

# JANUARY

## Newsletter

Church family,

There's something hopeful about turning the calendar to January. A new year doesn't erase the challenges we carry, but it does remind us that God is still at work — still renewing, still restoring, still calling us forward.

As we step into this new year together, I want to offer a simple truth to hold onto: **faith was never meant to be passive**. Faith is alive. Faith moves. Faith shows up in real life — in how we love, serve, forgive, and trust God, day by day. That conviction is shaping our focus for the year ahead: **Faith in Motion**.

Now, let me be clear — this isn't about doing more for the sake of being busy. It's not about pressure, performance, or perfection. Faith in Motion is about allowing what we *believe* to shape who we are becoming and how we live in the world God has placed us in.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that in Christ, we are made new. New hearts. New purpose. New direction. And when God does something new in us, it naturally begins to move outward — into our relationships, our families, our church, and our community.

Over the coming weeks, we'll take time to unpack this together. We'll talk about what it means to grow deeper in faith, to walk alongside one another, and to live with intention as followers of Jesus. This is a journey, not a sprint — and everyone is invited, no matter where you find yourself on the path.

As you begin this year, I encourage you to ask one simple question:

**"Lord, how are You inviting my faith to move?"**

It might be a small step — a prayer habit, an act of kindness, a renewed commitment to worship, or a willingness to trust God in an uncertain place. Small steps, taken faithfully, can lead to powerful transformation.

I believe God has good things ahead for our church and for each of you. The road forward won't always be easy, but it will be meaningful — because we are walking it together, led by a faithful God who always goes before us.

Let's step into this year with hope, courage, and expectation.

Grace and peace,



**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**



### Cream of Broccoli Soup

Submitted by:  
Cathy Thompson

2 cups water  
1 16oz package frozen broccoli  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/2 cup margarine  
1/2 cup flour  
6 cups of milk  
4 chicken bouillon cubes  
1 tsp white pepper

Boil water in large saucepan; add broccoli. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 5 min. Remove from heat and set aside. Sauté onion in margarine in a Dutch oven over low heat til tender. Add flour, stirring until smooth. Cook for 1 min, stirring constantly. Gradually add milk and bouillon; cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until thickened. Add broccoli, cooking water and pepper. Simmer 20-30 min

Recipe Books can be purchased through any Lydia member for \$12.00 each.



# NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**A gift was given to the Building Fund in memory of Roslyn Misenheimer and Elaine Long by:**

Nelson & Joyce Hardister

**Gifts were given to the Building Fund in memory of Shirley Penninger by:**

Shari Hanson

C L Creggar, Daniel Creggar and Jessica Snider

Doris Burris

Scott & Christine Fair

Nelson & Joyce Hardister

Eddie & Kathy Taylor

Bill & Brenda Phillips

**Gifts were given to the General Fund in memory of Shirley Penninger by:**

Lisa Linker & Shirley Hudson

Buck & Melissa Little

**A gift was given to the Mission Fund in memory of Shirley Penninger by:**

Jim & Terri Killian

**A gift was given to the Building Fund in Memory of Ken Harrison by:**

Martha Harrison

**A gift was given to the Building Fund in memory of Mike Burris by:**

Karla Eaves

**A gift was given to the Building Fund in memory of Ted and Micky Little by:**

Sharri Hanson

**A gift was given to the Building Fund in honor of Doris Burris & Terri Killian by:**

Ray Barbee & Pam Barbee

**A gift was given to the Building Fund in honor of Helen Gaddy by:**

Martha Harrison

## Church Fund Balances — November 30, 2025

<b>General Fund Operating Budget</b>	
Checking Acct.	\$104,444.39
<b>General Fund Checking</b>	\$50.00
<b>General Fund CD</b>	\$104,311.01
<b>Total General Fund</b>	\$208,805.40
Capital Fund / General Fund	\$11,040.66
Capital Fund / Music - Children / Youth	\$2,602.45
Capital Fund / Multi - Media	\$1,210.68
Capital Fund / Adult Choir - Hand bells	\$1,903.26
Capital Fund / Disaffiliation	\$6,387.98
<b>Total Capital Fund</b>	\$23,145.03
Building Fund Checking Account	\$18,390.51
Building Fund Money Market	\$9,277.17
<b>Total Building Fund</b>	<b>\$27,667.68</b>
Community Missions	\$1,814.85
Feed the Children	\$986.00
<b>Missions Community Outreach Fund</b>	<b>\$2,800.85</b>
Cemetery Fund Checking	\$1,955.44
Cemetery Fund CD- 1	\$22,231.57
Cemetery Fund CD- 2	\$32,537.20
<b>Total Cemetery Fund</b>	<b>\$56,724.21</b>
Educational Fund CD	93,275.44
<b>Year to Date: 1/1/2025 thru 11/30/2025</b>	
<b>General Fund Income:</b>	\$273,752.82
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$289,741.61
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>(\$15,988.79)</b>



Please don't forget that we continue to gather coins for our "Can in Each Hand" on the last Sunday of each month. The funds go into the building fund to pay back what we borrowed for the ReFresh Project on our Sanctuary. A total of **\$510.38** was collected in **November** for a total of **\$14,781.72** for **2025**. Remember to bring in your cans of food for the needy in Cabarrus County. This goes to CCM to help those who need food. Also, bring food for Esther's Heart, Backpacks for Hope. This helps feed hungry children in our community.

Acolyte	
1/4	Maddie Hudson
1/11	Aurora Cochran
1/18	Mitch Kanady
1/25	Millie Pacious
Ushers	
1/4	Eric Howie & Ed Anderson
1/11	Larry Pigg & Jewel Williamson
1/18	Dale Furr & George Brown
1/25	Mike Kanady & Paul Pacious
Greeters	
1/4	Ed Anderson & Kari Thompson
1/11	Carolyn Pigg & Vicki Furr
1/18	Doris Burris & Brenda Koerner
1/25	Camie Hooks & Larry Taylor
Children's Church	
1/4	Mari Brooks & Robin Kanady
1/11	Mari Brooks & Kelly Almond
1/18	Mary Brooks & Lisa Linker
1/25	Mari Brooks & Corinne Smith
Nursery	
1/4	Kelly Pacious & Kelly Almond
1/11	Shawn Marble & Kari Thompson
1/18	Jewel Williamson & Annemarie Irons
1/25	Kelly Pacious & Kelly Almond
Multi-Media	
1/4	Soundboard: Regina Hinson
	Computer: Loren Koerner
	Camera: Alex Hattaway
1/11	Soundboard: Michael Kanady
	Computer: Sue Ridenhour
	Camera: Susan Ferguson
1/18	Soundboard: Sue Ridenhour
	Computer: Regina Hinson
	Camera: Don Smith
1/25	Soundboard: Don Smith
	Computer: Jewel Williamson
	Camera: Loren Koerner
Opening/Closing Church -January	
	Ed Anderson



## Music – Sharon Wooten

I would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to our Roberta musicians, who

faithfully served in a very different setting during our ReFresh journey. Our music program learned to be resilient and adaptable as the Fellowship Hall became our choir room, sanctuary, and Sharon's Monday-morning workspace for many months. We are so grateful to have that season in our rearview mirror. We give God all the praise and glory for guiding us through that challenging time, and we look forward to leading you in worship through music in our newly ReFreshed sanctuary.

I also want to express sincere thanks to the many people who supported our music ministry throughout the month of December. First and foremost, thank you to **all of Roberta's musicians** for your commitment and countless hours of rehearsal. To those who helped move us back into the main building—**thank you!** That was a huge undertaking. Once we received the go-ahead, everything moved quickly to prepare for Roberta Ringers on December 14. Whether you helped with the Ringers' performance, set up for the cantata following the service, or assisted behind the scenes, your help was invaluable.

A special thank you as well to those who helped put away the cantata scenery and restore the sanctuary in time for Christmas Eve. I truly cannot say "thank you" enough for your support and willingness to serve. God is so good, and I give Him thanks and praise for people who are always ready to help.

All of our musicians will now enjoy a **well-deserved Christmas break**.

• **No choir rehearsal** on December 24 or December 31. Rehearsals will resume on **January 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room**. We warmly invite anyone who wishes to sing with us to join. All are welcome!

• **No Roberta Ringers rehearsal** on December 21 or December 28. Rehearsals will resume on **January 4** in the third-floor bell room. All bell positions are currently filled, but we are in need of substitute ringers. Please contact **Sharon** if you are able to help.

Looking ahead, on **Good Friday, April 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**, we will present *The Twelve Stations of the Cross* around the outside of our Roberta campus. I am beginning to recruit for various roles and support positions and will once again need your help. This promises to be a powerful Holy Week experience for our Roberta family. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we "hit the ground running" after Christmas and New Year's.

As we enter 2026, let us focus on deepening our relationship with our Lord and Savior. May we remember the Advent candle characters—each of whom followed God and said **"Yes."** In the coming year, let us all say **yes** to what God is calling us to do. **Happy New Year to all of you!**



# Kids & Youth

## The Director's Chair

Dear Parents,

As I look towards the beginning of another new year, and think about what God is calling us to for this next season, I can't help but reflect on how much we've grown in 2025. I believe that God calls each and every one of us to live lives full of greatness. He does not want us to just "get by", to settle for less than He desires for us. We continue to explore and embrace all of the greatness we are capable of by living to love; living to love Jesus, and living to love others.

***"And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us"***  
(Hebrews 12:2)

This January marks the start of a new year and a new opportunity to encourage these students to set goals for themselves throughout the year. It is important that these goals include ways to strengthen their relationship with Christ, to know Him. Parents and family members have an important role in helping their children achieve these goals. One of the keys to greatness is serving others. We must take the focus off of ourselves, and what we feel we deserve, and see the needs of others. From small things to great, there are many ways to serve and meet the needs of others.

***"So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time"***  
(Galatians 6:9)

In Christ's love,  
Mari Brooks

## Join Our Team!

### LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SERVE THIS MINISTRY?

- Teach and lead in the classrooms
- Assist and help in the classrooms
- Deliver 'Children's Moment' messages
- Chaperone retreats and volunteer at events
- Preschool and Nursery caregiver

There is a strong need for adults and families to serve in these areas. This ministry is designed to help nurture and lead the children and youth into discipleship and building their relationship with Jesus.

**Contact me to get connected and join our team!**

## Upcoming Dates:

1/4	<b>Afternoon Clubs &amp; Holy Motion</b> (3:30pm – 5:00pm)
1/18	<b>Afternoon Clubs &amp; Holy Motion</b> (3:30pm – 5:00pm)



This program is designed for students of all ages to explore creative ways to worship and share the Word of God through the many gifts that He's blessed us with.

## Save the Date!

3/22	<b>Easter Cantata &amp; Student-Led Worship</b> (led by ALL students)
3/28	<b>Spring Fling &amp; Easter Egg Hunt</b> (Community Event)

## CONTACT US

**Mari Brooks**  
Director of Children & Youth  
[Mbrooks5825@gmail.com](mailto:Mbrooks5825@gmail.com)  
Cell: (301) 399-7274

## Missions News: December Update – Camie & Dean Hooks

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We pray that everyone enjoyed a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

The Missions Committee met in December for our year-end meeting. Missions accomplished so much in 2025, and Roberta Church played a vital role in the success of these efforts. Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and faithfulness throughout the year.

With remaining budget funds, the committee voted to distribute two equal donations—one to **Gate Pregnancy Center** and one to the **Harrisburg Food Bank**. The remaining funds were added to the Love Offering that was collected. That offering was divided among **Esther's Heart, Wings of Eagles**, and the **Church of God**. Thank you for your heartfelt and compassionate giving.

This will be my final Missions newsletter, as Dean and I will be stepping down as Mission Chairs. Effective **January 1, 2026**, **Colby Cochran** will serve as the new Mission Chair. We have complete confidence in Colby and are grateful for his willingness to step into this role.

Although we are transitioning from leadership, I will continue to be involved in Missions through **Esther's Heart** and **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes**. Dean and I have learned so much during our time as Mission Chairs, and it has truly been a rewarding experience. While there were challenges along the way, those challenges made the journey even more meaningful.



### – Dale & Sharon Wooten

The **Forward in Faith Bake Sale** held on December 14 brought in **\$1,575.00** as of Sunday afternoon. A few remaining items were taken to the church office in hopes that they could be sold during the week; any additional proceeds will be added to the total. Items left after that will be shared with our homebound members.

Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods and to those who supported the sale by making a purchase. We hope you enjoy your treats throughout the Christmas season.

As of **November**, the **Can-in-Each-Hand** campaign has raised **\$14,781.72 for 2025**. We are grateful for this continued progress toward our funding goals. Please keep filling your cans with loose change and remember to bring canned food donations for the food pantry on the **last Sunday of each month**. Every coin adds up, and your food donations help feed members of our community in need. If you need a can, please contact the church office. As of December 16th we've raised, \$48,687.89 for the ReFresh Project.

Our next **Forward in Faith meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.** We will be planning our spring fundraisers, including a hot dog sale during the first quarter. Please make plans to attend as we work together as a team—because together, we can accomplish so much.



### – Cathy Thompson & Sharon Wooten

At our November meeting, Tammy shared the financial report. Thanks to our very successful fundraisers, we had just over **\$4,000** available to assist families in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported these efforts.

We partnered with the counselors at **Pitts Elementary School** and **Roberta Road Middle School** to adopt families and help meet specific needs. After coordinating with both schools, Lydia was able to assist one family from each school.

On **December 4**, two Lydia members went shopping and turned the conference table into Santa's toy shop! Gifts were carefully organized, with each child's items placed into a bag labeled with their name and school. The gifts were delivered to the counselors on **December 11**. Because of your generosity, **seven children** experienced a brighter Christmas. **Thank you** for supporting our fundraisers and making this possible!

Lydia also hosted the **Senior Lunch** on **December 6** at the Lions Club on Patricia Avenue in Harrisburg. It was a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and great food.

Lydia will **not meet in January**. Our next meeting will be held on **February 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. If you are new to Roberta, we would love to have you join us!





– Fran Brown

As we step into **2026**, we reflect with gratitude on the blessings of the past year and look forward with hope to new opportunities for growth and service. Thank you to **everyone** who supported and participated in our worship ministry in 2025. We truly could not have accomplished all that we did without your time, talents, and dedication.

A special thank you to **everyone involved in the Roberta ReFresh Team** and to all who helped bring this project to completion. It truly took the entire *Roberta Church village* to guide us through this season, and now we can fully enjoy our beautiful **narthex and sanctuary**.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to **Sharon Wooten** and **Mari Brooks** for their tremendous efforts in preparing our Christmas programs for children and youth, as well as the Chancel Choir Cantata. These presentations were truly a blessing to all.

The **Worship Committee** has been hard at work planning enriching and meaningful worship experiences for 2026. There is much to look forward to, so keep your calendars handy!

May **2026** be a year of spiritual renewal, community growth, and deepened faith. **Blessings to all!**



### Roberta Fellowship Group Camie Hooks & Barbara Anderson

December's gathering at Johnnie's Farmhouse was filled with festive fun and great food. The joy and fellowship made it a wonderful way to wrap up the year.

#### Looking ahead to January:

- Thursday, January 8th - Join us for lunch at Captain Steve's in Harrisburg. We will meet at 12:30 pm.
- Tuesday, January 20th - We'll enjoy breakfast at Parkway House on Highway 29 at 9:00 am. They offer the same menu as our former Parkway House location.

Start the New Year off right and come join us for fellowship, food and fun!

### Cemetery Update and Research – Corinne Smith

As we continue researching our church cemetery, maybe you can help....according to our church records and death certificates, the following couple is buried at Fairview Cemetery, the name of our cemetery prior to 1940s/50s. However, no headstones have been found for either of them. Can anyone provide additional information? Could they be buried in Section A-73, near their daughter Sandusky Almond who married Thomas John Garver?

**CYRUS M. ALMOND.** Born Jun 8, 1843, in Stanly Co., NC, to Allen Allman and Isabelle Hatley. He married Rose Anna McLellan in 1879. They had two children, Sandusky Almond Garver and Addie Almond Isenhour McCollum. Cyrus was a farmer. He enlisted as a Private in the Confederacy, Civil War on May 5, 1861, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, NC Infantry and mustered out on Nov 15, 1862. Cyrus died Dec 27, 1928. His death certificate reflects he was buried at Roberta United Methodist Church, but there is no headstone or church record. **ROSE ANNA MCLELLAN ALMOND.** Born Apr 20, 1854, in Cabarrus Co., NC, to Dr. Addison Cicero McLellan and Margaret Purviance. She is sometimes referred to as Texana. Rose Anna died Oct 17, 1937.





## Faith in Motion: A Faith That Moves Us Forward

*“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” (James 2:26, NIV)*

Over the past season, I've been praying and asking a simple but important question: **What does it really mean to follow Jesus—not just believe in Him, but live out our faith each day?**

That question has shaped our church's focus called **Faith in Motion**.

Faith in Motion is not a program or a slogan. It's a way of describing a living, growing faith. Scripture reminds us that real faith doesn't stand still. When people encounter God, they move. They take steps—sometimes small, sometimes bold—but always forward. Jesus didn't invite people to admire Him from a distance. He said, *“Follow Me.”*

Faith in Motion meets you where you are, but it doesn't leave you there. For some, it's permission to take the next small step without feeling pressure to have everything figured out. For others, it's an invitation to trust God more deeply. For all of us, it's a reminder that faith is about who we are becoming and how we live and love.

To help us live this out together, we use four simple movements known as the **4 Bs**:

**Belong** – Faith begins with relationship. We were never meant to do faith alone. The church is a place where real people find community, grace, and support.

**Believe** – Belief is more than information; it's trust. As we learn who God is through Scripture and prayer, we grow in confidence that His promises are true.

**Become** – Faith shapes who we are becoming. Following Jesus is a lifelong journey of growth and transformation, not perfection.

**Build** – Faith overflows into action. We serve, give, and love others as we participate in what God is already doing.

Faith in Motion gives us a shared direction as a church family. My prayer is that it helps each of us take our next faithful step—and discover that God is already walking with us.

And that is a journey worth taking—together.

# MINISTRY NEWS

## January Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
<b>Sun, January 4th</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Unhanging of the Greens	Sanctuary	11:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bells Room	11:00 AM
	Holy Motion/Clubs	2B	3:30 PM
	Great Awakening	Fellowship Hall	5:00 PM
<b>Tue, January 6th</b>	The Living Word Circle - Grp 1	1st FL Conf Rm/Online	11:00 AM
<b>Wed, January 7th</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
<b>Thurs, January 8th</b>	Fellowship Group Lunch	Captain Steve's	12:30 PM
<b>Sun, January 11th</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bells Room	10:00 AM
	Great Awakening	Fellowship Hall	5:00 PM
<b>Tue, January 13th</b>	The Living Word Circle - Grp 1	1st FL Conf Rm/Online	11:00 AM
<b>Wed, January 14th</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
<b>Sun, January 18th</b>	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bells Room	11:00 AM
	Holy Motion/Clubs	2B	3:30 PM
	Great Awakening	Fellowship Hall	5:00 PM
<b>Mon, January 19th</b>	Men's Meeting	Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
<b>Tues, January 20th</b>	Fellowship Group Breakfast	Parkway on Hwy 29	9:00 AM
	The Living Word Circle - Grp 1	1st FL Conf Rm/Online	11:00 AM
<b>Wed, January 21st</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
<b>Thurs, January 22nd</b>	SPRC Meeting	1s Floor Conf. Rm	6:00 PM
<b>Sunday, January 25th</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bells Room	11:00 AM
	Great Awakening	Fellowship Hall	5:00 PM
<b>Tues, January 27th</b>	The Living Word Circle - Grp 1	1st FL Conf Rm/Online	11:00 AM
<b>Wed, January 28th</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM



Sharon Straub	1/4	Bill Phillips	1/11
Brenda Dellinger	1/5	Sharon Sides	1/12
Rob Sossamon	1/6	Jessica Black-Simpson	1/13
Deborah Stephens	1/6	Bonnie Taylor	1/14
Brenda Koerner	1/7	Carson Keller	1/15
Chuck Weddington	1/9	Diana Corll	1/16
Kayte Rimer	1/9	Darrell Ridenhour	1/21
Jim Robinette	1/10	Inez Tucker	1/22
Betty Little	1/10	Patsy Burris	1/30
Susan Cline	1/10	Mike Moss	1/31



Chad & Annemarie Irons	8 <sup>th</sup>
Rudy & Michelle Lavine	23 <sup>rd</sup>
George & Fran Brown	30 <sup>th</sup>

