



The Circuit Rider



April 2025

Dear Members of Camp United Methodist Church,:

On March 23rd I announced during our morning worship service that I would be retiring from full-time ministry after 32 years. It's been a wonderful career but the Ecclesiastical writer was on point when he wrote, "To everything there is a season." A portion of my statement from March 23rd follows"...

Three years ago, when I was appointed to provide spiritual guidance and lead this congregation through the most difficult days of its long and rich history, I had no idea if my appointment would be of short duration or a more lengthy one. I also did not know I would fall in love with this church, its staff, the community, and her people.

Three years ago was also a time of immense pain for this church and a painful time for me as I saw how it affected you, the denomination I love and to whom I owe so much of my own spiritual awakening. But in the end of those anxiety-filled months, God was faithful to the Word we were promised, *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."*

I want to thank Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton and District Superintendent Tara Lain for their unwavering support during my time here. Both are trusted confidants and colleagues, offering wisdom, guidance and encouragement. I am excited for the years we will continue to serve God in our connection.

On a more personal note, you have welcomed my family into your families. Together we have celebrated many joyous occasions; wedding anniversaries, new births, and holiday meals around our table and yours. We have grieved the loss of family members and we stood together as siblings in days of tragic illness. Together you and my family have forged incredible bonds of trusting relationships that I will treasure forever and always celebrate in my heart.

As a church we have added many wonderful families to our membership, growing in number every year. We elevated into leadership a group of people who have faithfully embraced the opportunity to lead us. We are financially sound due to your generous support. We have built

Camp United Methodist Church

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Sunday Services

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship

Terry's Message...	2	Youth.....	8
Church Council....	3	Local Missions....	.9
Finance.....	4	Harbor Helping....	10
Holy Week.....	5	SALT + UMM.....	11
Holy Humor.....	6	Costa Rica Trip....	12
Children.....	7	Milestones.....	13
Calendar.....	14		

new ministries and re-established and expanded old ones. But above all else, CUMC has opened her doors to ALL of God's children, signaling to anyone and everyone that we are a "Lighthouse" congregation, welcoming safe haven for anyone regardless of their situations in life. We are one body as demonstrated in our vision and more importantly in our ministries.

This week I celebrated my 70th birthday. It occurred to me that nearly half of my life has been spent doing my best to live into the mission of our UMC, "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." But, the ecclesiastical writer was correct when he said, *"to everything there is a season and a time and purpose under heaven,"* and my season among you will come to completion at the end of June as I officially retire. That does not mean God is finished with me...not yet; there is more for me to do in building God's Kingdom on earth and regardless of age, nothing is impossible. I don't know what retirement looks like, I just know God has a plan for me to do more with my family and in God's greater body. God is also not finished with Camp UMC, and there are brighter days for you as well. I leave this place in much the same way as the owner of the vineyard left the gardner...you get to nurture and care for this church, bringing forth new life in every new blooming season.

Until July 1st, I will continue to shepherd you and faithfully live into my vows as a UM pastor. We will work together in ensuring a smooth transition of your next pastor, whomever she or he may be.

Thank you for your love and support. I was sent to you for a specific season and I shall forever be grateful for my time among you. Please pray for me, Jane, and our family as we will be praying for each of you. Truly, we love you and you are very much a part of our best years.

Pastor Terry



Pastor Terry & his 70th birthday cake

Recent Decisions by the Church Council

During a special meeting on March 10th, the Church Council voted unanimously to approve the Church Budget for 2025. There were several significant spending increases approved.

These included:

A three percent increase in the salaries of the staff (Pastor Terry asked that he be given no increase). Additionally, the Director of Children's Ministry position which was filled for only a portion of 2024 will be filled for all of 2025. We also anticipate increased costs for nursery workers. These increases total just over \$30,000.

A \$25,000 increase in funding for the Trustees to cover higher insurance costs, new air conditioners and heat pumps and repair of the Church Steeple.

The purchase of new computers and increased telephone and internet costs and the cost of new security and cameras. There will also be increased costs for office supplies, higher water/sewer bills and trash removal. These increases total to just over \$12,000.

Anticipation of a \$10,000 increase in the amount we hope to pay toward our Apportionment over what we were able to pay for 2024.

A \$2,000 increase in funding for Missions to help with the cost of the Costa Rica effort.

It is expected that covering these increases will require spending a portion of our reserve. The results of the 2025 stewardship campaign project, which is a similar amount of giving as last year, when we had a virtually balanced budget without the increases outlined above.

Thanks to years of prudent and conservative budgeting our Church has over \$400,000 in reserve. That is over twice the amount advised in the Book of Discipline. The reserve is intended to protect the Church from unexpected expenses such as wind damage to the roof, or other emergency needs. Following disaffiliation, we expected to have to draw down some of our reserve to adjust to a smaller Congregation, and thanks to the generosity of our membership and a belt tightened budget, that has not been necessary. We now believe that rising costs and critical needs will require us to use some of the reserve.

We will watch our spending closely as the year progresses and hope to minimize the use of reserved funds if, for example, repair and maintenance needs turn out to be less than expected, or growth in our membership adds new resources.

Tom Evans

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH FEBRUARY

Our monthly report shows a deficit spending of nearly \$28,000 through February. (See report below). This is partially due to our making a final conference apportionment payment for 2024, in January of 2025. Additionally, we are budgeting to spend \$96,700 this year of "reserve funds (i.e. money in the bank from previous years). At the beginning of the past 2 years, I have anticipated/expected that we would spend between \$50,000 and \$75,000 each year from our reserves, but we have ended up using substantially less than that. Meaning that significantly more money has been given to the church each of the past couple years than has been pledged/anticipated. So...I'm not surprised that we are showing a YTD deficit. We are a very loving church community that reaches out to show God's love in our church, in the community and throughout the world. Please reach out personally to Pastor Terry or me, if you have any questions.

Faithfully,
Harold Beaty, Chair
Finance Committee
336.345.2145 or
hbeaty@pinehallbrick.com

Summary of Financial Results Year to Date - through February 2025

Revenue and Expenses (2 months)

Offerings =	\$ 81,084.80
*Other Revenue	
	1,604.87
Expenses	(-110,678.49)
=	\$(-27,988.82)
* Includes sale of property, interest, capital credits and other miscellaneous revenue	



The Women in Faith will be selling Mother's Day flowers before and after the 10:00 AM service on 4/27 and 5/4 for pick up on Mother's Day 5/11. We hope the congregation will support this fundraiser for our mission work that serves women and children locally, nationally and globally.





April 13th - 10:00 AM Palm Sunday; Cantata by
Chancel Choir

April 17th - 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

April 20th - 10:00 AM - Easter Sunday Worship
and Communion

CANTATA ON PALM SUNDAY



“Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified,” John 19:16. The Chancel Choir will present the annual Palm Sunday cantata, *BY WAY OF THE CROSS*, on April 13th at the 10:00 AM worship service. The choir will communicate the powerful and emotional narrative of the way to the cross. The crucifixion is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Scripture leads us to this pinnacle moment in the history of humanity: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, gave His life in order to defeat the deadly consequences of sin. Join the Chancel Choir as their music leads us to think again of our gift of salvation—by way of the cross

Wes & Betsy Ward

Holy Humor Sunday

On April 27th, Camp UMC will resurrect an old Easter custom that was started by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity - Holy Hilarity or Holy Humor Sunday on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties, and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Pastors and churchgoers played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang and danced (and who knows, CUMC may even have an "open mic" moment on this day).

Early theologians like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysotom enjoyed this day and told their worshippers that it was the day God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. The early theologians called it, *Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh."

Be at Camp UMC on April 27th for Holy Humor Sunday and come believing that Jesus is the "LIFE" of the party.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."





Spring is always a busy, exciting time of the year!

The children's ministry is prepping for our community Easter Bash, on Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 AM- noon. We still need more candy donations and families to decorate their trunks, and members to help run our games and photo booth.

On Sunday, the 13th, Palm Sunday, the children will be sharing two songs during the service. They are excited to bring the joy and celebration of the day to you.

School will end shortly, and we are gearing up for Bible school. For the first time in many years we will have a middle school group! Truly God is moving in our church. Many opportunities to help are available. Please know that we appreciate your continued support through your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service. Let Thommi know if you would like to help. You belong here!

Thommi Hendricks
Interim Director of
Children's Ministry

MOTHER'S MORNING OUT FUNDRAISER



WHEN: APRIL 3rd

WHERE: Hwy 55

TIME: 4:00-8:00 PM

During the hours from 4:00-8:00 PM, MMOM will receive a percentage of the sales. Enjoy a meal there or get a meal to go. No cooking for you and a donation for MMOM.



In March, the youth continued to work their way through the books of the Bible. Our study of Exodus included lessons on Moses' life from his birth story, the burning bush, the 10 Commandments, plagues, crossing the Red Sea with the overall message we can always count on God. We have been able to play outside activities more such as football and kickball or just being outside to enjoy the fresh air and warm weather. Jerome's continues to provide monthly meals for us, this is such a blessing provided by the Summerlin family and Jerome. If you would like to provide a meal for the youth on a Sunday night, please contact any of the youth leaders, it would be much appreciated.



Youth pouring drinks

The pancake dinner was a huge success both as a fundraiser for our youth and an opportunity for our youth to serve. Huge thanks to Mrs. Tamy Munns for organizing and running this event and for the Methodist Men for cooking, cleaning, and helping in any way they could. Also, a very big thank you to all the people that came out to support this night, we had an amazing turnout! I am so proud of our youth, they did a superb job serving food, helping cook, cleaning, selling T-shirts and conversing.

Our next service project will be stuffing eggs for the Easter Bash and helping with the Easter Bash by decorating trunks, hiding eggs, and handing out candy.

We have a new future youth group member who was born March 16th, Ellis James Morse. James (Youth leader), Kaylan and Myles are all in love with Ellis and the youth group cannot wait to meet this future member!

Anna Anderson
Young Adult Representative

THE LORDS FOOD PANTRY

On March 1st, Camp UMC served 162 (15 new). 528 individuals (167 children, 223 adults and 138 seniors). Thirty one (31) Hispanic bags were distributed.

It was a beautiful day to be helping our brothers and sisters in need.

Packing Holiday Boxes

The SBIC will be packing 200 Easter Bags on Friday, April 18th at 2:00 PM at The Lords Food Pantry. The breakfast based food will include: pancake mix, syrup, fruit, bacon, sausage or canned ham. The Easter Bags will be distributed on Saturday, April 19th.

Gary Concelmo, Camp's Coordinator for The Lords Food Pantry



On March 22nd, 10 Trash Warriors collected 22 bags of trash. It was a perfect spring day to be working outside.

The next pickup date is June 14th.



Thursday April 10th
1:00-6:00PM
Youth and Family Center

There is a critical shortage of blood at this time. Please sign up to give at recross-crossblood.org or contact Barbara Varnam at 910-619-5504.

Shallotte Police Dept & Shallotte Fire Dept

The local mission team will be collecting the following items for Shallotte Police and Fire Departments during the month of April.

All new please

Small (6") stuffed animals like Teddy Bears and such) Small blankets security blankets



These items will be given to children in times of need. A collection box for the items in the narthex. Questions?, contact Linda Callender (910) 200-0155 or Barbara Varnam (910) 619-5504 for more information.

Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle is collecting items for the Backpack Buddies Program which supplies food for students while their schools are out on break. Needed items include: any kind of fruit, protein bars, individual packs of oatmeal or grits, peanut butter, canned chicken, fruit cups and juice pouches. Other items could be pop tarts, pudding cups, individual mac and cheese, soup or other snack foods. The deadline for collecting the food is April 8th.



MARCH 15th

BEACH CLEAN-UP A group of volunteers headed over to Holden Beach for a morning beach clean-up. Members from Ocean View UMC, Zion UMC and Camp gathered together under the causeway for a presentation on the effects of trash on the beach led by Nancy Fulton from Ocean View (Creation Care Team member). Plastic bottles, cigarette butts and litter can have devastating effects on marine life. Volunteers scoured the beach picking up trash and cigarette butts. After the clean-up, they returned to Camp for various presentations from mission organizations.



Beach Clean-up

FOOD PACKING: Some volunteers packed 200 breakfast bags and 200 lunch bags while other volunteers made Easter Cards for the sick and shut-ins. Between food packing and card making, outreach organizations heard presentations from Streetreach (homeless), C4C (Congregations for Children) and StAt (Stand Against Trafficking). The presentations were very informative and volunteers were grateful to all the presenters.



Food Packing



Card Making



Presentation by Donna Phelps of Streetreach

All in all, this Harbor Helping Hands event was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers.

NEW MEMBER IN MARCH



Braydon Allen Richards
1067 Knotts Landing Place SE
Bolivia, NC 28422
910-533-0011
idontknow990018@gmail.com

Braydon attends Sunday School
and is active with the Youth Group.

FREE CLEAN UP WEEK

April 21st-April 26th

Brunswick County property owners and residents can dispose of all materials, except for regular household trash and hazardous waste, at the Brunswick Cty Landfill free of charge during this week.

Individuals can dispose of metal, tires, electronics, appliances, latex paint, clothing, shoes, used oil, oil filters, antifreeze, gasoline, fluorescent bulbs, used cooking oil, smoke detectors, household batteries, and yard debris in their designated areas at the landfill during this weeks. All participants must show proof of Brunswick County property ownership or residency.

SALT & UMM

On March 24th, SALT and UMM gathered together for a fish fry. The food was yummy and everyone had a good time of fellowship.



The cooks



The attendees



The centerpiece

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP - MARCH 29th-APRIL 5th

On Sunday March 23rd the Costa Rica Mission Team was commissioned for the work it will be doing. Please keep them in your prayers.



On display in the church were all the sewing projects for the children the team will encounter. The final total of items was 190 garments (77 pairs of shorts and 113 dresses). Every item was beautiful!



The children will surely love these beautiful dresses and shorts.





3	Julie Madison	22	Brandon Garner
5	Martha Cane	22	John Steve
8	Luke Steve	24	Henry Owens
9	Kollin Fillman	24	Jim Busse
11	Kim Isenhour	26	April Owens
11	Sue Wells	27	Shawn O'Daniels
13	Thommi Hendricks	28	Currie Batchelor
17	Rachel Ceglia	30	Grady Anderson
22	Kim Fillman		

Kevin & Rebecca Smith	1	Michael & Adrianna Sidelinger	23
Rebecca & Aaron Colon	12	Andy & Bonnie Verzella	23
Ashley & Jeremy Chambley	16	Jim & Bonita Busse	24
Kevin & Susan Holland	16	Wiley & Susan Ballard	25
Andrew & Terry Bland	19	Currie & Pam Batchelor	26
Alan & Deanna Inions	20		



Happy Anniversary

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL

March	29th	Mission Team leaves for Costa Rica	
April	1st	April Fools Day	
April	5th	Mission Team Returns	
April	10th	Blood Drive—YFC	1:00-6:00 PM
April	17th	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 PM
April	18th	Sanctuary Open fro Prayer/ Stations of the Cross	9:00 AM-3:00 PM
April	20th	EASTER	
April	21st	SALT Activity	11:30 AM
April	21st –26th	Free Clean Up Week (Brunswick County Landfill)	



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5:30 Youth	7:30 AM Morning Exploration	Bulletin Deadline 8:00 Breakfast at Homestyle Foods 9:30-11:30 Prayer Shawl 2:00 Baskets & Bible Study	10:00 Bible Journaling 4:00 & 6:00 Study 5:30 Dinner, 5:30 Camp Kids, Kid Singers 5:45 Adult Choir 7:30 Bell Choir		4:30 Friday Night Meals	8:00 AM Men's Fellowship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Shallotte Civitan Informational Meeting	2 12:00 Lenten Service at Saint Luke Lutheran Church	3 7:00 Finance	4	5 Camp's Lord Pantry Day
6 Communion	7 4:00 SALT Planning	8 10:00 S W Circle	9 12:00 Lenten Service at Camp UMC	10 1:00—6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 Trustees	11	12 10:00 – 12:00 Easter Bash
13 Palm Sunday - Children Singing	14	15 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM MMOM Spring Art Show	16	17 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 5:30 Ladies Night Out SPRC 6:30	18 Good Friday 1:00—3:00 Prayer & Station of the Cross	19
20 Easter	21 6:00 SALT Activity	22	23	24	25	26
27 Holy Humor Sunday	28 6:00 UMM	29	30			