

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 11

November 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This passage. It is quite the passage. With the world we live in and all the things that are going on around us, how can we not be anxious at one level or another—from personal day in and day out struggles and fears to regional, national, and worldly anxiousness and fears? Some might say it is a part of life and every generation must face its own challenges, but at the end of the day, it is not easy; the hurts, fears, and pains are real.

But so is God.

Paul is writing to the Church in Phillipi when things were at odds and the Lord's Church was really starting to grow, and he wanted them to have humility, unity, and the awareness of false teachings. He wanted them to know that there will be sufferings as they imitate Christ Jesus the Lord, but to also have joy with Christ Jesus as Lord. Joy, unlike happiness, cannot be easily taken from us. In the days and times Paul was writing, the world was not much better than today, but there is a call to persevere and how do we do that? Take it to God first. God promises to hear, to be there, and never to forsake. That is more beautiful than the magnificent foliage this time of year. Surrendering it to God first frees us and allows us not to have to carry such a load. It will surpass all understanding, and Christ guards our hearts and minds.

Storm recoveries, the 2024 Election (November 5th), drugs and human trafficking, health issues, financial issues, and spiritual warfare are just some of the things that many are fearing or are at least anxious about. If you have not already let us follow what God's Word instructs us to do and surrender our fears and anxiousness with prayer and petition to God, remember that God wants to hear; He wants us to come to Him who is the Almighty God. He will protect because God still and will always reign; God will see us through for we are of His Creation by His Great Love.

Grace and Peace...

Blessings to Each and All. 1.

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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Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Kylie Russell



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Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-September 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$550,083.84 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of September 1, 2024

+ 34,740.97 Money Received in September

- 21,262.59 Money Spent in September

\$563,562.22 Budget's Fund Balance as of September 30, 2024

For the month of September, 2024, the Church Budget received \$13,478.38 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$30,286.45 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.

<\$4,039.72> Disaffiliation Loan Balance September 1, 2024

CONGRATULATIONS CHURCH!! On October 1, 2024 the loan was paid off in full.

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.

\$102,795.71 MM&RF Money Available September 30, 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	\$ 1,105.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,167.28	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,591.36
MYF	\$24,732.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 34,983.85
Family Ministries	\$ 3,693.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History, \$1611.72 kitchen))	\$ 2,411.72	Flowers	\$ 241.00
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92	Brunswick Stew	\$ 1,501.04

Total Other Designated Gifts \$91,275.01

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of September 30, 2024 \$191,581.00

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.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair



Friendly Club

The Friendly Club will meet on Tuesday, November 12th at 10:30 am in the church parking lot. We will board the bus and have lunch at Bestfood Cafeteria in Siler City around 11:00 am. After lunch, we will head to Southern Supreme Fruitcakes in Bear Creek for a tour of the facility at 1:00 pm. Those wanting to shop their gourmet delights can do so before we return to the church. Invite a friend and join us for this delightful trip!



Disaffiliation Loan

On October 1, the Disaffiliation Loan debt was paid in full with donations from individuals and did not require any Brunswick Stew profit money. On October 22, 2023, the church council agreed to an internal loan of \$78,485.33 as a Disaffiliation Loan debt. In one year we have been able to pay this debt with contributions from individuals, Sunday School classes, groups, and fundraiser meals. We were able to make this in-house loan because we were in such good financial condition. We proved again we can meet our financial obligations---and now we are still in excellent financial condition and once again debt free! Thanks to so many who contributed so faithfully to this fund.

Frank Willis, Finance Committee Chairman



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!



November Wordsearch

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

DONATE
VOTE
THANKSGIVING
HONOR
HARVEST
GENEROSITY
CHARITY
VETERANS
COURAGE
ELECTION
PECANS
REMEMBRANCE
BALLOT
TURKEY
GRACIOUS
LEAVES
AUTUMN

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7614802/>



2024 Brunswick Stew Results

We give thanks to God and to you who helped with the Brunswick Stew, Bake Sale, and Country Store to again produce such a success. We couldn't have done it without you and the leadership of the Brunswick Stew Committee who donated many hours of behind-the-scenes hard work in planning and running here and there. Contributions from the Sunday Shool Classes and members of the congregation toward the purchase of meat and vegetables was \$1,962. Those who provided Bake Sale and Country Store items added a big boost to our profit line. We took in \$13,385.44 from the stew, store, and donations and our expenses were \$2,790.42, giving us a profit of \$10,595.02. Thanks to all and way to go, Bethlehemites!



Noisy Offering Update

Northeastern Randolph Middle School has sent their appreciation for our participation in their Back Pack program which supplies food for some students who need food in their homes on the weekends. Our Noisy Offering collection in August was \$155, in September \$112, and in October \$150. We thank you for your gifts to this project!



Bethlehem Post Office

Our Christmas Card post office will be opening soon in the conference room. Bring your Christmas Cards (alphabetized would be helpful) to the Conference Room anytime between Sunday, November 24th and Sunday, December 22nd and our elves will have those filed in your mail folders in the blink of an eye, ready for you to stop by and pick up your mail!



Thanksgiving Service

This year's annual community Thanksgiving service with Pleasant Garden Methodist Church will take place Sunday, November 24th at 7PM in our Sanctuary. Refreshments will be in the FH after service. Please bring finger foods to donate!



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 **Francis Snow**
By Lois Snow

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

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**
By Bob Weatherly (x4)

In Memory of **Mike Fields**
By Beverly Fields

In Memory of **Worth & Mary Allred**
By Evonne Parks

In Memory of **Hailey Jones**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett
By Denny & Julie Spencer
By Lois Snow

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

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **David Robb & David Cranfill**
By Pat Waugh

In Honor of **My Family**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Leo Kirkman**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Rev. Joseph Fulk III & Family**
By Jane Williams

In Honor of **Denny Spencer**
By Sheila & Wayne Moser

In Honor of **J.D. Peele & Travis Franklin**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Ruth Rowland**
By Sheila & Wayne Moser

In Honor of **David, Lisa Allen & Family**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Cindy Fields**
By Anonymous

In Honor of **Tim Fields & Barry Norris**
By David & Laura Cranfill



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military
The family of Ray Allred
Cory Fields
Kelsey Garrett
Alan H.
Carlie H.
Leo Kirkman
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.



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

December

12/5	Gene Flinchum
12/6	Lily Christie
12/9	Cory Fields
	Luke Hinshaw
12/10	Holley Wicker
12/11	Erin Edwards
	Dawn McCrea
12/13	Wayne Alley
	Karon Monnett
12/15	Jerry Monnett
12/17	Nelle Haywood
	Jane Chamelin
12/19	Grant Allen
12/21	David Fields
12/23	Braylynn Adams
12/26	Amber Cook
	Cindy Franklin
	Leah Fields
12/27	Joy Cranfill
	Logan Royal
12/28	Cindy Duncan
12/30	Andrew Coward
12/31	David Allen



November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35
3 All Saints Sunday Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion- -Veteran's Day Bulletin Ends-	4 Walking Group (Time Varies)	5 10:30AM Story Time	6 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	7 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (FH)	8	9
10 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	11 Walking Group (Time Varies)	12 10:30AM Story Time 10:30AM Friendly Club 	13 Walking Group (Time Varies) 9:3 AM Bookmobile 6:30PM Childcare Board Meeting (Sunshine Class) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 26th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Noisy Offering- 11:15AM Wreath Laying Ceremony (Memorial Garden) 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	19 10:30AM Story Time	20 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	22 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	23	23
24 Christ The King Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship -BMC Post Office Opens- 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth 7PM Joint Thanksgiving Service (BMC Sanctuary)	25 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies)	26 10:30AM Story Time	27 Wonderful Wednesday  (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	28 -THANKSGIVING-	29	30
Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room)						

GREETERS:

11/3 OPEN
11/10 OPEN
11/17 Phyllis Wicker
11/24 Kim Lopossay & Alice Jones

ALTAR FLOWERS:

11/3 OPEN
11/10 OPEN
11/17 OPEN
11/24 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

11/3 Braxton Wall
11/10 Quart Fulk
11/17 Bradon Allen
11/24 Ashton Allen

USHERS:

Dale Austin
Tim Fields
Glen Getner
Greg Wicker

NOVEMBER OPENER:

Shannon Wicker


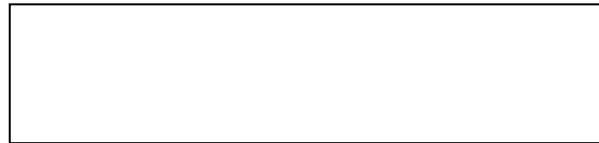
NOVEMBER CLOSER:

Byron & Phyllis Dahl

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace as you trust in him, so that you may
overflow with hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NIV