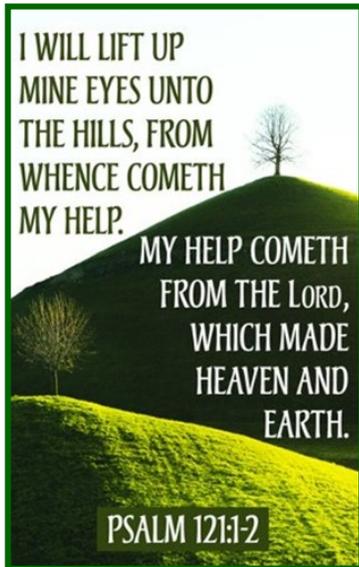




The Circuit Rider



January 2024



As I have so often, I *want* to transition the changing from one time to a next by gathering around Christ' table and seeking guidance from the newborn Christ for what 2024 will bring us. 2023 was a year of major challenges. And frankly, where it might sound a bit of a broken record, 2024 will, as every year seems to, have challenges, too. On New Year' Eve we will or will have (depending on when you get around to reading this) roll into a new year as 2024 arrives.

Moving into a new year, we carry many of 2023's ongoing battles with us. The wars in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Armenia. Brokenness in relationships. Mass shootings of epidemic proportions. Poverty in every nation. 90 million refugees searching for a place to call home. Add to that the upcoming political election in the United States that promises to be divisive, and 2024 promises to be a year of unprecedented challenge.

I'm reminded of the words of King David, the great Psalmist: **"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."**

Many theologians compare the words of David in the context of a traveler about to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, perhaps to attend a festival or answer a summons. It would have been wise to pray for God's blessings as they traveled through rough terrain and unforeseen possibilities.

For us, as we prepare to travel into a new year, these same words of the Psalmist are given as we pray for what's to come for us. Some of our journey will call for times of celebration while others call for prayers of protection. We'll pray for spiritual renewal in the midst of doubt and offer prayers of To offer prayers for our many blessings as forces in life, seen and unseen, expected and unexpected, come to fruition.

Camp United Methodist Church

4807 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28459
(910) 754-4840
cumc.office@atmc.net

Sunday Services

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Traditional Worship

Soul Purpose.....2	Outreach9
Prayer/New Members.3	Adopt Hwy/Bus Ladies.10
Parade/WOF Event...4	PraiseBand/SALT.....11
Christmas Cantata....5	UMM/S. Wesley.....12
Live Nativity.....6	Coming in January.....13
AdMin Actions.....7	Poinsettia Dedications...14
Youth/Health Tip..... .8	Milestones.....15
Calendar.....16	

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Prayers as they relate to physical and mental illness, recession, depression, economic recovery, debt, unemployment, and insolvency. Prayers as they touch deep into our souls matters of spiritual recovery, corruption, extremism, and false teaching.

And even with all of that, I'm looking ahead to 2024 with hope. It's going to be challenging, but it's also going to be exciting, We'll see families adding to their numbers with babies being born, ministries will take on new lives, and healing will be rediscovered on multiple fronts.

So, take a few moments, take in a deep breath, center yourself and offer to God a prayer. Ask for forgiveness for any of the wrongs that affected your personal faith journey in 2023. Remember your family and friends, offering God a word of thanksgiving for blessing you with them. Be silent for a few moments and wait for God to assure you of the presence of the Holy Spirit, and with your heart, mind, and soul in a holy place, offer this prayer from Howard Thurman:

When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

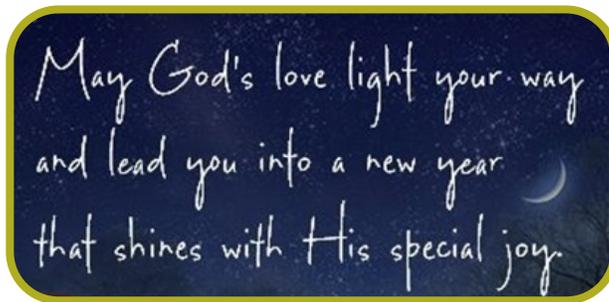
I'm looking forward to another wonderful year serving as your pastor and celebrating together our many wonderful opportunities and blessings.

Pastor Terry

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one...
Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.
Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.
Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.
Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.
Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help ...
God, make my year a happy one.

Guideposts magazine (January 1973)



NEW MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER



David Tanner Hoase
2154 Bayview Dr. SW
Supply, NC 28462
14-264-9217
Gaterboy9681@gmail.com

David is the grandson of Ronnie & Eileen Markum. He has worked in retail and is currently in school for HVAC. He enjoys watching football and getting together with friends.



Ronnie J. Markum, Jr.
2154 Bayview Dr. SW
Supply, NC 28462
910-880-9163
markum.com@gmail.com

Ronnie is the son of Ronnie & Eileen Markum. Ronnie is a Math Interventionist. He has classes that help children who are struggling in Math. He teaches at Shallotte Middle School - all grades. He will be starting soon to get his Teaching Certificate. His favorite pastime is video games.

SHALLOTTE CHRISTMAS PARADE - DECEMBER 2, 2023

The parade was enormous. There were a total of 85 floats and it lasted for almost 2 hours. There were hundreds of spectators. Camp had enough candy for 400 people and we ran out of candy before our float reached the church.



Camp provided coffee and hot chocolate for spectators or participants who saw the signs inviting people to come for the beverages and the open church doors for them to enter. People were also given postcards inviting them to **"Come Home for Christmas"**.



Camp's Candy Elves

If you didn't make it to the parade this year. Make plans to attend the parade next year.



On December 3rd, the Women of Faith held this virtual event by Kristi McLelland. It was a meaningful event for all who attended.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 10, 2023



The Camp Kids Choir, under the direction of Betsy Ward, led our Call to Worship.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA CLOTH FOR THE MANGER



The Cantata was based on the contemporary song by John Bell of Scotland. The powerful words are relevant any time of the year; they are as follows:

*Cloth for the Cradle, cradle for the child,
the child for every joy and sorrow;
Find Him a shawl that's woven by us all
To welcome the Lord of each tomorrow.*

The Chancel Choir performed beautifully as it presented the Christmas Cantata, “Cloth for the Manger” Joining the choir for this special program were: Becky Nissen (harp) Estaban Pope (trumpet) and Dr. Ken Harrell (tenor). Ralph Kendell sang and also served as a percussionist.



Lou Ann Keisler provided strips of cloth. These strips were in the bulletins. As the choir sang “Cloth for the Cradle”, people went forward to lay the strips on the cradle.

Camp is truly blessed to have such talented individuals willing to share their gifts with us.

Kudos to Wes & Betsy Ward for this wonderful service.

2023 LIVE NATIVITY



Some drove by. Some walked by. Some stopped by for a visit. The two-night Live Nativity at Camp UMC was a simple stage, but a visual sharing of the powerful story of the birth of Jesus. An ultimate gift of love for our community. Christian, or non-Christian, those driving by slowed down as they made their way down Main Street. Some honked, giving recognition to the seven live characters who had become familiar to them through years of Bible stories from their youth. Whether churched, or unchurched, no one could deny the recognition of the stable and the re-enactment of the amazing story of two thousand years ago.

Harold Beaty (*aka Wiseman*) had an opportunity to engage with a couple of ladies walking by who were familiar with Camp through the Food Pantry. Harold made his case for Jesus, fully costumed and in character of witnessing to others. Church members, Howard and Barbara Varnam came by to visit the manger scene and found themselves meeting an elderly lady who was in need of warmth. A hot cup of chocolate and friendly conversation made us all feel God's smile. It continued as a young backpacker stopped by and began to tell us all what Jesus meant to his life and especially his time in recovery. The witnesses being witnessed to! Then, there was the invasion. A night of neighbors, friends, family, who wanted to visit those they knew who were in portrayal of the Nativity. Cold temperatures, warm spirits, laughter, spilled hot chocolate and a time of getting to know one another made for an imperfect, perfectly wonderful night.

I've wondered, even more, since witnessing Camp's Live Nativity, about that Bethlehem stable of long ago. Did people walk by to see the new born King? Was there laughter in the stable, celebrating the joy of the birth? Did anyone spill their hot chocolate? I smile at the thought and sing...

Joy to the World, the Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him room. And Heaven and nature sing. And Heaven and nature sing. And Heaven, And Heaven and nature sing. (Isaac Watts – 1719)

Donna Varnam

Recent AdMinistry Team's Decisions

It is a tradition in our Church to give the offering received during the candlelight service on Christmas Eve to a selected charity. This year we decided to split that gift between two very worthy causes.

The first is an organization called Streetreach which serves the homeless and hurting in Brunswick County. Streetreach is a faith based that and attempts to fill the gap in our county where there is no permanent shelter, no community kitchen and no public transportation for those in need. They provide a 24/7 crisis number, a small food pantry and a clothes closet. Streetreach will also search for temporary housing as needed. Streetreach works to break the cycle of homelessness caused by eviction, underemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence and mental illness.

Our second charity is The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). It provides disaster relief, disaster response training, supplies and health support in America and around the world. One hundred percent (**100%**) of donations to UMCOR are directed to relief efforts with administrative costs paid by offerings from United Methodist Churches. Earthquake victims in Haiti, Mexico, Indonesia and flooding and hurricane victims in seven different countries received aid from UMCOR in the past two years.

The AdMinistry Team also decided to pay an additional \$20,000 toward our 2023 Apportionment, having sent \$10,000 earlier this year. We are in the midst of an analysis of our apportionment and believe that an adjustment is likely after this task is complete. The Conference is well aware of our efforts on this subject, in fact, the Reverend George Speak, who is the chief statistician for the Conference, is assisting us.

After an earlier adjustment our Apportionment for 2023 was \$71,000. Having now paid \$30,000 toward it, we still have a \$41,000 expense to deal with. The Apportionment amount is derived using a 4-year average of each church's spending, after giving credit to ministries that the church provides. For example, our donations to the food pantry and the gift of our space to the Mothers Morning Out program reduce the dollars we are to send to the Conference as our Apportionment. The analysis we are conducting is capturing all of the costs we have incurred over the last 4 years to assure a correct Apportionment.

Camp has always paid its full Apportionment. Apportionment funds are missional giving that supports many worthwhile purposes including Christian missions around the world, support for 13 Methodist seminaries, higher education and Christian teaching in poor countries, supporting new United Methodist churches and other financially struggling United Methodist congregations, and grants of various types. In fact, by far the largest recipient of Apportionment dollars is local ministries. In general, Apportionments accomplish what no single church or district can do on their own. Once our analysis is complete and appropriate adjustments are made, we hope to continue the tradition of our church and pay our Apportionment in full.

Tom Evans
AdMin Chair

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year Camp Family! Wow, we had a truly amazing Advent Season with all of our activities at Camp. I want to share a special thank you to all who participated in our children's Christmas Program. We had a packed house and I know many have viewed it online. Our children ended their year with a Christmas Movie party on December 20th! Oh what fun it was to spend an evening together just relaxing and enjoying the season.

Upcoming January Events

Our Camp Kids program will kick off our weekly gatherings on January 10 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Educational Wing. All children ages birth- 5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday night. We have a time of food, fellowship, and fun!

We will host a drop-by baby shower for Britton Williams on January 14th immediately following the worship service in the Salmon Room. All are invited to participate as we bless Britton and her baby.

I look forward to a wonderful 2024 year with our Camp Family! I pray that God blesses each of you this year.

Allison Hunter
Director of Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry



The youth ended the semester with a festive and fun Christmas party, not even the wind, rain, and flooding could dampen our party. We had a yummy spaghetti supper, a gingerbread cookie decorating contest, played Santa Square, had a gift exchange and a prize for the most festive dressed.

Throughout the month of December we had lessons based upon the advent season, hope, peace, love, and joy. Youth group will meet again starting January 7th, we will enjoy a short break over the holidays to spend time with family and friends.

On January 12-15th we will be packing up and traveling to Lake Junaluska for our winter youth retreat. There we will experience fun, fellowship and meaningful time with each other and youth groups from all over the country. Games, live music, guest speakers and energized worship services along with snow tubing, zip-lining, a ropes course and more are to be expected.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and continued support for the youth this year. We are

grateful for our church family and hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anna Anderson
Young Adult Representative

LOCAL MISSIONS

December has been a busy time for the Local Mission Committee. We collected and delivered 51 pairs of shoes and socks from our congregation to students of Waccamaw School. A monetary contribution to the school for needy children was also made. Our congregation also donated five pairs of new shoes to children at the Longwood Head Start Program. Staff at both schools were overjoyed and very thankful.



Street Reach/Building Hope received a donation for the homeless from us and we also gave gift cards for children of prisoners. Thank you church family for all the support you have given to Local Missions over the past year. You always go over and above in response to our requests!

*And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.
Matthew 25:40 KJV*

Barbara Varnam, Co-Chair
Local Missions

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES DO OUTREACH, TOO.



THE SALMON CLASS

On Dec. 8th, The Salmon SS Class made it's annual delivery of toys and clothing to Longwood Head Start . This year we helped 14 children. What a privilege it is to share the spirit of Christmas with those who are less fortunate.

Lynda Eagle





Thank you Trash Warriors for conducting our quarterly pick up on 12/9/23 at Hale Swamp Road. We successfully collected 21 bags of trash!

Some of Camp's Trash Warriors are pictured below.



Hart Merriman
Chief Warrior



The next trash pick-up will be on **March 9th**



LADIES ON THE BUS

In December, Ladies On The Bus did a "Door Dash Christmas" to 23 church members who needed a hug and a smile. They all received presents as well. A good time was had by all. Some of the visitees are pictured below.



Sybil McLamb



Glenn & Sue Wall



Sally Robinson



Irene & James Bryant

NEW LIFE PRAISE BAND

Getting to Know the New Life Praise Band Members



Steve Sowder is one of the guitarists with the New Life Praise Band. See below to learn a little more about him.

Where were you born and raised ? Roanoke, VA

What are three things you would like the congregation to know about you?

1. I am a retired architect.
2. I moved to OIB full time 8 years ago.
3. Diane and I will celebrate 44 years of marriage in May.

How long have you attended Camp UMC? 7 years

What musical instruments do you play? Bass guitar

What is your favorite genre of music? Blues and jazz

What is your favorite musical group? Tedeschi Trucks Band

What is your favorite Praise music song? Revelation Song by Chris Tomlin

Anything else you would like the congregation to know about you? I have been playing guitar since I was 11.

by Becky McKinnon

SALT

The Coastal Harmonizers provided entertainment for SALT ministries annual Christmas gathering on December 18th.



Our SALT meeting will be on Jan. 15th. We will not be having a luncheon because there will be a MLK service at the church that day.

Ladies NIGHT OUT

We will have a post Christmas party on Jan. 11th. Please bring a covered dish to share **and** a gift to exchange **and** a Christmas ornament to exchange. We will play the "Dirty Santa" game.



The United Methodist Men have grown in numbers and dedication over the last few months.

We have been working with the Trustees on the restoration of the Kitchen/Fellowship Hall and the new year will find it fully completed. We are looking forward to hosting the Consecration dinner and Kitchen/Fellowship Hall dedication in January. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

A Live Nativity was again part of the church's Advent season. The UMM had to rebuild and make repairs to the stable for the Nativity due to last year's storm damage. Ten men braved the wind and cold to help erect the stable in front of the church.



The work of the United Methodist Men is ongoing. Thanks to everyone who has been part of the ministry this year!

Howard Varnam, President



Susanna Wesley

The Susanna Wesley Circle met on Tuesday, December 9, at the home of Franz and Jill Bryant for a Christmas Brunch. Following the delicious meal, we played "Dirty Santa" with Margaret's famous jelly highlighting all the "stealing"! Christmas cards were signed and will be given to residents of Autumn Care. What a fun time with a wonderful group of ladies!

Lynda Eagle



JANUARY HAPPENINGS

North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church is hosting virtual trainings on **January 7, 2024**, for all who serve in their local congregation in any of the following roles, especially **the chairs of these committees**, you are encouraged to take this training.

AdMin Team SPRC Lay Leadership Finance Trustees

Any other church members interested in learning about one or more these roles are also welcome to participate.



Starting on Wednesday, **January 10th**, Rev. Tal Madison will lead a study consisting of 5 one-hour sessions on the issue of **LGBTQ and Scripture** through the lens of scripture. In this study we will look at the six passages that people of all opinions agree speak overtly to this topic. There will be a morning session at 10:00 AM and an evening session at 6:00 PM.



On **January 15th**, Camp's Agape Ministry Group, in conjunction with the Greater Shallotte Ministerial Group are hosting their second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prayer service and luncheon. The service starts in the Camp UMC sanctuary at noon. To date, over ten pastors and local government officials have agreed to participate in the service. Author, Bryana Clover will be the keynote speaker. A luncheon with fellowship and discussion will start immediately after the service in the Youth and Family Center.

On January 16th, the Harbor District of the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church, will host an anti-racism workshop at Camp UMC. The workshop start at 9:30AM and end at 1:00 PM. All are welcome.



Camp UMC and Seaside UMC will co-host our first Beer & Hymns event on **Sunday, January 21st** at 4:00 PM at Makai Brewery on Highway 17 in Shallotte.

There is a grand tradition in the Christian church of bringing together hymn singing and pub culture. In the nineteenth century William Booth's Salvation Army put Christian words to popular music sung in pubs and taverns. In recent years this great tradition has had a renaissance within churches throughout the U.S. and beyond.

Plan to come, lift up your voice, enjoy a beverage of your choice as we gather in fellowship together with our friends and neighbors.



Poinsettias Dedication 2023

IN HONOR OF

Camp United Methodist Church
Mrs. Dean Williams
Becky Hewett
Joyce Pstieczko
Martin Callender
Charlotte Pringle
Glenn Wall
Ken & Jill Greene Family
Bonnie Ann McLean
Our Church Family at CUMC
Evelyn Madison
Our Granddaughter,
Anchor Rae McKinnon

FROM

David & Cathy LaBianca
Scott & Janet Stevenson
Ramona Parker
Henry & Dorothy Gipple
Linda Callender
Shay Godwin
Shay Godwin
Marilyn Allison
Doris Page Johnson
Glenn & Sue Wall
Tal & Julie Madison
Becky & Ray McKinnon



IN MEMORY OF

Kenneth Mallick
Cherie Stith
Kathleen Stevenson
Joe & Nancy Stegall
Elsa & Carl Bryant
Virginia Williams
Dan C. Krawiec

FROM

Kim & Keith Fillman
Kim & Keith Fillman
Scott & Janet Stevenson
Francis & Jill Bryant
Francis & Jill Bryant
Shay Godwin
Carol Krawiec

IN MEMORY OF

Our Deceased Loved Ones
Rom Hardin
Jane Nichols
Bill (Sonny) Simmons
Dustin Stanley
Bun & Dorothy Stanley
Tom Verzella
Guy Williams, Jr.
David & Margaret Bass
Guy & Virginia Williams, SR.
Doug Lutzy
Our Parents
Scott Elton McLean
Our Parents
Our Parents
Charlie League
Carl & Alice Forrester
Rom Hardin
Gene Klum
Clarence & Ann Ragan
Dr. John Madison
Emett Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Correll
Shirley Lott
Richmond & Jeanette Galloway
Sandy Carter
Dean Thompson

FROM

Becky & Ray McKinnon
Ray Nichols
Ray Nichols
Gwen Simmons
Andy & Bonnie Verzella
Andy & Bonnie Verzella
Andy & Bonnie Verzella
Terry & Jane Williams
Terry & Jane Williams
Terry & Jane Williams
Ralph & Carol Kendall
Gary & Rae Matthews
Doris Page Johnson
Betsy & Bob Fatzinger
Ralph & Carol Kendall
Joe & Susan Forrester
Joe & Susan Forrester
Margaret Hardin
Margaret Hardin
Tal & Julie Madison
Tal & Julie Madison
Connie Richardson
Cathy Landrum
Joseph & Kimberly Galloway
Joseph & Kimberly Galloway
Wendy & MaKenzie Cardinal
Taylor, Derrick & Declan Thompson



JANUARY MILESTONES

1	Johnny Erickson	12	Walter Britton
1	Beth Hunter	12	Tammie Lewis
2	Thomas Adams	12	Bob Winship
3	Rita Bennett	13	Chris Hunter
4	Lou Bell	17	Beth Baker
5	Gene Craft	17	Eileen Markum
5	Kate Inman	19	Poli Barefoot
6	Judy Arnold	21	Tom Evans
6	Makenzie Cardinal	23	Jeanne Frederick
6	Cathy White	23	Greg Rupp
7	Patricia Hollowell	24	Cindy Maynard
10	Kelly Littlejohn	24	Bia Medley
10	Ray Nichols	24	Cheryl Mills
11	Joe Forrester	26	Laura Winship
11	Margaret Hardin	27	Stephen Sowder



Angela & John Adams	2 (21)
Art & Barb Jacques	3 (20)
Robin & Randy Farmer	6 (6)
Don & Lynda Eagle	11 (65)
DeWayne & Betty Oakes	21 (62)

DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

Jan. 12th-14th	Youth to Junaluska	
Jan. 15th	MLK Service & Luncheon	12:00
Jan. 15th	SALT Activity	5:00
Jan. 16th	Harbor District	
	Anti-Racism Mtg.	9:30
Jan. 21st	Beer & Hymns	4:00
Jan. 22nd	Consecration Dinner	6:00
Jan. 28th	Consecration Sunday	11:00

January

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 5:30 Youth		Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Prayer Shawl 2:00 Basket Weavers	10:00 LGBT Study 5:30 WW & Study 5:30 Camp Kids 5:45 Adult Choir 7:30 Bells	10:00 Ladies on the Bus	4:30 Community Meal	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 1:00—6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	5	6
7 Communion	8 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Joy Circle	9 10:00 Susannah Wesley Circle 6:00 Trustee Meeting	10 1	11 6:30 AdMinistry Team Meeting	YOUTH TO LAKE	
14 JUNALUSKA 10:00-1:00 Britton Williams Floating Baby Shower	15 MLK DAY 12:00 MLK Service 5:00 SALT	16 9:30 Harbor District Anti-Racism Mtg.	17	18	19	20
21 11:30 New Member Class 11:00 Agape Group	22 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Consecration Dinner 6:00 UMM	23	24	25 12:30 Staff Development	26	27
28 10:00 Consecration Sunday & 11:00 Luncheon	29	30	31			