

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 9 Issue 1 January & February 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

HAPPY NEW YEAR



The New Year always lends us the opportunity to look back over the past year and observe all that has taken place, and what a year it has been. However, it also allows us to look forward to the future and the opportunities it holds.

So, as I reflect upon the past year for our church, it is a reflection that can best be summarized by the word "blessed." Yes, there have been difficulties both personally and as a church making our way through the most unprecedented year in most of our lives. Nevertheless, there are times when one stops and looks at all that God has done and there's really nothing more to be said than "God has blessed us."

Now as I turn my gaze toward the future, who knows where the wind will take us. I heard about a church sign that read, "We set the sail; God creates the wind." So as we enter into a New Year, let's "set our sails" by putting our trust in God, and letting the wind of the Holy Spirit navigate us across the ocean of opportunities that we will discover and encounter in the year before us.

The New Year lends us one more opportunity, the opportunity to make new resolutions. I want to propose a request, that you adopt the following two faith-based resolutions for the next month—that's it. One month. Then if you think they are helpful you can continue on from there.

1. Look for Opportunities - Look for the opportunities that God gives you each and every day to grow and witness to the faith within you.

2. Reclaim the Sabbath - Did you know that the 'day of rest' was given to a people who had been slaves for hundreds of years and were forced to work every day of their lives? For them the Sabbath was not a restriction, but a gift. You – me - we all need to be intentional about our spiritual welfare and it begins with worship of the One True God.

May the coming year of 2021 bring us ever closer to God our Father, through His Son Jesus Christ and by the power of His Holy Spirit.

SHALOM & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Debra



*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. Debra Short
704-604-1128 (9AM-8PM, M-Th, Sun.)
Revdshort@aol.com

Administrative Assistant

Robin Bunton
336-674-0155
bethumcclimax@gmail.com

Youth Director

Reba Lamb
336-953-7376

Choir Director

Pingyi (Lesley) Song
304-435-7501

Organist

Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Child Care Director

Erica Shanahan
336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Debbie Brady



Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share>

Visit our Website at

bethlehemumc.org

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Join Us for WORSHIP 10:00am

Jan. 3 – Feb. 14 Sermon Series

A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Sunday, January 3

A Time to Keep and a Time to Throw Away

THE LORD'S BAPTISM SUNDAY, January 10

A Time to Be Born and a Time to Die

Sunday, January 17

A Time for War and a Time for Peace

Sunday, January 24

A Time to Scatter Stones and a Time to Gather Stones

Sunday, January 31

A Time to Weep and a Time to Laugh

COMMUNION SUNDAY, February 7

A Time to Tear Down and a Time to Build

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, February 14

A Time to Be Silent and a Time to Speak

LENT BEGINS

The Stones Along Our Journey

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17 – Engraved in Stone

Sunday, February 21 – The Stone that Started It All

Sunday, February 28 – The Stone of Blind Truth



A Time to Reflect and Repent
Begin the journey to the Cross

February 17th at 7:00 pm

A Service with imposition of Ashes

(Ashes will be in individual cups and handed out
as you drive in for the service.)

CHILDREN/ FAMILY MINISTRY

Children and Family Ministries Activities continue to be affected by Covid 19. For information on Children's Ministries' events contact Gail Williams at (336)314-1668. For information on Family Ministries' events contact Layne Downing at (336)317-5722.

YOUTH LINK

For information on youth events, please contact Reba Lamb, Youth Director at rebaelamb@yahoo.com or call her at 336-953-7376.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our Prayer Concerns:

Ongoing

Vicky Alexander

Martha Boren

Suzie Branch

Edna Coble

Jane Dunham

Ronda Faggart

Cory Fields

Melba Fulghum (Lee Ann Curtis' mom)

Kelsey Garrett

Nancy Golden

Ruby Hockett

Clyde Land

Jamie O'Daniel

Paul Routh (our computer/tech person)

Bobby Tew

Our Homebound

Immediate

Rev. Ed Armfield (retired minister from Burnett's Chapel)

James Brownsfield (friend of Marjorie Mabe)

Evelyn Churchill

Jackie Cook

Elaine Flinchum (Gene Flinchum's mom)

Betty Hull

Wayne & Ruby Kirkman

Marjorie Mabe

Lucille McClintock (hip surgery)

Mildred Moser

Dicky Parks

Tony Royal and Family

Sandy Russell (friend of Londa Parks)

Preston Ryan (acquaintance of Cindy Franklin)

Francis Snow

Bobbie Westmoreland (Linda Duncan's cousin)

Julia Willis

Military

Randall Shaver (Sherri Bowman's son)

Deaths

Jack Bowman on 11/4/2020

Vickie Austin Boozer on 11/14/2020 (Dale Austin's Sister)

Rachel Sutton on 11/30/2020 (Mother of Cathy Wray; grand-mother of Lindsey & Taylor Wray.)

OTHER MINISTRY

MISSIONS LENTEN OFFERING FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Every year the Missions Team encourages us to collect an offering (at home) during Lent. This year, even with the Covid 19 pandemic, it is no different – you are encouraged to collect an offering for *Heifer International*.

Special Lenten Offering Banks will be available for you to pick up beginning Monday, February 8th. These will be in the Little Library outside of the church office. Then, collect your change/money throughout Lent, and some time shortly after Easter, you will be directed how to give your offering.

Heifer International is a wonderful project which provides livestock and resources to regions of the world that desperately need assistance in growing food and maintaining basic sustainability. Bethlehem United Methodist Church has supported *Heifer International* for several years.

Thank you to everyone at Bethlehem for your prayers and financial gifts for *Heifer International*.



ARLENE STOKES CIRCLE NEWS

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION AWARD - One of the five channels of giving of the UMW's Mission Giving is Special Mission Recognition. A pin and certificate are given to honor someone's response or special service and a monetary donation is given to the UMW National Office to fund hundreds of undesignated mission projects around the world.

The Arlene Stokes Circle is proud to honor a person who has made it her mission in life to do for others by giving countless hours each week visiting members in nursing homes and homebound members giving them comfort, showing compassion and love whatever the circumstances. The Light of Christ shines in her and is a beacon of hope and encouragement in others' darkness. The world needs her light and our light now more than ever.

We are very blessed in our church to have many who show their light to our church and community so it is very difficult to name just one person to receive this special recognition. So, in 2019, we received three for the price of one!

The 2019 Special Mission Recognition Award goes to Bette Weatherly and her daughter Karon and son-in-law Jerry. May their work be an inspiration to us all!

FLAVORINGS/PERSIMMON PULP - Before it is all gone! You still have the opportunity to purchase lemon and vanilla flavoring and persimmon pulp. Shirley Hackett (336-676-0485) still has some flavorings for sale/\$3.50 per bottle. Contact Cindy Fields (336-674-6858) to purchase persimmon pulp/\$7 per pint.

The Circle wishes to thank Margaret Royal, Londa Parks, and Lyn Flinchum for their help with the pecan sales. Happy New Year!

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

**Pastor Debra will be taking vacation time at home
December 26th – January 2nd**

**Please call her, should you have a pastoral
emergency.**



Contacting the Pastor During Normal Weeks

Should you need to reach the Pastor, please call either the church office or her cell phone, 704-604-1128. If she does not answer, please leave a message and she will return your call.

Please be respectful of her family time and call only between the hours of 9:00am – 8:00pm M-Th, Sun. However, should there be an emergency, please do not hesitate to call her at any time, day or night.

Pastor Debra's day off is typically Friday and her Sabbath is Friday evening - Saturday 4:00pm



Don't Give Up Witnessing For Lent!

Invite a friend to experience it with you.

SEEK GOD:

- *Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of your friend.*
- *Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless **all** interactions with your friends and family.*

BE CREATIVE:

- *Exchange stories of family Easter traditions. You'll learn about their current spiritual situation and be able to share what Jesus means to you.*
- *Invite your friends to make new traditions this year, especially if the Easter season is stressful or depressing. Invite them to read the daily prayer and Scripture with you; go to Lent services or participate in a servant event.*

• *Bring your friend or family member to help work at a church activity before Easter. Getting to know people in a non-threatening way makes them more likely to attend future worship.*

Lent is a time of the year when all eyes should be drawn to the cross. Follow the marvelous work of God.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a brand new year filled with good cheer and new beginnings.

Once again all of the planning, as well as promoting of church events continues to be affected by Covid 19. And again, some events may be planned on short notice because committees have waited to see if Covid 19 guidelines have changed. Thank you for your understanding.

January and February Dates to Remember...

January

Fri., 1/1	New Year's Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Sun., 1/3	Epiphany Sunday Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM) Last Day to Pick Up Christmas Cards
Mon., 1/4	Christmas Card Post Office Disassembled Walking Group (times vary)
Wed., 1/6	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM) Child Care Board (7PM)
Fri., 1/8	Modified Stay-At-Home Order from the Governor set to expire
Sun., 1/10	Baptism of the Lord Sunday Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)
Mon., 1/11	Walking Group (times vary)
Wed., 1/13	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Sun., 1/17	2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)
Mon., 1/18	MLK, Jr. Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Walking Group (times vary)

Wed., 1/20	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Sun., 1/24	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)
Mon., 1/25	Walking Group (times vary)
Wed., 1/27	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Sun., 1/31	4th Sunday after the Epiphany Drive-in Worship (10AM)
February	
Mon., 2/1	Walking Group (times vary)
Tues., 2/2	Happy Groundhog Day!
Wed., 2/3	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM) Child Care Board (7PM)
Thurs., 2/4	Trustees (7:30PM)
Sun., 2/7	5th Sunday after the Epiphany Drive-in Worship/Communion (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)
Mon., 2/8	Heifer Int. Banks Available (Lil Library) Walking group (times vary)
Wed., 2/10	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Fri., 2/12	Happy Chinese New Year! (Year of Ox)
Sun., 2/14	Transfiguration Sunday Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM) Happy Valentine's Day!
Mon., 2/15	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (March & April) Walking Group (times vary)
Tues., 2/16	Fat Tuesday
Wed., 2/17	Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins Ash Wednesday Service (7PM) Heifer Int. Lenten Offering Begins (at home)
Sun., 2/21	1st Sunday in Lent Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)
Mon., 2/22	Walking Group (times vary)
Wed., 2/24	Walking Group (times vary) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Sun., 2/28	2nd Sunday in Lent Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)

Bethlehem Child Care Center NOW ENROLLING



Infant thru 12 years
Mon. – Fri., 7AM – 6PM
Call (336) 674 – 9879



or
Email bethchild91@gmail.com for info

1/21	Alice Jones	2/18	Taylor Cotie
	Lisa Taylor		Bill Jones
1/22	Pat Waugh	2/19	Pat Lineberry
1/23	Lindsay Fields	2/22	David Cranfill
	Linda Grimes		Daniel Hinshaw
1/24	Angie Routh		Wesley Eanes
	Jane Snead	2/26	Kelly Bowman
1/25	Betty Hull		Brian Downing
1/29	Judy Norris		Katie Lauder
1/31	Sharon Goad	2/28	Kelly Dills
			Jan Toler



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Acknowledgement: Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts have been made in memory/honor as listed. BUMC gratefully acknowledges each gift received.

Memorials

In Memory of **Jack Bowman**

By the Adult Fellowship Class

By Jane Chamelin

By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

By Missions Team (Phyllis Dahl)

By Buddy & Judy Fields

By Kelly & Betty Fields

By Jon & Barbara Lassiter

By Marus Marble/Tile Co., Inc.

By Jim Smith

By Phillip Way

By Phyllis Wicker

By Jane Williams

In Memory of **Martha & Nathan Hinshaw**

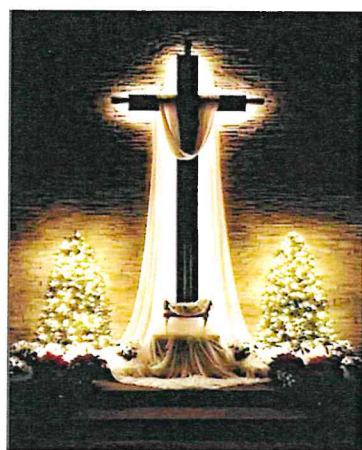
By Melvin Hinshaw

Honorariums

In Honor of **Security Team**

By Denny & Julie Spencer

Gifts received after the newsletter deadline will be listed in the next issue.



On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 NIV



BIRTHDAYS

January

1/1 Stephanie Garrett

1/3 Clark Hinshaw

Lois Snow

1/5 Dottie Tew

1/6 Phyllis Wicker

1/7 Sharon Welborn

Kimberly Garrett

1/8 Sally Sipes

1/10 Todd Garrett

1/12 Sara Kauzlick

Bryson Windsor

1/14 Ronnie Grimes

Stacy McClintock

Beth Pulliam Coble

1/15 Eddie Sipes

1/16 Jimmie Jones

Krista Neelley

1/17 Garrett Nance

1/18 Melanie Robb

February

2/1 Jerry King

2/2 Jamie O'Daniel

2/4 Steve Fields

2/6 Sharon Thornton

2/7 Thomas Bonney

John Kivett

Emily H. Peters

Cody Routh

Jackie Smith

Bayne Welborn

Shayne Welborn

2/8 Earl Fields

2/9 Bud Lauder

2/10 Todd Berry

2/13 Jim Culbertson

2/14 Dean Fields

Rod Waugh

2/15 Laura Cranfill

2/16 Libby Fields

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!*

*And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine.
And we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!*

The History of Auld Lang Syne

The popular song *Auld Lang Syne* which is sung traditionally to mark the arrival of the New Year at the chime of midnight began as a poem many years ago. Written by Robert Burns in 1788, the poem was set to music and became very well known in many countries around the world.

While it is most recognized as the *New Year's Anthem* in the United States, it is also sung at funerals, graduations and other ceremonies which recognize the end of one event or chapter and the beginning of another. It is even sung at sporting events!

While different countries have adopted slightly different lyrics or tunes, *Auld Lang Syne* is widely thought to be about the importance of remembering and celebrating old friendships. In fact, the English translation of *Auld Lang Syne* is thought to be *days gone by, old times, or long, long ago*. As we move forward to embrace the possibilities of the New Year, *Auld Lang Syne* reminds us to hold on to the people that hold special places in our hearts.

Source: **The Morgan Library and Museum**

A New Year's Prayer

*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes
need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year
ahead.*

Author Unknown

Looking Ahead



**Don't forget.....
Daylight Saving Time
Begins Sunday, March
8th. Turn your clocks
forward 1 hour and don't
miss worship!**



**Look for information about
Holy Week in the March/April
Newsletter.**



*To love God, to serve Him
because we love Him, is ... our
highest happiness. Love makes
all labor light. We serve with
enthusiasm where we love
with sincerity.*

Hannah More
1745-1833, British Writer,
Social Reformer

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for November 2020

\$364,123.67 Total Budget Money Available November 1, 2020

33,879.20 Money Received in November

- 16,769.90 Money Spent in November

\$381,232.97 Total Budget Money Available November 30, 2020

For the month of November, 2020, the Church Budget received \$17,109.30 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$42,774.78 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.

\$30,857.61 Total MM&RF Money Available November 30, 2020

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.

Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88	Bible Study Books	\$ <62.67>
Food Pantry	\$ 1,964.60	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 5,252.29	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,483.32
UMYF	\$20,617.30	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 302.85
Family Ministries	\$ 462.40	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 24,589.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 3,702.47
Flowers	\$ 136.75	Arbor Fund	\$ 935.37
Camp Meeting Fund	\$ <700.16>	Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46
Misc In/Outfellowship paver	\$ 50.00	PPP	\$ <4,569.50>

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available November 30, 2020 \$74,476.05

\$101,800.00 **Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund**

In order to plan and provide the necessary funds for the care and upkeep of our cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was created. This fund was a non-expendable trust fund in which the principle (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principle can be spent for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was capped as of November 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$53,207.74 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Climax, NC
PERMIT NO. 1

*Thank you to everyone who helped set up,
distribute, maintain, deliver cards and tear
down the Christmas Card Post Office.*

*And thank you to all who participated by
dropping off and retrieving their cards.*

*Even with the Covid 19 pandemic, we
were able to have a very successful
Christmas Card Post Office.*

Happy New Year!

