

Are You a Prophet?

Prophet means spokesman, not fortune-teller. The one whom in their unfathomable audacity the prophets claimed to speak for was the Lord and Creator of the universe. There is no evidence to suggest that anyone ever asked a prophet home for supper more than once. -Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking* (1993), 88

Jesus stood up in his hometown synagogue prophetically reading the scripture from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4: 16 -30) The reaction from the congregation was not applause or praise. Jesus was driven out of town and almost killed. If your teenage son or daughter comes home and announces he or she wants to be a prophet, I strongly encourage you to talk them out of that career.

A few weeks ago, the subject of prophets came up in our Acts Bible study. We had an interesting discussion. Biblical prophets are different from the modern use of this word. They do not see into the future like a fortune-teller. They are proclaiming how God would like to see the future.

The easiest example of a prophet for us to understand is Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his 1963 speech, he said: "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. . . . I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Dr. King was not looking into a crystal ball seeing into the future, nor was he reading in the newspaper that this was the direction our country was heading. He was describing a vision for God's desired future for our nation. We can show examples where we have achieved this dream of racial equality in 2017 and examples where we are still falling short.

continued on page 6 ...



United Methodist
Men's
Pinto Bean Supper

Fri., Oct. 6
5:30 - 8:00

All donations go
to support
mission projects.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UMW	2
Upcoming Events	3
Youth	4
Christmas	5
Memorials	6
Service Opportunities	6

From the UMW ...

Our foremothers left us a legacy of innovative mission and we continue that legacy by being the organization the world needs today.

Until poverty, violence, inequality, racism, preventable deaths cease.

Until women and children are no longer marginalized.

Until we live in a world in which all thrive, Women need to be organized for mission.

In the 21st century, the church and the world need United Methodist Women.

Upcoming Highlights

- **Conference Annual Meeting -**
Held Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 at Lake Junaluska. Barbara will be taking 14 health kits.
- **Bakeless Bake Sale -**
Envelopes will be available in the narthex and in adult Sunday School classes. You don't have to bake! Just put your donation in the envelope and return to a UMW member. Donations are appreciated and will be used for mission work.
- **District Officer Training -**
Nov. 4th at First UMC in North Wilkesboro, registration starts at 9:00; meeting from 9:30-12:00. This training is for local officers.



Thanks to your continued generous giving to the general fund of Bethlehem,

we were able to make a \$500 donation to Power Cross which will be doubled due to the matching grant they have received! Wow!!

*To the Bethlehem UMC Family,
Thank you for your \$500 donation during the matching fund challenge! Thank you for partnering with us to provide free meals, sports equipment, athletic training, transportation, academic supplies, tutoring & support, college prep, clothing, Bible studies, team discipleship, transitional housing and so much more to the young men in our community. Thank you for believing in our boys. Your investment into their lives will pay off in so many ways, now and in the years to come! Thank you for helping to make it all possible.*

The Power Cross Team

Silent Auction for "Aloha Christ"

This beautiful quilt is hanging in Poston Hall. It was created and donated to the Bethlehem United Methodist Women by Laurel Barger Cameron as a fund raiser for missions. The quilt measures 79" x 88".



We are having a silent auction for the quilt. If you would like the opportunity to own this handmade quilt, the rules are as follows: Place your name and a bid higher than the previous bid on the list. The highest bidder at 7:30 p.m. at the Fall Festival on Oct. 31 will be the winner and will need to pay for the quilt. If you have any questions, call Cleeta at 704-528-5108.

NEW ADDRESSES ...

Please note the addresses below for two young men serving in the military. They would enjoy receiving mail from Bethlehem!

Jonathan M. Stone
12247 Crested Butte
Eagle River, AK 99577

Grandson of
Jim & Phyllis Gibson

PV2 William Lester
2610 Deertrail Blvd.
Junction City, KS
66441

Grandson of
Denny & Trudy Peacock

Trunk or Treat

Tuesday, October 31

6:00 - 8:00

Hot Dog supper in Poston Hall

Costumes! Candy! Fun!

Sheriff Deputy will arrive in squad car!



We Need Your Trunk!!!

We would like to have **15** cars participate this year! A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex on Oct. 1. Sign up and decorate your car! It's fun for everyone!!

We Need Candy!!!

Collection boxes are located in the narthex and both kitchens. Thank you for your donations of candy! Wouldn't be Halloween without it!!



NERF FUN
Saturday, Oct. 21
2:00 - 4:00

Bring your Nerf gun and join us in the CLC.



Olin Isenhour has offered to make crosses that can be placed in your yard. If you are interested and would like to have one, please let him know.

Thank you ...

To Bethlehem UMC,

Thank you so much for the amazing meal on our teacher's first week back. Your thoughtfulness and prayers are much appreciated. We are thankful for your partnership.

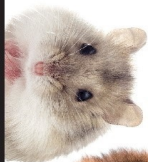
Keely Ward, Celeste Henkel Principal

Thank you so much for your donations to the recent Back to School Bash. With the generous help of people like you, we were able to have a very successful and blessed day! We helped a lot of children and their families, and they were very grateful.

*Thank you again,
The Back to School Bash Committee*

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 8
3:00 pm
Side Yard of Church





The summer went by quickly, school is back in session. We want to update you on our summer. Our Mission trip to Blue Ridge Georgia was amazing. We had 3 youth that had never been on a mission trip and I think they were blessed by the experience. We also thank Tim Roseman and Amy Galliher for being our awesome chaperones. Our week consisted of living in cabins with bunk beds and a community bath/shower; however, we really didn't need showers because it rained about the whole week. Our responsibility was finishing several projects that had already been started by previous groups.

Our first project was for an older couple. The man was a double amputee and lived in a wheelchair. The ramp to his house was already started, but we finished it by putting up a railing and we finished painting their house. We had to deal with the hornet nests that were living where we wanted to paint! We also built and finished two stairways that led out of the back of their house. We had arrived one morning to start working and animals had scattered their trash throughout the yard, so our youth came up with the idea to make a trash can holder out of scrape wood, so the animals couldn't knock the cans down. There was plenty more that we could have done for this couple, but Team Effort had other plans for us. We then headed to a small Baptist Church and painted a Sunday School Classroom and also made the railing for a deck that had already been built. They also wanted a frame around a propane tank, so we used lattice to make a beautiful frame around it. This all done in the rain, there were a few breaks in the clouds but the youth never wavered. The best entertainment for the youth was mud sliding in the field where we were staying. It had rained so much, that there was always a pool of water to temp the youth. Each night we had worship services with music, scripture and messages. Very uplifting. It was a wonderful week, but you will have to come to the 5th Sunday School lesson to hear more details.

Our other project this summer was the ramp for a church family. Headed up by Tim Roseman, the youth went to work. I think the other adults there were surprised at how hard our youth worked and what skills they have already developed. They are awesome and we appreciate their dedication to Christ!

We had our 3rd quarter birthday outing at Dairi O's in Mooresville on Sunday, Sept. 24th to celebrate Josh (18) and JT's (16) Birthday. Happy Birthday Guys! The photograph is from our birthday celebration.



Coming up is the UMM Pinto Bean Supper and we will be helping them serve and clean up. And we will also soon be scheduling our time to help out at Samaritan's Purse in Charlotte. These are always enjoyable times to be together.

We are excited that Cameron Douglas and Maddie Wooten have started to come to youth, and we invite anyone else who has started in the 6th grade or is in middle or high school.

As always, pray for our young people and for those in the aftermath of the incredible recent storms. We have wondered about the lovely people we served in Puerto Rico, but who blessed us with their love and faith in Jesus, and hope and pray that they are okay. There will be a lot of help needed now and in the future in this country as they try to recover.

Love, Travis & Alise

Here we are at the beginning ... almost ... of another Christmas season. Plans are being made to reach out to families, especially children, in our community to insure everyone has a joyful Christmas.

This year we are preparing a little earlier than usual. Names are being gathered and shopping will begin very soon! The first Sunday in November you will find lists in the narthex and you will be able to choose the gifts you would like to purchase and donate.

And of course, if you don't have the time or energy to shop, please feel free to give a monetary donation and someone will do the shopping for you.

Since the HOG chapter is unable to sponsor a toy drive this year, we will be shopping and gathering a little more than usual. But that's okay! Thoughts of a child's face lighting up on Christmas morning makes it worth your time and effort.

Submit a Name in October

If you know of a family who could use a little help with Christmas this year, please have them call the church office. The earlier we know, the better we can plan!

Donate Items for Food Boxes in October

The Boy Scouts have been donating the food they collect from their canned food drive for our Christmas boxes. However, the Troop is quite smaller than before and they simply can't cover as much territory as they did in the past. With

that in mind, we would like to have our own food drive during the month of October to help make up the difference. Boxes will be placed in the narthex and mission room to collect your donations. The Scouts generally have an abundance of canned items, but we often lack other staples and paper products. The following is a list of

donations that will be most helpful:

Peanut butter

Canned meats

Pasta/Rice

Sugar/Flour

Dessert Mixes

Canned Fruit & Juices

Laundry Detergent

Jelly

Meat soups/Chili

Cereals

Crackers/Cookies

Spaghetti Sauce

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

Thank you, Bethlehem, for caring about the children in our community. It is always amazing to see everything come together at Christmas each year. We can make a difference!



Can You Help?



We will need several plastic totes to seal perishable items in until we pack the food boxes at Christmas. If you have any totes just sitting around and not being used, please consider letting us have them for this purpose.

Tone Chimes Practice

Begin practicing Christmas music on Thursday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.



Flood buckets are needed to help with hurricane cleanup in several states! Sunday School classes/groups are being challenged to make 1 .. 2 ... 3... or more to help with relief efforts!

Team up with each other to make it affordable! A list of items needed will be in Sunday School classes and in the narthex. Needed by last Sunday in October for delivery!!

NOW COLLECTING
FLOOD BUCKETS
FOR

UNCOR
United Nations Committee On Relief



Memorials ...

In Memory of **Hubert Lindsey** by
 Jim Waugh
 Betty Pope & Family
 Denny & Trudy Peacock
 Tony & Jayne Miller
 Henry & Phyllis Deal
 Tot & Laine Sherrill & Family
 Kenneth H. James
 Edwin & Helen Lindsey
 Desolee Lindsey & Family
 Friendship Bible Class
 Evelyn Shoemaker & Family
 Dink & Linda Lefever
 Gearldyne Burnette
 Dub & Carolyn Bass
 David & Margaret Lackey
 Jim & Phyllis Gibson
 Franklin & Nancy Ivey
 Ann Riggs
 Ruby Shoemaker
 Mark & Patsy Johnson

In Memory of **Pauline Benfield** by
 Betty Pope
 Gearldyne Burnette
 Denny & Trudy Peacock
 Tony & Jayne Miller
 Dub & Carolyn Bass
 Henry & Phyllis Deal
 Tot & Laine Sherrill
 Jim & Phyllis Gibson
 Ann Riggs
 Ruby Shoemaker
 Dink & Linda Lefever
 Mark & Patsy Johnson

In Memory of **Teresa Lindsey** by
 Ruby Shoemaker

In Memory of **John Sherrill** by
 Gearldyne Burnette
 Denny & Trudy Peacock
 Dub & Carolyn Bass
 Henry & Phyllis Deal
 David & Margaret Lackey
 Dink & Linda Lefever
 Desolee Lindsey
 Ann Riggs

In Memory of **Mr. & Mrs. H. Cowles
 Bristol, Jr.** by
 Debbie Rogers

Serving in October ...

Acolyte: Elizabeth Lancaster

Ushers: Tom Smith
 Justin Douglass

Jr. Ushers: Joshua Hager
 Devin Poole

Children's Church:

1 - Suzie Davis
 8 - Justin/Jackie Douglass
 15 - Beth Hager
 22 - Sharon Johnson
 29 - Tom & Amber
 Williamson

Nursery:

1 - Carol Alexander
 Jim & Andrea Hendricks
 8 - Rhonda Kontos
 Kathy Cook
 15 - Pat Snow
 Laine Sherrill
 22 - Shawn Lancaster
 Amanda Lancaster
 29 - Janet Marshall
 Penny Wingfield

Greeters:

1 - Steve & Janet Wooten
 8 - Betty Ann Kleinhans
 Jewell Layne
 15 - Jim & Phyllis Gibson
 22 - Lisa Bass
 Barbara Lippard
 29 - Nora Wyly, Ann Riggs

continued from front page...

As a church, we are called to be prophetic. Not to claim the ways the things have always been but to proclaim how things can be through Jesus Christ. The American Church has gotten bogged down in protecting the status quo, perhaps forgetting how to be prophetic.

I invite you to use your prophetic imagination. What future does God want to see here in West Statesville? What future does God see for our hungry neighbors? What future for our addicted neighbors? What future for our atheist and agnostic neighbors? What future does God see for our black neighbors? Our Latino neighbors? Our white neighbors? How are we as a church called to make that future a reality? This is our purpose and calling as a church: *to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.* Go and be prophets of Jesus Christ, just don't expect to be invited back for dinner.

Blessings, Pastor Heather

**Bethlehem United
Methodist Church**

607 Bethlehem Rd.
Statesville, NC 29677
704-873-8284

**Return Service
Requested**

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Statesville, NC 28677
Permit # 51

Church Staff

*Heather Kilbourne, Pastor
Kay Coggins, Church Secretary
Amanda Brookshire, Music Director*

*Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 10:00 - 2:00
704-873-8284 Church Office
704-929-4323 Pastor's Cell*