

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 11

Issue 9

September 2023

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

*Carpe Diem...Seize the Day...*

*John 10: 1-10* (Key Verse:10) Common English Bible, CEB

Just this morning in a conversation I found myself saying, "I can't believe it is already September." It is hard to believe the kids are back at school and summer vacation is now a memory instead of something to look forward to. Where does it go? Now time and attention start moving toward finishing out the year: reports, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc. Then the next thing you know it will be like Wow! Where did the holidays go?

*1 Peter 1:24, Psalm 103, Isaiah 40, James*, and other places in Scripture remind us how quickly life, moments in life, time goes by; being that humans are like grass that grows and withers away. But Jesus tells us as the Good Shepherd, he has given His life that we may have life abundantly and that we may live it to the fullest. This means not living it with just worldly pleasures in mind, but truly enjoying the blessings of a new day enjoying God's grace, and sharing God's grace, living a life of giving not receiving, making each moment count with our loved ones and even those we disagree with. Seize the day. Seize what God has given and give it to all the world.

Like the country musician Randy Travis stated (*Three Wooden Crosses* by Doug Johnson / Kim Williams (2002)), "It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, it's what you leave behind you when you go." We should seize the day, live abundantly while taking hold of God's blessings and live to the fullest, getting the most out of our precious God-given days.

Blessings of Grace and Peace to 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.*

#### Pastor

Rev. Joseph Fulk, III  
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#### Church Office

Robin Bunton  
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#### Organist

Jane Reddick

#### Pianist

Laura Cranfill

#### Child Care Director

Erica Shanahan  
336-674-9879

#### Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

#### Webmaster

Kylie Russell



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share>

Visit our Website at  
[bethlehemumc.org](http://bethlehemumc.org)

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## Budget Results for July 2023

\$502,732.26 Total Budget Money Available July 1, 2023  
+ 32,625.95 Money Received in July  
- 24,202.15 Money Spent in July  
\$511,156.06 Money Available July 31, 2023

For the month of July, 2023, the Church Budget received \$8,423.80 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$56,412.47 more than it spent.

**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.

\$74,626.71 MM&RF Money Available July 31, 2023

**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	\$ 882.70
Food Pantry	\$ 1,663.22	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,686.48	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 19,829.45
UMYF	\$24,297.13	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,206.77	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 31,161.33
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History/\$107AltarFlowers)	\$ 907.00	Choir Fund	\$ 196.26
		Flowers	\$ 261.50
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92	Camp Meeting Fund	\$ 1,155.00
Church Sign	\$ 500.00	Pastor Appreciation	\$ 300.00

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available July 31, 2023 \$91,034.00

## \$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 principal (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principal 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.

## \$57,085.58 **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



## BIBLES & BISCUITS Men's Bible Study



Pastor Joseph leads this study.  
All men in the community are invited!  
It meets the first Saturday of the month at  
8AM at Climax Fire Station #35.



## CHURCH OFFICE

Here are a few reminders from the Church Office:

- **REMINDER...THE CHURCH OFFICE & BETHLEHEM CHILD CARE** will be closed on Mon., Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day. *(Robin will be out of the office on Thurs., Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> through Mon., Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. She will return on Tues., Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>.)*
- The deadline for the October newsletter is **Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please send your items via email to [bethumclimax@gmail.com](mailto:bethumclimax@gmail.com) When possible, please send your materials as word documents. If you submit your materials in written/typed form, they will have to be retyped ... and if corrections/changes need to be made, there is no guarantee your original idea(s) will be duplicated. If you have questions, please call the office.
- Also, a reminder - Pastor Joseph holds a planning meeting with church-paid staff on the last Monday of the month. Please keep in mind that Robin will be away from the Church Office during this time. **(The September meeting is Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.)**

Thank you all for everything you do!

Blessings, Robin



## JUNIOR YOUTH

**A NEW YOUTH GROUP** – Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Our first meeting will be a Pizza Party Kickoff on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in FH. Any questions contact Deena King (336) 302-5644.



## A Christ-Centered Grief Recovery Support Group

**Begins Tues., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2-4PM (Classroom TBA)**

Have you recently lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend? You have probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have questions about things you have never faced before. I, and many others, understand and would like to reach out to offer support through GriefShare.

### What is GriefShare?

GriefShare is a thirteen-week program, focused on helping individuals learn how to understand their grief and move forward again. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements:

#### Video Seminar with Experts:

Each week your GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an interesting-to-watch television magazine format featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies, dramatic reenactments, and on-location video.

The video can be viewed at the group site, or online.

#### Support Group Discussion with Focus:

After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.

#### Workbook-based Personal Study and Reflection:

During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out your emotions through journaling. Your group will spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study. Participants are welcome to join the group at any time. If you miss a session, you will be able to "make it up" during the next 13-week cycle. For more information on GriefShare, contact Pastor Joseph at (336) 674-0155. Our lives and world know darkness, but the light of Christ dispels darkness and empowers us to walk in the light of Jesus. **There are no charges associated with this event.**

For more information on GriefShare, please contact Gail Williams at (336) 314-1668.





**SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING IS Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> (10AM – noon, FH.)** This is training for all who work with children and vulnerable adults.

For more information on this event, please call the church office.



**NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR GRADES 2 – 5**



Did you know that we're starting a new Sunday School Class here on September 3<sup>rd</sup>? That's right, all new! We're going to be meeting upstairs in Room 220 beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 with our new teachers Ms. Debbie Waugh and Mrs. Sandie Harris. We do hope you'll come and join us; just bring a smile and a good attitude. We plan to study our Bibles, play games, learn about God and each other, dance, sing, do crafts, and who knows? Maybe we'll take some nature walks or fields trips once in a while. Hope to see you there!



**CHURCH PICNIC – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** right after worship, **Hagan Stone, Shelter #5.** Bring a covered dish. Lots of fun & fellowship - Bingo w/prizes, corn hole, horseshoes & volleyball. Games for all ages. Questions - Deena King (336) 302-5644.



**Children's Shoe Drive:** The Roots to Branches Sunday School class would like to start an ongoing children's shoe closet to meet the needs of students in our local elementary / middle schools. If you would like to donate NEW, children's sized shoes - please contact The Roots to Branches Class or Kylie Russell.



**EXERCISE CLASS**

Taught by Lauren Haywood in BUMC's FH each Wed. from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Open to all fitness levels. Includes dance, strength training, stretching, & all exercises can be done from a chair if needed. Bring water, light weights, & a yoga mat/towel. \$5 per class or \$20 /5 classes. Questions – contact Lauren 336-686-4192 or [laurenmstarr22@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmstarr22@gmail.com)



**RECYCLE FOAM:**

**An Easy Way to Help Keep God's World Beautiful**

Throwing your styrofoam containers and packaging in the garbage? STOP! That does get rid of it for YOU but it fills up the dump sooo much sooner than needs to happen and that will end up being a greater expense to taxpayers in the end.

Alternative: **Recycle the foam.** Let it do some good. Bring it to church (BUMC) and drop it off in the box labeled **"Styrofoam"** in the conference room. Lois Bazhaw will collect it and take it to a recycling center in Greensboro. At the recycling center, the foam will go through a desification process that produces ingots that are in used in a variety of useful products, such as picture frames and moldings.

For more information: Call Lois Bazhaw at (336) 549-0621 or visit these websites to get a better understanding about recycling foam and what the donated foam can do to help others.

<https://www.recyclingfoam.com/>

<https://www.tinyhousesgreensboro.com/>



**COMING NEXT MONTH ...**

**43rd Annual Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk**

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

**1921 W. Gate City Blvd., Greensboro**

**Registration and Entertainment: 1:30pm**

**Walk Begins: 2:30pm**

**Satellite location: Southeast Area Walk –**

**Registration: 1:30pm, Walk 2:00pm**

**Community in Christ Presbyterian Church**

**5401 Liberty Rd., Greensboro, NC**

**Contact Karen Lauder @ 336-495-1253**

**or [karen@deepspringsllc.com](mailto:karen@deepspringsllc.com)**

**if you would like to join BUMC's team or be a sponsor.**

**Make checks payable to "CROP Walk."**

**For more info visit**

**<https://greatergreensborocropwalk.org/>**



**Those in Need of Prayer:**

Gale Berke  
 Cory Fields  
 Kelsey Garrett  
 Todd Garrett  
 Lorrie Roth  
 Francis Snow  
 Frank & Julia Willis  
 Our Homebound & Shut-ins



**Memorials & Honorariums**

*Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts have been made in memory/honor as listed. BUMC gratefully acknowledges each gift received.*

**MEMORIALS**

In Memory of **Douglas Bowman**  
 By Elaine Bowman

In Memory of **Raymond & Peggy Bowman**  
 By Gale Berke

In Memory of **John & Roxie Coble**  
 By Carol Williams

In Memory of **Betty Hull**  
 By Arlene Stokes Circle  
 By Gale Berke & Tony Bowman  
 By Buddy & Judy Fields  
 By Lucille M. Frattaroli & Michael  
 By Phala Garrett  
 By Jerry & Karon Monnett  
 By Evonne Parks  
 By Margaret Royal  
 By Jane Williams  
 By Frank & Julia Willis

In Memory of **Guy & Ruth Reynolds**  
 By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Bobby Tew**  
 By Paul W. Baughman, Jr.

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

**HONORARIUMS**

In Honor of **Louise Bowman**  
 By Darlene Coble

In Honor of **Todd Garrett** (30 Years of Military Service)  
 By Jane Williams



**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  
 9/26 Francis Snow  
 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

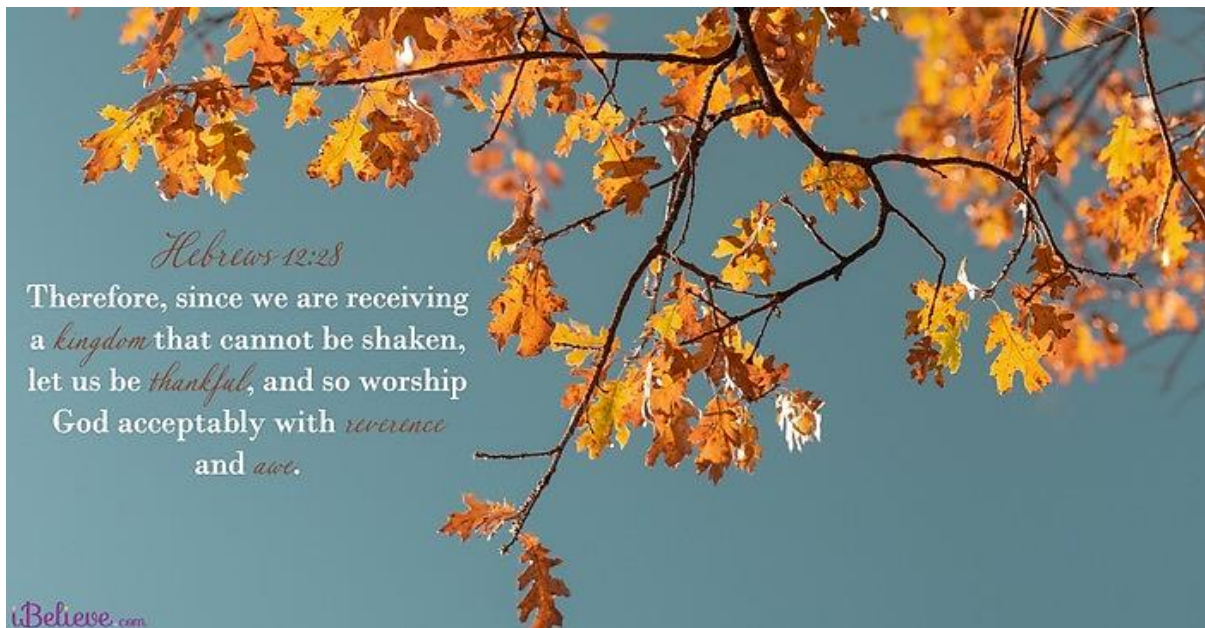







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Climax, NC 27233

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 <b>8AM Bibles &amp; Biscuits</b> (@ Climax Fire Stat. #35)
<b>3 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Peanut Butter &amp; Oatmeal Sunday</b> 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM Youth (Youth Rm.)	<b>4 Labor Day</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>CHILD CARE CLOSED</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>5</b> 10AM StoryTime (Library)	<b>6</b> Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Child Care Board (Sunshine Rm.) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.) 7:30PM Finance (Parlor)	<b>7</b> 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)  4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)  7PM Trustees (FH)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Grandparents' Day</b> 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship  5PM Youth (Youth Rm.) 5PM Jr. Youth Kick-Off & Pizza Party (FH & Kit.)	<b>11</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>12</b> 10AM StoryTime (Library) <b>9-1PM FH &amp; Kit in use</b> (Friendly Club Prep) 11AM Friendly Club (FH) 2-4PM GriefShare (Rm. to be announced)	<b>13</b> 9:30-10:30AM Book Mobile @ Child Care (Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.)  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Nominations (Parlor) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> ~3-7PM Sanctuary in use/Fam Event	<b>16</b> 10AM – 12PM Safe Sanctuary Training (FH/Kitchen in Use)
<b>17 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship ~12:15PM Picnic at Hagan Stone, Shelter #5 5PM Youth (Youth Rm.)	<b>18</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>19</b> 10AM StoryTime (Library)  2-4PM GriefShare (Rm. to be announced)	<b>20</b>  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	<b>21</b> 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)  4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)	<b>22</b>	<b>23 Autumn Begins</b>  
<b>24 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 12:30-3PM Hackett Reunion (FH & Kit.) 5PM Youth (Youth Rm.)	<b>25</b> 10AM Admin [Paid] Staff Meeting (Parlor) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young-at-Heart Rm.)  Walking Group (Time Varies)	<b>26</b> 10AM StoryTime (Library)  2-4PM GriefShare (Rm. to be announced)	<b>27</b> <b>Wonderful Wednesday</b> (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)  Bus in Use	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

**GREETERS:**  
 9/3 Dale & Gloria Austin  
 9/10 OPEN  
 9/17 OPEN  
 9/24 OPEN

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**  
 9/3 OPEN  
 9/10 OPEN  
 9/17 OPEN  
 9/24 Caleb & Kristen Windsor

**ACOLYTES:**  
 9/3 Maysa Downing  
 9/10 Braxton Wall  
 9/17 Quart Fulk  
 9/24 Bradon Allen

**SEPTEMBER USHERS:**  
 David Allen  
 Byron Dahl  
 Doug Garrett  
 Desi Williams

**September Opener:**  
 Dale Austin  
  
**September Closer:**  
 Denny Spencer

**NOTES:** Coming up in October... World Communion Sunday (10/2); Pastor Appreciation Sunday (10/8); Brunswick Stew & Bake Sale (10/7); CROP Walk (10/8)