

The Bethlehem Star

For Everything There is a Season

Some people do Pilates or scrapbooking for fun, I, on the other hand, dream up new church outreach ministries to help families in poverty. I know that is a weird hobby, but I have always been wired this way. This is just part of the DNA God put in me when I was knitted together in my mother's womb. A new opportunity has come my way. Someone wants to pay me to do what I love — help churches plan and implement new outreach ministries! I have been offered the job of Project Coordinator for a new program called Faith in Rural Communities at the NC Rural Center. This program will work with 64 rural United Methodist Churches across North Carolina. We will offer workshops and coaching, as well as provide grants to these churches to begin a new outreach ministry to their greater community. We will be using a formula called Asset Based Community Development, which focuses on the assets in a struggling community instead of only focusing on their needs. This program is supported by a five-year grant from the Duke Endowment, the same foundation who helped build the Christian Life Center and renovate the Narthex. My last day at Bethlehem will be February 14 and I will begin this new job on February 16 by flying to Missouri to help lead a workshop to 200 United Methodist pastors. Talk about putting on your running shoes!

The only downside of this exciting opportunity is that I will have to say good-bye to my Bethlehem family. You loved me over the last seven months with a love that can only be called Christ-like. You were not afraid to put on your running shoes and pursue new ideas for the church. I pinched myself several times to make sure this was real. No church is this nice to their pastor—when was the other shoe going to drop?

I leave confident in the future of Bethlehem for two very good reasons: First, you are the future of Bethlehem. I am simply amazed to see what you and God did over the last six months. Second, you are getting an excellent interim minister, Rev. Jody Seymour. You can read more about him on page 2 of this newsletter. Rev. Seymour has a resume that would make any minister jealous; however, that is not the cause of my confidence. I am confident because of his spirit and deep wisdom. Just talk to him for a few minutes and you will see it, too. You will have an opportunity to meet him and his wife Betsy on their first Sunday at Bethlehem, February 18.

In praying about this move, I received an inspiring message that encouraged me: "I am not God's plan for Bethlehem. I was part of God's plan for Bethlehem. God's plan for Bethlehem will always begin and end with YOU!" I can't wait to watch how God's vision will continue to unfold for the people of Bethlehem United Methodist Church.

Pastor Heather



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meet Jody Seymour <i>Interim Pastor</i>	2
Lent	2
UMW Reports	2
Healthy Living Small Group	3
Valentine Luncheon	3
Memorials and Honorariums	4
February Service Opportunities	4

Welcome, Pastor Jody Seymour!

Bethlehem welcomes our new interim minister. He looks forward to starting at Bethlehem on February 15.

Jody's roots go back to Biloxi, Mississippi, where he was born in 1947. He moved with his family to North Carolina during the elementary school days and spent his high school years in Salisbury, N.C., where he and Betsy were high school sweethearts.

Jody graduated from Greensboro College and Duke Divinity School and did his Doctoral work in Spiritual Formation through the Graduate Theological Foundation. He studied one year at Candler School of Theology at Emory on a Lily Foundation program in Congregational Analysis.

He is the author of six books, *The Christian Skeptic: Caught Between Belief and Doubt... Looking for God in All the Wrong Places... Finding God Between the Lines... A Time for Healing: Overcoming the Perils of Ministry... Lost but Making Excellent Time: Transforming the Rat Race into a Pilgrimage*; and *Marking the Gospel: A Devotional Commentary on the Gospel of Mark*. Jody is also a certified Enneagram instructor. The Enneagram is a personality system that is often used in spiritual direction.

He has served seven churches in the Western North Carolina Conference, which have included Salisbury, Mt. Pleasant, Pilot Mountain, Newton, Charlotte, and Gastonia. Jody enjoys tennis and writing. He and Betsy, who worked for American Retirement Corporation for 18 years before retiring, have been married for 49 years. Betsy appears monthly on the TV show "Charlotte Today" where she offers tips on gardening and various decorating ideas. They have two children, Abigail who lives in Atlanta with husband Jay; and Amanda who lives in Cornelius with husband Jason and who just provided the Seymour's with their first grandchild.

Jody says, "My passion is to take the old story and make it come alive. I love to help people formulate questions of faith before we ever get to the answers. The spiritual pilgrimage is not only about 'having arrived,' but about experiencing the journey and seeking to understand the challenges that come with such a journey."

Jody was the featured preacher last year for the national conference of The Fellowship of United Methodist in Worship and Music Arts.

Jody is now retired after 44 years as a United Methodist pastor. His last church was Davidson United Methodist where he served for 13 years.

In Jody's Words... tune in to see what's on Jody's mind: <http://jodyseymour.blogspot.com/>

The Season of Lent Begins

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 20

5:30 p.m. in CLC

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February

7:00 in Sanctuary

UMW Reports ...

Greetings!

I would like to welcome Dorie Rodland as our new UMW Treasurer. We look forward to working with her.

Rosemary Scheurman, our adoptee at Brooks Howell passed away on December 14. Her memorial service took place on Friday, February 2nd at 3:30 in the chapel at Brooks Howell.

UMW Sunday is February 18. The members of the UMW will take part in the service, and special recognition pins will be presented.

It's time for our annual membership dinner! On Tuesday, February 20, all ladies are invited to meet at the church at 5:30. We will carpool to Captain's Galley in Stony Point for a great meal and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

Barbara Lippard
UMW President



The graphic features three pink hearts hanging from a string with red bows. The hearts contain the words 'YOU', 'ARE', and 'INVITED' respectively. Below the hearts, the text reads: 'VALENTINE LUNCHEON', 'Sunday, February 11', 'Following worship, the CFA will host a luncheon of soup & sandwiches.', 'Board Games! Card Games! Corn Hole!', 'Monetary and pantry donations will be collected to help build up the food pantry at the West Iredell Ruritan Club.', and 'Call Beth Hager to sign up to help with bringing soup, sandwiches, dessert or tea!'.

YOU ARE INVITED

VALENTINE LUNCHEON
Sunday, February 11

Following worship, the CFA will host a luncheon of soup & sandwiches.
Board Games! Card Games! Corn Hole!

Monetary and pantry donations will be collected to help build up the food pantry at the West Iredell Ruritan Club.

Call Beth Hager to sign up to help with bringing soup, sandwiches, dessert or tea!



We would like to determine if you have any interest in participating in a "Healthy Living" small group. The group would meet to support each other and share ideas pertaining to healthy living in general, weight loss, exercise, etc. A Bible study could possibly be included.

Let's meet and discuss how this group would develop, what it would look like, and how it could best meet people's needs.

If you are interested, let Suzie Davis know!

We'll set up an informal meeting soon to discuss the possibilities!



Nursery ministry

An additional nursery is being outfitted for worship. The new nursery will be located under the sanctuary.

If you have any of the following items to give/loan, please contact Patty Charles or Beth Hager to discuss.

- **Rocking Chair**
- **Child's Table & Chairs (preferably plastic & attached)**
- **Changing Table**
- **Gently Used Toys & Books**

February Service Opportunities

Acolyte: Devin Poole

Ushers: Mark Johnson
Dink Lefever

Jr. Ushers: Camren Douglass
Colten Douglass

Greeters:

- 4 - Nora Wyly, Ann Riggs
- 11 - Steve & Janet Wooten
- 18 - Jerry & Cleeta Barger
- 25 - Gearldyne Burnette
Carita Sherrill

Children's Church:

- 4 - Communion
- 11 - TBD
- 18 - Justin & Jackie Douglass
- 25 - Suzie Davis

Memorials

In Memory of **Mariam Pardue** by
Jack & Betty Hittle
John & Doris Pardue
Regina Bost
Henry & Phyllis Deal

In Memory of **Linda McKinnon**
by Faith Circle
Betty Pope
Dub & Carolyn Bass
Gearldyne Burnette
Dink & Linda Lefever
Jack & Betty Hittle
Tot & Laine Sherrill
Henry & Phyllis Deal
Doug & Amy Wooten
Tony & Jayne Miller
Mark & Patsy Johnson

Honorarium:

In Honor of
Doug & Amy Wooten
Jerry & Cleeta Barger
Olin & Shirlie Isenhour
by Henry & Phyllis Deal

Thank you for continuing to remember Larry Williams with cards and letters!

Larry DF Williams
NC Veterans's Home Kinston
2150 Hull Rd. Room B210
Kinston, NC 28504

Nursery:

- 4 - Amy Wooten
Rhonda Kontos
- 11 - Annette Weaver
Alyssa Weaver
Dawn Benfield
- 18 - Carol Alexander
Andrea Hendricks
Jim Hendricks
- 25 - Pat Snow
Laine Sherrill

Bethlehem United
Methodist Church

607 Bethlehem Road
Statesville, NC 28677
704-873-8284

**Return Service
Requested**

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