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WALKERSVILLEPC.ORG



## A note from the pastor:

Is there anyone, anywhere, that God would certainly not have anything to do with? Is Christianity more of an “us-them” kind of thinking?

When a Roman centurion named Cornelius is visited by an angel from God, would your first thought be, “An angel went to a person like *‘that’*?” At one point in his life, Peter, along with all the apostles, certainly would have. In Acts 10:1-16, God has to work on Peter to instruct him that salvation through Jesus Christ is certainly for a person like *‘that’*, along with every soul that followers of Jesus could possibly come into contact with. Is there anyone you know who comes to mind that you would consider beyond God’s reach?

In Acts 10:17-29, men arrive looking for Peter. Who sent them? We find out they were ultimately sent by God, rather than by Cornelius. Should we be surprised by the Holy Spirit? Even though everything in Peter said he should not go into a Gentile’s home, he has had time to think about God’s parable to him. What stops us from taking the Gospel to the world? Stepping outside of tradition? Seeing people with “*us/them*” eyes? As we look at the people around us, who are they in God’s sight?

Who should hear the Gospel? Does God play favorites? What is the Gospel? Have you been an eyewitness to the work of Jesus Christ in this world? In Acts 10:34-43, Peter presents the Gospel that has similar elements to the Apostles’ Creed that we are familiar with. Like Peter, we

are commanded to “preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead...” At the name of Jesus, we are made clean...just like Cornelius and his household.

John 3:8 says, “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is not limited. How one person receives the Holy Spirit may be different than someone else’s experience. Peter’s question is similar to the Ethiopian’s in Acts 8:36. When the Holy Spirit acts, who are we to get in the way?!

“You did...what?!” This could easily be the summary of how the Jewish believers responded to Peter’s evangelistic mission with Cornelius. Peter broke some rules that the Jews held onto firmly. No, it didn’t happen the way you thought it should happen. What is the proper response? At the end of Acts 11:1-18, they praised God. Maybe you or I wouldn’t have done it “that way”, but God did. That’s what matters. And praise is the proper response.

As we head into a revival beginning on May 31, what message is God sending your way? How is the Holy Spirit already working in your heart and mind? How is the Holy Spirit working in this church to bring about a true revival? True revival means change...even if it’s not the way you would do it.

### Session Members & Committees

Building & Grounds:  
Elder: Quinton  
Richardson  
Chair: Russell Mosley

Christian Education:  
Elder: Ann Rose  
Chair: Jessica Johnston

Congregational Care:  
Elder: Eric Johnston  
Chair:

Mission & Outreach:  
Elder: Gretchen Presson  
Chair: Gretchen Presson

Finance:  
Elder: Eric Johnston  
Chair:

Worship:  
Elder: Ann Rose  
Chair: Frances Gamble

Fellowship:  
Elder: Rick Gay  
Chair: Debbie Robinson

### Sermon Passages

- 5/3: Acts 10:1-6
- 5/10: Mother’s Day  
Acts 10:17-29
- 5/17: Acts 10: 34-43
- 5/24: Pentecost  
Acts 10:44-48
- 5/31: Acts 11:1-18

# Ministry Spotlight: The Shack

“The Shack” is a community food ministry located and run by Prospect Methodist Church, 6020 Prospect Rd.

Open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 9 am to 11 am.

Mission: To be led by God and show love to their neighbors.

As food is distributed to people, the volunteers hope to encourage recipients and help them help themselves.

## Help Fuel Our Future!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to connect with the younger generation in our community? We are looking for volunteers to sponsor a monthly meal for our youth group!

### The Details

- **When:** The first Wednesday of every month
- **Time:** Dinner is served at 6:00 PM
- **Who:** We typically host between 13 and 18 young people.
- **Why:** Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to build relationships. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our youth, hear their stories, and show your support for their journey.

### How it Works

You can choose to cook a home-style favorite, cater from a local spot, or even team up with a friend to co-host. Whether it's a taco bar, a giant batch of pasta, or a stack of pizzas, the goal is simple: good food and even better conversation.

Interested in grabbing a date on the calendar? Please contact Caitlin Richardson at 704-726-1045 or [walkersvilleepc@gmail.com](mailto:walkersvilleepc@gmail.com) to sign up for a month that works for you. We can't wait to see what's on the menu!





**👥 \*\*Children's Bible Study\*\***

I am so proud of our young learners and the incredible journey they have been on! After wrapping up a wonderful and meaningful series together, I am thrilled to announce that our children's Bible study group is stepping into something brand new and exciting this month. We are kicking off a fresh series called *Systematic Theology for Kids* - and before that name intimidates anyone, let me assure you, it is going to be a whole lot of fun!

This series is open to children of all ages - and yes, that absolutely includes those of you who are simply young at heart! Whether you are six or sixty, if you have a curious mind and a heart that wants to grow closer to God, you are welcome at this table.

This structured journey will walk our kids through the core doctrines of the Christian faith in a way that is engaging, age-appropriate, and rooted in the Bible stories they already know and love. The goal is simple but powerful - I don't just want our children to know *what* they believe, I want them to know *why* they believe it. From Creation to Faith that Saves, each lesson will help build a strong, lasting foundation for faith that will carry them through a lifetime.

By connecting big theological truths to familiar Bible stories, I hope to teach more than just Scripture - I hope to equip our students with the tools they need to confidently stand firm in their faith out in the real world. In a world that will challenge what they believe at every turn, I want our kids to be ready with their own answer. I want them to walk out of every lesson not just inspired, but prepared - able to explain what they believe, defend why they believe it, and share it boldly with the people around them. Faith that is understood is faith that endures, and that is exactly what I hope to build here, one lesson at a time.

I am excited to see what God is going to do through this series. It is going to be a fantastic journey - come grow with us, no matter your age!

**What's Coming Up:**

- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***  
The Very Beginning, Genesis 1:1-2
- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***  
Adam and Eve, Genesis 2-3
- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***  
NO BIBLE STUDY - CAITLIN ON VACATION
- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***  
Cain and Abel, Genesis 4

Questions? Contact Caitlin (704) 726-1045

The energy in our youth group is contagious, and we are excited to keep the momentum going this month! We are continuing our journey through *40 Different Methods for Studying the Bible*, and each session continues to open up fresh and exciting ways for our students to connect with God's Word. From creative journaling to inductive study and everything in between, participants are discovering approaches that truly resonate with their unique learning styles. If you haven't joined us yet, it is never too late to jump in!

And the fun doesn't stop there! Our students will also be rolling up their sleeves for a special service project right here at our church home. On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, following worship service, we will be fueling up with pizza and then getting to work renumbering the lids and pots for our beloved chicken and dumplings, as well as giving the fellowship hall closet and take-out room a good cleaning and organizing. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve, fellowship, and have a great time doing it!

We are so grateful for a group of students who love the Lord and love serving their church family. Come join the fun - many hands make light work, and there is always an extra slice of pizza waiting for you!

**May Youth SCHEDULE:**

- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> | \*\* 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**  
Daily Bread & The Timothy Method
- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> | 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM\*\***  
Maryville Youth at Walkersville  
SPECS ON & Rethink & Restate
- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> |**  
No Youth Group - Caitlin & Quinton on vacation!
- ☀️ 17 \*\*Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM\*\***  
Dinner with Little Angels  
Alphabet Method & One at a Time

Questions? Contact Caitlin (704-726-1045) or Quinton (980-210-6535)

**Join us: Mission & Outreach Meeting:**

We invite you to join our next Mission & Outreach meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, share fresh ideas, and plan how we can best serve and support those around us. Whether you have been involved for years or are simply curious about how you can help, your voice and perspective are incredibly valuable. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make a meaningful impact!



## Walkersville EPC Session Meeting Review April 16, 2026

### I. Prayer and Devotions

-Why are you a Christian?

### II. Approved: February 19, 2026, minutes; March 19, 2026, minutes

### III. Baptisms, new members, and visitors

-New membership meeting, May 3, 11:15 in the Library

### IV. Committee Reports: "How is each committee fulfilling the Great Commission?"

May 2026 Committee of the Month: Worship

May 2026 Elder of the Month (from the Committee of the Month): Ann Rose

\*\*\*Encouraging all committees to look ahead 12 months at each meeting

#### A. Building & Grounds: (Quinton Richardson)

-Faucet by Memorial Garden

-Railings for sanctuary chancel area-Vann's Welding

-Let Church Mutual know about the new playground

-new stove in Fellowship Hall

#### B. Christian Education: (Ann Rose)

-Nursery Sunday School teacher needed

-VBS 2026 preparations, July 12-15, 2026

-Nursery Schedule to be shared with Congregational Care

#### C. Congregational Care: (Eric Johnston)

-Chairperson needed?

-Nursery Schedule to be shared with Christian Education

-"Helping Hands" app to better serve each other

-For Prayer: James Gordon, Rick Moser, Larry Schott, Katie Dobbins, Bob McCain

#### D. Mission & Outreach: (Gretchen Presson)

-next meeting: May 19, 2026

-May Mission of the Month: The Shack (Prospect)

-2026 Chicken & Dumplings dates (tentative): October 17, 2026

-Looking ahead at having "Walkersville Days" to visit & work at local missions and ministries we support

-May 30, 2026 Community Yard Sale

-Tom Salisbury has agreed to be on the committee and help deliver collected items to local ministries

#### E. Worship: (Ann Rose)

-2026 tentative Communion Dates: May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Dec. 24

#### F. Finance: (Eric Johnston)

-Next Meeting: October 8, 2026, at 6:30 pm

-February 2026 Financial Report

-Should we begin 2026 with: \$50,000

-It would mean distributing: \$16,000

#### G. Fellowship: (Rick Gay)

-Next meeting: April 23, 2026, 10 am in the Fellowship Hall

-Making Revival preparations

-Revival Prayer Preparation, Wednesdays in May, 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall

-June 2 (last day of the Revival there will be an ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall)

-September 26 Fish Fry

#### H. Nominating Committee Report (Rick Gay, Ann Rose)

#### I. Pastor Search Committee Report

#### J. UC-EPC Women: (Caitlin Richardson)

### V. Old Business

A. Presbytery Report: Next meeting: April 24-25, 2026 Location: Overbrook EPC, Gaffney, SC

-Representing Walkersville: Eric Johnston

B. whom to call in an emergency:

Ken Thomas (980) 328-8702; Michael Krauter (Siler) (330) 309-2311; Doug Hines (New Hope) (980) 256-1355

C. Approved: Sell the bus; at some point in the future, look into a 15-passenger van (that anyone can drive)

D. Sound & Video people for Sunday morning: people who can learn to do this (create a team)

E. Congregational Meeting (election of elders): May 17, 2026

### VI. New Business

A. Updating the church's membership rolls

B. FYI: Debbie's health insurance

C. Define Caitlin's responsibilities beginning in July 2026

D. Flowers for Fran's and Clay's services

E. Youth Sunday in July: (tentative date) July 19, 2026

F. FYI: UCEPC Youth Leader meeting: April 17, 2026

G. Leadership Meeting: June 7, 2026

### VII. Dates for use of the Fellowship Hall:

A. Gretchen Presson: 5/17/2026

B. Caitlin Richardson: 6/5/26

### VIII. Close with prayer

Next stated Session meeting: May 21, 2026, 7pm in the Library

# A Heartfelt Farewell: Fellowship Luncheon for the Rankins

Please join us for a special covered dish luncheon as we gather to celebrate and honor Pastor Paul & Debbie Rankin. As many of you know, Sunday, June 28, will be their final service here at Walkersville. It has been a true blessing to have them lead and walk alongside our congregation, and the Fellowship Committee invites everyone to stay after the service to share a meal, exchange stories, and offer our deepest thanks for their years of dedicated ministry.

To help make this a wonderful feast, we ask that you bring a main dish, side, or dessert to share. Let's fill the fellowship hall with good food and even better company as we send the Rankins off with our prayers and warmest wishes for their next chapter!



- Mark Batson - 2
- Violet Aprilaren Clonch - 3
- Richard & Frances Gamble - 6
- Marlene Brown - 8
- Eddie & Wendy Parr - 8
- Paul & Gina Warner - 9
- Savannah Robinson - 10
- Terry McManus - 13
- Betty Lou Mosley - 13
- Gloria Norwood - 15
- Kristin Robinson - 16
- Dean Haney - 18
- Larry & Audrey Schott - 19
- Terry & Rhonda McManus - 21
- Harvey Hess - 22
- Kennedy Yeakley - 22
- Hunter Laton - 24
- Joseph & Elizabeth Wilson - 25
- Karen Carter - 27
- Lynn Twitty - 29
- Luke & Nicole Gill - 29

- 5/3: Amanda & Levi Fesperman
- 5/10: Gretchen Presson & Lexi Langley
- 5/17: Tiffany & Lily Presson
- 5/24: Chris & Jennifer Trull
- 5/31: Rhonda McManus & Wilson Johnston



# MAY 2026

## COM: Worship MOM: The Shack

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 Holy Communion Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Members Class 11:15 Youth Service 11:15am	4	5 Square Dancing 7-9pm	6 Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Youth, 6pm	7 Choir 7pm	8	9
10 Mother's Day Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	11 Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study	12 Session – PSC, 7pm Square Dancing 7-9pm	13 Oper. Reach-Out Meal, 12pm Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Youth 6pm	14 Ascension of Jesus Choir 7pm	15	16
17 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Congregation Mtg Presson Baby Shower, 2pm	18 Mission & Outreach, 6 pm	19 Square Dancing 7-9pm	20 Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Youth, 6pm	21 Session 7pm	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	25 Memorial Day Newsletter Submissions Due	26 Senior Covered Dish Lunch 11:30am Session – PSC, 7pm Square Dancing 7-9pm	27 Bible Study 3pm Prayer Time 4pm Little Angels & Outsiders 6:00pm	28 Choir 7pm	29	30 Yard Sale 9am – 1pm
31 Trinity Sunday Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Revival, 7pm	1 Revival, 7pm	2 Revival, 7pm	3	4	5	6

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# EXTENDED PRAYER LIST:

## Battling Cancer:

- Larry Medlin, Sr. - Stage 3 lung cancer (Father of Pete & Tiffany Medlin)
- Bricelyn Dorman (Daughter of Joey McCombs co-worker)
- John Cavallaro (Friend of Bob Stirton)
- Sandy Rea (Sister of Billy Thompson)
- Larry Norwood
- C.B. Griffin - Bone Cancer
- Tammy Huber - Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (Mother of one of Riley Campbell's clients)
- Paul Smith - (Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson)
- Howard Moser - Kidney Cancer (Rick Moser's Brother)
- Ann King (Friend of Sue Thornton)
- Alan Mears - Rectal Cancer (Pastor at Mineral Springs UMC)
- Eric Munoz - Multiple Myeloma (Friend of Bob Stirton)
- Mark Mull - Brain Tumor (Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson)

## Various Concerns:

- Rick Moser
- Phil Keyes
- Layne & Lynn Dewlen - Various health concerns
- Tanner Hasty - 10 year old with migraines & coned vision (Client of Riley Campbell)
- Jerry Griffin - (Community friends)
- Frankie Norwood - Dementia (Brother of Hazel Norwood)
- Monty Brady - (Relative of Rhonda McManus & Sue Thornton)
- Bart & Pat Jackson - Declining health (Cousins of Fran Griffin)

## Assisted Living:

- Robby Griffin:  
Lee Forest Group Home  
1209 Pelham Dr  
Laurinburg, NC 28352
- Nancy Thomas  
Lake Park Rehabilitation

## Active Military:

- Jesse Par (PV2) - 2-47 IN BN B CO 9240 Treadwen DR BLD 3405, Fort Benning, GA, 31905
- Matthew Luke - Gretchen Presson's co-worker's son. Deploying to the Middle East.
- Chad Clonch - Lieutenant in the US Navy, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek. Chad is Scarlett Clonch's husband and son-in-law of Bob & Marsha Stirton. 4628 Larkwood Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464
- Luke Mault - Staff Sergeant in the US Army Reserve, A. CO 404th Civil Affairs Battalion Africa. Family friend of Ron & Lisa Tietjen.
- Garret Melton - US Marine stationed Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. Grandson of Danny & Marlene Little, Grandson-in-law of Larry & Audrey Schott.
- Devin Moser - Senior Chief, US Navy. Out on a mission for at least a year. Son of Rick Moser.
- Peyton Maguffey - Serving on the Donald Cook war ship at the rank of E5 as a CTR (cryptologiv technician collection). Great nephew of Bob & Marsha Stirton.
- Chris Rankin - Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army stationed in Ft. Drum, NY. Paul Rankin's nephew. 10266 Glass St, JBLM, WA 98433
- Jarrett Setliff - US Air Force stationed in Florida. Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson; Hazel & Gloria Norwood. 624 B W. Pine St., Mary Esther, FL 32569

## Walkersville EPC Contact Information & Office Hours

**Pastor Paul Rankin:**  
**814-279-5055**  
**walkersvilleepcpastor@gmail.com**  
**Mon-Thurs: 8:30-5:00 or by appt.**

**Caitlin Richardson (Administrative Asst):**  
**704-726-1045**  
**walkersvilleepc@gmail.com**  
**M-W-F 9 am - 3 pm**