

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 1

January 2025

### From the Pastor's Desk

A new day is before us as a door has closed and a new one has opened.

Lamentations 3:22-23 speaks of God's great faithfulness and mercy as new days and dawns arise before us. So 'seize the day' (carpe diem) and take "one day at a time (sweet Jesus)." And, God's Word also provides encouragement, strength, perspective, and so much more (examples: Matthew 6:34, Philippians 4:6-7, James 4:14, Isaiah 41:10) to do so.

With this in heart, mind, and soul...May we embrace God's Goodness; so if you are on a journey enjoy each step. If you are enjoying your favorite meal, enjoy each bite. If you are enjoying your favorite coffee, enjoy each sip. If you are exercising, enjoy each repetition. If you are enjoying your family and friends, enjoy each hug and moment. If you are growing in your prayer life, enjoy each warm breath of God's presence. If you are reading and studying more of God's Word, enjoy each syllable He breathes; because when we do, we are more able to experience and see more of God's great blessings which are given to us through His great grace and mercy. These graces and mercies being realized can calm our fears, remind us of hope, give us strength and perseverance to live life fully each day with glory to God while being able to seize and take hold of God's mighty and abundant blessings to live out and share.

May our hearts, minds, and souls be opened to enjoy each beautiful day God gives us, and let us make it a point, each day, to share with others the goodness of God's great grace and mercy for us all.

**Be Blessed and a Blessing**  
**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.*

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#### **Pastor**

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#### **Church Office**

Caitlin Sheppard  
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[bethlehem1825methodistchurch@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



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[bethlehemmethodist.org](http://bethlehemmethodist.org)

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT-November 2024

## Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$573,974.60 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of November 1, 2024

+ 33, 641.11 Money Received in November

- 27,642.72 Money Spent in November

\$579,972.99 Budget's Fund Balance as of November 30, 2024

For the month of November, 2024, the Church Budget received \$5,998.39 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$46,697.22 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.

\$124,453.21 MM&RF Money Available November 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	\$ 1,225.50	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,322.35
MYF	\$24,732.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 34,738.85
Family Ministries	\$ 4,049.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History, \$1226.73 kitchen)	\$ 2,026.73	Flowers	\$ 251.00
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92	Misc In/Out: YAH	\$ 413.72

Total Other Designated Gifts \$89,712.91

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of November 30, 2024 \$214,166.12

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

### \$64,711.05 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

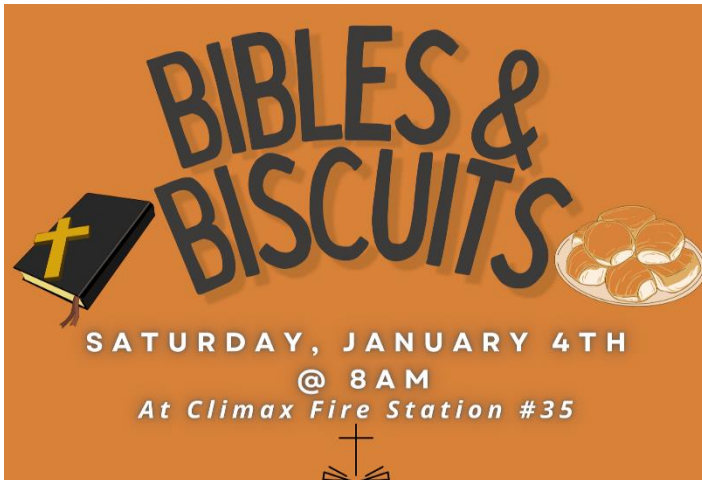
The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair



## Friendly Club

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will enjoy Bingo thanks to Nancy Golden. Friendly Club is open to all who wish to come. Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy good food and good fellowship.



## Save the date

Bethlehem blood drive will be Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1PM-7PM in our fellowship hall. Single donors should not have donated within 8 weeks to give and double donors 16 weeks.



## 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](mailto:laurenmstarr22@gmail.com)





## January Wordsearch

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

SNOW  
QUILT  
FESTIVITIES  
MEMORIES  
ICICLES  
EPIPHANY  
TIME  
WINTER  
COUNTDOWN  
FIREWORKS  
NEW YEAR  
BAPTISM  
SWEATER  
HAPPY  
FROST  
HOURGLASS  
RESOLUTION  
MIDNIGHT

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7850072/>



Thanks to Whitney Routh Reilly for auditing our 2023 financials. We received a clean audit. It's important to subject our financial records to an annual audit to confirm proper documentation of all church income and expenses.

Julia Willis, Treasurer



## 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  
Barbara Riddle  
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.**



## THANK YOU!

To all those who volunteered to serve as Communion Stewards, ushers, and acolytes. We appreciate all you have done this past year.

Fran Getner, Worship Committee Chair





# 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.

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## MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Ray Allred**  
By Carol Fields  
By Roy, Evonne, Margaret & Brenda

In Memory of **Phil Smith**  
By David & Laura Cranfill  
By Frank & Julia Willis  
By Steve & Cindy Fields  
By Doris Reynolds  
By Dave & Ronda Robb  
By Larry & Lynne Causey  
Margaret Hemphill

In Memory of **Johnny Waugh**  
By Pat Waugh

In Memory of **Earl Fields**  
By Maysa Downing

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**  
By Bob Weatherly (x2)

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

In Memory of **Leo Kirkman**  
By Carol Fields  
By Sam & Jennifer Pugh

In Memory of **Clem Royal & Dicky Parks**  
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

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

In Memory of **Harmon & Mildred Moser**  
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **Ed McClintock**  
By Frances & Family

In Memory of **Angela Berke**  
By Steve & Cindy Fields  
By Gale Berke

In Memory of **Bill Garrett**  
By Todd Garrett

In Memory of **Tommy Faggart Jr.**  
By Ronda Faggart

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## HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Jane Reddick**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Randy & Margaret Royal**  
By Evonne Parks

In Honor of **Fred & Jackie Cook**  
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

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

In Honor of **Phala Garrett**  
By Todd Garrett

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett's Birthdays**  
By Lois Snow

In Honor of **Barry Norris**  
By Wayne & Sheila Moser



### 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 Lindsey Fields  
 Linda Grimes  
 1/24 Angie Routh  
 Jane Snead  
 1/26 Gale Bowman Berke  
 1/29 Judy Norris  
 1/31 Sharon Goad

### February

2/1 Jerry King  
 2/2 Jamie O'Daniel  
 2/4 R. Steve Fields  
 2/7 Thomas Bonney  
 Emily Hinshaw Peters  
 Cody Routh  
 Jackie Smith  
 Bayne Welborn  
 Shayne Welborn  
 2/8 Bud Lauder  
 2/10 Todd Berry  
 2/14 Dean Fields  
 Rod Waugh  
 2/15 Laura Cranfill  
 2/16 Libby Fields  
 2/18 Taylor Cotie  
 2/19 Pat Lineberry  
 2/22 David Cranfill  
 Daniel Hinshaw  
 Wesley Eanes  
 2/26 Kelly Bowman  
 Brian Downing  
 Katie Lauder  
 2/28 Kelly Dills  
 Jan Toler



# January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30PM Exercise (FH)	<b>2</b> 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (Parlor)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35
<b>5 Epiphany Sunday</b> <i>Peanut Butter &amp; Oatmeal Sunday</i> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion-  5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	<b>6</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>7</b>  10:30AM StoryTime	<b>8</b> 9:30AM Bookmobile  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Baptism of the Lord</b> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	<b>13</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>14</b> 10:30AM StoryTime 11AM Friendly Club	<b>15</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Finance Committee Meeting (Conf. Room)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany</b> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship -Noisy Offering-	<b>20</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>21</b>  10:30AM StoryTime	<b>22</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany</b> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	<b>27</b> 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>28</b>  10:30AM StoryTime	<b>29</b> Wonderful  <b>Wednesday</b> (Bus leaves at 9:40AM)  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	<b>30</b> 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	<b>31</b>	<b>February</b>

## GREETERS:

1/5 OPEN  
1/12 OPEN  
1/19 OPEN  
1/26 OPEN

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

1/5 OPEN  
1/12 OPEN  
1/19 OPEN  
1/26 OPEN

## ACOLYTES:

1/5 Bradon Allen  
1/12 Ashton Allen  
1/19 Aubrey Wilson  
1/26 Maysa Downing

## USHERS:

David Fields  
Todd Garrett  
Budd Lauder  
Barry Norris

## JANUARY OPENER:

Kim Faircloth

## JANUARY CLOSER:

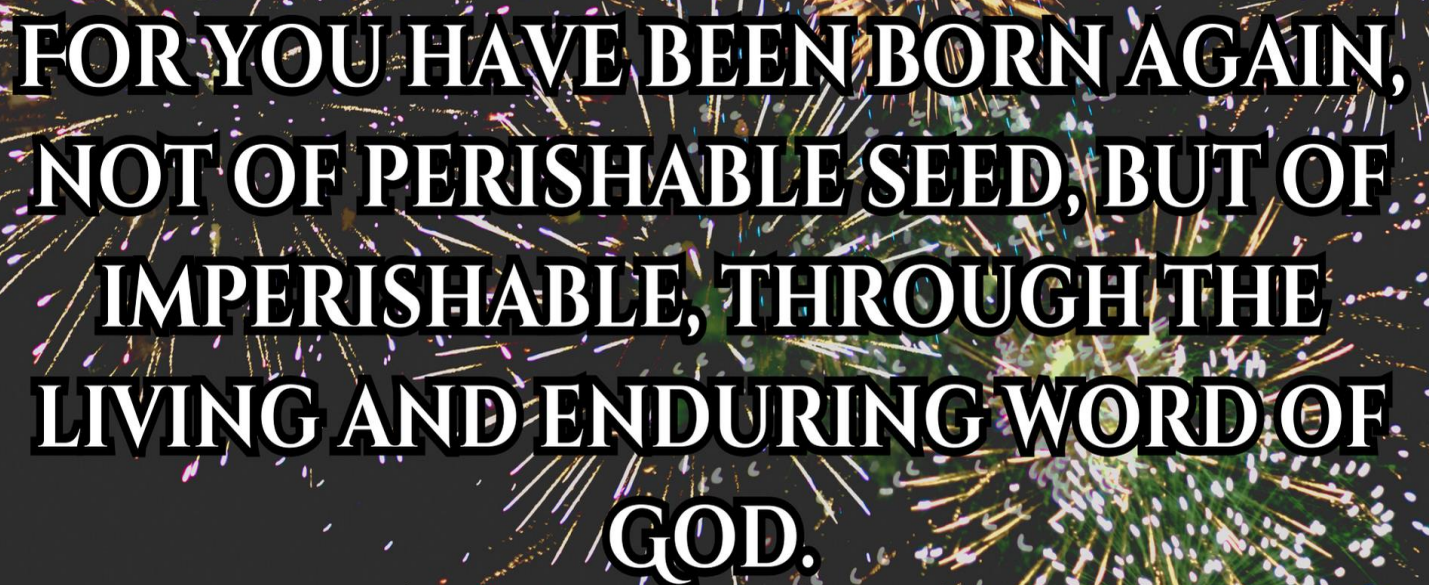
Barry Norris



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Climax, NC 27233

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**FOR YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN,  
NOT OF PERISHABLE SEED, BUT OF  
IMPERISHABLE, THROUGH THE  
LIVING AND ENDURING WORD OF  
GOD.**

**1 PETER 1:23 NIV**