

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 9

September 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

The Word: SHALOM

/Job 23:12/John 1:1,14/John 14:27/Philippians 4:7/

In preparing for and writing the newsletter, I find all kinds of interesting facts and nuances about each month; some are well known, and others can be quite random. For instance, the month of September is the only month that has the same number of letters in it as the month of the year - it has nine letters - it is the ninth month.

But there were a couple of interesting things that jumped out at me - September 8th and September 21st. September 8th is International Literacy Day and September 21st is United Nations International Day of Peace. Both days are set aside to raise awareness of especially important issues and struggles that face our world, our society, our children, and our future. Literacy is helping people to have a better life by being able to read and understand what they are reading to help themselves and others. And people being better able to read and understand, in turn, allows for people in their agreements and non-agreements to have peace and to be more able to live together and bless one another.

Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is the Word and God's Word is a revelation of Himself to us, His Creation, in order to love God and Neighbor better and more fully. Jesus tells us that by knowing Him (not just *of* Him) we can have peace (His Peace) that surpasses all understanding. Oh, how our Church, Families, Schools, Community, We, and the World need God's Peace, the peace this world cannot offer us.

I call upon you Church to prayerfully read God's Word more.

To read God's Word inviting the Holy Spirit to go with you, be with you as you read it, and expect God to speak and us to follow. So, Peace "begin(s) with me" as we sing at the close of Sunday morning worship.

Have a beautiful and blessed September and enjoy the last parting tide of summer (fall begins September 22nd) and may you seek God's Peace for you to share by drawing closer to God in God's Word, a piece of Him for you, us, all of God's Creation.

Grace and Peace...
Pastor Joseph, III

1.



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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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

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-July 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$533,916.74 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of July 1, 2024,
+ 29,471.82 Money Received in July
- 20,664.60 Money Spent in July
\$542,723.96 Budget's Fund Balance as of July 31, 2024

For the month of July, 2024, the Church Budget received \$8,807.22 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$9,448.19 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, the disaffiliation amount was \$78,485.33.

<\$8,139.72> Disaffiliation Loan Balance July 1, 2024
+ 1,450.00 Money Received from Individuals in July
+ 0 Money Received from Fund Raisers in July
+ 1,000.00 Money Received from Other Sources in July (Young-at-Heart SS Class)
<\$5,689.72> Disaffiliation Loan Balance July 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.

\$94,781.31 MM&RF Money Available July 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	\$ 1,166.33	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 371.33	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 18,716.45
MYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 47.98
Family Ministries	\$ 4,893.47	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 35,318.85
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History, \$1686.72 kitchen))	\$ 2,486.72	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92	Flowers	\$ 241.00
Brunswick Stew	\$ <135.96>	Camp Meeting Fund	\$ 20.00

Total Other Designated Gifts \$92,705.78

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of July 31, 2024 \$181,797.37

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.

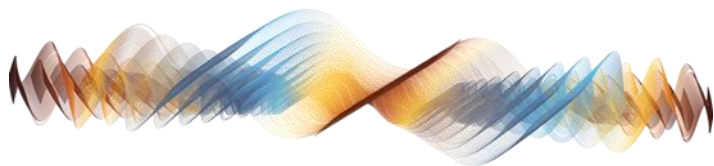
\$61,240.48 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

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.

Exercise Class Held at Bethlehem Methodist Church

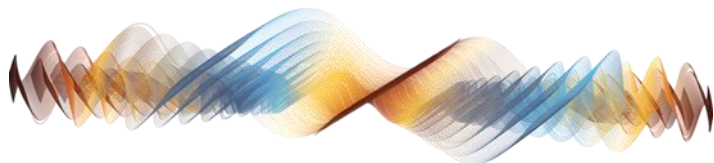
Modified / low impact dance sculpt exercise classes will continue to be held on **Wednesdays** from 6:30–7:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. Classes are open to ALL fitness levels. Bring bottled water, light weights (optional) & sweat towel. \$5 per class or \$20 per 5 classes. Questions – Contact *Lauren* (336) 686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com. New members WELCOME!

Want more exercise? Lauren is teaching a new dance sculpt class each Monday from 5:00–6:00 PM at Tabernacle Methodist Church, 5721 Methodist Rd., Greensboro, in the Family Life Center building. Cost is \$5 per class. Contact Lauren for details.



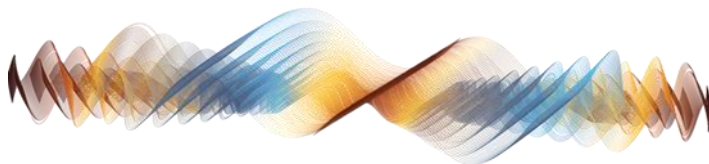
FRIENDLY CLUB

Friendly Club will meet on Tuesday, September 10th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00am. Our guest speakers will be from Adult & Teen Challenge of Greensboro. Teen Challenge is an amazing ministry that helps men who are hopeless, broken, and bound by addiction. Please bring a covered dish and invite a friend to join us for a tasty lunch and good fellowship!



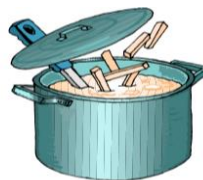
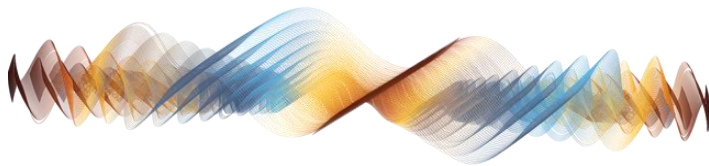
CHURCH PICNIC

Join us at Hagan Stone Park Shelter #5 on Sunday, September 22nd at 12PM for an afternoon of fun and a covered dish lunch!



DISAFFILIATION LOAN

Sunday, September 29th will be the last Sunday we will accept donations toward the Disaffiliation Loan. Any balance owed on the Disaffiliation Loan at that point will be paid with profits from the Brunswick Stew according to the June 27th vote of the church council in which they voted for the Brunswick Stew profits to be used to pay off the loan balance and any remaining profits to go to the MM&R Fund.



BRUNSWICK STEW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

STEW ON SALE AT
3:00 P.M.

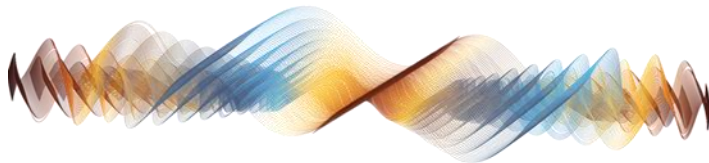
**HOMEMADE
DESSERTS**



\$10.00 PER QUART

Tabernacle Methodist Church
5721 Methodist Road
Greensboro

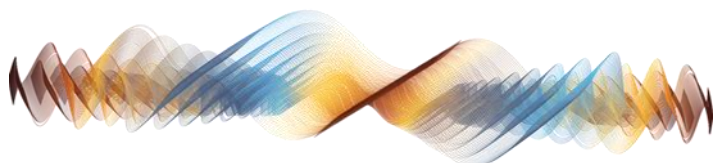
Supports Tabernacle Methodist
Women Missions



BRUNSWICK STEW/COUNTRY STORE

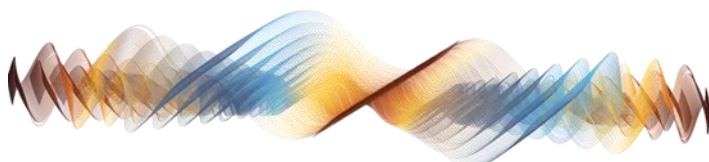


It's Brunswick Stew time again! The Brunswick Stew Committee is busy planning for this year's stew on Saturday, October 5th. There's something for everyone and it's good fun visiting and working together in addition to its being a great success. But we couldn't do it without your help! Sign-up sheets for your help will be circulated in the Sunday School classes on September 8th, 15th, and 22nd and will be available on each end of the altar and on the tables in the office and sanctuary entrances. Call Shirley Hackett (336-676-0485) if you wish to donate to the Country Store or Bake Sale. If you wish to make a donation to help purchase vegetables or meats, write your check to Bethlehem Methodist Church with Brunswick Stew in the Memo Line and place it in the offering plate. Hope you will help during the week of October 1st-5th and we thank you! Happy Stewing!



ARLENE STOKES CIRCLE

The Arlene Stokes Circle is having a shirt sale for Bethlehem. It will include short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweatshirts. Hats and tote bags will also be for sale. Order forms will be available. Payment is due when you order with checks payable to Arlene Stokes Circle. All proceeds will go to local missions.



September Wordsearch

R	N	N	A	C	O	F	A	H	E	A	G	C	S
E	V	S	B	Y	V	A	V	Q	C	R	O	N	R
H	N	P	O	L	L	M	U	R	H	N	B	O	N
A	A	S	A	A	H	I	L	B	A	O	L	R	H
R	T	I	R	B	N	L	T	R	N	R	Y	C	Y
V	U	R	B	O	A	Y	L	E	G	S	D	H	A
E	R	C	X	F	S	H	G	E	E	C	U	A	D
S	E	U	A	U	E	A	A	Z	H	H	T	R	R
T	D	A	U	T	U	M	N	Y	T	O	S	D	O
Y	H	E	T	S	E	V	A	E	L	O	R	Q	B
E	E	V	I	B	R	A	N	T	S	L	C	O	A
E	S	E	X	P	L	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	L
S	P	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	S	V	I
Y	E	U	N	R	L	V	T	T	A	R	H	N	A

FAMILY
LABOR DAY
NATURE
BREEZY
VIBRANT
BEGINNINGS
STUDY
EXPLORATION
AUTUMN
LEAVES
EQUINOX
ORCHARD
HARVEST
SCHOOL
FALL
CHANGE
CRISP

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 **Jodi Weatherly**
By Bob Weatherly (X2)

In Memory of **Clem Royal**
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Anna Fields Kearns**
By Barbara Ross Teichman

In Memory of **Bill & Bobby Waugh**
By Helen Waugh



HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Frank & Julia Willis**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett (x2)

In Honor of **Bob Weatherly**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett**
By Shirley Hackett

In Honor of **Jane Snead**
By Darlene Coble

In Honor of **Sharon & David Goad's 55th Anniversary**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Layne Downing**

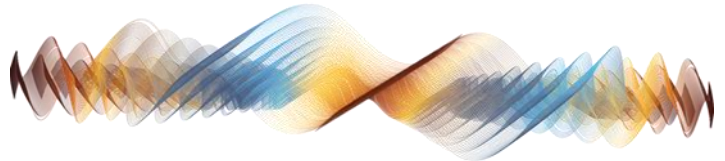
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Wayne & Phyllis Alley**

By Sheila & Wayne Moser

In Honor of **Ruby Kirkman**

By Sheila & Wayne Moser



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Carlie Hanner

Clyde Land

Bob & Rose Marshall

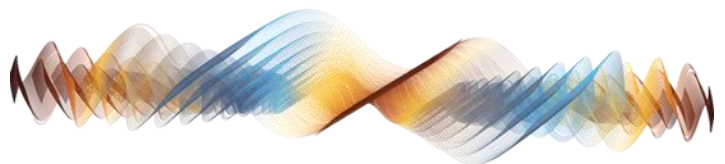
MSGT Ryan Osborne

Sammy Wall

Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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





September



9/2	Vivian Wilkinson Gloria Austin Tater O'Daniel
9/3	Karen Parrish Barbara Riddle Pam Suggs
9/5	Jeff Eanes
9/8	Harper Garrett
9/9	Ethan Eanes Grace Kirby Desi Williams
9/11	Alex Garrett David Goad
9/16	Krimson Gunter
9/17	Terry Franklin Phala Garrett
9/18	Garrett Owens
9/19	Mary Lauren Bonney Sheila Moser
9/21	David Welborn
9/22	Elaine Fulk
9/27	Layne Downing
9/28	Floyd Cook
9/30	Joseph Fulk, III Buddy Reddick

October

10/2	Phyllis Dahl Scott Wilkinson
10/4	Travis Franklin
10/5	Sherri Davis Jim Smith
10/6	Lorrie Roth
10/8	Tracy Peele
10/9	Dale Routh
10/11	Courtney Ingold
10/13	Betty Kirkman
10/14	Cheryl Bazhaw
10/15	Susan Davis LeeAnne Curtis
10/16	Kristi Robb
10/17	Bonnie Averill Joseph F. Garrett Kelli Wilkinson
10/18	Byron Dahl Herbert McClintock
10/20	Braxton Wall
10/23	Alex Haywood
10/24	Donna Younts
10/25	Jeffrey Welker
10/27	Jim Little
10/28	Holly Robb
10/30	Victoria Coble



September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 12th Sunday after Pentecost - COMMUNION 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-PB & Oatmeal-	2 Labor Day (Office & Daycare Closed)	3	4 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	5 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (FH)	6	7 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35
8 11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 2PM Anna Kearns Funeral Service 5PM Alpha Youth 5PM Omega Youth	9 Walking Group (Time Varies)	10 11AM Friendly Club 	11 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	12	13	14 1PM Ledbetter-Greenway Funeral Service
15 12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Noisy Offering- 5PM Omega Youth	16 Walking Group (Time Varies)	17	18 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	19 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	20	21
22 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 12PM FH Reserved (Reunion) 12PM Church Picnic (Hagan Stone Shelter #5) 5PM Alpha Youth 5PM Omega Youth	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies)	24	25  Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	26 7PM Administrative Council Meeting (FH)	27	28
29 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	30 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room) Walking Group (Time Varies)	October	Brunswick Stew Prep	Brunswick Stew Prep	Brunswick Stew Prep	Brunswick Stew Prep

GREETERS:

9/1 Susan Coward
 9/8 Alice Jones
 9/15 Phyllis Wicker
 9/22 OPEN
 9/29 OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

9/1 OPEN
 9/8 OPEN
 9/15 OPEN
 9/22 Hackett Reunion
 9/29 Lois Snow

ACOLYTES:

9/1 Ashton Allen
 9/8 Aubrey Wilson
 9/15 Maysa Downing
 9/22 Braxton Wall
 9/29 Quart Fulk

USHERS:

David Allen
 Byron Dahl
 Doug Garrett
 Terry Franklin

SEPTEMBER OPENER:

Kim Faircloth &
 Jerry Monnett

SEPTEMBER CLOSER:

Greg Wicker

Notes: _____

Bethlehem Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



So whether you eat or
drink or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of
God.

1 Corinthians 10:31