

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM
Marshville Presbyterian Church
Marshville, NC
www.marshvillepresbyterianchurch.org



OUR COMMUNITY

Located in the Piedmont of North Carolina, Marshville is the eastern most town in Union County, North Carolina, and is eight miles from Monroe, the county seat.

With a population of approximately 2,500, the town is situated in an economically distressed area. Marshville Elementary School, located next door, reports that approximately 70% of their students come from homes that are at or below the poverty level.

Within the city limits are two public schools: Marshville Elementary School and East Union Middle School. Just more than a mile from town is Forest Hills High School. Mid-sized South Piedmont Community College also serves the community and Wingate University campus is but four miles west of town.

In addition to the mainline Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches, there is a multitude of smaller congregations and an African-American mega-church.

Busy Highway 74 will soon be connected to I-485 east of Charlotte, North Carolina. The bypass begins just west of the Marshville city limits, thus the traffic pattern to Charlotte may change, possibly resulting in an influx of new residents in this area. A state-of-the-art hospital and medical facilities in Monroe, and two nursing facilities are in Marshville. Farming and related industries form the base of the economy.

OUR CHURCH

Its History

One can only speculate as to the many reasons that prompted the 18 original members to present a petition to Mecklenburg Presbytery (PCUS) meeting at Kings Mountain on September 8, 1892 to appoint a commission to organize a Presbyterian Church. The petition was accepted, and a commission of eight was appointed.

On November 6, 1882, the church of the Presbyterian order, named 'Barclay' in honor of the Reverend Mr. Jonas Barclay, their esteemed evangelist, was officially founded. The first building, a wooden structure comprised of one large room with a big stove in the middle, was constructed in 1893. There were two Elders, two Deacons, a budget of \$240 and no hymnals. Through devotion and diligence, the current attractive brick structure was completed in 1923.

The church functioned as a multi-generational congregation with a full-time pastor until the early 1980s. Since then it has been served by part-time Supply Pastors, the most recent serving the church and its community with distinction for 17 years. The once-active Sunday School program went into decline because children grew up and moved away, and no new families were added. Since 2000 there has been only one Sunday School class for older adults.

In 2015 the congregation voted unanimously to seek to be dismissed from Charlotte Presbytery (PCUSA) and to apply for acceptance into ECO. Re-affiliation was formalized in 2016.

Its Identity

We are a small but active community of faith seeking to grow toward maturity in Christ and to be ever more effective in bearing witness to our community, materially and spiritually. Our members are bound together with strong bonds of love and caring. The Elders are committed to their respective functions, leading the congregation to live into its identity as a Christ-centered, Biblically-based church characterized by full endorsement of ECO's Essential Tenets. We are eager to help our aging members "finish well" while seeking to draw into our fellowship others of our post-retirement peer group as well as those of younger generations.

The majority of our members are elderly, living on fixed incomes. The stewardship of our congregation has supported the church's needs with an annual budget in the range of

\$70,000. In addition to providing for the normal operation of the church, we are strongly committed to local benevolences. We help, both financially and materially a number of community services, including the nursing home across the street from the church, the elementary school next door, the Boys and Girls Club at the local middle school, the Backpack Buddies program, the community Crisis Ministry services, Loaves and Fishes food bank, Burnsville Educational and Recreational Center and the Christmas Bureau, which provides toys, clothes and other essentials to children. We annually provide scholarship(s) to students from church families or the area. As a result, the church is highly respected.

We have excellent relationships with the other churches in the community, cooperating in local outreach projects, and sharing in joint services of worship during Thanksgiving and the Holy Weeks of Easter and Christmas.

Its Profile

Strengths:

- Committed congregation
- Loving, caring church family
- Willingness to work on behalf of its community
- Supportive in responding to requests and needs, both locally and nationally
- Beauty of our sanctuary

Weaknesses:

- An aging population
- A congregation of primarily financially modest families
- Lack of youth in congregation
- Difficulty in recruiting new membership
- Minimal corporate commitment to evangelical spiritual disciplines (learning, prayer, and witness)

Obstacles:

- Located in a pocket of poverty
- Located in a small town which has enjoyed little prosperity

Opportunities:

- Beautiful church now undergoing capital improvements
- Excellent standing in the community
- Many friendships with un-churched neighbors
- Meaningful cooperation with other local churches
- Use of current methods of communication, such as social media

Its Goals

1. Use social media as a recruitment/communication tool
2. Use technology to enhance the worship and educational programs in the church
3. Continue to upgrade the facility to ensure it can accommodate growth

4. Utilize more efficiently and effectively the talents within the church family
5. Increase activities within the church which will enhance outreach efforts
6. Develop commitment to corporate prayer
7. Engage more members in the study of God's Word
8. Balance material outreach with personal outreach
9. Integrate "friendship evangelism" with member recruitment

Our Current Quest

We anticipate calling a bi-vocational/part-time Pastor based on these criteria:

- ❖ **Expectations:** Being committed to the essential tenets of ECO and recognizing the *Bible* as the inspired Word of God is crucial. To spend 18-20 hours per week serving the church congregation and its community through sound communication, leadership and administration. It is very important to possess good people skills and to be a compassionate and caring person.
- ❖ **Qualifications:** Ordained, anticipation of ordination or a Ruling Elder approved by ECO.
- ❖ **Position Description:** Preaching and teaching the Word, administering the Sacraments, Pastoral care of the congregation in joy and sorrow, showing a presence in the community, as time permits, and continue to equip the covenant partners in discipleship.
- ❖ **Salary:** Negotiable; \$20,000 - \$25,000, depending on the number of hours involved, plus normal benefits.

Our Contacts

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ECO References

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