

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 10

October 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Time has flown, it is flying, we are starting the last quarter of the year 2024. At this point of the year, we can feel good about the first three quarters but some may feel overwhelmed by what is left and the things left to do and overcome. It can be depressing. It can be stressful. There can be a feeling of overpowered or defeated. What do we do? How can we finish strong, finish the right way?

In football, many teams will hold up four fingers as the third quarter ends and as the fourth quarter is prepared to begin as a sign of motivation, or encouragement, to finish strong and give what you must to get the job done. There is still a lot of the game left in the fourth quarter and many games have been decided in the fourth quarter with many of those being come backs (where a team was down or seemed out of it but prevailed).

So here we are as a church, of the Lord's Church, The Body of Christ. It is time to dig deep and lift our hands toward God and keep moving forward with the power of the Holy Spirit to do remarkable things for the Kingdom of God. In Romans 5: 3-5 NIV:

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

we are called to hope because we shall persevere through our struggles because of Jesus. We grow in character as God calls us to live out and reflect His love, truth, and power; we live out our faith so others may experience the victory of Christ Jesus our Lord. This is what we do. This is how we finish strong. We hold our hands in praise and humility toward God and ask by His Grace to bless us with strength, Christ-like living, so to live, learn, and grow. With this we will have a hope that cannot be deterred, or shaken, in order to overcome the things and attitudes that try to hold us down or hold us back from prospering in Christ. As we reach toward God and receive God's gifts, God will provide so that the victory will be won as we finish the season strong.

Grace and Peace in Christ Jesus' (*the Victor's*) Name...

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
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Church Office

Caitlin Sheppard
336-674-0155
bethlehem1825methodistchurch@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



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

Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-August 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$542,723.96 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of August 1, 2024

- 247.50 July Expense Adjustment to Fund Balance

\$542,476.46 Adjusted Fund Balance August 1, 2024

+ 33,304.71 Money Received in August

- 25,697.33 Money Spent in August

\$550,083.84 Budget's Fund Balance as of August 31, 2024

For the month of August, 2024, the Church Budget received \$7,607.38 more than it spent.

For the year, the Church Budget received \$16,808.07 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.

<\$5,689.72> Disaffiliation Loan Balance August 1, 2024

+ 1,650.00 Money Received from Individuals in August

<\$4,039.72> Disaffiliation Loan Balance August 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.

\$95,033.51 MM&RF Money Available August 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	\$617.28	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	\$3,693.47	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$34,881.35
Helen Grady Endow.	\$2,486.72	Choir Fund	\$286.26
(\$800 History, \$1686.72 kitchen))		Flowers	\$241.00
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$189.92	Brunswick Stew	\$85.96

Total Other Designated Gifts \$91,344.23

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of August 31, 2024 \$182,338.02

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.

2. Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair



FRIENDLY CLUB

Please join us for Friendly Club on Tuesday, October 8th in the Fellowship Hall at 11AM. "Searching the church for clues to our history" is the title of our program. It will be led by Judy Fields and others. Please join us for an informative meeting, good fellowship, and food!



October Wordsearch

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

SPIDERS
TRICKS
RED
COSTUMES
SPICE
HALLOWEEN
BATS
ORANGE
LEAVES
FALL
BOO BASH
PUMPKIN
SPOOKY
BRUNSWICK STEW
TREATS
COUNTRY STORE
CANDY
SWEATER

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7508639/>



CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE PUMPKINS

A lady had recently been baptized. One of her co-workers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer, but when she looked up, she saw a jack-o'-lantern on the desk and answered: "It's like being a pumpkin." The worker asked her to explain that one.

"Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all to see. Its is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

I'll never look at a pumpkin the same way again.
WILL YOU?

-God Bless You





Thank you so much for volunteering to help with our Brunswick Stew & Country store again this year! There's something for everyone and it's good fun visiting and working together. Below is the work schedule for the week of October 1st-5th:

Tuesday, Oct. 1st(1PM FH) - Wash pots & pans, cleaning of refrigerators. Bring old towels. Setting up tables/chairs for choppers.

- 6PM FH - Cutting up beef & pork to be cooked on Wednesday. Bring knives & cutting boards; clean up

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd(8:30AM FH) – Prepare & cook beef & pork.

- 12PM FH – Help chopping beef & pork, saving broth; clean up

Thursday Oct. 3rd(6AM FH) – Help prepare & cook chicken.

- 10AM FH – Chicken chopping; clean up

Friday Oct. 4th(8AM FH) – Peel & chop potatoes & onions; clean up.

- 10AM-12PM FH – May bring bake sale/country store items

Saturday Oct. 5th(5AM FH) – Move all ingredients & supplies from church to Stew Shed.

- 8AM-10AM Stirring of stew & bring in Country Store/Bake Sale items
- 10AM Stirring until pots are emptied
- 11AM Cooling & Filling of cartons
- **Clean up volunteers needed** (Sanitize refrigerators/clean & return all equipment to storage)
- **STEW SALES AT 1PM.....\$10 PER QUART**
- **Country Store & Bake Sale (10AM-1PM FH)**



Special Veterans' Day Bulletin

The Young-at-Heart Sunday School Class is preparing a special bulletin to honor/memorialize Veterans on Sunday, November 10th. Donations are \$5 per name. Special envelopes are available in each Sunday School Class, each entry, and the little library beginning on Sunday, October 20th running through Sunday, November 3rd with checks made to the Young-at-Heart Class and Veterans on the memo line. Please give your envelopes to Judy Fields, Karon Monnett, or Phyllis Wicker. As always, we thank you for your support of our projects!



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 **Robbie Monnett**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Ruby Hockett**
By Larry & Lynne Causey

In Memory of **Sherry Hinshaw**
By Melvin Hinshaw

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

In Memory of **Leo Allred**
By Sheila & Wayne Moser

In Memory of **Bill & Bobby Waugh**
By Joseph R.M.

In Memory of **Sandy Waugh Bradshaw**
By Pat Waugh
By Tracy & David Peele
By Phala Garrett



HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Phyllis Wicker**
By Barbara Riddle

In Honor of **Wayne & Phyllis Alley**
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Nancy Golden**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **The Care Committee**
By Leo Kirkman

In Honor of **Stacy & Lucille McClintock**
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Ruby Kirkman**
By Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Hinshaw

In Honor of **Cindy Fields & Phyllis Garrett**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Elaine Fulk**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Arnold & Joyce Ingold**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett



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.



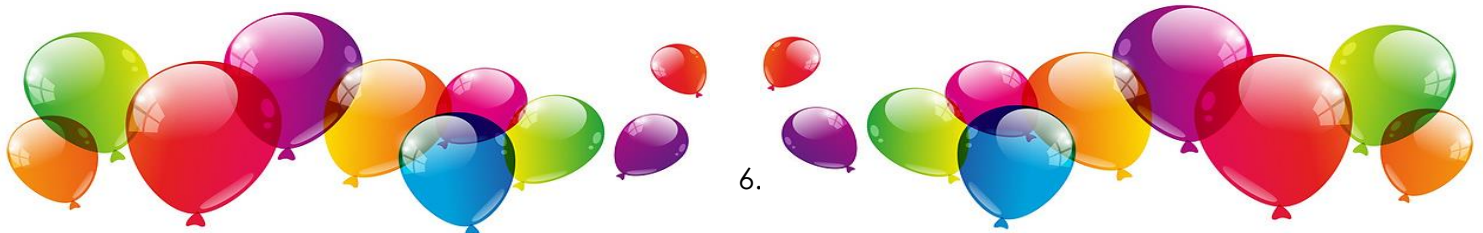


October

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

November

11/1	Matthew Garrett
	Amanda Parks
11/3	Denny Spencer
11/5	Kaila Hill
11/6	Sharon Hill
11/10	Justin Windsor
11/11	Pat Coble
11/12	Vickie Flinchum
	Karen Lauder
	Madison Nance
	Kathy Wilkinson
11/13	Fred Cook
11/14	Ronda Faggart
	Phil Smith
	Carol Williams
11/17	Jonathan King
	Nathan Pipe
	Emily Lauder Taylor
11/18	Gail Williams
	Mario Massarelli
11/19	Will Rivers
11/22	Nancy Kivett
	Terry Owens
11/23	Doug Garrett
	Franklin Stevens
	Shannon Wicker
11/26	Frank Willis
11/28	Tim Fields
11/29	Ethan Hill
	Wayne Moser



October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30AM Story Time	2 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	3 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (FH)	4	5 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35 10PM Country Store & Bake Sale (FH) 1PM Brunswick Stew Sale
BRUNSWICK STEW --- BRUNSWICK STEW --- BRUNSWICK STEW --- BRUNSWICK STEW						
6 World Communion Sunday Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion- 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	7 Walking Group (Time Varies)	8 11AM Friendly Club  10:30AM Story Time	9 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	10	11	12
13 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	14 Walking Group (Time Varies)	15 10:30AM Story Time	16 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	17 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	18	19
20 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Noisy Offering- -Veteran's Day Bulletin Begins-	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	22 10:30AM Story Time	23 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	28 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies)	29 10:30AM Story Time	30 Wonderful Wednesday  (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	31 6PM HALLOWEEN BOO BASH	November	

GREETERS:

10/6 Maysa & Aubrey
 10/13 Kim Lopossay & Alice Jones
 10/20 Debbie Waugh
 10/27 Maysa & Aubrey

ALTAR FLOWERS:

10/6 OPEN
 10/13 OPEN
 10/20 OPEN
 10/27 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

10/6 Bradon Allen
 10/13 Ashton Allen
 10/20 Aubrey Wilson
 10/27 Maysa Downing

USHERS:

David Fields
 Todd Garrett
 Bud Lauder
 Barry Norris

OCTOBER OPENER:

Dale Austin

OCTOBER CLOSER:

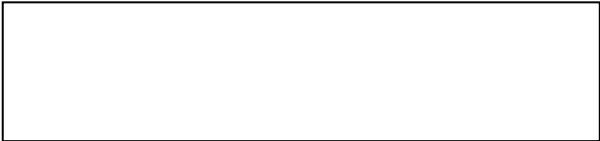
Denny Spencer

Notes: _____

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

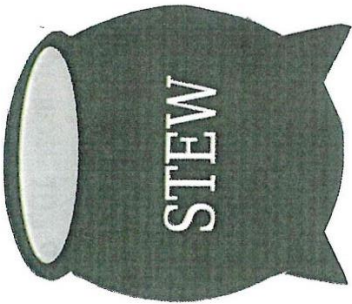
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Brunswick Stew

And Bake Sale/Country Store



Saturday, October 5, 2024

All Stew Sales 1:00 PM



\$10.00/quart



Bethlehem Methodist Church

6103 Appomattox Road, Climax