

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 12

December 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Luke 2:1-20 NIV

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Grace and Peace...
Blessings to Each and All.

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

Rev. Joseph Fulk, III
336-674-0155
jmfulkiii@gmail.com

Church Office

Caitlin Sheppard
336-674-0155
[bethlehem1825methodist
church@gmail.com](mailto: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



Join us on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
214541575234325/?ref=share](https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share)

Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-October 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$563,562.22 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of October 1, 2024

+ 33,992.26 Money Received in October

- 23,579.88 Money Spent in October

\$573,974.60 Budget's Fund Balance as of October 31, 2024

For the month of October, 2024, the Church Budget received \$10,412.38 more than it spent.
For the year, the Church Budget received \$40,698.83 more than it spent.

Designated Gifts

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.

\$112,313.19 MM&RF Money Available October 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	\$ 1,105.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,150.50	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,641.36
MYF	\$24,732.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 34,736.35
Family Ministries	\$ 3,693.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 2,026.73	Flowers	\$ 241.00
(\$800 History, \$1226.73 kitchen)		Brunswick Stew	\$ 10,595.02
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92		

Total Other Designated Gifts \$99,769.72

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of October 31, 2024 \$212,082.91

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

\$64,711.05 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

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, December 10th at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Aaron Coble from the Fire Department and he will give Winter fire safety tips to help keep our homes and us safe this season. Please bring a covered dish and invite a friend to join us for fellowship and good food!



Lauren Haywood's Exercise Classes

DANCE, SCULPT, & STRETCH

What to expect – 30 minutes of our original low impact / high intensity cardio "DANCE SCULPT" followed by 15 minutes of targeted SCULPTING, and 15 minutes of STRETCHING. With this combo we will be able to torch fat, tone muscles, and release tension ALL in one hour together!

Mondays – 5:30–6:30 p.m. @ Tabernacle (Sculpt-Core focus)

Wednesdays – 6:30–7:30 p.m. @ Bethlehem (Sculpt-Glute focus)

All classes \$5 or \$20/5 classes punch cards available at Bethlehem [only]. Please bring your own mat, bottled water, 1-5 lb. weights (optional), & sweat towel. Open to ALL fitness levels! Zero experience needed. New members WELCOME!

Questions – contact Lauren 336-686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com



Candlelight Service

There will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Tuesday, December 24th at 6PM.



December Wordsearch

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

ORNAMENTS
SHEPHERDS
CHRISTMAS
CARDS
YULE
FAMILY
ADVENT
WINTER
LIGHTS
WISE MEN
ANGELS
CELEBRATION
PRESENTS
PARADES
BIRTHDAY
SNOW
BETHLEHEM
POINSETTIA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7703870/>



Bethlehem Post Office

Our Christmas Card post office will be opens November 24th in the conference room. Bring your Christmas Cards (alphabetized would be helpful) to the Conference Room anytime until 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!



Prayer
LIST



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military
The Family of Angela Berke
Cory Fields
Kelsey Garrett
Carlie H.
The Family of Leo Kirkman
Clyde Land
The Family of Phil Smith
Sammy Wall
Frank Willis
Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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



Committee Chairs for 2025:

The 2025 budget request forms that were provided are due to Frank Willis by Monday, December 16th via email (jawillis1@aol.com) or mail to 8833 NC Hwy 22 N, Climax, NC 27233-8225.



Christmas Play

The Youth Christmas Play will be December 15th at 5PM. Treats and Santa to follow in the fellowship hall.

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 **Ray Allred**

By Lois Snow

By Phala Garrett

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

By Linda, Kim & Cindy Duncan

By Ruth Rowland

By Darlene Coble

By Annie Gregson

By David & Janice Robinette

By Dave & Ronda Robb

By Phyllis Wicker

By Beverly Fields

By Steve & Cindy Fields

By Jim Smith

By Shirley Hackett

By Class of 1956

In Memory of **Wayne Kirkman**

By Russell & Sharon Hill

By Ruby Kirkman

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**

By Bob Weatherly (x4)

In Memory of **Earl Fields**

By Faye Fields

By Denny & Julie Spencer

In Memory of **Earnest Spencer**

By Denny & Julie Spencer

In Memory of **Enos Smith**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Leo Kirkman**

By Ruth Rowland

By Phyllis Wicker

By Pat Waugh

By Jim Smith

By Steve & Cindy Fields

By Douglas & Colleen Zeller

By Frank & Julia Willis

By Walter & Rebecca Hunt

By Buddy & Judy Fields

By David & Ronda Robb

By Denny & Julie Spencer

In Memory of **Doris & Leo Kirkman**

By Linda & Bill Weaver

By Linda, Kim & Cindy Duncan

In Memory of **Francis Snow**

By Lois Snow & Family

By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Harper & Rhett Windsor**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **Joseph Camden Myrick**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Angela Berke**

By Jerry & Karon Monnett

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Braxton & Colton Wall**

By Sheila & Wayne Moser

In Honor of **Robert Russell**

By Faye Fields

By Denny & Julie Spencer

In Honor of **My Children & Grandchildren**

By Ruby Kirkman

In Honor of **Our Active Duty Military & Veterans**

By Jane Williams

In Honor of **My Family**

By Phala Garrett

In Honor of **Ruth Rowland**

By Lois Snow

In Honor of **All Our Veterans**

By Phala Garrett



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

January

1/1 Stephanie Garrett
 1/3 Clark Hinshaw
 Lois Snow
 1/5 Dottie Tew
 1/6 Phyllis Wicker
 1/7 Sharon Welborn
 Kimberly Garrett
 1/8 Ron Bazhaw
 Sally Sipes
 1/10 Todd Garrett
 1/12 Bryson Windsor
 1/14 Ronnie Grimes
 Stacy (C.S.) McClintock
 Beth Coble Pulliam
 1/15 Eddie Sipes
 1/16 Krista Neelley
 1/18 Melanie Robb
 1/21 Alice Jones
 Lisa Taylor
 1/22 Pat Waugh
 1/23 Linsey Fields
 Linda Grimes
 1/24 Angie Routh
 Jane Snead
 1/26 Gale Bowman Berke
 1/29 Judy Norris
 1/31 Sharon Good



December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday of Advent Stewardship Sunday Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion- 12PM-3PM FH Reserved	2 Walking Group (Time Varies)	3 10:30AM Story Time	4 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	5 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 6PM Adult Fellowship Class Dinner (FH) 7PM Trustees Meeting (Parlor)	6 <i>6PM Childcare Dinner</i>	7 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35 5PM Young-At-Heart Christmas Party (FH)
Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room)						
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	9 Walking Group (Time Varies) 12PM Arlene Stokes Christmas Dinner (Ranchos)	10 10:30AM Story Time 10:30AM Friendly Club	11 9:30AM Bookmobile Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	12 7PM Charge Conference & Administrative Council Meeting(FH)	13	14 4PM FH Reserved
Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room)						
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Noisy Offering- 5PM Christmas Play & Reception (Sanctuary & FH)	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	17 10:30AM Story Time	18 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	19 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	20	21
Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room) ----- Christmas Card Post Office (Conference Room)						
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship -BMC Post Office Closes-	23 Walking Group (Time Varies)	24 -Childcare Closed- 6PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED -Childcare Closed-	26	27	28
29 1st Sunday After Christmas 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	30 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room) Walking Group (Time Varies)	31 10:30AM Story Time	January			

GREETERS:

12/1 Elaine Bowman
 12/8 OPEN
 12/15 Phyllis Wicker
 12/22 Kim Lopossay & Alice Jones
 12/29 OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

12/1 OPEN
 12/8 OPEN
 12/15 OPEN
 12/22 OPEN
 12/29 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

12/1 Aubrey Wilson
 12/8 Maysa Downing
 12/15 Braxton Wall
 12/22 Quart Fulk
 12/29 Bradon Allen

USHERS:

David Allen
 Byron Dahl
 Doug Garrett
 Terry Franklin

DECEMBER OPENER:

Dale Austin

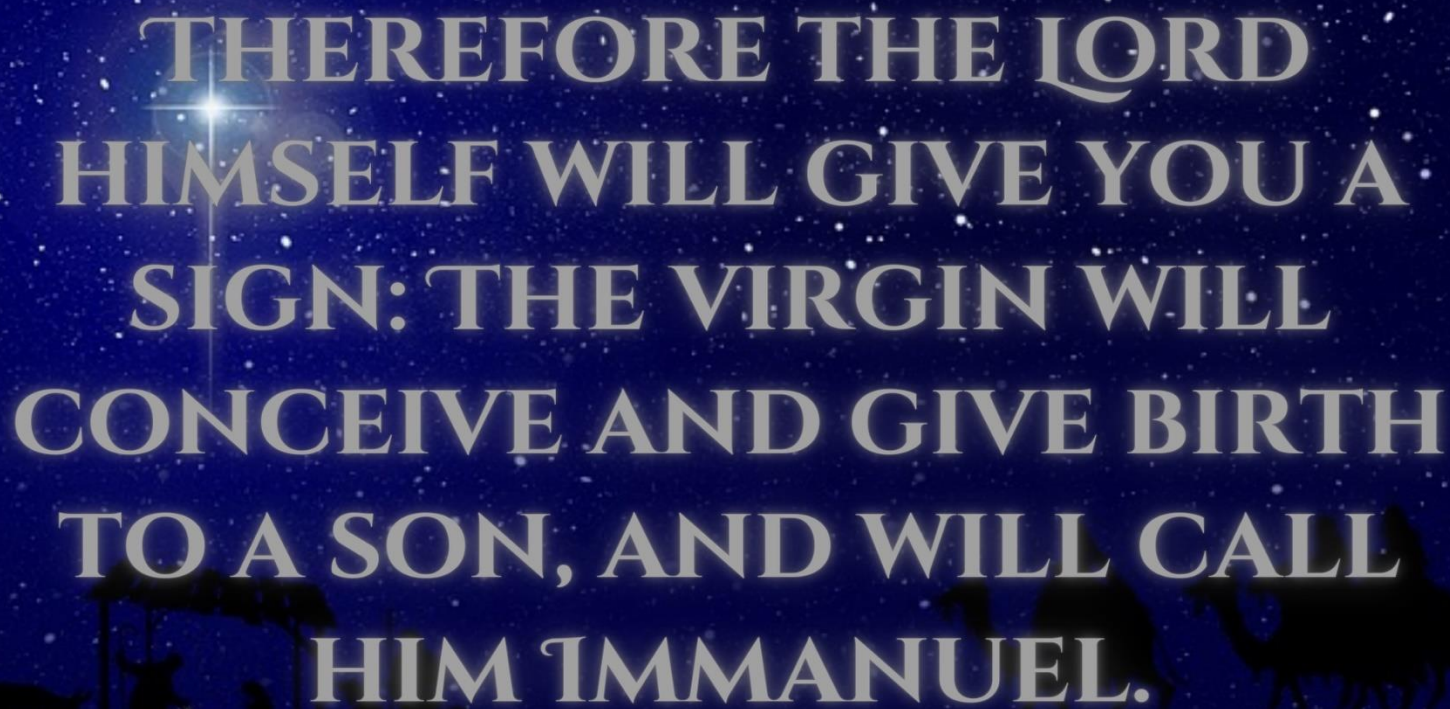
DECEMBER CLOSER:

David Robb

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Climax, NC
PERMIT NO. 1



THEREFORE THE LORD
HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A
SIGN: THE VIRGIN WILL
CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH
TO A SON, AND WILL CALL
HIM IMMANUEL.

ISAIAH 7:14 NTV