

Wayside Presbyterian Church
2023 Hwy 33 West, Chocowinity, NC 27817



Dear Brother in Christ,

We appreciate your interest in Wayside Presbyterian Church and hope the information we have provided will give you a picture of our church family and our community. We have included our history, overview of our community, our desires for our new pastor, profiles of our search committee which is a cross section of our congregation, and the application process.

We believe God has a sovereign plan for our church and our new pastor. Our prayer is for wisdom and discernment as we move forward in getting acquainted with each other. Our church has a strong foundation of Bible believing Christians. We are small in numbers but have the spiritual desire and physical capacity for potential growth. Our area has much to offer and is growing with many outreach possibilities.

Our pastor of 52 years recently passed. The church is ready to move forward with a new vision for the future. We need the right man God has chosen to lead us. Please join us in praying for what God has in store for both you and Wayside.

In Christ,
Wayside Pastoral Search Committee

History of Wayside Presbyterian Church (PCA)

In 1934, a simple wooden building belonging to the Free Will Baptists sat abandoned on a small lot two miles west of Chocowinity on Highway 33. Reverend W. D. McInnis, pastor from the First Presbyterian Church in Washington, NC, initiated a survey of the neighborhood and found sufficient interest for them to establish a Sunday School there. They got permission from the Baptists for the use of the building. The first record of the church was August 7, 1938. They began that afternoon with approximately one hundred attendants. In 1943, they purchased the church from the Baptists. The Albemarle Presbytery of the PCUS sent Reverend James C. Hines to lead the congregation. Under his leadership, it became Wayside Presbyterian Church on September 16, 1945, with eighteen charter members. During the 1940's and 1950's, the church grew in size and service to the area, and many new members were added to the rolls.

Since its founding, Wayside has been served by several ministers. In February 1971, Pastor Ola Forbes, Jr. began a period of service as Pulpit Supply for several years. He was installed as pastor of Wayside Presbyterian Church on October 31, 1976, and led the congregation for over 50 years with strong biblical preaching and teaching. The congregation was active in the Presbytery and supportive in the beginning of Pamlico Presbyterian Church in Oriental, NC.

On December 15, 1974, the officers of Wayside officially withdrew the congregation from the Albemarle Presbytery of the PCUS. Wayside became a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) as part of the Carolina Presbytery on January 25, 1975. The church had approximately 62 active members at the time, and about 100 were attending each Sunday.

In 1976, a decision was made to build a new sanctuary and do some extensive remodeling of the old sanctuary to provide additional Sunday School rooms. The building program continued through 1978 with the new sanctuary being completed and the new pews arriving just in time for the Christmas services that year. On December 24, 1978, the first morning service was held in the new sanctuary, followed by the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The services were beautiful indeed. Dedication services were held at Wayside Presbyterian Church (PCA), in Chocowinity, NC, on April 29, 1979.

Reverend Forbes' mother played the piano for 35 years and taught her two granddaughters, Lisa and Olive, who currently continue her legacy by sharing their wonderful piano and organ talents each Sunday. Mrs. Marlene Fancher led the choir for many years. She held practice weekly and at one time there were 14 in the choir. Throughout the years, members and friends of Wayside have worshiped and enjoyed fellowship in numerous ways: Vacation Bible School, the Ingathering meal and worship every year before Thanksgiving, the Christmas program put on by the youth every year, the Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service, the church cookout in the spring, Sunday School classes for all ages, the Women in the Church meetings and fellowship, and the Men of the Church meetings and fellowship.



The past year (2021) has been a difficult one for the congregation. Reverend Forbes was diagnosed with cancer and offered to resign his position at the end of November 2021 for health reasons. Eastern Carolina Presbytery approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Wayside and placed him on their rolls as honorably retired at its January 2022 meeting. He passed away February 3, 2022; his wife Gloria, who taught a Sunday School class for many years, had passed just a few weeks earlier in December 2021.

The congregation passed a resolution honoring Reverend Ola Forbes, Jr. as Pastor Emeritus on January 30, 2022. Ruling elder Ledrue Buck presented a plaque to his children Jason Forbes, Olive Waters, and Lisa Carrow at church this spring.

Our ruling elders, several retired pastors, seminary students and elders from other PCA churches have been leading worship for the past several months. The congregation held a meeting May 1, 2022, to form a pulpit search committee; they have been working since to find God's minister who will lead the congregation into the future.

Community and Area Profile

Chocowinity is located in Beaufort County, North Carolina about five miles south of Washington, North Carolina. The population of the county is estimated at about 47,000. Chocowinity was incorporated in 1959. Once known as Godley's Cross Roads, shortly before the Revolutionary War the name was changed to Chocawanteth. According to historians, the name is derived from the Tuscarora Indians who lived here several hundred years ago. Rev. N.C. Hughes, Jr. traced the name to Chocawanteth Creek, now spelled Chocowinity Creek. The meaning of the word Chocowinity is believed to be "fish from many waters," and with Chocowinity Creek, Chocowinity Bay, and the Pamlico River, many different fish have been caught in these waters.



We are blessed with a very good educational system in the area. From preschool through college, our schools are comparable to any in the state. Beaufort County Community College offers certificates, diplomas, or an associate's degree in various curriculums.

At the Chocowinity recreation park, baseball and softball games are played, and concessions are available. Children can play on the playground, with a walking trail around the park for exercise. There are several grocery stores, a pharmacy, medical and dental facilities, and restaurants in Chocowinity.

One of eastern Carolina's best kept secrets is Cypress Landing, a development of over 600 homes with a total of 700 lots. Cypress Landing offers numerous amenities, including an 18-hole championship golf course and restaurant, a deep water marina, The Bay Club, a community center, two pools, a fitness center, tennis and pickleball courts, and several nature trails. Cypress Landing was once named one of the Top 20 Communities in the United States by New Choices magazine. Cypress Corner and other developments are rapidly growing in the area.

Twin Lakes Campground is just a short drive out of the town limits. RV campsites, cabins, or cottages are available. Twin Lakes has a game room, a pool, two lakes, a playground, and other attractions.

Washington, NC was named in 1776 for George Washington and has a rich historic district that includes the Turnage Theatre, a venue for performing arts. Other attractions include the Underground Railroad Museum, Estuarium, restaurants, fishing, boating and kayaking, and seasonal festivals along the waterfront. Goose Creek State Park is between Washington and historic Bath, the oldest town in NC. Other small towns and communities such as Aurora, Belhaven, Pantego, and Grimesland offer insight of daily life in rural eastern NC.

Greenville, NC, the Emerald City, is a gem serving as the medical, educational, cultural and economic hub of eastern NC. Twenty miles from Chocowinity, East Carolina University is one of the largest universities in the state. ECU has a world class medical school, and health care in Greenville is a model for many in the country. Greenville offers shopping, dining, and many other attractions.

Raleigh, the state capital, is two hours away and easily accessible with the excellent highway system we now enjoy. Exciting day trips can be taken to locations such as the Outer Banks, New Bern, Wilmington, Jacksonville, Morehead City, Atlantic Beach, and the town of Beaufort.

https://www.townofchocowinity.com/information_services/then_now/index.php

<https://www.cypresslandingnc.com/home/> www.visitwashingtonnc.com

<https://www.washingtonnc.gov/> <https://www.witn.com/weather/cams/>

<https://www.greenvillenc.gov/> <https://www.ecu.edu/> <https://www.newbernnc.gov/>

<https://locations.ecuhealth.org/greenville/ecu-health-medical-center.html>

<https://townofbathnc.com/> <https://www.nctripping.com/eastern-north-carolina/>

Our desires for a new pastor include the following:

- He proclaims the Word of God challenging and stirring the hearts of our church family to interact with love and godly wisdom toward our community and our world.
- He will visit members of the congregation with special attention to those who are shut-ins or those who are in need of special pastoral comfort and care due to sickness, hospitalizations, loss, or other needs as they arise.
- He will disciple and encourage the members of the congregation in active ministry and service to be the hands and feet of Jesus.
- He will actively teach the Scriptures, interpret doctrines of the reformed faith throughout the history of the church, and lead the congregation in evaluating current events from a biblical perspective. He instructs and guides members who have leadership responsibilities in the church.
- He will be involved in outreach and evangelism in our community. He will also lead and encourage us to boldly share our faith with others.
- He will be active in the Presbytery and in the work of the denomination, keeping the Session and congregation informed and up to date.

Pulpit Search Committee

Ledruue Buck



Bonnie and I have been blessed, that the Lord led us to Wayside Church some 60 plus years ago. It has been during this time that we have had so many opportunities to serve the Lord in so many ways. I was elected a ruling elder and given the opportunity to teach Sunday School, serve as president of the Men's Fellowship, and on occasion fill in as pulpit supply. I am so thankful that the Lord allowed me to serve His Church and His people for so many years alongside Rev. Ola Forbes, Jr., for he was my pastor as well as my friend upon whom I could depend no matter what the problem I was dealing with. For 52, years Rev. Ola Forbes, Jr. taught and preached the Truth of God's Word in its truth and purity. It is my prayer that Wayside Church will continue to proclaim that Word as the only infallible rule and guide for life.

Lisa Carrow



My grandparents attended Wayside before my parents and before my father began preaching. Wayside has always been my church home. My grandmother attended ECU and became the music teacher at Chocowinity School. She began grooming Olive and me when Wayside received our first organ given by the Cole family. We began playing together at church when Olive was 15 and I was 26. I was Office Manager at several businesses in Washington in the past. I love the old families at church, but what excites me is those who have come and those who will come and give fresh character and enthusiasm to our congregation.

Bill Cherry (Chairman of the Search Committee)



My wife and I transferred our membership from Wilson Presbyterian Church, where as I served as Deacon, to Wayside in October 2021. With our nest recently emptied, we found our way to this quiet and welcoming area and a sister PCA congregation. My wife is Denise. We have been married for 28 years. We have twin boys, Alex, who is in the Air Force stationed in Nevada and Andru, who remained in our hometown of Wilson working as a mechanic. As a family, we have been all points reformed for 20 years. I work in Information Technology and Denise is a school teacher working with at-risk kids of alternative schools which she loves. I would love to see the Lord use our church in this community to share the beauty of the gospel.

Jason Forbes



I attended ECU and have a BS degree in Geography and a minor in Biology with Associates in Engineering and Electronics. I am employed by the NC Wildlife Department. My grandparents were members of Wayside for many years. I was born into Wayside, and my father was pastor for over 50 years. I want to see Wayside grow and will do whatever I can to help.

Ron & Anita Kohlin



We are the newest members of Wayside having moved to the area to be near our son and his wife in January 2022. We have been members of PCA churches since 1991 in Lexington, KY and Niceville, FL where Ron served as a ruling elder, and then Chattanooga and Dayton, TN for the past 15 years. Our search led us to Wayside PCA in February 2022 after we closed on our home here. We grew up in Wisconsin, were married in 1968, and lived in several states during Ron's 30 years with IBM. Ron retired in 1998, and we lived in FL & TN after. Anita had several different careers over the years. We are both retired and enjoying our home, family and our new church family. We are excited to see what God has in store and who He will bring to Wayside as our new pastor.

Connie Lewis



I have attended Wayside Presbyterian Church my entire life and became a communing member in 1997. The many Christian leaders and teachers at Wayside have been pivotal in the development of my faith. I have wonderful memories of Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, church functions, and many loving Christian members. I have taught the teenage Sunday School class at Wayside for many years. I am a retired English teacher, having taught in Beaufort County for 28 years. My husband, Lenwood (Red), is also a retired teacher. I look forward to the word of God continuing to be preached at Wayside.

Jimmy Page



I have been a member of the Wayside family for approximately 18 years. I remember my first Sunday, the pastor, Ola Forbes, approached the pulpit and he could have passed for my granddaddy Page. His size and appearance could have passed for almost a twin.

When I heard Olive and Lisa on the piano and organ, I knew I had found "my church." I love music, and these two Forbes sisters are some of the very best musicians I have seen anywhere. It is always a treat to hear them. In a small country church, Wayside is so blessed to have so much talent. Along with Olive and Lisa, other members also contribute so much. A treat is always in store at Wayside. God has blessed our small church with so much wonderful talent and people who are willing to contribute any way they can.

Over the years, we have lost so many of the older members, and their pews seem so empty without them. It has been like losing a family member. Wayside welcomed Janice and me, and we look forward each Sunday to seeing our "church family." May God continue to bless our church and church family.

Casey Van Staaldin



I was born in Beaufort County Hospital in 1966 and grew up in the Dutch Reformed community at the Christian Reformed Church in Terra Ceia. The church training and life were strong and true and based on Reformed principles as presented in the Heidelberg Catechism. My wife and I attended private schools supported by the CRC in our youth. We married in 1996 and have five children. When the CRC was split in 1998, we left for the United Reformed Church. From 2005 to 2008, I had issues with leadership at the URC that could not be resolved, so we started looking for a new church home. When I came to Wayside, I quickly understood I need look no further.

The church family here, Rev. Forbes' preaching, and his and Mr. Ledrue's leadership were the Presbyterian equivalent of what I had grown up in and will stand in good stead for us and our children. We joined the church in 2011, and I became a ruling elder in November 2021.

David Wiseman



My wife Christy and I have been members since 2020. I was elected by the congregation of Wayside and installed as a ruling elder in November 2021, having been previously ordained in 1990 by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination. I am retired and currently serving as clerk of session.

How to Apply

To apply, please submit the following:

- 1.) Cover Letter / Resume;
- 2.) PCA Ministerial Data Form;
- 3.) Links to at least two (2) recent sermons or teaching presentations.
(all attachments should be in PDF format.)

Application packets may be submitted: By mail to:

Wayside Presbyterian Church

ATTN: Pastor Search Committee

P.O. Box 70

Chocowinity, NC 27817

Pulpit Committee Chairman: Bill Cherry 252-218-2697

E-mail us at waysidePCA@proton.me