

The Lamplighter

October 2024 • Volume XVII • Issue X

"I Helped!"

"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..." I Peter 4:10 (RSV)

Those of you who have ever used *Shake and Bake* may well remember one of their television commercials from years ago. A family was gathered around the table for their evening meal. The father commented on the delicious chicken and asked what it was. His daughter, beamed and proudly proclaimed, *"It's Shake and Bake...and I helped!"*

Can you remember the first time someone asked for your help with something? Do you remember the sense of pride you felt when you were able to help with some task, when your efforts really counted? There are few things in life that compare to the satisfaction of working with others to achieve a goal. That's one of the great things about being part of the church. You see, the church's life, mission and ministry is all about believers working together to get the job done. We all have gifts and graces, in varying degrees, to offer to the ministry of the church. Whatever our *"giftedness"* may be, we are to combine our efforts to carry out the work of the church. When believers do this, the church thrives; when they fail to do this, the church struggles and stagnates.

The story of First Church is one of many faithful people giving of themselves to do the work of the church. Years ago, I obtained a copy of the *Raleigh Christian Advocate*, a church newspaper. The date of the paper is August 5, 1909. I was glancing through it, and I came across a couple of articles that mentioned First Church. In one article from the Methodist Orphanage, it said, *"We again send our thanks to Bro. E.B. Moore of Washington for another nice box of fish...It is many a delightful meal he has given our children."* Another article stated, *"Prof. N.C. Newbold, Lay Leader at Washington, will have charge of the services on the fifth Sunday in August...The laymen are expecting to make it a great day at Washington."* These are just a couple of examples of the people of First Church taking the vows of membership seriously, participating in the ministries of the church through *"prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness."*

That legacy is still alive and well at the corner of Van Norden and West 2nd. I give thanks to God for work, witness and worship that take place as the result of God's people at First Church coming together to do God's work and to be God's people. May God help us to continue to seize our opportunities and in so doing, be able to gratefully proclaim, *"This is the work of my church...and I helped!"* See you in church Sunday.

Ken

Christian sympathy is expressed to the family of:

Sara Cutler



"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."
Isaiah 40:8

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"Case for Faith" Introduction



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From Your Associate Pastor of Missional Discipleship

Does God Participate In Trick-Or-Treating?

This question is not intended to make a moral or theological statement about Trick-Or-Treating. Please do not misunderstand. I thoroughly enjoy the Trick-or-Treating tradition of our Smallwood community. I enjoy the excitement my community has, to generously share with kids from all around, and I enjoy dressing up the boys and witnessing their joy in receiving at this stage in their childhood. (Though as a responsible father, I make sure to monitor their caloric intake through levying an income tax on their "stash.")

Of course, Halloween has a religious/spiritual history, though in this brief article I wish to explore the place of the One we worship in the midst of the contemporary tradition we all know as Trick-Or-Treating. I'm glad that the "trick" part of the original ritual has mostly gone by the wayside. Now we focus primarily on the "treating," the exchange of candy prompted by the masked characters who walk from door to door fostering neighborly kindness and joy against the backdrop of nighttime and "scary" themes.

Two opposing thoughts come to my mind when I contemplate the participation of God in such a ritual. On one hand, I think of God's generosity toward us. I think of God's nature who receives us as we are, masked or not, when we come to the door as beggars. Jesus surely teaches us, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you," Matthew 7:7. How dare I question the generosity and kindness of our God. But on the other hand, I can't water down the character of God to being a holy vending machine. There is great danger in treating the object of our worship as the dispenser of all we want in life. Lest we receive healthy fruit instead of our desired candy. God isn't transactional with us, but instead He exercises supreme authority over our lives. Perhaps in the trick-or-treating scenario, God may be better represented as the child coming to the door seeking from us expecting us to open our lives up to His directing will.

So does God participate in Trick-or-Treating? First, there are no "tricks" with God, only truth and covenant. God does certainly receive us as we are, and cares for us out of His generous grace. God also, manifested through Christ, comes to the doors of our lives, seeking our response to His grace.

The last several years, the Bazan household has participated in Trick-or-Treating as both seekers and givers. It makes for a busy evening when we attempt to do both at the same time. I'm joyfully awaiting the position in which I find myself at the end of this month. Perhaps also, we can be joyfully looking for Christ in the festival. He might come to us on the opposite side from where we find ourselves. May we receive him either way.

In Christ,

Stephen Bazan

Baby Book Program

A children's book is placed in the Church Library in honor of each child born to our church family. The following child was honored with the book listed below:

When God Made the World by Matthew Paul Turner
 In honor of: James Gentry Scott Bollow (born July 8, 2024)
 Parents: Chris and Allyson Bollow

First Methodist Church Meetings & Activities Calendar



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	2 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:30 PM Men of Redemption Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner Rehearsal 6:15 PM Case for Faith 7:30 PM Praise Team	3 7:00 AM Men at the Table 12:00 PM Prayers for Children and Youth Leader	4	5
6 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	7 9:30 AM Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	8 Circle Meetings 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Trustees Meeting	9 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:00 PM Men of Redemption Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner Rehearsal 6:15 PM Salt & Light 7:30 PM Praise Team	10 7:00 AM Men at the Table 12:00 PM Prayers for Children and Youth Leader 6:00 PM SPRC Meeting	11	12 11:00 AM Matthew 25 Fellowship Lunch
13 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	14 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Family Ministries Council 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	15 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Circle of Kind Blessings	16 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:00 PM Men of Redemption Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner Rehearsal 6:15 PM Case for Faith (Kids, Youth, and Adults) 7:30 PM Praise Team	17 Preschool Teacher Workday (No School for Students) 7:00 AM Men at the Table 12:00 PM Prayers for Children and Youth Leader 5:30 PM ECU Health Service Awards Dinner 6:00 PM Child Care Staff Meeting	18	19
20 8:00 AM Methodist Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 1:00 PM Youth Movie Afternoon	21 5:30 PM Child Care Board Meeting 6:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	22 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	23 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:30 PM Men of Redemption Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner Rehearsal 6:15 PM Case for Faith (Kids, Youth, and Adults) 7:30 PM Praise Team	24 7:00 AM Men at the Table 12:00 PM Prayers for Children and Youth Leader 6:00 PM Yahoos	25	26
27 The Church Has Left the Building 9:00 AM Devotional followed by ministry deployment into community	28 1:00 PM Matthew 25 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	29 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	30 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:00 PM Men of Redemption Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner Rehearsal 6:15 PM Churchwide Pumpkin Carving Contest 7:30 PM Praise Team	31 7:00 AM Men at the Table 12:00 PM Prayers for Children and Youth Leader		

Letters

Caring Christian Carpenters,

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58

Thank you for your kindness and hard work. May the Lord bless your work.

To you, it's just your thoughtful way...
To me, it truly made my day!

THANK YOU
The Smith Family

Dear Pastor Ken and Church Family,

Thank you so much for awarding me the scholarship money. I am so blessed to be a part of such a generous congregation. I owe this entire church a huge thank you for helping to raise me up to be a strong Christian.

Love,
Lilly Davis

Dear First Methodist Church Staff,

Elevation Methodist Church truly appreciates your generous donation to our church in honor of Patsy Bazan. Our congregation truly loved Ms. Patsy as we know you did. We will all miss her and her kind personality.

Thank you again for your most bountiful gift in honor of Ms. Patsy.

Yours in Christ,
Elevation Methodist Church

First Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your consideration and then your generous donation towards our students leadership academy trip to the Ron Clark Academy. This is a one-time experience for a lot of our students and we are so grateful that your donation will help them get that much closer!

Blessings,
CPS Admin Team

Teny Tanner Rosebuds

"Teny" Tanner, the teenage daughter of Fritz and "Punkin" Tanner, went home to be with the Lord in 1979. In her memory, a fund was established to provide for the placement of a rose on the altar each time a baby is born into our church family. The baby's parent or grandparents must be members of First Methodist Church Washington. An information form, located in the church office, needs to be filled out and returned to the church secretaries before the rose can be ordered. Information about the birth and the parents and grandparents will appear in the church bulletin on that same Sunday.

Altar Flowers

Placing flowers on the altar is a wonderful way to honor someone you love, their memory, or to honor God and His glory.

There are some Sundays open on the flower calendar this year. If you are interested in providing flowers for either of our services, please notify the church office.

Celebrating the gift of life during the month of October:

1st	Joan Campbell
3rd	Dallis Sinclair
4th	Lee Matveia, Larry Lang, Abigail Elks
5th	Kaye Alligood, Bill Peebles
6th	Peggy Lewis, Lee Hemink, Mary-Morgan Beeman, Bruce Taylor
8th	Harry Tubaugh, Dewey Fuquay
9th	Walt Gerard, Amy Gerard, Will Jefferson
13th	Henry Arvizu
14th	Gregg Ward
16th	Matt Swanner, Elanor Davis
17th	Richard Jones
18th	Joyce Jump, Tim Cashion
19th	Carol Duda, Ellie Gray Howdy
20th	John Lane, Kagan Haltigan
21st	Mike Rowe, Diana Tew, Anna Baker
23rd	Gloria Howard, Patty Jackson
24th	Gina Gurganus
25th	Ashley Singleton
26th	Jean Ash, Ruth Thompson, Catherine Swanner
27th	Michelle Swanner
28th	Carole Morehead, Greg Singleton, Austin Thompson, Kelsey Jefferson
29th	Missy Deaner
30th	Joseph Sopher
31st	Wendy Ingalls

Family Ministries

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

God is good, all the time . . . And all the time, God is good! It's a phrase that so many of us hear and say. But for our First Church family how so very true it is! The month of September brought so many things for our church family, including the fall kick-off on September 11 which was so much fun! We had a wonderful meal followed by a joyful time of games played by everyone young and old! This fun time then led to everyone being able to go into a study using the Case for Faith that was age appropriate. Children, youth and adults are all able to learn about how they can better defend their faith when it is called into question.

You may ask, Sarah Beth, why did we have this special night; why did we have the games in addition to the dinner and studies? Great question! Earlier this year, the Family Ministries Committee was formed to have laity (you all, the church body) work with me and the rest of the staff to do more things that involved the entire family, to have more family events. This was one of our ideas: to offer the opportunity to have the church family study the same thing as well as create opportunities for the entire church family to interact and get to know each other. Check out the pictures on the back of the newsletter to see some of the fun that we had!

There will be more opportunities for our entire family to work and play side by side in service to our Lord. On October 30, there will be a churchwide pumpkin-decorating contest where old and young are encouraged to come and decorate a pumpkin. There is a place for everyone at this event to decorate, or help a child decorate, or maybe you can be one of our judges for the contest. Please come out for this event! In November, we will have Fall Fling where all can come together to share a meal. And, in December, there will be a caroling night, and the last Sunday of December, we will have a service of Lessons and Carols.

God is surely here in our presence, church family, and He is moving within our church family. I pray that each of you will seek the Lord's guidance as to where you can join in the different ministries of our church and how God can use you to share His light with the world.

Blessings,

Sarah Beth

Director of Family Ministries
252-946-3311 Ext. 204
dfm@fmcwashington.com

Child Care

September was loaded with so much fun! We happily jumped in to our "ABCJesusLovesMe" curriculum along with more Bible Stories with our friend Topher the Gopher. "ABCJesusLovesMe" doesn't just give us academic studies. It also guides our teachers through lessons on small and gross motor skills, manners and all sorts of life skills. We love learning about many favorite Old Testament stories and doing crafts that help make them come alive. Getting to play outside in some cooler temperatures has also been lots of fun. Fall is FUN!

Diane Van Staaldin

Child Care Director
Director's Cell: 252-947-2836

"Our Church Family had a wonderful evening on August 28 with the Tisho Family, Missionaries to Tanzania followed by an Ice Cream Social catered by Scoops. (Kristen Tisho is the daughter of Ken and Lee Matveia.) For those of you who could not attend, please see a summary of their ministry at the Berega Orphanage below. They requested prayers as they continue to serve our Lord and King."

God's Ministry at Berega Orphanage-Tanzania With The Tishos

Berega Orphanage began in the late 1960s to care for children who lost their mothers in childbirth. We continue to care for newborns whose mothers have died in childbirth or shortly thereafter as well as children whose mothers are unable to care for them due to health issues. In 2006, a new model was introduced where babies come to the orphanage with a Binti. Also, three years ago, we began helping mothers who are unable to produce enough breast milk to feed their newborns. They come and live together with us at the orphanage.

- A. Ministry focus: babies, family caregivers, families
- B. We have 16 children (generally average between 12-18)

We use the 3 years we have with the family caregivers to love and disciple them. Our goal is that their time with us feels profitable and more like going to school than putting their lives on pause to care for their relatives.

- A. **Spiritual Growth and Outreach**
 - Daily devotions and prayer
 - Trauma Healing
- B. **Education Opportunities**
 - Literacy classes
 - Math
 - Health
 - English
 - Computers
- C. **Skill development/small business Opportunities**
 - Cake baking and decorating
 - Sewing
 - Raising livestock
 - Farming

Tisho's goal is to make the orphanage less reliant on foreign funds and better able to handle many of the day-to-day operating costs. To achieve this, he is working to start a number of small businesses at the orphanage.

- A. **Current income generating projects and cost reducing activities**
 - Dairy program
 - Sunflower Press
 - Cake business
 - Woodworking machine
 - Raising chickens
- B. **Future projects that we will focus on over the next few years**
 - Farming God's Way
 - Raising fish
 - Corn grinding machines and machines to cut up animal feed
 - Sewing business

Missions

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Your mission team has two large events scheduled for October and November.

First, on Sunday, October 27, we will once again have THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING.

This is a church-wide event to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. We will begin the day with a devotional at 9:00 am in Wesley Hall. Then we will break into groups according to the scheduled events.

Scheduled Events

City Garden Program/erecting a shed and landscaping

Preparing Homeless Gift Kits/ for distribution in the Fellowship Hall

Prayer Walk

"I Live Alone"

Work by the Christian Carpenters (Other events may be added to this list)

This is a wonderful mission opportunity for our church family to spread the love of Jesus.

Matthew 5:16 *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Secondly, on Wednesday, November 6, we will be having a CHILI COOK OFF.

WANTED - CHEFS TO COMPETE IN THIS YEAR'S CHILI COOK OFF

Those interested in competing will need to prepare one large crockpot of chili which will be judged by those attending. At 5:30 pm, each person attending will sample 5 different chili's and will be given 1 ticket to vote for their favorite chili recipe. Awards will be presented to the top three competitors. If interested, Chefs will need to sign up by contacting either Jane Dockins (865-556-1894) or Bonnie Isovitsch (724-822-1529) by October 30. Tickets to attend the CHILI COOK OFF will be on sale for \$10.00 each or \$20.00 for a family. (We will let you know when the tickets go on sale.) The meal will include chili, cornbread, drink and dessert. All proceeds will help support local missions.

Channels Missional Community

In support of "The Church Has Left The Building" mission of First Methodist Church Washington, the Channels Missional Community is planning to distribute water bottles to the Police, Fire and EMS stations in our community as we have done in the past. We are looking for folks that may be willing to help support this project by buying cases of water bottles or donating money to support this cause. Checks can be written with "water" noted in the memo line or by giving money to one of our members. Members of our Missional Community are: Les & Elaine Sheridan, Rick & Cheri Howdy, Ron & Deb Branch, Jim & Penny O'Brian, Randy & Carolyn Erwin, Ray & Judy Peede, George & Bonnie Isovitch, Bill & Judy MacAdam, Kathy Lake, Brenda Boklage, and Ken & Lee Matveia. We thank you in advance for your support of this project.

Preschool

September has been a month of new beginnings and great JOY. Students have adjusted well to the new routines of school and have learned all about God's creation. They have enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones! They love learning by playing in centers, reading and listening to stories, and singing songs. All of us have enjoyed getting to know each one of them individually and are reminding them that they are God's creation and they are vitally important to His plan. I believe they will end up teaching us more this year than we will teach them!

We have a very busy October planned! The Fire Department will come for a visit the first week in October for a puppet show about which the children get excited. We will visit Stokes Family Farm and look forward to finding out what that experience will be like for the children. They always enjoy a pumpkin farm visit! We also have fall pictures coming up in October! Wow! Please pray for joy and energy through this very busy month that will then lead into the ever-exciting holiday season. Yikes!!

The Preschool would like to thank the Circle of Mary and Martha for their efforts in raising money and purchasing the new picture frames for the preschool hallway! We look forward to utilizing them to make our hallway even more inviting.

Please continue to pray for our program and the effect it has on the children who come here. May they always feel the love of Jesus and the JOY that He brings. If you would like to support the preschool in other ways, here are some opportunities to do so:

1. Give to our scholarship fund. We still need about \$1,500 to get us through the current year. This money will go directly to families of children who would otherwise not be able to attend our program. This year we have committed to help three such families.
2. Stock our supply room! Teachers are always in need of consumable items such as tape, glue sticks, markers, playdoh, tissues (especially in these cooler months), paper towels, batteries (all sizes for toys), etc. If you are interested in purchasing any supplies, stop by our workroom and grab a sticky note or send me an email, and I will let you know if anything is needed!

As always, we thank you for your continued support of the preschool and its efforts to GROW children in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amanda Bazan

Preschool Director
Cell: 252-532-7604
fmcwpreschool@gmail.com

PRAYER GARDEN GUIDELINES

The Prayer Garden was designed and funded by First Methodist members, Frances and Tad Larkin. If possible, the committee will include one or more members of the Larkin-Roebuck family. The committee provides the care and maintenance of the Prayer Garden.

The Prayer Garden is provided as a place for worship, as an invitation to prayer—a quiet place for personal and group meditation. It is not a recreational/play area. It is to be considered and used as a sacred part of the church—an outside sanctuary.

As such, it may be used for weddings, provided the Pastor approves, and the church's official wedding guidelines and policies are followed.

While the Prayer Garden is not to be considered a cemetery in the traditional sense, it may, however, be used for the interment of the cremains of members of First Methodist Church, provided the following rules are observed:

1. It is recommended that the cremains be poured into the ground at designated locations beside the cross.
2. No permanent vessels containing the cremains may be buried in the Prayer Garden. All containers must be quickly biodegradable.
3. No burial markers are to be placed anywhere in the Prayer Garden.
4. No artificial memorial flowers, wreaths, or plants may be placed in the Prayer Garden.
5. The Church will be responsible for providing the Memorial plaque and for keeping the records of the location of the interred cremains.

Those who use the Prayer Garden as a site for cremains interment may make a contribution to:

"The Prayer Garden Maintenance Fund"

Safety & Security Team Update

Several months back, Church Council asked that a committee be formed to look at our safety and security here at FMCW. A committee was formed that includes Rick Amick, Rick Anderson, Ron Branch, Seth Edwards, Stan Friedman, Pastor Ken Hall, Rick Howdy, Walter Jessup, Ken Matveia, Brian McCormick, Charlie Moore and Mark Reames. Members were chosen due to their past experience in providing safety and security to large crowds, military, law enforcement or medical experience. We have had several meetings over the summer and presented Church Council with 10 recommendations for initial improvement that were approved at their July meeting. The recommendations are to be implemented once a Policy and Emergency Action Plan is developed.

1. Provide Evacuation maps for building entries and classrooms.
2. Establish Fire Evacuation Point as follows:
 - a. Wesley Hall Parking lot across from Police Station along Third Street
 - b. Sanctuary Parking lot across from Post Office along Second Street
3. Identify Tornado Shelter areas:
 - a. Wesley Hall Welcome Center area and hallways adjacent to it
 - b. Sanctuary Basement area
4. Medical Response Supplies:
 - a. Wesley Hall AED and Trauma Bag located across from the Welcome Center
 - b. Sanctuary AED and Trauma Bag located in hallway between Sanctuary and Parlor
 - c. First aid kits in Kitchen preschool and child care areas
5. Limit Sunday Service access areas:
Ushers will be stationed at each of the main access points. Other doors will be locked and once service starts all access points will be locked except the Main entry to the service area.
6. Contract for Police Services:
Recommend that the Washington City Police be contracted to supply one officer and patrol car to our parking lot between the hours of 8:30 and 12:30 each Sunday.
7. Preschool and Child Care Boards:
Recommend to each board that they install a coating to their doors and windows that will allow workers to see out, but keep people outside from being able to see inside the classrooms.
8. Sponsor Responsibilities:
Develop a handout for those hosting meetings, activities or outside events of their responsibilities for the safety and security of those they are hosting.
9. Intruder/ Active Shooter on Premise:
Train members on what to do in the event an intruder or active shooter is on the premises.
10. Communicate these safety and security improvements to FMCW membership through various means to keep them informed and educated.

The Safety and Security Policy, once approved by Church Council, will be posted on the church website. Those responsible for taking actions in the event of an emergency will be trained on the Emergency Action Plan. Should you have questions, concerns, or ideas for additional improvements, please contact one of the committee members listed above. Thank you.

Safety & Security Team Update

BOX LUNCHES AVAILABLE

The Circle of Mary and Martha will be offering Box lunches on Sunday, October 27, for The Church Has Left the Building.

Boxes will be sold for \$15 each and must be preordered.

Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center outside Wesley Hall, outside the Sanctuary, or you may contact Shirley Stone at 252-481-2420.

Matthew 25

August 17 Fellowship Meal Report

The Gorgeous Gospel Gals provided a delicious meal of fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Beans, and Fruit. The team included Laura Davis, Brenda Hardy, Kaye Buckman, Kay Alligood, Katherine Davis, Kim Copeland, Jean Ash, Jackie Monroe, Melanie Lewis, and Brenda Singleton.

The Agape Circle provided desserts. Those cutting and wrapping desserts included Cathy Oestreich, Judy Griffin, Kathy Burdi.

Judy Peede brought an inspirational message, and Kay Smithwick played the piano.

Sally Brodie, Missy Deaner, and Kathlene make beautiful flowers arrangements for each table. John Gunnels shared Bibles and prayer requests with our guests. Randell Rasmussen distributed school supplies to 24 children and Kim Copeland gave six Bibles to children who participated in Bible story time.

Diana Tew, Barbara Smith, Missy Deaner, and Kay Smith delivered meals to 22 homebound church members. Eighty Eight meals were served to guests in the Fellowship Hall.
Total meals served on August 17: 110

It is always a privilege to be able to serve our guests with a meal and a loving reminder of our Lord's great love for all of His children. We thank our church family for your faithful support of this ministry. For information about Matthew 25 contact Lorre Bowen at 252-944-6548 or lorrebowl@gmail.com.

September 14 Fellowship Meal Report

On Saturday, September 14, the BathTime cook team provided meals for 63 guests and 17 homebound. The cook team was comprised of Bill and Dale Peele, Tim and Neva Cashion, Seth and Lyda Talley, Lentz and Tricia Stowe and Joan Campbell.

Again, Sally Brodie provided lovely table arrangements of late summer flowers which brightened the tables.

Cutting and wrapping desserts were Cathy Oestreich, Judy Griffin, Kathi Burdi and Barbara Buckalew. The desserts were provided by Ware's Chapel UMC which has been a faithful supporter for several years.

The nurses Wanda Lilly, RN and Sharon Willians, RN were quite busy taking blood pressures.

John Gunnels gave the blessing and was available for personal prayer.

Fellowship Hall Volunteers were, Cathy Oestrich, Kay and Bob Smithwick,, Beth Litchfield, Susan Zachary, Pam Deese, Judy Griffin, Emma Rasmussen, Hazy Murphy, Briseyda Ramirez, Yetsa Juarez De La Cruz, Evelyn Macqueda, Sullivan Howdy, and Ann and Bruce Mears.

The homebound meals were delivered by Diana Tew, Barbara Smith, Missy Deaner and Jane Weaver.

Statistics for the year to date:

Total guests-----722

Homebound deliveries ---189

Cook Team volunteers----61

Other Volunteers-----143

It takes a village to be a blessing and share our thanksgiving ... A community at work.

**Methodist Women
Circle News**

Monday, October 7, 2024
MW Executive Board Meeting
9:30 AM, Asbury Conference Room

Circle Meetings:

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Agape Circle
**9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals
and Child Care Snacks**
7:00 PM, Parlor—Meeting

Circle of Joy
1:00 PM, Asbury Conference Room

Circle of Mary and Martha
**9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals
and Child Care Snacks**
10:00 AM, Asbury Conference Room—Meeting

Tuesday, October 15

Circle of Kind Blessings
12:00 PM, Wesley Hall

SONshine Circle
TBD

IT'S TIME TO TALK TURKEY

Matthew 25 ministry will host the annual Christmas dinner for our guests on Saturday, December 14. Roast turkey and all the traditional sides will be served to approximately 120 guests and we will deliver meals to homebound church members.

We need 14 turkeys. Please prayerfully consider donating a frozen turkey (14-16 pounds) to help us make this special occasion a blessing.

If you are willing to donate a turkey and/or you would like more details about our plans you may contact Lorre Bowen at 252-944-6548 or lorrebowl@gmail.com by November 18.

Thank you in advance, and God bless you for your generosity.

Global Methodist Provisional Annual Conference

The Global Methodists convened for their first annual conference in Winston Salem in June of this year. Though I agreed to fulfill my responsibility as your Lay Delegate and attend this conference, my heart was not in the going. But when I walked into the auditorium, saw the smiling, loving faces of friends and strangers ...and felt the JOY in that place - God changed my heart. That pervading sense of joy and the historical significance of this gathering settled on me as I began to soak it all in.

I would like to share a few of my memorable moments from the conference.

Bishop Mark Webb spoke to the leadership of the Global movement and in our churches, saying that leadership should point us not to what we want to do or where we want to be, but to what God wants us to be and do. I loved when Bishop Webb explained that each of us has at least one gift given to us by God to grow this church - no role is greater/ no role lesser - each and everyone's gift is needed!

When Vice-President Pro Tempore Kari Howard spoke, my heart rose as she proclaimed "God chose this time for the Global Methodist Church!" I heard the words of a favorite song, "maybe we were made for these days."

Rev. Howard continued by saying that we, as Global Methodists, are going on to perfection to reform the church and spread spiritual holiness throughout the land to save souls! Amen, right?! She challenged us all to use this mission statement to draw in others by bold witness and to build the culture of the Global church from the youngest of the children to the oldest of us - to claim Jesus as our Lord!

President David Banks spoke on the role of the Laity in the Global Church to be in the ministry of the gospel of Christ as we share the gospel of salvation which is available to everyone! He shared an enlightening perspective - that we die moment by moment over our lifetime, yet EVERY moment of our life is an opportunity to tell someone about God. Rev. Banks reminded us that you and I are seeds, scattered for the purpose of God. The principal of life is embedded in that seed - it is life giving! The way we parent, friend, neighbor, shop with strangers, work as employees or live as retirees - in every moment and every action we all have the power of life within us and the ability to boldly minister to others in Jesus Name. He urged us all, as Laity, to own the call of God's work which has been laid upon us as we are all called to discipleship.

The final note that I wrote down from Rev. Banks' talk was so profound to me. I think of this often as I look out over my church family on Sunday mornings. He reminded us of God's words, "If you will be my people, I will be your God". We have responded as a new church - You are our God! And He has provided. Amen and amen.

Dale Powell Peele

Family Night Dinner Menus

- 10/2/24 Ham Pasta with Cornbread, Baked Apples, Turkey and Cheese Sliders, Dessert
- 10/9/24 Tacos, Chips & Salsa, Spanish Rice, Mixed Green Salad, Dessert
- 10/16/24 Marinated Pork Tenderloin, Cheesy Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert
- 10/23/24 Individual BBQ Meatloaves, Hash Brown Potato Casserole, Stewed Apples, Rolls, Dessert
Kids: Pizza Slices
- 10/30/24 Chicken & Pastry, Sweet Potatoes, Roasted Cabbage, Cornbread, Dessert
Kids: Chicken Tenders or Nuggets

Youth Ministry

Youth had such a great kick off in September. We started The Gospel Project in Sunday School, where over the next three years we will study our way through the entire Bible. There were some lively discussions about Adam and Eve and the original sin. There certainly were some imaginative views on what the Ark looked like, how big it was and what it must have felt like to be there with all those animals (worse than a locker room). I think the youth are looking forward to continuing our studies and learning about the trials of Job and then God's covenant with Abraham. Be asking your youth about their take home sheet titled, Family Experience that your family can use to continue the conversation at home!

Wednesday night youth started on September 11 and youth are working the Case for Faith book by Lee Strobel, there is still plenty of time for your youth to join in. We will be using the book up through October 23. We invite all the youth and their families to join the Family Pumpkin Decorating contest on Wednesday October 30. We are planning some other fun Wednesday night studies in addition to continuing our monthly fun activity.

Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday, October 20 - Movie Afternoon - God's Not Dead from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the church

Sunday, November 24, Friendsgiving - in the Fellowship Hall - youth to bring a favorite desert or side dish and a game to play

Sunday, December 8 - Youth Progressive Dinner - from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - More info to come

Saturday, January 11 - Youth fix and serve meal for Matthew 25 - be at the church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

There are lots of other opportunities for the youth to participate in the life of the church like helping in the nursery, with children's church, or in the A/V booth on Sundays, leading praise and prayer, ushering, etc. Please contact me if your youth would like to get plugged in one of these areas of ministry!

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.
Ephesians 3:17 ESV

Blessings,

Sarah Beth

Library News

October 7, 2023 Israel, was attacked. Many people risked their lives to stand for Israel and rescue hostages. Do we take risks? Ben Carson in his book, TAKE THE RISK, causes us to examine our lives and how we can use our God-given gifts to help others. In his book he explains why he thinks God put us on earth. Visit your church library!

Delane Fuquay

Church Librarian

Children's Ministry

Our children's ministry has had such a busy month in September, and October promises to be filled with opportunities, too. In September, our Wednesday evening programming started back, and our children are working the case in the kid's version of "Case for Faith." On our first Wednesday evening we had nine children who had great fun participating in the family style games we had and then heading to class. The children are split up in a Kindergarten to 2nd grade class and a 3rd grade to 5th grade class. Please be in prayer as we work through our six weeks of working on the Case for Faith.

Go ahead and mark on your calendar **Wednesday, October 30**, where we will have a Family Pumpkin Carving Night. Be on the look out for a sign-up sheet upstairs on the blue bulletin board, at the Welcome Center and outside the Sanctuary the first week of October to sign up for a pumpkin. Please sign up and we will provide the pumpkins!

In Sunday School our children's ministry started the Gospel Project, and we started at the very beginning in Genesis with creation, Noah and the Ark, The tower of Babel. There is a video that goes with each week and fun activities that the children are enjoying. Parents, please be on the lookout each Sunday for an activity sheet that has a QR code each week that you can scan to get follow up information for you to continue the conversation at home.

Christmas is right around the corner, and we will be doing our Christmas Play but this year we are going to have the play the Sunday before Christmas instead of Christmas Eve. This will allow families who usually travel on Christmas Eve to participate and maybe a few more family members from out of town to join us too! Be on the lookout for the announcement, but we anticipate play practice to start on Sunday, November 3, 10:45 am to 11:30 am in Wesley Hall. The children will start in Sunday School and then come down for practice!

There are so many opportunities for our families to be involved and learning in Christ. I pray that you will join us for as many things as are possible!

Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from him. Psalm 127: 3

Blessings,

Sarah Beth

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November "Lamp lighter"
is **October 14, 2024**