



— PRINCIPLES OF —
STEWARDSHIP

Guilford College United Methodist Church

A LEGACY OF GRACE

At Guilford College UMC,
we live God's dream together
as the faithful stewards
of a beautiful legacy of
giving and working and praying
in the name of Christ.



"Think of us in this
way: as servants of
Christ and stewards of
God's mysteries. . ."
-I Corinthians 4:1-2



1959



2026



1988

A Dream of a Church

A little over seventy years ago, God gave to some of our ancestors an audacious dream. The leaders of Friendship Methodist Church, located right next to the airport, requested guidance from the Western NC Annual Conference on what they should do as the airport continued to expand around them. The then-District Superintendent issued a challenge to the congregation to relocate nearby and to plant a whole new church. This new congregation could serve the Methodist families in the area, along with the Methodist students at Guilford College – and it could also become a base for worship and evangelism as the population of the area continued to grow.

A first gathering to discuss the new church plant was held on February 1st, 1959 in the living room of Mr. and Mrs. Colon Needham. Twenty-one people were present. The nascent congregation decided to rent the Student Union Building at Guilford College as a temporary meeting space. The first service was held on July 12th, 1959, with fifty-seven persons in attendance.

At the second service, the founding minister, Fred Barber, wrote in the bulletin, “It is going to take a lot of hard work to realize our dreams here, but with work and prayer we can, and will, succeed. Let us rejoice in our efforts to make church history in this community.”

Three months later, by the end of October, there were over a hundred charter members. The following year, a parsonage for the minister was built on Boxwood Drive. At the same time, a three-phase plan was developed for the eventual construction of a marvelous church building on donated land. A grocery store owner and real estate broker named Sam Talbert had given six acres to the Greensboro District Mission Society of the Methodist Church, all for the whopping figure of \$10 – the cost of a meal at Chick-Fil-A.



GROUNDBREAKING FOR FIRST UN

January 1, 1961

was invited to bring



Friendship
Methodist
Church

A Legacy of Giving and Working and Praying

On the first day of the new year, 1961, the members of the new church met on that land, right near where we sit each Sunday, to break ground. Construction began on what used to be a goat pasture. The people planned to turn that former goat pasture into a sheepfold for the Good Shepherd.

At the ground-breaking service, according to the bulletin, the congregation prayed:

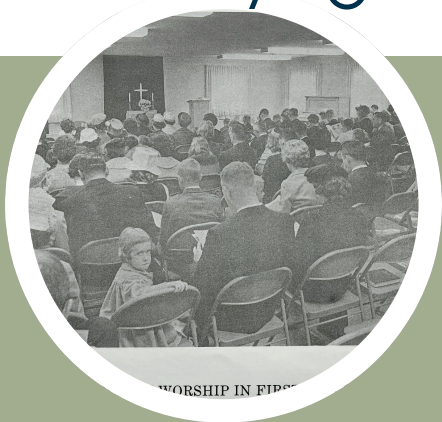
“That a church may rise here which will give nurture to spiritual life in its infancy, we break this ground today. That a church may rise here which will set tasks for our growing strength and be a steadfast power for good, we break this ground today. That a church may rise here which shall bring into our community the life-giving spirit of Jesus, we break this ground today. That a church may rise here which shall proclaim the ancient gospel of her Lord, we break this ground today. That a church may rise here which shall have the prophet’s scorn of tyranny and a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy-laden and downtrodden, we break this ground today.”



A Legacy of Giving and Working and Praying



Our ancestors dreamt of building something much more precious than a building: they prayed to build a PEOPLE, a Christian community that would witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ and to the reality of His Kingdom for generations to come. To that end, they sacrificed greatly. They prayed and they worked and they gave of themselves: of their time, their talents, and their treasures.



God, working and giving in partnership alongside them, answered their prayers and rewarded their efforts. We are the answer to the prayers our ancestors offered long ago, as well as the fruit of their labors. A church has indeed risen in this place that lives God's dream: that proclaims and lives the ancient good news of Jesus Christ, in word and deed, for a new generation.



Stewards of a Legacy of Grace



We are the heirs, and also the stewards, of a beautiful legacy of God-inspired sacrificial giving and working and praying.

Today, as a people loved by God, loving God and people together, we continue that legacy of grace. We worship and we preach and we praise. We care for one another, weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice. We welcome others, all others, as Christ has welcomed us. We nurture the faith of the young and the old, both those who are taking their first baby-steps in their relationship with God, and those who have walked with Him for decades. We serve our neighbors: providing food, sorting produce, building ramps, cleaning creeks, housing refugees, blessing children, visiting the elderly.

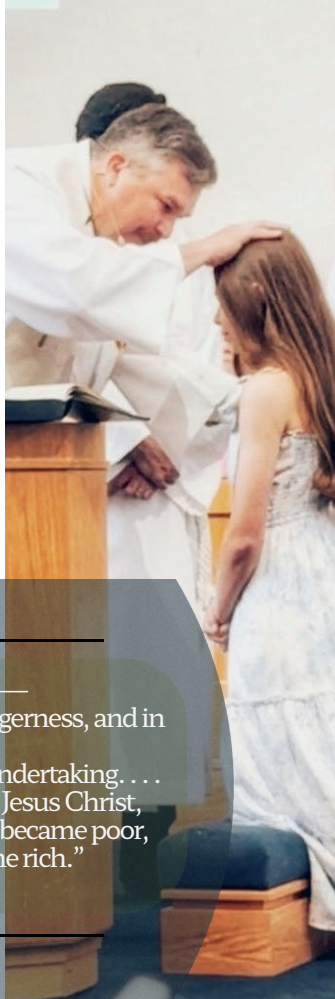
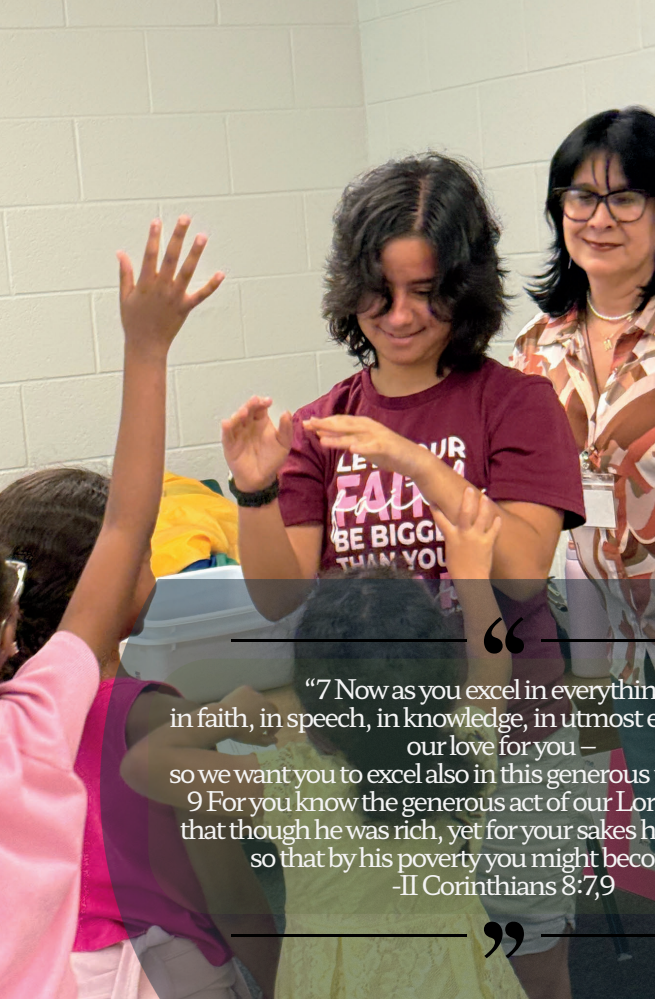
All of this happens because of the sacrificial generosity which God inspires in you. **THANK YOU** for giving to and working with and praying for your church family – and for providing for the as-yet unseen generations to follow that will know love God and love their neighbors and cherish themselves because you did.





³⁵ In all this I have given you an example
that by such work we must support the weak,
remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said,
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
-Acts 20:35





“7 Now as you excel in everything—
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in
our love for you —
so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. . . .
9 For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.”
—II Corinthians 8:7,9









“
10 He who supplies seed to the sower and
bread for food
will supply and multiply your seed for sowing
and increase the harvest of your
righteousness.”
-II Corinthians 9:10
”



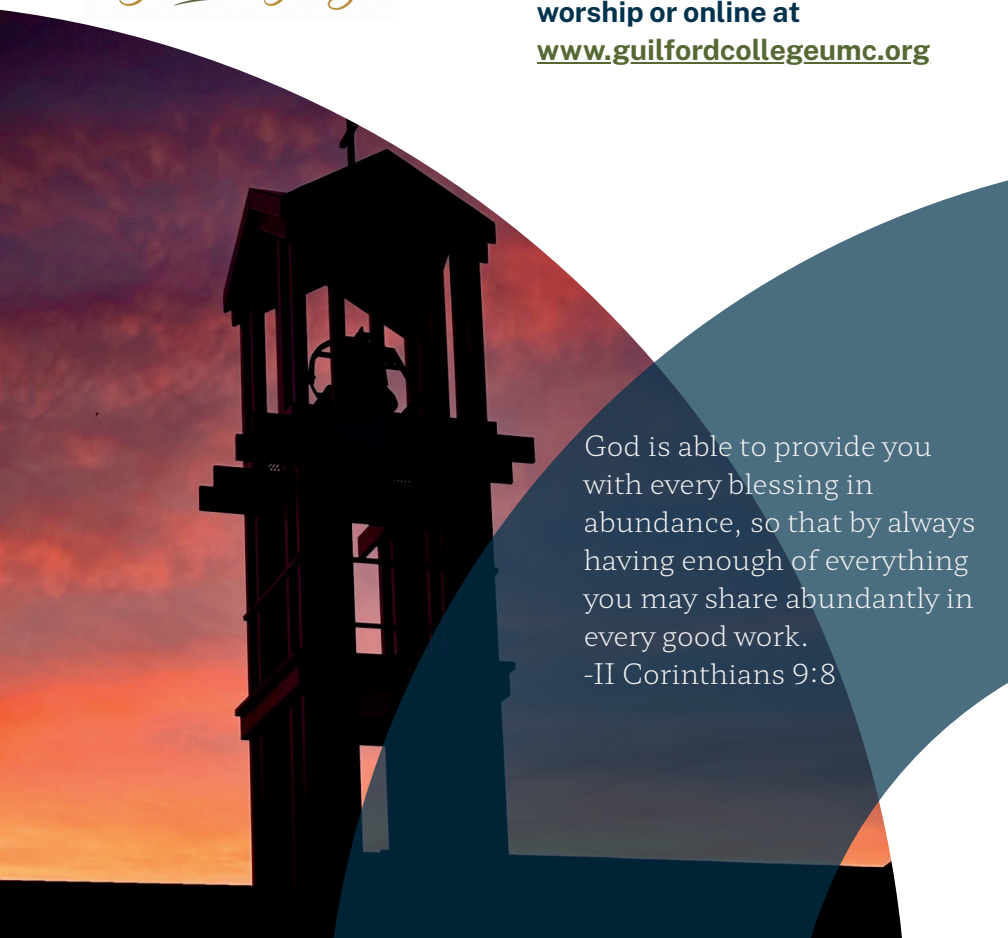
Where do you see yourself in God's story?



— PRINCIPLES OF —
STEWARDSHIP
— AND —
Generous Giving

We hope you will review this booklet and all the included materials and prayerfully consider how you might join the dream and the story with your time, talents and treasures.

You can return your giving and serving commitments to the church office or during worship or online at www.guilfordcollegeumc.org



God is able to provide you
with every blessing in
abundance, so that by always
having enough of everything
you may share abundantly in
every good work.
-II Corinthians 9:8