

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 7

July 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. -

Galatians 5:1

July...I think about birthdays. On birthdays we celebrate the blessings of how far we have come and the hopes of the years to come (there are several birthdays in July for my family). July, as we well know, is also the time of year when we recognize our country's birthday and the ideas of freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

In scripture we are told we have been set free through Christ Jesus our Lord and we have also been instructed/taught that the evils we have been set free from are not to be allowed reenter our lives. We are to seek to live in a manner that sin, death, and the ways of this world can entrap us or enslave us no longer.

It reminds me of the Israelites being freed from slavery in Egypt and then on their journey wishing to honor false gods, gripe and complain, and even wish for the 'flesh pots' of Egypt.

As individuals, as families, as communities, as society, and even the Lord's Church, we must ask ourselves. "Why go back to where we were before we had been set free?" We have been set free to live a better life, a more holy life, a more Kingdomly fulfilling life; why go back under the slavery, or tyranny of sin and death?

We need to celebrate the new life and liberties and freedoms God has given us by living for the Kingdom of God and not reverting to where we were before we experienced the new life, set free from this world to be entangled again in the world that God so loved and gave his only Son.

Have a Beautiful and Blessed July...for we have been set free indeed.

Grace and Peace,

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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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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-May 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$524,544.36 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of May 1, 2024,
+ 24,851.51 Money Received in May
- 21,357.61 Money Spent in May
\$528,038.26 Budget's Fund Balance as of May 31, 2024

For the month of May, 2024, the Church Budget received \$3,493.90 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$5,237.51 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.

\$12,399.72 Disaffiliation Loan Balance May 1, 2024
+ 1,800.00 Money Received from Individuals in May
+ 0 Money Received from Fund Raisers in May
+ 0 Money Received from Other Sources in May
\$10,599.72 Disaffiliation Loan Balance May 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.

\$91,719.11 MM&RF Money Available May 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 | \$ 863.43 |
| Food Pantry | \$ 1,274.82 | Handbells | \$ 160.52 |
| Discretionary Fund | \$ 1,006.95 | Scholarship-Religion Ed | \$ 1,983.22 |
| Records & History | \$ 581.56 | Missions-Undesignated | \$ 18,718.21 |
| MYF | \$ 24,732.82 | Christmas Shoeboxes | \$ 290.06 |
| Family Ministries | \$ 4,893.47 | Cemetery Fund-Maint. | \$ 30,096.17 |
| Helen Grady Endow. | \$ 2,576.43 | Choir Fund | \$ 286.26 |
| (\$800 History, \$1776.43 kitchen) | | Flowers | \$ 451.00 |
| Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture) | \$ 189.92 | Camp Meeting Fund | \$ 20.00 |
| Brunswick Stew | \$ 135.96 | | |

Total Other Designated Gifts \$88,770.76

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of May 31, 2024 \$169,890.15

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.

\$60,566.12 **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.

2.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

Exercise Class Held at Bethlehem Methodist Church

Exercise classes will continue to be held on Wednesdays only from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. It's open to ALL fitness levels. Bring bottled water, light weights (optional) & sweat towel. New members WELCOME!

\$5 per class or \$20 per 5 classes. Questions – Contact Lauren (336)686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com.

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

ARLENE STOKES CIRCLE

There will be no Arlene Stokes Circle meeting in the month of July.

FRIENDLY CLUB

There will be no Friendly Club meeting in the month of July.

GOOD NEWS!

Our Blessing Box is now in place. You may donate money to the Food Pantry or donate nonperishable items. Canned and boxed food. Nothing that will melt in the summer heat. Please, no junk food or outdated items. Please put your donations in the Conference Room. We would like this to be a place where our neighbors in need can help themselves. Thank you, Church Family, and to God be the Glory.

-Bethlehem Mission Team

Mark Your Calendars!

Preparations are underway for our Annual Camp Meeting by Londa Parks and the CM Committee!

THURSDAY, JULY 18th

6:30PM - Meet us at the Arbor with buckets, rags, yard rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels to clean and prepare the Arbor for our services.

SUNDAY, JULY 28th

11AM - Camp Meeting begins
Homecoming Dinner after the service in FH
7PM - Prayer meeting in the Sunshine Class
7:30PM - Camp Meeting Service

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, JULY 29th-AUGUST 2nd

7PM - Prayer Meeting in the Sunshine Class
7:30PM - Nightly Camp Meeting Service
Followed by light refreshments under the awning at the Arbor end of the church

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd

7PM - Ice Cream Social (bring a freezer of your favorite ice cream)
7:30PM - Singing under the Arbor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th

11AM - Camp Meeting concludes under the Arbor

Donations of small bottles of water are needed and may be delivered to the Conference room on Sunday mornings or the week of July 21st-27th. Thank you.

July Wordsearch

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| F | F | E | C | M | S | F | A | M | I | L | Y | J | I |
| L | M | R | U | I | S | G | U | Y | R | E | V | O | L |
| F | S | S | E | L | N | R | F | H | E | G | E | Y | I |
| O | I | T | R | E | D | C | A | G | M | R | R | F | P |
| C | R | R | R | O | D | P | I | T | L | A | D | U | S |
| L | O | O | E | I | I | O | S | P | S | T | T | L | P |
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FOURTH
JOYFUL
WHITE
STARS
FLAG
STRIPES
HONOR
MUSIC
RED
BLUE
LOVE
LAUGHTER
FAMILY
GOD BLESS
OUTDOOR
SPARKLERS
FIREWORKS
GRATITUDE
GLORY
FREEDOM
SUMMER
PICNIC



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Phyllis Alley

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Carlie Hanner

Melvin Hinshaw

Donald Jacobs

Clyde Land

Bob & Rose Marshall

MSGT Ryan Osborne

Sammy Wall

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 **Rev. Joseph Fulk Jr.**

By David & Tracy Peele

By Pat Waugh

By Frank & Julia Willis

By Shirley Hackett

By Carol Fields

By Jane Williams

By Jane Chamelin

In Memory of **Johnny Waugh**

By David & Tracy Peele

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly(x3)**

By Bob Weatherly

In Memory of **Jim Evans**

By Carol Fields

In Memory of **Sandy Bradshaw & all on Flight 93**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **Harper Windsor**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **Papaw Earl**

By Maysa Downing

In Memory of **Wayne Bernard Kirkman, Charles
Floyd Kirkman, & Charles Edgar Kirkman**

By Russell & Sharon Hill

In Memory of **Doris Kirkman**

By James & Reita Tuttle

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Pastor Joseph Fulk III & Family**

By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **the Jones Family Reunion**

By Buddy & Judy Fields

In Honor of **Ron Bazhaw**

By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Stacy & Lucille McClintock**

By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Caleb, Kristen, Emmie &
Conner Windsor**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Margaret Royal's Birthday**

By Jerry & Karen Monnett

In Honor of **Stacy & Lucille McClintock's
75th Wedding Anniversary**

By Angie Routh

By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett**

By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **My Family**

By Phala Garrett

In Honor of **Russell Hill**

By Sharon Hill

In Honor of **Evonne Parks**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

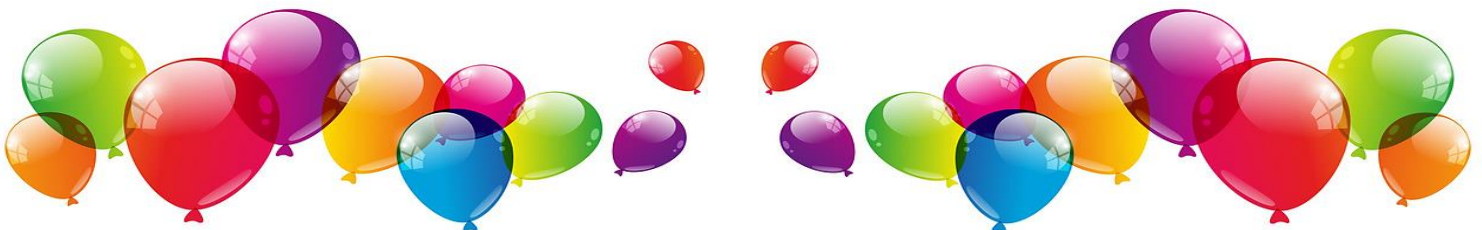


July

7/2 John Steve Fields
 7/3 Ashley McClintock
 7/4 Michael Brady
 Ronda Robb
 7/5 David Robb
 7/6 Evonne Parks
 7/7 Melvin Hinshaw
 7/10 Becky Windsor
 Lauren Cordial
 7/11 Quart Fulk
 Ritchie Robb
 7/12 Rachel Wilkinson
 7/13 Jason Fields
 7/18 Riley Christie
 7/19 Ally Fields Shuford
 7/21 Doris Reynolds
 7/23 Benjamin Windsor
 7/25 Tina Hinshaw
 7/29 Merinda Wilkinson
 7/30 Debbie Brady
 Sandie Harris
 Taylor Wray
 7/31 Abigail Coble
 Maysa Downing
 Emily Robb

August

8/1 Arnold Ingold
 8/2 Linda Duncan
 8/3 Greg Wicker
 Paden O'Daniel
 8/6 Shea Welborn
 Abbey Windsor
 8/10 Gerry Moody
 8/11 Julia Willis
 Dale Windsor
 8/15 Kenneth Fields
 8/16 Mike Harris
 8/18 Randy Curtis
 8/23 Jackie Cook
 8/24 Robbie McClintock
 Brad Wicker
 8/26 Sawyer Edwards
 Michael Garrett
 8/28 Kylie Spencer Russell
 8/29 Jeremy Coble
 8/31 Lynn Haywood
 Joyce Ingold
 Ruth Rowland



JULY 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 4th of July OFFICE CLOSED | 5 | 6 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35 |
| 7 7th Sunday after Pentecost Communion 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship | 8 Walking Group (Time Varies) | 9 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip  | 10 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship | 15 Walking Group (Time Varies) | 16 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip  | 17 9:30-10:30AM Bookmobile (Childcare) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 18 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 3PM FH Reserved (Birthday Party) | 22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies) | 23 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip  | 24 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 25 | 26 | 27 12PM Homecoming Set Up |
| 28 10th Sunday after Pentecost Camp Meeting 7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service | 29 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (parlor) Camp Meeting Walking Group (Time Varies) 7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service | 30 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip  Camp Meeting 7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service | 31 Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at  9:40AM) Camp Meeting Walking Group (Time Varies) 7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service | 1 August Camp Meeting 7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service | 2 Camp Meeting 7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service | 3 Camp Meeting 7PM Ice Cream Social 7:30PM Sing Under the Arbor |

GREETERS:

7/7 Maysa, Aubrey & Braxton
7/14 Deb Brady
7/21 Debbie Waugh
7/28 ARBOR

ALTAR FLOWERS:

7/7 OPEN
7/14 OPEN
7/21 Phyllis Wicker
7/28 ARBOR

ACOLYTES:

7/7 Ashton Allen
7/14 Aubrey Wilson
7/21 Maysa Downing
7/28 ARBOR

USHERS:

David Fields
Todd Garrett
Barry Norris
Bud Lauder

JULY OPENER:

Jerry Monnett

JULY CLOSER:

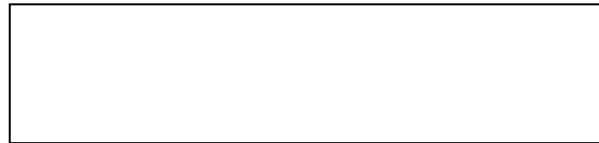
OPEN

Notes: _____

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

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**I WILL WALK
ABOUT IN
FREEDOM,
FOR I HAVE
SOUGHT OUT
YOUR
PRECEPTS.**

Psalm 119:45

NIV

