

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 8

August 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Pastor Joseph Fulk, 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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Gloria Austin

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Childcare Director

Erica Shanahan
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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-June 2025

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$616,737.23 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of June 1, 2025

+ 20,965.53 Money Received in June

- 17,017.06 Money Spent in June

\$620,685.70 Budget's Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025

For the month of June, 2025, the Church Budget received \$3,948.47 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$33,578.95 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 June 13, 2011, and was established with \$12,000.00.

\$69,180.23 MM&RF Money Available June 30, 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	\$ 1,813.43
Food Pantry	\$ 1,279.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,506.36	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 18,232.30
Alpha & Omega Youth	\$24,832.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 36,274.86
Children & Family Ministries	\$ 4,049.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Brunswick Stew	\$ <185.00>
(\$800 History)			

Total Other Designated Gifts \$93,397.36

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025 \$162,577.59

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

\$60,497.56 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

August

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

BACK TO SCHOOL
COOKOUT
METEORS
CHURCH
HEAT
SWIMMING
PENTECOST
BEACH
HARVEST
WORSHIP
SUMMER
CORN
ICE TEA
ICE CREAM
SERVICE
LOVE
RAIN STORM
FAMILY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8555935/>



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND PROMOTIONS SUNDAY

Blessing of the backpacks will be Sunday, August 31 for both students and teachers.

All rising 3rd graders will be presented with a Bible in commemoration.



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



Friendly Club

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, August 12th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Ms Brenda Steadman of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Guilford. She and an associate from NAMI will help educate us on mental illness basics and resources available to individuals in need. Please bring a covered dish and join us for good fellowship and good food. As usual, ALL are invited to join us!

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,
but mosquitoes come close.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE: The church council has updated our hiring policy regarding paid positions within the church, effective immediately. Church members are now eligible to apply for paid positions, except for the Administrative Assistant and Director of Daycare roles. Applicants interested in an open position should submit a resume to the SPRC. This policy change reflects our continued commitment to nurturing the gifts within our congregation while maintaining integrity in staffing practices. For any questions or information about open positions at the church, you may contact the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Current open positions: *Organist, Youth Director, Nursery Attendant.*



CHALLENGE THE ONE BLOOD DRIVE will be on Tuesday, August 12 from 2 pm to 7 pm. We will be using the Big Red Bus for collections. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during worship service or you can sign up online at oneblood.org. There must be 8 weeks since your last donation to be eligible. Becky Windsor is the coordinator and can be reached at 336-708-2897 if you prefer to sign up that way. Please prayerfully consider donating if you are able. It saves lives.

CHILDCARE SPOTLIGHT



The last fieldtrip for the Childcare Center is Tuesday, August 19. A special thanks to those who donated to offset the cost of field trips for the kids. The parents have been most appreciative.



The second annual Bethlehem Bake-off, benefiting Layne Downing, with triad FCA, will be held September 20, 2025. Please contact Layne at 336-317-5722 to confirm your entry. Can't bake? Join us at the auction to purchase the award winning desserts!



Prayer
LIST

Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military
Our Church
LeeAnne Curtis
Tommy Dills
Cory Fields
Kelsey Garrett
Carlie H.
Clyde Land
Jerri Ramsey
Sammy Wall
Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins
Our printed prayer list includes church members and close family and friends of church members.



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 **Bill and Doris Hockett**
By David and Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Leo Kirkman**
By David and Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Joyce King**
By Carol Fields

In Memory of **Ralph Kirkman**
By Betty S. Kirkman

In Memory of **Charles and Keith Parks**
By Evonne Parks

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

In Memory of **Warth and Mary Allred**
By Margaret Royal

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

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



HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Bob McClintock's 93rd Birthday**
By Margaret McClintock Causey

In Honor of **Buddy and Judy Fields**
By Jane Chamelin

In Honor of **David and Rhonda Robb**
By Jane Chamelin

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

In Honor of **Helen Waugh**
By David and Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Lynne Causey's Birthday**
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Jim Smith**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Buddy Fields**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Bob Weatherly**
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Beverly Fields**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Phala Garrett**
By Margaret Royal



August




8/1 Arnold Ingold
 8/2 Linda Duncan
 8/3 Greg Wicker
 Paden O'Daniel
 8/6 Shea Welborn
 Abbey Windsor
 8/9 Jamie Miller
 8/10 Gerry Moody
 8/11 Julia Willis
 Dale Windsor
 8/15 Kenneth Fields
 8/16 Mike Harris
 8/18 Randy Curtis
 8/23 Jackie Cook
 8/24 Robbie McClintock
 Brad Wicker
 8/26 Sawyer Edwards
 Micheal Garrett
 8/28 Kylie Russell
 8/29 Jeremy Coble
 8/31 Lynn Haywood
 Joyce Ingold
 Ruth Rowland

September

9/2 Vivian Wilkinson
 Gloria Austin
 Tater O'Daniel
 9/3 Karen Parrish
 Barbara Riddle
 Pam Suggs
 9/5 Jeff Eanes
 9/8 Harper Garrett
 9/9 Ethan Eanes
 Grace Kirby
 Desi Williams
 9/11 Alex Garrett
 David Goad
 9/16 Krimson Gunter
 9/17 Terry Franklin
 Phala Garrett
 9/18 Garrett Owens
 9/19 Mary Lauren Bonney
 Sheila Moser
 9/21 David Welborn
 9/22 Elaine Fulk
 9/27 Layne Downing
 9/28 Floyd Cook
 9/30 Joseph Fulk, III
 Buddy Reddick



AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 CAMP MEETING 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Worship (Arbor)	2 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35 CAMP MEETING 7:00 PM Ice Cream Social 7:30PM Music Service (Arbor)
3 8th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday</i> 10 AM SS CAMP MEETING ENDS: 11 AM Worship (Arbor)	4 Walking Group (Time Varies)	5 10:30AM StoryTime (Bus Reserved) 	6 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	7 10 AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4 PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) Arbor Clean Out 6:00 pm	8	9
10 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 AM SS 10 AM Worship - Communion	11 Walking Group (Time Varies)	12 10:30 AM StoryTime 11:00 am Friendship Club Blood Drive (Big Red Bus) 2:00 PM-7:00 PM	13 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Childcare Board Meeting (Sunshine Classroom) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	14	15	16
17 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 AM SS 10 AM Worship -Noisy Offering and Puppet Show Youth Kick-off	18 Walking Group (Time Varies) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved 	20 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	21 10 AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4 PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	22	23
24 11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 AM SS 10A M Worship	25 <i>First Day of School</i> Walking Group (Time Varies) 10 AM Paid Staff Meeting 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor)	26	27 Walking Group (Time Varies) Wonderful Wednesday  (Bus leaves at 9:40AM)	28	29	30
31 12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 AM SS 10 AM Worship Blessing of Backpacks and Promotions Sunday	SEPTEMBER <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>					

GREETERS:

8/3 ARBOR
 8/10 OPEN
 8/17 OPEN
 8/24 OPEN
 8/31 OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

8/3 OPEN
 8/10 OPEN
 8/17 OPEN
 8/24 OPEN
 8/31 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

8/3 Aubrey Wilson
 8/10 Maysa Downing
 8/17 Braxton Wall
 8/24 Quart Fulk
 8/31

USHERS:

Dale Austin
 Tim Fields
 Glen Getner
 Greg Wicker

AUGUST OPENER:

David Cranfill

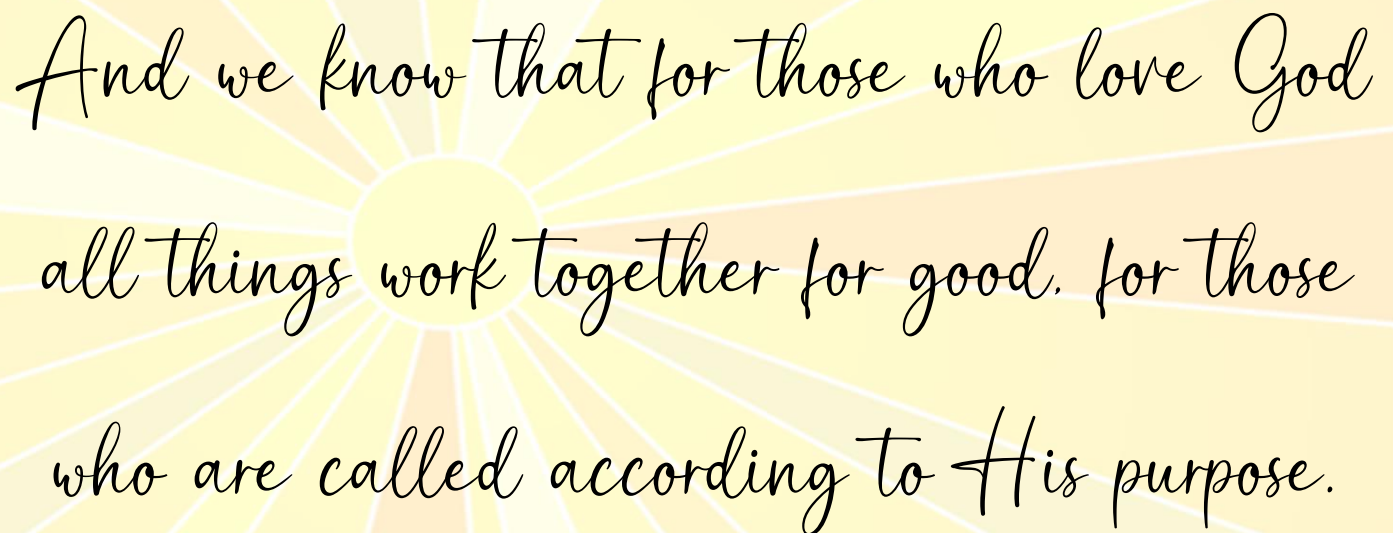
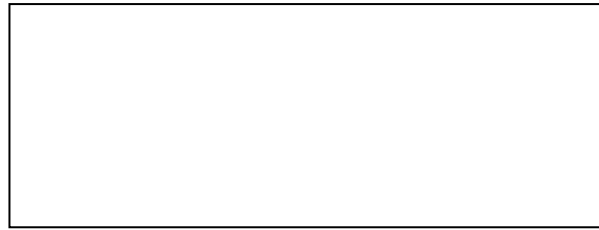
AUGUST CLOSER:

Denny Spencer

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



And we know that for those who love God
all things work together for good, for those
who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28