

The Bethlehem Star

VOLUME 31 ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2017

Meeting People at Life's Intersections

Last weekend, I was in Hickory sitting at the intersection of Lenoir Rhyne Blvd and Hwy 70. In the grassy median was a young minister in a suit screaming something about Jesus Christ. I had trouble hearing his words over the truck idling beside me and the *boom, boom, boom* from an unseen car stereo. This minister was trying to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people in an unorthodox, however, in my observation, ineffective way.

The young minister was following the example of Jesus Christ though. Jesus only occasionally spoke in the synagogue and spent the majority of his ministry in the streets with the people. He spent a lot of time teaching or healing at the ancient world's busy intersections. The question for us is how does Bethlehem take the Gospel to the people in an unorthodox but effective way?

Our Vision Team has been studying our community to look for ways to reach the unchurched and dechurched*. We discovered many important facts. Only 20% of the people living within two miles of our church say attending church is important to them. One-third of our children are being raised by single-parent households. 382 students at Celeste-Henkel Elementary School struggle with having enough food to eat. We also discovered huge needs at West Iredell Middle School. Local emergency workers shared with us a growing concern about the opioid epidemic and the large number of overdoses in our community. We discussed the need for a support group for caretakers of individuals with memory problems. There is a lot of need within the shadow of our steeple.

As a church we have a large building, many resources, and caring hearts to respond to these needs. Where do you see God calling us to leave our comfort zone and go into the community in Jesus' name? I invite you to dream with me about what is possible in West Statesville.

There is a lot of loud noise in our society that is drowning out the church's ability to reach people, noise like demanding schedules, illness, struggling families just trying to get by, and the diminishing influence of the church on society. Imagine taking the Gospel into the intersections of people's lives. Into their daily needs of helping their children grow, helping people get jobs, and working with God to transform lives. Imagine a church that steps into the loud noise and distraction of daily life and offers the love of Jesus Christ in a new and innovative way to transform the lives of local families.

The next step depends on you. What do you see as the unmet needs in our community and how can Bethlehem help to meet them? When you hear your minister say we need to leave the walls of our church and go into our community, what scares you, concerns you, or makes you pause. How is God calling you to be part of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unchurched and dechurched in our community?

In Christ, Pastor Heather

* Dechurched refers to people who used to go to church and left because they were offended or disagreed with the hypocrisy of the church.



*Daylight Saving
Time Ends
November 5th.*

*Remember to
change your
clocks!*

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UMW Updates ...

Greetings! Our attendance at the Annual Conference gave us much information about the United Methodist Women's Organization. As a Conference, we did not meet our pledge last year, yet we are still #1 in the nation in almost all of the categories and have been for 16 years. We had the lowest attendance in all eight districts with 382 attending. 521 were remembered in the memorial service. And finally, 1008 new members were added to our 688 units.

The District Leadership Training takes place on November 4th at First UMC in North Wilkesboro. Trudy and Barbara plan to attend.

Next month we will participate together in our pledge service and install new officers. We recently concluded our World Thank offering in each circle.

In November we will make and deliver Thanksgiving baskets and also have the Thanksgiving service. December will bring Christmas dinners to prepare for.

Remember to turn in your Bakeless Bake Sale donation to Trudy by October 31st!

Our Social Action Priorities are: Climate Justice, Economic Inequality, Maternal & Child Health and the Legacy Fund.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

Your Sister in Christ, Barbara



Faith Circle Has Stainless Steel Knives ..

Paring	\$4.75
Utility/Steak	\$5.00
Stubby Butcher	\$7.00
7" Slicer	\$7.25
Vegetable Peeler	\$6.25
Tomato	\$5.25
Chopper	\$5.00
Sharpener	\$6.00

See Laine Sherrill or any member of Faith Circle to purchase.



The new worship service team will meet Sunday, November 5th after church in Poston Hall. We will begin exploring the details of a new worship service. The goal of this new service is to bring more people to Jesus Christ. Let Pastor Heather know if you want to be part of this team. A light brunch will be provided.

IDPPC — what is that?? November 5th is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church ... praying for Christians in countries that persecute and kill Christians for believing. In



prayer for the persecuted

1948, Rev. Richard Wurmbrand was kidnapped and imprisoned for 14 years by the Communists, simply because he was a believer in Christ. Three of those years were in solitary confinement. His wife was also arrested and worked in a slave labor camp, leaving their son an orphan. He was beaten for praying, but wouldn't stop praying for strength to endure, for his family and for his enemies, as Jesus tells us to do. Richard Wurmbrand wrote Tortured for Christ in 1967 and founded the organization Voice of the Martyrs, which aids the persecuted and their families.

Please pray on November 5th ... and more ... for the persecuted church of Christ.

October was a busy month for the youth. We are growing. We now have nine active youth. Besides our weekly meetings on Sunday morning, we helped the UMM with the pinto bean supper and it was a busy evening. We also had a youth/parent/council meeting where we started talking about our next mission trip for summer 2018. It will be here before we know it.



We put together a care package for a gentleman we met in Puerto Rico on our mission trip there in 2016. He had texted us to let us know he was ok, but that Puerto was in "chaos". He had requested some items such as underclothing, batteries, bug spray and toiletries. At the time we were in contact with him, he did not have power, but did have access to water. He requested prayer for his mother who is an atheist. We are also praying that his package arrives safely and that he gets the items that he needs desperately. Thanks to those who donated money for the shipping costs.



We also had a Balloon Rally Party at the Last's house on Sunday, October 22. All nine youth were there and the

weather was perfect. We played badminton, football, Taboo and ate grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. We had a good time, except the balloons decided to go the other direction, but no one seemed to mind too much. We had the opportunity to see lots of balloons early Sunday morning as we were gathering to have our youth meeting. Many balloons were going right over the church and it was an awesome site.

For fifth Sunday, the youth were in charge of the Sunday School lesson, so we talked about our mission trip to Blue Ridge, GA. On Halloween the youth participated in the Trunk or Treat activities. A couple of the youth decorated their trunks and the younger youth decorated an easy up. Thanks to all of the youth for their participation this month. It has been a blast!!


God Bless, Alise & Travis



Pie for Presents

Helping Power Cross this holiday season is easy as pie!

Tuesday, November 21st
from 10:00AM-7:00PM
at Power Cross 1129 W. Front St
Statesville, NC 28677



Pre-Orders will be placed through November 15th. Walk-In Sales are also available

It's that time again!! You can buy your homemade Thanksgiving pies on Nov. 21, OR, you can pre-order pies personally and for your business.

Power Cross' community Christmas dinner on December 10th at the Civic Center serves over 600 guests, more than 1000 gifts are given out and the hope of salvation through Jesus is shared with all in attendance. The proceeds from Pie for Presents helps make all this possible! How can YOU help??!!

1. Pre-order pies.
2. Volunteer Sunday afternoon, November 19, at Power Cross: to chop, prep, make cheeseballs and cranberry sauce and candy, fold and label boxes.
3. Volunteer Monday, November 20 **AT BETHLEHEM!** Our kitchen is a prep and baking site all day! Can you help??
4. Loan for the cause: bundt cake pans, standing mixers, good hand mixers, Pampered Chef chopping scissors, apple-peeler/corers.
5. Have a connection to an apple orchard to get free apples for pies??
6. Take orders at your place of business.
7. See Patty Charles for pie pre-order forms or to volunteer on Sunday and/or Monday or to loan equipment
8. PRAY!!

Thank you Bethlehem!!

The Finance Committee would like to add new ways to give to the church. If you are interested in donating to the church through credit / debit card, electronic transfer, or on-line giving, please see Travis Last, our Treasurer, or our Finance Committee chair, Beth Hager, or the minister.



Thanks to your generous giving to our general fund, we made a \$700 donation to Power Cross Ministries to support their ministry to young men and their families. The impact of this donation was doubled thanks to a matching grant.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS...

In Memory of **Hubert Lindsey** by

Edwin Rowell
The Andrew Covington Family
Damon Gray
Polly Carpenter
Olin & Shirlie Isenhour
Bill & Rosi Caswell

In Memory of **Pauline Benfield** by
Olin & Shirlie Isenhour

In Memory of **John Sherrill** by
Olin & Shirlie Isenhour

In Honor of **Olin Isenhour** by
Dub & Carolyn Bass



Shoebox Dedication

Sunday, December 10

*(All boxes **must be turned in** by this date to insure delivery.)*

A few slots are still available for those who would like to travel to Boone to work in the processing warehouse to prepare shoeboxes for shipment.

December 15

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Please let Randy Hager know ASAP if you would like to participate!

**SHOEBOX
UPDATE**

As of 2017, toothpaste & candy (any kind) are **not** allowed in shoeboxes. **Shipping donation** has increased to \$9 per box.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

Saturday, December 2nd

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wal-Mart Entrance

A sign up sheet will be located in the narthex. Please support this important ministry, if you are able, by giving an hour or two of your time to ring the bell!

Our angel lists will be in the narthex on Sunday, November 5th. Please stop by and sign up to purchase a gift or two ... to help a child have a Merry Christmas this year. You will find a variety of ages and gift options you can shop for! As always, if you prefer to make a monetary donation, we will gladly do the shopping for you! The children you will shop for come from our community, as well as from Celeste Henkel Elementary and West Middle School.



The Boy Scouts will donate the food they collect from their annual Food Drive for our food boxes. You have made an outstanding start to the food boxes during the month of October. Please continue to bring items if you see a great bargain!

We are committed to helping around 23 children this Christmas, and that represents 14 families!

Beginning early in November is our way of trying to make your holiday shopping a little easier and less stressful. We hope it helps!

All gifts need to be turned in to the church office no later than Sunday, December 3rd.

• COMMUNITY • GAME NIGHT

Saturday, November 4th from 6:00-8:00

Fun family friendly games & activities!
Snacks & Drinks provided!

See Jackie Douglass if you have questions.

Sponsored by the Young Adult Sunday School class.

Address Correction:

Please note the address correction for Brayden Lester below. Brayden will be at this address until the end of November. At that time he will be shipping out to Germany and we will update his address again when it is available.

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

Thank You ...

Thank you for the cards, calls and most of all your prayers. You are a wonderful church family.

*Love & Prayers,
Henry & Phyllis*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, Nov. 19th, at 7:00 PM

at

Sharon Lutheran Church

2116 Island Ford Road Statesville, NC

Rev. Heather Kilbourne, Preacher
Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Community Choir – Everyone invited!
Come at 6:00 PM to rehearse together!

Bring cans of food and monetary donations to replenish the Food Pantry at Iredell Christian Ministries.

Refreshments & Fellowship following the service.

November Service Opportunities ...

Acolyte: Camren Douglass

Ushers: Alan Johnson
Larry Sherrill

Jr. Ushers:
Elizabeth Lancaster
Emma Lancaster

Greeters:

- 5 - Laine Sherrill
Phyllis Gibson
- 12 - Mark & Patsy Johnson
- 19 - Jewell Layne
Artie Case
- 26 - Terry & Dorie Rodland

Children's Church:

- 5 - Suzie Davis
- 12 - Justin & Jackie Douglass
- 19 - Beth Hager
- 26 - Sharon Johnson

Nursery:

- 5 - Allison Oates
Erin Hutchens
- 12 - Jewell Layne
Jayne Miller
- 19 - Dorie Rodland
Betty Hittle
- 26 - Shawn Lancaster
Amanda Lancaster

**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