

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 4

April 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

John 14:6/Matthew 28

Many philosophers and great thinkers of the past and of the present have contemplated all of life's idiosyncrasies from every angle and every direction possible and yet, at the end of the day, they still realize there are not a lot of certainties out there. If they were to be honest, we do have thoughts, we do have ideas, and we have theories, yet so many things still are left unexplained, or no answers, or not completely true. But thankfully as Christians, those who seek Christ, follow Christ, and serve Christ, we know there is one Truth and His name is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Most of my life I have heard a saying that the truth cannot be hidden because eventually it will come out. And Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry sought to bring the Truth to all who would hear, listen, and receive His teachings, His Words, His examples of love, healing, grace, mercy, etc., but it would lead to His arrest, trials, persecution, and eventually death. Then we know that the world tried to rid itself of the Truth by burying the Truth and it did so for three days, but on the third day...Truth came out of the grave!

Evil, sin, darkness, and death were defeated in one swoop. The officials who tried to explain what happened that day even paid guards to lie and create tales of untruth, but yet as we, you and I, live today, the Truth sets us free because the Truth, Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, could no longer be contained by the powers of evil or of this world.

So, it is true...the Truth will come out...now that is something to talk about!

Thank you, Lord Jesus!!!

**A Blessed Easter to each and all of you and yours,
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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Webmaster

Kylie Russell



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Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-February 2025

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$589,363.92 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of February 1, 2025

+ 29,240.14 Money Received in February

- 24,508.73 Money Spent in February

\$594,095.33 Budget's Fund Balance as of February 28, 2025

For the month of February, 2025, the Church Budget received \$4,731.41 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$6,988.58 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. This fund was created by a vote of the church council on March 13, 2011, and was established with \$12,000.00.

\$147,923.46 MM&RF Money Available February 28, 2025

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	\$1,279.68	Handbells	\$160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$1,481.95	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$1,983.22
Records & History	\$581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$15,542.35
Alpha & Omega Youth	\$24,832.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$37,321.81
Children & Family Ministries	\$4,049.47	Choir Fund	\$286.26
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History)	\$800.00	Flowers	\$-7.00

Total Other Designated Gifts \$89,957.95

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of February 28, 2025 \$237,881.41

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

\$64,043.68 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

April Wordsearch



BUNNY
 MAUNDY THURSDAY
 JUDAS
 FLOWERS
 CROSS
 PALMS
 RECYCLE
 GOOD FRIDAY
 GARDEN
 TOMB
 JESUS
 EGGS
 ANGELS
 CONSERVATION
 EASTER
 RISEN
 PLANET
 PASTEL

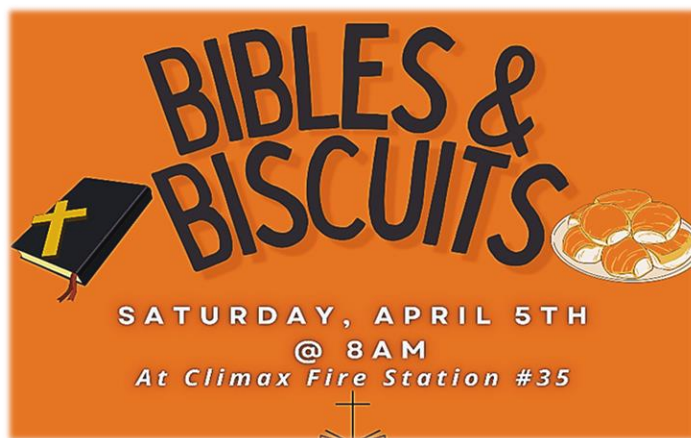
Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8116052/>



Thank You

The Arlene Stokes Circle would like to thank everyone who helped with our Chicken Stew by washing something, cooking, chopping, or baking something, hauling, dipping, stirring or any of the myriad other things that have to be done and especially planning and shopping for it. Thanks to all! The profits will go to local and other mission projects.

The Circle meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 10:30AM in the parlor. Come join us!



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





Pancake Dinner

Thank you for your donations to the Hurricane Helene/Mountain Project at our Pancake Supper. We raised \$1,609.00. Under advisement from Jeff Johnson, a Global district supervisor, this has been sent to Providence Methodist Church in Forest City, N.C. which is housing misplaced families among other helping efforts. We ask that you lift up special prayers this week to accompany our donations.



Friendly Club

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, April 8th at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will play BINGO with the chance to win prizes! Bring a covered dish to share and join us for good food and fellowship. ALL are invited to attend.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Come join us for games, crafts, story time and an egg hunt!

Sunday, April 6th @ 3PM



Childcare Spotlight



Our childcare is in need of more readers for our children! Volunteers come in on Tuesdays at 10:30AM to read in the library.

Preschool Graduation is coming up! It will be Thursday, May 22nd at 6:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come support our children as they take another step on their journey towards growing up.



Save The Date

The Secret Pal reveal is almost here! It's scheduled for June 8th and there will be a reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.



Lenten Offering

This year we're filling up Easter Eggs with offering! Donations go to Heifer International to be collected on the Sunday after Easter, April 27th



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 **Martha Hinshaw**
By Melvin & Karen Hinshaw

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

In Memory of **Martha Boren**
By Margaret Royal
By Buddy & Judy Fields
By Jerry & Karon Monnett
By Jane Chamelin
By Lois Snow

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

In Memory of **Angela Berke**
By Gale Berke

In Memory of **Elizabeth Waugh & Doris Waugh**
By Helen Waugh



HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Karon & Jerry Monnett**
By Sheila & Wayne Moser

In Honor of **My Children**
By Phala Garrett

In Honor of **Lucille McClintock's 94th Birthday**
By Angie Routh
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Bob & Judy Norris**
By David & Laura Cranfill

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

In Honor of **Darlene Coble**
By Larry & Lynne Causey

In Honor of **Tony Bowman**
By Gale Berke

In Honor of **Lois Snow**
By Darlene Coble

In Honor of **Jane Williams**
By Margaret Royal (x2)

In Honor of **Terry Franklin**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett



Prayer LIST

Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

LeeAnne Curtis

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Carlie H.

Clyde Land

Jerri Ramsey

Barbara Riddle

Sammy Wall

Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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





April

4/1 Phyllis Alley
Jeff Neelley
4/2 Madigan Downing
Larry Shambley
4/3 Beth Walsh
Casey Welborn
4/4 Craig Massarelli
4/5 Ashley Neelley
4/7 Eddie Wilkinson
4/8 Doyle Ingold
4/9 Phyllis Garrett
Jane Williams
4/10 Wayne Dunham
Jim Jones
4/11 Louise Bowman
4/12 Frances Jean Fields
4/13 Christopher Bass
Sally Bell
Danny Dunham
Glenna Staley
4/17 April Wreath
4/18 Anna Parrish
4/19 Shirley Hackett
Matthew Young
4/20 Daniel Moser
Craig Smith
4/24 Erica Reed Sypole
4/25 Haley Parrish
Lexie Terry
Jane Reddick
4/27 Julie Spencer
4/29 Rachel Grace Hill
Sandra Southard
4/30 Ruby Kirkman
Parker Robb

May

5/1 Allison Eanes
Russell Hill
5/5 Lore Lambert
5/6 Mark Wilkinson
5/7 Wendi Martin Lowe
5/8 Tim Parrish
5/9 Jana Fields
John Holder
Shirley Kinne
Barry Norris
Alan Wilkinson
5/13 Jeannie Suggs
5/15 Anna-Grace Fulk
5/16 Kelly Fields
5/17 Caleb Windsor
5/19 Kelsea Owens
5/22 Eutha Bowman
Nancy Golden
Brittany Ingold
Taylor Martin
5/26 Adam Garrett
Todd Ingold
Lowell Suggs
5/27 Faye Fields
Debbie Waugh
Londa Parks
5/28 Gilbert Suggs
5/29 Cristal Owens
Karen Barbone
5/31 Mike Hinshaw



April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30AM StoryTime	2 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	3 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (Parlor)	4	5 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35
6 5th Sunday in Lent Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion- 3PM Easter Egg Hunt 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	7 Walking Group (Time Varies)	8 10:30AM StoryTime 11AM Friendly Club	9 9:30AM Bookmobile Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 6:30PM Childcare Meeting (Sunshine Classroom) 7PM Choir Practice	10 7PM Administrative Council Meeting (FH)	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	14 Walking Group (Time Varies) Easter Lily Order Cut Off	15 10:30AM StoryTime	16 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	17 Maundy Thursday 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Maundy Thursday Service -Communion-	18 Good Friday 7PM Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter Sunday 7AM Sunrise Service 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship -Noisy Offering- MOTHER'S DAY BULLETIN BEGINS	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	22 10:30AM StoryTime	23 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Lenton Offering Collection- 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	28 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies)	29 10:30AM StoryTime	30  Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	<h1>May</h1>		

GREETERS:

4/6 Ronda Robb
4/13 Debbie Waugh
4/20 Elaine Bowman
4/27 Lois Snow

ALTAR FLOWERS:

4/6 OPEN
4/13 Karen Lauder
4/20 EASTER LILIES
4/27 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

4/6 Ashton Allen
4/13 Aubrey Wilson
4/20 Maysa Downing
4/27 Braxton Wall

USHERS:

David Fields
Todd Garrett
Bud Lauder
Barry Norris

APRIL OPENER:

David Cranfill

APRIL CLOSER:

Denny Spencer

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