

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 4

April 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

We have all heard the rhyme, "April showers bring May flowers." And it reminds me that not all seasons are enjoyed, and for some, seasons are even disliked (even enough for Elaine to mark March 19, 2024, on the calendar on December 21, 2023). Granted, some seasons are hard to get through and some seasons just do not last long enough. But...both things speak of hope. Hope?

As Easter people, we see and know that Jesus faced the season of death (on the cross for you and me so we may be freed of our sin), but in that, a new season, through God's unconditional LOVE, one of hope because there was resurrection and new life. In these poetic words found in God's Word, it too speaks by the power of the Holy Spirit, that there are many forms of seasons, some enjoyed, others, not so much, but we are given hope because a new season will come and the season we are in, will pass. It, for me, is like having something to look forward to so to make it through to where I am headed. This hope also helps me too in the good seasons to hopefully appreciate more of the season I am in and make the most of it.

The rains of April shall bring beautiful flowers of May.

With Love and Grace and Peace,

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

Visit our Website at

bethlehemumc.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-February 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$516,481.50 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of February 1, 2024,

+ 24,922.05 Money Received in February

- 18,618.10 Money Spent in February

\$522,785.45 Budget's Fund Balance as of February 29, 2024

For the month of February, 2024, the Church Budget received \$6,303.95 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$10,490.32 more than it received.

Designated Gifts

Disaffiliation Loan Repayment—The church council voted unanimously on October 22, 2023, to borrow the money needed to pay our disaffiliation expenses from the Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance. The conference notified us on November 15, 2023, the disaffiliation amount was \$78,485.33.

<\$23,289.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance February 1, 2024

+ 1,000.00 Money Received from Individuals in February

+ 2,025.00 Money Received from Fund Raisers in February

+ _____ Money Received from Other Sources in February

<\$20,264.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance February 29, 2024

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.

\$79,870.31 MM&RF Money Available February 29, 2024

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	\$ 1,274.82	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,101.49	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 18,476.49
MYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,893.47	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 30,798.83
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 2,701.06	Choir Fund	\$ 266.26
(\$800 History, \$1901.06 kitchen))		Flowers	\$ 416.50

Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)\$ 189.92

Brunswick Stew \$ <135.96>

Heifer Collection \$ 50.00

Fundraiser \$ 1,889.00

Misc In/Out (childcare) \$ 26.96

Total Other Designated Gifts \$91,361.60

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of February 29, 2024 \$150,966.96

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

\$60,054.76 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.

2. Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair



Exercise Class Held at Bethlehem Methodist Church

Exercise classes will continue to be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. \$5 per class or \$20 per 5 classes. Questions – Contact Lauren (336) 686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com.

Mondays: Line dancing and yoga classes. Bring a mat or towel and bottled water.

Wednesdays: Modified / low impact dance sculpt. Light weights are optional. Bring a bottled water.



SECRET PAL REVEAL SUNDAY

Students and sponsors part of Bethlehem's Secret Pal Program will do a sponsor reveal on **Sunday, June 9th, 2024** during the 10AM worship service. A reception with snacks will follow in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for students and their secret pals. Any questions please contact Fran Getner at 336-685-2086.



Bethlehem would like to welcome our new administrative assistant, Caitlin Sheppard. Caitlin started working in the office at Bethlehem on March 19th, 2024 and we are blessed to have her join our church community. If you call or come by the church office, we invite you to say hello and introduce yourself as she begins this new position.



60 +
SUPPER
SAVE THE DATE

APRIL
28TH
@ 5PM
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP
AND FUN!





TRUSTEES UPDATE



The new digital church sign installation has been completed!! The members of the trustees would like to thank the church for their patience, contributions, and support throughout this entire project. Additionally, the trustees ask that the sign be used to spread scripture, words of faith, and church calendar events such as fundraisers, blood drives, and ministries to our community. The sign should not be used to share birthdays, anniversaries, or individual family events. If you would like something added to the church sign that is not already incorporated, please contact David Cranfill, the church office, or a member of the trustees for approval / clarification.



ACHOLYTE TRAINING & INVITATION

There will be a brief acholyte meeting following the worship service on **April 14th**. If anyone is interested in becoming an acholyte please plan to attend this meeting or contact Fran Getner at 336-685-2086.

April Word Search

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

aprilfools	butterfly	cleaning	daffodil	galoshes	hyacinth
raincoat	sunshine	umbrella	bunnies	flowers	puddles
rainbow	showers	chicks	Easter	garden	spring
storms	tulips	bloom	chick	cross	green
lambs	robin	eggs	nest	rain	



FRIENDLY CLUB APRIL OUTING

Friendly Club will meet on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. Pastor Joseph has graciously agreed to drive our bus so we can enjoy a trip to Whitaker Farms in Climax this meeting. The bus will be **leaving the church at 10:15AM**. Please **arrive before or by 10:00AM** to get on the bus and be seated. Friendly club will enjoy the greenhouses and have lunch at Whitaker's. Sandwiches / salads can be purchased in the price range from \$3 - \$12 at the farm. In order for enough tables and chairs to be set up for the lunch, please be sure to contact Alice Jones at 336-501-8977 or Susan Davis at 336-337-9272 to **RSVP NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, APRIL 2nd**.



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Jim Culbertson

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Rodney Golden

Donald Jacobs

MSGT Ryan Osborne

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 **Doris Kirkman**

By David & Ronda Robb

By Gene & Vickie Flinchum

By Jennifer & Sam Pugh

By Jim Smith

By Jane Chamelin

By Kevin & Kim Gunter

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**

By Bob Weatherly (x2)

In Memory of **Brenda, Roy, & Ray Allred**

By Evonne Parks

In Memory of **Francis Snow**

By Lois Snow

By Margaret Royal

By Gene and Vickie Flinchum

By Jane Williams

By Sandy & Jeanette Gann

By Jane Chamelin

By Wayne & Shelia Moser

In Memory of **Papaw Earl**

By Maysa Downing

In Memory of **Wanda McClintock**

By Gene & Vickie Flinchum

In Memory of **Ruby Hockett**

By Jerry & Karen Monnett

In Memory of **Clem Royal**

By Margaret Royal



HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Gloria Austin**

By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Jane Reddick**

By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Lucille McClintock's Birthday**

By Angie & Dale Routh

By Wes and Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Lois Snow**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Wayne & Phyllis Alley**

By Wayne & Sheila Moser





April


4/1 Phyllis Alley
Jeff Neelley
4/2 Madigan Downing
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 (Alice's son)
4/11 Louise Bowman
4/12 Frances Jean Fields
4/13 Christopher Bass
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 Lowe
5/8 Tim Parrish
5/9 Jana Fields
John Holder
Shirley Kinne
Barry Norris
Alan Wilkinson
5/13 Jeanne Suggs
5/15 Anna-Grace Fulk
5/16 Kelly Fields
5/17 Caleb Windsor
5/19 Kelsea Owens
5/20 James Evans
5/22 Eutha Bowman
Nancy Golden
Brittany Ingold
Taylor Martin
5/26 Adam Garrett
Todd Ingold
Joy Massarelli
Lowell Suggs
5/27 Faye Fields
Debbie Waugh
Londa Parks
5/28 Gilbert Suggs
5/29 Christal Owens
Karen Barbone
5/31 Mike Hinshaw



April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Easter Monday Church Office Closed Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	2 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	3 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	4 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees (FH)	5	6 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35
7 2nd Sunday of Easter Communion Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday Heifer Offering Received 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Jr. Youth (Jr. Youth Room) 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)	8 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	9 10AM StoryTime (Lib.) 10:15AM Friendly Club Trip to Whitakers  Bus in Use	10 9:30-10:30AM Bookmobile (Childcare) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Childcare Brd (Sunshn Rm) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	11	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Rm.)	15 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	16 10AM StoryTime (Lib)	17 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	18 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	19	20
21 4th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Bulletin Begins Noisy Offering 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Jr. Youth (Jr. Youth Room) 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young-at-Heart) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise	23 10AM StoryTime (Lib.) 1PM – 7PM Blood Drive (FH)	24 Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM)  Bus in Use Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	25	26	27
28 5th Sunday of Easter 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 60+ Supper @ 5PM (FH) 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)	29 10AM (Paid) Staff Planning Meeting (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	30 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)	1 May Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)	2 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees (FH)	3	4 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35

GREETERS:

4/7 Debbie Waugh
4/14 Open
4/21 Open
4/28 Open

ALTAR FLOWERS:

4/7 Jay & Sherri Bowman
4/14 Open
4/21 Open
4/28 Open

ACOLYTES:

3/3 Ashton Allen
3/10 Maysa Downing
3/17 Braxton Wall
3/24 Quart Fulk

USHERS:

David Fields
Todd Garrett
Bud Lauder
Barry Norris

APRIL OPENER:

Jerry Monnett

APRIL CLOSER:

Greg Wicker

Notes: _____

Bethlehem Methodist Church
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