

Ending the Year in Style...

...Victorian style, that is.



Left to right are Rev. Meg Jackson Clark, Marie Boswell, Jocelyn Clark, Sue Cross and Joan Stevens

On the evening of December 17, 2023, the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro had an amazing and memorable event. More than 90 people came to experience what church was like when "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens was printed in 1842. Visitors were entertained as they arrived by a group of carolers in front of the church dressed in early Victorian garb. The carols they sang were those known to parishioners in the mid-19th century. Upon entering the church, Victorian dressed greeters welcomed them. With electric lights set at minimum levels, attendees entered a sanctuary bathed in the light of candles. The stage was set....

As was the custom in the 1840s, the Reverend Alex Stevens and his wife Joan were announced to the congregation. They then proceeded up the aisle, with Rev. Stevens ascending to the pulpit. The service itself was based on the 1840 Book of Order of the United Church of England and Ireland. The language used throughout was what you would



Sue Cross and Jocelyn Clark singing "Song of Simeon"

have seen and heard at that time. Even the sermon given was from Christmas Day 1843. And finally, Charles Dickens was a fierce proponent for correcting the social ills of mid-19th century England and in that spirit the offering collected that evening was donated to the Greene County Food Pantry. Based on comments heard that night and the enthusiasm of all who participated, the church

plans to hold a similar Dickens Christmas event this next December.

The First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro is located at 117 South Main Street in downtown Greensboro (next to the Post Office). Services are held Sunday morning at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Meg Jackson Clark. Scripture Study precedes the service at 9:45 a.m.