

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
PO BOX 56/6103 Appomattox Rd.
Climax, NC 27233
Church Office: 336-674-0155 Fax: 336-674-0157

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Carlton Johnson brought an article by the office recently that included "Rules for Going to Church." I don't know the name of the book wherein Carlton found them. It states the author of the rules is Bishop Vincent. They certainly provide helpful steps for getting the most out of your worship experience.

Rules on Going to Church

- 1. Go early to church. Not only be punctual, but be in your place before the hour announced for the service to begin.*
- 2. Go in a reverent spirit. On the way remember whither you go. Avoid lightness of manner and conversation on worldly topics.*
- 3. Before you enter and as you enter the church breathe a silent prayer of invocation for the influence of the Holy Spirit.*
- 4. As you take your place, bow your head reverently in prayer for yourself and for all others who enter the sanctuary.*
- 5. Resolve that you will foster no thought, fix your eyes on no object, and utter no word that will tend to divert your mind from the Holy purpose for which you have come into this place.*
- 6. As the minister enters the pulpit, offer an earnest silent prayer in her/his behalf.*
- 7. In all the service take an active part, as hearer, as worshipper.*
- 8. At the close of the service, after a moment of prayerful silence, greet with cheerfulness and good will all whom you happen to meet, remembering that Christian fellowship is a part of Christian worship. ---Bishop Vincent*

A note that the book's author added to the rules: "An excellent suggestion is contained in the notice posted at the doorway of many churches: `Whosoever thou art that entereth this church, remember it is the house of God. Be reverent, be silent, be thoughtful. And leave it not without a prayer to God, for thyself, for him who ministers, and for those who worship here.'"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Our Mission at Bethlehem UMC is to share the love and spirit of Christ, be a welcoming fellowship for all, nurture followers of Jesus and send them, as servants, into the world in need of God's grace.

Pastor

Rev. Michael Swofford
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Deacon

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Vickie Flinchum

Choir Director

Dr. Cesar Marimon
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Organist

Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Child Care Director

Jackie Smith
336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Debbie Marlowe

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bethlehemumc.org

OUR PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Prayer Needs:

Dale Austin	Marjorie Mabe
Gloria Austin	Donna McClintock (Home)
Suzie Branch	Jamie O'Daniel
Edna Coble (NH)	Dickie Parks
Cletis Fields (NH)	David Robb
Cory Fields	Sharon Thornton
Kelsey Garrett	Brody Watson
Martha Hinshaw (NH)	All of Our Homebound

Immediate Prayer Needs:

Heather Fields Coble
Doris Hockett
Ruby Hockett (assisted living)
Bobbie McClintock (Home)
Lucille McClintock
Jeffrey Welker
Kay Wilkinson

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3 KJV

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for September 2017

\$229,035.47 Total Budget Money Available September 1, 2017
 + 26,032.97 Money Received in September
 - 25,916.92 Money Spent in September
 \$229,151.52 Total Budget Money Available September 30, 2017

For the month of September, 2017, the Church Budget received \$116.05 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$2,724.31 more than it spent.

Major Maintenance & Repair Fund – this designated money will be used to pay for major maintenance or repair projects to the Church building, parsonage or parking lot. The Board of Trustees must recommend all expenditures from this fund to the Church Council, and the Church Council must approve all expenditures from this fund. This is a perpetual fund and a minimum balance of \$2,500.00 shall be maintained at all times.

\$11,959.58 Total MM&RF Money Available September 30, 2017

Other Designated Gifts – occurs when the Church receives money for a designated purpose and the Church shall only spend this money for the purpose that it was given.

Insurance Money (mold)	\$ 6,053.70	Cemetery Fund	\$ 10,355.29
Food Pantry	\$ 302.09	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,654.45	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Little Chefs	\$ 910.70	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 14,616.08
Records & History	\$ 521.56	Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88
UMYF	\$16,091.57	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 19,234.94
Family Ministries	\$ 2,104.23	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 667.07
Bible Study Books	\$ <152.34>	Helen Grady Endowment	\$ 2,351.55
Columbarium Niche	\$ 1,000.00	Columbarium Donations	\$ 275.00
UMCOR Hurricane Relief	\$ 700.00	Misc In/Out (DBOM)	\$ 80.00

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available September 30, 2017 \$81,691.51

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2017
DECEMBER 3RD, 2017

Upcoming Birthdays

November Birthdays

11/1 Matthew Garrett
Amanda Parks
11/3 Denny Spencer
11/5 Kaila Hill
11/6 Sharon Hill
11/10 Justin Windsor
11/11 Pat Coble
Sarah Hinshaw
Annie Mae Jones
Jean Greeson
11/12 Vickie Flinchum
Karen Lauder
Kathy Wilkinson
Madison Nance
11/13 Fred Cook
11/14 Ronda Faggart
Phil Smith
Melissa Swofford
Carol Williams
11/17 Jonathan King
Emily Lauder
Nathan Pipe
11/18 Gail Williams
Mario Massarelli
11/19 Will Rivers
11/22 Nancy Kivett
Terry Owens
11/23 Doug Garrett
Franklin Stevens
11/24 Frank Willis
11/27 Ginny Fields
11/28 Tim Fields
Bobby Tew
11/29 Ethan Hill
Wayne Moser
11/30 Mark Allen
Beverly Culbertson

December Birthdays

12/2 Bobbie McClintock
12/5 Gene Flinchum
12/9 Cory Fields
Luke Hinshaw
12/11 Erin Edwards
Dawn White
Charles Wells
12/13 Wayne Alley
Karon Monnett
12/15 Jerry Berry
Jerry Monnett
12/17 Nelle Haywood
Jane Chamelin
12/18 Doris Hockett
12/19 Grant Allen
12/21 David Fields
12/23 Leigh Garrett
12/26 Amber Cook
Cindy Franklin
Leah Fields
12/27 Joy Cranfill
Logan Royal
12/28 Cindy Duncan
12/29 Marjorie Mabe
12/30 Andrew Coward
12/31 David Allen

We have tried to include all birthdays and list them accurately. Please let the church office know if we have omitted or incorrectly listed information.



THIS & THAT

COAT DRIVE REMINDER --- CUB SCOUTS PACK 342 is accepting your gently used coats (adults & children) for distribution in November. Drop-off box is outside of church office. Deadline to drop off coats is Nov. 17th. Distribution date is Nov. 25th. Questions - contact Dee Geringer (336) 213-0326.

---IN OUR COMMUNITY---

Needed Pee Wee Basketball Team Coach, ages 9 – 11 year-old boys. Practice is Tues. nights @ 6PM @ PG Gym. All games will be played on Saturdays. Schedule will be out before the first game, which is usually around the first Sat. in Dec. If interested, please see David Cranfill or contact him by cell phone: 336-509-5994.

JOINT THANKSGIVING SERVICE Our annual joint Thanksgiving Service with Pleasant Garden UMC will be Sunday, November 19 @ 7PM, here at Bethlehem UMC. Be sure to mark your calendars for this very special worship service. Canned goods to stock BUMC's food pantry are appreciated. Fellowship time with refreshments will follow the service. **Donations of finger foods are requested.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Pleasant Garden's Christmas Parade & Tree-lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 beginning at 3PM.

Memorials Received

In Memory of Billy Underwood By Ruby Hockett	In Memory of Raeford Fields By Byron & Phyllis Dahl	In Memory of Scott Hackett By Shirley Hackett
In Memory of Billy Underwood By Gene & Vickie Flinchum	In Memory of Raeford Fields By David, Tracy, & J.D. Peele	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Betty Wilkins
In Memory of Billy Underwood By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy	In Memory of Raeford Fields By Jim & Carol Williams	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Jerry & Karon Monnett
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Phil & Jackie Smith	In Memory of Raeford Fields By Jane Chamelin	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Bette Weatherly
In memory of Raeford Fields By Tommy & Anne Ross	In Memory of Raeford Fields By Earl & Faye Fields	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Ruby Hockett
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Ms. Donnie Shuller	In Memory of Raeford Fields By Nancy Golden	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Nancy Golden
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy	In Memory of Raeford Fields By PGHS Class of 1954	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Ronda Faggart
In Memory of Raeford Fields By W.F. Gruble	In Memory of Raeford Fields By Bobby & Dottie Tew	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Kelly & Betty Fields
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Jim & Belinda Hiner	In Memory of Travis Norris By Robert Waugh	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Frank & Julia Willis
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Jim Smith	In Memory of Travis Norris By Carol Melvin & Lisa Rankin	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Margaret Royal
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Hubert & Bettye Allred	In memory of Travis Norris By Phil & Jackie Smith	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Charles & Lorene Wells
In Memory of Raeford Fields By William & Virginia Faulk	In Memory of Travis Norris By Carol Fields	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Class of 1956 (PGHS)
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Wayne & Dot Miller, Gary Eanes	In Memory of Travis Norris By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Phil & Jackie Smith
In Memory of Raeford Fields By After Gateway, Inc.	In Memory of Travis Norris By Cynthia Fields	In Memory of Dalton Bowman By Cynthia Fields
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Ruby Hockett	In Memory of Travis Norris By Gene & Vickie Flinchum	In Memory of Frances F. Fields By Arnold & Joyce Ingold
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Carol Melvin & Lisa Rankin	In Memory of Travis Norris By David, Tracy & J.D. Peele	In Memory of Frances F. Fields By Jeannette Fields
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Cynthia Fields	In Memory of Travis Norris By Phyllis Wicker	In Memory of Frances F. Fields By Frances J. Fields
In Memory of Raeford Fields By Gene & Vickie Flinchum	In Memory of Travis Norris By Jane Chamelin	In Memory of Frances F. Fields By Phil & Jackie Smith
		In Memory of Frances F. Fields By Cynthia Fields

Honorariums Received

In Honor of Sherri & Jeff Davis' Birthdays
By Carol Williams

In Honor of Kelly & Betty Fields
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of Ruth Rowland
By April Wreath & Jim Evans

In Honor of the O'Daniel Family
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of Jane Chamelin
By Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Ingold

In Honor of Missions Team
By Brenda Fields

In Honor of Gene & Vickie Flinchum
By Barbara Riddle

In order to print newsletter by its deadline, some memorials & honorariums received this month will be listed in next month's newsletter.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 5TH

Family members will be a part of the 10:55AM worship, as we remember loved ones who have graduated to the Church Triumphant.

Memorials for Veterans Day - The Young-at-Heart SS Class is preparing a special keepsake bulletin to honor or memorialize our Veterans on Sunday, November 12. Donations are \$5 per name. Please use a separate envelope for each Veteran's name (available at each entrance and in the SS Classes.) Make checks payable to Bethlehem UMC with Veteran's Memorial on the memo line. Envelopes may be given to Karon Monnett, Judy Fields, or Phyllis Wicker or placed in the offering plate. Deadline is Sunday, November 5. Thanks for your participation in this project.

Honor Past & Present Veterans

Veterans Day is Sat., Nov. 11, 2017.

Purchase a paver for the Bradshaw/Veteran's Memorial
\$100.00 per Paver

Forms available in the narthex and outside of the church office.

LIL/BIG CHEFS

Please mark your calendars for a Little Chefs/Big Chef event on November 17 (Friday) and November 18(Saturday). Friday from 5:30-8PM will be for Kindergarten through 5th grade children and will involve cooking with a Chef N'gai from the Greater Harvest Food Bank. Saturday from 10 to 1 will be for children preschool through 5th grade plus adults who are willing to mentor children as a Big Chef. (No cooking experience required.) We will be receiving food boxes from local farms and preparing a meal based on those boxes. We will also have contests, safety demos, and chef honors plus learning how God honors food and harvest seasons. Wow! Can't wait for this fun, fun, faith activity. Registration going on now; registration forms available on table outside of church office. Blessings, Pastor Melissa

A BIG THANK YOU! to All of Our Sponsors and Contributors Bethlehem United Methodist Church Youth

A BIG HIT UNDER THE BIG TOP.
CIRCUS 2017

AMICK'S SUPERSTORE
AP ARMS, INC.
BETHLEHEM UMC CHILDCARE
BRADY AUTOMOTIVE
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CLAPP'S ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC.
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LACHEY FAMILY
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OXENDINE AND SONS ROOFING
PERDUE BODY SHOP
PIEDMONT GENERATOR
PIP PRINTING (ASHEBORO)
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ROYAL STYLE CENTER
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SEASONAL COMFORT
SOUTH EAST PLUMBING CO. INC.
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SUNLAND FIRE PROTECTION
TAB TURNER GRADING AND HAULING
TANK AND TUMMY
TATER'S BODY SHOP
TIM FIELDS ELECTRIC LLC
TRIPLE A HEATING AND COOLING
TRUE REFLECTION POOL SERVICE
TURNER LAWN CARE
WINDSOR'S CABINETS



In Memory and Honor of Larry Fields

From Our Mailbox

Dear Bethlehem Family,

We cannot even begin to express our most sincere thanks for your cards, gifts, blankets, and prayers. The Lumpees still feel like part of your family, and we miss you all dearly. Alex, Graysen, and I are all doing great. Graysen is growing, and is a happy and healthy little girl. She arrived on September 2nd at 2:46 in the afternoon, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces. She has lots of brown hair, and our prayers were unfortunately not answered, because she looks just like her daddy instead of her beautiful mommy. We were very, very fortunate to be able to deliver her in Houston at a Methodist hospital. Hurricane Harvey almost ruined those plans, but the waters cleared the day before Alex went into labor. Alex's folks took on 3.5 feet of water in their house, but made it out safely and are in a new home now. Alex is (unsurprisingly) an incredible mother, and is selflessly caring for our little bundle of joy.

Other than our lack of sleep, life here in Texas is wonderful. My job is great—I'm serving as the Young Adults & Families Pastor at a 4000 member congregation that Alex and I both worked at in college. I preach at least once a month, and you can find our sermon archives online at:

<http://www.christ-umc.org/worship/message-archive/>

Alex is currently working full time as a mother, and part time for the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, helping with their young clergy initiatives.

Again, thank you for all you continue to do for us. If you decide to come to God's country, flowing with milk and honey (Texas), be sure to let us know. My phone number is the same, and my new email is

daniellumpee@christ-umc.org

Love and miss you all! *Rev. Daniel and Alex Lumpee*



We want to thank everyone for all the love you've wrapped us in this year. We are very humbled by all the prayers, cards, and food that you have shared. God has blessed us in so many ways. God bless you all, love Jamie, Tater and Paden.

November & December 2017 Volunteer Schedule

Date	Greeters (8:50AM)	Greeters (10:55AM)	Flowers (Altar/Other)	Communion Stewards (First Sunday of Month)
11/5	NEED GREETERS	NEED GREETERS	Lois Snow	Dale & Becky Windsor (E); NEED LATE SERVICE
11/12	Sandie Harris	Lorrie, Mario, Joy	Lorrie Roth	
11/19	Karon & Jerry Monnett	Karen Barbone	Ruth Rowland	
*11/19	* ---JOINT (PLEASANT GARDEN UMC) THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE/COMMUNION @ 7PM			
11/26	Lois Snow	Buddy & Judy Fields	Judy Fields	
12/3	Jerry & Karon Monnett	Lorrie, Mario, Joy	Lois Snow	Alice Jones/Jamie (E); NEED LATE SERVICE
12/10	Sandie Harris	Joyce King	Jim & Bev. Culbertson	
12/17	NO EARLY SERVICE/ Christmas Cantata	Phyllis Wicker	Poinsettias	
12/24	---10AM Service/NO SUNDAY SCHOOL--- Lois Snow & Pat Waugh (GREETERS)		Poinsettias	
12/24	--CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE/COMMUNION @ 6PM--			Alice Jones
12/31	Jerry & Karon Monnett	Jim Evan & April Wreath	Poinsettias	

Opener for November: Jerry Monnett/Phyllis Wicker **Closer for November:** David Cranfill

Ushers for November: Earl Fields, Tim Fields, Doug Garrett, Leo Kirkman, Bob Norris

Opener for December: Byron & Phyllis Dahl **Closer for December:** Barry Norris

Ushers for December: David Fields, Glenn Getner, Bud Lauder, Mario Massarelli, Barry Norris

Acolytes: Sofia Cook Marimon & Claudio Cook Marimon

Audio-Visual Techs: Gene Flinchum, Denny Spencer, Terry Franklin

Thank you to all who serve!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Another addition from the book's author is a poem by Isaac Watts who wrote many hymns.

"Before Jehovah's awful throne,
Ye nations, bow with sacred joy;
Know that the Lord is God alone;
He can create, and He can destroy.

"His sovereign power, without our aide,
Made us of clay, and formed us men;
And when like wandering sheep we strayed,
He brought us to His fold again. ---Isaac Watts

Disciples of Christ must never neglect their Sabbaths and in worship they need to realize they always play a key role every moment in what they gain from worship through what they bring. May God bless you always as you keep your heart and mind focused in praise on Him.

*If you are not a member of Bethlehem UMC and feel God leading you to it, I welcome you to speak to me about adding your name as a member of the church. You can reach me at - (704)516-6272 or email me at msofford2@wnccumc.net
Blessings, Pastor Michael*

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ---PHOTOS FOR DIRECTORY TAKEN--- <small>Call (866) 557-2253 to add or change appointments/photo sessions.</small> FOOD PANTRY 3-4PM 7PM Cantata/Choir 7:30PM Exercise	2 3:15PM Children's Chapel 7:30PM Trustees	3	4
<p>FH IN USE 12-6PM 5 All Saints Sun. / Comm. <u>DAYLIGHT SAV. TIME ENDS</u> 8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar 8:50AM Blended, Casual Wor. 10AM Sunday School 10:55AM Traditional Worship 4:30PM Bible Buddies 5-6PM Hand Bells 5:45PM Bible Study 5:30PM UMYF 7PM Charge Conference/Ch Con.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: small;">PNU* BUTTER/OA/MEAL SUN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 6:30PM Child Care Board 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7 8AM Breakfast Club @ Backyard Grill 7PM Women in Christ 7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8 FOOD PANTRY 3-4PM 6PM Youth Bible Study 7PM Cantata/Choir 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 3:15PM Children's Chapel 7PM Missions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 FH in use 2-9PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11 Veterans Day</p>
<p>FH IN USE 1:30-5PM 12 23rd Sun./Pentecost OBSERVE VETERANS DAY 8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar 8:50AM Blended, Casual Wor. 10AM Sunday School 10:55AM Traditional Worship 4:30PM Bible Buddies 5-6PM Hand Bells 5:45PM Bible Study 5:30PM UMYF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14 10:30AM Friendly Club 7PM Women in Christ 7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15 FOOD PANTRY 3-4PM 6PM Youth Bible Study 7PM Cantata/Choir 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16 3:15PM Children's Chapel 6:30PM PG Lion's Club 7PM Children's & Fam. Mins.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17 5:30-8PM Lil Chefs/ Elem.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18 10AM-1PM Lil Chefs/Elem.</p>
<p>19 24th Sun./Pentecost 8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar 8:50AM Blended, Casual Worship 10AM Sunday School 10:55AM Traditional Worship 4:30PM Bible Buddies 5:30PM UMYF 7PM Joint Thanksgiving Service (Here)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE (INCLUDING INFO FOR CALENDAR) 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21 7PM SPRC 7PM Women in Christ 7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22 FOOD PANTRY 3-4PM 6PM Youth Bible Study 7PM Cantata/Choir 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25 2-5PM Cub Scout Coat Drive</p>
<p>26 21st Sun./Pentecost FH in use 12-4PMPM 8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar 8:50AM Blended, Casual Worship 10AM Sunday School 10:55AM Traditional Worship 4:30PM Bible Buddies 5:45PM Fast Track Bible Study 5-6PM Hand Bells</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27 7PM Arlene Stokes 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29 FOOD PANTRY 3-4PM 7PM Cantata/Choir 7:30PM Exercise</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30 3:15PM Children's Chapel</p>		

Notes:

LOOKING AHEAD...

The Chrismon Tree

(Submitted by Judy Fields)

Each year in December Bethlehem is decorated with wreaths on the doors, a nativity scene outside, candles in the windows, and the Chrismon Tree standing prominently at the front of the sanctuary.

Members of the congregation usually agree that the tree is beautiful. Some know the history of the Chrismons, and some have been to the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia to visit the site of the original Chrismon tree. The decorations on the first Chrismon tree were made by a lady named Frances Kipps Spencer. Ms. Spencer stated that "the Chrismon tree is complete only when those who see it understand its meaning."

She first made Chrismon ornaments and decorated the tree in 1957. Ironically, Ms. Spencer had volunteered to decorate the church tree so that she could do away with it. Although she loved Christmas trees, she thought that decorated Christmas trees had no place in a church, and that after a year of decorating one, she would make sure the decorated tree in the church would go away.

As she tried to decide how to decorate the tree she referred to The Book of Signs by Rudolph Koch. One section on Christian symbols caught her attention. The symbols were ones that early Christians used to identify themselves, to designate meeting places, and to transmit their faith and beliefs. Ms. Spencer decided that by using these designs to decorate the tree, she would bring out the real reason we celebrate Christmas. She also chose the word Chrismon to name the ornaments.

The word Chrismon is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). Chrismons are used in decorating a tree for Christmas to proclaim the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ. Each one of the Chrismons says something about God in Christ. All are white (for the purity of Christ) and gold (for his majesty) with an occasional small spot of color allowed for a specific purpose. The first ones were made of Styrofoam, but they can be made of any material. The ones now are usually made of beads.

The tree at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville did not go away but continues to this day. A newspaper article drew attention to the tree, and the tradition spread. Chrismon trees are now used practically worldwide. Ms. Spencer has written several books, some telling her story and some with patterns for the Chrismons.

A Chrismon Tree was first used at Bethlehem when Kenneth Moore was pastor (1976-'80). His wife, Sarah Helen, had some experience with Chrismons at other churches. The Arlene Stokes Guild began meeting together to make Chrismon ornaments to be used for a tree at Bethlehem.



What a glorious time of year! As we proceed through November and enter the season of Advent, let us keep the birth of our Savior at the center of all of our celebrations. The Chrismon Tree is a wonderful representation of the season of preparation. Full of symbolism, the Chrismon Tree's beauty is a reminder of the reward mankind received when Christ was born.

New ornaments are now made by Doris Reynolds. Doris and a friend, Margaret Angel, (whom she met at a Chrismon class) take classes offered by GTCC twice a year. The classes are held at West Market Street UMC.

Doris can tell you more about the time it takes to make these ornaments, her favorites, and the meaning of each ornament. We each should take a closer look at the tree this year. Doris and the others who started this tradition deserve a big thanks!

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road
Climax, NC 27233

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH.

Children's Christmas Shop gives children the opportunity to shop for the adults in their lives. It will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 4-7PM, during Polar Express/Parent Night Out and after church on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 12-1PM. Items needed: small ceramics, purses, fleece blankets, jewelry, tools, wallets, stuffed animals, perfumes or colognes, bath items such as lotions, powders, etc. neckties, Christmas figurines, small and medium Christmas bags, tote bags, or anything that will appeal to a child shopping for the adult(s) in his or her life. These may be delivered to Pastor Melissa's office or preferably to parsonage screened-in porch any time.

2017 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 10 at 6PM. Any children or youth interested in participating should contact Deena King @ (336)302-5644.