



2025 Annual Report

Letter from the Pastor | 2025

Greetings, friends!

Can you believe that another year has passed? I know it is cliché, but time seems to fly by faster each year. As I look back over my first full calendar year with you, I cannot help but try to count the many blessings I have had as your pastor. Whether you fully realize it or not, this is an exceptional congregation! We have tackled a few challenges this year, and we did it together. Mostly, though, the past year has been filled with the joy and love of living in community together, not the least of which included one wedding, three baptisms, six youth confirmations, seven new adult members, and three celebrations of life.

This year, God has been working through our Leadership Teams in big ways. Our Missions Team continues to amaze me with their generosity and wisdom in discerning how to best spend your dollars to make the biggest impact in Dalton and beyond. Our Connections Team launched the Selvidge Street Forum, which continues to be a huge outreach to those who care about the issues that affect our community. Our Christian Education Team has worked to support our volunteers in leading engaging lessons and activities with our children, youth, and adults. Our Congregational Life Team has provided opportunities for us to fellowship with one another and has provided comfort to families during times of struggle or mourning. Our Facilities Team has worked diligently to keep and maintain our buildings and grounds, while also providing an ADA Ramp for members and guests who have mobility concerns. Our Worship Team has developed a system that works better than clockwork to ensure we have meaningful worship experiences each week. Our Staff Team ensures that those of us on the payroll feel supported so we can meet the needs of the congregation with confidence. Perhaps most importantly, our Finance Team, along with our Treasurer Bob Hubbs, makes all this possible by being excellent stewards of your financial contributions.

I would be remiss if I neglected to thank our leadership! You have chosen a motivated and capable Session. Their passion and attention to detail have been invaluable as they navigate the ways in which this congregation seeks to be God's hands and feet in the world, as evidenced in the pages that follow. I offer special thanks to Laura Allgood, Susan Bisson, and Leanna Granillo, for their three years of service on Session. They ran their race well and have worked diligently over the past few months in helping the new class of elected elders transition into leadership moving forward. Please continue to pray for all those on Session in the coming year as they continue their dedicated work in leading this congregation.

However, it is not just our Teams or our Session Leadership that make this a great congregation. Each of you has a touch of the Divine Spirit within you and helps make this particular Body of Christ the uniquely beautiful community that we are. The love you have for one another is tangible to all who enter our doors. People enter and immediately feel welcomed – not in a superficial way, but in a way that makes them feel seen and yet feel safe to be their authentic selves. There is courage in this congregation to ask difficult questions, to wrestle with our faith, and to expand the limits of how we choose to live and be in this world. It has been my profound joy and greatest honor to serve as your pastor this year, and I look forward to many, many years to come!

As we thank God for 2025 and all its blessings, may we look ahead with faith and hope as we continue to find new ways to Love First, Love All. The Peace of Christ be with you all!



1. Clerk Description: To take and preserve minutes of session meetings, congregational meetings, and communications with the congregation; to perform an annual review and approval of documents by Presbytery; to keep the membership rolls; to report the Annual Statistics of the church to PCUSA; maintain by-laws and policies of the church (our Trellis); and to provide for communications within and outside the church.

2. Clerk of Session: Susan Bisson

New Clerk: Debbie Dennard

3. Contact Info: (Home) 706-226-1803

Email: denntodd@optilink.us

4. Membership, end of 2025:

• Active Members	134	
• Baptisms	3	Peyton Hubbs Norey Hubbs and Henry Hubbs
• Births	0	
• Gains by Certificate of Reception	7	Bracey Hubbs, Liz Hubbs, Ed Reeves, Bjorn Jiskoot, Jr., Stan Houston, Erin Swinney and John Swinney
• Affiliate Members*	8	
• Deaths	4	Wayne Alderman, July 23, 2025 Charles Allgood, August 27, 2025; Lois Bradford, November 9, 2025; Stan Crawford, December 17, 2025
• Loss by Certificate	1	Dave Robinson

* those who actively participate in our church but have their membership elsewhere

5. Session Members:

- 2025 Session consisted of four male and five female Elders.

6. The *Trellis*:

- Legal records and copies of session minutes and reports for recent past years are maintained in the church office.



Church Operations

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Income:			
Tithes & Offering	\$ 312,000	\$ 326,310	\$ 330,000
Investments & Other Income	<u>\$ 72,500</u>	<u>\$ 73,881</u>	<u>\$ 85,000</u>
Total Income	\$ 384,500	\$ 399,191	\$ 415,000
Expenses:			
Missions & Benevolences	\$ 68,030	\$ 68,954	\$ 68,680
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 111,021	\$ 116,445	\$ 119,384
Sessional Committees	\$ 28,800	\$ 42,820	\$ 28,800
Music Ministry	\$ 40,370	\$ 33,764	\$ 50,920
Admin & Operations	<u>\$ 135,980</u>	<u>\$ 140,858</u>	<u>\$ 147,180</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 384,201	\$ 402,841	\$ 414,964
Net	\$ 299	\$ (3,650)	\$ 36

Thanks to the Lord's blessings and your generous giving the church's finances remain strong.

2025 income totaled \$399,191 which was \$14,691 more than the budget. Tithes and Offerings totaled \$326,309 which was \$14,309 more than the budget. Investment income for the year totaled \$58,240.

Expenses for the year totaled \$402,841 which was \$18,640 more than what was budgeted. The main contributor to expenses being over budget was the \$16,425 unbudgeted expense authorized by the Session for the construction of the new ramp in the front of the church and the purchase of blackout shades for the nursery. In total for the year expenses exceeded income by \$4,645.

2025 budgeted Mission spending totaled \$68,954. In addition to this amount there was additional Mission spending through the church's designated accounts. From these accounts an additional \$3400 was spent for the food pantry, \$975 from the Matthew 25 Fund, and \$4469 from the Pastor's Fund. This brought total Mission spending to \$77,798.

In the fall we had a successful stewardship season where we received 37 pledges totaling \$280,500 toward the 2026 budget.

The church has no outstanding loans or long-term debt.

Church Operations and Accounts | 2025

Operating Reserves

Within the church's operating accounts, the Finance Committee has set a policy of maintaining a 3 month to 6 month cash operating reserve. Currently the church has a six-month cash reserve. The reserve is kept in a money market fund and CD's.

Investment Account

The church maintains an investment account at Schwab separate from the operating account and operating reserves. At the end of 2025 this investment account had a value of \$2,651,000 and will provide \$73,000 toward the 2026 church budget. This account has grown nicely over the past several years thanks to favorable market conditions and generous gifts from individuals and estates. The account is managed by the church's Finance Team.

1. **Team Description:** To enhance the environment and opportunities for our congregation to grow in personal knowledge of Jesus Christ through prayer, Sunday School, and fellowship.
2. **Team Chair:** Leanna Granillo **New Chair:** Steve Farrow
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706-260-0693 Email: sfstevefarrow@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - January 29, 2025
 - March 26, 2025
 - April 23, 2025
 - August 27, 2025
 - October 22, 2025
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Provided Lenten Devotionals for the congregation
 - Easter Egg hunt for children and friends of the church for fellowship
 - Children's Palm Sunday Processional
 - Children and Youth Choir singing for Palm Sunday, Mother's Day, and Christmas Pageant
 - Confirmation of 6 youth into the Church
 - Attended Montreat Middle School Conference
 - Blessing of the Backpacks for all the children and educators
 - Began Youth Sunday School class and monthly activities
 - Reformation Sunday with a Brief Reformation History during joint Sunday School
 - Implemented Wednesday Connect Dinner and Program for all ages focusing on each Team of the church on the first Wednesday of each month
 - Return of the Children's Christmas Pageant with children and grandchildren of the church participating
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Continuing nursery care during services with two paid workers
 - Young Adult Fellowship Events
 - Sunday School for all ages
 - Adult Bible and Book studies offered throughout the week
 - Meet regularly to plan for weekly and special education and fellowship events

Christian Education Team | 2025



Congregational Life Team | 2025

1. **Team Description:** A team made up of any member of the congregation who wants to participate in any or all of the activities of the Congregational Life Team. The team's goal is to maintain, nurture and increase the spirit of fellowship within the community of faith.

2. **Team Chair:** Laura Allgood

New Chair: Valerie George

3. **Contact Info:** (Home) 706-271-7103

Email: vgeorge@optilink.us

4. **Meeting Dates:**

- January 15, 2025
- March 19, 2025
- May 21, 2025
- August 20, 2025
- October 15, 2025
- November 19, 2025

5. **Ongoing Projects and Project Leaders:**

- Provide Second Sunday Lunch; share leftovers with City of Refuge
- Shut-ins:
 - Sent cards; conduct visits; provided meals as needed; deliver Sunday flowers from church service to those needing TLC
- Poinsettias delivered at Christmas to shut-ins.
- Fourth Sunday coffee or lemonade and snacks provided in the Commons or on the porch
- Provide Brewster's gift cards to young children for Valentines Day
- Send gift cards to college students for Valentines Day
- Hosted Church Women United meetings in the Martin House and hosted CWU Christmas Brunch
- Ladies' Book Club and Ladies First Wednesday Lunch meets monthly during the school year.
- Assist in filling eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Assist as needed with the hunt.
- Recognized high school graduates: Caroline Hogshead, Ellis Stephens, Forrest Wise, Hayden Poe, and Owen Witt with gifts in May
- Volunteered weekly at Friendship House reading to Pre-K class and served Thanksgiving meal to the children; donated books
- Clean the Church Day – August 20, 2025
- Served refreshments and lunch for funerals
- Planned dates for decorating the church at the beginning of Advent. Team members and many other volunteers decorated the church and enjoyed our annual pizza lunch afterwards. Removed and stored decorations after Christmas.

Congregational Life Team | 2025



1. **Team Description:** To educate, inform and engage—spiritually, mentally, physically and socially—not only members, but also others in the community and beyond about First Presbyterian Church, Dalton: its mission, beliefs, worship, fellowship, service to others, activities, educational programs, musical offerings, opportunities and acceptance of all in accordance with the church's directive to "Love First, Love All."
2. **Team Chair:** James Hoskins
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 404-402-4236 Email: jameshoskins169@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**

• January 12, 2025	• May 11, 2025	• September 8, 2025
• February 9, 2025	• June 8, 2025	• October 12, 2025
• March 9, 2025	• July 13, 2025	• November 9, 2025
• April 13, 2025	• August 10, 2025	
5. **Ongoing Projects and Project Leaders:**
 - **Performing Arts Series:** the Connection Team is determining the feasibility of sponsoring the performance of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble, which is composed of professional musicians who specialize in performing culturally-significant instrumental compositions from the Baroque Era. This event is planned for late October 2026. Additional performances are to be determined.
 - **Church Sign Renovation:** the Connection Team has been exploring potential solutions to improving the visibility and utility of FPCD's main sign, which is in need of some cosmetic improvements. A variety of solutions have been proposed, and viable options are still being investigated.
 - **The Selvidge Street Forum:** the brainchild of Pam Partain, the Selvidge Street Forum is designed to provide "quarterly programming designed to foster stimulating conversation on topics of broad interest among a community of lifelong learners." (Pam) This fascinating series has provided a space for community thought-leaders and creatives to do just that. With each program being robustly attended, it is clear that this series must continue. The Connection Team is working diligently to finalize the programming for 2026, the proceeds of which will benefit FPCD's Little Free Pantry.
 - **Website:** We have hired Ben Mosley to design a new website for FPCD and expect to complete this project within the first quarter of 2026. With his work nearing completion, the Connection Team is very pleased with Ben's progress and product.
 - **Card Ministry:** Sue Spivey continues her ministry to each of us by sending personalized birthday cards, "thinking of you" cards and other notes on behalf of FPC.

Connection Team | 2025

- **Printed Resources:** Walter Jones was instrumental in developing the design and text of the colorful bookmarks which are available in the backs of the pews and in other locations. These succinctly explain our common beliefs and commitments and constitute a handy way to engage with friends and visitors. Additional printed informational resources are being designed by Kathryn Sellers and James Hoskins to provide more clarity regarding our day-to-day activities, offerings, and congregational history.
- **Media Presence and Public Communication:** Jean Lowrey has managed our newspaper exposure. The consensus of the Team has been to focus our spending on banners to be hung from the Martin House balcony which is cost free and provides location identity. Jean and Steve Houston are looking for ideas for a number of rotating banners to be designed and purchased during 2026.
- **General Responsibilities:** We continue to provide proofreading for the Mid-Week News, encourage use of the Tag Board in the Commons and participation in "Presbyterians at the Pub".



1. **Team Description:** To maintain all church facilities and property in good order and repair, to provide for the safety and security of buildings and church activities conducted on or within church property, to provide for aesthetic additions, and to assist in making church facilities available to outside groups upon request.
2. **Team Chair:** John McPherson
3. **Contact Info:** (cell) 703-216-3663 Email: johnmcp1@me.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - Business conducted by email or when needed
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Continued repairs to equipment/furnishings throughout the buildings
 - Exterior street sign repaired and painted
 - Sanctuary step repaired
 - Performed maintenance on the hand railing in front of Martin House
 - Replaced emergency light units
 - Added motion light systems to main bathroom and motion light system for Martin House front porch lights
 - Refurnished outside benches
 - Adjust Main Entrance Door of Martin House
 - Repaired sprinkler system
 - Begin work on Handicap Entrance
 - Sanctuary Cameras and lights repaired
 - Appliances were repaired as needed
 - HVAC units repaired several times, including replaced Motor in HVAC for downstairs Martin House
 - Typical inspections continued – fire suppression system, elevator, HVAC
6. **Projects in the planning stages or projects desired:**
 - Continue to construct handicap ramp/entrance

Facilities Team | 2025



1. **Team Description:** To administer all financial matters of the church.
2. **Team Chair:** Julie Tharpe
3. **Contact Info:** (cell) 706-280-7795 Email: jltharpe52@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - August 25, 2025
 - December 16, 2025
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - 2026 Budget has been reviewed and approved by the Team and has been presented to the Session with the recommendation that it be approved.
 - The Finance Team reviewed the Charles Schwab account and decided to remain with Charles Schwab based on its performance and investment fees. The Team also recommended that the bond investment percentage be increase to 25% of total investments.
 - The 12-month CD at Bank of the Ozarks has been renewed.
 - Julie and Valerie met with Bob Hubbs to review the Treasurer's job functions and to document any changes in the Treasurer's job. Julie and Valerie will be copied on finance transactions initiated by Bob or Erin.
 - The Trellis was updated to reflect changes in the Authorized Agents for the Schwab investment account and to reflect the name change of Laughter and Associates Financial Management, LLC.
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - The Team continues to meet as needed to review and discuss church financial information to ensure that funds are being spent and managed properly. The Church treasurer provides regular reports to the team. The team's review includes:
 - Review of income
 - Review of expenses
 - Consideration of future expenses
 - Monitoring of any special giving opportunities (i.e. organ fund, hymnals, etc.)
 - Discussion of insurance
 - Efforts are on-going to obtain information concerning the advantages and disadvantages of establishing an endowment.
 - The team oversees the yearly stewardship campaign, the results of which are used to determine future budgeting.
 - The team reviews and considers on an ongoing basis the financial benchmarks for the church and makes recommendations for any changes to Session.
 - Managing the weekly deposit and maintaining procedures for that deposit.
 - Review and consideration of the yearly budget. (December of each year).



1. **Team Description:** The team is tasked with communicating foreign and domestic mission opportunities to the congregation, sponsoring mission projects that meet specific needs in our community and beyond and encouraging the congregation to participate along with the Missions Team in these projects.

On behalf of the congregation of the Church, the team disbursed \$77,798.19 for mission and service projects. This was possible because of our budgeted and designated mission funds, special offerings and additional Matthew 25 funding.

2. **Team Chair:** Priscilla Brown

3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706-459-8140 Email: priscillahbrown@gmail.com

4. **Meeting Dates:**

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| • January 29, 2025 | • May 14, 2025 | • September 17, 2025 |
| • February 19, 2025 | • June 18, 2025 | • October 15, 2025 |
| • March 19, 2025 | • August 20, 2025 | • November 19, 2025 |

5. **Projects Accomplished:**

Matthew 25 continues to be the driving force for the Missions Team as we seek to give support to the marginalized and neediest in our community and beyond.

The Missions Team provided grants/dispensed funds to the following organizations to aid their efforts on behalf of those in need: **Sharing is Caring, Family Support Council, the Emery Center, the DEO Clinic, the Treatment and Accountability Courts, DOC-UP, Life Journey Ministries, CLILA, the Whitfield County Juvenile Court, Books for Change, the DSC Bird Feeder, Church Women United, the Sewanee Student Supply Closet, the Dalton-Whitfield NAACP, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church.**

We began the year by packing 300 **Blessing Bags** to distribute to those we encountered on the streets seeking assistance.

Our church volunteers served in our community by participating in **Meals on Wheels** and **Saturday Sacks**. Volunteers also helped with English classes during **Amigo Days** at **CLILA** and others worked with candidates as they studied for the **US Citizenship test**. Under the leadership of Roger Rollins our congregation provided and served meals to the participants of **Camp AIM**. Members continued to knit hats for newborns at **Hamilton Medical Center** and others read to the students at **Friendship House**. The Missions Team provided tickets for 20 church members to attend the **Dalton-Whitfield NAACP Juneteenth Celebration**.

The **Little Free Pantry** continued to enjoy tremendous support from our congregation and, as we were constantly being made aware, from an increasing number of members of our community at large. We began **Share A Meal Sunday** coinciding with our Second Sunday Lunch encouraging the congregation to bring food items to help fill the pantry. The **Souper Bowl of Caring** raised money to support the pantry.

Mission and Service Team | 2025

The Missions Team began a jail ministry in 2025, providing Bibles for the women inmates at the **Whitfield County Jail** and showing support for the employees and officers at the jail by providing a meal for the day and night shifts.

During our Fred Rogers **Love your Neighbor** worship service we collected books for **Friendship House** to give away to each of the 70 students enrolled there.

During the year our church also supported efforts to help those in need during the California wild fires and the Texas floods with donations to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. We also showed support for a church destroyed in the California fires with a donation to **Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church**.

The holidays provided many opportunities for service for our team and the congregation. First Presbyterian provided a Thanksgiving meal to the staff and participants of the **Treatment and Accountability Courts** and helped serve the Thanksgiving meal at **Friendship House**. **Dalton State College** students who remained on campus during the Christmas break received a gift card to help with food during that time. Also during the holidays, the Missions Team was involved with the **Juvenile Court Strengthening Families Program** graduation celebration luncheon by decorating tables and providing dessert. Under the leadership of Roger Rollins, the congregation packed **holiday food boxes** for 50 families at **Dug Gap and Dawnville elementary schools**. Church members rang the bell for the **Salvation Army** in December.

The Missions Team is continually grateful for a generous, loving and supportive congregation that makes it possible for us to work on their behalf in so many arenas of service. THANK YOU!

Mission and Service Team | 2025

MISSIONS TEAM FUNDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2025

Cherokee Presbytery	\$4,830.00
Pastor Designated	4,469.00
Special Offerings	2,945.00
Matthew 25	975.00
PCUSA Per Capita	1,702.92
Little Free Pantry	3,400.00
MIssions Budget	59,476.27
TOTAL	77,798.19

GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Sharing is Caring	\$5,000.00
Family Support Council	771.40
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	3,000.00
Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church	1,000.00
The Emery Center	3,000.00
The DEO Clinic	5,190.00
Treatment and Accountability Courts	6,500.00
Mental Health Court Holiday Meal	500.00
Camp AIM	3,077.82
DOC-UP	6,000.00
Dalton-Whitfield NAACP Juneteenth Celebration	1,000.00
Whitfield Remembrance Project	500.00
Life Journey Ministries	1,000.00
Church Women United	250.00
DSC Bird Feeder	1,500.00
DSC Holiday Gift Cards	1,200.00
Holiday Food Boxes	4,553.86
Sewanee Student Supply Closet	500.00
CLILA	6,000.00
Books for Change USA	500.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	2,000.00
Blessing Bags	1,135.25
Whitfield County Juvenile Court	2,000.00
Whitfield County Jail	1,261.50
Little Free Pantry	2,000.00
TOTAL	59,476.27

Mission and Service Team 2025



Staff & Administration Team | 2025

1. **Team Description:** To provide the Session an organized approach in fulfilling its responsibilities to all the staff employed by the church
2. **Team Chair:** Mike Brown
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706-459-1447 Email: mikeb9896@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - October 6, 2025
 - December 14, 2025
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Filled Position of Audio/Visual Technician
 - Filled both Nursery positions
 - Conducted annual staff evaluations
 - Accepted resignation of Director of Children's and Youth Ministry at the end of 2025
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Work with Christian Education Team and Session in reconsidering the job description for Director of Children's and Youth Ministry. The salary for this position remains in the proposed 2026 budget.



1. **Team Description:** To relate our worship life to the total work and witness of our congregation.
2. **Team Chair:** Rob Lively
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706-537-2064 Email: pyc.lively@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - January 8, 2025 • May 14, 2025 • September 10, 2025
 - February 12, 2025 • June 11, 2025 • October 8, 2025
 - March 12, 2025 • July 9, 2025 • November 12, 2025
 - April 9, 2025 • August 13, 2025 • December 10, 2025
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Provided additional support and planning for worship services Pastor Rev. Nicole Jiskoot
 - Implemented and continue to revise Communion procedures to ensure all are included
 - Provided feedback and ideas for particular worship services
 - Reviewed Wedding Policy
 - Reviewed Funeral Procedures
 - Assisted in planning and gathering additional volunteers for particular services including Funerals, Reformation Sunday, and Lessons and Carols
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Updating the checklist for Funeral preparation
 - Working to bring Matthew 25 initiative awareness and practice into our Worship
 - Brainstorming new Worship experiences to include and providing support for Pastor in implementation of all services as needed or requested.
 - Providing ushers/greeters, liturgists, communion preparers, and communion servers
 - Providing flower arrangements for worship
 - Planning for changing of banners and Paraments for appropriate seasons and services
 - Maintaining all candles with liquid wax
 - Maintaining all objects used in worship
 - Maintaining hymnal racks with pens, pencils, cards, fellowship pads
 - Welcoming, introducing and assisting visiting pastors and organists
 - Meeting four times a year to plan new tasks and to evaluate Worship

Worship Team | 2025

