

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 9

September 2025

### From the Pastor's Desk

1994 seems so long ago but so just like yesterday. Working at a Rexall Drugstore in Spindle, NC I remember a co-worker on summer break from WCU telling me about this awesome band she had heard as she was handing me a 'bootleg' cassette. First, I was like dang this college girl is speaking to me and second, I was 'wow' my first 'bootleg' cassette. This song on the cassette tape seemed to jump right out of the speakers into my head and never leave. It was by this random band out of Columbia, SC named "Hootie and the Blowfish" and the song was, "Hold My Hand." I remember thinking I was big stuff (because of the aforementioned information) and I jammed all the way to Florida and back that summer vacation with my Walkman cassette player. The song just had a rhythm and melody that struck a chord (pun intended), and it was so fresh and so soulful and comforting.

Holding the hand of someone you love is one of the most amazing experiences of life, and what makes it sweeter is knowing they love you as well. Whether it be with a spouse or dating or our child, whether in good times or in not so favorable times it brings peace, comfort, and security. Thankfully, we have God that holds our hand:

*"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,*

*Do not fear; I will help you." -Isaiah 41:13 NIV*

I give thanks to God for holding our hands, knowing our hearts, and loving us in the ways that God does. So, no matter what is going on around us, whether the Lord is holding our hands like Peter's to pull him from the sea or leading us to green grass and still waters, Praises be to God! Praise God for is great love, mercy, and compassion for us and may the chords of our heart strings make a beautiful melody of praise unto our God.

Love, Grace, and Peace in Christ Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thank you and Blessings,

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.*

#### Church Office

Margot Horney  
336-674-0155

[bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com)

#### Choir Director

Gloria Austin

#### Pianist

Laura Cranfill

#### Youth Director

Layne Downing

#### 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>

#### Visit our Website at

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT-July 2025

### Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$620,685.70 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of July 1, 2025

+ 40,150.61 Money Received in July

- 23,123.13 Money Spent in July

\$637,713.18 Budget's Fund Balance as of July 31, 2025

For the month of July, 2025, the Church Budget received \$17,027.48 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$50,606.43 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 July 13, 2011, and was established with \$12,000.00.

\$58,637.81 MM&RF Money Available July 31, 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	\$ 2,163.43
Food Pantry	\$ 1,279.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,485.14	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 18,432.30
Alpha & Omega Youth	\$24,832.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 36,027.36
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 \$93,678.64

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of July 31, 2025 \$152,316.45

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

#### **\$65,930.69 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

## SEPTEMBER

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

FRIENDS  
LABOR DAY  
SWEATERS  
SCHOOL  
APPLES  
HARVEST  
LEAVES  
FOOTBALL  
ORCHARD  
EQUINOX  
AUTUMN  
TEACHERS  
BACKPACK

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8576013/>



*Thank You*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the One Blood drive. Our goal was 13 units and we collected 20 pints. That is awesome! They say that each pint can impact up to 3 lives. We have our drives set up for next year. They are January 6, May 5, and September 1. Please mark your calendars and plan to give. *Thanks again.*



**Sneak Peek**

## October Friendly Club

Will be going to Bestfood for lunch in Siler City and then visiting the Southern Supreme Cakefruit Shop. Tuesday, Oct 14.

# BRUNSWICK STEW

And Bake Sale/Country Store



Saturday, October 4, 2025

All Stew Sales 1:00 pm

\$10.00/quart



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 pm at Tabernacle (Sculpt-Core focus)

Wednesdays – 6:30–7:30 pm at 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 lbs weights (optional), and 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)



Please join Layne Downing for her second annual **Bethlehem Bake-off!** Bake a dessert and enter for \$5 or come and purchase a dessert at the auction. All money raised will benefit local Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Entries due by 10am on 9/20/25 Auction begins at 2pm. To enter or ask questions call or text Layne at 336-317-5722.



#### FRIENDLY CLUB: TUES, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, September 9th in the Fellowship Hall at 11am. Our guest will be Ms Jane Coltrane Jones, a local artist and resident who grew up in Pleasant Garden.



Ms Jones will showcase her talent by creating a pastel chalk drawing to music as we watch! She will also have pieces of her artwork done in oil, acrylic and watercolor on display. Ms Jones goes to Clapp's Nursing Home once a month to fellowship with the residents by doing a pastel drawings for them. She has been commissioned to do paintings for people and businesses in NC and VA. Please go to her website at [janecjonesart.com](http://janecjonesart.com) to read more about her accomplishments and see examples of her artwork. As usual, ALL are welcome to join us!



#### Tabernacle Methodist Church BRUNSWICK STEW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

STEW ON SALE AT  
3:00 P.M.

\$10.00 PER QUART

HOMEMADE  
DESSERTS



5721 Methodist Road | Greensboro

Supports Tabernacle Methodist Women Missions



#### ALAMANCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 25

1:00 pm shotgun start

Forest Oaks Country Club

**Proceeds benefit Alamance Presbyterian's  
Food Pantry**

For additional information, contact their church office at 336-697-0488.



# 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 **Angela Berke**  
By Brenda Berke

In Memory of **Dub and Ruby Hockett**  
By Larry and Lynne Causey

In Memory of **Ruby Hockett**  
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Bobby Rowland**  
By Ruth Rowland

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

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Bobby Rowland**  
By Lois Snow

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

**Ruth Rowland** expresses her appreciation for all the prayers, cards, and thoughts in memory of her son Bobby.

## HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Dale Austin**  
To the **Mission Team**  
By Susan and Andrew Coward

In Honor of the **Church Community**  
To the **Camp Meeting Fund**  
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Phyllis Wicker**  
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Evonne Parks**  
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Margaret Royal**  
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **The Sunshine Club**  
By Margaret Royal and Evonne

In Honor of **Londa Parks**  
By Jane Williams

## Prayer LIST

### Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Our Church

John Ainsley

LeeAnne Curtis

Tommy Dills

Cory Fields

Francis 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.**



# Happy Birthday



## 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

## October

10/2 Phyllis Dahl  
Scott Wilkinson  
10/4 Travis Franklin  
10/5 Sherri Davis  
Jim Smith  
10/6 Lorrie Roth  
10/8 Tracy Peele  
10/9 Dale Routh  
10/11 Courtney Ingold  
10/13 Betty Kirkman  
10/14 Cheryl Bazhaw  
10/15 Susan Davis  
LeeAnne Curtis  
10/16 Kristi Robb  
10/17 Bonnie Averill  
Joseph F. Garrett  
Kelli Wilkinson  
10/18 Byron Dahl  
Herbert McClintock  
10/20 Braxton Wall  
10/23 Alex Haywood  
10/24 Donna Younts  
10/25 Jeffrey Welker  
10/27 Jim Little  
10/28 Holly Robb  
10/30 Victoria Coble

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Office and Daycare closed	2	3 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg FH	5	6 8:00 am <b>Bibles &amp; Biscuits</b> Climax Firehouse #35
7 <b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Peanut Butter &amp; Oatmeal Sunday</i> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship – <b>Communion</b> 5:00 pm Youth Kick-off	8 Walking Group (Time Varies)	9 11:00 am Friendly Club Fellowship Hall	10 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 6:30 pm Childcare Bd Mtg Sunshine Room 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 <b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	15 Walking Group (Time Varies)	16	17 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	19	20 10:00 am FCA Fundraiser Bake-off Fellowship Hall
21 <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	22 Walking Group (Time Varies) 10:30 am Arlene Stokes Circle Parlor  <b>First Day of Autumn</b>	23	24 Walking Group (Time Varies) <b>Wonderful Wednesday</b> <b>Bus leaves at 9:40 am</b>  6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	29 Walking Group (Time Varies) 10:00 am Paid Staff Meeting  <b>Brunswick Stew FH and Kitchen</b>	30  <b>Brunswick Stew FH and Kitchen</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>			

## GREETERS:

9/3 OPEN  
9/10 OPEN  
9/17 OPEN  
9/24 OPEN

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

9/3 OPEN  
9/10 OPEN  
9/17 OPEN  
9/24 OPEN

## ACOLYTES:

9/3 Aubrey Wilson  
9/10 Maysa Downing  
9/17 Braxton Wall  
9/24 Quart Fulk

## USHERS:

## SEPTEMBER OPENER:

OPEN

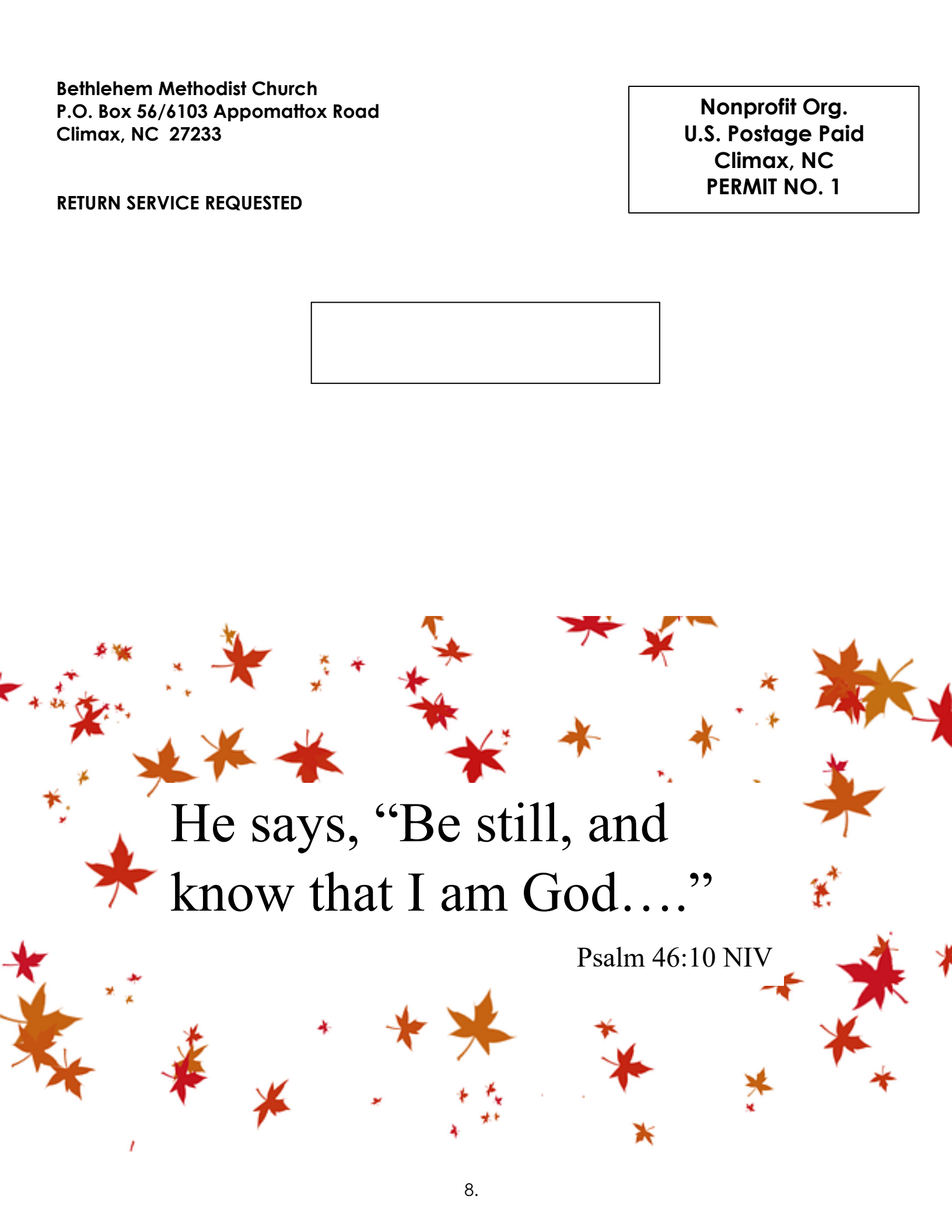
## SEPTEMBER CLOSER:

Greg Wicker

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



He says, “Be still, and  
know that I am God....”

Psalm 46:10 NIV