

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 1

January 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Matthew 2:11 NIV

Another year has passed, and another year has begun. Within the past year some things have not changed and, depending on your view, many things have changed. Two thousand twenty-three was a journey and we keep marching forward.

As we keep moving forward, let us remember why we move and why we do what we do. That shall take intentional moments to stop, bow, and offer ourselves to our Lord *the King of Kings*. As *The Three Kings, The Magi*, journeyed seeking to get closer to the Lord, they bowed (humbled) before Him and offered their gifts. They traveled hundreds and hundreds of miles, if not more, with ups and downs, twists and turns, smooth highway and potholes too. But the hope in the One, the Reason why they traveled on, for the many Blessings promised by God that lay ahead.

I pray that two thousand twenty-four will be a blessed year for each of you all and all of yours. May the journey behind and the travels ahead guided by God's light fill you with hope and give you strength. The journey is worth the destination as God draws us closer to Him.

May God be with you and keep you...

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Joseph, III



Bethlehem Methodist Church

Our Mission at Bethlehem Church 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. Joseph Fulk, III
336-674-0155
jmfulkiii@gmail.com

Church Office

Robin Bunton
336-674-0155
bethumcclimax@gmail.com

Choir Director

Gloria Austin

Organist

Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Childcare Director

Erica Shanahan
336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Kylie Russell



Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share>

Visit our Website at

bethlehemumc.org

From the Church Office

Here are some important dates to remember in January:

Monday, January 1st – The church office and Bethlehem Childcare will be closed for New Year's Day.

Monday, January 15th – The church office will be closed in observance of MLK, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 22nd – Deadline for the February 2024 newsletter. Please email your items to the church office at bethumcclimax@gmail.com

Monday, January 29th at 10AM – Pastor Joseph holds an Administrative Planning Meeting with paid staff in the parlor. Robin will be away from the office during this time.

Happy New Year!
Robin

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**BIBLES
&
BISCUITS**



**MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Joseph leads this study.
All men in the community are invited!
Meets the 1st Sat. of the month at 8AM
at Climax Fire Station #35.



ibelieve.com

January Meeting is Sat., January 6th



¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

-James 1:17 NIV

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



Again, a tremendous thanks to Whitney Reilley for performing the audit on our 2022 financial records. We received a clean audit for the year. This is a procedure that needs to occur annually to verify the records and procedures of the church treasurer and count team. We appreciate the volunteered time and talent donated by Whitney.

Frank Willis, Stewardship & Finance Chair



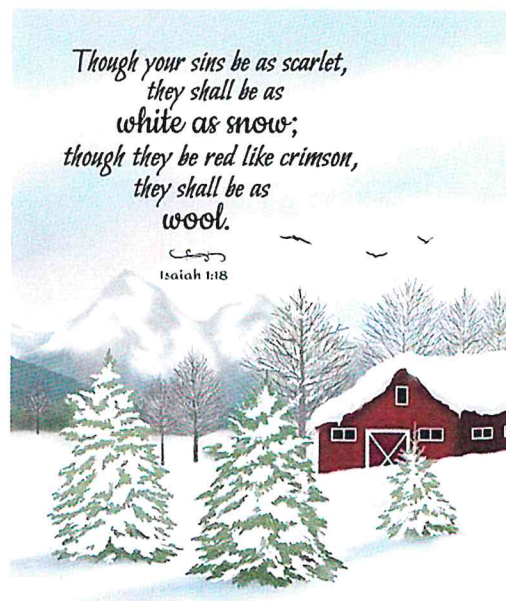
******IMPORTANT******



Effective IMMEDIATELY please make all church checks payable to **BETHLEHEM METHODIST CHURCH**. Recent banking regulations require this on ALL deposited checks.

If you have automatic recurring checks sent to the church, please change the ship to address and the remit to name to BETHLEHEM METHODIST CHURCH.

Count Team & Treasurer



[pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

Wednesday Night Soup & Sandwich Dinner

(to benefit the Disaffiliation Loan)

January 17th in the Fellowship Hall

5:30 to 7PM

If you have questions, please contact a member of the committee: Cindy Fields, Phyllis Garrett, Judy Fields, or Phyllis Wicker.



PRAYER list

Those in Need of Prayer:

Active Duty Military

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Rodney Golden

Carlie Hanner

Donald Jacobs

Francis Snow

Melva Kay Sperrier

Brittney Welker

Frank & Julia Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

*Our printed prayer list includes
church members and close family
and friends of church members.*



Memorials & Honorariums

*Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts
have been made in memory/honor as listed.*

*Bethlehem Church gratefully acknowledges
each gift received.*

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Larry D. Fields**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Larry G. Fields**

By Brenda Fields

In Memory of **Martha Hinshaw**

By Melvin & Karen Hinshaw

In Memory of **Ed McClintock**

By Jane Snead

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Tommy Oliver**

By Joyce Oliver

In Memory of **Dicky & Keith Parks**

By Evonne Parks

In Memory of **Paul, Ethel & Family**

By Louise Bowman

In Memory of **Clem Royal**

By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Lillie Stevenson**

By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

In Memory of **Ray Welborn**

By Faye Fields

By Tim & Jana Fields

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

By Jane Williams

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Larry & Lynne Causey**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Ruby Kirkman**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser



January

1/1 Stephanie Garrett

1/3 Clark Hinshaw

Lois Snow

1/5 Dottie Tew

1/6 Phyllis Wicker

1/7 Sharon Welborn

Kimberly Garrett

1/8 Ron Bazhaw

Sally Sipes

1/10 Todd Garrett
 1/12 Bryson Windsor
 1/14 Ronnie Grimes
 Stacy (C.S.) McClintock
 Beth Coble Pulliam
 1/15 Eddie Sipes
 1/16 Krista Neeley
 1/18 Melanie Robb
 1/21 Alice Jones
 Lisa Taylor
 1/22 Pat Waugh
 1/23 Lindsey Fields
 Linda Grimes
 1/24 Angie Routh
 Jane Snead
 1/26 Gale Bowman Berke
 1/29 Judy Norris
 1/31 Sharon Goad

February

2/1 Jerry King
 2/2 Jamie O'Daniel
 2/4 R. Steve Fields
 2/7 Thomas Bonney
 Emily Hinshaw Peters
 Cody Routh
 Jackie Smith
 Bayne Welborn
 Shane Welborn
 2/9 Bud Lauder
 2/10 Todd Berry
 2/14 Dean Fields
 Rod Waugh
 2/15 Laura Cranfill
 2/16 Libby Fields
 2/18 Taylor Cotie
 2/19 Pat Lineberry
 2/22 David Cranfill
 Daniel Hinshaw
 Wesley Eanes
 2/26 Kelly Bowman
 Brian Downing
 Katie Lauder
 2/28 Kelly Dills
 Jan Toler



JUST FOR FUN...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Countdown
 Confetti
 Midnight
 Balloons

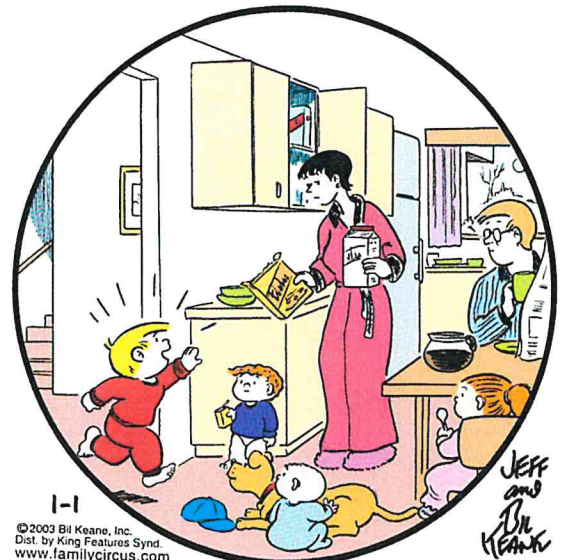
Celebration
 Fireworks
 January
 Happy

New Year
 Clock
 Cheers
 Goals

Party Poppers
 Noisemaker
 Resolution
 Sparklers



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Jeff and
 Bill Keane

"My New Year's resolution is to have waffles every morning!"

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-November 2023

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$502,169.57 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of November 1, 2023

+ 31,124.54 Money Received in November

- 22,623.16 Money Spent in November

\$510,670.95 Budget's Fund Balance as of November 30, 2023

For the month of November 2023, the Church Budget received \$8,501.38 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$55,927.36 more than it spent.

Designated Gifts

Disaffiliation Loan Repayment—The church council voted unanimously on October 22, 2023, to borrow the money needed to pay our disaffiliation expenses from the Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance. The conference notified us on November 15, 2023, that the disaffiliation expenses were \$78,485.33, and that was the amount of the loan. We collected \$12,040.38 in October, leaving a balance as of November 1, 2023, of \$66,444.95.

<\$66,444.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance November 1, 2023

+ 15,600.00 Money Received from Individuals in November

+ 700.00 Money Received from Fund Raisers in November

+ _____ Money Received from Other Sources in November

<\$50,144.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance November 30, 2023

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.

\$74,852.71 MM&RF Money Available November 30, 2023

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	\$ 882.70
Food Pantry	\$ 1,341.65	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,123.49	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 18,385.24
MYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,906.77	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 30,441.33
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History)	\$ 815.00	Choir Fund	\$ 266.26
		Flowers	\$ 536.50

Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)\$ 189.92

Church Sign \$ 500.00

Misc In/Out (ChildCare) \$ <200.00>

Total Other Designated Gifts \$87,718.92

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of November 30, 2023

\$112,426.68

Trust Funds

\$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 September 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$55,047.31 Helen Grady Endowment Fund

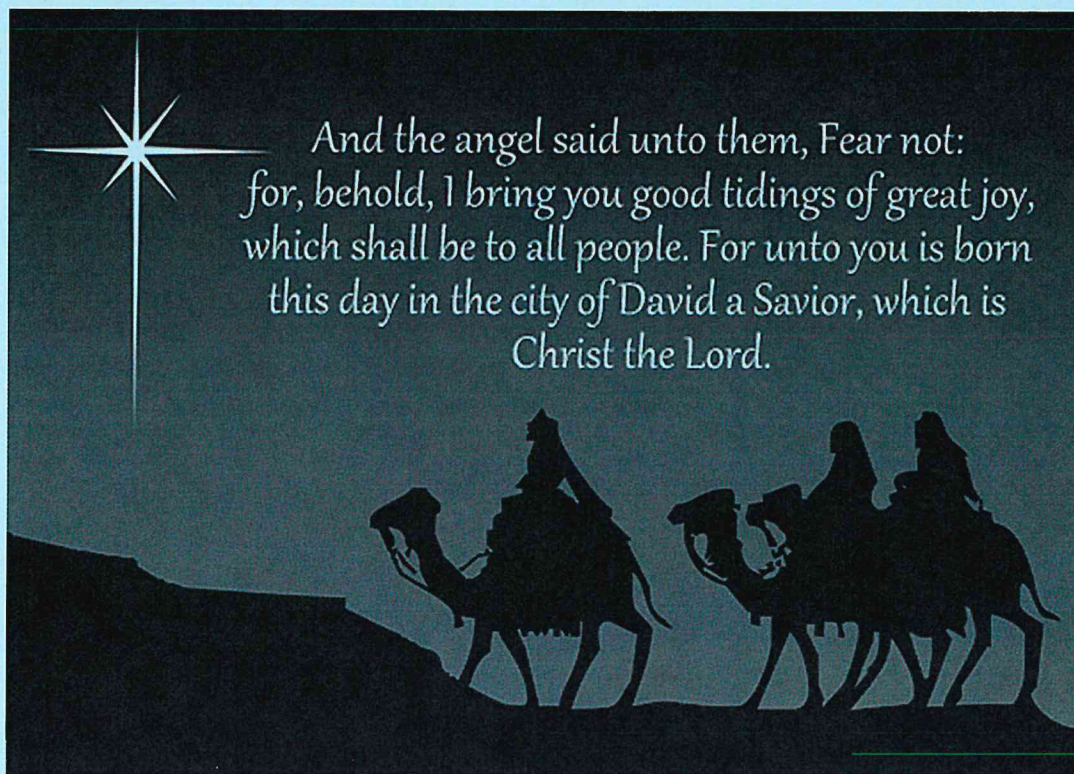
The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

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Bethlehem Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road
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JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED CHILDCARE CLOSED	2 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	3 Walking Group (Time Varies)	4 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanct.)	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35
7 Epiphany Sunday Baptism of the Lord Sun.  Communion Sunday Peanut butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM Senior Youth	8 Walking Group (Time Varies)	9 9-1PM FH & Kit in use (Friendly Club Prep) 10AM StoryTime (Lib) 11AM Friendly Cl (FH)	10 9:30-10:30AM Bookmobile (Childcare, 2 nd Wed of month) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	11 7PM Trustees (FH)	12	13
14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM Senior Youth	15 MLK Jr. Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Finance Comm (Conf Rm.)	16 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	17 Walking Group (Time Varies) 5:30-7PM Fundraiser Dinner (FH)	18 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanct.)	19	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM Senior Youth	22 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young-at-Heart Rm) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	24 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	25	26	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM Senior Youth	29 10AM Admin Staff (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	30 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	31 Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies)  Bus in Use 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	1 February 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees (FH)	2	3 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35

GREETERS:

1/7 Desi & Gail Williams
1/14 Buddy & Judy Fields
1/21 Debbie Waugh
1/28 Elaine Bowman

ALTAR FLOWERS:

1/7 Shannon Wickler
1/14 Angie Routh
1/21 OPEN
1/28 Elaine Bowman

ACOLYTES:

1/7 Braxton Wall
1/14 Quart Fulk
1/21 Bradon Allen
1/28 Ashton Allen

JANUARY USHERS:

David Fields
Todd Garrett
Bud Launder
Barry Norris

JANUARY OPENER:

Dale Austin

JANUARY CLOSER:

David Robb

NOTES: