



bethlehem
united methodist church
GROWING DEEPER • REACHING FURTHER

May 2013

the orchard

fruit from the life of
bethlehem church

Old Fashioned Values

“When I was a kid...” I can hear my children groan out loud from where they are this very minute, as I speak those words out loud. When I want to make a point with my children, I will start in with some kind of lesson like “when I was a kid, I had to mow the grass with a push lawn mower that didn’t have a motor” or “when I was a kid, we weren’t allowed to go to the movies without a chaperone” or “when I was a kid, I had to wash the dishes by hand!”. My “when I was a kid” stories are all true. I sometimes think back what it was like to grow up in a time when we sat on the front porch and talked, when we played king of mountain on a dirt hill, when we had a long list of chores because hard work was good for you. Oh yeah, I could go on with my “when I was a kid” stories for some length of time. My children can tell you many of those stories and they have learned something from me and from the way I was raised. To be honest, I think that the way I was raised has been good for the way that they have been raised.

When I think about what it was like “back then”, I also have to admit, I am thankful today for a dishwasher where I load the dishes and press a button. I am thankful that there are lawn mowers today that you can sit on. I am grateful that today I know where my children are at any given moment because I can call them on a phone they have in their pocket. There have been some major improvements in society. Things have really changed since I was a kid. Some of these changes are really good, like medical and science knowledge.

However, there are some things that have recently changed that I yearn for them to be like it was when I was a kid. Just call me old. Or old fashioned. But I yearn for the days when you could borrow money or a cup of sugar from a neighbor and all that was required was a handshake. I yearn for “Yes Ma’am” and “Yes Sir.”

I yearn for simple pleasures of life like looking for four leaf clovers or calling in the cows, that were all the way over on the other side of the pasture, by sitting on the fence and yelling “Mooooo” with my brother. I yearn to sleep without locking my doors, closing my windows and setting a security alarm. I yearn for the days when Jesus was the center of our society and church was the center of life and community. I yearn for Sundays where you couldn’t buy gas or go to work. I yearn for the church to be the center of the community and took priority over everything in our lives. I yearn for Sunday mornings where pews were packed and kids learned every book of the Bible and enjoyed, yes enjoyed like a ball game, competing in Bible drills.

As I have thought about the changes from back then to now, there are some things I don’t want to go back to, like washing dishes by hand (although I cherish the serenity of standing at a sink with my hands in warm dish water but it is not something I want to do every day). There are some things I think we need to get back to though. Some old fashioned values. Like the church being the center of the community. Like Jesus being the center of society. As your pastor, I want to make sure that Bethlehem offers you many opportunities to make church the center of your life. Several of us on staff and in leadership here have talked about developing a Wednesday night ministry this coming fall where a community meal and ministries for all ages are offered. Would you come on Wednesday night to eat a meal together and participate in study, mission, or small groups together? We haven’t worked out the logistics or developed the details. Pastor Matt will be in charge of creating this space for us to be in fellowship and discipleship together. Pastor Matt will be working on getting small groups started as well, maybe on Wednesdays but probably also at another time of the week. Let us know what you think about this or other things you can suggest that will help your walk with Jesus.

I want our kids today to look back when they are old like me and say things like “when I was a kid, I went to church all the time and it was great!”, “when I was a kid, I knew I was loved by my family at church”, “when I was a kid, I gave my life to Jesus”. I have no doubt that they will be able to say these things when they are old, if we all live a Christ and church centered life.

Getting older everyday and loving it,
Pastor Lynda



Join the Green Team

Bethlehem is going green, and we need your help! Whether you'd like to join the team itself or just have an idea to share about how we as a faith community can become more environmentally responsible, we want to hear from you! Working together, we can model for our children and our surrounding community a more

sustainable way of life on God's earth. Contact Matt to get involved, to share your ideas or simply to learn more.



Gardeners Needed

By now you've probably seen that the community garden is well underway! Just several weeks ago fifteen plots were tilled and, to date, seven have been claimed. We celebrate that the new land is already being put to use in ways that will significantly impact the lives of people in our local community. However, eight plots remain

unclaimed, just waiting for seeds to fall on their good soil. Plots left unclaimed by May 1 will be claimed by the Bethlehem community, which means we'll need volunteers to weed, plant, water and harvest the garden as we work together to grow fresh veggies for our local community. If you'd like to get involved at any stage, please contact Matt.

Welcome



WELCOME! Ashley Douglas, as our Summer Duke Pastor. She will be with us from May 25 – Aug. 4. We look forward to working with Ashley and learning from her.

NOTES FROM PASTOR MATT: The Journey of Faith Development

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:11-12)

What is faith? Have you ever thought about that? Some say that faith is belief in and loyalty to God. Some say it's belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion. Still others tell us that faith is firm belief in something for which there is no proof.

Personally, I prefer William Sloane Coffin's definition: Faith is not believing without proof but trusting without reservation.

While it's probably safe to say that each of us define faith in slightly different ways, there's at least one aspect of faith that I hope we all recognize—that faith is not static, but develops over time. I think we all know this on one level. We know, for instance, that a child's faith perspective is very different from an adult's. This, of course, is because an adult's faith develops over time. It's really no different than any other area of human development: just as we humans develop physically and emotionally and psychologically over time, we also grow and develop in the life of faith.

But here's the catch: faith development doesn't just happen; rather, it takes work—hard work! Just as a marathon runner has to work at developing his or her physical endurance, we have to work at developing our faith.

It was James Fowler who, in 1981, mapped the pattern of development that takes place in a person's faith experience. Fowler's *Stages of Faith* identified six distinct faith "stages" in the human faith journey. But the shocking claim of Fowler's groundbreaking study was that the vast majority of human beings never progress beyond stage 3! I think of Fowler's study often, as it helps me to retrace my own faith journey. It also helps me to understand better the transitions I have yet to make in my personal life of faith. And sometimes that's a scary thought for me, because, frankly, I like my faith just the way it is.

But Fowler reminds me, as does Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, that the Spirit of God always holds open new possibilities for each of us who have dared to embark on this mysterious journey of faith. And a *journey* it is!

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES OF SERVICE



NEW PROPERTY WORK DAY! Mark your Calendars for **Saturday, May 4th** to come help clear and clean the new property. Bring chain saws, rakes, any equipment that would be useful for this project. Everyone welcomed and needed!!

NEW LIBRARY: Samaritan International is having a children's book collection to help start a library in Nicaragua. Please give gently used books that your children have outgrown or purchase books for this library. A box will be in the church fellowship hall to collect the books.

ADULT INFORMATION

THE BEST YEARS GROUP will go to the JAARS Center in Waxhaw on May 15, 2013 for a tour of their facility at 9:30 am. They plan to eat lunch there after the tour and visit the museum. Please contact Carolyn Starnes if you plan to go. They will leave the church at 9:00 am.

BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS: Please remember that blood pressure readings are taken on the second Sunday of each month. This month it will be **May 12 at 9:45 am in the Library.**

FELLOWSHIP TIME HELP NEEDED: If you would like to serve refreshments for a single Sunday or from time to time after the 8:30 am worship service during our Fellowship Time, please contact Tammy Belk at 04-764-9587 or 704-242-1445.

SPECIAL THANKS: Thank you to my Bethlehem family for the cards, well wishes and honorariums given honoring my 90th birthday. I so appreciated all of these acts of kindness and love.

Arlin Mosley

CHILDREN/YOUTH NEWS

End of Year Celebration: The Bible Buddies and Club 54 will end their wonderful year of Bible study on **May 19** at the Bethlehem Ballfield. Watch the church bulletin and eletters for details on time and activities.



Confirmation Sunday May 19 at 8:30 am

Come celebration the Confirmation of the following youth into full membership of Bethlehem.

Sarah Harkins Lauren Helms Michael Laton Dillon Smith



GRADUATION: If you have a High School or College graduate in your immediate family, please contact Tanya Jones or Jenifer Setliff to let them know by May 19.

They also ask that you provide 4 pictures of your graduate that will be used on the screen and a list of where the graduate is graduating from and

future plans. Graduation Sunday is June 2.

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

- ❖ Camp Tekoa for Club 54: June 12 – 16
- ❖ Day Camp at the campground: June 24 – 27
- ❖ Preschool Summer Camp: July 8 - 12
- ❖ High School Mission Trip to Asheville: July 14 – 20
- ❖ Middle School Mission Trip to Charlotte: July 28 – August 2
- ❖ Vacation Bible School: Aug. 2 – 4

THANK YOU

Many thanks to my Bethlehem Family for all your love and concern shown to me during my recent hip injury and therapy at White Oak. The food, cards, visits and especially your prayers were so appreciated.

Much Love, Mildred Cook

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for every act of kindness shown to me, my brother, David, and his wife, Eileen, these past two years during their difficult and tragic health problems. Sadly, David passed away in March. Your love and support gave me so much comfort during this time as it continues to do. The many cards, phone calls, visits, food, memorials and especially your prayers meant so much to me.

David never attended Bethlehem but in your caring way you reached out to him and he fell in love with our church people. I thank God for all of you and I thank all of you for the love and concern you have shown both of us.

With love and gratitude,
Terry Richardson

Thank you, Bethlehem UMC, for the cards, prayers, and visits during my recent stay in the hospital.

Love, Catherine Carter Austin

(Letter received from Brookes-Howell Home)

Dear Ladies of the Care and Share Circle,

It is my sad duty to notify you that Faye Hackney-Lance, your adopted resident from Brooks-Howell Home, has passed away on Friday, March 22nd. Her memorial service was held at Brooks – Howell on April 1 and a graveside service was held at Bethel UMC in Morganton.

Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness to Faye and your support of Brookes-Howell Home.

Sincerely, Tracey Owen

BETHLEHEM PRESCHOOL



2012-13 Preschool Graduates

Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Johnson's Class

Walker Coggins, son of Audrey Coggins & Josh Coggins
Jackson Fleischhauer, son of Lindsey and Dave Fleischhauer
Nickolas Fleishhauer, son of Lindsey and Dave Fleischhauer
Van Helms, son of Neva and Matthew Helms
Serenity Johnston, daughter of Jessica and Eric Johnston
Cora Medlin, daughter of Lydia and Michael Medlin
Madison Owen, daughter of Michelle and Eric Owen
Michael Scaletta, son of Liz and John Scaletta
Cody Sistare, son of Lindsey and Brent Sistare
Mason Stamey, son of Erica and John Stamey
Caden Steffler, son of Shannon and Nick Steffler

Mrs. Belk and Mrs. McComb's Class

Julia Ballard, daughter of Whitney and Brian Ballard
John Bradley, son of Ashley and Chris Bradley
Lindsey Dean, daughter of Debbie and James Dean
Caleb Hardy, son of Caitlin Hardy and Dennis Hill
Andrew Hodge, son of Lisa and Rick Hodge
Grant Martin, son of Annelies and Tim Kishah and Brandon Martin
Cheyenne McGuirt, daughter of Autumn and Daniel McGuirt
Gavin McManus, son of Beth and Jeremy McManus
Bode McWhorter, son of Heather and Bryan McWhorter
Cameron Nichol, son of Jennifer and Matt Nichol
Ava Shiflett, daughter of Heather and Paul Shiflett
Ian Steiner, son of Anna and Josh Steiner
Zackary Whaley, son of Courtney and Matt Whaley
Kennedy Yeakley, daughter of Lauren Yeakley

Mission Committee



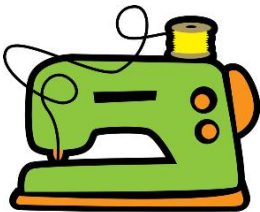
Back Pack Ministry

Remember to bring non-perishable food items for our Back Pack Ministry serving Rocky River Elementary School. Also bring your extra coupons which will be used to help this ministry.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY WHICH IS RUNNING VERY LOW AT THIS TIME AND FOR LOAVES AND FISHES OF UNION COUNTY.

Important Things to Know



Sew and Sows

SEW AND SOWS our Bethlehem Sewing Group meets twice a month on Tuesday morning to sew for others. They have made dresses for children in Africa, pants and skirts for children in Nicaragua, quilts for the homeless, and currently are making blankets for children in crisis situations. They have fun, and work with their hands for the Kingdom of God. If you know how to sew and would like to “sows seeds of love”, come out and join them. If you do not know how to sew, come anyway, there will be something you can do and you will learn a great skill. Contact Grace Goldy (704-764-5958) for more information.

May Sew and Sows Times: May 7 and 21



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Unit Meeting: May 19 at 3 pm

CIRCLES:

Helping Hands: May 13 in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm

Witness and Service Morning: May 14 at 10 am

Willing Workers: May 14 @ 4 pm

Busy Bees: May 9 in the **Fellowship Hall @ 9:30 am**

New Beginning: May 15 at 7 pm

Care & Share: May 19 following unit meeting

Church Responsibilities for May: Willing Workers: Contact Carolyn Porter

Remember to
bring in Box
Tops for
Education!



Many Thanks to all who helped, contributed to or purchased from the UMW Yard/Bake Sale. The total amount made for the Land Development Fund is \$2,640.61. Thanks for all your efforts and help!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM will meet May 5 for their monthly breakfast meeting at 7:15 am.
All men are invited to attend.



May 5: Pastor Lynda
May 12: Pastor Matt
May 19: Pastor Lynda
May 26: Pastor Lynda

MAY CHURCH VOLUNTEER

Nursery Volunteers:

8:30 am & 11:00 am:

5/5: 8:30: Beverly Liles

5/12: Leslie Kiser and Michelle Owen

5/19: 8:30: Harkin Family 11:00: Patty Liles

5/26: Jennifer Smith

USHERS FOR May: Eric Owen, Nolan Starnes, Mike Busby

GREETERS FOR May: Martha Allen and Jenifer Setliff

ACOLYTES FOR MAY:

8:30 as Service

5-5: Ruby & Mason Piddock

5-12 Charlotte Blackmon & Alyssa Jarvis

5-19: Jordan Connell

5-26: Alec Jarvis & Corbin Laney

11 am Service

Wyatt Dawkins

Carson Starnes

Jillian Strickland

Makayla Owen

“the orchard” MAY 2013 INFORMATION DUE ON OR BEFORE:

May 19

REMEMBER: To Reserve the Fellowship Hall & Family Life Center call the church office. If you have a reunion or event upcoming, be sure to call the office and make sure it is on the calendar.

INFORMATION FOR THE CHURCH BULLETIN: Turn in to church office by Wednesday.

INFORMATION FOR THE SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

SCREEN: Turn in to church office by Thursday

BUS & SOFTBALL FIELD RESERVATIONS: Call the church office

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

GO-YE Club Fund: In Memory Of:

Erica Tyson By:

Genny Courtney
David Mullis By:
James Hill By:

Brady and Phyllis Laney
Brady and Phyllis Laney
Brady and Phyllis Laney

Land Fund: In Memory Of:

Bob Thompson By:

Nancy and Louie Brantley
Genny Courtney
Bill and Barbara Strickland
John H. Robinson
Patricia and Tom Henry
Mary and Mike Mosley
Edith Broome Family

Wesley Fellowship Class
Best Years Group
Reece and Carolyn Starnes
Arlin and Irene Mosley
Mildred Cook
Margaret and Roger Hill
Mary Alice Wilson

Erica Tyson By:

Mary and Mike Mosley
Gene and Sue Brantley
Wayne and Dianne Moser

Mr. & Mrs. Phil Belk
Chris and Mary Witte

David Mullis By:

Mary and Mike Mosley
Sandra and Steve Malkin

Eric, Julia, Tori & Emry Tsitouris
Wayne and Dianne Moser

James Hill By:

Patricia and Tom Henry
Wayne and Dianne Moser

Jane McWhorter

Lori Brantley By:

Mark, Jean, Chance, Krystal Brantley & Casie Wallace

Jenny Mosley By:

Mark, Jean, Chance, Krystal Brantley & Casie Wallace

Hoyett B. and Margaret Starnes By:

Catherine Austin

Harold Phillips By:

Edith Broome Family

Land Fund: In Honor Of:

Arlin Mosley's 90th Birthday By:

Sue and Gene Brantley
Genny Courtney
Mark, Jean, Chance, Krystal Brantley & Casie Wallace
Robert Mosley
Genny Courtney
Jane McWhorter

Patricia and Tom Henry
Reece and Carolyn Starnes
Mary Alice Wilson
Melanie Mosley
Irene Mosley
Doug and Terry Richardson

Mike Eubank Family
Mike and Mary Mosley and Children
Reece Starnes By:
Patti Burris By:
Gene & Sue Brantley By: Mark, Jean, Chance, Krystal Brantley & Casie Wallace
Clamin & Lucy Sanders By: Mark, Jean, Chance, Krystal Brantley & Casie Wallace
Mary Alice Wilson By:
Carolyn and Reece Starnes By:
Dale Walkup By:
Sydney and Lucas Ballard's 8th Birthday By:

Margaret and Roger Hill
The Best Years Group
The Best Years Group
Genny Courtney
Genny Courtney
Genny Courtney
Wayne and Dianne Moser

Youth Fund: In Memory Of:

Erica Tyson By: John and Carrie Isley

Land Development Fund: In Memory Of:

Erica Tyson By:

Kathy and Rick Starnes
Dedrick and Nancy Brown

Mike and Terry Eubank

James Hill By:

Mike and Terry Eubank
David Mullis By:
Bob Thompson By:

Stan and Joyce Pope
Mike and Terry Eubank
Stan and Joyce Pope

Land Development Fund: In Honor Of:

Arlin Mosley's 90th Birthday By:
Larry and Patty Liles By:
Bethlehem UMW By:

Stan and Joyce Pope
Dedrick and Nancy Brown
Karen Totaro

Chancel Choir Fund: In Memory Of:

Seena Little Medlin By: Billy and Trina Tyson

Jamaican School For the Deaf: In Memory Of:

Erica Tyson By: Tom and Linda Ducombs

INFORMATION

FINANCE REPORT THROUGH THE WEEK OF April 21, 2013

NEEDED EACH WEEK:	\$7,223
AVERAGE RECEIVED PAST 16 WEEKS	\$7,089
BUDGET NEEDED PAST 16 WEEKS	\$115,568
BUDGET RECEIVED PAST 16 WEEKS	\$115,326
AHEAD/(BEHIND) BUDGET PAST 16 WEEKS	(\$242.)

ATTENDANCE REPORT THROUGH April 21, 2013

Date	8:30 am	11:00 am	Total Worship
3/31	188	89	277
4/7	148	73	221
4/14	144	83	227
4/21	172	72	244
Average attendance for 2013: 229			

Contact Information

5300 Nesbit Road, Waxhaw, NC 28173
Phone: 704-764-3602 Fax: 704-764-9020
Lynda's Mobile: 704-290-9959
www.bethlehemchurchonline.org.

Pastor: Rev. Lynda Ferguson: lynda@bethlehemchurchonline.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Matthew Smith: matt@bethlehemchurchonline.org

Admin. Assistant: Ella Barefoot ella@bethlehemchurchonline.org

Preschool Director: Ashley Blackmon ashley@bethlehemchurchonline.org

Church Office Hours: M – Th. 9 am – 5 pm; Fri. 9 am - noon

STAY HEALTHY

YOGA CLASS: Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Donna Helms for more information.



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

1. Tara Ballard
Dana Laney
2. Ed Moss
Stan Pope
Audrey Tyson
3. Corbin Laney
5. Brooke Griffin
6. Bradley Walkup
7. Taylor Starnes
M/M Alan Tyson
M/M Mark Tyson
8. Tom Henry
10. Alice Mabe
Kaleb Hawfield
11. Ava Shiflett
12. Tom Ducombs
13. Creola Starnes
Mark Tyson
M/M Anthony Helms
14. M/M Dedrick Brown
15. Sydney Ballard
Lucas Ballard
17. Trenton McWhorter
18. Jillian Strickland
Kaylee Baker
19. Jarrett Setliff
Luci Setliff
20. Karen Totaro
21. Chad Laney
23. Bonnie Smith
24. Scott McWhorter
M/M Matt Moore

26. Smitty Helms
Ritchie Walkup
Ryan Walkup
Fred Parot
27. Greg Taylor
Scotty McWhorter
28. Brandon Liles
Jim Morgan
29. Terry Eubank
M/M Steve Malkin
M/M Matthew Bunch
M/M Arlin Mosley



Our Special Members

Ira Lee Starnes (DOB 9-13)
Autumn Care Nursing Home
311 W. Phifer St. Marshville 28103

Mildred Cox (DOB 12/11)
502 Elm St. Marshville, 28103
704-385-5015

Creola Starnes (DOB 5/13)
6417 Lancaster Hwy Waxhaw 28173

Allen Moser
(DOB: 9/25)
5605 Lancaster Hwy Monroe, 28112

Catherine Austin
(DOB: 10/8)
1302 S. Johnson St. Monroe 28112

Helen Faires (DOB: 9/27)
1118 Crestbrook Dr. Charlotte 28221

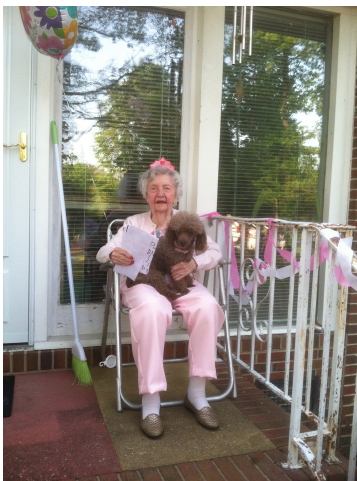
Betty (Kenneth) Starnes (DOB:3/20)
White Oaks of Waxhaw
700 Howie Mine Rd. Waxhaw 28173

Tommie Thompson (DOB: 3/21)
10704 Lancaster Hwy. Waxhaw 28173

Virginia Stikeleather (DOB: 12/28)
Sardis Oaks Nursing Home
5151 Sardis Rd. Room 410-2
Charlotte 28270

Edith Broome (DOB:09/09)
5206 Lancaster Hwy. Monroe, 28112

Fran Dandridge (DOB: 2/19)
Hospice of Union County
700 W. Roosevelt Blvd.
Monroe, 28110



Special Birthday wishes to Mrs. Creola Starnes who will be
101 years old on May 13, 2013!