

Camp UMC

October Circuit Rider

Pastoral Report

“Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that He swore to your ancestors, as He is doing today.”

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NRSVUE



“The kingdom is where God provides for all that we need. It is the realm of sufficiency, where we are no longer pulled here or there by

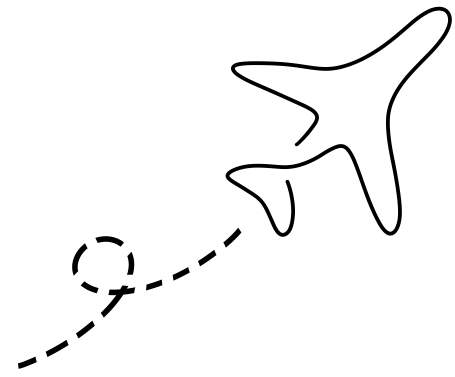
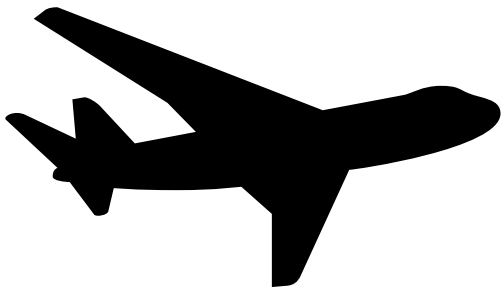
anxiety about having enough.”

Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Fundraising

Let’s talk about stewardship and giving! That’s not typically how one starts a fun conversation, but in the life of the church, it is an important conversation to have from time to time. Giving is a deeply personal spiritual discipline that needs to be treated as such, and yet each person’s giving affects all the other people who are a part of the community of Camp UMC. Giving is so much more than something we feel as though we “have to do” in order to be a disciple in good standing, so to speak. I believe that the place we begin to see transformation in our lives is to recognize that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to embrace the truth that the author of Deuteronomy shares: All that we have is a generous gift from a generous God. When our giving begins with that acknowledgement, it becomes less of a “chore” or a “burden” and more of the spiritual discipline that Henri Nouwen writes about. If you are already a generous giver, thank you. Our witness suffers when we are not as generous as God needs us to be. If you are not a faithful giver yet, there is good news on two fronts. First, there is grace poured out that is sufficient for you as you navigate the landscape of giving and generosity. Second, try starting to give with the mindset of someone who is praising God for God’s generosity. We will never be able to out give God.

That is good news today and every day.

Shalom, Pastor Clay



What is Flight 345?

I am excited to share some details about CUMC's wonderful new small group for your third, fourth and fifth graders! Beginning this fall, Camp UMC Children's Ministry will launch a new ministry called Flight 345, created especially for third, fourth, and fifth graders.

This ministry is designed to help children take off to the next level in their faith journey—growing deeper in their understanding of God's love, learning to live out their faith in everyday life, and building strong friendships with their peers. Through interactive Bible lessons, service projects, games, and hands-on activities, your children will be given the tools they need to soar with confidence as young disciples of Jesus Christ. The name Flight 345 reflects the vision: just as a flight crew prepares for an exciting journey, our third, fourth, and fifth graders will prepare to take their next steps in faith that will prepare them to enter UMYF (youth group) in the sixth grade. Together, we'll explore Scripture, practice prayer, and discover ways to live out God's Word in school, at home, and in our community.

After spending a small amount of time with them last Sunday after receiving their Bibles, I believe this age group has a unique energy and curiosity, and Flight 345 will give them a space to ask questions, grow spiritually, and have a lot of fun along the way! The schedule of gatherings for the next five months is planned as follows: We will meet one Sunday a month during the same time that the younger children are dismissed for Children's Church. The other Sunday's when they remain in worship, they will have the workbooks that have been prepared for them to use during worship, which will also include a Flight Plan notebook beginning after the first gathering in October.

October 19, November 16, December 21, January 18 and February 15.

On February 15, we will celebrate their Flight School Celebration during worship, have lunch at the parsonage and take a field trip to a local airport.

I cannot wait to see how God will work in the lives of these children through this new ministry. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you at CUMC in guiding your children to know, love, and follow Jesus. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

With joy and anticipation,
Shawanna Smith-Parker



Music



The Music Ministry is diligently working on music for weekly Sunday worship and the Christmas Cantata. The Cantata will be presented in morning worship on December 7.

We have some new faces who have joined us this fall, but there is still time for YOU to be a part of the joyous music of Advent and Christmas. Also, late on Wednesdays you can hear the bells ringing out melodies for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Join us for choir practice on Wednesdays, and leave with a song in your heart!

Contact Wes & Betsy Ward for more info.



Adult



SALT: The UMM and SALT held a combined meeting in September. Jack Rector and friends caught enough fish for a fish fry for 50+ people. The decorations of ceramic fish and Salt containers reminded us to be fishers of men. The devotion was delivered by Lynda Eagle, and the UMM served yummy fried catfish. We finished the evening with cherry crumble, peach cobbler, blueberry cobbler, and oatmeal cake.

Church Annual Picnic: We had our annual church picnic at the church. The Greasy Spoons grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. The members provided sides. It was an afternoon of fun, great food, and fellowship.

Ladies Night Out: Six ladies recently enjoyed an evening at Inlet View, filled with delicious food, engaging conversations, and plenty of laughter!

Contact Tamy Munns for more information on upcoming events.



Children

On Wednesday, September 24th our Camp Kids group went shopping to fill their shoe boxes for the **Outreach Committee's Agape mission project**. After they made their purchases then returned to church to carefully pack their boxes. The children are excited to add their boxes to the rest of the church members' donations.

We are thankful to everyone who has signed up to **contribute meals** on Wed evenings. The children look forward to their meals and are excited to see what will be served next.

Flight 345 is taking off! Our third through fifth graders will be meeting during the service, on the third Sunday of the month, immediately following the Children's Moment. They are off on a new adventure!

Coming soon to a parking lot near you is our **Trunks of Treats** event. We are looking for families from both our MMOM program and church to decorate your cars and pass out candy/treats. Please join us on Saturday, October 25th from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Can't be here but would like to help? You may donate candy, treats, etc. A collection box will be placed in the narthex beginning Sunday, October 5th.

Mark your calendars:

Sunday, October 12th The Kid Singers will sing during the service.

Sunday, December 14th, after the service, the children will present True North Christmas.

Contact Thommi Hendricks for additional information.

Join us and bring a friend for **Wonderful Wednesday**, starting September 10th! All are invited and there is something for everyone! Bible Study ~ **We Believe; How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith** by Michael Carpenter. This book study will break down various sections of the Nicene Creed which is very similar to the Apostles Creed. Two times to choose from: 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Contact Tamy Munns for a book.)



Our children & youth shopping for Project Agape boxes.



Youth



Camp's Youth Group has started back on Sunday nights from 5:30-7pm. This is for youth 6th through 12th grade and any adults that want to help that still feel like youth! We have enjoyed spending time together worshipping, learning about “Why Small Choices Change Who You Become”, playing 9 Square and football, and eating yummy food that has been provided and even going out for ice-cream. Our service/mission project for this month was shopping, packing and praying over Project Agape boxes. This year the youth had a female and male box ages 13-18, since this is the age range of the youth group it was meaningful thinking how much we have and carefully deciding what to pack each box with. **Our next adventure is Pilgrimage, November 7th – 9th**, with a theme of “What’s Next?” and how God is with us when we ask this question. If you would like to sponsor the cost of this trip for one of our youth, the cost is \$200. All should be able to attend regardless of financial situation. Please pray for our youth group and leaders as we prepare for Pilgrimage.

Contact Anna Anderson for additional information.

Church Council Update

Dean Anderson has informed the **Staff Parish Relations Committee** that he will be stepping down from the **Youth Leader position** at the end of this calendar year. Dean has taken on this role as a volunteer, has done a terrific job, we are very grateful for his service. The SPRC plans to announce the open position and conduct a search for his replacement. The Council has decided to conduct a formal **Stewardship campaign** after the new year. We did this type of program two years ago and found it to be very effective in terms of the number of pledges made and the number of increased pledges. Last year we simply sent out pledge cards and the results of that process were down slightly from the year before. The formal campaign, which includes a church-wide dinner and a series of temple talks, takes more time than is available during the remainder of this busy time of the calendar year, and so we plan to hold the Consecration Sunday event near Valentine's Day, where the event will celebrate our love of God and our thanks for his many blessings.

The **Trustees** reported to the Council that the air conditioning unit that serves the Fellowship Hall must be replaced. This will be an expensive replacement costing over \$11,000. However, we cannot say we did not get our money's worth out of the one that failed since it was installed over 40 years ago. Our prayer is that the ones we have recently purchased will serve us as well.

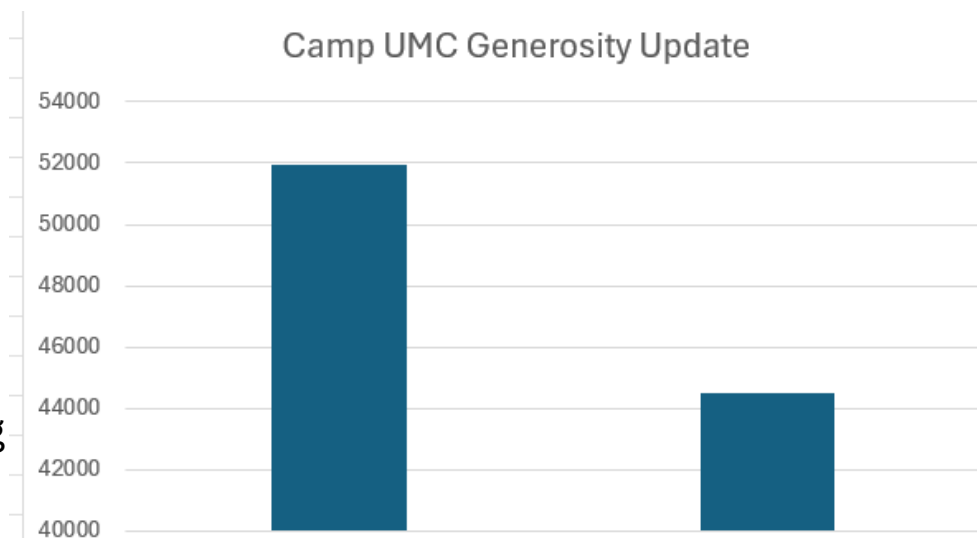
Next Church Council Meeting: November 13 @ 6:30 pm
Tom Evans– Chair of the Church Council

Finance Committee

Giving needed to meet monthly expenses: \$57,706

Giving for Aug 2025: \$39,077

Reserves are available to cover the difference between giving and expenses in 2025. This was forecasted in our budget and expected, Our reserves are being spent down this year, however, it is not sustainable for the long term.



Volunteer Today!

We are in need of people to **open/close** the church on Sunday mornings. Training is provided and a month commitment is all that's required. Contact Deana Milliken for more info.

Wish to add something to the newsletter?

Please send your submissions to Hart Merriam by the 20th of each month.

****All underlined names provide you a direct link to their contact info. ****

Help is needed with the **Sunday Morning Camera**. If you are interested in helping to record the Sunday service video, please contact Tamy Munns

Love working with children?

We are in need of volunteers on Sunday morning during the worship service to help in the nursery.

Contact Thommi Hendricks to get plugged in.

Mother's Morning Out

Thank you so very much to everyone who purchased a Boston butt during our fundraiser. We sold 120, and look forward to seeing your smiling faces at pick up on Friday, October 3rd between noon and 3:00 pm. We will be set up at the back door of the new sanctuary, on Bobby's side. Just drive thru and we will hand you your purchase.

MMOM is looking for substitute teachers. The hours are 8:30 am-12:30pm. Are you interested or do you perhaps know someone who may be interested? We don't pay a lot, but we do pay! If you are interested, please see Kim Fluharty or Thommi Hendricks. We would love to have you join our team.

Friday Night Meals

We are seeking volunteers to assist with meal prep on Thursday nights.

Contact Francis or Mary Lee on how you can get plugged into the ministry.



Local Ministries

Become a Reading Buddy...

Local elementary schools are in need of volunteers to share the gift of reading with children.

[Click the link for more info.](#)

Susanna Wesley ~ Women in Faith meets October 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited.

Camp is beginning a new grief-sharing ministry called **Comfort, Care, and Compassion**. Deana Milliken is selling homemade apple butter to benefit this new ministry. The price is \$7.00 for an 8-oz jar and \$12.00 for a 12-oz jar. Please call, text, or email Deana for an order @ 910-880-5673 or deanamilliken@gmail.com. Thanks for supporting this new ministry at Camp.



UMM & Salt Fish Fry

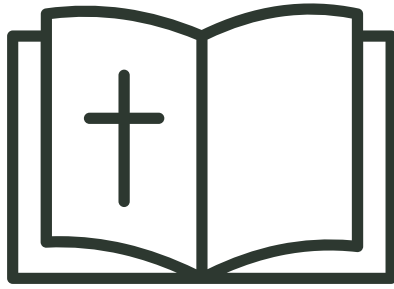
The Lord's Food Pantry

A commitment to strong, local mission activities is a top priority at Camp UMC. Our church has supported the food pantry of the South Brunswick Interchurch Council for over 20 years. We have about 20 volunteers who work the first Saturday of each month, serving food to about 175 families. Gary Concelmo has led the group for five years, and is stepping down from his leadership role.

So, please take a moment to thank him for doing such a great job.

If you're interested in volunteering on a regular or occasional basis or just have questions, please reach out. We can use you!

Contact [Joey Galloway](#) or [Jim Malick](#) for more information.



Baskets and Bible Study meets Tuesdays from 2:00p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All crafters are welcome to attend.

The Adopt-a-Highway crew will be picking up trash on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Meet at 9AM by the red building at 1309 Hale Swamp Road. Contact Hart Merriam for additional information.



Outreach Committee

AGAPE BOXES: A big thank you to our congregation for the participation of our one hundred Christmas boxes to Armenia. Also, a big thank you to Ray and Becky McKinnon for taking them to the Mercy Center in Goldsboro.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Our next blood drive is October 9th, 1:00-6:00 pm, in our YFC. Go to redcrossblood.org and sign up or contact Barbara Varnam at 910-619-5504.



SOCKTOBER AND UN-DY SUNDAY: Our two schools have requested donations of socks and underwear (all sizes). The month of October we will be taking up donations of socks for males and females, all sizes. We will designate one Sunday in October (Un-dy Sunday), for underwear, male and female, all sizes. There will be a collection box in the Narthex. For more info contact Tamy Munns or Barbara Varnam. Barbara, Howard, and Ray McKinnon



Ladies Night Out

Anniversaries

Mel & Shawn O'Daniels 10/7/2000

Robert & Shirl Szczypta 10/8/1972

Chris & Caroline Lewis 10/8/2011

Peggy & Tom Coda 10/13/1979

Ricky & Lou Byrd 10/17/1998

Ray & Becky McKinnon 10/21/1978

Roy & Thelma Herring 10/22/1995

Dave & Monica Gilotty 10/23/2005

Birthdays



Roy Herring 1

Reid Miller 1

Ashley Chambley 3

Dawn Long-Miller 3

Kami Fillman 4

Sara McCullough 6

Robin Farmer 8

Junior Reedy 8

Alex Harris 11

Jill Bryant 12

Shay Godwin 12

Dereck Norfleet 12

Mary Jean Harrelson 13

Bob Newton 13

Silas Oliver 13

Emma Sellers 13

Deborah Carter 14

Britton Williams 14

Betty Oakes 15

Kara Martin 16

John Motteshead 19

Janet Stevenson 20

W.J. McLamb 21

Ethan Page 21

John Arsenault 22

Regina Britton 23

Zac Inman 30

Julia Steve 30

Ken Greene 31

Ben Smith 31

Save the Date:

This Month:

October 5: World Communion Sunday

October 5: Blessing of the Animals Service @ 5 pm in the Grassy Knoll

October 7: Trustees Meeting @ 7 pm

October 9: Finance Meeting @ 7 pm

October 11: Adopt a Highway Trash Pickup @ 9am

October 16: Ladies Night Out @ 5pm

October 16: SPRC Meeting @ 6:30 pm

October 19: Agape Group @ 11 am in Salmon Room

October 20: SALT Activity @ 11:30am at Brick Landing

October 25: Trunks of Treats from 1-3 pm in the church parking lot

October 27: UMM @ 6pm in Fellowship Hall

October 30: MMOM Fall Festival @ 9 am

Upcoming

November 7-9: Youth @ Pilgrimage

November 9: Women In Faith Soup Fundraiser @ 11am

November 16: Cluster Charge Conference @ 4 pm at Seaside UMC

November 17: SALT Thanksgiving Meal @ 5pm in Fellowship Hall

November 22: Cookie Walk & Craft Fair

November 30: Hanging of the Greens Service

December 6: Shallotte Christmas Parade

December 7: Christmas Cantata

December 14: Children's Christmas Program

Weekly Meetings:

Camp Kids/Wonderful Wednesday/ Choir: every Wednesday night

Prayer Shawl Ministry: every Tuesday @ 9:30 am at Virginia Winfree's.

Youth Group: ever Sunday night @ 5:30 pm

Sunday School: every Sunday @ 9 am