



The Wrightsboro Connection

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Wrightsboro United Methodist

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR:

It's hard to believe that the season of Lent is almost over, and soon we will soon reach the conclusion with what is called the Great Three Days. Sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch, these days begin at sunset on Holy (Maundy) Thursday and end with sunset on Easter Sunday. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death and resurrection, and we are encouraged to journey with Jesus from the upper room, to the garden, to the cross, and to the tomb. As in the past, we will have several special services to help guide us through that journey.

We will begin with a special service for Maundy Thursday. As we did last year, we are moving our Wednesday Family Night meal to Maundy Thursday, with the worship service in the sanctuary afterwards. This seems very appropriate to me, since we are remembering Jesus' last meal with His disciples. The meal will begin at 5:30, followed by our Maundy Thursday service at 6:30. The service will include special music and Holy Communion, and I hope you will come out and join us.

On Friday evening at 7:00, we will once again have a Service of Tenebrae, or "Darkness." The focus of this ancient service is the suffering and death of Jesus. One of the unique features of this service is the gradual darkening of the sanctuary and the extinguishing of 15 candles, representing the dying and death of Jesus. This is a powerful and moving service, and I strongly encourage everyone to attend.

On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior! We will begin the

day with a Sunrise Service outside in the lot in front of the playground (weather permitting) at 6:30. If you have never attended an Easter Sunrise Service, I urge you to do so - you will be blessed! We will continue celebrating our Savior's victory over death at a combined worship service at 10:00.

That's a lot of activity in a short period of time - but it is an appropriate attempt to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I urge each and every one of you to make every effort to take advantage of these special opportunities for worship. Watch for announcements of any changes in the above schedule and, as always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Grace & peace,
Pastor David

April Birthdays

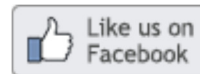
1 Joe Hodges
1 Brittany Jordan
9 Joan Skaggs
10 Joanne Lee
11 Joseph Crowder
12 Barbara Hodges
14 Garry Dale
14 Joey Hodges
15 Marshall Utterback Jr.
17 Terri Hollowell
17 Tyler Stephenson
20 Joyce Wardrip
20 Goldie Picone
22 Daniel Steagall
23 Marcus Gregory
29 Eva Czepiel
30 Cristy Butler

Deeds of Mercy

The Deeds of Mercy is an outreach ministry of the Church to help provide monetary aid to families in our church and community in times of need. The fund is a helping agency and not a "pay it all" ministry.

We will take a special offering for the Deeds of Mercy on the 1st Sunday of the month during communion.

Facebook



Yes, Wrightsboro United Methodist Church has a Facebook page! Some of you have already liked our page and we thank you. If you have not, please take time to go and like our page. Also you can really help us get the word out about what we are doing here at Wrightsboro UMC by not only liking the posts but also by sharing the posts. This will increase the number of people exponentially who see our posts. Another way you can help is when a question is posted, answer the question. This will help open up the communication. Lastly, if you have some time on your hands and would like to help keep our social media current, please contact the church office.



Altar Flowers

The 2017 Altar flower chart is posted in the hallway across from the restrooms. Please sign up if you would like to provide flowers in the Sanctuary on a Sunday during 2017.

Dates Available:

April 30
May 7
June 25

The cost of flowers is \$49.00. You can mark your check or envelope for flowers and place in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. If you have any questions or special requests,

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer concern? Who do you contact?

Email Aileen Jennings, at aileen928@gmail.com, who will email it out to the prayer chain. If you would like to receive the prayer chain email contact the church office. Just remember that you are committing to pray for the members of our church and their family and friends.

CMA Run for the Son



Greetings!

2017 will be the 30th year that the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA) has sponsored the Run for the Son ride to raise money for evangelism. Of the money

raised, 60% is given to our three world-reaching ministry partners for work in foreign missions, and 40% is used for home missions through CMA.

Through our involvement with Missionary Ventures, CMA has placed **5,769** motorcycles, **6,593** bicycles, **28** boats, **31** horses, **1** camel,

2 snowmobiles and **3** horse and buggies in the care of native pastors in **105** countries.

Through Open Doors, we have provided for the purchase and distribution of **2,616,852** Bibles in restricted access countries around the world.

Although the *JESUS* film has been shown to over **6** billion people, our contributions, through Run for the Son, are directly responsible for the *JESUS* film being shown to over **119** million people in more than **200** countries. The *JESUS* film has been translated into **1,420** languages, and over **12** million have accepted Christ. This ministry reports that traditionally at least **10** people see the film for every dollar contributed and, of those ten, at least one person accepts Christ.

On Sunday, **April 30th, 2017** we will again be participating at Wrightsboro UMC to generate support for these missions. Will you help us? Any amount you can invest will make a difference as we change our world for Jesus - which is our only goal.

I have witnessed the integrity with which this project has been handled, and I guarantee you that none of this money goes to the day-to-day operating funds for CMA, or the ministry partners. All of the money raised is used to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to check out CMA, www.cmausa.org, Run for the Son, and what we do with the money. Will you please consider a donation? No matter how small or how large, it will make a difference.

Please make checks payable to the Christian Motorcyclists Association (or CMA), and note "Run for the Son" on the memo line. Any donation is tax deductible.

Thanks and God Bless you,
Jerry Lipka

Family Night Come Join Us!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in March while Tina was away. Let's keep it up! Sign-up sheets are in the lobby and passed around Wednesday evenings.

Attendance forms are included each week in the bulletin. Please fill one out and place in the offering plate, or contact the church office, to help us know how much food to prepare.



Easter Sunday April 16

Sunrise Service 6:30am
Easter Worship Celebration
One Service 10:00am

DVD Ministry

Each week John Fuller record our 10:50am Worship Service. If you missed worship or would

like to share the message with a friend or family member, copies are available. A sign up sheet is in the lobby; put your name and date of the service and we will get a copy to you. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies.

In Case of Emergency

The defibrillator is now located in the cabinet marked AED on the wall in the hallway beside the sanctuary.

Also, we have consolidated all our first aid supplies - first aid kit, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, glucose meter, glucose tablets and Propel or something similar for sudden blood sugar drops. All these items are now located in the cabinet in the Welcome Center, behind the door with the "First Aid" sign.



Stephen Ministry is a ministry of Christian caregiving. If you need someone to encourage you when life gets hard, pray with you, listen as you share your story, then our Stephen Ministers can help. Contact one of the pastors for more information.

Did you know that when you make a purchase on Amazon.com that you can support Wrightsboro UMC?

www.smile.amazon.com

Harbor District News



UMBLN Vision

To connect, inform, inspire and engage business leaders in the Harbor District, so that together we can more fully live out our mission as disciple makers of Jesus Christ.

UMBLN provides opportunities to:

- * Connect and network with other UM business leaders in the Harbor District area
- * Become more informed regarding the mission strategy and work of Harbor District in our local communities and internationally
- * Inspire - and be inspired by - our peers as we explore ways to apply Christian principals to our business practices
- Engage in opportunities to serve as the hands and feet of Christ through community outreach and missions



Lead Like Jesus
CEO Phyllis Hennecey Hendry

The UMBLN's next event will be a Phone Interview Event with Lead Like Jesus CEO Phyllis Hennecey Hendry on Tues April 18th from 12noon-12:40pm. Lead Like Jesus is global leadership development organization (co-founded by well known business consultant Ken Blanchard) that helps individuals and organizations lead more effectively by following the model of Jesus. Phyllis will be discussing some of the leadership principals that they teach as well as some examples of business leaders who have incorporated the principals into their leadership style and/or company culture. There will be some time at the end of the call for participants to ask Phyllis questions. This is a convenient opportunity for UM business leaders to join us from the comfort of their own home or office.

If you would like to participate in the call please register by clicking below and you will be sent dial in instructions prior to the call:

<http://goo.gl/forms/5g4h1vwzpoD5cdha2>



UMW News

Just a 3 point short note from the UMW to keep you up to date in what we are doing:

1. **Birthing kits**, which consist of:
 - a. 1 square yd. of 4 ml plastic
 - b. 3 12 inch lengths of twine
 - c. 1 small bar of soap (hotel size)
 - d. 1 razor blade, single sided only
 - e. 1 pair of latex-free gloves
 - f. 2 receiving blankets

We have everything for these kits except the receiving blankets and soap. If you would like to donate either of these items, please place them in the baby bed/bassinet in the church entry way. We appreciate all the help from the church members to support the various mission projects the UMW has been and continues to be involved in through the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

2. **Give 5 / Read 5** - It's hard to believe that another school year is rapidly drawing to a close. If you see any gently used books at yard sales, consignment shops or on sale somewhere, please continue to support our reading program that provides books for the children at Wrightsboro Elementary School. The teachers tell us that it means so much for the children to have books to read and keep their minds active during the summer and ready to continue to grow in their next school year. We thank you for your support of this project.

3. **May Tea** - Attention to all ladies of Wrightsboro United Methodist Church. Mark your calendar for our Annual Ladies Tea on Saturday, May 20th at 1:00 in the afternoon. Make plans to be there and attend this event!

I would like to thank everyone for their support of all of our various projects this year. We are a mission-minded group of ladies that has been focused on mission projects and needs in our Conference, and we could not have accomplished all that we have if we were not supported by our church. All women of the church are invited to attend our meetings, usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. This month our meeting will be on April 11th, and we look forward to anyone who is able to come and serve the Lord through our projects.

In Christ's Service,
Janice Littlejohn
UMW President



Greetings Friends ,

The Wrightsboro Methodist Men continue to meet on the second Sunday of every month in the fellowship hall for breakfast. And, as usual, women are also welcomed. We eat at 7 am, have a short devotional, and then conduct the business portion. We are finished in time for those that want to attend our early service.

We all had a fantastic time of fellowship at our Shrimp/Oyster Gathering. Just a great time enjoying each other along with some great food and sharing Jesus' love with all. We were able to cover our costs and have monies to support our graduates. Thanks to ALL who helped and brought other food items to contribute.

We had a great attendance for our guest speaker, Sheriff Ed McMahon, the following morning at our breakfast. He is a True Man of Faith and his talk inspired us all !!

A date has not been set for our Widow's Dinner, so watch for the announcement and sign-up sheet.

The Methodist Men will also be preparing and serving hot dogs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. We sure could use some help!

Our next breakfast is April 9. Since we are having one worship service at 10:00, we are changing our meeting time to 8:00.

Please join us.

God is Good All the Time!! Keep Looking Up!!

Brad Shoaf, President WUMM

April Anniversaries

- 2 Frank & Claudia Campese
- 17 Stan & Marla Wardrip
- 18 Doug & Sandi Bardwell
- 20 Eddie & Marsha Hayes
- 24 Chad & Kristine Chandler

MISSIONS @ WRIGHTSBORO

WORK TEAM TO WASHINGTON

A trip is being planned to the Disaster Relief Center in the Washington-Belhaven area May 4, 5, and 6. We will be staying and working at the center. Two mobile homes have been moved there to be restored for people who lost their homes to flooding. The accommodations are good and the setting is beautiful on the Pamlico River. Because we will not have to travel to a work site, there might be a little time for fishing and roasting hot dogs in the fire pit. If you are interested in helping someone get back in their home and having great fellowship, see someone on the Mission Committee.

WARM PROJECT

There will be a work day April 22 on Rock Hill Rd. There is a lot of work to be done on this project: replacing a toilet and installing grab bars in the bathroom, and replacing floors in the bathroom, 2 bedrooms and living room. There are also some spots on the roof that might need repair. Volunteers are needed! See Joyce Parker for more details.

MERCI

Sign up for our monthly trip to the Disaster Relief Warehouse in Goldsboro. There is much to be done there. Shipments of supplies are always being prepared. School kits, sewing kits, birthing kits, food buckets and health kits, just to name a few, need to be assembled and packed for shipment. The warehouse is open the first Saturday and the third Thursday of each month. It's a great way to be in mission without a lot of effort.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE.....

What does that mean? Exactly what it says! We care about our Congregation, our people, and we offer many different areas of ministry that you can be part of for fellowship, fun and outreach for each other. Among the ministries that we offer are the following:

Family Night: Each Wednesday we share an inexpensive good meal, a time of fellowship, and then gather for bible study.

Friday Night Fellowship: We meet once a month at different restaurants for a time of fun, fellowship and a chance to try new places to eat.

Movers & Shakers: A Seniors group that gets together for short trips, luncheons, and fellowship for the young at heart.

WOWs (Widows of Wrightsboro): A group of women who gather for a time of fellowship and share a bible study. We encourage each other and share a lunch date together.

Bereavement: We prepare a meal for the family and reach out in love to those who have lost a loved one.

Card Ministry: We care if you are sick or hurting, or if you have not been to church in while. We send cards for birthdays, sickness and sympathy, as well as "miss you" cards.

It is our desire to let you know that Jesus LOVES you and so do we. Each person is special to Jesus and to our church family as well.

God Bless to All of YOU!

Movers & Shakers

Exciting news! We have a guest speaker from the senior center coming to discuss medicare changes, available services and much for informative information on Tuesday, April 25th at 11:30am. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up in the lobby. For more information contact [Alma Allard](#).

Finance Committee Update:

Dear Church Family--Week-by-week, through your generosity with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, the church educates young and old; provides space for prayer, faith development, and personal transformation; assists the poor, visits the sick, and supports people in times of trial; conducts worship; assists with other needs through the greater Methodist connection; and, in general, helps people to experience and live Christ's life and to work for a more just, loving, and peaceful world.

Be sure to keep your email address updated with the church office by adding/updating it in the attendance pad on Sunday morning or notifying the church secretary of changes. We communicate a great number of items via email, so it is a wonderful way to stay connected.

We encourage you to check out the article regarding online giving. It is a great option for on-the-go giving, to keep up your support of the many wonderful missions here at Wrightsboro that count on your generosity to continue.

For the month of February 2017:

Total funds taken in: \$ 33,708.16

Of note, this figure includes the following amounts collected:

Past Service Liability	\$ 775.00
Deeds of Mercy	\$ 796.79
Pastor's Discretionary	\$4,350.00
Bright Lights	\$ 164.00

Total funds spent paying bills: \$29,069.69

Surplus for end of month, February 2017 \$ 4,638.47

There were outstanding bills of \$880.06 at end of month February 2017. They were received, but not yet due. Since then, they have been paid from the above funds.

We are current on our apportionments. We received a report from the Conference, letting us know our standing regarding apportionments. WUMC has paid 17.56% of our apportionments thru 3-6-17. By comparison, the District has paid 11.72% of its apportionments thru 3-6-17 and the Conference as a whole has paid 12.29% of its apportionments thru 3-6-17. We are not only on target, but ahead of expectation. GREAT JOB, WUMC.

Stacy is sending out quarterly statements. Please check your email for your statements and verify that the records appear correct. If you have questions or need modifications, please contact Stacy immediately to get records updated. If you need to fix your email address, please let Stacy know. If you need a paper copy of your quarterly statement for some reason, please request this through the church office.

I am going to change things up a bit this month. You know that I typically end in scripture. This month, I want to end with a challenge. Let's see how connected we can become when we step outside of our comfort zones. I challenge you to grab your church directory and call up someone you don't speak to enough or someone you don't yet know and share with them a scripture that has touched you sometime this month. Maybe you will make a new friend, maybe you will simply have a single conversation. Either way, the Son will shine on you!!!

Kristine Chandler
Finance Chair

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church
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Wilmington NC 28405
www.wrightsboroumc.org

Mission Statement

To reach out and to serve all people with
Christ's love and acceptance through
faith, study, and action



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 9th at 10:00am

We will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the waving of palm branches, sacred dance, and the choir's presentation of "Jesus, the Rock of Our Salvation".

Maundy Thursday

April 13th at 6:30pm

We remember the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. Our worship service at 6:30 will include special music and Holy Communion, and be preceded by a special Family Night dinner at 5:30pm.

Good Friday

April 14th at 7:00pm

We remember the day that Jesus suffered and died for our sins. We will gather for a Tenebrae service at 7:00 for a solemn reflection upon the suffering our Lord endured for us on that day.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

April 15th 11am -1:00pm

Pastor David will share a story about Easter with the children, followed by an egg hunt, games, bouncy house, hotdogs, face painting and more. Invite your friends and neighbors; post cards are available in the lobby to assist you. Also, we need lots of candy to fill the eggs! Donations of candy (or cash to buy candy) will be much appreciated.