

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 9

Issue 5

September 2021

### From the Pastor's Desk

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank all of you for the many ways you allowed me to be your Pastor. As my family and I prepare to leave Bethlehem UMC, saying goodbye does not come easy. Two years ago I came to Bethlehem UMC believing and still believe today that God led us together for a time.

For two years we have worked side by side in the most unexpected, unusual, and unprecedented way while continually exploring our faith. We've worshipped, worked, and celebrated together for the glory of God.

We've come together as Preacher and Congregation, as Pastor and Parishioner, but also as friends, individuals in relationship with each other developing bonds. I thank you for the times that you have invited me into your homes and into your lives - sharing with me the highs and lows that come with life. Whether it's welcoming a new baby into our world or being with loved ones as they depart, it is always a privilege and a blessing to walk with you for life-changing moments.

So leaving a church family is no small matter. Please know that nothing about this decision was easy; I truly wrestled with this decision, however, certain circumstances within the church led to my choice, as I have always wanted what is best for the church. In addition, we have all seen through this pandemic how short life can be and how precious family is to us. Therefore, it is time for me to spend some time with my family.

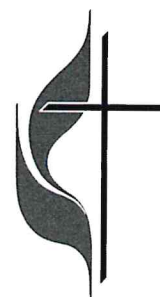
Many of you will always have a special place in my heart for the friendships we have developed and for the way you have worked beside and supported me through my ministry here. And as you ready yourselves to welcome a new pastor and his family, I pray that you will embrace them as you have me and mine.

So, I want to say thank you for allowing me to serve with you and be used by God. I pray that God would continue to pour out his favor on you and that many would come to a saving faith in Christ because of your faithfulness. I pray that you will have a wonderful future and I hope that under new pastoral leadership you find a way to connect with the community and invite more people to join you on Sunday morning.

May the peace of God be with us in all that we do. May the grace of our Lord Jesus, God's anointed, be with you all.

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.***

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#### **Pastor**

Rev. Debra Short  
704-604-1128 (9AM-8PM, M-Th, Sun.)  
[Revdshort@aol.com](mailto:Revdshort@aol.com)

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Robin Bunton  
336-674-0155  
[bethumcclimax@gmail.com](mailto:bethumcclimax@gmail.com)

#### **Youth Director**

Reba Lamb  
336-953-7376

#### **Choir Director**

Pingyi (Lesley) Song  
304-435-7501  
[pingyisongconductor@gmail.com](mailto:pingyisongconductor@gmail.com)

#### **Organist**

Jane Reddick

#### **Pianist**

Laura Cranfill

#### **Child Care Director**

Erica Shanahan  
336-674-9879

#### **Custodian**

Ovido Sorbito

#### **Webmaster**

Debbie Brady



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[bethlehemumc.org](http://bethlehemumc.org)

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## SEPTEMBER

Rev. Debra Short's Last Sunday Preaching  
5<sup>th</sup> - How Do You Say Farewell?

Rev. A.C. Brock Preaching Three Sundays  
12<sup>th</sup> - Big Ships, Little Rudders

19<sup>th</sup> - Two Masters

26<sup>th</sup> - The Mercy of God



Rev. Bev Copley Preaching  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - World Communion Sunday

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Joseph Fulk, III Preaching



## CHILDREN/ FAMILY MINISTRY

### September 18 – Outdoor Fall Fest

*Bring a picnic dinner  
and enjoy live music and lawn games.  
(Featuring Andrew Minor & Friends)*

### Coming in October...

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - Boo Bash/Outdoor Trunk or Treat Event

(For more information, contact Layne Downing 336-317-5722.)

## YOUTH LINK

No upcoming events.

(For additional information contact Reba Lamb, Youth Director at [rebaelamb@yahoo.com](mailto: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

Janet Mathis  
Mary May (Karen Holt's mom)  
Jamie O'Daniel  
Donny Short  
Wes Taylor  
Our Homebound

### Immediate

Gale Berke  
Fred Cook  
Rev. Lee Ellis  
Phillip Grubbs (Brooke Byrd's brother)  
R.W. Hinshaw (Mike Hinshaw's bro/Sarah's son)  
Betty Hull  
Bill Jones (at Clapps/Appomattox Rd.)  
Jimmie Jones  
Wayne & Ruby Kirkman  
Nancy Kivett (\*see address change below)  
Mike McClintock  
Dickie Parks  
Barbara Riddle  
Sandy Russell (friend of Londa Parks)  
Preston Ryan (acquaintance/Cindy Franklin)  
Francis Snow  
Judy Strickler (friend of Phyllis Dahl)  
James Surratt (Sandi Harris's dad)  
Barbara Westmoreland  
Julia Willis

### Deaths

Robert Wilson "R.W." Hepler, Jr. on August 18, 2021  
R.W. was the father of Cindy Fields

\*Nancy Kivett has a new address: 3540 Wildflower Dr.,  
Apt. 618, Greensboro, NC 27410

## OTHER MINISTRY



Arlene Stokes UMW is again collecting Agape donations for Armenia. Armenia is in desperate need of the following items: new blankets, winter clothing for children, infant to age 17, and new boots and shoes. If you would like to contribute any of these items, you may drop them off at the Arbor between September 6 - September 26. If you have any questions, please call Jane Snead at 336-674-7593. (Please note that we will be taking these donations in lieu of doing shoeboxes.) Thank you for all of your support for BUMC UMW's mission work.



# Secret Pals

**Attention College Students!** if you plan to participate in the **Secret Pals**, please return your completed info forms to Fran Getner at 2728 Briar Oak Dr., Climax, NC 27233. (Forms are available for pick up from the little library or the church office.) Also, **Sponsors are needed for Secret Pals**. Please contact Fran if you wish to become a sponsor (336) 685-2086.



## Opportunities to Serve...

**ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE & GREETERS** - now available for sign-ups. The sign-up list is available in the foyer outside of the church office. You may also call Robin in the office to schedule. **LOTS of openings!**

**Pastor's Hours:** Pastor Debra will be taking vacation time from **September 7<sup>th</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>**. During that time she will be in the parsonage until September 21<sup>st</sup>. After that, in case of an emergency, please contact:

**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Rev. Mark Weekley (PGUMC)**  
Cell (336)482-1647/Church Phone (336)674-5711

**Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Matt Morris (Tabernacle UMC)**  
Cell (704)692-8017/Church (336)674-2941

**Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Mark Weekley (PGUMC)**  
Cell (336)482-1647/Church Phone (336)674-5711

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



It has been **twenty years**. In remembrance of those who perished on 9/11, Military Flags and American Flags will be placed around the Memorial Garden. You are invited to **stop on Sat., Sept. 11** and **pray at 8:45AM**, when the first plane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center, **at 9:02AM**, when the second plane hit the South Tower of World Trade Center, **at 9:37AM**, when a third plane crashed into the Pentagon, and **at 10:03AM** when Flight 93 crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA.



**September – October Upper Rooms** are available for pick up from the church office and the little library.



**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day.**

# Birthdays

## September Birthdays

9/2 Vivian Wilkinson  
Gloria Austin  
Tater O'Daniel  
9/3 Karen Parrish  
Barbara Riddle  
Pam Suggs  
9/4 Ray Bunton  
9/5 Jeff Eanes  
9/8 Harper Garrett  
9/9 Ethan Eanes  
Grace Kirby  
Desi Williams  
9/11 Alex Garrett  
David Goad  
9/12 Dickie Parks  
9/16 Krimson Gunter  
9/17 Terry Franklin  
Phala Garrett  
9/18 Garrett Owens  
9/19 Mary Lauren Bonney  
Sheila Moser  
9/21 David Welborn  
9/26 Francis Snow  
9/27 Layne Downing  
9/28 Floyd Cook  
9/30 Buddy Reddick

## October Birthdays

10/2 Phyllis Dahl  
Scott Wilkinson  
10/4 Travis Franklin  
10/5 Sherri Davis  
Jim Smith  
10/6 Lorrie Roth  
10/8 Tracy Peele  
10/9 Dale Routh  
10/11 Courtney Ingold  
10/13 Betty Kirkman  
10/15 Susan Davis  
LeeAnne Curtis  
10/16 Kristy Robb  
Noel Loftus  
10/17 Bonnie Averill  
Joseph Garrett  
Kelli Wilkinson  
10/18 Byron Dahl  
Herbert McClintock  
10/20 Braxton Wall  
10/23 Alex Haywood  
10/24 Donna Younts  
10/25 Jeffrey Welker  
10/26 Don Short  
10/27 Jim Little  
10/28 Holly Robb  
10/30 Victoria Coble

## Honorariums & Memorials

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

### Honorariums

In Honor of **Mark Andrews**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of the **Camp Meeting Team**  
By Jane Snead

In Honor of **Laura Cranfill**  
By Jim & Beverly Culbertson

In Honor of **My Family**  
By Phala Garrett

In Honor of **Buddy Fields**  
By Dickie & Evonne Parks

In Honor of **Earl Fields**  
By Dickie & Evonne Parks  
(Continued on Page 4)

In Honor of **Mike Hinshaw**  
By Dickie & Evonne Parks

In Honor of **Brittany Ingold**  
By Dawn White

In Honor of **Courtney Ingold**  
By Dawn White

In Honor of **Daniel Lumpee**  
By Jane Williams

In Honor of **Daniel Lumpee and Alex**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Dickie Parks**  
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Jane Reddick**  
By Jim & Beverly Culbertson

In Honor of **Debra Short**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Lesley Song**  
By Jim & Beverly Culbertson

#### **Memorials**

In Memory of **Worth & Mary Allred**  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Mike Childress**  
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

In Memory of **Frank & Frances Fields**  
By Doris Reynolds

In Memory of **Larry Fields**  
By Brenda Fields

In Memory of **Marjorie Mabe**  
By Byron & Phyllis Dahl  
By Carol Fields

By Ed & Frances McClintock  
By James & Sandra Shapaker

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

In Memory of **Mildred Moser**  
By Family of Buddy & Judy Fields  
By John & Margaret Causey  
By Christian Friendship Class  
By David & Laura Cranfill  
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy  
By Timothy & Lisa Elmore  
By Carol Fields

By Kelly & Betty Fields  
By Steve & Cindy Fields  
By Gene & Vickie Flinchum  
By Nancy Golden

By Ed & Frances McClintock  
In Memory of **Mildred Moser Continued**

By Anita Moser  
By David & Tracy Peele  
By David & Ronda Robb  
By Margaret Royal  
By Ruth Rowland  
By James & Sandra Shapaker  
By Jackie Smith  
By Jim Smith  
By Jane Snead  
By Pat Waugh  
By Phyllis Wicker  
By Jane Williams  
By Frank & Julia Willis  
By Dale & Becky Windsor

In Memory of **Keith Parks**  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Clem Royal**  
By David & Laura Cranfill  
By Jerry & Karon Monnett  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Lillie Stevenson**  
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

In Memory of **John Kivett**  
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy  
By Carol Fields  
By James & Helen Kivett  
By Steve & Cindy Fields  
By Byron & Phyllis Dahl  
By Jane Snead  
By Phyllis Wicker  
By Frank & Julia Willis

In Memory of **Bette Weatherly**  
By David & Laura Cranfill  
By Jackie Smith

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

## **Looking Ahead**

- **Sat., October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Country Store & Bake Sale.** Although there will not be a Brunswick Stew this year, please plan to contribute & shop on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>! We are looking for all sorts of vegetables (fresh, canned, & frozen), pumpkins, jams, jellies, preserves, apples, figs, etc. And lots of cakes, pies, cookies, breads, muffins, & puddings are needed. Questions - call Ruth Rowland at (336)676-7095.
- **World Communion Sunday – October 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **CROP Walk is October 3<sup>rd</sup>** If interested in serving as Captain for CROP Walk, please contact Sandie Harris at (336) 681-1558.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of the Month – Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday.** Bring donations of peanut butter & oatmeal for Urban Ministry. (Donations needed!)



# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## Budget Results for July 2021

\$405,320.60 Total Budget Money Available July 1, 2021

26,669.50 Money Received in July

- 19,624.83 Money Spent in July

\$412,365.27 Total Budget Money Available July 31, 2021

For the month of July, 2021, the Church Budget received \$7,044.67 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$4,822.26 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.

\$32,984.61 Total MM&RF Money Available July 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	\$ 924.39
Food Pantry	\$ 1,629.06	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 4,637.50	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 22,496.86
UMYF	\$19,700.63	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 302.85
Family Ministries	\$ 687.40	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 23,034.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46
Misc In/Out: CCSales tax	\$ 119.84	Insurance Claim	\$ 77,175.08

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available July 31, 2021 \$156,019.64

## \$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 principal (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principal 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.

## \$63,572.72 **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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Thank you to all who helped to make Camp Meeting 2021 a great success!*

*We are already busy planning Camp Meeting 2022.*

*God Bless, The Camp Meeting Team*



*Dear Bethlehem UMC,*

*Thank you for the warm welcome we received at Homecoming. We were delighted to see so many friends and to reconnect briefly after twenty years. We appreciate the love shown to us then and now. May the mission of the church of Jesus Christ flourish through you all.*

*God's Peace, Mark Andrews*



*Thanks to all for inviting me [to preach] for Camp Meeting! The Lumpees had a great time!*

*In Christ, Daniel, Alex, and Girls*



*We thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and calls during our illnesses.*

*God Bless, Jan Toler and Seth Toler*




*Thank you all for the love, and support, and most especially the prayers, during my heart procedure and recovery.*

*God Bless You All, Floyd Cook*



# September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5 15<sup>th</sup> Sun./Pentecost</b> <b>Prnit/Oatmeal Sunday</b> <i>Debra Short Preaches</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship	<b>6</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) <b>Labor Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>7</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) 10AM StoryTime (Under Arbor)	<b>8</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) Walking Group (Times Vary)	<b>9</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) 6:30PM Trustees	<b>10</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)	<b>11</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) <b>Patriot Day</b> <i>Call to Pray</i> <i>(Remembering 9/11)</i>
<b>12 16<sup>th</sup> Sun./Pentecost</b> <b>Grandparents' Day</b> <i>A.C. Brock Preaches</i> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship	<b>13</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)	<b>14</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) 10AM StoryTime (Under Arbor)	<b>15</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) Walking Group (Times Vary)	<b>16</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)	<b>17</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)	<b>18</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)  <b>Outdoor Fall Fest</b> (Stay tuned for details.)
<b>19 17<sup>th</sup> Sun./Pentecost</b> <i>A.C. Brock Preaches</i> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship	<b>20</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <b>(for October)</b>	<b>21</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor) 10AM StoryTime (Under Arbor)	<b>22</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)  <b>Autumn Begins!</b> Walking Group (Times Vary)	<b>23</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)	<b>24</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)	<b>25</b> Agape Donations Drop-Off (Arbor)
<b>26 18<sup>th</sup> Sun./Pentecost</b> <i>A.C. Brock Preaches</i> Agape Donations <b>Drop-Off ENDS</b> (Arbor) 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship	<b>27</b> 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Under Arbor)	<b>28</b> 10AM StoryTime (Under Arbor)	<b>29</b> Walking Group (Times Vary)	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>Country Store &amp; Bake Sale</b>

## Greeter Schedule:

9/5	Dale Austin
9/12	Susan Coward
9/19	Desi Williams
9/26	Sandie Harris
10/3	Julie Spencer
10/10	Shirley Hackett
10/17	OPEN
10/24	OPEN
10/31	Sandie Harris

## Calendar Notes:

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## BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road  
Climax, NC 27233  
Office 336 674-0155, Fax 336 674-0157  
[www.bethlehemumc.org](http://www.bethlehemumc.org)

Dear Bethlehem Church Member,

Greetings from the Bethlehem UMC SPRC, I hope this letter finds you well. Reverend Debra Short made an announcement at church on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> that she will be retiring effective September 30, 2021. Due to vacation, Rev. Short's last Sunday at Bethlehem UMC will be on September 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a basket placed in the vestibule of the church for cards and well wishes congratulating Rev. Short on her retirement. Reverend AC Brock will be filling in until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Bev Copley, our district superintendent, will be serving Holy Communion and preaching on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The District Superintendent has been extremely supportive during this transition and following the SPRC committee consultation with her, she has informed us that our new minister will be Reverend Joseph Fulk III. Reverend Fulk is a third generation United Methodist minister and has most recently been serving in Lexington, NC. He and his wife Elaine and children Riley, Lily, Quart, and Anna-Grace are excited to continue their ministry at Bethlehem UMC. Rev. Fulk will begin his appointment on October 1<sup>st</sup> and preach his first Sunday on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank Reverend Debra Short for navigating our church through a global pandemic and finding new ways to bless us with God's word every Sunday. It has not been an easy year and we wish her the best on her retirement. Please be in prayer for our church, Reverend Fulk and his family, and the SPRC committee during this transition.

Best Regards,

SPRC Committee