

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 9

Issue 2

March & April 2021

It is always helpful for us to be reminded as to what Lent is and why we need this time of reflection

THE SEASON OF LENT



What is it really and why is it such an important time before Easter? In our busy, secular world, we all need time for reflection and renewal. Lent is such a time. It is a 40-day liturgical period to remember Jesus, who he was and is, and what he sacrificed for us. It is a time of self-examination as we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on with the process of transformation into that new person in Jesus Christ. It is a time of inner penitence and reconciliation with God as we prepare once again to receive the gift of Easter. It is a time to engage in personal and communal prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, and worship.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day period with the imposition of ashes on the forehead as a sign of mourning and repentance. On Ash Wednesday, the "Alleluias" are buried until Easter morning and no song during Lent will include Halleluiah or Alleluia. The Sanctuary (or worship space) is traditionally stripped of all flowers, all to return on Easter Sunday. The crosses have a purple cloth which represents royalty but also signifies penitence and preparation.

In addition, during **Advent**, we light a candle every Sunday signifying the light coming into the world with Jesus' birth. During **Lent**, every Sunday we extinguish a candle from the table candle cross, signifying that the light which came into the world, leaves the world, even if for only three days. The Christ candle is extinguished on Good Friday. It will not be until Easter morning that the light re-enters the worship space.

Palm Sunday on March 25th starts us on the final journey to Jerusalem and Calvary. The Worship Service begins with the Palm reading and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, ending with the Passion reading and stripping of the altar. Because we cannot truly appreciate the joy of Easter without the **pain** of Good Friday, there are plans to still have a **Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 8:00pm whether we are able to be inside or as a drive-in service, along with live streaming. Easter Sunday** begins with a **Sunrise Service (drive-in or outside by the cemetery, TBD) at 7:00 am and our Easter Celebration Worship service at 10:00 am, be it a drive-in service with live stream or inside.**

We are Easter people, but it is when we observe and participate in Lent and especially Holy Week, that we are able to experience the FULL joy of Easter.

May this Lenten and Easter season be one of transformation for you, your family, and our congregation.

Shalom, 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.)
Revshort@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

Lent – Easter Series

The Stones Along Our Journey

- Feb. 17th – **ASH WED.** – Engraved in Stone
 Feb. 21st – The Stone That Started It All
 Feb. 28th – Throw the First Stone
 Mar. 7th – Cornerstone or Stumbling Stone
 Mar 14th – The Stone of Blind Truth
 Mar 21st – The Stones of Silence
 Mar. 28th – **PALM / PASSION SUNDAY**
 The Finished Stone
 Apr 4th – **SUNRISE** – TBA
 – **EASTER** - The Barrier Stone
 Removed
 Apr 11th – The New Path of Life
 Apr 18th – TBA
 Apr 25th – TBA



Holy Week Services

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28th, 10:00 am

“The Finished Stone”

With Palm Branches and
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

April 2nd, 8:00 pm

Tenebrae (Darkening) Service

Easter Sunday - April 4th

Sunrise Service 7:00 am -

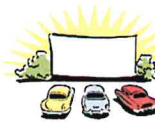
Easter Service 10:00 am -

“The Barrier Stone Removed”

(Please Note ALL Times)

CHILDREN/ FAMILY MINISTRY

Sat., March 27th
 (Details to Be Announced)
A Drive-thru Easter Event



DRIVE-IN
Family Movie Night
Friday, April 9th
 (Details Coming Soon!)

Children/Family Ministries thanks all who helped with our Valentine's Day Outreach! There was great participation from the congregation & church childcare. We donated adorable crafts & bags of birdseed to the nursing home. We sent handmade cards to our homebound family. Thank you all again!

YOUTH LINK

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

PRAYER MINISTRY

Ongoing

Vicky Alexander
 Martha Boren (Gray's mom)
 Suzie Branch
 James Brownsfield (Marjorie Mabe/friend)
 Edna Coble
 Jane Dunham
 Ronda Faggart
 Cory Fields
 Elaine Flinchum
 Melba Fulghum (Lee Ann Curtis' mom)
 Kelsey Garrett
 Nancy Golden
 Ruby Hockett
 Bill Jones
 Jamie O'Daniel
 Our Homebound

Immediate

Rev. Ed Armfield (retired minister/Burnett's Chapel)
 R.W. Hinshaw (Mike Hinshaw's Brother)
 Delores Holliday (Shirley Kinne's Sister)
 Betty Hull
 Jimmie Jones
 Janet Jordan (Annie Mae Jones' daughter)
 Wayne & Ruby Kirkman
 Chad Land (Clyde's son)
 Clyde Land
 Marjorie Mabe
 Mildred Moser (Clapp's Nursing Center, Rm. 607)
 Dicky Parks
 Sandy Russell (friend of Londa Parks)
 Preston Ryan (acquaintance/Cindy Franklin)

Francis Snow

Julia Willis

Military

Randall Shaver (Sherri Bowman's Son)

Deaths

Liam Nelson on 12/5/20 (Betty Kirkman's Great-Grandson)

Rachel Pugh on 1/1/21 (Julia Willis' Aunt)

Evelyn Churchill on 1/24/21

OTHER MINISTRY

March 4, 1991 – March 4, 2021

Celebrating 30 Years

Bethlehem Childcare

As churches around us began their daycare programs, the need for one at Bethlehem was discussed. Chuck Rowland was our pastor in 1990, and he and others began to check out the possibility. On May 21 of that year, Guilford County approved that the church property be zoned A-1 which does permit daycare facilities. A study committee made up of members Mary Kearns, Alice Price, John Riddle, John Waugh, and Chuck Rowland was formed in early 1990, and in September this committee made a report to the Administrative Board.

The report recommended that a center be established to serve up to 29 children, that a governing board be chosen, that the staff consist of four members, and that additions and adjustments be made to the building as necessary. The recommendation passed with a large vote.

On October 7, 1990, the Sunday bulletin stated that in November and December there would be training at the Guilford County Agricultural Center for persons interested in working in the daycare, which at that time was set to open on February 1. Contact person was Mary Kearns. In early December, it was reported that the Board of Directors of Bethlehem UMC Daycare Center was taking applications for staff members. Contact persons were Jackie Smith or Nancy Firebaugh. They were members of the first Child Care Board, elected on November 14, 1990. The board also included Mary Kearns, Vivian Wilkinson, and David Wray. And in early January 1991, the bulletin stated that applications were being taken for daycare children, with plans to open on March 4.

The Bethlehem Child Care Center did open on Monday, March 4, 1991, with two classrooms. Twelve children started the first day. They were Callie Cleary, Lee Ford, Shane Corthum, Dena Corthum, Matthew May, Jessica Rice, Ben Bowden, Carlie Suggs, Jennifer King, Jordan Ramsey, Paige Ramsey, and Emily Lauder. Leading the group were Director/Teacher Debbie Reitzel, and

teachers Suzie Branch and Laurie Clearey. Kim Garrett began work the second week.

On Sunday, June 9, 1991, the church bulletin carried a full page about the daycare. It stated that the daycare had undergone growing pains, and was now at a level to give competent care. Jackie Smith was the director, the enrollment had grown to twenty-eight children in the nursery--to-age-four group, and there were also four school-age children in the summer day camp. The page also stated that safety features had been added to the church. These features included additional fire alarms, fire extinguishers, exit doors, and exit lights which had been installed by the daycare.

Through the years modifications have occurred at the request of the daycare. In 2000 a brick wall and gate were installed around the play area between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, and in 2007 artificial turf was installed in this area. Inside walls have been painted, floor coverings have been changed to meet daycare standards, and teachers have continued to receive and update their certifications.

The Child Care Board is a part of the governing body of the church and rotates its members on a three-year basis. To date there have been many board members – people from the church and neighborhood have served with 15 different chairmen. The Child Care is self-supporting, but has had help with different projects from classes, individuals, and Duke grants. It pays a portion of the church's utilities.

Many people have contributed time, money, and effort to the Child Care. Perhaps, in the beginning, and for a long time, the most tireless worker was Mary Kearns. The Child Care Staff showed their appreciation in 2000 with a hot air balloon ride and a plaque for Mary. Mary died in 2008, and in October of 2009, the entire church, along with members of Mary's family, gathered to dedicate the play yard to her. A plaque was placed on the wall with the words:

***The Mary Dunn Kearns Memorial Playground
'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'***

Matthew 19:14, October 18, 2009

On Sunday, March 6, 2016, the church had a 25-year celebration for the childcare and staff. Past and present members and staff attended. The group included several "second-generation" attendees.

The Bethlehem Childcare closed for several weeks in 2020 as Covid 19 spread. It was able to reopen on May 26 with some changes.

Jackie Smith retired in the fall of 2020 after almost 30 years, Deena King left in July after having worked for 29 years, and Erica Shanahan is the present director.

Facts from Bethlehem's Committee on Records and History; Compiled by Judy Fields.



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

BETHLEHEM CHILDCARE

COOKIE DOUGH & GOURMET POPCORN



FUNDRAISER



For a terrific cause ... to purchase playground equipment and mulch for the playground. To place an order, contact any childcare teacher or Erica, Director of Child Care Center. Childcare Center phone is (336) 674-9879. Or send an email to bethchild91@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



Don't forget.....
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 14th. Turn your
clocks **forward** 1 hour and
don't miss worship!



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.

2021 CHURCH LEADERSHIP - Administrative Council met on 10/15/20; Charge Conference convened on 11/8/20. The following **2021 Administrative Church Council** was approved.

A detailed roster of all sub-team members can be found on the church website at bethlehemumc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Council Chair/Child Care Board Chair	Barry Norris
Council Vice Chair	Bud Lauder
Council Secretary (ex-officio)	Robin Bunton
Lay Leader	Andrew Coward
Conference Lay Delegate	David Robb
SPRC Chair or Vice Chair	Tim Fields or Chad Garrett
Trustees Chair	Michael Brady
Cemetery Chair	Kelly Fields
Finance Chair	Frank Willis
Treasurer	Julia Willis
Child/Fam. Mins. Coords.	Gail Williams/Layne Downing
Missions	Phyllis Dahl
UMW President	Jane Snead
Youth Reps.	Joy Massarelli/Shayne Welborn
Worship Chair	Fran Getner
Pastor	Rev. Debra Short
Members-at-Large (2021)	Judy Fields, Becky Windsor
Members-at-Large (2022)	Sid Fields, Pat Waugh
Members-at-Large (2023)	Faye Fields, Desi Williams

Non-Voting Members

Director of Youth	Reba Lamb
Director of Church Choirs	Lesley Song



Hello friends! It is hard to believe that it is already March. WOW, time flies.

The pandemic continues to affect how we connect with each other. I thank you all for your notes, cards, emails, and the like, checking in to say hello,

Planning, scheduling, and promoting church events continue to be impacted by Covid 19. Phone tree messages and group emails will continue to be used to keep you all informed. Also, please be sure to visit the church website at bethlehemumc.org as a resource for information.

Here are **March and April Dates to Remember...**

Mon., 3/1	Walking Group (time varies)
Wed., 3/3	Walking Group (time varies) Youth Bible Study (6:30PM) Child Care Board (7PM)
Thurs., 3/4	Trustees (7PM) Meets in Sanctuary. COVID 19 protocols utilized – masks required; temperature checks will be done, social distancing followed.
Fri., 3/5	World Day of Prayer
Sun., 3/7	3 rd Sunday in Lent/Communion Drive-in Worship (10AM) UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 3/8 *International Women's Day*
Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 3/10 Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Sat., 3/13 **Spring Forward 1 hour (at 2AM)**

Sun., 3/14 *4th Sunday in Lent*
UMCOR Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Drive-in Worship (10AM)
UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 3/15 Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 3/17 *St. Patrick's Day*
Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Sat., 3/20 Spring Begins

Sun., 3/21 *5th Sunday in Lent*
Drive-in Worship (10AM)
UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 3/22 Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 3/24 Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Thurs., 3/25 Administrative Council (7PM)

Sat., 3/27 Easter Event (Child/Fam. Ministries)
Time TBA – watch for details!

Sun., 3/28 *Palm/Passion Sunday*
Drive-in Worship (10AM)
UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 3/29 Monday of *Holy Week*

Tues., 3/30 Tuesday of *Holy Week*

Wed., 3/31 Wednesday of *Holy Week*

Thurs., 4/1 *Maundy Thursday*

Fri., 4/2 *Good Friday*
Tenebrae Service (8PM)

Sat., 4/3 *Holy Saturday*

Sun., 4/4 *Easter Sunday*
Sunrise Service (7AM)
Drive-in Worship (10AM)

Mon., 4/5 Easter Monday
Church Office Closed
Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 4/7 Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Thurs., 4/8 Child Care Board (7PM)

Fri., 4/9 Movie Night (Fam. Ministries Event)
Details to come!

Sun., 4/11 *2nd Sunday of Easter*
Drive-in Worship (10AM)
UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 4/12 Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 4/14 Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Sun., 4/18 *3rd Sunday of Easter*
Drive-in Worship (10AM)
UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 4/19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 4/21 Admin. Professionals Day
Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Thurs., 4/22 *Earth Day*

Sun., 4/25 *4th Sunday after Easter*
Drive-in Worship (10AM)
UMYF (5:30PM)

Mon., 4/26 Walking Group (time varies)

Wed., 4/28 Walking Group (time varies)
Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)

Protect yourself and everyone else. Here's your shot to get back to the people and places you love.



NCDHHS
COVID-19 Response

You'll soon be able to take a safe vaccine that will protect you and others from getting COVID-19. It will be free of charge. Here's what you need to know:

***Scientists had a head start.** In fact they built on years of work to develop the vaccine.

***You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.** And there were no serious safety concerns noted in clinical trials.

***They were tested on more than 70,000 volunteers and found to be safe.** You may have a temporary reaction like a sore arm, headache or feeling tired and achy for a day or two.

***It works. It is 95% effective. And you're protected.** Your privacy is protected at all times-no personal information will be sent to the CDC.

***Supply will be limited at first.** But everyone has a spot to take their shot.

***Go to YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov** for information. Find out about the vaccines and where you'll be able to take your best shot against COVID-19.

NC Department of Health and Human Services *
YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov
NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. *
01/2021



BIRTHDAYS

March

3/5 Amanda Cook
Alan Kirkman
3/6 Brooke Townsend
Erika Braddock
3/7 Pam Jones
3/8 Buddy Fields
3/9 Darlene Coble
David Robb II
Mike Rivers
3/10 Beverly Fields
Bob Norris
Lucille McClintock
Carlie Suggs
3/11 Suzie Branch
Kim Duncan
Teresa Stevens
3/12 James Bowman
Dale Young II
3/13 Heather Robb Adams
3/20 Barry Lineberry
3/21 Debra Short
Jackie Short
3/24 Leo Kirkman
Johnny Riddle
3/25 Johnathan Franklin
Henry Wilkinson
3/26 Caleb Hinshaw
Lindsey Wray
3/27 Wanda Woodford
3/28 Joey Bowman
Lorene Wells
3/29 Susan Coward
3/31 Carlton Johnson
John David (J.D.) Peele

April

4/1 Phyllis Alley
Jeff Neeley
4/2 Madigan Downing
4/3 Beth Walsh
Casey Welborn
4/4 Craig Massarelli
4/5 Ashley Neeley
4/7 Eddie Wilkinson
4/8 Doyle Ingold
4/9 Phyllis Garrett
Jane Williams
4/10 Wayne Dunham
Jim Jones (Alice's son)
4/11 Louise Bowman
4/12 Frances J. Fields
4/13 Christopher Bass
Danny Dunham
Glenna Staley
4/17 April Wreath
4/18 Anna Parrish
4/19 Shirley Hackett
Matthew Young
4/20 Daniel Moser
Craig Smith
4/24 Erica Reed Sypole
4/25 Haley Parrish
Lexie Terry
Jane Reddick
Tommy Oliver
4/26 Bill Regan
4/27 Julie Spencer
4/29 Rachel Grace Hill
Sandra Southard
4/30 Ruby Kirkman
Parker Robb

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 Charles & Evonne Parks
By Randy Pugh
By Margaret Royal
By Charles & Lorene Wells
In Memory of **Roland & Lorraine Brady**
By Michael & Debbie Brady
In Memory of **Mike Childress**
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy
In Memory of **Evelyn Churchill**
By Kelly & Betty Fields
In Memory of **Woody & Margaret Elkins**
By Wilson & Jean Elkins

In Memory of **Brad Fields**
(in memory of our 43rd wedding anniversary)
By Ginny Fields

In Memory of **Coy & Ruth McClintock**
By Ed & Frances McClintock

In Memory of **Liam Nelson**
By Betty Kirkman

In Memory of **Travis Norris**
By Jack Allen & Barbara Norris

In Memory of **Clem Royal**
By Margaret Royal

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Buddy Fields**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Gene & Vickie Flinchum and Family**
By Robert & Judy Rees

In Honor of **Evonne Parks**
By David & Laura Cranfill

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

Thank You Notes

Thanks so much for the 'Welcome to Bethlehem Note.' We have enjoyed the Drive-In Worship services and look forward to the time we can meet in person. Shirley and I enjoy your minister. She has already been a blessing to us. We look forward to sharing the gifts God has given us, whatever they may be.

*Yours in Christ,
Lois Bazhaw, Shirley Kinne*

Lois Bazhaw is Ron Bazhaw's mother, Shirley Kinne is Ron's aunt. Lois & Shirley joined the membership of BUMC on Sunday, 1/17/21. Welcome Lois & Shirley!

(This note shared by Earl & Faye Fields)

The family of Evelyn Churchill thanks everyone at Bethlehem for their prayers and cards at the passing of Evelyn on 1/24/21.

God Bless, The Family

Clyde Land wishes to thank all who prayed for him and all the cards he received during his recent illness. "God does heal."

Looking Ahead



Sunday, May 23rd
Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 30th
Trinity Sunday



Monday, May 31st
Memorial Day
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for January 2021

\$407,543.01 Total Budget Money Available January 1, 2021

29,857.00 Money Received in January

- 17,722.21 Money Spent in January

\$419,677.80 Total Budget Money Available January 31, 2021

For the month of January, 2021, the Church Budget received \$12,134.79 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$12,134.79 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.

\$32,127.61 Total MM&RF Money Available January 31, 2021

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	Arbor Fund	\$ 935.37
Food Pantry	\$ 1,774.06	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 5,146.85	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 20,607.81
UMYF	\$19,700.63	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 302.85
Family Ministries	\$ 554.40	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 24,109.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ <695.04>	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 3,544.98
Flowers	\$ 96.75		
Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46	PPP	\$ <4,569.50>

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available January 31, 2021 \$76,020.19

\$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 January 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$59,706.91 **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
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*This is your day, Lord, and through its joys,
struggles and issues we shall endeavor to be
your servants, and whatever we do or say,
be informed by the love you show and the
grace we know daily in our walk of faith.*

John Birch, faithandworship.com