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# THE PATHFINDER

A Publication of West Haven Presbyterian Church for our Members and Friends in Christ  
Issue 30

June 2023

**We are growing in grace one neighbor at a time.**



## **A Message from Your Pastor.**

### **Path to \$1 Million**

by Rev. Tyler Williams

The pandemic crippled community and comradery throughout our nation. This included the 5 Presbyterian churches here in Rocky Mount, Mt. Pisgah, Morton, Bethlehem, West Haven and First Presbyterian. We could not see each other, worship with each other, or collaborate together for God's great ends.

Since leaving the pandemic behind, I have felt called to reunite our Presbyterian

congregation under a common cause. In February of 2022 my efforts were focused on bringing the local pastors together in a joint preaching group. The pastors of Morton, Bethlehem, and First Presbyterian meet with me at West Haven every 3 to 4 weeks to discuss Scripture, our churches, and other projects. This regular group set the ground work for reintroducing community worship and community missions.

Over the course of 2022 we met repeatedly and were able to organize a pulpit exchange on July 31 of that year. This stepping out of our comfort zone after the pandemic, helped to remind our congregations of our connected nature, our common bond, and the reality of our community as Rocky Mount Presbyterians. In short this was a great step forward.

Also, in July of 2022 Peggy Griffin and I attended a Presbytery meeting hosted by White Memorial in Raleigh. While there we listened to a presentation given by First Presbyterian, Durham. They presented their work with RIP Medical Debt and how their community was able to erase medical debt in Durham County.

This inspired me. I thought that we, the Rocky Mount Presbyterians, could do something similar. If I could get the other churches involved, we could really make a dent and help a lot of people.

So, in August I discussed this idea with the other pastors and we started looking at the calendar. First, we needed buy in from our individual sessions. Then we needed a timeline, when to advertise, when to start collecting donations and when to close. I decided to take point in some ways. Pushing for at least a month of collecting time and to weave this mission around Lent & Easter.

But it wasn't all easy going. We had to adjust the timeline on several occasions due to capital campaigns and special offerings. I also had some headwinds in reaching the right person at RIP Medical Debt to get the right information. I faced some issues trying to allocate our donations for Nash and Edgecombe County because at the time we did not know how much the final total would be. Lastly, we had to coordinate how each congregation would send in their contribution and to whom. I chose to take the lead on this angle and assured each pastor there would be pictures and documentation of each step. Transparency was a top priority for me.

My goals for this mission were to have 5 cheques, one from each congregation, and for our community grand total to break \$5,000 in donations. I thought if somehow, we broke \$7,000, I would be very happy. But in the end our 5 congregations were able to collect \$12,604! This blew my estimates out of the water and exceeded my greatest hopes for our congregations. As a result, we were able to annul \$1,008,320 of medical debt in Nash, Edgecombe, and Wilson County. Many, many families will benefit from the generosity, commitment, and faithfulness of our 5 Rocky Mount Presbyterian churches.

After almost a year of planning, coordinating, and advertising, we were able to come together and do something huge for the least of these in our county. I am so very proud of our congregations, West Haven, Mt. Pisgah, Morton, Bethlehem, and First Presbyterian. With our combined strength and faith we are able to move mountains. Thank you for our contributions, your willingness to come together and show mercy in difficult times. I am blessed to serve you here and now and I look forward to where our Lord is leading us next!

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## Prayer

God of summer and the lasting day,  
God of the zenith light and the strawberry moon,  
God of green growth and the shade tree,  
Your craftsmanship is unparallel,  
Your attention to detail absolute.  
We are in awe of your manifest glory,  
We seek to embody your greatness with our actions, words and choices,  
Cool our tempers with your shade, guide our green growth with your wisdom.  
May our souls shine with zenith light and rest easy under the strawberry moon.  
May we enjoy your summer and revel in your long-lasting day. Amen

- *Prayer of the Summer Solstice by Rev. Williams*



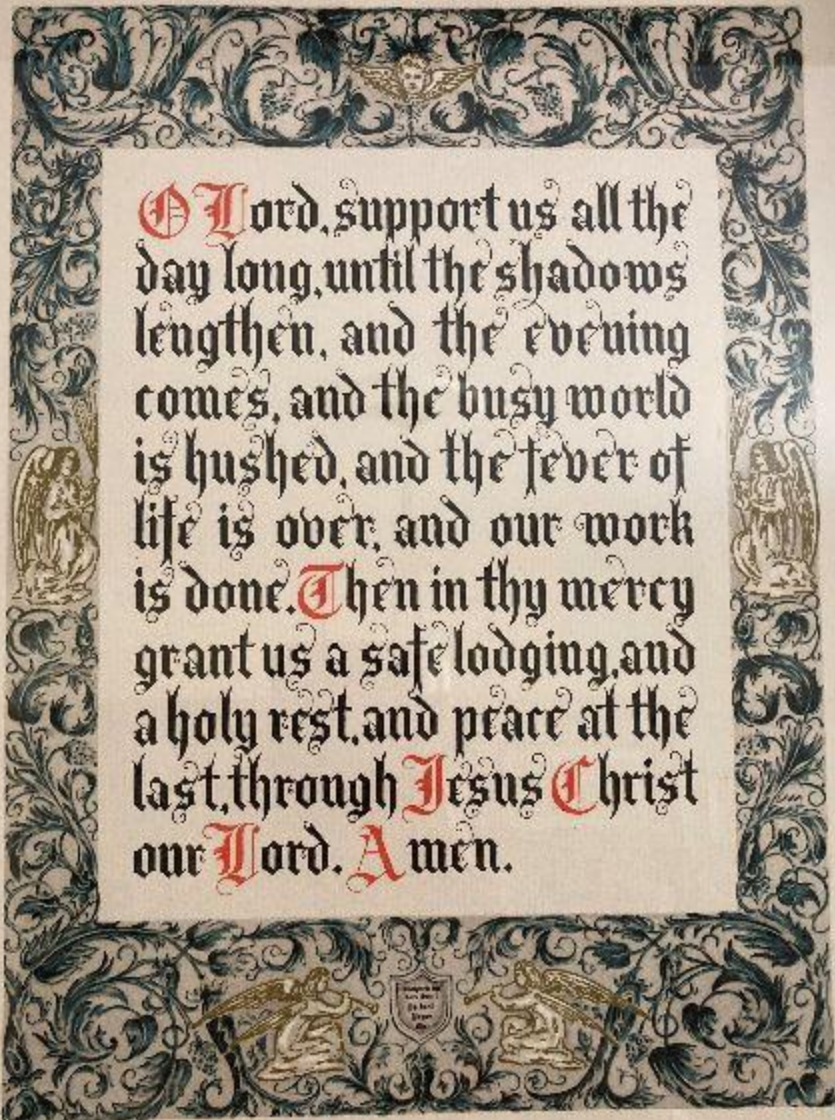
### **Scout News**

The Scouts of Troop 11 would like to thank the people of West Haven Church for their support of the recent Yard Sale. The scouts were able to raise \$880 toward the support of Boy Scout activities.

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**O** Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. **T**hen in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through **J**esus **C**hrist our **L**ord. **A**men.





## Finance and Personnel

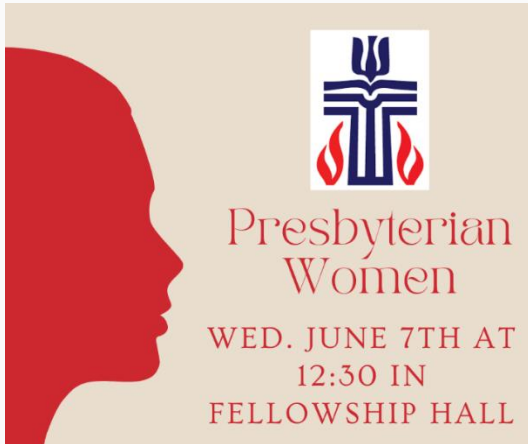
Pledges as of date: 04/30/23

\$42,880.00 (YTD Actual)

\$31,863.33 (YTD Budget)

WH Endowment Fund balance 3/31/2023 - \$105,483.81

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A graphic with a vertical rainbow gradient background. A white-bordered rectangle is centered, containing a yellow-to-orange gradient. Inside this rectangle, the text "Summer Worship!" is written in a black script font, and the dates and time are in a grey sans-serif font.

*Summer Worship!*

STARTING JUNE 11  
WORSHIP WILL  
BEGIN AT 10:30AM

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## Ripe for Revival Mobile Market

Friday, June 16

Noon until 2:00 p.m.

1902 Sunset Avenue

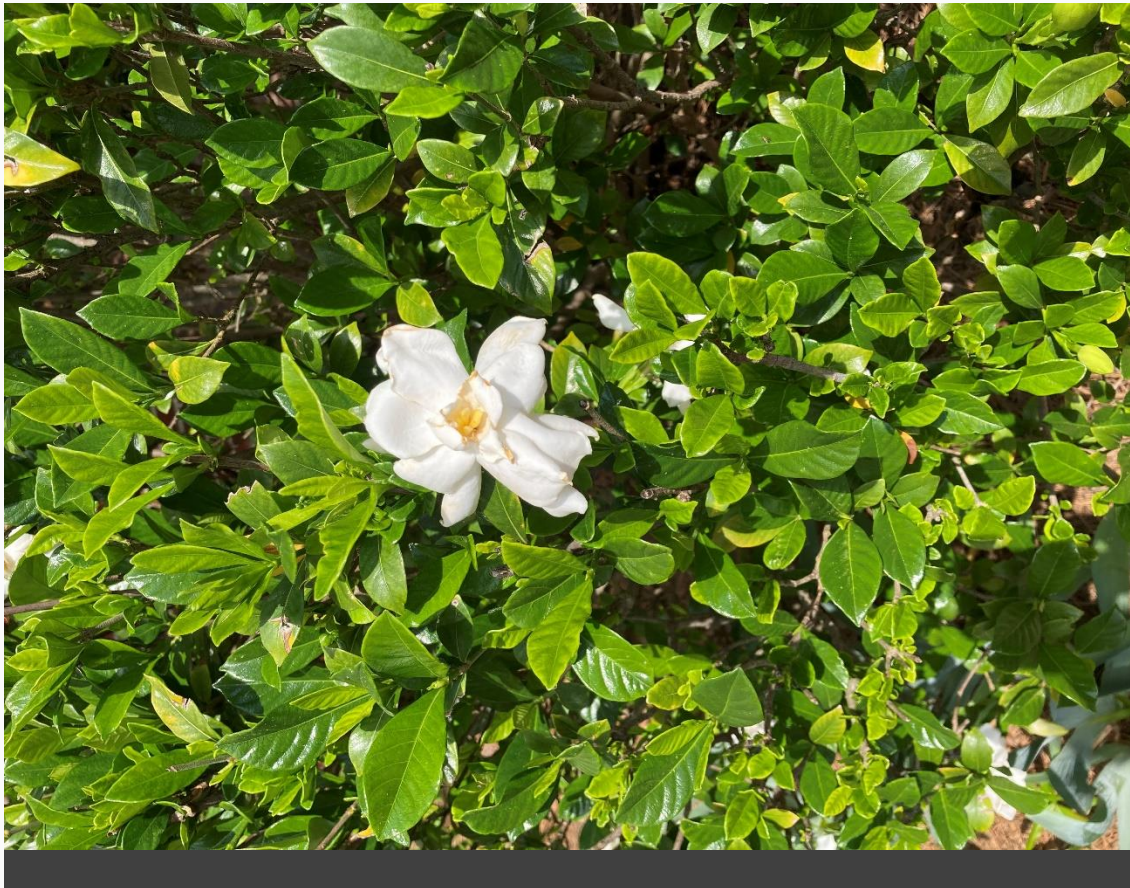
former location of Riverside Animal Hospital

Pay-As-You-Can Market for  
fresh, local produce

Sponsored by  
Lakeside Baptist Church  
Church of the Good Shepherd,  
First Presbyterian Church,  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and  
West Haven Presbyterian Church  
In partnership with our  
Community VBS



"Reviving  
Communities  
Through  
Food"



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Officer In Charge and Greeter Schedule for June 2023:

|          | OIC             | Greeter      |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jun 4th  | Rick Adams      | Pat Adams    |
| Jun 11th | Gerald Batts    | Inez Ezzell  |
| Jun 18th | Wade Martin     | Gracie Couch |
| Jun 25th | Georgia Stussie | Amy Dawes    |

Thank you, officers and greeters, for your dedication to your Church and community!

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## Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.  
—Sarum Primer (c. 1514)

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## Happy Father's Day

Today we are grateful  
for all the fathers,  
grandfathers and  
father figures that  
have taught and  
provided for us.  
Thank you for your  
guidance and care.  
God Bless!





## Prayer

As the wind is your symbol, so forward our goings.  
As the dove, so launch us heavenwards.  
As water, so purify our spirits.  
As a cloud, so abate our temptations.  
As dew, so revive our languor.  
As fire, so purge out our dross. **Amen.**  
—Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

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## Recipe!

### EASY SALSA CHICKEN

4 to 6 chicken cutlets ( or 2-3 breasts cut into halves)  
1 jar salsa sauce (24 oz)  
1 1/2-2 cups Mexican blend shredded cheese

In a shallow baking dish pour 1/2 the salsa sauce  
Place chicken on top of sauce, pour the rest of the salsa sauce over the chicken  
Sprinkle the cheese over the top  
Bake 20-25 minutes at 425 degrees

(This is super easy dish to prepare and was delicious—I used a mild salsa sauce but if you like more heat—go with medium or hot salsa)

Peggy Griffin

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