

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 5

May 2024

### From the Pastor's Desk

*"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. -II Timothy 1:7 NIV*

"May the force be with you (Star Wars, 1977)." And, on May 4<sup>th</sup> well there is another way of saying this famous movie line. But anyway, it has me thinking, and I realize that could be dangerous or confusing, but Jesus amidst all the difficulties and struggles of His earthly ministry He faced challenge after challenge after challenge. Some with folks who were against Him, some who challenged everything He did, a system in which, even Him as Jesus Christ, had tried to help people see the Way God was working instead, the constant need to heal the dead and the afflicted...sounds like giving up on people, the world, or faith would have been justifiable; but no He did not quit. Some may shout of course not He is Jesus, He is God, of course not He had no choice.

Au contraire mon frere ...Jesus (Matthew 26:53) could have called for more than twelve legions of angels and it all would just be over with, but He did not. As hard as it was, He stuck to it. Jesus was conducting what He was called to do, and you and I too are called by God to conduct His goodness and grace to all the world, the Gospel, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God breathed the breath of life into us (Genesis) that is some force, sends Jesus and that's more incredible force, and then the Holy Spirit even more of God's impressive force to help overcome all the challenges. By God's great love for His creation, He sends the force of Love that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has, does, and will continue to overcome the challenges and obstacles of this life that may try to throw us for a loop or even give up on others or even our faith.

May God remind you of the force and awesomeness of His Love for you; we can not give up, we cannot give in. May God be with you and bless you and yours with His force, that of: Love, peace, strength, courage, hope, promise, grace, mercy, patience, discernment...for God's Will to be done as the Kingdom of God is furthered.

God be with You,  
**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**

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#### **Choir Director**

Gloria Austin

#### **Organist**

Jane Reddick

#### **Pianist**

Laura Cranfill

#### **Childcare Director**

Erica Shanahan  
336-674-9879

#### **Custodian**

Ovido Sorbito

#### **Webmaster**

Kylie Russell



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**Visit our Website at**  
[bethlehemumc.org](http://bethlehemumc.org)

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT-March 2024

## Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$522,785.45 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of March 1, 2024,  
+ 25,578.26 Money Received in March  
- 37,444.43 Money Spent in March (**Finished paying for New Church Sign**)  
\$510,919.28 Budget's Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024

For the month of March, 2024, the Church Budget spent \$11,866.17 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$22,356.49 more than it received.

## 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, the disaffiliation amount was \$78,485.33.

<\$20,264.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance March 1, 2024  
+ 1,850.00 Money Received from Individuals in March  
+ 1,598.44 Money Received from Fund Raisers in March  
+ \_\_\_\_\_ Money Received from Other Sources in March  
<\$16,816.51> Disaffiliation Loan Balance March 31, 2024

**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.

\$81,007.51 MM&RF Money Available March 31, 2024

**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	\$ 1,274.82	Handbells	\$160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,101.49	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$19,576.49
MYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,893.47	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$30,551.33
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 2,576.43	Choir Fund	\$266.26
(\$800 History, \$1776.43 kitchen)		Flowers	\$681.00
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$189.92	Fundraiser	\$1,619.00
Brunswick Stew	\$135.96	Misc In/Out (R.Bunton))	\$20.00
Heifer Collection	\$50.00		

Total Other Designated Gifts \$92,077.01

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024 \$156,268.01

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

### \$60,054.76 **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



## Exercise Class Held at Bethlehem Methodist Church

Exercise classes will continue to be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. \$5 per class or \$20 per 5 classes. Questions – Contact Lauren (336) 686-4192 or [laurenmstarr22@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmstarr22@gmail.com).

**Mondays:** Line dancing and yoga classes. Bring a mat or towel and bottled water.

**Wednesdays:** Modified / low impact dance sculpt. Light weights are optional. Bring a bottled water.



## SECRET PAL REVEAL SUNDAY

Students and sponsors part of Bethlehem's Secret Pal Program will do a sponsor reveal on **Sunday, June 9th, 2024** during the 10AM worship service. A reception with snacks will follow in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for students and their secret pals. Any questions please contact Fran Getner at 336-685-2086.



## FRIENDLY CLUB MEETING

We invite everyone to join us at Friendly Club on **Tuesday, May 14th** at 11:00am in the fellowship hall. Ms. Linda Pritchett, a senior advisor, will present a program on "Successful Aging". Many of you have probably seen Linda on TV as she presents her important tips. Bring a friend, a dish and join us for a very informative program, lunch and fellowship!



## Your're Invited!

The Arlene Stokes Circle invites all ladies of the church & community to an Hour-Shower on **Monday, May 27th**, from **10:30-11:30** in the church fellowship hall. All gifts will be given to Room-at-the-Inn, a shelter for pregnant women and their children in Greensboro. They need new or gently used baby clothes, maternity clothes, body wash, shampoo, deoderant, new or gently used dishes, towels, housewares, cleaning products, baby wipes and pull up sizes 2T-3T. If you wish to help and cannot attend, donation boxes will be located in the Office and Sanctuary entrances. Gifts do not need to be wrapped; just the price tags removed and put into bags if you wish. We and the Room-at-the-Inn Shelter thank you for participating in this project!







## Mother's & Father's Day Bulletins

The Young-at-Heart Class is presently preparing a special bulletin to honor and remember our Mothers on Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Mother's names are \$5.00 each, with checks payable to the Young-at-Heart Class. Envelopes may be found in each Sunday School Class, the little library, and at each entrance. Please give your completed envelope (each entry in a separate envelope please) to Phyllis Wicker or Judy Fields. Deadline for Mother's Day entries is **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**.

On **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin collections to honor and remember our Fathers on Father's Day, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Same procedures with the deadline for Father's Day entries being **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**. The class wishes to thank you for your participation in these projects.



## Wednesday Night Dinners

THANKS FOR ALL  
YOUR HELP!  
-THE WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT DINNER TEAM

- Soup & Sandwiches-  
\$2,025.00
- Ham Dinner-  
\$1,588.00
- Hot Dogs-  
\$1,606.79
- Profit-\$5,230.23

# WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Children's Church will be starting up soon and we need volunteers to teach.

Sign up via the clipboard at the front office or via [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com) under [bethumcclimax@gmail.com](mailto:bethumcclimax@gmail.com) Children's Church.

STARTING MAY 19TH



## Prayer LIST



### Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military  
 Emmett VanNess  
 Cory Fields  
 Kelsey Garrett  
 Carlie Hanner  
 Melvin Hinshaw  
 Donald Jacobs  
 MSGT Ryan Osborne  
 Frank 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 **Mark Allen**  
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Daryl Bowman**  
By Elaine Bowman

In Memory of **Jim Culbertson**  
By Jerry & Karen Monnett

In Memory of **Earl Fields**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Robert Fields**  
By Linda, Kim & Cindy Duncan

In Memory of **Jerry Flinchum**  
By Lois Snow

In Memory of **Bill Garrett**  
By Phala & Micheal Garrett

In Memory of **Rodney Golden**  
By Eutha Bowman  
By Jerry & Karen Monnett  
By Ruth Rowland  
By Pat Waugh  
By Phyllis Wicker  
By Jane Williams

In Memory of **Stuart Moser**  
By Becky & Dale Windsor

In Memory of **Joyce Oliver**

By Jane Chamelin

By Joseph & Laura Cranfill

By Gary & Virginia Faulk

By Buddy & Judy Fields

By Phala Garrett

By Shirley Hackett

By Bud & Karen Lauder

By Ruth Rowland

By Pat Waugh

By Phyllis Wicker

By David & Brenda Young

By the Sunshine Sunday School Class

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

In Memory of **Bill & Bobby Waugh**  
By Helen Waugh (x2)

In Honor of **Clem Royal & Dicky Parks**  
By Jerry & Karen Monnett

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**  
By Bob Weatherly (x5)



### HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Gray Boren**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Wayne & Sheila Moser**  
By Braxton & Colton Wall

In Honor of **Brad, Shannon & Phyllis Wicker**  
By Sheila Moser





## May

5/1 Allison Eanes  
 Russell Hill  
 5/5 Lore Lambert  
 5/6 Mark Wilkinson  
 5/7 Wendi Lowe  
 5/8 Tim Parrish  
 5/9 Jana Fields  
 John Holder  
 Shirley Kinne  
 Barry Norris  
 Alan Wilkinson  
 5/13 Jeanne Suggs  
 5/15 Anna-Grace Fulk  
 5/16 Kelly Fields  
 5/17 Caleb Windsor  
 5/19 Kelsea Owens  
 5/20 James Evans  
 5/22 Eutha Bowman  
 Nancy Golden  
 Brittany Ingold  
 Taylor Martin  
 5/26 Adam Garrett  
 Todd Ingold  
 Joy Massarelli  
 Lowell Suggs  
 5/27 Faye Fields  
 Debbie Waugh  
 Londa Parks  
 5/28 Gilbert Suggs  
 5/29 Christal Owens  
 Karen Barbone  
 5/31 Mike Hinshaw


## June

6/1 Judy Fields  
 David Peele  
 6/2 Asher Garrett  
 6/4 Betty Fields  
 Alan Thorton  
 Jenahlee Young  
 6/6 Sid Fields  
 Marguerite Fields  
 Amanda Fields  
 6/9 Chad Garrett  
 Joyce King  
 6/10 Sherri Bowman  
 6/12 Margaret Royal  
 6/13 Doug Nance  
 6/14 Phillip Jones  
 Deena King  
 Dale Austin  
 6/17 Glen Getner  
 6/20 Michelle Hinshaw  
 Reagan Owens  
 6/21 Carol Fields  
 Cindy Fields  
 Jennifer Young  
 6/22 Brenda Fields  
 6/23 Fran Getner  
 Craig McClintock  
 6/26 Jonah Owens  
 6/28 Kennedy Waugh Pavatt





## May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>2</b> 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  7PM Trustees (FH)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35
<b>5</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Communion</b> <b>Deadline for Mother's Day Bulletin!</b>  9:15AM SS 10AM Worship  5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)	<b>6</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH)	<b>7</b> 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	<b>8</b> 9:30-10:30AM Bookmobile (Childcare) <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Ascension Sunday</b> <b>Special Mother's Day Bulletin</b> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship  5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Rm.)	<b>13</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH)	<b>14</b> 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)  11AM Friendly Club (FH)	<b>15</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>16</b> 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Pentecost Sunday</b> <b>Father's Day Bulletin Begins</b> <b>Noisy Offering</b> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 12:30-3PM Jones Reunion (FH) 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)	<b>20</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (parlor) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young-at-Heart)  <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise	<b>21</b> 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	<b>22</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship  <b>Wreath Laying (Memorial Garden)</b> 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)	<b>27</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> 10:30AM Hour-Shower (FH)	<b>28</b> 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)  6:30Pm Exercise (FH)	<b>29</b> <b>Wonderful Wednesday</b> (Bus leaves at 9:40AM)  <b>Walking Group</b> <b>(Time Varies)</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>30</b> <b>6-8PM Childcare Graduation(FH)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>June</b>

### GREETERS:

5/5 Open  
5/12 Open  
5/19 Open  
5/26 Open

### ALTAR FLOWERS:

5/5 Jane Snead  
5/12 Deb Brady  
5/19 Julie Spencer  
5/26 Downing Family

### ACOLYTES:

5/5 Quart Fulk  
5/12 Bradon Allen  
5/19 Ashton Allen  
5/26 Aubrey Wilson

### USHERS:

Dale Austin  
Tim Fields  
Glen Getner  
Greg Wicker

### MAY OPENER:

Kim Faircloth

### MAY CLOSER:

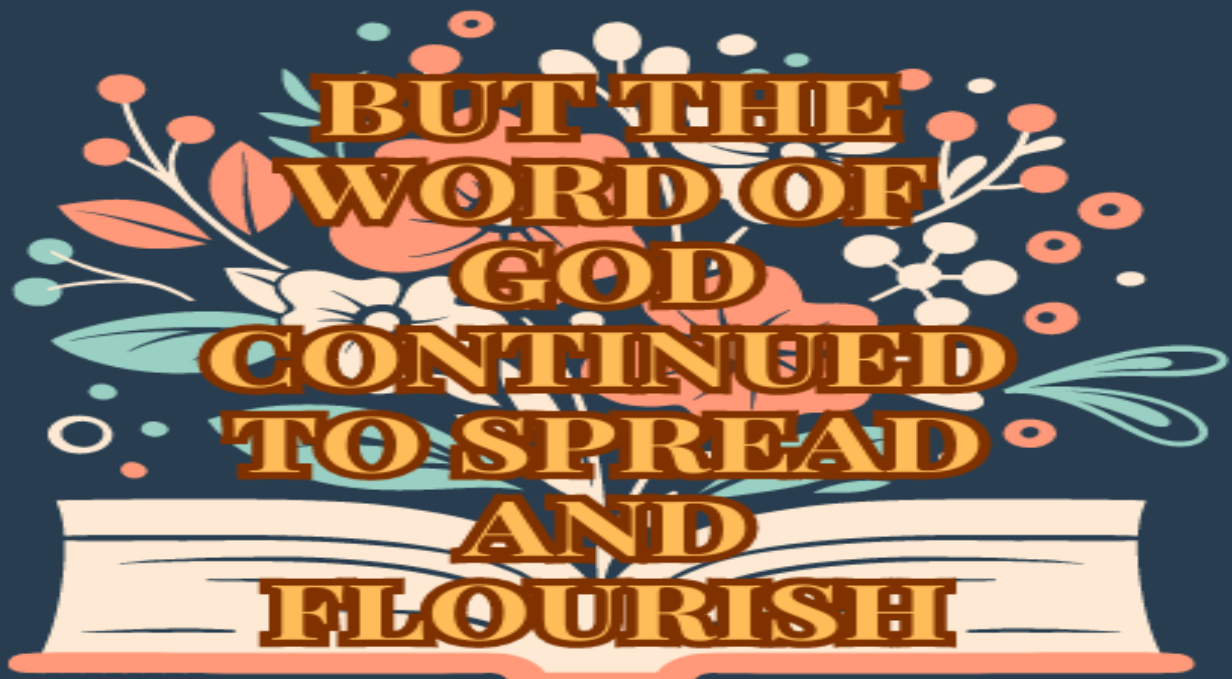
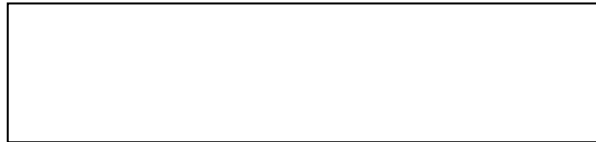
David Robb

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTS 12:24 NIV