

# *The Wrightsboro Connection*



February 2017 Newsletter

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR:

Rev. David Hollowell

It seems like we just finished celebrating Advent and Christmas, but in just a few weeks we will enter into the season of Lent. You may recall that Lent is the period of time when we prepare for the celebration of Easter. It consists of forty days (not counting Sundays, because each Sunday is considered a "little Easter"), beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday before Easter Sunday. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts. This time of fasting was often preceded by a huge feast and party on Tuesday, which came to be known as "Fat Tuesday". In French, this translates into Mardi Gras, which is still celebrated in New Orleans and many other cities around the world on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

This year, Ash Wednesday will be March 1. We will gather for a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm, after our usual Family Night meal. This powerful and moving worship service focuses upon the confession of our sins and our mortality. A unique feature is the ashes, which have a long history in both Jewish and Christian worship as a sign of mortality and repentance. Participants are offered the imposition of ashes on their foreheads as a sign of their repentance and an acknowledgment of their mortality. We use ashes that come from the burning of the palm branches that were used in the Palm Sunday service last year, symbolizing that through the triumph of Christ our sins are forgiven and eternal life is assured. I hope you will plan to attend this

meaningful and moving service.

But if you can't make the 6:30 pm service, we will be offering another worship opportunity from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Feel free to stop by the sanctuary for a brief devotion and time of prayer, with the imposition of ashes if you wish. And as always, feel to bring a friend, neighbor or co-worker with you.

Many people choose to give up something for Lent as a way to help them focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for us. When we give up something we really like, we are reminded of the reason for the sacrifice every time we deny ourselves that small pleasure. It is a very minor form of sacrifice and suffering to help us remember the tremendous sacrifice and suffering Jesus willingly endured for us. An alternative to giving up something is to take on something new - maybe a special service project for others or reading a new devotion. If you have never made a Lenten sacrifice, I encourage you to do so - you will be blessed!

As we enter into the holy season of Lent, let's use this time to prepare ourselves spiritually for Easter. Let's take a good look at our lives, our hearts, and our relationship with Christ. Are we being faithful disciples? Are we becoming more and more like Christ? What mistakes have we made in the past, and how can we do better in the future? Let's remember that Christ gave His all for us - He expects us to do the same for Him.

## February Birthdays

2 Lucy Lee  
3 Mary Cox  
6 James Lee  
6 AJ Tate  
7 Suzanne Timmons  
7 Debbie Exum  
8 Noel Waldon  
9 Samuel Crowder  
12 Jennifer Jordan  
13 Frances Hunt  
18 Marie Crump  
18 Stacy Bryn  
20 Elizabeth Weary  
21 Naamah Noble  
22 Barbara Olsen  
24 Lynn Wall  
26 Eddie Hayes  
28 Briana Seese

## 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.

## WUMC Youth

Youth group has been wonderful thus far in 2017! We can tell it's going to be an amazing year full of growth in many areas. The youth have been working on a covenant for the youth group which should be completed by next Wednesday. We are basing our covenant on God's covenant with Moses and his people through the Ten Commandments. The purpose of the covenant is to create respect and unity with in the youth group.

We meet every Wednesday night at 6:30 after the meal, and we typically have a game or team building activity along with a devotion/study time.

We will gather at the church on Sunday evening Feb. 12th @ 6pm for our monthly movie night. If you have a relative, neighbor or friend in grade 6th-12th that would like to join us, please let us know! We would love to have them join us. Please contact Chris or Gina Crowder if you have any questions.

## Family Night

Come Join Us!

### February Menus

1 Fried Chicken  
8 Hashbrown Ham casserole  
15 Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo  
22 Tacos

Menu suggestions are appreciated!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in January. 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.



Outing for the Mover & Shakers

and Children

February 18 at  
9:30am

Children's Museum and

back to church for pizza and a movie.

Cost: Children - \$9.75, Seniors - \$8.75

We will meet at the church to leave at  
9:30a.m.

Please join us for a fun time! Sign up in the  
lobby.

## Serving the Lord During Worship

We are aware that many of you have Christmas plans and may not be here on your scheduled Sunday.

If you are not able to serve, please contact the church office a week in advance so we can work on filling that volunteer job. Also this month's schedule does not include the first Sunday of January. Thank you for your continued service during worship.

Each month we put out a schedule of who is serving. Have you ever wanted to read Scripture, do Children's time, serve Communion, Greet at the front door or be an Usher? If you are interested in serving during Worship on Sunday fill out below and turn into the office.

### Serving the Lord During Worship

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please place a check mark in each area where you feel called to serve.

#### WORSHIP

**Usher:** 1 st Svc \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Svc \_\_\_\_\_  
Usher members and visitors into sanctuary; help seat worshipers; take up the morning offering; count worship attendance, distribute attendance pads

**Greeter:** 1 st Svc \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Svc \_\_\_\_\_  
Greet and welcome our visitors and members to worship services and special events

**Communion Server:** 1st Svc \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Svc \_\_\_\_\_  
Serve bread or juice for Communion.

**Children's Sermon:** 1 st Svc \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Svc \_\_\_\_\_  
Deliver special message to children under guidance of the Sr. Pastor

**Service Leader:** 1 st Svc \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Svc \_\_\_\_\_  
Greet worshipers, share announcements, offer opening prayer.

**Scripture Reader:** 1 st Svc \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Svc \_\_\_\_\_



## 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:

February 5,19,26

March 19,26

April 2

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, please contact the church office.



## Methodist Home for Children Sunday

**February 19, 2017**

At Methodist Home for Children, we work to provide safe, stable homes where children can thrive and live to their full, God-given potential. While not always traditional or biological, an MHC home is where child and family are equipped to succeed. We build on their strengths, nurturing hopes and goals, and prepares all in our care to shape their own futures.

Last year we served nearly 1,400 children and families thanks to the generosity of United Methodist congregations. We need your support and prayers to continue this life-changing work. Please support our ministry in 2017 with your gifts on MHC Sunday.  
mhfc.org/Sunday

# Scout Sunday February 12th

## 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.

## February Anniversaries

2 Joe & Barbara Hodges

14 Charles & Betsy Casey

19 Eric & Wanda Robertson

## Prayer Chain

Have a prayer concern?  
Who do you contact?

Email Aileen Jennings, at [aileen928@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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.

## God's Everlasting Love

Neither death nor life,  
nor angels nor rulers,  
nor things present  
nor things to come,  
nor powers,  
nor height nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Did you know that when you  
make a purchase on  
Amazon.com that you can  
support Wrightsboro UMC?  
[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Greetings to All ,  
The Wrightsboro Methodist Men continue to meet on the second Sunday of every month in the fellowship hall for breakfast. This month will be on February 12th. And, as usual, women are also welcome. We eat at 7 am, have a short devotional, and then conduct the business portion. We are finished in time for those who want to attend our early service.



We are planning to have a shrimp and oyster gathering real soon on a Saturday evening, and it will be open to all. The date is still being discussed, but it will be set and announced soon. Just a great time to enjoy each other and have some great fellowship and, most importantly, to share Jesus' Love with all. A donation will be greatly appreciated to cover our costs. Keep your Ears Open!!

Hopefully, we will be conducting our Widow's dinner again in March. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

We will also be having upcoming fundraisers to fund our annual graduation scholarships that we present each year at the end of May!

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

\* Also, a reminder to the men of our annual men's dues-see me or Stacy.\*

Brad Shoaf-President WUMM.



As the president of the UMW, I would like to encourage all the ladies of Wrightsboro UMC to help us collect and assemble school

kits for our NC Conference. We have had a lot of fun assembling Health Kits & Flood Kits, as well as our most recent project -- 30 Sewing Kits that will go to the Merci Center on Saturday. We have been asked to work on School Kits next, so that will be the focus of our meeting in February. Here is a list of what is required in the School Kits this year:

- \* 3 spiral bound notebooks or top bound pads total of 300 sheets of paper they have asked us not to send any hard backed composition books this year
- \* 6 unsharpened pencils
- \* Scissors - children's blunt end (I hear Dollar Tree has these 2 in a pack)
- \* Ruler - with metric sizing
- \* Eraser - 1-2 inches long, no pencil erasers this year
- \* Handheld pencil sharpener
- \* Crayons - 24 count only

We will have a book bag to put these items in that has been hand made by several ladies in the church for this purpose.

We would like also to thank everyone who has helped us to do God's work and you are always welcome to come and attend our meeting to assemble these items. Our next meeting would have fallen on Valentine's Day, so we are postponing it to the following Tuesday which is February 21st at 6:30 pm. Please come and have a good time with us.

Janice Littlejohn  
President UMW

## **MISSIONS @ WRIGHTSBORO**

Happy New Year from the Missions Team! We are looking forward to a new year where we will continue many of our ministries as well as offer new opportunities to serve.

Our Hand in Hand ministry continues to offer support to Wrightsboro Elementary School. Our Backpack Program helps to provide food for students who may otherwise have no food over their weekend break from school. Bright Lights continues to provide food and clothing for any that are in need. Our Food Pantry helps support many in our community who are food insecure and may not have enough to feed themselves and their families without our help.

In addition to the above ministries, be on the lookout for opportunities to serve on a work team. We plan to partner locally with WARM as well as offer out of town and even out of country projects. Doug Johnson will be with us on Wednesday, February 8, to present his mission activities in the Dominican Republic, where we hope to send a team later in the year. Please plan to attend and support this mission effort.

Jesus said to go to Jerusalem, Judea and the ends of the earth. The missions of Wrightsboro will offer opportunities to do just that. Please consider getting involved and being the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting world. Not only will you be a blessing, but the blessing you will receive will be "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over" as recorded in Luke 6:38.

Keep your eyes and ears (and more importantly your heart) open for upcoming mission opportunities.

## **Mission Opportunities**

### **TRIP TO MERCI**

There will be a trip to Goldsboro to volunteer at the Disaster Relief warehouse on Saturday Feb 4. We will leave the church at 8:00 am and arrive there approximately 9:30. If you've never been to MERCI, now's your chance! It's a great day of being in mission and you will be amazed how much our conference does for people locally and around the world. There are various jobs to be done, sorting, packing, etc. The work day is over at 3:00 and we should arrive back in Wilmington around 5:00. However, if the Crafty Friday ladies decide to detour by the Cloth Barn, we might be a little later. Join us for a day of missions and possibly a little shopping!

### **FLOOD RELIEF**

A trip is being planned to Lumberton in early March. The area is still reeling from the damage from Hurricane Matthew. We will have accommodations at one of the churches and will be able to cook our own food. There is a large mission there that encompasses rebuilding, repairing damaged homes, a clothes closet and food distribution. You do not have to be a carpenter to participate in one of these ministries; there are jobs for everyone. You can choose to stay the entire time or drive up for a day. Consider signing up for this very important mission. You will be blessed while blessing others.

### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

We continue to furnish Meals on Wheels the first Saturday of each month. We furnish 20 meals for the Castle Hayne area. They are picked up and delivered by volunteers from other churches. If you like to cook, have a heart for shut-ins, and would like to be part of this ministry, see someone on the Missions Committee.

## 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 tool we have available, and is starting to be used more frequently. It comes in handy when people travel and will be out of town on Sundays. Rather than trying to remember to mail in tithes, why not use the online giving tool? 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.

A full set of financial reports is kept in the church office. If ever you wish to review the financial statements, the book in the church office is available for your review. Below is an overview of last month's financial information.

### For the month of December 2016:

Total funds taken in: \$52,568.55

Of note, this figure includes the following amounts collected:

Deeds of Mercy \$742.00

Building Use \$100.00

Bright Lights \$115.00

Total funds spent paying bills: \$43,958.83

Excess at end of month, December 2016 \$8,609.72

The outstanding bills at the end of December were \$1,313.16, but have since been paid. After paying all of the expenses from the October fundraiser, the final amount available to put toward the mortgage was \$3,635.11. Additional donations came in for a total of \$9,000. These funds were combined and a check was cut on 12-22-16 for \$12,635.11 to pay down the principal on our mortgage. What a blessing to see a large principal payment applied toward our mortgage. THANKS to everyone for their generosity and the hard work with the fundraiser.

You may recall that Stacy has given us information in the past about AmazonSmiles, and how to link our Amazon account to that feature. If you order gifts or supplies online, and use Amazon.com for those orders, your order could support the ministries at WUMC. There is a link in the online newsletter, and Stacy has details as well.

The Finance Committee for 2017 is made up of the following members: Stacy Bryn, Tom Carver, Kristine Chandler, Chris Crowder, Wendy Donovan, Pat Everett, Jerry Gossett, David Hollowell, Charles Long, Leigh Parker, Todd Parker, Pansy Rumley and Freda Stephenson. If you have questions or issues for the Finance Committee, please see any member for assistance.

"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23. In this new year, may you be blessed and happy each new day; and may your faithfulness grow.

Be Blessed,  
Kristine Chandler  
Finance Chair

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### **Mission Statement**

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



## **Attention All Movers & Shakers**

On Thursday, February 16th we  
will have a Valentine's Day  
luncheon at the Allard's home.  
Please sign up in the lobby as to  
what dish you will share. Plan on  
having a good time of fellowship  
with one another. We will meet @  
11:30 am.