



The Circuit Rider



June 2025

Soul Purpose - June 2025

Hard to believe it's been three years and though I've had about 3 months to prepare for writing this goodbye column, I'm no closer to knowing exactly what to say or how to say goodbye well than I was when I found out I would be leaving.

How do you say "goodbye"? Saying "hello" is relatively easy, but "goodbye"? Not when it's saying "goodbye" to folks you've come to love like I've come to love you. Not when that "goodbye" is offered to people that you've been in ministry with, laughed with, cried with, shared meals with, married, baptized, brought into membership, assisted through bereavement, walked through valleys with, swam oceans and climbed mountains with. Trusted.

First, please allow me the privilege to say a specific goodbye to some very special people I leave behind. The staff of Camp UMC. I pray you know how fortunate you are to have these people in leadership at Camp United Methodist Church. They've made my job easier in many respects which enabled me to tackle the more challenging situations that I faced.

(Listed alphabetically):

Tammy Albright
Robin Farmer
Kim Fluharty
Dave Gilotty
Thommi Hendricks
Kara Martin
Tamy Munns
Alyssa Myers
Betsy Ward
Wes Ward

Camp United Methodist Church

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Sunday Services

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship

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Without them, the ministry I've enjoyed at Camp UMC would have been incomplete. This staff never says, "no". They always say an enthusiastic "yes we can" and I will miss leading this inspiring team of talented individuals. The new pastoral leadership of this congregation will lean on you for guidance which I know you will offer with positive attitudes and respect.

For any that have served in leadership positions; Church Council, SPPRC, Nurture, Outreach, Witness/Worship, Evangelism, Trustees, Finance, Stewardship, Lay Leadership and Development, UMM, UWofF, Children's ministries, UMYF, SS leaders, small group leaders, and nursery workers. These past three years have challenged us. Much of our time together was prayerfully spent guiding our congregation through the most difficult times under the most difficult circumstances a church body will ever experience. But we never doubted the power of the Trinitarian God of our worship in providing exactly what was needed to move through the challenges each day brought. We worked together in a harmonious spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to direct us toward the answers and actions necessary in building up the body. Thank you for your support in those mentally, physically, and spiritually challenging times.

Congregational members. I leave here loving each of you as sisters and brothers in Christ. You walked with me through the death of my mother, the birth of our great-grandson, the challenges of a diagnosis and treatments for Mantle Cell lymphoma, and the loss of some of my dearest of friends. I'll never forget how you gave me hope and comfort in those difficult times. You lifted me up in ways you don't even know you did.

Did we always see eye to eye on every issue? No, but with every issue we were able to find a unifying spirit among us as we allowed God to show us how we can live together even in those seasons where we might not have been on the same page.

I'm sure there are some of you I've overlooked, but if so, it's not an intentional slight. It's just an oversight and I love you. too.

Soon, Rev. Clay Parker will occupy the seat that I've had the privilege of sitting for these last three years. He'll stand in our sacred chancel and offer you God's Words of love, justice and kindness. I'm excited for him, just knowing the love and grace he'll find in this special place called Camp UMC. I have every reason to believe you will thrive as a congregation under his leadership as you welcome him, his wife, Shwanna, and their family.

In retirement, it looks like I'm going to be nearly as active in ministry leadership as ever. I'll be serving as pastor in a part-time appointment with the people of Gibson Memorial United Methodist Church, a growing area just east of Raleigh in Spring Hope, and recently I accepted a part-time position as an Associate on the Church Transformation Ministries Team for our conference. In that role I'll be assisting churches and pastors in four of our districts, collaborating with them in visioning for the future of ministry individually and collectively in their churches and communities.

Dear friends, I pray that you will continue to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Live into your vision in welcoming all, loving all, and serving all. Continue to transform the world one life, one ministry at a time. Live "Joy-FULLY Together", putting on love which binds all things together in perfect harmony.

And anytime you're near the Triangle area, rest assured that the doors of our home and the doors of Gibson Memorial Methodist Church will be open widely for you.

So, I changed my mind. This is not a goodbye; it's just an "I'll see you soon".

With love and affection . . .

Pastor Terry

IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS IN JUNE

JUNE 6TH D-DAY D-Day commemorates the June 6, 1944, Allied invasion of Normandy, France, which is considered a turning point in World War II.

JUNE 8th PENTECOST Pentecost is seen as the "**birthday**" of the Christian Church, the day the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples into a new community, empowered by God to spread the message of Jesus.

Jesus promised his disciples a "baptism in the Holy Spirit" and a "Helper" who would guide them. Pentecost is the day this **promise was fulfilled**, with the Holy Spirit empowering the apostles to speak in different languages and share the gospel.

JUNE 14th FLAG DAY Flag Day an important day for Americans to celebrate the American flag and what it represents. It commemorates the adoption of the "Stars and Stripes" by the Continental Congress in 1777, and it is a time to reflect on the flag's significance as a symbol of freedom, unity and patriotism.

JUNE 15th FATHER'S DAY Father's Day is a time to appreciate the unique role fathers play in our lives, whether they are our biological fathers, stepfathers, or figures who have guided us. It's a chance to reflect on their love, support, and the impact they've had on shaping who we are. Whether you're expressing gratitude to a living father or honoring a father who has passed away, Father's Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge their influence and the lessons they've taught us.

JUNE 19th JUNETEENTH Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865, marking the end of slavery in the United States



Recent Decisions by the Church Council

The structure for the leadership of our Church consists of 5 major parts. The Church Council is # 1 - the decision-making body. There are four committees that handle critical functions: 2) The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee that is responsible for human resources issues, 3) The Trustees that handle facilities issues 4) the Finance Committee that handles all financial issues and 5) the Lay Leadership and Development, which is less well known to many and is the only committee that is chaired by the Pastor. Those four committees report to the Church Council which is responsible for the major decision-making.

The function of the Lay Leadership and Development Committee is to recommend members of the Church for leadership positions and train them for proper leadership. This month the Lay Leadership and Development Committee recommended five church members to fill open leadership positions that have occurred recently. Those five were:

Dave Gilotty for the Trustees Committee
Ricky Byrd for the Finance Committee
Phil Giallombardo, Cathy White and Sue Wells
for the Lay Leadership and Development Committee.

The Church council voted unanimously to approve those five recommendations.

On May 19th, there was a special Charge Conference called where the Church Council voted on the salary and benefits package for the new Pastor. Pastor Clay Parker will begin his duties with Camp on July first. His salary and benefits was proposed by the Conference. The proposed salary was \$78,000 and his entire benefits package was \$118,337.50 which includes pension, health insurance, vouchered travel and utilities. The Church Council voted unanimously to approve the salary and benefits package as recommended.

Tom Evans
Chair of the Church Council

MOTHERS MORNING OUT MINISTRY

This summer we are offering our preschool families a new opportunity in the form of summer camp, and we are excited! Camps will be theme based and will run Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM. Luau, Pirates, Christmas in July, and Water, Water Everywhere are a few of our adventure filled weeks. Summer Camp will end on August 7th and we will resume our regular school year on September 2nd.



Camp Kids finished up this school year on Wednesday, May 21st with a picnic at Mulberry Park, followed by ice cream at Daily Scoop on Main Street. We will resume on Wednesday nights in September.



We still need volunteers for Vacation Bible School! VBS. Volunteers needed: Station Leaders, Pre K Leaders Group Leaders and Dinner Support. Contact Thommi at (910) 231-9044 to volunteer with snacks or to lead a group.

We need you! Camp has always been a generous and supportive church family for our children, and it is my hope that you will be here again for the children. We are losing a staff member in July, Kara Martin. She also serves as a Sunday School teacher on the third Sundays of the month. We are looking for someone to help us out with the void that will be left with her absence. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities:

Can you spare one Sunday a month to teach our children's Sunday School class? Lesson plans are provided for you.

Are you willing and able to help in the back on a Sunday morning during the service? We are looking for several persons who are willing to commit to at least one Sunday a month. You would be helping Mrs. Tammy Albright. This position doesn't require any lesson planning. There will be a lead teacher with you.

None of those sound like your cup of tea? How about helping in the nursery during church service? We especially need someone on the second Sunday of the month, since our regular helper, Ms. Alyssa Meyer has that Sunday off to worship with her family at their home church. Please let me know.

Thommi Hendricks

YOUTH MINISTRY

We continued to work our way through the Books of the Bible on Sunday evenings. These evenings also included playing games, fellowshiping, and eating while adding in service projects too. The youth stuffed many Easter eggs for our church Easter Bash while the NCAA basketball tournament was on the projector, perfect example of fun and service together. The next Sunday the youth had two trunks for the Easter bash: "Fruit of the Spirit" and "Jesus has risen, tell your PEEPS!" They handed out goodies, hid the eggs for the hunt, and talked with the children and families that were present at the event.



Our youth group had a very special Sunday on April 20th where Landon Potenza, or LP as we all call him, got baptized and one of our leaders, Kara Martin, joined Camp UMC. The support of many youth group members who were able to attend and stand alongside LP and Kara was very touching. We are so proud of the decision these two made.



Anna Anderson
Youth Ministry

Welcome

New Members



Tim Albright



Chad, Meghan and Marley Wilson



Rachel and Callie Griggs



John and Lottie Mottesheard



Carol Krawiec



Ellis James Morse



Annie Whitelonis

Susanna Wesley Circle and Women in Faith

Thank you to all who purchased Mother's Day Flowers.



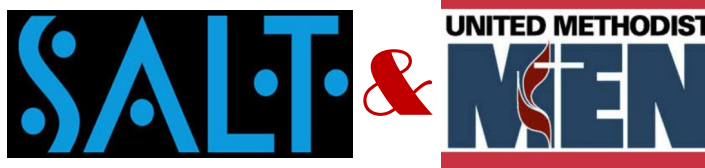
The Susanna Wesley Circle will be meeting for lunch on June 10 to pack the backpacks. If you have any questions please contact Jill Bryant at (919-274-4483) or Barbara Varnam at (910-619-5504).

Jill Bryant

ANGEL TREE CAMPS

Building Hope Ministries, run by Donna and Gary Phelps, helps sponsor Angel Tree Camps. It is a week-long summer camp for prisoners' kids, held throughout the state at various locations. This camp may be the only structured fun experience that some of these children will have all summer. Our church members have been donating to this for several years. Our portion is \$50 per child. The rest is funded by other organizations. **If you would like to donate, make the check out to "Building Hope Ministries", with "Angel Tree Camp" on the memo line.** This can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or turned in to Barbara Varnam, This can be done through the end of July.

Our Outreach Committee is are partnering with Women In Faith in collecting items for a backpack for 50 Angel Tree Kids, for summer camps. We have had a good response for this project! All we need now is: 45 bars of soap with containers, 25 flashlights with batteries and 50 small bottles of shampoo. There is a box in the Narthex for these items.



SALT & UMM had their final cookout before summer on May 19th. We had 44 people who attended the event. Burgers and Hot dogs on the grill, Franz's famous potato salad, Lynda Eagles famous slaw, baked beans, Judy Arnold's pecan dessert, Kitty Reedy's pineapple upside down cake, brownies and a yummy apple crunch.



After the meal, SALT voted to have some lunch dates during the summer. Possibilities could include lunch in Wilmington on the river, or maybe lunch in Elizabethtown at the winery. Watch your emails for future information.



The Ladies Night Group met at the Tides restaurant on Thursday, May 15th. We had such a great time sharing and laughing that we completely lost track of time. They asked us to kindly leave so they could close.

Join us for the next outing at Inlet View for lunch on Wednesday, June 18th at 11:30 AM.

Tamy Munns





The next pick up will be on Saturday, June 28th starting at 9:00 AM. Plan to meet at Big Oak Mobile Home Supply, 1309 Hale Swamp Rd. If you have questions, contact Hart Merriman at (540) 797-4388 or hartandsusan@gmail.com

WHY IS ROADSIDE PICKUP IMPORTANT

Roadside trash pickup is crucial for protecting both the environment and public health. It prevents pollution by keeping harmful materials out of natural areas and waterways, reduces the risk of disease, and helps maintain the beauty and safety of public spaces. Additionally, proper waste management can conserve resources and reduce the need for new landfills.

Christians acknowledge creation care as an act of discipleship; we are stewards of the earth, summoned by God to "work it and take care of it" (**Genesis 2:15**). Our uses of the earth must be designed to conserve and renew it rather than to deplete or destroy it

LOCAL MISSIONS

In addition to sponsorships for Angel Tree Camp and collecting supplies for the campers, the committee has:

has put together 50 Women's Hygiene Bags to be taken to Annual Conference.

provided the Union School Staff with an End-of-Year Appreciation Breakfast on May 30th.



Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is Thursday, July 10th, 1:00-6:00 PM in our Youth and Family Center. Please sign up at redcrossblood.org or call Barbara Varnam at 910-619-5504.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



This edition of the newsletter marks the end of my 7 years "on the job". Special thanks to all of you who have contributed articles, proofread and generally made my job easier. I've enjoyed working with you and doing the newsletter. Thank you all for all that you do for the life of the church.

Jeanne Frederick

A new editor is needed. Please consider using your talents to fill this vacancy.





Kate & Mike Alderson	1 (6)	Kim & Joey Galloway	17 (47)
Jill & Ken Greene	9 (13)	Gayle & Frank Williamson	19 (49)
Suzy & Jeff Ritz	11 (25)	Kathy & Jack Kyzer	24 (19)
Janet & Scott Stevenson	11 (3)	Stephanie & Daniel Page	25 (4)
Sally & Robert Makay	13 (55)	Denise & Gary Concelmo	26 (54)
Jane & Tom Evans	14 (56)	Ramona & Al Parker	28 (44)
Jane & Robert Morris	14 (61)	Laura & Eric Freeman	29 (12)
Beth & Bruce Baker	16 (46)	Beth & Douglas Hunter	20 (35)

8	Tal Madison	17	Derrick Thompson
8	Sue Wall	17	Ana Parker
8	Jamey Motter	21	Hal Mills
9	Ajia Steve	23	Lou Ann Keisler
9	Jack Revell	25	Lou Salter
11	Katie Steve	26	Evelyn Madison
12	Mel O'Daniels	26	Noah Fueston
12	Harold Beaty	27	Marlene Hall
12	Mackenzie Faulk	28	Mat Mellis
13	Hadley McGougan	28	Myles Morse
16	Mary Lee Nance	30	Shirley Williams
16	Harlen Summerlin		



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE

June 5th	Trustees Meeting	6:00 PM
June 7th	Camp's Lords Pantry Day	
June 8th	Pentecost	
June 14th	Flag Day	
June 15th	Father's Day	
June 15th-19th	Bible School	
June 25th	Annual Conference	Greenville, NC



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	6:30 Prayer & Communion	Bulletin Deadline 9:30-11:30 Prayer Shawl	10:00 Bible Journaling	10:00 Ladies on the Bus	4:30 Friday Night Meals	8:00 Men's Fellowship Group

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION Ascension Sunday	2 SALT Planning	3	4	5 6:00 Trustees	6	7 Camp's Lords Pantry Day
8 Pentecost 4:00 Pastor Terry & Jane Celebration	9	10	11	12 7:00 Finance	13	14 
ANNUAL CONFERENCE-GREENVILLE, NC						
15 	16	17	18	19 11:30 Ladies Night Out 6:30 SPRC	20	21
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL						
22	23	24 MMOM Summer Camp Starts	25	26	27	28 9:00 Adopt A Highway
29	30					