

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 9

Issue 4

July & August 2021

From the Pastor's Desk



Summer...It's a time for vacations, and moments that will become lifelong memories...memories that will shape each one of us. Each experience helps us grow and begin to see the world through a different lens.

Scripture is the same way. There are certain verses and passages that, after embracing them, change us forever.

What's your life verse? Many of us have found a verse or two from the Bible that speaks specifically to us, like a call straight from God. What verses do you claim as a rally cry, a guide and focus for your life, or for this season of life? Every story and lesson have the potential to profoundly impact our lives if we take the time to embrace them.

Grace and Peace,
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 Buntton
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

July

- 4th – Andrew Coward Preaching
11th – Communion Sunday
All Things Work Together for Good
18th – Youth Share (Youth Testimonies)
25th – HOMECOMING (11:00 service)
Rev. Mark Andrews Preaching



August Series

What Does Your Life Produce?

- 1st – Communion
CLOSE OF CAMP MEETING
8th – Joyful Hearts
15th – The Awe of Worship
22nd – Offering Up Our Praise
29th – Communion
A Relational Celebration

CHILDREN/ FAMILY MINISTRY

For information on upcoming Children & Family Ministries Events contact Gail Williams (336)314-1668 or Layne Downing (336)317-5722.

YOUTH LINK

Carolina Cross Connection – July 11-17

Attending CCC: Reba Lamb, Shea Welborn, Bayne Welborn, Shayne Welborn, Corinna Wyatt, Joy Massarelli, and Brady Thomas.

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
Cory Fields
Elaine Flinchum
Melba Fulghum (Lee Ann Curtis' mom)
Kelsey Garrett
Ruby Hockett
Bill Jones
Jamie O'Daniel
Donny Short
Our Homebound

Immediate

Fred Cook
R.W. Hinshaw (Mike Hinshaw's brother)
Betty Hull
Jimmie Jones
Wayne & Ruby Kirkman
Nancy Kivett
Janet Mathis
Dennis Mitchell
Bob Norris
Dicky Parks
Sandy Russell (friend of Londa Parks)
Preston Ryan (acquaintance/Cindy Franklin)
Francis Snow
Judy Strickler (friend of Phyllis Dahl)

Military

Randall Shaver (Sherri Bowman's son)

Deaths

Marjorie Mabe on May 24, 2021
Mildred Moser on June 21, 2021
John Kivett on June 23, 2021

OTHER MINISTRY

HOMEcoming 2021 SUNDAY, JULY 25TH



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.

Mark served as pastor of Bethlehem from 1994-2001. He retired in 2018, after serving as District Superintendent for the Metro District. We look forward to seeing Rev. Andrews again! Lunch on the grounds will follow worship. Bring a picnic lunch for you and your family to enjoy – tailgate style.



BETHLEHEM'S 168TH ANNUAL CAMP MEETING JULY 25TH – AUGUST 1ST, 2021



Rev. Daniel Lumpee will be our guest preacher for Camp Meeting's 7:30PM evening services, Sunday, July 25th at 7PM 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!

Please see special insert for more information on Homecoming and Camp Meeting 2021.



Arlene Stokes United Methodist Women



The Arlene Stokes United Methodist Women wants to thank all our church members for their awesome support of the Room-at-the-Inn Baby Shower in May. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to pack a SUV full of baby clothes, diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet tissue, a variety of other disposable products, and gift cards. The staff member of Room-at-the-Inn who came to Bethlehem to pick up the items was so appreciative of our donations to support this agency in Greensboro that assists pregnant women who have been rejected by their families. The Arlene Stokes UMW has been supporting this agency for a number of years. We were introduced to this agency by Priscilla Hodges, whose son Albert is the Executive Director.



A MISSION MOMENT



The Project AGAPE staff in Armenia is diligently working to relocate its destroyed offices and warehouse in order to serve the thousands displaced by the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan that occurred last year. The transition to new facilities, along with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, has hindered partners' ability to distribute donations as they would normally. Thus, Nara Melkonyan, the in-country Director, informed us the Project Agape staff will not be ready to receive shipments of Christmas shoeboxes this year. The Mission **Continued top of page 4**

Response Center has one shipment prepared to send and enough current donations on site to make two additional shipments when a facility is available. So in lieu of the traditional shoeboxes, we are being asked to provide the following items to the district drop-off location in late September/early October:

New blankets-any size

New children's winter clothing-size 2-14, especially boys' clothing

New children's shoes-all sizes

The Arlene Stokes UMW will be preparing a shipment of the above items. By early August there will be collection boxes in the church narthex and office area if you want to participate in this ministry to the oldest Christian country in the world.

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

July – August Upper Rooms are available for pick up from the church office and the little library.



The Church Office **will be closed on**
Monday, July 5th.



Blood Drive
Tuesday, August 3rd
1 – 7 pm

This event will be held in the fellowship hall.
(Must not have given blood for 8 weeks prior.)

Please visit

www.oneblood.org to register online

Or Call Susan Coward @ (336)404-6803

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.

Birthdays

July Birthdays

7/2	J. Steve Fields
7/3	Ashley McClintock
	Hugh Riggins
7/4	Michael Brady
	Ronda Robb
7/5	David Robb
7/6	Evonne Parks
7/7	Melvin Hinshaw
7/8	Jane Dunham
7/10	Becky Windsor
	Lauren Cordial
7/11	Ritchie Robb
7/12	Rachel Wilkinson
7/15	Susan Schmidly
7/19	Ally Fields Shuford
	Jenni Regan
7/21	Doris Reynolds
7/23	Benjamin Windsor
7/25	Tina Hinshaw
7/29	Stephanie Nance
	Merinda Wilkinson
7/30	Vicky Alexander
	Debbie Brady
	Sandie Harris
	Taylor Wray
7/31	Abigail Coble
	Maysa Downing
	Emily Robb

August Birthdays

8/1 Arnold Ingold
8/2 Linda Duncan
8/3 Greg Wicker
Paden O'Daniel
8/6 Shea Welborn
Abbey Windsor
8/10 Gerry Moody
8/11 Julia Willis
Dale Windsor
8/15 Kenneth Fields
8/16 Mike Harris
8/18 Randy Curtis
8/23 Jackie Cook
8/24 Robbie McClintock
Brad Wicker
8/26 Sawyer Edwards
Michael Garrett
8/28 Kylie Spencer
8/29 Jeremy Coble
8/30 Terry Rowland
8/31 Lynn Haywood
Joyce Ingold
Ruth Rowland



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 **Marjorie Mabe**
By Curtis & Lisa Cutright
By Buddy & Judy Fields
By Gene & Vickie Flinchum
By Shirley Hackett
By Leo & Doris Kirkman
By Ruth Rowland
By Jane Snead
By Frank & Julia Willis

In Memory of **Mary Lynn Smith**

By Jim Smith

HONORARIUMS

In Honor **Robin Bunton**

By Jim & Beverly Culbertson

In Honor of **Barry Norris**

By Jim & Beverly Culbertson

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

Looking Ahead

REMINDER – The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6th for Labor Day.



World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 3rd



CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

CROP Walk is October 3rd

Anyone who is interested is serving as Captain for CROP Walk, please contact Sandie Harris at (336) 681-1558.



**HAVE A
GREAT
Summer**

From the Treasurer...



MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT

Total Expenses	\$78,809.71
Columbarium Donations, Niche Purchases, Golf Tournament, Veteran Pavers	<u>\$74,774.00</u>
Additional Money Needed	\$ 4,035.71

Finance Committee recommended & Church Council approved the UMFoundation interest go toward the Columbarium until paid off.

UMFoundation Interest Income needed to fully fund the project	<u>\$ 4,035.71</u>
Columbarium Fund Balance	\$.00

United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. Interest Total	\$ 6,531.09
UMFoundation Interest needed to fully fund project	<u>\$ 4,035.71</u>
UMFoundation Interest not needed; transferred to Budget	\$ 2,495.38

On June 21, 2021, \$2,495.38 was transferred from BA 1341A Columbarium Fund to Budget account BA 1312 Interest Income. The Memorial Garden project was completed and fully funded.

This is a beautiful addition to our cemetery and a tribute to the work of the Columbarium Committee.

Julia Willis, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for May 2021

\$408,011.15 Total Budget Money Available May 1, 2021

20,747.12 Money Received in May

- 22,836.56 Money Spent in May

\$405,921.71 Total Budget Money Available May 31, 2021

For the month of May, 2021, the Church Budget spent \$2,089.44 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$1,621.30 more than it received.

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.

\$32,727.61 Total MM&RF Money Available May 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.	\$ 23,209.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 4,545.38
Heifer Collection	\$ 46.15	Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available May 31, 2021 \$81,849.53

\$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.

\$60,353.14 **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



July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 6th Sun./Pentecost Andrew Coward  <i>Preaches</i> Pnut Butter/Oatmeal Sun. INDEPENDENCE DAY 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Walking Group (Time varies)	6 10AM StoryTime	7 Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir	8 6PM FH in use (Trustee's scheduled activity)	9	10
11 7th Sun./Pentecost COMMUNION CCC 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	12 CCC Walking Group (Time varies)	13 10AM StoryTime CCC	14 CCC Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir	15 CCC 6PM Clean Arbor	16 CCC	17 CCC
18 8th Sun./Pentecost Grace Wilkinson <i>Scholarship Awarded</i> Youth Share 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	19 Walking Group (Time varies)	20 10AM StoryTime	21 Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir	22	23	24
25 9th Sun./Pentecost HOMECOMING CAMP MEETING STARTS *9AM Sunday School <i>(*Tentative)</i> 11AM Worship (Arbor) Picnic Lunch Follows 5:30PM UMYF 7:30PM Worship Service	26 CAMP MEETING 7:30PM Worship Service	27 10AM StoryTime CAMP MEETING 7:30PM Worship Service	28 CAMP MEETING 2PM Worship Service 7:30PM Worship Service	29 CAMP MEETING 7:30PM Worship/Youth	30 CAMP MEETING 7:30PM Worship Service	31 6:30PM Ice Cream 7PM Social/Singing

Notes: _____

August 2021

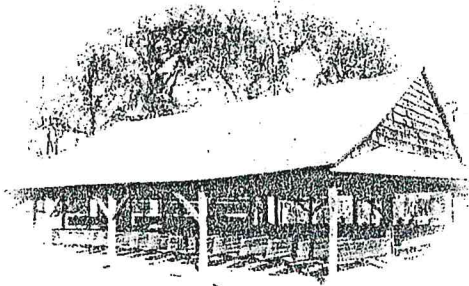
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10th Sun./Pentecost COMMUNION Pnut Butter/Oatmeal Sun. CAMP MEETING ENDS *9AM Sunday School (*Tentative) 11AM Worship (Arbor) 5:30PM UMYF	2 Robin/Vacation Walking Group (Time varies)	3 Robin/Vacation 10AM StoryTime  Blood Drive 1-7PM (FH)	4 Robin/Vacation Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir 7PM Child Care Board	5 Robin/Vacation 6PM Clean-up Arbor 6:30PM Trustees	6	7
8 11th Sun./Pentecost 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	9 Walking Group (Time varies)	10 10AM StoryTime	11 Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir	12	13	14
15 12th Sun./Pentecost 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	16 Walking Group (Time varies)	17 10AM StoryTime	18 Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir	19 7PM Admin. Council	20	21
22 13th Sun./Pentecost 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Blessing of Backpacks (Tentative) 5:30PM UMYF	23 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Arbor) School Starts Back! Walking Group (Time varies)	24 10AM StoryTime	25 Walking Group (Time varies) 7PM Choir	26	27	28
29 14th Sun./Pentecost COMMUNION 9AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5:30PM UMYF	30 Walking Group (Time varies)	31 10AM StoryTime				

Notes: _____

**Bethlehem's 168th
Annual Camp Meeting**

6103 Appomattox Road – Climax, NC 27233

July 25th – August 1st, 2021



Homecoming - Sun., July 25th
(Bring a picnic lunch for your family to enjoy – tailgate style!)

11 AM Worship (Under the Arbor)
Rev. Mark Andrews, Guest Preacher



Sun., July 25th - Fri., July 30th
7:30PM

AND 2PM on Wed., July 28th Only
Rev. Daniel Lumpee, Guest Preacher



Thurs., July, 29th, 7:30PM
Youth Lead Worship

Sat., July 31st, 7PM
Ice Cream Social @ 6:30PM; Singing @ 7PM

Sun., August 1st, 11AM (Under the Arbor)
Closing Service

Camp Meeting 2021

Music Line-up:

Sunday - 7/25 - Gray and Jim Boren

Monday- 7/26 - Phil Herndon

Tuesday- 7/27 - Guy Crozier

Wednesday - 7/28 - Eric Eddins

Thursday - 7/29 - Youth Night - Bethlehem
Youth

Friday - 7/30 - Myra Massaroni

Saturday - 7/31 - Singing Service -
Good News Gospel
Quartet