



# TOWER BELLS

January 2026

*“Stepping Into a Year of Renewal, Hope, and Positive Change”*

## A New Year of Grace and Transformation

As we step into this new year, may we do so with hearts open to God’s transforming grace. This is a season of positive change—of growing deeper in faith, strengthening our bonds with one another, and embracing the new things God is preparing in our midst.

May the Holy Spirit guide our steps, renew our spirits, and empower us to be a community of hope, compassion, and courage. Together, let us walk forward with expectation, trusting that the God who has carried us this far will continue to lead us into greater purpose and blessing.

### Session Highlights

#### Preparing for a Faithful and Fruitful 2026

**Administrative Leadership** The Session continued its conversation about functioning as an Elder-led congregation. Discussion included identifying a **Co-Moderator**. We continue to seek a Teaching Elder from a nearby congregation to serve as Moderator. Additionally, volunteers will be invited to help staff the church office during the week, freeing Suzie to focus more on coordination and administration.

**Pastoral Search Preparation** The Session is working to secure a representative from the Presbytery’s Call Commission to guide next steps toward forming a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**.

A motion passed to form a **Session Subcommittee** to begin preparing the Congregation Profile and outlining the qualities we seek in our next pastor. Members include: **James, Gladys Wade, Dave Compton, MaryKay Payne, and Pam Browning**. This will be a long process due to the leadership structure that will need to be in place to have compensation and our new mission statement leading us into the future.

**Financial & Property Matters** Cliff provided an update on securing the anonymous **\$100,000 donation** for the **Legacy Fund for Capital Maintenance and Improvement**. This endowment will ensure that our buildings are properly maintained and improved without burdening the annual operating budget. Discussion was held regarding the church-owned property on 3rd Street. After deliberation, a motion passed (5–4) to list the property for sale and place proceeds into a **Mission Fund** dedicated to growing the church.

*Your friend,  
Suzie Cornelio*

### January Birthdays:

Katherine Majors	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joel Hutchinson	16 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Towne	24 <sup>th</sup>
Gracie Sloan	4 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Browning	18 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Stone-Erdman	25 <sup>th</sup>
Tim Towne	8 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Powell	20 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>
Casey Taylor	9 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Driggers	22 <sup>nd</sup>		



## Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

On **November 30, 2025**, our congregation rejoiced as we welcomed several children into the family of faith through the waters of baptism. With gratitude and joy, we celebrate:

**Children of Colby & Mikayla Ravan; Brantley J. Ravan, Baylor T. Ravan, Brooklyn M. Ravan**

**Daughter of Bryce Segui & Priscilla Sloan: Stella M. Segui, Son of Parker & Jordan Sloan, Cooper C. Sloan**

Each baptism is a reminder of God's promise and our shared calling to nurture these children in the love and knowledge of Christ. May their lives be filled with grace, joy, and the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit.



**Presbyterian Women:** After hosting a reception for over 150 people for Ken Mahaffey, the Presbyterian Women decided on a Christmas project to benefit ARK, the animal rescue group in Crescent City. Food, litter, blankets and toys, donated by PW went to ARK and will help the group into 2026. PW will host a Gathering January 20 at 11:30 am in Westminster Hall, featuring a scrumptious pot luck lunch and a talk on AARP strategies for aging well by Arlene Marchese. The 42nd Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held at the Montgomery Conference Center on 1/31/26 from 9 am to 2 pm.

## Leadership for the Coming Year

### Session

**Rev. Cliff Lyda, Moderating**

**Robert A. Mattson, Clerk**

**Class of 2026** Terry Albright, Dave Compton, Kim Daley, Wayne Bodiford

**Class of 2027** Ron Bloor, Elliott Kane, Tony Marvin, MaryKay Payne

**Class of 2028** James Browning, Sherry Tindall, Steve Crowley, Carolyn Faunce

**Deacon Chair** Sharon Flatter [sflatter@windstream.net](mailto:sflatter@windstream.net)

**Election of Deacons** Linda Mahoney, Lisa Prichard, Nancy Van Horn

**Financials for November, 2025:** Year to date through November 30th:  
Revenue YTD \$224,000.; Expenses YTD \$262,000.; Deficit YTD \$38,000.

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### Pastor

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### Music Director

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