
Raeford Presbyterian Church
128 W. Edinborough Ave. Raeford, NC
Church Office (910) 875-2101
April 2024



The Link

The Raeford Presbyterian Church is committed to worshipping God, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing the faithful, and showing compassion for those in need.

This is a difficult article to write. As you know, my time at Raeford Presbyterian Church is ending on April 14, 2024. My association with the church began during my time in college. I worshipped here a couple of times.

My longer association began in June, 2020 when I was appointed the Moderator of the Session by the West Commission. On March 1, 2022, I began my time as the Stated Supply at Raeford.

I want to share some numbers with you. I will have preached a total of seventy-two sermons during my time in the pulpit. Additionally, I have conducted twelve funerals and three baptisms. The church has also received twelve members during my time here. We also paid off the building and celebrated the 100th anniversary of this beautiful sanctuary.

During my forty-four years of ordained ministry, I have served as the pastor/stated supply of eight churches. Raeford is the champion at making me and my family feel loved. I have felt your care, support, love, and prayers. It has been my honor to be your pastor during this time. You will always hold a special place in our hearts.

I know many of you are concerned about future pastoral leadership. I want to remind you of something. The good news is that we may not know what the future holds, but we do know that God holds the future. I lovingly and confidently trust God with your care and your future.

You will be in my prayers and in my heart. May God bless you and Raeford Presbyterian Church. Godspeed.

Shane

If you are hospitalized, seriously ill, or having surgery, please notify the church office at 910-875-2101 or imaxwell@raefordpres.org. Your church wants to minister to you whenever you are ill. We can do that only if you or your family informs us of your needs. Thank you for your calls and e-mail.

SESSION MEETING

The session will have their Monthly Stated Meeting on Sunday, April 14, at 6:00 pm.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women continue their ongoing local mission project for Hawk Eye Elementary School. Toiletries, hygiene items, and school supplies are always needed. A new need is socks, crew or footies. Thank you for your continued generosity to this mission.

A new ongoing project for Presbyterian Women is non-perishable food items and plastic bags (grocery store, Walmart, etc.) for Galatia Presbyterian Church.

The PW Council will meet on Sunday, April 28, 2024, immediately following the worship service.

Scholarship deadline is Wednesday, April 24th
Scholarship applications have been mailed. If you did not receive one, please contact the church office.
The deadline to return is Wednesday, April 24th.

Wednesday Nights for April:

April 3rd at 6:00pm

The office will be closed on Monday, April 1st in observance of Easter Monday.

Special Blended Service

In an effort to attract new members and to get to know each other better we are going to try something new. Join us for a blended service on April 14. At 10:00 am start with light refreshments and time of fellowship in Ropp Hall. The Youth Band will be there. At 11:00 we will move into the sanctuary for worship. Please invite someone to join you!

Vacation Bible School

June 10th-14th

We look forward to seeing your children the week of June 10th - June 14th for Vacation Bible School. Monday through Wednesday, the staff from Camp Monroe will be leading our Bible School from 9:00 am - noon at the church. The children will enjoy games, crafts, Bible lessons, music, and snacks. On Thursday, June 13th, we will be taking the children to Camp Monroe for a day full of camping experiences. Older campers will have the option of spending Thursday night at Camp Monroe. We will also have a pre-school VBS class at the church from 9:00 am-noon Monday through Wednesday. Thank you for turning in your registration forms. Please be reminded that children from kindergarten through 14 years old need to pay \$25.00.

Every once in a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There are many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind.

These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken.

These lambs are called “bummer lambs.” Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the shepherd does?

He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it and keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest

so the bummer can hear his heartbeat. Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock.

But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him. When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first?

That is right, the bummer sheep. He knows his voice intimately.

It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it.

It’s not that it is loved more, it just believes it because it has experienced that love one on one.

So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heartbeat.

We may be broken but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” ~ Psalm 23



PRAYER CONCERNS:

Christy Autry, Janet Baker, Cindy Baxley, Pat Baxley, Elsie Bowen, Bobby Britt, Larry Bullard, DeAndre Butler, Joann Butler, Charles Clubb, Jaxon Davis, Dalton Free, Patsy Hawkes, Wanda Herrin, David Holland, Mary Jane Hubbard, Frank Inman, Dolly Jattan, Johnny & Jean McDiarmid, William McDonald, Wayne Mills, Wesley Owens, Butch Posey, Al Potts, Bruce Potts, Paul Shortridge, Paul Smith, Ruth Sports, Kim Wright, our missionaries: Dan and Elizabeth Turk; members of the United States Armed Forces and our country.

APRIL DUTY

Door Duty: Wayne Willis, Jimmy Teal, Jeff McNeill, and Penny Pusey

Nursery Duty: Delia McNeill, Lace Hauver, Brenda Slack, and Janet Plummer

April Committee Meetings

Music & Worship
Monday, April 8 @ 2:00 pm.

Christian Education
Tuesday, April 9 @ 10:00 am.

Budget & Finance
Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Spiritual Dev. & Congregational Care
Wednesday, April 10 @ 1:00 p.m.

Session Meeting
Sunday, April 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

Property
No scheduled meeting this month.

Pledges thru March 24 2024:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Needed Monthly | \$20,902.00 |
| Required to date | \$62,706.00 |
| Received to date | \$57,560.00 |
| Shortage | -\$ 5,146.00 |

Dr. Shane Owens

Dr. Owens came to us as a Session Moderator in June 2020. Then in March of 2022 he became our stated supply pastor.

He has been a part of so many events from baptisms to funerals in his time here. He has become a part of our Raeford Presbyterian Church family, and it is sad to see him move on, but it is with warm wishes that we send him into his next chapter. He will be missed. Shane’s last day with us as pastor will be Sunday, April 14, 2024. Please take the time to extend your thanks for his service when you see him.

**New Office Hours
Effective April 1, 2024**

**The office will now be open Monday-
Thursday
8:00am-5:00pm and closed on Fridays and
holidays.**

**Bulletin deadline is now Tuesday by
5:00pm**

**The Link deadline is now the 20th of each
month.**

Thank You Note

To my church family,
Thank you to everyone who came to see my show and supported my growing art career! It means the world to me that you all have been interested in my work as I have progressed through different stages of my life. I feel incredibly blessed that God has given me such a caring and supportive church family. Thank you for always believing in me and I look forward to sharing my future work in the next chapter of my life!

In Christ,
Stephanie Slack

