heat. **Through it all, she persevered.** 

At the marathon, Harrison, Josephine, and I, along with the husband of Claire's running partner and their son watched waves and waves of runners at mile one. It was amazing. But it was nothing compared to watching Claire and her friend each cross the finish and hearing their names and Shelby NC announced. That sight and sound became more remarkable, realizing that nearly 1 of 4 runners at that first mile marker, later dropped out.

To run a marathon is a feat of endurance. When the Apostle Paul and the writer of Hebrews compared a life of faith to a race, it was the marathon. We can learn a lot from marathoners and their training. Religiously following a training program helps, but the program is not the point. It's a guide. In our faith journeys, we build up, make mistakes, miss opportunities, and get sidelined by injuries, illnesses, temptations, and challenges we cannot avoid. Through it all, we are called to get up, and get back on track. We do what it takes to persevere.

In this Advent season, we reset the church year. We look forward to the return of Jesus and look back to when the eternal Son of God shared in our humanity for us. Like mile markers, these moments in the church calendar provide us with knowledge of where we are, and where we are going, as we do another lap each year in the race laid out for us.

This Advent, church members have created a devotional grounded in hymns, to help encourage you and us all on this journey. My prayer is that we remember the goal is not to celebrate Christmas. It is to renew our strength and grow in faith by celebrating that on our run, we have Emmanuel – God with us.

Drew

**Shelby Presbyterian Church** 

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

**Pastor:** Drew Mangione drew@shelbypres.org

Minister of Christian Ed. & Families: Carol Ann Hoard carolann@shelbypres.org

Church Administrator: Miranda Wood miranda@shelbypres.org

Office Assistant: Sherry Thomas

**Bookkeeper:** Erin Borders june@shelbypres.org

**Sexton:** Marie Jackson

Director of Music: Amy Allen

**Organist:** Emily Monroe

**Nursery Director:** Tricia Butler

**Nursery Assistant:** Holly Conner

Rainbow Connection Director: Abby Goins rainbow@shelbypres.org 704-487-7075

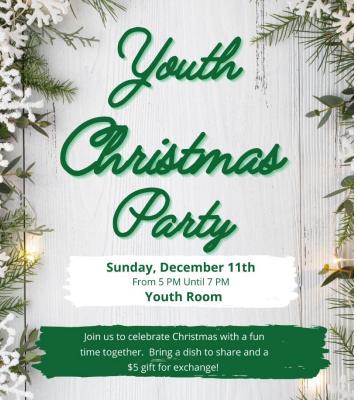
**Growing • Praising • Serving** 

# From the Desk of Carol Ann











Growing in Grace – Children's Wednesday Night Program will meet at 5:30 December 7<sup>th</sup>. They will NOT meet again until Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Children's Choir will perform Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

All children participating need to meet in the Sanctuary at 8:45 am before the service.

# Community Thanksgiving & Advent Around the World













Would you like to submit an announcement or article for the January Newsletter?

If so, please turn it in to Miranda, miranda@shelbypres.org by Monday, December 12th. Any submitted after this day will not be in the newsletter.

What's Going on at SPC?!

# Wednesday Night Supper & Caroling

Wednesday, December 7th

× at 6:00

Join us for dinner from Hoshi in Ellis Hall and then caroling.

We will be taking up donations for Feeding Kids Cleveland. Please bring sugar cookies, iceng, and hot



# MERRY CHRISTMAS, SHELBY!

# City of Hope Cantata

7 p.m. Dec. 9 at **Shelby Court Square** in partnership with Hospice of Cleveland County's "Lighting the Way" Luminaries Fundraiser."

# A United Shelby Choir

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Central United Methodist Church
First Baptist of Shelby
Shelby Presbyterian Church



Celebrating their 40th Anniversary The Cleveland County Choral Society

# TIDINGS OF

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composed by Joseph M. Martin

Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 Central United Methodist Church For tickets (\$5.00) see Sue Breen





While the holidays are filled with much joy and delight, there is often an unacknowledged side of it that is difficult and sad for many. Some may be grieving or experiencing grief all over again as the holidays bring a reminder of loved ones no longer here. Some are overwhelmed by the stresses of life while being expected to have it all together. With much emphasis on family and being together, many find themselves alone and experiencing deep loneliness. Other kinds of losses leave one feeling frustrated and maybe desperate. The widespread expectation that all should be happy and joyful may leave some feeling left out and inadequate.

The Longest Night Service, on Wednesday evening, December 21, 2022, at 7:00 pm will be an opportunity to acknowledge these experiences and feelings with others who are going through similar emotions and circumstances. In prayer and reflection, with music and Scripture, participants will find a relaxed, friendly environment in Ellis Hall to pause and take a break; to ask God's help and presence in coping with these often unanticipated and unintended results of the holiday season.

Coffee and hot chocolate (and water) will be served at 6:45 p.m. The Service will start around 7:15 and should conclude around 8:00 p.m. All are invited to participate. Invite others you may know who might find this service helpful to them.





There will be light refreshments along with an opportunity for the congregation to bring cards and contribute to a love offering.

A basket will be available for cards and gifts at the reception. Any monetary contribution must be in cash or a check made out to the person to whom you wish the gift to go. DO NOT MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO THE CHURCH.

If no name is on an envelope, the money will be divided evenly between the two retirees.





We are so grateful for the way our Shelby Presbyterian family has embraced our partnership with Turning Point Academy! We are working with school to discover the needs of both students as well as teachers and staff, and ways we can provide support. Many thanks to everyone who has been a part of this important new mission so far.

This fall, we have been doing our weekly weekend food bags, serving 15 students each week. Our Middle and High School Youth have helped pack 5 weeks of bags! Through multiple offers from our church members, as well as the generosity of Monroe Tire and its employees, we have successfully assisted a mom with new tires for her vehicle so she could continue to get to her job each day. We have provided a staff breakfast that was delicious and greatly appreciated by everyone! The teachers and staff have also enjoyed snacks for their October staff meeting, and "Blessings Bags" for the Thanksgiving holiday to let them know how THANKFUL we are for them.

We have created a Turning Point Fund for those who wish to donate to this partnership. These funds will be used to offset the costs of providing for the needs of Turning Point. Please bring donations to the church office, or leave in the offering plate, and mark them for TURNING POINT FUND.

Here are some upcoming opportunities for getting involved with Turning Point:

- Sign up to **pack weekend food bags!** Keep an eye out for a sign-up link, coming soon.
- Turning Point Christmas Staff Party we will be providing food/snacks for teachers and staff on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Adopt a Student if your family, Sunday School class, workplace, organization, etc. is interested in "adopting" a student for Christmas, please consider choosing a student from Turning Point! Contact Molly Brownlee for more information.
- Gift Card Offering On Epiphany Sunday, we will have a Gift Card Offering. Please bring \$10 gift cards to place in the offering plates. These will be used for motivational events for the students, for good attendance and good work. The students love this, and it is a great reward for them. Some suggested locations for gift card purchasing are Chic-fil-A, Cook Out, Dominos, WalMart, and Sonic.

We have only just begun our partnership with Turning Point Academy, and it is encouraging to see the willingness of our congregation to help this school, and to seek to work in community with them. Our prayer is that support and encouragement from Shelby Presbyterian can help the staff at Turning Point with the mission they have for their students, and can help the students along on their path to success.

If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact Molly Brownlee (704-477-8947 <a href="mailto:brownleemolly@gmail.com">brownleemolly@gmail.com</a>) or Janet Reynolds (704-477-0374 rreynolds16@carolina.rr.com)

# ARE YOU ON DUTY IN DECEMBER?

## **Acolyte & Chimer**

Dec. volunteers needed

# Deacons Taking Up Offering & Ushers

Dec. Jennifer Niblack
(Holly Petrilli – Dec. 4)
Caja Ormand
Mary Ann LaSelva
Elizabeth Schweppe

\*Please remember this also includes the Christmas Eve service.

## **Worship Liturgist**

Dec. 4 Beth Phillippi

11 Ben Brooks

18 Lori Wehmueller

24 Mike Jackson

25 Margie Trivett

## **Sanctuary Worship Guild**

Dec. 4 Harriette Beam Laura Beam

> 11 Barbara Blackburn Barbara Hannah

18 Judy Greer

Rachel White 24 Lyn Huston

Lori Wehmueller

25 Lyn Huston Lori Wehmueller

\*Please remember to water the poinsettias.

## **Sanctuary Flowers**

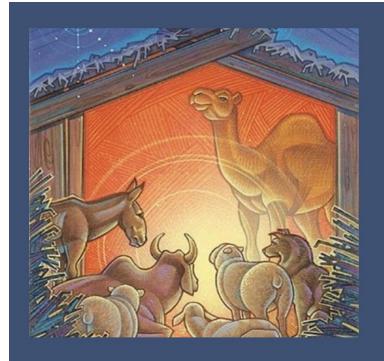
Dec. 4 available

11 poinsettias

18 poinsettias

25 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.



# The Friendly Beasts

Shelby Presbyterian's claim to fame, The Friendly Beasts, needs beasts!! We will do the show during the Christmas Eve service, and if possible, for Rainbow Connection sometime between December 5th through 15th. No memorization required, just the ability to speak/sing somewhat clearly and like an animal! Please be an equal opportunity puppeteer, no guarantees on which puppet you'll be. They're all fun! Contact Laura Wheeler if you want to make puppet magic, lauraew66@gmail.com or text 704-438-0513.







# Thank You!

Because of your generosity, 37 filled shoeboxes were delivered to the Charlotte processing center for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who participated in this ministry.

- Mission and Ministry Committee



MONDAYS
9:30 COFFEE AND PASTRIES
11:00 GROCERY PICK-UP
11:45 MEAL

## **Food Ministry Update**

Soup Lunch is serving approximately 30 guests each week with food distribution serving perhaps more. Your help is needed to continue this important mission service to the community! Please consider joining us any Monday from 9:00 to 12:30 to open cans, cook, serve (either with food distribution or on the serving line) and of course washing pots, pans and trays. You do not have to commit to come weekly or for the entire time. Please give what you are able.

We also request household items and clothing not be brought for distribution as we are not set up for this or storing the items not taken. We can however offer winter items such as winter coats, gloves, scarves, and hats (please no socks).

Thank you Mission and Ministry Committee



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 Lori Wehmueller, Member Life Ministry Chairperson, 704.472.5253 or loriwehmueller@gmail.com or the church office 704.487.8503.

Cheryl Lutz

**Faye McCants** 

Ryder Moore

Ann Pharr

**David Pharr** 

Clay Pruett

**Rick Steeves** 

**Beverly Styers** 

Barbara Weller Diane Windham

Teresa Wingo

Margie Trivett and Family

**Pauline Persing** 

Please include the following in your prayers:

Betty and Dick Bowling and Family

Amy Brown
Karen Carpenter
Myra Carpenter
Matthew Carpenter
Janet Carpenter
Bert & Joy Cushman
Melissa DeVane
Carolyn Eddins

Debbie Ferrell Ina Harrington

Joan Hunt

David LaCrana

David LeGrand

- Children and Staff of Turning Point Academy
- •Covid-19 research, caregivers, and patients
- Racial injustices
- •U. S. Economy
- All those serving in the military
- Our brothers & sisters of Monte los Olivos
- •John McCall in Taiwan
- Food Ministry
- Rainbow Connection
- Christians who are persecuted for their faith
- All disaster victims (volcanoes, floods, fires, etc.)
- All victims of violence
- All refugees

Thank you for expanding your prayer list to include specific children and youth each month. During December, pray for our **Seventh Graders:** River Harrill, Madison McIntyre, Madison Ormand; and our **Eighth Grader:** Amelia Pruitt.

#### **Prayers and Sympathy**

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Betty Bowling and family on the death of her sister-in-law Carolyn Lutz on November 12, 2022. Carolyn had been an affiliate member of SPC for many years.

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Margie Trivett and family on the death of her sister Helen Reinier on November 13, 2022.

# Happy Birthday!

December 1	Terri Byers
	Phil Haydon
December 1	Vic McCord
December 1	Tim Zehnder
December 3	Melissa DeVane
December 3	Scott Thomas
	Katherine Ogburn
December 7	Nell Canipe
December 7	Mary Hamrick
	David Webb
	Mark Petrilli
December 8	Dylan Steeves
December 10	Mike Wehmueller
December 11	Richard Dedmon
	Silas Hamilton
December 11	Madison McIntyre
December 12	Eric Wehmueller
December 13	Leslie Hannah Bankirer
December 13	Lance Ware
	Shawn McNeary
December 15	Jennifer Niblack
	Bert Cushman
December 17	Oliver Stern
December 18	Shannon Blackley
December 18	Lydia Boinest
December 18	Turner Smith
December 18	Tara Warrick
December 19	Whit Beam
December 19	Dot Roark
December 20	Taylor Cerwin
December 20	Lou Gebel
December 20	Kate McIntyre
December 22	Becca Schweppe
December 22	Charlie Schweppe
December 22	Malachi Zehnder
December 28	Jennipher Harrill
December 28	Larry Pearson
December 29	Ray Gravett
December 30	Dennis Beam
December 31	D Goforth





# CONGRATULATIONS Rachel Susan Jones swam with success at the NC Senior Games in September. Rachel won 5 gold medals: 50 & 100 yd. Freestyle and 50, 100, & 200 yd. Backstroke while Susan came home with 4 gold medals: 100 & 200 yd. Individual Medley and 100 & 500 yd. Freestyle.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available for you to pick up at the church beginning Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, in the hallway behind the sanctuary (across from the conference room). Be sure to get your box - they will be arranged in alphabetical order. If you use offering envelopes and cannot find your box, please let the church office know.

A FLOWER CALENDAR for 2023 will be posted Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, on the bulletin board as you come in the west entrance (across from playground). If there is a Sunday in 2023 that you would like to reserve, please call the church office and we'll sign you up.

# **IMPORTANT DATES**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Handbells perform and recognize New Members

**December 6<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Supper and Caroling** 

December 9th: "City of Hope" Cantata on the Court Square

**December 11**th: Children's Choir performs during worship

December 12<sup>th</sup>: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the <u>JANUARY</u> edition of *The Shelby Pres(s)* are due to Miranda.

December 18th: Chancel Choir Cantata and Retirement Reception for Amy Allen and Tricia Butler

**December 21st:** Longest Night Service at 7:00 in Ellis Hall

**December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Eve Service at 5:00

December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day, no Sunday School Worship at 10:00 come as you are

December 26th and 27th: Church Office CLOSED

# SPC Reports & Minutes

# STATED SESSION MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2022

#### **Communications**

**Deacon's Report** – Elizabeth Schweppe reported:

- On the wonderful fellowship of more than 130 individuals for the picnic at the Wilson's Home on Consecration Sunday.
- The Blood Drive was completed, and exceeded the goal of 43 collections with 49 products donated.
- Elizabeth also reported on the overwhelming response of the church to a need for a family at Turning Point Academy, and a request from Molly Brownley that our church continue to support Turning Point Academy.

#### <u>Pastor's Report -</u> Drew reported:

- The new stove has been delivered and installed.
- Any and all repairs or improvement ideas for the church's physical property should be reported to Marie, regardless of whether you think she may know about it. This way, nothing falls through the cracks. Until Marie gets her church email address, please report physical plant corrective needs to Miranda.
- Expressed enthusiasm regarding the new slate of Elders and Deacons.

#### **Minutes and Online Votes**

- On a motion by Roger Holland and seconded by Darlene Gravett the session ratified the on-line vote for proceeding to update the alarm system.
- Minutes for the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting unanimously approved with motion from Roger Holland and seconded by Scoot Dixon.

#### **Committee Reports:**

<u>Finance Committee</u> - Scoot Dixon reported:

- Revenues remain ahead of expenses even though the collections for September were somewhat slow.
- Roger and Drew are continuing the stewardship process with the second letter to be mailed soon.
- Roger was, by consensus, authorized to proceed with securing estimates and plans for the kitchen renovation.

#### <u>Fellowship Committee</u> – Nancy Hendrix reported:

- The next Wednesday night supper will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> serving Tacos.
- The December 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday night supper will include travel caroling transported on Larry Wilson and Trey Warrick's trailers.
- SPC is the sponsor for Turning Point Academy which has no PTO organization and that Molly Brownley is in process of securing a team to encourage teacher appreciation and create a Community Garden.
- Thanksgiving Breakfast due to declining attendance the Thanksgiving Breakfast is deferred for 2022. Elizabeth Schweppe suggested that we participate with Feeding Kids Cleveland County's Thanksgiving Community Meals on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at Jefferson Park. Pastor Drew asked for consent from session and it was agreed that the church participate with members will be encouraged to attend and share in the meal, and if able, also volunteer.

#### <u>Personnel Committee – Darlene Gravett reported:</u>

- The Committee presented the Child's Youth Protection Policy (CYPP), with a second by Roger and approved unanimously.
- The Committee presented a proposed four percent (4%) raise for employees, seconded by Ben Brooks, approved unanimously.
- Job title changes.
  - Miranda's title has been revised for her to serve as Church Administrator, approved unanimously.
  - Amy Allen will retire effective December 31st and Emily Monroe will serve as Director of Music and Organist with responsibility for the Children's Choir, Bell Choir and budget expenditures.
- A search will be undertaken for a director of the Chancel Choir with job descriptions being updated by the Personnel Committee, seconded by Roger Holland, approved unanimously.
- American Restoration will inspect and review duct work to determine how to address any mold issues so discovered.

#### Media Committee – Roger Holland reported:

- Website should be ready for presentation by the end of the month.
- Recognition of Miranda's improved newsletter and graphic designs.

#### Worship & Music - Ben Brooks reported:

• Communion will be served on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on Trinity Sunday rather than Pentecost Sunday, seconded by Darlene Gravett, approved unanimously.

#### Old Business: None

<u>New Business:</u> December 18 – On the Sunday of the choir's Cantata pieces, there will be a sendoff for Amy as Christmas will be her last Sunday.

# News from Rainbow Connection

It's the most wonderful time of the year! When we celebrate the birth of Jesus, spend time with family and friends, give and receive gifts, and so much more.

This month we will bake cookies, create Christmas crafts, and maybe even decorate some ornaments. You can hear the children at Rainbow practicing songs for their Christmas programs, and talking to their friends about decorating their Christmas tree!

Thank you all for your support of Rainbow Connection, we are truly blessed.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21



- Abby Goins, Director

→ As of November 28, 2022: 103 Financial Pledge Cards for the 2023 budget have been received that total \$500,016.00 (Last year 114 families pledged \$497,432.00.) Please give prayerful consideration to bringing or mailing your card(s) to the church office as soon as possible. Cards are available in the narthex or in the church office.

# NOTES FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

# **Happy Holidays to Everyone!**

- For year-end charitable giving, checks must be dated and the mail postmarked by 12/31/22 to be considered for this year's pledge. You can also designate "2022" in the memo line of the check for clarity.
- If you'd like to contribute via your online banking BillPay feature, use Shelby Presbyterian Church as the 'pay to' account, with our PO Box 1444 Shelby NC 28151-1444 as the address. We will receive your donation via paper check from the USPS.
- If you'd like the church to initial a draft from your account, please stop by the church office for instructions and the applicable form.
- Our traditional giving by numbered envelope remains an option as well.
- Lastly, early into 2023 we will roll out the online giving option via our church software, so be on the lookout for that information soon!

NOVEMBER 2022 STEWARDSHIP REPORT							
2022 Operating Budget	\$590,326.00						
Needed Weekly	\$11,352.42						
<b>NOV. 6:</b> Received\$11,568.00	5¢-A-Meal \$274.82 Worship113 Livestream Views110						
<b>NOV. 13:</b> Received\$2,783.00	Worship118 Livestream Views76						
<b>NOV. 20:</b> Received\$7,996.35	Worship118 Livestream Views64						
NOV. 27: Received\$6,185.00	Worship109 Livestream Views84						

## **SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 2022**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				• 7:00 Men's Breakfast at Ken & Mary's • 8:00 AA & Al-Anon	2	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 4  Five-Cents-A-Meal Offering  Special Music by Handbell Choir  • 9:00 Sunday School  •10:00 Worship in Sanctuary  & livestreaming on YouTube  & Facebook.  • 5:00 Youth Night	• 7:00 Boy Scouts • 8:00 AA	<ul> <li>10:30 Staff Meeting</li> <li>1:00 Rainbow Staff Meeting</li> <li>2:00 Clerk's Council</li> <li>7:00 Worship &amp;</li> </ul>	• 11:00 Member Life • 6:00 Wednesday Night Supper • 5:30 Kids – Growing in Grace • 6:00 – "City of Hope"	12:00 Finance Cmte.     8:00 AA & Al-Anon	• 7:00 "Merry Christmas Shelby"	10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 11 Special Music by Children's Choir • 9:00 Sunday School •10:00 Worship in Sanctuary & livestreaming on YouTube & Facebook. • 5:00 Youth Christmas Party	Newsletters Due 12 • 9:30 Soup Lunch • 7:00 Boy Scouts • 8:00 AA	Music  13  10:30 Staff Meeting  11:30 Rainbow Christmas Program  5:15 Personnel  6:00 Fellowship Cmte.  6:30 Session & Diaconate Meeting	Rehearsal @ CUMC  14  • 11:30 Rainbow Christmas Program  • 7:00 Chancel Choir	• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon	16	17
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 18 Special Music by Chancel Choir • 9:00 Sunday School •10:00 Worship in Sanctuary & livestreaming on YouTube & Facebook. • 11:00 Retirement Reception • 11:00 Friendly Beasts Practice	• 9:30 Soup Lunch • 7:00 Boy Scouts • 8:00 AA	• 10:30 Staff Meeting • 1:00 Blood Drive	Rainbow Connection Closed until Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup> • 7:00 Longest Night Service	• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon	23	Christmas Eve • 2:00 Friendly Beasts Practice • 5:00 Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Day  Communion  Amy and Tricia's last Sunday  No SUNDAY SCHOOL  •10:00 Worship in Sanctuary  & livestreaming on YouTube  & Facebook.	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  • 8:00 AA	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28	• 8:00 AA & Al-Anon	30	New Year's Eve!

SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 226 E. GRAHAM ST. SHELBY, NC 28150

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

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