

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 9

Issue 3

May & June 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1 – 4

When the Spirit roared into and around God's people, they were empowered to witness for God in ways that they had never dreamed about. They were transformed, never to be the same. They were equipped with courage to speak openly. They were filled with faith in God and the message entrusted to them. They were no longer afraid and dared to go places and speak words no matter the consequences. They trusted God and God's presence with and among them. We in the church still follow in that legacy. We are a Spirit-filled people who seek to make grace known, while transforming people and we trust that the Spirit will guide us.

So, imagine what could happen if we allowed the Spirit to fully roar into and through our lives.

The next two months, I invite you to be mindful of the Spirit and the ways the Spirit is working in your life and the life of the church. The presence of God is indeed all around us. Let's be ready to be totally infused with the Holy Spirit. Let's open our hearts and minds to new possibilities, as we move forward as witnesses for God and His transforming love.

Living in the Spirit Together,
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

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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
pingyisongconductor@gmail.com

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

May Series

The Church on Fire

- 2nd – Tough Week?
- 9th – Fueling the Fire
- 16th – Lighting the Fire (Ascension Sunday)
- 23rd – Set Ablaze (Pentecost Sunday)
- 30th – Burning from the Inside Out (Trinity Sun.)



June Series

The Story of Grace

- 6th – The Story of Prevenient Grace
- 13th – The Story of Justifying Grace
- 20th – The Story of Sanctifying Grace
- 27th – The Story of Grace Blessings and Thankfulness

Gov. Roy Cooper has indicated that stable trends and continued vaccination success puts the state on track for lifting mandatory social distancing, capacity, and mass gathering restrictions by June 1st. Please note that our worship plans (inside or drive-in) will depend on what Gov. Cooper does on June 1st.

CHILDREN/ FAMILY MINISTRY



VBS –One Day Event!

Sat., June 12th

Pre-K – 2nd Grade, 9AM – 12PM

(Box Lunch to Go Provided)

3rd – 5th Grade, 1-4PM

(Lunch, 12:30-1PM)

Kick-off Movie on June 11th

(Details to come!)

YOUTH LINK

CCC – July 11-17

For additional 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
 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
 Julia Willis
 Our Homebound

Immediate

Fred Cook
 R.W. Hinshaw (Mike Hinshaw's brother)
 Betty Hull
 Jimmie Jones
 Wayne & Ruby Kirkman
 Clyde Land
 Marjorie Mabe (Room 130, Guilford Health Care Center)
 Mildred Moser (Clapp's Nursing Center, Rm. 607)
 Dicky Parks
 Sandy Russell (friend of Londa Parks)
 Preston Ryan (acquaintance/Cindy Franklin)
 Francis Snow
 Judy Strickler (friend of Phyllis Dahl)

Praise

Rev. Ed Armfield (retired min./Burnett's Chapel, in remission)
 Thanks for all the prayers & cards!

Military

Randall Shaver (Sherri Bowman's son)

Deaths

Delores Holliday on March 26, 2021
 (Delores was the sister of Shirley Kinne & Aunt of Ron Bazhaw)

Charles "Chuck" Herndon on April 14, 2021
 ("Chuck" sang Gospel songs at BUMC Camp Meeting)

OTHER MINISTRY



Arlene Stokes UMW

We are pleased to once again host a shower for the Room- At- The- Inn. This is a non-profit agency responding to the call of Christ to nurture life. They operate housing

and programs for homeless, single, pregnant, and single mothers with children offering them opportunities to have new lives of healthy, hope-filled independence. Residents are allowed to stay up to two years as long as they are in school and/or working. Some of the items needed:

Walmart gift cards (for groceries, clothes and shoes), paper towels/toilet paper/Kleenex, new white/blue towels/washcloths, bleach (Clorox), liquid clothes detergent, liquid fabric softeners/dryer sheets, Dreft detergent, antibacterial soap. Toiletries: soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions.

For children: diapers (all sizes, especially size 4 & 5), new onesies/infant layettes, toddler disposable pull-ups, new toddler clothing, wet ones.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please bring your donated items to the arbor May 2nd through May 9th.

If you have items you wish to have picked up, please call Jane Snead at 336-674-7593.



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 CHILD CARE

NOW HIRING

TEACHER for SCHOOL-AGE CLASSROOM

Hours – 2-6PM

For information on how to apply call:

(336) 674-9879

Or send an email to bethchild91@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

One Call Now Phone Messaging System: Last month the church signed up for a new phone messaging system. (Our old phone tree is still operational, albeit a bit contrary at times.) **One Call Now by OnSolve** utilizes the web to provide access to messaging via texts, email, as well as phone messaging. This system can call a list of two-hundred people in about 20 minutes. (Our old system might take five or six hours to call a list of two-hundred people.) It is a new system, and as such it is a bit different. If you receive a message, whether text or phone, at some point within the message you will either hear or see the *One Call Now* brand. And, you may be given the opportunity to opt out of future messages. This is very different from our old system. Just know that this is part of *One Call Now's* marketing and promotion. Please contact the church office if you have questions.



Robin's Schedule: I will be taking vacation days on Monday, May 3rd and Thursday, June 3rd.



Upper Rooms: Beginning with the July-August 2021 issue, we will no longer have the large print *Upper Room*. We will still have plenty of copies of the regular print versions.



General Conference Postponed to 2022

During the meeting on February 20, the Commission on the General Conference made a decision to further postpone the 2020 General Conference until August 29 – September 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect the safety of mass gatherings and travel.

A Note from Will Rivers

I have applied and been chosen to serve on the Carolina CCC staff again this summer. Once again, I have to raise half of my salary for this position. With my family's help, I am planning a yard sale at the church. The proceeds will go to help raise these funds. Please come and shop for bargains!



Day & Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021

Time: 8AM-1PM

Location: BUMC Parking Lot & Blacktop

A Message from the Trustees

As we return to inside worship, the Trustees would like you all to know of the steps taken to make our worship space as safe as possible. In addition to protocols like - temperature checks, wearing masks, asking screening questions, and following traffic flow guidelines in and out of our sanctuary, the Trustees researched air filtration systems.

During our shut-down the iWave by Nu-Calgon system was installed in the return air ductwork system serving the sanctuary. The air conditioning units serving the sanctuary have been programmed to continually recirculate air. In the recirculation process, the iWave system works to inactivate 99.4% of Covid 19 virus within 30 minutes and 84% within only 10 minutes. The iWave unit also reduces odors, as well as reduces - STAPH, MRSA, E. COLI, C. DIFF, TB, Legionella Pneumophila and Mold Spores.

The iWave air cleaner is one part of the total commitment to make our place of worship safe for all who enter.

Birthdays

May Birthdays

5/1	Allison Eanes Russell Hill
5/2	Ruby Hockett
5/5	Lore Lambert
5/6	Mark Wilkinson
5/7	Wendi Martin Lowe
5/8	Tim Parrish
5/9	Jana Fields John Holder Barry Norris Alan Wilkinson
5/11	Mildred Moser
5/13	Wayne Kirkman Jeannie Suggs
5/16	Kelly Fields
5/17	Caleb Windsor
5/19	Kelsea Owens
5/20	James Evans
5/22	Eutha Bowman Nancy Golden Brittany Ingold Taylor Martin

5/26	Adam Garrett Joy Massarelli Lowell Suggs
5/27	Doris Kirkman Faye Fields Debbie Waugh Londa Parks
5/28	Gilbert Suggs
5/29	Christal Owens Karen Barbone
5/31	Mike Hinshaw

June Birthdays

6/1	Judy Fields David Peele
6/2	Asher Garrett
6/4	Robin Bunton Betty Fields Alan Thornton Jenahlee Young
6/6	Sid Fields Marguerite Fields Amanda Fields
6/9	Jeanette Fields Chad Garrett Joyce King
6/10	Sherri Bowman
6/12	Margaret Royal
6/14	Phillip Jones Deena King Dale Austin
6/17	Glenn Getner
6/20	Michelle Hinshaw Reagan Owens
6/21	Carol Fields Cindy Fields Jennifer Young
6/22	Brenda Fields
6/23	Fran Getner Craig McClintock
6/26	Jonah Owens
6/28	Kennedy Waugh
6/30	Annabel Bunton

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

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 **Worth & Mary Allred**
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Evelyn Churchill**
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**
By Margaret Royal

HONORARIUMS

In Honor **Stacy & Lucille McClintock**
By Angie Routh

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



Looking Ahead

Mon., July 5th – Church Office Closed



Homecoming 2021 Sunday, July 25, 2021

Sunday, July 25th, 2021 is Homecoming and will kick-off the 168th Annual Camp Meeting. Rev. Mark Andrews will be our guest preacher for Homecoming. He served as pastor of Bethlehem from 1994-2001. Mark retired in 2018, after serving as District Superintendent for the Metro District. We look forward to seeing Rev. Andrews again! (As of this writing, no meal will be served. Should this change, you will be notified through the phone tree.)

Bethlehem's 168th Annual Camp Meeting July 25 – August 1, 2021



Rev. Daniel Lumpee will be our guest preacher for Camp Meeting's 7:30PM evening services, Monday, July 26th through Friday, July 30th and Wednesday, July 28th, 2PM service. Daniel was scheduled to come last year, but because of the Covid 19 pandemic, Camp Meeting was not held.

Daniel served as our Duke intern from May 2015 – April 10, 2016. He is the pastor at The Loft Church in Woodlands, Texas. He and Alex live in Woodlands with their two adorable daughters – Graysen and Camryn. We look forward to seeing the whole Lumpee clan this Camp Meeting!



A Note from the Treasurer...

Payroll Protection Program

On April 6th, 2020, we filed with Bank of America for the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program. On May 4th we received a loan of \$23,096. I have spent approximately 80 hours researching & reading the 200+ pages of information, listening to approximately 10 webinars, and preparing the application and supporting documentation.

We were advised by district, conference, Wespath, and CapenCrouse, largest CPA firm in America dealing with non-profits and specializing in churches, to overspend the PPP loan by approximately 20% in order to accommodate for any disallowed expenses. The entire process was an ever-moving target of rules and regulations, changing weekly. The experience was much like crossing a bridge while it's being built. We were also advised to delay filing for loan forgiveness while the rules for forgiveness and documentation were being changed.

On February 22, 2021, we were able to file for loan forgiveness, which could be up to a 90-day process between Bank of America and the Small Business Administration. The past 12 months have been extremely stressful as I wrestled with the application/documentation and not having a live contact person at the bank as an advisor. The years of imprisonment I personally faced for any error was quite intimidating! On the other hand, at my age just how many years would I have to serve in prison?

On March 26, 2021, I received notification that our entire loan of \$23,096 was forgiven; no longer a loan, but now a grant. Since this process has happened in two years, the \$4,569.50 we overspend will affect the 2021 budget.

PPP Summary Schedule			
	Spent	Received	Overspent in 2020
	<u>in 2020</u>	<u>in 2020</u>	<u>Charged to 2021 Budget</u>
Payroll/Employee Benefits	23,755.66	23,096.00	659.66
Utilities	3,264.00	.00	3,264.00
Telephone	645.84	.00	645.84
Totals	27,665.50	23,096.00	4,569.50

The March financial reports reflect these adjustments.

Julia Willis, Treasurer

be still
and know that I am God
Psalms 46:10

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for March 2021

\$412,106.87 Total Budget Money Available March 1, 2021

20,726.04 Money Received in March

- 27,037.48 Money Spent in March

\$405,795.43 Total Budget Money Available March 31, 2021

For the month of March, 2021, the Church Budget spent \$6,311.44 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$1,747.58 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.

\$32,627.61 Total MM&RF Money Available March 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	\$ 4,786.85	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 20,682.81
UMYF	\$19,700.63	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 302.85
Family Ministries	\$ 554.40	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 23,659.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 3,803.40
Flowers	\$ 96.75	Heifer Collection	\$ 550.00
Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46		

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available March 31, 2021 \$82,158.15

\$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
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In the Time of Pandemic

And the people stayed home.

*And they read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played
games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.*

And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.


And the people healed.

*And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their
losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

—Kitty O'Meara










May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 May Day 
2 5 th Sun. after Easter/ Communion *10AM Worship	3 Robin/Vacay Day Walking Group (time varies) 	4	5 Cinco de Mayo Walking Group (time varies) 	6 National Day of Prayer Nurses' Day 	7	8
5:30PM UMYF			7PM Child Care Board	6:30PM Trustees		
-----	Drop Off Items for Room-at-the-Inn Shower. Drop off under the arbor May 2 – May 9. -----					
9 6 th Sun. after Easter Mother's Day *10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF  Rm/Inn Shower Drop off ends	10 Walking Group (time varies) 	11 10AM Arlene Stokes (meets under arbor)	12 Walking Group (time varies) 	13	14	15 Yard Sale  (Will Rivers/CCC Salary) Church Parking Lot/Backtop 8AM-1PM
16 7 th Sun. after Easter Ascension Sunday *10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF 	17 Walking Group (time varies) 	18	19 Walking Group (time varies) 	20	21	22
23 Pentecost *10AM Worship 	24 Walking Group (time varies) 	25	26 Walking Group (time varies) 	27 7PM Admin. Council	28	29
5:30PM UMYF			7PM Child Care Grad. Tentative			
30 Trinity Sunday *10AM Worship 	31 Memorial Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Walking Group (time varies) 					
5:30PM UMYF						

*10AM Worship refers to worship inside the church building (sanctuary/other), drive-in worship, and Facebook Live Stream.

Gov. Roy Cooper has indicated that stable trends and continued vaccination success puts the state on track for lifting mandatory social distancing, capacity, and mass gathering restrictions by June 1st. The Trustees will continue to follow recommendations as outlined by the Governor's office. * **Please note that our worship plans (inside or drive-in) will depend on what Gov. Cooper does on June 1st.**

June 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 2nd Sun./Pentecost *10AM Worship	7 Walking Group (time varies) 	8	9 Walking Group (time varies) 	10 6:30PM Trustees	11 Annual Conference Clergy Session (Zoom) VBS Kick-off Movie Time TBA	12 9-12PM, PreK-2 nd 1-4PM, 3 rd -5 th Annual Conference (Zoom) 
13 3rd Sun./Pentecost **Secret Pal & Graduate Sunday 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	14 Flag Day Walking Group (time varies)  6:30PM Camp Meet. & Hist. Rec. (TENTATIVE, Joint mtg.)	15	16 Walking Group (time varies) 	17	18	19 Rain Date for VBS
20 4th Sun./Pentecost Father's Day Summer Begins! *10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF 	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (time varies) 	22	23 Walking Group (time varies) 	24	25	26
27 5th Sun./Pentecost *10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	28 Walking Group (time varies) 	29	30 Walking Group (time varies) 			

***10AM Worship** refers to worship inside the church building (sanctuary/other), drive-in worship, and Facebook Live Stream.

****Secret Pal & Graduate Sunday Service will be Drive-in and Face Book Live. It will not be an inside service.**