

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 9

Issue 7

November 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

"You Are What You Eat" (1 Corinthians 10:31)

The holiday season is already upon us; on the 25th we celebrate Thanksgiving and a month later we celebrate our Savior's Birth at Christmas which involves, in most cases, a lot of food. And, some will call those 'cheat days' (a great reason/excuse to eat whatever we want to) but too much of a good thing is, well, too much of a good thing most of the time. Yet, as the holidays approach it can remind us that in our walk with the Lord, what we consume, and how much we consume, builds us, shapes us, and even can dictate who we are and how we live and make choices.

When Anna-Grace was a baby, she loved her baby food carrots and the sweet potatoes to the point it could be a struggle to get her to eat some of her other baby foods. After a while of this taking place, AG was literally starting to turn orange. Yes, orange! Even though it is my favorite color, we were not excited to see the baby turning orange looking like an 'Oompa Loompa' (*Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, 1971).¹ So, we checked it out with the pediatrician and she assured us she was fine, but we did need her to eat more than the carrots and sweet potatoes because they were the source of her orange glow.

Apparently there is truth in "you are what you eat", and for us as Christians, followers and disciples of Jesus Christ, we too must pay attention to what we take in - not just physically but spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. These things influence us more than we know. Some might be okay, but are these things glorifying to God, or how God intended these graces to be shared or lived out?

God wants us to enjoy life with all of its blessings, but to be mindful of the things we feed ourselves and our families, from the music we listen to, the movies/television shows we watch, to friends we run with, to the social medias we follow, and so many other things in our daily lives that seek our consumption (with some being more severe/filling than we realize). This is why God reminds us in His Word to meditate on His Word day and night (*Joshua 1:8*), to teach our children (*Deuteronomy 6:7*), to have self-control (as listed in the "Fruits of the Spirit" Galatians 5), and to be mindful of the influence of our world and society and look to the things of God (*Colossians 3:2*). We want the calories we take in to not be the empty calories of this world, but the Life-giving calories of Heaven.

May your Thanksgiving be wonderful and blessed as we kickoff a time of celebrating all of God's goodness, grace, and mercy for us, His Children. Great is our God!!!

Pastor Joseph, III

PS Thank you each and all again for your love and the outpouring of kindness to Elaine, our children, and myself...it is appreciated more than you will ever know. Blessings in Christ Jesus' Name, Amen

¹ Stuart, Mel. *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, 1971. Paramount Pictures.



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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Visit our Website at

bethlehemumc.org



United
Methodist
Women

Arlene Stokes UMW

We want to thank all of you who supported our Agape Project to Armenia. Because of your generosity, we packed five very large boxes and five large boxes with blankets, shoes, and winter clothing for the children of Armenia. This amounted to almost a value of \$1,000.00! A big thank-you to Byron and Phyllis Dahl for loading the boxes and delivering to Hinshaw UMC which was the distribution center for our area. We are blessed to have so many who continue to support our ministries.



LAST MONTH'S COUNTRY STORE & BAKE SALE UPDATE ... First of all, thank you ALL for the dry goods that turned into baked goods! We also thank all of you who made purchases at this event.

Because of all the generous donations of baked goods and store items, this event was a **BIG** success. We made a grand total of \$1,217.50.

Blessings to all, the Committee



A Reminder From the Missions Team...

The first Sunday of the Month is Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday. Bring donations of peanut butter & oatmeal for Urban Ministries. Your donations may be left in the narthex or conference room. Thank you for supporting this outreach!



Opportunities...

Ways you can
SERVE

Altar Flowers & Greeter(s) sign-up lists still have openings. Lists are available on the table outside of the church office and the narthex.

There is **an immediate need** for someone to **maintain the marquee/sign** (adjacent to Appomattox Road.) If you can take on this responsibility, please contact Pastor Joseph or Robin (the church office.)

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS Nov. 7th – During worship, we will remember and celebrate the lives of those church members we lost in 2021. We hope you can attend this special worship.



MEMORIALS FOR VETERANS DAY – The Young-at-Heart SS Class is preparing a special bulletin to **honor/memorialize Veterans on Sun., Nov. 14th**. Donations are \$5 per name. Please use a separate envelope for each Veteran's name (available at each entrance & in the SS Classes.) Make checks payable to Young-at-Heart SS Class with Veterans Memorial on the memo line. Give envelopes to Judy Fields or Karon Monnett but **do not put in offering boxes.** **Also there has been a CHANGE IN DEADLINE to SUN., NOV. 7th.** Thanks for your participation!



A LAYING OF THE WREATH CEREMONY in recognition of Veterans Day will be held in the Memorial Garden on Sunday, November 14th, immediately following worship. **If any members would like to contribute to the cost of the wreath, please contact David Cranfill (336) 509-5994.**



HELEN GRADY ENDOWMENT FUND - The Endowment committee is pleased to announce that for 2021 we have approximately \$2,000.00 available for disbursement. Any group, committee, or individual that would like to apply for this money may do so by submitting a **Request for Funds Application.** **These forms will be available beginning Sunday, November 21st.** **Completed applications are due to the church office before 4 PM, December 13, 2021.** (Applications/forms can be picked-up from the church office, the table outside of church office and from the narthex beginning November 21st.) Funds will be released in early 2022.



THE CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE opens Sun., Nov. 28th

It will be set-up in the conference room. You may leave your cards there (alphabetized by last name would be helpful), and the youth will sort and file them for pick-up. Also, be sure to stop by and retrieve your own cards. NOTE: **the cutoff for cards to be dropped off to be sorted for pick-up in time for Christmas is - Sunday, December 19th.** We thank Phyllis Wicker helping to setup the Christmas Card Post Office. And thanks to our Youth for running the Post Office this Christmas Season!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep these friends in your prayers:

Ongoing

Vicky Alexander
Martha Boren
Suzie Branch
Edna Coble
Jane Dunham
Cory Fields
Elaine Flinchum
Kelsey Garrett
R.W. Hinshaw
Ruby Hockett
Betty Hull
Bill Jones
Mary May
Mike McClintock
Jamie O'Daniel
Our Homebound

Immediate

Daryl Bowman
Kathy Harrison (Myra Massaroni's sister)
Todd Holloman
Jimmie Jones
Sara Kauzlick
Wayne & Ruby Kirkman
Nancy Kivett
Dickie Parks
Barbara Riddle
Sandy Russell (Friend of Londa P.)
Preston Ryan
Ann Shoemaker (Friend of Londa P.)
Judy Shreve (Friend of Phyllis Dahl)
Francis Snow
Julie Strickler (Friend of Phyllis Dahl)
James Surratt (Sandie Harris' dad)
Joyce Tate (Nancy Golden's sister)
Wes Taylor (home)
Amber & Brandon Thompson
Julia Willis



Honorariums & Memorials

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

HONORARIUMS

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

In Honor of **Rev. Joseph Fulk, III & Family**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett**
By Wayne & Phyllis Alley
By Margaret Royal
By Jane Williams

In Honor of **Dicky & Evonne Parks**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **David & Ronda Robb**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Frank & Julia Willis**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Emerson Grace Windsor**
By Dale & Becky Windsor

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Rosa C. Allred**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Keith Parks**
By Dickie & Evonne Parks

In Memory of **A.C. & Bette Weatherly**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **H.B. Wicker, Jr.**
By the Wicker Family

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

Happy Birthday!

November

11/1 Matthew Garrett
Amanda Parks
11/3 Denny Spencer
11/5 Kaila Hill
11/6 Sharon Hill
11/10 Justin Windsor
11/11 Pat Coble
Sarah Hinshaw
Annie Mae Jones
Jean Greeson
11/12 Vickie Flinchum
Karen Lauder
Madison Nance
Kathy Wilkinson
11/13 Fred Cook
11/14 Ronda Faggart
Phil Smith
Carol Williams
11/17 Jonathan King
Nathan Pipe
Emily Lauder Taylor
11/18 Gail Williams
Mario Massarelli
11/19 Will Rivers
11/22 Nancy Kivett
11/23 Doug Garrett
Franklin Stevens
11/26 Frank Willis
11/27 Ginny Fields
11/28 Tim Fields
Bobby Tew
11/29 Ethan Hill
Wayne Moser
11/30 Mark Allen

December

12/5 Gene Flinchum
12/6 Lily Christie
12/9 Cory Fields
Luke Hinshaw
12/10 Holley Wicker
12/11 Erin Edwards
Dawn White
Charles Wells
12/13 Wayne Alley
Karon Monnett
12/15 Jerry Berry
Jerry Monnett
12/17 Nelle Haywood
Jane Chamelin
12/19 Grant Allen
12/21 David Fields
12/23 Braylynn Adams
12/26 Amber Cook
Cindy Franklin
Leah Fields
12/27 Joy Cranfill
Logan Royal
12/28 Cindy Duncan
12/30 Andrew Coward
12/31 David Allen



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for September 2021

\$410,570.03 Total Budget Money Available September 1, 2021

17,570.16 Money Received in September

- 21,683.61 Money Spent in September

\$406,456.58 Total Budget Money Available September 30, 2021

For the month of September, 2021, the Church Budget spent \$4,113.45 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$1,086.43 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.

\$33,184.61 Total MM&RF Money Available September 30, 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	\$ 1,460.12	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 4,637.50	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 22,733.99
UMYF	\$19,700.63	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 302.85
Family Ministries	\$ 687.40	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 23,584.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46
		Insurance Claim	\$ 21,870.00

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available September 30, 2021 \$101,212.91

\$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

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Walking Group (Time Varies)	2 10AM StoryTime	3 Walking Group (Time Varies)	4 6:30PM Trustees	5	6
7 All Saints Sunday Holy Communion Pnut Butter & Oatmeal Sun. Daylight Savings Time Ends DEADLINE for Vet. Day Bulletin 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM UMYF 7PM Prayer Meeting	8 Walking Group (Time Varies)	9 10AM StoryTime	10 Walking Group (Time Varies)	11 Veterans Day 	12	13
14 25th Sun./Pentecost Special Vet. Day Bulletin 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Laying of Wreath Ceremony follows Worship 5PM UMYF	15 Walking Group (Time Varies)	16 10AM StoryTime 7PM Admin. Council & Charge Conference (FH)	17 Walking Group (Time Varies)	18	19	20
21 Christ the King Sun. Helen Grady App. Begin 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 3PM Chrismon Tree Assembled 5PM UMYF 7PM Comm. Thanksgiving Service at PGUMC	22 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young-at-Heart Rm.) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	23 10AM StoryTime	24 Walking Group (Time Varies)	25 Thanksgiving Day  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent Stewardship Sunday Poinsettia Orders Begin Christmas Card Post Off. Opens Angel Tree Up/Narthex 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM UMYF	29 Walking Group (Time Varies)	30 10AM StoryTime	1 Walking Group (Time Varies)	2	3	5

Notes:

November Greeters:

11/7 Gray Boren
11/14 Byron & Phyllis Dahl
11/21 Susan Coward
11/28 Julie Spencer

November Altar/Narthex Flowers:

11/7 Kim Gunter (Altar)
11/14 Jim & Beverly Culbertson (Altar)
11/14 David & Laura Cranfill (Narthex)
11/21 Gail Williams (Altar)
11/28 OPEN

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

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U.S. Postage Paid
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COMING UP IN DECEMBER...

- Children & Family Ministries will present a drive-thru Nativity. Details on this event are forthcoming.
- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 6PM

COMING UP IN JANUARY...

- Winter Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 18 from 1-7PM in the Fellowship Hall (Reminder – In order to donate on January 18, you should not have given blood for 6 weeks prior.)