Star Press

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF STARMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





NOVEMBER 2025

Last Sunday we were blessed to hear from our guest stewardship preacher, Frank Dew, who invited us to see giving and generosity as a spiritual discipline. During stewardship season in the life of the church, we do prayerfully consider the ways we can financially support the mission of the church in the coming year, but we do more than that. Each year, this season gives us an opportunity to look at all aspects of our life and ponder how we can be more faithful in the stewardship of all our gifts and practice generosity in a way that reflects God's generosity.

Of course there are many benefits associated with practicing generosity. Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson explain in their book "The Paradox of Generosity" that consistent and intentional practices of generosity have profound effects upon our lives. Participants in their study reported significantly higher levels of physical health, emotional well-being, and happiness. They also had a greater sense of purpose and a perception that they were making a difference in the lives of others.

The authors explain that the "paradox of generosity" is that "people actually grow by giving themselves away. By caring for other people, those who give generously end up increasing the quality of their own lives."

During this season, we are reminded of the generosity of God reflected in and through Jesus. As a result of God's generosity we receive far more than happiness and physical health, we receive salvation through Christ.

In a letter that I sent out to the congregation last week on behalf of stewardship, I shared that our early budget projections for next year show that we can reach our pledge total target for the 2026 budget if everyone who pledged last year were able to increase their pledge by 10%.

For instance, if your pledge last year was $3,650 (roughly $300 a month, or $10 a day) then a 10% increase would equate to an additional $1 a day for 2026. Although this may seem like a small investment, it will have a significant impact on our ability to fulfill our collective mission of building loving connections, sharing hope through service, and inspiring faith in God.

I want to invite everyone to join us on **Nov. 2nd** following the 10am service for our annual **Stewardship Lunch.** This is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship together with our church family. At the lunch you will receive a copy of what we call the *"Narrative Budget."* This document outlines the faithful use of the financial resources of the church and helps us understand how the money you so generously give is used to support the overall mission of the church. This gathering also gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask questions of our Finance and Endowment teams.

Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 16th. Please join us in prayerfully considering how you can continue to invest in the mission of this church and reflect God's generosity in your life.

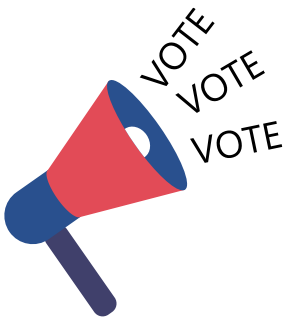
In Christ,
Charlie Lee

Inspiring Faith in God

All Saints Sunday is November 2. Join us in remembering those in our Starmount family that we have lost this past year.

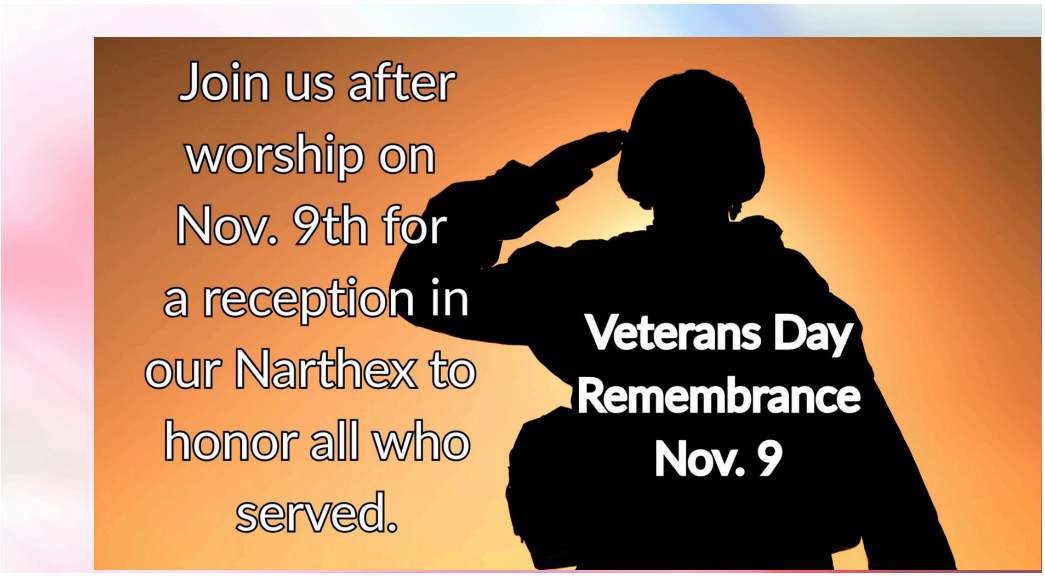








Class of 2028 Elders:
Alex Flora
Evelyn Garrison
Susan Preston
Steve Walton







Inspiring Faith in God

THE WILL TO DREAM

November 30th will be the first Sunday of Advent. We will embark on a sermon series titled, "The Will to Dream." The material describes itself as "rooted in *prophetic imagination*—a phrase powerfully explored by the late theologian and biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann—in the sacred practice to see beyond what is and move toward what could be."



All are invited to join us for lunch Sunday, Nov. 2 in the Fellowship Hall following the 10am worship. Enjoy fellowship, receive information regarding the narrative budget and ask questions. Volunteers are needed to assist with the lunch.

Honor Cards

Honor cards are an alternative to gift-giving for neighbors, friends and family. The Mission Ministry will have honor cards available to purchase for $5 each of three agencies that our church supports. We will have a table in the narthex each of the Sundays of Advent and can accept cash or checks.

You can use the links below to make your purchase if you'd prefer to pay with a card.

If you order online, Cathy Ingram will make arrangements to get the cards to you.





Our Styrofoam Recycling Trailer Is Here!

It takes hundreds of years for Styrofoam to decompose and it can't be recycled in a traditional recycling facility. In 2020, a collaborative effort between 4 non-profit organizations in Greensboro led to getting a Styrofoam densifier for our community. In our effort to be better stewards of the earth, our Earth Care Team, through the Mission Ministry, is co-sponsoring a Styrofoam recycling trailer with the Greensboro Regional Realtors Association.

Examples of things that can be recycled are:

Carryout food containers, Beverage cups, Egg cartons, Packaging, Foam coolers

These should be clean, dry and free of tape and labels. Foam packing peanuts are NOT ACCEPTED. There is signage on the trailer about what is and is not allowed. You can also put cardboard and plastic film (like we collect in the bins inside) in the trailer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Thanksgiving

Follow Us!

Sorry WE'RE CLOSED

The Church office will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Starmount Presbyterian Church

Building Loving Connections • Sharing Hope Through Service • Inspiring Faith in God

This Christmas, celebrate or remember someone special by purchasing a poinsettia, in memoriam or in honor of a loved one, which will adorn our Sanctuary.

You may take your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service.

Look for more information soon!

ATTENTION



Pastor Charlie will be out of the office Nov. 23-30. Please contact the church office with any pastoral needs.

Sharing Hope Through Service

2025 ANGEL TREE

Each year our church provides Christmas gifts for the children of Triad Health Project's clients. This year the Angel tree will be up in the Narthex by the end of November. You can choose a tag off the tree with item(s) to purchase that we would like wrapped with the tag on it and returned by **Dec. 14.**
Thank you all!



Triad Health Project Stocking Stuffers



Help us collect all these items! Place in the collection bin in our Gathering Space before Dec. 7.

- socks
- winter gloves
- hats
- scarves
- shampoos
- conditioners
- deodorants
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- razors
- lotions
- soaps
- hand sanitizers
- individual packs of kleenex
- cans of soup
- candy
- protein items
- fruit
- pens, paper
- small writing pads
- paperback books
- devotionals

We will assemble the stockings after the Dec. 7 service

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity!

Saturday November 8th, 8am-11:30am.

Habitat requires each volunteer to sign up through this link in order to participate. Those 14 to 17 years old must be with a parent or adult guardian. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Cuadras at murquad@gmail.com or call 336 456 2448.
Thanks in advance to all who decide to volunteer!



Building Loving Connections



Active Listening

Do you think this is about walking while you listen?
Nope. Very different.
Active listening is when we listen without judgment or interruptions, and with focused attention, so that we don't just hear what someone is saying – we also understand and are able to respond.
That's a lot to take in. Can you listen without judging or interrupting? Can you focus your attention and really understand what someone else is trying to share with you? Can you give them the space to finish their thoughts before you start to talk back at them?
Are you willing to be generous enough to really listen, to focus your attention wholly on someone else's words? Here are some tools to help you be an active listener:
First, ask questions that help you engage with the story. You can say things like "It sounds like..." or "What I'm hearing is..." to help you clarify what you are processing.
Second, engage your body and mind by nodding, making eye contact, turning your body toward the one talking. This helps you to empathize and really process what you are hearing.
Think about how wonderful it would be for you to have someone actively listen to you. Notice the next time you share your thoughts – does your listener keep glancing at the phone or looking around the room? Or does that person keep their eyes and attention on you and reflect what they are hearing and understanding? Which type of listener do you want to be?
For more information about yoga classes at Starmount, contact *Jennifer Dowler at jennifer@drachrom.com or call/ text my cell at 336-312-9589* to learn more.





CRAFTING WITH FRIENDS
NOV. 14TH
6:30pm- 8pm
Bring your own craft project, a snack/appetizer to share and join us for an an evening of creativity, fun and good company.

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Jack Barry
James Edwards
11/02 Katherine Poole
Brad Smith
11/03 Vera McLendon
Wanda Krystyn
11/07 Patricia Gibson
11/09 Haywood Ingram
11/10 Lincoln Roth
11/11 Nancy Jones
11/12 Billie NeSmith
David Stubbs
11/13 KK Mella
Bruce Pugh
11/14 Durante Griffin
11/16 Tim Moffitt
Frank Palmieri
11/18 Neil Huffman
11/20 Kris Kattmann
11/23 Barbara Spencer
11/26 Vera Baecker
11/27 Sarah Bain
Margaret Huffman
11/28 Will McClanahan
May Williams
11/30 Bill Webber

Youth Events

YOUTH SPY upcoming events

NOVEMBER

10 — ***Burrito Buddies***
6:30 -7:30pm
Meet for dinner at the Moe's on Battleground

16 — ***SPY Kids & Youth Event!***
Following the 10am service we will have concurrent events that welcome both children and youth. We will have lunch, games, and a program!

30 — ***Youth Lunch***
after 10am service
Come eat lunch on us!

Contact laura@starmountpres.org



HOMEWORK HELPERS

EVERY THURSDAY



We need Drivers, Tutors and Dinner Helpers.

4:00PM-5:30PM

Click HERE to sign up!

Contact: Laura@starmountpres.org

PRAYGROUND

The Prayground is a space for children to learn the "how" and "why" behind our worship. Families are invited to learn and worship together in this space! These Sundays will have multiple children's conversations throughout the service as well as music that is more accessible to children.

The Prayground will be set up on November 16.

Family Connections Event

November 16

11:30AM -1PM

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND CONNECTION!

We would love for you and the kids to stay after worship and join us for lunch, games, and more!



Church Staff

Pastor and Head of Staff
Reverend Dr. Charlie Lee
Ext. 116 charlie@starmountpres.org

Pastoral Associate
Laura Roberson Hadas
Ext. 115 laura@starmountpres.org

Director of Music
Sarah Downey
Ext. 120 sarah@starmountpres.org

Pianist/Organist
Michael Parker
mparker.piano@gmail.com

Contemporary Worship Leader
Rhett McAllister
rhett@starmountpres.org

Preschool Director & Director of Children's Ministry
Cindy Lee
Ext. 124 cindy@starmountpres.org

Church Business Administrator
Lynne Kirsch
Ext. 111 lynne@starmountpres.org

Administration & Operations Manager
Wanda Krystyn
Ext. 110 wanda@starmountpres.org

Administrative Assistant
Annette Black
Ext. 117 annette@starmountpres.org

Volunteer Church Librarian & Historian
Mary Jane Conger
mjcreading@hotmail.com

Custodian
Y' Mem

Monthly Session and Ministry Minutes

If you are interested in viewing the monthly Session minutes or monthly ministry minutes you can call the church office to request a copy.

3501 West Market Street
Gso. NC 27403
336-299-8131



2025 Ministry Chairs & Leadership

Children & Youth -
Debbie Stubbs & **Leslie Webb**, co-chairs

Congregational Engagement & Growth -
Evelyn Nadler & **Parks Williams,** co-chairs

Connections -
Art Fitchett, Chair - **Elvice Kotangonda, Karen Smith**

Finance -
Kris Kattmann, Chair - **Frances Kallam, Howard Williams**

Inspire Faith -
Frank Burton, Chair

Mission -
Mary Cuadras & **Greg Rechtin**, co-chairs

Personnel -
Jan Epps-Dawson, chair - **Kaye Brassfield**

Property -
Paul Tiedeman, chair - **Gary Anderson, Haywood Ingram**

Names in bold are current Session members

Starmount Financials

2025 GENERAL FUND PLEDGES
BUDGET vs RECEIVED

Month	Budgeted Pledges	Pledges Received	Difference Over/(Under)
January	$ 36,962	$ 39,613	$ 2,651
February	$ 40,162	$ 37,070	$ (3,092)
March	$ 41,640	$ 47,216	$ 5,576
April	$ 25,962	$ 26,534	$ 572
May	$ 33,962	$ 30,726	$ (3,236)
June	$ 63,640	$ 62,770	$ (870)
July	$ 26,272	$ 35,023	$ 8,751
August	$ 39,650	$ 28,582	$ (11,068)
September	$ 29,072	$ 33,588	$ 4,516
2025 Total	**$ 337,322**	**$ 341,120**	**$ 3,799**

